

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION MEMBERS

APRIL 2010 • VOLUME 115 • ISSUE 4

36 Ways to
Connect People
to Christ and
the Church

Best Practices in Evangelism



12

News & Features

12 | Best Practices in Evangelism

Frank Bondurant

Why do some churches grow while others don't? What contributes to the growth of thriving churches? Are there universal practices that can be contextualized and proven effective most anywhere? A special committee commissioned by presidents of the eight conferences within the Columbia Union set out to find the answers. Their findings reveal 36 proven ways to connect people to Christ and the church. Discover who's using those methods and how it's helping them grow.



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Where are the Christians?

Maybe it's me, but it's becoming increasingly clear that there's a level of irrationality, fear mongering, distrust, absence of "real" moral values and a dangerous level of crass political maneuverings taking root in our nation, so much so, that I'm actually becoming concerned about the collective sanity of the country. That's not hyperbole; it's a realistic view shared by a growing number of Americans of all stripes.

Our sensibilities are assaulted daily by stridency and hatefulness of speech (especially by some talk radio and cable hosts), resulting in the degradation of discourse in the public square, which I've written about elsewhere. It actually feels at times that the entire culture is in a rapid race to the bottom.



For example, the other day as I surfed a media website, I was disturbed by the amazing number of sordid stories of marriages breaking up, business people heading to jail, sports icons out of control, frustrations at the government resulting in violent actions, people using "cut throat" methods to keep their jobs in a volatile job market and a litany of other ills. It's incredible what's going on.

MORE THAN NAME ONLY

I wanted to scream: *Where are the people of character and integrity? Where are the folk that stand up for what's right? Where are the marriages that are working? Where are the people who can walk away from provocations without retaliation? Where are the employees who do the right thing at their jobs, simply because it's the right thing to do?* I suppose what I was really asking is *where are the Christians—the ones called to impact the culture around them for the sake of the kingdom?*

It was Jesus who boldly declared that Christians are the light of the world, the salt of the Earth and the ones who let their lights shine before the world so brightly that those around them glorify their Father in heaven (see Matt. 5:13-16). I'm convinced that there is a great need for Christians—real Christians—who show up in the marketplace every day demonstrating basic, biblical Christianity. They turn the other cheek when provoked, they return good for evil, they refuse to slander their colleagues and they're willing to go the second mile to help others. They actually love their enemies and even those that curse and undermine them. They are loyal to their marriages and prioritize their families. They share Christ out of the "overflow" of their lives.

I realize that in this day and age, living this way is countercultural. It's safer to go with the flow. But living the Word of God is not only radical—it's risky. You stand out when you choose to operate your life from a biblical world view. And the culture doesn't always tolerate those who stand out for the good. Look at what they did to Jesus. But He lived in contrast to the world anyhow, seeing it as more important to please the Father than the people around Him.

God is searching for believers who take seriously what it means to be salt and light in more than name only. He calls us to a unique way of life, a unique way of thinking and a unique way of being. Those who decide to live this way are truly "people of the way." It's like we used to sing when I was a kid: "I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back."

That's radical!

Fredrick A. Russell is president of Allegheny West Conference, headquartered in Columbus, Ohio.

CELESTE RYAN BLYDEN

Church Leader, Maurice Battle, Dies

Maurice T. Battle, the first African-American to serve as an associate secretary for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church—a position he held from 1978 until his retirement in 2001—died last month at 82.

Born in Oberlin, Ohio, in 1927, Battle earned a degree in theology from Alabama-based Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) in 1948. He began his ministry as a pastor in the South Atlantic Conference. Later he spent a decade furthering the work of the Adventist Church in West Africa, where he served as president of the church in Liberia and Sierra Leone, and provided departmental oversight in Ghana.

In 1970 Battle commenced work as associate director of Lay Ministries for the world church. (This was followed by a three-year assignment in Lebanon.) That same year, he and his wife, Esther, joined Potomac Conference's Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md. Over the years, he served as a Sabbath School teacher and superintendent, head elder, and on various committees. At the time of his death, he was still very involved in the church, serving as an administrative board member.

"When I think of Elder Maurice Battle, I am reminded of the godly man who is spoken of in Psalms 1," wrote Sligo senior pastor Charles Tapp in an email. "The psalmist compares this righteous man to a tree that is planted by the streams of waters.

And because he is planted by a continual source of water, his leaves never wither, and he is constantly bearing fruit when it is needed. Elder Battle has been that strong, stable, and many times, silent source of strength for Sligo, and his presence will be greatly missed."

Battle is survived by his wife, their four adult children and six grandchildren.

Disaster Response Training Scheduled

Experienced Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACSDR) coordinators are teaming up to conduct a weekend training event in New Jersey, April 23-25. The training will help conference and church coordinators, as well as interested volunteers, know how to respond to disaster. In addition to reviewing the Disaster Response

curriculum, attendees can take a class on crisis care presented by retired

Chesapeake Conference pastor Steve Willsey. According to Claudia Ramirez (above), ACSDR coordinator for the New Jersey Conference and planning committee chair for the event, other presenters include ACSDR leaders Steve Stillwell from the Carolina Conference; Terry Haight from the Georgia/Cumberland Conference; and Kitty Juneau, Mark Hann and Richard Geer, all from Chesapeake.

"The Bible tells us that as the world approaches its end, we will experience more frequent and

intense disasters," says Bob Mitchell (right), Disaster Response coordinator for Potomac Conference and the Columbia Union. "They won't all occur outside the United States like the recent earthquakes in Haiti, Japan, Taiwan, Turkey and Chile. While we haven't had a major event since Hurricane Ike in 2008 or Katrina in 2005, the clock is ticking, and we must be prepared at any time." Mitchell says the upcoming training will also help volunteers learn how to handle floods, blizzards, power outages and other disasters that occur locally. "And hurricane season begins June 1," he adds. Register at plusline.org.



Pennsylvania and Ohio to Host Church Planting School

For seven days this May, members interested in planting churches, starting ministries or venturing into community outreach can enroll in Adventist Fresh Expressions, a comprehensive training initiative coordinated by the Ohio and Pennsylvania conferences. Presenters include Monte Sahlin, director

of research and special projects for Ohio; Peter Roennfeldt (left), a pastor and church planter from Australia; and Andrew Clark (right), who, along with his wife, Mayda, leads Greater Pittsburgh Metro



Ministry and a church plant called PULSE in the Pittsburgh suburb of Carnegie.

"There are literally tens of thousands of communities in America that don't have any kind of Adventist presence, and there are millions of people living

in those communities who need to be reached," says Sahlin (left), who started and mentored others in starting more than 100 community-focused ministries. He believes that today's generations need new church plants. "A church that's been doing the same thing for 50 years isn't necessarily going to be successful in reaching today's young adults," he posits.

During the weeklong intensive, the trio plans to guide attendees through the process of developing successful ministries to their chosen target audiences. To do so, they will teach the core

curricula, share case studies of successful start-ups and lead participants in Bible study, prayer, group discussions, visioning sessions and strategic planning. To register, call (800) 272-4664.

Magazine Targets Unchurched Children

The first two issues of *Real* magazine were recently mailed to more than 3,000 children, taking Christ-centered content into the homes of unchurched youth across North



America. Thousands of additional copies were sent to churches and ministries for use in community outreach. "This has been in the works for two years, and we've been dreaming of it for much longer," says editor Randy Fishell.

Adventist preteens, grandparents, teachers and others wanting to share the gospel with young friends and family members aged 9-15 submitted the names on the subscriber list. "*Real* provides a nonthreatening way to introduce

Bible truth to children at an age when their hearts are especially open to the gospel," says

Fishell (above), who also edits *Guide*, the church's magazine for juniors and earliteens.

Published bimonthly, *Real* contains true stories, puzzles, fun facts, Bible studies and other spiritually uplifting content. To send a subscription to an unchurched child, visit sharereal.org.

Men's Ministries Conference Planned

With a desire to awaken the men of the Adventist Church and see them become more engaged, Larry Wilson, director of the ministry Godly Free Men, is organizing the first unionwide men's conference, May 1 in Hyattsville, Md. To help him accomplish his program's theme, "The Great Awakening," he's called upon



Columbia Union president Dave Weigley and several conference presidents—Charles Cheatham (Allegheny East), Bill Miller (Potomac), Fredrick Russell (Allegheny West) and Robert Vandeman (Chesapeake)—to speak. Through their workshops, he hopes to spiritually awaken attendees. Some 200 men have already registered to attend the daylong event, where Walter Pearson (below), speaker/director for Breath of Life Ministries, will serve as the main speaker. "We

really want to make men aware that we are in the last days right now," explains

Wilson. "We are trying to restore that spiritual side the way God ordained it to be." To register, contact Wilson at (267) 237-3244 or email sdamen@comcast.net.



From the Pulpit

When you once shared fellowship and were wounded or didn't feel like you belonged, it is hard to cast down your net again. But God ... sends that compassionate person to knock on your door just to talk. That word in time makes all the difference in your path back to the church, and you just might catch 153 more like you.—Ed Williams, former Adventist Recovery Ministry director, speaking at the Columbia Union Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries Chapter Convention in Amelia, Ohio



Multilingual Ministries News

Numerous small groups across the Columbia Union are planting new congregations. Here are some of their stories:

West Columbus Spanish

Bernardino Cruz and a small group studied the Bible every Friday at Irene Chavez's house. For about six months they invited people from the community to join them. When Cruz heard about the desire to plant another church in Columbus, Ohio, he spoke to Pastor Orlando Newball who encouraged him to start a congregation in West Columbus.

In March 2009, the group (below) started Sabbath services. One faithful member, Belkis Ramos, felt the need to provide transportation for those interested in attending, and bought and donated a van to the congregation. The group now averages more than 30 attendees every Sabbath, most of whom are visitors. Five people have been baptized and many more are engaged in Bible studies.

El Buen Pastor Spanish

The Allegheny West Conference (AWC) is celebrating the birth of a new Hispanic congregation in the heart of Cincinnati, Ohio. El Buen



Pastor (The Good Shepherd) started with 22 members. Pastor Paulo DaSilva reports that a small group from the Central Cincinnati Spanish church started to work in the area last year. After a few months, when they grew from six to 18 participants, they split into small groups. The groups felt called to plant a church. At their recent inauguration service, AWC president Fredrick Russell, DMin, rejoiced with them and encouraged continued growth. —Walter Castro

Lancaster Spanish II

For several years, Nelly and Israel Torres led a group at the home of Anita Pagán in Lancaster, Pa. Every Monday more than 20 people met to pray and study the Bible. When plans to plant a second Hispanic church in Lancaster



were presented to the congregation, they accepted the challenge.

The fledgling group started holding services on January 2 with an attendance of more than 60. They are currently meeting at a Methodist church in South Lancaster, where many Hispanics reside.—Sam Rosado

Shalom Spanish

Wilfredo and Nilda Fontanez, members of the Reading Spanish (Pa.) church, led a small group of friends and visitors every Sabbath afternoon for about a year. The group grew, people were baptized and they discussed the possibility



of planting yet another church in the Reading area. In July 2009, a group started holding services. There have been baptisms, and attendance is growing. Today more than 50 people meet every Sabbath!—Juan Lopez

Dale City Spanish

Miguel and Angela Alvarez held a small group in their apartment for several years. Although they were members of the Alexandria (Va.) Spanish church, they lived in Woodbridge, Va., making it difficult for them to attend regularly. For a long time they dreamed of planting a church in Dale City, Va., where there are many Hispanic residents. In October 2008, they organized a company

there. To date that congregation has performed 27 baptisms and has a regular attendance of 120.

Stafford Spanish

Max Alvarez decided to follow his relatives' example. Alvarez, his wife, Blanca, and their daughters started working hard to invite Stafford, Va., friends and neighbors to their new small group. For several months, they met in their basement. Today the Stafford Spanish Group meets in a church facility with more than 40 regular attendees.

Woodbridge Spanish II

The Woodbridge Spanish church noticed that their services were overcrowded, so church leaders decided to plant another congregation. They started holding services last December, and their regular attendance is now 90, including 25 visitors from the community.—Olives Villamizar

Takoma Park Spanish II

Just a few years ago, the Takoma Park Spanish church started with six courageous disciples. As the congregation grew, they bought and remodeled the old Potomac Adventist Book Center. The congregation now has more than 400 members.

Church elder Pepe Davila and his wife, Celsa, were responsible for overseeing five of the church's small groups in the Adelphi, Md., area. Soon they felt called to plant a church there. Last February they started meeting at a Methodist church in the heart of a large Hispanic community. While 29 members helped found Takoma Park Spanish II, Sabbath attendance now exceeds 60.—José Barrientos

Hundreds Trained for Lay Evangelism

Potomac Conference

Potomac Hispanic Ministries leaders declared 2010 the year of lay evangelism and ambitiously plan to reach 600 people for Christ by the end of this month. A week of evangelism is being conducted



at every "home church" (small group), followed by crusades at each of the conference's 63 Hispanic churches. The nearly 130 lay people recently trained through the School of Theology for Disciples, based in Temple Hills, Md., are the evangelists for these efforts.—José Esposito

Ohio Conference

After a year of training at the Worthington church, 60 students graduated with certification as Bible instructors. Students are



required to attend classes, read and give weekly Bible studies.

Pennsylvania Conference

Seventy students recently graduated as Bible instructors from training held at the Reading Spanish church.

Chesapeake Conference

The first group of 100 lay leaders (below) from Hispanic churches throughout Chesapeake are meeting at the conference office in Columbia, Md., for certification training as small group leaders. Their first graduation will be held this summer.



Noticias de los Ministerios Multilingües

Muchos grupos pequeños en la Unión de Columbia están plantando nuevas congregaciones. Estas son algunas de sus historias:

West Columbus

Bernardino Cruz y un grupo pequeño estudiaron la Biblia en casa de Irene Chávez. Durante seis meses invitaron a personas de la comunidad a estudiar con ellos. Cuando Cruz supo que se deseaba plantar otra iglesia en Columbus, Ohio, habló con el Pastor Orlando Newball, y este lo animó a establecer una congregación en West Columbus.

El grupo comenzó a realizar servicios en marzo de 2009. Belkis Ramos, un feligrés devoto, vio la necesidad de proveer transporte a las personas interesadas en asistir, compró y donó una van a la congregación. En promedio, asisten 30 personas cada sábado. Cinco personas se han bautizado y muchas más estudian la Biblia.

El Buen Pastor

La Asociación de Allegheny West (AWC) está celebrando el nacimiento de una congregación hispana en el corazón de Cincinnati, Ohio. La congregación comenzó con 22 miembros.



