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## Getting Acquainted

Introducing the 2006-2011 Leadership Team

Plus: Constituency Session Coverage

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**JULY 2006** 



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#### **News & Features**

## 6 | 25th Constituency Session Brings New Leadership

Celeste Ryan Blyden

Delegates at the Columbia Union Conference's 25th Constituency Session recently elected Dave Weigley as president. Weigley (pronounced why-glee)—former president of the Potomac Conference—succeeds Harold Lee who retired after eight years as president. Read session highlights, hear from delegates, and see photos from the event.

## **10** | **Getting Acquainted** Introducing the 2006-2011 Leadership Team

LaVerne Henderson

A new leadership team has been installed at the Columbia Union Conference headquarters. The staff has welcomed a new president, executive secretary, treasurer, and vice president to the office family. So who are these individuals? Where did they come from? What are they like? Read about and get acquainted with these administrators.



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#### **Newly Elected Officers:**

Administrators with their families include (left to right) Seth, Teresa, and Godfrey Bardu; Dave and Becky Weigley; and Cindy and Neville Harcombe. Photos by Richard Herard.

About the Cover: Photo by James Ferry

#### **Praying for Unnatural Sight**

've never experienced LASIK surgery (a procedure that alters the cornea to correct vision problems) from the hand of a human, but from time to time I believe I have been operated on by the Great Physician. While I have great natural eyesight, it's the spiritual kind that gives me pause. Have you ever felt that way?

Our natural tendency is to work with what we *can* see, but spiritual vision requires us to work with what we *cannot* see. Hence the struggle!

Remember Elisha's servant? The story of his poor vision is found in II Kings 6.

The Syrians had surrounded the city of Dothan with a large army intent on capturing Elisha. When the servant informed Elisha about the great army with horses and chariots, Elisha prayed that his servant would be able to see with more than just natural sight; he needed to see with *unnatural* sight. The Lord opened the eyes of the young servant, and he was given a glimpse of the unnatural—a huge army of horses and chariots of fire—God's mighty angels.

With his natural sight Elisha's servant only saw problems, and many of them. But with God's inspired sight he was able to see the power of God and all kinds of solutions.

#### **CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Over the last few years, I've seen how the Lord has guided the leaders of this union to accomplish some remarkable things for the advancement of the cause of Christ. And for that we should all praise God and be thankful to Him for His power evident in the lives of such dedicated leaders and support individuals. This is one of the greatest unions in the Seventh-day Adventist Church organizational structure, and I am humbled, honored, and excited to serve as your president.

Already, and not surprisingly, many have suggested to me some items to address and resolve. And the question has been asked, "What are *your* plans for the Columbia Union?"

The challenges and opportunities before us are tremendous; here are some:

- Reach nearly 50 million people in our eight states for Jesus
- Foster a sense of community among vast diversity
- Facilitate excellent Christian education
- Share Christ's love through healing ministries
- Engage our youth in the mission
- Develop Christian leaders for incredible service
- Thirst for latter rain power
- Prepare to meet Jesus in the air

That's why I believe, and am convicted that, my greatest need is to experience the Great Physician's LASIK surgery. And so my prayer is "Lord here are my eyes; please do the surgery because I want to see what *You* want me to see. Give me *unnatural* sight!"

#### **Get to Know Dave**

Go to www.columbiaunion.org and click on AudioVisitor for this month's features:

- Listen to the president's challenge he gave at constituency session
  - Listen to our interview with him

Won't you join me in praying that prayer for your life, church, school, college, hospital, outreach ministry, and for the entire Columbia Union church family?

Dave Weigley is the newly elected president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the eight-state region of the mid-Atlantic United States, known as the Columbia Union Conference. Contact him at dweigley@columbiaunion.net.

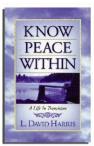
#### **Potluck**

CELESTE RYAN BLYDEN

#### What's New?

#### **Books** > Know Peace Within

L. David Harris is an author, speaker, and church elder on a mission to reconnect lost and seeking souls to Christ and to



rekindle a fire under lukewarm Christians. In his latest book *Know Peace Within*, Harris explores the importance of establishing and maintaining

a solid relationship with the Heavenly Father.

"It's easy to go to church and read the Bible," says Harris. "But I've found that even with all that action, people still don't know how to focus on Christ." Open Know Peace Within, and you'll find Harris' personal testimony and journey to the Lord, his conversations with other Christians struggling toward truth, and 12 Bible studies that offer footholds in the Word. Harris' writing is honest and celebrates the everlasting hope of finding peace within.

Harris' other book—Alive at 5, Victory at Retrospect—is a two-volume devotional paperback. The graduate and employee of Columbia Union College is also a contributing writer to Message magazine and attends Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va., with his wife. Learn more at www.knowpeace-within.com.—Tanisha Greenidge

### **Technology** > Faith in Context

It had to happen sooner or later. Monte Sahlin has gone global. He has a blog called Faith in Context. Blogging is a term developed from the idea that one can log their thoughts and ideas on the Web. Sahlin, a longtime church administrator and researcher, discusses religion, trends, values, books, current affairs, and ministry. Recently on the site, touted as "commentary on religion, values, and contemporary issues," Sahlin discussed his taste in music, how our civil rights are slipping away, should churches designate a "technology director," and the controversial movie The Da Vinci Code.

"This is not an official church site," says Sahlin (pictured), who insists he's just "providing mate-



rial about current trends and issues for a group of pastors who have made

requests for this type of information." He used to email it to them, but a few months ago when two younger pastors suggested he create a blog—Faith in Context came to life.

#### In the Spotlight

## Upper Nile Institute for Appropriate Technology

The Upper Nile Institute for Appropriate Technology (UNI-FAT) is highly regarded in the community of Gulu, Uganda. Located in the city of a war-torn region, the primary school provides students with a quality education that buffers them from the conflict, poverty, sickness, and fear that permeates

#### Keeping Score

30

Percent of adults who have used the Web to search for information about spirituality or religion.

26

Percent of teens who have done the same.

Source: Pew Internet & American Life Project, 2001

their physical environment.

Founded in 1988 by Abitimo Rebecca Odongkara, a native of northern Uganda, who currently resides in Philadelphia, the school is a testament of her faith in the Lord. "War has done a lot of damage to our country, and I wanted our children to learn about God and how to live happily with each other," said 72-year-old Odongkara. "I wanted to do something that would make God happy."

The UNIFAT school began with one teacher and seven children under a tree. Today it employs 41 teachers and instructs 1,500 students in an unfinished facility. Odongkara and her team of administrators hope to finish construction of the school, provide students with tuition assistance, and test and treat students for HIV/AIDS. Odongkara and UNIFAT were recently featured in The Philadelphia Inquirer. Read more of her story at www.philly.com or email unifat@hotmail.com.

—Tanisha Greenidge

#### What You Bring to the Table

#### **WholeHealth**

#### To Grill or Not to Grill?

Grilling is a popular American pastime in the summer—but should we be concerned about cancer risk? Research shows that exposing meats and meat juices to direct flame, smoke, and intense heat causes the formation of cancercausing compounds such as heterocyclic amines (HCAs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). These potent carcinogens are linked to breast, colon, and prostate cancers.

Many people switch to chicken and fish as healthier alternatives to beef and pork. But on the grill, chicken produced more than 10 times the amount of



the HCAs found in hamburger. Other precautions such as marinating, precooking meat in a microwave, wrapping meat in foil, reducing cooking temperature, and cutting away charred or burned portions can reduce

(but not eliminate) the levels of carcinogens in grilled meats.

The best way to reduce your cancer risk is to grill plant foods because they don't form HCAs and PAHs. Try grilling soy-based veggie burgers, a thick portabella mushroom "steak," and vegetable or fruit kabobs. These

healthy vegetarian alternatives are also low in fat and cholesterol and supply a whole range of cancer-fighting nutrients and phytochemicals. So go ahead—fire up that grill! But choose healthy fare.—*Lilly Tryon, BSN, RN, Adventist WholeHealth Network* 

#### **Visitor Blog > Graduation Countdown**

any many proud parents from across the Columbia Union recently watched their "babies" graduate from academy. But what was it like for the seniors? Valerie Sutton (pictured), of Ohio's Mount Vernon Academy, journaled her very last month of school. Here's a bit of her experience. Read the rest at www.columbiaunion.org:

MAY 1: I have been stressing so much over an English paper that is due May 15. The paper has to be eight pages of written text, and then you have to have two appendixes, a title page, an outline, 50 index cards, and a bibliography page. I decided that I wasn't going to procrastinate, so I started writing today and did five pages! I had already finished my outline, bibliography page, and 50 index cards. Now all I have to

do is finish my paper and do my appendixes.

**MAY 2:** There is still so much to do with senior stuff. I still have

to write my speech and make sure we have people to run cameras and sound. The officer



robes aren't in yet and we have pictures on the 15th. There is just so much that still has to happen. I think my mom is going to go crazy. She is one of the class sponsors and I just wish she would chill out a little bit, but I guess if I were her I would be freaking out too. Anyway, today was nice and I am just so glad that it is home leave so I can sleep and get re-energized for class trip and exams coming up.

#### Only an Adventist ...

Knows that a recipe calling for beans, tortilla chips, shredded lettuce and cheese, chopped tomatoes and onions, black olives, guacamole, sour cream, salsa, and Ranch salad dressing can only mean one thing: Somebody's having haystacks for Sabbath lunch.

# Constituenc

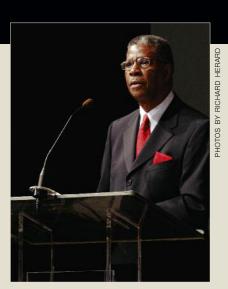
Celeste Ryan Blyden

t the 25th Constituency Session of the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, delegates elected Dave Weigley (pronounced why-glee)—president of the Potomac Conference to serve as president of the Columbia Union from 2006-2011. He succeeds Harold Lee who decided to retire after eight years as president.

J. Neville Harcombe, former Chesapeake Conference president, who began serving as executive secretary of the Columbia Union in January, was re-elected as was the new treasurer, Seth Bardu. "I realize I'm just a bean counter, but I hope that through bean counting souls would be won to Christ," Bardu said, drawing a host of "Amens" from the audience. (Learn more about the officers on page 10.)

These elections followed a panel presentation moderated by Monte Sahlin, vice president for Creative Ministries, which featured seven young adults who are currently leading unique and innovative ministries in metropolitan areas across the Columbia Union. The president's report, a video themed "Celebrating God's Transforming Grace," also featured city-based ministries, including the Cleveland-based Teen Esteem youth center.\*

On the second day of the two-day session, Lee presented a farewell devotional titled



In his farewell message, titled "Dancing with Change," Harold Lee challenged attendees to embrace change in their churches.

"Dancing With Change," which

looked at the impact of change

and the lack thereof on the church: "The political, cultural, and religious landscape is constantly changing; reality is a moving target," he suggested to attendees. "Churches, members, and institutions must be adventurous and open to radical change. The old paradigms are insufficient; nothing less than a

new paradigm shift is required." After the financial and auditing reports and those from

(continued on page 8)



The Columbia Union College Music Department provided a vespers concert to open the 25th Constituency Session.



For the devotional program, titled "The Next Generations," Metro Ministries coordinator Monte Sahlin interviewed seven young adults about the ministries they lead in cities across the Columbia Union.

Below: Dave Weigley and his wife Becky bow during special prayer for their new ministry in the Columbia Union.



#### **Executive Committee Members 2006-2011**

#### **Ex-Officio Members:**

Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference President

J. Neville Harcombe, Columbia Union Conference Executive Secretary

Seth T. Bardu, Columbia Union Conference Treasurer

Randal Wisbey, Columbia Union College President

William Robertson, Adventist HealthCare President/CEO

Frank Perez, Kettering Adventist HealthCare President/CEO

Charles Cheatham, Allegheny East Conference President

James L. Lewis, Allegheny West Conference President

Robert Vandeman, Chesapeake Conference President

Larry Boggess, Mountain View Conference President

LeRoy Finck, New Jersey Conference President

Raj Attiken, Ohio Conference President

Ray Hartwell, *Pennsylvania* Conference President

Potomac Conference President

(continued on page 9)

## Delegates, What Did You Think About the Session?

"I didn't know that Columbia Union was doing so much ... with the youth leadership in metro cities.



