

CONNECTING | IMPACTING | CELEBRATING

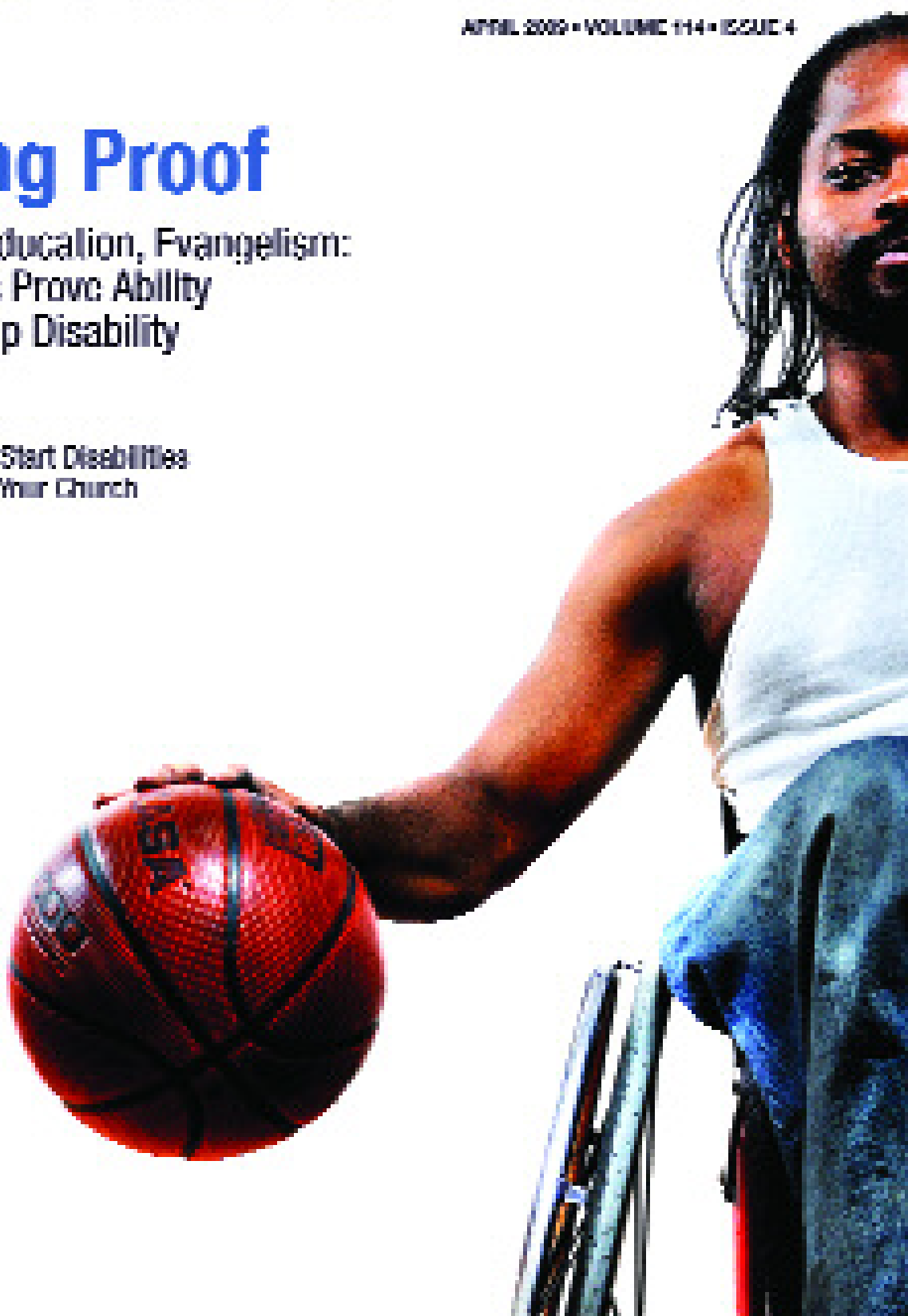
VISITOR

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Living Proof

Sports, Education, Evangelism:
Members Prove Ability
Can Trump Disability

Plus: How to Start Disabilities
Ministries at Your Church





6

News & Features

10 | A Church Ministry is Born

Gina Wahlen

Disabilities Ministries is one of the church's newest departments, although the first ministry efforts are linked to one man in 1899. Find out how this ministry is growing and who is involved today.

12 | One School for All

Deborah S. Whitfield

With millions of U.S. young people living with special needs, Columbia Union schools have the job of integrating them into regular classrooms. How is this being accomplished?

14 | Initiating Efforts at Your Church

Catherine Burks

Each church should have a Disabilities Ministries leader who directs programs that welcome those with special needs. Discover the three components needed to start a program at your church.



16 | Hindered Bodies, Triumphant Lives

Elizabeth Anderson

Three Columbia Union members are living proof that despite physical obstacles, the Lord can help you lead a vital life—all to His glory. Read their success stories.

In Every Issue

3 | Editorial

4 | Newslane

8 | Potluck

18 | Resource Guide

19 | Healthcare News

Newsletters

- 23 Allegheny East
- 25 Allegheny West
- 27 Chesapeake
- 29 Columbia Union College
- 31 Highland View Academy
- 33 Mountain View
- 35 Mt. Vernon Academy
- 37 New Jersey
- 39 Ohio
- 41 Pennsylvania
- 43 Potomac
- 45 Shenandoah Valley Academy
- 46 Takoma Academy

51 | Bulletin Board

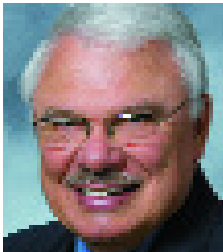
55 | Last Words

Donald Miller

About the Cover:
Demetrius Dixon is a member of the Adventist Knights, a National Wheelchair Basketball Association team sponsored in part by Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital in Rockville, Md. Photo by Patrick Smith.

Are You Disabled?

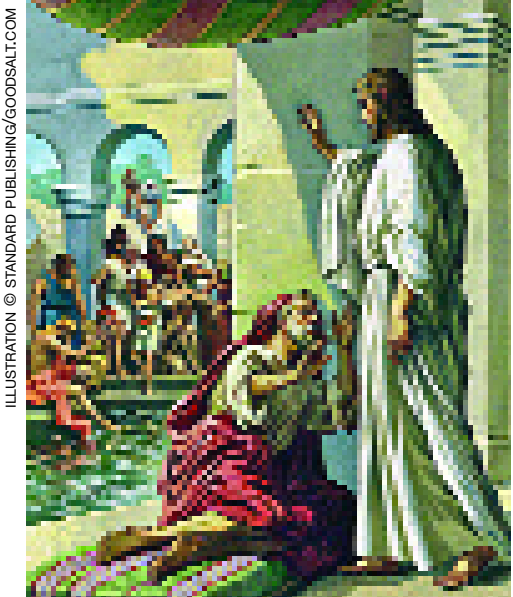
Whether we realize it or not, we are *all* disabled. Some of our disabilities are more visible; some easily hidden. Some are minor, some major. However, about 10 percent of the world's population lives with a condition that inhibits them from performing common daily tasks. They are the world's largest minority. Still, only 45 countries have antidiscrimination and other disability laws. In the United States, a survey found that only 35 percent of working age persons with disabilities are in fact working, compared to 78 percent of those without disabilities. On the positive side, companies report that employees with disabilities have better retention rates, reducing the high cost of turnover.



LIVING BY CHRIST'S EXAMPLE

The Seventh-day Adventist Church recognizes that we should include men, women, and children with disabilities in our activities and outreach programs. We need to pattern our activities to the examples given by Jesus.

The story of the invalid waiting for a cure by the pool of Bethesda is one example. Jesus picks out someone with a long-term disability. He then asks this man, who for 38 years has been yearning for healing, "Do you want to get well?" Those seemingly rhetorical words had deeper meaning than merely asking, "Do you want to be cured?" His remedy for healing is to focus on a "wholeness of life." Wholeness, however, doesn't always equate with a cure. We may look to medicine to alleviate what ails us, but we may look to



our beliefs, our relationships with others, for wholeness. Cures for many people with physical disabilities may never be found, but as a church, we can provide an environment where they may enjoy that wholeness of life.

Even in our current society, people with disabilities know what it means to be excluded, treated differently, and unable to participate in many activities. God's value system of acceptance and respect has always been different from that of the world, and we should emulate His example.

Once upon a time, a church social committee had planned a baby shower for two expectant mothers. One was a happily married lady whose husband was a well-respected officer of the church. The other was a single, unmarried, 17-year-old who had made a mistake in her private life. Handicapped socially, bearing the stigma of religious innuendoes, the teenager nevertheless had ruled against an abortion. Her pregnancy was an issue of concern by several members in the congregation. It finally became an item on the

church board agenda: to be included in the baby shower or not. This was a case of the "disabled" deciding an action that would allow or prevent another "disabled" person to enjoy fullness of life in a church environment. The ultimate answer comes from the Head of the church; the only perfect One without any handicap or disability. We should ask ourselves, "What would Jesus do?"

We are all disabled in some way by sin, but God looks beyond our disabilities to the person inside and loves us anyway.

Neville Harcombe (nharcombe@columbiaunion.net) serves as executive secretary for the Columbia Union Conference.

Union ASI Chapter Members Meet

The Columbia Union Chapter of Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) recently held their spring meetings at the Liberty church in Baltimore. Under the theme "In Times Like These We Need A Savior," the meetings featured speakers **G. Edward Reid**, stewardship director for the North American Division (NAD), and Robert Wallace, president and CEO of the Baltimore-based BITHGROUP Technologies, Inc. The two days were packed with information and inspiration to keep members focused on their ultimate goal, to share Christ in the marketplace. Participants also delivered tracts to area residents and invited them to visit the church on Sabbath.



PHOTO BY CHIP DIZZARD

"The concerns that ASI leaders have this year are more grave than ever before, but members will never stop looking to Jesus, never stop sharing Christ, and never give up," promises seven-term chapter president Denise Hayden. The next biannual meeting will be held October 23-25 in New Jersey. Read more at asiministries.org.

Former Visitor Editor Passes Away

Morten Juberg, communication director for the Columbia Union Conference and *Visitor* editor from 1965 to 1973, recently

passed away at the age of 86. The Wyoming native served a short time as a carpenter and a pastor before turning a love of news into a lifelong career in church communication.

Juberg came to the Columbia Union after serving in the Southern California and Michigan conferences. "Mort had a good sense of humor and a keen sense of what was human interest," recalls **Alva Randall**, former Columbia Union treasurer and a member of the Atholton church in Columbia, Md.



Juberg went on to serve 18 years as communication director for the North Pacific Union Conference. His wife of 61 years, Lorraine, of Troutdale, Ore., and two sons, Terry and Randall, survive him.

Review & Herald Staff Spreads Great Controversy Fervor

A plan to send one copy of Ellen White's *The Great Controversy*, free of charge, to every home in America started in North Carolina by literature evangelist Jack Henderson. The fervor is now spreading throughout the Columbia Union. Staff at the Review & Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., which is printing and mailing the books, is helping make this plan a reality. They have received funds for more than 350,000 books. "The calls have been coming in at such

a rate that as we deal with one call, three others have to leave a message," reports **Howard Scoggins**, assistant to the president.

In addition to overseas enthusiasm, some Review employees are donating a portion of their salaries for the project.

Columbia Union president Dave Weigley also supports the project. "My family was so impacted by that book that we became part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This book is treasured above silver and gold," he says.

To get involved, call (800) 600-7197, or visit greatcontroversyproject.com.

New Hope to Host Worship Conference

Chesapeake Conference's New Hope church in Fulton, Md., is hosting the Reveal Worship Conference May 13-15. Learn how to create an authentic and relevant worship environment using music, video, grace-centered sermons, and more. Speakers include Pastor **David Newman**, pastor and church



consultant Denise Vaneck, and recording artist and worship leader Nick Zork. For more information, visit revealworshipconference.com.

Correction: The name of Columbia Union College's second student missionary is Richard Ruhling, as pictured on page 12 of the March *Visitor*.



Missions Abroad Update: Blessings in Africa

With the goal to share God's blessings with members in the Columbia Union's eight-state region, as well as overseas, the union's top three officers recently visited with fellow believers in Liberia, South Africa, and Zambia.

EVANGELIZING IN LIBERIA

Late last year, union treasurer **Seth Bardu** (below, left with translator) traveled to his homeland of



Liberia in Western Africa. At the invitation of James Golay, president of the Liberia Mission, Bardu and a U.S. team of nine pastors, elders, and singing evangelists led a three-week evangelism series themed "Keys to the Kingdom." Stationed at seven meeting sites just outside the nation's capital of Monrovia, team members trained pastors and Bible workers during the day. At night they preached the Word.

"During the last Sabbath, some 340 people were baptized," said Bardu. "One young man even became a witness for his family. When they noticed the change in him, they also asked to be baptized."

"We were so inspired by church members who were willing to come, sacrifice their time, and share what little resources they had," he added. Bardu believes

that it is this devotion to the Word that has caused the church in Liberia to grow from 2,000 members in the early 1990s, to some 26,000 today, despite a civil war.

SUPPORTING SCHOOLS IN THE SOUTH

Earlier this year, union president Dave Weigley and executive secretary Neville Harcombe joined Bardu in a visit to two African schools. Their first visit was the Grahamstown Adventist School in Grahamstown, South Africa.

A few years ago, former Columbia Union executive secretary Ed Motschiedler, along with former union president Harold Lee, visited what was then a tiny, 50-student school behind the church. Inspired by the church's mission to make education accessible to all children, the



Columbia Union Conference president Dave Weigley and executive secretary Neville Harcombe reunite with former Southern Africa Union Conference president S. Wakaba.

two administrators worked with church members to raise the funds needed to build the new school.

"Today the school has over 500 students and a waiting list,"



reports Weigley. "The school's principal, students, and Francois Louw, president of the Southern Africa Union Conference, shared with us how the Columbia Union was able to make a difference in their lives."

The leaders' next stop was the fledgling Zambia Adventist University in Monze. Columbia Union officers provided leadership training to the pastors, secretaries, treasurers, and presidents who lead the rapidly growing 600,000-plus flock.

"The rapid growth in Zambia hinges on lay people who get involved in experiencing mission," explains Weigley, who is amazed at the 10-fold growth the Adventist Church in Zambia has seen in less than 20 years.

The union is now looking to help the university with its quest to raise buildings, such as dormitories and cafeterias, to house its students.

"Our dollars go a long way there, and many hundreds and thousands of people are blessed by it," adds Weigley. He gives all thanks to the Columbia Union's two healthcare systems for funding these overseas missions.

"During the last few years that we've been involved in these projects, the Lord has really blessed us, and we must be willing to share the blessings with others," Weigley adds.

Disabilities Ministries News

Columbia Union Members Join the MOB

Pennsylvania Conference's Reading Hampden Heights member **Michael Surak** is one of more than 125 Adventists in the Columbia Union—and 328 in



the United States—who are working with the MOB. The Missionaries Of the Blind (MOB) is a Personal Ministries program started by Christian Record Services for the Blind (CRSB), based in Lincoln, Neb.

Through the MOB, CRSB offers local members the opportunity to spend one or two hours a month visiting and praying with blind people, building friendships, and inviting them to church.

"Most blind people are easy to visit. They have been receiving books and tapes from us, so when visitors identify themselves as volunteers with Christian Record, they are welcomed with open arms," states David Klinedinst, CRSB Personal Ministries director and MOB leader.

"It not only helps the blind, but it's also uplifting to me," comments Surak, who has been a participant for two years. "David and I are actually close friends now. It is just a blessing to be a part of the mission that God has given us."

For more information, visit mob.christianrecord.org, or email mob@christianrecord.org.

Adventist Knights to Compete in Fifth Tournament

The Adventist Knights wheelchair basketball team (below), sponsored by Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital (adventisthealthcare.com/ARHM) in collaboration with the Spinal Cord Injury Network, will compete in its fifth anniversary tournament this fall. The competition will take place October 17 and 18 at the Discovery Sports Center in the Maryland Soccerplex in Germantown, Md.

The Adventist Knights are part of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA), which was formed in 1946 out of wheelchair basketball's popularity among war veterans. Today the NWBA has over 200 teams that comprise six divisions. Game rules, play, and playoff formats are similar to those of NCAA basketball. In addition to competing nationally, the Adventist Knights also promote disability awareness throughout the Washington, D.C., area.



PHOTO BY PATRICK SMITH

To learn more, call (240) 864-6018, or email arhmdevelopment@ahm.com.

Shiloh Starts Interdenominational Ministry

The Disabilities Ministries team (below) of Allegheny East Conference's Shiloh church in Richmond, Va., has opened their meetings to an interdenominational group of local advocates. Following the Holy Spirit's prod- ding, the group's director, Deborah Whitfield, initiated the monthly meetings last October.



Since then the Seventh-day Adventists, Baptists, Muslims, and Hindus have increased their gatherings to twice a month to discuss their beliefs, disabilities, rights, hopes, and aspirations. Whitfield also arranges for area professionals to address the group.

"We hope to start going into local schools to encourage students with disabilities to believe in themselves," reports Whitfield. "Ultimately, we desire to serve in whatever capacity we can."

For more information or to get



involved, contact Whitfield at dwhitfie8@aol.com.

