

VISITOR



CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION MEMBERS

FEBRUARY 2011 • VOLUME 116 • ISSUE 2

9 Things
We Love
About
Adventist
Education

(and why our
kids do too!)

Plus: Churches and Schools
Team up for Success

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“Healthy schools have a good relationship with their sponsoring churches; and one of a school’s best allies, in terms of both students and finances, is a supportive pastor,” concluded George R. Knight, a 30-year educational philosophy teacher, in his December 2010 article in *Ministry* magazine. Read how three Columbia Union schools and their constituent churches are finding success through teamwork.

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On the Web

Magazine – Read your *Visitor* online using our new easy-to-read flipbook format at columbiaunion.org.



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Twitter – Follow us @VisitorNews to get news and interesting tidbits about your unionwide church family.

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Podcasts – Listen to news, interviews and spiritual commentary at columbiaunion.org/podcasts or find *AudioVisitor* on iTunes.

Photo Blogs – Enjoy news reports and photos from Columbia Union Conference leaders like Frank Bondurant, vice president for Ministries Development, at columbiaunion.org.



DVD Series – *Columbia Union Story* features inspiring stories of members and ministries. Our seventh edition features Adventist HealthCare and Kettering Adventist HealthCare. For free copies, call (888) 4-Visitor, ext. 4, or email bweigley@columbiaunion.net.



YouTube – Watch our channel to enjoy the latest videos and interviews. Go to youtube.com/user/ColumbiaUnion. This month enjoy a health tip from Katia Reinert, North American Division Health Ministries director.

Calendar – Our 2011 *Visitor Calendar*, themed “Whole Health,” highlights the “true remedies” Ellen White espoused in *The Ministry of Healing*. For free copies, call (888) 4-Visitor, ext. 4.

Who's Your Favorite or Best Teacher?

Recently I participated in a roundtable discussion at a symposium attended by educational professionals from both public and private domains. The group focused on identifying traits and proficiencies of “high-performance” classroom teachers. As I listened I wondered, is it possible that one’s favorite teacher might not also be one’s best teacher? Is it possible that one might have several favorites, alike in so many ways, making distinctions between them more challenging as opposed to identifying and truly appreciating one’s *best* teacher ever?



While others at the table continued in discussion, my mind focused on the awesome responsibility that rests with teachers; how each school day presents opportunities for teachers to build, for better or worse, a legacy in the minds of their students. Surely this thought is not lost in the thinking of Hiam Ginot—the teacher, psychologist and bestselling author of *The Inspirational Teacher*—who writes, “I’ve come to the frightening conclusion that I’m the decisive element in the classroom. It’s my personal approach that creates the climate. It’s my daily mood that makes the weather. As a teacher, I possess a tremendous power to make a child’s life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal. In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalated and a child is humanized or dehumanized” (p. 116).

The metrics each uses to determine what makes a teacher the “best” differs from person to person and, I suspect, changes often throughout one’s years as experience and maturity allows for more objective retrospection. If judged by my ability—past or present—to interpret Cicero, Ovid, Virgil or Horace, one might wonder why George Yamashiro is my choice. He was my Latin teacher at Atlantic Union College (Mass.), and his daily assurances that the disparaging words of others shouldn’t weigh in what I thought of myself or my abilities were, as I now consider, worth more than nuggets of pure gold. In short, I saw a touch of the Master’s hand in his classroom every day!

Favorite or best—who was that teacher in your journey?

Hamlet Canosa, EdD, serves as vice president for Education for the Columbia Union Conference, providing administrative support for more than 100 elementary and secondary schools, a college and a university.



Newsline

CELESTE RYAN BLYDEN

4,000 Youth Knock on Doors in Baltimore

Some 4,000 young people spent part of New Year's Day knocking on doors and sharing their faith in Baltimore. In just a few hours, this army of youth visited 38,000 homes; prayed with 2,227 people; distributed more than 50,000 pieces of literature and flyers advertising health seminars at area churches; and rejoiced over receiving 1,480 Bible study requests.

The outreach initiative was one of the highlights of the ninth annual Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC) conference, convened last month at the Baltimore Civic Center.

In preparation for their second event in Baltimore (they also met



GYC PHOTOS BY SETH SHAFFER

here in 2006), leaders of the youth- and young adult-led organization called on the Chesapeake Conference to select neighborhoods ripe for evangelism and develop a plan to follow up with anyone interested in Bible studies. Lillian Torres, Columbia Union Bible Instructor trainer, and two of GYC's leaders—Chelsy Jourdan, vice president for evangelism, and Matthew Tinkham, Jr.—prepared members from 11 Chesapeake churches to give Bible studies.

According to Kleyton Feitosa,

conference evangelism coordinator, the large response marks a significant benchmark in their outreach and evangelism efforts in Baltimore.

In addition to this outreach effort, GYC (gycweb.org) attendees spent their holiday weekend attending seminars, visiting exhibits and listening to keynote messages all designed to strengthen their faith and inspire them to engage in ministry. In his Sabbath sermon, Seventh-day Adventist Church president Ted N.C. Wilson (below) encouraged



them to live out their conference theme “No Turning Back” by becoming involved in their local churches, attending church business meetings, accompanying church elders on visitations, teaching Sabbath School and helping to finish the work of preparing people for Christ's soon return. “We have a work to do, and there must be no turning back,” he said. Afterward he joined their outreach efforts.

Members Celebrate 25 Years of Adventist Recovery Ministries

Last month Potomac Conference's Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., hosted the 25th anniversary celebration of Adventist Recovery Ministries (ARMin). The Christ-centered, 12-step recovery program helps

people recognize their need for recovery from any and all addictions through Jesus Christ.

During divine service, ARMin founder Hal Gates (below) shared his testimony of overcoming alcohol, drug, gambling and sex addictions. “It has not to do with the [ARMin] program, but with the Holy Spirit of God making new creatures out of old reprobates, new creatures out of addicts,” he declared.



PHOTO BY GARY LUNSFORD

The celebration continued with testimonies from recovering addicts, a puppet show, a panel discussion and music. Ray Nelson (below), executive director of ARMin, shared the church's history with drug abuse prevention. He noted that the nascent Seventh-day Adventist Church shunned the “evils of ardent spirits” and saw



tobacco as a “filthy, health-destroying, God-dishonoring practice.” However, a practical ministry to help members deal with and successfully recover from addictions did not come until 1986 when God inspired Gates to start ARMin. Using Bible texts and passages from *Steps to Christ*, the program is an adaptation of the Alcoholics

Anonymous' 12-step program and puts Christ at its center.

The celebration will continue all year at churches across the nation. Learn more or find meetings at adventistregeneration-ministries.org.—*Taashi Rowe*

Adventist HealthCare to Continue Bid for New Hospital

Late last month, the Maryland Health Care Commission issued a decision denying a proposal by Adventist HealthCare (AHC) to develop an 86-bed hospital and medical campus in Clarksburg, Md. Instead, the commission voted in favor of a plan submitted by another healthcare system to develop a facility in nearby Germantown, Md., on a local college campus.

Despite the state ruling, leaders of this Seventh-day Adventist Church healthcare network—which has a 103-year history of providing quality healthcare to the region—believe their proposal is

solid, most beneficial to the community and should be approved.

“We are deeply disappointed in the ruling, especially for the thousands of upcounty residents and community leaders, many of whom spent almost a decade working with us to expand access to healthcare in the region and further our mission,” said William G. “Bill” Robertson, president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare.

For more than eight years, Robertson and his team worked with the community and county on the proposed hospital plans and already had received all necessary traffic, land and environmental approvals to ensure the project blends seamlessly with other development plans in the community.

Robert Jepson, AHC’s vice president of Government Relations and Public Policy, believes those overseeing the state Certificate of Need process did not take into account the importance of working with the community and county to ensure

such approvals. “We also believe the commission did not include vital information in the official record for this case and portions of its decision are inconsistent with the state health plan,” Jepson added. “Adventist HealthCare will evaluate our appeal options over the next several weeks and decide the best course of action.”

