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## Out of the Cocaine Fields

ONE FAMILY'S VICTORY OVER EVIL





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News & Features

8 | Out of the Cocaine Fields:  
One Family's Victory Over Evil

Billy Errico

At age 14, Jimmy Munoz fled his mother's home in the Colombian Amazon to escape abuse and immorality. The newly baptized, young Adventist knew he had to find a better life. Now a pastor, Munoz recently returned home and baptized his mother. Read about her harrowing journey through his eyes.

10 | Dupont Park Church:  
Celebrating a Century of Ministry

Beth Michaels

The Dupont Park Seventh-day Adventist Church is among an elite group of Washington, D.C., churches—those who've celebrated over 100 years of service and ministry. Read about their week-long celebration and century-long impact on the surrounding community. Also, hear from young and not-so-young members who appreciate the historic significance of their church.



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About the Cover:

A worker picks Coca leaves on a cocaine farm in South America. Photo by: Spencer Platt

Worshipping in the Outer Courts

In my devotional reading one morning, I read a passage from Ellen White that created a powerful—and visual—explanation of why our collective worship is so important: “The Church of God upon the earth is one with the church of God above. ... Every heavenly intelligence is interested in the assemblies of the saints, who on earth meet to worship God ... In the inner court of heaven, they listen to the testimonies of the witnesses for Christ in the outer court on earth. The praise and thanksgiving that come from the church below are taken up ... and praise and rejoicing resound through the heavenly courts because Christ has not died in vain for the fallen sons and daughters of Adam” (*To Be Like Jesus*, p. 332).



In the Columbia Union there are nearly 700 congregations worshipping God in the outer courts every Sabbath. Austin (who blessed me with the Blyden part of my name) and I have visited several of these churches recently, and enjoyed assembling with God's people:

■ We spent a Sabbath School with Takoma Park's (Md.) Spanish congregation that has transformed the old Potomac Adventist Book Center into a worship facility, and grown from a small group to nearly 300 in less than five years. There I met José Rigoberto Portillo who has been attending for four months with his Adventist grandmother. I know the heavenly intelligence anticipates his decision for Christ.

■ We enjoyed a packed noontime service at the New Hope church in Burtonsville, Md., where the praise team “raised the roof.” At the end of the service, we loved how Associate Pastor Kumar Dixit gathered visitors for “7 Minutes or Less” to brief them about Adventist beliefs, answer questions, give them *Steps to Christ*, and invite them to learn and study more. What a great way to witness!



**New Members:** (left to right) Martin Hernandez, Elida Yost, and Donald and Michelle (holding Megan) Wilson with Pastor Andrew Pearce (center).

■ After following MapQuest directions for over two hours, we were relieved to see a familiar sign: “Adventist Church—1 Mile.” Sussex Central church in Georgetown, Del., has 25 members worshipping in a small, yellow, one-level house church. After music by a visiting quartet and my message, they transformed the sanctuary into a fellowship hall. “So, how long have you been members here?” I asked two men sitting across the potluck table to make small talk. I never expected their answer: “Two weeks!” It all started when Donald had a dream filled with questions about God. “The next day in the mail, I got this flyer advertising a seminar,” he recalls. “We

attended and Pastor Pearce answered all my questions. So, I kept coming.” What a testimony!

■ I returned to my home church, Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., just in time for the service featuring Handel's *Messiah*. I can only imagine what happened in the inner court when we in the outer court joined in singing the “Hallelujah” chorus.

Someday soon, we'll literally worship with those in the inner court. What a day of rejoicing *that* will be!

Celeste Ryan Blyden is editor of the Visitor.

**Visitor Changes**—This page, “Communion,” highlights our experiences of fellowship with God and Columbia Union members. ■ “Potluck” features what's new in health, technology, books, music, ministry, and life in the Columbia Union. Consider it food for the mind! ■ Finally, back by popular demand is Monte Sahlin's “Last Words” column to keep us abreast of trends and research impacting our church. Enjoy!



Columbia Union Appoints New Vice President

The Columbia Union Executive Committee recently voted **Walter E. Carson**, Esq., to serve as general vice president



and legal counsel with responsibilities for legal counsel, trust, public affairs, and

religious liberty. Carson formerly served as associate general counsel for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church from 1976 to the present. He replaces Robert Patterson who now serves as vice president for Ethics and Corporate Integrity at Kettering Adventist HealthCare.

“Walter is an excellent and experienced legal attorney who has served the church very well,” says Harold Lee, Columbia Union president. “We look forward to having him serve the Columbia Union in various capacities.”

Carson handled tax matters, retirement issues, along with trust and estate planning while serving at the church’s world headquarters. He also represented individual Adventists in religious discrimination cases. He was lead in-house attorney in negotiations with the State Highway Administration and Montgomery County regarding the future use and development of the Adventist Church headquarters. Carson also oversaw the registration and protection of the church’s trademarks and copyrights.

Carson is admitted to practice law in Maryland, the District of

Columbia, Ohio, the U.S. Supreme Court, and other federal courts. He is a credentialed parliamentarian with the National Association of Parliamentarians and the American Institution of Parliamentarians. He obtained a BA from Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md., and a JD from Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Chesapeake Appoints New President

The Chesapeake Conference Executive Committee recently voted **Robert T. Vandeman** to serve as president. Vandeman, conference executive secretary, replaces Neville Harcombe who recently accepted an invitation to serve as executive secretary for the Columbia Union.

“Vandeman is a proven pastor, evangelist, and administrator who has served the Chesapeake Conference with excellence for 22 years,” said Harold Lee, Columbia Union president.

Vandeman’s Chesapeake tenure began in 1983 when he pastored Maryland’s Spencerville church. In



1995 he became conference executive secretary, which also included ministerial and communication duties. Prior to that he pastored in Colorado and Minnesota.

Vandeman has a BA in theology from Union College in Lincoln, Neb., and a MDiv from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich.

“I am both honored and humbled to serve as president

of this conference; honored because I think so highly of Chesapeake members and humbled by the confidence that has been placed in me,” says Vandeman.

New Jersey Appoints New Treasurer

**James A. Greene** was recently elected treasurer for the New Jersey Conference, effective February 2006. Greene most recently served as vice president for finance at the Rocky Mountain



Conference in Denver, Colo., and has more than 35 years of denominational experience.

“As the Executive Committee interviewed Jim for this position, he revealed himself to be a very spiritual man with a deep commitment to the Lord,” says LeRoy Finck, president of the New Jersey Conference. “He will bring a new dimension to treasury with his innovation, creativity, and excellent people skills.” Greene replaces Raymond Jimenez who accepted the position of treasurer at the Montana Conference.

Greene earned a BS in Accounting from Southern Missionary College while carrying a minor in religion. (He was ordained to the gospel ministry in September 2003.)

He previously served in financial capacities at Columbia Union College, Loma Linda University, the East Indonesia Union Conference, Adventist Media Center, and Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

Columbia Union Revolving Fund Builds Churches

For nearly 40 years, the revolving fund has lent money to Adventist churches, schools, and other institutions located within the Columbia Union Conference’s eight-state territory. Currently the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF) has nearly 300 active loans, approximately \$93 million in assets, and over 1,400 note holders.

CURF’s mission statement says: *The Columbia Union Revolving Fund, as a nonprofit corporation affiliated with the Columbia Union Conference, promotes the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, by providing cost-effective financing to churches, schools, conferences, and other entities within the territory served by the Columbia Union.*

CURF raises money for its loan program by selling interest-bearing notes to church members and Adventist institutions in the union. All sales are made through an Offering Circular and a process that complies with the laws of the union’s eight jurisdictions.

Only church members and Adventist institutions within the union may buy notes. The interest rates on the notes are variable and changed from 3.25 percent to 3.50 percent on January 1. The notes are called “90-day Demand Promissory Notes” because note holders may “demand” repayment at any time, and CURF must repay the principal and accrued interest within 90 days after receiving the request for repayment. In effect, each church

member or institution investing in CURF notes helps fund CURF’s lending program for Adventist churches, schools, and institutions while being paid interest on the investment.

To obtain a loan from CURF, churches, schools, and institutions must obtain approval from the local conference treasurer before submitting a loan application. In the past, borrowers have used CURF loans to:

- Buy buildings and land for new churches
- Build, remodel, and expand churches
- Start and build community service centers
- Build and expand schools
- Renovate buildings and refinancing projects at educational institutions
- Start and build day-care centers
- Acquire vans and buses for churches and schools

- Purchase organs for churches
- Repair roofs and heating/air systems for schools and churches
- Build and renovate an Adventist Book Center
- Buy and renovate parsonage housing
- Install computers in schools
- Buy equipment for healthcare facilities

In 1968 the Columbia Union Conference started the revolving fund as a part of the Columbia Union. It was formally incorporated as a separate nonprofit corporation in 1992. This foresight provided CURF the organizational and legal platform to operate note and loan programs within today’s business environment and increasingly complex government regulations.

For more information, please call CURF at (410) 715-0328.

*\*This is neither an offer to sell, nor an invitation or solicitation of an offer to purchase CURF notes. Any such communication is limited exclusively to the Offering Circular of April 2005. No one should consider any investment in CURF notes other than by careful reference to that Offering Circular.*



The North Valley church in the Potomac Conference was built with CURF’s assistance.



## What's New?

### Music > John Stoddart - "Sweet" (Instrumental)

John Stoddart's fourth offering consists of hymns and includes some of his (and our) favorites.



Though you won't recognize the titles of the 11 songs featured because they have been shortened (i.e. the title track "Sweet" is short for "Sweet Hour of Prayer"), you'll quickly recognize the tunes. Listen for "Love," a medley that, like the rest of the CD, was inspired by the innocence of his two daughters—Analise and Anya-Noelle. Expect the simple melodies, rendered by this Philadelphia native and current Maryland resident, to leave you praising God with the kind of reverence that could only be expressed on piano. To order, visit [www.johnstoddart.com](http://www.johnstoddart.com).

### Books > 2006 Devotionals

Variety must be the spice of life because there are 11 Adventist devotionals available this year—eight in English and three in Spanish. The English adult devotional, *Fit Forever*, edited by Kay Kuzma, was written by



dozens of health professionals. The women's devotional, coordinated each year by the General Conference Women's Ministries Department, is back with *A Word From Home*. There are also books for teens, young adults, juniors, primary, and preschoolers. For those who love to read Ellen White's writings, there's *Conflict and Courage*. The Spanish adult devotional is *Herederos de Promesas (Heirs of the Promises)*. Call (800) 765-6955 or visit [www.adventistbookcenter.com](http://www.adventistbookcenter.com) or [www.libreriaadventista.com](http://www.libreriaadventista.com).

### Technology > Adventists Podcast the News

The Seventh-day Adventist Church will not be left behind—at least not when it comes to technology. Every Thursday, listeners can download the *Ground 7 News* podcast to their iPod. The five- to seven-minute program includes news and features from each week's *ANN Bulletin*. "The format is paced to meet a listener on the run, so to speak, and is conversational in style," explains Rajmund Dabrowski, communication director for the worldwide Adventist Church. "It offers a more relational approach to news." To learn more and figure out how to access this program on your "pod," visit [www.news.adventist.org](http://www.news.adventist.org).



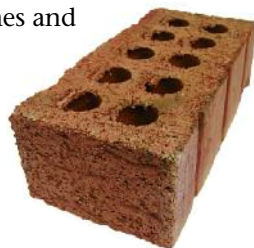
Ground 7 News hosts John Torres and Wendi Rogers.

## On a Mission

### Belize Mission Adventures

Have you ever wanted to go on a mission adventure but haven't had the chance? The Chesapeake Conference is looking for Columbia Union members who want to participate in Belize Mission Adventures. "We have made a commitment to the people of Belize that, during the next five years, we will finish construction on churches and schools that were started by previous mission groups visiting the country, yet never finished," says coordinator Candy DeVore.

She especially wants to give home and public school teenagers, collegiate young adults, and adults the opportunity to participate in an organized, 10-day mission experience. "The greatest impact is on those who



Wanna know what's going on? Connect @ [www.columbiaunion.org](http://www.columbiaunion.org)

go on the trips," she confesses. "Your view of life changes forever, and your heart is won to service. You come away with a passion for Jesus."

Three trips are planned this summer; call (240) 217-0898 and volunteer:

- Collegiate/Young Adult, June 1-11
- Home/Public School, July 13-23
- Adult, July 27-August 6

## 5 Minutes With ...

### Author and Speaker Ginger Church

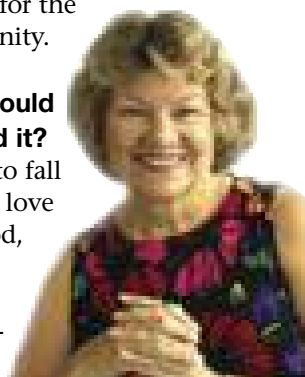
Ginger Church is the author of a new book entitled *Ask God for a Miracle—Your Life Will Never Be the Same*. Church, a 25-year veteran of the Review & Herald Publishing Association (RHPA), is a popular women's and children's ministries speaker. She's also the editor of *Kids' Ministries Ideas*, a quarterly magazine published by the RHPA. The Williamsport, Md., church member recently talked with us about her new book:

#### Who is this book for?

Anyone who wants to understand how God works in our lives. God wants to do wonderful things for all of us, and He is just waiting for the opportunity.