Deaf Ministries Unites Division Leaders

Following the first nationwide leadership training event for Deaf Ministries held last August, sponsored by the North American Division, ministry leaders and participants (above) are gearing up for more inspiration this summer.

Three members of Potomac Conference's Deaf Evangelistic Adventist Fellowship (DEAF) congregation in Silver Spring, Md., represented the Columbia Union last fall: Cathy Ingram and David and Francisca Trexler. Under the theme of unity, participants shared their needs and ideas for Deaf Ministries, and prayed for each other.

"It brought a blessing of unity to the workers from all over the country," said David, former DEAF pastor and speaker/director for Adventist Deaf Ministries. "We got to know each other better and to understand the difficulties we face in the ministry."

For more details on the upcoming division-wide meeting, visit deafadventist.org.

Sign Language Interpreters Invited to National Workshop

Columbia Union members are invited to attend a special

workshop for sign language interpreters July 2-12. The workshop will be part of the Western Deaf Camp Meeting at Milo Adventist Academy in Days Creek, Ore.

Two professional interpreters, including **Esther Doss**, Adventist Deaf Ministry's officer for develop-



ment and fundraising, will review the ethics in interpreting and the true meaning of deaf ministry, and will give classes on voice-interpreting, classifiers, shop talk, and a forum discussion. Attendees can also learn how to strengthen their American Sign Language skills, with a special focus on religious signing.

For more information, contact Doss at esther@deafadventist.org.

Educators Attend 46th Disabilities Conference

Three Columbia Union educators attended the 46th annual Learning Disabilities Conference held in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Tracy Dawes Daniels, learning specialist at Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) in Hamburg, Pa., and her

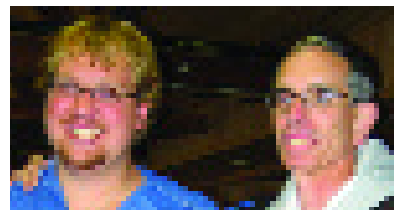


assistant Lauren Anderson, along with Jen Song, learning specialist at Shenandoah Adventist Academy in New Market, Va., learned about the changes in the world of education that can benefit students. Some of the topics addressed related to students with disabilities and how they transition from high school to college.

"We also learned about new research in the field of neuropsychology as it relates to various disabilities such as ADHD, dyslexia, and emotional and behavioral disorders," reported Daniels.

DEAF Church to Host Ninth Fall Retreat

This fall, October 22-26, Potomac Conference's Deaf Evangelistic Adventist Fellowship congregation of Silver Spring, Md., will host its ninth annual Deaf



Daniel Foley (left), one of 60 Deaf Eastern Autumn Revival Camp Meeting attendees in 2008, was blessed when former Pastor David Trexler of Deaf Evangelistic Adventist Fellowship baptized him.

Eastern Autumn Revival (DEAR) Camp Meeting. Held at Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va., the DEAR retreat will once again offer fun and adventure as well as training in health, safety, and relationships. There are also special programs for teens and young adults.

Further updates will be announced later this summer at deafadventist.org/dear.

What's New?

Book > Images of God Thaddeus S. Moore

Although he never intended to write a book, Thaddeus S.



"This book results from both a strong personal desire and a compulsion to share what I have received [from] God's amazing grace and love." —Thaddeus S. Moore

Moore, a member of Allegheny East Conference's Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C., said the Holy Spirit encouraged him to do otherwise. His inspiration came years ago after witnessing "three distinguishable images" through an unexpected source, a vision that changed his Christian experience.

"I want readers to know that we should, indeed, be preparing for the second coming of Christ," says the retired D.C. public

school teacher. "All of us should be looking, and hoping, and praying to be ready when He comes."

Moore

proves that the Lord

sometimes communi-

cates with us

in unique

and creative ways. Order a copy by calling (301) 372-8563.



CD > Bella Voce

This self-titled debut of the Chesapeake Conference-based trio is full of the songs that have made them popular in Maryland, throughout the United States, and beyond.

The three members—Karla Rivera, Javier Gonzalez, and German Rodriguez—



mix their dynamic voices with piano in a sacred blend of favorites like "You'll Never Walk Alone."

Although Bella Voce officially formed in 2006, the three have been singing classical music together for more than 10 years. These Spencerville church members, based in Silver Spring, Md., got their start as members of the Columbia Collegiate Chorale and ProMusica at Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md. Their mission: "to spread joy and God's love through the beauty of music."

Find out more and order the CD at bellavocetrio.com.

Magazine > The New Vibrant Life

Vibrant Life magazine certainly isn't new.

Actually, it launched more than

120 years

ago—it's the longest run-

ning health

magazine in

our nation. What's new is the

approach editor Heather

Quintana (below) is taking with

the health message and the mag-

azine's more colorful appearance.

"We strive

to present

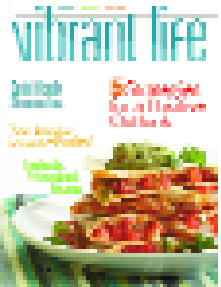
health prin-

ciples in a

modern way

that works

for people



who are busy," says Quintana, a Frederick (Md.) church member. "We want to give practical, affordable suggestions that fit into demanding schedules and help people prevent and fight disease."

New topics include healthy foods for less than 50 cents, five-minute health boosters, four-ingredient healthy recipes, the benefits of Sabbath rest, and simple exercises you can do at home. Quintana also plans to make a greater connection between health and spirituality. Read more and get a free preview issue through vibrantlife.com.

WholeHealth

A Perspective on Well-Being

Recent economic changes have had a negative impact on how

Keeping Score

U.S. Citizens With Disabilities

54.4

Number in millions who are disabled

19

Percentage of population with a disability

228,000

Number of children under age 3 who are disabled

46

Percentage of disabled who are employed

27

Percentage of 25- to 64-year-old disabled living in poverty

Source: U.S. Census Bureau December 18, 2008, release

people view their overall personal lives and their hope for the future. For instance, in January 2008, 49 percent of Americans rated



themselves as thriving, 47 percent struggling, and 4 percent suffering. However, by December those percentages had changed to 38 percent thriving, 58 percent struggling, and 4 percent suffering.

These figures represent a portion of the data collected in the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index (well-beingindex.com), which daily surveys 1,000 adults nationwide. The index gives a daily measure of people's well-being based on the World Health Organization definition of health as "not only the absence of infirmity and disease but also a state of physical, mental, and social well-being."

However, research has found that our well-being is largely controlled by our belief about a situation, rather than the situation itself. When life overwhelms us with its difficulties, a Christian sees God's hand and engages the situation as an opportunity for growth and trust in Him. Subsequently, we make a positive impact on the well-being of others by sharing our Christian perspective and extending hope to those struggling around us!

—Lilly Tryon, MSN, RN, Adventist WholeHealth Wellness Center

What You Bring to the Table

In the Spotlight > Blueberry Patch Ministry

When members of Pennsylvania Conference's Berwick church realized that an elderly member needed help maintaining a blueberry patch on his farm, they quickly gathered to offer year-round assistance. That was a few years ago. Today those same church members have turned blueberries into a more extensive outreach effort through the Blueberry Patch Ministry.

"We've appreciated them. If they did not help, we wouldn't have the blueberries," said



93-year-old Agnes Eroh (right). She and her younger brother, Mark (left), 91, have shared the family farm in Weatherly, Pa., for decades.

The Pennsylvanian members now assist the elderly, disabled individuals, single mothers, or anyone else in need. Group

members include Berwick Pastor John Peters, member Adam Drumheller, first elder Carl Rittenhouse, and other young families.

They work as a group or individually to offer transportation to medical appointments and the grocery store, move furniture, repair household items, or tackle farm chores. For Drumheller, interacting with the people is time well spent: "I see this ministry as a barrier breaker to reach others beyond the church walls."

Drumheller hopes to one day turn the Blueberry Patch Ministry into a nonprofit organization complete with a truck that will aid in their efforts. Group members share his vision and want to show Jesus' love through acts of kindness to people in the church and community.

"We are just trying to meet people's needs and, hopefully, as we get all of this work completed, the Lord will just bless us with more things to do," concluded Rittenhouse.—Tanisha Greenidge



Blueberry Patch founders: Carl Rittenhouse, Adam Drumheller, and Shawn Titus

A Church Ministry is Born

Gina Wahlen

Opening the eyes of the blind, unstopping the ears of the deaf, helping the lame to walk—while Jesus was on Earth, He devoted much of His ministry to helping people with disabilities. In fact, 25 of the 35 recorded miracles of Jesus involve disabled believers. And He entrusted believers to follow His example, giving them the commission to reach *everyone* with the good news of salvation.



IN THE BEGINNING

The Seventh-day Adventist Church first demonstrated its commitment to minister to all—including those with disabilities—when in 1899 a legally blind young man named Austin Wilson (left) established the Christian Record Braille Foundation (now known as Christian Record Services). Wilson started producing a Braille magazine he titled *Christian Record*.

By 1911 the magazine's circulation had grown to 2,300. Since then, Christian Record Services (CRS) has grown to include eight other periodicals, over 1,700 recorded “talking books,” National Camps for Blind Children, and continues to minister to those who are visually impaired or blind.

GROWING AWARENESS

By the late 20th century, there was a growing awareness, both within the Adventist Church and throughout North America, of being more inclusive of people with a variety of disabilities.

In 1978 Warren Banfield, director of the North American Division's (NAD) Office of Human Relations (OHR), had a strong desire for the church to be the lead example concerning appropriate accommodations for people with disabilities. Enlisting the help of his friend Robert Wilson, who was blind, the two conducted numerous educational



Helen Keller, who appreciated Christian Record Services' work for the blind, visits with John Baerg, an organization representative (circa 1911).

seminars, successfully teaching others the many challenges and abilities of those who are blind.

The ministry was given broader scope in 1989 when Rosa Banks, EdD, new OHR director, formulated the Commission for People With Disabilities. Clarence Hodges, then CRS president, sent one of their representatives to serve on the commission.

The commission developed strategies based on four components: accommodation, accessibility, encouragement, and employment. It also identified



John C. Smith (middle), Allegheny West Conference Religious Liberties director—here with his wife, Helen, and former conference president James Lewis—was honored for his impact on Disabilities Ministries during his 10-year leadership of that department.

seven major disability categories: mobility, visual, hearing, developmental or cognitive, speech, mental, and hidden (e.g., epilepsy and lupus).

Comprised of at least 51 percent disabled members, the commission fashioned the concept of a Disabilities Awareness Sabbath—a special emphasis day to educate Adventist members concerning the evangelism and inclusion of people with disabilities within the local church. These programs are now conducted across North America.

Another major goal the commission achieved was setting up a strong organizational structure, with representatives at the union and conference levels, with the objective of establishing a Disabilities Ministries coordinator in every church.

Hodges collaborated with Banks in developing a recommendation for the worldwide Adventist Church to establish Disabilities Ministries as an official department. It was approved in 1995 at the 56th General Conference Session at Utrecht in The Netherlands.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The ministry continues to grow and benefit from the talents of many gifted individuals such as Joan Bova, a wheelchair user from Florida who supplied the core curriculum and actively trained ministry leaders; Mike Harrell, who became the Adventist Church's first Disabilities Ministries coordinator; Thompson Kay, a skilled sign language interpreter and teacher for those who are deaf; and Catherine Burks (pictured above, right), the commission's

longest-serving member who shared valuable information about speech disabilities.

Burks has been serving as the Allegheny West Conference disabilities coordinator since 1989. She has watched the ministry grow into a powerful tool of sharing God's love with others—with 30 local church coordinators making over 200 visits to disabled people in their homes—offering them prayer and Bible studies. As a direct result of this ministry, Burks has also witnessed numerous baptisms. “I believe the ministry will grow when we as individuals grow,” she says.

Having struggled with speech impairment since the age of 13, Burks travels throughout her conference, giving special presentations in churches—amazed that her disability has decreased dramatically. “I learned that the Lord heals as you go,” she comments. “Had I never moved, I never would have known. He's awesome!”



Michael Mewborn is the ministry coordinator for Potomac Conference's Hampton Roads (Va.) church. While Mewborn's disability has inspired the church to incorporate many accommodations in making the building “disability friendly,” he also sees the ministry helping people be more aware of others' needs. “You look around,” he says, “and become aware that someone might need a hand. It's about helping one another.”

AN IMPROVED FUTURE

While much progress has been made, Charlotte Thoms, current NAD Disabilities Ministries coordinator, believes that the most important aspect of this ministry is “the development of character that reflects the character of Jesus and leads to the same behavior—viewing all people as worthy of inclusion in the wonderful world the gospel provides those who accept Jesus as their personal Savior.”

In 2009 ministry leaders hope to find individuals with expertise in the seven major disability groups to develop resources. “We must use every method of mass media available and solicit spokespersons to bring hope to the countless invisibles,” she counsels.

Gina Wahlen writes from Silver Spring, Md., where she lives with her husband, Clinton, and two children, Daniel (17) and Heather (11). (Note: Joan Bova provided much of the historical data for this article.)

One School for All

Columbia Union Schools Make Strides to Integrate Kids With Special Needs

Deborah S. Whitfield

According to research, there are nearly 4 million people under the age of 18 living with a disability. That is nearly 6 percent of youth in the United States! There are 14 categories of learning, physical, and emotional disabilities listed under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

So, what are Columbia Union schools doing to integrate these children into regular classrooms, instead of setting them apart?

Several union leaders recently commented on the need for technological and other resources in our schools to meet the requirements of special needs children, and they all echoed the feeling that the level of awareness is proceeding at a slow pace. They also mentioned a need to develop occupational and physical therapy facilities on various campuses. Students with Asberger syndrome or emotional disabilities are being placed elsewhere because some schools are not equipped to service them. There are several reasons for this, but one prevalent factor is that budgets are tight.



Blue Mountain Academy learning specialist Tracy Dawes Daniels (standing) interacts with a student in the school's Learning Support and Testing Center.



Principal Kimberlie Hogan helped establish Olney Adventist Preparatory School in Olney, Md., as a school with an individualized approach to learning.

But, despite a recognized need to improve in some areas, there are many who are raising awareness and making significant progress.

LEADING THE PACK

One model school is Potomac Conference's Olney Adventist Preparatory School in Olney, Md. In 1997 principal Kimberlie Hogan, formerly a public school educator and the parent of a disabled son, partnered with several other visionaries to open the school with an individualized approach. Their primary focus was to look at gifted students. "When you get students who are gifted, you get students with disabilities," explains Hogan.

In an effort to meet every child's need, Olney Prep uses a system they call differentiation strategies. Teachers allow no more than three to five identified children with mild learning disabilities (e.g., dyslexia or attention deficit disorder) in a classroom. "Our primary goal is [to protect] the spirit and faith of our children," explains Hogan, "but without a focus on their individual needs, we could break

their spirits, and then we fail them on many levels."

In addition to three trained Para-educators who work with special needs children, the school also utilizes audible books and a microphone device for teachers with soft voices. For students with visual impairments, teachers use magnifying lamps and overlays in class, and use copiers to enlarge reading materials. They also use kinesthetic presentation—kids moving during instruction.

Other schools like Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) in Hamburg, Pa.; Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary (SVAE) School in New Market, Va.; and Ramah Adventist Junior Academy in Cleveland offer accommodations and modifications for students with learning disabilities or with visual or hearing impairment.

Five years ago, BMA embarked upon a plan to serve students who were at risk of failing classes. The academy hired Tracy Dawes Daniels as a learning specialist to work with the students. She created the Learning Support and Testing Center to provide tutoring services for students, as well as curriculum modifications for disabled students. Students can also get their own psychological testing and individualized education plan. With the help of two grants from the Commonwealth Foundation last year, BMA expanded its center to include a remedial math and English class, specifically for students with disabilities.

Daveen Williams (below), a special education teacher at SVAE, is developing unique strategies for keeping her special needs students on a positive learning track. For instance, she recognized that her greatest challenge with some was to keep them focused during lessons. As a result, she awards a checkmark to those who pay attention. Once they earn enough checks—whether it takes them a day or a week—their parents reward them with a tangible prize. The successful strategy has helped Williams gain control of her most difficult students.



MAKING STRIDES

Dave Morgan, Pennsylvania Conference's vice president for education, reports that many of their schools are utilizing the learning services their county's intermediate unit provides. Services include diagnostic testing, therapy, counseling, as

well as a monthly visit with a psychologist to discuss staff's specific needs and to strategize about how to better prepare and work with such students.

Potomac Conference has a special education office led by Loida Doukmetzian. Together with the schools, her office staff writes educational plans based on testing and employment and individualized accommodation—plans that will build success in students with challenges.

The new *REACH (Reaching to Educate All Children for Heaven) Resource Manual* (nadeducation.org) is raising awareness about educating disabled students. Debra Fryson, associate director for the NAD Office of Education; LaVona Gillham, Columbia Union Conference's associate director for the Office of Education; and Karohn Young, principal of Crossroads Adventist School in Ellicott City, Md.—research/inclusion members of the manual committee—are some of those commended for developing such an insightful resource.

Disabilities Ministries is an inclusive ministry, supported by the motto "including all; omitting none."

"Led by the REACH mission, we are training teachers how to accommodate students of varying abilities in the regular classroom," explains Gillham. "This includes both the academically challenged as well as the accelerated learner. Treating each student 'fairly,' not equally, means giving each student what he or she needs."

Deborah Whitfield is a North American Division Disabilities Ministries representative and a member of the Shiloh church in Petersburg, Va.