El Pastor Paulo DaSilva informa que un grupo pequeño de la Iglesia Hispana Central de Cincinnati comenzó a trabajar en esta área el año pasado. En unos meses, cuando el grupo creció de seis a 18 participantes, se dividieron en dos grupos. Los grupos sintieron el llamado a plantar una iglesia. En el reciente servicio de inauguración, el presidente de AWC, Frederick Russell, D.Min, se regocijó con ellos y fomentó un crecimiento continuo.—Walter Castro

Lancaster II

Nelly e Israel Torres han dirigido un grupo en el hogar de Anita Pagán en Lancaster, Pa. por varios años. Cada lunes, más de 20 personas se reúnen para orar y estudiar la Biblia.



La iglesia aceptó el desafío de plantar una segunda iglesia hispana en Lancaster.

El grupo incipiente tuvo su primer servicio el 2 de enero. Asistieron más de 60 personas. Actualmente se reúnen en una iglesia Metodista en South Lancaster. Aquí residen muchos hispanos.—Sam Rosado

Shalom

Wilfredo y Nilda Fontanez, miembros de la Iglesia Hispana de Reading (Pa.), dirigieron un grupo de amigos y visitas todos los sábados por la tarde durante un año. El grupo creció, las per-



sonas se bautizaron, y se habló de la posibilidad de plantar otra iglesia en el área. El grupo comenzó a celebrar servicios en julio de 2009. Celebraron bautismos, y la asistencia está creciendo. Hoy, ¡más de 50 personas se reúnen cada sábado! —Juan López

Dale City

Miguel y Ángela Álvarez organizaron un grupo pequeño en su apartamento por varios años. Eran miembros de la Iglesia Hispana de Alexandria (Va.), pero vivían en Woodbridge, Va., y esto hacía difícil su asistencia regular. Por mucho tiempo soñaron con plantar una iglesia en Dale City, Va. En octubre de 2008

organizaron una compañía allí. Hasta la fecha, se han celebrado 27 bautismos, y la asistencia regular es de 120 personas.

Stafford

Álvarez, su esposa Blanca, y sus hijas, comenzaron a trabajar arduamente invitando amigos y vecinos de Stafford, Va., a su nuevo grupo pequeño. Por varios meses se reunieron en su estudio. Hoy, el grupo se reúne en el edificio de una iglesia y cuenta con más de 40 asistentes regulares.

Woodbridge II

Cuando los líderes de la Iglesia Hispana de Woodbridge notaron que sus servicios se atestaban de personas, decidieron plantar otra congregación. Comenzaron a celebrar servicios el pasado diciembre. Hoy asisten 90 regularmente. Esto incluye visitas de la comunidad.—Olives Villamizar

Takoma Park II

Hace sólo pocos años que la iglesia Takoma Park hispana inició con seis discípulos valientes. Al ir creciendo la congregación, se compró y remodeló la antigua Librería Adventista. La congregación tiene ahora más de 400 miembros.

El anciano de iglesia Pepe Dávila y su esposa Celsa supervisaron los grupos pequeños de la iglesia en el área de Adelphi, Md. Pronto sintieron el llamado a plantar otra iglesia en ese lugar. El pasado febrero comenzaron las reuniones en una iglesia Metodista en el corazón de una comunidad grande hispana. Aunque 29 miembros ayudaron a establecer Takoma Hispana II, la asistencia el sábado excede los 60.—José Barrientos

Cientos participan en capacitación para evangelismo laico

Asociación de Potomac

Los líderes de los ministerios hispanos en Potomac declararon que el año 2010 era el año para el evangelismo laico, y anhelante-



mente planificaron alcanzar a 600 personas para Cristo para finales de este mes. Se está celebrando una semana de evangelismo en cada grupo pequeño, seguido por campañas en las 63 iglesias hispanas de la asociación. Recientemente, casi 130 laicos se capacitaron en la Escuela de Teología para Discípulos, en Temple Hills, Md. Ellos son los evangelistas de este esfuerzo.—José Esposito

Asociación de Ohio

Después de un año de capacitación en la iglesia de Worthington, 60 estudiantes se graduaron con



certificación de instructores bíblicos. Se requirió que los estudiantes asistieran a las clases, leyeran, y dieran estudios bíblicos semanales.

Asociación de Pennsylvania

Setenta estudiantes graduaron recientemente como instructores bíblicos. La clases se realizaron en la Iglesia Hispana de Reading.

Asociación de Chesapeake

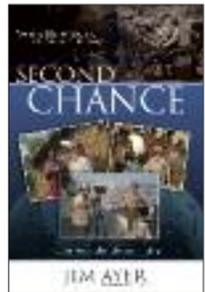
El primer grupo de 100 líderes laicos hispanos de Chesapeake se reunirá en la asociación en Columbia, Md., para capacitarse con certificación de líderes de grupos pequeños. La primera graduación será este verano.



What's New?

Books > **Second Chance**
Jim Ayer

This autobiography covers Jim Ayer's "roller coaster life."



A member of Chesapeake Conference's Triadelphia church in Clarksville, Md., Ayer says he transitioned from a life of drugs and thievery, to dedicated mission work for his newfound



Savior, to a highly successful and publicized real estate business, and back to his knees.

"I had become a great Laodicean warming the pew," admits Ayer, vice president for advancement at Adventist World Radio. Then the Lord gave him "a real wake-up call" and a second chance.

Ayer says he hopes readers will gain a deeper understanding of "how loving God is." Get a copy at adventistbookcenter.com.

Ministering With Millennials

Last fall's 180° Symposium—hosted by the Center for Youth Evangelism on the campus of Andrews University (Mich.)—gathered 30-plus North American church and youth leaders to discuss solutions for improving young adult ministry. Presenters included Ohio Conference's Monte Sahlin, director of research and special projects, and Mike Stevenson, Youth Ministries director.



Participants' 25 papers are the framework of this powerful book full of ministry ideas on topics like the importance of church climate, using short-term mission trips as a connector, creating relational young adult ministries and how to "hand on faith" to the next generation. Order through adventsource.org.

CD > Seekers of Your Heart
Jennifer Buttery

Pennsylvania Conference member Jennifer Buttery hopes

Did You Know?

Amazing Facts is now broadcasting the three angels' messages on the Discovery Channel cable network. Watch Tuesdays at 7 a.m.

this collection of 16 sacred hymns and uplifting songs will draw young and old to a closer walk with God. "In a world where true love is waning, I hope people will experience God's love and draw closer to Him," says Buttery, who helps her husband, Chris, pastor the State College, Lewistown and Mifflintown district.



Buttery's three young children also lend their sweet vocals to this second project. The album includes popular songs like "Wonderful, Merciful Savior" and "Love Will Be Our Home." To order, call (704) 975-0904.



On the Web

Retweets >

AYStweets



Today's Prayer Activity—Contact a person who is or has been ill and tell them how much you care or miss them.

Adventistnews



Jan Paulsen discusses Adventist beliefs about the second coming.

Go to youtube.com/user/Adventistsaboutlife.

WAUnews



The new face of Washington Adventist University is revealed! Visit our newly redesigned website at wau.edu!

Facebooked >

Alyssa Truman



Running the Pittsburgh 1/2 Marathon to raise money for the public libraries in my county... —*Hagerstown (Md.) church member*

Blue Mountain Academy



24th Annual Phonathon Happening Today! Student callers are excited to talk to you! Give generously. Every dollar counts!

Follow us on Twitter @VisitorNews.

In the Spotlight >
Carolyn Henry Hurst

Teaching and preaching are at the heart of Carolyn Henry Hurst's life mission. They're also an integral part of her work as the founder of Going GodWard Ministries (GGM). Through GGM, Hurst shares the extravagant love of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit and disciples others to do the same.

"I speak, teach, preach and write about God to all ages and nationalities," explains Hurst, who helps her husband, Jerome, pastor Allegheny West Conference's Southeast church in Cleveland. "The Lord has given me the ability to share the timeless messages of His Word in practical and creative ways. As a result, others get to see God and the things around them in a different, yet beautiful light."

Going GodWard Ministries has taken Hurst throughout the United States, the Caribbean, Canada and South America to conduct weeks of prayer for adults and children in both Spanish and English. GGM currently sponsors four major evangelistic events in collaboration with local churches. One is the Women of the Word Conference (July 10-13), an annual four-day event that brings women of different faiths together to worship God in spirit and in truth. The others are One Night With the King (July 9), Intimate Moments With God, and Prayers That Soar. Read more at se7day.org/ministries.—*Alexis A. Goring*

Others get to see God and the things around them in a different, yet beautiful light.



PHOTO BY DARLENE RAMSEY

Best Practices in Evangelism

A new study reveals 36 successful methods for connecting people with Christ and the church

Frank Bondurant

One way successful industries and organizations, in every field and discipline, regularly improve their performance is to identify best practices that help them establish benchmarks and guidelines. Why should the Seventh-day Adventist Church be any different?

A special committee commissioned by the Columbia Union Conference President's Council decided it was time to determine some best practices within our own churches. The committee, consisting of frontline ministry practitioners, was united by a passion for reaching lost people for Christ and a drive to discover the best methods to achieve that end. Their singular objective: to identify the best practices in evangelism among Columbia Union churches.

The committee set out to answer questions like, why do some churches grow while others don't? What contributes to the growth of thriving churches? Must each local church reinvent their outreach "wheel," or are there universal practices that can be contextualized and proven effective most anywhere?

Best Practices Defined

Best practices are the methods, techniques and activities that, through experience and research, are believed to be the most effective at delivering a particular outcome. The committee sought those methods, techniques and activities among Columbia Union churches that repeatedly prove to be effective at connecting people with Christ and the church. They wanted to discover what is actually working in the field when it comes to creating and baptizing interests and developing them into fully devoted disciples. Their research was not intended to be scientific or technical, but rather anecdotal and intuitive. Through a process of surveys, personal interviews and group discussions, the committee accumulated a database of the collective experiences and observations of diverse soul winners from across the union. The data naturally seem to divide into three categories: community outreach, attractional ministries and assimilation strategies.

Changing the Church's DNA

So what did the survey reveal? The following pages outline the three aforementioned categories, identify core beliefs, suggest proven methods of success and share profiles of Columbia Union churches that embody them.

45,419

Baptisms and Professions of Faith across North America in 2009

5,538

Baptisms and Professions of Faith in the Columbia Union in 2009

Get More

For more church profiles and resources, go to columbiaunion.org/bestpractices.

As you read them, keep in mind that they are not meant to be a punch list or formula for growth, but rather to serve as a stimulus and reference point for churches that want to be intentional and strategic in their evangelism. Churches and communities are living organisms, each with their own distinct DNA. Effective evangelism involves the hard work of understanding your community's DNA and shifting your congregation's DNA from an inward focus to an external focus. Fortunately your church doesn't have to start from scratch. There are other churches who have traveled this road already and have left models you can imitate and apply to your own context. Replication can lead to your multiplication.

Frank Bondurant serves as vice president of Ministries Development for the Columbia Union Conference.

Build Bridges

Frank Bondurant

Best Practices for Community Outreach

Core Beliefs

The church's impetus for community outreach is Christ's example of genuine love for people and His selfless efforts to meet their needs. When our hearts beat in unison with God's, we will see people as He sees them. We will be moved by their plight and compelled to minister to their needs. One of the signs of genuine conversion is a shift in focus from our needs to the needs of others.

When the church takes seriously the implications of the Great Commission, it can no longer exist merely for itself. Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world" (Mark 16:15), and compared the work of His disciples to salt (see Matt. 5:13). Christ calls Christians to transform society, to build community churches. That means we must be about the work of building bridges to people rather than erecting walls.

Preaching the Good News must be accompanied with good deeds (service and compassion). Members need to be equipped and trained to serve the world in the area of their calling and become primary agents for mission. Members are Christ's hands and feet, bringing help and healing to a hurting world.

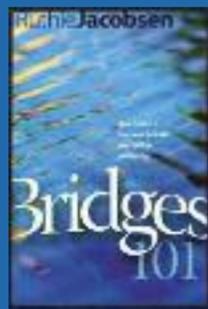
How It's Done

- Have a clearly articulated, community-based mission statement
- Profile community service projects during worship service
- Expect pastors and congregational leaders to personally model community-based ministry
- Equip and empower members for community service
- "Ordain" new members into community service at baptism and develop their spiritual gifts
- Expect and enable members to participate in community boards and service organizations
- Assess community needs through surveys and by interviewing municipal leaders
- Build personal relationships with civic leaders
- Plant ministries in unentered areas
- Make the church facility available for community use
- Have resources focused on community, not congregational, needs
- Host a prayer ministry and community prayer walks
- Sponsor local and overseas service projects
- Partner with other churches and community groups
- Have representation at all major community events

Read More

Bridges 101

In this 80-page booklet, Ruthie Jacobsen, the Prayer Ministries coordinator for the North American Division, offers simple, practical and refreshing ways to serve people. Order at adventistbookcenter.com.



Who's Doing It

LaTasha Betts Hewitt

La Esperanza Spanish

This New Jersey Conference church, led by Pastor Efrain Duany, takes Christ's commission to "feed my sheep" literally and figuratively. For two-plus years, they have provided groceries, life skills training and Bible studies to the community. They greet the 250 people who pour in for each of their two Sabbath services. These unique services begin with a session or training on topics such as CPR or marriage enhancement, followed by a short Bible study. Guests go home with six to eight bags of groceries from the church food pantry. So far congregants have served more than 50,000 individuals and nearly doubled their membership.

"We want to meet their needs and then show them why we care by introducing them to Jesus Christ," explains Luz Miya, ministry director.



Miracle Temple

This Allegheny East Conference church discovered that nearly 60 percent of their Baltimore community lives below poverty levels, and



drug abuse is on the rise. Under former pastor Fredrick Russell, the church formed Faith Center for Community Wellness and Advancement, a non-profit organization.

"After assessing the needs of the community, we found that a holistic approach was necessary," shared Alvin Clarkson, executive director. In partnership with Johns Hopkins Hospital, the center offers an afterschool program, a GED program, exercise classes, Bible studies and more. Their most popular initiative, Healthy Heartbeats, provides hypertension prevention and treatment. Their annual health fairs provide blood pressure screenings, HIV and AIDS testing, carotid artery testing, and many other pro bono healthcare services.

Toledo First

This Ohio Conference church's Haven of Hope outreach project grew from an initiative of their Women's Ministries department. Ladies from the church periodically provide spa days at a transitional home for mothers. When one resident found a place to live, church members performed their first extreme home makeover.

The church decided to form a nonprofit outreach arm for renovating homes for those in need. Grants enabled them to renovate two homes so far, and they partnered with another organization to



renovate rooms in more homes.

"This ministry underscores that not everyone's spiritual gift is listed in the Bible—like drywalling," shares Pastor Mike Fortune. "Our families enjoy doing something for God. We call it a mission trip to Toledo."

LaTasha Betts Hewitt writes from Royersford, Pa.