#### Why should we read it?

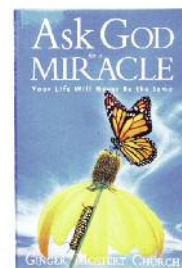
Read it to fall more in love with God, to build a closer relationship



## Only an Adventist ...

Would immediately understand these phrases, oftentimes used to refer to Seventh-day Adventist Church co-founder Ellen G. White or her work: the pen of inspiration, Sister White, and the Spirit of Prophecy.

with Him. My greatest joy in writing this book is sharing the miracles and joy that come from accepting God's love. All I asked God for was a smile, and He has blessed me. This shows me that God does have a plan for each of us, and we should reach out to Him.



#### How can we reach out to God?

Begin with reading the Bible, take a walk in nature, and worship with Him. People have to decide that God is a priority in their life. Stop telling God what is important because His plan is so much bigger than we imagine. Trust Him with your life. —Tanisha Greenidge

ing; putting family first; daily physical activity; keeping socially engaged; and eating fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

While I am happy to read that others are learning from Adventists about health and longevity, the unfortunate reality is that many of us do not live the gospel of health or see it as much more than not smoking, drinking, or eating pork. How much greater an impact could we make—in terms of longevity and introducing others to the Giver of life and health—if the majority of Adventists actually lived the secrets we've known for years? Then, perhaps, it wouldn't be such a secret anymore!—Marc Braman, Adventist WholeHealth Network

## Keeping Score

**14.3** Number of Seventh-day Adventist members worldwide in millions

**1** Number of members in North America in millions

**119,260** Number of members in the Columbia Union in thousands

**7** Percent of worldwide Adventist membership that lives in North America

Source: General Conference and Columbia Union Conference



*"I had to leave. I had to escape ... the abuse ... and the immoral lifestyle," says Pastor Jimmy Munoz. "The events of that day are as fresh in my mind as though it were yesterday. It was December 9, 1991, and I was 14 years old when I left my mother's house."*

# Out of the Cocaine Fields

One Family's Victory Over Evil

Billy Errico

**J**immy (pictured), the second of three children, was born to 13-year-old Solmedis in 1977. His family lived near the little town of Doncello on the fringes of the Amazon jungle in southern Colombia. Life was demanding; this cycle seemed to make little distinction from one generation to the next.

Solmedis was accustomed to hard work and abuse. She was unfamiliar with anything that resembled a loving and nurturing environment. From a very young age, she was exposed to the vulgar and abusive farm workers that her father employed. She cooked and cleaned for them—all while encountering daily mistreatment. This repugnant obligation fostered a growing sense of helplessness and despair.

When Solmedis was 11,

Ricaute Munoz, a worker old enough to be her father, convinced her to elope. This decision, however, did little to improve her life. After they married, he began working on a cocaine farm. Five years later, in October 1980, the farm was raided and her husband was shot and killed by the Colombian Army. At age 16, Solmedis became a widow with three children. Having to provide for her family, she eventually began working at another cocaine farm.

## Popsicles and Bread Dough

Solmedis left her two daughters in the care of friends and took 4-year-old Jimmy to work each day. It was physically demanding, and they faced continual harassment from the workers. "I don't remember much because I was so young," explains Munoz, "but I do remember the abuse."

Solmedis realized that this environment was unsafe and inappropriate for her family. "My mother returned to western Colombia, near the Venezuelan border, to seek the support of her father," says Munoz. "Regrettably, he was hostile and unwilling to help."

To support her three children, Solmedis made popsicles, bread dough, or other small items to sell. "My mother placed these items in a cooler, and I would try to sell them on the street," states Munoz. "We were extremely poor."

In 1988, Solmedis met José and Maria Moreno. "José was a colporteur who took a special interest in our family," Munoz remembers. "He and his wife would visit our home, bringing

special treats such as granola. As our friendship grew, they shared their faith. Eventually my sisters and I started attending Sabbath School."

Although her attendance was sporadic, Solmedis fell in love with the members of the small Ocana Adventist church near her home in Colombia, South America. But she was ambivalent, neither rejecting nor accepting the message. Her life experiences precluded her from trusting anyone—including God. "My mother toiled and fought for everything in life," says Pastor Munoz. "This attitude of self-reliance prevented her from making a commitment to God."

Soon Solmedis became involved in witchcraft and began consulting mediums. She eventually obtained the necessary government permits and opened a brothel. "My mother became very abusive, physically and mentally," he remembers. "Because of this denial of God, open rebellion, and unsafe environment, I made the decision to leave my mother's house," he says.

In 1992 Munoz, who still attended the Ocana church, gave his life to Jesus and was baptized at age 14. "I attribute this decision to the Morenos," he says. "José was an incredibly godly man. He was my role model and spiritual mentor."

During this time he lived with friends, graduated from Satina High School in Ocana, and enrolled at Adventist University of Colombia. A summer employment opportunity at Pacific Press in Idaho brought Munoz to America. From there he transferred to Weimer College in California where he

graduated in 2001 and accepted a call to pastor in the Potomac Conference. "I never imagined that I would study theology and become a pastor in the United States," he says.

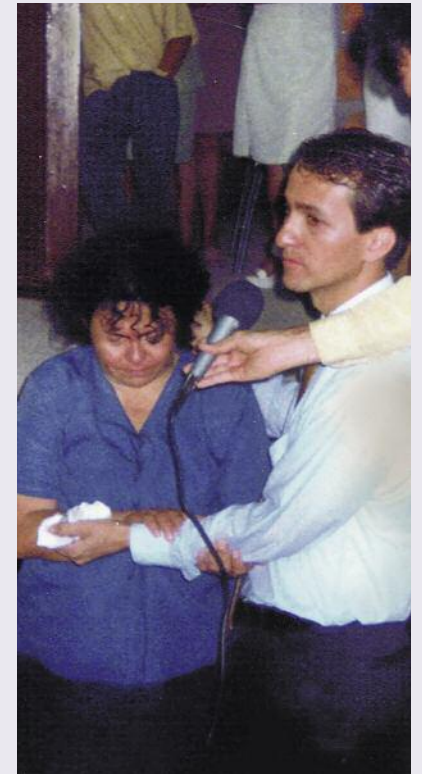
## Completing the Journey

In January 2004 Pastor Munoz received a call from his sister Sol stating that his mother was ill. He returned to Colombia to spend time with her. "It was the first time I had seen her since 1991," he says. "During those two weeks, I rarely left my mother's side and prayed that she would place her trust in God." Although their relationship strengthened and she desired to give her life to Christ, she never made a commitment.

"One day as we talked about God, I felt the Holy Spirit's presence," he says. "I remember thinking, if my mother does not give her heart to the Lord now, I'm not sure if she ever will." Physically and emotionally drained, Munoz returned to the states.

In July 2005 Munoz, who was pastoring the Yale (Va.) church, was preparing to leave and resume his graduate studies at Andrews University. His members presented him and his wife Rebecca with a monetary gift. After seeking the Lord's guidance, Munoz called Pastor Chavez, of the Ocana church, to see if he would be interested in holding evangelistic meetings. Chavez agreed and the couple was on their way.

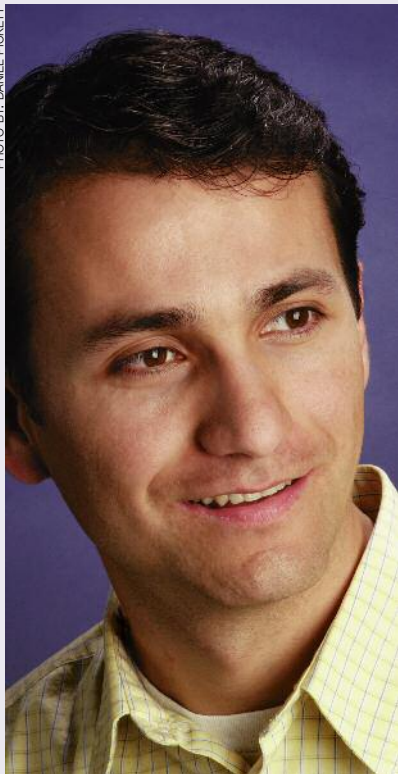
Solmedis, as usual, always made it a point to come to church whenever her son spoke. Although she expressed interest and even came forward after an appeal, she remained seated during the call for baptism.



She watched quietly as the others were baptized. Then another appeal was made. "At that moment my mother came forward," states Pastor Munoz. "She didn't just dedicate her life to the Lord, she insisted on being baptized right then!" Overwhelmed with emotion and tears, Munoz was unable to speak when he baptized his mother. "That's okay, because my mother's decision, after struggling for so many years, spoke volumes."

Solmedis remembers it vividly. "I was crying that morning," she says. "I knew that I needed to take this step, but I was being held back. God has been victorious; He has finally overcome." Once spiritually lost in the Amazon, Solmedis is now a dedicated member of the Ocana church.

*Billy Errico, a congressional staffer,*





# Dupont Park Church

## Celebrating a Century of Ministry

**T**he Dupont Park Seventh-day Adventist Church is part of an elite group of Washington, D.C., churches—those that can claim over 100 years of active service and ministry. To celebrate, members recently held a weeklong “centennial revival” followed by a grand Sabbath service, and a Sunday gala.

The celebration theme of this Allegheny East Conference church was, “A People’s 20th Century Dream to Dupont Park’s 21st Century Vision.” Former, current, and new members; past and present leaders; and visitors from all over the D.C. area, gathered at its 3985 Massachusetts Avenue location for various events. They reflected on Dupont’s growth since opening its doors in a rented facility in December 1903 and moving into their first building—100 years ago—in June 1905.

The week was filled with Pathfinder parades, a children’s pageant focusing on the 1920s through the 1970s, the soulful singing of area choirs—

including Dupont’s Chancel (senior) Choir that started around 1910—and beautiful harp playing.

Former pastor John C. Smith, from the early 1970s, led the revival. Charles E. Bradford, a retired vice president of the General Conference and former president of the Adventist Church in North America, reminded the congregation that they were “almost home.” Although not a former Dupont pastor, Bradford was born in the parish behind the church in the late 1920s. His father, Robert L. Bradford, was senior pastor from 1926 to 1927.

Columbia Union Conference president Harold L. Lee is another former Dupont Park pastor. Lee, who led the flock in the 1980s, also spoke during the celebration.

### MEMORIES AND REVIVAL

Seven members of the 100th anniversary planning committee, led by chair Maurice Parker, worked diligently for three months. Committee member Holly Fisher, church historian and a history teacher at Pine Forge Academy, provided the program’s historical content.

According to Parker, Adventist Youth Society (AYS) leader and an 18-year member, the main goal of the celebration was, “To give people a knowledge of their rich heritage. We also wanted to recognize Lewis C. Sheafe,” Parker continued. “He was a major player and the church’s first pastor.”

Shelton Kilby, Jr.’s grandparents were charter members of the original church in the early 1900s. His mother and father were baptized in 1915. “It’s good to be able to look back over 50-plus years,” he says. “I have some very fond memories.”

One of Kilby’s fond memories is when he chaired the building committee for Dupont’s current location in southeast D.C. “That was quite an accomplishment,” he recounts. “During that time, people weren’t as affluent as they are now.”

Then there’s 15-year-old, lifelong member Sharkita Govan, who did the anniversary Sabbath



Dupont members have worshiped at this southeast D.C. location for nearly 50 years.

School welcome. She’s the current youth personal ministries leader, AYS member, and a student at Takoma Academy. “It’s kind of amazing to see some of the older members coming to the same church, which has been standing for 100 years,” she said. Her 82-year-old grandmother, Edith Dotson, is also a charter member who attended the groundbreaking at Dupont’s current location in 1955.

### A CENTURY OF CHANGE AND GROWTH

Dupont Park members have worshipped in four different locations throughout the D.C. area. The first, in 1903, was at the corner of 12th and V streets in northwest D.C., and they were called Peoples Adventist Church. In June 1905, the 130 members moved to a new building at the corner of 10th and V. In mid-1916, a smaller group of 25 relocated to the corner of 6th and N and became the Ephesus church. In 1959 the congregation moved to its current location and changed its name to Dupont Park. Now there are nearly 1,200 members and at least half attend Sabbath services.

This church is well known for its many long-standing outreach activities. Dupont’s prison ministries program dates back to 1910 under Pastor William H. Green, who conducted meetings in the D.C. jailhouse. The Church Aide Society was established in the late 1930s and provided scholarships for members’ children to attend Adventist schools. The community services department distributes food, clothing, transportation, and money to community residents. The shut-in ministry

provides communion to those who are ill—at home or in the hospital. They also pick up seniors for Sabbath services.

Dupont owns an apartment building in southeast D.C., which provides housing for senior citizens. Open to the public, members use it as a way to evangelize the elderly. Current Senior Pastor E. Dean Peeler says members are initiating more creative methods of communicating and witnessing to the church’s neighbors, such as door-to-door contacts and literature distribution.

Leaders from the United States Senate sent a congratulatory letter commemorating Dupont’s significant historical accomplishment and many years of service. But one member had a different take. “We don’t want another 100 years; we’d like to be in the kingdom before then. We want this milestone to propel us to continue working for Him.”

To learn more about the Dupont Park church, visit [www.dupontpark.org](http://www.dupontpark.org).

*Beth Michaels, a communication professional, wife, and mother, writes from Washington, D.C.*



Some of Dupont Park’s past pastors recently returned to celebrate the church’s centennial.