I was very impressed with [the Metro Ministries panel presentation]; also to see what they are doing in the healthcare sector. That was quite impressive."—Richard Rajarathinam, Potomac Conference

"I have enjoyed this constituency meeting. I love this church. I like working for the church. We have



all these diversified programs, but we as Adventist people—black, white, Indian, African, whatever—we gotta get together. We've got to become one people."—M.C. Adams Jr., Allegheny West Conference

"I think we're headed for the younger generation, which is needed because so many of our churches are slowly dying, I hate to say. We need some inno-



vative ideas to [attract] new people. A lot of our local communities don't even know what the Seventh-day Adventist Church is; we need to be more community-minded."—Jane Browning, Mountain View Conference

Giving Back

A highlight of the meetings was a presentation by North American Division (NAD) president Don Schneider who chaired the session. He and fellow NAD officers—executive secretary Roscoe Howard and treasurer Juan Prestol—presented Weigley with a check for \$228,542 to be used for evangelism purposes. "There will be a lot of things that call for your attention, Dave, but the mission to make disciples is what we're all about," Schneider counseled. "The reason for a college is to educate and bring people to Jesus. The reason for a hospital is to touch people for Jesus. The only reason we exist is to tell people about Jesus. ..."

Rather than keep the money at the union level, Lee and the other officers quickly called the Columbia Union's eight local conference presidents forward and presented each with a portion of the funds. (When Lee learned that the NAD was planning to return a percentage of tithe to the union—\$128,542—along with a special appropria-

Columbia Union College, Adventist HealthCare, and Kettering Adventist HealthCare were presented, nominating committee secretary Denise Isaac—a member of Chesapeake's Baltimore/White Marsh congregation—brought the names of vice presidents Hamlet Canosa, Monte Sahlin, and Walter E. Carson to the floor. All were re-elected. The 204 delegates in attendance also voted a new slate of members to serve on the Columbia Union Executive Committee (see the list starting on page 7) and several other committees and boards.

Mountain View Conference delegates (pictured right) exercise their right to vote.



tion of \$100,000, he decided to match the appropriation.) In all, \$328,542 was distributed to the conferences for evangelism.

#### **Passing the Mantle**

To pass the mantle, Lee chose to share a job description with Weigley that called for him to "be a servant of God," a "wounded healer," and a "friend and brother" to all, etc.

At the close of the session, Weigley shared his first message as president. He talked about growing up as the youngest child in a family of seven, being the son of Pennsylvania dairy farmers, milking cows at 5 a.m., and taking long rides on his horse Fred. He spoke of attending Blue Mountain Academy, Columbia Union College, and Southern Adventist University. He reminisced about serving as a student literature evangelist in Arizona and Hong Kong, where he "got hooked on overseas missions." And he testified about just completing an evangelism series in Roanoke, Va. "There's nothing like bringing a person to Jesus Christ," he declared.

He also affirmed his commitment to "aggressively" share the three angels' messages with the 49 million people in the Columbia Union territory and ended by briefly outlining opportunities and challenges facing the Columbia Union.

\*Free Video - For a free copy of the president's video report, shown at the 25th Constituency Session, call (410) 997-3414, ext. 306, or email sjones@columbiaunion.net. To watch online, go to www.columbiaunion.org.



All eight conference presidents were presented with a check to further evangelism work in their area. The amount distributed totaled \$328,542.

#### **Executive Committee Members, cont.**

#### **Education:**

Hamlet Canosa, Columbia Union Conference Vice President for Education

Larry Marsh, Potomac Conference Vice President for Education

#### **Young Adults:**

José Velazquez, Allegheny East Conference Member

Christian Stahl, Pennsylvania Conference Member

#### Allegheny East Conference:

Paula Barnes
Phyllis Edmonds
Andrew McDonald
Lauren Newman
William Niles
Marcellus Robinson\*

#### **Allegheny West Conference:**

M.C. Adams Patience Barnes Deborah A. Hill Derrick Moffett\*

#### **Chesapeake Conference:**

Richard Bacon Glen Gibb Denise Isaac Rick Remmers\*

#### **Mountain View Conference:**

Peggy Koch Robert Michael\*

#### **New Jersey Conference:**

Ana Barbosa Marie Blott Jack Milmine\*

#### **Ohio Conference:**

Shelvan Arunan\* Beverly Cobb Karen Hatch Doug Thomson

#### Pennsylvania Conference:

Dennis Austin\* William Oblitey Cheryl Schaeffer

#### **Potomac Conference:**

Charlotte Conway Cynthia Coston Franklin David\* Carlsen Griffith Dorys Horner Mark Silva

\*Church Employee

he past few months have been a whirlwind of staffing activity at the Columbia Union Conference headquarters. Since December 2005, a new treasurer, executive secretary, vice president, and president have joined the family. So who are these individuals? Where did they come from? What are they like? It is a pleasure to introduce the new leadership team:

#### **Dave Weigley Dismantling Rugged Individualism**

I'm passionate about evangelism and introducing people to Jesus through the *foolishness of preaching*," says Dave Weigley, who became Columbia Union president on June 1. He's equally fervent about dismantling what he calls "rugged individualism." "Rugged individualism is a spirit of 'this is the way I see things. I've prayed about it, and my way is the only way," he explains. "It can even extend to our churches, although, as Adventists, we are not congregationalists. We are a Protestant movement declaring the grace of Christ," he clarifies. "This is a major challenge to building a sense of community. Until we realize how interdependent we really are, the work will not be finished everywhere."

That's why the former president of the Potomac and Washington conferences is committed to planting churches, and training and equipping pastors and laypeople to share the gospel—here and abroad. Weigley also served as executive secretary; a ministerial, communication, and stewardship secretary; and pastor. He has a MBA from City University in Bellevue, Wash., and a BA in Theology from Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn.

Another of his visions is to enlarge the reach of Adventist healthcare. "My dream is to make Adventist healthcare a household word," says Weigley. "Our health message is a great advantage."

He and his wife Becky, who's actively involved in Shepherdess Ministries, currently attend the Staunton church in Virginia and will be relocating to Maryland soon. They have two adult children, Christina and Jonathan, and one granddaughter, Hailyn.

When asked about hobbies, he says with a smile, "I believe in working hard and playing hard." An exuberant equestrian, Weigley loves being in "God's country" with his horses. Reading, golf, and motorcycling are other pastimes.

#### J. Neville Harcombe Keeping the Ball Rolling

eville Harcombe is a pastor at heart. "I love to preach; I like to go to camp meetings and conduct evangelism series," says the new executive secretary.

Harcombe, who spent his early childhood in the various mission fields of South, East, and Central Africa, brings a unique global perspective to his position. He was educated at South Africa's



seas to get a little rocky, and we may feel like Helderberg College and jumping overearned a BA in board. But the Theology from Southern Adventist safest place is University in Collegedale, Tenn. in the ship Harcombe also has a MA in Leadership Administration from -never leave the ship."

"Sometimes certain

issues in God's

church cause the

Dave Weigley



Neville Harcombe



Seth Bardu

Alameda University in
Boise, Idaho.
He began his current duties
on January 1, after serving as
president of the Chesapeake
Conference. Prior to that he served
at the Oklahoma, Potomac, and
Chesapeake conferences as either
executive secretary or departmental
director, in the areas of communication, stewardship, and Sabbath School.
Harcombe also pastored five church dis-

tricts in the Southwestern Union.

"I'm looking forward to working with this new team the Lord has brought together," he says. In addition to "keeping the ball rolling during the next five years," Harcombe is passionate about preparing people for the coming of Jesus. "It's important that we identify and use all of our spiritual gifts in meaningful ministry," he notes. "I'd like to see evangelism teams of pastors and laypeople in every church in every corner of our union."

On the other hand, Harcombe is concerned about Christian education. "We need to do all we can to make it affordable for all of our young people."

A member of the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., Harcombe is married to Cindy. They

have two adult children, Denita and Douglas, and four grandchildren—Abbey, Olivia, Karissa, and Luke. An avid water sports enthusiast, he enjoys jet skiing at Lake Anna, Va.

#### Seth Bardu

#### **Growing New Treasurers**

Pe have to intentionally attract young people to denominational work," says the recently elected treasurer, Seth Bardu. "My goal is to grow new treasurers and train them to someday take our place," he says.

A native of Liberia, West Africa, Bardu graduated from Oakwood College in Huntsville, Ala., with a BS in Accounting. He then earned a MBA from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich.

Prior to becoming union treasurer on January 1, he worked as a treasurer for the Northeastern Conference, an assistant treasurer for the Southern Union, a finance associate for Adventist Health System, and a treasurer for the South Central Conference.

Bardu is determined to train future treasurers. "The pool from which we tap financial leaders is getting smaller and smaller," he states. "I recently met with our conference treasurers and asked, 'How many of you have someone to take your place when you step aside?' Most of them did not." He intends to recruit junior college accounting majors and allow them to perform church audits, during the summers, to get a taste of denominational work.

"The entire financial structure of the Seventhday Adventist Church is based on what happens at the local church," he explains. "If members didn't give, there wouldn't be a general conference, division, union, or local conference. Building trust among members that their funds are being properly handled is important, so we'll start with good church audits."

Bardu and his wife Teresa, along with their children, Jessica and Godfrey, have yet to decide on a new church home. His hobby is collecting model ships and lighthouses. "There's a spiritual dimension about ships," he says. "Sometimes certain issues in God's church cause the seas to get a little rocky, and we may feel like jumping overboard. But the safest place is in the ship—never leave the ship."

#### Meet the Vice Presidents

**Walter Carson** is vice president and legal counsel. Although he's only served in this capacity for six months, he brings 30 years of denominational experience to the position. "I'm grateful for the members' support and look forward to being of service to the union and its various organizations," he says. Carson will provide quality legal services and counsel to the Columbia Union, its conferences and institutions, and the Revolving Fund.

Hamlet Canosa is vice president for Education. With 34 years of denominational experience, he's spent the past 11 at the union. "My sincere thanks to the constituents of the Columbia Union Conference for extending the privilege and pleasure that is mine to serve in education ministry in this great field," Canosa said. "I'd like to ask all constituents to keep education ministries, and those who facilitate and benefit from them, in their prayers."

Monte Sahlin has served as vice president for Creative Ministries since 1998. He spent the previous 12 years at the church's North American Division and has more than 35 years of denominational experience. "I am thankful for the support and appreciation of the work being done with New Generations and Metro Ministries," says Sahlin. "The God-created diversity of our Adventist family is an expanding challenge that is often underestimated. … Success in mission requires collaboration instead of priding ourselves on our independence."



Walter Carson, Hamlet Canosa, and Monte Sahlin



## **Kettering Surgeon First to Use Electromagnetic System**

Kevin Lavoie

rank Fasano, MD, a Kettering Medical Center (KMC)-Sycamore surgeon, was the first in the world to use a piece of high-tech equipment during orthopedic surgery. Known as StealthStation, it is the latest and most precise tool for orthopedic surgeons as they determine correct bone alignment.

This new electromagnetic (EM) navigation system could be the key to years of pain-free walking for local residents. "It is so important to get the right angle when you are fitting an artificial knee," said Dr. Fasano. "The best angle for a patient will vary depending on that person's height, weight, and posture. If you get it wrong, the new joint will wear out prematurely and cause pain for the patient. But if you get it right, the individual could have 15 years or more of comfortable mobility on that knee."

"The new electromagnetic system, developed by Zimmer Inc. in conjunction with Medtronic, offers a much more precise approach to re-creating a patient's joint alignment as it was before their knee deteriorated from arthritis," says Dr. Fasano. "You need to have a dedication to a physical therapy program and, in some cases, weight loss, but nothing is more important in a knee replacement than the alignment of the joint."

#### **Enhancing Surgical Procedures**

Several orthopedic surgeons at KMC have since used the electromagnetic system. They include Frank Fasano, MD; John Urse, DO; Aivars Vitols, DO; and Danny Reveal, MD. KMC is currently leasing the equipment on a case-by-case basis, and is looking at whether the medical center can modify its existing equipment to utilize this break-

through navigation system.

"The EM computer-assisted system gives us a new tool for complicated cases," Dr. Reveal said. "It is ideal for a patient who has had fractures, malunion of the bone, or a prior hip surgery where a long prosthesis placed in the hip prevents the



"It is so important to get the right angle when you are fitting an artificial knee."

—Frank Fasano, MD

surgeon from using the standard cutting device when he goes to replace the patient's knee."

"The navigation system also allows the surgeon to see range of motion of the leg in real time on the operating table," said Mark Grove, director of Business Development for Zimmer Inc."

Surgeons at Kettering Medical Center are evaluating the use of this system with complex surgeries.

Kettering Medical Center surgeons are dedicated to using the best surgical technique possible for their patients, and this new technology offers them a method to align the joint in the most complex cases.

Kevin Lavoie is a media specialist at Kettering Adventist HealthCare.

#### **Healing Ministry**

ll hospitals receiving Medicare funds are required to provide emergency care, regardless of a patient's ability to pay. While the acute care hospitals of Kettering Adventist HealthCare (KAHC) answer to this government mandate, they also answer to a higher calling.

"It is part of our mission as a faith-based healthcare organization to serve the needs of the people in our community," says Frank Perez, president and CEO of Kettering Adventist HealthCare. "As a Christian organization, it is our charge to provide health education and screenings for those who cannot otherwise afford them. We spend hundreds of thousands of dollars, and many man hours, making our community a healthier place to live."