Draw a Crowd

Frank Bondurant

Best Practices for Attractional Ministries

In Matthew 22, Jesus tells the parable of a king who planned a wedding feast for his son but whose invited guests did not come. As a result, the king commanded his servants to go into the highways and invite everyone they met to the feast. The servants' mission could be classified as invitational ministry.

Likewise, the church's mission today not only involves making a difference in the community but also inviting the community to the church. Inviting people to church is an integral part of community transformation. In other words, as God's people, we are not only to "go," but we are also to proclaim, "All come."

Churches must not only be missional and incarnational, but also attractional. "Attractional ministry" is a church's attempt to engage the local population primarily through its weekly worship services and local programming. Visitors become the focus of the weekly service, and great effort is put forth in making the service "visitor friendly." Church programming is designed to address the perceived needs of the community in hopes of attracting them to the church where they can have an encounter with God. All of the services and ministries of the local church thereby become, and should be, evangelistic in nature.



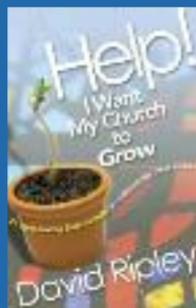
How It's Done

- Offer seeker-sensitive worship services
- Have a visitor-friendly facility and signage
- Provide greeter and parking lot ministries
- Present creative sermon series that are relevant to visitors
- Use viral media and marketing (blogs, website, social networking sites, etc.)
- Mail or email a newsletter to visitors, not just members
- Advertise through community media
- Offer dynamic children's and youth programming
- Host holiday and special services designed for the public
- Have programming designed to address identified community needs

Read More

Help! I Want My Church To Grow

Drawing upon 21 years of pastoral experience, David Ripley shares principles and practices that he found will attract people to your church. Order his 80-page book at adventistbookcenter.com.



Who's Doing It

Billy Errico

Pocono Grace

Eager to be a "community church" in East Stroudsburg, these Pennsylvania Conference members visited with community leaders to



identify specific needs and the level of assistance they could provide. The church now partners with local organizations and churches, which has opened lines of communication and established professional and personal relationships. Their recent community picnic created excitement for residents *and* members and sparked productive conversations.

"We are also engaging with other churches to provide food and gifts at events they host," reports Jose Elvir, church elder. "Church members are really catching the vision, and there is more excitement and desire to start new ministries in the church." A recent idea is the Green Ministry, which includes creating a community garden where residents can grow and harvest their own produce.

Restoration Praise

A central theme for this Potomac Conference church in Lanham, Md., is inviting people to become part of the body of Christ. Weekly appeals, evangelistic and weekly prayer meetings, and various media outlets, such as Web, Facebook and Twitter, allow members to connect with numerous individuals. They recently concluded an online, interactive week of prayer where the pastors were available to answer questions, leading one New York participant to travel to Maryland to be baptized. They also hold Bible study classes after divine services.

Members just wrapped up a week of prayer at Bowie State University in Bowie, Md. "It's our desire to reach out to our community, to be inclusive and welcoming," explains Jewel Walwyn, communication director.

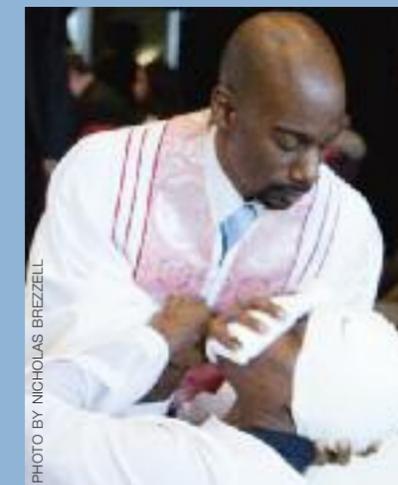


PHOTO BY NICHOLAS BREZZELL

New Hope

This Chesapeake Conference church in Fulton, Md., developed a strategy for better communicating with their congregation and community. One element is their website, lookingforachurch.org. It is designed for visitors, people they believe probably aren't overly interested in religion or church. It also provides a variety of ways to access



information, printable sermons, streaming video and downloadable audio files through iTunes. Staff update the site daily. They also connect interests through Facebook, Twitter and blogs. There are media outlets for prayer ministry, young adults and Sharing Our Strength, the church's mission arm.

"We also have a YouTube channel—a great venue for showcasing special events, baptisms and snippets of our sermons," explains Rajkumar Dixit, associate pastor.

Billy Errico is a congressional staffer who writes from Maryland.

Frank Bondurant

and Reap Them Keep Them

Best Practices for Assimilation

Core Beliefs

The greatest challenge many churches face is knowing how to turn visitors into members and to retain them once they become members. For many churches, assimilation is their “Achilles heel” in evangelism. Assimilation is the process of integrating new believers into the church family and congregational life. This process doesn’t happen automatically and, unfortunately, in many local churches, doesn’t happen at all. Or it occurs haphazardly at best. Churches that want to make the most of their community outreach and attractional ministries must also be intentional and strategic in their assimilation.

Every church needs a plan for how to take people from their first visit to fully developed members. Visitors cannot be expected to return without any intentional action on our part. Visitors are normally seeking and need specific direction. Likewise, new members need to be nurtured and guided in their faith development. Paul expresses this well in Ephesians 3:17-18: “And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.”



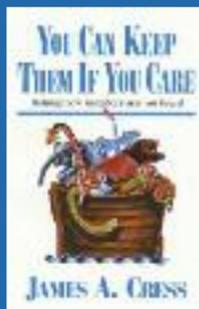
How It’s Done

- Use visitor information cards or bulletin inserts
- Respond to interests and visitors within a week
- Make weekly appeals
- Schedule regular reaping meetings
- Place new members in a small group especially designed for them
- Hold new member classes
- Have an intentional visitation program with new members
- Assign spiritual mentors to all new members
- Give new members spiritual gift training
- Train new members in friendship evangelism
- Plan frequent fellowship and social activities

Read More

You Can Keep Them If You Care

In this 144-page guide, the late James Cress shares practical ways your church can prevent new believers from becoming dropouts. Order it at ministerialassociation.com.



Who’s Doing It

LaTasha Betts Hewitt

Mountain View

Driven by the principle that every member is a missionary for Jesus, conference leaders decided to partner with ShareHim Ministries (sharehim.org) to transform their churches into training centers.

“There were members who wanted to share their faith, but needed to be encouraged to step out in faith and become involved,” explained Larry Boggess, conference president.

Since they started four years ago, conference leaders have held 30 ShareHim boot camps and helped graduate more than 80 individuals. About 75 percent of graduates go on to support the ShareHim meetings as greeters, ushers, technology personnel, etc., and more than half return every year for advanced training. Thirty graduates have even conducted their own ShareHim meetings. The conference’s fourth annual ShareHim Boot Camp takes place this September.



Shiloh

Following an evangelistic crusade last fall, this Allegheny West Conference church in Cincinnati brainstormed ways to retain the 37 “babes in Christ” who chose baptism. As Debbie Howard, lead Bible worker, says:

“After all, what good have we *really* done if we just play the ‘numbers game,’ baptizing yet showing little to no concern about what happens to our newest members after that?”

Pastor Harcourt King, DMin, and a few concerned Bible workers developed a spiritual mentoring ministry. Select members were invited to serve as “spiritual guardians” to the new believers. They make weekly calls, arrange transportation, invite visitors home for a meal, join them at social functions, provide emotional support and assess needs. Mentors are working hard, and several new members are consistently attending.



Emmanuel-Brinklow

To keep new members of this Allegheny East church in Ashton, Md., from slipping away, the church formed a shepherding ministry. Members were divided into groups by their zip codes and encouraged to gather for Sabbath potlucks, Bible studies and social interactions. Now these small groups bond as they share struggles and joys.

Another complementary initiative is their Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner? event organized by the Family Life department. Families sign up to either host or be guests for Sabbath dinner. The participants are then anonymously matched and meet their mystery-dining mates once they arrive. After the meal, church elders meet with each group to provide spiritual food.

“Members get to know others in a more intimate way, and enrich their personal lives,” explains Patrick Craey, MD, head elder.

LaTasha Betts Hewitt writes from Royersford, Pa.



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Today Walk of Faith members serve an average of 6,400 pounds of food per month through their food bank, give cooking classes, host a weekly clothing giveaway, open a teen center twice a week, provide weekly Sabbath afternoon Bible studies and meals and invite the homeless in for breakfast on frigid winter mornings, among other outreach initiatives.

By answering the call, CURF was living up to its 42-year goal of promoting the church's mission. As it has done with hundreds of churches, schools, conferences and other entities across the Columbia Union over the years, CURF provides cost-effective financing to make ministry possible.

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Profiles in Caring



U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-R.I.) accepts an award from Congressman Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) at the Lourie Center's 25th anniversary event at the Embassy of Finland in Washington, D.C., on October 13, 2009.



Marcel Wright stands at the hand-painted mural that welcomes Lourie Center clients.

Life in Layers

Earlier this year my wife and I stopped in at a French bakery near our home, and while she was picking out some pastries, I read through the store menu that described some of the various cakes they had for sale.

I think you can take in calories just from reading the descriptions of the various layers of gooey goodness that go into these cakes. There was "fluffy light yellow cake," "lemony chiffon cake," and "deeply rich and moist chocolate cake," and numerous delicious sounding fillings that alternated between the layers of the cakes—things like vanilla custard, hazelnut praline mousse, fluffy meringue, mascarpone cream, buttery caramel, fresh raspberry sauce, cream cheese frosting, strawberries, fresh lemon curd and—well, you get my point. As I read down through the various flavors and ingredients, I could imagine each and every layer. I could just about taste them (not quite, but just about). I began to think that maybe layer cakes are my favorite kind.

I was reminded of those special Smith Island Cakes from the eastern part of Maryland. Smith Island is Maryland's only inhabited off-shore island in the Chesapeake Bay, and Smith Islanders are famous for their cakes that feature 8-15 very thin layers. In fact, in 2008 Smith Island Cake was designated the official dessert of Maryland. A perfect Smith Island Cake is judged not by the top layer, or the bottom layer, but by the symmetry and perfection of every single layer, making it a visual feast as well as a tasty one.

Every layer matters. Like a good cake, our lives are multilayered, and in each new layer we can find something delicious, something interesting, something memorable. Happiness, it seems, is not found in just eating as quickly as possible through the layers to the frosting, but it is actually a matter of understanding the symmetry and balance and overall flow of our lives.

For people of faith, this suggests that instead of spending a lifetime looking for divine meaning in the extraordinary, the real opportunity that presents itself is to see (and taste) God's goodness in the various layers of life—each new experience, every relationship, with every moment.

This is why American writer Frederick Buechner calls us to pay attention and enjoy each layer of our many-layered lives. "Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery it is. In the boredom and pain of it, no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it, because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace."

Makes me hungry for a piece of cake.



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

Lourie Center Celebrates 25 Years and a New Executive Director

Marcel Wright Fulfills Goal of Leading Organization That Helps Those in Need

by Clarenia Stephen

When H. Marcel Wright was named Executive Director of The Reginald S. Lourie Center for Infants and Young Children in December 2009, the appointment represented his achievement of a longtime professional goal to one day lead an organization that helps at-risk populations.

Today, Wright is entrusted with continuing the legacy of an organization that has been a beacon of hope for emotionally challenged and developmentally delayed infants and young children and their families in the Washington, D.C. region for more than 25 years.

Wright is a member of the Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va., where his father, Henry M. Wright, presides as the senior pastor. Pastor Wright is a respected member of the Seventh-day Adventist community in the National Capital area, serving on the Adventist Media Center Reorganization Commission and the General Conference Commission on Women's Ordination.

In April 2009, Marcel Wright was chosen to assume the role of Interim Executive Director of the Lourie Center while a nationwide search was conducted for a permanent candidate. Wright previously served as the Senior Director of Operations for Adventist Behavioral Health Rockville, one of five facilities, including the Lourie Center, in Adventist HealthCare's behavioral health division.

The Lourie Center, an affiliate of Adventist HealthCare since 2006, is dedicated to understanding and strengthening emotionally healthy parent-child relationships within the community through early prevention, intervention, education, research and training. The organization was founded in 1883 by Dr. Reginald S. Lourie, a pioneer in the fields of pediatric child psychiatry and infant mental health.

The Lourie Center has earned its reputation in the community for providing critical child and family development expertise and early intervention for at-risk children and families, including children with severe behavioral or emotional challenges. The organization's core programs and services include its Parent-Child Clinical Services Program, Lourie Center School, Therapeutic Nursery Program, Early Head Start and Before and After School Program.

As interim director, Wright was immediately swept into a flurry of activity, which included planning for the Lourie Center's 25th anniversary celebration at the Embassy of Finland in Washington, D.C., and a visit from U.S. Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Md.). The 25th anniversary event honored U.S. Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy (D-R.I.) and The Honorable Mark K. Shriver, among others. It became obvious to the Lourie Center's Board of Directors that Wright not only possessed the strategic

leadership and management skills to keep the Lourie Center focused on its mission and vision, he also demonstrated unwavering commitment and passion to finding new ways to help the Lourie Center's families.

"It was very easy to become absorbed in the Lourie Center's mission," Wright said. "Many of the children we serve have been neglected or have experienced physical and, or sexual abuse. It is an amazing feeling to know the therapeutic services we provide are helping so many families in our area live healthier, emotionally stronger lives."

The Lourie Center's therapeutic programs are informed by the principles of attachment theory, which was developed by psychoanalyst John Bowlby. The theory revealed that caretakers who are emotionally available and responsive to their infant's needs establish a sense of security for the infant. Infants who feel a sense of "attachment security" with their caregiver have long-term positive outcomes in social, emotional, and cognitive development. In contrast, children who do not have a sense of attachment security with their caregiver are more likely to develop emotional or behavioral challenges in the future.

"The Lourie Center's staff is a multidisciplinary team of psychiatrists, social workers and educators specializing in treating and interacting with infants and children," Wright said. "We are the only organization in the area with this unique combination of therapeutic services and early education for children."

Annually, the Lourie Center serves nearly 4,000 children and their families in the Maryland and D.C. area. As Executive Director, Wright's priority is to help the organization broaden access to its programs and services.

"It is heartbreaking to consider the number of children who desperately need our help but don't receive it in time," Wright said. "For these children, their struggle to find safety and security with their parents and establish an emotional connection may intensify over time and manifest itself as an anxiety disorder, depression or destructive behavior."

Wright is also shepherding the Lourie Center back to its research-based roots. After all, the Lourie Center began as an offshoot of a six-year clinical research project funded by the National

Institute of Mental Health. With its new leader in place and clearly defined objectives for 2010, the Lourie Center is working to become a national leader in childhood mental health through empirical research and practice in early childhood education, mental health services and training.

Prior to joining the Adventist HealthCare family, Wright worked for companies including US Airways Group, Inc. and HCR ManorCare. He earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of Maryland, Robert H. Smith School of Business and a bachelor's degree in administration from Columbia Union College, now called Washington Adventist University.

