

CONNECTING | IMPACTING | CELEBRATING

VISITOR

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COLUMBIA UNION

Mission Story

A Special Report on Missions Abroad
2001-2006



News & Features

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A Special Report on Missions Abroad
2001-2006

Compiled by LaVerne Henderson and Tanisha Greenidge

The Columbia Union Conference has aggressively sponsored and endorsed a Missions Abroad initiative during the past quinquennium of 2001-2006. The program was designed to build relationships and provide members with “life-changing experiences.” Read about the many countries visited and the resulting ministry projects.

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Mission Opportunities

Members from the Columbia Union’s eight conferences, two colleges, and two healthcare entities have participated in numerous mission trips during the past five years. Whether under the auspices of the union’s Missions Abroad initiative or on their own, they have traveled overseas to build churches and schools and spread the gospel. Take a look at some of the destinations.

18 | Labor for Love:
Members Share Mission Stories



From grouting heavy cement blocks and painting walls, to preaching and praying, hundreds of Columbia Union administrators, pastors, lay people, and students have labored for love during mission trips abroad. After reading their testimonies, you may find it’s time to step outside of your comfort zone and experience an overseas mission trip.

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Beyond Our Borders

From its inception, mission has been the heartbeat and focus of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. “Into all the world”—from everywhere to everywhere—have been our watchwords. The whole world, with its countries, villages, towns, cities, and hamlets, is our parish. Every member, congregation, school, healthcare institution, program, facility, agency, and activity of the church finds its right to exist only as it participates in mission. If this stops, the purpose of the church ceases.

Luke 12:48 tells us, To whom much is given, much is required. Ellen White identified additional reasons: “To show a liberal, self-denying spirit the success of foreign missions is a sure way to advance home missionary work; for the prosperity of the work depends largely, under God, upon the reflex influence of the evangelical work done in countries afar off. It is in working to supply the necessities of others that we bring our souls into touch with the Source of all power” (*Gospel Workers*, p. 465, 466).



Columbia Union Mission Story

Five years ago, we introduced an initiative called Missions Abroad. As partners in the global mission of the church, we have undertaken this outreach—beyond our borders—to provide a life-changing experience for members by creating special relationships with divisions, unions, conferences, etc., outside North America.

Our healthcare systems—Adventist HealthCare and Kettering Adventist HealthCare—provide substantial funds to support and strengthen church growth, the work of evangelism, and the construction and development of new churches, schools, clinics, nursing programs, classroom buildings, and other community-based ministries abroad. Partnerships have also been formed with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Maranatha International, and Adventist Health International.

I am excited to tell you that during the last five years, Columbia Union members have engaged in mission in 35 countries. Caring enough to give of their time, talent, and finances, they have built or rebuilt many facilities

and spread Christ’s message of hope. This special issue of the *Visitor*, themed “Columbia Union Mission Story,” highlights their work.

As you read this report on pages 10-20, I pray that the Spirit of God will impress you to consider giving your time, talents, and gifts to His mission work around the world. Would you like to “go” abroad to share the love and grace of our Lord Jesus? Would you like to have that life-changing and –fulfilling experience that so many testify about? *Think about it! Pray about it!*

Harold L. Lee is president of the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, headquartered in Columbia, Md. For more information on how you can be a part of Missions Abroad, call Celeste Ryan Blyden at (410) 997-3414.



About the Cover: A woman in India gathers sand used to help build a new Adventist church. Photo by Henry Fordham III

Shady Grove Wins Codman Award

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) has named Shady Grove Adventist Hospital a 2005 winner of the ninth annual Ernest A. Codman Award. This award recognizes excellence in the use of outcomes



Pictured left to right: Helen Cole, Assoc. VP, Nursing; Debbie Foshee, VP, Medical Staff Svcs.; Rebecca Beauchamp, VP/Chief Nursing Officer; David N. Klein, MD, Pres., Montgomery Emergency Physicians; Deborah A. Yancer, Pres., Shady Grove Adventist Hospital; and William G. "Bill" Robertson, Pres. and CEO, Adventist HealthCare.

measurement by healthcare organizations to achieve improvements in quality and safety. Shady Grove was recognized for its efforts to relieve overcrowding in the emergency department and to move patients through the hospital process more efficiently, thereby assuring community access to care. "We also knew that we needed to take a holistic approach in fulfilling our mission of providing excellent healthcare to our community," said Shady Grove president Deborah Yancer. "We are honored to receive this recognition for service." Board chairman Harold Lee says, "I believe this is the first time an Adventist hospital has received such a distinguished award; I applaud their efforts."

In 2004, Shady Grove Adventist Hospital—a 269-bed, not-for-profit, acute care facility—cared for an average of 7,250 patients per month in its emergency department. Last month, the hospital celebrated the completion of the first phase of a four-year, \$99 million expansion and renovation project that will add a new lobby, four-story tower, new surgery department, and 144 private beds, etc. Visit www.adventisthealthcare.com/SGAH for more details.

Union Churches to Host NET 2006

Over 65 Columbia Union churches have signed up as host sites for NET 2006. Themed "Revelation Speaks Peace—Unlocking the Signs," this Seventh-day Adventist evangelism series will be



uplinked via satellite from Phoenix, Ariz., March 10-April 8. **Shawn Boonstra**, speaker/director for *It Is Written*, will be the speaker. In the last few years, Pastor Boonstra has held 21 major evangelism series and written seven books. His clear grasp of Scripture and warm, dynamic presentation style have inspired many. Originally from Canada, Boonstra now lives with his wife Jean and their two daughters in Southern California. For a complete listing of union downlink sites, or to register your site, visit www.unlockthesigns.com. *NET*

2006 can also be viewed on satellite television on ACN/Esperanza and 3ABN. For more information, call Adventist Communication Network at (800) 226-1119 or visit www.acnsat.org.

Baltimore ACS to Host National Youth Service Day

Baltimore Adventist Community Services (BACS) was one of 50 organizations selected nationwide by Youth Service America to coordinate National & Global Youth Service Day celebrations April 21-23.

"This is the largest service event in the world that engages youth as leaders," says Pastor Darriel Hoy (above, left), BACS executive director. "I thought it would be a great way to involve youth and churches in Baltimore. Our goal is to engage 1,000 youth, ages 5-25, in a day of service and leadership to meet critical needs in the city."

Baltimore's theme is "A Day of HOPE," as youth will engage in service projects that involve Handy work, Organizing the community, People in need, and the Environment. There will be over 20 service projects including recording books on tape for the blind, building a Habitat for Humanity house, organizing a sleep-out to raise awareness about homelessness, collecting canned goods for local food pantries, and hosting blood drives with the American Red Cross.

"We hope that each church's youth group will participate. We are also involving public schools; six local universities; the Mayor's Office for Children,



Youth, and Families; and other youth groups and community partners," adds Hoy. "This is a golden opportunity to provide youth with concrete ways to put their faith into action. We want to inspire and develop a new generation of servant-leaders." National & Global Youth Service Day, founded in 1986, is currently funded by State Farm Companies Foundation.

Also planned by Hoy is a "Summer of Service," where over 200 youth can volunteer with local nonprofit organizations; host an Easter Passion Play as a major inner city Baltimore evangelism effort; or participate in six ministry training tracks such as drama, puppetry, chaplaincy, preaching, music, and prayer evangelism.

Contact Hoy at Baltimore Adventist Community Services, (410) 997-3414 or darriel@abetterbaltimore.org.

Adventists Testify Before House of Representatives

The Workplace Religious Freedom Act was recently granted a successful hearing by the United States House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations. Three Seventh-day Adventists

gave testimonies, which were referenced several times during the hearing. If enacted, this bill will ensure greater protection to individuals whose jobs are threatened because they desire to be faithful to God.

"This is a very important step forward, and I think that while we have a long way to go, we've made great strides," said James Standish, executive director of the Church's North American Religious Liberty Association. "We need everyone to let their representatives and senators know their views and ask them



Adventists Miguel Hernandez, Deborah Fountain, and Jimmy Alignay pose with James Standish (second from right).

to move this thing forward." For more information, log on to www.religiousliberty.info or call (301) 680-6683.—*Adrian Westney*

88,145 Surveyed for Adventist Health Study 2

The Adventist Health Study 2 (AHS-2) has received surveys from 9,188 Columbia Union members to date. Another 8,242 responses are still needed to reach the union's goal of 17,430. The overall aim is 125,000 responses throughout North America. To date, 88,145 questionnaires have been received. The goal is to explore the links

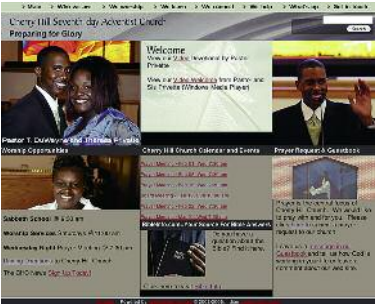
between lifestyle, diet, and disease among Seventh-day Adventists in the United States and Canada.

The purpose is to understand what factors—such as foods, soy, activity, sunlight, heredity, Sabbath, spirituality, etc.—increase or decrease the risk of disease and quality of life. Adventists aged 35 years and older are encouraged to participate.

Enrollment began in 2002 and will continue until June 2006. AHS-2 is funded by the National Cancer Institute and is conducted by researchers at the School of Public Health at Loma Linda University, in partnership with Oakwood College, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. Members who still have questionnaires are urged to return them. To request a survey, call (877) 700-7077 or visit adventisthealthstudy.org.—*Terry Butler*

Allegheny East Church Wins February eChurch Award

The Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church of Baltimore, Md., has received the February 2006 eChurch Award (see www.preparingforglory.org). To



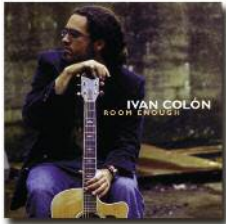
learn more about this award, visit www.nadadventist.org/echurch.—*George Johnson Jr.*

What's New?

Music > Ivan Colón
"Room Enough"

(Folk/Acoustic)

Using his voice and acoustic guitar, Ivan Colón takes listeners on a journey in song. In "Welcome



to My Corner," which has a nice melody, he has a talk with Jesus: "I cannot compare You

Jesus/with anything I've ever known/in earth, the sea, or in the heavens/there is none like You/none like You." The Highland View Academy graduate and Triadelphia (Clarksville, Md.) church member wrote all 13 songs. "There are a lot of things I've tried to communicate through my music, but the most important thing is that I love Jesus," Colón says. "He's really changed my life. The songs I write are all from that perspective." Listen and learn more at www.myspace.com/ivancolon.

Keeping Score

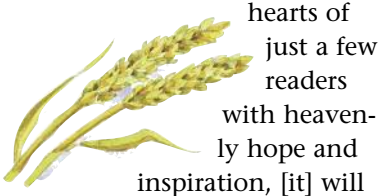
29 Percentage of Adventists who say they're involved in community service efforts

50 Percentage of Adventists who say they engage in daily Bible study and prayer

Source: General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Books > Barley Loaves

Chris Hasse's poems have finally emerged from their hideaway in a manila folder tucked in a filing cabinet. This Chloe, W.Va., gardener, literature evangelist, and Spencer church member, was pleasantly surprised when the local newspaper opted to publish her collection of thoughts and insights about God, written over decades. "Much of religious verse sounds like an ode to some deity in a distant realm," said company reps. "But Chris' poems show a very personal and direct relationship with God." Why the title *Barley Loaves*? "In the hands of the Master, a meager repast of loaves and fishes was multiplied to feed thousands," Hasse explains. "If my little collection nourishes the



hearts of just a few readers with heavenly hope and inspiration, [it] will not be wasted." Read our favorite poem at www.columbiaunion.org. To order this 52-page book, call Calhoun Publishing at (304) 354-9373 or e-mail orderthat@aol.com.

Video > The Boy Who Couldn't Read, Vol. 1

As a child, Terry Johnsson was classified as "unteachable and hopeless." Today, the popular Sligo church youth pastor, based in Takoma Park, Md., is busy spreading the word that, no matter the circumstances, God has a plan for every life. This

DVD features three of his favorite motivational messages: "Never Give Up," "Against All Odds," and "The Power to Overcome." To order, visit www.customflix.com/206967.

WholeHealth

On the Bright Side

Adventists have long understood the health benefits of sunlight. Ellen White called it one of "the blessings which Heaven has provided to make the sick well and to keep in health those who are not sick" (*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 535).

One way sunlight keeps us well is to stimulate production of vitamin D in skin. In fact, it's how we acquire 90-95 percent of it. Vitamin D is needed to absorb calcium, mineralize bone, strengthen muscles, bring cell growth under control, lower blood pressure, and prevent autoimmune disease (i.e. multiple sclerosis) and cancer.

Living in mid-Atlantic United States, working indoors, and having dark skin, each reduce sunlight exposure and put us at high risk for vitamin D deficiency. How can you know if you are making enough vitamin D? Request a 25-hydroxyvitamin D level test from your doctor, and take 1000 IU of vitamin D daily.



And though it's still winter, go outdoors on the next bright day to enjoy heaven's blessing and make some vitamin D. Fifteen minutes (30 if you have darker skin) two or three times per week is all you need. —*Timothy Arnott, MD, Adventist WholeHealth Family Care*

Your Turn

The Bed Net Project

This issue features the Columbia Union Conference's Missions Abroad initiative, which—during the last five years—has

enabled Columbia Union members to engage in life-changing, short-term mission experiences in 35 countries.

Now the union wants to help save more lives by supporting Adventist Health International's Bed Net Project. Every year, 350 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa contract malaria from mosquito bites as they sleep. As a result, 3,000 children die everyday. A life-saving insecticide-treated bed net can protect them for four years and costs just \$5. But most families can't afford one. The Bed Net Project will provide thousands of life-saving nets to people in Sub-Saharan Africa.

You're invited to Potluck!
Send your samples and contact info to Columbia Union Visitor, 5427 Twin Knolls Rd, Columbia, MD 21045.

If you'd like to support this project, send a donation to Columbia Union Conference, 5427 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045, earmarked "Bed Net Project." To participate in the Missions Abroad initiative, contact Celeste Ryan Blyden at (410) 997-3414 or cryan@columbiaunion.net.

Support the Bed Net Project and get this pin free!



Get to Know > Duawne Starling



He has come a long way, and if you ask him, Duawne (rhymes with swan) Starling will tell you that he's still working his way "There." There, he explains, is what Psalm 16:11 describes as the presence of the Lord where there is fullness of joy. It's also a favorite on his self-titled, autobiographical, 12-song CD that features a "variety of styles" from praise and worship and contemporary Christian—to traditional and urban gospel.

Starling was raised in the Shiloh church in Petersburg, Va. He graduated from Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va., and attended Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md., where his talent for singing blossomed. After graduating from Oakwood College in Huntsville, Ala., he moved to Tennessee and spent 13 years singing backup. "I first did studio work for Daniel Winans," he recalls. "Then it was like a snowball effect because the music industry thrives on relationships."

Soon his voice could be heard, and his arrangements recognized, on projects with Donnie McClurkin, CeCe Winans, Fred Hammond, Kirk Franklin, Sandi Patty, Nicole C. Mullens, Michael W. Smith, and many others.

Now back in the Columbia Union, with his wife Carmen and their newborn daughter Shiloh, Starling is focused on building his own music ministry. He sings for churches and concerts, serves on the intercessory prayer team at Miracle Temple in Baltimore, and just completed a master's in religious studies. He's already writing songs for his next project, which will also be about his life. "My life influences my music," he notes. "I Can do This" (on the current album) is written to myself because I know there won't always be someone cheering me on. It refers to Proverbs 3:5,6 and sends a message that I *can* do it if I take God's hand and don't let go." ■ www.duawnestarling.com.

Resource Guide

NORMA SAHLIN

Free Website for Every Church

Most Seventh-day Adventist churches in North America do not have a presence on the Internet. The North American Division (NAD) leadership believes this is an important step to reaching our neighbors, so they are providing websites, free-of-charge, to the almost 6,000 churches in NAD. The initiative has four objectives:

1. Develop Uniformity of Church URLs—All church sites sponsored by the NAD will use a uniform naming protocol. If a church already has a website, the URL will *redirect* the user to the church's established pages.

2. Keep Sites Current—Nearly 60 percent of churches have not updated their websites in months. Website maintenance is time consuming, and it is hard to find dedicated, qualified volunteers to manage them.