Jepson said the AHC team will remain actively engaged on these issues as leaders of the opposing healthcare entity begin the lengthy process of seeking the necessary county approvals. So far they have obtained no county land, traffic or environmental approvals and are not part of the master plan for the community where they plan to build.

Adventist HealthCare is one of two healthcare networks operated by the Columbia Union Conference. They currently operate five hospitals, dozens of clinics and other healthcare facilities in Maryland and New Jersey. With 6,500 caregivers and staff, they are also the largest employer in Montgomery County, Maryland. For more information on the proposed Clarksburg hospital project, visit clarksburghospital.com.

—*Kendra Hall*

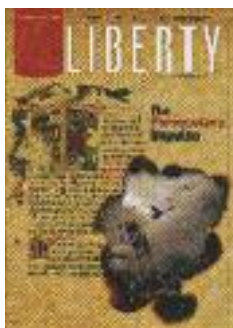
Correction

In the December 2010 *Visitor* feature “Your Toolbox for Ministry in the 21st Century,” we incorrectly stated that Allegheny East Conference celebrated the grand opening of its “\$20 million” headquarters (p. 15). Leaders report that the conference’s new Cheatham Administration Complex actually cost about \$8 million. We regret the error.



Pennsylvania Members Allocate \$42,000 for *Liberty*

Last month due to the faithfulness of Pennsylvania Conference members, 1,200 of their state's most influential leaders started receiving a complimentary, three-year subscription to *Liberty* magazine. Pennsylvania members made the outreach effort possible by collectively earmarking nearly \$42,000 for religious liberty.



Naturally, *Liberty* staff was thrilled when Pennsylvania treasurer Ronald Christman approached them with the accumulation of charitable gifts, which will not only go toward the magazine subscriptions but also toward a litigation fund used to defend Seventh-day Adventists with religious accommodation issues in the workplace.

"We are humbled and grateful for their trust in our ministry, and like Christ, we will continue to hold high the banner of freedom," stated Lincoln E. Steed, *Liberty* editor.

Floyd Dare, Pennsylvania's Stewardship and Trust Services director, concurs, adding, "Pennsylvania members recognize that time is drawing to a close. They are aware of where we stand biblically, and they know that they are called upon to make their state leaders aware of it, too. It is our prayer that the placement of *Liberty* into the hands of these prominent individuals will not

only inform them of the principles of religious freedom, but persuade them of the sacredness of liberty of conscience."

Campaign Targets "Thought Leaders"

In print since 1906, *Liberty* magazine is a publication of the Adventist Church dedicated to the preservation of the principle that religious liberty is best exercised when church and state are separate. The magazine's mission is to impress this ideal upon the "thought leaders" of North America, and the funding for these sponsored subscriptions comes solely through the Religious Liberty Campaign, held each January–March.

During the annual campaign, churches throughout the North American Division raise funds and compile lists of community leaders that they wish to receive *Liberty* magazine. Additionally, *Liberty* maintains a National Priority List of sponsored subscriptions for individuals involved in policy and procedure on a national level—judges, congressional staff, federal employees, government appointees and others.

In order to determine who would receive Pennsylvania's 1,200 subscriptions, the *Liberty* office compiled a comprehensive database of current and future Pennsylvania leaders: members of the state senate and state house of representatives, law school library periodicals departments, law school professors, state courts (supreme, superior,

commonwealth, common pleas and minors), public libraries and, finally, all the licensed employment and civil rights attorneys in the state.

"We applaud the significant support of the Pennsylvania Conference and its members," comments Walter Carson, Esq. (right), Columbia Union

Conference vice president and general counsel, who oversees Public Affairs



and Religious Liberty. "These new funds, along with the total contributions of \$68,700 by all Columbia Union members in 2010 for the Religious Liberty Campaign, provide evidence that our members find it important to advance the work of *Liberty* magazine and religious freedom."

To read more and get involved, visit libertymagazine.org.

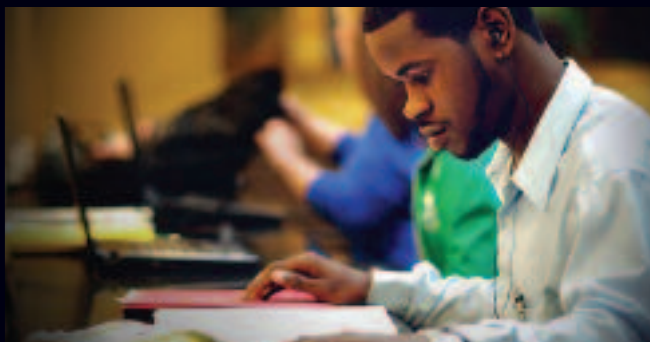


Floyd Dare and Ronald Christman, Pennsylvania Conference administrators, prepare their members' donation to Liberty magazine.

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News From the Office of Education

Associate Director to Retire

On June 30, LaVona Gillham officially retires as associate director for Elementary Education for the Columbia Union Conference



Office of Education. Gillham has given 38 years of service to the Seventh-day Adventist

Church as teacher, principal and associate superintendent, and devoted the last 12 years to educational leadership ministry in the Columbia Union, including her most recent post.

Gillham played a significant role in the development of the North American Division (NAD) elementary curriculum and helped lead the development of small schools programming. In October 2007, she received the General Conference Award of Excellence for career accomplishments.

"LaVona has given of her time, talent and treasure to advance the

Lord's cause in education ministry throughout the Columbia Union," commented Hamlet Canosa, EdD, vice president for Education in the Columbia Union. "The Adventist education community is grateful for her committed service. She will be deeply missed!"

WAU to Offer New Teacher Certification

This summer Washington Adventist University (WAU) in



Takoma Park, Md., begins offering courses in differentiated instruction methods for

teacher certification. The courses came at the recommendation of the Columbia Union School Administrators Council and endorsed by the Columbia Union K-16 Board of Education. The courses will better equip teachers to adopt and adapt instructional strategies to meet the unique learning styles of individual

students, including those with learning challenges. To get more information, contact Gwendolyn Smith, chair of WAU's Education Department, at (301) 891-4464 or gsmith@wau.edu.

Union Now Funds Caring Heart Award

Once funded by the North American Division and a private foundation, the Columbia Union Conference, in partnership with each of its senior academies, will now sponsor and fund the Columbia Union Caring Heart Award. Only slight modifications will be made to the award's eligibility criteria.

The prize is presented each spring to a junior or senior from each academy who, through the course of the academic year, measurably demonstrates a strong sense of caring and compassion, both on and off campus. Awardees are recognized at graduation and in the *Visitor*.

Early Childhood/Pre-K Enrollment Grows

Cumulative enrollment in the Early Childhood Education Centers (ECEC)/Pre-K programs continues to grow across the Columbia Union. There are now nearly 1,500 children in over 60 programs throughout the union's eight-state region. Since the beginning of the 2009-10 school year, five new pre-K programs, two new preschools and one new early childhood education center opened. Based on



Anna Curran, a volunteer at the West Wilmington Junior Academy Daycare in Wilmington, Del., eats lunch with the students.



startup applications mailed in, Evelyn Sullivan, associate director for the ECEC/Pre-K program, indicates the

strong likelihood that at least three additional pre-K programs and one preschool will open at the start of the 2011-12 academic year.

Research Supports Adventist Education

Valuegenesis3, the third installment of research into the faith and values of school-aged Adventist youth, is well underway. The first survey was conducted in 1990 and the follow-up in 2000. Educators, pastors and parents eagerly await the results of this new round of research, which will be available later this year. The formal, four-year standardized test data accumulation for CognitiveGenesis, a study of achievement and ability of over 50,000 Adventist students in schools across the NAD, has ended

but research findings are now beginning to prove conclusively that Adventist education is, indeed, a high-quality product and service.

