

VISITOR



CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION MEMBERS

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About the Cover: Photo by Drew Anthony Smith

Haiti: Destruction or Deliverance

In less than 40 seconds, Haiti—which has come to be known as the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere—caught the attention of the entire world. Though it is a tragic, disastrous, chaotic situation, I believe that better days are ahead, and this is a new beginning for Haiti. Something good always comes out of disaster, and there is always a blessing in the storm. This catastrophic situation is an opportunity for the world to know more about Haiti and its people.

While most people know about Haiti’s poverty, they don’t know that Haitians are a proud and resilient people who don’t give up in the midst of adversity. Haiti, which used to be called “La Perle des Antilles” (the pearl of the Caribbean), was the first black nation to gain independence in the Western Hemisphere. After that it became a shelter for many slaves who fled from America.

Haitian culture is unique and colorful, and the language and music are poetic and charming. Tourist attractions such as La Citadelle, Palais Sans Souci, and Labadee leave many visitors speechless. The climate, beaches, products, paintings, and cuisine make Haiti unique and its citizens very proud.

In addition, Haiti’s contributions to the world are great. Most people don’t know that Haitians fought side by side with Americans in the battle of Savannah to help them gain freedom from Great Britain. Haiti also helped Bolivia, Columbia, and Venezuela in their fight for freedom. In the 1960s, many professors and young professionals left Haiti to buoy the education systems of Canada and Africa. These are just a few of the reasons why, though devastated, I am still proud to call Haiti home. “Lakay se lakay” (there’s no place like home). The present situation in my homeland does not determine the future of my people.

IS PAT ROBERTSON RIGHT?

Is God punishing Haiti? In the aftermath of the earthquake, my members gathered to pray and comfort one another. In the midst of our pain and uncertainty, I spoke to them about Job. In one day, just like many Haitian believers, he lost everything. Job came to understand that the only thing you need to hold onto is Jesus. He is the

only foundation that cannot be moved or shaken.

We must always remember that our circumstances do not determine the goodness of the Lord. I believe He allowed this tragedy for several reasons, one of which is a new beginning. Destruction brings deliverance and reconstruction. Haiti’s earthquake provides an opportunity to decentralize Port-au-Prince, reorganize the governmental system, and rebuild infrastructure, etc. In addition, this is the fulfillment of Matthew 24:7. It serves as a wake-up call for all believers and an appeal and invitation to repentance for unbelievers.

As the world watches this historical event, I thank God that the church as a corporate body is using this moment to pray. They’re also collecting money, basic necessities, water, and medical supplies. I think this is what Jesus expects of His church, and I encourage

our brothers and sisters in the Columbia Union to keep praying for the people of Haiti and reaching out to them. And let’s all continue to hold on to our Anchor with the assurance that the best is yet to come.

Smith Olivier pastors the New Jersey Conference’s Maranatha and Bethesda French churches in Newark and Roselle, N.J., respectively. He is also the conference’s representative for the Haitian constituents in New Jersey and is a member of the North American Division’s Haitian Advisory Council.



Adventist Temple No. 1 in Port-au-Prince collapsed during the earthquake killing dozens of choir members. Fourteen bodies were recovered, others remain buried under the rubble.

PHOTO BY LIBNA STEVENS/AD

Chesapeake Elects New Secretary

Rick Remmers, pastor of the Hagerstown (Md.) church, has accepted a call to serve as executive secretary of the Chesapeake Conference. Remmers, who has



spent more than 20 years in pastoral and administrative ministry for the Seventh-day

Adventist Church, begins his new position March 1. In addition to his administrative duties, he will lead Health and Prayer ministries for the conference. Read more in *Chesapeake Challenge* on page 31.

Health Ministries Leaders Network

On February 28 the Adventist Health Network (AHN) will hold its first meeting in 2010. The network, open to Health Ministries directors from the 112 Adventist churches in the Washington,



Know Your Numbers: Subhashini Sigamoney, a nurse and Health Ministries director for Potomac Conference's Hyattsville (Md.) church, takes blood from Sharleen Sterner, who directs Health Ministries for Chesapeake's South Carroll company in Sykesville, Md.



D.C., metro area, is led by DeWitt Williams, EdD, MPH (above), Health Ministries director for the North American Division (NAD). Williams started the group as a resource for area leaders and to get more churches active in Health Ministries. "I'm going to retire in August, and I want to know that we are motivated and united in impacting our communities," he announced to the 30 local leaders in attendance at a recent meeting.

Williams convenes AHN meetings every other month at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md. Guest speakers at their last meeting included Joyce Nalepka, who advocates to keep America's youth drug-free; G.W. Chew, creator of the Believe It's Not vegetarian food line; and Greg Homan, whose company, Test Medical, is marketing a cholesterol screening system called CardioChek that provides instant results. Williams would like to see Adventists initiate a "Know Your Numbers" campaign in their communities and use this portable device to hold weekly screenings at their churches. Homan and his team demonstrated CardioChek's convenience by providing free screenings at the AHN meeting.

Barbara Smith, director at Potomac Conference's Sheriff

Road church in Southern Maryland, was glad to learn about this resource. "Each time I come, I learn so much that I can take back and share with my congregation," she says. "I also enjoy hearing reports about what other churches are doing."

Union ASI Members to Meet in Ohio

The Columbia Union Chapter of Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (CUASI) will hold its annual meeting at Ohio Conference's Hamlet church in Amelia March 12-14. Weekend speakers include Norman Reitz, national ASI president; Melvyn Hayden, Jr. (below), pastor of Allegheny East Conference's



Liberty church in Baltimore; Ed Williams, president of Former Adventists Recovery Ministry; Robert Wallace, president and CEO of the Baltimore-based BITH-GROUP Technologies, Inc.; and Winston Miller, CUASI vice president for communication. The annual business session will take place on Sunday. To register by the February 28 deadline, visit columbiaunion.org, click on Services, then ASI.

Kettering Network Produces TV Series

Kettering Adventist HealthCare (KAHC), based in Kettering, Ohio, has created a new television series titled *HealingHope*. The 13 segments, which started airing on the Hope Channel January 2, are hosted by Lonnie Melashenko, KAHC vice president of Spiritual



PHOTO BY LEE ANN YAHLE

Services and Missions, and Becky Wang Scriven, MD, medical director of clinical quality at Kettering Medical Center. The series highlights issues of health and wellness as they are addressed in a Christian atmosphere and understood in light of the Adventist healthcare mission. The show airs on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sabbaths.

AdventSource Starts Webinar Series

Last month Celeste Ryan Blyden (below), Columbia Union Conference communication director, and



Kermit Netteburg (below), senior pastor of the Beltsville (Md.) church, led a webinar

designed to help churches find practical ways to raise awareness of the Adventist Church. A



total of 310 participants from Texas, California, Georgia, Nebraska, New York City, Canada, Bermuda, and other churches across North America tuned in to the hourlong, interactive training event presented online.

"Thank you for the inspirational presentation," wrote Andrea Sestak of the Lake Nelson church in Piscataway, N.J. She and many of the other church communication leaders, pastors, elders, deacons, and webmasters who logged on shared comments, success stories, and questions.

The presentation was the first in a series of free, monthly Webinars for Growing Churches, produced and sponsored by AdventSource, the official resource center for the Adventist Church in North America. "This will allow us to conduct targeted training for our organizations and provide members access to the best presenters, no matter where they live," said director Brad Forbes.

Willie Oliver, director of Family Ministries for the NAD, and his wife, Elaine (below), will present the next webinar on parenting February 9. To register for future webinars, or watch the premier, visit webinars.adventsource.org. —Cassie Martsching



Documentary About Adventists to Air on PBS

An hourlong documentary highlighting the Adventist Church's health message is scheduled to air on PBS during Easter. "Through the film we have the chance to explore pioneering healthcare facilities, state-of-the-art medical technology, and cutting-edge science," said filmmaker Martin Doblmeier (pictured above on set). The founder of Journey



Films spent 18 months developing and producing *The Adventists*.

In addition to interviews with well-known Adventist doctors, historians, and theologians, the film discusses Adventist co-founder Ellen White and reveals how and why members combine health and spirituality; lauds Adventist hospitals (including the Columbia Union's own Kettering Medical Center in Kettering, Ohio), wellness programs, and technological breakthroughs; and profiles several people who have benefited from the church's century-long ministry of healing. Particularly moving is the story of a family who



struggles to keep their baby (above with Leonard Bailey, MD) alive at Loma Linda Medical Center (Calif.). For more information on the film, visit journeyfilms.com.

For more news, visit columbiaunion.org.

Church Sends Prayers, Aid to Haiti

Church leaders throughout the North American Division (NAD) are working to raise \$1 million to help Seventh-day Adventists in Haiti rebuild. “Our heart-felt prayers and concerns are with



the people of Haiti still suffering the effects of this devastating earthquake,” says Don Schneider, NAD president. “Because we know Jesus loves us ... His love compels us to help.”

Reports from the Inter-American Division indicate that the January 12, 7.0 earthquake killed 522 members, destroyed 55 churches, partially damaged 60 churches, and left some 27,000 members homeless in the capital city of Port-au-Prince.

“The infrastructure of that society has been destroyed,” says Columbia Union Conference president Dave Weigley. “We need to do whatever we can to help them re-establish their ministries.”

He participated in a teleconference last month where NAD leadership, in consultation with union presidents, voted to send \$600,000 to help rebuild the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Haiti, and designated February 6

as a special day of prayer and offering. (To donate on other Sabbaths, write “Haiti Disaster Relief (SDA)” on a tithe envelope).

Weigley said the Columbia Union will also contribute \$50,000 and that executive committees of each of the union’s eight conferences will allocate additional aid.

The Columbia Union Connection

Though the tragedy occurred thousands of miles away, there are 15 Haitian churches and multiple Haitian groups across the Columbia Union, whose members have lost loved ones.

“I lost my nephew. He was 2 years old,” shares Arbentz Pierre Antoine (below), pastor of Allegheny East Conference’s



Horeb Haitian church in Adelphi, Md. But “even in the midst of distress and turmoil, we know our God is still faithful.”

Charles and Gigi Le-Morzellec, of Potomac Conference’s Manassas (Va.) church, run an orphanage outside of Haiti’s capital. Because their facility was not damaged, they are housing and feeding displaced survivors.

Many churches, like AEC’s Miracle Temple in Baltimore and Potomac’s Restoration Praise Center in Lanham, Md., are fundraising for Haiti. At a prayer service last month, members at



Members of the First church of Montclair, N.J., gather to pray for Haiti.

Restoration donated \$3,000 for ADRA’s relief efforts.

ADRA Offers Relief

Soon after the earthquake, ADRA International, which maintains a branch in Haiti, began distributing food, water (below), and medical supplies to the more than 25,000 survivors who took refuge on the campus of the Haitian Adventist University (left) and the Adventist Hospital of Haiti. To donate or read updates, visit adra.org.



PHOTOS BY ADRA INTERNATIONAL; FIRST CHURCH OF MONTCLAIR, NJ; TAASHI ROWE

DOES EXPANSION EQUAL PROGRESS?

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY SAYS IT DOES

THEY PROVE IT THROUGH THE PURCHASE OF THE NEW RADIO ANTENNA FOR WGTS 91.9 FM IN TAKOMA PARK, MD.

A few years ago, when WGTS leaders wanted to expand their station’s listenership and outreach, they knew they would need to purchase some very expensive equipment. They turned to the organization they knew could help them financially—the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF).

With a CURF loan, WGTS bought a new antenna and transmitter to help them potentially reach millions for Christ. Today WGTS claims 600,000 listeners each week, plus another 50,000—around the world—through their website, wgts919.com. That makes them the second largest Christian station in the United States. To further impact their listeners, they started a chaplaincy ministry that has already yielded 24 baptisms.

As they have done with hundreds of churches, schools, conferences, and other entities across the Columbia Union during the past 40 years, CURF provides cost-effective financing to make ministry possible.

You can support the ministry of CURF. Call today!



MAKING MINISTRY POSSIBLE

COLUMBIA UNION REVOLVING FUND
(866) 721-CURF

Potluck

BETH MICHAELS

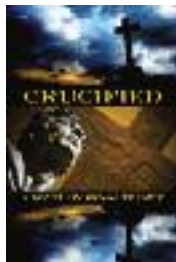
What's New?

BOOKS > *Crucified* Peggi Trusty

PHOTO BY TONY HEATH



The old stories that had been petrified in aging scrolls and foretold by patriarchs and prophets were now being whispered into existence by common man.—Peggi Trusty in *Crucified*



“When I began the process of rebuilding my love relationship with Christ, it became important to understand His experience on Earth,” explains freshman novelist Peggi Trusty, a member of Allegheny East Conference’s First church in Glassboro, N.J. “I created a character, Hezekiah, who could represent me, and set him loose in Judea to find my Jesus.”

Examine the fictional conversion experience of this young man as he struggles against

conservative Jewish traditions to believe in Jesus. Trusty hopes readers will ask themselves, “Would I have been able to believe?” Read more and order copies at peggitrusty.com.

Ask the Animals Bruce R. Coston

This first book by veterinarian Bruce R. Coston started as a column in a small Virginia newspaper where he shared pet care tips. Coston, a member of Potomac Conference’s New



Market (Va.) church, says his once practical and “dull” articles turned more personal and heart-warming. “To my surprise, the response ... was amazing,” Coston recalls. From then on, his informational pieces “gave way to the more human side of



Keeping Score

51
Median Age of
Adventists in the U.S.

36
Median Age of the
U.S. Population

Source: A Demographic Profile:
Seventh-day Adventists in North America
by Monte Sahlin and Paul Richardson,
2008, Center for Creative Ministry

my work, the part that makes my job so rewarding,” he adds. Order the book at amazon.com and learn memorable lessons from the animals—and owners—Coston treats.

CD > No Words Alison Brook

Alison Brook, 24, a member of Pennsylvania Conference’s Philadelphia Chestnut Hill church, loves to make music—especially if she can help listeners



pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. “There’s really no way to

humanly capture and portray the salvation God gave on the cross—we have to experience it!” she says, referring to the title of her first recording. But, “I’ve done my best to sing about it.”

Credited with penning all of the songs alone or with her mother, Brook describes her sound as “folk-based pop” that is “lyrically contemplative and musically fresh.” Read more and order copies at michaelministries.org.