3. Improve Search Engine Ranking—Search engines rank information based on different criteria. Increasing the number of links and using a consistent naming convention will more likely cause Adventist church sites to “rise to the top” of search engine results.

4. Provide Quality Reading Material—Through the website www.adventistchurchconnect.com NAD will provide more than 100 new articles each month on a broad range of topics (Bible, health, family, youth, etc.), and link to key Adventist sites. Churches can select the most relevant topics to appear on their home page at no cost.

Churches cannot modify information on the free sites. Additional options, to add articles, photos, member directories, online forums/chat rooms, streaming audio/video files,

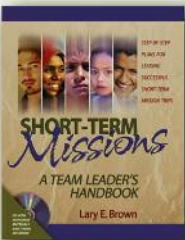
and much more, are available for a nominal charge. Visit www.adventistchurchconnect.com to find more information or a church site. Questions? Call (800) 328-0525 or e-mail website@advent-source.org.

—Carrie Purkepile

Short-term Missions: A Team Leader's Handbook

Author: Lary E. Brown

This handbook offers practical advice for team leaders who are planning short-term mission trips. Pastor Lary Brown draws upon his experience organizing, preparing, and managing international service trips. His tips and insights will also benefit those planning short-term service



trips to the mission fields in North America's urban areas. Publisher: AdventSource; Price: \$19.95 (Item #418000); To order: (800) 328-0525; www.adventsource.org

Campmeeting Planbook

Edited by Barbara Manspeaker

Leaders of children's meetings during campmeeting will find this planbook invaluable. It provides objectives, tips, guidelines for directors, personnel needs, organization, meeting childcare, and budgeting. In addition, it includes lists of resources and the organizational forms needed for an organized event. The editor draws from her years of experience as a children's ministries director to assemble a comprehensive manual. Publisher: AdventSource; Price: \$2.95 (Item #042000); To order: (800) 328-0525; www.adventsource.org



IT IS WRITTEN PRESENTS

Revelation Speaks Peace

UNLOCKING THE SIGNS

PLAN NOW TO Participate!

In a few weeks, Pastor **Shawn Boonstra** will present the truth of Revelation in a new, full-message, satellite evangelistic series, *Revelation Speaks Peace—Unlocking the Signs*.



Shawn Boonstra
SPEAKER / DIRECTOR
IT IS WRITTEN

This “graduate course” for **The Appearing** will be presented live from the Celebrity Theatre in Phoenix via the ACN/Esperanza Channel, March 10–April 8, 2006 at 7:00 pm EST/PST, 7:30 pm CST (Mountain times will vary).

This live satellite series will be available in both English and Spanish.

Churches
Sign up as a host church at www.unlockthesigns.com/host or by calling: **1-800-ACN-1119**

Church Members
Explore the *Unlocking the Signs* dynamic website and find a host church near you at: **www.unlockthesigns.com** or find a church near you by calling: **1-888-96-SIGNS**
Plan to bring your friends!

Register your church **TODAY** to receive your **FREE** event resource kit!

BEGINS MARCH 10



EL SALVADOR

Columbia Union

Mission Story

Compiled by LaVerne Henderson
& Tanisha Greenidge

A Special Report on Missions Abroad 2001-2006

The Columbia Union Conference has aggressively sponsored and endorsed a Missions Abroad initiative throughout the 2001-2006 quinquennium. According to union president Harold Lee, the program was designed to provide members with “life-changing experiences” and to assist the Seventh-day Adventist Church in developing various areas of the world as they engage in sharing God’s love and saving grace. In recognition of the union’s culturally diverse constituency, several of the Adventist Church’s worldwide divisions were visited. Union administration, pastors, lay people, and students traveled overseas to build or remodel churches and schools, provide supplies and scholarships, and participate in evangelism meetings. “We concentrated on building relationships in our sister fields,” says former union executive secretary and Missions Abroad coordinator Edward Motschiedler. Here is a brief roundup of Missions Abroad activities:

Inter-American Division

El Salvador

The Nance Verde, Los Naranjos, and El Carmen churches were built as a cooperative effort with Maranatha Volunteers International. In El Carmen, the facility serves as a church and school. The school has split scheduling with primary-grade classes in the morning and middle-grade courses during the afternoon. Because high schoolers have to work during the day, they attend in the evening.

Trinidad

Hospital administrators are providing ongoing assistance at Trinidad’s Port of Spain Community Hospital. This interchange began in 2003, and according to Motschiedler, a chief financial officer from a Columbia Union hospital, has been serving as an advisor for Port of Spain. The union also supplied a dialysis unit and assisted with the installation of an MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) machine. “It is now the only hospital on the island with an MRI unit,” says Lee.

Guyana

At Davis Memorial Hospital, the Columbia Union Conference assisted with funding for a dialysis and sterilization unit, pharmacy, laboratory, dental services, and computers to network administrative offices. In a cooperative effort with Adventist Health International, Adventist HealthCare, and Kettering Adventist HealthCare, plans are in motion for an outpatient center and medical office complex.

In another cooperative effort with Adventist Health International, the union will make a donation to the mosquito bed net project to help combat the spread of malaria. Each net, at a cost of \$5, provides 4 years of protection.

Venezuela

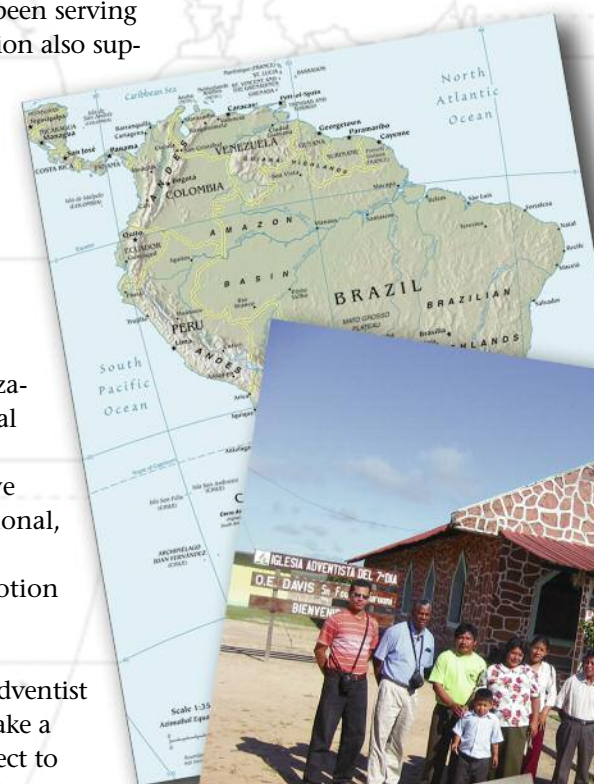
The Columbia Union is currently providing consulting services for a hospital project in Venezuela. There’s also a church in Uroy Uaray, which contains a large native Indian Adventist community. Often referred to as the “Davis Indians,” they are named after a missionary who worked there.

Peru

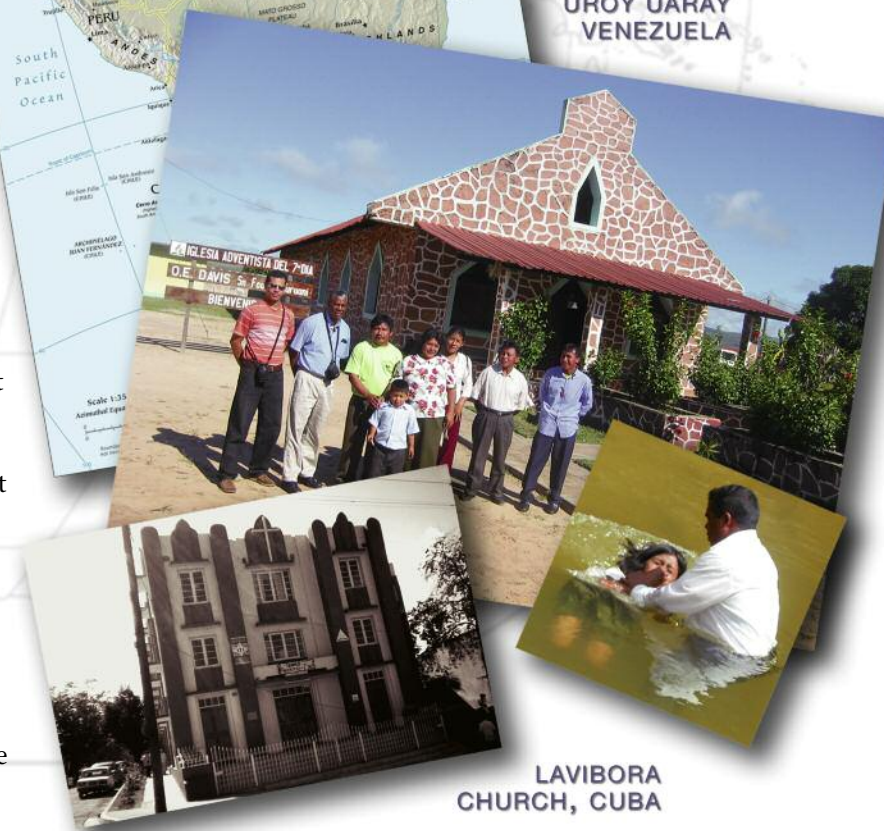
Four evangelism meetings—conducted by four treasurers—were held in Lima, Peru. This group was comprised of Dowell Chow, former Columbia Union treasurer; former Ohio treasurer Michael Wixwat; former New Jersey treasurer Raymond Jimenez; and current Allegheny West treasurer Zenobia Seward. They also helped build a church.

Cuba

The Columbia Union partnered with Maranatha to erect the Kamaguey church. In addition, library materials were donated to the Cuba Adventist Seminary.



UROY UARAY
VENEZUELA



LAVIBORA
CHURCH, CUBA

Southern Asia Division

India

For the past few years, the union has sponsored diabetes and cataract screening programs at Thanjavur Adventist Hospital, which is located in rural southeast India. “In late 2003 I attended a diabetes screening that was actually held in a Muslim mosque,” Motschieder says. “The cataract screening was done at a Hindu temple; it’s a blessing that members there have been able to build stable community relationships.” Equipment purchases included an exter-

ior neon sign identifying the hospital, an operating room light, computer equipment, and a backup generator.

Giffard Memorial Hospital, which opened in 1925, is the first Adventist hospital in Nuzvid, India. The nurses’ hostel (dorm) was recently dedicated by the Columbia Union, Adventist HealthCare, and Kettering Adventist HealthCare, and renamed the Anna Knight Memorial Hostel. “To encourage the annual 100 percent pass rate for nurses, some \$5,000 in scholarships was given,” says Lee. Computers were also donated.



ANNA KNIGHT
MEMORIAL HOSTEL
NUZVID, INDIA

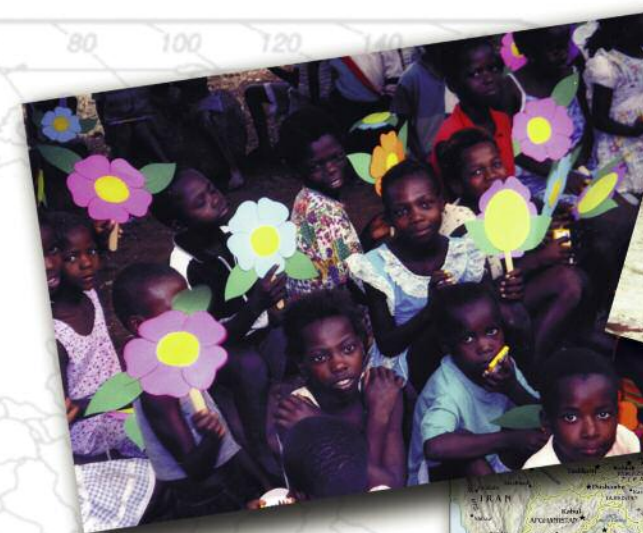


TOP, LEFT:
GIFFARD MEMORIAL
HOSPITAL, NUZVID, INDIA

LEFT: DEDICATION SERVICE
TRANSLATOR; DOROTHY
MARSH, A NIECE OF ANNA
KNIGHT; AND AEC
PRESIDENT CHARLES
CHEATHAM



PHOTOS BY HENRY FORDHAM III



MALUTI ADVENTIST
HOSPITAL, LESOTHO



The “Help Build Project,” in cooperation with the Allegheny East Conference, included seven new church buildings during 2004. Conference president Charles Cheatham and executive secretary Henry Fordham, III dedicated most of these structures.

Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division

South Africa

In addition to a new K-12 school in Grahamstown, South Africa, churches were built in Swaziland, Transvaal, and George. The name of the George church is Likhanyiso, which means “a light.”

Former Chesapeake Conference president Neville Harcombe led a strong overseas mission program that involved several countries. One project, in which office staff, lay people, and students assisted, was building three churches in the Limpopo province of South Africa. “This is one of the poorest areas in the country, with a high incidence of AIDS and unemployment,” says Harcombe, who is now executive secretary at the Columbia Union headquarters. “Our young people returned to their homes, schools, and churches with a life-altering appreciation for the true meaning of “missions.”

Lesotho

In Lesotho, the road leading to the Maluti Adventist Hospital—a 160-bed facility located in Mapoteng, a village nestled in the foothills of the Maluti Mountains—was paved. The hospital opened in 1951 and quickly established a reputation of excellence in surgery, eye care, and for its School of Nursing. Maluti Hospital serves more than 70,000 people in the western part of the Berea district, as well as a small portion of the Leribe district. Lesotho is an enclave of South Africa, about the size of the state of Maryland, with a population of about 2.1 million. According to Pennsylvania Conference president Ray Hartwell, “Our Adventist schools across the state raised nearly \$5,000 to provide care for 52 hospital patients.”

Namibia

The union partnered with the Pennsylvania Conference to build three churches along the Caprivi Strip in Namibia. Then conference president Mike Cauley later returned to dedicate the churches. "In any way possible, we desire to continue that tradition and take the message of Christ's soon return to Pennsylvania and across the world," says Hartwell.



West Central-Africa Division

The Gambia

There were three union-sponsored evangelism programs in The Gambia. Chow held a meeting in Banjul, the capital city. Allegheny East Pastor Pete Palmer spoke in Serrekunda, the largest city, and Allegheny West Pastor Bryant Taylor presented in Briakama, where there was no major Adventist presence. According to Chow, there were 86 baptisms and 10 subsequent decisions.

The Gambia Mission office, located in Kanifing, was also refurbished. A second adjacent building was remodeled for use as a church and evangelism center.

Two subsequent offices were added at a later time.

"The Gambia is a 95-97 percent Muslim country," says Motschiedler. "There are more students in the Adventist schools than there are church members," he adds. Because education is the "primary evangelism thrust," the union helps support the country's two schools.

There was also a scholarship program established whereby Gambian students can attend Valley View University in Accra, Ghana (West Africa). Once their studies are complete, they will be able to return and minister in The Gambia.

KANIFING CHURCH
KANIFING, THE GAMBIA



STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS
SOTOKOI VILLAGE, THE GAMBIA



CLASSROOMS AT SOTOKOI
VILLAGE, THE GAMBIA



East-Central Africa Division

Tanzania

The union launched a nursing program at the Adventist University in Arusha (formally Tanzania Adventist College). A building for classes, complete with computers, was erected. Union nurse educator Patricia Patterson traveled with this group and spoke about using good health habits to control and prevent AIDS. Columbia Union College provided over 1,500 books, desks, and supplies. ADRA also assisted in the shipment of supplies.

Heri Hospital also benefited from the Columbia Union's Missions Abroad initiative. "We provided major funding for the operating room at Heri Hospital, which is located in a remote, primitive area of western Tanzania," stated Chow. This mission outpost facility had no electricity and used a generator to perform surgical procedures. According to Chow, previous ADRA donations financed a river dam, which was used to produce hydroelectricity.

RUNNING WATER AT
HERI HOSPITAL



NEWLY REFURBISHED
OPERATING ROOM



Missions Abroad Fast Facts

- 500** – nursing books donated
- 200** – computers donated
- 35** – countries visited
- 1** – MRI machines and dialysis units donated to Trinidad
- untold** – lives changed for eternity

HERI HOSPITAL
TANZANIA



Union Entities Embrace

Mission Opportunities

Not only has the Columbia Union Conference sponsored several Missions Abroad trips during this quinquennium, many people from the conferences, colleges, and healthcare systems have also engaged in mission work, as follows:

Allegheny East

Pine Forge Academy seniors, 57 to be exact, traveled to Barbados last spring. Accompanied by 17 chaperones, the students participated in construction, music, nutrition and etiquette, medical, youth, and puppet ministries. "By God's grace, we reached all of our mission goals, from renovating schools to reaching hearts,"

said graduating senior Marcia Robinson.