Leaders Plan 2012 Teachers Convention

The North American Division Office of Education, in collaboration with education directors from each union, has begun logistical, program and personnel planning for the NAD K-12 Teachers Convention to be held in August 2012 in Nashville, Tenn. A number of plenary session and devotional speakers have been confirmed, including Dwight Nelson, long-time senior pastor of the Pioneer Memorial church (Mich.). The event theme will be decided through a naming contest at nadeducation.org.



The Columbia Union Conference subsidizes local

conferences up to \$250,000 to assist in defraying expenses to allow all full-time teachers to attend. The overall attendance is projected to exceed 6,000. More information will be available soon.

NAD Developing New Science Series

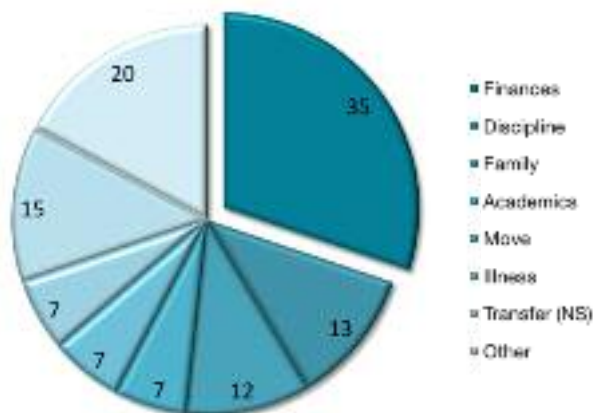
A new faith-based, inquiry-driven science series is being created to renew excitement in science learning. The North American Division and Kendall Hunt Publishing Company are collaboratively producing a series titled *By Design: A Journey to Excellence Through Science*. Teachers will be encouraged to employ teaching methodologies in both science and health principles to actively engage young learners and equip them for a better understanding of the world in which they live, as well as the creative and sustaining power of God. The series is expected to be available for the 2011-12 school year. Read more at nadeducation.org.

A Snapshot of K-12 Enrollment Attrition

The results of a recent survey of nine academies, 10 junior academies and 15 elementary schools make evident the challenges parents face in financing Adventist education. What was surprising was that the impact of costs to attrition at the elementary level is considerably higher than at the academy level.

Survey: Enrollment Attrition Data

Junior Academy Attrition: 96 Students



10 of 12 junior academies responded. Finances and "Other" account for 57% of the attrition at the junior academy level. Adding "Transfers" raises the percentage to 72%

Potluck

BETH MICHAELS

What's New?

Books > *Beyond Death's Door* Gerald Wheeler

This is book number 15 for Gerald Wheeler, not to mention the 600-plus others he's edited for the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., during the past 43 years! The seasoned author from Chesapeake's Willow Brook church in Boonsboro, Md., hopes this sharing book will help readers "who are wondering about what happens after death," he says. "I hope they'll get both a biblical and scientific understanding of the nature of human beings and what this means for our fate after death." Order at adventistbookcenter.com.



Crossing Jordan: Clues for Conquerors Sam Darby

"We all come to 'Jordan Rivers' in our lives. These are places and times where or when we have expectation and desire, but our actions don't measure up," explains author Sam Darby, a



member of Allegheny East's Pine Forge (Pa.) church. In this sophomore release, Darby, a speaker and professional educator, hopes his words will help readers successfully overcome their obstacles and attain their goals. "Come inside and gain clues to conquer your challenges," he offers. Get copies at amazon.com.

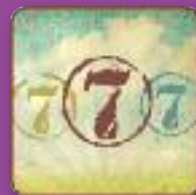
Seminar > *Real Beauty* Tamyra Horst

For church leaders who share this author's burden for young ladies in the church, this seminar is intended to get teens talking about issues such as true beauty. Tamyra Horst, a member of Pennsylvania's Kenhorst Boulevard church in Reading, created the facilitator's guide, workbooks and PowerPoint presentations to help leaders create and host special events for girls. "I believe we need to guide our



Did You Know?

Members are encouraged to participate in the Adventist Church's 777 prayer initiative: praying together seven days a week at 7 a.m. or p.m. Read more at revivalandreformation.org. There's also an app for that!



young women, to help them navigate all the misinformation they're receiving from their friends and the media," Horst states. Order at adventsource.org.

App > *EGW Writings*

This upgrade to the Ellen G. White Estate's "EGW Free" app now contains 412 books of the complete published writings of our church co-founder. Version 2.0 is compatible with iPhone/iPod Touch iOS 3.2 and above, as well as the latest iPhone iOS4, and includes a high-definition version for the iPad. A "lite" version is also available. Download it free at iTunes.com.



On the Web

Retweets >

WashAdvHospital



Virtual tour of our proposed campus in White Oak, Md.; a state-of-the-art

medical campus centered on whole-person healing: <http://ht.ly/3yE8c>.—*Washington Adventist Hospital, Takoma Park, Md.*

JorKodan



God can make a new you. He can even transform the way you think.

—*Adrian Cammon, Glenville Church, Cleveland*

Facebooked >

Sam Belony



10 years ago I made phone calls and visits on New Year's Day; 5 to 7 years ago

I emailed. The last 3 or so years it's been texting or BBM. Nowadays it's FB status or Twitter. It seems the more advanced we are technologically, the less personal we get! —*Jerusalem Church, Philadelphia*

Victoria Harrison



Don't give up hope. When God answers prayer, He is swift and certain. He can

swoop down and turn your life around in a moment of time. He still tears down barriers and sets up circumstances. Faith means believing the unbelievable. Hope means hoping when everything seems hopeless. "Hold fast till I come ..." —*Millennium Ministries Church, Silver Spring, Md.*

In the Spotlight > Karate Evangelist Eugene Kitney

God used a family trip to South Africa 30 years ago to birth a ministry and passion in young Eugene Kitney. Inspired there by a Japanese Marines demonstration, Kitney started studying karate and worked hard to become a highly ranked instructor.

These days Kitney is using a style of karate known as Goju-Ryu as a unique missionary outreach program through his Roanoke (Va.) church, where he serves as pastor. He uses this self-defense sport to teach respect, good manners, self-confidence and self-control. He also uses it as the foundational tool to introduce Jesus to his 28 students, including kids from his church's Roanoke Adventist Preparatory School, and adults from the neighborhood.

"I constantly have the opportunity to explain why I don't teach any of the Asian religious ideologies and related forms of meditation," Kitney explained. Instead, he says he finds opportunities to pray during class and to offer praise for the chance to improve students' bodies and minds. It also presents the backdrop for bringing lessons from the Bible into his illustrations.

Because Kitney's church board voted his program as an official ministry, it has opened the door for students to attend summer camps and church-sponsored awards programs. As a result, Pastor Kitney finds numerous opportunities to connect with parents. "Contacts have been made ... all giving me an 'in' to sit down and share the gospel," he concludes.—*Sherry English*



9 Things We Love About

Beth Michaels

1 ADVENTIST EDUCATION IS ONE OF THE BEST FORMS OF EVANGELISM.

The Frederick Adventist School in Frederick, Md., is acting as “a beacon of hope” to their community, says Teresa Kelchner, marketing director. They witness through their weekly open houses, numerous clubs and activities and community service events. More importantly, they are teaching an increasing number of students from the community about Christ. “We really want to represent Christ through our church and school. We want our neighbors to think, ‘There is something special about those people,’” Kelchner says.

Oscar Singh, a student at the Sligo Adventist School, learned firsthand about evangelism. After attending the Takoma Park, Md., school for a while and getting excited about all that he was learning about God, he convinced his mother, Loretta, to take him to the school’s church—Sligo—and study the Bible with him. His persistence paid off when Loretta made a decision for baptism.

Blankets for Haiti: Frederick Adventist School students John Schroyer, Alexis Fazio, McKenna Wear and Valerie Akinyi

2 ADVENTIST EDUCATION FOSTERS SERVICE.

Many of our schools incorporate community service into their curriculum. For example, students from Ramah Junior Academy in Cleveland and Columbus Adventist Academy in Columbus, Ohio, strive to daily live out the theme “Walking in His Steps.” As a result, students have spent the past year writing letters to hurting people in the community, raising funds to feed hungry children in the Congo, building an academy in Tanzania and keeping a Maasai girl in school. “In the Allegheny West Conference, we take Christian education seriously. It’s a mission,” explains Yvette Cooper, superintendent.