Wright affirms it is refreshing to work for a faith-based organization such as Adventist HealthCare.

"I've been a member of the Seventh-day Adventist community all my life and so I feel inspired and encouraged in an environment that is consistent with my own belief system," Wright said. "The longer I work for the organization, the more I appreciate working in an environment where your faith does not have to be left at the front door."

For more information about the comprehensive Behavioral Health Services offered by Adventist HealthCare, please visit www.AdventistBehavioralHealth.com



Above: U.S. Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Md.) exchanges questions and answers with children from the Lourie Center during a visit to the facility on November 2, 2009.

Above Left: Marcel Wright in his Rockville, Maryland office.

Left: Dona Dulski (center), a teacher at the Lourie Center School, presents a map of China while students look on.

Opposite Page: A Lourie Center School student meets a local police officer and his K-9 partner.

Lourie Center Celebra 25 Años y un Nuevo Director Ejecutivo

Marcel Wright Cumple Su Meta de Dirigir una Organización que Ayuda a Los Necesitados

Por *Clarencia Stephen*

Cuando H. Marcel Wright fue nombrado Director Ejecutivo de The Reginald S. Lourie Center for Infants and Young Children en diciembre de 2009, el nombramiento representó la realización de una larga meta profesional de algún día poder dirigir una organización que ayuda a poblaciones en riesgo.

Actualmente a Wright le encomendaron la labor de continuar el legado de una organización que ha sido un faro de esperanza para bebés y niños pequeños que sufren de discapacidades emocionales y del desarrollo, y sus familias, en la región de Washington, D.C., desde hace más de 25 años.

Wright es miembro del Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va., donde su padre, Henry M. Wright, preside esa congregación como Pastor principal. El Pastor Wright es un respetado miembro de la comunidad Adventista del Séptimo Día en el área de la Capital Nacional, sirviendo en la Comisión de Reorganización del Centro Adventista de Medios de Comunicación y la Comisión sobre la Ordenación de Mujeres de la Conferencia General.

En abril de 2009 Marcel Wright fue escogido para asumir la función de Director Ejecutivo Interino de Lourie Center mientras se buscaba un candidato permanente a nivel nacional. Con anterioridad, Wright había servido como Director Principal de Operaciones para el Centro Adventista de Salud del Comportamiento de Rockville, una de las cinco instituciones, incluyendo el Lourie Center, de la división de salud del comportamiento de Adventist HealthCare.

El Lourie Center, afiliado a Adventist HealthCare desde 2006, se dedica al entendimiento y fortalecimiento de relaciones emocionalmente saludables entre padres e hijos dentro de la comunidad mediante la prevención, educación, investigación y entrenamiento adelantados.

La organización fue fundada en 1983 por el Dr. Reginald S. Lourie, pionero en los campos de la psiquiatría infantil y salud mental de bebés.

El Lourie Center ha ganado su reputación en la comunidad por su experiencia y conocimientos críticos en el desarrollo infantil y de la familia, y la intervención adelantada de niños y familias en riesgo, incluyendo niños con problemas graves del comportamiento o emocionales. Entre los programas y servicios fundamentales de la organización figuran su Programa de Servicios Clínicos para Padres y Niños, la Escuela del Lourie Center, el Programa de Guardería Infantil Terapéutica, el programa Early Head Start y el Programa Antes y Después de la Escuela.

“Es desgarrador considerar el número de niños que necesitan desesperadamente nuestra ayuda, pero que no la reciben a tiempo”, añadió Wright. “Para esos niños, la lucha por encontrar seguridad y protección con sus padres y establecer una conexión emocional, puede intensificarse con el tiempo y manifestarse en forma de un desorden de ansiedad, depresión o comportamiento destructivo.”



Marcel Wright and Minal Morarji, a Lourie Center staff member, review the day's agenda.

Wright también está guiando al Lourie Center para que regrese a sus raíces basadas en la investigación. Después de todo, el Lourie Center comenzó como un retoño de un proyecto de investigación clínica de seis años de duración financiado por el Instituto Nacional de Salud Mental. Con su nuevo director en su puesto y objetivos claramente definidos para 2010, el Lourie Center está trabajando para convertirse en un líder nacional en salud mental infantil por medio de la investigación empírica y la práctica en la temprana educación infantil, servicios de salud mental y entrenamiento.

Antes de unirse a la familia de Adventist HealthCare, Wright trabajó para varias empresas, entre ellas US Airways Group, Inc. y HCR ManorCare. Obtuvo su maestría en administración de negocios de la Escuela de Negocios Robert H. Smith de la Universidad de Maryland, y su Diploma en administración de Columbia Union College, ahora llamada Washington Adventist University.

Wright afirma que es reconfortante trabajar para una organización basada en la fe como lo es Adventist HealthCare.

“He sido miembro de la comunidad Adventista del Séptimo Día toda mi vida, y por consiguiente me siento inspirado y alentado en un ambiente compatible con mi propio sistema de creencia”, concluyó Wright. “Mientras más tiempo trabajo para la organización, más aprecio el poder trabajar en un ambiente en el cual no se tiene que dejar la fe en la puerta del frente.”

Para ver más información sobre todos los Servicios de Salud del Comportamiento que ofrece Adventist HealthCare, sírvase visitar www.AdventistBehavioralHealth.com



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Exposé

Prioritize Your Health

I want to personally invite you to our 2010 Fit 4 You retreat July 11-25 in beautiful Pine Forge, Pa. Our theme, “Ain’t No Stoppin’ Us Now, We’re on the Moovvve!” reflects the testimonies of past participants. One camper recently told me how our two-week fitness regimen prepared her for a vacation in the Caribbean—the lifestyle changes we taught made all the difference. “I woke up every morning ready to climb hills, run on the beach and swim in the pool just because I was able,” she shared. “The physical problems I had prior to fitness camp seemed like a thing of the past.”

If you desire to live a longer, healthier life, need rejuvenation or just want to shed a few pounds, come to the Fit 4 You retreat. Daily exercise, health and nutrition lectures, cooking demonstrations, water aerobics and gourmet vegan meals are just a few of the highlights. Learn more at fit4youretreat.org or call (610) 326-4610, ext. 260.



A. Leah Scott
Health Ministries
Director

NEWS

Capitol Hill Member Chairs White House Board

The United States Senate recently confirmed presidential appointee Orlan Johnson—a member of Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C.—to a key White House committee. Johnson, a law firm partner,



will chair the Board of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC), a quasi-governmental agency created to provide oversight of failed brokerage firms.

“It is my privilege to chair the SIPC at this critical time when so many investors have been the victims of immense fraud and need an advocate,” he says. “I’m truly thankful the Lord has blessed me

with the opportunity to serve our country, and I just ask for His guidance as I move forward.”

Montclair Pastor Prays Before State Senate

When the New Jersey Senate met recently to discuss relief efforts for Haiti, a Seventh-day Adventist was invited to play a crucial role. Paula Olivier, pastor of the First church of Montclair in N.J., delivered the invocation to open the quorum. Pastor Olivier did not come alone; she was accompanied by members of a ministry called NJ 4 Haiti. This group, formed after January’s earthquake, is working with the



state to coordinate relief and recovery efforts in Haiti.

“Of the hundreds of churches and pastors the state could have called upon, I am amazed how God reserved that moment for an Adventist church,” says Pastor Olivier.

New Joy Members Worship by Phone

While two snowstorms forced Washington, D.C., area churches to shutter their doors, members of New Joy Fellowship in Hagerstown, Md., (including Ron and Jeri Pride’s family, below) found a way to worship together. They used the church’s teleconference line, set up by Personal Ministries director Denise Johnson. By 11 a.m. during the first storm, New Joy had nearly 100 percent attendance on line, and homebound



guests from other Adventist churches joined their hour-long fellowship. During the second snowstorm, members enjoyed a one-hour Sabbath School program.

“I’ve wondered how we will meet when church doors are closed,” confided one member of the flock pastored by Kenneth Anderson. “God is so creative!”—*Faith Crumbly*

Mizpah's Prayer Answered After 28 Years

Mizpah church is affectionately known as "The Power House" because of the many miracles the Lord has wrought on their behalf. The latest miracle is the recent opening of their new church home in the Frankford community of Philadelphia.

The church formed in 1980 after a great crusade resulting in 77 baptisms. The fledgling flock then waited patiently for God to bless them with a church building. "In 1981 a lot of people had a vision and worked toward the dream of having a new church; but out of that original group, only nine or 10 people are left to actually see it manifested," says Isaac Powell, church elder.

Patrick O'Mara, who also pastored the Frankford church, united the two congregations who now worship at 4355 Paul Street.

In thankfulness for their new home, Pastor O'Mara recently led the unified congregation in a weeklong celebration. "Prayers that took 28 years to be answered remind us of Mark 10:27, where it says: 'And Jesus looking upon them saith, with men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible,'" he quoted.—Cheryl Lynn Brown



Allegheny East Conference administrators join Mizpah leaders and special guests in celebration of the opening of their long-awaited, new church home.

PHOTO BY TYRONE MCMILLAN

Ephesus Member to Lead Minority Affairs at Ohio State

She's won two of The Ohio State University's most prestigious awards, chaired two departments and taught for many years. So it came as no surprise that Valerie Lee, PhD, was recently appointed interim vice provost for Minority Affairs at the university.

"I am deeply appreciative of having Valerie in this leadership position," says Joe Alutto, executive vice president and provost for the university. "I look forward to working with her in her new role as we move forward with the important work of diversity at The Ohio State University."



Lee, a member of the Ephesus church in Columbus, has been at the university since 1991 and was promoted to full professor in 1998. She was elected chair of the Department of Women's Studies from 2000-02, then elected chair of the Department of English in 2002, where she served until this past October. In addition, she chaired the university's diversity council for several years, chaired the university senate's faculty compensation and benefits committee and served on the senate's diversity committee as well as more than 50 other committees. She also is a past president of the National Association of Departments of English. All of her service earned her the Faculty Award for Distinguished University Service in 2006. A widely published author, Lee has taught all levels of undergraduate and graduate courses and won the Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1993.

Southeast Women Project Love at Shelter

With the theme "Project Love Boat" and an imaginary cruise ship as their setting, the Women's Ministries team (right) from Cleveland's Southeast church recently set out to show love to residents of the New Life Community shelter. Their purpose was to get the women ready for dinner at the "captain's table." To assist each resident in looking their best for dinner, the team provided haircuts, manicures, facials

and chair massages. The massage room even had a video of the ocean along with calming music.

"This was an awesome experience and a great opportunity to share and show God's love," said Gladys Bankston, Women's Ministries leader. "I believe that a Christian woman should have a genuine and strong love for everyone. Having this love for others will revive your heart, restore your faith and renew your spirit."

The group, which has adopted the shelter as part of their outreach ministry, has already started another ministry there: Project Storeroom. The women will organize the shelter's clothing donations by style and size and then place them on racks so residents can feel as if they are shopping for clothes from a store.



Naomi Fluellen, a Southeast church member, helps beautify a resident of a nearby shelter.

"Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now!"

We're on the **MOOVVVE** to **FIT 4 YOU Retreat** July 11-25, 2010

Experience FIT 4 YOU Retreat!

- Fresh mountain air
- Healthy Vegan cuisine
- Mental and spiritual rejuvenation
- Life changing health tutorials
- Body massage and hydrotherapy
- Physical activities—swimming, hiking, aerobics, stretching, & more!
- Personal pampering and luxury A/C-conditioned lodging

It's all about life!
Learn it!
Live it!
Love it!
Share it!

Allesh Scott, M.P.H. Executive Director

The mission of FIT 4 YOU Retreat is to make you feel the life-changing benefits of good health by combining this natural setting with a series of fitness activities, health education and inspiration brought by our team of expert physicians, nurses, licensed dietitians, exercise physiologists, fitness trainers, massage therapists and healthy living chefs.

Northern Ohio Churches Screen *The Adventists*

Members of several churches in the Northern Ohio area invited their neighbors to a screening of *The*



Filmmaker Martin Doblmeier answers questions at the Cleveland premiere of *The Adventists*.

Adventists, a documentary that looks at the Seventh-day Adventist Church's commitment to health ministry. The Northern Ohio Ministerial Association sponsored the event, which took place at the Southeast church in Cleveland.

Filmmaker Martin Doblmeier, who attended the screening, says,

"Through the film we have the chance to explore pioneering healthcare facilities, state-of-the-art medical technology and cutting-edge science. But what matters most is we have the privilege to encounter people whose lives are completely changed and that is always the heart of the story."

Attendees gave the film a standing ovation. Barb Clint, a community health leader invited by an Adventist colleague, said, "I was amazed to learn of [the church's] commitment to community health." The film airs on PBS this month.

Bethel Church Visits Seniors

Nursing home residents enjoy a special presentation by the Sabbath



School department of Bethel church in Cleveland. The group brought them songs, words of encouragement and gifts.

Local Paper Features Berean Pathfinders

The Sequoia Pathfinder Club of the Berea church in Uniontown, Pa., was recently featured in a full-page



article in the *Herald-Standard*, the local paper. The article detailed the group's purpose, activities—including a visit to the Courage to Stand International Camporee—and connection to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.—*Patience Barnes*

NEW CONFERENCE STAFF

Bethel Pastoral Couple to Head Family Life

Calvin Roberson, pastor of the Bethel church in Akron, Ohio, and his wife, Wendy, recently accepted the call to head Allegheny West Conference's Family Life department. In this new position they will focus on providing resources for blended and traditional families as well as coordinating events for singles and married couples.



"Where there is a happy family, there is a happy church," is the couple's motto, which is reflected in the Marriage Vows (marriagevows.com) ministry they founded to change the negative statistics and ensure success and happiness in marriage.

New Health and Wellness Director Named

Kim Lee, president/CEO of the African-American Alzheimer's and Wellness Association based in Columbus, was recently named AWC's Health and Wellness director. Lee's goal is to promote a healthy conference by using wholistic approaches to target hypertension, diabetes, cancer and dementia. Lee will also conduct a thorough survey to better ascertain members' needs. She desires to have a wellness center in each church for in-reach and outreach.



Spirit is published in the *Visitor* by the Allegheny West Conference ■ 1339 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43205
Phone: (614) 252-5271 ■ awconf.org ■ President, Fredrick Russell ■ Editor, Bryant Taylor

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

APRIL 2010

Building Barns, Postponing Life

Why is it that there is such a wide and tragic gap between our answers to the questions, "What is important to you?" and "How do you spend your time?" And why is it that words like "tomorrow" or "soon" and phrases like "this won't last forever" and "some day" and "I promise" punctuate our conversations? *Some day soon, I will stay in closer touch with my friends. Some day soon, I will follow a more disciplined devotional routine. Some day soon I'll give my family the time they deserve. Some day soon, I will give myself to a project that will better my community.* You know what I am talking about. As soon as the barns are built (see Luke 12), as soon as the bills are paid, as soon as this project is complete, as soon as the work is done, as soon as things slow down, as soon as ... well, as soon as things are different.