## A Church of Firsts

- Dupont Park was the first Adventist church to witness directly to Washington, D.C.’s, African-American community. Leaders persisted until it was recognized as a “sister church” in the former D.C. Conference.
- In 1924 Dupont started D.C.’s first Adventist school geared toward African-American children. Originally called Washington Union Academy, Dupont Park Adventist School has been educating pre-kindergarten through 10th-grade students for over 70 years.
- In the late 1980s, Dupont Park had its first female associate pastor, Lisa Smith-Reid. She was also the first female pastor in Allegheny East Conference.

PHOTO BY: BARRY GREEN AND BETH MICHAELS





# Connect with those who Care

## Loma Linda University and Loma Linda University Medical Center Connect with those who Care Throughout the World

For all of their 100-year history, Loma Linda University and Loma Linda University Medical Center have been involved in multiple international health care initiatives, including operating the Wazir Akbar Kahn Hospital, Kabul, Afghanistan, and the Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital, Hangzhou, China, both major teaching facilities.

### Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital, Hangzhou, China

Through its international affiliation with Loma Linda University and Loma Linda University Medical Center, Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital contributes some of the best health care management and services to all patients and families throughout the world. With Loma Linda's technological support and excellent teaching environment for patients and staff, Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital has achieved the utmost level of quality health care throughout the world.

### Sir Run Run Shaw has the following opportunities available:

Nursing Administration Consultant - RN

Clinical & Administration Consultant - MD

### Wazir Akbar Kahn Hospital, Kabul, Afghanistan

Loma Linda's interest in continuing medical education programs internationally encouraged the Afghanistan Ministry of Health to ask if Loma Linda would consider operating the Wazir Akbar Kahn Hospital and upgrade the facility to the equivalent of a progressive American community hospital. Thus, a teaching center, named the Loma Linda Center, was constructed at Kabul Medical University in existing space. Now a 200-bed teaching facility, Kabul Medical Institute continues to provide continuing education programs to health care professionals.

### Wazir Akbar Kahn Hospital, Kabul, Afghanistan has the following opportunity available:

International Nurse Specialist

Loma Linda University Medical Center offers a variety of benefits for its international employees including: housing assistance, travel stipend, and comprehensive health care plans.

For more information about these and other available positions, please visit [www.llu.edu/hrm](http://www.llu.edu/hrm) or contact or Human Resources Department at 1-800-722-2770.



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER  
LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  
LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER EAST CAMPUS  
LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE CENTER  
LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY HEALTH CARE



EOE

# Healing Ministry

A NEWSLETTER ABOUT ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE IN THE COLUMBIA UNION

## Sycamore Undergoes Name Change, Begins \$55 Million Enhancement

Kevin Lavoie

Research has shown that many consumers were not aware of Sycamore Hospital's affiliation with Kettering Medical Center. To more closely link the organizations, hospital leadership decided to change the name from Sycamore Hospital to Kettering Medical Center-Sycamore (KMC-Sycamore).

In addition to the name change, KMC-Sycamore recently broke ground on a hospital expansion project highlighted by a 125,000-square-foot, four-story medical office building (see illustration below). It is the beginning of a campus investment that will exceed \$55 million over the next five years.

The new medical office building will house physician offices, a retail pharmacy, and new hospital services such as a Sleep Lab and a Kettering Breast Evaluation Center site.

Hospital officials also announced plans to expand cardiac services at KMC-Sycamore. The hospital plans to open a state-of-the-art cardiac cath lab and full-service cardiac rehabilitation program. A 64-slice CT scanner, a revolutionary tool for cardiac diagnosis, is scheduled for use in 2007.

Breast evaluation, new diagnostic testing, and stereotactic biopsy services will be available in the next 18 months.

Currently, the hospital's campus is more than 110 acres and includes a 178-bed facility with comprehensive surgical services, an intensive care unit, radiology and imaging services, physical medicine and rehabilitation, and two fully occupied medical office buildings.

"Several months ago we decided to take a long, hard look at the needs of the communities surrounding the Sycamore campus," said KMC president Fred Manchur. "We want to make sure we provide adequate access to services by anticipating changes in our growing neighborhoods."

"People will start noticing changes in the near future, and we think they are going to be very happy with the results when it is all finished," said Richard Haas, senior executive officer, Kettering Medical Center-Sycamore.

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



[WWW.ADVENTISTHEALTHCARE.COM](http://WWW.ADVENTISTHEALTHCARE.COM) ■ [WWW.KMCNETWORK.ORG](http://WWW.KMCNETWORK.ORG)



# Sycamore Hospital Provides Medical Treatment for Katrina HERO

Abigail Axe

**H**urricane Katrina survivor Rachel Burton (pictured) is also a hero. She helped save many lives after the recent storm in New Orleans.

Burton lived in a low-lying area of New Orleans two blocks from the third levee breach. Following the storm, she helped trapped neighbors and pets get the water, food, and safety they needed. After escaping her New Orleans neighborhood, she returned to her hometown of Springboro, Ohio, in need of medical care.

In return, Kettering Medical Center-Sycamore (KMC-Sycamore) was able to improve the quality of her life. They showed generous support and treated all her healthcare needs free-of-charge. Burton lost everything in the hurricane and had no insurance, or even identification, when she returned to Miami Valley. Medical exams, skin medication, and tetanus shots were among the many services she required. Follow-up care has also been offered when and if it's needed.

Rachel's mother, Terry Moore, a surgical tech at KMC-Sycamore is thankful for the service. "I didn't expect this. They really came forward to help in a big way," Moore said. "This hospital is so close-knit and caring; they really helped lessen the burden of her loss."

Burton worked as a dog groomer in one of the hardest hit New Orleans neighborhoods. She evacuated to a local hotel before the hurricane, but when Katrina was over, mass flooding left homes and businesses underwater. The dog shop where she worked had a nine-foot water line,

and remaining area residents were stranded in attics and on rooftops.

"I lost \$1,500 worth of grooming equipment from my shop; it was my livelihood," Burton said. "I also lost everything in my apartment because the water rose so high. My cat drowned in my dresser drawer."

## Forsaking Self

On the first day after Katrina, she waded and swam in the toxic floodwater to release the dogs in the grooming shop. "I had to get all the dogs out of those cages and make sure they were alive," Burton said. "They were trapped and I wanted to save them." Of the 25 inhabitants kept there during Katrina, 16 survived the flood. She released them from their cages and gave them food and water.

On the second day, the levees broke and 15 feet of water filled her neighborhood. She found an abandoned flat-bottom boat and used a piece of fence as an oar. "I rowed the boat to numerous abandoned grocery stores and loaded it with groceries, diapers, and anything I could get to help people," says Burton.

For three days, she made several trips back-and-forth from grocery stores to her stranded neighbors. The people she could reach were rescued and taken to the local hotel where she was staying. Burton also took dog food back to the abandoned dogs in the shop.

The task became more dangerous with each passing day. Gunshots rang out and large fires were started all over the neighborhood. Burton

had her grooming shop's guard dog with her and persisted to get life-saving goods to her neighbors. "There was death everywhere and people needed help," she says, but "there was no line of communication, and we didn't know if help was coming or if we were just left to die."

Finally, four days after the storm she fled the flooded area. The heat and humidity were becoming unbearable and conditions were worsening. She had to get out while she could, but sadly had to leave behind her own dog, "Abel," and the shop's guard dog. Burton secured them in the hotel room with a month's supply of food and water and left the battered city.

She loaded the flat-bottom boat with 15 residents and found a police officer with a truck who drove them to the edge of town. There a couple from Indiana was helping evacuated residents get food and water. Burton got a ride back to Indiana with them and met her mother there.

## Starting Anew

Today Burton tries to leave the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina behind. She's started her life over in Springboro close to her family. Her love of dogs has led her to a veterinarian clinic in Springboro, where she works as a groomer. The experience has been difficult, but Rachel credits family and Sycamore Hospital for helping her get through the ordeal. "This has been such a traumatic experience,"

she says. "It's been good to be back around family."

Burton came back to Ohio with many health problems related to the toxic water, and credits Kettering Medical Center-Sycamore for easing the healthcare burden. "The hospital stepped forward and helped tremendously, and we thank them for that."

*Abigail Axe is a marketing and communications intern at Kettering Adventist HealthCare.*

I had to get all the dogs out of those cages and make sure they were alive.





### Kettering's Youth Services Recognized For Nursing Excellence

Nurses and administrators at Kettering Medical Center (KMC) are celebrating their coveted Magnet Designation, which is the highest honor awarded to hospitals for nursing excellence. These hospitals must participate in nursing research studies and demonstrate a prominent role for staff nurses, which include the promotion of growth and development for nurses. The American Nurses Credentialing Center has given this recognition to only nine institutions in Ohio. Only about 3 percent of the country's 5,800 hospitals have Magnet Designation.



"Our nurses and nursing administration have worked hard to achieve this, and I am so very proud of all of them," said Fred Manchur, president of KMC. KMC actually includes three hospitals—Kettering Memorial Hospital, KMC-Sycamore, and Kettering Hospital Youth Services.

Judi Church, RN, served as Magnet project manager. "We are just ecstatic," she said. "It's validating and reinforces our beliefs in the crucial role nurses play in providing healthcare. We coordinate patient care, advocate for the patient, and use our critical thinking skills to do what is right for them."

"This confirms what we have known for a long time—Kettering Medical Center is a place where nurses and their



considerable skills are valued," said Gloria Ceballos, vice president of Patient Care. "Our Magnet status is going to be an outstanding recruitment tool, because it shows nursing candidates that this is a great place to work." Developed in 1983, the Magnet program is so named because selected hospitals attract exceptional nurses.

Seeking out Magnet hospitals also bodes well for patients. Independently sponsored research shows that Magnet hospitals consistently outperform non-Magnet organizations. In Magnet hospitals nurses spend more time with patients, patient outcomes are improved, patient stays are shorter, and mortality rates are lower. Magnet Designation also indicates high patient satisfaction.

"I have always believed that our nurses are the heart and soul of healthcare," said Frank Perez, president and CEO of Kettering Adventist HealthCare, the hospital's parent organization. "It is extremely gratifying to see our nurses receive this well-deserved recognition for demonstrating our values of trustworthiness, innovation, competency, collaboration, and compassionate care."

### Grandview and Southview Recognized for Clinical Excellence

Grandview and Southview hospitals have received five-star ratings for clinical excellence in multiple areas, according to a recent HealthGrades study. This means that Grandview and Southview rank among the top 5 percent in the nation for overall clinical excellence, and are rated best in the Dayton central area for overall pulmonary services. The hospitals also rank among the best in Ohio for overall vascular services and are rated best in the area, and among the top 10 percent of hospitals in the country, for overall gastrointestinal care.

For two consecutive years, the hospitals have received the HealthGrades Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical as well, placing them among a very elite group of hospitals in the nation that are recognized for overall clinical excellence.

—Kevin Lavoie

For a complete listing of Adventist healthcare locations, visit [www.columbiaunion.org/healingministry.html](http://www.columbiaunion.org/healingministry.html)

### US Dream Academy Seeks Volunteers

With five of its eight learning centers in Allegheny East Conference territory, the US Dream Academy offers mentorship programs and academic curriculum that positively impact young people. Created in 1998 through the vision and dream of Wintley Phipps, a pastor and world-renowned singer, this growing ministry actively seeks to stop the cycle of abuse and criminal activity that may filter from parent to child. With its growing and expanding services, the program really needs Adventist members to serve as volunteer role models and tutors.

Studies have shown that children with positive role models perform better in school and tend to avoid negative influences. "We really want to get more people from the Columbia Union involved in the centers through volunteering," said C. Diane Wallace Booker, executive vice president and COO of the organization. "If you look at it from a ministry perspective, volunteering one day a week can really make a difference in a child's life."

The US Dream Academy targets children in elementary schools whose parents are incarcerated or living a life of crime. These young people receive character training, one-on-one mentorship, music appreciation, and academic learning. The center is committed to offering the children a wide range of

opportunities. "Many of the kids we work with don't have a dream for their future—there are so many things going on in their lives," said Booker. "To each child, a volunteer offers some hope and vision for their future. They really help change the community."

According to Booker, students learn confidence and social relationship skills through the mentorship program. Reaching out to at-risk children while they are young is an important goal for staff members at the US Dream Academy. As their motto says: A child with a dream is a child with a future. For information on how you can help, go to [www.usdreamacademy.org](http://www.usdreamacademy.org). —Tanisha Greenidge

### Local Dream Academy Learning Centers

**East Orange, N.J.** – Located at the Whitney Houston Preparatory Academy, this facility partners with the East Orange School District to offer school-sponsored programs for homeless children and those most in need of after-school care.

**Philadelphia** – At the Tasker Street Baptist Church, volunteers work with different organizations to provide mentors and supervised care to children of incarcerated parents.

**Baltimore** – Located at Collington Square Elementary School, the Dream Academy has partnered with several organizations to offer programs that emphasize academic achievement and activities that encourage physical exercise.

**Washington, D.C.** – Congress Heights Learning Center has many college volunteers and organization participants. It serves as the national model for other Dream Academy learning centers.

**Washington, D.C.** – The center at Ferebee Hope Elementary School has evolved into a "dream lab" that is used during the day as a computer center and after school to provide homework assistance.



At Dream Academy Learning Centers, students enjoy learning, being mentored, and even clowning around.



## AEC Helps NAKE Find Justice

Recently, the Allegheny East Conference (AEC) sponsored a two-week conference for several Hurricane Katrina survivors at Eastern University in Philadelphia, Pa. The training session was created to give displaced hurricane residents an opportunity to advocate for government accountability and justice in their devastated Gulf Coast communities. As a result of their training in community organization strategy and urban planning, conference attendees formed the National Association of Katrina Evacuees (NAKE).

