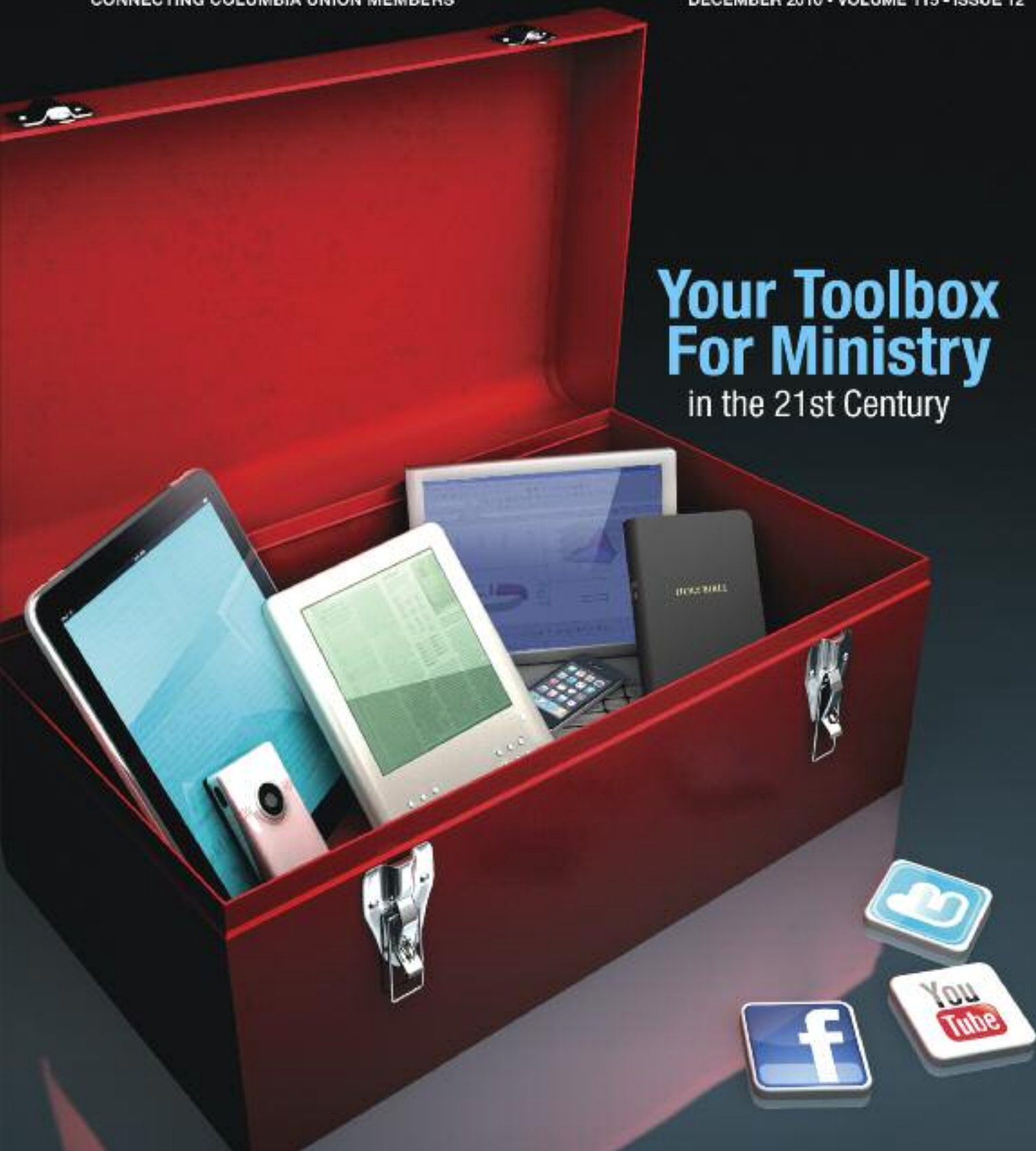


# VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION MEMBERS

DECEMBER 2010 • VOLUME 115 • ISSUE 12

**Your Toolbox  
For Ministry**  
in the 21st Century



## News & Features

### 8 | Your Toolbox for Ministry in the 21st Century

*Celeste Ryan Blyden, Taashi Rowe and Beth Michaels*

"The message hasn't changed; the way we share it has," says Bryant Taylor, communication director for Allegheny West Conference. No need to be left behind. Open our toolbox and find the resources, gadgets, websites and other tools you need to minister in the digital age.



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*Lilly Tryon*

## STAY CONNECTED



[columbiaunion.org](http://columbiaunion.org)

**About the Cover:** Illustration on cover and table of contents page by Randy Lyhus

## Who Cares What You're Doing? Umm, *Everybody!*

I must admit that I was a latecomer to Facebook. In fact, it was my wife who finally convinced me to join! The truth is that she was tired of having *my* friends from grade school and beyond attempting to connect with me through her. It didn't take too long for me to realize the power behind this medium of communication. My initial reaction to joining the social network was to keep connected with only my friends. I wasn't planning on using it for professional or pastoral purposes.

I learned very quickly that the lines of pastoral ministry and friendship are often blurred. During my first week on Facebook, I received a baptismal request from a young woman attending my church. She had just experienced a painful end to a long-term relationship, and the crisis helped her recognize the spiritual void. This was someone in my church community who sporadically attended church and didn't know any other way to reach out to a minister, other than through *her* form of communications.

Social media—Web-based technology that facilitates interactive communication—has allowed us to bring everyday connectivity to our lives. It is also a powerful means to communicate the gospel with people who are not ready to enter a church, providing seekers and skeptics another passage to discover Jesus.



### HARNESS THE POWER

Over the last year, I have discovered some interesting things about the power of social media:

**Your ministry is now global.** Ten years ago, most churches were dependent upon a cassette or videotape ministry to get a worship service in the hands of the masses. Today seekers and Christians are able to watch church services live from any location around the world. A young man from California, of the Sikh religion, has been corresponding with me about becoming a Christian. As a response to his conviction about the Sabbath, he googled "Sabbath churches." Somehow (or through the Holy Spirit) he found my sermons on our church website ([lookingforachurch.org](http://lookingforachurch.org)). He tuned in to our live stream for several weeks and finally found me through Facebook.

**You can reach the masses through your testimony.** Facebook currently has over 500 million active users. One in every 26 people around the globe uses this form of communication. How is your church leveraging this kind of influence for the gospel? If you are a pastor, you have the power to share the story of Jesus with all of your Facebook friends, and they then could "push" your story to thousands of *their* friends. Think about the influence you could have using social media for the sake of the kingdom of God.

**You can connect with a lost generation.** The largest age group in America is the Millennial Generation, currently aged 15 to 30. Yet, they are one of the most difficult generations to reach. The key to sharing the love of Jesus with them is by knowing how to communicate with them, and, for the most part, that means using social media.

When Jesus suggested that we take His message to the ends of the Earth, I don't think anybody had an idea how feasible social media would make it. This form of communication can carry the good news around the globe, even to the hardest reached areas of the world where the name of Jesus is never uttered. Imagine leveraging social media to finish the work of Christ. Isn't that worth building up your skills in this new area of ministry?



*Rajkumar Dixit, DMin ([rajkumardixit.com](http://rajkumardixit.com)), is associate pastor for administration, community development and missions at the New Hope church in Fulton, Md.*



# Pennsylvanians Discuss Future of Their Camp

**T**wo things became very clear to everyone who attended last month's Special Constituency Session of the Pennsylvania Conference: members want to keep their camp and they're going to have to raise the money to do so.

This reality, however, did not deter them. "Rise up, don't be fearful; it's not a time for fear, it's time for work! Support your camp and support your school!" announced Mike Bernard, pastor

at the Hillcrest church in Wellsboro, Pa., to much applause.

Bernard was among the 375 delegates who gathered at the Blue Mountain Academy church in Hamburg, Pa., to discuss the future of the conference's Laurel Lake Camp and Retreat Center. Located in Rossiter, Pa., near the midwestern part of the state, the 205-acre property isn't bringing in enough revenue, and operations are being heavily subsidized from the conference budget.

Prior to the session, delegates received a 180-page booklet detailing the camp's financial picture, options for funding it in the future and a proposal from the executive committee to liquidate the asset and use the proceeds to expand youth ministry initiatives statewide.

After much deliberation and discussion, delegates instead voted to initiate a fundraising effort dubbed the "29er Fund." It calls for 1,000 or more members to donate \$29 a month indefinitely. Commitments need to be made by March 31, 2011, and funds raised would be split equally between Laurel Lake Camp and the conference's other major entity, Blue Mountain Academy. The plan also calls for each church in the conference to sponsor two non-Adventist youth to attend summer camp each year. Delegates also voted to hire a marketing/business manager and seek additional funds from donors, camp alumni and staff.

After the meeting, conference leaders were upbeat. "I was heart-



ened to see that, even in this economy, there was enthusiasm to raise an unprecedented amount of money to keep our camp open," said conference treasurer Ron Christman.

President Ray Hartwell, who presided over the meeting, especially appreciated the spirit of unity that was evident in the outcome. "There's a great spirit of trying to foster togetherness as we work on this going forward," he noted. "My hope is that the passion for preserving the Laurel Lake Camp property will carry through into reaching non-churched young people, and that our facility will truly become a mission outpost to reach more people with Jesus' last-day message."



*Executive Secretary Barry Tryon and President Ray Hartwell*



# Fall Camporee Engages Pathfinders in Service



*Cardinals club members Lesley Ralat and Melanie Rios, of the Lancaster (Pa.) Hispanic church, help pitch a tent.*

“Knowing that James Black (right), Youth Ministries director for the North American Division, was our speaker, the camporee planning committee thought it would be an awesome idea to make this an ‘outreach camporee’ to the nearby Punxsutawney community,” explains Scheib.

To that end, the committee dedicated Sabbath as “Community Youth Day.” It started with a morning parade to the town square, where the Pathfinders enjoyed performances by One Bridge Away, a praise team from the Hagerstown (Md.) church; presentations from various attending clubs; and an inspiring message by Black about making positive change.

After lunch Pathfinders tackled 10 community service projects. Their ventures involved more than 300 volunteers in visiting local nursing and personal care homes, delivering food to the

**M**ore than 700 Pathfinders from the Pennsylvania, Chesapeake and Mountain View conferences gathered at the Laurel Lake Camp and Retreat Center in Rossiter, Pa., for what became the largest fall joint camporee held at the center’s Pathfinder Hill. According to Pam Scheib, Pennsylvania Conference Pathfinder director and event organizer, it was the first fall camporee to involve Mountain View, but also the first to incorporate community service.



PHOTOS BY CHARLES KOERTING AND BETH MICHAELS



local food bank, helping shoppers load groceries into their vehicles, picking up litter in local parks, cleaning the community center, making blankets for the local hospital and praying with residents.

“If we want to model to kids how to give back, then it’s best that we show them. And that’s what we did,” commented Carl Rodriguez, Youth Ministries director for the Chesapeake Conference. A camper from the Atholton Faithblazers in Columbia, Md., expressed his appreciation of the experience saying, “It’s great that we could give back to the community.”





## What's New?

### Books >

#### ***Finding the Father* Herb Montgomery**

"My hope is that through encountering God's love—and having many of the commonly held misperceptions of His love corrected—readers can



experience a more meaningful and relevant heart-level relationship with our Heavenly Father," says new author Herb Montgomery. In this compilation of life-changing topics, Montgomery, a member

of Mountain View's Lewisburg (W.Va.) church, uses Seventh-day Adventist teachings to answer the long-standing question, "If God really loves us, why does He allow horrible things to happen?" To read his answers, order a copy at [adventistbookcenter.com](http://adventistbookcenter.com).



#### ***Branded Faith* Rajkumar Dixit**

In his first book, Rajkumar Dixit, DMin ([rajkumardixit.com](http://rajkumardixit.com)), associate pastor for Chesapeake's New Hope church in Fulton, Md., engages readers in a stimulating analysis of what the church can learn from the advertising,



branding and contextualization practices of marketing giants like Nike and Coca-Cola. "My great desire is that the book will have an impact on the Christian church and help pastors and church lead-



ers think about how they can make a lasting impact on their community," he explains. Get copies at the Potomac ABC or [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

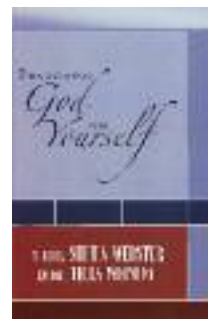
#### ***Discovering God for Yourself* Sheila Webster**

Sheila Webster, a member of Potomac's Meadowbridge church in Mechanicsville, Va., has experienced life's "valleys, storms, mountains and wildernesses"—from marital discord to time at a shelter with her two young



children. However, it is through these trials that she learned to trust in Jesus, and she wants others to know that "God is love," she says.

"He proves it to us every day, minute, moment and hour." Get your inspiring copy at [xlibris.com](http://xlibris.com).