It is one of the crowning ironies of life that those things that are most important to us are also the most easily postponed. It seems to us that we cannot long postpone building the barn, doing the laundry, running the errands or paying the bills. All those things together do not add up to much of a life. However, developing a deeper relationship with one another, taking time for a person in need, spending time growing our relationship with God, giving ourselves more fully to the cause of Christ—all of these things can be easily postponed. And yet it is precisely these things that make for a full and fulfilling life. We know that they are important. We may even plan to make room for them tomorrow. And so the future becomes the repository of our noblest impulses. Nearly everyone does noble and important things through anticipation and resolve, but it is only the God-led people who actually do those things today.



Rob Vandeman
President

Pathfinders Earn Honors, Make Friends at Annual Classoree

Some 300 Pathfinders representing 18 clubs came together on a recent weekend to participate in the Winter Classoree held at Mount Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md.



Suen Allen, Shauntelle Allen and Anne Malangyaon, members of the West Wilmington Wolverines Pathfinder Club, say they like to come to the classoree to meet new people, wear their uniforms and earn honors.



Alvin Payne, youth pastor for the Hagerstown (Md.) church, helps a group of Pathfinder Rangers earn the Church Heritage honor.

The annual occasion offers Pathfinders—in levels Friend to Guide—a selection of intensive honors classes in 31 categories, and provides spiritual enrichment and recreation. Keynote speaker Shawn Paris, youth pastor for the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., used stories to illustrate the weekend's "Love Without Limits" theme.—*Ann Reynolds and Charles Koerting*

PHOTOS BY CHARLES KOERTING

Spencerville Ministry Causes “Global Warming”

Twenty-one quilts and 18 crocheted blankets for India; 40 baby blankets crafted with love and sent to the Maluti Adventist Hospital in Lesotho; mittens and hats for Native American children in North Dakota—these are just a few of the projects completed by the Keep in Stitches group at the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md.

“We started by making afghans for the shut-ins and baby blankets for the newborns in the congregation,”

PHOTO BY LUIS BAIONI



says Vania Baioni, leader of this dedicated small group ministry. “Soon we expanded to scarves and hats for day laborers and blankets for the local women’s shelter.”

The group crafts handmade items that provide physical warmth and also shares the warmth of God’s love in the community. They recently made 71 hats and scarves and delivered them, along with copies of *Steps to Christ*, to homeless persons in Washington, D.C.

Keep in Stitches has about a dozen core members—most of them women aged 8 to 94—but attracts a lot of sporadic participants as well. The ministry helps members connect not only with the local mission of the Spencerville church, but also with the global mission of reaching everyone for Christ. Lilia Salazar is a homebound member who is very active in the group. According to Baioni she makes many of the baby blankets and has made more than 15 scarves for homeless people.

Sabbath School classes and school-aged children also get involved, helping to knit and raise funds for supplies. For example, third-graders at Spencerville Adventist Academy (pictured with their teacher, Kathy Young and Keep in Stitches ministry leader Vania Baioni) helped make fleece blankets for 114 orphan children in Zambia. To cover the cost of 10 blankets, they held a pizza lunch sale, which yielded \$200.

Hagerstown Church, Community Helps Teen

Cathy Recuenco (right) celebrated her 13th birthday in the hospital. She became ill in September and was admitted to John Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore. Tests confirmed a diagnosis of Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia. She needed a bone marrow transplant, and the Hagerstown (Md.) church, where her family attends, immediately scheduled a blood drive to help locate a donor match. Cathy’s mom, Pilar, turned out to be the best match.

Weeks became months as Cathy’s illness and the distance to the hospital took a toll on the family. In an effort to ease the family’s financial strain, the Hagerstown church took up special offerings, and Mount Aetna Adventist Elementary School, where Cathy is a student, planned a massive indoor yard sale. On sale day, 50 people



PHOTO BY PILAR RECUENCO

lined up outside the school gym in the bitter cold to be the first to get in when the doors opened. Pilar reports that the sale yielded \$4,500. Cathy was recently released from the hospital, and her family is optimistic. “We believe that the Lord makes miracles,” says Pilar.

The Challenge is published in the *Visitor* by the Chesapeake Conference 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044 Phone: (410) 995-1910 ■ ccosda.org President, Rob Vandeman ■ Editor, Samantha Young

Students, Staff Remember Janel Kay DeHaan

Students, faculty and guests recently gathered in the girls’ dormitory chapel to honor and remember the dormitory’s namesake—Janel Kay DeHaan. Sheri Tydings, Highland View Academy (HVA) principal, opened the service with a welcome and prayer. As a tribute to the DeHaan family, two DeHaan Hall residents gave musical performances.



Sophomore Karen Tejada played “Amazing Grace” on the trumpet, and junior Monnize Sobrinho played the piano and sang “Thank You” by Ray Boltz.

Born to Frank and Dolly DeHaan, Janel Kay died just a few months shy of her 8th birthday from a brain tumor. December 16, 2009, would have been her 60th birthday. A generous donation from the DeHaans funded the construction of DeHaan Hall in 1966. Over the years, it has been home to hundreds of HVA students.

During the program, Frank spoke tearfully as he briefly recounted the story of losing his daughter so many years ago. But he also gave thanks

to God for the hope they have in knowing “we will be with Janel Kay again one day and have the joy of raising her in heaven.” Current DeHaan Hall residents presented the couple with flowers and cards. After the service participants enjoyed refreshments in the dormitory lobby, and the girls had a chance to meet and talk with the DeHaans.

As members of the Willowbrook church in Hagerstown, Md., the DeHaans have been strong supporters of HVA for many decades. “Frank has faithfully served on the HVA Board of Trustees and Finance committees for many years and provided a tremendous amount of wisdom, direction and continuity,” says Principal Tydings.

In addition to their generous donations for various projects, the DeHaans provided employment opportunities for HVA students at their local businesses for 29 years.



DeHaan Hall residents spend time with Frank and Dolly DeHaan, whose daughter’s name graces the dormitory.

NEWS

HVA Introduces New Alumni Coordinator

Renee Williams (below), Class of 1983, is currently working part time at HVA as alumni coordinator. Williams and her husband, Mark, have five children, two currently enrolled at HVA. Their son, Robby, is a four-year senior and daughter, Chelsea, is a freshman.



“I’ve often thought how wonderful it would be to be involved at HVA again, and I am just amazed at how God works things out,” Williams says. “I’m so thrilled to be back at my alma mater!” The Williams family recently moved to Smithsburg, Md.

Alumni Weekend Planned

Alumni Weekend, April 30-May 2, will feature the Highlanders for the Friday vespers service and Pastor Tim Sheridan, Class of 1980, as guest speaker for the Sabbath worship service.

Honor classes this year will be 2005, 2000, 1995, 1990, 1985, 1980, 1975, 1970, 1965, 1960, 1955 and 1950. For further information about Alumni Weekend, the Alumni Golf Tournament or other alumni news, visit highlandviewacademy.com/alumni.html, join the “Highland View Academy Alumni” Facebook page or contact Renee Williams at rwiliams@highlandviewacademy.com.

Textbook Publisher to Highlight Mushroom Studies

HVA's Environmental Science program has captured the attention of Pearson Publishing, a major textbook publishing company. Representatives from the company contacted Ophelia Barizo, Science Department chair, about the special mycology research HVA students have been engaged in

throughout the 2009-10 school year. One of the goals of this new 2011 textbook, *Pearson Environmental Science: Your World Your Turn*, authored by Jay Withgott, is to conclude with a chapter devoted to highlighting five Toyota Tapestry award-winning projects. The chapter is to include a highlight of HVA students' study of saprophytic and mycorrhizal mushrooms and the role that fungi play in the ecosystem.

"This has been a wonderful learning opportunity for our students and it has become a real honor,"

Environmental Science students and their teacher, Ophelia Barizo (second from right), pause for a picture during one of their mushroom forays.



Barizo notes. The students have also been featured in *Mycophile*, a national publication of the North American Mycological Association.

Principal Sheri Tydings has enjoyed watching the project grow. "It has been an awesome experience for the students to not only learn through this project but [also] to realize that their research is being recognized at both local and national levels," she says. Read more at sites.google.com/site/hvamycology.

CALENDAR

- April**
- 16-17 30-Hour Famine for World Hunger
 - 30 Alumni Golf Tournament
Beaver Creek Golf Course
Hagerstown, 8 a.m.
 - 30-May 2 Alumni Weekend
 - 30 Vespers, Highland View Church, 7:30 p.m.
Sabbath Services, HVA Gymnasium, 10 a.m.
- May**
- 1 Sabbath Services, HVA Gymnasium, 10 a.m.
Alumni Basketball Game
HVA Gymnasium, 8:30 p.m.
 - 2 Alumni Soccer Game
HVA Soccer Field, 11 a.m.
 - 15 Spring Concert
Highland View Church
4 p.m.
 - 16 Student Awards Banquet
HVA Gymnasium, 4:30 p.m.
 - 28-30 Graduation Weekend
 - 28 Parent Tribute
Highland View Church
8 p.m.
 - 29 Baccalaureate Service
Highland View Church
11 a.m.
 - 30 Commencement Service
HVA Gymnasium, 10 a.m.

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

Record-Breaking Blizzards Close School

Two back-to-back, record-breaking snow storms closed Highland View Academy for a full week in February. With classes canceled, students caught up on sleep, caught up on homework and studies and took time to play in the winter wonderland.

From snowball fights and making forts or snow angels to writing messages in the snow, nearly everyone had their share of wet clothes and cold faces. When students weren't playing in the snow, the dormitory deans engaged them in a host of activities. "I think the most fun for me was having a slumber party with the girls in the dorm and watching movies," said sophomore Makhela Libebe. For seniors Jumi Olowofoyeku and John Butler, the snowball fights were the highlight. Jesse Benton, history and Bible teacher, reported that he loved the beauty of the snow, but also said, "The road I live on is very difficult to navigate in a deep snow, so I had to use a snow blower to make about a quarter mile long walking path to get to campus. That part wasn't so much fun!"



Hispanic Work Grows Through Home Churches

For the past two years, Mountain View Conference leaders have made efforts to reach the Hispanic community in Moorefield and Morgantown, W.Va. Since then there have been 10 baptisms in Moorefield and two in Morgantown. In addition, there are 20 ongoing Bible studies.

"During the week, we meet in four different homes for Hogar Iglesia (Home Church), and many of our visitors are asking us to go and worship in their homes as well," explains Walter Cardinas, Hispanic Ministries coordinator for the conference and pastor of the two churches. "Because so many families are requesting Hogar Iglesia, we are now planning to have two meetings daily from Monday to Friday."

All the recently baptized members are eager to bring others to Christ. The Lord is using this group of new believers to lead the work. They are now preaching, teaching Sabbath School classes, leading song service, giving Bible studies and much more.



Juan Zelaya, who was baptized last fall, preaches in home churches where he and his wife, Guadalupe, work together as lay leaders.

Grafton Members Make Donuts for Haiti Relief

Eleven adults and one teenager from the Grafton (W.Va.) church spent a recent Saturday night making 84 dozen donuts. The sale of the donuts and additional donations yielded \$600 for victims of the Haitian earthquake. They sent the monies to ADRA's Haiti Earthquake Response Fund.



"The church donated more than \$200 for the ingredients, allowing the entire sum from the sales to help the people of that devastated area," says Diane Gregg, project coordinator. "All of the volunteers worked hard, and we had a lot of fun together."

The 12 workers who turned out the tasty, glazed donuts included Dennis (right) and Janet Collins; Frank (right, top) and Barbara Dadisman; Diane, Butch and Hannah Gregg; Sonny and Leona Jenkins; Randy and Marty Murphy and Kim Shafferman (above).



Summer Camp Registration Opens

Young people aged 7 and above are invited to attend a variety of summer camps at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va. The weeklong programs include horsemanship, ropes course, archery, gymnastics, ceramics and other activities. This year's theme, "One Way," will remind youth that Christ is truly the one way to salvation.



Wellness Camp to Teach Healthy Lifestyle Changes

Mountain View Conference members seeking to make healthy changes in their lives are invited to attend the conference's third Wellness Camp July 21-August 4. Attendees from past years reported a reduction in cholesterol,



Ray Jerman gets involved as Chris Hasse teaches a bread baking class.

blood pressure and weight. Attendees meet new friends, gain support and put away unhealthy habits. They will also enjoy a total plant-based cuisine and walks around the Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va. For more information, or to make reservations, call (304) 422-4581 or email wellnesscamp_mvc@yahoo.com.

Nicole Ott, Debra King, Linda Mavave and Karen Hawk enjoy facials.

Mountain View Conference 2010 Summer Camps

Adventure Camp (ages 7-9)
June 27-July 3

Junior Camp (ages 10-12)
July 4-10

Teen Camp (ages 13+)
July 11-17

Lifeguard Camp (ages 15+)
June 6-11

For more information, visit mountainviewconference.org, or call the conference office at (304) 422-4581.

Mountain View EVENTS

April

- 11 Town Hall Meeting
Oakland Church
- 18 Town Hall Meeting
Clarksburg Church
- 23-24 Young Adult Summit
*Valley Vista Adventist Center
Huttonsville*
- 25 Education Fair
Summersville Church

May

- 3 Organizing Committee
Parkersburg
- 16 Town Hall Meeting
Charleston
- 17 Executive Committee
- 23 Nominating Committee
- 28-30 Pathfinder Fair, *Valley Vista*
- 29 Walk 100 Miles Ends

Mountain Viewpoint is published in the *Visitor* by the Mountain View Conference ■ 1400 Liberty Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101 ■ Phone: (304) 422-4581 ■ mtviewconf.org ■ President, Larry Boggess ■ Editor, Monica Zill

SPIRIT

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY

APRIL 2010

Striving Toward the Promised Land

I listened as her story came out in a torrent of frustration and regret. She wanted to know why her father abandoned her and her mother 18 years ago. How does one answer a question like that? Young people today are looking for normalcy in the form of an increasingly elusive ideal. Who is going to stand in the breach of our young people's lives and lead them when so many adults in their lives have abdicated their responsibility?

The fact is that as soon as we establish this world as the "norm," we miss the point. We have to realize that our lives here on this Earth are an aberration; there is an eternity waiting for us if we are just willing to look up and choose to wake up from this nightmare. Sitting here looking out of my office window taking in the misery of the Ohio winter, I have to remind myself that it is summer somewhere. The slush, salt and cold are not universal, and if I head south, I can escape winter all together.

Who is going to tell our students about a better place and a better life if they are not in our schools? Attending church once a week will not get the message to them. Many of us cling to church services that have lost their relevance to most of our youth. We have to fight to save our children—one school, one conference at a time. We have to hang on to each soul and show them that there is a way out—not a norm but a new reality—so they will be able to make the choice between staying out in the cold or heading for the promised land.