Blogged

The Night is Far Spent

“Based on the prophecies of Matthew 24, the enemy knows that his time is short. We see the signs. He



is working ever so feverishly to seek, kill, and destroy as many people as

he can. Don’t think that all the devil wants to do is wreck your marriage, mess up your children, disrupt your finances, or ruin your health. What he ultimately wants is to kill you in your sins or, better yet, for you to kill yourself.”—From the December 28 blog entry by Leuanna Matheson (jarsofoil.blogspot.com), a member of Potomac Conference’s Hyattsville (Md.) church

What You Bring to the Table

5 Minutes With > Touch Therapist Deanna Tee

Deanna Tee has a healing touch—literally. This member of Potomac Conference’s Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., followed God’s lead to start a remedial ministry and open a store—Deanna Tee: The Gift of Touch (deannatee.com)—in historic Savage Mill, Md. Now she teaches others the benefits of therapeutic touch.

Tee’s path started at Andrews University (Mich.), where she earned a master’s in physical therapy. She held jobs in the acute care setting and outpatient physical therapy, but it was continued requests for her popular deep massages that set her ministry in motion:

Q: How did you end up opening a massage store?

A: After long workdays, I would think, “If I only had this ... I wouldn’t have to work so hard to perform a deep massage.” That was the beginning of the patented Soothers Massage Gloves. I started a home-based business to sell those, but then began receiving calls for massage tables. In February 2005, I began to pray and casually look for a space.

Q: What other products do you offer?

A: I offer products and services that encourage human touch and interaction: unique massage classes for enthusiasts and couples; specialized therapeutic massage; massage oils, lotions, and creams; gifts for brides-to-be; soy candles; etc. My massage table and chairs and the Soothers have been rented or bought by the NFL and NHL, and have gone to tradeshow and associations.

Q: You also have a new book?

A: Yes, *The Satisfying Touch—Creating Perfect Sensuous Strokes Your Mate Will Love!* Giving a back rub, holding hands, sitting close, or other ways of touching are important for individuals where physical touch means love. My book opens communication about touch in relationships, helps couples to better enjoy the touch of their mate, and encourages couples to reaffirm their commitment through the art of touch.



PHOTO BY BETH MICHAELS

From the Archives

MARCH 11, 1965: Barry Black (second from left), 16, is congratulated by Ed Peterson, Columbia Union Missionary Volunteers (MV) and Temperance secretary, after winning the union’s Temperance Oratorical Contest at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa. Looking on are Herbert Davis (left), sponsor of the temperance program at Pine Forge Institute (Pine Forge Academy) in Pine Forge, Pa., and Daniel Davis (right), MV and Temperance secretary of the Allegheny Conference (Allegheny East Conference).

TODAY: Barry Black, 62nd chaplain of the U.S. Senate, speaks around the world.



Finally Home

A Homeless Couple Finds Christ, Each Other, and a Home

Gina Wahlen

A Difficult Life

As a boy, Tim loved books and developed a keen interest in religion. By the age of 5, with his grandfather's help, he had already acquired two bookcases filled with religious volumes. His collection included *The Talmud*, the *Holy Quran*, the *Holy Bible*, a Greek-English inter-linear New Testament, and a book titled *Bible Readings for the Home*.

While studying these books, Tim started to publicly question the doctrines of his family's church. Before long his grandparents responded by donating his cherished books to the Prevention of Blindness Thrift Store on Wayne Avenue in Silver Spring, Md. This broke his heart.

Tim's difficult young life included abuse and soon followed a downward trend. Behavioral issues led him to the National Reform School for Boys, and later to the Patuxent Institution in Jessup, Md. Following his release, and with his grandparents now deceased, Tim's difficulties continued, eventually driving him to the streets of the Washington, D.C., metro area.

Jewel in the Dumpster

Being homeless was hard, and Tim spent his days trying to stay warm, finding places to sleep, and foraging for food. In 1989 while camping out on the back porch of a building in downtown Silver Spring, Tim was still searching for some meaning in his life when he found the "jewel" in the dumpster.

Carefully turning the pages of the old book, he was amazed to find a newspaper clipping from *The Washington Evening Star* and realized it was the same one he had placed there as a boy. "This was my book come back to me after 40 years!" he marvels. Going around to the front of the store, he found that it was, in fact, the Society for the Prevention of Blindness Thrift Store where

Tim Pawlik rummaged through his favorite Dumpster behind a store in downtown Silver Spring, Md. Suddenly the middle-aged homeless man caught sight of an old, hardbound book. Pushing aside the junk, he uncovered a treasure that brought back a flood of memories.

his grandfather had donated his books in 1949. Believing this was no mere coincidence, Tim realized that "this was God communicating with me on a *very personal* basis."

Not long after, Tim was assisting at a local homeless shelter when he offered a chocolate chip cookie to a dejected-looking young woman named Tina. "We were friends from then on," she remembers.

Newfound Love

Like Tim, Tina experienced some tough times. When she was 12, cancer took away her mother, and her father began beating and sexually abusing her. At 18, Tina ran away to a homeless shelter.

"Living in the shelter was better than living with my father," she states. Later she lived with an aunt whose cancer had gone into remission. However, when the cancer returned, Tina got blamed. "I'm tired of it! I wash my hands of you!" yelled the aunt as she forced Tina out of her home.

Tina ended up in a homeless shelter in the heart of Washington, D.C., where Tim offered her the cookie. Their friendship blossomed, but she was afraid to get too close.

"I didn't know what love was. My dad would say, 'Everybody you love dies. Your love is cancer,'" she recalls with tears. "And that made me afraid to love anybody—afraid that they would die."

Despite her insecurities, Tina believed in God and read her Bible regularly. One day she was shocked when a woman thrust a flyer into her hands. "Here!" said the woman. "*You* might need this—I don't!" As she read the headline, "Learn the Prophecies of

Revelation," Tina got chills. "I knew God wanted me to be there," she recalls.

Tim decided to accompany Tina to the "Prophecy Code" seminar at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters in Silver Spring, where Doug Batchelor, speaker/director for Amazing Facts, explained Daniel and Revelation. While there the two got invited to a meal at Potomac Conference's nearby Burnt Mills church. At the church they were encouraged to attend a Sabbath worship service. While Tim was open to the invitation, Tina was more cautious.

"I had always been told that Adventists were a weird people," she says. "I decided to go, but that they ain't getting me!"

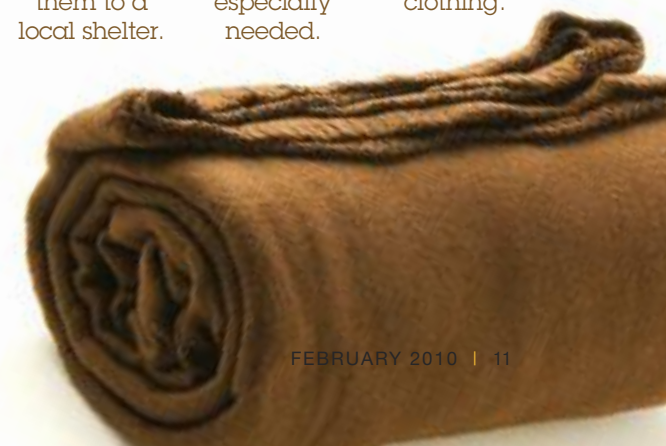
"Sitting in the pew that Sabbath, we both had our heels dug in," she recalls. But as the service progressed, they felt God's warm embrace. By the end, she says, "Tim and I looked at each other and, in unison, said, 'We're home!'"

Tim and Tina's lives started to improve. Soon they were studying the Bible with an Adventist missionary couple from India, and, before long, decided to marry and get baptized. They also successfully petitioned Montgomery County's Housing Opportunities Commission for assistance in obtaining a one-bedroom apartment. No longer homeless, the Pawliks continue to rejoice in their newfound faith and church family, and in depending on God for their needs.

Gina Wahlen writes from Silver Spring, Md., where she lives with her husband, Clinton, and two children, Daniel and Heather.

6 Ways You Can Help the Homeless

1. Don't give money. Instead, provide something hot to eat or drink.
2. Do Internet research on services that help the homeless. Make a little booklet listing homeless facilities and resources to share with them.
3. Talk with the people and share religious reading materials, but don't push. Try to find out their needs, and pray with them.
4. Don't take the homeless into your home, but do drive them to a local shelter.
5. Donate to feeding programs and clothing drives. Toiletries are especially needed.
6. Give something they can use—blankets, coats, clothing.



Suitcases



At this church banquet, the guests of honor are homeless.

Celeste Ryan Blyden

THE COLD, WINTER WIND tugs at the doors of the fellowship hall at the Beltsville (Md.) church, where 50 special guests are being treated to a banquet. “The special guests are homeless women who live in shelters in Washington, D.C.,” explains Kermit Netteburg, senior pastor.

But every year, for one night, they dress in their finest, pile into buses and vans provided by the church, leave their worries behind, and enjoy an evening of food, fellowship, music, stories, a puppet show, and gifts.

While there’s some discrepancy about when this outreach program actually began and who started it, coordinator Brea Mitchell says it was established in 1994 by Michael Gayle, associate pastor at the time. Thankfully, there’s no question about the meal: “We do a traditional holiday menu of turkey, corn, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, dressing,



Before enjoying a holiday feast in the Beltsville (Md.) church’s Friendship Hall, homeless women listen to their hosts sing carols.

WITH WHEELS

green beans—the whole works,” says her husband, Paul (below), who presides over the kitchen, assisted by a dozen or so church members. He turns from the stove to place a warm, crusty, apple pie on the large square island in the center of the church’s kitchen that flanks the fellowship hall, aptly called “Friendship Hall.”

That’s where Beltsville members, pastors, youth, and students, who look forward to the banquet and volunteer each year, are chatting with the

I think the presentation, warmth, and meal encourages them to relax and interact more than usual.”

She scans the room as she talks, pauses to listen as the women sing carols with their hosts, and then continues: “Sometimes they sit around all day with their coats and hats on, but they’re taking them off here. I’m sure they’re enjoying themselves.”

Everyone Has a Story

Organizations that monitor homelessness say it’s hard to determine how many people in America are homeless, because for many it’s temporary. In terms of demographics, however, they readily report that people of all races, backgrounds, and education levels experience homelessness, and that, as a result of the recent economic downturn, more people than ever are seeking assistance.

There are many reasons people end up homeless, and every guest in Friendship Hall has a story to tell. “I just met a woman named Annette who says she is a survivor of domestic abuse,” Mitchell says,

“This is a ministry where we get a blessing for doing something and making a difference in the lives of these women for one night out of the year.”—Brea Mitchell

special guests, serving them, and entertaining them with music. The fireplace adds a bright spot to the dimly lit room topped with strings of tiny, white lights that twinkle above the merriment. The women are seated at long tables, each decorated with centerpieces of red candles and greenery on mirrors, and appear to be having a good time.

“This is a ministry where we get a blessing for doing something and making a difference in the lives of these women for one night out of the year,” says Mitchell, who’s been coordinating the program for 13 of its 15 years. “From what we’ve been told, year after year, this is the highlight for them.”

Tanya Khan, a program assistant at the day center where the women are clients, says that’s because it fills one of their basic needs. “People who are homeless need a comfortable place to sleep, a place to eat, and a place to feel loved,” she explains. “This program provides inspiration and hope and lets them know that there are people who care, want to help, and are concerned about them.



“My stuff got set out and only my grandson was home. He couldn’t stop nobody from taking anything.”—Loretta



white T-shirt, and silver square earrings. Homeless for eight months, she recently graduated from a recovery program for drug addiction and now lives and volunteers at a shelter. “I also received an award for achieving my goals,” she says proudly.

Loretta’s demise was caused by three Ds—depression, drug addiction, and divorce. Then she quit her job at a day care. “I was depressed and had anger issues, and I didn’t want to take it out on the kids,” she says. “My boss wanted me to stay, but I knew I had to go.” It wasn’t long before she couldn’t pay rent. “My stuff got set out and only my grandson was home,” she says slowly, recalling the difficult period. “He couldn’t stop nobody from taking anything, but ummm,” she swallows, “it was rough. *It was rough*,” she repeats. “But, I didn’t want to be the one jumpin’ in and out of cars, eatin’ out of the trash, or sleepin’ in empty buildings.”

Recognizing she needed help, she went to a hospital and asked to speak to a psychiatrist. “I just needed somebody to talk to because I had suicidal thoughts,” she recalls. “They wouldn’t help me; they told me to go to an AA meeting. So I went on and tried to take the easy way out—I took 10 pills.”

She lay down in a gazebo outside the hospital

gesturing toward one of the tables in front of the stage where the youth are presenting their much-anticipated puppet show. “Some of her teeth are missing.”

She recalls that the story she found most upsetting, and surprising, was that of a lady who came for several years. “She was a former school teacher that my husband knew. Things happened in her life and she landed in a shelter. She lost everything and it tells me this could happen to any of us,” Brea explains. “She’s no longer there, which we’re glad for, but one of the sad parts is that we don’t get to follow up with what happens to these women. But we can always believe that things worked out, like with Annette, who’s in a training program to help her get established again in life.”

Behind the Smiles

Things are also working out for Loretta (above), a mother of one and grandmother of three, who came to the banquet wearing black velvet pants, a



Beltsville Adventist School fifth-grader Tiffany Buddy (center) and fellow church member Brooke Powell (right) help serve the guests of honor.

entry expecting someone to find her body. “But I woke up. A hospital employee told me I’d been there for two days, and other than her, nobody—not even the [security] guards—noticed me.”

That was three years ago. Now the award-winning Loretta, who has been coming to the banquet for each of her three years in rehab and loves the puppet show, has set her sights on earning a GED. She enjoys the event and seeing everybody happy because she says that behind the smiles and back at the shelter, “there’s a lot of pain.”

On this night, pain appropriately describes what Carlita feels too. The D.C. native, who recently lost her mother, says her homeless stint began two years ago when she lost her companion and could no longer afford rent. “I never spent a night outdoors,” she says. “I went to the shelter and stayed 10 months. Now I have an SRO (single room occupancy) and pay rent, pay bills, and volunteer at the day center two to three days a week, which feels good.”

Just What They Need

Like Loretta, Carlita has enjoyed the banquet at Beltsville for the last three years. And like most of the women, her favorite part is the parting gifts that sit next to the Christmas trees which line the fellowship hall. The gifts are suitcases with wheels,

and there are plenty to go around. They’re red, blue, black, beige, and striped, and there’s even a pink polka-dotted one under the tree nearest Carlita.

