

CONNECTING | IMPACTING | CELEBRATING

# VISITOR

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to Earth  
Stewardship



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A Call to Earth Stewardship

My family had a good laugh when my sister bought an early-generation Toyota Prius. "Treehugger" was just one of the names we teasingly called her, but who could blame us? It looked kind of funny, it seemed to shut down in traffic, and since she said it was electric, we wondered if she'd have to plug it in at night so it would work during the day.

We stopped laughing when she announced that she was clocking 50 miles per gallon. "I only have to fill my tank once a month," she bragged. Now the "Pri" is one of the top selling vehicles in America—often on back order for months—and Toyota keeps calling my sister offering to buy it back!

It seems everyone is "going green" these days or talking about it. *T*, the *New York Times* style magazine, published a huge guide last fall (as have many, many mainstream magazines); stores like Babies 'R Us have entire product lines to help you raise a "green baby;" and there's even a green town being built in Kansas. After a tornado demolished it last year, leaders decided to become a model for environmentally conscious living and pledged to rebuild green. Appropriately this "living lab" is called Greensburg.



WHAT ABOUT CREATION CARE?

While saving money on gas is a key motivating factor (Hey, even I drive a hybrid now!), there's also an important stewardship issue here. I don't believe that when God called us to be faithful stewards, He was only speaking about tithe. So, while we as Seventh-day Adventists care deeply about creation, *why not creation care?*

Of all God's people, it seems odd that we would be so silent on the issue. Yet I haven't heard one sermon, seen one magazine or Adventist television program, or read any Sabbath School lessons on the topic. That's why I so appreciated the July *Adventist World* article by our world church president Jan Paulsen (please read it): "My hope is that we will move toward a fuller discussion of Adventism and environmental responsibility," he wrote. "[Our] wholistic approach—modeling the ministry of Christ within our communities—will only be strengthened as we highlight also our care for the physical world" ("Freedom to Care," pp. 8-10; [adventistworld.org](http://adventistworld.org)).

In addition to the fact that it's our God-given responsibility, it's practical, it's time, and it pays to go green! That's why your *Visitor* staff decided to explore this issue. We scoured the Columbia Union looking for members, churches, schools, hospitals, and organizations engaged in Earth stewardship. One church graciously allowed us to assess their environmental footprint and happily learned they could save money for ministry and evangelism! Another church, Allegheny East Conference's Trinity Temple in Newark, N.J., came up with 105 (wow!) practical suggestions that you can read on our website—[columbiaunion.org](http://columbiaunion.org). To help make your lifestyle greener, we've also included tips, resources, and an activity for kids. Finally, to help you remember three simple keys to going green, we've enclosed a refrigerator magnet (pictured). Please use it, and heed our call to reduce, reuse, and recycle!



The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof ...

—Psalm 24:1

As assistant to the president for communication at the Columbia Union Conference, Celeste Ryan Blyden ([cryan@columbiaunion.net](mailto:cryan@columbiaunion.net)) directs communication, produces videos, hosts an award-winning podcast, and edits the *Visitor* magazine.

CELESTE RYAN BLYDEN

### Allegheny West Elects New President

The Allegheny West Conference Executive Committee elected **Fredrick Russell** conference president yesterday. He replaces James Lewis who, after nearly eight years in office, accepted a call to serve as director of the Office of Regional Conference Ministries, based on the campus of Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala.



Now in his 27th year of ministry, Russell, a graduate of Oakwood University, is a long-time pastor and sought-after speaker on leadership development. He holds a Master of Science in Management with an emphasis in managerial leadership from National-Louis University in Chicago. He started his ministry in Allegheny West and pastored a number of churches. Twelve years ago, he accepted a call to serve as senior pastor of Allegheny East Conference's (AEC) Miracle Temple in Baltimore.

Russell is a member of the AEC Executive Committee and serves as ministerial leader for its Baltimore metropolitan area pastors. He serves on the advisory committee of the North American Division (NAD) Ministerial Department and as a board member for AdventSource, an NAD entity that provides resources for local church pastors and leaders. "I am humbled by this next assignment God has placed over my life, and I am looking forward to forging a shared vision with the leadership team, the pastors,

and members of Allegheny West Conference," he says.

Columbia Union Conference president Dave Weigley, who chaired the meeting, is also looking forward to working with Russell. "He'll bring a fresh perspective to this conference," he says. "Building upon the good work of Elder **James Lewis**, his passion for excellence in leadership could assist this conference in going to a new level."

Russell will take up his new leadership position sometime this month. The conference's next constituency session is scheduled for May 2009.—*Bryant Taylor*



### Chesapeake Treasurer to Move to ASI

At the recommendation of the Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) board, the North American Division has elected **A. Ramon Chow** to serve as executive secretary and treasurer of the mission-focused association of Adventist lay



persons. Chow, who has worked for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in various capacities since college, has served as Chesapeake Conference treasurer since 1999. "Elder Chow has served with distinction," says conference president Rob Vandeman. "His broad background in denominational service, accumulated wisdom, and very capable management skills

have helped us navigate through some difficult waters over the past nine years." Chow, who replaces Ron Christman, will take up his new duties with ASI ([asiministries.org](http://asiministries.org)) sometime this fall.—*Samantha Young*

### Optometrists Celebrate 50 Years

Recently, at its annual convention, the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Optometrists (ASDAO) celebrated its 50th year as an organization. This year's meeting was held in Puyallup, Wash., and included a tour of an Adventist-owned eye clinic, Sabbath services, and even a short sightseeing cruise of Seattle.



Founded in 1958, ASDAO encourages spiritual, professional, and social development among Adventist optometrists. By providing free visual screenings, glaucoma screenings, and glasses to underprivileged people around the world, ASDAO also demonstrates its strong passion for mission. Recently they have assisted in supplying hundreds of free reading glasses for Women's Ministries' literacy classes in India.

With 157 Adventist optometrists already on its roster, ASDAO is always looking for new members, and would like more Columbia Union members to join. Visit [sdaoptometrists.org](http://sdaoptometrists.org).—*Ellen Poirier*

## Adventists From India Unite to Give Back

Some 400 Seventh-day Adventists, originally from the Kerala State on the southwestern tip of India, but now living around the Columbia Union territory, gathered in Maryland recently for their 6th world convention. Members and supporters of Keralite Adventist International, Inc., enjoyed a weekend of



Columbia Union Conference president Dave Weigley, who spoke for divine worship service at the Kerala Adventist International, Inc. 6th World Convention, is presented with a Kerala style "ponnada" by organization president Mathew Karmel.



During the talent show, Reby Isaac, a member of the Southern Asian church in Silver Spring, Md., and a recent graduate of the University of Maryland, performs a semi-classical Malayam cultural dance.

worship, fellowship, prayer, and cultural entertainment.

This year's theme, "Behold I Stand at the Door and Knock," was addressed by keynote speakers Robert Jackson, one of the group's founders, and Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union Conference. Weigley commended the attendees for their efforts to raise funds to build a church that will further the gospel in their native region. Currently, about 40 members in Kerala's Kollam District worship in a makeshift shed covered in blue plastic. "Our purpose is not only to nurture the spiritual, educational, social, and cultural interests of our members, we want to fulfill the Lord's mandate to spread the everlasting gospel," says current president Mathew Karmel who hosted the event. Members also raised funds for the South West India Union's Kottarakara High School in Kerala. Principal T.I. John, who attended the convention, said that the school currently enrolls 1,000 students, but is in dire need of repairs and renovations.

This year's convention honoree was **Aleyamma John, PhD**, who has worked in Adventist education for 45 years. She was the first Adventist woman to obtain a college education in the Southern Asia Division and dedicated her life to it.

Before retiring in 1990, she taught at two Indian boarding



schools, the Southern Asia Division's Spicer Memorial College for nearly 30 years, and Andrews University (Mich.) for the eight. "Dr. John was my teacher in India, and I still remember what she taught me," said Sonny Varghese, while making his presentation. "True education is the physical, mental, spiritual development of a



person, and it restores in man the image of his Maker," he quoted.

During the afternoon, special guest Ani Varghese (above) presented a "kathaprasangam," an Indian method of storytelling. Through music, poetry, and dialogue, he told the story of Jesus



from birth to the resurrection. The event ended with a cultural talent show, where among other acts, attendees enjoyed a traditional Chendamelam performance on drums (above). For more information, visit [kaiinc.org](http://kaiinc.org).

PHOTOS BY CELESTE RYAN BLYDEN AND RAJAN GEORGE, JR.

What's New?

**Book >**  
**From Sundown to Sundown**  
**May-Ellen Colón**

May-Ellen Colón loves Sabbath. That's why the member of Chesapeake's Triadelphia church in Clarksville, Md., wanted to offer a book that goes beyond the "rules" to the principles of Sabbathkeeping, and beyond the principles to the Person behind Sabbath. To that end, she presents 15 biblical principles to help guide readers



toward a personal revival of Sabbath. Each chapter concludes with helpful questions to encourage discussion and reflection.

"I hope and pray that Sabbathkeepers around the world will discover the joy of deep fellowship with Jesus within His Sabbath gift," she notes.

To breathe new life into your Sabbath, pick up Colón's book at Target or your local ABC. Then meet her at the Potomac Adventist Book Center in Silver Spring, Md., September 14 from 3-5 p.m.



**CD >** **On a Personal Note**  
**Jasmine Brann**

Ever since she was a child, Jasmine Brann, a member of Allegheny East Conference's Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md., has been

making music for God. Her premiere solo project is simply an extension of her lifelong ministry.

Brann's CD features five original songs of encourage-



ment, joy, and faith in both English and Spanish. She hopes

to release a full-length album in 2009 with additional original compositions in various languages. "My hope is that when someone finishes listening to the project they will be blessed and encouraged to grow in their relationship with the Lord," she says.

Listen to song samples, and order a copy at [cdbaby.com/cd/jasminebrann](http://cdbaby.com/cd/jasminebrann).

WholeHealth

**Eat Green**

Looking for another way to "go green"? Do it at the dinner table!

Dark green vegetables—broccoli, kale, spinach, romaine lettuce, and others—add variety, texture, flavor, and color to our meals. They are also low-calorie and incredibly healthy, containing fiber, vitamins, minerals, beta-carotene, lutein, and other phytonutrients with health-promoting properties.

Research shows that a daily serving of green, leafy vegetables lowers the risk of cardiovascular disease by 11 percent. Another study found a 9 percent lower risk of diabetes. Eating one or more servings per day decreased the risk of hip fracture in middle-aged women by 45 percent—

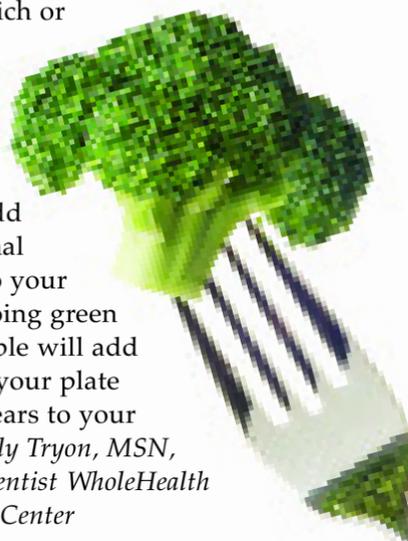
**Did You Know?**

*Women of Spirit* magazine, published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., is now available in Spanish and French. To learn more, visit [womenofspirit.com](http://womenofspirit.com), or call (800) 456-3991. For bulk pricing, email [jsmith@rhpa.org](mailto:jsmith@rhpa.org).



compared to fewer servings, while other research found a 50 percent reduction in the risk of developing lung cancer.

Next time you are in the produce department or at the farmer's market, load your shopping cart with a variety of green vegetables. After washing them, sauté with onions and garlic in a little olive oil, steam on the stovetop, layer on a sandwich or pizza, or toss into soups and salads to add nutritional punch to your meal. Going green at the table will add color to your plate—and years to your life.—*Lilly Tryon, MSN, RN, Adventist WholeHealth Wellness Center*



**5 Minutes With > Green Business Owners**  
**David and Susan Karppala**

David and Susan Karppala dreamt of owning a business that would have a positive impact on the environment, save customers' hard-earned money, and financially support their growing family. That's why these members of Pennsylvania Conference's Gettysburg church started Electric Power Savers (EPS) 17 years ago. They admit it took awhile, but the Lord has answered all their requests (in His perfect timing, of course). Now they're passing on that passion to their six kids and making a difference in the community. To learn more, visit [electricpowersavers.com](http://electricpowersavers.com):



**Q: What service does EPS provide?**

We work with companies that are large users of electricity—factories, warehouses, supermarkets, hotels, nursing homes, etc.—and help them reduce their electricity usage by reducing their lighting loads.

**Q: How does lighting make a difference?**

Lighting affects the workplace in many ways. Changing to

more efficient lighting not only drops the lighting portion of the electric bill by up to 75 percent, but also improves efficiency, mood, and employee alertness. Teachers at a few schools we serviced also reported that their students are more alert.

More efficient lighting also reduces the air-conditioning portion of the electric bill because it runs much cooler. This can have dramatic effects in businesses like grocery stores that rely on refrigeration. Also, more efficient lighting can last up to 10 times longer, which saves on relamping costs and labor.

**Q: How successful is your business?**

We struggled for years but held the course because we knew it was the right thing to do. During the last year or so, our business has exploded.

**Q: What changed?**

When we started EPS, it was a relatively new idea to remove high bay-type lighting and retrofit buildings with compact fluorescent lighting (CFLs). It was a hard sell. Suddenly during the past few years, a light bulb (no pun intended) has gone on and corporate leaders are recognizing the cost-saving benefits. Most of our clients have two-year paybacks based on the electric savings alone.

**Q: Do you get opportunities to witness?**

More often than not we come in under budget and revise our billing to reflect that. That prac-



tice can sometimes open the door to share our faith with our surprised and delighted clients!

**Q: What tips can you give to Visitor readers?**

Businesses and home owners alike can save a bundle by changing over to CFLs, using sky lights and natural lighting during the day, and installing sensors that shut off lighting in rooms with no activity.—*Beth Michaels*

**Keeping Score**

**251**  
Registered Vehicles in the U.S. in Millions

**304**  
People in the U.S. in Millions

**82**  
Percent of People With at Least One Vehicle

**That's Nearly 1 Car for Every Person!**

# Are We Green Yet?



Adventists care deeply about creation, but what about creation care?

Jaclyn Wile and Beth Michaels

In the recent Disney/Pixar film WALL-E, humans have temporarily vacated a trash-ridden Earth so a team of robots can restore the planet to its former glory. The movie hits on the timely topic of “going green,” which has become a global issue during the past decade as humanity sees—and pays—the price of living with little regard for environmental consequences.