### CD >

#### ***Testimony* Breath of Life Quartet**

For more than 30 years, this international singing group has been blessing listeners with their contemporary Christian renditions of favorites like "Have Thine Own Way," as well as self-penned compositions. The group's tight harmonies are currently provided by Desmond



Pierre-Louis of Chesapeake's New Hope church in Fulton, Md.; Ronald Woodfork of Allegheny East's (AEC) Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C.; as well as Loren Mulrairie and Duane Hamilton, who both reside in Nashville, Tenn. Adrian Westney, Jr., a member at AEC's Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md., serves as

an accompanist and alternate vocalist.

"This project is a lyrical testament of Christ's endless love," relays Woodfork of the group's motto for this fourth release. For copies, visit [blqmusic.com](http://blqmusic.com).

### On the Web

#### Retweets >

##### MasonChurch



No. It's not a rumor. We did have an all-hymns worship this morning. It's another

way for us to provide a variety of worship experiences.—*Cincinnati Village Church, Mason, Ohio*

##### WashAdventistU



BRING IT DOWN!  
The Music Building  
is coming DOWN!!!  
See the videos

at [youtube.com/newsatwau](http://youtube.com/newsatwau)  
—*Washington Adventist University, Takoma Park, Md.*

#### Facebooked >

##### Susan Harvey



Just figured out  
how to grab your  
Facebook photos  
and copy them to

the contacts list in my iPhone!  
Who knew I'd become a tech  
junkie!—*Member, Sligo Church,  
Takoma Park, Md.*

##### ShaVonne LaDonis



Sometimes you just  
have to step out on  
faith and believe that  
the miracle is there

waiting for you.—*Member, Miracle Temple, Baltimore*

## In the Spotlight > Webmaster Jonathan Ringer

There's a new place to hang out on Sabbath (or any day!), and it's all within your fingers' reach. It's Sabbath Hangout, a website created by Jonathan Ringer, an eighth-grader at Blue Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School in Hamburg, Pa.

Sabbathhangout.com visitors can learn more about God, listen to music, watch videos, play games, discuss topics and "see great nature pictures," which were all taken by Ringer. Although Ringer originally created Sabbath Hangout as a technology project, it quickly blossomed into an innovative online ministry with inspirational content aimed toward everyone, regardless of age or religion.

After competing against the Pennsylvania Conference's entire student body in this year's technology contest, Ringer received the grand prize of \$250 from the conference's Education Department. But winning was just the beginning of Ringer fulfilling his dreams of developing a website that would be used as a missionary tool. He plans to continue updating the site and expanding its reach.

"I've had over 1,500 visitors, and I hope one or two will be led to God," he states. "I would just like for them to know that Jesus can be our personal Savior, and we can talk to Him easily, and to know that God is there, willing to be your friend and help you in all your trouble."—*Alexis Goring*



## Keeping Score

35

Percent of Americans  
using the Internet in 2000

80

Percent of Americans  
using the Internet in 2010

500

Millions of Facebook  
users worldwide

2

Billions of daily  
YouTube users worldwide

110

Millions of Twitter  
users worldwide

Source: Wikipedia, Facebook and Twitter

# Your Toolbox FOR MINISTRY

in the  
21st Century

Tools, gadgets  
and resources to  
enhance your  
ministry in the  
digital age





## APPS

No need to log onto your desktop computer. Apps, short for applications, are small downloadable programs for mobile devices (iPad) and smartphones (iPhone, BlackBerry, Google Android) that enable quick access to useful Web content. More than 250,000 are available to help you keep up with the news, check the weather, count calories, play games, shop, listen to music, find a good restaurant and even tip well.

### How this can be used for ministry:

The Voice of Prophecy, led by speaker/director Fred Kinsey, was the first ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church to create an app, allowing seekers to find spiritual food in transit. The handy Sabbath School app features podcasts, videos and links to lesson studies for all ages. And a growing

Fred Kinsey



number of church entities are creating apps (see sidebar list).

**Getting started:** It costs money to hire app developers, but if *Wired* magazine's September 2010 declaration that "the Web is dead" comes true, now is the time to foray into the "post-website world" where the mobile revolution is underway. Learn more at [apple.com/iphone](http://apple.com/iphone).

## BLOGS

Web logs or "blogs" are online diaries where people share accounts of their lives, opinions on a given subject or information through text, video (vlog), photos (photoblog) and mobile devices (moblog). The first blog was started in the mid-1990s by a college student; today there are more than 100 million blogs in the "blogosphere" where journalists, political figures and housewives sound off to the world at large.

### How this can be used for ministry:

Churches could keep blogs to engage members in a virtual discussion of the Sabbath School lesson or dialogue with youth between Sabbaths. Ohio Conference is home to two well-known

# Tools

Celeste Ryan Blyden



## ADVENTIST APPS

Adventist World Radio

Amazing Facts

Beliefs

Center for Youth Evangelism

Ellen G. White Estate

Hope Channel

Sabbath School (below)

SDA Health

Voice of Prophecy



Monte Sahlin



Adventist bloggers: Monte Sahlin, director of research, shares commentary on religion, values and contemporary issues in his

Faith in Context blog (montesahlin.com) while Mike Fortune, pastor of Toledo First church, maintains Fortune Cookies (mike4tune.blogspot.com) to enhance the relationship he's built in his church and community and "show people that God loves us like crazy."

### Getting started:

Create one for free at blogger.com, wordpress.com or the newer posterous.com, which allows you to post your blog to other platforms, like Facebook.

## MICROBLOGS



The most popular microblog is Twitter.

Created in 2006 by a San Francisco-based company, Twitter allows users to share short text messages—"tweets"—of 140 characters or less with "followers." Users send 65 million tweets a day from smartphones and personalized Twitter webpages. And the outlet continues to gain popularity as news organizations, celebrities and politicians work to keep their information-hungry publics abreast in real-time.

### How this can be used for ministry:

It must be said that the Columbia Union *Visitor* was one of the first in the Adventist Church to

disseminate news and information via Twitter, alerting followers of constituency results and other breaking news. Raj Attiken, Ohio Conference president, uses it to promote events and connect with members, while Washington Adventist University uses it to keep students in the know, something that comes in handy during snowstorms and emergencies. We also love how pastors are tweeting Bible texts and spiritually uplifting messages to their youth. We retweet our favs in the Potluck section of the *Visitor* every month on page 7.

### Getting started:

It takes about two minutes to set up a Twitter account at twitter.com. It's a free, easy way to connect with members and visitors alike.



Mike Fortune

**Retweet** – “One of the greatest pains to human nature is the pain of a new idea.” Walter Bagehot.  
Let the Church be in frequent pain!—*Raj Attiken*



## SOCIAL NETWORKS

In 2004 a Harvard student named Mark Zuckerberg created a website that would enable his classmates to share their lives online. Now 500 million people worldwide—including 134 million in the United States (*45 percent!*)—use Facebook. There's also Friendster (the original social networking site), MySpace (for youth), LinkedIn (for business networking), Google Friend Connect (because there's Google everything!) and others where people catch up, network and nurture relationships.

### How this can be used for ministry:

This year many Adventist churches, schools, hospitals and ministries launched fan pages to engage in “Facebook Marketing.” But Kathleen Sutton, director of marketing and advancement at Pennsylvania Conference's Blue Mountain

Academy in Hamburg, Pa., was one of the first in the Columbia Union to develop a page, which she uses to connect with more than 1,000 students, parents,

Kathleen Sutton



alumni and potential students. Washington Adventist University's WGTS-91.9 FM, in Takoma Park, Md., the second largest contemporary Christian radio station in the U.S., recently launched a page to connect with its 600,000 weekly listeners and 50,000 Internet listeners.

### Getting started:

It takes less than 10 minutes to set up a page at Facebook.com.



When **Jesus** was on Earth, He **went** where the **people were**. The **people** are on **Facebook** now, and **we** should be **too**.—*Lindsay Peterson, AdventSource*



The possibilities for ministry are endless, and you can update it from home in your pajamas or on your layover at the airport. Upload and link to photos, videos, news, Bible passages and event announcements to initiate conversation with members, former members, school alumni and seekers who are trolling for friends online.

## STREAMING & ARCHIVING

Today's technology enables consumers to view programs live or on-demand via the Internet. Streaming, as it's called, involves capturing video and broadcasting it in real-time over the Internet. On-demand means it's archived and available to watch when viewers click your link. A popular option for live streaming is UStream

(ustream.tv), while on-demand users can view your archived content on Vimeo (vimeo.com) and the hugely popular YouTube (youtube.com), which attracts 2 billion (yes!) users a day world-wide for an average of 15 minutes per visit.

### How this can be used for ministry:

Thanks to the ingenuity of two member-run organizations—Praisevision (praisevision.com) and Church Pond (churchpond.com)—

Jorge Pillco



Vince McIsaac



60 Adventist churches stream Sabbath services live via the Internet, attracting viewers worldwide. "We really want to be a resource for the world church, a conduit that helps churches get the message out and brings people to Christ through technology," explains Damian "Chip" Dizard, a member of the Baltimore-based Miracle Temple and one of the founders of Praisevision, which draws 6,000 viewers weekly. Thanks to Praisevision, Potomac pastor Vince McIsaac is able to minister to his four churches each week by streaming his sermon live from one of them.

### YouTube.com/

#### KetteringHealth:

*Kettering Adventist HealthCare's Lonnie Melashenko and Rebekah Wang, MD, host Healing Hope, a 13-part television series highlighting issues of health and wellness.*

Kettering Adventist HealthCare has over 100 videos on their YouTube site under the name "Kettering Health." And thanks to the hard work of Jorge Pillco, assistant to the president for Media Ministries, the New Jersey Conference is sharing the good news 24/7 in English and Spanish through its Vimeo-based channel.

### Getting started:

Buying video equipment and a server can be quite expensive, but necessary when producing a quality worship experience. But Lindsay Peterson, a support staff member at AdventSource, the Lincoln, Neb.-based ministry resource hub for the North American Division, says pastors who want to lead a small group Bible study or connect with members at lunchtime can do it on the cheap. "It's as simple as getting a webcam at Target for 30 bucks, advertising the broadcast time and Web address and setting up a free account on UStream," she says.

## PODCASTING

Much like video archiving, podcasting is audio archiving, which became popular in 2004, because it could be played on a new media



## Did You Know?

Miracle Temple Networks, a ministry of Baltimore-based Miracle Temple, was the first Adventist church to stream their worship service to the iPhone. They launched it a year ago and are working to make it available to other platforms. "You can now experience worship, prayer meeting or other programs in real time, no matter where you are," says Rich Herard, program director. "Everybody has a smartphone; this provides another outlet for outreach."

Rich Herard



device from Apple called the iPod. Listeners could also access thousands of radio shows, syndicated shows and music programs stored on the Web at iTunes.com.

### How this can be used for ministry:

Dozens of Adventist churches are podcasting their Sabbath sermons, including the Hagerstown (Md.) church, Catoctin View in Thurmont, Md., and Culmore Spanish in Falls Church, Va. *Visitor* assistant editor Taashi Rowe hosts our monthly *AudioVisitor* podcast that features news, interviews and spiritual commentary by union president Dave Weigley (find it on iTunes and at [columbiaunion.org/podcasts](http://columbiaunion.org/podcasts)). Religious liberty buffs will enjoy the *Freedom's Ring* weekly podcast from the North American Religious Liberty Association ([religiousliberty.info](http://religiousliberty.info), click on Resources).

### Getting started:

Rob Conway, a longtime host at WGTS 91.9 FM in Takoma Park, Md., helps churches create, produce and archive podcasts of their sermons through [mychurchcast.org](http://mychurchcast.org). "In 2008 Barna Research discovered that a quarter of all adults had downloaded a church



email; organizations distribute e-news; and stores spam sale alerts to their email databases. Steeped in color, today's emails come loaded with videos, podcasts, photos, ads, printable coupons and links to websites.

### How this can be used for ministry:

Since 2002 we have been publishing the *Visitor News Bulletin* to share breaking news between issues of the *Visitor*. Sign up at [columbiaunion.org/email](http://columbiaunion.org/email). In 2008 Ohio

podcast in a one-week period, which means if we want people to hear our message, this is an effective way to get it to them," he says. You can also use free online software at [audacity.sourceforge.net](http://audacity.sourceforge.net) or pay for the higher quality of Adobe Soundbooth or Adobe Audition. Once you've edited them, broadcast your podcasts through iTunes, [podomatic.com](http://podomatic.com) or [sermon.net](http://sermon.net).

## EMAIL MARKETING

Electronic marketing is a lucrative tool for connecting with consumers as paperless communication becomes more convenient, timely and politically correct. Companies send bills and membership updates via



## Lindsay's Picks

**Hold Virtual Office Hours** – Use [olark.com](http://olark.com) to chat with members or interests. Simply advertise that the pastor is going to be available during set hours and people can log on to your website and initiate conversation.