According to Mitchell, the women request them because they’re easy to roll, and they’re packed with everything a homeless person might need—blankets, socks, gloves, hats, scarves, coats, toiletries, snacks, umbrellas, and rain slickers. “Mine has two pairs of pants, a sweater, lotion, soap, toothpaste, a toothbrush, and socks,” says Odessa Gentles, a longtime member who’s been donating a suitcase every year since 1997. “It gives me joy to help others.”

For Pastor Netteburg, helping Annette, Loretta, Carlita, and *all* the others is the point of the banquet: “We do what we can to help their lives be more fulfilled and help them experience some joy and love,” he says.

And for at least one night during the tough winter months, they do.

15 Years and Counting: *Sonia Perez, pastor for Youth Ministries; Brea Mitchell, banquet coordinator; Kermit Netteburg, senior pastor; and a number of enthusiastic church members host an annual banquet for homeless women.*



Beyond Soup & Sandwiches

Seven Adventist organizations across the Columbia Union explain how they go above and beyond feeding the homeless

Debra McKinney Banks and Beth Michaels

1 Warren Church Keeps Families Together

Melinda Weiss has been there before. As a child bouncing from one homeless shelter to another, she remembers the frightening, uncertainty of it all. Weiss' mother was really having a tough time meeting their needs. "If you haven't been there, it's easy to get judgmental about the people going through it," she explains. "In reality, you have no idea why folks are in the situation they are in."

Many individuals and families are still being driven into the streets with their needs as different as their faces. According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, families with children are among the fastest growing segments of the homeless population. To meet this need, Ohio Conference's Warren church partnered with 12 other churches to form Family Promise of Mahoning Valley—an interfaith coalition. Congregations open their churches to host a maximum of four, one- or two-parent families a week.

"Many families are separated when they go to your typical shelter," explains Weiss, program director. "Here, families are able to stay together." The church provides a place to sleep, an evening meal, and breakfast; all other needs are met at the "day center," set up by another church to provide "assistance with whatever the family needs." There they have a physical address, financial aid, job training, child care, parenting and money management classes, transportation, and much more—all with the goal of helping each family achieve independence.

As the ministry gains experience, church members increasingly rally around Weiss and donate



Family Promise volunteers Sheila Ingram and Rejee Arunan stand with Shelvan Arunan, former pastor of the Warren church in Ohio.



Zechariah Williams instructs a student in one of Fourth Street-Friendship church's computer training classes.

time, furniture, clothing, gas cards, work uniforms, and even cars to the ministry. Weiss adds, "We even had one woman, a caterer, take a week of vacation to cook for the families while they were here."

Pastor Shelvan Arunan, former pastor of the Warren church and the person instrumental in getting the church involved in Family Promise, adds, "Being involved with these ministries has given us an opportunity to put our faith into action. It's also created an intense passion and love within our people for the ones who are in need."

2 Fourth Street-Friendship Provides Hot Meals and Computer Classes

Of the 75 to 100 clients who pass through the doors of the Bread of Life soup kitchen in Washington, D.C., not all are coming each Sunday just for a hot meal. In fact, instead of trash bags holding belongings, you might also see computer bags, or even briefcases under a few arms. "Often, you will find many of our clients bringing their laptops," says Tijuana Griffin, assistant director of the program, which is operated by Allegheny East Conference's Fourth Street-Friendship church.

Fourth Street is responding to the fact that homeless shelters around the country are also reporting higher numbers of individuals who were once part of the "middle class"—former small business owners and professionals (*Daily Press*, October 17, 2009). With a grant from the North American Division, the church has been able to purchase four laptops and open a computer center offering a full range of computer and Internet services, including email accounts, classes, and computer service and repair.

The ministry, started more than 25 years ago by

3 West Wilmington Offers Clothing and Job Placement

Thomas and Bernadette Clark can verify that the homeless situation around the country doesn't seem to be getting any better. The Clarks are two volunteers with the Greater Wilmington Adventist Community Services and West Wilmington Homeless Ministry, both managed by Chesapeake Conference's West Wilmington (Del.) church. "Whatever you read in the [news], just multiply that number 10 times. It's pretty bad out here," states Thomas.

They, and many other dedicated volunteers from area churches, set up near the local train station on the fourth Sabbath of each month. The revolving volunteer base consists of "different people all the time—God always provides enough volunteers," Thomas adds. People from 6 to 80 minister with kind words, deeds, a listening ear, and sometimes even a few songs by the church choir. "Rain, snow, or shine—we're going to be there because they are counting on



Homeless men line up to receive a bag full of donated food stuff from West Wilmington church and Adventist Community Services volunteers.

us,” Thomas says. After church they get busy making lunches, stuffing toiletry bags, and packing up vehicles with necessary items to meet the needs of the 50 to 70 clients they serve.

As the volunteers spend time talking with the clients, they often learn of abilities or skills they may have, or what type work they may be seeking, and try to help position them as much as possible. Many volunteers utilize personal contacts with area business owners, and even staffing agencies, to keep tabs on jobs as they become available. Sometimes the need isn’t a job, but providing a decent outfit to wear for an interview; a mandatory uniform; or even obtaining a pair of “sized 15, steel-toed boots” for a client who was blessed to receive a job but lacked funds to purchase the necessary footwear. “This is one day a month where people treat them like human beings,” says Thomas. “We want to do everything we can do to assist anyone looking for help and point them in the right direction.”

4 Sligo Walks for the Homeless

Potomac Conference’s Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., is collaborating with the Silver Spring Interfaith Housing Coalition (SSIHC) on several projects. In 1991 retired Sligo pastor Warren Zork helped start SSIHC, which specializes in new beginnings for homeless families. Since then Sligo has mentored families; outfitted apartments with furnishings, kitchen appliances and supplies, and food; provided gift cards and funds for case managers to distribute to families in need; and participated in the annual fall Walk for the Homeless.

This past fall, 430 Sligo members and students



Lisa Falkenstein (front), a director for Walk of Faith Fellowship's outreach ministry, gives donated socks to a homeless man.

from nearby Washington Adventist University (WAU), Sligo Adventist School, and John Nevins Andrews School participated in the walk. The stroll took place along the scenic Sligo Creek Parkway. The Adventist group raised more than \$7,700 for SSIHC. As an extra incentive this past year, the Fannie Mae Foundation provided a \$25,000 bonus to SSIHC for recruiting a total of 1,650 walkers.

A number of Sligo members and WAU students currently act as SSIHC board members, case managers, or case management interns. All of SSIHC’s client families have been referred by county social workers. Most come from shelters and are moms and children along with a few single men and single dads.

5 Walk of Faith Offers Food and Fellowship

Ohio Conference’s Walk of Faith Fellowship in Cleveland purchased a building in 2008 that they converted into a community center. They offer teen activities, clothing giveaways, Sabbath afternoon outreach activities, and a food pantry, among other initiatives. Most recently the congregation redesigned their Sabbath services to purposely include the community. According to Pastor Kevin Kuehmichel, between 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. every

Sligo church members and students from several Adventist schools in Takoma Park, Md., participate in the annual Walk for the Homeless.

Sabbath, they have prayer time, worship, lunch, and Bible study. “We discovered that the unchurched do not get up before noon on Saturday!” he explains.

In the past seven weeks, they have averaged 18 visitors, with at least six being homeless. And since the weather is colder now, the pastor opens the center early to offer hot drinks, pastries, and a video for the homeless, which sometimes turns into a spiritual discussion. Several are regularly attending, and they expect the attendance to grow as word spreads.

“In order to serve the homeless, you must be very intentional on meeting them in the spirit of Christ, which is without judgment and with compassion,” Pastor Kuehmichel explains. “You must earn the right to share Christ with them.”

6 Greater Pittsburgh ACS Works to Feed 1 Million

Last October Pennsylvania Conference’s Greater Pittsburgh Metro Ministry (GPM) started an aggressive initiative with the Carnegie-Collier Rotary Club. By the end of 2010, they plan to serve 1 million meals to the poor and hungry in Pittsburgh. Working with other area churches as collection sites, GPM is using the collected foodstuff to supplement food banks in town. Pittsburgh Metropolitan Rotary District 7300 has also requested to adopt the program.

“There is more and more demand for food and less and less food being given, so it’s not really getting people through the month,” reports GPM pastor Andrew Clark, the originator of the program. “The



Volunteers pack food for the Greater Pittsburgh Metro Ministry's joint initiative with the local rotary. Their goal: deliver 1 million meals in 2010.



The Atkinson House, operated by the First Coatesville church, offers temporary housing for homeless men and veterans awaiting availability at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

rotary thought I was pretty crazy, but we’ve already delivered more than 250,000 meals in four months!”

Clark also set up a hunger hotline, which guarantees that anyone who calls will get a food delivery within 12 hours. The initiative also involves youth who help collect, organize, and pack the food.

7 First Coatesville Houses, Supports Homeless

When Allegheny East’s First Coatesville (Pa.) church agreed to utilize their Sabbath School rooms to house homeless men, they could not have guessed that more than 25 years later, they would have grown into the W.C. Atkinson Memorial Community Services Center: a 22-bed facility. In addition to employment assistance and case management, the “Atkinson House” provides a temporary residence for veterans while they await the availability of a bed at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Minnie McNeil, Allegheny East’s Adventist Community Services director, reports that the mission of the center is to enhance neighborhood revitalization through housing for homeless and lower-income families; to promote community health; and to facilitate educational, supportive, and cultural services.

“Several local churches have adopted Atkinson as their mission,” says McNeil. “During 2009 we provided 7,240 nights of shelter for homeless adult men.”

Debra McKinney Banks writes from western Maryland.

Q & A

What World Issue Should Adventists Care About?

Besides homelessness, what other world issues should be on our radar? Seventh-day Adventists around the Columbia Union weigh in:



Sexual revolution is out of control and being celebrated by our society. **Homosexuality** is considered a social norm. And, who knows how many millions of **pornographic websites** there are. This is a massive moral disaster that is not only in the world but also infiltrating our church. Blinded or numbed by media, we have widely accepted this while we suppress the truth. God describes this in Isaiah 5:20: "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil." Through God's loving kindness, we can accept His forgiveness, overcome sin, and walk in His light. Let us be true Christians and continue to pass on this message of hope.—*Liz Darnelle Ang, Kettering Korean church, Ohio Conference*



The **economy** is very bad. I know of people who don't have a job or home. I think that not having a home is wrong and we should do something about it. I'm not saying we should go out and give people money, but there are a lot of shelters around town to donate to, like clothes, food, and all sorts of other things. We can donate money to charities as well. A lot of people need our help, yet we only spend our money on friends and ourselves. We need to do some outreaching to other people.—*Emily Bills, seventh-grader, Toledo Junior Academy, Ohio Conference*



As we face what is said to be the greatest **economic meltdown** since the Great Depression, many in the world have had to re-evaluate the **materialistic tendencies** of society. This includes Adventists, who, to some degree, have been swept up in the euphoria of acquiring material wealth. The Word tells us where to lay our treasures and to focus on building a strong, involved church. God will hold us accountable, not just for what we have done with our wealth, but also for the sacrifices we fail to make to rescue the perishing and care for the dying. Our call is to live out the gospel, to show the entire world that our God is an awesome God.—*Mark Bryan, Community Praise Center, Potomac Conference*



I believe that every Adventist should care about the **lost souls** in the world. It should be our passion to share the truth that God has given to us and become soul-winners for Jesus. The condition of every soul we meet should be our top priority in life. Sure we have jobs to do, but God has put us in places to meet those He wants us to reach. As our name states, we should care about proclaiming the soon return of Jesus, the blessed joy of keeping the Sabbath, and the love of God found in the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12.—*Elaine Buchanan, Braxton, Richwood, Summersville, and Webster Springs (W.Va.) churches, Mountain View Conference*



People are worried about losing their homes to foreclosure; worried that our nation is not doing enough to provide healthcare to every citizen; and worried about the state of conflict around the world. **Worry** is the misuse of our imagination and demonstrates to God that we do not trust that He is going to take care of us the way He said He would (see Heb. 13:5). The enemy wants to take our focus away from where it needs to be—on God's love and His care for us (see Matt. 6:31-34). The most important thing a Christian can do is believe that God is in control.—*R. Vincent Dehm II, associate pastor, Miracle Temple, Allegheny East Conference*



Protecting animals is a mission for me! My favorite is the cheetah. When I was 7 years old, I watched a video about endangered animals. I saw that the polar bears are endangered because of global warming. It made me so sad, and I decided that I had to do something to help. My mom said, "Why don't you start a website about endangered animals?" I said "Yes!" My website (eafc.webs.com) helps children all over the world know more about endangered animals and how we can help them. Last year my Adventurer Club held a bike parade to help me promote the cause.—*Luisa Macena, age 10, Luso-Brazilian church, New Jersey Conference*



Adventists have had a health message for well over 100 years, but we are letting the world cash in on it. We need to stop looking, eating, talking, and acting like Babylon. In *Messages to Young People*, Ellen White says, "Pure and undefiled religion is not a sentiment, but the doing of works of mercy and love. This religion is necessary to **health and happiness**. It enters the polluted soul-temple, and with a scourge drives out the sinful intruders (p. 142)." We need to get the "intruders" out of our lives so we can be more effectual witnesses to the world.—*Randy Phipps, bivocational pastor, Hamlet church, Ohio Conference*



Poverty and the **unavailability of health-care** have kept many from the opportunity to live a healthier life. This also pertains to Adventists, but [we have] the truth of health reformation. Not only should we practice these laws, but we should also tell others. The principles of proper nutrition, daily exercise, drinking clean and pure water, practicing temperance in all things, breathing fresh air, getting proper and adequate amounts of rest, and having trust in the Lord are all things that should be in our lives, especially in these trying times.—*Sharday Williams, Ashtabula (Ohio) church, Allegheny West Conference*

In My Opinion



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Profiles in Caring



Fear Not

Proverbs 9:10 says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." Some have suggested that the word translated "fear" means to be in awe of God, and that is certainly an appropriate translation, but it's not the only way the word can be used.

The same word can mean terror—as in scared out of your mind. I have the feeling that the old sage who gathered the proverbs together was well aware of the dual meanings.

The book of Proverbs contains about 90 mentions of "wisdom and knowledge" compared to just 19 mentions of the word "fear." Clearly the focus of the book is on wisdom and not on fear, but why bring it up at all? Why introduce fear into the equation if it isn't the real focus?

Because for all us humans, sometimes it is the real focus. We've all known people who were so fearful that they couldn't move, or they became blinded by rage or discouragement. We've all experienced fear that sent us running for our mother's skirts or making a mad dash to the exit.