To many people, caring for God’s creation might seem like an impossible task, as if the small things, like recycling, will not have any lasting affect upon the world’s seemingly hopeless downward spiral. But for Seventh-day Adventists more than anyone, the call to action should be particularly strong since we believe that God created the Earth and assigned humans to care for it.

## What’s Being Done?

The Sierra Club, America’s oldest grassroots environmental group, reports that 67 percent of Americans say they care about the environment. According to (sierraclub.org), “Environmental concerns continue to rise in prominence on the agenda of the faithful. ... As the implications of global warming and its disproportionate impact on the world’s poor become increasingly clear, prophetic voices are being raised in religious communities around the globe.”

Indeed, a quick search on the Internet will produce thousands of organizations, Christian and secular alike, that are taking action. Restoring Eden (restoringeden.org), a Christian environmental advocacy organization, for example, sums up their position on creation care: “When you appre-

ciate something, you want to take care of it, and God’s creation is no different.”

The Evangelical Environmental Network (creationcare.org) “seeks to educate and mobilize people to make a difference in their churches and communities, and to speak out on national and international policies that affect our ability to preach the gospel, protect life, and care for God’s creation.”

## Are Adventists in That Number?

Are Seventh-day Adventists among those prophetic voices? Although a few individual Seventh-day Adventist members have launched efforts, there is no united front for Adventist environmentalism.

During the early 1990s, the Seventh-day Adventist Church Administrative Committee released several statements about how and why Adventists should care about the environment. One 1995 statement read, in part (see statements at adventist.org): “Seventh-day Adventists advocate a simple, wholesome lifestyle, where people do not step on the treadmill of unbridled consumerism, goods-getting, and production of waste. We call for respect of creation, restraint in the use of the world’s resources, re-evaluation of one’s needs, and reaffirmation of the dignity of created life.”

Church leaders did not officially speak on the topic again until recently. In the July 2008 issue of *Adventist World* magazine, Jan Paulsen, world church president, reiterated the importance of environmental awareness in the lives of Adventists: “When we peel back the layers that surround ‘environmentalism,’ we find ideas that resonate also with

## Green Speak

If you’re going to go green, it helps to speak the language. Here are a few ways people refer to the green movement:

Creation Care • Earth Stewardship • Environmental Conservation • Eco-Friendly

Here are some related terms and definitions:

**Big Five**—The five most commonly recycled materials in the United States: aluminum, glass, paper, plastic, and steel.

**Biodegradable**—Anything that can be broken down by living organisms, such as bacteria or fungi. Some biodegradable materials can serve as the ingredients for compost.

**Carbon Footprint**—The tangible impact someone’s activities will have on the environment, measured in units of carbon dioxide produced. Measure yours at carbonfootprint.com.

**Fossil Fuel**—The remains of plant and animal life that can be used to provide energy by combustion, such as coal, oil, or natural gas. It is a non-renewable resource; burning it results in carbon dioxide emissions.

**Zero Waste**—The result of recycling all materials into nature or the marketplace.



our own deeply held beliefs and values: care for God’s world and care for our fellow human beings” (“Freedom to Care,” pp. 8-10).

However, without an environmental initiative by world church leadership, implementation of Earth-saving practices falls into the self-motivated hands of church members and institutions. Possibly one of the only groups promoting environmentalism within the church is Adventist Environmental Advocacy (AEA), a virtual network started by Jared Wright of Calimesa, Calif. (see adventist-environmental-advocacy.blogspot.com), that draws 1,000 visitors per month. He doesn’t believe people mean to damage the Earth; they just aren’t informed. So about a year

ago, he created the blog “to start raising awareness and fostering conversation among Adventists about the environment, particularly bringing in an Adventist Christian slant on caring for creation.”

Co-blogger Jeff Boyd of Berrien Springs, Mich., added, “At AEA, we are united in our purpose to respect our Father’s world and to care for it as responsible stewards.”

These bloggers take it upon themselves to live what they preach: recycling, composting, etc., and sharing the message. Wright recently visited his state capitol to speak with elected officials about ways to reduce carbon emissions and offer more “green” jobs.

## What About Columbia Union Members?

A handful of churches around the Columbia Union Conference are coordinating activities such as cleaning up neighborhoods or operating thrift stores to put “reusing” into practice. These are great projects, and most have a

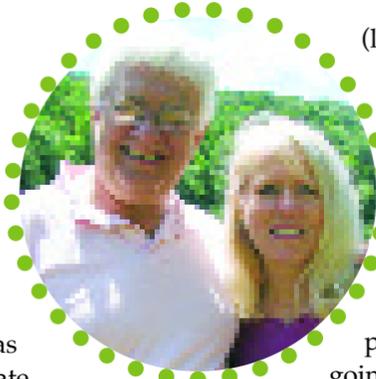
positive impact on the environment, but it has taken some passionate and dedicated members to get a real “green” effort rolling amid their circles of influence.

One such member is a mere teenager: Aimee Reimer (pictured, on right), aged 17, of the

Toledo (Ohio) First church. Her pastor, Mike Fortune (pictured, on left), is happy to give her and the church’s Youth Operate outreach group credit for helping develop a recycling program. Once a member of her school’s environmental club, Reimer says her love for the planet started about six years ago. “I like going outside and seeing God’s beauty, but seeing trash on the ground really bugs me,” she states.

The Youth Operate team obtained and distributed “recycling starter kits” to educate interested members, and they set recycling bins around the church. The project has not only impressed Pastor Fortune to further the church’s green efforts, but he also feels it sends a good message to residents “that we care for more than just the people inside our walls.”

David and Susan Karppala



(left), members of the Gettysburg (Pa.) church, have been operating a green business—Electric Power Savers—for 17 years (see interview on page 7). With more people interested in going green, business is picking up, and the Karppalas are sharing their knowledge with schools, churches, and organizations in their community.

U.S. Representative Roscoe Bartlett (below) of Maryland’s 6th district, a member of the Frederick (Md.) church, has been a long-time supporter of environmental issues and a devoted conservationist.

This former farmer, scientist, inventor, and professor cares deeply about the Earth and the condition with which each generation passes it to another. He’s also the founding member of the

Congressional Peak Oil

Caucus, which encour-

ages our country’s leaders to not only focus on the problem of limited oil reserves, but also to harness greener forms of energy.

The new pastoral couple of the Chestnut Hill church, located in a suburb of Philadelphia, brought a number of pro-environmental practices with them

from the Northwest. Pastor Tara VinCross, and her husband, Caleb

(above), who say their green habits “have evolved over time,” only buy organic, locally grown foods; buy fair-trade, organic clothing; use recycled toilet paper; recycle—producing only half a bag of trash per week; and have pared down to one vehicle. “What continues to drive us is that God cares for the Earth, and, from the beginning, humans were set up to be its caretakers,” explains Tara, a recent Master of Divinity



graduate from the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.).

## Where do Union Organizations Stand?

Though the Columbia Union’s two healthcare networks and two colleges are making strides, only half of the eight local conferences have taken it upon themselves to initiate recycling and other green practices in their office headquarters. Sadly, union office staff are also blushing with guilt at not having something in place. Schools aren’t faring much better. Out of 101 elementary and secondary schools in the Columbia Union’s eight-state territory, only a few are taking steps toward green stewardship. Most are fulfilling these goals through campus upgrades and volunteering in their neighborhoods (see article on page 16).

Why the apathy? In an Adventist News Network article, Columbia Union College

Department of Religion chair Zdravko Plantak, PhD, offers one possible answer: “As stewards of God’s creation, we’ve been entrusted with responsibilities that we sometimes neglect out of ignorance. At times we have to be reminded how important God’s Earth is to God.”

## The Bottom Line

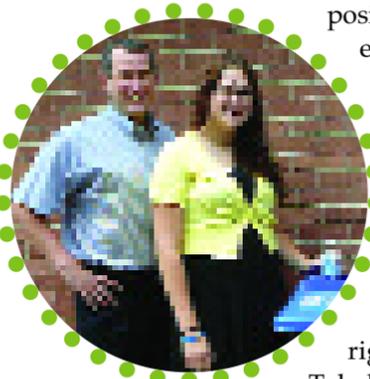
As a church, Adventists are leaders in publishing, education, satellite technology, wholistic health, etc., all of which we use to spread the gospel. Imagine if environmental stewardship and advocacy were added to that list. The positive impact and influence on the world could be astounding.

But does it have to start with a major church initiative? By making just a few changes in our daily lives, *each* of us can make a significant impact on the health of the home God gave us—albeit temporary. Here’s a simple way to get started: According to energystar.com, if every American replaced just *one* regular light bulb with a compact fluorescent bulb, enough energy would be saved to light more than three million homes for a full year!

So, what are you waiting for? Get moving and go green!

*Jaclyn Wile is a senior public relations major at Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md. Beth Michaels is Visitor associate editor.*

**Much of the energy consumed in homes is produced by power plants that burn fossil fuels. In fact, the average home causes more air pollution than the average car.**



## 5 Ways Adventists Can Go Green

**Eat.** Besides the studies that prove it's healthier, vegetarianism is also good for the environment. It increases the amount of grain available to developing countries, can reduce pollution, saves water and energy, and helps contribute to the saving of forests. Also, buy produce locally (i.e., at the farmer's market). The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture estimates that the average fresh food item on your plate travels 1,500 miles to get there.



**Teach.** Host educational workshops for the community at your church and bring in environmental experts to teach them. Also, make your church the community collection center for old cell phones, batteries, computers, and small appliances.

**Donate.** Stop renting storage space, cluttering landfills, or letting your goods collect dust in the attic. Share them with Adventist Community Services, thrift stores, or other local organizations. Let nothing go in the trash if someone in the community can use it.

**Save.** Carpool to church, school, camp meetings, retreats, and other church-related events. Use less electricity. Use canvas bags for all shopping. Landscape using native plants that require less water. Skip the bottles and drink filtered tap water. Publish your church newsletter and membership directory online.

**Remember.** Incorporate the three Rs into your lifestyle: Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.

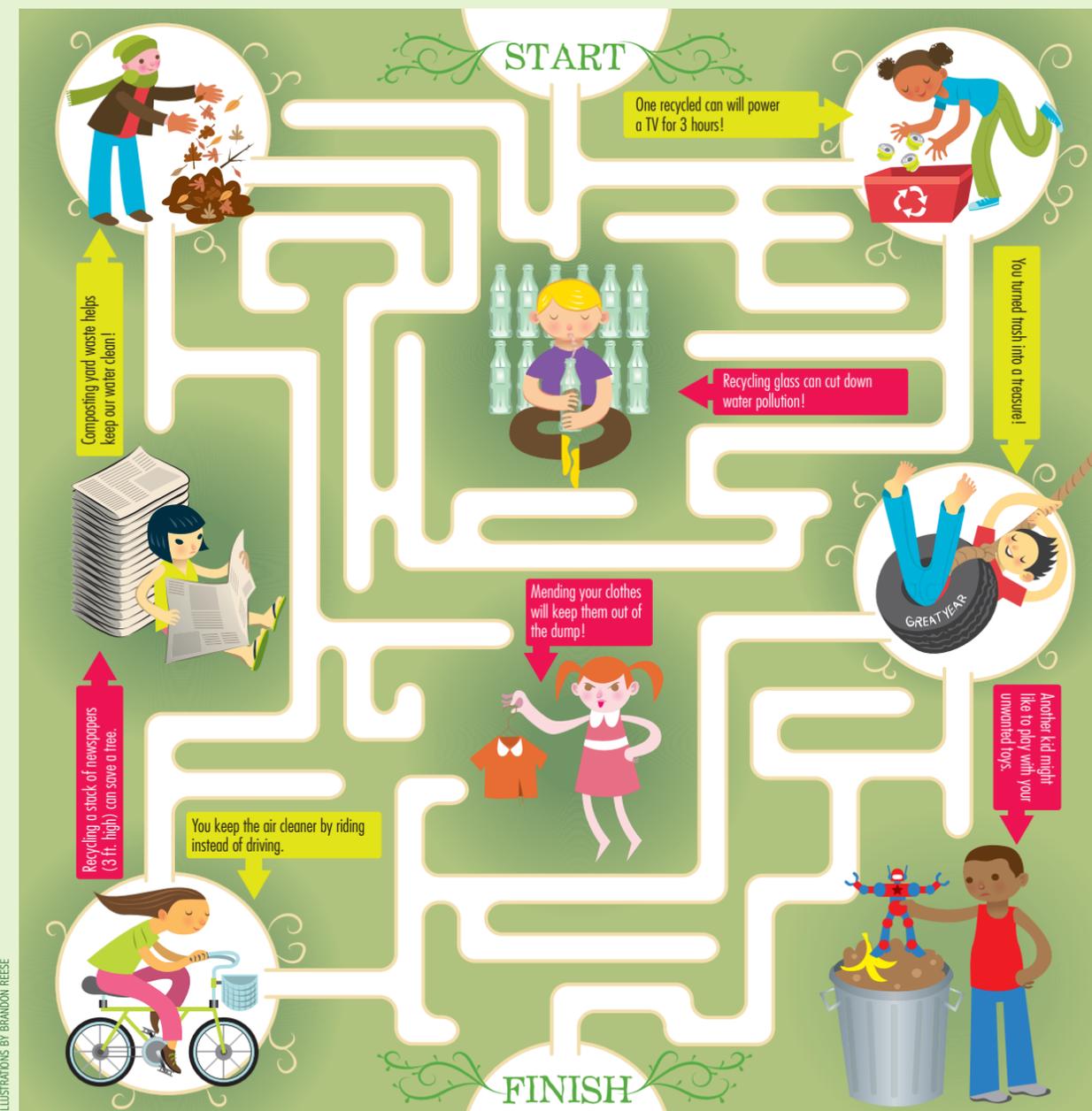


Stacked end to end, toner cartridges thrown away in one year would circle the Earth.

-TechMedics

# Green Fun for Little Ones

Kids, we need your help to keep the Earth clean and healthy. Find your way through the puzzle below and learn how you can help. We also hope you'll promise to be one of God's good stewards by signing the pledge. For more fun, visit [pepsirecycling.com](http://pepsirecycling.com) or [nrc-recycle.org/recyclingcalculator.aspx](http://nrc-recycle.org/recyclingcalculator.aspx).



ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRANDON REESE

Simply turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth can save up to 1 gallon a minute (imagine pouring a full carton of milk down the drain), 8 gallons a day, 240 gallons a month, or 3,000 gallons a year (that could fill a fire truck!)



**Environmental Pledge:** I promise to use less trash and to keep it off the ground, to recycle as many items as possible, and to donate any usable items I no longer want. I will be a good Earth steward for God.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# To Worship Green or Not to Worship Green?