**Make and Meet Friends for Christ** – [Foursquare.com](http://Foursquare.com) is a social networking site where people alert users of their current location. It bridges the gap between the virtual world and the real world because, when you check in at a location, you can see who else is there with you. Most people “check in” frequently at Starbucks or the mall to win prizes or status titles for frequency visits. Now churches are using it to encourage people to check in with them on Sabbath morning. Instead of coffee, they give away Bibles. It’s a clever way to draw the unchurched to church!

**Make Multitasking Easy** – [Hootsuite.com](http://Hootsuite.com) allows you to update multiple social media accounts simultaneously. So now when you tweet, it’ll automatically post your update to Facebook, MySpace, Foursquare, YouTube and your blog, etc.

Lindsay Peterson  
AdventSource



Loren  
Seibold



pastor Loren Seibold started an electronic newsletter called *Best Practices for Adventist Ministry*. The twice-monthly publication, sponsored by the NAD Church Resources Center, features pastors and other ministry thought leaders, resources, book reviews, quotations and discussions to inspire

creativity and innovation in parish ministry. “Pastors are very lonely; they often deal with church conflict, loss of identity and shrinking finances in isolation. So we’re trying to encourage them and give them the tools to do good ministry,” explains Seibold. His database of 1,000 readers has

mushroomed to 6,000. Sign up at [vervent.org/newsletter](http://vervent.org/newsletter).

### Getting started:

Users of Adventist Church Connect/Adventist School Connect can employ the newsletter module created by [SimpleUpdates.com](http://SimpleUpdates.com). There’s also Mail Chimp and Constant Contact.

## TEXTING

Wikipedia defines texting as the exchange of brief written messages between fixed-line phone or mobile phone and fixed or portable devices over a network. Since a 22-year-old engineer sent the first text message—“Merry Christmas”—to his friend in 1992, the medium has grown to include photos, videos and sound and is used by nearly half of the world’s population. This is especially true of a third of America’s teenagers who the Pew Internet and American Life Project researchers say text more than 100 times a day!

### How this can be used for ministry:

After the earthquake devastated Haiti, students at Kettering College of Medical Arts in Kettering, Ohio, texted financial donations of more than \$3,500 (right). And at a recent





Pennsylvania Conference Hispanic Youth Festival, 150 youth texted messages of grace and hope to their friends.

**Getting started:** Ask your cell phone provider for “unlimited texting.” You’ll need it if you want to connect with your family, friends and *especially* the youth in your church or school.

## VIDEO- CONFERENCING

Interactive communication between two or more

locations isn’t new, but it’s only been five years since the first high-definition systems became available. Now companies are using this system to conduct meetings across continents and save on travel.

### How this can be used for ministry:

In January AdventSource started using this technology to host free training webinars with chatrooms that allowed attendees to share questions and feedback. More than 400 people signed up in one week

## Pastor Holds Bible Studies via Skype

Choong Hwan Lee, pastor of the Allegheny West Conference’s Worthington Central Korean church in Ohio, does not let distance deter him from giving Bible studies. Each morning he logs on to Skype (learn more at [skype.com](http://skype.com)) to connect with students in Cleveland, Boston, Florida, Peru, Japan and Korea. Learn more about his innovative ministry in the December *AudioVisitor* podcast ([columbiaunion.org/podcasts](http://columbiaunion.org/podcasts) or on iTunes).—Taashi Rowe



for the first one on communication, and they’ve continued to grow. Allegheny East Conference just celebrated the grand opening of its \$20 million headquarters in Pine Forge, Pa. The building is equipped with wireless communication and Adobe Connect Pro videoconferencing with up to 100 individuals. “All of the conference rooms have monitors, as do the library, cafeteria, fitness center and lobby,” reports Charles Williams,

director of Media Services. “If members of the executive committee can’t attend, they can participate through videoconferencing. When area leaders or department heads want to hold meetings, attendees no longer need to travel from the five states of our conference territory. So it really is more convenient and saves time, travel and money.”

**Getting started:** Visit [gotomeeting.com](http://gotomeeting.com) or consult with AdventSource.

# Gadgets

Beth Michaels  
with Bryant Taylor  
and Chip Dizard

## FLIP CAMERAS

Flip cameras are compact, hand-held video recorders with one-touch recording.

**How this can be used for ministry:** Use flip cameras to capture people at church events and upload them to the church's website or social networking site. At the *Visitor*, interviews at constituencies or other events are shot and embedded in *Visitor News Bulletin* emails or posted on our website to complement news stories and photos.

**Getting started:** theflip.com

## WIRELESS MEMORY CARDS

You won't need your card reader anymore. Eye-Fi, the first wireless memory card, stores media and fits into cameras just like a regular SDHC card. It has built-in Wi-Fi that uses your wireless network to effortlessly transfer photos and videos to your computer.

Pretty soon, you won't need to carry cash, credit cards or separate gadgets. Everything—your phone, email, computer, camera, TV, GPS and music player—will be in the palm of your hand.—Chip Dizard, *Absolute Presence*



### How this can be used for ministry:

Instantly upload photos from events or meetings to your church's website or social networking sites. It coordinates well with Flickr or Shutterfly.

**Getting started:** eye.fi

## TABLETS

Tablets such as the Apple iPad, Panasonic Android, HP TouchSmart and Blackberry Playbook are easily portable, touch screen computer-type gadgets that give users instant access to important documents.

### How this can be used for ministry:

Upload the Bible, religious applications and basic presentation software for use in sermons, meetings and Bible studies. Use them in the field for evangelism and Bible studies or store information and lists of potential new members. You can also track door-to-door surveys on them.

**Getting started:** tablets.com







# Resources

Taashi Rowe

## WEBSITES

**AdventistChurchConnect.com** and **AdventistSchoolConnect.com** offer websites and Web support for churches and schools in the North American Division.

**AWR.org/invite**—Visit this page on Adventist World Radio's site, print an invitation to hear the gospel message in one of 80-plus languages and give it to non-English-speaking neighbors.

**E-GraceNotes.org**—The publishers of *GraceNotes* provide new, updated content for Web ministries. Using RSS, they send up to six different inspirational feeds filled with text and images for your website.

**SDAPlus.com**—Search for Seventh-day Adventist-specific Web content on this search engine maintained by AdventSource.

**Http://SDA.BiggyTV.com**—The Adventist Channel provides daily inspiration, Bible study help, mission travelogues, health tips and videos.

**NetAdventist.org**—Licensed to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, they offer website creation and content management support to Adventist-owned entities.



**MyPlaceWithJesus.com**—A ministry of It Is Written, this site offers an interactive Bible study for kids that takes them through 14 lessons on the basic themes of the Christian faith.

**YouTube.com/user/AdventistsAboutLife**—This YouTube series articulates the Adventist Church's views on a variety of topics.

## BOOKS & MAGAZINES

**High-Tech Worship?**\*—Author Quentin J. Schultze counsels church members on how to wisely adopt technology and foster authentic worship.



**Church Production Magazine** is a resource for news, new product announcements, trends, product reviews, tours and product installations in churches nationwide. Learn more at churchproduction.com.

**Share the Light\*** is a free communication/technology catalog with a specific section on using technology for communication and evangelism.



**Technologies for Worship Magazine** educates readers on the ways technology can be used to expand membership and outreach via tutorial-based articles, product reviews, technical tips, industry updates and company profiles. Learn more at [tfwm.com](http://tfwm.com).

## CDS & DVDS

**Ellen G. White Writings Comprehensive Research Edition**, available for Mac and PC, brings together the author's writings on CD. Find it at [adventistbookcenter.org](http://adventistbookcenter.org) or at your local ABC.



**Truth 4 Youth DVD Evangelistic Series 2** is an engaging, interactive program that allows kids to lead their own evangelistic meetings on 26 Bible topics. Add it to your shopping cart at [amazingfacts.org/store](http://amazingfacts.org/store).

**New Beginnings**—This is an evangelism training resource for lay members that contains slides and sermons for small group outreach, along with supporting materials. A joint venture between Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries (ASI) and It Is Written, the DVDs are available in several languages. Find it at [asiministries.org/dvd](http://asiministries.org/dvd).



## TRAINING & UPCOMING EVENTS

**10 Ways to Use the Internet to Reach Your Community—Simple Tools Anyone Can Use**—AdventSource offers this free webinar by Lindsay Peterson, Adventist Church Connect support staff member. She teaches participants how to access free Internet tools to reach church members and the community. Access the archived session at [webinars.adventsource.org](http://webinars.adventsource.org) and click on “Webinars on Demand.”

**Global Internet Evangelism Forum**—Sponsored by the world church, this meeting brings together technologists, evangelists and communicators each year to discuss the creative use of Internet technology in their work and in the lives of those they serve. Next year's forum will take place in Jamaica, June 1-5. For more details, visit [gien.adventist.org](http://gien.adventist.org) or email [collickb@gc.adventist.org](mailto:collickb@gc.adventist.org).

**Technology Ministry Caucus**—This meeting, organized by the South Central Conference, provides information on how technology, such as the Internet and social networking, can enhance various areas of ministry. Learn more at [scc-adventist.org/techmin.cfm](http://scc-adventist.org/techmin.cfm).

\* Available at [adventsource.org](http://adventsource.org).



# IS EVANGELISM WORTH THE COST?

**ALLEGHENY WEST CONFERENCE THINKS IT IS**

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# Profiles in Caring



Gene C. Milton, FACHE, President & CEO  
of Hackettstown Regional Medical Center

## “Job Well Done”

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the retirement service for someone who was ending a career in the US Air Force. It was a carefully planned and structured ceremony, which included a review of a successful and noteworthy career and employed time-honored language and traditions to formally express appreciation for a job well done.

Immediately following the ceremony, a bunch of the honoree's family and friends sat down together for a celebratory meal. It was a far less formal occasion-filled with laughter and memories and a lot of teasing and bad jokes. It was joyful and even a bit noisy at times. And it was a way to show that we were all pretty proud of a job well done.

These two events got me thinking about the importance of transitions in our lives. I'm not any kind of expert in this discussion, but I do like it when my family remembers my birthday. I look forward to our annual family reunion. I pay special attention to days that are marked by a bit of ceremony: weddings or graduations-even funerals. These events give us a special lens with which to focus our attention. They assist us in our efforts to understand the meaning of the things that happen to us. They help us as we attempt to create a more meaningful structure to our lives beyond “the beginning, the middle, and the end,” by giving us “where it started, what happened, and where we are now.”

*But more than that, when we rightly mark life's important transitions, we find ourselves pushing our attention towards the future and to what comes next. We don't only admire what was or even what is: we are looking ahead to what will be. We express our affection and love, but we also express our hopes. As we say goodbye to one set of circumstances, we find ourselves welcoming another.*

Ultimately, the celebration of life's transitions provides us with the tools to move forward. To let go of something and reach toward something else. To carry the memory and reaffirmed knowledge of our worth with us on our journey. But as that old song says, “Oz never did give nothin' to the Tin Man that he didn't already have.” Like those adventurers in “The Wizard of Oz,” formal opportunities that recognize who we are and how life has shaped us also give us just what we need to journey on.

William G. “Bill” Robertson  
President & CEO  
Adventist HealthCare





## Celebrating 28 Years of Leadership and Service

### *Gene Milton Announces Retirement from Hackettstown Regional Medical Center*

Gene C. Milton, FACHE, announced plans to retire at the end of this year after serving 28 years at Hackettstown Regional Medical Center in New Jersey (HRMC), the past 25 as President & CEO.

"Gene has been an incredible force for growth and expansion of medical services at Hackettstown Regional Medical Center, and he's going to be incredibly missed," said William G. Robertson, President & CEO of Adventist HealthCare.

"It is very unusual for an individual to serve in the capacity that he has for such a length of time. He has built an organization that provides outstanding care and a wonderful patient experience. I look forward to

continuing a long-standing relationship that I've had with him over the last decade as he finds other good things to do for the community where he lives, and I hope for Adventist HealthCare as he provides some service for us even in his retirement years."

As one of Adventist HealthCare's three hospitals, Hackettstown Regional Medical Center is a 111-bed, full-service acute care hospital that has won top awards for quality and service from the state of New Jersey and nationally.

When Mr. Milton first came to HRMC in 1982, he served as the hospital's Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer for three years. Prior to that, he worked at Washing-

ton Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Md., and at Florida Hospital. He holds an MBA from Andrews University in Michigan, and is working on completing a Doctor of Leadership degree from the same university.

"Health care has gone through a lot of changes since I joined what was then called Hackettstown Community Hospital," said Mr. Milton. "I can't believe how fast the time has flown by, and the growth that has taken place on our medical campus." The hospital, which opened in 1973 with some 240 employees, now has a staff of more than 900.