The scriptures are filled with examples of people who were fearful and who were comforted—directly and personally—by God himself. The King James Version uses a distinctive way of saying "Don't be afraid" that I've always liked. "Fear not," it says, and usually it goes on to say why you can face your terrors and fears.

Most of these stories share the same qualities of reassurance, comfort, hope, and gentle guidance. I love the example from Deuteronomy 31:6. Even with the old-fashioned language of the KJV, the strength of God's love comes through: "Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

"Fear not," proclaims the God who loves us and holds us in his mighty hand. In a world where terror has been commonplace, and where the language of fear can be found everywhere, these words are relevant and reassuring. And perhaps just the words we most need to hear.

William G. "Bill" Robertson
President & CEO
Adventist HealthCare





Clarksburg Hospital Plan

Next Step in Expanding Access to Care for Montgomery County

Through the years the population of Montgomery County, Maryland has steadily increased, at first in the southern portions near its border with Washington, D. C., but more recently in the booming “upcountry” communities toward Frederick. A perfect example of this is the community of Clarksburg, which is expected to grow 600 percent over the next 20 years. Those new families are going to need a wide array of health-care services.

However, it takes years to build a hospital—and years before that to get approval to build a hospital.

So back in 2002, Adventist HealthCare, having foreseen the need for a hospital, purchased land in

Clarksburg and began the preliminary steps. Hospital officials understood that both the county government and the community had to be supportive for such a project to go forward.

Montgomery County has a particularly rigorous approval process, as does the state of Maryland. Adventist HealthCare implemented the various stages of the county land-use process, including transportation and environmental impact studies. By 2009, the approval process had moved to the stage where a Certificate of Need proposal was filed with the state Health Care Commission. This process continues in early 2010.

From the beginning the process has involved the community. This is going

to be their hospital and it's important for them to be aware of the project and supportive of it. Many in Clarksburg and neighboring upcountry communities were familiar with Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, having traveled 15 miles south to the hospital when they needed medical care. They embraced the expanded access to health care made available in 2006, when Shady Grove's Germantown Emergency Center opened just a few miles down the road. The new hospital will combine with these institutions to provide a well-coordinated array of services for the entire region. Many residents and local organizations enthusiastically support the idea of Clarksburg Community Hospital and medical campus, while also preserving



“We believe that working with the community... In an open and collaborative manner, as we have done in Clarksburg the past eight years, is the proper way to expand access to health care for all”
—William G. “Bill” Robertson

the Emergency Center and other medical services in Germantown.

It is called a campus because the plan involves much more than a hospital building in Clarksburg. The comprehensive plan includes an 86-bed, full-service hospital, a nursing and rehabilitation center, physician offices, outpatient treatment facilities, a day-care center, and room for expansion as the region continues to grow.

There are also plans to strengthen the community's safety net by addressing the health-care needs of low-income, under-served residents, young

and old, including a primary care clinic for the uninsured and a prenatal clinic for low-income women. Adventist HealthCare provides more uncompensated and charity care than any other health-care provider in Montgomery County, and will continue this long-standing and mission-driven commitment in Clarksburg.

Another organization has plans to build a senior housing complex adjacent to the medical campus. An additional advantage for the region will be the significant economic development the medical campus will bring, including more than a thousand jobs.

“We believe that working with the community, local officials, and county planners in an open and collaborative manner, as we have done in Clarksburg the past eight years, is the proper way to expand access to health care for all,” said William G. “Bill” Robertson, President and CEO of Adventist HealthCare. This collaboration with community leaders has helped ensure that the medical campus will fit in seamlessly with planned residential and commercial growth when it opens, which could be in late 2012, if all continues to go well.

But Adventist HealthCare is not waiting for the hospital's opening to bring health care to the community. The organization's Health & Wellness team has been showing up at the Clarksburg Farmer's Market on a monthly basis for the past year to provide blood pressure screening, hand-washing clinics, and flu shots. And since the flu seemed to be on everybody's mind this fall, the team also gave flu shots at the local pumpkin fest.

The Health & Wellness team also offers weekend Childbirth/Infant Care Courses at the Clarksburg Town Center Resident's Club. In two 6-hour days couples are given labor and birth information, including possible interventions that might be necessary during delivery. They participate in a labor rehearsal, practicing breathing and relaxation techniques. And they talk about getting through the first few weeks at home, discussing postpartum care for mother and baby.

Because prevention is the best med-

icine, the new Clarksburg campus will place a significant focus on health and wellness. Additional classes, activities, and screenings will be added as the population continues to grow.

As Robert Jepson, Adventist HealthCare's Vice President of Public Policy, puts it, “We are developing health care in the community as the community develops.”

For more information on the Clarksburg plans, visit www.ClarksburgHospital.com. The hospital can also be found on Facebook at “Clarksburg Community Hospital.”



“We are developing health care in the community as the community develops”
—Robert Jepson

Nuevo hospital de Adventist HealthCare en Clarksburg

A través de los años la población de Montgomery County, Maryland, ha crecido constantemente. El crecimiento, originalmente, en la parte sur del condado aledaña a Washington, DC, y más recientemente en las comunidades en el noroeste hacia Frederick. Un ejemplo perfecto de esto es la comunidad de Clarksburg, que se espera tendrá un crecimiento de un 600% durante los próximos 20 años. Todas esas familias van a requerir una variedad de servicios médicos.

En 2002, Adventist HealthCare, previendo la necesidad de un hospital, compró terrenos en Clarksburg e inició los pasos preliminares. La directiva del hospital sabía que tanto el gobierno del condado como la comunidad deberían de apoyar el proyecto para poder seguir adelante.

Montgomery County tiene un proceso muy riguroso de aprobación, lo mismo que el estado de Maryland. Adventist HealthCare implementó los diferentes procesos del condado en relación al uso del terreno, incluyendo estudios acerca del transporte y los impactos al ambiente. Para 2009 el proceso de aprobación había llegado al punto en el que se requería un

Certificado de Necesidad, que fue solicitado a la Comisión de Salud Médica. Ese proceso continuará durante la primera parte de 2010.

La comunidad ha estado involucrada desde el principio. Este va a ser su hospital y es importante que estén conscientes del proyecto y le den su apoyo. Muchos de los habitantes de Clarksburg y otras comunidades aledañas están familiarizados con Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, teniendo que viajar 15 millas para llegar al hospital en casos de necesidad médica. La apertura del Centro de Emergencia de Shady Grove en Germantown, en 2006, a unas millas de ellos fue bien recibida.

Los planes involucran no solamente un edificio en Clarksburg. El plan incluye un hospital de 86 camas, un centro de rehabilitación, oficinas de doctores, instituciones para tratamiento ambulatorio, un centro de guardería y espacio para expansión conforme la región continúa creciendo.

También existen planes para atender las necesidades médicas de las personas de bajos recursos, a los residentes desatendidos, a los jóvenes y a los ancianos, incluyendo una clínica de atención médica primaria para quienes no tienen seguro y una clínica prenatal para mujeres de pocos ingresos. Adventist HealthCare provee más atención médica caritativa que ningún otro proveedor de servicios médicos en Montgomery County y continuará esa dedicación al servicio misionero en Clarksburg.

"Creemos que trabajar con la comunidad, con los oficiales locales y con los urbanistas del condado de una manera abierta y colaborativa, como hemos hecho en Clarksburg durante los últimos ocho años, es la manera apropiada de ampliar el

acceso a la salud médica para todos", ha señalado William G. "Bill" Robertson, presidente y gerente general de Adventist HealthCare. Esa colaboración con líderes de la comunidad ha ayudado a asegurar que el establecimiento encaje con el crecimiento residencial y comercial cuando abra sus puertas a finales de 2012.

Pero Adventist HealthCare no está esperando a la apertura del hospital para llevar atención médica a la comunidad. El equipo de Salud y Bienestar de la organización ha estado presente en el Farmer's Market de Clarksburg cada mes durante el último año, proveyendo exámenes de sangre, seminarios de lavado de manos y vacunas contra la gripe. Dado que la gripe ha estado en la mente de todos este otoño, el equipo también proveyó vacunas contra la gripe durante la fiesta de calabazas de la comunidad.

El equipo de Salud y Bienestar también ofreció cursos de parto y atención infantil en el Town Center Resident's Club de Clarksburg. En sesiones de seis horas, por dos días, las parejas recibieron información acerca del parto, incluyendo las posibles intervenciones que puedan ser necesarias durante el mismo. Participaron en ensayos de parto, practicando técnicas de respiración y relajamiento; hablaron acerca de las primeras semanas después del parto y la atención de post parto de la madre y el bebé.

Dado que la prevención es la mejor medicina, el nuevo local en Clarksburg pondrá atención especial a la salud y el bienestar. Se añadirán clases, actividades, seminarios y exámenes adicionales conforme la población aumenta.

Para mayor información acerca de los planes para Clarksburg, visite www.ClarksburgHospital.com. El hospital también puede encontrarse en Facebook bajo "Clarksburg Community Hospital".



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ALLEGHENY EAST

FEBRUARY 2010

Exposé

Adventist Elected Mayor of Pottstown

When people in the Borough of Pottstown, Pa., suggested that Bonnie Heath run for mayor, she laughed. So did her friends. "I've heard that people can see right through me," she explains. "And I've been told that I'm a pretty soft sell."

However, since she became a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1982, Heath has come to believe in waiting for God's timing and realizing that He always has a plan.

A majority of the voters in the town of some 22,000 people were inspired by her platform, which included mutual respect, tolerance, and economic development.

"I believe that if people are respectful and honest and talk to each other, the path would be made clear," she says.

She holds a master's degree in educational psychology from Andrews University (Mich.), has taken courses in pastoral counseling, and has worked in the community mental health field for 30 years. She moved to Pottstown 10 years ago with her husband, Mason Craig, who vowed he would never become a Christian.

However, God intervened when Heath and her husband visited the Walnut Street church in Pottstown to hear the organ that her neighbor donated to the church.

"We fell in love with the people, and I realized this has to be a part of God's plan," she says. The couple now attends the church, and Heath says Craig is taking Bible studies and preparing to be baptized.



Bonnie Heath is sworn in as the new mayor of the Borough of Pottstown, Pa., as her husband, Mason Craig, holds the Bible.

Maranatha Romanian Church Welcomes All Nations

With an estimated 500 Romanian families in Hazelton, Pa., Pastor Dumitru Asanache and his wife, Ileana, found it only natural to reach out to their fellow countrymen. So in 2006, they started a Romanian

church with six members, and met in a rented church.

Today the church boasts 23 members and has changed its name to the Maranatha Romanian and Multinational church. Even though the initial goal of the church was to reach out to fellow Romanians Asanache and his members have gone door to door sharing the gospel with everyone in their community and inviting them to the church. The church now attracts not only Romanians, but Russians, Haitians, Dominicans, Puerto Ricans, Peruvians, Hungarians, Filipinos, Serbians, Americans, and Mexicans.

Asanache sees this as an advantage. "The members are attracted by the diversity that makes our church unique in this conference," he says. "It is like the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit gathered people from many nations sharing the gospel in their own languages, and so it will be in heaven where the saved citizens will be from every nation."

Church members recently purchased a former Catholic church and are now paying the same in mortgage as they did in rent. They are excited to start offering piano instruction and English lessons at the church as forms of evangelism.



Pastor Dumitru Asanache of the Maranatha Romanian and Multinational church preaches in English, while his wife, Ileana, translates to Romanian and Victor Lune, 17, translates to Spanish.

Fourth Street Members Foster Creativity Among Youth

The Fourth Street-Friendship church in Washington, D.C., hosted a series of workshops for 22 students (some pictured) from the community. Called ARISING (Arts Really Inspire Students IN Greatness), the

six-week series exposed students to creative and journalistic writing, singing, dancing, painting, and photography.

The program was the brainchild of Claudia Ricci, PhD, and TeRay Bingham, who acquired funding from the District of Columbia's Deputy Mayor's Office of Planning and Economic Development. At the conclusion of the workshops, the students (including Marleigh Ferguson, left) showcased their acquired skills at a special performance at the church.

They were also awarded up to \$750 each and a certificate of completion to commemorate their achievements.—Louis Williams



First Church Feeds 150 With Investment Offering

More than 150 people from the First church neighborhood in Washington, D.C., responded to the church's flyers offering free baskets of food. People lined up in Ethel Nell Hall to first fill out a registration card and then receive a basket and gift card.

"Receiving this basket and food gift card means a great deal to me because I am out of work," said Tyrone Lewis. Additional

baskets were also taken to the sick and shut-in.

The idea for distributing baskets and gift cards to church members as well as neighbors in need first evolved from the Investment Ministry and Sabbath School department leadership and soon involved other areas of the church. It became an investment project when members began to deposit their spare change into five-gallon bottles each week, earning the project name "Time For Change."

Oral John, Investment Ministry leader, said this initiative "meant more than the idea of collecting the coins that members would donate each week. ... It meant that with the money collected, the church could impact the lives of people in need."

Lenworth Black, Sabbath School Superintendent, noted, "Although

we have been distributing baskets to members in need for three years now, we have decided to extend our efforts to people in the community."

Mark McCleary, DMin, the church's senior pastor, viewed this year's investment project as providing a link to the church's mission to nurture its members and community. His personal motto is to be pastor to First church and chaplain to its community. "The community is comprised of church members' family and friends, as well as needy people," he said. "[These have] been hard times and we heard of members struggling. Foreign and external ministry is only as good as what is done for church family members too."—Rhonda M. Covington



Raydon Rigsby, Sabbath School teacher (right), distributes food at First church in Washington, D.C.

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Ramah Students Minister to Elderly, Homeless

Students attending Ramah Junior Academy recently visited the elderly and the homeless in their Cleveland community. Students in classes ranging from kindergarten through grade 6 (some pictured) visited Maple Heights Nursing Home with decorative and colorful fruit bags prepared for its 80 residents.

Celeste Giles, who teaches grades 4 and 5, coordinated the group's musical selections, which included sign language. The sixth-grade class then recited a poem. After their performance, students toured the facility distributing their bags of fruit to the residents and staff. It was a fun and heart-warming day for both the students and staff. A prayer by Pastor James Davis even brought tears to some of the residents' eyes. Days later the coordinator of the facility sent the school a thank-you card saying, "It's people like [those at] Ramah that make my job easier."

Ramah's seventh- and eighth-graders visited the City Mission, which serves homeless people from its downtown Cleveland location. Ramah students brought an abundance of snack items that the shelter can use to prepare lunches. Janvierre Lavender led the students in singing uplifting songs and reciting inspiring poems. Some of the shelter residents shared personal testimonies and encouraged the students to complete their education.