Robert Stevenson
Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 8—Acronics Homeshow

On May 8, at 9 p.m., Mount Vernon Academy's (MVA) Acronics gymnastics team (below), will present a home show in the school's gymnasium. Parents, friends and alumni are welcome to attend as team members present a combination of acrobatics and cheer pyramids.



MAY 9—Spring Concert

The annual spring concert, with music director David Nino (right), will take place May 9. MVA's choir, Echoliars, Cascabel and band will present *DREAMS*, which will feature musical selections from around the world, including Russia, Africa, Brazil and America.



MAY 28-30—Graduation Weekend

The Class of 2010's graduation weekend will be held May 28-30. Tim Soper (right), MVA chaplain, will give the Commencement address.



Consecration, Friday, May 28, 8 p.m. with speaker Pam Castillo

Baccalaureate, Sabbath, May 29, 11 a.m. with Herb Montgomery

Class Night, Saturday, May 29, 9:15 p.m.

Commencement, Sunday, May 30, 10 a.m.

Students Serve in the Amazon

Sixteen Mount Vernon Academy students recently returned from a 10-day mission trip to Iquitos, Peru. While there, they primarily focused on making improvements to Poppy's



Kevin Park ('10) (back) and Johnny Moritz ('11) help build trusses.

House, a crisis foster care facility, founded and managed by MVA alumnus Paul Opp ('76). He is also the founder of People of Peru, an organization, that sponsors the education of children from elementary school through university.

Despite the intense equatorial heat, the students worked through the day with high-energy and enthusiasm. Within three days, they finished fencing in the property and started other projects in the local

village. They walked across the street to a home made from wooden poles, rotten boards and a thatched roof. The students raised the floor level of the structure a few feet and created a retaining wall around the home. They also drilled a well and constructed trusses for a missionary home being built nearby.

Each evening students participated in Vacation Bible School in the riverside village of Union, and thanks to some fun songs, stories and activities (and a little candy), more than 80 children learned about Jesus.

After a productive week, the group took a daylong trip up the Amazon River, stopping by a tribal village to trade and barter for souvenirs. They spent the night in the jungle battling mosquitoes, catching a small alligator and listening to the sounds of a different ecosystem.—Tim Soper



Kris McGill ('10) displays his catch—a piranha—on an early morning Amazon fishing expedition.

Madeline Mayo ('10) enjoyed getting to know local children at Vacation Bible School.



Derek DeBardeleben ('10) helps with Vacation Bible School.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

April

- 13-17 Spring Week of Prayer
- 18 Junior/Senior Banquet
- 22 Service Day
- 23-25 Alumni Weekend
- 25-30 Junior Class Boston Trip
- 28-May 2 Home Leave

May

- 8 Gymnastics Home Show
- 9 Spring Concert
- 11-17 Senior Trip
- 12 Service Day
- 24-26 Final Exams
- 26 Last Day of Classes
- 28-30 Graduation Weekend

Spirit is published in the Visitor by Mount Vernon Academy ■ 525 Wooster Road, Mount Vernon, OH 43050 ■ Phone: (740) 397-5411 ■ mvacademy.org ■ Principal, Robert Stevenson ■ Editor, Amy Soper

APRIL 2010

Who Belongs to the Priesthood?

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light" (1 Pet. 2:9, NIV).

At some time in the life of the church, some people began to believe and claim that ministry is only a prerogative of pastors. According to the New Testament, all believers belong to the priesthood, including the laymen! To limit ministry to clergy was a strange concept for the New Testament church, because all God's people have personal access to Him and the spiritual right to minister.

According to Ellen White, "Sometimes ministers do too much; they seek to embrace the whole work in their arms. It absorbs and dwarfs them; yet they continue to grasp it all. They seem to think they alone are to work in the cause of God, while the members of the church stand idle. This is not God's order at all" (*Evangelism*, p.113).

Ministry should be every church member's great privilege and responsibility. It is impossible to be a Christian and not be involved in ministry! In my personal experience, my ministry began to be more fruitful when I trained church members to be small group leaders and lay evangelists. Then I had the blessing of seeing my churches grow, and I started to baptize hundreds of people every year. During our New Jersey Ministries Convention, this concept was presented and readily accepted by our pastors and lay leaders. You, too, are a member of a royal priesthood so start ministering in your community today!



José H. Cortés
President

Robbinsville Partners With Community to Help Haiti

A few weeks after meeting with the mayor of Robbinsville and offering the church's facilities for community events, Art Randall, Robbinsville church pastor, made good on that offer. The mayor wondered if they could use the church's fellowship room to hold a fundraiser to help with relief efforts for Haiti. The Robbinsville church quickly agreed to use the facilities to serve as a collection center for water, tents and other supplies. In addition, a group of community leaders offered to organize a dinner with the proceeds going to the Red Cross.

All the Robbinsville church had to do was open their doors, and the civic leaders did all the work of



organizing donors and volunteers from the community and high school. More than 100 people came to the church to enjoy the dinner and participate in other fundraising activities.

Students from Robbinsville High School volunteered to serve as waiters, sold pies (above) and made bracelets to sell. The effort raised \$2,500 and donors gave a truckload of supplies and clothing for Haiti.



Robbinsville member Susan Stoica (left) stands with community volunteers Agrima, Manishi, Ravi and Rituik Agnihotri. For the past two years, the Agnihotri children attended Vacation Bible School with Stoica.

Nearly 600 Attend Ministries Conventions

Nearly 600 local church leaders from around the New Jersey Conference attended the annual Ministries Leadership Training Conventions at Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Tranquility. Under the theme "Discovering the Secrets of Growth," Spanish- and English-speaking leaders attended the meetings on separate weekends. Breakout training sessions provided leaders with valuable material and training. Below are highlights from the weekend:



José Cortés Jr. (left), Youth Ministries director for the Greater New York Conference and guest speaker for the English weekend, pauses for a photo with his son and father.



Pastor Ramon Canals, Hispanic Ministries director for the North Pacific Union Conference, served as the guest speaker for the Spanish training weekend.



Maribel Becerra, Belleville Spanish church



Communication leaders study the Visitor during a training session led by editor Celeste Ryan Blyden.



Presenter Horace Delisser, MD, clarifies a point for Judy Fleming, a health seminar attendee.

dates

April

- 2-4 English Women's Spring Retreat
Cape May
- 7-10 Stewardship Emphasis Weekend
Local Churches
- 11 Children's Ministries Training Day
Wayne and Lake Nelson Churches
- 10 Music Festival for Northern Jersey
- 16-18 Single Ministries Retreat, *Tranquil Valley Retreat Center (TVRC)*
- 17 Spanish Couples Retreat
Woodcliff
- 23-25 Adventist Community Services Disaster Response Training, *TVRC*
English Couples Retreat, *Edison*

May

- 5-8 Stewardship Emphasis Weekend
Local Churches
- 15 New Jersey Conference Worship Training Day, *Laurelwood Church*
- 23 Children's Ministries Training Day
Wayne and Lake Nelson Churches

June

- 2-5 Stewardship Emphasis Weekend
Local Churches
- 4-6 Adventure Family Timeout, *TVRC*
- 12 Combined English and Spanish Camp Meeting, *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

275 Local Church Leaders Meet for Training

More than 275 local church leaders and pastors from across the state recently headed to Columbus for the Hispanic Small Groups Convention, the Small Groups Conference for English speakers and Ohio Ministry University.

Hispanic Small Groups Convention

The annual Small Groups Convention is an important part of the ongoing leadership training that Ohio Hispanic congregations have been involved with for the past several years. Featured speaker Leonardo Figueroa is pastor of the Tulsa Hispanic church (Okla.). His church grew from two families in 1995 to its current size of 370 members in two congregations. More than 100 attendees listened as Figueroa shared how his church has benefited and grown through small groups.

Small Groups Conference

"I feel challenged and stretched in my thinking, and am excited to see what God has in store," said one of the 65 people who participated in the small



groups ministry workshops. The speakers were Milton Adams, director of the Simple Church Project, affiliated with the North American Division; and Ron Rockey, PhD, and his wife, Nancy Rockey, PhD, (above), specialists in marriage and family therapy and clinical pastoral counseling. Adams presented his "Growth Groups" seminar on how to conduct relational Bible studies that are suitable for unchurched people. The Rockeys' presentations included segments from *The Journey*, a series of study guides they developed for small groups that are designed to help people shed the negative impact of their past and realize lasting happiness and spiritual health.



PHOTOS BY MARCELLUS DE OLIVEIRA

Ohio Ministry University

Now in its fourth year, Ohio Ministry University continues to be a popular draw for local church leaders who are passionate about growing in Christ and looking for fresh ideas to positively impact their communities. "I look forward to this every year," stated one participant. "This was my first time," said another. "It was great." The event was "enlightening, uplifting and inspirational," added a third attendee.

Ryan Bell, senior pastor of the Hollywood Adventist Church in Los Angeles, reported on projects that his congregation has undertaken to provide affordable housing, extend healthcare to those who have no insurance or benefits and involve young adults in the arts.

Milton Adams (above) reported on the Simple Church Project in Orlando, Fla., which grew out of a house church that he and his wife started in the summer of 2008. Adams will coordinate the Ohio Simple Church network and is available by telephone and over the Internet to provide information, training and encouragement. For more information, visit simplechurchathome.com.

For copies of materials from the event, contact Monte Sahlin at montessahlin@gmail.com or the Ohio Conference at information@ohioadventist.org or (740) 397-4665, ext. 165.



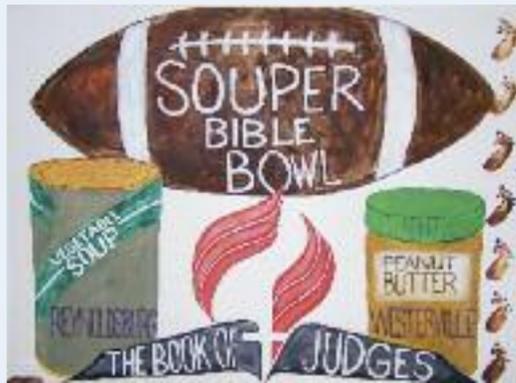
Reynoldsburg and Westerville Compete in "Souper Bible Bowl"

What started as an annual food drive for a local charitable organization has become a friendly competition between the Reynoldsburg and Westerville churches. Rotating yearly, each church collects either peanut butter or vegetable soup. A volunteer from each church creates artwork under which the food piles up. The churches then

face off in a Bible Bowl competition. Each church earns points for the amount of soup or peanut butter they collect and the number of correct answers they submit regarding the biblical book chosen. Points are totaled, and the winning church savors their victory until they square off again the following year. Last year the competition was so close that the value of peanut butter versus soup had to be negotiated!

Recently the two churches went helmet to helmet to reveal which knew the most about the book of Judges and finished *only two points* apart (189-187) out of a possible 200 points total. Westerville barely edged out Reynoldsburg. Westerville also collected more peanut butter than Reynoldsburg did soup, making them the undisputed champs for 2010.

Both congregations enjoy



Members of the winning team, the Westerville church, were deemed the most knowledgeable on the book of Judges.

unselfish giving and learning about a specific book of the Bible. Contestants also enjoy each other's company during dinner together after the competition. However, as Westerville member Phil Wilson stated, "the real winners are the hungry people getting the soup and peanut butter!" Next year's competition will be on the book of Acts.—Mike Barnett

Toledo First Offers Soup for the Soul

Seeking a remedy for the dismal attendance at Toledo First church's midweek service, leaders turned to the tonic that many do when illness strikes: soup. That's how Soup for You was born. Attendees enjoy a nourishing meal of

soup and bread, followed by a discussion on biblical themes. This simple concept has led to a dramatic increase in attendance, drawing 25 adults and 10 children each week.

"We started Soup for You to be intentional about nurturing our church's inner life, but the result has been that a good number of people from the community have started attending," shares Rachel Davies, associate pastor. Some are parents from the church-operated day care and elementary school, but others have seen the sign from the street and dropped in to fellowship. Last fall, after Toledo First announced

that their sanctuary would be open for prayer every Wednesday, a few community people came to pray and then ended up staying for Soup for You in the evening. Later they brought friends.

"I like Soup for You because I get to eat together with others while studying a book that is interesting and thought-provoking," one community member said.

"Some of the community members have begun to bring soup, too, and we've been delighting in each other's company—growing and learning together!" adds Davies.

Attendees at Toledo First church's weekly Soup for You gathering enjoy a nourishing meal of soup and bread before delving into Bible study.



Mission Ohio is published in the Visitor by the Ohio Conference P. O. Box 1230, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050 ■ Phone: (740) 397-4665 ohioadventist.org ■ President, Raj Attiken ■ Editor, Nancy Barnett

A Skater Meets Jesus

I have a blast traveling around our conference visiting our youth groups. I recently went to Easton to visit Legit Worshipers (LW), which meets in Javier and Mirabel Mendez's home. After snacks and mixer games, we sat down for a Bible study. I was sitting next to Kevin. It was Kevin's first time at LW. Prior to starting our study, Bibles were handed out to each young person. After several comments, Javier asked the youth to turn to a specific place in their Bibles. I could immediately tell that Kevin was uncomfortable. I asked him if he needed help. He said, "I've never

used one of these things before." I told him that I could give him the page numbers as we continued to look up additional passages. That night was a special night. It was the first time Kevin, a skater from the block, first opened Jesus' message. I wonder what kind of emotions Jesus experienced as Kevin finally opened the gift of the Bible for the first time. Several weeks later, Javier called to tell me that Kevin gave a testimony in front of the whole group about Jesus.

Sometimes evangelism comes in the form of a large campaign held at the church. Other times it comes in the form of committed people like Javier and Mirabel inviting the skater from up the street to open Jesus' love letter. In whatever form it comes, Pennsylvania Conference churches are committed to reaching their communities with this distinctive message that changes lives.



Kris Eckenroth
Youth and Young Adult
Ministries Director

A Pennsylvania Conference Core Value

Evangelism: We are passionate for the lost and thus committed to purpose-driven innovation and relational ministry. We will teach and preach our distinctive message in a way that is meaningful to the people we are trying to reach. We will build the kingdom through creative and innovative ways that will cause truth to stand out clearly and distinctly. We will constantly evaluate our forms and methods, seeking cultural relevance and maximum ministry effectiveness for Jesus Christ. (See 1 Chron. 12:32; Luke 19:10.)

El Camino Officially Becomes a Church

Members of the El Camino Mission Group in Easton recently signed the charter to become official members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Approximately 50 people attend Sabbath

services at this mission-minded church. Ray Hartwell, conference president; Ron Christman, treasurer; and Juan Lopez, Hispanic Ministries coordinator, were all on hand for this special service. Members are eager to reach the Hispanic community in Easton. "Kingdom growth is what sparks our group," shares Cesar Mercado, group leader.