Conference administrators and members also traveled to The Gambia, Ghana, India, Tanzania, and Thailand to do missionary work.



Allegheny West

The Gambia, Ghana, and Peru were among the countries visited by Allegheny West members.

Chesapeake

Local conference treasurers from Allegheny East, New Jersey, Ohio, and Chesapeake traveled to Peru and built a new 120-seat church near the capital city of Lima. The group worked during the day and split up to do evangelism meetings at three different locations during the evenings.



Mountain View

As part of the annual student missionary program, 20 Mountain View students traveled to



Chapultepec, Mexico, last summer to build a church. While shoveling gravel and bending many feet of rebar to reinforce the concrete foundation, the team learned lots

about earthquake zone construction techniques. Residents presented conference president Kingsley Whitsett with a plaque in appreciation.

New Jersey

Administrators, pastors, lay people, and students traveled to Peru, Tanzania, El Salvador, India, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Belize, and the Dominican Republic to minister and spread the gospel. They conducted evangelism meetings, health clinics, Vacation Bible School, taught Pathfinder honors, and built three churches, a house, and a school.



Ohio

As part of its Missions Without Borders, Ohio pastors, teachers, and departmental directors have visited India, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam, Laos,

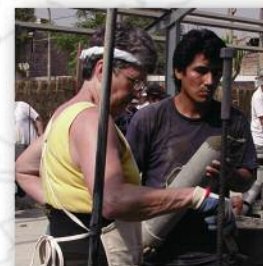


Cambodia, Ghana, Peru, Dominican Republic, Hungary, and Sri Lanka. They provided training and mentoring in ministry including leadership confer-

ences, workshops for lay leaders, and evangelism meetings in remote villages.

Since 1980, Mel and Karen Hatch from the Columbus Eastwood church have taken at least one mission trip a year.

Their first trip with Maranatha was to Dominica in the West Indies. They have built churches in Peru, Dominican Republic, Newfoundland, and Nicaragua. "It's good for people to see what's outside their church in the United States," Karen continued. "Mission trips should be required for every Adventist."



Pennsylvania

Lay people, in conjunction with Global Evangelism, have held meetings and preached nightly for two weeks at

destinations such as Dominican Republic, Philippines, Nigeria, Guyana, Costa Rica, Romania, Venezuela, and Belize. According to Jean Cusack, conference coordinator, over 100 lay people and pastors have participated throughout the

years. "We have baptized more than 1,000 people combined," she says.



Potomac

Members conducted two weeks of prayer in the Philippines last spring at the Adventist University in Manila. Over 700 students and faculty attended, and eight individuals were

baptized. At Mountain View College in Mindanao, 400 theology students attended nightly services and joined more than 3,000 worshipers during the Sabbath service.



Columbia Union College

From 2002 to 2005 students at Columbia Union College (CUC) in Takoma Park, Md., have gone on nearly 10 short-term mission trips to Belize, Mexico, and Zambia. In the summer of 2005, 12 people from CUC went to Merida, Mexico, to evangelize. Donald McKinney, a 2005 graduate of theology recalls his experience in the Yucatan Peninsula:

"The local pastor—at the church where I preached—invited me to accompany him on a few home visits with interested believers. At one house, I asked God for the words to say and proceeded to lead three people to Christ. It was a blessing to see God work through me that way."



Kettering College of Medical Arts

Medical students from Kettering College of Medical Arts based in Dayton, Ohio, traveled to Belize in 2004. They visited local schools and spoke to students about AIDS and sexual abstinence. They also visited clinics, orphanages, and conducted the country's first health fair. More than 1,000 attendees received information on smoking, diabetes, and free dental cleanings and assessments.

"Mission trips make you aware of your spiritual walk with God," said Darrell David, a senior health science major. "It's a humbling experience."



Labor for Love

Members Share Mission Stories

From grouting heavy cement blocks and painting walls, to preaching and praying, members in the Columbia Union labor for love during mission trips abroad. These trips typically last 10 days and serve as a spiritual wake-up call for many. Regardless of age, ethnicity, and economic background, mission trips impact everyone. After reading the following testimonies, you may find it's time to step outside of your comfort zone and experience an overseas mission trip:

Virginia and Frazier Mathis • Founders, Global Vessels, Inc.

Virginia and Frazier Mathis coordinate mission trips for the Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Brinklow, Md., through Global Vessels, Inc. Their nonprofit organization encourages individuals to use their time, talent, and treasures to bless others. Since 1998, their team efforts have built two churches, one library, and a girls' dormitory in Ghana. "We also held evangelism meetings during each of these trips, and 60 people were baptized," says Frazier, Global Vessels director.

In 2004, they went to the University of Arusha in Tanzania and built an addition to an existing clinic. According to one academy student, it was an experience worth repeating. "It was my first mission trip; I'm glad that I went; it was a life-changing experience," said Wayne Taylor, a senior at Takoma Academy.

Global Vessels went back to Tanzania in 2005 and started building the Havilah Children's Village on the university's campus—which also contains an elementary and high school. In 2006, the group will

return in April and July. This village will consist of 10 houses for children who have lost their parents due to AIDS. "There are about 12 million orphans in Africa as a result of AIDS," says Mathis. "Most of the children we will house are not Adventist, so this is an ideal witnessing opportunity." He also noted that the university donated the land for the project.

Over 125 volunteers, including Dunbar Henri, principal of Takoma Academy, have participated in these mission trips throughout the years. To volunteer or make a donation, visit www.globalvessels.org or call (202) 438-7325 or (301) 596-0945.

Zenobia Seward • Treasurer, Allegheny West Conference

I (pictured, right) went to Lima, Peru, earlier this year with two other conference treasurers, under the leadership of Dowell Chow, former treasurer at the Columbia Union Conference. About 20 members from the Eastwood church in Ohio also came to build churches during our evangelistic series. On our first Sabbath we attended an ordination for five Peruvian pastors who manage 12 to 14 churches each.

During the day, Eastwood members worked at the site, gave health screenings, and

taught Vacation Bible School. In the evening, the treasurers preached at three different churches, while I gave presentations on health, temperance, and stewardship. On the second Sabbath, 35 people were baptized. It was during this time that I realized our purpose in going to Peru—to share Christ with those who don't know him.

Vladimir Corea • Pastor, Highland View Academy

I have organized mission trips within the Chesapeake Conference for 12 years. Mission trips remind me of how important people are in life. I can't think of anything more rewarding. For some students, mission trips are life-changing. I've known some teenagers who take a year off from school to go on a long-term mission trip; others



have changed their career goals. It's fun to expose kids to the world. No matter where they go, kids see that church is basically the same and the songs are familiar. It helps bridge the culture gap.

In 2002, I took a group of students to Santa Barbara, Honduras. While helping at an orphanage, the students heard about a cook at the hospital who needed a new roof. They got together, raised the money, and bought several sheets of uncorrugated tin for her house before we left.

Peggy Koch • Member, Boulevard Church, Charleston, W.Va.

I've raised four kids and I've always had a burning desire in my heart to go on a short-term mission trip. We used prepared sermon notes to preach to the people of Teguthagalba, Honduras. In the beginning I was scared, but I think I was more blessed than the people were.

I wanted to adopt a young street kid who came every night. You could tell he had a hard life. Gang



members threatened to beat him for coming to the meetings. But he came anyway and was baptized. It was hard work, but at the end of the three weeks there were 130 baptisms in the six churches.

Lou Toscano • Director, Planned Giving, Ohio Conference

We went to a little fishing village called Winneba in Ghana. I remember that the people were so receptive and warm. In 10 days, 20 people were baptized. As I preached during the meetings, I noticed a man listening very attentively. Although he remained aloof, I talked to him each night. I knew the Lord was working on his heart because of the questions he asked.

At the end of the meetings, church members took up a collection and bought me a traditional Ghanaian outfit. That touched me more than anything because I knew it was a sacrifice.



Jeannie Huttemann • Member, Allentown (Pa.) Church

Our meetings in Mindinao, Philippines, were packed. Despite the heavy rain and power outages, people still came. Even the children were extremely well behaved and quite attentive. The Lord blessed with several hundred baptisms—some took place in the Tandag prison in a barrel. We were also able to counsel and marry 13 couples that had been living together; most of them had children. We had a huge party for them and the babies and children were dedicated to the Lord. I am awed by the things that God does! There is no better way of life than to do the service of the Lord!



Khalea Lester-Winbush 🌟 Sophomore, Takoma Academy

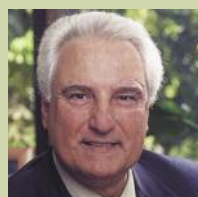
I've gone to Africa five times, most recently to Tanzania. The best part about the trip was seeing everyone working together. In the morning we had worship with the church members from the village. We would sing the same song in two different languages. On a clear day from the work site, we could see Mount Kilimanjaro. I encourage other people to do some sort of mission trip.



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE GRANT

How has the Missions Abroad experience changed your life?

Kettering Adventist HealthCare actively participates in Missions Abroad for a dual reason. These trips increase the compassion of our caregivers. It shows them how others, under very difficult circumstances, are following in the Master Healer's steps. Secondly, having served overseas, I know it's a tremendous source of encouragement to have people, and equipment, come to help meet day-to-day challenges. Our doctors, interns, and residents have done surgeries and medical assessments in Belize, Trinidad, Peru, Guyana, and other locations.—*Frank Perez, President and CEO*



These saints are serious about the Lord. They work 16-hour days, kneel on cement floors to pray, and worship in windowless churches in the sweltering heat. What I learned is invaluable.—*Gina Brown, PhD, Chair of Nursing, Columbia Union College*



During the last 17 years, I have been to Benin, Togo, Ivory Coast, Australia, Colombia, Thailand, Namibia, South Africa, and India (seven times). It's very humbling when you see that other cultures have a greater appreciation for spiritual things,



despite their lack of material things. While preaching the gospel and helping to build and dedicate churches, I've indulged my photography hobby and taken thousands of pictures.—*Henry Fordham III, Executive Secretary, Allegheny East Conference*

I was struck by the great poverty in South Africa. We visited an orphanage where the children have only one meal per day. Everywhere we went they had very little, but everyone was gracious and happy. Here in America, we have so much and are still not satisfied. Since my return, I've become far more compassionate to those in need.—*Steven Jencks, Senior Pastor, Chesapeake's Atholton Church*



We were honored to support the Columbia Union's Missions Abroad initiative in such countries as Trinidad, Guyana, Venezuela, India, and Tanzania. During the past five years, we have provided financial support, equipment, and medical expertise. Not only has it been our duty and pleasure to serve others, but we in turn have been blessed beyond measure.—*William G. "Bill" Robertson, President and CEO, Adventist HealthCare*



Healing Ministry

A NEWSLETTER ABOUT ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE IN THE COLUMBIA UNION

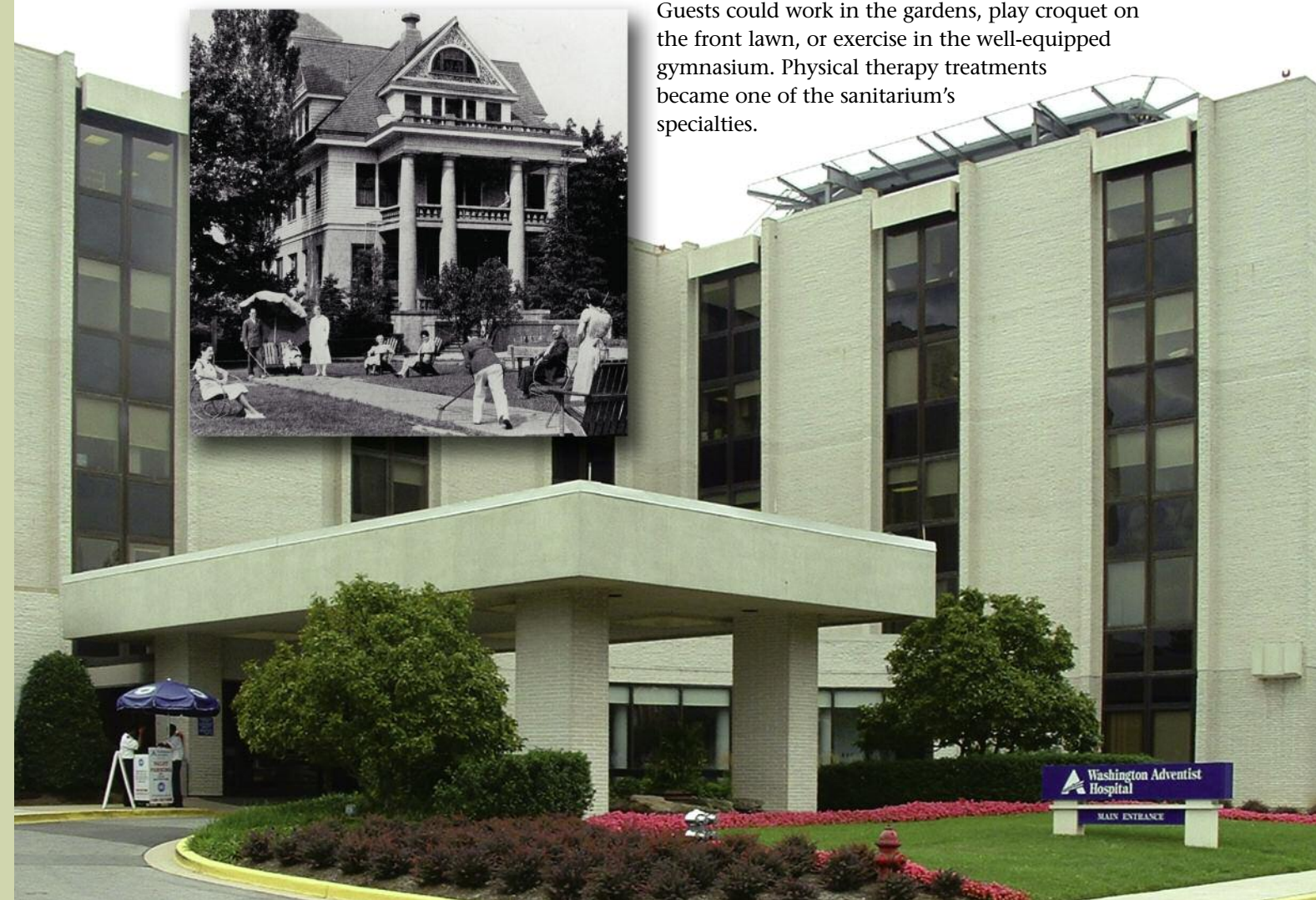
The Legacy of Adventist HealthCare Over a Century of Ministry and Healing

In 1903, at the suggestion of Ellen White, a group of leaders from the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists traveled from Battle Creek, Mich., to Washington, D.C., in search of a new location for the denominational headquarters, a publishing house, sanitarium, and college. They found just the spot in Takoma Park, Md. White contributed a part of the proceeds from the sale of the book *The Ministry of Healing* to help build the sanitarium, and Adventist HealthCare (AHC) was born.

Today, AHC is a vast network, that employees 7,200 people and cares for over 250,000 patients a year. It includes the following entities:

Washington Adventist Hospital

The 40-bed Washington Sanitarium opened June 13, 1907. The "San" was a gracious facility with spacious grounds and gardens. Patients recovered in a homelike institution with a friendly Christian atmosphere where special diet was combined with rest, exercise, and instruction in healthful living. Guests could work in the gardens, play croquet on the front lawn, or exercise in the well-equipped gymnasium. Physical therapy treatments became one of the sanitarium's specialties.



Healing Ministry

Over time, the sanitarium evolved from serving “rest-cure” clients to more seriously ill patients. In 1910 the first class of nurses graduated, after three years of study and training. In 1916 the hospital parlor was turned into a maternity ward and the sewing room was converted into a delivery room. In 1918 the name was changed to Washington Sanitarium and Hospital.

The facilities were repeatedly enlarged and developed to keep up with needs. In 1973, with the completion of a \$14 million expansion project that replaced or enlarged all major ancillary services, the name was changed again to Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH).