Taashi Rowe

At more than 13,000-square-feet, the 40-year-old Wheaton church in Silver Spring, Md., is larger than an average-sized Seventh-day Adventist church. The Potomac Conference congregation of 250, pastored by Steve Murphy, focuses on fulfilling spiritual needs. Members use the building at least five times a week, and it costs tens of thousands of dollars each year to make it a comfortable meeting place. So church leaders recently began thinking about ways to reduce its energy use and simultaneously reduce the church's environmental impact.

To help them out, the *Visitor* magazine contacted Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light, a nonprofit organization specializing in helping congregations in the Washington, D.C., area practice Earth stewardship. Energy auditor Allison Fisher met with Rennie Taylor, head elder; Charlie Fox, a building committee member; and Andrew Smith, communication director.

## One Local Church Ponders the Question

They toured the facility together searching for large and small steps that the church could take to go green.

Taylor, an environmental science teacher and head of the church's finance committee, said he was grateful for the free assessment. "We are always looking for ways to reduce costs, and we have been looking into purchasing some programmable thermostats," he said. He's already implemented some energy-saving steps in his own home with measurable results.

"Yes, this is about saving the church money, but this is also about how your congregation can be good stewards of God's creation," Fisher told church leaders in a written report. She recommends that church leaders hold educational meetings and encourage *everyone* to get involved in making the necessary changes (i.e., children can make signs reminding everyone to turn off lights).

"Going green is more than just installing expensive high-efficient appliances and heating and cooling systems," Fisher explains. "Going green is about behavior change. If each church member can remember to simply turn off the lights when they leave a room, there will be a big change."

After reviewing Fisher's suggestions, Pastor Murphy was ready to move forward: "Our church is very enthusiastic about implementing some of these suggestions, primarily because of the savings and also because we would like to integrate stewardship of the planet into the church's mission and vision," he says. "We realize that if we are not spending as much money on energy, we will have more money to spend on ministry."

**6.** New ENERGY STAR windows can reduce heat transfer and insulate better than standard, single-pane windows. **Savings:** A typical home with ENERGY STAR windows saves \$126 to \$465 a year when replacing single-pane windows, and \$27 to \$111 over double-pane, clear glass replacement windows.

**5.** Replace incandescent exit signs with Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs), which can prevent 42,000 pounds of harmful carbon dioxide from going into the atmosphere. **Savings:** \$3,000 over the lifetime of the bulb.

**1.** Using a ceiling fan allows the air conditioner to be set 3 to 5 degrees higher, keeping the room comfortable. **Savings:** 3 percent for each degree of higher temperature setting.

**2.** When a space is in use, programmable thermostats should be set at 65 to 68 degrees in the winter and at 68 to 72 degrees in the summer. **Savings:** Up to 20 percent on heating and cooling costs per year.

**3.** Native plants require less watering and often don't need harmful fertilizers that seep into and pollute ground water. **Savings:** Reduce irrigation water use by more than 50 percent.

**4.** Installing shrink-wrap over unused windows creates a double-pane effect and is a less expensive alternative to purchasing all new windows. **Savings:** Up to 10 percent a year on heating and cooling.

**7.** Solar energy is free, inexhaustible, and unlike fossil fuel does not pollute the air or water. Using solar power in conjunction with traditional energy sources and local and federal tax credits offsets traditional gas or electric costs. **Savings:** Up to 50 percent on energy bills.

**8.** ENERGY STAR qualified refrigerator models use at least 20 percent less energy than required by current federal standards and 40 percent less energy than conventional models sold in 2001. **Savings:** Roughly \$170 annually for refrigerators.

**9.** Placing several electronics like radios and computers on a power strip makes it easier to turn off several appliances at once. **Savings:** Up to \$4 per year.

**10.** Recycling reduces the amount of waste that goes into our landfills. The most frequently recycled items include: office paper, newspapers, cardboard boxes, aluminum cans, steel/tin cans, glass, and plastic.

**11.** Replacing disposable dishes and utensils with reusable ones can further cut down on waste and money.

**12.** Toilets installed before 1994 often use 3-5 gallons of water with every flush. New low-flow toilets use 1.6 gallons per flush reducing water use by 15 percent.



ILLUSTRATION BY BRANDON REESE

# Columbia Union Schools Get Eco-Friendly

Beth Michaels

There is now proof that the United States intends to implement higher “eco-friendly” standards for its educational institutions. Although it might not directly affect private Seventh-day Adventist schools—yet—the U.S. House of Representatives recently approved a bill that could soon impact public schools. “This bill would play a vital role in ensuring our nation is able to maximize scarce education resources ... [and create] a generation of ‘sustainability natives’ who understand making responsible, healthy, green choices,” explains Rick Fedrizzi, U.S. Green Building Counsel president and CEO (see [build-greenschools.org](http://build-greenschools.org)).

Indeed schools provide the perfect setting for teaching the next generation to preserve God’s Earth.

## How do Adventist Schools Fare?

“To the best of my knowledge, there exists no stand-alone, environmental curricula mandated by either the North American Division (NAD) or regional accrediting associations,” reports Hamlet Canosa, EdD, vice president for education at the Columbia Union Conference. “Yet many individual schools weave environmental themes into several

disciplines, most notably science. I do think, however, the time has come for the NAD to consider a more formal, broad-based approach to environmental curriculum.”

Until then, a few Columbia Union schools are initiating their own green efforts. The *Visitor* commends them for leading the way:

**Did You Know?**  
Green schools spend on average 33 percent less than conventional schools on energy costs and use 32 percent less water.—Researcher Gregory Kats

**Highland Adventist School**—One of the recent campus upgrades by this Mountain View Conference elementary school in Elkins, W.Va., includes installing a geothermal heating and cooling system. It produces no greenhouse gases, no pollution, and will operate at a fraction of the cost of a conventional system.

“We teach our students to be good stewards of the Earth by participating in recycling, reusing, and reducing; using environmentally friendly products; cleaning up the community; caring for the wilderness; etc.,” reports school principal Cheryl Jacko. “We think making changes in our energy consumption habits as an institution demonstrates our commitment to that philosophy. We’re also seeing a decrease in heating and cooling costs, and our treasurer is very pleased!”

**Highland View Academy (HVA)**—This Chesapeake Conference boarding school in Hagerstown, Md., is also making their campus greener. One strategic upgrade was the installation of low-flush toilets in the dorm bathrooms. “The reduction in water usage will pay for the new fixtures in less than a year and will reduce



Students from Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md., examine various species of fish from the Chesapeake Bay—a field trip funded by a Chesapeake Bay Trust grant.

our water consumption by 25 percent,” reports principal Sheri Tydings.

HVA also teaches green practices in the classroom. Their Science Department receives funds annually from the Chesapeake Bay Trust. The grant for the 2007-08 school year was used for Chesapeake Bay Foundation field trips and for native perennial plants, flowers, and trees for a meadow project on the campus. According to science teacher Ophelia Barizo, students planted and cared for the greenery as part of the 10 hours of required community service.



According to principal Larry Rich, Earth Day inspired Potomac Conference’s Sligo Adventist School in Takoma Park, Md., to plant native cherry trees on campus.

**Columbus Adventist Academy**—Students and teachers at this Allegheny West Conference school, located in Ohio’s capital city, have been recycling paper, plastic, and aluminum for three years. Principal Sharon Lewis reports that they’ve also placed a bin outside that gets regular use by the community. “Our science teacher also did cell phone recycling during the 2006-07 school year,” Lewis adds. “Those phones went to abused women.”

**Mount Vernon Academy (MVA)**—During the past several years, students at Ohio Conference’s boarding school have participated in a variety of activities to show they appreciate the natural world. They joined the Adopt-a-Highway program, partnered with the City of Mount Vernon to beautify public parks, and helped plant more than 100 saplings at an area campsite.

MVA also recently started recycling glass and plastics, reports Amy Soper, administrative assistant. One student volunteer is selected each year to separate the materials and receive a \$500 scholarship. For the 2007-08 school year, with the help of junior Soogie Choi (pictured), the school is happy to report that they recycled 2,831 pounds of the two substances. “I think this project has opened my mind a little more,” says Choi. “I realized how much I waste at home and at school, and now I’m starting to organize my trash at home.”



**Columbia Union College**—Steve Lapham, the college’s Facility Services director, reports a significant number of upgrades to the Takoma Park, Md., campus, possibly making them one of the greenest schools in the union. Lapham says that in addition to a growing recycling program, they’ve recently installed energy-saving light fixtures, adjusted the majority of campus toilets to use less water per flush, installed low-flow regulators on all campus showers, made sure drains no longer discard into a nearby creek, and are working to eliminate oil-based paint for greener options.



Don Jacko (center), the science teacher at Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va., helps students set up equipment for growing Earth-friendly, hydroponic vegetables.

# Environmental Masterpiece

Celeste Ryan Blyden

When the new Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH) is built at the northern end of Silver Spring, Md., it's going to be a healthy project in a very "green" way, says Geoffrey Morgan, vice president for expanded access.

While county regulations require all new construction of hospitals, offices, etc., to comply with their Green Building Ordinance, WAH administrators are working to surpass its minimum requirements and make their project a model for environmental stewardship.

Though it will increase costs by an estimated 12 percent, administrators say they feel a sense of duty to contribute value to the community and their patients by providing quality services in a healthy environment.



"We hold ourselves to a standard of 'First do no harm,'" Morgan says. "Then we layer it with our mission and vision, which are rooted in the Seventh-day Adventist faith. Building on the legacy of Ellen G. White, we work to promote health and wellness in the community, which is the guiding principle for what we do each and every day."

Not only will their green design create a healthy environment for the community, it will use less energy and water, produce less waste, use less allergy-producing materials, and emit fewer

toxins. All of this, says Morgan, will allow for a more satisfied workforce and a healthier environment for patients who are trying to heal.

He notes that many older buildings, including WAH's 101-year-old Takoma Park, Md., structure, cause "sick building syndrome" because of the materials used to build them and clean them, as well as the limited access to natural lighting and fresh air.

## 5 Keys to Quality Green Design

The new hospital will adhere to the five Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) criteria for quality green design, as follows: sustainability, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality.

**Sustainability**—In terms of sustainability, planners are working with engineers to make sure their construction activity controls the amount of waste produced, reduces pollution, and protects onsite habitat. They will try to find and purchase recycled steel, concrete, wood, and glass and waste as little of their building materials as possible. Once it's built, a shuttle program, bike racks for employees, and public transportation will be employed to reduce campus and area traffic.

**Water Efficiency**—For water efficiency, healing gardens designed with natural plants, which require less water, will be planted. In addition, storm water runoff will be collected and used to irrigate the grounds and gardens. To allow for maximum water absorption into the ground, there will be no enormous parking lots or paved areas. With a goal to "build up, not out," there will be two parking structures with four to six levels each. On the roofs of these garages, the hospital, and the two medical buildings on campus, storm water will be collected,

Hospital's  
New Site  
Healthy in a  
"Green" Way

put through a filtration system, and stored in holding tanks underground for landscaping irrigation. "Hospitals are typically enormous users of water, but all of these measures and more will substantially reduce the amount we consume," Morgan notes.

**Materials and Resources**—To explain the importance of the materials and resources category, Morgan uses cars as an example. "That new car smell can make you sick," he says. "It comes from the toxins in the materials used to build the car. A building is no different. All the materials used—furniture, paint, carpet, adhesives—emit toxins." That's why builders at WAH's new site will use low-emitting materials, which will help to create a comfortable and healthy workplace.

**Energy and Atmosphere**—In terms of energy and atmosphere, they'll design the building in such a way that there's more natural light flowing, lessening the need for artificial light. Rooms will be equipped with motion sensors, so as to consume less electricity, and they plan to install energy-efficient systems and appliances. They're also researching ways to generate green power on campus.



Every year, the United States produces more than 2 million tons of medical waste.

ized glass systems,' which control the amount of heat coming through the windows," Morgan says.

While the green design adds to the initial cost, Morgan has no doubts about its long-term environmental and health benefits. And studies on other projects have demonstrated "a very rapid financial payback" (within two years) as well.

Eager to get started, his team is working through the final stages of county land and zoning approval, but still faces the state regulatory process. Barring major obstacles, they hope to begin constructing their environmental masterpiece in 2010. Learn more at [expandedhealthaccess.com](http://expandedhealthaccess.com).

**Indoor Environmental Quality**—WAH recently banned smoking on the Takoma Park campus, and that will carryover to the new campus in Silver Spring. Other efforts to meet indoor environmental quality requirements revolve around air quality. "Hospitals are required to draw fresh air into the facility, but there's no [stipulated] amount," Morgan says. "We're working to maximize the amount of fresh air brought into our hospital because we want to [continuously] move the air in a patient's room. That's not going to be easy because outdoor air temperature is a factor, but research shows it's a major contributor to health and a healthier working environment."

Another factor is heat control. While they attempt to introduce more natural light into the building, it could generate too much heat. "That's why we're going to install 'special-



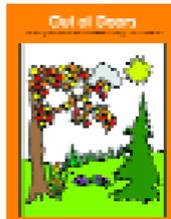
## Resource Guide

NORMA AND MONTE SAHLIN

# Stewardship of Creation

If you care about the natural environment and understand that God expects us to be careful stewards of His creation, here are tools to help put those values into action:

### BOOKS



**Out of Doors** – Through the wonders of God’s inanimate, outdoor creations, children (aged birth to 3) will also learn to better associate with the Creator. Order from [adventsource.org](http://adventsource.org), or (800) 328-0525. Price: \$9.95

**Earth Stewards** – Part of the *Stewardship for a Lifetime* series, this paperback offers junior-aged lessons about how being a good steward is important to God. Edited by Barbara Manspeaker. Order from [adventsource.org](http://adventsource.org), or (800) 328-0525. Price: \$19.95

### ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

**Youth Honors Textbooks** – Many Adventist schools use ecology (basic and advanced) and environmental conservation honors as part of their outdoor education programs. Download *free* textbooks about these two honors—written by Seventh-day Adventist youth leaders and teachers—from [wikibooks.org](http://wikibooks.org).

**“Stewards of Creation” Article** – Sarah Bath, a member of the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., wrote this piece for the *Dynamic Steward* quarterly newsletter (Vol. 8, No. 2), published by the Stewardship Department of the worldwide Adventist Church. Bath, a financial analyst for the programs and science division at Conservation International, challenges members to develop a biblically grounded approach toward the environment. Read it at [adventist-stewardship.com/article.php?id=352](http://adventist-stewardship.com/article.php?id=352).

**Going Green Video** – Members of the Students in Free Enterprise team at Southwestern Adventist University (Texas) created a video about how to go green by changing your daily routine in simple ways. Watch at [youtube.com/watch?v=BjubiVDyjsw](http://youtube.com/watch?v=BjubiVDyjsw).