Teachers Deneen Howard, LaWanda Tolbert, and Stewart Jenkins worked diligently to provide the leadership for the success of these projects.



New Pastor Takes the Helm at Ethnan Temple



William E. Joseph, Jr., MDiv, MBA, recently joined the Ethnan Temple congregation in Wilkinsburg, Pa., as the new senior pastor. Joseph has been pastoring, teaching, and evangelizing for 28 years. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Andrews University (Mich.) and an MBA with a management emphasis.

Pastor Joseph's ability to simplify complex concepts has been instrumental in leading many persons to the kingdom of God. He had a fruitful ministry in

the Lake Region Conference where he baptized more than 1,000 individuals. He has conducted evangelistic meetings around the world—most recently in Paris—and pastored several churches in Michigan and Illinois. He most recently shepherded City Temple in Detroit for six years.

Joseph is a certified marriage counselor and teaches pastoral and evangelism principles at Andrews University. His favorite text and theme of ministry is found in one of Paul's letters to the Corinthians: "We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Cor. 4:8-9, NIV). He encourages all believers to stay strong, stand firm, and hold fast!

He is married to Kim. They have two adult children, Kristyn Nichole and Ryan Matthew.

Danville Church Consecrates New Building

Danville, Va., is a small city, and yet, something big happened to some of God's people there. Under the leadership of senior pastor Andre L. Saunders, DMin, PhD, and local elders, and with supportive and faithful members, the Ross Street church was able to purchase a new building (right). But not just any building. Members were able to purchase the 450-seat, former Keen Street Baptist Church. The church, which has a school attached, is valued at \$500,000. However, Seventh-day Adventists purchased the property for \$272,000, beating out four other groups vying to purchase it for larger sums.

How did this happen? "Through the Allegheny West Conference (AWC) and Columbia Union Revolving Fund, God intervened

and made a way out of no way," Saunders said.

Ross Street praised God for this miracle and unanimously decided to change its name to the Three Angels Messages church. "This is the message that distinguishes us from all other faith groups in the city of Danville," stated George Evans, first elder.

On consecration Sabbath, Saunders preached a sermon titled "If You Can't Run With the Big Dogs, Stay On the Porch." His sermon emphasized that God is going to grow the church despite members who choose to sit on the porch of mediocrity.

Guests came from nearby cities and included Fredrick Russell, AWC president. Russell encouraged members to realize that the church



was not just a building. He also consecrated Pastor Saunders and his wife, Paula, the elders and their wives, and the remaining members of the leadership team.

The special day included a fellowship dinner and ended with an afternoon concert featuring various groups.

Ephesus Church Welcomes New Assistant Pastor

The Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, recently welcomed Carldin "Shaun" Arthur as their new assistant pastor. Arthur is a recent graduate of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.). He is a native of Texas and is the fourth child of Winfred and Anna Arthur.

Arthur accepted his call to ministry at age 16 and began preaching the gospel. Soon he preached for youth days, youth weeks of prayer, and attended many leadership conferences and seminars. During his senior year at Oakwood University (Ala.)—where he earned a bachelor's degree in theology—he served as vice president for the Religion and Theology Forum.

Arthur has a strong love for evangelism. He worked as a Bible worker in more than five evangelis-

tic meetings, helping to win many souls to the kingdom of God. In the summer of 2006, God allowed him to travel to Mbeya, Tanzania with



ShareHim to conduct an evangelistic meeting. He preached for more than two weeks and many were baptized. Additionally, he has ministered all over the United States.

He is engaged to Lauren Nembhard, a native of Freeport, N.Y., and they plan to marry July 25.



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10 Ways to Encourage Another Member

One of the greatest challenges we face as a church is the retention of new members. We spend a great deal of our time, energy, and resources bringing people into the church only to watch many of them quietly slip away. The reasons for this exodus are numerous and complex, but, from what I have observed over the years, part of this could be remedied through the practice of the ministry of encouragement. Encouraging one another is one of the most dominant themes in the New Testament—the basic concept being used more than 100 times. Encouragement is something that almost everybody wants, but few know how to give.

Here are 10 practical suggestions taken from the Sacred Script that you can put into action:

1. Write an encouraging letter to a young person you think has potential (Paul to Timothy).
2. Share your personal testimony of how God has dealt with you (Paul's testimony in Acts 22).
3. Don't withhold friendship when a brother or sister stumbles (Paul and the Corinthians).
4. Affirm a person's worth by doing kindness when he or she hurts (Matt. 25:31-46).
5. Compliment a brother on the spiritual progress he is making (1 Peter 1:22; 1 Thess. 1).
6. Be available and willing to listen (Paul corresponded with the Corinthians).
7. Offer a positive outlook when the situation looks dim (Paul and Silas in prison).
8. Jump in and help someone complete a job (John and Peter with Philip in Samaria, Acts 8).
9. Stand up for a brother, defending him when others disparage him (Barnabas for Paul).
10. Review with a brother or sister the record of God's involvement in your life, so he or she can get the future into perspective (Paul to the Philippians).



Rob Vandeman
President

Hagerstown Pastor Elected Executive Secretary



The Chesapeake Conference recently elected Rick Remmers, DMin, to the position of conference executive secretary. Remmers is no stranger to the conference. He is currently the senior pastor of the Hagerstown (Md.) church, and some years ago, served as senior pastor of the Atholton church in Columbia, Md.

"Our entire constituency will soon discover what Atholton and Hagerstown members already know—that Elder Remmers is an outstanding leader. He is spiritually motivated and professionally competent, as well as a really nice person," says Rob Vandeman, conference president.

In addition to his job as conference secretary, Remmers will assume the responsibilities of Health Ministries director and Prayer Ministries coordinator.

He has spent more than 20 years in pastoral and administrative ministry in Ohio, Illinois, and Maryland, which includes serving as conference secretary and ministerial director for the Illinois Conference.

"I look forward to partnering with our members to advance the important message and mission that God has given to us," Remmers says.

He is married to Shayne (Bromme) Remmers, who is a nurse specializing in cardiac care. They have two children, Andrew and Kari.

Remmers replaces Charles Griffin who retired in January after 48 years in ministry.

Rick Remmers (pictured with his wife, Shayne, and children, Andrew and Kari) will officially assume the post of executive secretary for the Chesapeake Conference March 1.

Children's Ministries Training Equips Leaders

About 80 Children's Ministries leaders recently took advantage of an afternoon of seminars, held in Columbia, Md., designed to acquaint them with the new Sabbath School curriculum and to provide a forum for sharing ideas and resources.

According to Stacey Bondurant, conference Children's Ministries director, participants selected from

three workshops offered in English and Spanish—"Sabbath School Teacher Training," "How to Start a Children's Church," and "Interactive Storytelling."

"It was a great training for me," said Irma Brown of the Salisbury (Md.) Spanish church. "I learned how to teach the little ones about Jesus in an entertaining way."

New Hope church members Debbie Howell and Marty Chappell shared their strategies for implementing an effective children's church program. They direct an age-appropriate worship service at the Fulton, Md., church that attracts more than 100 kids each week.

Rose Gamblin, PhD, an education specialist and media consultant, introduces the new Gracelink curriculum.



Olivia Rivera of the Dundalk Spanish church in Baltimore, Md., participates in the Interactive Storytelling workshop presented by Candy Devore, editor of Kid's Ministry Ideas magazine and Children's Religious Education Resource coordinator for the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md.

PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA YOUNG



Atholton Members Share "Cardboard Testimonies"

Twice each year, members of the Atholton church in Columbia, Md., devote an entire worship service to testimonies in which people share how God has worked in their lives. Their recent service was organized as a unique and powerful way to focus on God's transformative power. As music played in the background, members shared silent testimonies by holding up a cardboard sign. On one side, the sign declared a challenge the individual faced. The other side indicated how God intervened with a solution.

"What a blessing," said Hamlet Canosa, a church elder, following the presentation. "I feel like I've heard 14 sermons, each of which touched my heart and gave me a richer perspective of the Christian journey."—Dan Herzel

Members of Atholton church in Columbia, Md., visually display their testimonies.



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW HERZEL

COMING SOON Generation Rain Spiritual Retreat for Grades 9-12 Students February 26-28

Featuring Randy Preston and Jakob's Night

There's still time to register to attend this special event at Mount Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md. Just \$38 covers meals and lodging for the weekend. Join the Generation Rain Facebook community or check out generationrain.blogspot.com for more details. To register, contact Ann Reynolds at areynolds@cco.sda.org, or (410) 995-1910.



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What An Adventist Education Means to Me

I sincerely believe receiving a Seventh-day Adventist education from Highland View Academy (HVA) is a privilege. Attending this school has given me so many unique opportunities. For example, one of my projects for Honors English this year was to prepare a lesson and teach my classmates. After the presentation, my teacher, Mrs. Payne, didn't just give me a grade. She also pulled me aside to talk to me about my skills and encouraged me to consider a career in teaching. I know that it is a privilege to have teachers who take such a personal interest in my future.

During a school-wide community service day, I helped at the home of an elderly woman. After we worked several hours, she brought us lemonade and told us how grateful she was for our help and what an important ministry we were providing in the community. I'm glad my school helps me help others.

As Student Association president, I actually get to be a part of making a difference at my school. I love that the faculty see value in student ideas and input.

I've almost always attended an Adventist school, so some of these things seem very normal to me. But, when I talk to friends who attend other schools, I realize I've been blessed to have an Adventist education!



Katy Yeary
Student Association
President

NEWS

Senior Named Commended Scholar

HVA senior Jennifer Calhoun (below) has been named a Commended Scholar in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship program. Commended Scholars placed among the top 5 percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2010 competition by taking the 2008 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

"Jennifer is simply an outstanding student. She is a strong leader, well liked by peers, a spiritual role model, and very dedicated to academic excellence. In short, she is a great role model to others," says Sheri Tydings, HVA principal.

"Recognition of high-achieving students is essential to advancing educational excellence in our nation," commented a spokesperson for National Merit Scholarship Corporation. "As demonstrated by their outstanding performance in our highly competitive program, the young men and women named Commended Students represent some of the most academically talented students in our country."



Visitors Enjoy Academy Days

Seventy-two guests recently attended HVA's Academy Days, according to Kim Brown, event coordinator. They came to learn more about what they can gain from attending HVA for their high school years. The two-day event included games, worship around a bonfire, a concert, a campus tour, and informational sessions on the curriculum and campus ministries.

At the close of the tour, students received prizes and scholarships, goodie bags and T-shirts, and said warm goodbyes.



Senior Jennifer Calhoun (center) helps visitors Kate Carbaugh and Emily Barr feel right at home.

Music Department Spreads Cheer

During the holidays, the Highland View Academy Music Department shared their talents and enhanced the season for many. They hosted the annual Christmas program titled "For Unto Us a Child is Born" under the direction of music teacher Olga Bilan. The program included selections by the band, string ensemble, choir, and Highlanders. Several adult guests from the faculty and community also joined the student groups. The highlight of the program was selec-

tions from Handel's *Messiah*. While guests enjoyed the beautiful music, they watched the first snowfall of the season.

"I was very proud of the students," said Bilan. "They did an excellent job. I am also very thankful that we have faculty members and community parents who join us for these special programs."

The Highlanders were also one of the privileged few to be selected to sing in Washington, D.C., at the Ellipse on the National Mall near

the national Christmas tree.

"I learned that musical groups were able to perform on the National Mall during the Christmas season, so I contacted the National Parks Service to apply," explains Denison Sager, HVA vice principal. "It was really exciting when we heard the Highlanders application was approved!"

The group arrived early enough to enjoy looking at the Christmas tree displays of each state prior to the performance at 8 p.m. Of course, the highlight of the evening was watching proudly as the Highlanders (left) sang beautifully for the crowd. Musical selections included "Carol of the Bells," "Jingle Bells," and "Joseph Took a Walk to Bethlehem."

Makhela Libebe, a sophomore and Highlander member, reported, "It was really cold to be singing but it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I'm really glad we got to sing for such a cool event."



Sophomore Class Hosts an Evening in "Paris"

The class of 2012 recently hosted a dinner themed "Crepes a' Paris," replete with white and black linen, red roses, lots of lights, and an Eiffel Tower replica. Although held in the school cafeteria, dinner guests enjoyed the feeling of dining in a lovely Parisian restaurant.

Class sponsors, parent volunteers, and students prepared the dinner, while well-dressed class members played servers. The meal began with salad and bread, followed by vegetarian chicken, dinner crepes, and rosemary potatoes, and finished with dessert of chocolate and strawberry crepes.

"It was a lot of work, but also a lot of fun, and we made a lot of money for our class," said sophomore Karen Tejada.

Sophomore Jazzmin Pride serves guests at a recent Paris-themed fundraising dinner.



CALENDAR

February

- 6 Academic Bowl
- 15-20 Student Week of Prayer
- 21 International Fair
HVA Gymnasium, 3-6 p.m.
- 24-28 Home Leave

March

- 8-12 Spirit Week
- 13 Senior Play
HVA Gymnasium, 8 p.m.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
HVA Administration Building
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 19 Bible Bowl
- 26-Apr 4 Galapagos Mission
Trip/Spring Break

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MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

FEBRUARY 2010

For God so Loved the World ...

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

In the five years that I have been a parent, my perspective on how God loves us, His children, has changed. What kind of love would it take to give up *my* child, for the *possibility* that *one person might* choose eternal life? God knew in advance what was going to happen; His Child, the King of the universe, would be born in a barn and then eventually crucified. What gut-wrenching pain that must have caused Him. When our children hurt, we hurt, but God loves more than we ever could, so the hurt must be magnified also. Yet, He chose to take that risk on you and me. Why? Because He loves us.

While I hesitate at the possibility of giving up my child, on God's part there was no second-guessing. He knew the answer. "God is love" is His essence and His character. "The gift of God to man is beyond computation. Nothing was withheld ... In the gift of Christ He gave all heaven" (*God's Amazing Love*, p.176).

This month, with all the "love" in the air, take time to really think about the ultimate gift of love and the One who died for you.



Monica Zill

Communication Director

Lewisburg Seminar Teaches Bible Marking

After Stewart Pepper (right), pastor of the Lewisburg (W.Va.) church, finished leading the "Midnight Cry" prophecy seminar, many of the attendees wanted to learn more. So the church decided to conduct the Family Bible Marking Seminar, which Randy Murphy, retired Mountain View Conference president, first developed years ago.

The marked Bible helps readers know exactly how to give Bible studies to friends and family. There are 28 lessons, including topics such as God, the



Sabbath, and the state of the dead.