After distributing 1,000 grocery bags in the community, students, alumni and family members from the Summersville Adventist School collected enough food to help feed 300-400 families through the Summersville (W.Va.) church’s Christ’s Cupboard Food Pantry. “It makes students aware that there are those they can reach out to and help, and aware of their own blessings and what they have,” says school principal Donna Nicholas of the 25-year-old, annual school project. Sixth-grader Taylor Hinkle was blessed to participate, and said, “I rest assured knowing that I’ve helped families in our community not go hungry during the holiday.”

Spring Valley Academy in Centerville, Ohio, collaborated with several local churches and schools to raise \$15,000 to assist an orphanage in Zambia. Read more on page 36.



Adventist Education



3 ADVENTIST EDUCATION GOES HAND-IN-HAND WITH LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRY.

Students at the Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va., including senior Sheena McAllister (above), are providing health services (blood pressure checks, stress surveys, massages and more) to local residents. They plan to followup with an evangelistic series at the end of the school year. "When members see young people committing their lives to Christ, it just lifts the vitality of the local church."



4 ADVENTIST SCHOOLS OFFER MISSION TRIPS THAT CHANGE LIVES.

Derek DeBardleben (below), a 2010 graduate of Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon, Ohio, went on a mission trip to the Amazon last year. He said, "When you go out of the country, you appreciate what you have in America. I used to watch TV all the time, but after going there, it made me want to get my spiritual life together." He added, "When you're helping other people and telling them about Jesus, it makes you want to get your own spiritual life to 100 percent."

Last summer during a trip to the Galapagos with Highland View Academy, located in Hagerstown, Md., Jennifer Calhoun ('10) said, "One of the things this trip did for me was to open my eyes to the global nature of the Adventist Church."



5 ADVENTIST EDUCATION TEACHES STUDENTS HOW TO MAKE CHRISTIANITY PART OF THEIR DAILY LIVES.

Isabele Arteaga is a great example. This fourth-grader from John Nevins Andrews School in Takoma Park, Md., took home the songs, texts and Bible lessons she learned at school and shared them with her family. As a result of her witness, her father accepted Christ and was baptized. Now her entire family worships at the Washington Brazilian church in College Park, Md. "Daddy decided to get baptized!" she exclaimed.



6 ADVENTIST EDUCATION INCORPORATES EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

Shenandoah Valley Academy's robotics club and select choir, Blue Mountain Academy's pilot program and girls book club, Frederick Adventist School's LEGO club (above), Spencerville Adventist Academy's musicals (below) and sports teams and Toledo Junior Academy's handbell choir are just a few examples. Banquets, concerts and performances provide more opportunities for memory-making.

Every year students from the Lake Nelson Adventist and Waldwick Adventist schools in New Jersey participate in the Outdoor Education Program, a four-day camping trip that centers on the beauty of God's creation and how to survive in it. Lake Nelson seventh-grader Kazumbe Ngoye (below) discovered a thrill in "carrying the water bladder all the way up the hill." His classmate, Joshua Tumundo, stated, "The back-packing experience gave me confidence and taught me to push myself forward and never give up. Sometimes challenges have a beautiful ending."



7 ADVENTIST EDUCATION PROVIDES EXCELLENT ACADEMICS.

Not only does the *Journey to Excellence* report tout our educational systems, a recent article in *The Christian Science Monitor* highlighted this success as well: "Since 2006, as part of the CognitiveGenesis study, two colleagues and I have gathered data on more than 50,000 students enrolled in Seventh-day Adventist schools," noted the author of the November 15, 2010, article. "Our four-year, independently financed study showed that students at Adventist schools outperformed their peers at the national average in every subject area. ... One of our most dramatic findings is that students who transferred to Adventist schools saw a marked improvement in academic achievement. The more years a student attended an Adventist school, the more his or her performance improved."

Sophomores, juniors and seniors—like Britni Gray (right)—at Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa., get specialized training through a prep course for their standardized tests. The course includes spending a Sunday or two sitting for simulated PSAT/SAT tests. "Our motto has always been 'Excellence is no an accident.' By training our students, we are making excellence a tangible reality for all," says headmaster Delmas F. Campbell.





The experience
broadened my horizons
and gave me a better
understanding about
how diverse the world is
and how many different
approaches to life and
faith there are.

—Trevan Osborn



8 ADVENTIST EDUCATION OFFERS STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES.

Several academies in the Columbia Union allow students to study a new language in another country—for a summer or a full year—through Adventist Colleges Abroad. Trevan Osborn, pastor of the Far West End church in Richmond, Va., recalls the important lessons he learned during his stint in Spain. As part of the Adventist Colleges Abroad program, he spent six weeks there the summer before his senior year at Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md., earning a full year's worth of Spanish credits. The experience, he says, “broadened my horizons and gave me a better understanding about how diverse the world is and how many different approaches to life and faith there are. I learned to appreciate the fact that my way isn’t necessarily the best way,” he adds. “Those lessons helped me deal with a congregation where the members come from many different places in the world.”



9

ADVENTIST EDUCATION PRODUCES SUCCESS.

Alumni can be found around the world leading churches, schools, businesses, nonprofit organizations and even governments. They return for alumni weekends and give back by teaching and volunteering. Herb and Marilyn

Dennison (left), both from Blue Mountain Academy’s Class of 1967, is one such couple. They regularly volunteer their time and expertise at the school, make financial contributions and encourage other alumni to join them. As a result of their help, the Berks Regional Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals recently recognized the couple as outstanding philanthropists.

Kids Speak



They're just getting started, but these kindergartners already

Louie Stout

I like going to [school] where we learn about God. I especially like P.E. with 'Sarge' because it makes our bodies strong and healthy.

—Greenbrier Valley Academy, Lewisburg, W.Va., Mountain View Conference

Gabriel Morency

I like my school because my teacher says that we are a family. I like the way [she] asks me hard questions.

—Dupont Park School, Washington, D.C., Allegheny East Conference

Arnold Gonzalez-Cuellar

This school [is] not like other schools. Here is like church, every day!

—Vienna Adventist Academy, Vienna, Va., Potomac Conference

Brayden Picking

I like [my school] because we get to do special things like go to the pool at the beginning of the year. We have outdoor school. We get to play soccer after school, and we learn about Jesus.

—Mt. Aetna School, Hagerstown, Md., Chesapeake Conference



*Compiled by
Jennifer Wakefield*

Why I Love My School



appreciate Adventist education.

Dareea Tate

I like coming to school every day. My school taught me to pray, love Jesus and be thankful. I like learning music and to count to 100 in Spanish. I also like to play on the computer and with balloons.
—*Mayfair Christian School, Uniontown, Ohio, Ohio Conference*

Irving Manuel Mercado

I love my school because I learn about Jesus at worship time. I have Jesus in my heart, and I know He is always brave. I like to read books in the library about dinosaurs.
—*Waldwick Adventist School, Waldwick, N.J., New Jersey Conference*

Alexia Fiddler

I like going to MVCS so that I can learn about Jesus.—*Mountain View Christian School, South Williamsport, Pa., Pennsylvania Conference*

Ted Howard III

I like to sing praise songs. I like to pray. I like to learn about my country.
—*Ramah Junior Academy, Cleveland, Allegheny West Conference*

Partners

Tanisha Greenidge

According to George R. Knight, a Seventh-day Adventist Church historian and 30-year educational philosophy teacher, Adventist schools were established to further the church's mission of spreading the gospel. That's why a healthy collaboration between our pastors and principals is so important. Here's how three are finding success through teamwork:

Spencerville Maintains Open Communication

Brian Kittleson (below, left), principal at Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA), enjoys discussing future plans for his pre-K to grade-12 students with Jerry Lutz (below, right), Spencerville church senior pastor. Kittleson counts Lutz as a friend and mentor, while Lutz is delighted with their open communication and cites their cross-pollination as an integral reason the school is bursting at the seams. The Silver Spring, Md., campus currently boasts 315 students.