Karohn Young, principal of the Crossroads Adventist School in Ellicott City, Md., works hard to integrate students with special needs into the regular classroom.

Initiating Efforts at Your Church

It is the goal of all conference leaders in the Columbia Union to have a Disabilities Ministries director in place at each church. Whether your church currently has a disabled member or not, being prepared to serve someone with special needs is the greatest gesture of true welcome.

If your church does *not* have an active ministry, with one in five Americans living with a disability, there are plenty of reasons to start one. Here are three components for initiating a Disabilities Ministries team:

Catherine Burks

1. START A MINISTRY

Starting a ministry for those with special needs requires five actions: pray, learn, discuss, formulate a plan, and act. Of course, any prayer-based ministry is a successful ministry, so start with prayer and ask God to lead.

Disabilities Ministries leaders should learn what the Bible, Ellen White, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and publications like the *Disabilities Ministries Handbook* (adventsource.org) say regarding this outreach. Knowledge is power, and being sensitive to others' needs demonstrates Christianity in action.

Leaders should also become familiar with the four-part mission of the North American Division



Disabilities Ministries team members from the Shiloh church in Cincinnati, Ohio, regularly discuss their ministry efforts to disabled residents with Pastor Harcourt King.

(NAD) Disabilities Ministries Department and incorporate what they can into their church's ministry. The NAD's mission, as outlined by director Charlotte Thoms, is to keep with the instruction given by Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20. Read more at nadadventist.org/disability.

Listen to your missionary spirit and discuss ministry ideas with others who share your passion, making sure to include the pastor and church board. Plan together what methods can be used to welcome those with disabilities.

Put your plans into action by launching your ministry with a special event, and then continue the enthusiasm and growth through additional services and social activities. (Your actions may also include adjustments to the physical church building, but that's a different article.)

Allegheny West Conference's Shiloh church in Cincinnati, Ohio, witnesses to disabled members through home visitation, prayer, and Bible study. Members enjoy potluck dinners, sharing progress reports with Pastor Harcourt King, and serving in church offices. "All church ministries are important as part of the church body," says Shiloh member Vergelia Pennington. "The unique part of this ministry is that members are not only displaying the capabilities that the Lord gave them, but also the love of God."

2. HOST A DISABILITIES AWARENESS SABBATH

Now that you have established a ministry in your church, it is time to educate and include members



in the activities. They, too, need to be sensitive to the needs of those with disabilities. Here are some ways to set apart time from a normal church program to raise awareness:

■ Abbreviate Sabbath School and allow a panel of members with various disabilities to share information and answer ques-

tions. This increases the sensitivity of church members. Audrey Disbennett (above), a member of Ohio Conference's First Church in Cincinnati, is a good example of an appropriate panel member. Disbennett could share how she plays a valuable role in the church by serving on the telephone ministry team. She calls members when they are sick or just to say "hello." She also keeps the church body informed of deaths, births, illnesses, etc.

■ For a special awareness worship service, select a speaker who is knowledgeable about disability issues and what the Bible says about serving *all* who



"Although Matthew has physical limitations, he enjoys helping others as much as possible," says father Mark Douglas of the 19-year-old who enjoys playing drums for the Summersville (W.Va.) church vocal group, the MDs.

are "broken." It could be the pastor or one of the ministry team members. The service should also include several persons with disabilities, having them participate in Scripture reading, prayer, special music, deacon/usher duties, etc.

At the Mountain View Conference's Summersville (W.Va.) church, Matthew Douglas enjoys accompanying the MDs music group when they sing. Douglas is an enthusiastic 19-year-old with moderate cerebral palsy.

■ Host an afternoon disabilities awareness workshop. According to Joan Bova, a Florida-based member of the NAD Commission for People With Disabilities, this may be done in several ways. Present a workshop packet with audience discussion; share excerpts from the *Disabilities Ministries Handbook*, which lists the seven major disabilities; or present ideas through dramas or skits.

3. GO TELL AND DO LIKEWISE

Jesus' commission admonishes us to minister in love as we ensure that the gospel is accessible to everyone. The work of Disabilities Ministries volunteers has relieved some of the challenges and barriers those with disabilities face within our churches, but "there is still a lot we need to do," says Potomac Conference member Kathy Johnson (above, right), from the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md. She says that her church plays an intricate part in her life as a person with cerebral palsy, but there are still many churches that need "to work on being physically accessible and welcoming." More importantly, she adds, "We need to look at persons with disabilities as people."



Catherine Burks is Disabilities Ministries director for the Allegheny West Conference, and a member of the Shiloh church in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Hindered Bodies, Triumphant Lives

Three Columbia Union Members Share Success Despite Physical Obstacles

Elizabeth Anderson

Ember Chavers was visiting her grandmother—her first trip without her parents—when they realized that she was deaf. “I was subsequently diagnosed with severe/profound bilateral sensorineural hearing loss at the age of 2-and-a-half,” recalls the 27-year-old member of Allegheny East Conference’s Calvary church in Newport News, Va.

At the age of 4, Chavers’ mother learned and used Cued Speech, a phonetic hand system to read lips, “because she wanted me to enjoy reading as she did,” she says.

Chavers is grateful for schoolteachers and speech pathologists who spent extra time with her. Her unique educational experience ended up paving the way for other deaf and hard of hearing students.

“Transcription for the deaf was used in corporate settings and in undergraduate and graduate education, but not for deaf students in my school district, or any school district in the state, including most



“To find somebody so invested in Adventist education, you can’t take that for granted,” says Maria Johnson, MD, board treasurer for the Calvary Adventist School in Newport News, Va., of Ember Chavers. “We have a treasure in her.”

states on the East Coast,” reports Chavers.

During her seventh-grade year, after praying and researching, Chavers’ parents met with the school superintendent about obtaining a Computer Assisted Notetaking system. She was the first person in the state of Virginia to use one, and later helped others learn to use it.

In high school, Chavers was able to choose a Cued Speech Transliterater, a transcriber who stayed with her all four years. High school wasn’t always easy, and instructors weren’t always supportive, but this motivated her to persevere.

Chavers received a blow in the fall of her sophomore year. The residual hearing deteriorated in her best ear, leaving her profoundly deaf. “I thought my dreams were shattered because I used to hear so many sounds with the hearing aid,” she said. She begged God to restore her hearing, but later realized a cochlear implant was her only choice. She used the implant through the end of high school.

In 2004 Chavers was “shocked to learn” that she was one of the first deaf graduates from Thomas Nelson Community College in Hampton, Va. Three years later, she earned a bachelor’s degree from Norfolk State University.

Chavers is now the instructor and choreographer for her church’s sign language choir. She also teaches sign language to staff and students at her church’s school.

SHARE YOUR GIFTS

Kathie Wright had a friendless childhood because of what she calls “slowness of speech.” She explains, “If I spoke, I faced the risk of being teased. If I did not speak, I was considered a snob.”

Wright was placed in a foster home as a young teen. Her caretakers attended Chesapeake Conference’s Rock Hall (Md.) church, where she still maintains a membership.

She discovered Highland View Academy (HVA) during a summer working in the kitchen at Mount Aetna Camp in Hagerstown, Md. She ventured to the



“Kathie Wright is a powerful example of God’s ability to take our weaknesses and totally transform them into opportunities to bring Him praise,” says Frank Bondurant, vice president for Ministries Development at the Columbia Union Conference.

academy one day, had lunch, and met some students.

“This was the first time in my life that I felt I belonged, and these students honestly cared and seemed not to notice my speech difficulty,” she recalls. HVA was where she wanted to be.

During her two-and-a-half years at HVA, Wright realized God had plans for her life. “It was at that time that I vowed to always put Christ first in my life,” she states. It is also when she realized the positive effect she had on listeners through song. “I enjoyed the blessing it brought to others.”

These days, she and her husband, Sam, travel the continent with the Country Gospel Music Association. They also enjoy ministering to patients at the Veterans Affairs nursing home in Wilmington, Del. Wright has even performed before two governors.

“Singing is a wonder, even to me,” Wright says. She is aware her speech attracts attention during performances. “It is then that I can effectively share the gift of song. My praise to God is that He can use us—no matter who we are—for His praise and glory.”

Elizabeth Anderson is a communication professional living in the greater Washington, D.C., area.

WORK WITHIN YOUR LIMITS

Pastor Leighton Palmer of Allegheny West Conference’s Maranatha church in Cleveland spent most of his life without physical challenges. He was an athletic youngster who enjoyed playing soccer and basketball. He also found friendship with Christ as a college student.

Palmer says that friendship was tested when he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) in 2000. Although people mean well when they pray for healing, now his prayer is different. “Do what you want,” he tells God. “When it comes right down to it, I want You to save me.”

Palmer’s form of MS leads to a slow loss of function. Nine years after his diagnosis, he said that physically he’s 60 percent of where he used to be. He now needs a walker or wheelchair for mobility. Mentally, he’s 90 percent. But spiritually, he says he’s 150 percent, and still growing.

The progression of MS hasn’t sapped Palmer’s passion for ministry; it’s only affected *how* he ministers. Instead of traveling to visit sick parishioners or conduct Bible studies, he picks up the telephone. “It gives me a lot of joy when I call people; lift them up,” he admits.

Palmer doesn’t believe physical challenges should hinder *anyone’s* ministry. “Do not stop doing what you like doing for the Master. Just work within your limits,” he encourages. “The relationship with God is paramount. Everything else falls around that.”



“Do not stop doing what you like doing for the Master. Just work within your limits,” encourages Allegheny West Conference pastor Leighton Palmer.

Resource Guide

TRACI LEMON

Ministering to the Disabled

An inclusive church is a dynamic, Christ-centered church. To help get people with disabilities involved in church life, and for churches to offer services to them, all participants need to be informed. Here are some helpful resources:

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

Columbia Union Conference Disabilities

Ministries—Contact local ministry coordinators and learn how to get involved or receive assistance. Visit columbiaunion.org and select the Services link.

North American Division (NAD) Disabilities Ministries

Department—They provide a growing amount of helpful information, such as etiquette tips for communicating with people with disabilities. See nadadventist.org/disability.

Adventist Deaf Ministries—Find a Columbia Union church with a deaf ministry, learn more about deaf culture, and order materials at deafadventist.org. For Bible studies and related materials in print and video formats, go to deafbibleschool.com.

Christian Record Services for the Blind (CRSB)

Get free publications in Braille, large-print, and audio formats, plus access to full-vision books, a lending library, a digital hymnal, gift Bibles and study guides, National Camps for Blind Children, and college scholarships. Visit christianrecord.org.

Missionaries of the Blind (MOB)—A division of CRSB, the MOB creates opportunities for open-hearted church members to reach out to this underserved segment of the population. For more details, stop by mob.christianrecord.org.

PUBLICATIONS

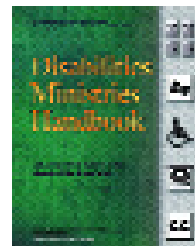
REACH Resource Manual—This *Reaching to Educate All Children for Heaven* guide helps teachers learn how to assemble a support team of Adventist professionals who can effectively accommodate students in need. Download a free copy at nade-education.org; click Resources, then



Teacher Resources. For a hard copy, email lorraine@colorpress.com. Price: \$10.50 or CD: \$3

Handbook for Disabilities

Ministries—This NAD resource covers how to start a ministry and plan a Disabilities Awareness Sabbath, and gives practical tips. Order from adventsource.org or (800) 328-0525. Price: \$14.95



Can You Hear Us?—This new 22-page booklet by Adventist Deaf Ministries offers amazing tidbits, myth busters, shocking statistics, some how-tos, and heartwarming stories. To order, email adm7@deafadventist.org. Price: \$10/10 copies

Connected—This is a contemporary Web magazine by CRSB for young adults, featuring news, blogs, and articles. Connect at connected.christianrecord.org.

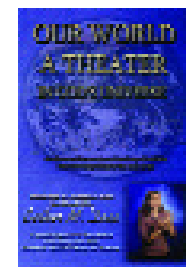
CDS/DVDS/VIDEOS

Signs of God's Love 2—While on a spring walk in the Ozarks, speaker Esther M. Doss points out Bible verses to answer questions on death and the hope of the resurrection. Order through deafadventist.org.



Our World: A Theater in God's

Universe—This DVD gives a basic version of the entire Bible in just two hours through American Sign Language. Order through adventsource.org. Price: \$19.95



ShareHim Video Link—Watch an interview with NAD Disabilities Ministries coordinator Charlotte Thoms as she describes the important work of this ministry. Download the video at <http://media.sharehim.org/src.html>.

Traci Lemon writes from Silver Spring, Md.

Profiles in Caring



As One Who Serves

Through a series of phrases that can be found throughout the scriptures, the character of God is revealed. In various places we learn about who God is by the way he is described.

We learn that God will protect us: “I am thy shield.” “I am with you to save you and deliver you.”

We learn of the divine qualities of God: “I am holy.” “I am merciful.” “I am the one who wipes out your transgressions.”

We learn of the way God has locked himself into a relationship with humanity in space and time: “I am the first—I also am the last,” “I am God, the God of thy fathers.” “I am the Lord. I do not change.”

We learn of the compassionate character of God: “I am the Lord who exercises loving-kindness, justice, and righteousness on the earth.” “I am a God who is near.”

These are statements that help us both to know who God is and that he wants to be made known.

Adventist HealthCare is built upon one unique way in which God is known, wonderfully expressed in the Christian tradition in this phrase: “I am among you as one who serves” (Luke 22:27).

From this phrase we take a special calling, expressed throughout our work and mission, and captured in our mission statement: “We demonstrate God’s care by improving the health of people and communities through a ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing.”

This is at the core of all that we do. We believe that to serve is a sacred task to which we have been called. Through providing excellent healthcare in a loving and compassionate way, we make real the character of God.

Our work each day is an expression of God’s character, and an example of God’s care in our world. Because of this, no challenge is too great or task too small to be used by God to demonstrate His care.

Each day—throughout our organization, in a variety of ways, in diverse situations—we seek to live out this mission. Every person contributes to the expression of God’s care that is found in our institutions, and the work that is ours each day carries the opportunity to be the instruments of God’s care, the hands and heart of his providence.

William G. “Bill” Robertson
President CEO
Adventist HealthCare





An Effective Partnership

One of the goals of Adventist HealthCare (AHC) is to keep people from going to the hospital. That may seem like an odd business plan, until you realize that a hospital's goal is a healthy community.

The Seventh-day Adventist church has always emphasized the importance of healthy living, healing, and wholeness. Since the church and health care share so many goals, it only makes sense for them to work together as partners to achieve them.

Ismael Gama is Vice President for Mission Integration and Spiritual Care at AHC, and it is his mission to foster this partnership. "We are focusing on two programs contributing to a stronger alliance between our healthcare institutions and local congregations," he states. "Health Ministry Training

and Faith Community Nursing."

AHC offers free training in how to develop a health ministry in your congregation. Designed for churches with a current health ministries program as well as for those looking to start one, the training offers practical advice on building a foundation for health ministry.

The first two-day training course took place last September at Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Maryland. Fifty-eight people from 25 different congregations, both SDA and other denominations, learned ways to develop, expand, or revitalize health ministry in their churches. The February 2009 course filled up quickly, and as the attendees of different faiths and cultures shared their experiences and calling, the blessing spread.

"We emphasize that each congregation is different," explains Sue Heitmuller, who helps coordinate the Health Ministry Team Building Course. "We give them resources and guidance on how they can integrate health and faith. Some are far along that path, and some haven't even thought about it."

At first there seems to be one difference between the Adventist attendees and those from other denominations. For Adventists, "the health message" is such a part of their existence it seems commonplace and ordinary. But for many of the other attendees, this is exciting and new. They exclaim over the quotes from *Ministry of Healing* and are amazed that the Bible reports that Jesus healed even more than He preached—that this work is His work. As they realize what it means that Jesus came to make us whole,

their enthusiasm leads the entire group into seeing health ministry through new eyes.

The newly trained team members are not sent out to struggle along on their own. AHC provides assistance in helping them develop their health ministry and team. There are monthly support sessions, as well as assistance with outreach projects and specialized ministries. On-going support also includes access to health care professionals and community resources for lectures, classes, screenings, flu shots, and other programs.

A partnership with churches can go a long way toward helping AHC fulfill its mission of building healthy communities. "We help the health ministry team members mobilize the church so it becomes a center for healing in the community," explains Katia Reinert, Health Ministry and Parish Nursing Coordinator at AHC. "A partnership between health organizations and local congregations has been shown to be a way to really make a difference in the health of the people."

Some congregations are fortunate

enough to have as their health ministry team leader a faith community nurse. Faith community nursing is a specialty in the nursing profession that utilizes the skills of a registered nurse to develop the health ministry of the congregation. The faith community nurse integrates faith and health, weaving healing into the fabric of congregation so that it's an integral part of the whole rather than an occasional vegetarian cooking class. As the number one resource at church for health issues and health evangelism, the faith community nurse promotes wellness for the congregation and the community.

AHC's Faith Community Nursing Program offers a 40-hour training course enabling participants to begin a faith community practice. Focusing on the principle that health and healing comes from a wholeness of body, mind, and spirit, the course facilitates wholistic health across the age span of a congregation. At a special dedication service at the completion of the training, the nurses pledge to serve God as they

assist their congregations in experiencing the life that Jesus came to give us more abundantly (John 10:10).