Originally members of the Lehigh Valley Spanish church in Allentown, El Camino members now meet in a Lutheran church and work with members of that church in a food pantry ministry. They also work with the Lehigh Valley church to provide the *Entre Amigos* ("Between Friends") radio program. In addition, they offer English as a Second Language and knitting classes to community members.

"God is working in amazing ways," Hartwell reports. "During the organization service, a non-member came forward to join the church in the near future. Over lunch another man, who was visiting for the first time with his son, indicated that he would like to consider joining this Adventist church."



Ray Hartwell, Pennsylvania Conference president, says a special blessing for the leadership team at the El Camino church in Easton.

Conference Welcomes Assistant Youth Director

Jason Foster (right), the new Assistant director for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, will lead the summer camp ministries program at Laurel Lake Camp in Rossiter and build ministries designed to reclaim young adults. With Foster taking on some of the responsibilities, director Kris Eckenroth will help local churches develop youth groups, provide youth leader training events, plan events and rallies for young people, work with Cool Camp and youth mission trips, as well as oversee workers for summer camp, Pathfinders and Adventurers. "There is a huge drain of young adults not active in the Adventist Church across North America,"

says Ray Hartwell, conference president. "I am glad that God has provided resources we would not have had here on our own to invite Jason to join us in this movement of putting Youth and Young Adult Ministries on the front page of our priorities as a conference." Foster graduated from Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) with a degree in theology. He has a passion for sharing Christ with young people and helping them grow in their personal relationship with God while growing a sense of mission in their lives. He presently serves as the dean of men and a Bible teacher at Rio Lindo Adventist Academy (Calif.). He previously served as the

associate dean of men and a Bible teacher at Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va. Major funding for this position has been provided from outside sources.



York Member Honored for Service to the Blind

Christian Record Services (CRS) recently honored Richard Klinedinst for 35 years of service as a representative in eastern Pennsylvania. Over the years, he made approximately 12,000 visits to blind people and introduced them to the Seventh-day Adventist Church's inspirational materials offered through CRS. He was the first person in the history of the

Adventist movement to raise \$2 million for the blind through CRS. "Everything that I've accomplished, especially in the area of fundraising, has been a miracle every day, and that's only through prayer and surrender to God's will," Klinedinst says.

Ted N.C. Wilson, a worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church vice president and CRS board chairman, along with Larry Pitcher, president of CRS, presented Klinedinst with a plaque during a service at the York church where Klinedinst is a member and elder. Tom Evans, North American Division treasurer, also made a presentation to Klinedinst while Frank Bondurant, vice president for Ministries Development at the Columbia Union Conference, and Barry Tryon, Pennsylvania Conference executive secretary, took part in the service.

Klindedinst's son, David, Personal Ministries director for CRS, shared his father's story and how God used him. "By God's grace, Dad became the most successful worker to ever serve with CRS—all

with no marketing or sales training and with barely a high school education," David shared.



Ted N.C. Wilson, a vice president at the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, presents a plaque to Richard Klinedinst in the presence of his wife, Dolores.

What's happening

- April**
- 23-25** Adventurer Family Retreat
Laurel Lake Camp
- Alumni Weekend
Blue Mountain Academy (BMA)
- 30-May 1** Spring Concerts, *BMA*
- 30-May 2** Academy Days, *BMA*
- May**
- 2** Pathfinder Fair, *BMA*
- 28-30** Graduation Weekend, *BMA*
- June**
- 11-19** Camp Meeting, *BMA*

Pennsylvania Pen is published in the *Visitor* by the Pennsylvania Conference 720 Museum Road, Reading, PA 19611 Phone: (610) 374-8331, ext. 210 pconference.org ■ President, Ray Hartwell ■ Editor, Tamyra Horst

Being the Church

What's the most important thing to you? Is it sports, politics, philosophy, family, time or religion? Now what do you think is most important to the Trinity about those of us here on Earth? Quite simply it is His children—His church. The sacrifice of heaven proves His compelling drive of love for His children. "See what love the Father has given us that we should be called the children of God. And so we are ... Beloved we are God's children now ..." (1 John 3:1-2, RSV). When God's children work and come together for worship, it is called church. There is nothing as important in God's eyes as the local church. In the words of author Bridget Willard, "Church isn't where you meet. Church isn't a building. Church is what you do. Church is who you are. Church is the human outworking of the person of Jesus Christ. Let's not go to church, let's be the church."

Church isn't where you meet ... Church is who you are.

How do we as God's children go about being the church? Looking around the Potomac Conference, I see many examples. I know of a group of God's children who provided car repairs for single moms. I know of a group of God's children who realized there was a crack house close to their church and befriended the inhabitants. I know of a group of God's children who sent out Bible study cards and more than 480 of their neighbors responded. I know of a group of God's children who gave out pumpkin pies at Thanksgiving and later invited recipients to a series of meetings. I know a group of God's children who prayed about planting a church, and now there are 600 in attendance. What's the most important thing? For me it is knowing that we are God's children and being His church to those for whom He died.



Bill Miller
President

Manassas Members Aid Haitian Children

After visiting Haiti and seeing the hopeless conditions facing many children, Manassas (Va.) church members Charles and Gigi Le-Morzellec founded the Eden Garden Orphanage in 1998. The orphanage, located just outside the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, offers a medical clinic, K-8 schooling for 250 kids, housing for nearly 40 children and a fresh-water well, which supports nearly 1,000 people in the community.



Gigi and Charles Le-Morzellec meet with Pastor Joey Pollum and his wife, Sarah, at the Eden Garden Orphanage campus.



Even after the recent earthquake, the orphanage continues to thrive and grow as churches from around the Columbia Union and beyond develop partnerships with the couple. Members of their home church in Manassas are also lending a hand. Last month Pastor Joey Pollum and his wife, Sarah, joined a group that visited the orphanage.

"We're amazed at how God can use two people to love, support and reach an entire community," he reflects. To learn more, visit edenchildren.info, or read their story in the Latest News section at pcpsda.org.

Restoration Praise Officially Organized

With 270 charter members, Restoration Praise Center (RPC) officially organized into company status as the newest addition to the Potomac Conference. Conference leaders recognized the

congratulated RPC on the church's growth since its humble beginnings. "Who would've thought that this day began as a Bible study in a pastor's living room," he stated. During its development, three pastors relocated to the Lanham-Bowie area to assist the project.

Bill Miller, conference president, gave a rousing encouragement to RPC. "My challenge to Restoration Praise Center is to look beyond those pale blue lines," he said referring to the constraints of the status quo. Miller instructed the church to defy the "dictatorship of normal." He later presented the official certificate of organization to the congregation before turning the floor over to an appreciative and emotionally



moved Paul Graham, the church's senior pastor. Shortly after, RPC's leadership team came forward to sign the document on behalf of the members.—Andre Weston

Restoration Praise Center Pastors Ronnie Willie Seneque, Paul Graham and Kelvin L. Mitchell meet with Bill Miller, Potomac Conference president.

Lanham, Md.-based group as having one of the largest charter memberships in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The ceremony started with a joyous song service and prayer. Pastor Melvyn Hayden III welcomed attendees in the packed sanctuary and



Sligo's Pathfinders Lead Worship, Training

Pathfinders from some 10 churches from the Potomac, Chesapeake and Alleghany East conferences attended and partici-

pated in Pathfinder Sabbath in Takoma Park, Md. The Sligo Pathfinders were involved in all aspects of the worship service from the children's story to the pastoral prayer. The service was followed by a potluck and several honors, awards and training sessions.

Seventh- and eighth-graders taught many of the honors courses, including child care, soil and endangered species. "Our entire goal for

Pathfinders is to teach our children to be leaders, so we give them chances to participate," explains Darrell Milam, church Pathfinder director. "Many of our older Pathfinders are getting out there and teaching honors to kids and adults at the church and at camporees."—Marceline Ndahayo



Ryan Conway leads out during a recent Pathfinder Sabbath at Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md.

Potomac People is published in the Visitor by the Potomac Conference 606 Greenville Ave., Staunton, VA 24401 Phone: (540) 886-0771 pcsda.org President, Bill Miller Communication Director, Dan Jensen

Making Each Minute Count

Recently I was reacquainted with an educational documentary called *2 Million Minutes*. The premise of the program was to compare and contrast high school education systems in different countries and ultimately determine where American education fits into the overall global educational picture. While I don't agree with everything in the program, it really challenges how education is done. It should provoke many educators to take a strong look at how we are preparing our students for a global economy.

This year at Takoma Academy (TA), we have spent a significant amount of time focusing on curriculum development, adding courses and concentrating on providing a rigorous academic program to prepare our students for college. As I watched the video, I felt confident about the progress and direction we are taking for our TA families. Ironically, the academic information the video shared is not what continues to replay in my mind, it is simply the title itself: *2 Million Minutes*.

The average student will spend more than 2 million minutes in high school alone! Parents, who do you want educating your student and developing their character? Investing in Seventh-day Adventist education provides an opportunity to combine excellence in academics and spirituality. The faculty and staff of Takoma Academy are fostering this type of environment and preparing our students for the global changes happening, so they can be assets to society and witnesses for Christ. We have to guard every minute of our young people's lives and place them in schools that are focused on making sure that those 2 million minutes result in an eternity in the kingdom. We invite you to partner with us as you consider the 2 million minutes that your child spends on their success journey in high school.



David Daniels
Principal

Area Eighth-graders Invited to Campus

On Friday, April 16, eighth-graders from local Adventist schools will don athletic gear and head to TA for a day of healthy competition and team-building activities. This fun field day, called "TA's Amazing

Race," is based on the popular television show and literally involves students participating in several different types of races. As they meet and form teams with students from the different schools, participants begin learning valuable interpersonal skills. As they compete, they are challenged both mentally and physically. From keyboarding to rock climbing to an obstacle course to sack races, past participants report really enjoying the event.

Students from TA will serve as event staff members, allowing them to practice their leadership skills. Before the day ends, students will have the opportunity to audition for ability scholarships. Students who do not attend an Adventist elementary school are also invited to participate. To register your eighth-grader for TA's Amazing Race, call (301) 434-4700.



Last year's race participants (left to right) Elyssa Nascimento ('10), Noelle Callahan ('12), Rachel Rupert ('10), Jade Callahan ('10), Erica Singh ('09) and Whitney Hucks ('10) served as team leaders and guides.



Golf, Banquet Highlight Upcoming Alumni Weekend

Former TA students will return to campus April 23-24 for Alumni Weekend. This homecoming event held the fourth weekend of each April, gives classmates and friends an opportunity to catch up and share memories. This year's honor classes are 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005.

Highlights for the weekend include the 11th annual Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament Friday, April 23, 8 a.m. This fundraising

event is open to the public, and proceeds will benefit TA's scholarship fund. Sabbath events include a 10 a.m. worship service, class reunion photo session and luncheon. While several classes will hold individual reunion parties on Saturday night, the Alumni Association (see taalumni.org) will hold a "roast" honoring long-time science instructor Ken "Uncle Willie" Wilson. This banquet will be held at 7 p.m. on the campus of nearby Washington Adventist University. To purchase banquet tickets, or for more information about the weekend, contact Aaron Belcher at president@taalumni.org or Kathy Hecht at khecht@wau.edu.

On April 8 at 8 p.m., Maryland PBS stations will premiere "The Adventists," a one-hour documentary about the health ministry of the Adventist Church. This film (journeyfilms.com) features TA alumnus Leonard Bailey, MD ('60), a pediatric heart surgeon.



Members of Takoma Academy's Class of 1960, along with several other honor year groups, have already made plans to celebrate their 50th high school reunion.

Calendar

April

- 2 End of Third Term
- 5 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 16 TA's 5th Annual Amazing Race Scholarship Auditions
- 20 Scholarship Auditions
- 23 Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament, 8 a.m.
- 23-24 Alumni Weekend

May

- 2, 4 Scholarship Auditions
- 7 Community Service Day
- 8 Mother's Day Concert
- 10 Career Fair
- 13 Junior/Senior Banquet
- 14 Spring Picnic
- 20 Fine Arts' Spring Production 7 p.m.
- 23 Fine Arts' Spring Production 4 p.m.
- 24 Board of Trustees Dinner/Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 27 Spring Concert
- 31 Memorial Day—School Closed

June

- 3 Last Day of School
- 4-6 Graduation Weekend

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

The Spirit is Growing!

Spring is always an exciting time at Washington Adventist University (WAU). The campus emerges from the winter's feeling of dormancy with a burst of life. As the pink and white blossoms emerge on the trees and the Easter flowers push up through the soil, the feeling of renewal is apparent on the faces of our students. Some are anticipating graduation and the challenges of a new professional life just around the corner, while others are excited about upcoming mission trips and other summer events.

Of course, April is always the month we welcome our alumni back to campus for a memory-filled reunion of friends and mentors. This year the renewal will be especially apparent, as we begin the weekend on April 9 with the groundbreaking for the new Music Center.

Then in May in addition to the many traditional events of commencement weekend we are commemorating the transition to a university of excellence with

Former Choir Members Wanted for Mass Reunion Concert

To celebrate the groundbreaking of the new WAU Music Building, the Department of Music is inviting all choral singers from Washington Missionary College, Columbia Union College or Washington Adventist University to sing in the Gala Reunion Concert during Alumni Weekend, April 9-10.

Three past choir directors—Bob Young, Leland Tetz and Jon Gilbertson—will be present to help current director James Bingham conduct the reunion concert on Sabbath, April 10, at 3:30 p.m. in the Sligo church sanctuary.

The New England Youth Ensemble (NEYE) of Washington Adventist University, under the direction of Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse and Preston Hawes, is also inviting its former members to return for this gala weekend. The NEYE will perform for the worship service and accompany the Gala Reunion Concert. The reunion choir and orchestra will rehearse Friday, April 9, at 8:30 p.m. in the Sligo church sanctuary, immediately following alumni vespers.

For more information, contact the Department of Music at (301) 891-4025 or email music@wau.edu.

—James Bingham



a landmark concert and inaugural celebration on Monday evening, May 3 at the Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda, Md. The Columbia Collegiate Chorale and New England Youth Ensemble will perform their world-renowned repertoire. A number of



special guests including WAU alumnus and famed Loma Linda Medical Center heart surgeon, Leonard Bailey, MD, (left), will help us make this an evening to remember.

Yes, my friends, the spirit is growing at your university. Whether it's the spirit of faith and service lived out in Campus Ministries activities, the spirit

of determination and pride that brings down the house at athletic events, or the spirit of achievement and excellence that reflects on the faces of our graduates as they grasp their diplomas and embrace family and friends, the spirit is growing at WAU.