WAH continues to grow and offer programs that promote healthful living and healing of the body and soul. It remains committed to leading-edge programs and services to support new subspecialties of surgery and medicine. This includes sophisticated technology and equipment to provide state-of-the-art procedures with skill and compassion.

Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital of Maryland

On January 2, Adventist Rehab proudly celebrated its fifth anniversary. The years have been filled with change, growth, and heart-warming opportunities to touch the lives of numerous patients.

Adventist Rehab—a joint venture between Kessler Rehabilitation Corporation and Adventist HealthCare—was the first acute rehabilitation hospital in Montgomery County, Maryland. In 2004 AHC purchased 100 percent of the hospital and the name changed to Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital of Maryland.

The hospital opened with six patients. Since then over 5,700 inpatients and many more outpatients have been treated.

Today Adventist Rehab has two sites—a 55-bed facility in Rockville, next to Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, and 22 beds housed within Washington Adventist Hospital.

The split campus

makes acute rehabilitation accessible to citizens throughout the county.



The primary goal is helping patients increase their level of independence. The focus is on continued enhancement and volume growth within the core programs of brain and spinal cord injury, stroke, and amputation.

Two full-service outpatient sites—located within the Rockville hospital location and in Silver Spring—offer physical, occupational, and speech therapy. Because Adventist Rehab is not a large facility, the staff establishes relationships with families and patients that extend beyond the hospital stay. They strive to achieve world-class outcomes for each patient by providing a team of experts dedicated to getting patients back to life.

Hackettstown Regional Medical Center

Hackettstown Regional Medical Center (formerly Hackettstown Community Hospital) was first envisioned in the mid-1940s. Unfortunately the project kept



stalling due to changing regulations and climbing costs, and little progress was made in building a hospital in northwest New Jersey.

In 1967 the Bible teacher at nearby Garden State Academy made an ingathering visit to a local bank chairman. While they were talking about the worldwide chain of Adventist hospitals, a Hackettstown hospital activist entered the bank. This led to the suggestion that Adventists build the hospital. Because of the cooperation of community members working hand-in-hand, the hospital’s doors opened on February 23, 1973.

As Hackettstown Regional approached the new millennium, it undertook an extensive expansion and modernization program. Phase one was exter-

nal, the capstone being a dramatic, welcome facility “facelift.” Phase two involved changes to nearly 75 percent of the facility’s interior. The West Wing underwent a \$26 million expansion. A second medical office building provided space for a Wound Care Center, Outpatient Dialysis Center, and the Joan Knechel Cancer Center.

With a patient volume that has doubled since the year 2000, Hackettstown Regional Medical Center is thankful at how far it has come in its mission to serve.

Adventist Senior Living Services

Adventist Senior Living Services is uniquely different from other healthcare providers in that the



Sligo Creek Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

majority of its residents live at the facility long-term. The residents (not “patients” as referenced by most other healthcare providers) require more than medical service; they also want a place to call home. Most require ongoing care for an exist-

ing illness and desire the security and comfort of a home environment. This environment allows residents, their families, and staff to forge close bonds. It also enhances a holistic approach of caring for the mind, body, and soul.

Adventist Senior Living Services consists of the following facilities (nursing homes, assisted living, and adult day-care centers) that offer a comprehensive range of senior services to address the unique situations and needs that come with aging:



Kingshire Manor and Shady Grove Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

- **Bradford Oaks Nursing and Rehabilitation Center** (180 beds) in Clinton, Md.
- **Glade Valley Nursing and Rehabilitation Center** (124 beds) in Walkersville, Md.
- **Kingshire Manor Assisted Living**

- (50 beds) on the campus of Shady Grove Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
- **Shady Grove Nursing and Rehabilitation Center** (120 beds) next to Shady Grove Adventist Hospital
- **Springbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation Center** (99 beds) in Silver Spring, Md.
- **Fairland Nursing and Rehabilitation Center** (92 beds) in Silver Spring, Md.
- **Sligo Creek Nursing and Rehabilitation Center** (102 beds) near Washington Adventist Hospital

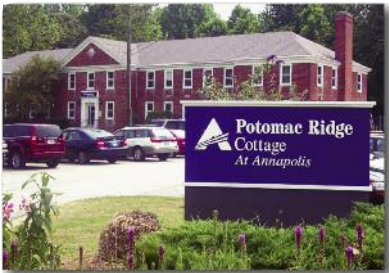
Potomac Ridge Behavioral Health System

Today, an estimated one in five adults suffers from a diagnosable mental disorder. In addition, four of the 10 leading causes of disability are mental disorders. Guided by a mission to deliver clinical and service excellence through a ministry of physical, mental, and spiritual healing, Potomac Ridge Behavioral Health System is the most comprehensive provider of mental health services in the National Capital area, with facilities in Montgomery and Anne Arundel counties.

For over 25 years, Potomac Ridge has provided behavioral health services in a variety of settings, including hospital-based programs, residential treatment centers, school programs, residential group homes, outpatient and community-based services and support groups, and Operation Runaway, a free program for families of runaway teenagers.

Potomac Ridge became a member of Adventist HealthCare in 2000. In January 2006, it opened the first and only pediatric, inpatient children’s unit in the county. Services include a wide range of treatment options for children, adolescents, adults, and seniors.

Employees are truly devoted to helping people



Healing Ministry

with mental illness. They provide compassionate care and use their talents to develop unique programs such as the Children's Unit and the Montgomery Unit, which specializes in the treatment of mood disorders.

Adventist Home Health Services

In 1973 administrators and physicians of Washington Adventist Hospital and Leland Memorial Hospital founded Adventist Home Health Services, a Medicare-certified home-care agency. Because patients were being discharged more quickly, they recognized the need for home-based healthcare within the framework of whole-person care.

Throughout the 70s and 80s, Adventist Home Health operated in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. The first office was located in Hyattsville, but Silver Spring became its home 20 years ago. In the 90s, the agency expanded its service area in Maryland to Howard, Anne Arundel, St. Mary's, Calvert, and Charles counties and to the District of Columbia.

Adventist Home Health's staff works closely with physicians developing home treatment plans for patients on a case-by-case basis. Services include adult, pediatric, and specialty nursing; maternal childcare; physical, speech, and occupational therapy; medical social work; nutrition counseling; personal care; and chaplaincy. The agency currently serves approximately 6,000 patients per year in the surrounding community.

In 1983, Adventist Home Assistance opened to provide private duty home-care services to assist patients with daily activities. Adventist Home Assistance provides affordably priced services for a wide range of needs such as housekeeping, bathing assistance, and meal preparation.

What makes home care so special is the one-to-one relationships that patients experience with their nurses and therapists for several weeks, months, or even years at a time. Patients get the satisfaction of being cared for at home, and the staff looks forward to seeing patients progress and

become independent again.

Shady Grove Adventist Hospital

When Shady Grove Adventist Hospital opened in 1979, it stood alone among the undeveloped rolling pastures and farm fields of Montgomery County. The 504 physicians representing 31 specialties at the four-story facility welcomed the initial 240 residents. Today, the 269-bed acute care hospital serves as a primary healthcare resource for a rapidly growing community.

Shady Grove has added many valuable services over the years. For pediatrics patients, it houses



the county's first Pediatric Emergency Department, a level III-B Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. Shady Grove's Emergency Department has also grown from 35,000 visits in 1984 to nearly 90,000 this year, making it the second busiest in Maryland.

County residents also recognize Shady Grove for its excellent care in the areas of high-risk obstetrical, cardiac, and vascular interventional care; oncology; orthopedic care; and bariatric surgery. In 2005, Shady Grove became the first Adventist hospital to receive the Ernest Codman Award from the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. They're also celebrating the completion of the first phase of a four-year, \$99 million expansion and renovation project that will add a new lobby, four-story tower, new surgery department, and 144 private beds, etc.

In 2006, Shady Grove will expand its community-based healthcare services with the opening of three other facilities—the Shady Grove Adventist

25 Members Teach English in Thailand

During a recent mission trip to Bangkok, Thailand, 25 members from around the Columbia Union used Bible stories to teach English to Thai students. These short-term missionaries ranged in age from 17 to 55 and hailed from these churches in the Allegheny East Conference: Walnut Street in Pottstown, Pa.; Ephesus in Richmond, Va.; North Philadelphia; Willow Grove in Philadelphia; and Berea Temple in Baltimore, Md.



Mission trip members use action to illustrate Bible stories to students in Bangkok, Thailand.

The group spent time guiding students through stories in the Bible at two high schools, a middle school, and a pre-k/kindergarten facility. They also visited a retirement home and shared songs with the elderly who were "very thankful."

"It was a joy to see the interaction between people of different cultures," said Pastor Claude Harris II, youth ministries director for Allegheny East. Harris's first trip to

Southeastern Asia came in 2004 for IMPACT 10/40, a world conference for youth in the community. While there he felt a growing need to return and do more evangelism outreach.

"Our group was tremendously energized by the receptiveness of the people," said Harris. In addition to teaching at the schools, the volunteers sent supplies to children living at the Bamboo orphanage.

"Thailand is a quaint and quiet land where there's poverty and need," Harris explains. "Those who went to Thailand really felt the spirit of servitude and worked very hard to minister to the people."—*Tanisha Greenidge*



PHOTOS BY HENRY FORDHAM III

Adventist Conducts Choir at Rosa Parks Memorial



Edward Jackson, II, a member of the Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C., led a mass choir for the city's televised memorial service for civil rights leader Rosa Parks. Jackson, who is a long-time member of the church, serves as its minister of music. Under his direction, the music department has grown from one choir to eight. In addition to directing the Chancel Choir at Dupont Park he also directs a Methodist choir. Jackson is a retired music teacher who continues to teach vocal lessons and conducting at the Duke Ellington School for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.—*Jerri McClean*

The Sampson Family—21 PFA Graduates and Counting

In 1950 while living in Bronx, N.Y., my parents—Helen and George Sampson, Sr.—committed their lives to Jesus Christ by joining the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They hoped and dreamed that by living in the north, they would be able to give the family a better life than in their racially charged home in the south.

But the next year, when my grandmother became deathly ill, the family moved back home to Fayetteville, N.C., to care for her. There they met Abraham Johnson, a member of the local Seventh-day Adventist church. Abraham introduced them to his young son who had just returned from Pine Forge Academy (PFA). This well-dressed, articulate, polite, polished young man impressed my parents, and they wanted to know more about the school he attended.

In time, they met other notable young people who attended PFA and were equally impressed. Then one Sabbath, E. I. Watson, the principal of PFA visited Fayetteville. After listening to him speak, and hearing the PFA choir, my parents were sold and knew they had to find a way to send their oldest son George.



The Sampson family through the years, top to bottom: 1960, 1970, 1999, and 2000.

Though they weren't sure they could afford the monthly tuition of \$100, my brother assured them that he would work off as much of the bill as he could. So in 1959, George was off to Pine Forge Academy. The first-born and the first of 12 children to attend, he set the precedent for the rest of us. His example of working hard, studying, and always striving to do his best has become a common thread in our family.

We attended PFA in the order of birth and in sets of four. I call George, Paula, Jimmy, and Gwen the "first four." Then there are the "fighting four"—Reggie, Alan, Vernetta, and LuValle. Last, but not least, there's the "final four"—Carlton, Renee, Michael, and me (Sonya).



Now let me explain the name behind each set of four:

The first four endured the hardest times. They struggled to reach beyond the boundary of their time and created a path for the fighting four. The fighting four are the ones who took the family to the next level. They fought to provide more, do more, and be more. While we also worked hard, the final four reaped all the benefits and blessings of the first and the fighting four. I call it the reach back affect.

As you can see, Pine Forge Academy changed the fabric of my family and continues to be a place we rely on to provide the same type of polished results that impressed my parents over 50 years ago.

The Legacy Continues

In 2006, the legacy of the Sampson family continues. Sampson number 20—Ryan, the son of Michael—is a senior; number 21 Daniel Richardson (son of Carlton) is also a senior; and Brittany Johnson (number 22 and daughter of Vernetta), is a sophomore.—Sonya Sampson (#12 to attend PFA)



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THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

FEBRUARY 2006

What is our Accent?

Accents are marks that indicate our essential nature and establish our greatness. Jesus said, in many different ways, that we are to have an accent: "You are the salt of the earth" and "You are the light of the world," he said in Matthew 5:13 and 14 (NIV), respectively.

What is your accent? What is the accent of your church? Is it possible that a church could have seemingly everything and yet lack the most important qualities: an utter dependency upon God and a willingness to be used by Him for His reconciling and redemptive purposes? Without this, no church can be what God intends.

It is no cause for rejoicing if masses flock to our church but misunderstand our message and mission. No victory has been won when multitudes come, unless their lives have been changed to conform to the image of Christ. It is always a temptation, even for Seventh-day Adventists, to judge the significance of our movement by numbers. I am not suggesting a disdain for growth. It is just not the right criteria. Spiritual significance is never judged primarily by quantity, but by quality. And by quality, I mean commitment.

We must never forget our Lord's words in Luke 17:20 (RSV): "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed (Could He have meant statistics?)." And we must always remember that the church is God's doing—it was conceived, established, empowered, and commissioned by His grace.

In the next several issues, I will share my perspective on what should be the accent of a church. My challenge, as your new president, is to work with you to make the accent of Chesapeake's churches come through loud and clear. What will frame our priorities? Where will our energies and resources be placed? The answers to these questions, and others, will be a clear indication as to what is our accent!



Rob Vandeman
President

Chesapeake Loses an Old Friend

Willis Dagenais, pastor of the Cambridge (Md.) church, passed away last month from complications due to liver and kidney failure. He was 65.

Born in Baltimore, and raised on Maryland's Eastern Shore, Dagenais came to the ministry in midlife after a fundamental and thorough turnaround. He served as a district pastor in the central and eastern regions before answering a call to the Iowa-Missouri conference in the late 1970s. He returned to Chesapeake in the mid-1980s as pastor of the West Wilmington (Del.) church, then became a conference evangelist before taking on the "Pigtown Project" in Baltimore. He returned to the shore in the late 1990s taking on responsibilities for the church at Cambridge.



More than 250 people attended the memorial service held in Preston, Md. His long-time friend and colleague in ministry, Frank Bondurant, accurately characterized Willis with three words: humor, heart, and hope. "He always had a twinkle in his eye and a winning way with people," Bondurant noted. "He had a big and generous heart. And the hope of Christ's return was his passion." Dagenais is survived by his wife Pat; two married daughters—Brenda Alexander and Jeanette Shalaby—and their families; and a host of friends.



Never Too Old to be Born Again!

Recently, at the tender age of 93, Hosanna Henderson was baptized into the Baltimore White Marsh church. The baptism was the culmination of a process that began 18 months earlier when White



Baltimore White Marsh is happy to welcome their newest member, Hosanna Henderson (third from left), who stands with (left to right) her "neighbor" Cathie Johnson, Pastor Tom LeBlanc, and Bible worker Gayle Voigt.

Marsh church ministries director Len Hennlien received a phone call from a woman in North Carolina. She asked if someone from the church would visit Henderson, her aunt. Hennlien channeled the request to Pastor Tom LeBlanc. LeBlanc and Cathie Johnson, a member who lived near Henderson, made the initial contact and continued to nurture her interest.

Last summer, White Marsh member and volunteer Bible worker Gayle Voigt started Bible studies that led Henderson to her decision to be baptized and join the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"It just goes to show that you can never be too old to be born again," said LeBlanc. He notes that Henderson is the oldest person he has baptized in his many years of ministry.

49 Attend Disaster Response Training Weekend

Last month's conference-wide, disaster response training weekend drew 49 participants, including representatives from Allegheny East and New Jersey conferences. The intensive schedule gave participants more than 20 hours of instruction toward certification. The event, organized by Chesapeake Conference Disaster Response coordinator Kitty Juneau and held at the West Wilmington (Del.) church, certified attendees in levels 1-4 of basic disaster preparedness, volunteer orientation, and management issues related to running collection and distribution centers.

Coming in the wake of a historic hurricane season, conference coordinators used their experience with Katrina and Rita to add a sense of urgency to the training sessions. Columbia Union Disaster Response



As part of their materials management training, participants study a model setup.

coordinator Don Bonchack and Norman Talley, disaster response coordinator for New Jersey Conference, assisted Juneau with the presentations.