"It has been an amazing experience for me and my family," Mr. Milton continued. "We have seen the hospital grow and develop



*In his 25 years as President and CEO of Hackettstown Regional Medical Center, Gene Milton worked with the community, physicians, nurses and staff to develop major new diagnostic and treatment centers, plus open the Joan Kuechel Cancer Center and the Wound Healing Center.*



into one of the finest health care facilities in New Jersey due to the commitment and support of our employees and medical staff. Although the future of health care may seem uncertain due to the many changes we see developing in Washington and within the state, I am confident that we have built the foundation to not only survive in this new environment, but to thrive, continuing to be one of the top performing hospitals."

Commenting to his staff, he said, "This is a wonderful place with compassionate and caring individuals. I know you will continue my vision of providing quality and compassionate health care centered on the mind, body and spirit of each individual patient as if they were a member of your family."

*To learn more about  
Hackettstown Regional Medical Center,  
visit [www.hrmcnj.org](http://www.hrmcnj.org)*

## A Message from Gene

Throughout my years here at Hackettstown Regional Medical Center, I have had the distinct privilege of meeting with many of you who live and work in our community, and have enjoyed listening to your thoughts about the services our hospital provides. It is your input and feedback that has helped make our Medical Center one of the finest healthcare facilities in the State of New Jersey and across the nation.

I have been excited to watch our physician base grow, from mostly family practice doctors to highly specialized areas of medicine.

I have welcomed the change of our exterior from a red brick building to contemporary stucco, and have supported our name change from Hackettstown Community Hospital to Hackettstown Regional Medical Center, to better reflect the breadth of medical services now available here.

I have worked with dedicated community members, physicians, nurses, technicians, administrators and staff to develop major new diagnostic and treatment centers here in Hackettstown: from the acquisition of our first CT machine in 1986 to the openings of the Joan Knechel Cancer Center and the Wound Healing Center. In addition, the build-out of the West Wing allowed us to open a new diagnostic imaging center, new same day surgery suites, and a new cardiopulmonary unit, among other practice areas. And today, we have two medical office buildings to provide needed physician office space and additional hospital-based services. I am also extremely proud of our new Emergency Medical Services unit; you can see the ambulance vehicles as they drive throughout our service area.

*I have loved every minute spent working here at Hackettstown Regional Medical Center and have greatly enjoyed being a member of the community. Very simply, I could not have guided the growth of this hospital without your unwavering support and that of our many fine physicians, nurses and staff. On a personal note, I certainly could never have done what I have done without the loving and dedicated support of my wife Donna. Our daughter Dawna-gene was born here, and as we have watched the Medical Center grow and flourish, we have been fortunate enough to watch her grow into a wonderful adult as well.*

Looking back, there are so many fond memories I have of Hackettstown Regional Medical Center and the Hackettstown area. It has truly been my pleasure to serve you.





## Celebrando 28 Años de Liderazgo y Servicio

### *Gene Milton Anuncia su Retiro del Centro Médico Regional de Hackettstown*

Gene C. Milton, FACHE, anunció que planea retirarse a fines de este año después de 28 años de servicio en el Centro Médico Regional de Hackettstown en Nueva Jersey (HRMC), los últimos 25 de ellos como Presidente y Ejecutivo Principal.

"Gene ha sido una increíble fuerza para el crecimiento y ampliación de los servicios médicos en el Centro Médico Regional de Hackettstown, y lo vamos a extrañar muchísimo", dijo William G. Robertson, Presidente y Ejecutivo Principal de Adventist HealthCare.

"Es muy raro que una persona sirva tanto tiempo en esa capacidad. Él creó una organización que ofrece una atención sobresaliente y una maravillosa experiencia en el trato de los pacientes. Espero poder continuar la prolongada relación que tuve con él a lo largo del último decenio, mientras él encuentra otras cosas buenas que hacer para la comunidad donde vive, y espero que también para Adventist HealthCare, cuando nos preste algún servicio en su vida de jubilado."

Como parte de los tres hospitales de Adventist HealthCare, el Centro Médico Regional de Hackettstown, con sus 111 camas, presta servicios

completos de atención aguda, y ha ganado los máximos galardones del estado de Nueva Jersey y nacionales por la calidad y los servicios que ha suministrado.

Cuando el Sr. Milton vino al Centro Médico Regional de Hackettstown por primera vez en 1982, ocupó el cargo de Vicepresidente Principal y Jefe de Finanzas por tres años. Con anterioridad trabajó en el Washington Adventist Hospital de Takoma Park, Maryland, y en el Hospital de Florida. Tiene una Maestría en Administración de Negocios de Andrews University en Michigan, y está trabajando para terminar un Doctorado en Liderazgo de esa misma universidad.

"La atención de salud ha experimentado muchos cambios desde que me uní a lo que entonces se llamaba el Hospital de la Comunidad de Hackettstown", dijo el Sr. Milton. "No puedo creer cuán rápido ha pasado el tiempo, y el crecimiento que se ha registrado en nuestro campus médico." El hospital, que se inauguró en 1973 con unos 240 empleados, ahora cuenta con más de 900.

"Esta ha sido una experiencia maravillosa para mí y mi familia", añadió el Sr. Milton. "Hemos visto el hospital crecer y desarrollarse hasta convertirse en una de las instituciones de atención médica más finas de Nueva Jersey gracias a la dedicación y respaldo de nuestros empleados y personal médico. Aunque el futuro de la atención de salud pueda parecer incierto debido a los muchos cambios que están teniendo lugar en Washington y dentro del estado, estoy seguro de que hemos echado los cimientos no solo para sobrevivir en este nuevo ambiente, sino para prosperar y seguir siendo uno de los mejores hospitales."

Dirigiéndose a su personal, concluyó diciendo: "Este es un lugar maravilloso con personas comprensivas y humanas. Yo sé que ustedes van a seguir adelante con mi visión de ofrecer una atención de salud de superior calidad y compasiva concentrada en la mente, el cuerpo y el espíritu de cada paciente como si estos fuesen un miembro de sus familias."



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## Metropolitan Church Dedicates Activity Center

**A**fter 10 years of planning, sacrificing, facing challenges and faithful giving, the Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md., recently dedicated their new activity and ministry center. The center will serve the community through its medical clinic, gymnasium for students of George E. Peters Adventist School, community services, classes, a conference center and banquet hall.

"I'm most passionate about the building's clinic," shares Brenda Billingsy, the church's senior pastor. "We thought that one of the best ways we can evangelize right now is to meet the needs of our community as far as the health challenge is concerned."

The Sabbath dedication began with members studying Sabbath School lessons at the church, then walking over to the activity center for the divine service. Guest speaker Barry Black, United States Senate chaplain, reminded members that God is always faithful. To see more photos from the big day, visit [met-rosda.org](http://met-rosda.org), click on Church Highlights then Photo Gallery.



PHOTO BY MARVA MCINTOSH

**Ribbon Cutting:** J. Glenn Roberts, Robert Edwards, Brenda Billingsy, Michael Bernard and Henry Fordham

## NEWS

### Hillcrest Ordains First Female Deacons

The Hillcrest church in Port Murray, N.J., recently made history when Pastor Kevin L. Jenkins, DMin, ordained their church's first female deacons. The ordinations came on the heels of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church's 59th General Conference Session in Atlanta this summer, where delegates voted to ordain women into the office of deacon.—*Danell McClanahan*

PHOTO BY KEVIN BATT



Pastor Kevin Jenkins (center) poses with recently ordained Hillcrest members (left to right) Margaret Nwanju, Roy Burgher Sr. (to the office of elder), Ester Shjarback, Carolyn McKinnis, Lori Nwaro and Althea Ashmeade. Not pictured: Audrey Nelson and Enriqueta Clarke

### Alumni Raise \$2,000 for Adventist Education

Some 90 small business owners, government leaders and community supporters of Seventh-day Adventist education recently converged on the Lake Presidential golf course in Upper Marlboro, Md., for a fundraising tournament. Baltimore-based 2HB Software Designs hosted the event and raised \$2,000 for George E. Peters Adventist School in Hyattsville, Md., and Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa. "We have a strong commitment to education and a deep desire to give back to our community," explains 2HB CEO David Doggette (far right), a member of the Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md. "Events like this give us an opportunity to go above and beyond that commitment."—*April Williams*



## NEWS

### Campostella Heights Hosts Fitness Boot Camp

Twelve men and 31 women recently completed a 21-day Overcomers Fitness Boot Camp at the Campostella Heights church in Norfolk, Va. Led by Pastor Michael Edwards, a certified personal trainer, and Lynette Moore, MD, participants, including staff, saw a collective weight loss of at least 90 pounds. Three participants saw at least a 100-point drop in their cholesterol levels and several diabetics saw improved diabetic control.

Participants, which included several visitors from the community, were treated to a kick-off celebration that included a Hawaiian-style welcome with leis and Christian Hawaiian music. The RAINBOW health plan, which represents Rest, Activity, Ingest a plant-based diet, Nature, Believe, Overcome and Water, along with God's love, formed the foundation of the boot camp. Participants met three times a week for health seminars, cooking classes and exercise classes.

A special graduation ceremony featured speaker A. Leah Scott, Allegheny East Conference Health Ministries director.

"I was [so] overjoyed when one participant told me that as a result of this boot camp, she felt the need to become re-baptized," Dr. Moore shared. "Now that is something to celebrate. This is what the camp is

all about ... making persons healthier and drawing them closer to Jesus!"

### New Joy Draws 100 Guests

To the delight of the New Joy Fellowship's small congregation in Hagerstown, Md., the church's annual Community Guest Day drew more than 100 guests on Sabbath morning. Andrea Wiley, Sabbath School superintendent, started the day by facilitating a program in which all age groups presented information about their classes. This array of presentations gave guests a complete picture of what is accomplished in the weekly religious education program at New Joy Fellowship.

Washington Johnson, the divine worship speaker, appealed to attendees to avail themselves of God's leadership in their lives. Weiner Merchant-Crumbly, directed the church's new choir as they sang two selections.

The church also awarded three community members: Erin Tack, director of the W House Foundation; Gary Washington, counselor and program director for the Boys and Girls Club; and Linn Davison, a community activist.—*Faith Crumbly*

### Pine Forge Students Prep for Standardized Tests

"A Call to 2,000" is an inspiring phrase for students at Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa., who are always encouraged to aim high.



*Theodore Osbourne ('11) and Stephen Larivaux ('12) take a full-length simulated test.*

"We want students to achieve a minimum score of 2,000 out of a possible 2,400 on the PSATs and SATs and a 30 out of 36 on the ACTs," explains headmaster Delmas F. Campbell. "Our motto has always been 'Excellence is no accident.' By training our students, we are making excellence a tangible reality for all."

The training includes the English Department providing students with intensives, focusing on vocabulary, sentence completion and grammar, while the Math Department challenges them daily with SAT questions and reviews of topics in arithmetic, algebra and geometry.

To help develop their test-taking skills, sophomores, juniors and seniors also spent a Sunday or two, sitting for simulated full-length PSATs/SATs. The freshmen were not left out as they also participate in a program to help them develop and hone study skills and time management techniques. For the sophomores and juniors, this exam determines eligibility for the National Merit Scholarship Program.



*After attending Campostella Heights church's boot camp, these participants saw improved health and wellness.*

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## 460 Members Focus on “Leading the Change”

I came to learn more about how I can serve the Lord better,” shared Willie Mae Johnson, a deaconess and community services leader at the Oberlin Park Street church in Oberlin, Ohio. She was one of 460 local church leaders who came from all corners of the Allegheny West Conference (AWC) to participate in the second annual leadership development weekend in Columbus, Ohio.



Among the attendees were 70 Spanish-speaking church leaders who enjoyed not only real-time translation during the general sessions, but also a separate seminar track in their native tongue.

Fredrick Russell, AWC president, inaugurated the weekend by sharing the 10 greatest leadership lessons he has learned. One of those lessons is prayer. “Before I’m a leader, I am a Christian ... I cannot lead unless I pray,” he shared.



*Fredrick Russell, AWC president, shares 10 great leadership lessons.*



*Leslie Pollard, PhD, DMin, MBA, says trust is the key to leadership.*

With the overall theme of “Leading the Change,” the workshops were geared toward helping church leaders in every ministry—from Adventurers to Women’s Ministries—remain relevant in a constantly changing culture. Some of the workshops included “Healing Hurting Men,” “Creation Health: The Core Principles,” “Growing Your Music Ministry” and “Contagious Generosity: The Key to Continuous Blessings.”

Leslie Pollard, PhD, DMin, MBA, newly elected president of Oakwood University (Ala.), spoke for the weekend’s general and plenary sessions. His talks centered on the theme “Trust: The Secret That Drives Progress.” He encouraged leaders to know their mission and develop a mission statement that will guide them. He also put the onus on them to create “an environment of health [in their churches] so that when the sick come in they can be healed.”—*Taashi Rowe*



*Julio Juarez translates the general meetings for the more than 70 Spanish-speaking attendees.*

PHOTOS BY BRYANT TAYLOR AND TAKESHA BURDEN



## Leaders, Youth Embark on First Mission Trip to Peru

**A**llegheny West Conference's Youth Ministries department recently sponsored their first international mission trip. The team of 14 travelled to Iquitos, Peru, then took a three-hour boat ride to the village of Indiana.