## Kettering Provides \$17.4 Million in Medicare Services

Kevin Lavoie

KAHC documents its mission impact with one of the most comprehensive community benefits reports in the country. The most recent report, from 2004, illustrated nearly \$1.4 million in community services alone. These services affected nearly 393,000 people. In addition, \$16 million in charity care assisted tens of thousands bringing the total to \$17.4 million.

KAHC began compiling community benefits reports in 1997. Since then hundreds of other hospitals have begun keeping similar reports. This was prompted by lawsuits claiming that some hospitals did not deserve nonprofit status—and the accompanying tax breaks—because they did not do enough to benefit communities.

"Kettering saw this coming, and we were ahead of the curve," said Valerie Haley, director of Community Wellness for Kettering Medical Center. "We wanted to use



#### **Healing Ministry**

some type of central tracking device that everybody could use for an apples-to-apples comparison." This standard tool is called Lyons Software. It contains entry ports for cholesterol, mammography, osteoporosis, skin cancer, cardiac, and other screenings. Many of these services are provided in rural areas through Wellness On Wheels, a massive motor coach that reaches underserved regions. Lyons Software also documents community education for diabetes and bariatric surgery, plus it assesses a value to staff hours spent doing screenings or educational seminars.





#### **CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME**

Also included in the community benefits report are charitable events. The Walk for Women's Wellness involves more than 1,000 people each May and has financed more than 2,000 mammograms over the past 12 years.

Functions such as the Heart To Heart Concert and Gala, to benefit Kettering Cardiac Services, and the Eagle Seekers Golf Tournament, which assists the Victor J. Cassano, Sr., Health Center—Dayton's largest clinic for the medically underserved—are also included. More than \$600,000 in donations to the United Way, Culture Works, the American Heart Association, and the Adventist-operated Good Neighbor House is also documented in the report.

"We are extremely proud of our community benefits report," Perez said. "It proves to our board of directors that we are fulfilling this very important part of our mission. It reinforces the good work that makes thousands of people, myself included, happy to come to work each day for KAHC. We are an important part of the Greater Dayton community (pictured left)."

KAHC is putting the final touches on its 2005 community benefits report. The data will be included in the Ohio Hospital Association's first report to illustrate the impact of hospitals across the state.

Kettering Adventist HealthCare is comprised of five hospitals and 6,800 employees. Few people realize that 10 percent of Ohio's work force is employed in healthcare institutions. Through vehicles like the community benefits report, the state's 239,000 hospital employees are emphasizing the difference they make to people in need.

The 2004 community benefits report is available at www.kmcnetwork.org, under "KMCN's Community Support." The 53-page document was downloaded 652 times during the month of February alone.

Kevin Lavoie is a media relations specialist at Kettering Adventist HealthCare.

#### **Healing Ministry**—News

#### Kettering College Graduates Record Class

Kettering College of Medical Arts (KCMA) recently conferred degrees and certificates on a record number of 216 students at the school's 38th annual commencement ceremonies. Held at the Dayton Convention Center, internationally known lecturer Samuel Betances, PhD,



(below) was the keynote speaker.

During a message titled "Diversity Competencies for 21st Century Health Care Providers," Dr. Betances told of his upbringing in Chicago and his educational journey from the roots of poverty to a Harvard doctorate. "Very often, we live in a society where people look at you and determine what kind of respect you should get based only on how God made you," he said. "We have to be able to see people through the fact that diversity is God's idea! We need to become extensions of each other's best self; we need to reject rejection."

Charles Scriven, PhD, KCMA president, conferred 156
Associate of Science degrees, 39
Bachelor of Science degrees (various health professions), and four Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees. "The healthcare workforce needs our graduates, and we are proud of them," he stated. "It's wonderful to be

putting such high-quality citizens into the life of our region."—Mindy Claggett

#### Kettering and Grandview Ranked Among Top 100 Hospitals

Based on an analysis of 3,091 American hospitals, Kettering Medical Center (KMC) and Grandview Medical Center (comprised of Grandview and Southview hospitals) have been named to Solucient's 100 Top Hospitals list. They were the only two Dayton institutions listed among the 25 teaching hospitals.

The Solucient 100 Top Hospitals: Benchmarks for Success study rated each hospital based on their performance in five categories—quality, financial performance, patient safety, operational performance, and growth. Solucient looked at



Medicare data for 2003 and 2004 to rank the various hospitals.

"What a tremendous accomplishment to be so well-represented on this list," said Frank Perez, president and CEO of Kettering Adventist HealthCare. This is the fourth time KMC has made the Solucient 100 Top Hospitals list. It is the second time for Grandview/Southview hospitals.—Kevin Lavoie

#### Cassano Center Offering Diabetes Education Classes



The Joslin Diabetes Center Affiliate at Southview Hospital is now offering fully funded diabetes education classes at the Victor J. Cassano, Sr. Health Center. Classes teach participants how to improve their blood sugar levels and feel better.

"Diabetes affects 18.2 million Americans, and 5.2 million of them don't even know it," said Paul Glowienka, MD, medical director of the affiliate.
"Direct and indirect costs from diabetes exceed \$130 billion a year. It's a costly epidemic, both in dollars and affected lives, and we as a medical community need to do something."

Warning signs for diabetes include excessive hunger, rapid weight loss, frequent urination, fatigue, intense thirst, and blurred vision. If left untreated, diabetes can lead to nerve damage, limb loss, blindness, kidney



For a complete listing of Adventist healthcare locations, visit www.columbiaunion.org/ healingministry.html



## **Youth Ministries Director Heads "Monumental" United Youth Congress**

The Youth Ministries director of the Allegheny East Conference (AEC), Claude Harris II, wears another hat: He is president of the Black Adventist Youth Directors' Association (BAYDA). With BAYDA, Harris is responsible for planning, organizing, and running the organization's United Youth Congress, held recently at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.



Pine Forge Academy math instructor Norman Niles and sophomore Chandra Jones display the promo poster for Creative Arts Drama Ministry. This is the school group's third appearance at the United Youth Congress.

About 5,200 registered delegates from North America and Bermuda attended this eighth United Youth Congress, with an additional 38,000 or more non-delegates attending Sabbath services. According to Harris, it was a monumental turnout.

"It was a challenging task, but we enjoyed it so



Youth Ministries director and BAYDA president Claude Harris II accepts a plaque from Atlanta City Councilman Clarence "C.T." Martin, declaring April 16-22, 2006, as United Youth Temperance and Anti-Violence Week in Atlanta.

much," said Harris. "We are doing it for our youth who we feel really need an opportunity to not only learn more about Jesus Christ, but [also] to develop their characters. We believe that Jesus is coming soon and we want to have them prepared for that."

The mission of 30-year-old BAYDA is to promote the spiritual, physical, academic, moral, and cultural development of North American Division (NAD) youth. Held every five years, the United Youth Congress serves as a focal point of BAYDA's ministry. The theme for this year's event was "No More Chains."

"We feel that the chains of life, if we allow them, can allow us to have a negative outlook on life, and we want a positive outlook," explained Harris.



Allegheny East Conference president Charles Cheatham gives remarks during the United Youth Congress Sabbath session.

Young people ages 15 to 35 were presented with more than 30 educational workshops, social interaction, quality spiritual speakers, and the opportunity to perform community service. Workshops covered topics such as single parenting, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS awareness, employment, family and spiritual decline, gangs, homelessness, community and financial empowerment, and sexual promiscuity.



Clockwise, from top left: Tanya Knox, Gelani Banks, Confort Emelike, Kelan Banks, Brenda Berry, and Shatia Knox, members of the Campostella Heights church in Norfolk, Va., wait in line to register.

Outreach projects in the Atlanta community were planned to build on the seminar lessons. Fourteen projects, ranging from feeding the homeless, to constructing a beautiful outdoor garden complete with a mural at

(Continued on next page)

## ALLEGHENY EATT TO NÉ

#### United Youth Congress, cont.

a local nursing home, gave attendees the opportunity to put their faith into action.

Deborah Drain, who coordinated outreach projects for the event, explained, "We need to teach our young people that it's not just about us individually, but that it's about helping. So, if we come here and learn to



Congress attendees Vanessa Waite, Brenika Murritt, Brandon Sealey, and Jimmie Gibson (seated), are all members of Columbia Community Center in Columbia, Md.

volunteer, hopefully they'll go home and do the same thing."

Other congress events included an oratorical contest, a drum corps and drill team exhibition, a health fair rally, and a basketball competition.

Each evening, attendees received "spiritual vitamins" from various U.S. ministers. Speakers included James Black Sr., NAD Youth

Ministries director; Jynean Reid, Bible teacher at Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy; José Rojas, NAD Volunteer Ministries Network director; Carlton



The United Youth Congress Mass Choir is a cross section of youth from many locations in North America.

PHOTO BY FULTON BELL



An Allegheny East Conference player (in blue) takes a shot against defenders from the Shiloh Eagles of Colorado during the basketball tournament.

"Buddy" Byrd, pastor of the Bellfort church in Houston; and Paula Olivier, associate pastor of The Seventh-day Adventist Church of the Oranges in Orange, N.J.

Congress attendees also participated in a parade through downtown Atlanta and a "No More Chains" rally. Afterward, 10 attending youth were baptized.

The United Youth Congress wrapped with a choir festival and mega gospel concert. Adventist youth choirs were showcased at the festival with a \$10,000 first prize going to Total Praise from City Temple church in Dallas. Second place and \$5,000 went to All Nations Choir from Berrien Springs, Mich., and third place and \$2,500 went to Motor City Mass Choir from Detroit.

Award-winning gospel artists Martha Munizzi, Desmond Pringle, and Take 6 joined various local talents for the mega gospel concert hosted by Gerard Henry, host of Black Entertainment Television's *Lift Every Voice*.

"Really, what's more important than anything we do here is the emphasis that we have on Christ," added Harris. "We want all cultures to come and partake of this, and the interesting thing is that by mixing together we are seeing that we are really more alike than we are different."—Ken Wetmore

#### Allegheny East Conference

PO Box 266, Pine Forge, PA 19548 Phone: (610) 326-4610 www.myalleghenyeast.com President, Charles L. Cheatham Communication Director, Robert Booker

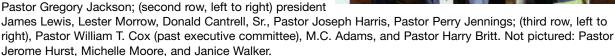


#### **Allegheny West Represented at 25th Union Constituency**

Allegheny West Conference (AWC) president James L. Lewis and more than a dozen delegates from the AWC Executive Committee attended the 25th Columbia Union Conference Constituency Session at the Adventist World Headquarters in Silver Spring, Md., May 20-21.

Leading up to the constituency session, AWC members were very involved in the electoral process. In April, Lewis; Carl Rogers, executive secretary; and members M.C. Adams and Deborah A. Hill were elected to represent AWC on the Columbia Union Organizing Committee. At that meeting, committee members elected Lewis, Adams, and Hill to also serve on the Nominating Committee. That committee met in May to nominate the six union officers for the 2006-2011 quinquennium.

Delegates elected to attend the 25th Constituency Session (pictured) were (front row, left to right) executive secretary Carl Rogers, Deborah A. Hill, Barbara Davis, Pastor Gregory Jackson: (second row, left to right) presid



At the session, the following persons were elected from AWC to serve on the Columbia Union Executive Committee from 2006-2011: Lewis, Adams, Hill, Derrick Moffett, and Patience Barnes.

It was a spiritual, as well as an informative, session for everyone in attendance.—Deborah A. Hill



The Frank Loris Peterson Society of Adventist Men recently held a men's prayer breakfast in Cleveland, Ohio, for groups from central and northern Ohio. These breakfasts, held once a quarter, are special gatherings that started as a result of the overwhelming success of the society's annual men's retreat.

The men of Southeast church in Cleveland prepared the meal and Southeast pastor Bryant Taylor gave the



devotional, encouraging each male of the church to mentor a young person. The men joined in a circle and prayed for the power of God to strengthen them to finish His work.

"Men are encouraged to bring their sons or young male teens who they are mentoring," says Donald Cantrell, Sr., deacon of Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, and president of the 19-year-old society. "The breakfast begins with prayer and testimonies after which the pastor challenges the men to be spiritual leaders in their homes."

Cantrell reports that the society will hold its next annual men's retreat in early August at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. The theme is "Dare to Be a Man." He expects at least 100 men from all over Allegheny West and Ohio conferences to attend.

Left to right: Southeast church members Robert Board, deacon; James Carter, deacon; John Reynolds, elder; and James McDaniels, head usher, all help prepare food for the Frank Loris Peterson Society's quarterly prayer breakfast.



#### **Park Street Church Adventurers Take to Gardening**

We know that most kids love to play in the dirt, so it is not hard to imagine the fun Adventurer Club members recently had at Park Street church in Oberlin, Ohio, when children in grades 1 through 4 worked to earn the Gardener badge. During the class, the youngsters and their parents learned about gardens mentioned in the Bible, how to use garden tools, and how to care for plants.