"There was a unique bonding process going on throughout the weekend, as the reality of the need for preparedness hit home," Juneau reports. "The question is not if there will be another devastating hurricane season like this past one, but will we be prepared to respond rapidly to it."

Plans are underway for another training event at the Hagerstown (Md.) church, April 21-23. To attend, contact Juneau at (301) 367-2715 or call Evelyn Gates at the Chesapeake Conference office at (301) 596-5600.

Youth Department Hosts Family Ski Days

More than a hundred young people—many from church youth groups, Pathfinders, and Adventurer clubs—took to the slopes of the Big Boulder Ski Area near Blakeslee, Pa., last month, for a fun-filled day of snow boarding, skiing, tubing, and fellowship sponsored by the Chesapeake Conference Youth Department. The next outing will take place February 12 at the Jack Frost Resort, also near Blakeslee. For discounted lift tickets, contact the youth department in advance, at (301) 596-5600.

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

Columbia Union College

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

March 4 Offering to Support New Media Project

On Sabbath, March 4, Columbia Union College (CUC) will be the focus of a special offering in the Columbia Union. The designated offering will help the college create a multimedia classroom in Wilkinson Hall capable of supporting the latest audiovisual learning tools.

CUC is working to update classroom facilities in order to keep pace with the demands of today's increasingly fast-moving, technological advances. In addition to a renovated look, the multimedia classroom will contain a built-in projection screen, new desks, projectors, and computer-ready media devices. Upgrades and renovations for the multimedia classroom are projected to cost a minimum of \$15,000.

CUC president Randal Wisbey believes this technology-updated classroom will directly impact thousands of students in the years to come and allow them to obtain the best Adventist education possible. "The support and dedication for this project by church members throughout the Columbia Union will help ensure that CUC students have the very best tools to enhance their spiritual, academic, and social development," Wisbey says.

For more information about the offering or how you can support the multimedia classroom project, contact Norman Yergen, vice president for college advancement, at nyergen@cuc.edu or (301) 891-4133.

NEWS

Alumni Weekend Planned

Reconnect with old friends, visit with your former dean, and find out whatever happened to old what's-his-name who lived across the hall in the dorm. CUC Alumni Weekend will take place April 7-9 honoring the classes of 1946, 1956, 1966, 1976, 1981, 1986, and 1996. For more information, watch this space, visit www.cuc.edu, or call (301) 891-4133.

Sophomore Named All-American Athlete

Cross-country runner Vanessa Jones, a sophomore biology and pre-med major earned the title All-American Athlete from the United States Collegiate Athletic Association for her successful season and placement at the national meet.



Because of her successful season, sophomore Vanessa Jones was recently named All-American Athlete.

Jones, captain and prayer captain of the women's cross-country team, finished sixth in the individual competition. The team placed fourth.—John Pak

Employees Win Prestigious National Awards

Carla Conway and Julian Peterson of the publications and graphics office recently won 2005 American Graphic Design Awards for excellence in communication and graphic design.

The winning pieces included 2004's First Year Experience postcard and t-shirt designed by Peterson and the Adult Evening Program-Success Night postcard series designed by Conway.

"Carla and Julian are excellent designers and they work hard at refining each piece to represent CUC and address the targeted audience in an appealing way," said Scott Steward, CUC's public relations director.

The pieces were selected as winners by a nationwide panel of judges with Graphic Design USA. Only 10 percent of entries were honored this year. Award-winning pieces are published in a 300-page industry reference book.—PR Staff



Graphic designer Carla Conway displays two design awards.

Professor Earns PhD in Media Studies and Journalism

Stacy Spaulding, assistant professor of journalism, successfully defended her dissertation, and recently received her PhD in media studies and journalism from the University of Maryland—College Park.

Spaulding began work on her doctoral studies in the fall of 2001 and completed course work and exams in 2003. She has spent the last two years working on her 376-page dissertation. Her topic, “Lisa Sergio: How Mussolini’s ‘Golden Voice’ of Propaganda Created an American Mass Communications Career,” is based on the biography of a female journalist who worked for Benito Mussolini before moving to America in 1937.

“I was interested in women’s and radio history, and when I found out that Sergio’s papers were located in D.C., at Georgetown University, I started going down there one or two days a week to investigate. The more I read, the more I got hooked,” Spaulding recalls.

“We are proud of Stacy for completing her graduate degrees—a masters and doctorate—while teaching and advising in the department,” said Barry Casey, chair of the Department of Communication and Journalism.—Val Bossous



Assistant professor Stacy Spaulding recently received her PhD in media studies and journalism.

Alumnus and Recent Harvard Grad Speaks to Students

Scott Loughlin, CUC alumnus, recently returned as the keynote speaker during an interdepartmental law forum. Loughlin shared advice on how to get into law school, and other stories, with more than 40 students and faculty. He also discussed his current position at the prestigious D.C. law firm of



CUC alumnus and Harvard graduate Scott Loughlin recently visited the campus to share advice with students.

Hogan and Hartson, where new U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts was a senior partner.

“You must distinguish yourself from the other applicants,” advised Loughlin, who graduated from Harvard Law School last year. Loughlin also added that CUC students have certain advantages since they come from a small school. He strongly suggested that they take advantage of the internship opportunities in D.C.

“You’re in a prime location to get involved with things like the mock trial team and student government. Law schools expect the best and won’t listen to excuses,” he noted. “At CUC, it’s easier to do the extracurricular activities that will impress them.”

The forum was sponsored by the Center for Law and Public Policy and the departments of Business, Communication and Journalism, English, History and Political Studies.—PR Staff

CALENDAR

February

- 5-11 Womanhood Week
- 8,16 FAFSA Nights
(prospective students get help with financial aid process)
- 12 Student Association
Valentines’ Banquet
- 20 Presidents’ Day—
No Classes, Offices Closed
- 27-3/2 Midterm Exams

March

- 1 FAFSA Deadline
for Maryland,
CUC Priority Applications
- 2-12 Spring Break
- 4 CUC Offering Sabbath
(Unionwide)
- 6 Spring Fever Day
Offices Closed
- 8 Adult Evening Program
Success Night—
Gaithersburg Center
- 9 Adult Evening Program
Success Night—
Takoma Park Campus

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

FEBRUARY 2006

Adventists in a Rut? Part I

Could it be that God’s remnant people, living on the brink of eternity, are in a religious rut? Perhaps last year you thought, “Next year I’ll make some progress. I’ll get out of this rut and really go forward with God.” But that “next year” is now. Are we now making great strides with God?

Time may not be our trusted friend helping us get things together with God. In fact, time can do just the opposite. As we put off that full surrender to Jesus, time increases our indifference to spiritual things. It’s like driving away from town on a trip listening to a favorite radio station. As we get further away, the signal starts getting fuzzier with increased static. Occasionally we climb a hill and the signal comes through, but as we move further away, we go out of range and hear nothing.

That’s what people in ruts find out. We discover the passing of time tends to dull our religious feelings, and the signal that God used to get through may become fainter. Sometimes, a mountain-top experience (a church revival, camp meeting, or new preacher) allows us to hear that Voice once again—a little bit. But it’s not long until we’re out of range and cannot hear it anymore. Time has increased our indifference to spiritual things and dulled our ability to respond, continually making it harder to change. There comes a time when we must make that change. If not, we never will. Time is stealing away our days of opportunity. But when Jesus asks us to repent, He promises to give us power to change. It’s February already, and the choice is ours. Is this the year we will heed His voice?



Kingsley Whitsett
President

Town Hall Meetings Keep Constituents Updated

Using an interactive approach with attendees, conference leaders and departmental directors conducted town hall meetings at three widely separated churches in Mountain View—Bluefield, W.Va.; Oakland, Md.; and Parkersburg, W.Va. Administrative and departmental reports presented at each location summarized the achievements and challenges of

Mountain View Conference during the past quadrennium. Here are two key highlights:

- **Increase in Tithe** - While Mountain View, in common with most conferences in North America, faced financial difficulties during this period, tithe increased by 11 percent per capita. That’s a marked improvement over the previous quadrennium.
 - **Increase in Baptisms** - Baptisms were also up, and 2005 was our highest year for baptisms since 1983. Despite this blessing, the overall membership increase has not always kept pace with the rise, largely because new converts often move to other states in pursuit of broader vocational opportunities. We rejoice, however, for their spiritual gifts and contributions to God’s kingdom. We also rejoice that more and more people are choosing to settle in the quiet, rural places of West Virginia and bringing with them a zeal for advancing the mission of the Adventist Church.
- Attendees also heard plans—developed by conference leadership, pastors, and congregations working together—for the next quadrennium. One goal is to realize over a thousand baptisms by 2010.



Constituents listen to departmental reports at the Parkersburg town hall meeting.

20 Baptized Through Prison Ministries

Prison ministries work in eight facilities—state and federal—produced over 20 baptisms in 2005. Before being baptized, converts receive careful instruction in all the beliefs and practices of the Adventist Church. They also demonstrate practical commitment

to the faith, as evidenced by their study habits, tithing, and regular church attendance. Sometimes, because of religious prejudice and institutional challenges, it is an uphill battle to secure the right for Adventist pastors to baptize their candidates. Nonetheless, the Lord

clears away all obstacles as converted inmates resolve to follow Christ in faithful discipleship. One congregation of enthusiastic inquirers and members in the state prison at Frostburg, Md., has over 35 inmates attending services each Sabbath.

CHIP Changes Lives in Charleston

West Virginia, where 80 percent of our conference territory is located, ranks an unenviable third among the states battling obesity in North America. According to the Centers for Disease Control, related health costs for the treatment of this condition far exceed half a billion dollars annually in West Virginia. Sedentary work, lack of exercise, and high consumption of “convenience” foods and soda pops, are among the chief contributing factors. Mindful of these pervasive problems, members of the Charleston (W.Va.) church determined to educate themselves to be facilitators of the cutting-edge Cardiac Health Improvement Program (CHIP), developed by Hans Diehl. To that end, they recently embarked on a nine-session, Micro-CHIP program, where they learned how to incorporate healthy practices, before presenting this regimen to the community-at-large. Emphasizing dietary, exercise, and other natural lifestyle changes, including abstinence from all harmful indulgences, CHIP has a clinically-proven track record of

reversing cardiac problems and renewing the life energies of those who fully commit to its guidelines. “As a diabetic with a cardiac triple bypass, a pacemaker, and a renal stent, my motivation to attend the Micro-CHIP program is self-evident,” said participant G. Brian Tarr, age 74. “The presentations kept my interest high and attention fixed, as the carefully sequenced programs built an undeniably rational approach to healthful living. Dr. Diehl projects a winning personality, supported by his medical credentials, as he presents the dramatically effective—but simple—changes this new approach to lifestyle entails. The staff of ladies who conducted the program also deserves commendation for their graciousness, capability, and presentation of delicious, healthful meals (as shown below). I wish every one of my fellow West Virginians could attend CHIP and adopt its teachings.”

Other participating church members at Charleston and nearby Adventist churches have a similar testimony and are now poised to host a full-fledged CHIP program for the community in April. “We



Left to right: Coordinators Becky Deal, RN, and Darlene Burton, RN, pose with Betty Grothe and Chris Hasse, helpers from the Spencer (W.Va.) church.

want to exemplify the benefits of the principles we teach. This program is too important to offer it in a second rate way,” say Darlene Burton and Becky Deal, healthcare professionals and local CHIP coordinators. —Daniel Morikone

Mountain View EVENTS

February

- 19 MV Board of Education
- 21 Departmental Meeting
- 26 Walk 100 Miles Begins
- 26 New Pastors Workshop

March

- 6 MV Executive Committee
- 7 Ministers Meeting
- 10-12 Pathfinder Classoree
- 18 MV Music Festival, Charleston

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



SPIRIT

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY

FEBRUARY 2006

The Power of Three

This year the Lord has allowed Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) to enjoy an increase in enrollment to 163 students. Our campus population boasts students from 11 states and six countries. This level of diversity allows our students to develop strong appreciation for different cultures and maintain a positive Christian worldview.

For over 100 years MVA has been committed to developing young people who will serve their communities for Christ. As a Seventh-day Adventist boarding academy, our mission is to partner with families to help students develop spiritually, academically, and physically. Ecclesiastes 4:12 tells us that a threefold cord is not easily broken. At MVA, we believe this scripture is a direct challenge for our school to develop a cord that will combine with God and the family to develop a young person that will not be easily broken by the things of this world.

Our desire for the future is to use this threefold cord to develop young people who are committed to making witnessing a part of their lifestyle; young people who are not ashamed of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and what it means to them personally. The obstacles our young people face are many, but their desire to serve the Lord is great. As a community we must surround them with the necessary nurturing to prepare them for life on this earth and for eternity.

The faculty and staff at MVA have accepted this responsibility whole-heartedly. Through local and overseas mission trips, Bible studies, prayer groups, campus families, and numerous other activities, our staff is actively involved in the lives of our students. That commitment has produced strong relationships with the student body.



David Daniels
Principal

Why We Love the MVA Experience



“Our faculty has done well supporting the students academically and spiritually.”
—Tristan Shaw, '07,
Student Association President



“I think we have a strong, balanced program that challenges students academically, physically, and spiritually.”—Bruce Bellchambers, History Teacher



“The faculty members are always willing to help students who don’t understand the material. They always show concern for the spirituality of the students and that’s something you can’t find in public schools. That’s really awesome!”—Jessica John, '07, Class President



While students at MVA have several opportunities to grow academically and socially, the best part about being a member of the MVA family is that we are focused on growing together in our relationships with Christ.
—Amy Soper, English Teacher



“The faculty are very caring and go above and beyond to help the students succeed.”
—Valerie Sutton, '06,
Class President



“MVA students can experience a safe, caring environment with many opportunities to develop a relationship with Christ, prepare academically for the future, have fun, and make lifelong friends.”—Pam Castillo, Science Teacher

SPIRIT

Students Talk About the MVA Family

Campus Family at MVA is more than an arbitrary assignment of students to staff. Every day and throughout the week, our “families” take time to pray and show they care in a hundred little ways. It is through this major objective—building relationships at MVA—that cravings for fellowship and belonging are met.



Michelle Riley, '06

The deans work night and day to provide a comfortable, supportive, and well-scheduled home environment where the students can study, play, rest, and bond. In class, each teacher's relationship with the students goes beyond formulas and sentence fragments to personal attention and prayerful support. In this interview, seniors Adam Clayburn and Michelle Riley share their thoughts:

How do you see yourself fitting into the social aspect of life as a student?

Adam: I feel well accepted as a leader on campus.

Michelle: I have a lot of friends; I get hugs from underclassmen all the time.

How do you try to improve the experiences of new students coming to MVA?

Adam: I try to get to know them and become involved in their lives.

Michelle: I try to be as friendly as possible to them, and help with homework and schedules.

How have you been influenced spiritually by other students since you have attended MVA?

Adam: The seniors have always had a positive influence on me.

Michelle: My friends, like Kaylea and Alicia, have upheld their own values, which helps me do the same.

How has your campus parent influenced you?

Adam: They are always there to monitor grades and watch my progress.

Michelle: My campus mom helped me get through a difficult week through the little things she said and did.

What does daily Campus Family prayer time mean to you?

Adam: It gives me an opportunity to slow down and start the day out right with God.

Michelle: It helps with stress and helps me to get to know other people in Campus Family.

Share an experience where a staff member was there for you.

Adam: When I was really depressed, Mrs. Sutton was there for me.

Michelle: When I broke my arm, the staff drove me to the hospital and rode to Columbus, Ohio, with me because my parents lived far away. They were really comforting and loving and made me feel a lot better.



Adam Clayburn, '06

Summarize why a new student should come to MVA.

Adam: MVA is a place you can develop family-type relationships, grow with God, and make close friends.

Michelle: This is a very well-rounded school. They put God first, relationships next, and they have excellent academics and sports. I have made friends here who I will be friends with forever. I love it here and you will, too!

CALENDAR of EVENTS

February

19 Student Association Banquet

March

3-4 Ohio Conference Elementary Music Festival

9-12 Home Leave

13-17 Ohio Graduation Tests

14-16 Midterm exams

24-2 Spring Break

April

2 Parent/Teacher Conferences

17-21 Spring Week of Prayer

28-30 Alumni Weekend

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(740) 397-5411 ■ Principal, David Daniels ■ www.mvacademy.org

NEWS

FEBRUARY 2006

Worthless or Worthy?