"Faith community nurse" is the new name for "parish nurse." The term "parish" comes from a root word that means "to walk beside." Faith community nurses walk beside the members of their congregations in their journey to wholeness, empowering each of them to take ownership of their health and achieve the optimal level.

Adventist HealthCare recognizes that the best partner for community health is the local congregation.

Are you interested in the Faith Community Nursing Preparation Program? A session will be held July 25-30, 2009. Would you like to build a Health Ministry Team at your church? The next class is scheduled to take place September 19-20. Seating is limited, so register as soon as you can. For more information, contact Katia Reinert at 301-891-6102 or kgreiner@ahm.com



Faith Community Nursing Program at Brinklow

When Betsy Johnson heard about faith community nursing eight years ago, she knew this was her calling. Brinklow Seventh-day Adventist Church, which she attended, offered to pay for the parish nursing course (as it was called then), and she promised that she would bring it back to the congregation.

At first she was a volunteer, but eventually it became a part-time paid position. She also works part time at Washington Adventist Hospital.

Her programs at Brinklow are multi-faceted. She has set up a bereavement ministry, which helps the family in practical and thoughtful ways. She has developed a multi-level emergency plan for the church and its members. Exercise classes meet twice a week, and cooking classes are offered several times a year. Once a month, Betsy sets up a table in the lobby to meet the health concerns of the members by taking their blood pressure or answering questions.

And of course she visits the sick at home and in the hospital, and organizes other members to do the same.

Her programs also connect with the community. She lets her

congregation know about prevention or wellness screenings at local hospitals, and finds volunteers to help. She organized a Men's Night Out, which involved (among other things) interactive and vigorous video game workouts. The church assists a transition home for homeless women and unwed mothers, and it is partnering with a local Baptist church to provide an adolescent clinic.

The faith community nursing program at Brinklow is always evolving. "Inreach and outreach, that is my focus," Betsy says. "Bringing the resources from community to congregation and the resources of the congregation to community—including our spirituality."

Una alianza efectiva

Una de las metas de Adventist HealthCare (AHC) es hacer lo posible para que la gente no tenga que ir al hospital. Eso pareciera ser un plan de negocios raro, si no se considera que la meta de un hospital es una comunidad sana.

La Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día siempre enfatiza la importancia de la vida sana. Ya que la iglesia y AHC comparten metas similares es lógico que trabajen juntos como aliados para alcanzarlas.

La misión de Ismael Gama, vicepresidente para integración de misión y atención espiritual en AHC, es promover esa alianza. “Enfocamos dos programas que contribuyen a una alianza más firme entre nuestras instituciones de salud y las congregaciones locales: Entrenamiento en el ministerio de salud y enfermeras comunitarias de base religiosa”, señala Gama.

AHC provee entrenamiento gratuito sobre cómo desarrollar un ministerio de salud en las congregaciones. Este entrenamiento ofrece consejos prácticos para establecer las bases para un ministerio de salud.

El primer seminario de entrenamiento se llevó a cabo en septiembre del año pasado en Washington Adventist Hospital en Takoma Park, Maryland. Cincuenta y ocho personas de 25 organizaciones, tanto adventistas como de otras denominaciones, aprendieron maneras de desarrollar, expandir o revitalizar el ministerio de salud en sus iglesias. El seminario de febrero de 2009 se llenó rápidamente y se estableció una lista de espera. La siguiente clase está programada para el otoño.

“Enfatizamos que cada organización es diferente”, explica Sue Heitmuller, quien ayuda a coordinar el seminario para establecer un ministerio de salud. “Les proveemos recursos y dirección acerca de cómo pueden integrar la salud y la fe. Algunos ya tienen un programa establecido y a otros ni siquiera se les ha ocurrido iniciar uno”.

Para los adventistas el “mensaje de salud” es parte de su ministerio y pareciera común y ordinario. Pero para muchos asistentes esto es algo nuevo e interesante. Se maravillan de las citas de *El ministerio de curación* y se asombran al descubrir que la Biblia indica que Jesús sanó más de lo que

predicó. Conforme se dan cuenta qué significa que Jesús vino a hacernos una persona completa, su entusiasmo los lleva a considerar el ministerio de salud de una manera diferente.

AHC provee asistencia para ayudar a desarrollar su ministerio y su equipo de salud con sesiones mensuales de asistencia, proyectos de alcance y ministerios especializados. Este apoyo también incluye acceso a profesionales en el área de salud y recursos para que conduzcan seminarios, clases, evaluaciones de salud, vacunaciones contra resfriados y otros programas.

Una alianza con las iglesias puede producir grandes dividendos al ayudar a AHC a cumplir su misión de establecer comunidades sanas. “Ayudamos a los miembros del equipo de ministerio de salud a movilizar a la iglesia para que llegue a ser un centro de sanidad en la comunidad”, explica Katia Reinert, coordinadora del ministerio de salud y enfermeras parroquiales de AHC. “Se ha visto que una alianza entre las organizaciones de salud y las congregaciones locales es una manera excelente de causar un impacto positivo en la salud de la gente”.

Algunas organizaciones tienen la fortuna de contar con una enfermera parroquial como líder de su equipo de ministerio de salud. La enfermería comunitaria de fe religiosa es una especialidad en la profesión de enfermería que utiliza las habilidades de una enfermera registrada para desarrollar el ministerio de salud de la congregación. La enfermera comunitaria de fe religiosa integra la fe y la salud, tejiendo la salud en la tela de la congregación de tal manera que llega ser parte integral de la misma. La enfermera comunitaria de fe religiosa promueve tanto el bienestar de la congregación como el de la comunidad.

El programa de enfermería comunitaria



de fe religiosa de AHC ofrece un curso de entrenamiento de 40 horas que habilita a los participantes a iniciar este tipo de programa en su comunidad. Enfocado en el principio que la salud y la sanidad son parte de una totalidad de cuerpo, mente y espíritu, el curso promueve la vida íntegra a toda la congregación. Durante un servicio especial las enfermeras prometen servir a Dios al asistir a sus congregaciones a experimentar más abundantemente la vida que Jesús vino a darnos (Juan 10:10).

“Enfermera comunitaria de fe religiosa” es el nuevo nombre para las “enfermeras parroquiales”. La palabra “parroquia” viene de una palabra griega que significa “habitar al lado”. Las enfermeras comunitarias de fe religiosa habitan al lado de los miembros de sus congregaciones asistiéndolos en su jornada hacia la plenitud empoderando a cada uno a hacerse cargo de su salud y lograr un nivel óptimo.

Adventist HealthCare reconoce que el mejor aliado para la salud de la comunidad es la congregación local.



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ALLEGHENY EAST Exposé

APRIL 2009

Remember His Promises

There is no doubt that we are in the midst of one of the worst financial crises of this nation's history. Many of the nation's top financiers saw signs of an irregularity in the way the economy was fluctuating, but the majority ignored the signs of financial calamity; that is, until the bottom dropped out of the money barrel. Now millions of people are losing jobs, houses, cars, businesses, and savings. The worst, however, is yet to come.

I am compelled to pen these words to you because I know many of you are worried. You don't know if you will

be able to pay your mortgages, pay for healthcare, buy food, or keep your children in Christian schools. I would like to be able to tell you that you will not have any problems, however, I cannot. There is nothing in Holy writ that will support that. God Himself does not make that promise. However, He does make certain irrefutable promises. In Exodus He says to Israel, “If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and wilt give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians; for I am the Lord that healeth thee” (15:26). Again, He makes the promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14, “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

The crisis we are in today as a nation does not have to affect the people of God in the same sense as it affects others. Does it mean you won't lose your job, your home, your income, or your health? No, but it does mean that we can trust in God and still do His work.

All around our conference are stories of how God is using and blessing the faithful. One story in particular sticks out in my mind. Recently many of our Philadelphia area members and Pine Forge Academy students helped Feed The Children distribute 400 boxes of food to needy families. That is what He wants us to do in these difficult times. This crisis calls for us as a people, a conference, and as a church not to panic, but to instead be faithful. We must agitate, agitate, and agitate God with our faithfulness because He is able.



Allegheny East Conference members distribute food to needy families in Philadelphia.



Charles Cheatham
President

Churches Gather Food for Haiti

Members from churches across the Allegheny East Conference (AEC) recently united to help people in the small Caribbean country of Haiti. Driven by the love of God, volunteers met at the West Philadelphia church to make a difference in the lives of men, women, and children they will probably never meet.

Because of members working together—some 660 boxes of food (left), 13 large bags of rice, and clothing for women and children—were sent to Haiti. Once there Pathfinders, seminarians, and AEC members—mostly from the Haitian Horeb church in Hyattsville, Md.—sorted, packed, and distributed the items to those in need.

“This is not the end,” said Minnie McNeil, director of Adventist Community Services for AEC. “This effort is just a sampling of where God wants to take the conference in 2009. Let us commit to being faithful followers.”



West Philadelphia Members Spend Sabbath in Streets

On a recent Sabbath, members of the West Philadelphia church heard the missionary call and brought the various ministries of the church to the streets.

The lower division Sabbath School was the first out the door. These 6- to 10-year-olds were excited to give a concert in a group



The West Philadelphia church choir sings on a street corner prompting a passerby to join in and sing.

home. However, they were not the only ones. Adult choir members sang at the Angela Court senior home and on the street corners.

Choir member Darnette Prawl recalled, "There was a man just passing by who requested a song. He was a member of his own church choir. When we started the song he joined in! People were stopping their cars at the light and joining in. It was just great!"

A group of 50 Pathfinders marched down the streets with tracts in hand. Brian, a local teenager, followed the parade back to the church. He wanted to know when he could join the group and promised to come back when enrollment opens.

The health and temperance team set up an information center in the multipurpose room and the community services group fed 150 people that day.

"In addition to the food and fellowship, many received counsel, comfort, and encouragement in



As part of the West Philadelphia church's recent outdoor ministry, one West Philadelphia church member shares a copy of Steps to Christ.

dealing with the rigors of life in these tough times," said Pastor Carl Hinds. "Some said just as they were about to despair, the church was there."—Donna Riley Brown

Pine Forge Couple Celebrates 50 Years of Marriage

David and Genevia Sumter of the Pine Forge (Pa.) church recently celebrated 50 years of marriage. The Sumters, who have been active members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for more than 50 years, attribute their love and happiness to God.

Members at the church also recognize the couple for the gifts that they have unselfishly shared with the church.

For years David, who many will remember for his winning smile and caring personality, has served as a deacon at the Pine Forge church. He has also taken time to train some of the male students of Pine Forge Academy to become student



deacons. Many now serve in the capacity of deacon in their home churches. He was never too busy to care for the elderly, the widows, and those in need.

In spite of having her own bouts with physical injuries, Genevia

always felt it necessary to cook and provide meals for the sick and shut-in. She also served as the head of the hostess committee.

In short, the Sumters are a couple who celebrate their love for each other by giving love to others. They are the parents of four successful children and are grandparents to three.—Robert Booker

Allegheny East Exposé is published in the *Visitor* by the Allegheny East Conference ■ PO Box 266, Pine Forge, PA 19548 ■ Phone: (610) 326-4610 myalleghenyeast.com ■ President, Charles L. Cheatham ■ Communication Director, Robert Booker ■ Editor, Taashi Rowe



APRIL 2009

Believing in, Moving With His Spirit

Our regular readers will notice that we have changed the name of our conference newsletter from *Catch the Vision* to *Spirit*. This name change is not just a casual or simple upgrading of our masthead, but an overt recognition that when it comes to building the kingdom of God, nothing of significance happens that is not first breathed upon by the Holy Spirit. Let me repeat that again: Nothing of *significance* happens that is not first breathed upon by the Holy Spirit. At some point, at some juncture, it becomes imperative that we all "get" that we need the Holy Spirit.

I assure you that this newsletter will not be a nice public relations document. Instead, it will be a place where we "showcase" what God is doing among the Spirit-filled people of the Allegheny West Conference (AWC) in their passion to build the kingdom of God within our territory.

I also want to share with you our theme for this summer's camp meeting. It will be "Pentecost II: Spirit Led, Spirit Directed, and Spirit Anointed." We have 100 prayer warriors all around the conference whose only task is to pray mightily for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit for this summer's camp meeting. God is moving by His Spirit, and He's moving right now.

I conclude with the best news of all. We believe that through God's grace, 1,000 people will be baptized this year in the Allegheny West Conference. We are also moving right now to raise \$500,000 for the specific purpose of evangelism. By the way, the first of over 100 public evangelism meetings to take place in our territory this year have already begun. Praise God!



Fredrick Russell
President

Melrose Avenue Youth Lead Shut-In Ministry

A year ago, a few of the teens (below) at the Melrose Avenue church in Roanoke, Va., approached head elder Pat Hatch about ministering to the sick and shut-in. After she offered training and advice, the youth chose their leaders and developed their program.

Now every second and fourth Sabbath they go out and present their program—patterned after Sabbath services—with different teens leading out in singing, Scripture reading, prayer, testimony, and a mini-sermon. The entire visitation and service lasts no more than 30 minutes. Since then they have visited not only Melrose members, but various nursing homes. The



A Melrose youth warmly greets a nursing home resident. He is part of a group of that ministers to the sick and shut-in twice a month.



teens, and those at the nursing homes, enjoy this interaction. Other church members volunteer to accompany the youth and to provide transportation.

One year later, this group of 14- to 18-year-olds are still going strong in their ministry. Please pray for these young people in their commitment to serving the Lord.

Conference Commissions “Women for Impact”

Women from across AWC recently gathered for a weekend of worship, fellowship, and relaxation. Called the Hadassah Conference, after Esther’s Hebrew name, the Women of Worship chorus from the Glenville church in Cleveland hosted the event. The theme for the weekend was “Commissioning Women for Impact.”

Full of hope and love, the conference transformed attendees into new, spirit-filled children of God. The weekend began with a worship service in which the women were commissioned to ministry. Speakers included Gina Brown, PhD, dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies at Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md.; Carolyn Hurst, DPM, first lady of the Southeast church in Cleveland; and Shirley Benton, Women’s Ministries leader for AWC. Presenters spoke of faith, change, and consecrating oneself to God. All encouraged women to realize that salvation is a “set up, to set us free from Satan’s bondage.”

“It was more than I dreamed it could have been,” said conference organizer Shiree Leggett. “The Holy Spirit filled the place with the presence of God, so much so that you could see the ministering angels around each woman, strengthening her to impact her community.”—Carol I. Burks



The Hadassah Conference, hosted by the Glenville church in Cleveland, helped attendees realize that if they fully consecrated themselves to God they could truly change their communities.

God’s Unfinished Pictures

Someone once told the famous artist Picasso that they liked his portrait of a well-known woman. “Yes, thank you,” he said. “Though some say that she does not look like it. But that doesn’t make any difference, she will.” It seems crazy that any human artist could suppose that he can picture you not only as you are, but as you are going to be one day. But that is in truth what the Divine Artist does with each of us. He sees us exactly as we are now. He sees every promising potentiality in us, just as He sees every imperfection or every aspect of our incompleteness.

But He also sees us as we shall be in the end, and He continues working with us. He has, and I say this most respectfully, a case of double vision—He sees us as we are and sees us as we can be by His grace. Understand this and post it on your mental bulletin board so you never miss seeing it: *You* are one of God’s unfinished pictures.

And if God is not yet finished with you, there is a good chance He is not finished with the people around you. That is why the request in the following statement still rings true today, some 35 years after I first heard it: “Please be patient with me, God isn’t finished with me yet.”

Remember the verse “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is” (1 John 3:2).



Rob Vandeman
President

Pastors in Transition

Donald Burden Heads to Ephesus Church

Pastor Donald Burden, DMin, recently accepted the opportunity to pastor the Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio. Burden, a graduate of Oakwood University (Ala.) and Andrews University (Mich.) has a Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

He has pastored in AWC for 25 years, shepherding the Beckley and Kimball churches in West Virginia and the Warren, Cleveland, and Toledo churches in Ohio.

Burden most recently headed AWC’s Youth Ministries, Pathfinders, and Ministerial departments and served as camp ground superintendent.

“I am anticipating God’s move on the city of Columbus and, specifically, the Ephesus church,” he says.

Newark, Ashtabula, and Toledo churches in Ohio; and the Erie church in Pennsylvania. He has also held several investment positions in corporate America. His last position was as dean of arts at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, D.C.

“I have come to understand that life may take you in many different directions, some of which are unexpected, but God’s callings and elections are sure, and He will undoubtedly have the last word in our lives,” Roberson says. “Thank God, He has the last word.”



Bethel pastor Calvin Roberson poses with his wife, Wendy, and their children, Khloe and Andrew.

Conference leaders pray over Pastor Donald Burden as he begins his ministry at the Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio.

Calvin Roberson Takes Helm at Bethel

AWC staff welcomes Calvin Roberson, the new pastor for the Bethel church in Akron, Ohio. He is a graduate of Oakwood and Andrews universities. He has pastored in the Charlottesville, Afton, Staunton, and Gordonsville church district in Virginia; the Central,

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Phone: (614) 252-5271 ■ President, Fredrick Russell
Editor, Bryant Taylor

Rocky Knoll, Mount Aetna, Crest Lane Students Meet NASA Representative

Dynae Fullwood, an aerospace education specialist for NASA’s Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., recently visited three conference schools to instruct students in rocketry. Mark Walker, principal of the Rocky Knoll school in Martinsburg, W.Va., extended the invitation when he learned the service was available to schools at no cost.