According to Pastor Lutz, communicating is easy because they know and understand each other's needs. He says his church makes special effort to stay connected to the school by conducting monthly meetings, where church and school calendars are compared so that event dates don't overlap. They also collect offerings for the worthy student fund, and include school events in weekly church email blasts and in a designated space on the church bulletin.

"It's an amazing relationship that this single constituent church has been able to establish,"

reports Kittleson. "The whole congregation has pooled its resources to make 25 teachers and administrators feel included."

Kittleson adds that Shawn Paris, the church's youth pastor, and Marilyn Scott, associate pastor, "also must be credited for making us a successful school." He adds, "They pray with our students, plan our weeks of prayer and chapel services, teach baptismal classes and are at the school multiple times each week to interact with students. They complete our leadership team and help keep communication flowing from the church to the school."

Highland Garners Pastoral Support

Cheryl Jacko (below, right), principal at Mountain View's Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va., says that the Elkins church pastor's support is instrumental in fueling the success of their school. Their constituent school's pastor just happens to be her husband, Don (below, left), who shares Cheryl's vision of providing quality, Adventist education to the community.



in Education

“We both know and respect our assigned roles. He doesn’t try to be the principal, and I definitely don’t try to be the pastor,” chuckles Cheryl. “We express opinions and make suggestions but don’t step outside the established roles of management/authority.”

Pastor Jacko says he demonstrates his commitment to the school through his interaction with students, teaching classes and tutoring. He also promotes the value of Adventist education from the pulpit and in the community.

The school also garners support from the conference and community, where they have developed positive working relationships. As a result, the majority of their students are not Adventist. “We operate under the assumption that our entire community is our constituency,” states Cheryl, who manages the care and educational direction of more than 40 students with help from a team of dedicated teachers.

Sharon Temple Cites Collaboration as Key

At Allegheny East’s Sharon Temple Adventist School in Wilmington, Del., opportunities for interaction and instruction abound given the location of the K-8 school inside the church. However, they say collaboration has been the key to their longevity.

One initiative that unites Gloria Perry, interim

principal, and pastors Stephen Boyce and Donald McKinnie is their literature work-study program. This weekly program provides students with the social skills and Bible knowledge needed to provide health tips and Christian books to the community. The money the children raise—as much as \$400 a month—is applied to their tuition.

“I believe that the members, staff and school board members have rallied together to figure out a way to make the school thrive, and parents teaming together bring about the best in every child and teacher,” says LaRhonda Howell, head teacher and a 17-year teaching veteran.

The pastors also encourage students to put their faith in action. “We provide our children with an education that is based from the Bible so that their intellect and characters are well-developed,” assures Pastor McKinnie.

Perry, who has been involved with the school, in various roles, for 15 years, says, “Our school could not have sustained its longevity without the combination of the financial support of a strong constituency and a pastoral leadership that is pro-education.” She adds, “Sharon Temple Adventist School has served its community well. It is our prayer that through the efforts of the pastor, constituency and supporters of this school, it will continue.

Tanisha Greenidge writes from Takoma Park, Md.



Sharon Temple Collaborators: LaRhonda Howell, Gloria Perry, Donald McKinnie and Stephen Boyce

CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN MINISTRY?

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The Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF) has provided more than 1,600 loans to help build and expand hundreds of churches, schools, conferences and other entities across the union's eight-state region. One such project was the renovation of Pennsylvania Conference's Kenhorst Boulevard church in Reading.

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Profiles in Caring



The Haiti Hope and Healing Project team meet in Haiti.



The Lourie Center's Rockville, Md., facility

Teamwork Lessons from a Glob of Glass

I have always admired the fragile beauty of blown glass—whether a tabletop vase or those wonderfully intricate chandeliers—and everything in between. Maybe my appreciation is a throwback to the colorful marbles we used to play with when we were kids.

Recently I had the opportunity to observe glassblowing artists from the Corning Museum of Glass at work, and I learned more about their craftsmanship and artistry. I was impressed.

Glassblowing still uses processes and tools that have been in use for thousands of years—dating back to the Mesopotamians. A hollow steel tube is used to collect a blob of molten glass from a cauldron, and then a tiny bit of air is blown into the blob through the tube. As the heat expands in the air, it results in a bulb of hot glass that is then carefully shaped and expanded by an artist, who rolls it on a metal slab and uses various hand tools to bring it to the desired shape—adding color and additional glass to make it bigger and distinctive.

The artist keeps working it until the glass has the size, shape, color, and density desired. The glass is cooled down very slowly, and a beautiful vase or bowl (or whatever the artist can imagine) is the result.

I watched three glassblowers work together to create artful pieces that were unique and beautiful. The glowing glob of glass on the end of that pole is mesmerizing as it slowly changes into something both functional and beautiful. And the teamwork exhibited by the glassblowers as they carefully and methodically apply their understanding and knowledge of glassblowing to the process of creating something beautiful inspired me as well.

There was a careful division of labor, and each of the three had specific tasks for which they were responsible. Each artist clearly understood the entire process and was aware of what was coming next: they could anticipate the needs of the lead artist and facilitated the workflow and development of the glass piece by being ready, completely in sync with the lead artist's work. There was constant communication between them, but it was always focused on the task at hand, and there was an economy of motion and conversation that enabled the work to go forward efficiently.

I watched as each of the three artists took a turn as the lead glassblower, and each created something distinctive and beautiful. I suppose that if I watched long enough I would start to see distinctive styles and approaches start to emerge from each of them; even in the short time I watched them work I saw how each artist individualized the process and gave it a personal style. I learned that in some situations—when the piece being created was particularly large or complex, as many as 10 glassblowers would work together to manage and manipulate the glass until the desired result was achieved.

Regardless of whether the team is large or small, the focus is always on the glass, and there was a sense of shared pride when the glass piece was successfully removed from the pole which the artist had used to turn it and shape it, and was safely placed in the “annealing oven” where it would be cooled down very slowly to prevent shattering.

The pieces that were created in the demonstration are truly beautiful. But the real artistry is not just in the glass but also in the skills of the artisans and the careful and practiced teamwork that they bring to their task.

Teamwork matters. In glassblowing, in healthcare, and in life.



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

Helping the Children of Haiti Cope with Devastation

Maryland's Lourie Center works on program to aid Haitian teachers, ministers

A little more than a year ago, the city of Port-au-Prince in Haiti was devastated by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake. In 35 seconds, approximately 300,000 people were killed, 300,000 people were injured, nearly 1 million were left homeless and thousands of children were left orphaned. While the devastation was quick, the recovery process has been – and will continue to be – a long one.

Hundreds of organizations around the world immediately galvanized to provide food, temporary shelter, and life-saving supplies to those affected by the earthquake. Hope for Humanity, a humanitarian outreach program of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, recognized the need to also provide long-term support for the emotionally traumatized children and adults in the aftermath of this catastrophic event. In the months following the January 12, 2010, earthquake, Hope for Humanity assembled a team of experts to join a collaborative effort called the Haiti Hope and Healing Project. The project team included the Inter-American Division, the Haitian Union, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Loma Linda University's International Behavioral Health Trauma

Team and the Reginald S. Lourie Center for Infants and Young Children (the Lourie Center).

As a pioneer in the field of child development, the Lourie Center, an affiliate of Adventist HealthCare in Rockville, Md., was asked to lend its clinical expertise to the Haiti Hope and Healing Project team to develop a training program to help teachers and children's ministers provide emotional support for the children affected by the earthquake. The project also sought to train adults from the church community to work as peer mentors to support the emotional needs of adults who survived the earthquake.