As a nonprofit organization, their mission is to seek justice after the storm for Katrina survivors. “It was so amazing how quickly the NAKE members absorbed the new information,” said Minnie McNeil, director of the Allegheny East Conference Adventist Community Services.

Monte Sahlin, vice president of Creative Ministries for the Columbia Union Conference, along with Carl Sobremisana, Metro Ministries Consultant, and others taught different components of the curriculum. “The participants exceeded all of our expectations during the two-week period they were with us,” commented



NAKE members talk with displaced Gulf Coast residents after they held a town hall meeting in Philadelphia, Pa.

McNeil. “They have significant goals and can now do more for themselves and their communities.”

McNeil played a large role in organizing the training and inviting the six participants to Philadelphia. AEC partnered with Advocate for Better Communities, Adventist Humanitarian Resource Center and other Philadelphia nonprofit organizations to develop the curriculum.

“It was an excellent opportunity to help other people affected by the hurricane,” said Muriel Lewis, NAKE president and training attendee. She was



NAKE members stand with conference planners at the end of the training session.

impressed by the excitement the conference planners exhibited. Because of their training and support from the AEC, NAKE board members feel equipped to advocate for justice for Katrina survivors in their temporary areas of residence. Because of their community leadership efforts, new chapters have sprung up in Arkansas, Georgia, Tennessee, and Texas, with others growing rapidly.

Lewis reports that their message is reaching the ears of city and state legislators. Group members have appeared on local and national news broadcasts. More recently, two NAKE board members met with the House Finance Committee on Capitol Hill to voice their concerns about the poor treatment Hurricane Katrina and Rita evacuees have received. Persistence is the name of the game and the NAKE members are using it to agitate for change. “We have a voice now, and I’m very excited about it,” said Lewis, from her temporary home in New Iberia, La. As soon as conditions in Louisiana improve, the board members hope to return.

“It was very empowering,” said McNeil of the conference. “I am confident that the planners of NAKE will continue to work together for the betterment of communities.” For more information on NAKE and their mission, go to [www.nakejustice.org](http://www.nakejustice.org).—*Tanisha Greenidge*

### Allegheny East Conference

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[www.myalleghenyeast.com](http://www.myalleghenyeast.com) ■ President, Charles L. Cheatham  
 Communication Director, Robert Booker

## Weeks After the Crisis, Hurricane Victims not Forgotten

It was with great anticipation that Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) students planned an unscheduled mission trip last fall. The trip included 47 students and six staff members who volunteered to go after Hurricane Katrina destroyed many Mississippi communities.

The volunteers helped in a variety of ways. Some worked on damaged buildings and cleaned up trees and rubble from yards. Others unloaded and distributed supplies to victims and served meals to those who had nothing to eat.

The experience was life changing for the volunteers. One student said she was frustrated about her shoes being dirty, until she met people coming for help who didn’t even have a pair of shoes. “You expect this ... in other countries, but to see it here at home made me realize what we have and how quickly it can all change,” she said.

As servants, they were challenged to find ways to add value to those people with whom they interacted. With this thought always on their minds, they were equipped to serve thousands of hurricane victims.

Watching students grow in their walk with God is what Christian education is all about. Working with them in Mississippi as they gave of themselves—their time, money, and energy—to add value to others was incredibly rewarding.



Spencer R. Hannah  
*Principal*

## Students Share Thoughts on Katrina Mission Trip

Upon their return, we asked several of the students who participated in BMA’s impromptu mission trip to Mississippi to answer the following questions: 1. What was your most memorable experience on the trip? 2. How did you add value to the trip? 3. What difficulties did you face? Here are a few of their responses:



“The most memorable moment was when I [distributed] supplies. A car drove up with two ladies. I asked how I could help them, and they responded, ‘Well, we got one box of food yesterday, and we need more.’ When I returned with five boxes of food, they held my hand and said, ‘Thank you so much for all the help you teenagers have given us. If we don’t see you again, we hope to see you in heaven.’ These words have just blessed me so much.”—*Sarai Santos*



“My most memorable moment was when I went to Gulfport. It was really bad there. It looked like one of those corny movies that exaggerate the facts. But this was real, and it wasn’t corny. There were huge boats in the streets, semi-trucks in houses. Probably the worst difficulties were the showers

and the bugs. Witnessing all of that devastation was difficult too.”—*Anthony Cheatham*



“The most memorable moment on the trip was when a lady drove up to get things for her grandchild. Each time I asked if she needed something else, she said yes. I told her she didn’t have to hold back because we had so much to give and wanted to help as much as we could. She started crying, and I prayed for her and her family. She was thankful for our being there.”—*Annalee Reid*



“The most memorable moment from the trip was when I met a family that was very friendly and shared jokes with me. The man of the family said he loved One Sure (a drink similar to Ensure) and asked if we had any more. I was working on the line that distributed food, so I got him four more. ... They were so grateful for a simple milkshake that it made me look at my possessions and life differently.

“It was difficult to face the reality of everything. These people were helpless; some were left without anything but the few things they carried in their car.”—*Alana Brereton*



## Physics Class Takes to the Road

As a result of having acquired some new toys, Physics class now has the ability to collect experimental data using LabPro electronic sensors and laptop computers. Data can also be collected from a digital video record of the experiment. So what does this mean?

Recently, while playing with the accelerometer and force plate, Adam Krajewski wondered what kind of acceleration could be produced with human hand and punching motion, and Jonathan Goff wondered what kinds of forces could be generated by jumping up and down. Then someone wondered what kind of acceleration could be produced in a car.

Not having access to a drag strip, and not desiring high-speed driving issues, we decided that decelerating a vehicle would be safer than accelerating a vehicle. Hitting the brakes would actually produce higher acceleration (in a negative way) using four tires than would accelerating with the two engine-driven tires. And we could avoid the negative nature of the acceleration by turning the sensor around and using it backward.

Rusty “Wheels” Marschner acquired the necessary vehicles and hardware. Jeremy “Crash” Wagner rode shotgun and ran the data acquisition equipment. Derrick Nelson and Ryan Stocum ran the computer, while Garret Kozden, Jill Schaeffer, and Tara Berlin operated the video equipment. Other volunteers worked as safeties to keep unwanted vehicles off the test track and to measure and set out the marker pylons, etc. Others discovered a football on the field and began experimenting with two-dimensional uniformly accelerated motion (a.k.a., they tossed it back and forth while waiting for “Wheels” and “Crash” to run the experiment).

We ran three types of stops at speeds from 25 to 35 mph. The first was the typical “don’t-wake-Grandma” stop. The second was the “wow-that-signal-sure-caught-me-by-surprise” (sorry-to-wake-you-Grandma!) stop. The third was an all out panic, “stand-on-the-brakes” stop.

Up until the third stop, Crash Wagner hardly had his feathers ruffled. But the panic stop from 35 mph was enough to get the anti-lock brakes chattering, and the shoulder harness inertia locks kicked in to hold Wheels and Crash tightly in their seats. It was no big deal for Rusty, because he had the steering wheel to hold on to. But poor Jeremy was hanging by his seat and shoulder belt for the duration of the stop, with only the LabPro data collector to hold on to.

Fortunately the video turned out great, because the LabPro encountered a glitch on the last stop and didn’t collect any data. Maybe it was scared, too. The videotape had the data we needed to determine that anti-lock brakes are really a worthwhile system. We also learned that there is a tremendous amount of energy in braking, even at low speeds. After the first few stops at



Garrett Kozden, Tara Berlin, Jill Schaeffer, Ryan Stocum, A.J. Pastor, Jonathan Goff, Jim Stewart, and Derrick Nelson were among Cary Corbin's students who put physics to the test.

25 mph, Wheels and Crash wanted to try stops from 40 mph. However, after a 35 mph stop, Crash understood why the speed was limited and was glad not to do the 40 mph game.—Cary Corbin

## Coming EVENTS

### January

- 9 Second Semester Begins
- 15 International Food Fair
- 17-21 Student F.O.C.U.S. Week
- 27-28 Tour Weekend
- 29 SAT/Sunday School
- 30 BMA Blood Drive

### February

- 1-5 Home Leave
- 8 Midterm
- 8-11 CUC Bandfest
- 11 Youth Church
- 18 Junior Presentation/PAC Meeting
- 19-22 Phonathon
- 24-25 Tour Weekend

### Looking Ahead—April 28-30

Alumni Weekend

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# THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

JANUARY 2006

## Farewell, My Friends!

As you read this editorial, I will have already taken up my new responsibilities as executive secretary of the Columbia Union Conference. On November 17 the Columbia Union Executive Committee asked me to fill the vacancy created by Edward Motschieder’s retirement. And although we have loved working in Chesapeake over the past 18 years, Cindy and I felt the Lord’s leading in this new opportunity for service.

God has been good to me in the years I have spent in the Chesapeake Conference—eight years as executive secretary and ministerial secretary and the past 10 years as your president. As president, it became increasingly clear that relying solely on God’s guidance was the only way to handle the issues that came across my desk. I took Solomon’s prayer for wisdom and understanding as my own. Each challenge that I faced was framed with that prayer.

I want to thank you, the members of this conference, for your understanding and prayerful support. Whether you have agreed or disagreed with me, you have displayed a sweet spirit of cooperation and compassion. Your prayers and team spirit have allowed us to enjoy excellent growth in our evangelistic endeavors and financial resources.

Then, too, we have consecrated pastors and teachers. Working together, they form the front line soldiers in the intense spiritual warfare in which we are engaged. I want to thank them for their devotion and self-sacrifice.

Our office staff of administrators, directors, and secretaries have been second to none. They are among the finest office staff of resource personnel in North America. This team has worked together in harmony, placing the needs of the conference first in priorities. It has been a true example of servant leadership.

I leave for my new assignment with a good feeling of fulfillment. I am forever indebted to the Lord for his goodness over these past 18 years and especially these last 10 as your president. Chesapeake will always have an important spot in my heart. I look forward to what contact I will still enjoy with Chesapeake as I continue to serve you in a different role. I close with the words of that familiar old hymn running through my mind: “God be with you ’til we meet again.”



Neville Harcombe  
President

## NEWS

### Vandeman Elected President

Last month the Chesapeake Conference Executive Committee, chaired by Columbia Union president Harold Lee, elected Rob Vandeman president. Vandeman has served in Chesapeake for the past 22 years, the first 12 as senior pastor of the Spencerville church in Silver



Spring, Md., and the last 10 as executive secretary. During this time, he also carried responsibilities for the communication and ministerial departments. Prior to coming to Chesapeake, Vandeman pastored churches in the Colorado and Minnesota conferences.

“His broad experience in small, medium, and large congregations and schools has given him a perspective that is most valuable in this leadership position,” said Lee. “And as an integral member of the conference leadership team since 1995, he brings a high degree of local knowledge and insight to this new role.”

As he prepares to take on this new assignment, Vandeman is thankful for the support of his wife Judy, a registered nurse in the short stay surgical unit at Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Md. Judy often shares her gift of music with churches as she accompanies her husband on Sabbath preaching appointments. The Vandemans (pictured left) have two adult children—a married daughter named Keri Tomenko of Takoma Park, Md., and a son Kevin who lives at home and studies art and architecture at the University of Maryland.

### Marriage Retreat Scheduled for Ocean City

Don and Sue Murray, pioneers of relationship programming in the Adventist Church, will lead the Chesapeake “Pillars of Marriage” retreat to be held at the Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, Md., February 10-12. Billed as a “spiritual journey to enrich and strengthen marriages” this annual weekend retreat has proved invaluable to many couples. For more information or to register, please contact Millie Maplesden at the conference office at (410) 995-1910 or (301) 596-5600.



## Atholton Member Turns 100

In 1905, when Theodore Roosevelt was president, the Wright brothers were just getting off the ground, Albert Einstein was at work on the theory of relativity, and it was still six years away from the Titanic's maiden voyage, Hattie Lemon gave birth to a son named Glenn in Elk City, Neb.

Last month, 100 years later, Glenn Lemon celebrated his centennial surrounded by family and friends. During a family life weekend, members of the Atholton church in Columbia, Md., paid tribute to Lemon for the contributions he has made to his church over the years. He received a special plaque for "meritorious service" from the North American Division, personal greetings and congratulations from President and Mrs. Bush, and a plaque recognizing him as an honorary alumnus of Andrews University. He also received the loving support of a large family—church and relatives.

The Lemon family, 115 in number, range from 100 years to just a few weeks old. In the family are genera-

tions of ministers and teachers. His youngest son, Duane, was a principal of Spencerville Junior Academy and his grandson, Tom, was a pastor in Chesapeake with his last assignment being at Atholton.

When asked about the secret to living a long life, Lemon gave credit to his vegetarian diet, regular exercise, and faith. "They say it's in the genes, but I think it's primarily the way a person lives," he remarked. "I've always been a hard worker."

After receiving accolades from family and church members during worship service at Atholton, Lemon offered the morning prayer where he thanked God for his church and asked a special blessing to rest on all present.



Cecil Lemon reads the citation that names his father Glenn (right) an "honorary alumnus" of Andrews University.

## Chesapeake Responds to Gulf Coast Devastation

The unprecedented destruction caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita on the Gulf Coast elicited an unprecedented response from Chesapeake members. Tens of thousands of dollars from sympathetic constituents were channeled through the conference office to Adventist Community Services (ACS) Disaster Response. Tons of material goods were collected at ACS centers throughout the conference and shipped to warehouses in the devastated region for distribution. Several teams of volunteers spent weeks on site to

assist with materials management and the massive task of cleaning up.