*Amanda Talton from Cleveland's Bethel church meets a new "friend" at a local zoo.*

The group included Joel Johnson, conference Youth Ministries director; Walter Castro, Multicultural Ministries director; other Youth Ministries leaders and several young people from across the conference. The AWC mission team connected with Latino SMILES America, an independent Seventh-day Adventist ministry, to visit several villages and provide dental work, medical examinations, a building renovation and Vacation Bible School programs.

Each of the team members said this trip was a life-changing experience and seeing others with so much less than they had was a valuable experience.

"The love we have for people and the appreciation shown by the native people for what we were able to do for them eliminated possible culture shock," Johnson shared. "Although we were from far away, we felt a sense of belonging."



*Shanee' Edmonds, DDS (back left), from Cleveland's Glenville church and Joel Johnson, conference youth director, make new friends in Indiana, Peru.*

The group is planning to return to Iquitos next July 28–August 8. For more information about joining them, call the conference's Youth Ministries department at (614) 252-5271.

## 200 Gather for Women's Retreat

**M**ore than 200 women recently convened in Morgantown, W.Va., for the conference's biennial Women's Ministries retreat under the theme "Forgiven, Faithful, Focused." For the first time, the retreat included a community outreach component. The women distributed Christian literature in the community and

donated personal kits at a shelter for homeless women.

Shirley Benton, conference Women's Ministries director, said she hopes that their outreach efforts will eventually lead to planting a church in that community.

Sheryiell Owens, Women's Ministries area coordinator for central Ohio, said she was most impressed by presentations that encouraged women to accept forgiveness. "The Lord forgave me," she said. "It was good to know that it was okay not to burden ourselves about our past sins."

Benton added that another highlight of the weekend was the increase in young women who attended and shared their talents.

—Taashi Rowe

*Shirley Benton, retreat coordinator, praises the Lord along with other attendees.*



*Gina Brown, PhD, a dean at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., was the keynote speaker.*

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# THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

DECEMBER 2010

## Christmas—A Festival of Hope

The author Charles Dickens began his classic *A Tale of Two Cities* with the line—"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times ... ." The gospel writer Luke began his retelling of the birth of Christ by putting it just the other way around (as I interpret it): "It was the worst of times, but God made it the best of times." While Luke was setting the birth in its historical context—Herod is king, Augustus is Caesar, Quirinius is governor—he was also putting it in its moral and spiritual context. It was as if he was saying, "In the midst of the worst atmosphere, in the midst of the most depressing, despairing and defeating of times, look what happened! Look at what God did in the midst of the worst possible human scenario."

Life may be agonizingly difficult in our day as well. But, remember what God did then. And, consider what God still does and can do! Christmas becomes a festival of hope in the midst of whatever would drag us down. Whatever oppression or crushing burden, whatever pain or sorrow weighs heavily on our hearts, God is with us. Luke is proclaiming the great hope for our lives in this story. It is a hope that is especially needed as we close a difficult year and face an uncertain future. But, we face it with hope because we know the One who promises to face it with us.



**Rob Vandeman**  
President

## New Hope Pastor Commissioned

Ann Roda-Hernandez, associate pastor for Family Ministries at the New Hope church in Fulton, Md., was commissioned at her church on a recent Sabbath afternoon. She knew that God had called her to ministry. The New Hope congregation knew that God had called her to ministry. And now the Chesapeake Conference, on behalf of the world church, recognized her call to ministry.



The service was moving and vibrant, punctuated by tributes and applause. Following a rousing praise service led by church youth, Frank Bondurant, Columbia Union Conference's vice president for Ministries Development and New Hope church member, introduced the candidate. He reminisced about knowing her from elementary school through academy and now at New Hope. Rob Vandeman, conference president, gave the homily. John Appel, conference Ministerial director, invited all the pastors in the congregation to come forward and stand with "Pastor Ann," as she is affectionately known, during the commissioning prayer.

Roda-Hernandez gave a moving testimony of how she was called to the pastorate from a high-paying job in corporate America. An atheist co-worker cemented her decision when she came to her and said, "I saw a university campus with a green lawn and something called 'pioneer,' and your God told me to tell you that you are to become a pastor." Her co-worker had no idea that she was describing the scene in front of Pioneer Memorial church at Andrews University (Mich.).—J. David Newman

*Ann Roda-Hernandez displays her ministerial credentials at her recent commissioning service. Her husband, José Hernandez (center), and J. David Newman, senior pastor at New Hope, show their support.*



## Baltimore Churches Coordinate Citywide Outreach

An Open Door in Baltimore” is the theme of an outreach initiative for the greater Baltimore area. It includes lay training events, Bible studies by members and Bible workers, health evangelism and numerous reaping events.

The initiative launched in September with a training seminar titled “Fit to Share.” The class was designed to provide an overview of possibilities for health ministry evangelism in the local church. The churches in Baltimore are planning a variety of health-related events in January to help people keep New Year’s resolutions.

“This created a realistic approach and seemed to personalize the

health message,” said Lorraine Wilson, a Fit to Share attendee and the Health Ministries coordinator for the Pikesville (Md.) church. “You have given my husband and me a mega dose of motivation to continue in this ministry.”

All Chesapeake Conference members are encouraged to pray daily for the spread of the gospel in this city starting Sabbath, December 11, through the end of the year. During these 21 days,

each church is encouraged to establish times of prayer in their worship services, vespers or mid-week services to intercede for the city.—Rick Remmers

*Church members from the Baltimore metro area participate in a health ministry leadership workshop in preparation for a citywide evangelism project.*



PHOTO BY RICK REMMERS

## Spencerville Members Tour Academy Construction

On a recent Sunday afternoon, more than 100 Spencerville church members and Spencerville Adventist Academy families got their first look at the new school they’ve been planning for more than a decade.

After hiking to the construction site from an adjoining park, Jerry Lutz, senior pastor of the Silver Spring, Md., church, led the group on a tour of the partially-constructed

building. Tour members walked down a hallway where they viewed classrooms and other spaces before arriving at the gymnasium. There, Lutz and Merle Poirier, the building project’s lay leader, surprised participants with the opportunity to write messages on the gym’s concrete subfloor. One member wrote, “Built by faith to build new faith.” The parent of a future alumnus wrote, “Let the little ones come unto Me.”

“It is thrilling to see the students getting excited about their new school, especially the younger ones,” said Lutz. “What a great blessing it will be for them to learn and grow in the Lord in this wonderful new facility.”

After viewing each other’s comments, the group ended their visit with a song and a prayer. The school is on track to open next fall, in time for the Class of 2012. Follow its progress at [spencervillesda.org](http://spencervillesda.org).

—Barbara Carreno



PHOTO BY MARK NOBLE

*Spencerville church and school families enjoy a sneak peak of the new pre-K to grade 12 facility set to open next year.*

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## ESL Program Draws International Students

**T**hey call many different countries home, such as Argentina, Brazil, China, Korea and Thailand. Who are they? They are the 11 international students who are in Highland View Academy's (HVA) English as a Second Language (ESL) program. While learning a new language in a new country can be overwhelming and confusing, Angela Ellis, their ESL teacher, is happy to guide the students as they transition in this new environment.

"I love my job," Ellis shares. "Working with these kids makes me smile every day. I see God's work in their lives and in my own. He gave me this job, this privilege."

The ESL department offers courses in Bible, grammar and language development. In the language development class, students are split according to their language proficiency and learn important components to communicating in English. The program includes pronunciation, phonics, grammar, writing and reading, as well as an understanding of the culture in the United States. With these two classes and a regular course load, Ellis sees these students' English skills improve. Her goal is for these students, especially those who attend HVA all four years, to pass an internationally recognized and standardized English test.

"I always think that the best thing at HVA is my friends," said Tom Park ('12), a native of Korea. "They help us when we have a problem with our English. We are taking [the ESL] class, which is the best class at HVA. Sometimes, we learn English while playing games! It really helps me."

Anna Kim is Korean as well and says in addition to making "cool friends" she can "learn a lot in ESL about American culture, language and also learn about other countries. I love learning English because English is an official of all countries. I can talk with other people and understand their culture."



*International students like (from back) Niko del Valle ('11), Anna Kim ('13) and Christian Gill ('11) often take language classes on top of a regular course load.*



*Angela Ellis (first row) is focused on making sure that after four years with her, ESL students will be able to pass a standardized English test.*

Diamond Suriyakamonjinda ('13), who hails from Thailand, especially enjoys the caring environment of her school. "At HVA people care about each other by helping someone who is in need," she says. "For example, in ESL class we help our friends to accomplish our class work and our homework. This is why I like it here!"

The ESL program is also the driving force behind new activities at the school, such as an international club that will help both ESL and local students learn about each other's cultures. While still in its formative stage, the club plans to sponsor an International Day, visits with classmates in their homes and sightseeing events to nearby historical and political monuments and venues.



## NEWS

### Prospective Students Enjoy Academy Days

While enjoying hay rides, a rock climbing wall and music presentations, prospective students at Highland View Academy's Academy Days also learned about its academic programs. Several expressed interest in the school's science and music programs as well as the school's friendly atmosphere.



*HVA students Allison Calhoun ('14) and Cassondra Harris ('14) help welcome prospective students.*



*A potential student tests her skills on a rock wall.*

### Seniors Bond in Nature

Blessed with beautiful weather, members of HVA's Class of 2011 spent a weekend at the Gifford Pinchot State Park in northern York County in Pennsylvania. The park consists of reverting farm fields and wooded hillsides, with the 340-acre Pinchot Lake serving as a prime attraction. The park was

far enough away from the busyness of HVA, but close enough for local pastors to come and share in the Lord's creation and bond with the students. Pastor Alvin Payne from the Frederick (Md.) church and Pastor Sergio Manente from the Highland View (Md.) church joined the class for worship.

Students enjoyed canoeing on the lake, guitars, bonfires and s'mores. Their bonds strengthened as they learned more about each other and shared memories that will last a lifetime.



*Louise Nyambati, Sydney Milam and Amanda Sprout enjoy campfire worship.*

### School Receives New Piano

It started with a prayer list. The Music Department at Highland View Academy desperately needed a new piano. This year the prayer was answered when donors provided the school with a Yamaha Baby Grand piano.



*Music director Olga Bilan (seated), accompanies Molly Gavin ('13), Roman Samalio ('12) and Raymond Fisher ('14).*

## CALENDAR

### December

- 4** Christmas Music Concert  
Highland View Academy Church  
4 p.m.

### January

- 23** Art Appreciation Day

### February

- 13** International Fair

### March

- 5** Senior Play

**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, Deborah Treviño  
Editor, Renee Williams



# MOUNTAIN VIEW POINT

DECEMBER 2010

## Out With the Old, In With the New

**A**s I reflect on the old year that is coming to a close, and set my sights on the promises and hopes of the new year, I find the following counsel from Jesus to be helpful: “No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment ... Neither do men put new wine in old bottles ... but they put new wine into new bottles and both are preserved” (Matt. 9:16-17).

These verses got me thinking about some of the things I’ve done all year (in some cases, for years). It made me wonder if any of those things have brought me closer to achieving my goals. What about you? Have your old habits helped you achieve spiritual or secular goals? If not, then perhaps you and I need to incorporate new methods for achieving our goals in the new year!

What about our churches that still rely on the old activities and efforts for growing God’s kingdom? If these methods have not produced much fruit—this year or for several years—could it be that new dimensions need to be incorporated into the methodology being used to reach our communities for Jesus?

Jesus is interested in all areas of our lives. Could He be saying to you and me that attempting to reach a different (new) level of accomplishment by doing the same ineffective, old thing over and over again will not bring us satisfaction and success? Notice He counsels that with new bottles and new wine both are preserved. When we follow His advice and incorporate new paradigms, new emphases and new strategies into our churches and personal lives, we can make the coming year a truly *new* year.



**Larry Boggess**  
*President*

## 50 Receive Missionary Bible Training

**F**ifty aspiring Bible workers came from 22 churches in three states to attend the Missionary Bible Worker Training seminar at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va. Lillian Torres, the Bible trainer for the Columbia Union Conference, led the workshops. Devotional speakers included Larry Boggess, conference president, and Randy Murphy, former conference president.

Attendees learned three components of conducting a Bible study: pray for the presence of the Holy Spirit, use the Bible alone as reference and share personal



stories about Jesus. Enthusiastic attendees look forward to sharing God’s Word in their hometowns.

“I am so thrilled with the number in attendance,” Boggess said. “Mountain View is really emphasizing lay member training, and I am excited about the future ministry of our lay members.”

Boggess and Torres also affirmed last year’s students who conducted at least three Bible studies during the past year.