### ORGANIZATIONS

**Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light** – They help congregations protect God’s creation and lower their yearly energy costs. Contact Allison Fisher, program director, at (202) 885-8684 to set up an energy audit. Visit [gwipl.org](http://gwipl.org).

**Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) International** – This disaster relief organization has created a number of activities to get members of all ages involved in helping others around the world, while also benefiting the Earth.



The **Do Something Kit** will suggest great ways kids can help, from donating unwanted clothing, toys, and products to holding a garage sale. Go to <http://kids.adra.org/kidsinaction/kit.php>.

The new **ADRA Geo Game** will expand your knowledge of geography and issues and challenges facing the developing world—a great tool for families, schools, churches, or any other groups. Order online at [adra.org](http://adra.org), then click Resources. Price: \$14.95.

### EVENTS

**America Recycles Day (November 15)** – This 100-year-old event is the only nationally recognized day dedicated to encouraging Americans to recycle and to buy recycled products. Take a pledge and read more at [americarecyclesday.org](http://americarecyclesday.org).

*Norma Sahlin is communication director for the Center for Creative Ministry. Her husband, Monte, is director of research and special projects for the Ohio Conference.*



## YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

SEPTEMBER 2008

### Spreading God’s Grace at Grandview

Roy Chew

Grandview Medical Center, part of the Kettering Adventist HealthCare family, serves a community often overlooked and underserved. Our location in the heart of downtown Dayton, Ohio, gives us ample opportunities to share the gift of wholistic healthcare and the message of the gospel. By giving our patients excellent care, we are saying, “God loves you, and you matter to Him.” Our recent award, being named as one of the Top 100 Hospitals in the nation, demonstrates this fact. While the award is wonderful, it does not compare to the joy we experienced when we received the following letter\*:

*“I was a patient in your hospital in the past few years. In 2007 things were different. Doctors could not pinpoint my problem. To make a long story short, test after test revealed low sodium. They found a birth defect in my left kidney and a spot on my right lung, which were keeping my sodium levels low. When I entered the hospital, I was an alcoholic, smoker, and smokeless tobacco user. All of these addictions I have had for the past 25 years.*

*“I met Chaplain Hal Ward in your hospital, and he prayed for me. I prayed with him. I am a believer of God, but I never took it to another level. I never took time for the Lord. Chaplain Hal was a big influence in my life; he talked to me as if he knew me for 20 years. He prayed for me, and we laughed together. While in the hospital for almost two months, I became very close to the Lord and did a lot of thinking. ... In 2007 doctors at your hospital removed 40 percent of my upper right lobe, and told me I have cancer. I was devastated, but Hal prayed with me. I owe a great deal of my recovery to him. He made time for me after I got out of the hospital and during my recovery. Now I am cancer free, smoke free, tobacco free, and alcohol free. I owe it to the Lord, willpower, attitude, and a lot of prayers from a lot of people. I am back with my wife, back to work, and having a blast being sober. Praise the Lord!”*

#### OUR JOY TO SERVE

What a testimony! God reaches people when they are vulnerable, and it is our mission to be there to extend His powerful grace. With joy we carry on the mission of spreading the gospel through our healthcare services.

This month we feature a team of Grandview physicians, nurses, and support staff who traveled to Guatemala at their own expense and set up a clinic to address dire health needs (see page 22). Also, meet Brent Bamberger, DO, who is leading the charge in screening young athletes for heart defects (see page 24).

\*This letter was abbreviated and edited for space.



*Roy Chew is president of Grandview Medical Center in Dayton, Ohio, part of Kettering Adventist HealthCare.*



# “Amigos del Corazon”

## Grandview Outreach Team Makes Friends in Guatemala

Kevin Lavoie

The citizens of the town of La Labor, about 18 miles outside Guatemala City, Guatemala, were the grateful recipients of free, high-quality health-care, when a team of physicians, nurses, and support staff from Grandview Medical Center in Dayton, Ohio, flew in and set up shop in a local school. In the span of 10 days, these dedicated professionals performed 77 procedures, such as hernia removals, biopsies, hand surgeries, cyst removals, osteopathic therapy, fracture repairs, and pediatric care.

They call themselves “Amigos del Corazon,” or “Friends of the Heart.” Connie McCarroll, DO, Pediatrics, started the group 11 years ago and has visited La Labor more than 30 times. “It’s like my heart is attached down there, and I need to go there to fill up my tank,” she says. “It revives and resuscitates me, so I can come back and do my work here. The people are so grateful for what we have done, and the sharing they do with us is just incredible.”

Her team members this year also included Alison Clarey, DO, general surgeon; Brent Bamberger, DO, hand surgeon; Jeff Rogers, DO; Mark Klug, MD, hand surgeon; Reggie Linz, scrub technician; Shirley Reishman, CRNA; and Andy Kulkarni, DO, anesthesia resident.

Upon arrival they moved the classroom equipment

and set up a MASH-type unit in the school. They brought some equipment and used some of the rudimentary monitoring and surgery equipment on site. “This is a service that would never be accessible to them,” says Dr. Rogers, who specializes in anesthesia



Jeff Rogers, DO (left), prepares a patient for surgery. The school classroom was converted into a surgery and exam center, and a wide variety of surgical services were performed there.



Connie McCarroll, DO, who started the group 11 years ago, performs an exam on a young lady.



A grateful mom and her daughter await their opportunity to see the medical team.



The “Amigos del Corazon” from Grandview Medical Center arrive in La Labor, Guatemala, energized and ready to serve a population in serious need of healthcare services.

and pain management, and has worked with the outreach team for eight years. “I have been to 100 countries and all the continents, and it doesn’t make me glad about what I have when I go to places like this. Rather, it makes me question whether I need what I have. It’s a simple life down there in Guatemala, but the people seem to be very happy despite the significant challenges they face every day.”

Grandview Medical Center supports the efforts of this group by donating medicine, equipment, and other resources, as part of the mission outreach of Kettering Adventist HealthCare. The team members provided the travel expenses, medications, and other supplies. “The support is just tremendous,” Dr. McCarroll says. “A bunch of stuff we use in Grandview surgery that would normally get thrown out gets saved for our trips. We’ve even had bake sales on the Surgical Intensive Care Unit to help finance our trips.”

The Grandview group plans to return to Guatemala next spring, so the sick and injured residents of La Labor will again see the benefits of having American “amigos” with their hearts in the right places.

Kevin Lavoie is media relations specialist at Kettering Adventist HealthCare.



Shirley Reishman and Alison Clarey, DO, pause from their work for a photo. “This is a way to give back to the world and really appreciate what you have,” says Dr. Clarey.



**Melashenko Welcomed to Kettering**

Kettering Adventist HealthCare recently welcomed Lonnie Melashenko (below) to his new role as vice president of Spiritual Care and Mission. Most Adventists know Melashenko as the voice and face of the *Voice of Prophecy*, where he has been serving since 1989. In his new role with Kettering, he will work with leadership to foster and grow relationships within the organization and throughout the community.

Pastor Melashenko brings a unique perspective of mission and outreach, which will edify and build upon the traditions of spiritual care at Kettering's facilities. He joins a team committed to developing initiatives that nurture a strong, faith-based healthcare community. He will work to expand parish nursing programs, provide leadership for healthcare chaplains, and attract and retain mission-oriented individuals.

He and his wife, Jeannie, have been a valued team for the *Voice of Prophecy* for more than 17 years. Kettering Adventist HealthCare welcomes them enthusiastically and looks forward to an exciting time of growth in the area of spiritual services provided to patients, employees, and the community.

**Adventist Leads State Medical Association**

Warren F. Muth, MD (below), a general surgeon at Kettering Medical Center in Ohio, has been



elected to serve as the 2008-09 president of the Ohio State Medical Association. "It is an honor to be able to serve as an advocate for my fellow physicians," he says. "We face many challenges, but

when physicians work together, we can help put healthcare back in the hands of physicians and patients."

Dr. Muth is a partner at South Dayton Surgeons and serves as the medical director of Kettering Medical Center's surgery network. The Kettering (Ohio) church member also serves on the faculty of nearby Wright State University's School of Medicine.

**Grandview Supports Screenings for Young Athletes**

Grandview Medical Center and the doctors of Cardiology Specialists of Dayton have teamed up to offer screening electrocardiograms (EKGs) to local high school athletes. For their part, Grandview donated the use of EKG machines and technical support.

The screenings commenced after Brent Bamberger, DO, had some gut-wrenching personal

experiences with his son, who is heavily involved in athletics. "My son played basketball in a scrimmage a few months ago, and, as we were ready to leave, a player on the other team passed out. The head coach and I resuscitated the guy. It was pretty scary, but he was diagnosed with an enlarged heart before it was too late."

This wasn't the first incident that hit close to home for Dr. Bamberger and his son. Just a few months prior, he says another of his son's teammates died suddenly, and, in a short span of time, three other youth experienced cardiac incidents. "It wasn't the medical part of me,



*Brent Bamberger, DO, who helped resuscitate a young athlete, was compelled to reach out to student athletes in the Dayton area.*



*Thomas Ruff, DO, performs free cardiac screenings on high school athletes. Early identification of heart defects is a vital part in preventing sudden cardiac failure.*

it was the "dad" part of me that had to do something," he says. "I thought there had to be a way to prevent a certain portion of these senseless deaths, so the dad in me asked Robert Bulow, DO, if his group would help."

Dr. Bulow, a cardiologist, reports that several athletes have succumbed to sudden cardiac death in the past few years. "There is a need for improved screening of high school and college athletes, so we stepped forward in hopes of finding some of these issues before it is too late," he says. Because of their concern, the duo says they're more than willing to help other schools in the region.

3535 Southern Boulevard  
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45229  
 (513) 398-1001  
[www.khcnetwork.org](http://www.khcnetwork.org)  

**Dedicated Adults Help Miracle Youth Department Grow**

Over the past few months, leaders at Miracle Temple in Baltimore have seen increasing involvement in their Youth Ministries programs. There are now 60 young people taking part in the teens program, Pathfinders, and Adventurers. Their secret? Members say there is a consistent combination of dedicated leadership, service, and fun.

Youth leaders are willing to go above and beyond the call of duty when it comes to the welfare of the children, one member observed. Others connect the growth to the new youth pastor, Vincent Dehm, whose fresh set of goals focused on love, growth, and stability.

Youth leader Cara Fuller, from the teen division, is passionate about mentoring youth. "They represent hope, innovation, and energy. They [also] help me to not take myself too seriously," she says.

Pathfinder director Dorian McDonald says churches that want to grow must take the time and effort to build their youth programs. "The years between birth and 19 are the best years to have the Lord gain your heart as His home," she says.

Leaders also say that growth is due to giving Miracle youth the opportunity to live like young people while they are being equipped with the tools to finish the race. Each week these young people are involved in positive activities such as feeding the homeless, spreading the gospel to neighbors, or going roller skating.

Justarr Carter, aged 14, says, "Yes, we've all followed, but now we are leading. We are leading others down the path of righteousness."

This caring community inspires young people to invite their friends to come and participate in becoming courageous and loving disciples of Jesus Christ.—*Rob Stewart*



*Pathfinders is just one area of the Miracle Temple youth program that has seen growth in the past few months.*

**Dupont Park Teaches Safe Food Handling Techniques**

Whether dining out at an exquisite restaurant, a fast food eatery, at home, school, or church, proper food handling is critical to a healthy dining experience.



*Instructor Pamela Turner talks with Dupont's food service director Geraldine Mack.*

That is why the Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C., recently hosted a five-hour ServSafe Food Handler's Certification class.

The class is a national requirement for handling food for public consumption. Pamela Turner, a licensed registered nutritionist, instructed the more than 20 participants from various area churches on the importance of proper

food temperature. She informed attendees that improper food temperatures can cause illness or even death from salmonella. Failure to use soap and water to wash hands, utensils, cutting boards, and dishes can transfer bacteria causing food poisoning, gastrointestinal inflammation, diarrhea, etc.

After teaching the class and administering the test, Turner forwarded the tests to the National Restaurant Association for evaluation. Those students passing the course will receive their certification from the association. Washington, D.C., and Maryland recognize the certification for three years, after which the course may be repeated.

Geraldine Mack, the church's food service director, coordinated the event.

For information about the course, contact Turner at [ccarolle@yahoo.com](mailto:ccarolle@yahoo.com).—*Jerri McLean*

## Faces of Camp Meeting 2008



Errol T. Stoddart, senior pastor, Ephesus church, Richmond, Va.



Charles L. Cheatham, president, Allegheny East Conference

PHOTOS BY KEITH GOODMAN



Speaker C.D. Brooks encourages members of the remnant church to wake up.



Jimmy Ferguson, pastor, Berea Temple, Baltimore



Brenda Billingsy, senior pastor, Metropolitan church, Hyattsville, Md.

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## Conference Organizes First Hispanic Church

Allegheny West Conference recently celebrated the dedication of the Central Cincinnati Hispanic church, its first full-fledged Hispanic congregation.

Libny H. Dubreuze, Multicultural Ministries director for the conference, was pastor of the congregation from 2006 until April of this year when Pastor Sergio DaSilva came on board.

"I am so happy to start my ministry in this church," said DaSilva. "I want to thank the Lord, the local leadership, and Elder Dubreuze, the first pastor of this church, for the vision to establish the Central church. I want to continue with the same vision."

"Members of this church and our conference leaders have a strong vision concerning our mission and that is to share the Good News in the Hispanic community," Dubreuze said.

Conference administrators celebrated with the church's 87 members. Carl Rogers, executive secretary, who was in charge of the organization process, led the dedication ceremony. He congratulated the leadership at Central Cincinnati for their hard work and dedication in building up the congregation. James Lewis, president, presented the sermon, and challenged members of the new church to continue the mission and increase the fold. Zenobia Seward, treasurer, was responsible for the call to faithfulness.



Conference and church leaders took time out of the service to introduce the founding members.

## Present Truth Hosts Community Health Symposium

More than 200 people recently received free health screenings at Present Truth church in Cleveland during their second annual health symposium.

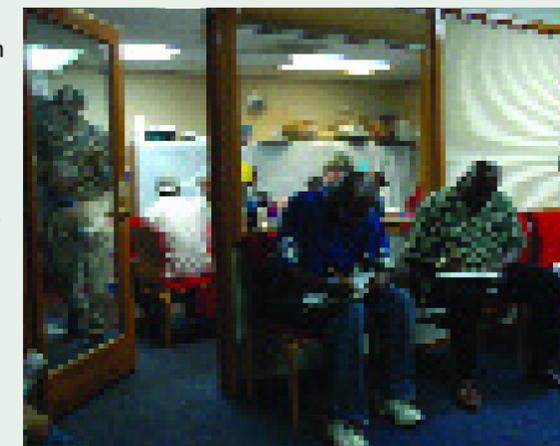
The symposium provided the following screenings: glaucoma, cholesterol, glucose, and blood pressure. In addition to the screenings, they provided information on the heart, diabetes, kidneys, and substance abuse. They offered cooking tips, recipes, and food samples. They also offered Christian workshops, Bible classes, Christian education, storytelling for children, and Christian literature.