Pastor Pepper shares, "When you are done with this class, your Bible will be so valuable to you that you won't sell it for \$500."

The church previously held a Bible marking seminar, but this time, all of the presentations are on PowerPoint. Each lesson is easy to follow and teaches attendees exactly what to underline and highlight.

The class was well received, with as many as 25 members and friends coming each week.

Any church interested in hosting a Bible marking seminar should contact the Mountain View Conference at (304) 422-4581.—Kathy Pepper

Charles Loudermilk, a member of the Lewisburg (W.Va.) church, marks his Bible during a presentation.



Parkersburg Church Lays the Groundwork

The Parkersburg (W.Va.) church is laying the groundwork for a reaping meeting in the spring to be led by Maurice Bascom. Members are meeting each Sabbath to study, pray, and distribute literature to the homes around the church.



Parkersburg member Ron Davis leads a meeting designed to help members prepare for an upcoming evangelism series.



Bill Shedd places Amazing Facts Bible studies in a neighbor's door.

Author Shares Education Strategies

Shane Anderson, author of *How to Kill Adventist Education*, and pastor of the New Market (Va.) church, recently spoke at the conference's Teacher/Pastor In-service. He shared personal experiences and strategies for marketing Seventh-day Adventist education.

"I found his insights provocative, and I'm looking for ways to implement them," said Breta White, principal of Parkersburg Academy in Parkersburg, W.Va.



Members Learn Outreach Techniques

At the recent Outreach Leadership Advisory in Buckhannon, W.Va., Scott Steward (right), marketing director for the Hope Channel, reported that the network is now available through DirectTV.



During the meeting, Charles Keeling (left) of the Charleston (W.Va.) church, learned ways to reach up (to Christ), reach out (evangelize), and reach across (the church community).



Mountain View EVENTS

February

- 5-7 Adventist Youth Winter Festival, Valley Vista
- 19 Walk 100 Miles Begins
- 28 Lay Advisory, Fairmont (W.Va.) Church

March

- 1 Curriculum Committee/ Teachers In-Service
- 8 Executive Committee/ Financial Review, Conference Office

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Why Do We Do It?

On a cold, damp Community Service Day, the group of students I was working with finished early, so I took them to a local bakery for hot chocolate and doughnuts. As I sat there, they started to open up to me and to each other. One boy confessed he didn't live far from school, but only went home when he had to; several of the boys agreed. I was stunned they didn't want to go home until some shared the pain in their homes and the sanctuary the school had become.

Over the years, many people have wondered about the relevance of boarding schools. But are we brave enough to ask how many churches have enough youth in the pews to even have a decent youth program? How many parents are too busy, too absorbed in their own lives to know how to deal with complicated teenagers? If our children are ever going to have a chance, we must not underestimate the importance of these places of refuge.

Where else can Seventh-day Adventist youth find a place where they are immersed in a rich, youth-centered environment where Christ is held up all day? Where else can our youth be challenged to commit their lives to Christ every day? Where are our youth going to learn the doctrine of our church if they are not in our schools? More than ever, we must make sure our children have a safe haven where they feel they belong and can thrive through their formative years.



Robert Stevenson
Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

Students Invited to "Experience the Difference"

Seventh- through 11th-graders are invited to experience academy life April 11-12 during Mount Vernon Academy's (MVA) annual Academy Days. Visitors can meet students and staff, tour MVA's campus, and meet new friends. On Monday attendees will join current students for shortened classes and a taste of academy life.

Prospective students can also complete financial aid applications and audition for several music and sports scholarships.

Mark your calendars, and plan to "Experience the Difference. Make a Difference." For more information, visit mvacademy.org or email information@mvacademy.org.

Alumni Encouraged to Revisit the Past

Take a walk down memory lane and relive moments from your youth! Join your classmates in reminiscing about teachers, events, and friendships. Mount Vernon Academy's 117th Alumni Weekend will be held April 23-25. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this exciting weekend filled with inspirational thoughts, music from MVA's music department, delicious meals, basketball/volleyball games, and golf.

MVA will sponsor the annual golf tournament Sunday, April 25. Golf, prizes, lunch, goodies, and friendly

competition are all on the schedule. The tournament will be at Apple Valley Golf Course, a premier course in central Ohio. For more information, email masutton@mvacademy.org or call (740) 397-5411, ext. 246.—Margaret Sutton



Ryan McNeal ('10) and Tatianna Dunn ('10) welcome past MVA students to campus.

SPIRIT

Students Enjoy Fun, Family, and Fellowship



Jonah Brooks ('12) and his mother spend time together during Parent Weekend.

Laurel Dutch ('13) and Joel Camick ('13) try to outlast each other at the pillow fight booth during Fall Festival.



Three MVA staff members serve their time in the Fall Festival "jail."



Andrew Ruth ('11) and his parents enjoy haystacks during Parent Weekend.



Alex Wolfe ('11) and Alacha Rodriguez ('11) sell tacos at the annual Fall Festival, made possible with the help of parents and friends of Mount Vernon Academy (MVA).



Students and their parents participate in a special family communion service at Friday night vespers.



The annual Candlelight Christmas Concert ended with a joint performance of the MVA Choir, Handbells, Band, and Strings.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

February

21 Student Association Banquet

March

3-7 Home Leave
9 Spring Pictures
11-12 Sophomore Midterms
15-17 Midterm Exams
15-19 Ohio Graduation Testing
26-Apr 4 Spring Break

April

11-12 Academy Days
12 Sports Banquet
13-17 Spring Week of Prayer

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news

FEBRUARY 2010

Why I Prayed for Business Owners in my Community

In preparation for our Initiative "Praying and Blessing our Community," I decided to first try visiting local business owners before recommending that you join with me. I chose to visit a local barbershop, a gas station, and a dry cleaner. I was not asking for donations, and I was not offering books or magazines. During my very short visit (less than five minutes), I simply offered to pray for the prosperity of their businesses and invited them to also pray for jobless people in and around our community. What an interesting experience I had! All of them were very receptive and showed appreciation and gratitude because a pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church came and offered an intercessory prayer for them.

The barbers are two brothers who were ready to talk. Barbers are therapists in their own way; however, they admitted that the current financial situation is not easy for them or their customers! As I left, they said, "Thank you for coming and praying for us and our business."

The gas station owner, a man from Texas who now lives in Trenton, was very thankful, and said, "In my entire life, no one ever visited me just to pray for me. Please come again; we need more blessings!"

When I finished praying for the dry cleaner, she was crying and told me, "I used to be a member of the Adventist Church, and, because of the prosperity of my business, I abandoned the church to work on Sabbath in order to make more money. Now my business is almost bankrupt, and I now see how much I need God." She promised to begin attending church again.

Here again is the simple concept I have been preaching, teaching, and writing to you about: "Visit and pray for the jobless and the business owners in your community." I was really blessed visiting these lovely business owners, and I know you will be too.



José H. Cortés
President

Bethel French Church Celebrates New Home

After several years of searching for a church home, the Bethel French church in Irvington celebrated the grand opening of their new home (right). Members purchased an older building last August for \$600,000. After spending an additional \$45,000 to remodel the

building, they recently hosted a consecration and grand opening.

The church was overflowing with more than 250 members and guests. Jim Greene, conference vice president for administration, preached for the opening service.

Bethel French church has a membership of 77, and the building has a seating capacity of about 220. The church is located at 188 Union Avenue.

Jim Greene, conference vice president of administration, and Pastor Jean-Michel Etienne cut the ribbon to officially open the new church.



Waldwick School Dedicates Gym to Fallen Hero



On February 27, 2007, Sgt. Jonathan “Jon” David Cadavero (left) was killed in action while serving in the U.S. Army in Iraq. Cadavero, who served as a medic in the 10th Mountain Division, was stationed in Baghdad. He was killed by an improvised explosive device while out in the field.

The Waldwick Seventh-day Adventist School recently honored this 2000 graduate by renaming their gym in his honor. During breaks from Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, Md., Cadavero returned to the Waldwick school throughout the years to volunteer and serve as a substitute teacher and chapel speaker.

Alipia Gonzales, a former

principal, fondly remembers that Cadavero would walk into her office and say, “I think you need a break; just tell me what I can do to help.”

The renaming ceremony included a dedication banquet, followed by the unveiling of the gym’s new name: Sgt. Jonathan Cadavero Memorial Gymnasium.

Banquet attendees included



Mother Nadia Cadavero (background) and sister Kristia Cavere unveil the new sign.

Cadavero’s parents, David and Nadia Cadavero, his sister Kristia Cavere, and his aunt Daria Bekersky. Russell J. Litchult, Waldwick’s mayor, presented a plaque to the school with a proclamation from the City of Waldwick honoring Cadavero. The keynote speaker for the evening was Chaplain Primitvo Davis from West Point Military Academy (N.Y.).



Principal Wayne Edwards receives a plaque from Mayor Russell Litchult.

Elders, Deacons, Deaconesses Retreat Dates Change

The New Jersey Conference administrative team is announcing that the dates for the Spanish and English Elders, Deacons, and Deaconesses retreats have been changed as follows:

- Spanish Elders, Deacons, and Deaconesses Retreat, March 19-21, Tranquil Valley Retreat Center (TVRC)
- English Elders, Deacons, and Deaconesses Retreat, March 26-28, TVRC



To learn more about Sgt. Cadavero and read messages from his family and friends, visit his memorial website at sgtjon.com.

dates

NEW JERSEY

February

- 5-7 Adventurers Ministries Leadership Convention
Tranquil Valley Retreat Center (TVRC)
- 6 Children’s Ministries Leadership Convention, TVRC
- 6-13 Christian Home and Marriage Emphasis Week
Local Churches
- 19-21 English Ministries Convention
TVRC
- 27 New Jersey Conference Orchestra Annual Classical Concert, Jersey City Spanish Church
- 27 Sabbath School Friends Day

March

- 6 Women’s Day of Prayer
Local Churches
- 10-13 Stewardship Emphasis Weekend, Local Churches
- 12-14 Spanish Women’s Spring Retreat, Cape May
- 19-21 Spanish Elders, Deacons, and Deaconesses Retreat, TVRC
- 26-28 English Elders, Deacons, and Deaconesses Retreat, TVRC

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

Conference Launches Campus Connections

The Ohio Conference is launching a strategic initiative to establish a ministry presence on the campuses of public universities and colleges throughout Ohio. The state has more than 100 universities, colleges, branches, medical schools, and community and technical colleges. Enrollment in public colleges and universities exceeds 450,000, while independent colleges and universities estimate 110,000 students.

“The over half a million young adults in our state’s higher education system present a tremendous ministry opportunity,” says Raj Attiken, conference president.

In an effort to respond to this mission opportunity, the conference is planning to place campus missionaries on at least three university campuses this year.

“We will enlist missionaries who are young adults themselves, who are deeply committed to Jesus and to His mission, and who have a passion to live and share their faith,” observes Mike Stevenson (left), the conference’s Youth and Young Adult Ministries director, who will coordinate this ministry. “Young adults can easily identify with the challenges that other young adults on university campuses face, and can also speak to their life issues in credible and relevant ways.”

Attiken adds, “Although this is also a time when we need to practice restraint regarding conference finances, we are impressed that God is nudging us to launch this initiative at

this particular time.”

He describes this as a faith initiative, dependent on God to provide the needed funding through the generosity of Ohio Adventists. The Ohio Conference is inviting all members to contribute through local church offerings. Contributions can also be sent directly to the conference, designated “Campus Connections.”

The conference’s May 16 quadrennial constituency session will include a feature celebrating the generosity of churches toward this initiative.



NEWS

11 Pastors Recognized for Length of Service

Eleven pastors (below) were recently recognized for serving 20 years or more in the Ohio Conference. Responding to an action voted by the Ohio Constituency years



ago to foster long tenure among pastors, the conference implemented steps to create a culture in which pastors and congregations establish long-term relationships. The eleven pastors have cumulatively provided 254 years of ministry in Ohio. Those recognized at a recent pastors conference are (from left to right) Larry Grahn, Tihomir Brechelmacher, Ken Ferguson, Dave Hutman, Roy Lawinsky, Ted Bartter, Dan

Stevens, Bob Bjelica, and Willis Adams. Not pictured are Bill Jackson and Jeba Moses.

Stillwater Military Member Stands Out in Japan

Airman 1st Class Kurt Schaefer (below), a long-time member of Stillwater church in Vandalia, is moving up the promotional ladder at the Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan. Since his arrival to the U.S. Air Force base in July 2008, Schaefer has won four awards, including one with his crew, and was promoted to an evaluator position in his job skill.

“I think I stand out because of what God has done in my life. I pray a lot about work, that I do well,” Schaefer says of earning the awards.—Beth Michaels



Kettering Church Offers Young Adults Opportunities to Serve

The Kettering church is helping young adults take the reins of leadership through a one-year taskforce program. Taskforce positions are typically offered in a boarding academy—rarely at a local church. However, Karl Haffner, senior pastor of the Kettering church, and his team wanted young adults to take full-time leadership roles in the local

church. He also wants to provide them with mentoring, resources, and support in the process.

The vision is to not just have one person in the program, but to grow this team into a movement of young adults who will transform the local church and community, and then take the passion and skills they develop to wherever God places them next.

Each taskforce worker receives a modest stipend and a place to live. Kettering Adventist Health-Care supported this vision by providing the use of a house across from the church.

This vision began to take shape in September 2008. Katie Woolever, a newly minted graduate of Walla Walla University (Wash.), arrived and immediately began to impact the church, Spring Valley Academy, and Kettering College of Medical Arts. Under her leadership, the church created an improvisational drama ministry, strengthened a young adult group, and included Woolever's video presentations in the worship service. Members of the Kettering church board were so impressed that they committed to support the expansion of the taskforce program.

Tasha O'Neill (left, top) arrived in July 2009 and continued the film and production ministry, as well as leadership in the young adult program. "I wanted to do something that allowed me to serve God and make a difference, while getting career experience at the same time," she explains.

Chris Terry (left) joined the team in August and created and strengthened Children's and Youth ministries programs. He also got involved at Spring Valley Academy and at Good Neighbor House. He says he treasures the relationships he has built with the children at the



church and school. "Being a consistent presence in their lives has allowed me to be someone they trust and come to for help. What a privilege!" he exclaims.

Jerry Mahn (above) also joined the team in August, and led in the creation and direction of the First-Serv worship service—a contemporary service on Sabbath mornings.

"The taskforce program has been a refreshing breath of the Holy Spirit in our church family," says Pastor Haffner. "The young people have infused our community with a spiritual energy that makes coming to church a fun and rejuvenating experience for young and old alike."