Dr. James Venza, associate executive director of the Lourie Center, and other members of the Haiti Hope and Healing Project team visited Port-au-Prince in May 2010 to talk to children, parents, teachers, and ministers to assess their emotional needs. The project team listened to their heartfelt stories, concerns, and hopes for a better future. Many adults they spoke to, including teachers and ministers, had personally witnessed the loss of a loved one in the earthquake and were

copied with their own feelings of grief and traumatic stress. Parents and teachers were concerned about their children's heightened anxiety, intense fears, unusual displays of anger and violence, and the inability to focus or learn at school. At the same time, children were also struggling to cope with their trauma.

"Children need to feel safe and secure to be able to follow routines at home and learn at school," said Dr. Venza. "In Port-au-Prince, that sense of internal safety needs to be rebuilt in children and adults, just like the physical homes, churches, and businesses do."

The Lourie Center's therapeutic programs are based on the premise that children take emotional cues from their parents or caregivers. In Haiti, many parents and caregivers are understandably preoccupied with their own trauma and fears and struggle to provide comfort and reassurance to the children who look to them for security and safety. Dr. Venza and the project team realized that in order to help the children, they first needed to help caregivers. With that in mind, the project team focused on helping participants



(Above) The devastation in the city of Port-au-Prince after the January 12, 2010 earthquake.

(Left) The project team facilitates a listening session among a group of Haitian women.

cope with their own traumatic experiences and, at the same time, preparing them with the skills and tools needed to help children overcome their traumatic experiences.

“Some Haitian children lost half their classmates as they fled their school while others lost family members and friends,” said Dr. Venza. “The adult training participants also watched as bulldozers were used to move the victims of the earthquake into mass graves in Port-au-Prince to protect against the spread of disease.” These experiences can be traumatic for anyone, but especially overwhelming for a young child.

Using the information gathered during the May visit, Dr. Venza and the project team returned to the United States to create a training curriculum uniquely tailored to the Haitian community. The training content included earthquake education, the impact of trauma on adults and children, child development and attachment theory, grief and loss, resiliency, and self-care. In preparing the materials, Dr. Venza also sought the expertise of Linda Goldman, an expert in childhood grief and loss, and the Incorporated Research Intuitions for Seismology (IRIS) – an organization that serves as an international resource for earthquake data.

A few months later, in September 2010, Dr. Venza and the Project team returned to Haiti prepared to implement the training. The first phase of the training intended to help participants transform their trauma by telling their personal stories of the earthquake through therapeutic exercises.

“Our training participants had witnessed death and destruction on an unimaginable scale. It was important for them to understand what happened and to put in perspective the trauma they experienced—to tell their personal story in a safe context,” said Dr. Venza.

Later, the training participants were taught how to utilize various therapeutic techniques to help children share their stories as well. The second phase of the training included observing the adult training participants as they applied their new training to interactions with children in the classroom.

Dr. Venza, the teachers and children’s ministers were truly encouraged to see how well the children responded to this therapeutic support. As the children shared their stories through drawings, puppetry and other age-appropriate avenues, they gained a sense of mastery over their terrifying experience and began the natural healing process.

Throughout the 8-day training, the teachers and ministers remained courageous, enthusiastic, hopeful, and inspiring despite having experienced an event that completely destroyed their communities. They were determined to move forward and to help others in their community overcome this tragedy.

Dr. Venza and the Project team look forward to returning to Haiti in 2011 to observe the progress the teachers and ministers have made since the September 2010 training. “What we learn from the Haiti Hope and Healing Project will be invaluable as the Lourie Center expands its crisis response services to children and families beyond the walls of our Rockville facility to communities in the U.S. and internationally,” said Dr. Venza.

For more than 25 years, the Lourie Center has provided early education and intervention services to infants and young children with social and emotional challenges and their families. Based in Rockville, Maryland, the Lourie Center’s core programs include its Parent-Child Clinical Services Program, the Lourie Center School, Therapeutic Nursery Program, Early Head Start, and Before and After School Program.

To learn more about the Lourie Center, go to www.LourieCenter.org or join us on Facebook at The Lourie Center.



(Above) The project team listens to pastors of local churches in Port-au-Prince.

(Left) Members of the project team talk to children to hear about their experiences in a temporary structure that is a make-shift church.

Ayudando a los Niños de Haití a Hacerle Frente a la Devastación

El Centro Lourie de Maryland está trabajando en un programa destinado a ayudar a maestros y ministros haitianos

Hace poco más de un año la Ciudad de Puerto Príncipe, en Haití, fue arrasada por un terremoto de magnitud 7.0. En cuestión de 35 segundos murieron aproximadamente 300,000 personas, otras 300,000 sufrieron heridas, casi un millón perdieron sus hogares y miles de niños quedaron huérfanos. A pesar de que la devastación fue rápida, el proceso de recuperación ha sido, y continúa siendo, muy lento.

Cientos de organizaciones de todo el mundo se unieron inmediatamente para suministrar alimentos, albergue temporal y materiales destinados a salvar vidas a los afectados por el terremoto. Hope for Humanity, un programa de ayuda humanitaria de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día, también reconoció la necesidad de proporcionar apoyo a largo plazo a los niños y adultos emocionalmente traumatizados a raíz de este catastrófico evento. En los meses posteriores al terremoto del 12 de enero, Hope for Humanity reunió un equipo de expertos para unirse al esfuerzo colaborativo llamado Proyecto de Esperanza y Sanación de Haití. Esta campaña incluyó la División Interamericana, la Unión Haitiana, la Agencia de Desarrollo y Ayuda Adventista, el Equipo Internacional de Trauma de Salud del Comportamiento de la Universidad de Loma Linda y el Centro Reginald S. Lourie para Niños Pequeños y Mayores (el Centro Lourie).

Por ser un pionero en el campo del desarrollo infantil, se le pidió al Centro Lourie, filial de Adventist HealthCare en Rockville, MD, que prestara sus expertos clínicos al equipo del Proyecto de Esperanza y Sanación de Haití con objeto de diseñar un programa de entrenamiento destinado a ayudar a los maestros y ministros de los niños a darle apoyo emocional a los niños afectados por el terremoto. El proyecto también se ocupa de entrenar a adultos de la comunidad de iglesias para que trabajen como mentores de sus colegas con objeto de apoyar las necesidades emocionales de los adultos sobrevivientes del terremoto.

El Dr. James Venza, director ejecutivo adjunto del Centro Lourie, y demás miembros del equipo del Proyecto de Esperanza y Sanación de Haití visitaron Puerto Príncipe en mayo de 2010 para hablar con niños, padres, maestros y ministros a fin de evaluar sus necesidades emocionales.

El equipo del proyecto escuchó sus tristes historias, preocupaciones y esperanzas para un mejor futuro. Muchos de los adultos con quienes hablaron, incluyendo maestros y ministros, habían sufrido la pérdida de un ser querido en el terremoto, y estaban luchando con sus propios sentimientos de pena y estrés traumático.

Padres y maestros estaban preocupados por la mayor ansiedad, temores intensos y demostraciones inusuales de enojo y violencia de sus hijos, y de su incapacidad para concentrarse o aprender en la escuela. Al propio tiempo, los niños también estaban esforzándose por enfrentar sus traumas.

“Los niños necesitan sentirse seguros y protegidos para poder seguir las rutinas hogareñas y aprender en la escuela”, dijo el Dr. Venza. “En Puerto Príncipe es necesario reconstruir ese sentido de seguridad interna entre los niños y adultos, al igual que las casas, iglesias y comercios.”

Los programas terapéuticos del Centro Lourie están basados en la premisa de que los niños absorben claves emocionales de sus padres o cuidadores. En Haití, muchos padres y cuidadores están naturalmente preocupados con sus propios traumas y temores, y luchan por brindar tranquilidad y confort a los niños que esperan seguridad y protección de ellos. El Dr. Venza y el equipo del proyecto observaron que para poder ayudar a los niños, primero necesitaban ayudar a los cuidadores. Con esto en mente, se concentraron en ayudar a los participantes a hacerle frente a sus propias experiencias traumáticas y, al mismo tiempo, dotarlos con las técnicas y herramientas necesarias para ayudar a los niños a superar sus experiencias traumáticas.