Chesapeake's Disaster Response coordinator Kitty Juneau and Westminster member Nancy Thomas spent three weeks in Baton Rouge, La., serving as ACS liaisons with FEMA while other team members remained at the warehouse in New Iberia, La., sorting and packaging a mountain of donated goods. In the wake of a disaster, state and federal agencies turn to ACS for assistance in materials management. This was accomplished through a network of eight multi-agency warehouses where unsolicited donated goods were sorted, packaged, and sent to 15 distribution sites staffed by volunteers from ACS and other faith-based, non-governmental agencies. It is estimated that ACS volunteers managed more than \$40 million worth of goods at an approximate cost of \$200,000. That translates to \$200 of product being delivered to the hurricane survivors for every dollar expended.

Volunteers participated in the relief effort from every region within the conference—from Berkeley Springs, W.Va., to Dover, Del., and many places in between. Training opportunities are now being planned for members in Chesapeake churches so they can be certified to assist in a wide variety of relief programs at disaster sites. —Kitty Juneau



Kitty Juneau and a volunteer are among several people that assisted with relief efforts at the warehouse in New Iberia, La.

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# Columbia Union College

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## Employee Trains for National AIDS Marathon

Elisa Rodero has never been a runner. To her, running has generally been tedious and painful—not a particularly fun thing to do. But when Rodero, assistant director of the annual fund and adjunct professor, picked up a flier advertising the National AIDS Marathon Training Program, her thoughts began to change.

Rodero read about the program online and learned that it would work well for a novice like her. The last sentence of the Web site explains that: "It's a great way to get fit, have fun, and make a tremendous difference in the lives of people living with AIDS." Because of that sentence, she decided to register. Now she trains every weekend with a pace group and is working on her fundraising goal. The donations will go to the Whitman-Walker Clinic, the largest provider of healthcare and support for those living with HIV and AIDS in the Washington, D.C., area. "Co-workers have been so supportive," Rodero says. "It's really encouraging to see how many people are pulling for me."

Training has also given Rodero additional insight into her Christian experience. "The Apostle Paul says, Daily I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Jesus our Lord," she says quoting Philippians 3:14. "He's not talking about speed or style here, just about sticking with it, even when it's painful and difficult. And you have this family of believers with you, supporting you, encouraging you, praying for you—just like my pace group and donors. It helps me see the Christian life from a different perspective; it's a marathon of the heart." Rodero will run her first marathon—26.2 miles—in Miami on January 29.—PR Staff



Rodero (third from right) trains with her pace group.

## Professor Appointed to Education Taskforces

Leisa G. Standish, an assistant professor of education at CUC, was recently appointed to a taskforce charged with tackling the challenges of early childhood education in Washington, D.C. Standish holds a doctorate in education and was appointed to this position by the superintendent of the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS).

"I am very excited about this [opportunity]," said Standish, an expert in early childhood development. As a resident of the district, Standish started working with a local neighborhood school to help revitalize their early childhood education program. "Although Capitol Hill has tons of kids, not many parents send them to D.C. public schools

past kindergarten," she explained. "I spearheaded a letter-writing campaign to Clifford Janey, superintendent of D.C. public schools, requesting programs for 3-year-olds at three of the neighborhood schools. These programs would fill a community need and get families into the schools."

Janey called Standish and they talked about the proposal and his vision for the DCPS. As a result of their talk, and with other input, Janey decided to start an early childhood education taskforce. "He requested that I join the committee, and, so far, most of the 12 programs in phase one have started," reports Standish.

Since initiating these programs for DCPS, Standish was asked to serve on the early childhood taskforce for the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"I am passionate about education and supporting our Adventist schools," she says. "Our long-term commitment to education, and ability to combine research and best practices with our Christian advantage, enables Adventists to be an asset to the public school system."—PR staff



Standish at the board teaching her education class.



## Music Professor Releases Classical CD

In celebration of their new CD, the Mendelssohn Piano Trio of Washington, D.C., featuring violist and associate professor Michael Stepniak of CUC's Department of Music, presented a concert recently at the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. Acclaimed by top music publications, the group presented Tchaikovsky's epic piano trio, and Richard Strauss' visceral and sweeping piano quartet. Stepniak's performances can be heard on classical music stations around the world.—PR Staff



## Health and Wellness Week Promotes Longer Life

For CUC's annual Health and Wellness Week, students and staff participated in professional health screenings, donated blood to the American Red Cross, and listened to inspiring presentations. They also walked through various health exhibits by the Review and Herald Publishing Association's *Health Connection* ministry, the local county Department of Health and Human Services, and the Potomac Adventist Book and Health Food Store, which offered snack samples and nutritional information.

During the five-day event, there was also a taping of the DVD/television program *Contagious Wellness*. The show, taped in the Morrison Hall Chapel, featured presentations and interviews with Al Bacchus, a professor in CUC's Department of

Health, Wellness, and Physical Education, and DeWitt Williams, director of Health Ministries for the North American Division. There was also an announcement of a \$1,000 prize for a health-focused writing and study competition.

The Wednesday convocation featured Gina Brown, chair of CUC's Department of Nursing, who stressed the importance of controlling appetite to control the mind. In her message titled "Why Am I This Way?" Brown focused on the relationship between people's minds and actions.

"Everything you take in has to do with your mind," she said. "Your appetite is controlled in your mind and what you eat directly affects how you act."

Other presenters during the

week included speakers from CUC's Departments of Nursing, Psychology, Respiratory Care, the Counseling and Health Centers, and Washington Adventist Hospital.

—PR Staff/  
Val Bossous



Beth Lemkelde of CUC's accounting office prepares to donate blood.

### CALENDAR

#### January

- 9 Registration
- 10 Classes begin
- 15 Student Association Ski Weekend
- 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday—*Campus Closed*
- 23-28 Student Week In Spiritual Emphasis
- 24-25 Adult Evening Program "Success Night" Info Sessions
- 31 FAFSA Night (*prospective students get help with financial aid process*)

#### February

- 1 Black History Month Begins
- 5-11 Womanhood Week
- 8 FAFSA Night (*prospective students get help with financial aid process*)
- 14 Student Association Valentines' Banquet
- 20 Presidents' Day—*Campus Closed*
- 26 Open House

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# TELESCOPIO

ENERO 2006

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



## Richmond Bilingüe—De las Cenizas a la Victoria

Los miembros de la Iglesia Bilingüe Adventista del Séptimo Día en Richmond, Virginia, celebraron una ceremonia de la colocación de la primera piedra sobre nueve acres donde proyectan construir una iglesia y un centro de evangelismo que incluirá un gimnasio, una biblioteca, una escuela primaria, y la primera oficina bilingüe de servicios sociales de la ciudad. También habrá un campo para el fútbol y áreas para el básquetbol, el tenis, y el voleibol, etc. "Estamos saliendo de las cenizas a la victoria", declaró el Pastor Luis Linan Olivera, mientras daba la bienvenida a los miembros, visitas, representantes de la ciudad, y periodistas de dos estaciones locales de televisión. "Dios levantará un gran centro de evangelismo en este lugar que atienda las necesidades de la comunidad."

El Pastor Olivera dice la verdad cuando dice que están saliendo de las cenizas. Solo tres días después de los ataques del 11 de septiembre de 2001, la iglesia fue destruida por dos jóvenes que arrastraron a otro joven dentro de las instalaciones. Después de golpearlo y torturarlo por drogas, le prendieron fuego junto con la iglesia. La congregación quedó devastada.

Hoy, los miembros tienen una nueva visión—un programa de evangelismo integral para la comunidad que incluye la salud, la educación, y los servicios sociales. "Esperamos poder decirle a aquellos que se sienten perdidos que nosotros podemos ayudarles," explicó el Pastor Olivera. "Esperamos decirles que tenemos los recursos y la infraestructura para proveer un estilo de vida alternativo que los lleve del fracaso al éxito."

## 100 Almas Ganadas para Cristo en el 2005

El distrito del sur de Virginia, pastorada por Luis Linan Olivera, vio a 100 personas venir a Cristo en el año 2005. La Iglesia Bilingüe de Richmond, una iglesia de 60 miembros, tuvo 52 bautismos. La Iglesia de Hopewell (Va.), de 40 miembros, tuvo 20 bautismos. La Iglesia de Tappahannock (Va.), una congregación de 15, trajo 8 miembros nuevos al reino de Dios. "La organización y la motivación fueron nuestros factores claves para la victoria," dijo Hugo Ramírez, el primer anciano de Richmond. Las tres iglesias condujeron 25 eventos de evangelismo y se concentraron en desarrollar y usar los dones espirituales de sus miembros.



El Pastor Luis Linan Olivera se prepara para bautizar a nuevos miembros en el Río Richmond de Virginia.

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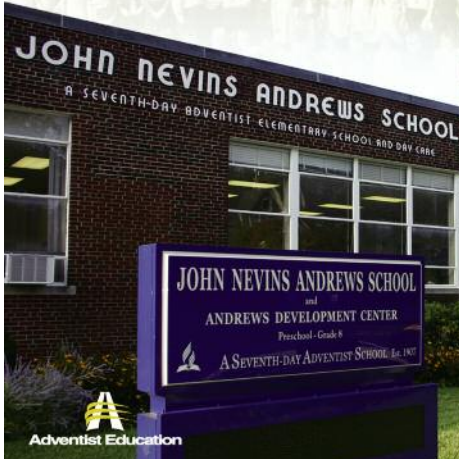
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## New Beginnings

Did you make any New Year's resolutions? Have you broken any of them already? We've been conditioned through the years to view New Year's as a time of new beginnings, a time of reflection, and a time to set goals for the coming year. The problem is that we often set goals that are unrealistic, and even more foolishly, set out to accomplish them by our own sheer will-power. No wonder February is a month with one of the highest depression rates. Millions of people feel defeated as they realize they have blown every single one of their resolutions!

On the other hand, the Bible tells us that every day should be a new beginning. Daily we need to surrender our lives to Christ and ask for His leading and direction. We don't have to set goals for a year, we only have to set them for each day. Even more hopeful is that we don't even have to choose our own goals because God will direct us to what He wants us to accomplish, give up, or change. And the best news of all—we can ditch the “will-power” and rely on His power!

Let's make a commitment to live this year with a daily focus.



**Sheri Tydings**  
Vice Principal

## NEWS

### HVA Hosts Academy Days

HVA recently welcomed 85 students from across the Chesapeake Conference to campus. Academy Days is an annual event designed to acquaint prospective students with the programs HVA has to offer for their high school experience. Activities included games led by the Student Association, worship, classroom visitations, and a short concert by the music department. Victoria Dye, from Mt. Aetna Adventist Elementary School, located in Hagerstown, Md., won the day's grand prize of a \$100 certificate for the 2006 registration fee, a t-shirt, and \$20 cash.

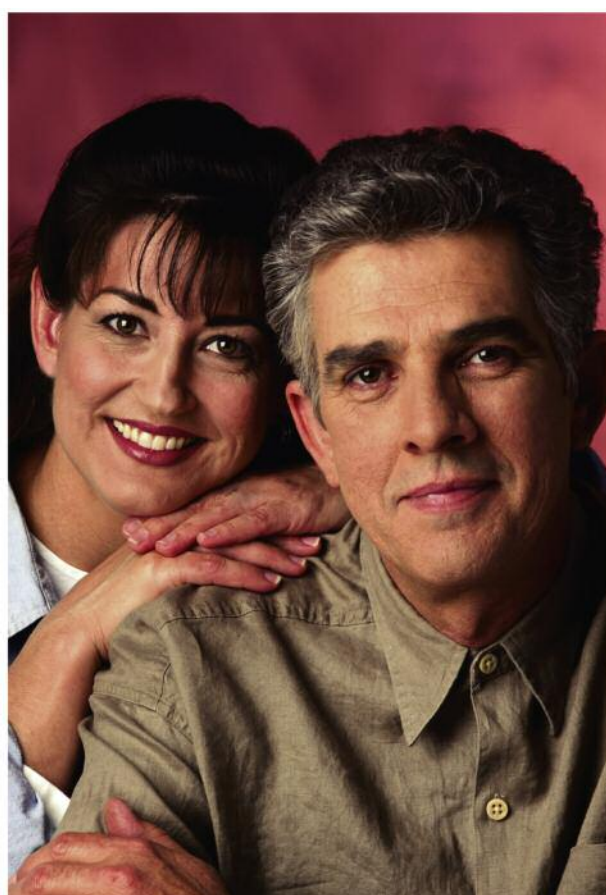


### Students Learn How to Share Faith

The theme of the fall Bible retreat was how to effectively share faith with others. A group of 22 students and four faculty members spent the weekend praying, studying, and learning practical ways to share their beliefs in a variety of circumstances. Julie Quackenbush, a junior, thought the weekend was a real success. “It really inspired me to go out there for Jesus!” she said. Faculty sponsor Jennifer Payne agreed: “The retreat was an inspiration to me as I saw how excited our students are about sharing God with others.” The annual Bible retreats are sponsored by HVA Campus Ministries under the direction of Stephen Herr.



Above: Students from across the Chesapeake Conference attended Academy Days.