Members of the local fire department brought a hook-and-ladder truck and a smoke house to teach children how to react and safely exit a house filled with smoke (left).

Lula Campbell, who was on her way home from Sunday service, said she had only

planned to stay a minute, but had such a good time she stayed and received healthy food and drink, health screenings, and a gift. She wanted to know how the church would benefit. She could not believe she did not have to pay for anything. It was explained to her that the church benefited by getting to know the people in the community and having community members know them.

Louise Patterson, health and temperance leader, coordinated the event with almost 100 percent participation from other members.



The Present Truth church recently invited community members to come by the church for free health screenings. They also provided information on maintaining optimal health.

## Ethan Temple Dedicates New Church

Ethan Temple members are praising God for a new \$1.7 million facility situated on 30 acres of land in the city of Trotwood, a suburb of Dayton, Ohio. Members, former members and pastors, conference administrators, and city officials recently gathered for the sanctuary's dedication. During the ceremony, attendees celebrated how the church



has grown from a humble, two-story house on Home Avenue in 1923, to a campus that will in time include a school, community center, and senior housing.

"Magnificent, honor and glory, simply wonderful!" exclaimed member Jeanie Anderson when she saw the church.

On the designated Sabbath, many people gathered outside the church for the ribbon-cutting ceremony (above). Darreyl Davis and Joyce Cameron, mayor and vice mayor of the City of Trotwood, were on hand to present a proclamation and to welcome the church to the community.

The dedication service was preceded by a sacred concert with performances by Pathfinders and friends of the church. The divine worship service was filled with even more music. Ethan Temple's pastor, Harcourt King, led the congregation in the litany and James Lewis, conference president, concluded the day with a message titled "An Inside Job."



Darreyl D. Davis (right), mayor of the City of Trotwood, Ohio, presents the proclamation to Ethan Temple pastor Harcourt King.

Mildred Sherron, chair of the grand opening committee, summed up the day this way: "Our prayers were answered, and the Lord was glorified."

## Hillcrest Church to Transform Emissions Testing Space

A facility built for emissions testing is now being used for the Great Commission. The Hillcrest church in Dayton, Ohio, recently purchased a former emissions testing facility to house its growing congregation. With more than 8 acres of land and two buildings, there is more than enough room for this congregation of more than 200 to grow.

"This is an unconventional building for a church," said Cory Rowe, senior pastor. "But we liked it because it is in an uncharted area for us. We saw it as a great opportunity to do evangelism and community service work in Northeast Dayton."

Renovation plans are already underway. According to Pastor Rowe, one building will be used for administration and as a day care center; the other will be used to house a sanctuary, gymnasium, and fellowship hall. They will have an opening ceremony for their temporary sanctuary in late September.

The previous building, only two miles from the new facility, was sold to a Baptist church.



Hillcrest will convert part of a former emissions testing facility into a sanctuary.

## Calendar

### September

- 5-6 Trailer Owners Retreat  
AWC Campgrounds
- 14 Community Service Federation  
for North Ohio and Western  
Pennsylvania (NO/PA)
- 26-27 Women's Ministries Retreat  
Natural Bridge, Va.
- NO/PA Youth Federation  
Youngstown, Ohio

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## God's Incredible Timing

Many years ago, when I was a student at Fletcher Adventist Academy (N.C.), an extraordinary physical education teacher and coach inspired me to become a teacher. She was passionate about loving God and pushing us to excellence. I prayed that God would guide my steps and help me to be an inspiration like that.

Later, as a teacher at Great Lakes Adventist Academy (Mich.), I was mentored by the principal. I also attended Andrews University (Mich.) in the summer months, where I earned a master's in educational administration and leadership. The Lord then led my family to Southwestern Adventist University in Texas. While there, I realized how important it was for me to impact the lives of our youth by holding God's standards high at a boarding school, and so I prayed about it and left it in the Lord's hands.

When the call came to be principal of Fletcher Academy, I was very humbled and, to be honest, somewhat surprised. We serve a powerful God with incredible timing. Through this call He fulfilled my dream by allowing me to serve at my alma mater. After seeing the wonderful ways that God led during my three years as principal of Fletcher, I am simply in awe of His incredible strength and ceaseless dedication.

I am excited to come to Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) and join the incredible team of students and staff who are already deeply involved in the pursuit of excellence. I believe that if we never stray from God's path, we will never need to apologize for having high standards.

Please commit to praying that BMA will be successful in fulfilling the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19, 20.



Rob Gettys  
Principal

## NEWS

Jake Benson '09 (right) is one of approximately 35 students who worked in BMA's on-campus industry this summer. For three summers in a row, Benson has worked to help pay his registration fees. BMA estimates that students working in industry this summer will earn more than \$53,000.



Samantha Blake (below) was recently baptized after taking Bible studies from Pastor Dave Sanner. "It was the greatest day of my life. As I came up out of the water, I felt like the Holy Spirit was over me," she said.



Peter Christian and Maya Rutledge (left) performed in the sacred dramatization of Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy's *Elijah*, directed by choral and keyboard teacher Hector Flores. This powerful program ministered not only to the students, but also to the local church and community.

Julius Daniels, technology coordinator, and Tracy Dawes (right), learning specialist, met while teaching at BMA. They were married at the BMA church in May.



## What I've Learned While Leading BMA



During my years leading BMA, I had many opportunities to learn from various members of the school community. I've been humbled to watch the amazing impact of a personal encounter with our Heavenly Father in many of our students. From them, I've learned that:

- God is real and alive.
- God is passionately in love with me.
- God created me to be who I am and embraces and celebrates my uniqueness.
- God's unconditional embrace provides for me an atmosphere of acceptance to be who I am, to fail safely, and to grow.
- God's awesome power creates a kingdom world-view and a spiritual mindset.
- Growing and learning to be who He created me to be is an adventure.

From the dedicated staff, I've seen so many of God's characteristics in action such as:

- A commitment to loving people, which creates an environment of acceptance, encouragement, and spiritual growth best reflects the culture of heaven.
- Redemptive discipline focuses on the individual and supports God's plan.
- Unreserved love and tireless commitment for each one of God's unique children makes God real and personal.

From the board members and supporters I have learned:

- God's limitless support comes in many different forms.
- God's vision is carried out through a unified team.
- Encouragement combined with enabling actions of prayer, moral, and financial support are the foundation of God's vision.
- With God all things are possible.

Thank you all so much for your prayers, friendship, encouragement, and support during these past 14 years. May God continue to richly bless you, your families, and Blue Mountain Academy.—Spencer Hannah

## Graduates Focus on Leadership, Success

BMA's 69 graduating seniors completed their academy education with stellar academic records inspired by the class aim and motto: "Leading the World by Following the One." Many understood that the ultimate success will be measured by living faithful lives of surrender to their Savior and leading others to Him.

At Commencement, speaker Spencer Hannah's last words to the Class of 2008 were charged with love and emotion. "Recognize that you are special individuals created by God, and only you can do what only you can do," he said. "God has put you into this world for a purpose—trust Him! Move forward with all your heart, and He will richly bless you."

Twenty-one seniors graduated with high honors; 15 were honor graduates; 19 graduates were members of the National Honor Society; 22 students received the President's Award; eight received music certificates; and 28 were four-year seniors.



## Coming EVENTS

### September

- 2 Fall Picnic
- 8-12 FOCUS Week
- 14, 15 Sports Festival
- 18-20 Columbia Union Leadership Retreat
- 21 Sunday School
- 24-28 Home Leave

### October

- 1 Service Explosion
- 3-6 History Honors Tour
- 5, 6 Columbia Union College (CUC) Days
- 12 College Fair
- 17-19 BMA Leadership Retreat
- 22-26 Home Leave
- 26-28 CUC Writers Conference

### November

- 7, 8 Senior Recognition
- 16 Fall Festival

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# THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2008

## Make a Difference—Pray for People

In the ongoing work of the kingdom of God, nothing is more important than intercessory prayer. If we truly love people, we will desire for them far more than it is in our power to give them, and this will lead us to prayer. Intercession is a way of loving others.

We are not left alone in this interceding work of ours. Our prayers are backed up and reinforced by the eternal Intercessor. He straightens out and cleanses our feeble, misguided intercessions and makes them acceptable before God. Even more His prayers sustain our desires to pray, urging us on, and giving us hope of being heard. And by the means of intercessory prayer, God extends to each of us a personalized, engraved, invitation to become intimately involved in laboring for the well-being of others. Intercessory prayer is a priestly ministry, and one of the most challenging teachings in the New Testament is about the universal priesthood of all believers. As priests, appointed and anointed by God, we have the honor of going before His throne on behalf of others. This is not optional; it is a sacred obligation and a precious privilege of all who take up the yoke of Christ.

People today desperately need the help that we can give them, if we will pray on their behalf. This ministry of intercession is difficult work. It takes practice, patience, and persistence. But we can make a difference—if we will learn to pray on behalf of others.



Rob Vandeman  
President

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**September 20**  
"Thy Kingdom Come!"  
**Mission Conference**  
Hagerstown Community  
College/Highland View Academy  
11400 Robinwood Drive  
Hagerstown, MD 21742



**Featured Presenters:**  
Ron Halvorsen, Sr. (top) and  
Gary Krause (right)

**Concert:** Ponder, Harp &  
Jennings (below)

Plan now to join fellow believers for a day packed with powerful preaching, great music,



practical training, and Christ-centered programs for all ages.

Look for more information at your local church, or call the conference office at (410) 995-1910.

**October 11**  
"Thy Kingdom Come!" **Mission Conference**  
Eastern Shore Junior Academy  
407 Dudley Corners Road  
Sudlersville, MD 21668  
**Featured Speaker:** Anthony Kent

**November 7-8**  
"Our God Is Alive" **Prayer Weekend**

The conference's Prayer Ministries team will be hold two days of powerful prayer November 7 and 8. With the theme "Our God is Alive," the weekend is focused on helping attendees improve their relationships, accelerate spiritual growth, add intimacy to their relationship with God, and find real joy and peace amid the hectic pace of daily life.

Jerry Page (right) president of the Central California Conference, and his wife, Janet, will share their experiences and give helpful strategies for jump-starting a spiritual journey and making the scriptures come alive.

The event will be at the Columbia Union Conference office in Columbia, Md. Registration is required, and space is limited. Exclusive registration for Chesapeake members is offered through October 1. The \$15 registration fee covers seminar materials and lunch on Sabbath. For more information, contact Samantha Young at (410) 995-1910, ext. 2347, or syoung@ccosda.org.



## Vacation Bible School Brings People Together

Songs, stories, snacks, and crafts remain the basis of most Vacation Bible School (VBS) programs, but some of this summer's programs around the conference have morphed into much bigger productions than many may remember growing up.

Delaware's Dover First and Maryland's Spencerville churches were among the first conference churches to use the Review and Herald's new *Castles and Crowns* kit to carry young people on a royal adventure, designed to help them discover the character of God through stories of the kings and queens of the Bible.



PHOTO BY LOWELL LITTEN

In Columbia, Md., Atholton church's VBS leader, Diane Baier, drove to North Carolina and loaded her van with props borrowed from her sister to create an over-sized backyard wonderland for the theme she selected. Little ones entered "God's Big Backyard" through a

"Shrinking Portal Machine," where they learned how they can serve Jesus and others in their own backyards. Adam Clark of the Pasadena (Md.) church used the theme "Thinking Like Jesus" and wrote his own curriculum. "Everyone had a very positive response to it," he reported. Angie Brown and Nancy Potts, VBS leaders at the Frederick (Md.) church, wrote a program titled "The Ultimate Olympics: Jesus' Athletes in Training," and with the help of volunteers, transformed their sanctuary into ancient Greece. They ended the week with a closing ceremony in which each child or teen received a gold medal.

Elaborate props and activities require lots of helpers and this brings members, who may not be well acquainted with one another, together to work toward a common goal. "The whole church—every generation—really got involved," says Jackie Benton of the Williamsport (Md.) church. Spencerville's 63 teen crew leaders contributed to the success of their program.

Some churches eased the expense of their programs by staggering their dates and sharing props and supplies. Lowell Litten, who helped with the Chestertown and Rock Hall (Md.) churches' joint VBS, thinks it is well worth the effort put into the programs. "This is one of the biggest outreach programs of our church in the community," he observed. "We were hoping for 50 kids this year and got 85!" For the first time, they offered a class for teens and had 21 youth participate. Litten said, "Lots of our kids bring their friends from the community."



PHOTO BY ABDALLAH CELESTIN

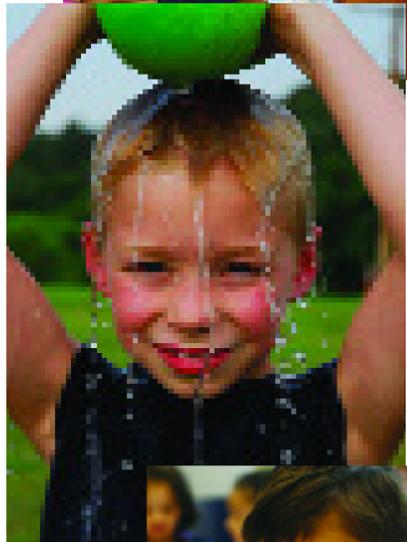


PHOTO BY MONTE BENTON



PHOTO BY BOB MENCH

## Annual Disaster Response Summit Planned

Gain new ideas, talk shop, and be inspired to serve at the annual Adventist Community Services/ Disaster Response Summit. Planned for September 14, the theme is "Placing the Fingerprint of God in our Local Communities." The event will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Chesapeake office auditorium at 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044. For more information, contact Evelyn Gates at (410) 995-1910 or (301) 596-5600.

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Phone: (410) 995-1910 ■ President, Rob Vandeman ■ Editor, Samantha Young

# Columbia Union College

1000 Furman Avenue, Towson, MD 21286-3000 • 410-995-1910 • www.columbiaunion.edu

## Summer Commencement Celebrates Achievements

Columbia Union College (CUC) conducted summer Commencement exercises for the Class of 2008



James E. Lyons, Maryland's secretary of Higher Education, spoke directly to the students with his stirring commencement address.

at the nearby Sligo church. James E. Lyons, Sr., secretary of Higher Education for the State of Maryland, presented a commencement address titled "Speed ... and Speed Limits."