*Bible trainer Lillian Torres sits with Bill Hartsook of Roanoke, Va. Hartsook had no formal training in ministry in 2007 when he served as a Bible worker in Princeton, W.Va., but gained confidence after taking Missionary Bible Training classes.*



## Kingwood Pastor Trained Through ShareHim

If it wasn't for ShareHim, I'd still be in a pew," Paul Dixon told attendees at a recent ShareHim boot camp training in Huttonsville, W.Va. He attended his first ShareHim training four years ago and has since, with the help of others, held four evangelistic meetings. "At first I was so scared, but now I'm preaching every week," he testified. "It's all God, not me."

Dixon and his wife, Andrea, hadn't attended church for six years when they stumbled upon the Seventh-day Adventist Church through watching 3ABN. After watching the programs, they found answers to questions they'd always had and found that their passion for

ministry was reignited. They put out a fleece and prayed to God seeking guidance in finding the right church. Two days later, an Adventist church placed a flyer for a seminar in their mailbox.

Now a lay pastor at the Kingwood (W.Va.) church, Dixon, along with his wife and other members, is finding opportunities to share the gospel. After they shared their faith at a recent community festival, 92 people expressed interest in either taking Bible studies or attending a seminar.

"ShareHim boot camps are training our lay members to do the work," Paul said. "It's exciting to see how God can use us, especially when we step out of our comfort zones."



*Paul and Andrea Dixon share how God inspired them to move to the Kingwood (W.Va.) church after attending ShareHim seminars.*

## Women "Press Into God's Presence"

Mountain View Conference's annual Women's Ministries Retreat drew 146 women—the largest attendance in its 19 years. Guest speaker Shelly Quinn, program development manager for 3ABN, spoke on the theme "Pressing Into God's Presence." She spoke of the importance of spending time in God's presence and gave the women practical tips for making it a priority. "God will cause you to be all He has called you to be," she said.

Valerie Morikone, conference Women's Ministries director, said she was thrilled with the outcome. "I like the women to come and get

away and have a great, relaxing time; most of all I want the retreat to point them to Jesus," she said.

The women also enjoyed discussion groups, seminars, morning prayers and organized walks. This year the women brought handmade lap throws to give to those in long-term care facilities. "I can't crochet myself, but my friend made a lovely throw for me to bring," said Marsha Weaver (above), a member of the Marlinton (W.Va.) church. In all, there were more than 100 handmade throws donated.



Shelly Quinn (center), the keynote speaker at the Women's Ministries retreat, meets women from the Mountain View Conference.



**Correction:** In the November issue of *Viewpoint*, Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md., was incorrectly named as a participant in a naturalization ceremony. The correct school was the Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va.

## Mountain View EVENTS

### December

13 Executive Committee

### January

21-23 Pathfinder Winter Camp

24 Executive Committee

### February

4-6 AY Winter Festival

20 Church Officer Training

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

# SPIRIT

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY

DECEMBER 2010

## A Shelter in the Storm

On more than one occasion, I have picked up the phone to hear the frantic voice of a concerned parent wanting to send their struggling child to Mount Vernon Academy (MVA). At a time in this world's history, when our young people are bombarded with temptations that I could not have imagined 20 years ago, I understand and feel their anxiety and pain. In most cases, after a review of the circumstances, we accept the struggling and besieged and bring them into a safe, Christian environment where they can learn, grow and see God working.

There was once a group of men in a small boat in the middle of a big lake who were caught in a fierce storm. Most of the boat's occupants were seasoned sailors, and they did everything they knew to save their boat and themselves. Despite all of their expertise, they were overwhelmed with the task. In the moment of their deepest terror and despair, they remembered that the Son of God was asleep in their boat. God was physically with them. And in that moment, God rebuked the storm and the lake became perfectly calm.

Mount Vernon Academy is so much more than just a school. Our Seventh-day Adventist boarding academies are often the last safe shelter in a storm for our youth. Our school is a place where God can calm the storms in their lives. We will continue to strive to save every student that comes to us by introducing them to the One who has the power to provide shelter during the storms in their lives.



**Robert Stevenson**

*Principal*

## 11 Students Give Their Hearts to Christ

This year the speaker for Week of Prayer came onto campus dressed in blue jeans and a T-shirt. There were no pretensions. He just shared his personal, powerful testimony of what Christ can do for anyone willing to give in to God. For every meeting, the students sat riveted listening to Pastor Dean Waterman's personal message of struggle and redemption; and through it all, they saw Jesus. At the end of the week, he made a call.

"As a principal, my heart is in my throat when the last meeting of a Week of Prayer comes to a close,"



*"Where are you getting your answers for the big questions in life?" asks Week of Prayer speaker Dean Waterman.*



said Robert Stevenson. "You see, for me, this is what it is all about—saving souls. I don't want our students to be saved by guilt or fear of the judgment. I want them to fall in love with Jesus."

Not every student was called to come forward, only the ones who wanted to give their hearts to the Lord in baptism. Eleven students came forward. "As I witnessed a new group of Mount Vernon Academy students give their lives to Christ, it was clear to me again, that God is in this place and that MVA is still His school," Stevenson said. "Please continue to be a part of an institution that strives every day to ensure that another generation of young people is ready to meet our Savior when He comes to take us home."



# SPIRIT

## Lessons From Senior Survival

Our annual senior survival was not only a character-building experience for me, but it was also a great opportunity to strengthen my spiritual life and become closer to our Father in heaven. When we arrived at the camping area, we had to carry everything a half mile up the side of a huge hill through the woods to our campsite. Immediately we needed to start building our shelters before nightfall. Every night we were there, we had vesperers together and morning worship to start our days.

Senior survival helped us know our classmates better and taught us to rely on and trust each other. We participated in a number of engaging activities, including a mattress pass, finger lift, blind lead and the swamp cross. The trust fall evoked a lot of emotions ranging from excitement to crying. Many students struggled with this because they were afraid of heights and falling. We had to be able to trust everyone because we were falling into the arms of our classmates, with our backs turned and eyes closed.

Another incredible activity was the great controversy game. We had Satan, God and both good and bad angels striving to lead us in different directions. We were blindfolded and had to find our way to heaven by listening carefully to what was being said. Unfortunately, I ended up in the pretend hell. Thank God it was just a game, however, what a great wakeup call! There are so many things in this world that are here to tempt us, and we need to be ready to know whether it is God calling or Satan. It is so important to make spending time with God the top priority in our lives so when Satan comes, we can be like Jesus in the wilderness and use the Bible to prove him wrong.  
—Johnny Moritz ('11)



*Taylor Antle ('11) and Genesis Famania ('11) grab a meal.*



*Tyler Lehman ('11) demonstrates complete trust in his classmates by falling back into their arms.*

## Gas Well Discovered on Campus



A gas well that a donor had drilled on the Mount Vernon Academy campus was recently shot with explosives. After many months and a lot of prayer, that gift has paid off in the form of a productive natural gas well on campus. Although only time will tell what kind of volume will be available from the strike, school officials anticipate using this gas to heat the buildings this winter! Stay tuned for more updates.

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# news

## NEW JERSEY

DECEMBER 2010

### Thankful for God's Many Blessings

**W**hat a blessed year 2010 has been! The New Jersey Conference family is growing! Our goal this year was to increase the conference's membership to 13,000. I am happy to report that we have already surpassed that goal and are on our way to reaching 14,000 baptized members! The glory, honor and gratitude belong to the Lord!

I pray, "Thank you God for so many undeserved blessings: new members, new companies and churches, several new buildings for our growing churches, plus the new facilities for our church headquarters here in New Jersey. We inaugurate this new facility as a house of prayer, a training center and administrative offices. We do not deserve so many blessings, but please, Lord, keep sending good things to the church. We are your people!"

Without a doubt, God is blessing and protecting the finances of our members. This year tithe increased and members gave more, even in a time of financial crisis. Please understand that I am only talking about the faithful givers; He also gave blessings to those who are "potential givers." I am praying for them to become full participants in God's plan. However, today I need to say "Thank you" to our faithful members! Your faithfulness has been a very significant aspect to the success of our mission!" In light of this, please, let us together, demonstrate our gratitude, faithfulness and commitment to Jesus and His church as this year closes!



**José H. Cortés**  
*President*

### NEWS

#### Churches Unite for Health Fair, Parade

Adventurers and Pathfinders from churches in Union City, Jersey City Heights and Newark recently participated in a parade that started at the Ellsworth Park in Union City and finished with a health fair at the church.

The children displayed flags and signs to encourage onlookers to donate blood and bone marrow. Their signs also shared health messages such as "Do Not Do Drugs" or "Do Not Smoke." They also distributed bracelets, flyers and red balloons to spectators. The children were able to obtain 31 blood and 20 bone marrow donors. They were very happy to participate in the parade. After their hard work, they received some snacks and juice, and enjoyed face painting and a puppet show.—*Claudia Garcia del Puerto*



#### Pathfinders Train for Spiritual Journey

The New Jersey Conference held its 2010 Pathfinder camporee at Camp Berkshire in Wingdale (N.Y.). An estimated 300 Pathfinders, staff and parents attended.

This year's theme of "Cross Training" tied the concept of an athlete training for a triathlon to the spiritual journey.

This year's camporee focused on creating more than just an event, it created a spiritual experience. "It was a joy to see the Pathfinders engaged, motivated, enjoying themselves and committing their lives to Christ," said Laffit Cortés, conference Youth Ministries director.

This year the New Brunswick English Joshua Club (above) received the trophy for New Jersey Pathfinder Camporee's Most Valuable Club.



*Abigail Rojas, Gerson Rojas, Sarah Fuentes and Sofia Rojas are Adventurers, Eager Beavers and Little Lambs of the Union City church who marched in a recent parade.*



## Soccer Fosters Fellowship

**W**ith the help of organizer Laffit Cortés, conference Youth Ministries director, Seventh-day Adventist youth recently enjoyed a soccer tournament. The finals for South Jersey took place in Pittsgrove with the Panamericana, Hammon, Cape May Court House, Laurel Springs, Atlantic City and

Bridgeton churches participating.

"The objective of this tournament was to get community youngsters and children to fellowship with church members," Cortés explained. "We also wanted to create a loving atmosphere among children, youth, parents and families to reach them and win them for Christ."

In the young adult division, the Cape May team won over the Victoria team from the Laurel Springs Spanish church. In the teenager division, the Manchester United team (left) from the Bridgeton Spanish church won over the Barcelona team from Panamericana Spanish. The Bridgeton women claimed victory over the Panamerican women. In the children's match, the Bridgeton



Mexiquenses (above) topped the Panamericana team.

More than 500 visitors attended, many of whom are already attending spiritual activities at churches in South New Jersey.—Carlos Torres and Jorge Pillco



## Filipino Church Hosts Second Health Expo

**T**he First Filipino church in Plainfield, N.J., hosted its second annual health and lifestyle seminar as a community outreach and a witness to neighbors. About 50 visitors flocked to the church to avail themselves of the free services. They took advantage of healthy foods, several health screenings, massages and pastoral counseling. Seven local professionals volunteered their expertise and worked with two Adventist physicians and several professional health practitioners.—Manny P. Mullaneda

## Conference Installs New Phone System

**T**he New Jersey Conference office has a new phone system, which allows for direct dialing into the offices. There is also a new fax system, which sends faxes directly to the various departments. The new phone and fax numbers are as follows:

Departments	Phone Number	Fax Number
Switchboard Main Line	(609) 802-0840	(609) 396-9273
Presidential	(609) 802-0850	(609) 802-0848
Secretariat/Communication	(609) 802-0855	(609) 802-0868
Treasury/VP Finance	(609) 802-0860	(609) 802-0853
Education & Ministerial	(609) 802-0875	(609) 802-0896
Youth/SS/Family Life	(609) 802-0873	(609) 802-0894

## dates

NEW JERSEY

### December

- 5** Grand Opening for New Conference Office
- 24-31** Office Closed for Christmas and New Year Holidays

### January

- 1** Day of Fasting and Prayer  
*Local Churches*
- 8-15** Week of Stewardship Emphasis  
*Local Churches*
- 21-23** Youth Ministries Convention  
*Tranquil Valley Retreat Center*
- 29** South New Jersey Music Training  
*Vineland Church*

### February

- 5-12** Christian Home and Family Week  
*Local Churches*
- 12** Central New Jersey Music Training, *Lake Nelson Church*  
3-6 p.m.
- 19** Sabbath School Friends Day  
*Local Churches*
- 26** North New Jersey Music Training  
*Newark Church, 3-6 p.m.*

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## Young People Lead Ministries on Secular Campuses

**D**id you know that 65 percent of Seventh-day Adventist young people attend secular colleges or universities? Along with all the challenges that typical college students face, studying at a secular college or university can present challenges to a student's faith. This fall the Ohio Conference started a pilot program to place chaplains at three of the state's universities. Ron Pickell of Adventist Christian Fellowship—a North American Division resource for ministry to secular campuses—also trained student chaplains earlier this fall.

The state's oldest university is located in Athens in the foothills of Appalachia. Although Athens is a small city, 20,000 students attend Ohio University. The church in Athens has a vision to reach out to the



Adventist students make up many of Wright State University's 20,000-student body. Sabrina Araiza (below), a psychology graduate from Arizona, is now chaplain at the school's Dayton campus. She is working with a team from the Kettering church, under the mentorship of Kettering young adult pastor Elliot Smith.