Weymouth Spence
President



Five Sophomores Inducted Into Honor Society

The Takoma Academy chapter of the National Honor Society recently welcomed five new members: Krystal Uzuegbu, Kamesha Laurry, Courtney D'Avilar, Noelle Callahan and Candace Neufville. These students, all sophomores, have demonstrated outstanding scholastic achievement. Each one has a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.7. They have also displayed leadership skills, participated in community service activities and exemplified strong moral values.

Takoma Academy received their charter as a National Honor Society chapter in 1964 and the society has been active ever since. Students have participated in a number of community service activities such as visiting nursing homes, feeding the homeless, raising money for Rebuilding Together and cleaning up their "adopted" stretch of Carroll Avenue.

National Honor Society advisors Tom Ballard and Lou Anne Wood flank new inductees Krystal Uzuegbu, Kamesha Laurry, Courtney D'Avilar, Noelle Callahan and Candace Neufville.



Alumni to Premiere Opera at Carnegie Hall

Marcos Galvany (below), who studied composition at WAU and was a “composer in residence” there, will premiere his new operatic



work April 10 at Carnegie Hall. *Oh My Son* is based on the life of Jesus—His passion, resurrection, mission and work—and focuses on His relationships with His mother, Mary; Mary Magdalene; Pilate; and the apostle John. “As a child, I was inspired by the Bible stories my mother told me about each piece of art pertaining to the passion and nativity,” explains the member of

Potomac Conference’s Takoma Park (Md.) church. “As I grew older, I was truly inspired by the biblical story of Jesus Christ. That is the major part of my inspiration, and that is the story I want to tell.”

Originally from Spain, the composer and conductor has performed with WAU’s New England Youth Ensemble in Europe, Canada, Russia, Australia, South Africa, Mexico, Jamaica and the United States.

His cast of eight includes two WAU graduates: Javier Gonzalez (below) is a tenor and member of Chesapeake Conference’s



Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. He plays John. Soprano Karla Rivera (above), a New Jersey native and 2000 WAU graduate, is also a Spencerville church member and plays Jesus’ mother. Learn more at seeohmyson.com.—Celeste Ryan Blyden

New Graduate School Dean Named

Davenia Lea, PhD (below), associate professor and chair of the Department of Education, has been selected to lead the School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS) as dean, effective July 2010.

Lea has been a driving force behind WAU’s undergraduate program for professionals in early childhood education who wish to obtain a bachelor’s degree, a key component of which was obtaining



grant funding from the Maryland State Department of Education. WAU is one of the few universities in Maryland that offers programs combining special education with elementary education or early childhood education preparing graduates for certification in both fields simultaneously. A master’s degree in education is also in the planning stages.

A graduate of the University of Maryland at College Park, Lea’s extensive experience includes working with the Prince Georges County Public School system to provide services to children with disabilities and their families, promoting responsive teaching practices, building effective relationships within families and fostering effective communication and collaboration strategies. She holds a BS, MEd and PhD, all in Special Education.

Calendar

- April**
- 9 Music Building Groundbreaking
 - 9-11 Alumni Weekend
 - 10 Mass Choir and Orchestra Reunion Concert
 - 11 WAU Family Fun Festival
 - 27-29 Final Exams
 - 30-May 3 Commencement Weekend
- May**
- 3 Inaugural Celebration Strathmore Music Center

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

Correction: Vesa Naukkarinen’s name was misspelled in a caption on page 50 of the February *Gateway*. We regret this error.

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SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE has immediate full-time opening for a food service director at Pine Springs Ranch. Responsible for planning and preparing meals, ordering food and supplies, and administering work schedules and procedures for the department. Requires a degree in food service or equivalent experience. Required to live on-site. Housing provided. Call Human Resources at (951) 509-2352.

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks professor beginning June 1. Responsibilities include teaching with emphasis on anatomy and physiology and providing academic advising to all pre-allied health majors. DPT preferred, but will consider other degrees. The successful candidate will be a member in good and regular standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Send CV, statement of teaching philosophy, and three references to Keith Snyder, Biology Search Committee Chair, Southern Adventist University, Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315; phone (423) 236-2929; fax (423) 236-1926; email kasnyder@southern.edu.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY/ALLIED HEALTH, fall 2010. Prefer biology PhD with strengths in ecology and field biology. Desire scientist holding a short-term interpretation of creation and committed to involvement with undergraduate student learning and research. The successful candidate must be a member in good and regular standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Send CV, statement of teaching philosophy, and three references to Keith Snyder, Biology Search Committee Chair, Southern Adventist University, Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315; phone (423) 236-2929; fax (423) 236-1926; email kasnyder@southern.edu.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY/ALLIED HEALTH, fall 2010. Prefer biology PhD with strengths in the cellular and molecular areas. Desire scientist holding a short-term interpretation of creation and committed to involvement with undergraduate student learning and research. The successful candidate must be a member in good and regular standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Send CV, statement of teaching philosophy, and three references to Keith Snyder, Biology Search Committee Chair, Southern Adventist University, Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315; phone (423) 236-2929; fax (423) 236-1926; email kasnyder@southern.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks PhD prepared biologists for fall 2010. Looking for two talented, committed Seventh-day Adventist creationists who are able to inspire students in classroom and in research. Teaching

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SUNSET CALENDAR

	Apr 9	Apr 16	Apr 23	Apr 30	May 7
Baltimore	7:38	7:45	7:52	7:59	8:06
Cincinnati	8:10	8:16	8:23	8:30	8:37
Cleveland	8:01	8:08	8:16	8:23	8:31
Columbus	8:04	8:11	8:19	8:26	8:33
Jersey City	7:29	7:37	7:44	7:51	7:59
Norfolk	7:34	7:41	7:47	7:53	7:59
Parkersburg	7:58	8:05	8:11	8:18	8:25
Philadelphia	7:33	7:40	7:47	7:54	8:01
Pittsburgh	7:53	8:00	8:07	8:14	8:22
Reading	7:36	7:44	7:51	7:58	8:05
Richmond	7:40	7:46	7:53	7:59	8:05
Roanoke	7:43	7:50	7:56	8:02	8:08
Toledo	8:08	8:16	8:24	8:31	8:39
Trenton	7:32	7:39	7:46	7:53	8:00
Wash., D.C.	7:39	7:46	7:53	8:00	8:06

an Associate Fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, as well as many other certifications. For appointments, call (410) 461-6655 in Ellicott City or (301) 649-5001 in Silver Spring. Mention this ad and receive 10% discount on all services (excluding third-party payers). Our office is a

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Kahili Mountain Park is a scenic mountain getaway located at the base of Kahili Ridge. Just minutes from popular Kauai attractions, the park has an assortment of one- to four-room cabins with sleeping for two to six persons. See pictures and rates at kahilipark.org. Info: reservations@kahilipark.org or (808) 742-9921.

LEGAL NOTICES

MOUNTAIN VIEW CONFERENCE QUADRENNIAL SESSION

The fourth quadrennial session of the Mountain View Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 10 a.m. on Sunday, June 6, 2010, at Valley Vista Adventist Camp, Becky's Creek Road, Huttonsville, W.Va.

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

A meeting of the Organizing Committee, described in Article IV, Section I, of the Bylaws, will convene at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 2, 2010, at the Parkersburg Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1901 Park Avenue, Parkersburg, W.Va. The purposes of this meeting are to select members of the Nominating Committee for the Session and to nominate members of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for the ensuing term.

Larry Boggess, President
Victor Zill, Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HERITAGE SINGERS

will celebrate their 40th anniversary on July 2 at 4 p.m., during the General Conference 2010 Session in Atlanta, Ga. Tickets for this monumental concert are available online at heritagesingers.com, by phone (530) 622-9369 or at the Heritage GC Booth #1229, if tickets are still available.

ADVENTIST SINGLES SABBATH:

April 24, at 11 a.m., at the Courthouse Road Seventh-day Adventist Church, 530 Courthouse Rd., Richmond, VA 23236. Learn the "Five Love Languages," from Dr. Gary Ashford, guest speaker. Potluck to follow, with a 3 p.m. program and an evening social. Please bring food to share. Contact Sandy Walcott, (804) 263-6504. This is an Adventist Single Adult Ministries sponsored event.

GODLY FREE MEN MINISTRIES,

is organizing the first unionwide men's conference, themed "The Great Awakening." Walter Pearson, director, Breath of Life Ministries, is the featured speaker. Seminars will be presented by Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union Conference; conference presidents: Charles Cheatham (Allegheny East), Bill Miller (Potomac), Rob Vandeman (Chesapeake), and Fredrick Russell (Allegheny West). Additional seminar speakers: Robert Duarte, MD, Adventist renowned internist and herbalist, and Family Life director Jesse Bevel (Northeastern Conference). The Sabbath, May 1, conference will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the Metropolitan Praise Center, 630 Riggs Rd, Hyattsville, Md. Lunch and an afternoon snack will be provided. To register, please contact your men's ministry leader, or visit GodlyFreeMen.com.

CHESAPEAKE ADVENTIST SINGLE ADULT MINISTRIES SPRING RETREAT,

April 23-25, at Camp Mt. Aetna, in Hagerstown, Md. Jan Yakush, a manager at the Potomac ABC, will be the speaker. She has previously held seminars for women, and has worked as a chaplain and a pastor. For more information, contact Fred Thomas at (410) 992-9731, or email fmthomas1950@yahoo.com.

JEFFERSON ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND,

April 16-18, in Jefferson, Texas. Speaker will be Pastor Kenny Micheff and musical guest Forever His. You can contact the academy at (903) 665-3973, or Brenda Hiser Wilson, alumni president, at brensdawilson61@sbcglobal.net.

THE MADISON COLLEGE ALUMNI HOMECOMING,

will be held June 1-20, honoring the classes of 1940, 1945, 1950, 1955, and 1960, and those attending, at the Madison Academy Campus. For more information, contact Jim Culpepper, alumni association secretary/treasurer, at (615) 654-3311.

WEIMAR COLLEGE ALUMNI REUNION

weekend is April 16-18. Please call (530) 422-7933 to register. For more information, email alumni@weimar.edu.

OBITUARIES

JOBE, Ramira (Steen),

born July 7, 1922, in Sao Paulo, Brazil; died October 22, 2009, in San Diego, Calif. She was the daughter of Thomas W. (Margaret) Steen, former academic dean of Columbia Union College and president of EMC (Andrews University), and as a student at Washington Missionary College was editor of the school paper. After college, she taught at Southern Missionary College and then at Andrews University. Later, she was a librarian at La Sierra College and a research assistant at White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles, before becoming an attorney. Survivors: sons Christopher and Meredith; daughter Katherine, and five grandchildren.

PEARSON, Sandra L. (Holland),

born October 5, 1945, in Indianapolis, Ind.; died July 29, 2009, in Edgewater, Md. She was the sixth of 16 children born to Elline and Burks Holland, Sr. She graduated from Oakwood College (University) in 1967, where she met her husband, Walter L. Pearson Jr. Their 42-year union produced two children. Sandra was a member of the Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C. Survivors: her husband; her daughter, Erica L. Pearson-Paige and son-in-law Devroux Paige; her

son, Walter L. Pearson III, and daughter-in-law Summer Scott-Pearson; three grandsons, Walter Leonard IV, Gabriel Alexander and Pearson Gault Paige; seven sisters, Elnora Browne, Vivian Joseph (Charles), Barbra Russell (Charles), Sharon Turner (Samuel), Jacquelyn Williams (Samuel), Debra Aduba (Henry) and Angela Sylvester (Stephen); eight brothers, Burks Holland Jr. (Sandra), Harvey Holland (Patricia), Larry Holland (Gloria), Keith Holland, Jarman Holland (Barbara), Dwayne Holland (Bette), Nathaniel Holland (Tanya) and Ronald Holland (Dawn), and numerous nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles and several cousins.

SIEVERS, Benard M.,

born in Ringle, Wis.; died Aug. 6, 2009, in Williamstown, N.J., at age 83. He was a member of the Williamstown church, where he served as an elder, and was also a trustee of the Christian Ministerium in Williamstown. He was a retired major in the U.S. Army, with 20 years of active duty service that encompassed four wars. He was awarded numerous military medals. He is survived by his only daughter, Ann Sievers, of Williamstown, N.J.; and a son, Bernard J. Sievers of Cummings, Ga. Burial with full military honors took place Wednesday, October 21, 2009, in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va.

OBITUARY SUBMISSION

For information on placing an obituary in the Visitor:

Call Sandra Jones toll-free: (888) 4-VISITOR (484-7486)

or email sjones@columbiaunion.net.

Submission forms can also be downloaded at:

columbiaunion.org/communication

(Scroll down and click on Communication & Visitor Resources)

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

This is a free service for our members.

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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 crayan@columbiaunion.net

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ALLEGHENY EAST: Charles L. Cheatham, President; Robert Booker, Visitor Correspondent; P.O. Box 266, Pine Forge, PA 19548. Tel. (610) 326-4610 ■ myalleghenyeast.com

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

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

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY: Weymouth Spence, President; Angela Abraham, Visitor Correspondent; 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912. Tel. (301) 891-4000 ■ wau.edu

HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

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

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

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Volume 115 ■ Issue 4

10 Best Practices for Weight Loss

What if I could tell you how to achieve and maintain your ideal body weight, look younger, feel more energetic and improve your health?



Data from the National Weight Control Registry, the largest ongoing study of significant weight loss, confirms that there are enough well-documented practices to confidently draw a path to long-term weight control. More than 5,000 registrants who lost 66 pounds on average kept that weight off for five years or longer. These successful losers share similar habits and behavioral strategies to maintain their weight. Their best practices include:

- Exercising 60-90 minutes a day (most often walking)
- Maintaining a relatively low-fat, low-calorie diet
- Weighing themselves regularly (at least once a week)
- Eating breakfast daily
- Tracking what they eat

JUST DO IT!

Although these are pretty straightforward practices, we often spend more time debating what we do not know than actually doing the things we know will work. *Three meals a day, or six? Protein versus carbs? Supplements or superfoods? Lift weights or do cardio exercises?* We talk about the latest diet, read books and even join gyms, but never actually get around to changing our lifestyle. The Bible speaks of this in James 1:22: "Be doers of the Word, and not merely hearers."

Drawn from the inspiring stories of participants (see nwcr.ws/stories.htm) and behavior change research, the remaining five best practices of successful losers address this knowing versus doing gap:

- Committing to make their personal health non-negotiable
- Recruiting social support (a significant predictor of success)
- Personalizing the weight loss plan to account for their unique personality and situation
- Monitoring their self-talk to emphasize positive thoughts
- Creating a healthy environment that reinforces their goals (i.e., keeping a pair of walking shoes in the car, packing a healthy lunch and replacing TV time with other activities)

Best practices are not necessarily easy. The truth is that losing weight and keeping it off requires sacrifice, hard work, patience, daily repetition and delayed gratification. The word "practice" implies doing something over and over until it is deeply ingrained. It's the road less traveled, but it's open to all of us.

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



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