Fullwood also conducted an in-service for teachers at Rocky Knoll and at the Mount Aetna school in Hagerstown, Md. She demonstrated a rocketry activity teachers can use in the classroom and shared lesson plans for school participation in a NASA study of clouds and atmosphere. NASA provides materials that are intended to be supplemental to the



NASA representative Dynae Fullwood (left) holds a rocket while Rocky Knoll student Christian Hambricht attaches the nose cone. Teacher Beth Bankes observes.

school’s curriculum and help students build math, science, and technology skills.

“We really appreciated having Ms. Fullwood visit our school,” Walker said. “The materials she presented crossed a broad spectrum of ages from pre-K through eighth grade with activities appropriate for each age level. We now look forward to incorporating more of NASA’s resources and activities into our existing classroom programs.”

Rocky Knoll students (left to right) Kaleb Aurand, Samantha Schuller, and Andrea Reginato observe NASA representative Dynae Fullwood ready a rocket for launch.



PHOTOS BY MARK WALKER

Members of North East Plant Celebrate New Home

On a chilly Sabbath morning, more than 80 people swelled the capacity of a small chapel tucked in the lower level of the Loch Raven United Methodist Church in Baltimore. The fraternity of believers, referred to as the North East group, who came together as a result of a church planting project initiated last June, worshiped together for the first time in their newly acquired rental facility.

The group, led by Pastor Sedley Johnson and trained ministers Nick Riley and Iheanacho Odinma, began meeting in a local library on Saturday afternoons. Now that they have a place to hold worship services on Sabbath mornings, their afternoons are spent knocking on doors in the neighborhood, sharing books, and extending invitations for Bible studies.

PHOTO BY IAN BLAIR-BROWN



Worship leaders (left to right) Pastor Sedley Johnson, conference president Rob Vandeman, conference ministerial director John Appel, and local North East participants Dévonne Thompson, Iheanacho Odinma, and Toolaram Singh prepare to enter the sanctuary.

Middletown Valley Members Consecrate New Sanctuary

A grand opening event held recently to showcase the beautiful, newly finished sanctuary of the Middletown Valley church (below) in rural Jefferson, Md., was a culmination of many members' dreams. The

sanctuary is phase II of a building project that started 10 years ago. The church body moved into their new building (phase I) in 1999, but the building did not include a sanctuary. Pastor Dick Thomas led the building campaign, and members paid off the mortgage in 2005 and immediately began raising funds for the next phase. At a special

ceremony a little more than one year ago, they broke ground for the new sanctuary.

Members and visitors filled the church to capacity for the grand opening service that began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and was followed by a divine worship service. Among the special guests were U.S. Congressman Roscoe Bartlett; Columbia Union officers Dave Weigley, president, and Neville Harcombe, executive secretary; and Chesapeake Conference officers Rob Vandeman, president; Charles Griffin, executive secretary; and John Appel, ministerial director. The same afternoon, the Frederick church choir, directed by Francisco de Araujo, treated worshippers to a celebratory performance.—Ron Brauer

PHOTO BY RON BRAUER

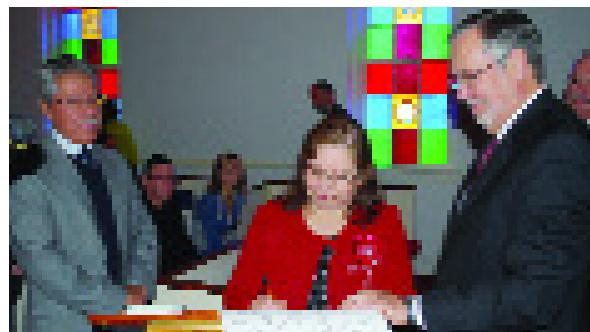


Beacon of Light Company Gains Church Status

The Beacon of Light company, a 46-member congregation in Salisbury, Md., was recently promoted to church status. To commemorate the occasion, members held a celebration weekend that began with a Friday evening baptism. "It is fitting that the first official act of the church was to accept new members," says Pastor Timothy Lee. "The whole point of the church is to help others come to know Jesus."

Conference president Rob Vandeman urged the new congregation to be a place where those who are homesick for Jesus can come for refreshment. Members endeavor to attract others with warmth and friendliness and a contemporary worship style. They also partner with other local churches in ministry to the homeless in their neighborhood.

PHOTO BY GARY CROWLEY



Lucretia Minchala signs the charter, witnessed by husband Marco Minchala (left) and conference secretary Charles Griffin.

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

Columbia Union College

1000 Furman Avenue, Towson, MD 21204-2099 • 410.995.1910 • www.columbiaunion.edu

Nursing Chair Receives Doctorate

Renee Winkfield, chair of the Edyth T. James Department of Nursing, recently received her PhD in General Human Services from Capella University in Minneapolis, Minn.

Her dissertation, titled "The Relationship Between Spiritual Well-being and Self-esteem among Pre-adolescent Children who attend a Religious School," examined the effect of a strong belief in a higher power on the confidence level of children.

The study population included 121 students from seven Adventist elementary schools from ages 10 to 12. Through various tests, Winkfield discovered that those who had a high level of spirituality had higher levels of self-esteem. While those with lower levels of spirituality had lower self-esteem.

It was through her work as a pediatric nurse at Children's Hospital in Washington, D.C., that Winkfield became interested in discovering what role spirituality played in how young patients handled their illness.

"The process of attaining this degree has prepared me to understand how students grow in their development and how a belief and personal relationship with God impacts their self-esteem," said Winkfield.

She received her associate's degree in nursing from Oakwood University in (Ala.), her bachelor's in nursing from Loma Linda University in California, and her master's degree in nursing from University of California. Winkfield teaches senior students taking Nursing Capstone Practicum, the final course that prepares students for the nursing board exam.



Professor Renee Winkfield, chair of the Edyth T. James Department of Nursing, recently received her doctorate.

Student Accepts Call to Join Adventist Church

Julie Bernard is working on her second degree from Columbia Union College (CUC) and is amazed at how God brought her to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. "God was telling me that my life needed some change," said the sophomore nursing major. "I just didn't know what it was."

During her time at CUC (1996 to 2000), Bernard attended a local Baptist church with her family but still felt that something was missing from her life. After graduating in 2000 with her bachelor's in elementary education, she began teaching. She engaged in Bible studies, worships, and lesson studies with the encouragement of her friends and co-workers in the church.

In fall 2008, Bernard returned to CUC to pursue a nursing degree. It was in a World Religions class, taught by Olive Hemmings, PhD, that she was re-introduced to the Adventist faith.

During CUC's Week In Spiritual Emphasis, a sermon by former adjunct professor Charles Tapp encouraged her, along with other students, to follow the path God placed in their hearts.

Between what she learned in religion class and the influence of friends, professors, and nearby Sligo church's youth program—which her teenage daughter enjoyed—she decided to become a member of Sligo church.

"I am so thankful to be a part of this church," Bernard said. "I cannot wait to see what service and plan God has for me here."—Andre J. Hardy



CUC student Julie Bernard (center) stands with her husband, Robert, and daughter, Danielle.

Student Profile: Justin Gauthier

As a transfer student from Wellington, Ala., Justin Gauthier intentionally chose to study at CUC and pursue his three loves: education, playing sports, and serving God. “Gauthier is a man of few words whose enormous talent as a baseball player speaks volumes,” said Michael Ricucci, his baseball coach.

Gauthier plays center field and was recently selected from thousands of applicants to participate in a summer baseball program in Fairbanks, Alaska, sponsored by Athletes in Action, a prestigious Christian organization that prepares players to grow in their faith while playing the sport they love.

He is proud of this extraordinary achievement and is hopeful about his future prospects. “I’m excited about the opportunity to play in the summer league because it will further CUC’s mission and give me a chance to participate in service activities to the Fairbanks community,” said Gauthier, a junior physical therapy major.



Justin Gauthier, a junior physical therapy major, was chosen to attend a prestigious baseball camp.

Students Learn More About Black History

CUC’s Black Student Union invited G. Theodore Catherine, creator of the *366 Days of Black History* engagement calendar, to speak at a recent club meeting in celebration of Black History Month.

Catherine shared his burning passion of planting seeds of curiosity in people to encourage them to learn more about African-American history. Through his interactive talk,

Catherine tested the students’ knowledge of African-American contributions and their impact in everyday American life.

“We live in the age of technology where information is a mouse click away,” said Catherine, who urged the students to use the Internet as a resource.

He challenged students to discover how African-Americans have helped shape the foundation of the United States of America.

“This presentation made me interested in learning more about my history, and it motivated me to do what I can to help educate others,” said Nicolai Greaves, a junior business major.

CUC’s Black Student Union invited local Takoma Park researcher G. Theodore Catherine to speak during Black History Month.



Midterm Constituency Scheduled for May 17

Columbia Union College will hold its constituency meeting at the Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church in Takoma Park, Md., on Sunday, May 17, 2009, at 10 a.m. For details, visit cuc.edu.

CALENDAR

April

- 3-5 Alumni Weekend
- 4-5 Arthur G. Keough Lectures
- 5 Tastes of Takoma Festival
- 20 Psi Chi Induction Ceremony
- 25 Student Association Prayer Breakfast
- 27-29 Final Exams

May

- 1-3 Graduation Weekend
- 11-
- June 5 Summer Session I
- 25 Memorial Day—School Closed

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 Editor, Tanisha Greenidge

Can We Afford It?

With the economic challenges facing us as a nation, I would imagine that most of us are re-evaluating how we spend our money. Things that may seem like necessities are quite possibly now finding themselves on our “wants” list rather than our “needs” list.

From a budgetary standpoint, Adventist education would probably be marked as a “want” rather than a “need.” I would urge you, however, to keep Adventist education boldly marked in the needs category. I truly believe that having an Adventist, Christian education makes a lasting difference. If a part of your personal mission—whether as a parent, grandparent, relative, friend, or church member—is for children to learn and appreciate the values and mission of our church, then they need to have the advantage of an Adventist education.

Easier said than done in trying economic times, I know. We realize this, and at Highland View Academy (HVA), we are more committed than ever to do all we can to help provide scholarships and funding so as many students as possible can attend. It will take hard work on our part, sacrifice on the part of parents, and, frankly, a miracle or two, but we simply must make it a priority throughout our school and church communities to give young people this opportunity. The employees at HVA will not be getting a salary increase next year, and there will be no tuition increase for the 2009-10 school year. It will not be easy, not as a school and not as families, but we must put every effort into making an Adventist education a reality for all who desire it. We are committed to this mission, and I’m asking that each of you be committed to this mission as well.

Can we easily afford Adventist education? No. Can we afford *not* to afford it? Emphatically, no!



Sheri Tydings
Principal

NEWS

Traditional Foods, Dance Are Highlighted at International Fair

Thirteen countries were represented at HVA’s recent International Fair. The event began with a parade of flags and a welcome from each country. Sophomore Louise Nyambati, junior Agnes Jogoo, and senior Lornah Misati helped open the program with a traditional Kenyan dance. “This is one of my very favorite events,” said principal Sheri Tydings. “The food is awesome, and it is just really cool to see the students



Agnes Jogoo, Louise Nyambati, and Lornah Misati perform a traditional Kenyan dance at HVA’s International Fair.

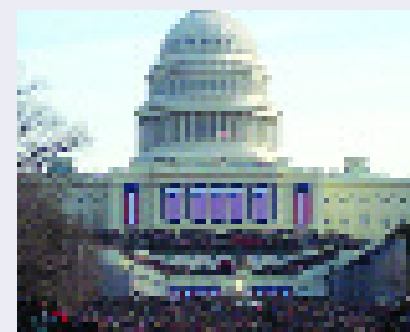
so proudly representing their countries.”

The highlight of the event for most guests was visiting the displays and tasting curry dishes from the Philippines, delicious bread from Kenya, and sweet treats from Australia.

Students, Faculty Witness History

While students and faculty gathered in the library to watch the historic presidential election of Barack Obama, a group of 20 students and four faculty and sponsors were braving the cold on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Government teacher Jesse Benton organized this once-in-a-lifetime field trip. “We certainly didn’t have a great view. In fact, we really couldn’t see much at all, but the spirit of excitement of being in the crowd for this experience was worth the miles of walking and freezing weather,” he said.

Other students, such as Ed Odhiambo (’12) and Jessica Bobb (’10) attended the event with their own families. Bobb said, “It was a life-changing experience for me.”



HVA students and faculty experience the inauguration in person.

PHOTO BY JENNIFER PAYNE

Alumni Weekend to Commemorate 60th Anniversary

Vice principal Stephen Herr is planning a special alumni weekend for May 1-3, to celebrate HVA's 60th anniversary. Alumnus Lonnie Melashenko (right) will be the guest speaker for the Sabbath worship service. Melashenko, who served as speaker-director for the Voice of Prophecy from 1993-2008, is currently serving as the vice president of Spiritual Services and Missions for Kettering Adventist HealthCare in Ohio.

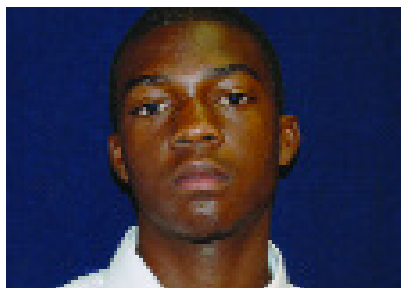
Other participants will include Bill Jackson, who served as a faculty member in roles of teacher and vice principal from 1978-94; Kathy Goddard, teacher for English and Bible from 1991-2000; and Sheri Tydings who has served as registrar, vice principal, and principal since 1995.

All Sabbath programs this year will be held in the administration building and gymnasium. For more information, contact Herr at (301) 739-8480, ext. 225, or email him at sherr@highlandviewacademy.com.



Why Students Love Their School

Students were recently asked what they liked about HVA. Here is what some of them said:



Freshman Jared Weathers said, "It's more fun than home! I love being able to interact with people who have the same beliefs as I do. I attended public school in the past, and in my middle school of 3,000, I was one of three Adventists."

care so much about us as people! It really shows that they try to be much more than just good teachers."



Senior Amanda Mihm said, "I have only attended HVA this year, but it has been life-changing."



Freshmen Dennis Shull, Marci Coreia, Ed Odhiambo, and Stephanie Calhoun said, "We really like that the teachers treat us as family—they



Senior Kyly Bauer said, "I've had a blast being involved in music and sports. I've also had lots of opportunities to be in leadership positions."

CALENDAR

April

17-18 30-Hour Famine

19 Olympic Day

May

1-3 Alumni Weekend

3 Awards Reception
HVA Gymnasium, 4:30 p.m.

8 Drama Home Show
Highland View Church
7:30 p.m.

16 Music Department
Spring Concert, Highland
View Church, 7:30 p.m.

22-24 Graduation Weekend

22 Parent Tribute, Highland
View Church, 8 p.m.

23 Baccalaureate, Highland
View Church, 11 a.m.

24 Commencement, HVA
Gymnasium, 10 a.m.

Highlander is published in the *Visitor* by the Highland View Academy ■ 10100 Academy Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740 Phone: (301) 739-8480 ■ Fax: (301) 733-4770 ■ highlandviewacademy.com Principal and Editor, Sheri Tydings

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

APRIL 2009

Getting Back to the Basics

When it comes to leaders, Jesus was the greatest of them all. As I think of Him training the disciples, I cannot help but be impressed that He used simple, basic experiences to teach them profound truths. "And He began again to teach by the sea side ... and He taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in His doctrine" (Mark 4:1-2).

How often it is said when things do not go like they should, "Get back to the basics." In the ministry of the church and in church life, revival seems to come when we get back to the basics, when we are feeding on the Word of God, praying for the Holy Spirit, and being anointed as we share our faith with others. Can you envision what would happen in our church if we as members, pastors, and leaders got back to the basics?

That is what happened with our pioneers who led to the "loud cry," and it will happen again just before Jesus returns. We are told the work of giving the gospel will end in greater power than it began on Pentecost. The question you must answer is this, am I willing to get back to the basics? Am I willing to let the great I Am empower me with the simple gospel so that I can share the power of the gospel that will give hope in a troubled world? Regardless of one's level of leadership, if we want a meaningful, effective Christian leadership role, we need to model the basics.



Larry Boggess
President

Leaders Learn to Lead

Help! I've been asked to be an elder (deacon, deaconess, clerk, treasurer, or Sabbath School teacher) and I have no idea what I'm supposed to do!" Realizing that this was a common refrain for many new church leaders, Mountain View Conference leaders recently offered the End-times Church Leadership Symposium. The two-day informational seminar was held at the Summersville (W.Va.) church for all church leaders throughout the conference.



Some 125 people from 25 church groups attended the recent conference-sponsored End-times Church Leadership Symposium at the Summersville (W.Va.) church.



On Sabbath afternoon, Jim Cress (above) and Jonas Arrais, both from the Ministerial Association of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, offered special training geared toward pastors and elders. Their presentations gave helpful insights into how to recruit lay leaders, use spiritual gifts as a mobilizing tool in the church, and evaluate the position of elder in each church. More than 80 local pastors and elders and their wives from 24 conference church groups attended this practical three-and-a-half-hour forum.