Lyons challenged the graduating seniors to reach new levels and to make major differences in today's world. He also admonished them to: have an appreciation for other people and their beliefs; seek out the positive; ground themselves in something

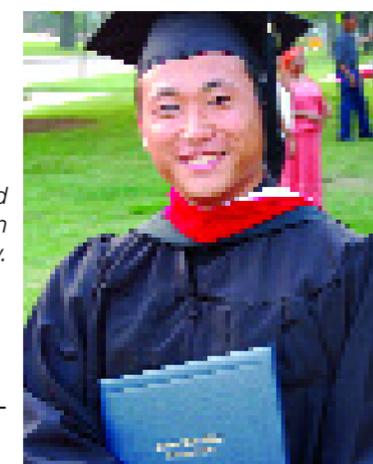
mightier than themselves; recognize their importance, and to remember their alma mater.

"Keep them in your prayers, your thoughts, and your checkbooks," said Lyons, who spent several years in higher education as a professor and administrator.

Those in the audience witnessed as 77 graduates walked forward to receive their diplomas. There were



Dawnielle Tillman celebrates with her mother after completing a degree in counseling psychology.



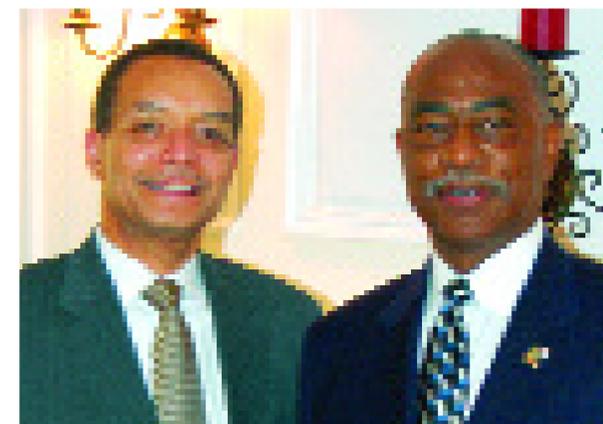
Sam Park graduated with a degree in Theology.

eight Master of Business Administration (MBA) degrees conferred and 64 baccalaureate degrees.

Several students were named *Who's Who* among students in American universities and colleges.

In a letter to graduates, CUC president Weymouth Spence wrote: "Class of 2008, as you remember your walk through CUC's 'Gateway to Service,' I encourage you to start every day by thinking of ways to add value to people's lives."

Mark M.M. Murdoch, an MBA graduate from the School of Graduate Professional Studies, gave the class tribute. He encouraged his classmates to dive in and reach for deeper depths and obtain all of the treasures that life has to offer.—PR Staff



CUC president, Weymouth Spence (left), hosted an informal reception at his home for commencement speaker James E. Lyons.

## Jackson Named Interim Vice President

V. Nenaji Jackson, PhD, was recently appointed interim vice president for Advancement and Alumni Relations at CUC. In her position, Jackson will focus on the development of institutional advancement strategies and alumni relations. She will also support academic and nonacademic grant projects, and coordinate and manage all fund-raising activities.

"Dr. Jackson is a resourceful, progressive, energetic, and innovative leader with a proven ability to direct and increase productivity in higher education, government relations, and community outreach," said president Weymouth Spence.

Prior to her appointment, Jackson worked as a political advisor and consultant, served as a visiting assistant professor at Howard University (Washington, D.C.), and was coordinator for special projects for the Howard University Graduate School.

Jackson brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position and will continue to build on the foundation established by former director of development Bryan Zervos.

Jackson received her BA in political science and Africana Studies from California State University Dominguez Hills. She has two masters' degrees from Claremont State University (Calif.): one in public policy and the other in politics. Jackson also holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Education, Politics, and Policy from Claremont Graduate University (Calif.).

"I have radical hope for CUC and the will and passion to promote the mission of the college," Jackson said. "I trust the future here is going to be great."

Jackson attends the Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C.—PR Staff



## Student Profile: Corrine Galvan

Senior theology major Corrine Galvan took part in an outreach project this summer in a town



located 200 miles northeast of Johannesburg, South Africa. She spent the summer at the Nhlengelo Community Center for AIDS Orphans, and the Maluti Adventist Hospital and School in Lesotho.

"My purpose in going was to create relationships with kids and then come back to the states with their stories to encourage others so that they too can help the children," said Galvan.

A special presentation about the South African project captured her attention during a religion class earlier in the school year.

Galvan hoped that going on this trip would transform the lives of the people she connected with as well as strengthen her own relationship with God. "I prayed that God would give me a strong heart to help the people," said Galvan.

Galvan was born and raised in California. She became an Adventist as a young adult and chose to give her life to the Lord after years of feeling tugged by the Holy Spirit.

"I just want to love everyone that God puts in front of me," she said.—PR Staff

## CALENDAR

### September

- 3 Labor Day Holiday
- 4 Last Day to Enter Classes
- 15-19 Week In Spiritual Emphasis
- 26-28 Student Association  
Spiritual Retreat

### October

- 5, 6 College Days
- 6-10 Missions Week
- 11 Student Association  
Prayer Breakfast
- 13-15 Midterm Exams
- 16-19 Midterm Break
- 19-25 National Respiratory  
Care Week

The Gateway is published in the Visitor by the Columbia Union College 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 Phone: (800) 835-4212 ■ cuc.edu President, Weymouth Spence ■ Exec. Dir. of Marketing and Communication, (vacant) ■ Editor, Tanisha Greenidge

## Mission Work Plus "The Power of One"

Lately many of the articles and devotions I have read and sermons I have heard, hold one common focus: mission. In this one word we can sense that mission is about who we are as Christians. In the Gospels, Jesus helps us to understand that His kingdom here is about bringing people into fellowship with Him and His church. In Matt. 4:19 He states, "I will make you fishers of men" and In *Steps to Christ*, Ellen G. White writes: "No sooner does one come to Christ than there is born in his heart a desire to make known to others what a precious friend he has found in Jesus" (p. 78).

You may be saying, "Can I really make a difference?" As a born-again Christian you are a missionary for Christ. When you reach your friends and neighbors for Jesus, it radically changes their world, now and for eternity. Just think what would happen in Mountain View if each of us reached just one person for Jesus this year, and then each new convert would reach one for Jesus. God's kingdom would explode here in Mountain View, and Jesus would soon come. As we meditate upon this principle of the "power of one," it makes taking the gospel into all the world possible. Let us not hesitate to put this plan into action!



Larry Boggess  
President

## Miracle Meadows Celebrates 20 Years of Changing Lives

When 17-year-old Josh Voigt (below) entered Miracle Meadows School, he had a seemingly hopeless future. "I was in gangs committing organized crime, dealing with alcohol and drug addiction, and I was a very violent person," he said. "My parents didn't know what to do with me."



PHOTO BY BOB SHAW

After spending 18 months at Miracle Meadows, a self-supporting Adventist school for troubled youth, Voigt went on to college and seminary school. Now 26, he is married and pastoring two churches in the Baltimore area.

Miracle Meadows, which reports a 90 percent success rate, was a turning point for Voigt and many others. Voigt was one of about 60 alumni who recently returned to the Salem, W.Va., school for a 20th anniversary celebration.

"It's really rewarding to think that if these young people hadn't come here, a lot of them would be headed straight to the jail system or mental hospitals," said Aaron Weber (right), director.

The co-educational school, which serves children aged 10-18, includes a full academic curriculum,

Weber said. "We [also] teach them social skills, how to deal with depression, and how to manage their anger," he said.

A strong spiritual emphasis, a healthy, low-sugar diet, and an accepting attitude are also key in the school's unique approach to turning lives around and ultimately reuniting families, Weber said. "We don't kick kids out because of behavior."

Bill and Gayle Clark founded the school in 1988. Gayle, who has a master's degree in nurse education, and Bill, a seminary graduate with a master's degree in public health, had previous experience in foster care and working with troubled youth.

Bill said founding the school was, "something we had never dreamed about doing in our own life's plan. We didn't have this vision, but God did."

"We've always loved these kids the way God loves us and accepted them like He accepts us," Bill said.

The same basic principles remain in the school today, which presently serves 44 youth and has a waiting list.—Julie Perine/Exponent Telegram/Visitor Staff



## Two Ordained at Camp Meeting

**D**aniel Morikone (below with family) was born in Hawaii to a dedicated Adventist family and was educated in Adventist schools. After graduating as a registered nurse from Pacific Union College (Calif.), he married Valerie Hamel whom he had met as a senior in academy. The young couple moved to Manchester, Ky., where Morikone served in a small Adventist hospital, and later as an assistant administrator of an

the Mountain View Conference invited him to be pastor of the Logan and Williamson churches. He currently shepherds the churches in Ripley, Toll Gate, and Parkersburg. He also serves as the conference's Health and Temperance director.

Daniel, and his wife, Valerie, have two children: Greg, who along with his wife, Jill, ministers with 3ABN in Illinois; and Janelle, who this fall will enter the nursing program at West Virginia University-Parkersburg.

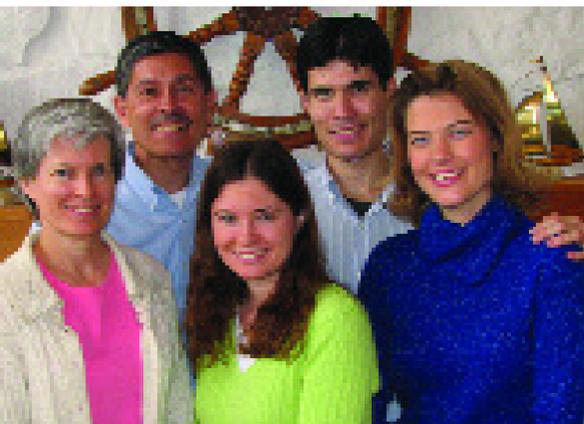
Stewart Pepper (right with family) is a native West Virginian, whose mother joined the Adventist Church when he was 3 years old. In time he attended Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md., and West Virginia University-Parkersburg, before becoming a literature evangelist in 1983.

As a literature evangelist, he worked in Summersville, W.Va., where he met and married Kathleen Davis. Later that same year, Pepper took a position at the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., where he worked for the next 17 years. About 10 years ago, he began to feel a call, but wasn't sure to what. One morning after he presented a Sabbath School



program, a man whom he did not know walked up to him and said, "Young man, if you're thinking about a change of life, you should consider the ministry." That man was Neville Harcombe, then president of the Chesapeake Conference.

Pepper soon began taking classes for the ministry and in 2002 was called to the Mountain View Conference. Stewart and Kathleen have three children, Jeremy, Katrina, and Jessica, who live with them in Crawley, W.Va. The couple is united in ministry for the Lord and work for Him in the Lewisburg/Rainelle district. Pepper also serves as a conference evangelist.



Adventist home health agency near the West Virginia border.

When the Kentucky/Tennessee Conference called him in 1997 to serve as a literature evangelist, Morikone gladly accepted, as it had been his lifelong dream. Soon

## Women to be "Treasured and Transformed" at Retreat



**T**his year's theme for the women's retreat is "Treasured and Transformed" with speaker Ginny Allen (left), a retired nurse and health educator who worked in Portland, Ore., and founder of "Joy! Ministries," a lay ministry committed to bringing joy to the heart of God.

Others will present on topics such as "When Loss Occurs" and "Scrapbooking Made Simple." The early bird fee (due September 15) for the October 3-5 event will be \$65. It covers two nights lodging, five meals, and materials. After September 15, the fee will be \$70. The retreat will be at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va. Direct all questions to the conference office at 1400 Liberty St., Parkersburg, WV 26101, or call (304) 422-4581.

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SEPTEMBER 2008

## Such is the Kingdom of Heaven

**W**hen the disciples came to Jesus saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? ... Jesus called a little child unto Him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, 'Verily I say unto you, except you be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven'" (Matt. 18:1-3).

These words speak very highly about the love and consideration that Jesus demonstrated for children. I understand very well Jesus' feelings about the little ones. In my human capacity, I love my children and grandchildren with an overwhelming love that amazes me. This experience of loving my family gives me a little taste of what Jesus also experienced. "The soul of the little child is as precious in His sight as are the angels about His throne. They are to be brought to Christ and trained for Him" (*The Adventist Home*, p. 279).

We as a church cannot afford to lose another generation of our children. That is why the mission of Children's Ministries is to draw children into a loving, serving relationship with Jesus Christ and with their church; and to train, support, and provide resources for those who minister to children. So pastors and church leaders, devote the very best people you have in your church to be involved in this ministry, and dedicate the best rooms of your church for the most important jewels of our families.



**José Cortés**  
President

## La Esperanza's Food Pantry Brings People to God

**E**ach Wednesday night, La Esperanza church in Union City feeds both the spiritual and physical hunger of some 270 visitors. This started about a year ago when the church began purchasing subsidized food from the state and distributing it to those in need.

It is not just the food that draws people to the church though, says Pastor Jair Pinilla, it is the spiritual emphasis. Along with food, La Esperanza members have a song service, and Pinilla shares a short message.

"The service is not doctrine-centered, but it is very Christ-centered. We don't give testimonies or do prayer requests," Pinilla explains. "We just try to have a very upbeat program and then invite people to sign up for Bible studies."

He adds, there is no pressure for visitors to stay for the program in order to get their two bags of groceries, but they stay. So far 50 people have joined the church because of the program.

Roberto Gonzales, who recently joined La Esperanza, said he was impressed by the church's outreach. He said, "I just saw this big group of people doing good to others without asking



An evangelistic pantry program has brought 65 people into the La Esperanza and Hoboken Spanish churches.

for anything in return, and I wanted to be part of that." Pinilla notes that church members, like Luz Mayi, who pick up the food, are integral to the program.

### Hoboken Spanish Reconsiders Plans to Close

Pinilla, who also pastors the Hoboken Spanish church, says he has duplicated the program there. "The church was about to close their doors," he says. "However, since we started the program there, we've baptized 15 people, and tithes and offerings have doubled." Needless to say, they are no longer thinking about closing.—*Taashi Rowe*



## Hackettstown Church Goes to the County Fair

For the second consecutive year, members of the Hackettstown English church participated in a county fair. Last year members attended the Sussex County Fair. This year they spent 12 hours a day for seven days manning a booth at the Warren County Agricultural Fair.

Jack Milmine, the church's pastor, said, "The fair gives members opportunities to meet people. Later on we follow up with them and invite them to Bible studies and other events at the church."

Organized by Jerry and Linda Lehmann, the booth's theme was health. They give away literature, DVDs, took blood pressures, and had a puppet show focusing on the seven principles of NEWSTART. They also had a drawing where they gave away two volumes of *Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories*. Twenty-five members of the church took turns manning the booth.