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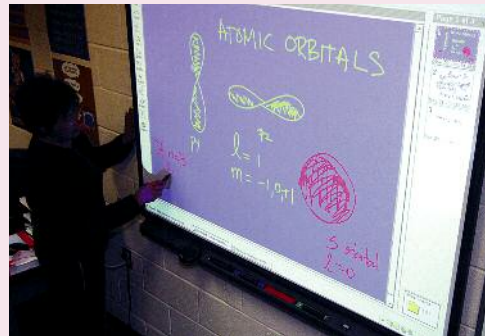
*Plan.*



## SmartBoards Enhance Classroom Experience

Megan Boggess, a senior this year, thinks SmartBoards “are the greatest thing since sliced bread!” Three classrooms at HVA now have SmartBoards. The wide capabilities of these electronic boards allow teachers to utilize them in many capacities, from using them as a traditional white board to interacting with any windows-based presentation. In short, anything that can be done with a computer can be done with the SmartBoard, with your finger serving as the mouse! If a question is raised during a class discussion, the teacher has the option of going directly to Internet sources to research the answer with the class. Using special markers, the teacher can then underline, highlight, or add comments to the sources found and even print the material for the students to use as a study aid. “If you miss something a teacher writes on the board, they can simply scroll back to it later so you can write it down,” says senior Martin Nestares.

Teachers report that the SmartBoards have been a tremendous asset for enhancing the curriculum and class presentations. HVA’s SmartBoards were funded by the Smart Kids Foundation and generous donors.



Ophelia Barizo uses the SmartBoard to teach her class.

## Science Classes Conduct Field Studies

The Environmental Science, Special Topics in Science, and Humans and Their Environment classes, taught by Ophelia Barizo and Monty Murdoch, recently traveled to Rocky Point Park in Essex County, Maryland, to participate in hands-on learning activities. This field trip was conducted by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. The Chesapeake Bay Trust has funded many science field trips at HVA over the last six years.

The students spent their time on the scientific work boat, *The Marguerite*. The boat took them to the Chesapeake Bay where they conducted several scientific experiments to determine water quality of

the bay. They conducted chemical tests for nitrates, phosphates, dissolved oxygen, salinity, and pH. Using a Secchi disk they determined water turbidity, and with a device called a “bottom grab” they obtained samples from the bottom of the lake to determine if there were live organisms in the bay’s benthic zone. Several varieties of fish, such as spot, hog choker, striped bass, white perch, and jelly-fish were caught with a trawl net. The scientific data collected by students is put into a centralized database that scientists use to assess the health of Chesapeake Bay.

After learning proper rowing techniques, the students went canoeing on the Middle River. They went seining on the riverbanks for fish and other aquatic organisms, then identified their catch and studied various adaptations for survival. They caught 10 different species within a few feet from the shore and, based on the biodiversity of their catch, determined that the river was relatively healthy.

“This field trip was a great opportunity for students to be outdoors and put the things they have learned in the classroom into practice,” Barizo remarked. “We are so thankful

that the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Chesapeake Bay Trust give such tremendous support to science education for the students at Highland View Academy.”



Students study a map of the Chesapeake Bay.

### CALENDAR

#### January

- 14 Class of '06 Spaghetti Dinner
- 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Day
- 26-29 Home Leave

#### February

- 3-5 Bible Retreat
- 18 Annual International Night
- 19 Annual Art Appreciation Day
- 21-26 Home Leave
- 21-26 Basketball Tournament at Southwestern Adventist University

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# MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

JANUARY 2006

## For Heaven’s Sake

The ball has dropped in Times Square, and now we’re in a brand spankin’ new year! When you think back on 2005, with all its devastating tsunamis, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, wars, and terrorism, you can’t help but wonder what 2006 may bring! We know from Bible prophecy that end times will be characterized by even greater calamities. “As a woman in travail,” these catastrophic events on earth will become more frequent and with greater intensity. In fact, this world will eventually be dissolved, but thank God, heaven is our home!

God’s Word asks us a most poignant question: “Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God? ...” (2 Pet. 3:11,12) How do we go about hastening our Lord’s return? “By giving the gospel to the world, it is in our power to hasten our Lord’s return. It is the privilege of every Christian, not only to look for, but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (*Evangelism*, p. 496).

As a vital part of His remnant church in 2006, Jesus is calling you:

1. To surrender your heart to Him, which will be revealed by your conduct and godliness.
2. To hasten His coming by sharing your friendship and compassion, and His love and truth, with neighbors.

During 2006, what on earth are you planning to do for heaven’s sake?



Kingsley Whitsett  
President

## NEWS

### Mountain View Youth Launch Web Site

Pastor/Evangelist Abelardo Rivas (Weirton-Wheeling District) and Jonathan Meyer, an Adventist freshman at West Virginia University in Morgantown, have developed a Web site—www.mvyouth.org—to keep Adventist youth and young adults in touch and to share fresh ideas in soul winning and personal spiritual nurture. The site serves as a bulletin board for posting current information of interest to Adventist youth—rallies, socials, baptisms, soul-winning plans, messages, and devotional reflections by young people in Mountain View Conference.



“In this electronic age of rapid movement and hectic schedules, it helps to have this meeting place in cyberspace for Adventist youth to maintain contact, coordinate our service for Christ, and strengthen the bonds of our fellowship,” says Meyer, principal developer.



### Spencer Church Forms New Pathfinder Club

Under the leadership of Violet Hard (pictured far right), the Spencer (W.Va.) church has formed a Pathfinder club, the Spencer Samaritans, with seven youth (some pictured with leaders). During the first month of their existence, the Samaritans collected cans and money to help fill Thanksgiving baskets for needy families. They next plan to conduct an evangelistic series in Roane County, W.Va. Hard and her assistants, Cheryl Baliciano and Joyce Meyer, are grateful for the strong Pathfinder leadership in Mountain View and plan to involve their club in upcoming conference events.



## Spencer Member's Poetry Published

You really ought to put your poems together in a published collection," friends would often advise Chris Hasse as they read her work in manuscript form. That's hard to do, though, when the work spans several decades of writing and is on miscellaneous scraps of paper, stuffed in a file held together with string.

But God has His timing. When Lisa Minney, award-winning columnist for West Virginia's *Calhoun Chronicle*, saw Hasse's work, she saw light in publishing it. Hence, *Barley Loaves* was born. "This is our first venture into publishing a book of religious poems," says Minney. "We decided to do this because Chris's poems speak directly to the heart. They show a very personal and direct relationship with God—one-to-one."

Hasse harbored no ambition to be published; she makes her living as a gardener and literature evangelist. As personal ministries secretary for the Spencer (W.Va.) church, she is intensely active in promoting soul-winning efforts. "It comes naturally to me at times to record my thoughts and prayers in verse form. But it does encourage me to think that someone else might benefit from these heart utterances to God," she says. "These poems represent a bird's eye view of my life's journey, crystallized into words." Hasse says she really appreciates the labor of the *Chronicle* staff in birthing this book. "If my little collection nourishes the hearts of just a few readers with heavenly hope and inspiration, then the efforts involved in publishing [it] will not be wasted."

Excerpts from *Barley Loaves*, a 52-page work, can be read at [www.calhounchronicle.com](http://www.calhounchronicle.com). For copies, call Hasse at (616) 846-2888.



Chris Hasse (right), with Lisa Minney of Calhoun Publishing Inc., holds the first printed copy of *Barley Loaves*.

## Mountain View Surpasses Baptismal Goal

Through the combined efforts of pastors, members, and evangelists, Mountain View exceeded its baptismal goal of 125 new members in 2005. This marked the first year of a bold, soul-winning initiative that calls for 12 to 15 reaping meetings every year and a proliferation of Community Bible Marking Classes, weekend seminars on prophecy, revival meetings, health programs, and community services, all supported by personal outreach.

This evangelism wave is sweeping across Mountain View, and people are noticing: "It's good to see the pews filling up again!" one



Children listen intently to stories about Jesus.

member said recently. "This series of meetings has not only brought new members into our church, it has generated new life and enthusiasm for the gospel in all of us," commented another. The evangelism initiative isn't just benefiting longtime members, it's attracting new ones. "When my former pastor warned me against coming to these Adventist meetings, I wondered what he didn't want me to hear. Now I know! I'm glad I came," said a new member. "You people are more than a church; you are at the core of a movement that God has

started and God will finish! It's awesome to be part of that movement now," said another.

"We are seeing right before our eyes the outpouring of God's Spirit in a mighty way," says Mountain View's evangelism coordinator, Rich Cavaness. "Churches that emphasize evangelism are growing and bringing new people into membership."

The goal is to exceed 1,000 baptisms between 2006 and 2009. In addition conference plans include a mobilization of youth (through Pathfinders, church schools, and secular campuses) working with adult members in personal and public evangelism. Field school training abroad, with multiple series held in South America each year, also plays a vital role in Mountain View's soul-winning advance.

**Mountain Viewpoint** is published in the *Visitor* by the Mountain View Conference 1400 Liberty Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101 • Phone: (304) 422-4581 President, Kingsley Whitsett Editor, Brian Jones • [www.mtviewconf.org](http://www.mtviewconf.org)



Pastor Stewart Pepper prepares to baptize Charles Loudermilk.

## Preparing to Meet God

As we enter the new year, our minds turn to resolutions and planning. The signs proclaim that Seventh-day Adventists should be making plans for the return of our Lord. As we enter 2006, are we anxiously anticipating the imminent return of Jesus? Are we ready to look up and say, "This is our God and He will save us?" Or are we asking ourselves, "Am I ready to meet Him?" The best preparation is to have faith in our Father who sent Jesus. So instead of questioning, we should say, "Thank you heavenly Father for providing your transforming grace through Jesus to make it possible for me to spend eternity with you."

In addition to having faith, we have a work to do. Ellen White says, "Now the work that is before us we want clearly to understand. It is a work of mercy, a work of love ... this is Christ's work. It is not the man's work ... We must be imbued with the Spirit of Christ. We cannot labor with God merely from our intellect or our education. We cannot buy the grace of God with money; we cannot buy it with eloquence; we cannot buy it with the power of our intellect. It is God's to begin with. Does any of it belong to us? No, it is received by us from above" (5 Manuscript Release, pp. 37-38).

Jesus told us to occupy till He comes, and He expects us to use every talent He has given us to labor together with God, to break the yoke that binds and lift the heavy burden of sin and guilt.



LeRoy Finck  
President

## A Father Gives the Gift of Life

Edwin Barahona, a young man in his 20s, has been a Seventh-day Adventist since kindergarten. He lives in Paterson, NJ, and attends the Eastside Church.

On December 2004 he and seven family members took a trip to Houston to celebrate Christmas and their first organized family reunion. Relatives from California, Cleveland, San Antonio, and New Jersey joined them for the happy event.

But they noticed that Edwin's coloring wasn't quite right, he tired easily, and his appetite was poor. Edwin denied everything because he didn't want to ruin the trip.



Julio Barahona (left) gladly gave his son Edwin one of his kidneys. Both father and son are doing fine.

Following the family vacation, he made an appointment and was referred to a kidney specialist. While at that appointment, he was rushed to St. Joseph's Hospital. Both of his kidneys had shut down; his body was almost completely intoxicated by poisons. Edwin underwent surgery and began four-hour dialysis treatments three times per week.

Edwin's family and members of the Paterson Temple and Paterson South district churches began praying for a miracle. Edwin endured pain, cramps, and dizziness during the treatment, but he continued to coordinate the sound and video system at church.

He was placed on the national donor waiting list and was told that it would take anywhere from two months to three years to find a kidney that was a perfect match. Churches all over the United States and El Salvador were praying for him.

Edwin's sister and brother were tested, but neither was a complete match. Then his father Julio came forward; he was a perfect match. The kidney transplant surgery was scheduled for August 12, 2005 and both Edwin and Julio were anointed.

The surgery was a success. The doctor had never performed a transplant with such great results. Edwin's family ran to the chapel to thank God for His power and mercy. They thanked Him for miracles in the past, and for this modern-day miracle in Edwin's life. Both father and son are doing fine. —Matteo Barahona



## Conference Ordains Pastors

New Jersey Conference President LeRoy Finck and Secretary José Cortés recently had the honor of ordaining the following pastors into the gospel ministry:



Pastor Laffit Cortés, Youth Department director, who was accompanied by his wife Lynda.



Pastor Sheldon Cooper, New Brunswick and Princeton English District, who was accompanied by wife Bertha. (Bradley Galambos, conference Ministerial director, assisted in these two ordinations.)

**We invite you to join us in welcoming these newly ordained ministers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.**



Pastor Walter Umaña, New Brunswick Spanish and Perth Amboy Spanish District, who was accompanied by wife Alexandra. (José Cortés, Sr., youth director of the Greater New York Conference, assisted with this ordination.)



Pastor Ricardo Cala (center), Trenton Spanish, Camden Spanish, and Mt. Holly Spanish District, who was accompanied by wife Esther.

## dates

NEW JERSEY

### January

- 2 New Year's Day – Office and ABC closed
- 3-4 Pastors Annual Interview
- 8 ABC Open 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 10 ADCOM
- 11 Directors Advisory
- 13-15 Teens PUSH
- 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday – Office and ABC Closed
- 17 TVRC Board HSH Board
- 24 ADCOM
- 27-29 Young Adult PUSH
- 31 ADCOM

### February

- 1 Directors Advisory
- 5 ABC Open 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Youth Ski Day
- 6 Principals Council
- 9 HH Board, 2-3 p.m.
- 10-12 English Lay Evangelist School Spanish Couples Retreat
- 10-13 ABC Open 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 14 ADCOM, 9 a.m. Camp Meeting Planning 2:30-5:30 p.m.