We all value familiarity. No matter what kind of day you have had, driving the last few blocks home and turning into your familiar and quiet driveway erases much, bringing comfort and a feeling of belonging to the soul. Going to your favorite market, gas station, or restaurant, or sitting in the same place in church each Sabbath, provides a soothing serenity. But danger can hide in our contentment. It is called complacency, and that is an enemy.

Gospel workers have no time for complacency. Their ears are always eagerly awaiting God's command. They are ever ready to follow their Lord where He so chooses. They know that with each new circumstance comes new faith and insights into their loving Savior. They know that without that living faith in Christ as personal Savior, they will soon have nothing to share and become a worthless servant.

"We cannot give to others that which we do not ourselves possess. It is in proportion to our own devotion and consecration to Christ that we exert an influence for the blessing and uplifting of mankind. Unless the Holy Spirit can use us ... to communicate to the world the truth as it is in Jesus, we are ... entirely worthless" (*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 37).

The New Jersey Conference is filled with worthy servants, willing and eager to go where the Master sends them to fulfill His mission. And so we say goodbye to several of our workers and hello to new ones (see story below). All leave that which was familiar and comfortable behind and embark on new journeys. But this is how worthy servants, hidden in Christ, magnify their Lord.



LeRoy Finck
President

NEWS

Conference Bids Farewell and Welcome to Employees

Raymond Jimenez—Farewell to Raymond and Julie Jimenez, and their children Raymond III, Randy, and Reese. Raymond worked 14 years with the New Jersey Conference as assistant treasurer and then treasurer. They have moved to the Montana Conference where he will serve as secretary-treasurer. We are going to miss Raymond's kindness and genuine spirit.



David Cadavero—Cadavero served several years as superintendent for the New Jersey Conference Education Department. He previously worked for the Greater New York and Pennsylvania conferences. As he returns to the Greater New York Conference, we wish him well.



James and Joyce Greene—Congratulations to James and Joyce Greene for joining the New Jersey Conference family. James, who will serve as treasurer, has a wide range of experience working for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the financial field. He has served in various conferences, educational institu-



tions, mission fields, and Adventist Book Centers. Most recently, he worked in the Rocky Mountain Conference. Welcome Jim; may the Lord use you in service for Him.

Israel and Mercedes Williams—Israel Williams, assistant treasurer, and his wife Mercedes, secretary for the office of Secretariat, have decided to retire. Before faithfully serving the New Jersey Conference, they worked in the Inter-American Division. We say a fond farewell to the Williams and hope they enjoy retirement with their daughters, grandchildren, and family.



Mike and Nada Lekic—We welcome Mike as our new conference superintendent of schools. He also has years of experience in the education field, not only in Canada where he has served for several years, but in the mission field. Mike is multilingual and speaks English, French, German, Serbo-Croatian, and some Spanish. With all those languages, he will be a blessing for the diversity of languages spoken in the New Jersey Conference. Welcome Mike; we look forward to working with you.



30 Make Decisions for Christ at Youth Ablaze Weekend

Every year, the New Jersey Conference hosts a weekend youth rally called Youth Ablaze. The theme for this year's event, which drew 170 teens and 70 young adults, was "Are You Ready to Stand up for What You Believe?" The goal was to immerse attendees into a time-of-trouble scenario where they would be tested and challenged about what they believed. Those who gathered at Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Tranquility, N.J., knew what was scheduled to occur. They were assembled in small groups and assigned a leader to help them study what Adventists believe about the Sabbath, the reliability of the Bible, the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins, and the state of the dead, etc.

Throughout the weekend teams of youth were "captured," blindfolded, handcuffed, placed in the back of a truck, and driven to an "interrogation center." There they were pressed hard on why they were Seventh-day Adventists, why they worshipped on a day that no one



else did (breaking the National Sunday Law), and why they wouldn't go along with the rest of the world in unity.

To encourage them to recant their faith, participants were bribed with food from McDonald's, threatened with death, roughed up, or even "killed." Many teens wept because they did not really know what they claim to believe and couldn't prove it using Scripture. But none would recant.

After each interrogation there was a debriefing session. In one of those sessions an adult chaperone broke down in tears because, although Adventist for years, he couldn't defend his faith.

On Saturday night after a vesper service by weekend speaker Dwain Esmond (editor of *Insight* magazine)—who focused on what happens when people die and how Satan uses spiritualism to mislead us—everyone was captured and marched to the main chapel. The youth weren't sure what they would face, but began singing and encouraging each other to stand strong and never compromise. Hungry from a long day of Bible study and interrogation, they were given a choice: If they wanted pizza and snacks, free time in the gym, and time to hang out with friends, they had to recant their faith. If they refused, they would receive only water and an apple, and they would be sent to bed.

"We won't eat!" "We won't eat!" they chanted. And none did. After apples and water, they went to bed. It was awesome to see how determined they were to stand for God. But that wasn't even the highpoint of the weekend.

On Sunday morning, after our team met for prayer, everyone assembled at the "fire bowl" in the woods for the final worship service. God had used Esmond all weekend, and this was going to be his final message. He spoke about decisions, those we like to make, and those we don't like to make. He talked about how Jesus was able to make right decisions throughout His life. He did it so much, Esmond preached, that it became His nature. He did it so much that He could say, "I always do those things that please my Father," quoted Esmond, paraphrasing John 8:29. At the end of the sermon he made an appeal asking teens to give their lives to

God through baptism. Praise God, 30 precious youth accepted the call.

Youth Ablaze has begun a revival among youth in New Jersey. Many have been inspired to pick up their Bibles, read books like *Last Day Events*, and study for themselves how to be ready for the coming of the Lord. One young man has decided to accept his calling into the gospel ministry and pursue a theology degree. Keep praying for us as the Lord continues to raise His army of youth in New Jersey.

—Laffit Cortes

dates

NEW JERSEY

February

- 16 Finance/ABC Committee
- 20 Presidents' Day—ABC/Office Closed
- 21 Ad Com, 9 a.m.
- 23 Association Board Executive Committee
- 24-26 Spanish Lay Evangelist School
- 23-26 NAD Youth Ministries Convention Jacksonville, Fla.
- 28 Ad Com, 9 a.m.

March

- 5 ABC Open, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 7 Ad Com, 9 a.m. Curriculum Committee, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 8 Directors Advisory, 9 a.m.
- 11 Youth Convention, Tranquil Valley Retreat Center Education Commissioning
- 12 ABC Open, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 12-16 ABC Spring Sale

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Ohio Plans First Electronic Town Hall Meeting

History will be created on March 9. That's when the first electronic town hall meeting will be hosted by the Ohio Conference, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Using Internet technology, this web-based interactive "meeting" will enable participants to "attend" from anywhere in the world. They will view and listen to presentations on their computer. They can also ask questions and



Andy Sutton, association treasurer, moderates a web conference.

make comments. The meeting will be held using VoxWire web conferencing services. Besides a computer and Internet connection, participants will need speakers to listen, and a microphone if they wish to

speak. They can also type text messages.

"The Adventist Church must take advantage of every available technology to enhance efficiencies of time and costs in conducting its business," observed Raj Attiken, Ohio Conference president. "Besides this town hall meeting, we are scheduling several pastors conferences and training events in 2006 using web-conferencing technology," he announced.

In 2006, this e-town hall meeting will not fully replace the annual regional town hall meetings. Area meetings will be held as follows:

- March 20, 7-9 p.m., Toledo First Church
- March 21, 7-9 p.m., Akron First Church
- April 2, 3-5 p.m., Worthington Church
- April 3, 7-9 p.m., Kettering Church
- April 4, 7-9 p.m., Lakewood Church

Congregational leaders, church members, and delegates to the conference constituency session are urged to attend. The agenda at these meetings will include reports from the Ohio Conference for the past four years, information on proposed changes to the constitution and bylaws, and other items of interest.

To learn how to participate in the historic electronic town hall meeting on March 9 from the safety and comfort of your office, home, or church, visit www.ohioadventist.org.

Second Ghanaian Church Formed in Ohio

Approximately 300 people gathered at the Forest Chapel United Methodist Church recently to formally organize the Cincinnati Ghanaian Seventh-day Adventist Mission Church. They also celebrated the installation of Pastor Emmanuel Kwasi Sarpong. Ohio Conference president Raj Attiken, executive secretary Hubert Cisneros, and Columbus Ghanaian Pastor Isaac Boateng officiated during the services. Representatives from Ghanaian churches across North America were also present.

Cincinnati Ghanaian links its beginnings to the Clifton church where Sabbath School classes were organized for Ghanaian/Zimbabwe groups. The idea of forming a congregation was initiated by Madam Agatha Peters. On January 1, 2005, the first Ghanaian church service was conducted at the Forest Chapel church with 30 adults and 15 children. During the summer, several Ghanaian pastors conducted a major

evangelistic campaign and baptized 15 new members. Last November, 44 people registered as charter members of the new church.



The church choir prepares to sing for the organizational service.

Ohio Churches Grow Using Small Group Ministries

Closing the back door” of the church means retaining new and existing members. How does a church keep its membership? Each congregation consists of sub-groups or “mini-congregations” that help individuals feel more at home. These smaller groups often attract others who have much in common.

As long as an individual “belongs” to one of these sub-groups, they are part of the “in crowd.” They become invested emotionally and relationally to this group and, as a result, to the church. Ohio Evangelism Initiatives is showing local churches how to help each member become part of an “in group,” therefore closing the back door of the church. Here’s a look at how this approach is working in some of our churches:

Columbus Ghanaians Focus on Family

Last October Pastor Isaac Boateng of the Columbus Ghanaian congregation began a Bible doctrine series centered on family. Presented for five weekends, with the assistance of nurses Boachie Mensah and Juliana Forson, this fresh and practical approach has been met with tremendous participation by church members. The non-members who attend already have strong ties to



Pastor Isaac Boateng regularly involves members in evangelism activities.

Springfield Members Grow “Closer”

“We feel closer than ever before!” and “Let’s do this again soon!” were sentiments expressed at a debriefing meeting following a recent evangelism event at the Springfield church. This enthusiasm springs from members who were formerly concerned that their church might be growing “cold,” and, as a result, less attractive to new members.

Although faithfully supported by Pastor Willis Adams and his wife Miriam, this Global Evangelism event was conducted by lay member Nic Ashton. During the series, small groups met in the fellowship hall and then together for Ashton’s DVD/lecture presentation. Although

church members because they are family members, co-workers, or enjoy worshipping in the Ghanaian language. Plans are now being made to use the Global Evangelism DVD series in the Ghanaian language for a subsequent soul-winning event.

the non-members attending have yet to be baptized, they continue to fellowship with the members.

Small Groups Sustain Franklin Spanish Members

Small group ministries are in full swing at the Franklin Spanish church in Cleveland.

Though the evangelistic meetings had only been taking place for two weekends, three candidates agreed to be baptized. They had been prepared in advance of the meetings through their involvement with small group Bible study.

Pastor Oswaldo Magana has organized several small groups to prepare interests for baptism and engage them in church activities. Associate Pastor William Rodriguez presented the evangelistic series with 15 non-members in attendance.



Pastor Oswaldo Magana baptizes a new member at the Cleveland Franklin Spanish church.

Cincinnati Spanish Churches Flourish

The Cincinnati Spanish Company is experiencing significant membership growth. They began 2005 with 14 members. But after two evangelistic efforts and Bible studies, more than 30 people joined. Now the church has 75 members.

Also, a second congregation has been planted nearby, in the city of Hamilton, where weekly attendance has grown from 10 to 60.

This year, Pastor Joel Rivera is planning to hold at least three small group evangelistic campaigns and a Revelation seminar. The objective is to try to plant a third group in the Cincinnati area by 2007.—Hubert Cisneros

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Camp Meeting Extended

The Ohio Conference’s 2006 camp meeting schedule has been extended. There will be a full week of camp meeting on the campus of Mount Vernon Academy, June 11-17, with programming for adults, youth, and children. In addition, there will be a series of area camp meetings and community outreach events in select cities. The preliminary schedule is as follows:

April 8	Southern Ohio	Open Door Min. Campus, Chillicothe
April 29	Northwest Ohio	Toledo Church
June 9-11	Ohio Hispanic Camp Meeting	Mount Vernon Academy
June 11-17	Ohio Camp Meeting	Mount Vernon Academy
June 29-July 2	Friendship Get-a-Way	Maumee Bay
July 19-23	Ghanaian Camp Meeting	Kenyon College, Gambier
August 19	Northeast Ohio	Edgewater Pk., Cleveland
Sept. 30	North Central Ohio	Central-Hower High School, Akron

Pennsylvania Pen

FEBRUARY 2006

Go and Tell

Okay, I’ll admit it. I have the best job in the world. The Lord has given me the opportunity to work with youth and youth leaders all over the Pennsylvania Conference. Sometimes that includes meetings, phone calls, long distance driving, preaching, dodge ball, worship, and Bible study. It’s great! It’s not only a lot of fun, but extremely rewarding as I see God work on the hearts of young people. In my few months here I’ve met many of our youth.

Pennsylvania, we are blessed. God has given us an extraordinary group of young people. And they have vision, passion, energy, and love for God! When I spend time with our youth, my mind and heart begin to race as I think about all of the possibilities there are to involve these “missionaries” in this mission field. In Matthew 11, Jesus asked John the Baptist’s disciples to go and tell others about the things they had experienced with Jesus. It is the mission of the Pennsylvania Conference Youth Department to introduce our youth to Jesus and then give them opportunities to “go and tell” others what they have experienced with Him.



Kris Eckenroth
Youth Director

Three Mission Projects Planned for Summer

Youth from across Pennsylvania have three exciting opportunities to serve as missionaries in the mission field of Pennsylvania this summer, as follows:

Literature Evangelism—The first will be held in the Lansdale, Pa., area. Located in Montgomery County, just 30 miles north of Center City Philadelphia. Youth literature evangelists will witness to the nearly 16,500

residents in this 2.96 square-mile area. Lansdale Pastor Jim Wibberding will lead the effort June 16 through July 31. Church members will house and feed the volunteers (age 14 and older), who will learn to share their faith while earning money for school. Applications can be downloaded at www.paconference.org/ministries. Click on Youth, and then find the Youth Mission Opportunities page.

Children’s Day Camp—For those who would rather work with children than knock on doors, a “Cool Camp” will be held at the Kenhorst Boulevard church in Reading, Pa. This summer day camp will run weekdays, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., June 28-July 28. Those 18 years and older can apply for staff positions by contacting Kris Eckenroth at keckenroth@paconference.org or at (610) 374-8331, ext. 211. Each day will feature games, stories, and activities with up to 25 community and church children attending.

Mission Trip—From July 23-30, youth age 16 and older will have the opportunity to travel to the far off land of Ernest, Pa., where they will help build a Habitat for Humanity house. These missionaries will eat and sleep at Laurel Lake Camp in Rossiter, Pa. During the day, they will work on the construction site, while the evenings will be spent in recreation and worship. Cost of this mission trip is \$250. Downloadable applications are also available at the conference’s Web site on the Youth Mission Opportunities page.



Youth Director Kris Eckenroth and his friend Devon invite young people to take part in one of three mission opportunities in Pennsylvania this summer.

News From the Youth Department

New Youth Director Makes the Rounds

Youth director Kris Eckenroth is getting around Pennsylvania. Ten churches have held Youth Sabbaths since Eckenroth joined the conference team last June. These Sabbaths give youth leaders and young people a chance to meet our new youth director. It also gives Eckenroth the opportunity to get to know local leaders and youth. Young people have led the worship services and held afternoon meetings at the Hampden Heights church in Reading; the Spanish I and II churches in



Sebastian Mayer preached the sermon at the Hampden Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church in Reading, Pa., for their youth Sabbath service.

Philadelphia; the Blue Mountain Academy church in Hamburg; and at churches in Stroudsburg, York, Hanover, Allentown, and Shermansdale. Young people from six area churches also gathered at Harrisburg's mini camp meeting.

When Eckenroth attended the youth Sabbath at the Hanover church where he used to serve as assistant pastor, he had the opportunity to baptize Zac Smith. The pair had developed a friendship at Hanover's "Kids Night Out," a weekly worship and game night.

Special Event Planned for High School Youth

All high school-age youth from across the conference are invited to worship, grow spiritually, and meet other youth from Pennsylvania on February 11 beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Blue Mountain Academy. This special youth event will feature small group Bible study, praise and worship, a Sabbath afternoon concert by and for youth. Attendees will also get the chance to meet and make new friends who share their faith.