On Sunday morning the crowd swelled to 120 attendees from 25 churches as other lay leaders came to receive training in their specific areas. After a devotional talk given by Pastor Cress, the assembly divided into 11 church officers training breakout groups. The breakout leaders, including Columbia Union Conference officials, gave helpful tips.—Kathy Pepper

Harold Wightman Retires From Pastoral Service

Mountain View Conference staff recently bid farewell to Harold Wightman when he retired after 26 years of service in pastoral ministry.

"Little did I know, so many years ago, that I would put aside my then successful general contracting business to become a pastor," says Wightman.

He began serving in the Mountain View Conference in 1979 as a stipend Bible worker. Then, for two years, he pastored the Spencer (W.Va.) church and was assistant to the conference evangelist. Later Wightman earned his bachelor's degree in religion from the Tennessee-based Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University). He returned to Mountain View in 1986 to pastor the Bluefield (W.Va.) church for two years. Then he accepted a call from the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference. In 1992 he returned to West Virginia where he served in the Clarksburg/Morgantown/Fairmont district for two years and the Charleston district for eight years. For six years Wightman pastored the Cumberland/Frostburg (Md.) district until he retired.

In addition to pastoring, Wightman conducted church growth workshops, communication and marriage seminars, cooking schools, and counseling sessions. He was camp caretaker of Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va., and participated in various camp and church building projects.

Although Wightman and his wife, Ruth, have specific plans for how they will spend their retirement in Buckhannon, W.Va., they say they are open to whatever the Lord wants them to do.



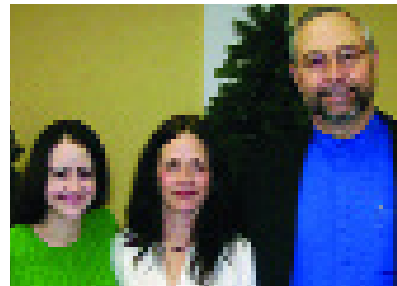
Harold Wightman (pictured with his wife, Ruth) recently retired after 26 years of service to the Mountain View Conference.

Six Join Charleston Congregation

Following a recent evangelistic series, six people dedicated their lives to Christ and made decisions to join the Charleston (W.Va.) church.

Bradley Galambos, ministerial secretary for the conference and pastor of the Beckley (W.Va.) church and the Valley View church in Bluefield, W.Va., conducted the meetings.

"Elder Galambos really made



Nina Shell and her mother, Hope Seely, who joined the Charleston (W.Va.) church together, share a warm embrace with Pastor Ken Blundell.

an impression for Jesus on the people," said Charleston pastor Ken Blundell. An average of 55 people attended the series every night. About half of those present were truth-seeking visitors.

The new members are Paul and Patsy Jones; Jonathan Valdez; Hope Seely and her daughter, Nina Shell; and George Robertson, who came back to the Charleston church after 40 years away. There are still more individuals preparing for baptism.



George Robertson, who was a member of the Charleston church 40 years ago, rejoins the church through baptism.

Mountain View EVENTS

- April**
- 18** Youth Rally
Valley View Church
 - 19** Education Fair
Summersville Church
- May**
- 3-8** Outdoor School
Michigan
 - 16** Outreach Leadership
Rally NE, Cumberland
 - 18** Executive Committee
10 a.m.
 - 19** Ministers Meeting
Cumberland
 - 29-31** Pathfinder Fair
Valley Vista Camp
- June**
- 1** Walk 100 Miles Ends
 - 14-19** Lifeguard Camp
Valley Vista Camp
 - 19-27** Camp Meeting
Valley Vista Camp

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SPIRIT

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY

APRIL 2009

Why Try Mount Vernon Academy?

If you have ever thought about sending your child to a Christ-centered, service-oriented, and high-achieving school, then you should think about Mount Vernon Academy (MVA). Here are some of the things that we can offer your child:

Honors and Dual-Credit Classes—We offer 14 classes at the honors level and/or for college credit.

Experiential Learning—Student outings include a government trip to Washington, D.C.; a New England Literary/History Tour; an Adventist Heritage Trip to Battle Creek, Mich.; and overseas educational tours.

Athletics—Students participate in basketball, soccer, volleyball, baseball, and gymnastics.

Fine Arts—Students can also join the choir, Echoliers, Handbells, or the Wind Ensemble.

Merit Scholarships—MVA provides scholarships based on academic performance and standardized test scores. Two MVA students recently achieved recognition through the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Financial Aid—MVA is committed to helping families make Adventist education affordable.

Throughout our classrooms, our curriculum, and our entire school environment, we reinforce the importance of developing the character of Christ and establishing a personal, saving relationship with Him.

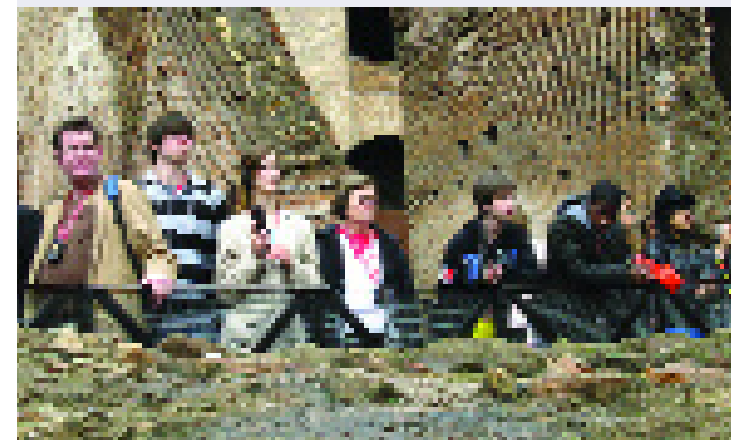
We take pride in our commitment to achieve academic excellence, develop the character of Christ, and become selfless servants. It's not just what we do, it's who we are. Mount Vernon Academy invites you to partner with us as we endeavor to prepare students for life and for eternity.



David Daniels
Principal

Global Travel Introduces Students to Different Cultures

Mount Vernon Academy planned its first cultural exploration two years ago with a trip to Italy. History came alive as participants crossed St. Mark's Square to the Basilica, rode in gondolas, viewed breathtaking art, and wandered through the ancient ruins of



Trip participants learn about an historic Italian site.

Pompeii. Religion classes were better understood while visiting the great cathedrals in Italy built by the indulgences of the poor.

This year again, students and parents headed across the Atlantic to visit Ireland and London. These trips have been wonderful opportunities to meet new people, make friends, and expand worldviews. Although the world is an incredibly diverse place, the participants found they have much in common with people around the globe.

When asked what the participants learned from this experience, Linda Taber, vice principal and trip coordinator responded, "We learned that castles were drafty places to live, and as romantic as they may look, life was awfully hard. We tasted new foods, and spent more hours than anyone should on a bus, but we also found quaint little villages and lovely people. Our travels took us outside our comfort zones, and we also learned to share our faith in new ways. In return, we learned to respect the faith of those who traveled with us."

Plans are underway for the 2009-10 trip to Greece, Southern Italy, and Rome.

Alumni Weekend Slated for April

MVA has planned an alumni weekend filled with exciting programs and opportunities for renewed friendships. Bill Dull ('59) is traveling from India to present the Sabbath message, and MVA's music department will be featured throughout the weekend.

No great alumni weekend would be complete without a golf tournament! The greens are magnificent, the company terrific, and the prizes amazing! Register now to attend on Sunday, April 26.

For more information, contact Margaret Sutton, director of Development/Alumni Relations, at (740) 397-5411, ext. 246, email mvadev@ecr.net, or visit the alumni page at mvacademy.org.



First-place winners from last year's golf tournament, Bruce Bellchambers, David Duke, Jeff Morris, and Tim Soper, show off their trophies.

Students Minister Through Music

MVA's choir, the Echoliars, and the Wind Ensemble often travel around Ohio preaching and performing concerts for a variety of churches. The students are not strangers to the routine of waking up early in the morning to load equipment before beginning the journey.

"Although we are performers, we are first ministers, seeking to win souls to Christ and proclaim His soon return," said music director Lulu Mwangi. "Our purpose isn't just to share Jesus with our audiences, but to draw closer to Him as a group."

The MVA music department has adopted two mottos: "Excellence shall be our highest form of praise" and "It's not about us." These phrases remind everyone that their musical gifts are from God, and only He can transform their music into a tool for ministry. Before each performance, the group spends time in testimony, praise, and prayer asking God to send His Spirit and make them fit vessels for His work.

In helping MVA students continue to develop a life of selfless service, this year the choir and ensemble adopted

the Shutu Project in Zimbabwe. This is a church and school building project started by the Dorcas Society of Shutu village to ensure buildings for classes and worship. Monies collected from free-will offerings go to support this mission, and so far over \$1,000 has been raised.

"For young people to be so passionate and have such conviction and understanding of their mission, is a true blessing and a sign that the Lord still speaks and works through all who are willing and are called according to His purpose," said Mwangi.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

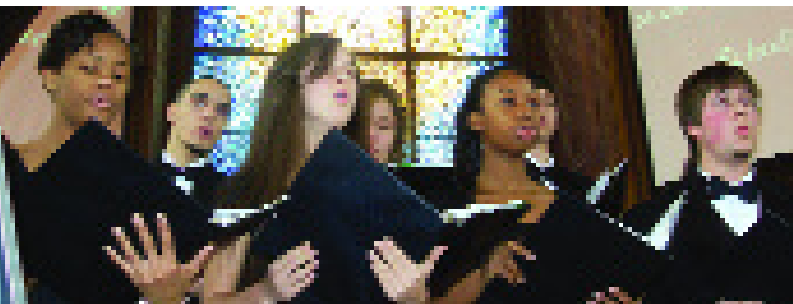
April

- 13-18 Spring Week of Prayer
- 18 Gymnastics Home Show
- 24-26 Alumni Weekend
- 26-May 1 Junior Boston Trip
- 29-May 3 Home Leave

May

- 10 Spring Concert
- 13-14 Senior Final Exams
- 14-20 Senior Class Trip
- 19-20 Final Exams
- 22-24 Graduation Weekend
- 24 Commencement

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Phone: (740) 397-5411 ■ mvacademy.org ■ Principal, David Daniels
Editor, Amy Soper



Echoliar members (left to right) Chasmine Fulford ('10), Bruce Cuevas ('09), Michaela Stevenson ('10), Courtney Wright ('09), Allegra Jenkins ('11), Dominick Kessler ('12), and Ricky Woodruff ('09) share Christ in song.

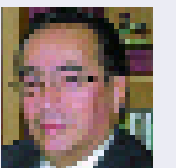
APRIL 2009

Go and Tell

The Year of Evangelism is going great here in New Jersey, and I am excited as I see what God is doing for His church. Our leaders at the North American Division have challenged us all to reach at least 100,000 people in our division this year with the gospel. Our men and women have been inspired by God to break away from the monotony of doing the same thing every year, only to end up with the same disappointing results. There is a great challenge, but the power of the Holy Spirit is much greater.

I have asked the associate staff from our conference to participate in a spiritual feast, and they have responded with plans to lead evangelistic series in cities throughout New Jersey. From accountants to support staff, everyone is excited to do something. Our pastors have planned two evangelistic series per church. More than 100 newly trained lay preachers have begun taking their ministries to churches, schools, social halls, and other locations. We are also launching a metropolitan evangelistic campaign at the new Bridgeton church building in the spring.

Brothers and sisters, please join the evangelistic forces. This is the only prophecy left to fulfill so that Jesus can come with glory and majesty. "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come," (Matt. 24:14). Follow His command in Matthew 28 to go and tell others about Him.



José Cortés
President

Church Leaders Attend Conference Ministries Training

The low temperatures were no match for the 400-plus members who attended New Jersey Conference's recent Spanish Ministries Convention at Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Tranquility. The program consisted of a variety of training sessions to equip those taking on leadership roles in the Stewardship, Sabbath School, Personal Ministries, Communication, and other departments.

The attendees ranged from veterans with years of ministry experience to newly baptized members such

as Miguel De Los Santos, who joined Paterson Temple in April 2007.

"I really liked the ideas I heard for the youth programs, [especially] how we should do small groups at the houses instead of the churches," De Los Santos said.

The youth enjoyed their curriculum, *Jesus Loves Jeans*. The program is aimed at training young people to become disciples. Former youth department assistant Elaine Nieves recalls, "Youth leaders and teenagers were so excited about the curriculum and felt they could present it to any of their friends."

Everyone returned home with resources and materials they can use at their home churches.



Pastors Kendall Turcios (left) and José Pagan teach the Jesus Loves Jeans curriculum.

Calendar

April

- 4 Communication Seminar, North Jersey
- 4-18 Spanish Evangelism "SH"
- 11 Communication Seminar, South Jersey
- 18 North Worship Music Festival
- 25 South Worship Music Festival

Ve y diles

El año del Evangelismo ya está en Marcha!... ¡Está siendo un año muy bueno! ¡Yo estoy entusiasmado viendo lo que Dios ya ha empezado a hacer por su Iglesia! Nuestros líderes de la División Norteamericana nos han desafiado a alcanzar por lo menos a 100 mil con el evangelio. Nuestros hombres y mujeres han sido inspirados por Dios para romper con la monotonía de seguir haciendo lo mismo cada año, para tener los mismos resultados decepcionantes. ¡El desafío es grande! Pero el poder del Espíritu Santo es mucho más grande.

Le he pedido al personal asociado de nuestra conferencia que participen en una fiesta espiritual. Cada uno de los administradores y departamentos dirigirán una serie de reuniones en diferentes ciudades en New Jersey. Desde contadores hasta el personal de apoyo, todos están animados a hacer algo. Nuestros pastores realizarán dos campañas en cada iglesia de nuestro campo. Más de Cien laicos recién entrenados han empezado a llevar su ministerio a iglesias, escuelas, salones sociales, y en otros lugares donde se puedan reunir para escuchar del evangelio.

¡Por favor hermano, únete a las fuerzas evangelizadoras! Esta es la única profecía que falta por cumplirse para que venga Jesús en gloria y majestad. "Y será predicado el Evangelio del Reino por testimonio a todas las naciones, y entonces vendrá el fin". Mateo 24:14. Sigue su orden en Mateo 28 y diles a los demás acerca de Jesús.



José Cortés
Presidente

Líderes de iglesias asisten entrenamiento ministerial

Las bajas temperaturas no sirvieron de obstáculo para el grupo de mas de 400 miembros que asistieron la convención hispana de ministerios en Tranquil Valley Retreat Center. El programa consistió en una variedad de sesiones de entrenamiento para equipar a los novatos que asumieron liderazgo en los ministerios de la Mayordomía, Escuela Sabática, Ministerios personales, Comunicaciones, y otros departamentos.

La audiencia varió desde veteranos con años de experiencia ministerial hasta recién bautizados como Miguel De Los Santos, quien se unió a Paterson

Temple en abril del 2009, "Me gusto mucho las ideas que escuche en el programa de los jóvenes, y como deberíamos hacer grupos pequeños en las casas y no en las iglesias", dijo De Los Santos.

El currículo de jóvenes *Jesus Loves Jeans* (Jesus Ama Los Jeans) fue bien recibido por los jóvenes. El currículo esta dedicado a entrenar a jóvenes para el discipulado. La asistente previa del departamento de jóvenes Elaine Nieves recuerda lo siguiente, "Los líderes de jóvenes y los adolescentes estaban muy emocionados por el currículo, y sentían que podían presentárselo a cualquiera de sus amistades".

Calendar

Abril

- 4** Seminario de Comunicaciones Norte de NJ
- 4-18** Evangelismo hispano "SH"
- 11** Seminario de Comunicaciones Sur de NJ
- 18** Festival de Musica de Alabanza del Norte
- 25** Festival de Musica de Alabanza del Sur

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De izquierda a derecha Pr. Kendall Turcios y Pr. José Pagan enseñando el currículo de *Jesus Loves Jeans*.

Ohio Ministry University Report: Overcoming Self-Centered Living and Religion

Ohio Ministry University (OMU) recently brought together nearly 200 lay leaders and pastors from across the conference for a weekend of spiritual enrichment and learning. They focused on "dying to self" in personal life and moving "outside the box" in church life. Clarence and Dianna Schilt, a pastoral couple with a long history of leading spiritual retreats and marriage enrichment weekends, presented "Coming Closer to Christ: Getting Beyond the Self-centered Life," and Peter Roennfeldt, a veteran evangelist and church planter in Europe and Australia, spoke on "Next Generation Adventism."

"Probably the most helpful seminar that I have ever attended," wrote one participant at the close

of the weekend.

"Enlightening, eye-opening," said another. "We need more of these meetings," responded a third.

"The whole weekend touched me very much," wrote a fourth person. "I have been truly blessed." And a fifth enthused, "Better than camp meeting!"

Yet another lay leader appreciated the Sabbath and Sunday morning presentations for focusing on "the continual need of asking God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit to fill my heart,

mind, and soul," and for "reminding us we still have much to do to share the good news."

"These were maybe the most helpful and hopeful presentations I've heard in Adventism. I bought the CDs for my entire church leadership team," said Mike Fortune, pastor for Toledo First church.

Pastor Marcellus de Oliveira of the Marion church shared, "My soul was refreshed by the meetings and my spirit was challenged in seeking God's leading in my life."