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## Evangelism in Ohio: Don't Ask What Jesus Would Do?—Ask What Jesus Is Doing

Raj Attiken, president of the Ohio Conference, has been challenging members to consider what it means to be a missional church in the community. Last January he sent out a communication stating: “God is at work all around us. God is in the ‘mission field’ even before the missionary gets there. God is in our community even before the church gets there. He is already working to fulfill His plans. It’s our job to perceive the ‘new thing’ that God is doing. When we discern what God is doing and join Him, we enter into a zone of blessings. We don’t have to ask Him to bless what we are doing; instead we enter into what He is already blessing.”

### Millersburg Prays Street by Street

Churches all across Ohio took up the challenge and have been seeking ways to “enter into what Jesus is already blessing.” Samuel Abraham, bi-vocational pastor of the Millersburg church has taken these words seriously. As he walked the streets of Millersburg, he realized that this little town was filled with people who needed to hear the gospel message. So, he challenged his members to choose just one street and begin to pray for the people living there. He suggested that they walk up and down the street and pray for everyone in every home. After several weeks they started talking to people and began to get to know them. As Abraham and his family walked and prayed, they met several people who have asked for prayer. In fact, they asked him to visit family



Students from the Mansfield Elementary School participated in a “Walk for Hunger” and raised over \$700.

members who are sick so he could pray for them also. One of the families Abraham visited invited him and his family to church. The following Sunday, Abraham was in church, making friends and sharing his love of God. The next Sabbath, this family attended the Millersburg church. A group from the church also visits a local nursing home each month, making friends with the nursing staff, and praying with them.

### Centerville Offers Prophecy Panorama

During the month prior to an evangelistic series, Centerville church members met regularly to pray for God’s blessings. Lifting up the meetings to God, they fasted and prayed for friends and family who would be attending. Pastor Winston Baldwin conducted the series, entitled “Prophecy Panorama.” A vegetarian tasting/health fair was held at the conclusion of the meetings, and the entire Centerville community was invited to attend. A concert featuring the King’s Heralds was also scheduled for that weekend. “Our goal is to create interest in the community and provide opportunity to reap what has been sown,” states Pastor Baldwin.

### Mansfield Creatively Serves Community

The Mansfield church has been creative as they endeavor to be involved in community outreach projects. Every year they unite with the local First Church of God to present an evening of thanksgiving and praise to God during Thanksgiving weekend. The



Pastor Abraham studies the Bible with a Mennonite family in Millersburg.



Evangelism in Ohio, *cont.*

public is invited via cable television and radio advertisements. Mansfield's Community Outreach Team partners with a different social service agency each month. They are currently working with seven agencies in Richland County, collecting donated items such as healthy snacks for after-school programs or clothing for Volunteers of America. They also donate services including meal preparation and tutoring. "VBS in the Park" was conducted last summer in an inner city park. Advertised to the neighborhood via flyers and a local newspaper, it was well attended. The Mansfield Health Team conducted the "Eight Weeks to Wellness" program with seminars, lectures, and vegetarian food tasting. The program is advertised to the public via the local newspapers and in brochures distributed in the offices of community healthcare professionals. The health team also participated in the Ocie Hill Community Center Minority Health Fair and the Richland County Fair. They calculated body mass index, gave away pedometers and water bottles, and served samples of vegetarian chili.

## Lancaster Promotes God's Extreme Makeover

Last fall, evangelist Ken Cox conducted meetings for the Lancaster (Ohio) church, themed "God's Extreme



Evangelist Ken Cox looks on as Pastor Pam Farley baptizes Carrie Doty following recent meetings at the Lancaster church.



Over 50 members from across Ohio participated in the Rainbows Training Program. Rose Cerovski from Cleveland, Ohio, chats with another volunteer.

Makeover." Freda Shultz, Bible worker for the Lancaster church, and several members tirelessly conducted Bible studies and Breathe Free smoking cessation seminars in preparation for this reaping series. Assisting Ken Cox with these meetings were organist Donna Kline and musical artists Joe Pearles, Walter Arties, and Jim and Pam Rhodes.

## Rainbows Helps Kids Heal

Rainbows is an international, not-for-profit organization that fosters emotional healing among children grieving a loss from a life-altering crisis. The Ohio Conference has partnered with the North American Division to sponsor the Rainbows program in local churches in Ohio. The first training was held at the Worthington church for approximately 50 volunteers. The response among Ohio members has been so positive, that another training class is scheduled for this month.

## Xenia Rejoices Over Church Growth

The Xenia church is rejoicing over 100 percent participation for their evangelistic event that began last fall. As part of the Ohio Global Evangelism program, layman Chris Wise, with the support of Pastor William Richardson and the rest of the Xenia church family, presented a 15-night gospel presentation. The church is experiencing a growth that doubles the congregation's usual attendance. Plans are already in place for a similar event this spring.

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# Pennsylvania

## Pen

JANUARY 2006

## "It's All About Me"

It says a lot that the ratio of non-Adventists to Adventists is higher in the Pennsylvania Conference than in the mission field of many foreign countries. This shouts out that we live in the mission field. Our conference team has embraced this idea by living our vision statement, "We will treat Pennsylvania as a mission field." In this issue of the *Pen*, each department shares how they are doing just that.

But who are "We"? It can be tempting to think that the "We" who will be doing the mission work is someone else, but not "Me." Each of us is commissioned into ministry for the lost when we come to Christ. In *Desire of Ages*, page 195, we read, "Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary." To fulfill the Adventist mission in Pennsylvania it is time to move from thinking in terms of "We" to thinking about "Me." What action does God want me to take for the sake of mission? What would God have me do differently in my personal life, at work, and in my church in order to reach lost persons?

While God's call for mission in Pennsylvania is sounding, may you answer as Isaiah did, "Here am I! Send me" (Isaiah 6:8, NKJV).



Ray Hartwell  
President

## Members Treat Pennsylvania as a Mission Field

The **Mission Department** is treating Pennsylvania as a mission field by coordinating four initiatives. First, over 200 people have attended Mission Training Station, a process designed to equip and empower members to serve in churches and communities using their gifts and talents. Second, 18 churches are growing healthier, stronger, and larger through the spiritual process of Natural Church Development. Third, 20 church plants are reaching new areas of Pennsylvania. And finally, every other year another church gets a new building through the Arise and Build program. Three churches have been built in the last six years.—*Bill Peterson, Assistant to the President for Missions*

The **Youth Department** will have three new outreach initiatives this summer. Lansdale, Pa., will launch a brand new youth literature evangelism program in June and July. The Kenhorst church will have summer day camp during July. And there will be a mission trip to Ernest, Pa., to assist in the building of a Habitat for Humanity home July 23-30.—*Kris Eckenroth, Youth and Young Adult Ministries Director*

**Adventist Community Services (ACS)** typifies Jesus' instruction in Matthew 25:35-39. There are six ACS centers in Pennsylvania and one ACS agency in Bridgeville. Each distributes food, clothing, furniture, and tons of love in furthering Jesus' mission. There are also health

fairs, mobile disaster distribution sites, food pantries, and mentoring/tutoring for at-risk youth. Everyone can meet a felt need in their community.—*Bruce Atchison, Adventist Community Services Director*

(continued on next page)



Laurel Lake Camp, Pathfinders, Adventurers, and Vacation Bible Schools provide fun and learning opportunities for children.



### Mission Field, cont.

The **Ministerial Department** is encouraging pastors to practice what they preach and lead by example. Last year each pastor penned personal goals for reaching others through intentional relationships.—*Barry Tryon, Ministerial Department*

Students in **Adventist Schools** assisted Mississippi and Louisiana schools impacted by Hurricane Katrina. Huntingdon Valley held a bake sale while Lancaster teacher Ann Trout delivered food to people living on military rations. Gettysburg students sent an Ingathering can filled with money. Stroudsburg's students raised almost \$500, and Blue Mountain Academy sent a group to assist survivors.—*Vaughn Jennings, Vice President for Education*



Lay people in 47 churches will be leading out during various 2006 evangelism series.

At **Women's Ministries** retreats, women learn and grow in their relationship with God. Then they return to their families, communities, and churches and share these experiences. Through them many souls will be won in Pennsylvania.—*Sylvia Monaghan, Women's Ministries Director*

**Family Ministries** is offering scholarships to 10 couples to attend the conference-wide marriage retreat. Family, friends, and pastors can refer non-member couples. This spiritual event is crucial in making friends for Jesus.—*Jeanne Hartwell, Family Ministries Director*

**Prayer Ministries** has challenged every member to pray for five to 10 people to come to know Jesus. There will be neighborhood prayer walks and prayer for those currently taking Bible studies.—*Sue Shobe, Prayer Ministries Director*



In 2006, members will travel to Venezuela and Belize to share the gospel.

**Hispanic Ministries** is encouraging members to preach the word, give Bible studies, and do home visitation.—*Juan Lopez, Hispanic Min. Coordinator*

## Journey to the Heart of God at Women's Retreat

God has paid dearly to redeem you and desires to refresh your heart. Do you desire His goodness for your life and your family? Do you want to receive all that Christ died to give you? Come journey to the heart of God with Celina Worley at this year's Pennsylvania Conference women's retreat, March 17-19, at the Eisenhower Inn in Gettysburg. Seminar speakers include Jennifer Haagenson, Catherine Sosigian, Christina Stahl, and Nancy Stickney. Pick up an application at your church or visit [www.paconference.org](http://www.paconference.org). Click on "Ministries" and then "Women's Ministries" for the application link. For more information, contact Sylvia Monaghan at (717) 432-7333 or [forestmaeden@cs.com](mailto:forestmaeden@cs.com).



## What's happening

### January 28, 29

NCD Phase 2 Coaches Training  
Conference Office

### Jan 29-Feb 4

NAD and Inter-American Division Health Ministries  
Summit, Orlando, Fla.

### February 10-12

Conference Couples Retreat  
York, Pa.

### March 17-19

Conference Women's Retreat  
Gettysburg

### April 7-9

Young Adult Retreat  
Laurel Lake Camp

### June 9-17

Camp Meeting, BMA

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# Potomac People

JANUARY 2006

## Constituents Elect Full-Time Communication Director

Potomac welcomes Garrett Caldwell to serve as full-time communication director. Communicating always seemed to come naturally to Caldwell. According to his mother, his first words (to her shock and amazement) were an articulate "Hi there!" After that his two older sisters spent most of their time trying to keep him quiet.

With double majors in theology and communication at Oakwood College, Caldwell credits his alma mater—Pine Forge Academy—with instilling him with a desire for academic achievement. He continued his educational endeavors earning a Master of Divinity from Andrews University in Michigan and a Doctor of Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

Caldwell began his pastoral ministry 20 years ago in Portland, Ore. He has served the Oregon and Potomac conferences as a pastor, academy and college Bible teacher, and departmental director.

Because his passion for ministry is matched by his love for using various forms of media, Caldwell has hosted radio programs, produced and directed television and documentary films, and served as a news correspondent for the Adventist News Network.

He and his wife Cheri have two wonderful teenagers—Garrett Jr. and Tiffani. Contact Caldwell via e-mail at [garrettc@pcsda.org](mailto:garrettc@pcsda.org).—*Janet Olsyne*



## NEWS

### Plans Underway for Camp Meeting

This year's Potomac Conference Camp Meeting will be held June 20-24, at the beautiful Shenandoah Valley Academy campus in New Market, Va. The theme is "It's All About Jesus—His Love, His Grace, His Coming."

Inspiring speakers include Shawn Boonstra (left), speaker/director for *It Is Written* and Derek Morris (right), pastor of the Forest Lake church in Orlando, Fla., who will present the early morning presentations focusing on "Life-Changing Encounters with God." The musical guest will be internationally-known recording artist and Pastor Wintley A. Phipps (left).

Please pencil June 20-24 in your calendars for an uplifting week of spiritual renewal! For updates on camp meeting plans, visit [www.pcsda.org](http://www.pcsda.org).

### Second Annual Elders Leadership Workshop Scheduled

Last year's Potomac Conference Elder's Leadership Workshop was a great success. "It was just what I, as

head elder, and my elders needed. Most of us have had no training before or after becoming elders," said one participant. Yet another commented, "This weekend has been such a powerful blessing. Though I was happy to come, I had no idea what would take place. I have been encouraged, empowered, and I feel better equipped."

Due to the great attendance and response, *three* different weekends will be offered this year at beautiful Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va., as follows:

**1st Workshop, March 24-26**—Inspiration speaker is Fredrick Russell, Senior Pastor of the Miracle Temple Church in Baltimore.

**2nd Workshop, March 31-April 2**—Inspiration speaker is Ron Halvorsen Sr., retired pastor, evangelist, and administrator.

**3rd Workshop, Hispanic elders weekend**—Dates and information will soon be announced.

Dave Weigley, Potomac Conference president will share a presentation on leadership. These special leadership workshops are designed to be very practical, as well as, inspirational. Mark your calendars now so you can attend, and encourage your pastor to come, too! For more information, contact your pastor and or head elder. To register, call Nancy Crickenberger at the Potomac Conference office at (540) 886-0771.



## Generous Friends Help Raise the Bar at CBR

Camp Blue Ridge (CBR) has enjoyed a year of growth and development. A strategic plan for upgrading camp resources and staffing has been developed, with emphasis placed on our weekend hosting program.