This youth ministry is designed primarily to enrich parent-child relationships, but club organizers also plan to use it as an outreach program. Children from the neighborhood and other area churches are being invited to participate. Additionally community members, including a police officer, construction engineer, and computer programmer, will teach upcoming classes to the kids from their respective areas of expertise.

—Cynthia Moore



Park Street church Pathfinder leader Cynthia Moore (seated left) helps church students achieve the Gardener badge.

#### **Cleveland Holds First Area-Wide Women's Week of Prayer**

It is written," He said to them. 'My house will be called a house of prayer ... '" (Matt. 21:13, NIV). Keeping this text in mind, the Women's Ministry church leaders of the Greater Cleveland area recently led out in the first area-wide Women's Week of Prayer. The event was ideally dated to coincide with the International Women's Day of Prayer, which served as a nucleus for this great week for women.



Southeast church secretary Gloria Walker (left) and usher Clarine Ashford dedicate special time during the Greater Cleveland areawide Women's Week of Prayer.

"Ministering Until He Comes" was the selected theme for the week. Each congregation organized and selected its participants and speakers, choosing a title commensurate with the theme.

The speakers and their topics for the special week were as follows:

■ Connie Whitfield from Southeast church opened the session. Her sermon title was "Serving God by Serving Others."

- Shasta Dowdell of the Maranatha church talked about "The Ministry of Suffering."
- Minnie Brown, first lady of Temple of Praise church, preached on "Ministering Until He Comes."
- Delores Fields, first lady of Bethel church, titled her sermon, "No Greater Joy."
- Grace Brown of the Southeast church simply called her talk "Steps."
- Judith Joseph of the Glenville church titled her sermon "Ministering Where the People Are."
- Sabbath morning's speaker was Janel Fields, Pathfinder leader at Southeast church, who titled her sermon "Come See a Man."

During the seven days prior to the Week of Prayer, each member was asked to sacrifice something in their lives in preparation for this special outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our churches worldwide.

It was a week that will long be remembered. We truly felt the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We are encouraged to bravely and cheerfully carry our burdens of today, because we do know that He who gives strength for today, will also give strength for tomorrow.

The following Women's Ministry leaders are to be commended for their excellent role as leaders: Dana Davis of Glenville, Doris Workman of Maranatha, Eugenia Carrington of Temple of Praise, Janet Gibson of Bethel, and Barbara Russell of Southeast.

May God continue working with this field of service as these women work toward "ministering until He comes."—Barbara Russell

Catch the Vision is published in the Visitor by the Allegheny West Conference 1339 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43205 Phone: (614) 252-5271 ■ President, James L. Lewis Editor, Bryant Taylor ■ www.awconf.org



#### First 50-Year Class is Honored During Alumni Weekend

Recently my wife Eva and I attended a weekend event with 40 other people from various walks of life: doctors, teachers, physical therapists, business professionals, contractors, pilots, and others. As we talked and ate together, I realized how much we were enjoying each other's company. An outsider would probably wonder what the common thread was, but for us it was very clear: The bonds of friendship forged during our academy years were still strong, even after 30 years.

A similar, more recent event was Blue Mountain Academy's alumni weekend and the celebration of the reunion of its first 50-year class—the Class of 1956. Several shared what a wonderful time they had in getting reacquainted and renewing friendships, and I know other classes had experiences that were just as memorable. It is this bonding that occurs during academy life that inspires me to continue in this work.

These gatherings also cause me to think about a greater reunion that will occur soon. If we have such an incredible time getting reacquainted with our classmates after 30, 40, or even 50 years at alumni weekend, can you imagine what it will be like to spend an eternity getting reacquainted with *all* of the people in our life—our families, colleagues, classmates, and church family? And that is just the beginning. We will get to know ancestors who forged the way before us, as well as offspring we never knew. We will walk and talk with great men and women of the Bible—Moses, David, Ruth, and Peter—

But the ultimate highlight of this reunion will be sitting at the feet of God our Father, and Jesus our Savior, and spending an eternity learning what true love really means. I certainly don't spencer R. Hannah want to miss that reunion, and I want all my friends to be there, too!

#### **Alumni Weekend Highlights**

and the list goes on.



Together participants in the eighth annual Blue Mountain Academy Golf Tournament and fifth annual Hubert Morgan 5K Run raised more than \$2,500 to benefit current students.



The Class of 1956 gathered to celebrate their 50th alumni weekend reunion. Class members were honored with flowers, special seating at the morning service, and an evening program filled with nostalgia and laughter.

## COMMUNIQUÉ

#### **2006 Alumni Weekend Honor Class Photos**







1946 1961







1971 1976 1981





Coming **EVENTS** 

#### **August**

1966

18, 19 New-Student Orientation20 Registration21 Classes Begin

Communiqué is published in the Visitor by Blue Mountain Academy 2363 Mountain Road, Hamburg, PA 19526 Phone: (610) 562-2291 Fax: (610) 562-8050 Editor, Kathleen Sutton E-mail: kathys@bma.us www.bma.us Copy Editor, Louise Corbin

1986 1996



**Former Faculty and Staff** 

## THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

**JULY 2006** 

#### The Secret of True Freedom

reedom is a great word! It is the heart of the American way. But we're losing it. We are losing it because we have lost its secret. We have made freedom something else than it was meant to be. It has come to mean "I can do as I please." That is not freedom; that is license, and ultimately it leads to bondage.

Freedom's delicate balance is the responsibility of the free. Every freedom has its contingent obligation. Neglect the obligation and you forsake the freedom. Freedom of life carries with it the obligation to protect life. Freedom of speech does not give one the freedom to abuse speech. It does not mean that a person can say or write anything they please without regard for others. It does mean that speech is to be used to protect the right of speech. Freedom of worship, by the same token, does not mean freedom not to worship! But it does mean freedom to worship as we please and not as others would legislate.

People can be truly free only in an atmosphere that takes God seriously. The delicate plant of freedom prospers only in the soil of devout and Godly people. Secularism, like crab grass, chokes the life out of freedom. You don't have to be a student of history to prove this for yourself. The very people, who in the name of freedom, are trying to secularize our public life, are poisoning the roots that give them their freedom.

So enjoy your Fourth of July. Celebrate your freedom, but also remember its obligation. That is a challenge for all of us!



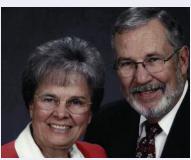
Rob Vandeman

President

#### **NEWS**

#### **Changes Made in Office Staff Responsibilities**

Conference president Rob Vandeman recently initiated changes in office staff responsibilities that should make for a more natural handling of administrative issues and also give additional support to the pastoral work force. This is being accomplished in part by separating the officer level position of conference secretary from that of the ministerial secretary. Charles Griffin, director of Trust Services, added the conference secretary responsibilities to his portfolio. He brings a wealth of administrative experience to the officer team having served as an officer in conferences here and abroad.



His role as Trust director makes possible the seamless handling of conference association matters when meeting with fellow officers. Griffin and his wife Evelyn (pictured left) are members of the

Williamsport (Md.) church, which they pastored prior to joining the office staff and where Evelyn serves as a part-time Bible worker.

John Appel, senior pastor of the Frederick (Md.) church, joined the office staff as director of the Office of Pastoral Development (Ministerial). He will give



direction to the departments of Stewardship and Family Life Ministries. Appel, whose rich background includes experience in educational, pastoral, and youth ministry, will be free from

the administrative entanglements of previous ministerial directors to spend time in the field mentoring pastors.

Appel and his wife Sally (pictured above) will remain members in Frederick (Md.) where Sally teaches third and fourth grades in the church's school.

One last change in responsibilities includes Frank



Bondurant (pictured with his wife Stacey) taking over the Communication Department. His thorough knowledge of the conference and his varied involvement in adult ministries will prove invaluable.

#### THE CHALLENGE

#### **Grasonville Dedicates New Community Services Building**

dedication service for the new Adventist Community Services building, Adjacent to the Grasonville (Md.) church, was recently conducted. Present were guests from the community, including a local county commissioner and the county health physician. Ralph Libby, MD, former member and project visionary who now resides in Colorado, was on hand to participate in the special service and receive a plaque of recognition. Grasonville member Frank Tyler, who gave tirelessly to the project's construction process, was also presented with a plaque. Family members of Peggy Sisler were in attendance. Her generous involvement was a primary catalyst for seeing the project move forward.

The framed structure is 30 feet by 50 feet and contains a large room, two restrooms, a kitchen, an office and initial sorting room, as well as an attic area for storage. The facility was constructed for just over \$100,000.



Grasonville (Md.) church members and guests hold a dedication service for ther new Adventist Community Services center.

#### **Eastern Shore Celebrates Academy's 50th Anniversary**

ore than 400 people gathered at Eastern Shore Junior Academy (ESJA) in Sudlersville, Md., on May 20 to celebrate the school's 50th anniversary. Ralph Libby, MD, who was pastor of the Grasonville church when the school first opened its doors, returned from his retirement home in Grand Junction, Colo., to give the keynote address. Retired Mountain View Conference president Randy Murphy served as master of ceremonies for the reminiscing afternoon program. In 1966 Murphy began his teaching ministry at ESJA, then known as the W.C. Moffett School, before transitioning into pastoral ministry. The day's program was filled with stories and music by present and former ESJA students and staff.

The dream of a centrally located school serving the

Sabbath morning presenter Ralph Libby, MD, was one of the founders of Eastern Shore Junior Academy, first known as the W.C. Moffett School.

Dover (Del.). Chestertown (Md.), and Grasonville (Md.) churches became a reality under the guidance of three pastors, including Libby. The school opened for class- Randy and Marty Murphy enjoy the es in the fall of 1955 in a vacant



school's 50th anniversary celebration.

public school building in nearby Barclay (Md.) with an enrollment of 48. The Rock Hall (Md.) church joined the constituency in 1958. The school flourished in its early years with enrollment topping out at 126 during the 1971-1972 school year. Once again people began dreaming of a new and bigger school. Groundbreaking services were held in April 1972 on a 20-acre parcel of land near Sudlersville. The official open house of the present facility was held in August 1975.

Demographic changes have challenged the school's enrollment in recent years, but it has not dampened school spirit. What one observer at the day's celebration noted may speak for all of the school's supporters: "God's hand led in the founding of this school, and God's hand is still leading it today!" Who could disagree after hearing such wonderful stories of providential leading, commitment, and sacrifice?

The Challenge is published in the Visitor by the Chesapeake Conference • 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044 Phone: (410) 995-1910 President and Editor, Rob Vandeman Editorial Assistant, Barbara-Lee Boyd

#### THE GATEWAY

**JULY 2006** 

## Columbia Union College

7600 FLOWER AVENUE, TAKOMA PARK, MD 20912-7796 • 800-835-4212 • WWW.CUC.EDU

## Professor Contributes Work to Book on Modern Christianity

Mikhail Kulakov, PhD, (pictured) professor of Philosophy and Political Studies at Columbia Union College (CUC), was recently published in a widely distributed book by Columbia University Press titled The Teachings of Modern Christianity on Law, Politics, and Human Nature. In addition to writing a chapter on Vladimir N. Lossky, a widely-followed 20th century Russian Orthodox theologian, Kulakov also helped shape the book's Orthodox Tradition section.

"This was a very enriching and rewarding experience to work with these historians," said Kulakov. "It was a learning experience to get immersed in other Christian traditions."

The book was funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts, an independent nonprofit, and administered by Emory University's Center for the Study of Law and Religion. The editors describe the work as "a landmark collection of writings from twenty leading Christian thinkers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and analyses of their work by leading contemporary religious scholars." The book covers Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox traditions.

"These volumes provide an opportunity for people to discover for themselves the degree and significance that Christianity provides to legal thought," explained Kulakov, who plans to use the two volumes in his Law, Politics, and Justice in Modern Christian Thought course next spring.



Kulakov recommends this new course for students studying public relations and religious liberty, as well as politics, religion, and pre-law. He added, "The new course seeks to engage students in examination of modern Christian thinkers' views on the most vital legal, political, and ethical issues of our time."

"Adventists live in a global Christian community. It is important to understand the needs of different societies so our message will be meaningful and understandable. Themes of religious liberty are very dear to the Adventist church," said Kulakov.—Rachel Ponder

#### **DID YOU KNOW...**

CUC has become an indispensable learning community committed to the Seventh-day Adventist Christian vision of excellence and service. This cosmopolitan institution challenges students to become moral leaders who affect their world for Christ and His cause.