There is ample evidence that God is blessing this ministry through the lives that these young adults have touched.—Elliot Smith

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

Pennsylvania Pen

FEBRUARY 2010

Values Guide Our Purpose

Spoken or unspoken, every person and every organization has "values." These values determine what we do and why we do certain things. If you want to see an ongoing current of conflict, just look at a family, church, or a company where each person assumes that the values they hold personally are the values by which everyone else must operate.

It is assumed that, as Seventh-day Adventists, we all hold the same blessed hope in Christ's return, and that we all share a common belief based on the truth found in the Bible. But how we do things, even when holding these beliefs, may be entirely different at times, from person to person or church to church. That is where shared values play a vital role. Shared values—agreed upon by each person—guide all of us in an organization with the same purpose, and they deeply affect our choices and actions.

The Pennsylvania Conference has prayerfully worked through what God would have us hold as the values to guide our actions. These values are:

- The Adventist Hope
- Evangelism
- Integrity
- Dependence Upon God
- Excellence
- Loving Relationships
- Discipling

Over the next few months, we will share how these values are leading us in Pennsylvania.



Ray Hartwell
President

Equipping University Prepares Lay Evangelists

More than 330 people learned how to lead an evangelistic meeting in their own community at the conference's recent Equipping University in Harrisburg. Pennsylvania Conference organizes Equipping University as an annual training event. Teams from all churches and plants attend and are trained in specific areas of ministry that will help them treat Pennsylvania as a mission field.

Bob Folkenberg, and his ShareHim evangelism training team, taught participants how to prepare for a series through building relationships in their communities and how to present at a series.

Attendees also practiced speaking in front of their small groups. Many who never thought they could speak

in front of a crowd, realized they could.

During a Saturday evening planning session, church teams scheduled some 135 evangelistic crusades for 2010—to be held in their churches, community locations, and in members' homes.

A Sunday morning offering left many with tears in their eyes. Over the weekend, participants met Missi Howard from Carnegie. She attended the event with her pastor, Andrew Clark, and plans on being baptized soon. Clark told the group how Howard hoped to find a way to go on a mission trip and share the gospel with others. Attendees took up a collection to make that dream possible. More than \$2,500 was collected—enough to allow Howard and another young person—to attend a ShareHim mission trip to South America this summer.



Gettysburg church member Shenika Wallace practices speaking for an evangelism series.



Ray Hartwell, president of the Pennsylvania Conference, interviews Mayda and Andrew Clark, as well as Missi Howard at Equipping University.

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All those who plan to stay in the Dorms and have children ages 10 and over, will be asked to stay in the respective dormitories; i.e., Girls in Girls' Dorm and Boys in Boys' Dorm.

Total # in your party _____. Provide information below for children.

Children	Age	Gender

Full Time Rates/Location	Amount	Total
Dorm room w/2 single beds	\$245.00	\$
Tent w/electricity & floor (1 double or 2 single cots included)	110.00	\$
Small personal tent or trailer space up to 20ft. No Electricity (Field by Boys' Dorm)	46.00	\$
Cabin - Keystone (5 sets of bunk beds)	110.00	\$
Trailer space w/ limited Electricity usage Keystone (trailer size ____ ft.)	125.00	\$
Trailer space w/ limited Electricity usage Grove City (trailer size ____ ft.)	125.00	\$

Part Time Per Day Rates/Location	Amount	Total
Dorm room w/2 single beds Dates Requested _____	\$30.00	\$
Tent w/electricity & floor (1 double or 2 single cots included) Dates Requested _____	26.00	\$
Small personal tent/trailer space up to 20ft. No Electricity (Field by Boys' Dorm) Dates Requested _____	13.00	\$
Trailer space w/ limited Electricity usage Keystone (trailer size ____ ft.) Dates Requested _____	23.00	\$
Trailer space w/limited Electricity usage Grove City (trailer size ____ ft.) Dates Requested _____	23.00	\$

Part time requests will be considered after full-time requests are filled.

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3. Reservations must be made by the party attending camp meeting. Reservations cannot be made by one party for another.
4. **Children under 18 years of age are not permitted** to stay overnight at any of the camp meeting facilities unless accompanied by an adult.
5. **ABSOLUTELY NO PETS** are allowed in the campgrounds or in the camping areas! Names of local kennels will be provided in your confirmation packet.
6. Use of microwaves, air conditioners, and other electrical appliances are **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** due to the lack of adequate electricity. **THIS INCLUDES ALL REC-REATIONAL VEHICLES PARKED IN KEYSTONE AND GROVE CITY.**
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Signature _____

Print Name _____

Date _____

Potomac People

FEBRUARY 2010

Healthy Church Growth Is Our Goal

Your son has grown four inches and gained six pounds. Everything's normal. Your son is healthy." These are the words we want to hear from our pediatrician at a check-up. What determines health? Simply put—growth. A red flag appears when there is no normal growth happening. One of my saddest pastoral experiences was meeting a family and discovering that their precious daughter was chronologically aged 17, but had the mind of a 6-year-old. Her mental growth was finished. How tragic!

I would ask my members the following questions at the end of each year: "Are you more Christ-like now than you were at the beginning of this year? Have you grown spiritually? If not, you have wasted a year." How tragic!

What about your church? Is it growing? Is it healthy? If not, why? I am interested in both quality and quantity. The two go together. When churches tell me that they are mainly interested in quality, I always wonder if they are indeed growing in spiritual quality. Wouldn't their church naturally attract additional people? Jesus' spirituality surely attracted people.

Jesus, the head of the church, is interested in the health of His church. Remember, the church is not a building but people in a faith relationship (discipleship) with Jesus. He said in John 15:8, "My true disciples produce much fruit. This brings great glory to my Father" (NLT). How are you doing in this area? How much fruit is your church producing? Is this really important? Read what Jesus said in John 15:1-7 about what happens to an unhealthy unproductive branch. How tragic!

If you are not sure about the health of your church, ask your pastor to schedule a church assessment with the Potomac Conference. We can help your church become healthier. For more information about how assessments work, read page 2 of this newsletter.



Ray Pichette
Vice President
Pastoral Ministries

Powell Valley Church, School Collect Shoes for Needy

The Powell Valley church and school in Dryden, Va., recently worked with the Soles4Souls organization to collect more than 800 pairs of shoes that will go to hurting people around the world. According to the Soles4Souls website, the organization has a simple mission: to impact as many lives as possible with the gift of shoes.

The church provided three drop-off locations in the Powell Valley community, including the church's Powell Valley Christian School.

"We saw this as a wonderful way to give back to those in need," said Ruth Wilson, a church member who helped coordinate the event. "It was a very easy way to get involved and help those around the world who truly need it!"

The Soles4Souls team coordinated relief efforts for the Asian tsunami and hurricanes Katrina and Rita, netting over 1 million pairs of shoes donated for these disasters.

To view a news clip of the story, go to pcsda.org, and view the full story in the "Latest News" link under the "Resources" menu.



The Powell Valley church, in Dryden, Va., worked with the Soles4Souls organization to collect shoes for those in need.

Churches Say Consultations Can Help Growth

Last year many churches within the Potomac Conference took the opportunity to do a church consultation, which allowed them to look at the strengths and challenges within their individual congregations. Many, however, are still asking, “What, exactly, is a church consultation?”

In essence, it is much like going to the doctor for a check-up. First, the patient fills out a health history. And, after a routine examination, the doctor writes a prescription and makes suggestions on how their health can be improved. Church consultations follow a similar process.

For the past year, Ray Pichette, conference vice president for Pastoral Ministries, and his assistant directors, Glen Altermatt and Bob Banks, visited several churches to conduct appraisals. They measure progress and growth and determine which areas of each church need additional attention.

“Unless we are willing to carefully assess where we are in the life-cycle of church growth, we may miss the opportunity to see additional growth in our church structure,” Pichette explains. “In other words, we can find ourselves stuck in the same rut that, in some cases, we’ve been in for several decades.”

Pastors have responded positively, saying the consultation is



having a major impact on their respective ministries, no matter the size of the congregation.

“The most positive thing to come out of the process is that it has really strengthened our Sabbath School classes and made us outreach focused,” reported Dave Vandever, pastor of Damascus Grace Fellowship in Damascus, Md.

As a result of the consultation, the church hired a new staff person, Karen Seek, whose main responsibility will be community outreach. “We immediately recognized that one of our greatest challenges was in the area of outreach,” Vandever explained. “We needed greater concentration in this area, yet we didn’t have anyone on staff who could dedicate all of their time to outreach. This process forced us to address issues that we knew existed, but we kept setting off to the side.”

Pastors Bob Banks and Rick Labate discuss assessment results.

Rick Labate, pastor of the Buena Vista district in Virginia, reflects, “After participating in several of these consultations, it is often the case that the single most important result is that it helps to get the church ‘unstuck.’ Most churches want to grow and better follow God’s vision for healthy disciple-making churches. The difference between those old, familiar patterns we think will work versus what will actually get the job done is quite huge. The process allows fresh eyes (the assessment team) to see what indigenous staff and members of the church no longer perceive.”

If your church is looking for a fresh approach to church growth, meet with the conference administrative team and schedule an assessment before the 2010 calendar is full. To learn more about church assessments and how to enroll, visit pcsda.org and click on “Pastoral Ministries” under the “Resources” tab, or call Ray Pichette at (540) 886-0771.

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Karen Seek, Pastor Dave Vandever, and Dawn Horvath discuss new mission outreach strategies.

Inspiring a Lifelong Connection

Over the past eight months, I have been privileged to travel to several churches in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. These visits provided me with an opportunity to meet a large number of Takoma Academy (TA) alumni. This particular group of the TA family comes from diverse cultural, economic, and professional backgrounds.

I find it interesting that even with differing backgrounds among our alumni, two very evident themes persist: Takoma Academy’s academic excellence more than prepared them for life after TA, and the relationships developed with faculty and fellow classmates helped strengthen their continued spiritual journey.

This is the testimony and tradition our students continue to embrace today. TA is still committed to providing both excellence in academics and relationships that will draw our students closer to Christ. Our teachers and staff are commissioned by God to be educators at Takoma Academy and to uphold these high standards. Why do we do this? Simply because we are Takoma Academy! See the next page to meet alumni who are now staff at TA!



David Daniels
Principal

NEWS

Students Serve the Homeless

Nearly 400 new hats, scarves, gloves, and pairs of socks were added to TA’s CareFirst Closet during a recent clothing drive. These items were distributed during one of the school’s bi-monthly community service outings led by Melvyn Hayden III, campus chaplain. Up to 40 student volunteers deliver food, prayers, and the message of God’s love to the homeless in Washington, D.C., every other Friday.



Senior Jade Callahan serves a homeless man during a recent community service outing.

Holiday Program Shares Hope

Each year the instructors and students of Takoma Academy’s Fine Arts Department come together to

present an exciting and spirit-filled holiday production. This year’s program, “The Christmas Express,” was held at Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md.

Each presentation focused on the birth of Christ and how His birth brings to us the gifts of forgiveness, restoration, and eternal life.

Set against a beautiful backdrop created by Art Department students, the program featured music by TA’s chorale, Camerata, and wind ensemble with narrations and skits enacted by the drama students. Lulu Mwangi Mupfumbu, music director; Marquita Halstead, art instructor; and Myrna Candelaria, Drama Troupe director, conducted the program.

The next major production will be this spring.



Alumni Return Home to Serve

Many of TA's alumni continue to volunteer, serve as mentors, and make financial contributions. There are also several Takomen who enjoyed their high school experience so much that they returned to campus to serve as faculty and staff. Currently eight of the school's 25 staff members are alumni. Here's what some of them have to say about life at TA today:



"Though the work is constant and often tiring, [working at TA] has rich rewards and lasting fulfillment. [After working here for 20 years], it is great seeing former TA students all grown up attending church with their children and spouses."—*Tom Ballard ('66), History Teacher*



"The faculty and staff (many here who taught me!) are all very motivated in the common goal of academic excellence in Christian education. The students are great; full of energy, questions, challenges, and wonder. Being part of their experience in thinking about the future beyond TA is an exciting thing to be involved in."—*Kristina Harris Flo ('01), Guidance Counselor*



"Being at TA feels like being at home. After spending four years as a student, and another 25 as part of the faculty, I've been here so long that walking in the front door is as familiar to me as walking into my own home."—*R. Todd Nelson ('80), Math Teacher*



"I firmly believe God has chosen TA to be a major part of His plan for our students. I get to watch God's children grow into the incredible people He wants them to be, and I get to help them find success along the way. That means that *I am* part of His plan. What more could I ask for?"—*Linda Scales McLaughlin ('82), Alumni Affairs Director*



"I spent four amazing years here as a student, and now I get to

work at the place that holds dozens of happy memories! It is such a blessing to see how committed parents are to Christian education and I applaud all the parents who work so hard to send their children to TA. With that kind of support and dedication, the only direction Takoma Academy can go is up!"—*Alana Pabon ('05), Receptionist*

All Takomen are invited to attend Alumni Weekend April 23-24. To volunteer at TA, or start an alumni chapter in your region, contact Linda McLaughlin, director of Alumni Affairs, at (301) 434-4700.

Calendar

February

- 5 Friday Night Live, 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Student Council Valentine's Banquet
- 15 President's Day—School Closed
- 16 Local Professional's Day—School Closed for Students
- 25 National Honor Society Induction Ceremony, 7 p.m.

March

- 4 Open House
- 5 Friday Night Live, 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Noon Dismissal
- 15-19 Spring Break—School Closed
- 22 Board of Trustees Meeting
- 25 Open House
- 29-Apr 2 Student-Led Week of Prayer

TA Today is published in the *Visitor* by Takoma Academy ■ 8120 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 Phone: (301) 434-4700 ta.edu ■ Principal, David Daniels Editor, Linda McLaughlin



Campus Radio Station Manager Honored

I recently had the privilege of attending a gala where the Maryland India Business Roundtable, Inc. (MIBRT) presented our campus radio station, WGTS 91.9 FM, with the "Best Community Media Award."

Maryland Senator Brian E. Frosh, MIBRT president, and Elisha B. Pulivarti, executive director, presented the award to John Konrad, station general manager and vice president, for his "leadership and commitment in promoting the best contemporary Christian radio listening audience."

Over the past 11 years, WGTS has been steadfast in its mission to nurture a relationship with Jesus Christ through contemporary music that is consistent with God's Word. As the station grows, WGTS staff continues to seek innovative ways to uplift its nearly half a million listeners.