These campus ministry team members hope to keep Seventh-day Adventist students church connected, as well as involve them in community service and outreach. Conference leaders are praying that these teams will create spiritual communities in each of these sites that will reach beyond Adventist students.

Please pray for these campus chaplains, and if you know any students in any of these three schools, send their names and contact information to [faithpoints@gmail.com](mailto:faithpoints@gmail.com). To support the ministry, send contributions to the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, c/o Campus Connections, P.O. Box 1230, Mount Vernon, OH 43050.—Loren Seibold



university community. Darrin and Christine Thurber (above) are helping with this ministry. The Thurbers come to Ohio from California. Darrin is a ministerial student, and Christine (known to her friends as Beamy) is a social worker. With the help of other Adventist students and faculty, they've started a strong outreach program to students.

With 55,000 students on its campus The Ohio State University in Columbus is the state's largest university and one of the largest single campuses in the United States. Gina and David Helbley (top, right) were serving as missionaries in Kazakhstan when they felt a calling to do campus ministry. David is an engineer, and Gina is a graduate from the ministerial program at Walla Walla University (Wash.). Now in Columbus, they've made their home a center for campus outreach. Pastors of all the area churches are helping them find and welcome students who are seeking a faith community on campus.





## NEWS

**Hungarian Churches in Cleveland Welcome Pastor**

While members of the Cleveland Hungarian and Brooklyn churches prayed for a pastoral couple for nearly a year, Laszlo and Marta Hangyas (below) prayed for a return to pastoral work. These prayers were recently answered when the Hangyases, Hungarian natives, arrived in the United States.



"My vision for the district in Cleveland is providing in-depth Bible study and Christ-centered sermons, organizing active small group and effective media ministry, and, last but not least, strengthening individual and church prayer life," Pastor Hangyas shares.

He holds a bachelor's and master's degrees in theology, and a doctoral degree in religion and ethics. He and Marta most recently worked at the Adventist Theological College in Pecel, Hungary.

**Retreat Attendees Gain Insight Into Gospels**

Biblical studies professor and co-host of daily *Voice of Prophecy* broadcasts, Elizabeth Talbot (right), assured women they would be experts in the gospels by the end of the 23rd annual Ohio Conference Women's Retreat. Each session began with Bible study, including examination of the synoptic gospels and explanation of various terms (such as the Hebrew term "goel,"



the root word for the term "redeemer"). Women echoed Talbot's "whoo hoo," and were re-energized by the knowledge that Jesus is our goel.

Chandra Attiken, who consults with the retreating team, challenged women to return to their churches with reports of their experiences to motivate others to attend next year. When Attiken returned home, she received an email from an attendee stating, "What an extraordinary weekend of renewal and recommitment to a message of hope and restoration for a kidnapped world!"

**Spring Valley's Enrollment Tops 300**

One of the highlights of Spring Valley Academy's (SVA) recent Old Fashion Country Fair was the announcement that the Centerville-based school had enrolled 301 students. SVA has not seen enrollment over 300 since the beginning of the 2005-06 school year. Even so, Diann

*Attendees enjoy themselves at the conference's women's retreat.*

Ring, registrar, and Vicki Swetnam, recruitment and marketing director, challenged principal Jeff Bovee (below) to shave his head if the school's enrollment topped 300. When preschooler Jillian Burdick was enrolled, she became SVA's 301st student, which instantly sealed Bovee's "pate."—*Vicki Swetnam*



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# Pennsylvania *Pen*

DECEMBER 2010

## NEWS

### Chambersburg Church Turns 50

Chambersburg church members recently celebrated the church's 50th anniversary with a special worship service and afternoon concert. The church was filled with members and friends who enjoyed several musical numbers, a reading of the history of the Seventh-day



*Charter members are recognized during the celebration service.*

Adventist Church in Chambersburg, a recognition of the founding members and a powerful message by Pastor Shawn Shives, who grew up in Chambersburg and began his pastoral experience there.

Then people from the community joined members and friends for an afternoon concert.—*Pam Carbaugh*

### Hamburg Observes 25th Anniversary

More than 200 people gathered at the Hamburg Community church to celebrate the church's 25th anniversary. Alex DuBee, current pastor, led members in renewing their commitment to reaching the community and sharing the gospel. Ray Hartwell, conference president, led the re-dedication prayer. Previous pastors, such as Richard Haas, shared his memories during the Friday night re-dedication service, John Pifer taught the



*Alex DuBee (right), current Hamburg Community church pastor, spends time with previous pastors (left to right) John Pifer, Alan Jones and Richard Haas.*

Sabbath School lesson and Alan Jones presented the Sabbath morning worship service.

### Central Penn School Celebrates 60 Years

Three generations of families have been educated at the Central Penn Christian School (CPCS). Shirley Johnson Swift, Julie Johnson Yingst and Steve Trout have sat in the same classrooms and played in the same schoolyard as their children and grandchildren.

This year the school, previously known as the Lancaster Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, celebrated 60 years of educating young people with a special worship service at the Lancaster church. Vaughn Jennings, retired Pennsylvania Conference vice president of Education, presented the message.



*Principal/teacher Ann Trout (left) and assistant teacher Heather Younger (right) flank their students.*

### Reading Junior Academy Reaches 60 Years

More than 95 students attend Reading Junior Academy (some pictured) with students from pre-K through grade 10. The school's enrollment has increased in recent years, with one-third of the total school population coming from the surrounding community, according to Lee Stahl, principal.

The school celebrated their 60th anniversary with a daylong service at the school. Kris Eckenroth, a former student and current conference Youth and Young Adult Ministries director, spoke for the service.





## York Health Fair Provides Fun and Information

The York church hosted its first Community Health Fair focused on healthy living with a splash of fun. The “Health and Wellness” theme included a range of educational booths and fun physical challenges for kids and adults alike. It was an “exciting community event, where everyone was welcome,” commented Frank Robbins, coordinator of the kids’ events.

The play area for children included an inflatable bungee run, Velcro wall, giant slide, obstacle course, twister and an inflatable bounce house. Hayrides circled the grounds throughout the day, hauling chattering kids and an occasional brave adult. From across the lawn a talkative parrot kept watchers enter-

tained with its antics while a giant turtle ambled under foot.

With the kids occupied, the adults participated in free cholesterol screenings, dental bite registry, a depression recovery session and an American Red Cross blood drive. A police officer gave tours of his squad car and explained some of his tools of the trade to curious onlookers.

“I am very pleased with how the day went. We had a great community turn out and everyone that came ... seemed very pleased with the information that was available to them,” said Tammy Robbins, health screenings coordinator. The York church plans to make this a yearly event.—Sara Pifer



*A young boy participates in the dental bite registry at the York church's community health fair.*



# Potomac People

DECEMBER 2010

## Signs of a Healthy Church

**W**hat are the signs of a healthy church? In one of her many letters, Seventh-day Adventist co-founder Ellen White tells us that “a healthy church is composed of healthy members, of men and women who have a personal experience in true godliness” (*Letter 130*, 1901).

Indeed a sign of a healthy church is healthy members engaged in true godliness. True godliness is a deep personal relationship with Jesus, evidenced by how we serve others. Likewise, a sign of a healthy church is one that has a deep personal relationship with Jesus, evidenced in their service for others.

As I travel around this great conference, I see signs of true godliness. In Radford, Va., members are reaching out to Virginia Tech students, and a dozen or so are now worshipping at the church each Sabbath. Our Hispanic members are leading more than 300 house churches. And recently eight churches united to host a school of evangelism. This resulted in 76 requests for baptism!

As we head into the new year, it's my prayer that we'll each become so in love with Jesus that our communities will be served in ways they will never be the same. When that happens, we will experience true godliness and our churches will be healthier.



**Bill Miller**  
*President*

## Stanley Church Support Wins Twin Girls for Christ

**C**ountless children have been introduced to Jesus through church programs created especially for them. Shania and Shelby Stotlemeyer are twin girls who have discovered a church family through such programs. Their stories begin nearly six years ago



*A combination of long-term, outreach programs led Shelby and Shania Stotlemeyer to join the Stanley (Va.) church.*

when the twins' mother met a co-worker who was passionate about child evangelism. During camp meeting, this co-worker invited them to participate in Summer Splash, a program at camp meeting designed to interest community kids. The girls attended each meeting, and about a month later, were eager to go to Vacation Bible School (VBS) at the Stanley (Va.) church. With the church 40 minutes away from their home, they had no way of getting to the meetings, however, church members offered transportation.

Shania and Shelby loved the program, made friends with a number of church members and soon wanted to attend Sabbath School each week. A member agreed to continue picking them up, along with others who had difficulties getting to the church. Each week this member drove the 80 minutes round trip to ensure they could attend church. The girls continued attending VBS each summer, Summer Splash each camp meeting and Kid's Bible Club twice a month at the Stanley church.

Despite having no other Seventh-day Adventist family members, the twins began Bible studies in January and were recently baptized.—*Barbara Manspeaker and Adrienne Suarez*



# Potomac People

## “Mercy” at Core of Virginia Camp Meeting

For the eighth consecutive year, churches in the southwestern Virginia area host a regional camp meeting. This year more than 250 attendees from more than 15 churches came together at the Rural Retreat Fair Grounds in Rural Retreat, Va. The theme for this year’s camp meeting was “While Mercy Lingers.” Steve Wohlberg, director of White Horse Media,



Steve Wohlberg, director of White Horse Media, shares a message with the group.



preached powerful messages on being ready for Christ’s return.

Agatha Thrash, a medical doctor at Uchee Pines (Ala.), presented lectures on better health. Josh Goines, a student at Andrews University (Mich.), provided piano and vocal music. Steve Wilson, Potomac Conference vice president for finance, led a Sabbath School class. “This camp meeting was a huge blessing,” he said. “I particularly enjoyed the fact that the program was packed with uplifting music and scriptural messages to help me grow in my relationship with Jesus.”

Scott Cleveland, a local busi-

nessman and member of the Wytheville (Va.) church, has chaired the planning committee from the beginning. “God richly blesses us each year and we wonder how it can be any better, but each year He provides even better,” he said. “Our time on this Earth is running out, and we want to provide that which will help prepare God’s people for the soon return of Jesus.”—Jim Cox

## VBS Attendees Fill Piney Forest Pathfinder Ranks

It had been five years since the Piney Forest church in Danville, Va., had a Pathfinder group. When they organized their Vacation Bible School (VBS), no one expected that



guests from the community would revive their Pathfinder Club.

“We prayed and planned for about 50 children, including their parents,” said Shelley McCarty, VBS director and Pathfinder deputy director. “God had his own plans ... 70 children attended!” Eight teens helped staff the program. At the end of VBS, the teens wanted to be in Pathfinders and so did half the children. Because of limited staff, the program had to limit the Pathfinder group to 20 children and the Adventurers to 10.

Twelve-year-old Britnee Matherly shares that being a Pathfinder is indeed a blessing that will keep multiplying. “Growing up in the world today, you see a lot of bad

things happen to good children,” she says. “Being a Pathfinder not only helps me stay away from these things and keeps my life going in the right direction, but it gives me a chance to try and change the world by doing good and showing others that it can be done.”

Listen to the McCartys’ interview in the December *AudioVisitor* at [columbiaunion.org/podcasts](http://columbiaunion.org/podcasts).

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

## Turning Thoughts Into Eternity

This year our school adopted a simple statement: “Your thoughts become actions, actions become habits, habits become character and character becomes destiny.” For the past six years, as it has scrolled across my computer screen as my screen saver, this statement has been a daily reminder to me. I am sure that many of you are familiar with this simple phrase and the significance it holds.

During this past summer and throughout this school year, this statement has become a part of our discussion. Not only did we discuss the academic and social implications that the statement makes, but we also discussed the spiritual outcomes. Through examining this statement, it became clear that two parts are the same: our thoughts and our destinies.

The Lord tells us in Jeremiah 29:11 that He knows the thoughts He has for us and those thoughts will lead to a lifetime with Him in heaven. At Takoma Academy (TA), our goal is to help students understand their destiny is eternity and their thoughts should purposefully guide and develop their actions, habits and character. We are focused on instilling these principles and providing opportunities for our students to support their growth in Christ. Our thoughts *will* become our destiny, and we at TA will continually strive to provide a quality academic and spiritual environment consistently supportive of higher-level thinking focused on our destiny.



David Daniels  
*Principal*

## 20 Students Commit Their Lives to Christ

This year's Week of Prayer inspired more than 20 students to commit their lives to Christ and ask for Bible studies. Pastor Rupert Bushner, Jr. (below), director of Evangelism and Church Growth for the Allegheny West Conference in Columbus, Ohio, encouraged students to make good decisions now, so they don't have to pay for bad mistakes later. He also challenged them to choose Jesus in their youth, allowing Him to change their lives and to order their steps.