“Algunos niños haitianos perdieron la mitad de sus compañeros de clase cuando huyeron de sus escuelas, mientras que otros perdieron familiares y amigos”, dijo el Dr. Venza. “Los participantes en la capacitación de adultos también observaron cómo se usaron tractores para enterrar a las víctimas del terremoto en tumbas colectivas en Puerto Príncipe para proteger a la población contra la propagación de enfermedades.” Estas experiencias pueden ser traumáticas para cualquiera, pero son especialmente sobrecogedoras para un niño pequeño.

Utilizando la información compilada durante su visita de mayo, el Dr. Venza y el equipo del proyecto, a su regreso a los Estados Unidos, crearon un plan de estudios para un entrenamiento adaptado especialmente a la comunidad haitiana. El contenido del entrenamiento incluía enseñanza sobre terremotos, el impacto del trauma en adultos y niños, teoría del desarrollo y apego infantil, pena y pérdida, resistencia y auto-atención.

Para la preparación de los materiales de estudio, el Dr. Venza también recabó la experiencia y conocimientos de Linda Goldman, experta en pena y pérdida en los niños, y de Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS) —organización que sirve como recurso internacional para datos sobre terremotos.

Unos pocos meses más tarde, en septiembre de 2010, el Dr. Venza y el equipo del Proyecto regresaron a Haití preparados para poner en práctica el entrenamiento. La primera fase consistió en ayudar a los participantes a transformar sus traumas contándoles sus anécdotas personales del terremoto por medio de ejercicios terapéuticos.

“Los participantes en nuestro cursillo habían presenciado muertes y destrucción en una escala inimaginable. Era importante que ellos entendieran lo

que había ocurrido y pusieran en perspectiva el trauma que estaban sufriendo, para que pudieran colear sus experiencias personales en un contexto seguro”, dijo el Dr. Venza.

Más adelante, a los participantes en el entrenamiento se les enseñó a utilizar las diversas técnicas terapéuticas para ayudar a los niños a que contaran sus anécdotas. La segunda fase del entrenamiento incluyó la observación de los participantes adultos cuando aplicaban sus nuevos conocimientos en sus contactos con los niños en las aulas. El Dr. Venza, los maestros y los ministros de los niños estuvieron realmente animados cuando vieron cuán bien respondían los niños a esta ayuda terapéutica. A medida los niños contaban sus historias valiéndose de dibujos, marionetas y otros medios apropiados a sus edades, iban adquiriendo un sentido de dominio sobre sus aterradoras experiencias y comenzaron el proceso natural de sanación.

Durante el entrenamiento de 8 días, los maestros y ministros permanecieron valientes, entusiastas, esperanzados e inspiradores a pesar de haber pasado por un evento que destruyó completamente sus comunidades. Estaban determinados a seguir adelante y ayudar a las demás personas de sus comunidades a superar esta tragedia.

El Dr. Venza y el equipo del Proyecto esperan poder regresar a Haití en 2011 para observar el progreso realizado por los maestros y ministros desde el entrenamiento que recibieron en septiembre de 2010. “Lo que aprendamos del Proyecto Esperanza y Sanación de Haití será sumamente valioso cuando el Centro Lourie amplíe sus servicios de respuesta a crisis para niños y familias más allá de las paredes de nuestra institución de Rockville a comunidades en los EE.UU. y el resto del mundo”, añadió el Dr. Venza.

Durante más de 25 años el Centro Lourie ha ofrecido servicios de educación e intervención temprana a bebés y niños pequeños, y sus familias, que han sufrido problemas sociales y emocionales. Desde su base en Rockville, Maryland, los programas principales del Centro Lourie incluyen los Servicios Clínicos para Padres e Hijos, la Escuela del Centro Lourie, el Programa de Guardería Terapéutica, Early Head Start y Antes y Después de la Escuela.



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Church of the Oranges Helps Displaced Families

After a devastating fire destroyed an apartment building, 96 families from the City of the Oranges, N.J., were displaced. Noticing that the city had very little in the way of emergency response, the Community Family Enrichment Services Center (CFESC), a nonprofit organization set up by the Church of the Oranges, sprang into action. They collected clothing, food, household appliances and furniture from community partners and began distributing them to the families.

Church of the Oranges members did not stop there. They also wanted the families to enjoy the holidays, despite their losses, so they hosted an elaborate dinner for them. They also presented each family with a food basket and \$100 gift card. One individual gave a testimony saying that, in the past year, she had so many losses, including both her parents, two uncles, her apartment to the fire and her job, that she almost lost her mind. She stood before the crowd and

testified that she was going to continue to trust in God to provide what she needed. "Others offered their thanks and appreciation for the kindness we showed to them and one individual requested a Bible," shared Sherman Francis, CFESC executive director. "Isn't God amazing? There is no tragedy that is so dark that His light cannot shine."

To learn more about CFESC, call (862) 520-2026, email info@cfesc.org or visit facebook.com/CFESC.



Displaced families enjoy an elaborate holiday dinner provided by New Jersey's Church of the Oranges.

Miracle Temple Members Birth Networking Group

Jeffrey and ShaVonne LaDonis (below), founders of Adventist Yell Out (AYO) and members of Miracle Temple, recently hosted a black-tie, networking mixer and debut at their Baltimore-based church. The debut included a red carpet pre-show, a live auction and

performances by gospel recording artists Virtue and Eric Nettles. The auction raised funds for the AYO-produced documentary *This Chair is Empty*, which explores the loss of young people from the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The documentary is meant to inspire Adventist young people to fulfill their dreams and connect them to cre-

ative and business professionals in the Adventist Church.

"AYO's main purpose is to draw creative people to Christ," says Jeffrey. The idea for AYO came about when he recognized that the Adventist Church and overall Christian community had little in the way of a

structured networking forum for creative and nontraditional professionals.

"This was a powerful idea," said Errol T. Stoddart, DMin, Miracle Temple's senior pastor, whose undiscovered talent of auctioneering and comedy performance had the audience laughing throughout the night.

The event was broadcast live at mntnetworks.tv and drew 250 viewers. For more information on Adventist Yell Out, visit ayoconnect.com or facebook.com/adventistyellout.—Wes Guerrier



Stacia D. Wright, associate producer of This Chair is Empty, interviews Andy Russell, the documentary's cinematographer, on the red carpet.



Brinklow Members Become Global Vessels

In the last 12 years, Frazier and Virginia Mathis (below) have learned one thing: God is more than able. Members of the Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., they have seen the Lord's hand touch their Global Vessels ministry time and time again. The couple founded Global Vessels, Inc., a non-profit organization, to impact lives through constructing buildings. Since then they have led 16 mission



trips to places like Tanzania and Ghana. Many of those times they had no idea how they were going to finance the projects.

"The Lord said to me, 'It's not about money,'" Frazier explains. "'It's about you being faithful and trusting Me.' He settled that in my spirit a long time ago."

This seasoned cabinetmaker and his wife, a veteran teacher at Takoma Academy (TA) in Takoma Park, Md., caught the mission bug in 1990. Students from TA were



going to the Dominican Republic to do a building project and invited Frazier along to make use of his construction background. Soon he called Maranatha Volunteers International, which spreads the gospel through construction, and asked them for a set of church plans. Thirty-seven members of Emmanuel-Brinklow accompanied the couple on their first trip to Ghana. Over the course of five years, the group built three churches, a girls' dormitory and a library there. In 2004 Global Vessels, Inc., built an extension onto a clinic at the Adventist-owned University of Arusha in Tanzania. The administrators showed their appreciation by donating land to the group to build an orphan village.

Plans for the Havilah Children's Orphanage include building 10 stand-alone homes and a multipurpose building for schooling and other activities. Four of the homes are completed and are housing 20 children whose parents have either died from AIDS or abandoned them.

By providing homes for these orphans, Frazier says, "We do the best we can for them because we

Residents of the orphanage built by Global Vessels, Inc., are happy to find a safe home.

are orphans, and God has grafted us in His family."