Conference leaders are discussing the possibility of expanding OMU next year. A choice of equipping



As they shared personal anecdotes, guest presenters Clarence and Dianna Schilt drew much laughter from Ohio Ministry University attendees.

sessions may be added with topics such as how to lead a small group or how to get involved in the local community. OMU will continue to focus on spiritual nurture and empowerment of the volunteer leaders who play such an important role in each congregation. If you have suggestions for topics or speakers, send them to OMU coordinator, Monte Sahlin at montes-sahlin@gmail.com or (740) 397-4665, ext. 118.



More than 200 lay leaders and pastors recently attended Ohio Ministry University's weekend seminar.

Church News

Lakewood Church Hosts Community Concert, Dinner

More than 100 people attended a concert and dinner for the local community held by the Lakewood church. The concert included choirs from area churches as well as Lakewood's adult and children's choirs. Church members also collected blankets, toiletries, and snacks to fill the 83 backpacks they gave away to homeless people in downtown Cleveland and surrounding neighborhoods.



Deacons Stephen Reid (left) and Jesus Rodriguez serve dinner.

Two Baptized at Coshocton Church

Coshocton pastor Samuel Abraham recently baptized Alice CoxZZ and Charmaine Lyn Pettitt. Both accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior after attending evangelistic meetings and taking Bible studies.



Pastor Samuel Abraham, Alice CoxZZ, Charmaine Lyn Pettitt, Arlin Abraham, and Angelin Abraham celebrate new commitments to Christ.

Historical Notes: Adventism in Ohio—Early 1900s

In 1899 the Ohio Conference was the first to give formal recognition to youth ministry, voting to form an organization called Christian Volunteers. In 1900 the Adventist young people of Germany created a similar organization. This led to discussions at the 1907 Spring Council of the General Conference officers in Gland, Switzerland. Later in 1907, at a meeting at Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon, officers organized a youth department adopting the name Missionary Volunteers.

At the 1901 General Conference Session, Ida Walters from Ohio reported on the first experiments with the Branch Sabbath School concept. During that session the International Sabbath School Association voted to recommend "operating such schools wherever practical," and it has become a worldwide phenomena. In the last year of record (2006), the General Conference's *Annual Statistical Report* lists 72,710 Branch Sabbath Schools with an estimated attendance of 1 million individuals.

Harry Miller, MD (right), born and raised in Ohio, graduated from Mount Vernon Academy. After medical school in Battle Creek in 1903, he spent most of his life in China as a medical missionary, inventor of soy products, and eventually (in his 90s) a consultant for the World Health Organization.—Monte Sahlin



Three Baptized in Unfinished Chillicothe Church

Three people recently started their walk with Jesus with baptism in the unfinished Chillicothe sanctuary. "We inaugurated our new sanctuary in the best possible way—with a baptism," says Ron Anderson (below), Chillicothe's newly appointed pastor.

Each candidate shared something with the congregation prior to the baptism to illustrate why this act of baptism was so important to them. Goldie Six joined the church eight years ago on profession of faith, intending to be baptized with her late husband. Now a widow, she decided it was time to fulfill the dream. Six shared a gospel song as testimony of her love for her Savior.



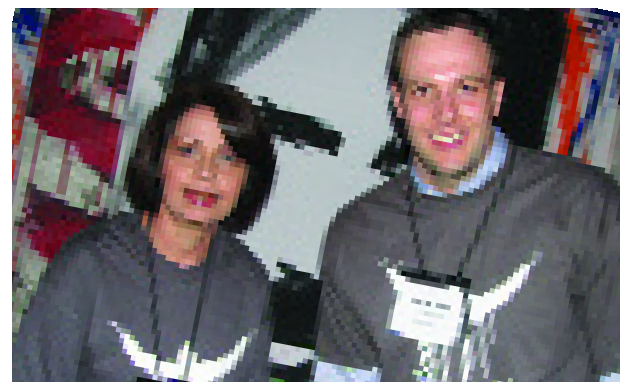
Eric Anderson (above, right), the pastor's son, has been considering baptism for some time and decided it was time to commit his life to Christ. Eric, along with his father, led the congregation in repeating God's love story for his life found in John 3:16.

Mike McDaniel began attending church about a year ago with his wife, Cathy. His simple statement, "God changed my life," was the most powerful testimony on why baptism meant so much to him.

The Chillicothe church hopes to occupy their new sanctuary this spring.—Trish Tickle

Our Mission Must Include Youth Leadership Training

The Youth and Young Adult Ministries department's mission is to empower local church leadership to do youth evangelism. We have found that many of our churches have been holding off on this type of ministry due to a lack of trained leadership to head such a ministry. That is where the Pennsylvania Conference's Youth Ministries department comes in. We work with churches in a yearlong mentoring program to assist them in laying a foundation for Youth and Young Adult Ministries.



Youth director Kris Eckenroth and assistant Daisy Lopez enjoy ministering to youth and helping them learn how to be mission focused.

This is a critical mission simply because over 50 percent of our young people are leaving the Adventist Church. These ministries are not solely developed for those already in the church. We make outreach part of the DNA of the youth program by encouraging an inside-out program where youth are encouraged to invite their friends to each and every program or outing.

We also desire to fulfill our mission by organizing monthly training events available to all such as youth spiritual retreats each February, youth and young adult departments at camp meeting, a young adult retreat, a youth leader spiritual retreat, and Cool Camps. We also partner with local pastors to run Youth Challenge, our youth literature evangelism program.

All in all, I love working with our youth. It's a great job! If we can ever be of service to you and your young people, call our office or visit paconference.org, click on "Ministries," and then "Youth and Young Adult Ministries."—Kris Eckenroth

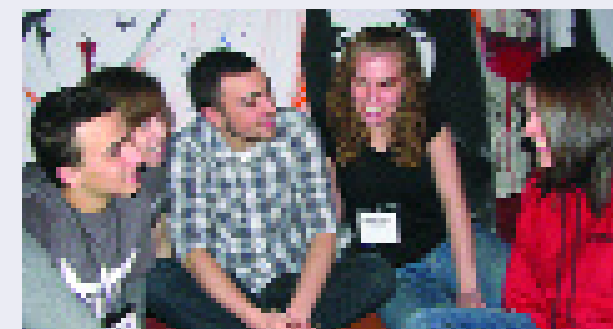
Youth Accept Jesus at "Outcast" Retreat

Approximately 400 attended Pennsylvania Conference's fourth annual youth spiritual retreat on the campus of Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg. Many of the young people attending brought friends from their schools or their neighborhood. Themed "Outcast: The Heart of a King," this special weekend focused on how King Jesus became an outcast to save sinners.

Frank Farkash, who grew up in Quakertown, led several inspiring praise segments. Alvin Payne, youth pastor of the Frederick (Md.) church, was the main speaker. Artist Michael Lewis shared his testimony and portrayed the image of Christ through painting. Young people also chose from 14 breakout sessions on Sabbath afternoon that covered topics like prayer, youth preaching, leadership, diversity, and music. The weekend concluded Saturday night with a 3-on-3 basketball tournament.

Kris Eckenroth, director of the youth department, sees these events as a time of reaping. "Statistics show that a high number of youth make a decision for Jesus at a youth rally and/or week of prayer. It was our

prayer that several hundred of our youth would accept Jesus as Lord and Savior," he said. "All year long our youth leaders have been working and praying for our young people, and this event provided an environment where these young people could make a clear decision for Christ."



Blue Mountain Academy students (left to right) Eliezer Rocha ('11), David Tryon ('10), Connor Larrabee ('10), Michelle Musser ('11), and Melissa Morgan ('11) commune at the recent Outcast youth retreat.

Pastor Needs Your Help

Pastor Andrew Clark and his staff at Greater Pittsburgh Metropolitan Ministries have a great problem. They have too many Bible study interests to address! This four-person team is attempting to follow up with more than 70 people who want to study the Bible. They are looking for short-term Bible workers who have a desire and the ability to share Bible studies with people who want to know more, but are for the most part, unchurched and unknowledgeable about God, the Bible, and the gospel. If you make friends easily and enjoy building relationships and studying the Bible with others, contact Pastor Clark at adventistcommunityservices@gmail.com.

Laurel Lake Reaches Mission Field in Many Ways

The staff at Laurel Lake Camp and Retreat Center in Rossiter uses multiple tactics to fulfill its mission of reaching people for Christ in the Pennsylvania mission field.

For the summer camp groups, they help design programs with mission-oriented themes. This year's theme "One World, One Cross, One Mission" is designed to help campers realize that they live in a world where the cross is the antidote for sin and that they have the opportunity to bring the Word to a lost world. The camp will not only be advertised in Adventist homes across Pennsylvania, but also in local communities as a day camp—with transportation provided to and from Rossiter and Punxsutawney.

Camp staff is also reaching out to other groups in the community with a service attitude that is making an impact on the lives of those who

come to the camp. Besides summer camp and conference and church events, the center offers a Valentine's retreat, singles retreat, Christian concerts, health seminars, and a week-end for camp alumni. The local high school recently held a youth retreat at the camp. During the winter, the camp invites the community to enjoy their sledding and tubing hill—complete with tow machine. When the ground isn't covered in snow, they offer mountain boarding.

Another way the camp staff reaches out is through a weekly Bible study with members of Laurel Lake church. Together they are working to meet the needs of Indiana University of Pennsylvania students with home-cooked food and spiritual food from God's Word.

"We believe that God is here, represented in the staff and through our beautiful natural setting in nature," says camp director Gary Moran. Seeing God in nature is also the foundation of Outdoor School. Held each spring, it reaches out to public and church school youth in the area.

Finally, Laurel Lake Camp ministers to the staff who work and volunteer during the summer and at events throughout the year. "We strive to meet their need to experience the love and restoring power of Jesus," shares Moran.

He also invites everyone to visit. "If you want to be pampered and also connect with Jesus in a unique way, come to Laurel Lake Camp to be blessed and de-stressed," he says.

For more information on Laurel Lake Camp, call (814) 938-9300 or visit laurellakecamp.com.

What's happening

April

- 3-5 Youth Leader Spiritual Retreat, *Poconos*
- 11 Youth Leader Training *Blue Mountain Academy*
- 12 Hispanic School of Theology *Blue Mountain Academy*
- 18 Pathfinder NAD Bible Achievement
- 20-23 Outdoor School *Laurel Lake Camp*
- 24-26 Alumni Weekend *Blue Mountain Academy*
- 24-26 Adventurer Family Retreat *Laurel Lake Camp*
- 27-30 Outdoor School *Laurel Lake Camp*

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Laurel Lake Camp director Gary Moran and Food Services and Housekeeping director Lisa Fisher minister to groups at the camp during the summer and to the communities of Rossiter and Punxsutawney.

Potomac People

APRIL 2009

The Sin Disability

So long as you can sweeten another's pain, life is not in vain," wrote Helen Keller. Keller certainly understood emotional pain. At the age of 19 months, an illness left her totally blind and deaf. But a compassionate teacher taught her to read and write in Braille and, later, to speak.

Keller's teacher, Ann Sullivan, knew only too well the frustration of fighting a physical disability. She herself was nearly blind. But Sullivan patiently devised a way to communicate with her by spelling out letters on Keller's hand. Inspired by the empathy of her teacher, Keller decided to dedicate her own life to helping the blind and the deaf. Having overcome her own disability at great effort, she felt for those who were in similar circumstances.

You and I have a disability. Sin is our disability. According to the apostle Paul, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). But "God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him," (1 John 4:9). Ellen White writes, "The followers of Christ have been redeemed for service ... By living to minister for others man is brought into connection with Christ" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 326). God has designed it so that we grow out of our disability by serving others. White continues, "The work to which as Christians we are called is to co-operate with Christ for the salvation of souls," (pp. 356-360). *This* is discipleship. This joins the great commandment to the great commission. This is true godliness.

Do we have empathy for lost people who are mired with the same disability? We become healthy by reaching out. So out of empathy, because of what Jesus has done for us, let us be used by the Master to be a connecting link to the Holy One.



Bill Miller
President

NEWS

New Market Evangelism Brings 11 to Christ

The New Market (Va.) church recently hosted its first of three evangelistic series for the year. Members, curious about how well attended the meetings would be in the town of some 1,900 residents, were overjoyed on opening night. Pastor Shane Anderson (below) reported that a total of 107 of the 250 attendees were guests. Nearly 50 of those guests ultimately attended nearly every night of the series. There were 11 requests for baptism and seven requests to join the church through Profession of Faith.



With two more meetings planned for the spring and fall, church leaders are expecting many more people to join the church. Members are elated at what the Lord is doing, and can hardly wait for round two.

Conference Welcomes New Communication Director

Dan Jensen has accepted the call to serve as the new assistant to the president for Communication for Potomac Conference. Jensen, who joined the staff in January, is a seasoned professional with experience in communication, marketing, and public relations. He and his wife, Donita, have three children: Ashley, Andrew, and Alex.



"It's a tremendous honor to be a member of the communication team, and I look forward to telling the story of what Christ is doing throughout the Potomac Conference."

Please pray for his family as they transition to the area from Minnesota.

Hispanic Members Receive the Holy Spirit

Nearly 2,000 lay people attended the 12th annual Hispanic Evangelism and Disciple Festival held at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City, Md. Organized by the Potomac Conference's Hispanic Ministries, the yearly event is designed to gather all lay people and prepare them to start the new year gaining believers for Jesus.

The four-day event, titled "You Will Receive Power," was centered on receiving the Holy Spirit. Speakers included pastors Andres Portes, Ranieri Sales, and Rubén Ramos, Columbia Union vice president for Multilingual Ministries. Conference president Bill Miller, Henry Tavera Bueno, and Henry Barrios led the seminars. Evelyn Omaña and Pastor Josant Barrientos led the children's program. Ivor Myers led the youth in a separate program.

During the event, 24 people were baptized and 500 people promised to establish home churches. The latter picked up a banner that said "We Pray and Read the Bible Here" to hang on the doorways of their homes.

The event ended with a ceremony where each person held a lit candle. Jose D. Esposito, director of the Hispanic Lay Training Center in Temple Hills, Md., made an appeal for each person holding a candle to bring a new believer to Christ. As the room lights dimmed, hundreds of candles burned in the dark, representing Potomac's goal to bring, ever closer, the soon return of Jesus Christ.



Jorge Ramirez, vice president for Administration, and Bill Miller, president, lead out during Potomac Conference's 12th annual Hispanic Evangelism and Disciple Festival.

Adventist Community Services Manages Local Pool

Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington (ACSGW) can now add pool management to the list of things it does to help the community. Unable to find a group willing to take on the task of managing the Piney Branch Elementary School pool in Takoma Park, Md., officials planned to have it drained. However, those plans were halted when a public-private partnership was established between ACSGW,

Montgomery County Council, the county's board of education, and the City of Takoma Park.

Through this partnership, ACSGW agreed to manage the Olympic-sized, indoor pool, and a grand re-opening followed.

"I thank the community for their faith and confidence in us," said Ron Wylie, ACSGW director. "I know people think that community services is just about food and clothes, but we do a lot in the community, and plan to do more."

"I think this has already been a tremendous opportunity to witness," he added. One opportunity came fairly early in the process when Wylie made it clear that they would not operate the pool during Sabbath hours.

"It was a natural fit for ACSGW to manage the pool since they strive to help community members meet basic needs," said Terry Seamens, a councilmember for the City of Takoma Park who worked with citizens, the county, and ACS to re-open the pool.

ACSGW is supported by Sligo, Takoma Park, Silver Spring, Beltsville, Burnt Mills, and Hyattsville churches in Maryland. For more information, visit acsgw.org.

—Taashi Rowe



Local politicians, parents, neighbors, students, and Ron Wylie, director of Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington, attended the grand re-opening of the Piney Branch School Pool in Takoma Park, Md.

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Phone: (800) 732-1844 ■ pcsa.org ■ President, Bill Miller
Communication Director, Dan Jensen

Students Awarded for Good Character

Courage, honesty, initiative, perseverance, purity, respect, responsibility, service, and being their brother's keeper are all character traits that Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) students strive to embody. Each month students learn about one of these positive character traits during daily prayer time with their faculty family, and discuss those traits during weekly assembly programs.

Students are then asked to nominate the student they feel most accurately represents the character trait being chosen for that month. The student who is chosen is announced during assembly and is given a cash gift by the principal. The recipients are then eligible to receive a year-end award. A cash award and recognition is also given to that student at graduation.

The awards recipients so far this year are Chelsea Glass ('09) for brother's keeper; Janice Cosme ('10) for courage; and Mackenzie Sweeney ('11) for honesty. For the initiative trait the staff made the decision to honor two students, Katie Busch ('11) and Jessica Mills ('10), since they both so clearly exhibit this trait in their workplace on campus.

"Jessica works for me as a resident assistant, and she is a true example of someone who knows how to take the initiative and get a job done. I know that if I ask her to do something she will go above and beyond to see that the task is accomplished," says Donna McDonald, dean of women.



SVA students (left to right) Mackenzie Sweeney ('11), Katie Busch ('11), Chelsea Glass ('09), and Janice Cosme ('10) have all won awards for displaying good character.

When Sweeney was chosen to receive the award for honesty, the decision was based on the fact that he is known by students and staff alike to be a very fair and honest young man.

It is the hope and desire of the SVA staff that by teaching these important character development traits to students that they will be prepared for a life of service to God and man.