“I like how he explained how Jesus beat Satan here on his home court and how Jesus is a fighter for us,” shared Demetrius Barnwell ('12).



Nahshon Grandison ('14) and Olivia Anthony ('14) sing praises to the Lord.

“He approached issues that we are dealing with from a different perspective and that was very helpful spiritually,” said Sara Scur ('11).

David Daniels, principal, was excited to see so many lives changed. “Praise the Lord!” he said. “All attendees were encouraged and reminded about the love that Jesus has for them and that it is His desire for everyone to be with Him in heaven one day.”



## SALT Teaches Us to Lead

A group of 10 Takoma Academy students and three sponsors recently traveled to Bellefontaine, Ohio, for this year's SALT (Spiritual Academy Leadership Training) Conference. The conference was themed "Living Water." Pastor José Rojas, director of the Office of Volunteer Ministries for the North American Division, led several sessions focusing on the purpose and abilities of leaders. As student leaders of Seventh-day Adventist high schools, we were shown a new way of looking at our positions. We were reminded of how we were chosen to serve those who remained back at our schools.

In between sessions, we had time to bond with our fellow students as well as meet and fellowship with students of other schools in attendance. When we separated into groups with other students holding the same positions at their respective schools, we got the opportunity to talk through issues and get new perspectives on how others handled the same role.

Some participants faced new challenges of their own over the weekend. A large number tackled new heights on the camp's rope course on Friday afternoon. Others

stepped out of their comfort zones while participating in games introduced by different schools. One game named "Ninja" became quite contagious over the weekend and was soon played by both students and staff during any spare time.

As the weekend progressed, we attended more meetings and presentations. Some of the presentations with the most impact came from other students. The skits touched on some tough topics like rejecting or doubting God. The students also performed several musical performances. The audience warmly received each display.

Throughout this weekend of making memories, Pastor Rojas reminded us that as "the salt of the Earth," we should never forget that God should be in control of our leadership. We should use our positions as opportunities to bring glory to God. Whether we feel like we are of importance or not, we still have an amount of influence on others. And if you're not aware that

*A few members of Takoma Academy's delegation take a break during their recent SALT Conference in Ohio.*



*Megan Conway ('12) tests out the rock climbing wall along with sponsor Alana Pabon (right).*

you can lead even without a title, Pastor Rojas just might tell you to "check it out!"—*Maya Suero ('12)*



## Calendar

### December

- 10** Fine Arts Christmas Program
- 11** Winter Party
- 13-17** Spirit Week
- 17** Pep Rally and Noon Dismissal for Christmas Break
- 18-Jan. 1** Christmas Break
- 24** Christmas Eve—Office Closed
- 31** New Year's Eve—Office Closed

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

## Christian Education 101

**O**ur vision at Washington Adventist University (WAU) is to produce graduates who bring competence and moral leadership to their communities. I see this vital combination of competence and Christian values as true education. In the book *Education*, Ellen White defines true education as, “the harmonious development of all the faculties—a full and adequate preparation for this life and the future eternal life.” This is the foundation for all we do at Washington Adventist University, the harmonious blending of technical skills with Christian principles.

As a Seventh-day Adventist institution of higher education, we have the opportunity and privilege to help in the development of thoughtful, moral and committed people of faith. Building on our spiritual master plan, the university responds to this opportunity through its commitment to: 1. Facilitate a life and church-changing dialog centered on Adventism, spiritual formation and love in action; 2. Nurture an atmosphere where people of various faiths feel valued and respected; 3. Create a campus atmosphere in which service permeates life and learning; 4. Enable students to develop as ethical beings; 5. Provide diverse opportunities for students to promote social change through their interactions in the broader community; and 6. Create a culture of Christ-centered wellness. To make this a reality, our full-time vice president for ministry has the day-to-day task of modeling, directing and leading faith development that is deliberate, personal and critically aware.

Every day on the campus of Washington Adventist University we are making an effort to model the love of Jesus. We want our students to know and discover the love of God. At WAU we are engaging minds and transforming lives.



**Weymouth Spence**  
*President*

## New Minor in Bioinformatics Offered

**A** new minor in Applied Bioinformatics will help prepare Washington Adventist University's science students to compete in the billion-dollar field. Bioinformatics is the integration of molecular biology and computer science. This discipline arises from the need to interpret and develop tools to understand the volumes of data that is being generated about genes, proteins, cells, environment, therapeutics development and more.

“This minor will add value to the science degree offerings of WAU, making our students more competitive for graduate school and jobs after graduation,” explains Anton Dormer, MD, MS (above), associate biology professor. “WAU is the only Adventist institution that offers such a competitive program in bioinformatics.”

Dormer will coordinate the program under the umbrella of WAU's Bioinformatics Interdisciplinary Program (BIP). The program will focus on creating and managing student internships, internal and external student research opportunities, obtaining supporting extramural funding for departmental and faculty bioinformatics undergraduate research. In addition, the Bioinformatics Club will work to develop networking opportunities for participating students through monthly

seminars and visitations to bioinformatics research-intensive institutions.

The Applied Bioinformatics minor is designed to complement the undergraduate studies of biology, biochemistry, chemistry, computer science, information technology and mathematics. For more information about this minor, contact Anton Dormer, MD, MS, at (301) 891-4229; Melinda Villanueva, PhD, chair of the Department of Biology and Chemistry, at (301) 891-4462; or Michael Lee, PhD, in the Department of Computer Science, Engineering, Math and Physics at (301) 891-4102.





## Muganda Brings New Flavor to Campus Spiritual Life

As he settles into his new post, Baraka Muganda, EdD, Washington Adventist University's new vice president for Ministry, is focused on two key areas: the salvation of the campus community and creating an atmosphere of service to humanity.

Taking into consideration that WAU was the birthplace of the

church's student missionary program, Muganda says, "We must revive the [student missionary] program since this college was the mother of this movement."

He has also embraced the Internet as one more way to minister. He has more than 4,900 friends on Facebook and has implemented an

email prayer request line for the campus community. The Office of Ministry staff prays over these requests each morning, and Muganda personally replies to each request. "It is this personal touch that young people need," he emphasizes.

Convocation is another area Muganda wants to redress. "I would like to see us offer a buffet for weekly convocation," he shares. He is hoping to involve more of the campus community in helping to "cook up" a variety of spiritual programs. He is also adding a special convocation for nursing students, who have scheduling conflicts with the regular program.



*Baraka Muganda (center), vice president for Ministry, along with staff members Lorena Martinez and Jose St. Phard, pray each morning over prayer requests.*

## Diners Think Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness

Much of the cafeteria was covered in pink, including the servers, table cloths, napkins, cups, and even some of the food. Diners who wore pink received discounted meals. This was all a part of Dining Services' Think Pink Breast Cancer Awareness Day.

"It was an atmosphere of excitement, fun and anticipation," recalls Marilyn Riley, executive assistant to the president. "The servers were all dressed in pink and had big smiles for all the diners." She lauded the cafeteria workers for putting together the eye-opening event.

Renee Winkfield, PhD, chair of the Edyth T. James Department of Nursing, addressed diners on the importance of breast cancer testing, gave self-diagnosis tips and emphasized the risk of breast cancer for men. Winkfield also led a question-



*Cafeteria workers Miriam Gomez, Maritza Zavala, Amparo DelSanto and Felicita Ignacio dress the part for the university's pink-themed lunch.*

and-answer session with students.

"Being part of the WAU community, we organize a theme lunch monthly," explained Gregory Davis, executive chef. "Our objective is to enhance the student life experience on campus and in the community."—Kevin Manuel

## Calendar

### December

- 3 Christmas Choral Service
- 17-Jan. 9 Winter Break
- 27-31 Offices Closed

### January

- 10 Spring Semester Begins

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

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Seeking teacher with ability to teach all subjects at the elementary and middle school level between grades K-8, with Seventh-day Adventist denominational certification. Bachelor's degree required, plus at least three years of experience in an urban setting. Must be a practicing Seventh-day Adventist, be able to direct the school choir and be willing to engage in urban student recruitment. Send inquiries to [slashley@northeastern.org](mailto:slashley@northeastern.org).

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is searching for a principal. Some of the position opportunities include: administering the operations of the academy, grades 9-12, and establishing a learning environment, which is spiritually focused and in concert with Seventh-day Adventist beliefs. Required qualifications: master's degree and denominational and state secondary school credentials. Interested candidates apply online at [andrews.edu/HR/emp\\_jobs\\_salaried.cgi](http://andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi).

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# SUNSET CALENDAR

	Dec 10	Dec 17	Dec 24	Dec 31	Jan 7
Baltimore	4:43	4:45	4:48	4:53	4:59
Cincinnati	5:15	5:17	5:20	5:25	5:31
Cleveland	4:57	4:58	5:02	5:07	5:13
Columbus	5:07	5:08	5:12	5:17	5:23
Jersey City	4:29	4:30	4:34	4:39	4:45
Norfolk	4:49	4:50	4:54	4:58	5:04
Parkersburg	5:03	5:05	5:08	5:13	5:19
Philadelphia	4:35	4:37	4:40	4:45	4:51
Pittsburgh	4:53	4:55	4:58	5:03	5:09
Reading	4:37	4:39	4:42	4:47	4:53
Richmond	4:52	4:53	4:57	5:01	5:07
Roanoke	5:02	5:04	5:07	5:12	5:18
Toledo	5:04	5:05	5:09	5:14	5:20
Trenton	4:33	4:35	4:38	4:43	4:49
Wash., D.C.	4:46	4:48	4:51	4:56	5:02



# Bulletin Board

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HIGHLAND VIEW ACADEMY MUSIC DEPARTMENT

will hold their annual Christmas concert, Sabbath, December 4, at 4 p.m., at the Highland View Academy church. The church is located at 10100 Academy Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740. For further details, please contact Renee Williams at (301) 739-8480.

### VALLEY GRANDE ADVENTIST ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

invites all former faculty, staff and students to our annual Alumni Weekend to be held April 1-3, 2011. All honor class years end in 6 or 1 (2006, 2001, etc.). For more information, visit our website at [vgaa.org](http://vgaa.org) or email Suzanna Facundo, [sfacundo@hotmail.com](mailto:sfacundo@hotmail.com).

### FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE TRAINING SCHOLARSHIPS

available. Scholarship applications for the Kettering Adventist HealthCare's Faith Community Nursing Online Basic Preparation Course are now available. The Ohio Conference is offering two full scholarships and two half scholarships to Adventist nurses who wish to serve as faith community nurses. Applications must be submitted by December 17. The online course begins January 10. For further information, contact Chris VanDenburgh, Ohio Conference Health Ministries director, at (937) 395-8021 or [chrisvandenburgh@khnetwork.org](mailto:chrisvandenburgh@khnetwork.org).

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

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**NEW JERSEY:** José Cortés, President; Jim Greene, *Visitor* Correspondent; 2160 Brunswick Ave., Trenton, NJ 08648. Tel. (609) 392-7131 ■ [njcsda.org](http://njcsda.org)

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

#### HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

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Volume 115 ■ Issue 12

## Let's Practice What We Preach

If you want to know about health, ask the Adventists," said the pastor who introduced me before my presentation on smoking cessation. My initial response was to feel quite smug. After all, the health message is an important tenet of our Seventh-day Adventist faith. We have a long history of promoting healthy lifestyles. We operate hundreds of hospitals and clinics around the world and have developed quite a collection of health education programs. Indeed, we *know* about health.

But do we *live* it? Do we *share* it? Do we *practice* what we preach? As we look ahead to 2011, I want to challenge each of us to espouse whole health in three ways:

**Recognize our responsibility.** As Seventh-day Adventist Christians, we have a responsibility to be healthy and whole. We also have a responsibility to help *others* be healthy and whole, and to share that message as often as we can. It's time that we make the health message integral to our faith journey and to the mission of the church.

**Communicate a biblical perspective for wellness, self-care and lifestyle change.** Increasing numbers of people, including Christians, are turning to alternative therapies and health practices that are based on the values of our culture, pagan traditions or ancient Eastern or

New Age faith systems.

When we share solutions from God's Word, we offer them something the world can't—the healing power of our Savior and Great Physician, Jesus Christ.

## Do we live it? Do we share it?

**Be a tour guide, not a travel agent.** Beyond giving information, suggesting places to visit and bidding people a good trip, a tour guide accompanies people on the trip, interprets culture and history and negotiates each excursion. When we see ourselves as fellow travelers on the wellness journey, we realize that our experiences are not only for us to learn from, but also to help someone else. Dealing with our own struggles and problems also gives us insight and compassion for others. And even when our own health and lifestyle habits are in such a mess that we feel we can't share the health message, God reminds us that, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9, NIV). After all, it's *His* message, not ours, that we are to share.

*Lilly Tryon, MSN, RN, serves as wellness coaching coordinator at Adventist WholeHealth Network ([awhn.org](http://awhn.org)) in Wyomissing, Pa.*





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