Radio Day is one such initiative. Under the leadership of the station's chaplain, Terry Johnsson, WGTS partners with local churches to host combined services where listeners are invited to attend and meet the WGTS staff. Radio Day's goal is to assist churches in being the arms of Christ to those who seek community.

And it's clear to see that their efforts are paying off. At a recent share-a-thon, I answered phones for WGTS and was impressed by the sincerity of our listeners. In addition to calling in, listeners share praises and request prayers through letters and emails.

"This is God's radio station," Konrad often says. And as WGTS 91.9 FM emerges as the second largest noncommercial Christian radio station in the country, we can say with confidence that God has been moving through this station in powerful ways to bless and inspire listeners in the Washington, D.C.-area and beyond.



Weymouth Spence
President

University Goes Social



Do you Tweet? Have a Facebook page? Watch YouTube videos? If you do, then you already know that these are all a part of the new wave of social media websites.

Washington Adventist University (WAU) has begun to ride that wave. As part of a strategic initiative to reach students, employees, alumni, parents, constituents, and community, the university launched a new website (wau.edu) that integrates the communication capabilities of these sites.

The newly designed website includes a Twitter feed on the front page. These WAU news "tweets" include daily reminders of on-campus events, links to web content including photos and videos, and other general news from the university.

The new website structure also provides any department on campus with the ability to implement a social media strategy. In addition to posting news and upcoming events, departments can blog, tweet, and post videos and photos.

On the official WAU Facebook page you will find university news and events, photos, and videos. Using Facebook also allows university staff members to provide nearly instant feedback to Facebook friends who post comments and questions.

This new communication strategy will only pay off if you join the conversation. Please visit wau.edu and become a friend. You can also find WAU at: Facebook.com/washingtonadventistuniversity

Twitter.com/WAUnews

Twitter.com/WashAdventistU

Youtube.com/users/newsatwau

Health and Wellness Week Draws Students, Community Visitors

W AU's recent Health and Wellness Week featured free health screenings, H1N1 vaccines, and the Health Care Open House offering a wealth of information and opportunity to WAU students and the broader community. Sharon Wilson, director of Health Services and chair of WAU's Health and Wellness Committee, coordinated the weeklong emphasis on healthier living. Vicki Rosette, chair of the Department of Respiratory Care, organized the daylong open house, which provided healthcare career information for guests as young as middle-schoolers. Volunteers included students from the School of Health Professions, Science and Wellness, and personnel from nearby Washington Adventist Hospital. The following is a photo recap of the week:



Vesa Nakkurian, chair of the Department of Health, Wellness, and Physical Education, offers a variety of fitness tests.



Basudeva Aryal, a junior Nursing major, happily learns his blood pressure is within normal limits.



Shameer Rao, son of student Najma Rafiq, bravely receives his H1N1 vaccine.



Nursing student Conrad Shakes attempts an intubation as an introduction to the field of Respiratory Care.



Malini Purushotham represents American International Medical University (AIM-U), a St. Lucia medical school with offices at WAU. AIM-U students take their premedical courses at WAU.



Nursing student Uche Okechukwu, a junior, checks blood pressure.

Calendar

February

- 10-13 Columbia Union Band Festival
- 14-15 Student Association Ski Weekend
- 15 President's Day—Office Closed

March

- 5-14 Spring Break

The Gateway is published in the Visitor by Washington Adventist University ■ 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 ■ Phone: (800) 835-4212 wau.edu ■ President, Weymouth Spence ■ Editor, Angela Abraham

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EMPLOYMENT

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School of Visual Art and Design seeks professor for 3D animation/CGI, motion graphics, and animation production. MFA preferred. Candidate must demonstrate knowledge of animation practices and technical skills. Must be a member in good and regular standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Submit letter of application, curriculum vitae, portfolio samples, and at least three references to Randy Craven, School of Visual Art and Design. Email SouthernAdventistUniversity@southern.edu, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.

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School of Education and Psychology seeks full-time faculty in areas of Early Childhood Education

and Developmental Psychology. Graduate degree required (doctorate preferred). Experience in administration and teaching in early childhood education programs beneficial. Position requires that the applicant be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, in good and regular standing. Please submit a résumé and letter of application to John Wesley Taylor, Dean. Email sep@southern.edu; fax (423) 236-1765; mailing address: P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.

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WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

School of Education and Psychology seeks applications for a tenure-track faculty position in education for fall 2010. An earned doctorate in education is preferred, with a specialty in math or science education, or curriculum and instruction. Candidates must also be willing to teach graduate-level courses related to their expertise. Five or more years of successful teaching at the secondary level are required, preferably recent. Applicants must become familiar with state requirements and the preparation process for credentialing preservice teachers. A demonstrated commitment to Seventh-day Adventist education, to community service, and to research and writing for scholarly publications is expected. Prospective candidates interested in the position are asked to submit their curriculum vitae. Walla Walla University is a Seventh-day Adventist comprehensive institution and is a religiously qualified, equal opportunity employer; faculty and staff are recruited with attention to their active membership in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. To apply for this position, please visit jobs.wallawalla.edu.

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Baltimore	5:32	5:40	5:48	5:56	6:03
Cincinnati	6:04	6:12	6:20	6:27	6:35
Cleveland	5:48	5:57	6:05	6:14	6:22
Columbus	5:56	6:04	6:13	6:20	6:28
Jersey City	5:19	5:27	5:36	5:44	5:52
Norfolk	5:35	5:42	5:49	5:56	6:03
Parkersburg	5:52	6:00	6:08	6:15	6:23
Philadelphia	5:25	5:33	5:41	5:49	5:57
Pittsburgh	5:43	5:52	6:00	6:08	6:16
Reading	5:27	5:35	5:44	5:52	6:00
Richmond	5:38	5:46	5:53	6:01	6:08
Roanoke	5:49	5:56	6:04	6:11	6:18
Toledo	5:55	6:04	6:13	6:21	6:29
Trenton	5:23	5:31	5:39	5:47	5:55
Wash., D.C.	5:34	5:42	5:50	5:58	6:05

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EARLY CHURCHES OF REVELATION TOURS to Turkey, spring 2010. The April 4-18 tour will be hosted by Pastor Tara VinCross; the May 2-16 tour by pastors Bill Liversidge and Patrick Williams. For more information, please visit our website at parasolholidays.com; email armstead@parasolholidays.com; or call (703) 472-4994.

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LEGAL NOTICES

QUADRENNIAL SESSION OF THE OHIO CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS The 40th regular constituency session of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, May 16, 2010, at the Worthington Seventh-day Adventist Church, 385 East Dublin-Granville Road, Worthington, Ohio. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and committees, consider recommendations for revisions of the constitution and bylaws, and to transact such other business as comes before the conference, including the possible consolidation of the Ohio Conference and the Ohio Conference Association.

Raj Attiken, President
Hubert Cisneros, Secretary

QUADRENNIAL SESSION OF THE OHIO CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION MEETING Notice is hereby given of a legal meeting of the Ohio Conference Association of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, incorporated under the laws of the state of Ohio, in connection with the 40th regular constituency session of the Ohio Conference to be held at the Worthington Seventh-day Adventist Church, 385 East Dublin-Granville Road, Worthington, Ohio at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, May 16, 2010.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers and trustees, consider recommendations for the revisions of the bylaws, and transact any other business that may come before the association at that time, including the possible consolidation of the Ohio Conference and the Ohio Conference Association. The delegates to the 40th regular constituency session of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are delegates of the session.

Raj Attiken, President
Harry Straub, Secretary

MEETING OF THE MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY CORPORATION Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Mount Vernon Academy Corporation will be held in connection with the 40th regular constituency session of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at the Worthington Seventh-day Adventist Church, 385 East Dublin-Granville Road, Worthington, Ohio at 11:50 a.m., Sunday, May 16, 2010. This meeting is called to elect trustees, consider recommendations for revisions of the bylaws, and transact any other business that may come before the

constituency at that time. The delegates to the 40th regular constituency session of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are delegates of the session.

Raj Attiken, President
Rob Stevenson, Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BURNT MILLS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH in Silver Spring, Md., is hosting a three-week public evangelistic seminar. The speaker will be David Oh, Personal Ministry director. The seminar runs from March 15-April 3, every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday evening from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Children’s program provided. For more information, contact the church at (301) 593-8496.

CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE SINGLE ADULT MINISTRIES invites you to a Valentine’s Party at the Chesapeake Conference Office, 6600 Martin Road, in Columbia Md., Saturday night, February 13 at 6:30 p.m. It will be a potluck event, so please bring food to share. Games will follow the meal. For information, please call Fred Thomas (410) 992-9731, or email fmthomas1950@yahoo.com.

OBITUARIES

GIBSON, Carl F. born April 11, 1935, in Clarksfield, Ohio, son of the late Laurence and Louise (Riesen) Gibson; died November 20, 2009, in Clarksfield. He graduated from Mt. Vernon Academy in 1953. After attending one year of college he decided to devote his life to farming with his father, and later on with his son, Ben. He was an active member of the Clarksfield church and served as chairman of the school board. He was also a former Mt. Vernon Academy board member and an avid supporter of the academy, taking great interest in the lives of the students. He loved children, cats, politics, and talking. Carl will be remembered for his kindness, generosity, and willingness to help others. Survivors include his wife of 17 years, Carol J. (Wenzel) Gibson; children, Benjamin (Vanessa) Gibson of Clarksfield, Sharon (John) McKeown of Tenn., and Mark (Lisa) Gibson of Lebanon; stepchildren, Barbara (Wm) Sennfeld of Tenn., Michael Yurovich serving in the U.S. Army in Korea; Julia Sushytska (whom he loved as a daughter); 11 grandchildren, Sherrie Gibson, Rebekah Ondrizek, Carl McKeown, Jason (Holly) McKeown, Malea McKeown, Trina (Ron) Frazier, Troy Ondrizek, Ross and Beckett Gibson, Teegham Doherty, and Liza Yurovich; his sister, Carol A. Gibson of Clarksfield; and an aunt, Ruth Chapin of Dublin.

JACOBSON, Edna E., born September 24, 1925, in Youngstown, Ohio; died March 1, 2009, in Youngstown. She was an active member of the Evergreen church in Boardman, Ohio. She was also a member and past commander of Navy Mothers of America, No. 51. She is survived by her daughters, Erin L. Jacobson of Youngstown, Betty Ripple of Poland, Ohio, Briannan Jacobson of Greenbay, Wis., and Eva Jacobson of Columbus, Ohio.

CORRECTION

GATZ, Margaret L., born October 22, 1926, in Lima, Ohio; died January 13, 2009, in Williamsport, Md. She was a member of the Williamsport church. Margaret was a graduate of Emmanuel Missionary Academy in Berrien Springs, Mich., and a 1971 graduate of Hinsdale Sanitarium and Hospital in Hinsdale, Ill. She was employed at Tidewater Memorial Hospital in Tappahannock, Va. Survivors include: her daughter, Patricia Larson; sons, Lynn E., Stephen A., and Douglas Gatz; sisters, Jeannette Hodge and Mary Baker; and three brothers, Fred, Henry, and John Roosenberg. She was preceded in death by daughter Darlene Crowley; two sons, Neil and Allen; and four brothers.



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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 ■ cryan@columbiaunion.net

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ALLEGHENY WEST: Fredrick Russell, President; Bryant Taylor, *Visitor* Correspondent; 1339 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43205. Tel. (614) 252-5271 ■ awconf.org

CHESAPEAKE: Rob Vandeman, President; Samantha Young, *Visitor* Correspondent; 6600 Martin Rd., Columbia, MD 21044. Tel. (410) 995-1910 ■ ccosda.org

MOUNTAIN VIEW: Larry Boggess, President; Monica Zill, *Visitor* Correspondent; 1400 Liberty St., Parkersburg, WV 26101. Tel. (304) 422-4581 ■ mtviewconf.org

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OHIO: Raj Attiken, President; Nancy Barnett, *Visitor* Correspondent; P.O. Box 1230, Mount Vernon, OH 43050. Tel. (740) 397-4665 ■ ohioadventist.org

PENNSYLVANIA: Ray Hartwell, President; Tamara Horst, *Visitor* Correspondent; 720 Museum Rd., Reading, PA 19611. Tel. (610) 374-8331 ■ paconference.org

POTOMAC: Bill Miller, President; Dan Jensen, *Visitor* Correspondent; 606 Greenville Avenue, Staunton, VA 24401. Tel. (540) 886-0771 ■ pcsda.org

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

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

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Volume 115 ■ Issue 2

LILLY TRYON

Outsource Your Wellness Goals

If you’re like many Americans, one of your New Year’s resolutions was to lose weight or improve your fitness level. But only a month later, how many of you have kept these promises to yourself? According to one online survey of 12,000 people, about 30 percent of those making resolutions say they don’t even keep them into February. As we begin to incorporate healthy lifestyle changes, it is clear that we need more than intention to make these behaviors stick.

Why are some people more successful than others? Years of research and study into health behavior change have uncovered a number of strategies that contribute to the achievement of our wellness goals, such as making a plan, identifying cues for old habits,



tracking new behaviors, replacing negative self-talk, and recruiting support. But in order for any of these to be effective, they must be put into practice. Without self-discipline, none of them will work. Paul speaks about this discipline in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. It’s all about choosing what you want *most* (losing weight, improving fitness) over what you want *now* (a DQ Oreo Blizzard).

WE ALL FALL SHORT

But even our self-discipline falls short. I was recently given a T-shirt that says, “I’ve decided to *outsource* my diet and exercise!” My first response was, “If only it was that easy!”

Haven’t you ever wished you could pay someone to exercise for you? Or prepare healthy meals? Making lifestyle change is not easy. Change of any kind borders on the impossible. Jeremiah 13:23 tells us, “Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil.”

The more I think about it, if we don’t outsource our diet and exercise, we’ll get nowhere. In our efforts to make positive lifestyle change, we mustn’t leave God out of our plans. He specializes in impossible situations. His divine power gives us everything we need for life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). He provides ways out of temptations (1 Cor. 10:13), renews our strength (Isa. 40:31), and even gives us a spirit of self-discipline (2 Tim. 1:7). As we focus on putting Him first and cooperating with His plan to restore us, we’ll find that healthy lifestyle choices—and, ultimately, the physical results we seek—are a natural consequence. Outsourcing our wellness goals is the key to ultimate success!

Lilly Tryon, MSN, RN, serves as wellness coaching coordinator at Adventist WholeHealth Network (awhn.org) in Wyomissing, Pa.





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