"We got involved," says Jerry, "because we just wanted to reach out with the message."

Linda was excited to report that a ride operator came by and picked up several pieces of literature. Later on she saw him reading it, and he even asked her questions.

"Organizing this involves a lot of work and a lot of prayer," she said, "but I believe it's worth it all, even for one soul."—*Taashi Rowe*



Hackettstown church members saw attending a county fair as an important evangelism opportunity.

## Cherry Hill Invites Neighbors for Fun and Food

Every other week this past summer, the Cherry Hill English church's front lawn became a miniature amusement park that drew around 100 people. The church offered free admission, and set up water slides and inflatable pools. They also offered games that included volleyball, sponge football, and wiffleball. They called it their Family Fun Day, and their neighbors loved it. Out of the 100 people who attended, on average, only 25 were members of the church.

"We just wanted to create a wonderful church-centered experience for youth," Pastor Mike Gill said.

"But with three out of four people being visitors, it became a much larger evangelistic experience than expected. Some people have even told us that they were looking for a church home."

Steven Block, the church's social director, said, "Initially we were going to contact a party company and rent equipment and only have



it one day. I'm so glad we did it this way. Having Family Fun Day twice a month was how we reached out to the community."

They also offered health screenings in the church and a cookout in the backyard.—*Taashi Rowe*

New Jersey News is published in the *Visitor* by the New Jersey Conference ■ 2160 Brunswick Ave., Trenton NJ 08648 ■ Phone: (609) 392-7131 ■ njcsda.org President, José Cortés ■ Editor, Laffit Cortés

## Ohio Churches Win Big With Health Initiative

You have probably heard of the *Biggest Loser* television show in which contestants leave their families to enroll in a weight-loss boot camp and compete for the "Biggest Loser" title. The title has always bothered me because I believe in whole person health. If a person loses weight, focusing on the physical aspect alone, but neglects the spiritual, mental, and emotional aspects of his being, the weight that was lost may very likely soon be found. However, if one loses weight and at the same time pays attention to the health of his spirit and emotions, he is not a loser at all, but a winner! So the Ohio Conference decided to hold a contest that focuses on the body, mind, and spirit and called it the "Biggest Winner."

The Biggest Winner project was a healthy churches initiative, designed to help congregations focus on whole person health and, at the same time, compete with each other for a \$10,000 award to be used for whole person health evangelism. The winnings were to be awarded to the congregation with the highest percentage of wellness gain during a 12-week period.

In December 2007, at an Ohio Conference pastors meeting, each pastor was given a Biggest Winner packet. They were told that this project was to be lay-led and their only mission was to pass the packet on to the best qualified member of his congregation.

By January, 11 churches had registered for the competition, with more than 200 members as participants. The congregations were given suggestions for programs that might be used to help with their goal toward whole person health, but each was free to choose the process they desired. Each participant completed an initial Personal Wellness Profile (PWP) and a spiritual assessment. The team leaders were asked to send in two



progress reports during the 12-week period. The contest was concluded with a final PWP and spiritual assessment, the scores tallied, and the final wellness score for each congregation computed. Three churches scored with a difference of just a few points so we decided to give a \$1,000 award to the second-place winner and \$500 to the third-place winner.

One Sabbath during this past summer's camp meeting, Raj Attiken, conference president; Hubert Cisneros, executive secretary; and Andy Sutton, treasurer, presented the Newark church with a check for \$10,000 (above). Linda Brown, the team leader, happily received the award. Accompanied on the guitar by their pastor, Tom Hughes, several of the Newark Biggest Winner team members then sang a song which they had written about health and wholeness to the tune of the song "If You Want Joy."

The second- and third-place awards were given to the Stillwater church in Vandalia, led by Jewell Crawford, and the New Carlisle church, led by Susan Usserman. Although the remaining eight congregations did not receive monetary awards, their focus on whole person health makes everyone the Biggest Winner!



Chris VanDenburgh  
Health Ministries Director

## Three Pastors Ordained



### Samuel Abraham – Coshocton

Samuel Abraham (above with family) has been serving as pastor of the Coshocton church since 2005, where God is doing mighty things as they reach out to Amish, Mennonite, and English- and Spanish-speaking communities. Originally from Bangalore, India, Abraham pastored for several years in India before moving to the United States to work as an associate pastor in Lawton, Okla. There God opened up an opportunity to minister multiculturally with a focus on a Spanish-speaking congregation. Abraham graduated from Andrews University (Mich.) in 2004 with a Master of Divinity. He is married to Arlin, and they have two daughters, Anna and Angelin.

“We are grateful for God’s amazing leading and blessing in our lives,” he said. “Our hearts’ desire is to do God’s work and reach as many as possible for the kingdom of God.”

### Vergniaud Angrand – Ebenezer French Mission

Vergniaud Angrand (below with family) has served as pastor of the Ebenezer French Mission church since 2002. Pastor Angrand said he is grateful to God for His providential leading throughout his life.

Born in Northeastern Haiti, Angrand says he learned to have discipline and reverence during worship while he was still a boy in elementary school there. After being spared from prison, he



promised to give the rest of his life to God. Within the next two years, God led him to the Bethel Adventist church in Port-Au-Prince, the nation’s capital, where he was baptized in 1982. Shortly thereafter Angrand immigrated to the United States. He attended Atlantic Union College, (Mass.) and graduated with a Bachelors in Theology in 1991. He went on to serve in the Southern New England Conference as a literature evangelist, Bible worker, church planter, and associate pastor before receiving the call to pastor in Ohio. Angrand is married to Gedinia “Rose,” and they have three children.

### Joel Rivera – Hamilton Spanish Mission

Joel Rivera (below with family) serves as an assistant pastor at the thriving Hamilton Spanish Mission congregation. Born in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, he was nurtured to love the Lord at an early age and was baptized at 7. By the time he entered Adventist-owned Antillean College in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, he had decided to study for the ministry and graduated in 2000 with a degree in pastoral theology. Rivera pastored churches in Puerto Rico before moving to Cincinnati, where he worked as a lay minister with three Adventist churches while attending Cincinnati Christian Seminary. He completed his Master of Divinity this past spring. A hands-on minister, Rivera has helped raise two worshipping congregations and leads in both bilingual and Spanish services. He thanks God for His providential leading, and for his loving wife and partner in ministry, Midalvi, and two children, Joemily and Joel.



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Phone: (740) 397-4665 ■ ohioadventist.org ■ President, Raj Attiken ■ Editor, Nancy Barnett

# Pennsylvania Pen

SEPTEMBER 2008

## Help us “Arise and Build”

Last September members from across the Pennsylvania Conference helped the Everett congregation begin their new church building project. Like the three churches before it, the Everett church was helped by the conference’s Arise and Build program, which assists worthy congregations in building representative structures for God.

Arise and Build is derived from Nehemiah 2:20, where Nehemiah tells the enemies of God’s people: “The God of heaven, He will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build.” When Adventist Christians arise and build, we are telling Satan—the number one enemy of God’s people—the very same thing.

But it is more than that. It is also about building morale and momentum in our conference. It is a “camp meeting with hammers” where people leave the building site knowing they have been used by God. Participating in Arise and Build also fills people with a desire to be used by Him in their local church. The Arise and Build offering is essential for providing this experience. Please give generously throughout the year and on September 27, Arise and Build Offering Sabbath.



**Bill Peterson**  
Assistant to the  
President for Missions

## Romanian Church Plant Dedicates New Building



Conference president Ray Hartwell speaks at the dedication of the conference’s first Romanian church plant.

Recently more than 200 people came from across the country, and even from around the world, to celebrate the dedication of the conference’s first Romanian church plant. With the dedication, the 20 members of Adventist Christian Church, located at 515 Chestnut Street in Reading, started worshipping in their new building.

The celebration included music, prayer, and words of encouragement. Guests included: Ray Hartwell, Pennsylvania Conference president; Theodore Hutanu, president of the Romanian Union Conference in Romania; Bogdan Neagu from the Romanian Embassy in Washington, D.C.; Nelu Burcea from the Romanian Voice of Hope Radio, and Pastor Alex DuBee of the Hamburg Community church—the mother church for this new plant.

It was a snowy day in March 2006 when Zoltan Treitl and his wife, members of the Hamburg Community church, knocked on the door of the 156-year-old St.

James Lutheran Church in Reading. The Lutheran congregation had watched its membership decline steadily and no longer had the funds for needed repairs. However, they wanted their building to continue to be a place of worship. The Romanian members rented the church for a short time, until they were able to purchase the building and begin the much-needed repairs.

Nicolae Butoiu, pastor for the new church, says the church’s goal isn’t to serve only Romanians in the Berks County area, but to minister to the entire community. The church currently offers two weekly services in Romanian, another in English, and plan to add a Spanish language service in the future.



Ray Hartwell, Bogdan Neagu, Nelu Burcea, and Nicolae Butoiu participated in the dedication.

## Conference to Reach Others Through Church Planting

At the upcoming Pennsylvania Conference's annual Church Planting Summit, members will learn how to reach their community with the gospel and how to plant new churches. Speakers Tom Evans, director of church planting for the Texas Conference, and Paul Hunt, a church planter from Texas, will share practical ideas and inspiring experiences at the one-day event.

The event is scheduled for November 1, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Allentown church located at 2140 W. Tilghman Street. Attendees are encouraged to bring a potluck dish to share for a fellowship meal.—*Bill Peterson*

## "Civil War Generals" Speak at New Castle Church



Members of the New Castle church recently got a glimpse into the spiritual lives of Civil War Gens. Robert E. Lee and Nathan Bedford Forrest. Appearing in period clothing, Edward Beers (left) and Ronald Johnson (right), depicted the two generals' personal relationship with God as part of a worship service.

New Castle members Beers, and his wife, Cindy, invited members of the Captain Thomas W. Patton Camp 2021 to perform at the church.

A fellowship meal was served after the re-enactments, giving the members of the congregation an opportunity to talk to community guests and participants in the program.

## Youth Leaders Invited to Fall Training

The Pennsylvania Conference Youth Department invites youth leaders and those with a heart for young people to attend the Fall Youth Leader Training event with James Black (left), North American Division Youth Ministries director.



Admission is free, and both lunch and supper will be provided. The event will be held October 25 at the Hamburg Community church located at 22 Willow Road. To register for this training, call Daisy Lopez at (610) 374-8331, ext. 212, or email [dlopez@paconference.org](mailto:dlopez@paconference.org).

## Women Invited to Trust in Storms

Becky Curtis (right) was working as Montana Conference Women's Ministries leader and a real estate agent in 2005 when a car accident nearly took her life. Today she is partially paralyzed from the neck down and is in constant pain, however, Curtis says she has found a ministry she never would have imagined. She will share her story at the conference's fall retreat themed "Trust in the Storm." The event will be held at Laurel Lake Camp in Rossiter, October 24-26 and will include music, prayer, small groups, and the annual bedtime story vespers and slumber party. To register, pick up an application at your local church or at [paconference.org](http://paconference.org). For more information, contact Tamyra Horst at [thorst@paconference.org](mailto:thorst@paconference.org) or (610) 374-8331.



## What's happening

### September

19-20 Fall Camp Meeting  
*Laurel Lake Camp*

26-28 Community-based  
Ministries Training  
*Harrisburg*

27 Pennsylvania Day of  
Prayer and Fasting

### October

3-5 Pathfinder Camporee  
*Laurel Lake Camp*

Adventurer Picnic  
*Laurel Lake Camp*

17-19 BMA Leadership  
Weekend  
*Laurel Lake Camp*

24-26 Fall Women's Retreat  
*Laurel Lake Camp*

25 Fall Youth Leader  
Training, *Hamburg  
Community Church*

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## Camp Meeting Draws 2,500

Cool weather, sunny skies, and an air-conditioned gym and dorms, all worked to make camp meeting 2008 a success. But the greatest factor was the warm spiritual atmosphere and outstanding presenters who brought the theme "Behold the Lamb" to life. Nearly 2,500 people filled all available viewing spaces on Shenandoah Valley Academy's campus in New Market, Va., for the powerful Sabbath morning message of U.S. Senate Chaplain Barry Black. Adventist world church vice president Mark Finley's stirring appeal on the final night brought hundreds forward to renew their commitments to Jesus (right).

Community service was a key theme as children went to local communities to provide service. Community service testimonies from adult members also showed attendees that the work of evangelism is advancing—and not just from the pulpit, but from the streets, the living room, and the office.

See the next page for camp meeting photos!



## NEWS

### Beltsville Holds Community VBS

The Beltsville (Md.) church had an evangelistic meeting this past summer with almost 40 visitors present, and called it Vacation Bible School (VBS). With more than 140 children attending and a staff of 55 people, VBS was every bit as complicated as an evangelistic series.

The evangelistic nature included a special Sabbath worship service as the closing event. Several community families attended, some of whom had never been to an Adventist church. Pastor Sonia Perez, who led the VBS, said, "We even had one Muslim family attend who didn't know what to call a Christian house of worship." This year's VBS represents a 30 percent increase in attendance over last year.—*Kermit Netteburg*

### Galax District Hosts Agape Feast

A recent Agape feast gave members in Virginia's Galax district an opportunity to recommit themselves to God's service. The program included hymns, personal testimonies, a sermonette, and prayer. Pastor Vincent MacLissac (top, right) shared some of his goals for the



district and how each member could help spread the Good News of Jesus and His soon return. Attendees then took time for prayer and recommitment. The program closed with a candlelight service, and a very special meal of fruit, bread, and nuts.

Elders and members from the nearby Pulaski and Radford (Va.) churches also attended the event.—*Donna Patton*

### Beltsville School Inducts 11 Students Into Honor Society

Beltsville Adventist School (BAS) located in Beltsville, Md., inducted 11 students into the prestigious National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). BAS members of the NJHS were chosen because they exemplified excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, citizenship, character, and service. NJHS members use their skills and knowledge to help younger children at the school thrive through tutoring and mentoring programs.



*Beltsville Adventist School's National Junior Honor Society members welcome 11 inductees, bringing their number to 18.*

## Remembering an Uplifting Camp Meeting



Mark Finley, a vice president for the Adventist world church, and Jerry Fuentes, discipleship pastor at Takoma Park (Md.) church, prayed.



Southwestern Adventist University (Texas) religion professor Bill Kilgore delivered the morning message.



Bill Miller, conference president, played the banjo with the Wedgewood Trio.



Joelle Ringer directed the group Potomac Praise.



Waynesboro (Va.) church members and their pastor, Will Johns, spoke about the importance of community service.



U.S. Senate chaplain Barry Black preached the Word.



New Shenandoah Valley Academy principal Spencer Hannah welcomed all to the campus.