- This year, U.S. News & World Report rated CUC as one of the most diverse colleges in America, with students from 40 states and 47 countries.
- Our location offers exclusive service opportunities and internships in such places as the White House, U.S. Congress, National Institutes of Health, as well as in local and national media.
- Our Mock Trial Team competed successfully with top ranked teams across the country and is supported by CUC's pre-law program, the largest in the denomination.
- Our nursing program is the first accredited in Maryland, and is our largest department with 260 majors. For two years, 100 percent of the class passed the state board exams.
- CUC boasts a five-year average enrollment growth that is singular in the school's history.
- Through the Student Missionary Program, hundreds of students have served in countries such as Mexico, Belize, Panama, Micronesia, and Korea.

#### THE GATEWAY

#### Student Elected to AIA Office

A drienne Stephens (pictured), public relations major at CUC, was recently elected to serve as the national social vice president for the Adventist Intercollegiate Association (AIA) for the 2006-07 school year. Stephens was nominated and voted in during a recent committee meeting of social vice presidents from Adventist colleges in the North American Division.

Stephens' main responsibilities for AIA are to serve as a liaison, to provide other social VP's in the AIA with helpful information, to travel to other Adventist colleges to help with social events, and to plan the social activities for the next AIA convention. "I want to bring a new, fun atmosphere to the social committee," Stephens said.



Stephens served as co-social vice president along with student Victoria Sanders for CUC's Student Association during the 2005-06 school year. "Being co-social vice president has given me so much experience. I worked within the college community and with other businesses. I worked with real contractors, and made real business deals," she explained.

Stephens plans to have a career in event planning and believes CUC is equipping her with the appropriate education and experience. "In many of my public relations classes I have learned how to plan, coordinate, and execute professional events," she said. "I know how to not only make it happen, but to make it happen right."—Rachel Ponder

#### **Student Gains Press Coverage for "Angelic" Voice**

e sings with the voice of an angel. And if you're lucky, you can catch the operatic offerings of Hisham Breedlove down under. Not in Australia, but in Washington, D.C.'s Metro subway system. On any given day, Breedlove's scintillating sounds stop harried commuters in their tracks," reported Stephanie Wilson recently for the evening news of the local CBS affiliate (WUSA-TV).

And Washingtonian magazine stated, "Hisham Breedlove's voice can transform a Metro station into a concert hall," in its December 2005 "Best of Washington" edition.

Metro subway riders often stop and stare at Breedlove, a countertenor—a male who sings in the alto and soprano range. Expecting to see a robust woman, they're sur-



Student Hisham Breedlove interviews with D.C.'s WUSA-TV about his countertenor voice often heard at subway stations.

prised to see a slender man of 23 producing such "full-bodied" sounds.

"The acoustics are incredible," Breedlove stated about the subways. "The sound emanates through the entire area, sending my voice all the way down to the bottom of the escalator, creating an almost natural microphone."

Breedlove dropped out of Howard University more than a year ago due to finances. He was discouraged, but his mother told him, "Just get out there and sing. Sing on the street if you have to," reported the *Washingtonian*.

One day while riding up a Metro escalator, he did start singing. "When I got to the top of the escalator, a guy came up to me and asked, 'Was that you singing?'" he told WUSA. That guy was Curtis Jamison, a CUC senior music major.

"When I was coming off the train in Friendship Heights, I heard a voice. It was really nice, really sweet, and it just wafted over the escalator," Jamison told WUSA. "I assumed it was a woman, and when I got to the top of the escalator, I saw Hisham." Jamison suggested Breedlove audition for CUC's Columbia Collegiate Chorale.

Breedlove later met with James

Bingham, PhD, chair of CUC's Department of Music, who offered him a scholarship. Soon, Breedlove was performing at Carnegie Hall, and in England, South Africa, and his native Zimbabwe with CUC.

Breedlove, who practices about three to four hours a day, hopes to become a world famous performer and to teach, hopefully at CUC.

—Scott Steward

#### **CALENDAR**

J	uly	
_	~.,	

27 Summer Commencement

Registration for Capital Summer Session

#### **August**

1-17 Capital Summer Session

23-27 Freshman Registration and CUC Preview

28 Registration for Fall Semester

29 Fall Semester Classes Begin

Gateway is published in the *Visitor* by the Columbia Union College 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 Phone: (800) 835-4212 ■ www.cuc.edu Randal Wisbey, President ■ PR Director, Scott Steward

## **TELESCOPIO**

ULIO 2006

OFRECE UNA PANORÁMICA DEL ACONTECER DEL PUEBLO HISPANO QUE VIVE EN EL TERRITORIO DE LA UNION DE COLUMBIA

## **Chesapeake Anfitriona Su Primer Campestre Hispano para Jóvenes**

ecientemente, la Conferencia de Chesapeake tuvo su primer Campestre Hispano para Jóvenes con el tema "Prueba con Jesús". El evento se llevó a cabo en el campamento Mt. Aetna en Hagerstown, Maryland, a donde llegaron más de 230 jóvenes para participar en el evento. La participación de jóvenes el día sábado alcanzó los 300.

El orador principal fue el cantante y autor Franck Junior Flores. Durante sus cuatro mensajes y presentaciones musicales, Flores invitó a los jóvenes a aceptar a Jesús como su Salvador. Muchos jóvenes aceptaron el llamado después del sábado de mañana. Dos individuos aceptaron a Jesús por profesión de fe y 11 recibieron el bautismo en el lago del campamento el sábado de tarde.

Carl Rodríguez, director de jóvenes de la Conferencia Cheasapeake organizó este primer evento junto al Pastor Raúl Rivero, XXXX. La asistencia al campestre

excedió sus expectativas y esperan que el Señor les siga bendiciendo con muchas actividades similares a esta para los jóvenes Hispanos de la conferencia.

Después de la charla del orador Franck Junior Flores (en el centro) durante el primer campestre para jóvenes hispanos de la conferencia, muchos jóvenes aceptaron el llamado de hacer de Jesús su

Salvador personal.

"La gloria y la honra sea a Dios quien está bendiciendo el crecimiento de la obra hispana en Chesapeake," expresó Rivero.

## Iglesia Bilingüe Levanta las Paredes de un Centro de Evangelismo

a Iglesia Bilingüe de Richmond, Virginia, soñó construir un Centro de Evangelismo Adventista Multiuso sobre las cenizas de su iglesia destruida en el 2001. A



Luis Liñan Olivera, pastor de la Iglesia Hispana de Richmond (hilera del frente, extrema izquierda) con el equipo Maranata: (hilera del frente, extrema derecha) Kart Schwinn—contratista general de Maranatha, Sandra Golightly (lowa), Susan Cassas (Michigan), Andrés (Florida). (Hilera de atrás, extrema derecha): Gloria Larios-tesorera de la iglesia de Richmond, Billy Golightly (lowa), Lee Achenbach (Takoma Park, Maryland), Cheryl y Daryl Neukirch (Texas), Gary Hampton (Virginia), John y Sheilah Burns (Tennessee), Richard Burns (Tennessee)—ocultos están, Pattie y Wilber Bishop (Tennessee).

este proyecto llamaron "De Cenizas a la Victoria". En Noviembre de 2005 la iglesia celebró la colocación de la primera piedra para el nuevo edificio.

Recientemente, en el mes de mayo, el edificio soñado se comenzó a convertir en una realidad con la ayuda de 16 voluntarios de Maranata y 60 voluntarios de su propia iglesia y otras iglesias del área central de Virginia. Desde mayo 16 al 30, los voluntarios levantaron las paredes y el techo del centro de evangelismo.

"Nuestro sueño se está convirtiendo en una realidad gracias a las donaciones, el apoyo de Maranata, el valor de nuestra iglesia y la ayuda de la conferencia," expresó el Pastor Luis Liñan Olivera de la Iglesia de Richmond Bilingüe. "Pronto celebraremos la inauguración de este gran proyecto, algo que será una combinación de iglesia y una academia bilingüe con la capacidad de atender las necesidades sociales de nuestras comunidades."

Olivera informó que el centro, localizado sobre nueve acres, tendrá campos recreativos para jugar fútbol, voleibol, básquetbol, tenis, etc., pero se usará principalmente para organizar nuevas congregaciones en Virginia.

Este "es un proyecto de fe que ayudará en el desarrollo de la obra hispana en las comunidades del sur y centro de Virginia", añadió Olivera.

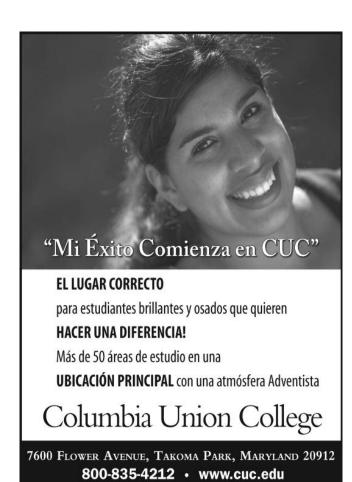
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#### Dreams, Visions, and God's Glory Over Mountain View, Part II

In my dream for Mountain View I see members experiencing a passionate spiritual experience of revival and reformation because of immersion in God's never-failing Word. I see us practicing our faith with exuberance and contagious enthusiasm. In my dream I see members filled with the love expressed in Mark 12:30. I see our hearts "burning within us" as we read His Word. I see us full of the pure "fervent love" for one another spoken of in I Peter 1:22 and 4:8.

I have a dream, Mountain View, with members whose highest ambition and greatest joy in life is to honor Christ by becoming like Him and working for Him. I see Adventist believers whose sweetest thoughts are of Christ and whose warmest affections and best energies are given to Him, in full consecration. In my dream I see believers who long to bear His image, breathe His Spirit, do His will, and please Him in all things. I see where prayer is a pleasure and source of strength for us, rather than a religious task to be performed. With hearts stayed on God, we shall say by our daily life, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

I have a dream in which Mountain View members are willingly involved in relevant, effective ministry in the communities in which we live. I see I Corinthians 9:19-22 being fulfilled in the believers life for Christ. I see the principle of verses 22 and 23, "I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this

I do for the gospel's sake that I may be partaker of it with you," exemplified in the lives of Mountain View believers. In my dream God's people realize that He can reach His objective in saving sinners without our aid, but it is His plan that men and women are to work for their fellow men in order to become like Jesus.

In my dream I see every true disciple who is born into the kingdom of God realizing that they are missionaries to their communities, because he who drinks of the Living Water becomes a fountain of life. The grace of Christ in the member's soul is like a spring in the desert, welling up to refresh all, making those who are ready to perish eager to drink of the Water of Life.



Larry Boggess
President

#### **Mountain View Welcomes New President**

arry and Jo'an Boggess (pictured) are no strangers to this conference. Their tireless and committed service have left their impress on this



field, strengthening every branch of its work, since they came to Mountain View in 1989, where Boggess served as pastor of the Beckley District. Prior to becoming executive secretary, ministerial

director, and evangelism coordinator of the conference in 2002, Boggess shepherded the Summersville (Va.) church, where he and Jo'an, along with the church's wholehearted participation, helped develop extensive educational, health, and community service ministries that continue to vitally bless the community. At the same time he was the pastor of Richwood, Braxton, and Webster Springs churches. Boggess brings to the presidency wide administrative, pastoral, and evangelistic experience spanning nearly four decades. Jo'an, an experienced teacher, shepherdess, and administrative secretary, also works at the conference office performing a wide array of secretarial duties.

#### MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

## Artist Member Answers Call to Assist Hurricane Evacuees

When Suzanne Boehmer relocated from the Washington, D.C., area back to her quiet, little hometown of Burnsville in rural West Virginia, she didn't anticipate that this move would induct her into a sphere of service where variety and demands are anything but provincial. In September 2005 she responded to a call to assist at Camp Dawson in Kingwood, W.Va., in caring for the needs of 400 Hurricane Katrina evacuees. Boehmer's compassion



Suzanne Boehmer (far right) poses with a volunteer (far left) and fellow WeCare staff Karen Racisin (second from left), site manager; Chelle Webster (center), field director; and Kirk Rice, site manager. All helped with Hurricane Katrina clean-up efforts in Mississippi.

and organizational skills found ample opportunity for exercise during those demanding weeks of adjustment for the displaced.

During her several weeks stay at the camp, Boehmer worked with the combined efforts of Adventist Community Services and the American Red Cross, giving handson help to the evacuees. With her computer skills, she showed displaced residents their houses through a satellite photo program that revealed real-time conditions there. Through her contact with Affordable Dentures she was instrumental in arranging free care for 39 individuals whose dentures had been lost or broken during the turmoil of the hurricane.

In November 2005, when Boehmer's uncle John Ridapth retired from his years of capable service as Disaster Relief coordinator for the conference, the Executive Committee called Boehmer to be his successor. She accepted and remains in that volunteer position.

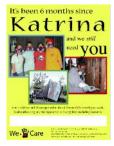
In February 2006, WeCare, Inc., an organization for student mission trips from Andrews University and other schools (www.cywecare.org), asked Boehmer for her help. In

response, she joined a volunteer staff of five people with various functions. Boehmer worked mostly in media and development, but also helped oversee students at Waveland, Miss., assigned to clean up and "gut" houses that need to be rebuilt. All the workers braved muddy conditions and contaminated air to carry out their work, and some, including Boehmer, returned in the late spring to continue this huge task.