Youth Leaders Inspired by Training

Barry Gane, professor of youth ministry at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., recently visited Pennsylvania to speak for the Youth Leaders Training Sabbath at Blue Mountain Academy. Youth leaders from Blue Mountain Academy, Stroudsburg, Williamsport, Allentown, Lebanon, Hershey, Hanover, Danville, and Hampden Heights churches were in attendance. Gane provided training in leadership, communication, and planning and illustrated his points with personal stories from his 30-plus years in youth ministry.

Joni Bokovoy, Allentown's youth leader, appreciated the event. "The retreat was inspiring; I learned valuable lessons from Dr. Gane," she said.

Young Adult Retreat Planned

Pastor Jason Dunkel of Collegedale, Tenn., will be the featured speaker for this year's Pennsylvania Conference Young Adult Retreat. The event will take place at Laurel Lake Camp, April 7-8. Shawnessy Cargile will be the worship leader. Young adults (college age to 30s) are invited for two days of inspiring music, life-impacting worship, hiking in the woods, fun-filled activities, and great fellowship. Pick up an application at your local church or apply online at www.paconference.org/ministries/YoungAdultPage.html. While there, check out the latest letter to young adults. Contact Kris Eckenroth for more details at keckenroth@paconference.org or (610) 374-8331, ext. 211.



Pastor Jason Dunkel will be the featured speaker at the Young Adult Retreat.

What's happening

February

- 4 Pathfinder Bible Bowl, Harrisburg, Pa.
- 10-12 Conference Couples Retreat, York, Pa.
- 17-19 Hispanic Lay Festival, Lancaster, Pa.
- 18 Pathfinder Bible Bowl, Hamburg, Pa.
- 20-Mar. 13 Overseas Evangelism Trip to Venezuela

March

- 3-4 Elementary School Music Festival, Blue Mountain Elementary, Hamburg, Pa.
- 17-19 Conference Women's Retreat, Eisenhower Inn, Gettysburg, Pa.
- 17-19 Pathfinder Honors Weekend, Laurel Lake Camp, Rossiter, Pa.

April

- 7-9 Young Adult Retreat, Laurel Lake Camp

June

- 1 Application Deadline, Overseas Evangelism Trip to Belize
- 9-17 Pennsylvania Camp Meeting, Blue Mtn. Academy, Hamburg, Pa.

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Phone: (610) 374-8331, ext. 210 ■ President, Ray Hartwell
Editor, Tamyra Horst ■ www.paconference.org

Potomac People

FEBRUARY 2006

Southern Asian Church Dedicates \$8 Million Facility

Last month, hundreds of members, supporters, and friends of the Southern Asian Seventh-day Adventist Church packed the spacious foyer to witness the ribbon cutting marking the official opening of their new worship facility. The weekend-long celebration continued with an estimated Sabbath-morning attendance of nearly 2,000 worshippers. With a seating capacity of 1,000, the 702-member congregation is poised for continued growth.

Inauguration Sabbath activities included 18 baptisms—a special number reminding the congregation of their 18 years of existence.

Through fundraising efforts that included cultural shows, fruit sales, car washes, cell phone recycling, a capital campaign, and a host of other creative endeavors, the congregation has raised over \$3 million toward their \$8 million building project.

Officers of the Potomac Conference were on hand to give thanks to God and affirm the hard work of Senior Pastor Franklin David, Associate Pastor Sujjan John, and the dedicated members of the diverse congregation, which is comprised of a host of languages and cultures from India and other parts of South and East Asia.—Garrett Caldwell



NEWS

Galax Couple Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The Galax Seventh-day Adventist Church was filled with family and friends as Bob and Edna Montgomery renewed their wedding vows recently. There was only one witness at their wedding 50 years ago, but this time, many people—including their three children—attended the nuptials. Pastor Daniel Royo presided over the ceremony.—Donna Patton



Pulaski Member Turns 93

Leona Cruff-Macy, who recently celebrated her 93rd birthday, attributes her longevity to diet, exercise, and a good relationship with the Lord. "I've outlived three generations of my family," says the woman who grew up in the country, ate fruits and vegetables, and used hard work as a form of exercise. Today, Cruff-Macy, a member of the Pulaski (Va.) church for 61 years, still maintains a good sense of humor and lives "on faith alone."

Two Pastors Ordained/Commissioned into Ministry

Rick Jordan, pastor of the Woodbridge (Va.) church, and Rick Dahlberg, pastor of the Meadowbridge church in Mechanicsville, Va., were recently ordained/commissioned to the gospel ministry during inspiring services at their respective churches.

Jordan learned about the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a young teenager when he visited his father



Ray Pichette, assistant to the president for Potomac Conference, presents Rick Jordan.

and stepmother in Alaska. During one of those visits, he attended a youth camp and was introduced to Jesus. He was baptized and joined the church during his senior year of high school. It is his desire to share

God's amazing grace and the unique message of God's last day church to a world in need of Him! The Jordan family includes Rick's wife Beth, and their children Ricky, Tim, Esther, and Russell.

Dahlberg accepted the call to pastoral ministry in Quebec, Canada, in the fall of 1998. "There are many things you can do in this life, but there's only one thing you can do to have lasting happiness—enjoy God," he says. "Enjoying God is not using Him, but knowing that God is using you as He wants" Dahlberg and his wife Eve are proud parents of Alexander Nils and Andra Nevyn.



George Akers offers prayer during the ordination/commissioning service for Rick Dahlberg.

Olney Forms New Adventurer's Club

The Olney (Md.) church recently held its very first Adventurer's club meeting. More than 20 children joined the club. Some participants are members of the church and some are from the Olney Adventist Preparatory School. The children have enthusiastically participated in many activities including a Sabbath afternoon hike involving searching for clues to a Bible text; a Sabbath afternoon bike ride; crafts; and planting bulbs on the church/school property. The club plans to do a ski trip and a spring campout. "We feel blessed to have such a wonderful group of children and a very



Alyssa Izzo, pictured with fellow Adventurer club members from the Olney (Md.) church, works to earn a bead craft honor.

successful start to our new program!" say coordinators Sally and Haryl Linzau.

Staunton Church Hosts "Piano Praise" Concert

Piano Praise, a three-piano, 12-hand ensemble (two people playing together makes four hands at each of the three pianos, for a total of 12 hands) recently played for the study and worship service at the Staunton (Va.) church. Selections included nine hymns, praise, and gospel songs and featured the classical rendition of "As the Deer," a lively interpretation of the spiritual "This Little Light of Mine," and a rich, moving arrangement of "People Need the Lord."

Pianists of this unique group included several Virginia-based members: Jeannetta Bosley of Churchville, Gaylon Hevener of Staunton, Deanna Knoll of Waynesboro, Kelly Lum of Staunton, Patty Marsh of Fishersville, and Beth Ware of Highland. The public was invited and the church was packed. All who attended received a rich blessing as they listened to the heavenly music.

Participants in the Piano Praise concert at the

Staunton (Va.) church included (left to right) Kelly Lum, Beth Ware, Jeanetta Bosley, Patty Marsh, Deanna Knoll, and (seated) Gaylon Hevener.



—Charlene Sheffer

Spotlight on Spencerville

FEBRUARY 2006

Grandparents' Day—Connecting Generations

Spacerville Adventist Academy (SAA) recently held its eighth annual Grandparents' Day. Being new here, it was my first time experiencing such an event. I watched as the grandparents filled the school, and soon discovered that many of them had traveled hundreds and even thousands of miles to be there. It was astonishing!

I watched as, throughout the morning, grandparents followed their grandchildren from classroom to classroom. The students were so excited to share their educational world with their grandparents that they seemingly did not notice the generation gap.

I have not been able to forget the powerful memories of that day. How meaningful those interactions must be for the children involved. It reminds me of the old African saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." Let's strive to keep our generations connected. In that connection we will find strength, love, and wisdom that cannot be matched.



Brian Kittleson
Principal

NEWS

AcroSquad Attends AcroFest 2005

AcroSquad, SAA's gymnastics team, recently participated in AcroFest, the annual gymnastics conference for Adventist high schools and colleges. AcroFest, held at Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas, gives students the opportunity to practice and learn



SAA's AcroSquad gathers for a team photo before their Saturday night performance at AcroFest 2005.

more about the sport of gymnastics. Twenty teams from across the United States engaged in the demonstrative learning clinics, the famous Saturday night performance, and all around fun. This year's theme was "Make a Difference," and each athlete was encouraged to positively impact people in their community.

This was Spencerville's fifth year attending AcroFest (and one of our best). Our team had a good time learning from the other schools and trying new gymnastics moves. Although one of our teammates was injured the night before our big performance, we were able to figure out a solution and still put on a good show. The best and most memorable part of AcroFest was the bonding—we made a lot of new friends and managed to strengthen friendships on our team as well. AcroFest gave us important lessons and unforgettable memories to take home. We can't wait to go back next year!—Jaime Jacobson '09.

Four SAA Seniors Receive Awards

Four seniors at SAA—Matthew Collett, Staci Davenport, Ellen Poirier, and Andrew Tetz—recently received Commended Scholar Awards from the PSAT National Merit Scholarship Program. The surprised students were awarded Letters of Recommendation during a special presentation at chapel. Commended Students are those who rank in the top five percent of the 1.3 million students who take the PSAT National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test each year.

In addition to their academic success, these students also enjoy activities outside the classroom. Collett is a member of the SAA basketball team and is currently recording a CD of original music with several friends. Davenport is a skilled musician who plays many instruments, including the guitar. She is also a member of the Lady Hornets basketball team and participates in other sports throughout the year. Poirier is editor of the 2005-06 *Retrospective*, the SAA yearbook. She also performs with the Spencerville Ringers, SAA's hand bell choir. Tetz is an accomplished yo-yo performer. He has participated in several yo-yo contests and recently placed fifth at the national level. We are very proud to see our students earn such high honors.



Left to right: Ellen Poirier, Staci Davenport, Drew Tetz, and Matthew Collett were all recipients of the PSAT Commended Scholar Awards.

Music Teacher Visits Cambodia

In January 2005, following the tsunami, CNN's Paula Zahn reported on the need for music teachers. According to the program, music therapy was the only way many of the orphans would emerge from their numbed depression. I saw how the teachers used their legs and pieces of sticks to create simple "patsching" rhythms. The faces on the destitute children suddenly came alive as they recognized the familiar sounds of their cultural folk music. My eyes watered as I came to a realization: Often, we become so involved with our daily routine that we forget the reasons for which we chose our career path. So, shortly after the program aired, I made arrangements to go to Cambodia to work with orphans.

I invited my third- and fourth-grade recorder students at SAA to help out. At the end of the school year, they enthusiastically donated their own recorders—90 in all—and wrote messages of encouragement to would-be recipients.

My first weeks in Cambodia were spent volunteering with ADRA workers assigned to the Child Survival Project. By the end of the first day I

found myself speechless by the living conditions—animals living among the people, no clean water or sanitation, not enough nutrition, the curse of AIDS. The heat and stench were overwhelming, and I could not help crying myself to sleep at night. *How could some countries have so much, while others have so little?* I wondered.

The remaining weeks were spent in Siem Reap where I took the recorders. I was thrilled to witness the pride that the children took in their new possessions. They immediately wrote their names on their recorder and read the attached messages. The eagerness they displayed was my greatest reward and, little by little, my new music students began to learn to read notes. Using the white board in my outdoor classroom, I drew the staffs and notes for each day's new song. At the end of my visit, we had a mini concert with 90 students performing "God is So Good." When it was over, the children brought me bouquets of wild flowers. I had to pray that God would keep me from losing my composure.

Back home, the students at SAA prepared bags with educational and

hygiene supplies, as well as toys and stuffed animals, for the children in Cambodia. Their sincere notes of kindness and expectations of soon meeting Cambodian orphans in heaven moved my heart. In their own way, my students at SAA have stepped out of their world and into the lives of others who are less fortunate. This year during Spring Break, I plan to take my choir to Belize so they, too, will have that joy of sharing music with orphans. —Jane Lanning



SAA music teacher Jane Lanning poses with a group of eager music students who won her heart at a Cambodian orphanage.

CALENDAR

February

- 12 Student Council Valentine's Banquet
- 17 Midterm
- 20 Presidents' Day—School Closed

March

- 6-10 Week of Prayer
- 12 NHS Induction
- 13-17 Student Council "Spirit Week" (high school only)
- 27-31 Spring Break

For more dates, visit www.spencervilleacademy.org.

Spotlight is published in the Visitor by the Spencerville Adventist Academy 15930 Good Hope Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20905 ■ Phone: (301) 421-9101 www.spencervilleacademy.org Principal, Brian Kittleson Editor, Heidi Wetmore

Beyond Fundamentals

I often wonder why many of our Seventh-day Adventist students choose to attend public schools instead of Adventist schools. I also wonder if Adventist schools provide an education that can "compete." Public schools boast multiple course offerings, multiple language choices, larger interscholastic programs, and more up-to-date facilities. But there are also deficiencies. Significant to me, as a parent and educator, are the vast numbers of students, lack of individual attention, plethora of unchristian influences, and absence of prayer!

As noted in the September 2005 issue of Educational Leadership, today's "schools must go beyond teaching fundamental skills." Despite what we don't have at Takoma Academy (TA), we go beyond fundamentals. First, consider our teachers. Though they are not compensated for the amount of work they are required to accomplish, they are hardworking, dedicated, and often spend their careers working at Adventist schools. They take an interest in our kids and often pray with them. Secondly, our classes are smaller, allowing for more individualized instruction, which provides a host of long-term benefits. Third, beyond fundamentals, we teach with the "eternal" mindset, preparing our students for heaven.

What can you do to assist Adventist education? How can you partner with us in this important work? Can you provide resources? Are you willing to go on field trips? Do you have financial connections to provide up-to-date equipment for the school? Are you constantly praying for our schools? Thank you for whatever you can do to make a difference.



C. Dunbar Henri
Principal

NEWS

Ken Wilson Retires—Again

Ken Wilson has retired—again. Last Spring, when there was a teaching vacancy at TA, he stepped in and taught Chemistry, Anatomy and Physiology, and Honors Chemistry. He continued this school year until a new teacher was hired. At a recent assembly, Principal Dunbar Henri thanked him for his service.

Wilson started teaching at TA in September 1963, having graduated from the academy in 1955. His fondest memory of being a teacher at TA is interacting with the students at all times but especially on the biology (Biota Club) field trips.

When asked what his plans are, Wilson replied: "When the nursing home guard is not looking, we will sneak out and go backpacking with my new GPS, travel throughout the United States to national parks and historical sites, and visit grandchildren in Colorado." He and his wife Cody also plan to invest in real estate and embark on a lot of boating explorations.



TA Welcomes Alumnus to the Staff

Last month, Derek and Ashley Boyce joined the TA family. Derek graduated from TA in 1999 and went to Southern Adventist University, graduating in 2003. He then went to Andrews University and did graduate work until the call came to interview at his alma mater. "I am [happy] to be able to [return] to TA to begin my career," Derek says. "I want to make chemistry and physics fun for the students."

When not teaching, he enjoys biking, board games, playing the trombone and electric bass, and cars. His fondest memory of TA was hanging out with friends at lunch and band and being on the track team. TA is fortunate to have him join the faculty.



TATODAY

Teacher Goes to Russia with Toys, Love, and 10 Words

I recently participated in a short-term mission trip to Russia. Our group of 42 participants—led by Floyd Murdoch, a retired TA teacher—happily endured the 10-hour flight to Moscow. We spent a few days sightsee-



During her mission trip to Russia, Myrna Candelaria, who teaches English at TA, befriended these two orphan children.

ing, and then made our way to the Seventh-day Adventist University in Zaosky. We sorted through toys and clothes donated by students and staff at TA and other churches and schools. The donated items were for a group of orphans scheduled to visit the university. When the orphans arrived, the staff and students performed a Christmas program and served a hearty lunch. The children were then led to rooms filled with the donated gifts and told to pick one. Many approached the offerings shyly while other children boldly made their preferences known. Their smiles and words of thanks encouraged me as I fumbled with my limited 10-word Russian vocabulary. From this experience I received a life lesson on the human spirit and its innate drive to survive despite unfamiliar obstacles. The trip to Russia reminded me to be more of a missionary in my classroom and to others who are a part of my daily life.—Myrna Candelaria

Auction Raises \$5,000 for Jamaica Music Tour

Recently, the Takoma Academy band, jazz band, strings, and drama groups sponsored an auction to raise money for their upcoming Jamaica Tour, March 24-April 3. The groups, with awesome parental support, transformed the gymnasium into an auction room with delicious West Indian food on display. Pastor Kermit Netteburg from the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., led out in the festivities, while Pastor Derek Marley from the Takoma Park (Md.) church served as auctioneer. They raised over \$5,000 to assist with the trip to Jamaica. Though it will cost around \$1,000 per person, these funds will defray some of the cost for each student. The trip will consist of concerts and programs, and the students are exploring the possibility of doing a short-term mission project during their stay. For the participants, this is not a vacation; it's a musical mission trip. To lend your support, send donations marked "Jamaica Trip" to Takoma Academy.