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Phone: (540) 886-0771 ■ pcsda.org ■ President, Bill Miller ■ Communication Director, Don Wood

SEPTEMBER 2008

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

## New Experiences Help Us All Grow

Growing up as the youngest of seven children—five of them boys—receiving new clothes was a somewhat rare experience. The norm was sorting through the boxes of pants, shirts, and shoes that my older brothers had outgrown to see what would fit for the upcoming school year. New clothes were purchased only if needed to fill in the gaps of the hand-me-down wardrobe. Those new clothes were cherished greatly since I was the first to have worn them.

Most of us have similar experiences with new purchases. There is something special about the smell of a new car that we hope never fully fades. New clothes cause us to stand a little straighter, and a new home stimulates greater commitment to the responsibility of home ownership. New experiences often have the same effect. Visiting a new area, state, or even country stimulates our very being, and we are enthralled and want to absorb as much as we possibly can. Trying something we have never done before—scuba diving, rock climbing, kayaking, even Web surfing—can create great enthusiasm; and it keeps us growing.

Coming to Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) after 14 years at Blue Mountain Academy has definitely been full of new experiences. Meeting and getting to know

new people is fun and challenging at the same time. My wife and I have met several families from the New Market church and the academy and have felt most welcomed. We have met many students and are trying to keep their names straight with their faces. Finding the stores, locating the post office, transferring to a new bank—all have been part of the newness of moving. Thank you to all who have made this transition smooth for us.

Many students have made a similar move this year—choosing SVA as their school for the next several years. As SVA continues to rebuild and grow, we certainly welcome each of these new students and what they bring to Shenandoah Valley Academy. New students, returning students, parents, teachers, deans, various staff, and church family, have all come together to experience the newness of 2008-2009 together. It is exciting, and it is scary. We are hopeful, and we are anxious. Most of all, we are confident that God has some great things in store for all of us this year. Please join in this great new experience with your visits, support, and prayers.



Spencer Hannah  
Principal

## Athletic Fields Renovated



Work continues on the major renovations of SVA's athletic fields (pictured). Huge amounts of dirt have been moved, fields formed, and sod laid in preparation for the 2008-2009 school year. The soccer field has been completed and is in use. Also, the running/walking track has been completed



and has been enjoyed by many. The rough grading for the baseball and the softball field, and site preparation for the tennis courts, will soon be done. Some SVA students have already expressed their great appreciation for all the work that has been done, and eagerly await total project completion.



Happenings is published in the Visitor by Shenandoah Valley Academy ■ 234 West Lee Highway, New Market, VA 22844  
Phone: (540) 740-3161 ■ shenandoahvalleyacademy.org  
Principal, Spencer Hannah

News you can use from Takoma Academy

## Reflecting on the Prayer of Jabez

I recently came to the realization that the prayer of Jabez is especially powerful for those of us who work with our young people on a daily basis. Found in 1 Chronicles 4:10, it states: "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain" (NIV). I believe that we should all pray that prayer asking for blessings, for strength, and protection. Yes, it is a blessing to work with young people and parents at all times; however, it is not without pain. That is why it is important that we as educators ask God to enlarge the "territory" we have working with young hearts and minds.

As a new school year has already started with so much promise and hope, let us continue to pray that prayer. Let us also recognize that in some ways God has already answered our Jabez-like prayers as He gives us opportunities to make a lasting difference in the lives of our young people.



C. Dunbar Henri  
Principal

## NEWS

### Staff and Students to Receive Laptops

This fall every student and teacher at Takoma Academy (TA) will have an Apple laptop. The laptops are part of the "1 to 1 Learning Program" started by Apple to ensure a "21st century learning environment that



With the goal of improving learning through technology, TA is providing laptops for teachers and students.

instruction for each student on every level, and instead of the Internet being a source for negativity, we are using it for instruction and mental growth."

Along with laptops, the school also has wireless access and streaming videos. Students may submit papers via flash drives and may take quizzes and tests over the Internet.

### School Cleans Up its Act

Over the summer months, TA students—including Maya Suero, '11 (left)—have worked to improve the campus and the building. They removed overgrown grass from around the perimeter fencing, repainted the lockers and the foyer, and have placed the school's

mission statement in prominent places like the front foyer and gym lobby.

"God has blessed us with some funding," Henri said, "and we want to continue making more visible changes on campus."

He encourages continued tax-deductible donations to the school via the website ta.edu. "We ask all alumni and those who have a desire to assist TA in continuing to make a difference in the community, to make donations weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly to any area you desire," he said. "Our greatest funding needs are for Worthy Student scholarships, the building, and maintenance."



## Calendar

### September

- 1 School Closed, Labor Day
- 14 SAT, 8 a.m.
- 17 Native American Heritage Assembly
- 18-22 SALT Conference
- 22-23 ITED Testing, Noon Dismissal
- 22 TA Finance, Board Committees
- 24 Parent Teacher Conferences
- 26 Fall Picnic

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

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Senior community near Disney/beach. Ground level apts/rooms on 13.5 acres. Transportation/housekeeping available; church/pool/shopping/activities; 3ABN, Hope TV. *Short-term rentals:* furnished rentals \$45, \$75 per night; minimum 3 nights 2BR/2BA for \$300 or \$400/week. Call toll-free: (800) 729-8017, local: (407) 862-2646, ext. 24; website, floridalivingretirement.com; or email, JackieFLRC@aol.com.

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Adventist-owned and -operated RV dealership has been helping Adventists for over 30 years. Huge inventory. Courtesy airport pickup and on-site hookups. Satisfied Adventist customer list available. Call toll-free: (888) 933-9300. Lee's RV City, Oklahoma City. Visit our website at leesrv.com or email LeesRVs@aol.com.

**CARIBBEAN CRUISE**  
from Miami, Jan 25-Feb 1, 2009. Roatan, Belize City, Cozumel, Great Stirrup Cay; Alaska Cruise/Tour Aug. 24-Sept. 3, 2009. Inside Passage, RR, tundra wildlife tour, working gold mine, cruise stern-wheeler and more. Foll Travel, 1739 Orangewood Place, Avon Park, FL 33825. (863) 453-7196.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OAK PARK ACADEMY ALUMNI:**  
Return to Gates Hall, Nevada, Iowa, September 19-20, for a great time with classmates and friends. The honor classes are '33, '38, '43, '48, '53, '58, '63, '68, '73, '78 and '83. For more information, go to http://www.opainiowa.com/

**SLIGO CHURCH CENTENNIAL:**  
Exuberantly 21st century and profoundly historic, Sligo church invites you to join us September 12-14 to celebrate 100 years of God's beneficent sovereignty over our ministry to the Takoma Park, Md., community. We hope to see you! For more information, call (301) 270-6777, or visit our website, sligochurch.org. Sligo Church is located at 7700 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

**WHITE ESTATE OPEN HOUSE**  
The Ellen G. White Estate is hosting an open house the afternoon of Sunday, September 14. You are invited to tour the White Estate vault, see Ellen White's original handwritten works, and view the many other exhibits related to our church's heritage. Hours are noon to 4 p.m. Groups of 25 or more are asked to call in advance for scheduling: (301) 680-6540. Please note that no food services are provided. The White Estate is located at the Seventh-day Adventist World Headquarters, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, Md.

**MARYLAND MEN OF FAITH**  
"Choose You This Day" October 4, 2008  
Mt. Aetna Camp and Retreat Center Hagerstown, Md.

**MEN OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME**  
Guest Speakers:  
Shane Anderson  
John Appel  
Randy Fishell  
Damein Johnson  
Antonio Lopez  
Dwight Seek  
Mark Walwyn

**Registration Fee: \$35**  
(includes lunch and dinner)  
**Deadline: Sept. 29**

**For info on seminars, or to register, visit:**  
www.mmof.org  
mdmenoffaith@verizon.net  
**or phone:**  
**(410) 465-6864**

Presented by  
Seventh-day Adventist Laymen of the Columbia Union

**SINGLES ADULT RETREAT**

**Mt. Aetna Camp and Retreat Center Hagerstown, Md.**  
**October 17-19, 2008**  
Sponsored by Chesapeake Adventist Single Adult Ministries

**Speakers/topics:**  
**Anne Woodworth,** Director of International Program Development at Management Sciences for Health (*Relationships*)

**Garland Day,** Potomac Conference Pastor (*Spiritual*)

**Roland Smith,** Financial Specialist and former pastor (*Finances*)

**For more information, visit asamchesapeake.com**

**or contact**

**Sandy Walcott (804) 263-6504**

**20th Annual Celebration of Family Recovery September 26-28**  
Mt. Aetna Retreat Center Hagerstown, Md.

**"Celebrating a lifetime recovery process through applying prayer, Bible scriptures, and the 12-Steps"**

**Workshop Presenters:**  
**Carol Cannon, MA CADC,** Author: *Hooked on Unhappiness and Never Good Enough*

**Robert Mullen, PhD,** Addictions Counselor  
**Pastor Willie Boyd** Sexual Addictions Therapist  
**Prison Ministry Presenters**

**Sabbath Services Speakers:**  
**Pastor Augustus O'Giste**  
**Elder Kenneth Branford**

**Profile in Recovery: Dr. Ron's Story**

**Regen-Teen Extreme Challenge**

**More Information:**  
adventistregenerationministries.org

**To register: plusline.org**

**BALTIMORE FIRST 120TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**  
All former members and friends are invited to join Baltimore First Seventh-day Adventist Church on September 27 as they celebrate their 120th anniversary. The church is located at 3291 St. John's Lane, Ellicott City, MD 21042. For more information, call the church office at (410) 465-6864.

**PAM AND JIMMY RHODES IN CONCERT.**  
These well-known, best-loved gospel musicians from Tennessee will be performing a special Sabbath evening concert of new and old favorites at the Hagerstown (Md.) church on Sabbath, October 4, at 6 p.m. Their combined vocal, piano, organ, and trombone artistry shimmers and shines with joyful praise and thanksgiving for God's unending love. Everyone is welcome to come and claim full and overflowing portions of the blessings their music affords. Church location: 11507 Robinwood Dr., Hagerstown, Md. For more information, phone (301) 733-4411.

**OBITUARIES**

**BAILEY, Charlotte Mae (Perry),** born September 8, 1926, in Dakota City, Neb.; died November 20, 2007, in Virginia Beach, Va. She was a member of the Norfolk (Va.) church. Charlotte served as Sabbath School leader in the 70s through the 90s at the Sioux City, Iowa, church. She worked over 20 years at the Green Acres Nursing Home, also in Sioux City. She loved to read and keep in touch with all her family. Survivors include: her husband, Richard E. Bailey of Virginia Beach, Va.; her sons, Richard E. Bailey Jr. of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Dennis C. Bailey of Spartenburg, S.C.; a daughter, Diana M. Bailey of Virginia Beach; grandsons: Richard E. Bailey and Steven Bailey of Omaha, Neb., Gerald Bailey of Tacoma, Wash.; and granddaughters, Kristen L. Bailey and Jennifer Bailey of Spartenburg.

**CROUCH, Robert (Bob) M.,** born January 15, 1907, in Norwalk, Ohio; died April 15, 2008, in Norwalk. He was a charter member of the Norwalk church. Bob served as elder, deacon, assistant Pathfinder leader, and supplied wood craft kits for his local church VBS. He was preceded in death by his wife, Gertrude (Ward) Crouch. Survivors: daughters and sons-in-law, Roberta and Pastor William Jackson of Dundee, Ohio, and Marolynn and Ray Bennett of Deer Lodge, Tenn.; grandsons, William (Chip) Jackson Jr. and his wife, Jill, of Chatsworth, Calif., Robert Jackson of Stoneham, Mass., and Dan Bennett of Deer Lodge, Tenn.; granddaughters, Carianna J. Farfan of Altamonte Spring, Fla., and Tridigeth B. Boundey and her hus-

	Sept 12	Sept 19	Sept 26	Oct 3	Oct 10
Baltimore	7:19	7:08	6:56	6:45	6:34
Cincinnati	7:50	7:39	7:28	7:17	7:06
Cleveland	7:40	7:28	7:16	7:04	6:53
Columbus	7:45	7:33	7:22	7:09	6:59
Jersey City	7:10	6:58	6:46	6:34	6:23
Norfolk	7:16	7:06	6:55	6:45	6:35
Parkersburg	7:39	7:27	7:16	7:05	6:54
Philadelphia	7:13	7:02	6:50	6:39	6:28
Pittsburgh	7:33	7:21	7:10	6:58	6:47
Reading	7:17	7:05	6:53	6:42	6:31
Richmond	7:22	7:11	7:00	6:49	6:40
Roanoke	7:31	7:21	7:10	6:59	6:49
Toledo	7:48	7:36	7:24	7:12	7:00
Trenton	7:12	7:00	6:49	6:37	6:26
Wash., D.C.	7:20	7:09	6:58	6:47	6:36

**SUNSET CALENDAR**

band, Jim, of Rossville, Ga.; seven great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

**HAINES, Stanley S.,** born February 15, 1911, in Romney, W.Va.; died May 12, 2008, at Hampshire Health Care Center in Romney. He was the son of the late Griffin Thomas and Stella Victoria Orndorff Haines. He was a member of Romney (W.Va.) church, where he was the head elder and worked as a maintenance grounds keeper at Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md. He was an orchardist and farmer. His wife, Laura Vivian Kline Haines, died in 1991. Surviving are his daughter, Phyllis J. Carr of Williamsport; three sons: William T. Haines of Noblesville, Ind., Stanley R. Haines of Carlisle, Pa., and Richard L. Haines of Augusta, W.Va.; one sister, Margie E. Redmond of Martinsburg, W.Va.; two foster children: Andrew Burroughs of Madison, Tenn., and Margaret La Flame of Smithsburg,

W.Va.; 13 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren. He was also preceded in death by two sisters: Naomi Hogbin and Eloise Palmer; two brothers: Batey Haines and Cleo Haines; and two grandchildren.

**JONES, Donald George,** born June 10, 1937, in Bridgeton, N.J.; died March 4, 2008, in Greeley Hill, Calif. He was a member of the South Lancaster (Mass.) church, but attended the Groveland (Calif.) the last few years of his life. He graduated from Columbia Union College (CUC) in Takoma Park, Md. (formerly Washington Missionary College) in 1957. After completing his PhD requirements in 1961, he taught at CUC until 1988. He finished his teaching career at Atlantic Union College from 1988 to 2002. He retired to Greeley Hill, Calif. Surviving are his wife, Brenda; his son, Donald L. Jones of Laurel, Md.; his daughter, Julie Henson of

**OBITUARY SUBMISSION**  
**For information on placing an obituary in the Visitor, please call Sandra Jones at (888) 4-VISITOR or email sjones@columbiaunion.net. Obituaries are placed free of charge, in the order they are received, on a space-available basis.**





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