Academy Days Brings Students Closer to Christ

This year's Academy Days—to be held on Sunday, April 19, and Monday, April 20—is an opportunity for students in grades 8 to 11 to learn more about the benefits of Christian education. It is also a step that can have life-changing impact.

Last year "Jeff" came to Academy Days without interest in God or SVA. He came only because a friend asked him. He said that God was just a distant relative about whom he could have cared less. Now six months later, he is a happy and engaged student who prays with his friends.

"Rachel" came to Academy Days because her parents forced her to attend. She loved her public high school and made it clear to her parents that she had no interest in their religion. Over her protests, Rachel's parents enrolled her at SVA. Now Rachel is first in line for the Washington, D.C., homeless ministry trips. She also frequently visits the prayer room in the girl's dorm and is eagerly awaiting her first foreign mission trip.

There are countless other stories of how Christ has made dramatic changes in students who attend SVA. Many of these students began this journey by attending Academy Days. Come by this April and see what amazing things could be in store for you. To register, call (540) 740-2210.

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 ■ Editor, Jan Osborne

Following His Lead

“Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust Him to help you do it and He will” (Psalm 37:5, The Living Bible).

I love that verse because I know God has truly led me while here at Takoma Academy (TA). When I first came to TA in 1986, I had no intentions to “move up” the ladder to administration, and yet I did, serving first as a vice principal. In 1995 a TA board member asked me to really consider becoming principal. I prayed and followed God’s lead. In 2005 I was asked to be principal, and, once again, I prayed for specific direction and received it. Now through much prayer, various events, and specific answers, I must follow God’s lead again and resign as principal effective June 30. God has truly led me in this decision, and the peace that follows is truly amazing.

Wherever God leads me, whether that is to remain at TA and teach Bible, or to leave and minister elsewhere, I must follow His lead. Thank you all for your prayers and support. God will provide the best person to lead at TA—as He always has.



Dunbar Henri
Principal

NEWS

Students Receive Scholarships for Good Grades, Citizenship

Congratulations to the 18 students (below) that TA recently awarded academic scholarships for good grades and good citizenship. The scholarships are awarded four times a year. A total of \$7,250 in scholarships were awarded to students who earn GPAs of 3.0 and above, achieve exemplary citizenship, and have exemplary attendance during the semester.

Alumni Weekend to “Tee Off” With Golf

This year’s Alumni Weekend starts on April 24 with TA’s 10th annual golf tournament at the Northwest Golf course in Silver Spring, Md. The registration fee is \$125 and includes a golf shirt, greens fees, golf cart, gratuities, unlimited range balls (7-7:45 a.m.), curbside valet, beverages, gifts, light breakfast (6:45-7:30 a.m.), and lunch. Tee off begins at 8 a.m. All proceeds go to the TA Worthy Student Scholarship Fund. Space is limited to 108 players. For registration and sponsorship forms, visit cs.ta.edu/~lmclaughlin. Honor classes ('99, '89, '84, '79, '69, '59, '49) will

meet for fellowship at 7 p.m. Friday night. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Sabbath, and Sabbath School begins at 10 a.m., followed by the divine service. Lunch will be provided and honor class pictures will be taken. For more information, visit ta.edu and click on the Alumni button.

Calendar

April

- 15 Open House, 6-8 p.m.
- 17 TA's Amazing Race
- 19 Open House, 4-7 p.m.
- 20 Finance and Board Meeting, 5 and 7 p.m.
- 24 Golf Tournament
- 24-25 Alumni Weekend

May

- 1 Community Service Day
- 14 Fine Arts Production, 7 p.m.
- 17 Fine Arts Production, 4 p.m.
- 18 Board/Staff Appreciation Dinner, 6 p.m.
- 21 Junior/Senior Banquet
- 28 Spring Concert
- 29 Spring Picnic
- Dedication Service, 7 p.m.

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

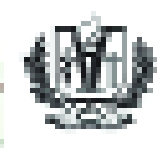
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- Asst. Professor - M.D./Ph.D. - Molecular Biology/BS
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- Clinical Lab Scientist
- Clinical Pharmacist

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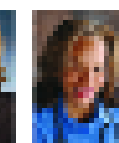
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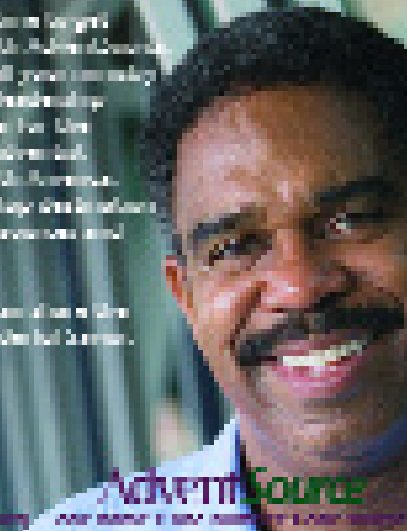
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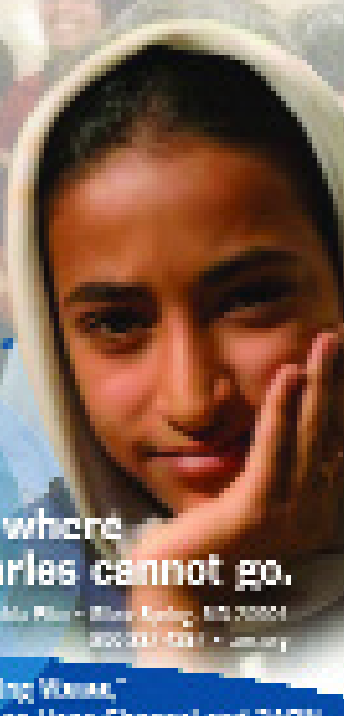
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LEGAL NOTICES

**QUADRENNIAL SESSION OF
THE ALLEGHENY WEST
CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-
DAY ADVENTISTS**
Notice is hereby given that the Second Quadrennial and 15th Regular Session of the Allegheny West Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9 a.m. on Sunday May 31, 2009, at the Allegheny West Conference Campground, 6470 Oakthorpe Rd., Thornville, Ohio. This meeting is called for the purpose of electing officers, departmental directors, and committees; to amend the constitution and bylaws; and any other business that may properly come before the session at that time.

**Fredrick Russell, President
Carl R. Rogers, Secretary**

**ALLEGHENY WEST
CONFERENCE
CORPORATION MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the legal meeting of the Allegheny West Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in connection with the Second Quadrennial and 15th Regular Session of the Allegheny West Conference on Sunday, May 31, 2009, at the Allegheny West Conference Campground, 6470 Oakthorpe Rd., Thornville, Ohio.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect a Board of Trustees for the ensuing four-year period and to transact any other business that may properly come before the Corporation at that time. The delegates of the Second Quadrennial and 15th Regular

Bulletin Board

	Apr 10	Apr 17	Apr 24	May 1	May 8
Baltimore	7:39	7:46	7:53	8:00	8:07
Cincinnati	8:11	8:18	8:24	8:31	8:38
Cleveland	8:02	8:09	8:17	8:25	8:32
Columbus	8:06	8:13	8:20	8:27	8:34
Jersey City	7:31	7:38	7:45	7:53	8:00
Norfolk	7:36	7:42	7:48	7:54	8:00
Parkersburg	7:59	8:06	8:13	8:20	8:26
Philadelphia	7:34	7:41	7:48	7:56	8:03
Pittsburgh	7:54	8:01	8:08	8:16	8:23
Reading	7:38	7:45	7:52	7:59	8:06
Richmond	7:41	7:47	7:54	8:00	8:06
Roanoke	7:51	7:57	8:03	8:10	8:16
Toledo	8:10	8:17	8:25	8:33	8:40
Trenton	7:33	7:40	7:47	7:54	8:01
Wash., D.C.	7:41	7:47	7:54	8:01	8:08

SUNSET CALENDAR

Session of the Allegheny West Conference are delegates for this session.

**Fredrick Russell, President
Carl R. Rogers, Secretary**

**COLUMBIA UNION COLLEGE
INCORPORATED MIDTERM
CONSTITUENCY**

Notice is hereby given to all whom it may concern that a constituency meeting of Columbia Union College, Incorporated, a corporation organized and existing under and by the virtue of the laws of the state of Maryland, will be held Sunday, May 17, 2009, at 10 a.m. in the Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church in Takoma Park, Maryland.

The purposes of this meeting are to hear reports of officers and transact other business that may be necessary or proper to come before the constituency.

**Weymouth Spence, President
Susan Scharffenberg, Secretary**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MADISON COLLEGE
ALUMNI HOMECOMING:**
will be held June 26-28, honoring the class of '59, and those who attended/graduated from 1950-1964. Friday evening, Sabbath, and Sunday breakfast, all at the

Madison Academy campus. For more information, call Jim Culpepper, (615) 654-3311.

**WICHITA ADVENTIST
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
(WACA) 50TH REUNION.**
Attention alumni of WACA (formerly Wichita Adventist Junior Academy) located in Wichita, Kan. Mark your calendars for the

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Forest Randall
Topic: “Risking to Love”

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(410) 992-9731
fmthomas1950@yahoo.com

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Bulletin Board

50th reunion scheduled for September 18-20. Please contact us with your updated addresses, as well as names or addresses of other alumni, to 2725 South Osagem, Wichita, KS 67217, or call (316) 267-9472, or email waca50th@yahoo.com.

OBITUARIES

WATSON, Elijah was born on April 29, 1933, in Bainbridge, Ga.; died July 3, 2008, in Bladensburg, Md. He was a faithful literature evangelist and associate publishing director for the Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists for 28 years, retiring in 2000. His territory included the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and later the Chesapeake Bay area. He and his faithful team members delivered many truth-filled books and periodicals, and many souls were won to Christ. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Rosemary J. Watson; three adult children, Harold E. Watson of Shelby Twp., Mich., Cherie L. Watson of Bladensburg, Md., Karl A. Watson and his wife, Nicole, of Silver Spring, Md.; his mother, Ruth Watson of Silver Spring; three brothers, Arthur Watson of Kensington, Md., Joseph Watson

and his wife, Shirley, of Washington D.C., Wilmer Watson of Silver Spring; and a host of nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

WEIS, Theodore H., born November 17, 1909, in Lehigh, Kan.; died November 14, 2008, in Apopka, Fla. A retired minister, he served as Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director in the Pennsylvania Conference for 13 years. He is survived by his wife, Alice, and two sons, Frank and Fred Tochtermann. He is preceded in death by his first wife, Matilda, and son, Clinton.

WILLIAMS-ROMERO, Phyllis M., born March 9, 1930, in Brooklyn, N.Y., but grew up mostly in Cleveland, Ohio; died October 16, 2008, in Roanoke, Va. She was a member of the North Valley church in Roanoke. She is survived by her husband, Levy Romero of Roanoke; her son, Dennis J. Williams of Noble, Okla.; two sisters, Betty Bierer of Rochester, N.Y., and Marilyn Harold of Reno, Nev.; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a brother, Richard T. Martin, who was from Cincinnati, Ohio.

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



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Last Words

DONALD MILLER

A Call to Serve

I want to thank our Creator and Savior, Jesus Christ, for Disabilities Ministries, and for your assistance in making this ministry possible. Christ spent nearly two-thirds of His ministry with the disabled, and, as His followers, more of us need to commit ourselves to getting the gospel to the disabled community and their families. Matthew 28:17-20 still applies to us today. It is our responsibility, even now, to go teach all nations and baptize them according to God's command.



God sees our need for greater finances, for committed people, and much more. He will give us the resources we need, but we must be willing to do the work that He has commissioned. And much more needs to be done. We need Disabilities Ministries coordinators in our local churches to keep this ministry in the forefront, and to keep our members trained and informed about resources that are available in their communities. We need directors or coordinators on the conference level to keep the information flowing. Many of you are doing a great work for Christ with Disabilities Ministries, but your work is going unreported.

SIMPLE REQUIREMENTS

Not sure what you can do? That is why union and conference leaders are here. Our responsibility is to help you make that transition into this Christ-centered ministry. A leader does *not* have to be disabled. The requirements are simple: love the Lord, love people, and have a willingness to serve God.

The pen of inspiration tells us, "I was shown that God requires His people to be far more pitiful and considerate of the unfortunate than they are. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. Here genuine religion is defined. God requires that the same consideration which should be given to the widow and fatherless be given to the blind and to those suffering under the affliction of other physical infirmities. Disinterested benevolence is very rare in this age of the world" (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 516.2).

Remember, Christ not only sacrificed Himself for you and me, but for *all*.

Donald E. Miller, Jr. (sabbath7thday@verizon.net), serves as the Columbia Union coordinator and Potomac Conference director for Disabilities Ministries.

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

COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS ■ 5427 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045 (888) 4-VISITOR ■ columbiaunion.org

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COLUMBIA UNION COLLEGE: Weymouth Spence, President; Angela Abraham, Visitor Correspondent; 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912. Tel. (301) 891-4000 ■ cuc.edu

KETTERING COLLEGE OF MEDICAL ARTS: Charles Scriven, President; Mindy Claggett, Visitor Correspondent; 3737 Southern Blvd., Kettering, OH 45429. Tel. (937) 395-8601 ■ kcoma.edu

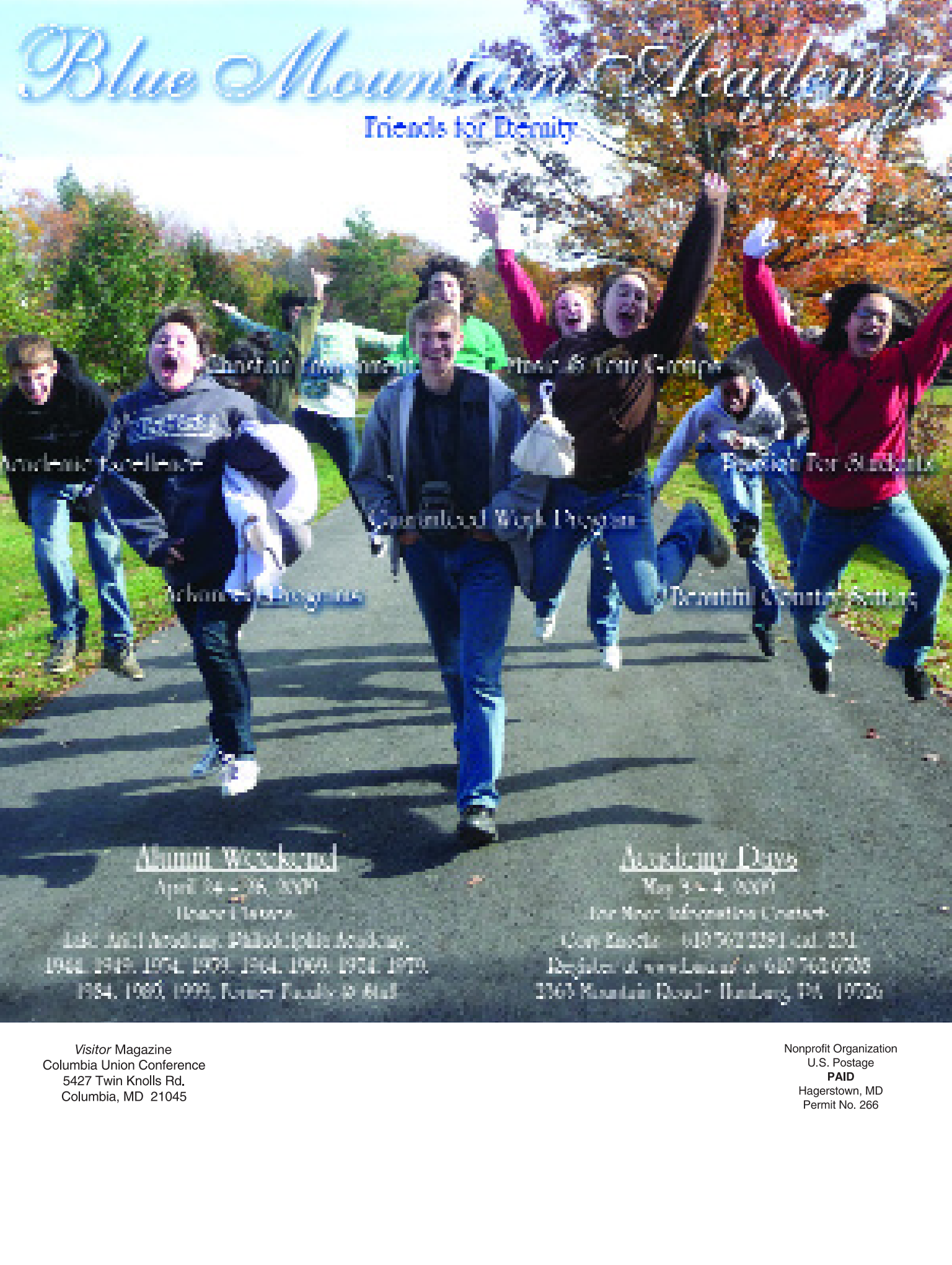
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ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE: William G. "Bill" Robertson, President & CEO; Ray Tetz, Visitor Correspondent; 1801 Research Blvd., Suite 400, Rockville, MD 20850. Tel. (301) 315-3030 adventisthealthcare.com

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE: Frank Perez, President & CEO; Kathryn Stiles, Visitor Correspondent; 3965 Southern Blvd., Kettering, OH 45429. Tel. (937) 395-8167 khnetwork.org

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