Fine Arts Department Presents Christmas Program

TA's Fine Arts Department provided a wonderful Christmas program at Sligo church late last year. A snowstorm on the very day of the program presented some challenges. God was in control, however, and there was a wonderful crowd present to enjoy performances by the school band, orchestra, strings, drama group, Camarata, choir, and gospel choir.

Members of these groups, directed by band teacher Tim Vandeman, and choral teacher Gylcris Sprauve, presented what Christ means to them and celebrated Christmas in the traditions of various cultures.



Students from TA's band and choir present their Christmas program at Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md.

TA Events

- February**
8-11 Columbia Union College Band Festival
12 Valentine's Banquet, Martin's Crosswinds
14 Parent/Teacher Conference, Noon Dismissal
20 Presidents' Day—School Closed
27-Mar. 3 Student Week of Prayer by Campus Ministries
- March**
4 TA Youth Rally
23-24 Semester Examinations
27-Apr. 2 Spring Break
- April**
20 Open House, 6-8 p.m.
21-22 Alumni Weekend
29 TA Day, Takoma Park (Md.) church
Vicki Yohe in Concert, 7 p.m. (free will offering)

TA Today is published in the Visitor by Takoma Academy ■ 8120 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 ■ Phone: (301) 434-4700 ■ Principal, C. Dunbar Henri ■ www.ta.edu



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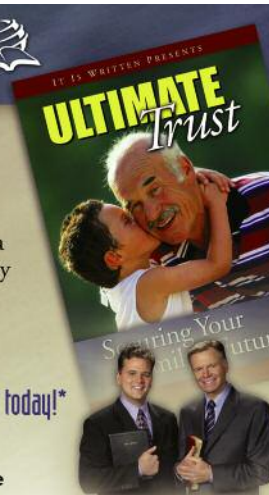
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EOE/AAE

The Navy was his life ... but God didn't leave it to Chance.



Randrick Chance joined the U.S. Navy to see the world. In a few short years, his naval career was thriving as he earned promotion after promotion. He delighted in knowing that his peers saw him living the “good life.” He also found self-worth in driving BMWs, dressing in the trendiest clothes, wearing expensive jewelry, and impressing the ladies. What more could anybody want?

But as the lure of success beckoned Chance, so did God. As Chance explains, “One afternoon aboard a warship, I was browsing a magazine rack for something to read. I don’t know how it got there, but I found an *Amazing Facts* Study Guide. I felt compelled to pick it up. It was the beginning of an adventure in discovering God.”

Chance next enrolled for the entire Study Guide series and completed all 27 lessons. He adds, “I was so excited, I couldn’t wait to get the next lesson in the mail!” Then on November 16, 2002, Chance was baptized into the family of Christ.

Not long after, God led Chance to resign from the Navy and enroll in the *Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism*, where he is continuing to grow in preparation for his new assignment in the Lord’s Army.

Amazing Facts ... Bringing people like Chance to God every day! Please join us in this joyful work of changing lives. Call us today at 916-434-3880.

Advertising Guidelines and Rates

The Columbia Union *Visitor* accepts classified advertising as a service to its members. Announcements such as church-sponsored events, legal notices, obituaries, and retirements of church workers will be printed without charge on a space-available basis. The *Visitor* reserves the right to refuse any advertisement or announcement and does not guarantee the integrity of any product or service advertised.

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EMPLOYMENT

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks Assistant Professor of Marketing, beginning July 1. Candidates must hold doctoral degree in AACSB-accredited program required. Evidence of successful teaching, scholarly activity and research is essential. Rank will be determined on academic qualifications. Adventists please submit resume to: Dr. Robert Schwab, Chair, Department of Management, Marketing and Information Systems, School of Business, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0222. Telephone: (269) 471-6859; e-mail: schwab@andrews.edu.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education for its Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. Master's degree (doctorate preferred), PT license, and two years of clinical experience required. Responsibilities include planning, coordinating, and monitoring student clinical activities on behalf of the PT program. Adventists apply online at www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs.html or apply to: Dr. Wayne Perry, Chair, Andrews University, Physical Therapy Department, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0420. Tel: (269) 471-6033; e-mail: perryw@andrews.edu.

HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS NEEDED

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Please contact the job line: (800) 845-6212 or click on Employment: www.shawneemission.org for a listing of open positions.

For more information contact: Brad Hoffman Administrative Director of Human Resources (913) 676-2020

Resumes may be faxed to: (913) 676-2019

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks Communication teacher beginning January 1. Duties include teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in communication and related area, directing and advising internships, scholarly activity and research, and student advising. Professional, departmental, and university committee responsibilities. Doctorate in communications preferred. Research and teaching in persuasion, interpersonal and group dynamics, effective presentations, and conflict resolution. Adventists apply to: Delyse Steyn, Search Committee, Communication Department, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0050. E-mail: dsteyn@andrews.edu; telephone (269) 471-6161.

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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks Political Science professor, beginning July 1, 2006, for its expanding political science, pre-law, and history programs. Earned PhD (or ABD) in political science or public administration with a focus in American studies. Other areas of specialty and teaching interests will be honored. Preference given to applicants with history background. Qualified persons apply to Jane Sabes PhD, Chair, Search Committee, History & Political Science Department, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0010. Send electronic submissions to sabesja@andrews.edu.

CHRISTIAN RECORD SERVICES has openings for missionary-minded representatives to present free services to blind/visually impaired, fund raising, and public speaking. Denominational benefits available. Contact the Field Department, (402) 488-0981, prhr@christianrecord.org or fax resumes to (402) 488-7582.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, an Adventist Health System 63-bed acute care facility located in beautiful Southeastern Kentucky's Daniel Boone National Forrest, has various openings for mission-minded healthcare professionals. For current postings, visit www.manchestermemorial.org and click on Employment or contact the job line at (800) 872-8616. Resumes and applications may be faxed to (606) 599-2506. Contact Joe Skula, human resources director at (606) 598-4510 or joe.skula@ahss.org for further information.

PROGRAMMERS JAVA/J2EE DEVELOPERS NEEDED Exciting growing company seeks J2EE developers and project leaders. Stafford and Reston, Va., and Rockville, Md., locations. You can obtain a secret and/or TS Clearance. To apply: recruiting@platinumsolutions.com or call (703) 471-9793 x 215; www.platinumsolutions.com.

MAINTENANCE PERSON/ RANGER NEEDED at Mt. Aetna Camp & Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md. MACRC is owned and operated by Chesapeake Conference. This is a full-time salaried position with benefits. For a job description or more information, contact Glen Milam at (301) 824-6045 or at glenmilam@myactv.net.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks assistant professor of Information Systems, beginning July 1. Candidates must hold doctoral degree in Information Systems from an accredited university. Evidence of successful teaching, scholarly activity and research is essential. Rank will be determined on academic qualifications. Seventh-day Adventists please submit resume to: Dr. Robert Schwab, Chair, Department of Management, Marketing, and Information Systems, School of Business, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0222. Telephone: (269) 471-6859; e-mail: schwab@andrews.edu.

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Deadline: February 15

Forward resumes to:

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Allegheny West Conference
1339 E. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43205
jlewis@awconf.org

Bulletin Board

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY
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THE SAMARITAN CENTER,
a community service organization with a busy thrift operation, near Chattanooga, Tenn., is seeking an executive director to begin orientation in mid-2006. The applicant must have the following qualifications: A Seventh-day Adventist with a commitment to the Adventist mission; a bachelor's degree in business, public administration, or comparable area of community service; demonstrated ability in marketing and management; an understanding of a client-based service environment and exceptional skills in communication and working with a diverse population. Please submit resumes and stated salary requirements to Charlene Robertson via e-mail: tcrobertson@comcast.net.

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MOTHERHOOD WITH LAUGHTER AND TEARS—
nonfiction book by Adventist author Staci Henderson Froelich, is now available at most Adventist Book Centers. Also available through Web sites: www.amazon.com, www.booksamillion.com, and www.barnesandnoble.com. All U.S. bookstores can order it through an Ingram distributor. Order today, and you'll treasure this collection of heartwarming stories. Great for gifts!

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MARYLAND ADVENTIST DENTIST:
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	Feb. 3	Feb. 10	Feb. 17	Feb. 24	Mar. 3
Baltimore	5:29	5:38	5:46	5:53	6:01
Cincinnati	6:01	6:09	6:17	6:25	6:33
Cleveland	5:45	5:54	6:03	6:11	6:20
Columbus	5:54	6:02	6:10	6:18	6:26
Jersey City	5:16	5:25	5:33	5:42	5:50
Norfolk	5:33	5:40	5:47	5:54	6:01
Parkersburg	5:49	5:57	6:05	6:13	6:21
Philadelphia	5:22	5:31	5:39	5:47	5:55
Pittsburgh	5:41	5:49	5:57	6:06	6:14
Reading	5:25	5:33	5:41	5:50	5:57
Richmond	5:36	5:44	5:51	5:59	6:06
Roanoke	5:47	5:54	56:02	6:09	6:16
Toledo	5:52	6:01	6:10	6:19	6:27
Trenton	5:20	5:29	5:37	5:45	5:53
Wash., D.C.	5:32	5:40	5:48	5:55	6:03

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

QUADRENNIAL SESSION
OF THE OHIO CONFERENCE
OF SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTISTS

The 39th regular constituency session of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday April 9, 2006, at the Worthington Seventh-day Adventist Church, 385 East Dublin-Granville Road, Worthington, Ohio. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and committees, consider recommendations for revisions of the constitution and bylaws, and to transact such other business as comes before the conference.

Raj Attiken, President
Hubert Cisneros, Secretary

OHIO CONFERENCE
ASSOCIATION MEETING

Notice is hereby given of a legal meeting of the Ohio Conference Association of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, incorporated under the laws of the state of Ohio, in connection with the 39th regular constituency session of the Ohio Conference to be held in the Worthington Seventh-day Adventist Church, 385 East Dublin-Granville Road, Worthington, Ohio, at 11:30 a.m., on Sunday, April 9, 2006.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers and trustees and to transact any other business that may come before the association at that time. The delegates to the 39th regular constituency session of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are delegates of the session.

Raj Attiken, President
Lou Toscano, Secretary

MEETING OF THE
MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY
CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Mount Vernon Academy Corporation will be held in connection with the 39th regular constituency session of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at the Worthington Seventh-day Adventist Church, 385 East Dublin-Granville Road, Worthington, Ohio, at 11:50 a.m., on Sunday, April 9, 2006.

This meeting is called to elect trustees and transact any other business that may come before the constituency at that time. The delegates to the 39th regular constituency session of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are delegates of the session.

Raj Attiken, President
David Daniels, Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENTIST SINGLE
ADULT MINISTRIES (ASAM)
CONFERENCE

will be held March 22. Attend the country's largest training event for Single Adult Ministries leaders at the interdenominational SAM Convention, March 23-25, following the 3rd Annual Adventist SAM Leadership Training Conference, March 22. Both will be held in Phoenix, Ariz.. Featured speakers are Dr. Hyveth Williams and Dr. Dick Stenbakken, NAD ASAM Coordinator. Contact PlusLine at (800) 732-7587 or go to <http://plusline.org/events> for registration information. The ASAM Web site is www.AdventistSingleAdultMinistries.org/.

**CHIP LEADERSHIP
WORKSHOP:**
May 16-20 at Atlantic Union College. AUC's Culinary Arts Department partners with the Adventist CHIP Association to train church teams to present the Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP), a video-based ministry that is changing lives and making friends for time and for eternity. To register or for more information call (866) 732-2447 or e-mail: info@adventistchip.org.

**THE SOUTHERN ASIAN
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
CHURCH**
presents Michael Card in concert, Sunday, March 25, at 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the Potomac Book and Health Food Store by calling the church office (301) 439-7035, or going online at www.sasdac.org.

**WALKER MEMORIAL
ACADEMY (WMA)
ALUMNI WEEKEND**
will be held at the Avon Park, Fla., campus on March 25 & 26. The speakers for the weekend will be Pastor Rey Descalso, Jr., and Pastor Mark Reams. A special tribute will be awarded to William E. Farmer for his 20 years of dedication and service at WMA.

OBITUARIES

ADAMS, Ronald L., born August 2, 1938, in Pensacola, Fla.; died November 14, 2005, in Grand Island, Fla. He was a member of the North Lakes church. Ron joined the church in the early 1960s. He received his elementary education degree from Southern Missionary College and a master's from ETSU in Johnson City, Tenn. He taught and was a principal at the elementary and academy levels. He was also very active in Pathfinders. After nearly 40 years of teaching in the Columbia, Lake, Southern, and Southwestern unions, he retired in Florida. At the time of his death, he worked as a chaplain for Florida Hospital Waterman. Ron devoted his life to Christian Seventh-day Adventist education. It was his passion. He is survived by his wife Sharon Adams of Grand Island, Fla.; two daughters, Lori (Michael) Abbott of Bellbrook, Ohio, and Teresa (Kevin) Rice of Memphis, Tenn; a son, Steven Adams, of Maintowoc, Wis.; a grandson, Nathan Abbott, of Bellbrook, Ohio; and granddaughters Kelsey Abbott of Bellbrook, Ohio, and Karli and Taylor Rice of Memphis, Tenn.

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

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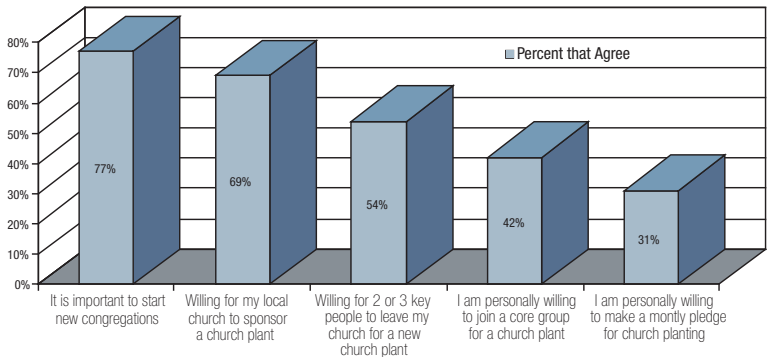
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What About Church Planting?

Church planting” is the contemporary term for starting new congregations in communities where there is no Seventh-day Adventist church, and it can be controversial.

The Center for Creative Ministry recently helped us survey members across the Columbia Union Conference, with a large sample filling out questionnaires on Sabbath at church. Here are some of the key responses:



As you can see, more than three out of four Adventists support the concept of church planting, but support dwindles as the “cost” of doing so comes closer to home. Still, significant numbers are willing to get personally involved in giving their time and money to church planting. The 42 percent willing to join a core group for a new church plant represent 27,000 to 50,000 individuals across our eight states, and the 31 percent willing to make a monthly donation represent 20,000 to 37,000 individuals (depending on whether you restrict the estimate to active members).

What Does This Mean?

There are hundreds of communities across our eight states where, at present, there is no Adventist congregation or local ministry of any kind. This is especially true in the major metropolitan areas such as the suburbs around Philadelphia, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Washington, D.C., and Norfolk-Virginia Beach. About 60 percent of the people in our territory live in the 10 largest metropolitan areas and 90 percent live in all 46 metro areas, but the majority of our churches are located elsewhere—where 10 percent of the population lives. In other words, if we are serious about the mission Christ has given us, we must reposition ourselves to go where the people are!

Monte Sahlin, a vice president of the Columbia Union Conference, coordinates homeland missions strategy. Reach him at msahlin@columbiaunion.net or (800) 438-9600.

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