As a freelance graphic artist and illustrator,

Boehmer made posters (like the one pictured below) and designed forms for monitoring the activities of the many volunteers, who have

numbered in excess of 1,000 Adventist young people. She also worked with Waveland City Hall to help create tracking



systems for the town to work with the volunteer agencies.

"Any award I've won or job I have done previously for the United Nations or World Bank or whatever is not as satisfying as



The toxic stench in the air from watersoaked homes in Mississippi forced volunteers, like Boehmer, to wear respirators.

what I am doing here in Waveland," Boehmer says. "The work I have done with the Katrina disaster provides such a deep satisfaction. It is just awesome to see His leading, to be led by Him; there is no greater joy."—Pat Ridpath

#### Mountain View EVENTS

#### July

2-9 Lifeguard and Adventure Camp

9-16 Junior Camp

16-23 Teen Camp

#### **August**

11-13 Pathfinder Workshop

21 Mt. View Schools Begin Executive Committee

#### September

5 Departmental Council

**15-17** Youth & Childrens' Ministries Leadership Training

22-24 Mt. View Bible Conference

#### October

6-8 Women's Retreat

Mountain Viewpoint is published in the Visitor by the Mountain View Conference 1400 Liberty Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101 = Phone: (304) 422-4581 President, Larry Boggess Editor, Brian Jones = www.mtviewconf.org



#### **Take Time to Experience Jesus**

If ever there is a time when we need to have fresh, daily experiences with Jesus, it is today. If only we would take the time to fellowship with Him, to be cognizant of His sweet presence. Take time to experience Jesus. The love of Jesus is the theme that attracts the hearts of people to Him. Jesus Christ, the crucified Lamb of God, reveals a love that has no comparison in this world. The spiritual food we could be enjoying during the week is often left uneaten because we don't take time to be still and know our wonderful Savior as our personal friend. The potential of growing in our knowledge and love for Him is beyond our imagination, but it will remain only knowledge if we are not aware of His presence throughout the day.

"With amazement the angels beheld the infinite love of Jesus, who, suffering the most intense agony of mind and body, thought only of others and encouraged the penitent soul to believe. In His humiliation He, as a prophet, addressed the daughters of Jerusalem; as priest and advocate He pleaded with the Father to forgive His murderers; as a loving Saviour He forgave the sins of the penitent thief" (Desire of Ages, p. 752).

Nothing, not riches nor relationships, can take the place of our need for the love of Jesus. He is always at our side. When our grocery money stretches to cover our needs, when the sunset colors our soul, when our troubled mind finds peace, He is there. Take time to experience Jesus.



LeRoy Finck President

#### **NEWS**

#### **Bridgeton Church Pays Mortgage Note**

The Bridgeton Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church recently celebrated the completed ownership of their church building. The brethren paid off the



mortgage they took out in 1999 for the purchase of their building. During a simple ceremony Pastor Joel Soto (far left) and treasurer Irma Jimenez (center) led in

a ceremony to burn the mortgage certificate.

The members' faithfulness and dedication to spreading the Word of God to the community have resulted in many new members. In fact the building no longer meets their needs. Each Sabbath the approximately 350 members divide into two groups: One group meets in the basement with a closed circuit television, and the other in the sanctuary. The members and their pastor would like to worship together and now plan to expand or build a new sanctuary large enough to accommodate everyone.

Amidst all of this growth, the members continue their evangelistic vision and goals to reach every soul that Jesus has in their neighborhood. May God continue to bless the Bridgeton brothers and sisters in all their plans and efforts in sharing the gospel.

#### **Conference Welcomes New Pastor**

The New Jersey Conference welcomes Pastor Alexis Graiales and his wife Gloria Patricia, daughters

Evelyn (9) and Valerie (5 months), and son Esteban (3). Grajales will pastor the Newark, Belleville, and Sion churches.

Grajales and his family transferred from the Greater New York Conference where he pastored the Hempstead area. He previously worked as church pastor and publish-



ing director in Cali, Colombia. He loves evangelism and has evangelistic plans for his district. May God bless the Grajales family as they perform the Lord's work.



#### **Administration Offers Elders Training Retreat**

New Jersey Conference administration recently held an Elders Training Retreat to help each leader realize the importance and sacredness of his/her office as elder, and learn how to become a stronger church leader. Conference leaders LeRoy Finck, president; José Cortes, secretary; James Greene, treasurer; Modesto Vazquez, associate treasurer; Bradley Galambos, ministerial secretary; and Laffit Cortes, youth director; all took part in this very special weekend.

Seminars covered such topics as sermon preparation—vital to the elder who helps cover the pulpit—church youth, personal budgets, stewardship, church finances, and more.

Amongst the seminar presenters was Art Randall, chief financial officer of a hospital, and bi-vocational pastor of the Robbinsville Community church. He taught the elders how to support and be a much-needed blessing to their pastors. He taught that by recognizing the strengths and weak-

nesses between a pastor and an elder, a strong team can be built, upholding each other before the Lord in their duties.

Other New Jersey pastors who presented seminars were Mike Gill (Cherry Hill, Laurelwood, and Swedesboro churches), Jair Pinilla (La Esperanza and Hoboken Spanish churches and Englewood Spanish company), Joel Soto (Bridgeton and Pan Americana de Vineland churches and Cape May Courthouse Spanish company), and Mario Thorp (Edison Spanish



church and Long Branch Spanish company), to name a few.

Lay people like Edriabel Gonzalez (pictured), 26-year-

old first elder of the Bridgeton Spanish church, also shared some wisdom. He shared the experience that his church is having with several active small groups, and how the gospel is being spread. Gonzalez also shared how, in spite of his age, God is using him to lead one of the largest churches in the state.

The church elders were so enthused about the valuable information they received at the retreat that they suggested the conference administration offer similar seminars to church treasurers. These plans are now being formulated.

We expect that very soon the fruits of the elders' retreat and seminars can be seen in many new souls won for the Lord.



#### July

2 Camp Strike, 9 a.m.
Tranquil Valley Retreat
Center

2,4,9 ABC Closed

5-8 Family Summer Camp Tranquil Valley Retreat Center

30-

Aug. 18 Conference Mission
Trip to Mexico

#### August

6 Youth Day at Mountain Creek

6 & 13 ABC Open

27 Pathfinder Olympics
Tranquil Valley Retreat
Center

New Jersey News is published in the Visitor by the New Jersey Conference 2160 Brunswick Ave., Trenton NJ 08648 Phone: (609) 392-7131 = President, LeRoy Finck = Editor, Aura Garcia www.njcsda.org



Art Randall (left), bi-vocational pastor, was one of the Elder's Training Retreat seminar speakers. He was assisted with translation by Leandro Robinson, elder of the Hoboken Spanish church.

#### **Conference Leadership Elected for New Quadrennium**

Decisions regarding leadership personnel for the Ohio Conference for the term 2006 to 2010 were made at two recent gatherings of Ohio constituents.

The delegates to the 39th Regular Constituency Meeting of the Ohio Conference re-elected Raj Attiken to serve as conference president, Hubert Cisneros as conference secretary, and Joanne Rude as conference treasurer. The delegates also named the Conference Executive Committee for the new four-year term, comprised of persons representing all geographical regions of the conference:

Raj Attiken, chair; Hubert Cisneros, secretary; Joanne Rude, Jay Colburn, Frank Perez or designee representing the Kettering Medical Center Network, Pastor Shelvan Arunan, Pastor Mike Fortune, Pastor Rick Szalagyi, Pastor Mike Barnett, Pastor Chester Hitchcock, Pastor Peter Simpson, Pastor Loren Seibold, Pastor Dan Stevens, Brad Durby, Sherree Herdman, Rodney Banks, Dave Case, Kellie Killian, Marisol Larios, Migdalia Mason, Kings Mensah,



Left to right: Neville Harcombe, Columbia Union executive secretary; Raj Attiken, Ohio Conference president; Hubert Cisneros, Ohio Conference executive secretary; Joanne Rude, Ohio Conference treasurer; Edward Motschiedler, special assistant to Columbia Union president; and Seth Bardu, Columbia Union treasurer celebrate the re-election of Ohio's officers.

Amy Moretta, Holbrook Riles, Brent Ruth, Zolton Sestak, David Small, Mike Stephenson, Doug Thomson, and Vince Waln.

Members elected to serve on the Ohio Conference Association Board of Trustees are Raj Attiken, president; Hubert Cisneros and Joanne Rude, vice-presidents; Lou Toscano, secretary; Andrew Sutton, treasurer; Allan Buller, Melvin Hatch, Donna Rudderow, Don Scriven, Mike Peebles, Marvin Grady, and Ruby Jackson.

The Board of Trustees for Mount Vernon Academy are Raj Attiken, chair; David Daniels, secretary; Hubert Cisernos, Joanne Rude, Jay Colburn, Hamlet Canosa, Pastor Willis Adams, Pastor Peter Simpson, Pastor Rick Szilagyi, Pam Castillo, Brian

Christenson, Polly Dengel, Gordon Griffin, Melvin Hatch, Everett Jackson Jr., Ken McGill, Richard Schuen, Dale Twomley, Dixie Waite, Virgil Fryling, and Sam Coleman.

At a later joint meeting of the newly appointed Conference Executive Committee and the outgoing Executive Committee, the following departmental directors and associates were appointed for a four-year term:

Jay Colburn, superintendent of schools; Cindy French, associate superintendent of schools; Lou Toscano, director of Planned Giving; Andy Sutton, treasurer, Ohio Conference Association; Mike Stevenson, youth director;

Marwood Hallett, director of Clergy Care & Leadership Development; Xenia Capote, associate treasurer, Ohio Conference; and Lucy Cisneros, Women's Ministries director.

"Ohio is blessed to have such a strong team of ministry leaders," observed Attiken, following the unanimous vote of support that each candidate received from the committee.

#### **Church News & Notes**

ere are some news and notes from churches across the Ohio Conference:

- The Newark church in Heath, Ohio, operates two websites and has visitors logging on from 80 countries, reports webmaster Michael S. Riebel. The sites are www.ProphecyWatch.biz and www.LivingWord.biz.
- The Bowling Green church was granted license to operate a low-frequency FM radio station, reports church clerk Karen Griffith. The church is currently raising funds for the station with a projected start-up date of October 1.
- The Jackson church is supporting the Adventist India Project by sponsoring three students in a boarding school in India, reports Sandy Stewart, communications secretary. The church also supports the Sunshine Orphanage in India. The church's involvement in these projects stems from its relationship with Dorothy Eaton Watts, wife of the president of the Southern Asia Division. Jackson was Watts' former church home.



Pastor Roy Nelson presents a recognition plaque to Victoria Fisher (middle), while her daughter and current church treasurer Judy Dyke looks on.

- Victoria Fisher was recently honored by the East Liverpool church for serving as treasurer for 65 years, reports member Ross Blosser. The special recognition included the naming of an adult Sabbath School classroom as "The Victoria Fisher Fireside Room." On receiving a recognition plaque, the 93-year-old Fisher responded, "I don't deserve this."
- The Millersburg church recently held revival meetings with John Willmott, DMin, pastor, evangelist, and former administrator for the Southern Asia Division, as guest speaker. The church celebrated the baptism of two people as a climax to the week, reports Pastor Samuel Abraham.

#### **Toledo Church Hosts Camp Meeting**



Clarissa Worley, Oregon pastor and musician, speaks at the recent Northwest Area Camp Meeting, held in the Toledo church. Members from several churches joined together for a high day of worship and praise.



The Toledo Elementary School Choir performed during the offertory.

Mission Ohio is published in the *Visitor* by the Ohio Conference = P. O. Box 1230, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050 Phone: (740) 397-4665 = President, Raj Attiken Editor, Bette Toscano = www.ohioadventist.org

## Pennsylvania JULY 2006

#### What is Church Planting?

Christ planting is winning people to Christ through the everlasting gospel and connecting them to new parts of His body. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit drove the disciples into the world to convert people and grow Christ's body. This calling has not changed. During the past six years, disciples of Christ in Pennsylvania have responded to His prompting. There is now one new church, three new companies, and 10 mission groups meeting for worship. There are five additional pre-mission groups meeting on Sabbath along with 13 more groups in various stages of development. The Spirit is using ordinary people to do the extraordinary!

The conference strategy is simple: We cast the vision and watch for those who respond to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. The conference supports them with prayer, coaching, training, resources, and networking opportunities. Lessons are being learned along the way. Church planting is disciple-driven, but God-directed. It is a spiritual process that requires perseverance in the Spirit. It is exciting, but not easy. It is about new disciples in Christ being joined to a new part of Christ's body. This is church planting. Want to join?