Staff concentrated on the grounds and buildings in order to maintain a pleasant and safe environment. The public bathrooms in the main dining hall have been totally remodeled. Currently, the staff is trying to raise funds for new tables and chairs for the dining hall, and new picnic tables, benches, and lawn furniture to allow guests to enjoy the outdoors. So far, \$4,000 has been raised toward this project and some items will soon be purchased.

During the winter months, the goal is to upgrade the dining hall by installing wall and ceiling insulation, paneling the ceiling, and installing recessed lighting. Volunteer electricians and carpenters are needed and welcome.

The staff has received tremendous support in raising funds designated for special projects and would like to give a special acknowledgement of appreciation to the McKee Corporation for the \$37,500 given to the summer camp program. These funds have helped CBR upgrade the horse and waterfront programs.

A private donation was made and specifically designated for the upgrading and remodeling of the CBR Nature Building. This building is used extensively during summer camp and by visiting groups. Many improvements have been completed and more are planned by spring.

During a retreat at CBR last year, elders and pastors raised funds for new chairs. To add to this initial dona-



Beach area at Camp Blue Ridge

tion, a private donation of \$10,000 was given. Thanks to this generosity, 200 new padded chairs have been purchased for meeting rooms.

CBR has also received funds donated and designated for improving its swimming and beach area. The plan is to install beach retaining walls, fencing, a new aluminum swimming dock, and drainage piping to prevent erosion.

Special project donations are not used for daily operating expenses. Monies donated to the camp are earmarked for special projects selected by camp management in conjunction with the donor. The camp depends on constituents and Friends of Camp Blue Ridge to pray and support the success of this ministry with special offerings and Potomac Partner donations.

Members and church groups are welcome to enjoy a pleasant, restful, and spiritual retreat at CBR. The staff is committed to making guests comfortable during their stay in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. They are committed to managing CBR with good stewardship and the responsibilities that have been entrusted to them. Please join the many friends of the camp that are committed to raising the bar at CBR.—Mark VanArsdale, Camp Director



Cabins at Camp Blue Ridge

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Phone: (540) 886-0771 ■ www.pcsda.org ■ President, Dave Weigley ■ Editor, Janet Olsyne

## Stay Awake

“Couldn’t you stay awake and watch with me even one hour?” (Matt. 26:40, NLT)

Recently I had the privilege of “sharing” at our sister church in Roanoke, Va., (sharing sounds less Pharisaical when it comes to a non-preacher making a Sabbath morning presentation). I spoke about Jesus Christ, in the Garden of Gethsemane, imploring the disciples to “stay awake and watch.” In the story we find that Jesus returns on numerous occasions only to find the disciples slumbering and not watching.

Incredible as it may seem, we still sleep on, don’t we? Please, do not take offense that I suggest you good folks are asleep while I, alone, am steadfast at the helm. No, I sleep as well. Even with this history provided for us in the book of Matthew, I doze. It’s a privilege to wake up each day and ask our Heavenly Father to “keep me awake,” to remain alert as we minister with and for our young people. Good friends of the Columbia Union, please pray that we remain alert and that we will not sleep away our standards, visions, or mission statements.



John Nafie  
Principal

## Students Encouraged to Live For God

During a recent weekend, Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) alumnus Ron Goss encouraged students and faculty to prepare for Christ’s arrival. During Sabbath services, Goss used current events cited in the media to support biblical scripture and prophecy such as this Bible verse: “But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come” (2 Tim. 3:1, NASB).

One topic Goss discussed was amalgamation—the manipulation of stem cells, DNA, and cloning—and how it debases the image of God. Goss used examples

and quotes taken from various news outlets to show how “technology is way ahead of ethics.”

The audience was also reminded that the Bible warns against this type of experimentation. “And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man ...” (Luke 17:26, NASB). Goss followed that verse with an admonition from Ellen G. White: “But if there was one sin above another ... it was the base crime of amalgamation of man and beast which defaced the image of God, and caused confusion everywhere” (*The Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 1, p. 69.1).

Although Goss’ message was not one of doom, he urged listeners to be aware of events in the world and spend time reading God’s Word. Encouragement can be found in this Bible passage: “You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 3:14-15, NASB).

Goss served as a combat medical soldier in the Vietnam War and later worked in law enforcement, becoming chief of police in Maryland. Because of his previous jobs, Goss feels called by the Holy Spirit to set people free. Because of that, he and his wife Pat devote their lives to showing others the freedom found in a life lived for Jesus. For more information about Ron and Pat Goss or their ministry Project Restore, go to [www.projectrestore.com](http://www.projectrestore.com).



Students from SVA enjoy a recent week of prayer in the New Market Seventh-day Adventist Church.



## Students Tour Historical New England

One of SVA's history instructors, Gabrielle Griffin, recently led 20 students and their sponsors on an educational and cultural tour along the East Coast. The six-day, "Founding Fathers' City Tour" began stops at significant landmarks in New York City, such as the World Trade Center memorial and Statue of Liberty.

In Newport, R.I., the group visited and walked through two mansions built during the Gilded Age era in America's history. The tour continued on to Plymouth, Mass., where students visited the Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth Rock, and the Mayflower II Ship. The history of Massachusetts ended with a cruise of the Boston Harbor, a guided hike on the Freedom Trail, and a tour to the Boston Massacre site.

The tour concluded in New Hampshire with a walking history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and a stop at the first Adventist church in the state.



SVA students visited the Statue of Liberty during their guided history tour of New England.

## 18 Students Join New Cross Country Running Class

Eighteen students joined SVA's cross country running class, offered for the first time this year. Alumnus Nick Buchholtz instructs the class. As a student, Buchholtz competed in cross country events outside SVA because there was no running class offered at that time. He later continued to compete as a student at Columbia Union College.

Now employed by Shenandoah, Buchholtz has been able to offer an additional varsity sport within the curriculum. Any student interested in running cross country can join this class regardless of experience, or lack thereof. Students are required to attend all practices—running three to four miles per day, five days a week—in preparation for competing in scheduled meets to fulfill course requirements. Since meets are held at

different locations, students must maintain a 2.0 or higher grade point average to be eligible to participate.

Male and female students compete separately with other area academies and high schools within the same league. The longest distance students may run is 3.1 miles. This new running class is a one-quarter P.E. credit and is only offered in the first quarter curriculum.



The SVA running class, started by instructor Nick Buchholtz, an SVA alumnus, prepare for a race.

## calendar of events

### January

- 3 2nd Semester Begins
- 7 Roller Skating, 6:30 p.m.
- 8 Ski Day (alternate day-Jan. 22)
- 11-15 Student Week of Prayer
- 13 Last Day for New Admissions
- 16 Boys' Monday Night Ski, 5:30 p.m.
- 23 Girls' Monday Night Ski, 5:30 p.m.
- 29 Sunday School
- 30 Coed Monday Night Ski Club
- 31-Feb. 5 Home Leave, Begins 6 p.m.

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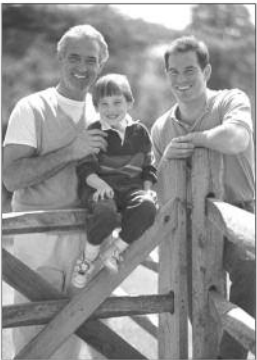
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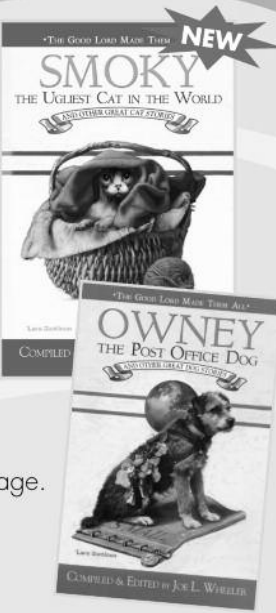
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	Jan. 6	Jan. 13	Jan. 20	Jan. 27	Feb. 3
Baltimore	4:58	5:05	5:13	5:21	5:29
Cincinnati	5:31	5:37	5:45	5:53	6:01
Cleveland	5:12	5:20	5:28	5:36	5:45
Columbus	5:22	5:29	5:37	5:45	5:54
Jersey City	4:44	4:51	4:59	5:08	5:16
Norfolk	5:04	5:10	5:17	5:25	5:33
Parkersburg	5:18	5:25	5:33	5:41	5:49
Philadelphia	4:51	4:58	5:05	5:14	5:22
Pittsburgh	5:09	5:16	5:24	5:32	5:41
Reading	4:53	5:00	5:08	5:16	5:25
Richmond	5:07	5:13	5:21	5:28	5:36
Roanoke	5:17	5:24	5:31	5:39	5:47
Toledo	5:19	5:27	5:35	5:44	5:52
Trenton	4:48	4:56	5:03	5:12	5:20
Wash., D.C.	5:01	5:08	5:16	5:24	5:32

SUNSET CALENDAR

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LEGAL NOTICES

MOUNTAIN VIEW CONFERENCE QUADRENNIAL SESSION

The third quadrennial session of the Mountain View Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 26, 2006, at the Seventh-day Adventist Church complex, 70 Friends-R-Fun Drive, Summersville, W.Va.

The purposes of the meeting are to elect the Conference officers, Conference Committee, Board of Education, and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for the ensuing term, as well as to transact other business as may properly come before the Conference at that Session.

A meeting of the Organizing Committee, described in Article IV, Section I, of the Bylaws, will convene at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, January 8, 2006, at the Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1901 Park Avenue, Parkersburg, West Virginia. The purposes of this meeting are to select members of the Nominating Committee for the Session and to nominate members of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for the ensuing term.

Kingsley Whitsett, President  
Larry Boggess, Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UNION COLLEGE HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Alumni, friends, and former faculty are invited to "Celebrating a Century of Service: Golden Cords 1906-2006," April 6-9, 2006. All Union College alumni who have had a golden cord hung in their honor are invited to this special celebration. Special honor classes: 1936, 1946, 1951, 1956, 1966, 1976, 1981, 1986, and 1996. For more information, contact the Alumni Office: (402) 486-2503, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506 or lumni@ucollege.edu.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

100th Birthday Celebration!

Glenn A. Lemon turned 100 December 5. He was given recognition on Sabbath, December 3, during the Atholton (Md.) church service, then honored by family and relatives at a special luncheon in the Atholton gym. Over the past 100 years, Mr. Lemon has seen everything from horse and buggy to the Spaceship Enterprise lift-off; 18 presidents in office; and two world wars, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and current Middle East unrest. A life-long Adventist, he has served as an elder and has done handiwork in churches across the United States and Canada. He's the proud father of six children: a minister, a nurse, several educators, and one in self-supporting institutional work. Grandson, Thomas Lemon, formerly in the Chesapeake Conference, once served as Atholton's pastor; and his son, Roy Lemon (deceased), served the church over 40 years. The Lemon family totals approximately 110. Glenn Lemon resides in Odenton, Md.

OBITUARIES

**JORDANIA, Vakhtang**, born December 9, 1942, in the Republic of Georgia; died October 4, 2005, at his home in Broadway, Va. He was a member of the New Market (Va.) church. He was a graduate of Leningrad Conservatory of Music and the Moscow Conservatory of Music, and was a symphony and opera conductor. Surviving are his wife Kimberly Stebbins Jordania; four children, Georgi Jordania of the Republic of Georgia, Nina Jordania of St. Petersburg, Russia, Dimitri Jordania and Marie Jordania, both of Broadway, Va.; two brothers, Revaz Jordania and Alexi Jordania, both of the Republic of Georgia; and four grandchildren.

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Volume 111 • Issue 1

Last Words

MONTE SAHLIN

Where Are All the Youth?

Youth" is an elusive term. Generally, youth workers mean people in high school, ages 15 through 18. That is the target group for the Youth Sabbath School, etc.

It is an important time of life; a transitional stage as young people separate themselves from childhood and become adults. It is not an easy time, but it is very important; most Americans make their decision about Christ during this time.

"How come there are so few youth in our churches?" That's one of the most common questions I get from pastors and church members. We did a careful study last year and here are the facts:

From 1987 to 1990, the parents among our 120,000 church members in the Columbia Union Conference had about 6,200 babies. Those babies are now 15-18 years old, but we know from other studies that only 65 percent become baptized members and about 55 percent dropped out of the Adventist Church. This means that probably 1,800 of those 6,200 youth are still active in the church. That is an average of three youth for each of our 617 churches.

In 2017—if we stay on this path—there will be less than 1,400 youth attending our churches; a 22 percent decline.

What Does This Mean for Your Local Church?

**1. It's Time to Collaborate**—Your church probably cannot do youth ministry by itself. There is a "critical mass" necessary for a youth group. Most of our churches need to collaborate with nearby Adventist congregations to have successful youth activities. Examples are the Pittsburgh Metro Initiative Youth Task Force chaired by Pennsylvania Conference Pastor Brandon White and the Youth Service Corps led by Pastor Darriel Hoy, executive director of Baltimore Adventist Community Services.

**2. It's Time to Reach Out**—If your church is going to have a successful youth ministry, it must do more than entertain the teens from church families. At Sligo, Pastor Terry Johnsson tells me that nearly a third of the young people in the Youth Sabbath School are not from church-related families. To sustain a viable youth ministry, it has to include outreach to young people in the community.

**3. It's Time to Start Over**—This is a very different world from the "MV Society" I attended 40 years ago as a teenager. We have to throw away the manuals and start all over again; or be content with a youthless church.

Monte Sahlin is vice president of the Columbia Union Conference. Send questions and comments to msahlin@columbiaunion.net or call (800) 438-9600.



For youth feedback on this topic, visit [www.columbiaunion.org](http://www.columbiaunion.org).



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