Assistant to the President for Missions

#### **Coaching Encourages Church Plant Leaders**

The Spanish church plant in Stroudsburg, Pa., was struggling. Plant leaders José Elvir and Richard Mercado were discouraged and ready to quit. When they heard that they were assigned a coach, they were not thrilled. But their coach, Pennsylvania Conference church planting director Bill Peterson, sent them an email and a first meeting was scheduled.

Peterson and coach apprentice Otto Acosta held the first coaching session with the plant leaders at Blue Mountain Academy. The four men spent some



Coach Bill Peterson, conference church planting director, meets with plant leaders José Elvir and Richard Mercado of the new Adventist Mission of the Poconos.

time getting to know each other, and Elvir and Mercado shared what was happening in their plant. As they talked, Peterson and Acosta grew excited. The coaches could not believe all God was doing at this plant, and they shared their perspective. "They helped us hear what we were really saying," recalled Mercado. The two men realized that there was a lot to be excited about.

That first coaching session was a turning point for the church plant. Elvir and Mercado realized that they had been looking at the negatives and had no real goals established. With the help of their coaches, the two leaders not only started to notice the positives, but also started setting goals and working toward them.

One of their goals was to start a small group. To date, they have five small groups. They were able to find leaders for every needed position. Within one week of asking Peterson to pray about their need for a pastor to preach once a month and for a pianist, their prayers were answered.

The Pennsylvania Conference Executive Committee recently approved the Stroudsburg Spanish church plant as an official mission group. The plant is now called the Seventh-day Adventist Mission of the Poconos.

"I am greatly impressed by coaching," shared Elvir. "It has helped us set realistic goals. I recommend anyone beginning a church plant to have a coach."



## Conference to Hold Church Planting Summit

The third annual Pennsylvania Conference Church Planting Summit will be held on August 19 from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Bethlehem (Pa.) Spanish company located at 418 East Edward Street. Tom Evans, church planting and stewardship director for the Texas Conference, will be the featured speaker. Under Evans' leadership, 60 churches have been planted since January 2002.

Previously Evans was senior pastor of the Richardson church in North Dallas. During his time there, the church gave birth to two new congregations. Both plants are healthy and experiencing exceptional growth.

Church planters, pastors, lay people, and anyone interested in church planting are invited to attend. For more information, contact Julie Cassell at (610) 374-8331, ext. 207, or at jcassell@paconference.org.



Texas Conference church planting and stewardship director Tom Evans will be the speaker for this year's conference Church Planting Summit at the Bethlehem Spanish company on August 19.

#### Pennsylvania Church Plants Help Mississippi Plant Impacted by Katrina

The Bay Saint Louis church plant near Biloxi, Miss., was ready to be recognized as a company by the Gulf States Conference (GSC) when Hurricane Katrina struck in 2005. The plant leadership team, members of the Biloxi Seventh-day Adventist Church, not only lost their homes and a business, but saw attendance at the plant drop from 25 to about eight as families moved away. The town lost 50 percent of its population.

Bill Peterson, Pennsylvania Conference church planting director, and his wife Darlene previously pastored in Biloxi and visited during Thanksgiving to minister to their former members. After meeting with the members and seeing the



Conference coach Stephanie Brown (far right) worked with the Mississippi leader-ship group at the church plant training weekend and continues to coach them via monthly phone calls.

obstacles they faced as they attempted to continue sharing the gospel, Peterson felt the Holy Spirit move him to adopt these people as a sister church plant.

Peterson took his idea to the church planters in Pennsylvania. They took an offering and raised \$3,500 so that the Mississippi team could attend the Pennsylvania Conference Church Plant Training event held in January. Coach Stephanie Brown was assigned to work with the team at the event and continues to coach them through monthly phone calls. "They are amazing people. You never hear them say, 'poor me.' They never think of themselves," Brown states, "They are always thinking about sharing the gospel with whomever they can."

The Mississippi plant attendance has grown back to about 24 people. They recently held an evangelistic series, "Where's the Hope in America's Future?" with Johnny Mosquera, GSC evangelist, and 28 visitors attended. As plant members continue to move back into their homes, find new homes, and re-establish their businesses, they are excited about what God will do and thankful for the help of the Pennsylvania Conference.

#### What's happening

Judy			
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2-9 Junior 1 Camp Laurel Lake Camp

3-28 Cool Camp

Kenhorst Boulevard Church
Reading, Pa.

**7-9** Community Ministries Pilot Project, *Bedford, Pa.* 

9-16 Junior 2 Camp Laurel Lake Camp

**10-31** Conference Overseas Evangelism Trip to Belize

16-23 Teen Camp

Laurel Lake Camp

23-30 Youth/Young Adult Work
Camp, Laurel Lake Camp

#### **August**

19 Church Planting Summit Bethlehem (Pa.) Spanish Company

20 Organizing Committee Harrisburg, Pa.

25-27 Natural Church
Development Coach
Specialty Training
Conference Office

Pennsylvania Pen is published in the *Visitor* by the Pennsylvania Conference 720 Museum Road, Reading, PA 19611 Phone: (610) 374-8331, ext. 210 President, Ray Hartwell = Editor, Tamyra Horst = www.paconference.org

# Potomac People

#### No News is Not Good News

There is a short passage of scripture that always catches my eye, and I want to talk with you about it for a moment. Perhaps it catches your eye as well.

At the very end of the Gospel of John we find a verse that says, "Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written" (John 21:25, NIV).

It is our privilege as believers to pour over the events described in the Gospels and stand in awe at the power of God at work in the life of Christ; to contemplate the words of the "beloved disciple" when he says that we haven't even seen the half of it!

God said, "You are my witnesses," as He reminded His chosen nation of the story He was writing through their lives. That story would be proof to an unbelieving world that God is God. The writings of the witnesses of old remain to this day, but they were never meant to stand alone. They were to be affirmed by our own contemporary stories of God's love, power, and action.

Church news in one way or another continues to bear witness to the power of Christ in action. If you have ever seen the hand of God move, then you are a witness with a story to tell. When it comes to the church, no news is not good news.



#### **NEWS**

#### **Potomac ABC Gets New General Manager**

The Potomac Conference recently named Maurine Wahlen (pictured) as general manager of the Potomac Adventist Book and Health Food Store (ABC). Wahlen, who served as financial manager of the store since 2001, succeeds general manager Lisa Myaing. She resigned to care for her young family.



Wahlen grew up in Asia, living in Japan, Korea, and Singapore. She graduated from Pacific Union College in California with a Bachelors of Business Administration degree, and then returned with her husband Ron to

work in Singapore and Guam. Wahlen is a certified public accountant and is presently working on her Masters in Business Administration at the University of Maryland.

#### Sligo Impacts Local Earth Day Activities

Sligo church members made up nearly a third of the Takoma Park, Md., community volunteers who braved the rain to clean Long Branch Creek near the church as part of the city's recent Earth Day observance. The group collected an estimated 2,500 pounds of trash from the small creek, including three tires and five shopping carts.



Sligo church volunteers braved the rain to help clean Long Branch Creek near the church as part of the local Earth Day observance.

Sligo Pastor Rebecca Brillhart presented the devotional to start the day, a first for the city's Earth Day events. She spoke of God's creation and of His mandate to care for creation. One community organizer for the cleanup told the Sligo team, "The day would not have been the same without you."—Kermit Netteburg

# Potomac People

## Mission Team Breaks Down Barriers and Builds School Walls

Dotomac Conference Youth Ministries director Denton "Denny" Grady and 41 participants from seven states recently spent 14 days in Amazonas, Brazil. They intended to build a community school and church, hold Vacation Bible School (VBS), send out a medical team, and minister to the people.

After the team arrived, however, several challenges surfaced. First, they realized they would not be able to build a church because the land this community sits on is owned by another religious organization. The people own their homes but not the land. This no doubt deterred some from embracing the Adventist group.

The second challenge was of a spiritual nature. The Bible worker sent ahead to prepare the people for the group's arrival was expelled from the commu-



Left to right: Volunteers Michael Hall, Michelle Hall, Kaylin King, and Jonathan Sharley help build a school in Brazil.

nity. The town leader warned his people not to get involved with the Adventist group.

Barriers slowly came down as the residents observed the group's commitment to building a community school. The VBS team provided daily programming to the community children. The medical team made eight daily excursions by boat to the surrounding communities and provided more than 1,000 people with free medical



Denny Grady, Youth Ministries director, baptizes a new convert in Brazil.

attention and 570 people with free dental care.

Despite difficulties, 20 precious souls were baptized. One of the families baptized had received a copy of *The Great Controversy* 19 years earlier, read it 12 times, and was convicted of the Sabbath. They were overjoyed to finally acquire further understanding of Bible truths. This family donated land, located just outside the community, for church members to meet. Grady anticipates returning next year to the same community to build a church on this property. He also hopes to build a medical clinic.

Mark your calendars for March 2007, and call the conference Youth Department to reserve your place in next year's Far Out Missions trip. As mission trip volunteer and pastor Ron Ihrig says, "Come join us next year, add a little pizzazz to your life, and power up your Christian walk."—Jeanie Allen

## **School Musical Groups Tour Puerto Rico**

The Blue Ridge Bells and Chorale from C.F. Richards Junior Academy in Staunton, Va., headed south recently on an exciting mission trip to Puerto Rico. In addition to ministering with music, we also took time to clean and beautify the Elias Burgos Youth Camp where we stayed.

Some of the highlights include the Blue Ridge Bells' performance in the rotunda of the capitol building in Old San Juan. Miss Puerto Rico and Miss Teen Puerto Rico were present, as well as many dignitaries like José Aponte, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Puerto Rico. We were in awe as we toured the beautiful building.

Another highlight was performing for "Relevo por la Vida," the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event. We played for a large group of cancer survivors and their families, as well as others who wanted to encourage those still fighting.

It was an awesome experience. There were some challenging moments, but God blessed us. We made some wonderful connections with the people of Puerto Rico and hope to return.—*Mollye Coon and Jessica Eberly* 



Blue Ridge Bells and Chorale pose in front of the famous Arecibo Observatory radio telescope.

Potomac People is published in the *Visitor* by the Potomac Conference = 606 Greenville Ave., Staunton, VA 24401 Phone: (540) 886-0771 = www.pcsda.org = Editor, Garrett Caldwell = Comm. Asst., Jeanie Allen



## **God Gives "Maps" to Direct Our Paths**

o you ever look at the directory in a shopping mall when you are out of town? Or do you take your time wandering from store to store? I need the directory to know where I am and the direction I need to go to arrive at the specific store I am looking for, in the shortest possible time. These mall directories are helpful and necessary as they clearly state, "You are here." From that visual map, I can find my desired location, do my business, and be on my way to my next appointment without unnecessary delay.

It is similar in life since we have God's Word, the Bible, as a directory. The promise in Proverbs 3:6 assures us, "In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths" (NKJV). Our parents, teachers, co-workers, and friends can share with us where they are in their walk with Jesus. They can help direct us in where we can go and tell us what we can achieve if we are willing to let Him direct our paths.



Principal

John Nafie

Have you taken advantage of the examples of those that have gone before us? Or do you think that you have it figured out without assistance? My prayer is that each of us will follow the heavenly signs that tell us where we are, and that our paths will lead us toward Jesus.

### **SVA Graduates 71 Seniors**

raduation is always a highly anticipated event, and such was the case this year as 71 seniors anxiously awaited the Memorial Day weekend graduation ceremonies at Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA). Final exams were behind them, the annual class trip to Nosoca Pines Ranch in South Carolina was a happy memory, and graduation was foremost in everyone's thoughts.



SVA 2006 class valedictorian Jamie Cosme receives her diploma from principal John Nafie.

The speaker for the Friday evening Consecration program was Shawnessy Cargile, former taskforce dean at SVA, and most recently, speaker for the Fall Week of Prayer. Shane Anderson, pastor of the New Market (Va.) church, was the speaker for the Baccalaureate service. Anderson developed a wonderful relationship with the students during the school year, and they appreciated having him as their service speaker.

Speaker for the Commencement service on Sunday was Karl Haffner, a 1980 graduate of SVA and former Week of Prayer speaker. Haffner is a favorite of the students and is often requested for programs.

Graduating students represented the countries of Angola, Korea, Colombia, and the United States, Thirty of these students attended SVA all four high-school years, and 16 students were either second- or thirdgeneration graduates of the school. In addition, 17 seniors were members of the National Honor Society.

As families packed up their students and prepared to leave campus one last time, there were many hugs and tears as students faced the reality of saying goodbye to friends and classmates. How wonderful it is to know that we have the promise of an eternal reunion with loved ones when Jesus returns to take us to His home in heaven.—Jan Osborne



## **Two Major Financial Gifts Benefit SVA**

The Lord continues to bless SVA as we strive to provide a quality, Christian education to those who have chosen to attend. This past school year, two significant financial gifts were given to the school.

A former student and graduate of SVA contacted the school and said that his father would like to meet with principal John Nafie about a gift to the school. At their meeting, Nafie was told that the family was considering a gift of \$100,000 to be put into an endowment to benefit the worthy student fund.

This was indeed wonderful news to Nafie and the school, as SVA is always seeking ways to bring students to SVA who have the desire to attend but simply do not have the funds with which to do so. However, when the donor later met with Nafie he said that his gift wasn't quite the amount that he had mentioned earlier. Instead he gave \$150,000!

Louise Heart Phanstiel, a graduate from the Class of 1976, and her husband Howard called and pledged the second gift, but requested some direction as to where their gift should go. After discussing the various areas of need on our campus, the couple decided to give money to complete the renovations in Hadley Hall. One-half of their \$1 million pledge will be used to finish all of the work in that building, including the worship room, hallways, stairwells, bathrooms, and lobby, as well as purchasing the chiller unit needed to air condition the dorm. The remaining amount of the pledge will be used to finance other needs at SVA.—Jan Osborne

## **Business at Rubbermaid Factory Gives Students Jobs**

Shenandoah Valley Academy will continue a new business it started last school year with the local return center for Rubbermaid Commercial Products. Started by Tom Hall, SVA's industry manager, the business will provide about 20 jobs to students during the 2006-2007 school year.

"When a retailer wants to return a product or a truckload of products, they come to the return center where we inspect it, clean it, and then repackage it," explained Hall. "Then we send it back to Rubbermaid Commercial Products in Winchester, Va., and then they resell the items. We also do special projects for them from time to time—assembly and things of that nature."



SVA junior Dustin Grimm is a new student employee at the local Rubbermaid return center.

Any student that needs a job and is willing to work hard can benefit from the new business. Hall reported that last year there were two work shifts available to the students, but adds, "The school is working toward having a more

work- or industry-friendly school schedule."

Student and local resident Ashley Conner, an upcoming junior, started working at the factory for the summer. She said, "I actually don't think I would be

able to come to school here if it wasn't for this job."

Dustin Grimm, another upcoming junior who's working some summer hours, added, "It's local and hours are more flexible than if I was to work somewhere else. I make a set amount, but if I'm on time then I can make a 20-percent bonus—cash—which I can keep."

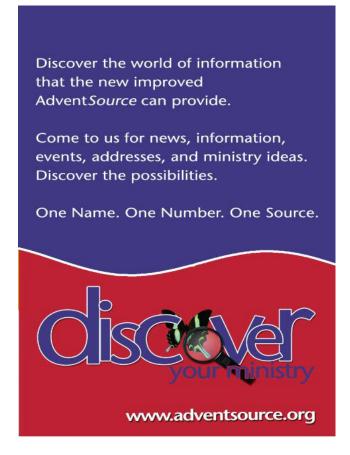
## calendar of events

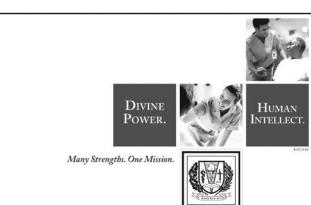
#### **August**

18	Registration
19	New Student/Parent Picnic
20	Registration
21	Orientation/SA Handshake
22	First Day of Classes
26	Almost Anything Goes
27	Junior/Senior Trip to Kings Dominion
31-Sept. 1	Student/Staff Team Building

Happenings is published in the *Visitor* by Shenandoah Valley Academy ■ 234 West Lee Highway, New Market, VA 22844 Phone: (540) 740-3161 ■ Principal, John Nafie E-mail: jnafie@sva-va.org ■ Editor, Tim LaPierre www.youracademy.org





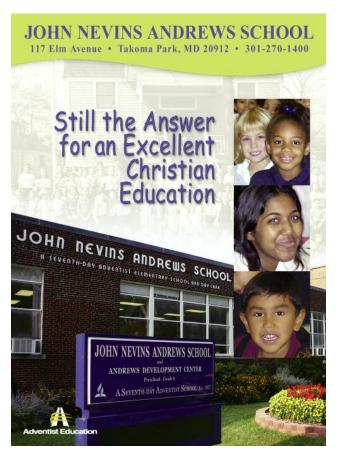


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	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28	Aug. 4
Baltimore	8:36	8:33	8:28	8:23	8:15
Cincinnati	9:07	9:04	8:59	8:54	8:47
Cleveland	9:03	8:59	8:55	8:49	8:41
Columbus	9:03	9:00	8:56	8:51	8:42
Jersey City	8:30	8:27	8:22	8:17	8:08
Norfolk	8:27	8:25	8:21	8:16	8:09
Parkersburg	8:55	8:52	8:48	8:43	8:35
Philadelphia	8:32	8:29	8:24	8:18	8:11
Pittsburgh	8:53	8:50	8:45	8:39	8:31
Reading	8:36	8:33	8:28	8:22	8:15
Richmond	8:34	8:31	8:28	8:23	8:15
Roanoke	8:43	8:41	8:36	8:31	8:24
Toledo	9:11	9:08	9:03	8:56	8:49

## UNSET CALENDAR

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#### **LEGAL NOTICES**

#### MIDTERM CONSTITUENCY **SESSION OF THE ALLEGHENY EAST CONFERENCE OF** SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the Midterm Constituency Session of the Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene Sunday, September 24, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., in the Myers Auditorium of the Martin Luther King Communication Arts Center at the Bowie State University, Bowie, Md.

This meeting is called to review the progress of the Allegheny East Conference and to transact any other business that may come before the Conference at that time. The delegates of the Quadrennial Session of the Allegheny East Conference are delegates of this

Charles L. Cheatham, President Henry J. Fordham, Secretary

#### ALLEGHENY FAST CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the legal meeting of the Allegheny East Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in connection with the Midterm Constituency Session of the Allegheny East Conference at 2 p.m., on Sunday, September 24, 2006, at the Bowie State University, Bowie, Md.

The purpose of this meeting is to review the progress of the Allegheny East Conference and to transact any other business that may come before the Association at that time. The delegates of the Quadrennial Session of the Allegheny East Conference are delegates of this session.

Charles L. Cheatham, President Henry J. Fordham, Secretary

#### MEETING OF THE PINE FORGE ACADEMY CONSTITUENCY

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Pine Forge Academy Constituency will be held in connection with the Midterm Constituency Session of the Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in the Myers Auditorium of the Martin Luther King Communication Arts Center at the Bowie State University, Bowie, Md., on Sunday, September 24, 2006, at a time that will be called by the chair.

This meeting is called to review the progress of the Pine Forge Academy and to transact any other business that may come before the constituency at that time. The delegates of the Quadrennial Session of the Allegheny East Conference are delegates of this session.

Charles L. Cheatham, President Henry J. Fordham, Secretary

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### SUNNYDALE ADVENTIST ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND.

October 5-8. Honor classes are 1956, 1966, 1971, 1986, 1991, and 1996. Activities start with the Silver Showcase, Thursday evening, October 5. For additional information, call (573) 682-2164, or visit www.sunnydale.org.

#### **BLYTHEDALE JUNIOR** ACADEMY/SUSQUEHANNA ADVENTIST SCHOOL ALUMNI:

Join us October 21 in commemorating the 85th anniversary of our school. The celebration will begin at 9:15 a.m. and will continue throughout the day at the Blythedale Adventist Church, 36 Blythedale Road, Perryville, MD 21903. We are interested in stories, pictures, and alumni/ teacher addresses. These can be mailed to the above address c/o Alumni Committee. For more information, phone (410) 378-4343.

#### **OBITUARIES**

#### CONWAY, Norman, W.,

born December 31, 1921, in West Scranton, Pa.; died June 1, 2006, in Peckville, Pa. He was a member of the Scranton (Pa.) church. He is survived by his sons: Jack, Norman Jr., Thomas, and Robert Norman; his daughters: Barbara, Karen Finnerty, Jill Lynott, and Becky Harris; 16 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

#### HART, May K.,

born March 29, 1924, in Bethlehem, Pa.; died November 9, 2005, in North Catasauqua, Pa. She was a member of the Easton (Pa.) church. She is survived by her husband John Hart of North Catasaugua: son Carson of Hellertown, Pa.; grandson Sean

Michael of Hellertown, Pa.; and great-granddaughter Savannah Ashley and great-grandson Sean Andrew of Hellertown, Pa.

#### MOSES, Isaac, K.,

born August 10, 1906, in India; died March 16, 2006, in Takoma Park, Md. He was a member of the Takoma Park (Md.) church. He joined the South India Union of the Southern Asia Division in 1930 as a book depot manager; later as secretary-treasurer of the Western India Union; then as secretary of the South India Union; member of the board of the Bible Society of India, in Bangalore, India; and then the general field secretary of the Southern Asia Division. He is survived by wife Rathna of Silver Spring, Md.; sons Chellam Moses of Silver Spring, Md. and Jake Moses of Little Rock, Ark., and Sunder Moses of Derwood, Md.; daughters, Vee Akehurst of Burtonsville, Md., and Sue Khandagle of Silver Spring, Md.: 12 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

#### **OBITUARY SUBMISSION** Phone toll-free:

(888) 4-VISÍTOR or email:

#### sjones@columbiaunion.net

Obituaries are printed in the order they are received on a space-available basis.

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## **SLIGO BY THE SEA** 2006

July 1 June 24 Stephen Chavez May-Ellen Colon

July 8 Fred Kinsey

July 15 William Johnsson

July 22 Dunbar Henri

July 29 Terry Johnsson

August 5 Alicia Patterson

August 12 Larry Evans

August 19 Ron Halverson Jr.

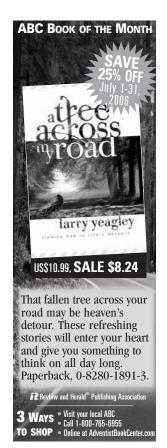
August 26 Kermit Netteburg

September 2 William Loveless and The Hilltoppers

#### -Services held at-

St. Peter's Lutheran Church 10301 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Md. (410) 524-7474

Sabbath School: 10 a.m.—Worship Service: 11 a.m. Casual dress is appropriate.



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#### MISSION STATEMENT

The *Visitor* provides news and information, resources for effective ministry, and insight on issues with a spiritual focus to help people celebrate God's transforming grace in preparation for His return.

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ALLEGHENY EAST: Charles L. Cheatham, President; Robert Booker, Visitor Correspondent; P.O. Box 266, Pine Forge, PA 19548. Tel. (610) 326-4610 www.myalleghenyeast.com

ALLEGHENY WEST: James L. Lewis, President; Bryant Taylor, Visitor Correspondent; 1339 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43205. Tel. (614) 252-5271 www.awconf.org

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#### **HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS**

ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE: William G. "Bill" Robertson, President & CEO; Ray Tetz, Visitor Correspondent; 1801 Research Blvd., Suite 400, Rockville, MD 20850. Tel. (301) 315-3030 www.adventisthealthcare.com

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Published by the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Printed at the Review & Herald Publishing Association.

Volume 111 
Issue 8

# **Are You Ready for Cyber Ministries?**

he latest data show that two-thirds of American households are connected to the Internet, and most homes are using the broadband technology that makes it faster to get email or check websites. By 2010—at the current rate of growth—eight in 10 U.S. families will be connected to the Internet.



(Source: "Worldwide Online Access 2004-2010" by Ben Macklin, Emarketer.com)

This technology is also becoming the preferred means of communication in the Adventist Church. More than nine out of 10 of our local churches have access to the Internet: 42 percent have a computer at the church and another 48 percent have a pastor or congregational leader who uses their personal computer at home on behalf of the church.

And since January 1, every Adventist church in the North American Division has a website. If they did not already have one, the denomination has provided one at no charge, even if the local church does not know about it or access it. Soon, churches in the Columbia Union Conference will be piloting an upgraded version that will give them much more local control over the content of these websites.

#### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

What does this mean for the communication of the gospel and church life? Many new ministries have started that are utilizing this new technology—so many that the General Conference has begun to host regular meetings of "Cyber Ministries." It has become imperative for every ministry and local church to have access to the Internet and disseminate information through a website.

But the technology alone is useless unless each congregation and ministry is willing to invest the human and information resources to provide a rich array of material that is updated on a daily basis, if not more often. For example, every church and ministry should have a place for people to post prayer requests.

Does your local church have a Cyber Ministries team? Is your pastor utilizing the Internet? We are at the point where every pastor should be sending out two emails each week—one to every member, attendee, and individual who registers their email address and one to the core leadership of the congregation. We are at the threshold of the time when this will become more important than the sermon.

Monte Sahlin, vice president for Creative Ministries, is interested in getting your comments, questions, and suggestions at msahlin@columbiaunion.net or (800) 438-9600.

The Kindergarten teacher is very dedicated and makes Jesus real to her students. I am very excited to send my son there—and he is excited to go.

friends here. And I get to learn exciting stories about Jesus at the same time!



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—Heidi Davenport, junior

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