Virginia says she finds it satisfying, "just watching the smiles on the children's faces. And then, there's the awesomeness of knowing that God is willing to use ordinary me to do extraordinary work for Him."

With help from volunteers across the Columbia Union and beyond, who donate their time and money, the orphanage provides what every child needs: a safe home, love, food, an education and an opportunity to know God.

They are planning a trip to Tanzania March 12-23. They are also going to New Orleans April 3-10, Haiti June 5-12 and back to Tanzania July 14-28. For more information, visit globalvessels.org, Havilahvillage.blogspot.com or call (202) 438-7325.

Students from Takoma Academy help construct the Havilah Children's Orphanage's multipurpose building.

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Ephesus Member Inducted Into Civil Rights Hall of Fame

Frank Hale Jr., PhD, along with nine others, was recently inducted into the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame. This member of the Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, is a vice provost and professor emeritus at The Ohio State University (OSU). He is also a nationally renowned educator who has spent his life advocating for diversity, equity and access. Hale has served the education community locally and internationally for more than 54 years, including service as OSU's first African-American graduate school dean. In this capacity, Hale advocated for excellence through diversity and, in collaboration with the university-wide fellowship committee, led the effort to secure more than \$15 million in graduate fellowship awards for some 1,200 minority students.

During the induction ceremony, Hale explained that by fighting for students' rights, civil rights activist/educators like himself were hoping to inspire them to make excellence their goal and superiority their norm.

"'Civil Rights' are two powerful words," Hale said. "You can't be civil and bigoted too. Diversity is about dynamic expression of collaboration in which various groups have the opportunity to explore, to learn to appreciate and celebrate one another and, to that degree, they can learn to appreciate each other's heritage and each other's history."

In an effort to actively recruit underserved and under-represented student groups, he founded the university's Graduate and Professional Visitation Day program and its undergraduate equivalent, the Minority Scholar's Program. During Hale's tenure at OSU, the university became the number one producer of black PhD students. He has served on many national boards, is the author of 11 books, has been published in more than 50 professional journals and served as president of Oakwood University (Ala.).—Valerie B. Lee



PHOTO BY DAN YOUNT OF THE CINCINNATI HERALD

Conference Steps up Prayer Ministries Efforts

Last year Allegheny West Conference (AWC) Prayer Ministries successfully conducted a weekly prayer conference on Thursdays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. From this forum, fervent supplications ascended to God for the conference's projects and programs.

"During 2011, with the appointment of the new Prayer Ministries position at the local church level, we are anticipating a deeper moving of the Spirit across our conference," shares Collin Parkinson, the conference's Prayer Ministries coordinator. "The bottom line is, we will be crying out to God as never before."

This year Prayer Ministries will coordinate seven days of intercession for each conference administrator, departmental director and pastor; facilitate the Prayer Care Proposal in which pastors pray for and with each other weekly; and host AWC's first prayer summit May 13-15. The featured presenters are Dennis Smith, author of *40 Days of Prayers and Devotions*, and Roy Rugless, Prayer Ministries coordinator of the South Central Conference.

Parkinson concludes, "We are committed to making

prayer the engine that drives Allegheny West Conference." For more information on the prayer summit, contact Parkinson at c_parkinson@sbcglobal.net.



PHOTO BY BRYANT TAYLOR

Uniontown Members Feed a Hungry Community

I was the first one here at 8:30," said Tammy Kirkwood. "I've been coming here for two years now, and I have the best time."

Kirkwood was standing outside the Berean church in Uniontown, Pa., at the head of a long line of people that snaked around bushes, through several cars and past a clothes giveaway table.

They didn't mind that it was a cold, blustery Sunday, because they knew that down the steps and inside the church's basement-level fellowship hall, they'd enjoy a hot meal of mashed potatoes, vegetarian loaf, stuffing, corn, green beans, sweet potatoes and homemade pumpkin pie—brought by generous

members of a local Bruderhof religious community.

Just after 1 p.m., their wait was over. "This is the 20th year of Operation Jesus Feed, and we're so glad you're here with us," announced Patience Barnes to the crowd. She is head elder and community services director of the tiny congregation in one of the 10 poorest counties in the United States. She and her fellow church members raise money, secure food donations, cook and serve the dinner every year for one reason: "We're carrying on a program started by Pastor Carl Rogers who told us that we're feeding Jesus when we feed all these people," she says.

Rogers, assistant to the AWC president, came to share a devotional thought and bless the food. Afterward he recounted how it all began: "In 1990 when I was the youth, Pathfinder and Adventurer director, I encouraged the Pathfinders to do as Jesus said in Matthew 25 and feed the homeless and hungry. At one point, we had 15 or 16 Pathfinder clubs hosting Operation Jesus Feed across our conference. This is the only church still doing it, and they only have about 20 active members," he adds.

One of those active members is Monique Hooper, who serves as the children's Sabbath School teacher and youth leader. She's been helping with the dinner since she moved to Uniontown 13 years ago.

"There's a lot of need in this community," she says. "Youth having



Colada Miracle has been coming to this special dinner for 14 years.

babies, killing each other, depressed, and we're working to address these problems. A lot of people ask for prayer, and we offer a monthly food bank and financial help. People who 'do not have' come, and I'm excited to be able to serve them. Our small church feeds all these people," she adds, looking around the packed room.

Colada Miracle is one of the 135 people they're feeding this year. "Patience and all the ladies have treated me so wonderfully that I come back every year," she says, adding, "This is my 14th year."

On top of the meal, they receive a box of food staples, a turkey, clothes, household items and gifts.

For this they are most grateful, as is new pastor Christopher Thompson. "I'm so honored to be connected to a church that's so committed to community service," he said.—Celeste Ryan Blyden



Patience Barnes organizes the annual dinner.



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THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

FEBRUARY 2011

A Love Story

There was an ancient method of storytelling that used “story conventions”—a literary device that helped storytellers relay them accurately. They also enabled listeners to know what kind of a story was to be expected in order to pay attention to details they might have otherwise missed.

Betrothal stories are an example. These stories had particular things in common: the eligible bachelor or a representative would travel to a foreign country; while on the trip he would stop at a well; a maiden would come to the well where the two would meet; after a discussion or event that bonded them to one another the maiden would tell her family about the events at the well; the family would extend hospitality to the stranger; and the marriage plans would be announced. The biblical accounts of Isaac’s engagement to Rebekah (see Gen. 24), Jacob’s to Rachel (see Gen. 29) and Moses’ to Zipporah (see Exod. 2) followed this pattern. It was how betrothal stories were told.

With this in mind, I reread the familiar story in John 4. I’ve read this story of water and wedding often, yet it never seems to lose the radical impact of Jesus’ mission. Imagine! Jesus and a Samaritan woman in a traditional betrothal scene! Shocking though it is, it expresses the heart of the gospel that comes as a gift of life, not only to the woman, but to her townspeople as well. Jesus’ love embraces them all. And so the story is not only her story, or their story, it is also *our* story of a relationship with Jesus. It is a love story for all time, for all places, for all people who thirst for wholeness, for life, for God. It is a story of God reaching out to all of us with springs of living water, binding us to Himself, quenching our thirst for life, for love, *forever*.



Rob Vandeman
President

Spencerville Uses Skype to Connect Members

For about 20 years, Spencerville church member Jack Anders, 94, has greeted members with handshakes and hugs at the rear entrance of the Silver Spring (Md.)

church. The experience is designed to welcome people who are coming to church, but he says he feels warmed and welcomed too. And when little children come running in to give him a hug, it makes his day.

Recently Anders was in a car accident that put him in the hospital for a month and a rehabilitation center for another two weeks. Dan Loukota, Anders’ great-grandson through marriage, got an idea while watching his daughters communicate with friends via Skype, a software application that allows users to make voice calls over the Internet.

Using two notebook computers, Loukota and his family, along with associate pastor Marilyn Scott, set up a video call so people coming into the church on Sabbath morning could greet and converse with Anders, who was recuperating at the rehabilitation center.

“Skype is a wonderful tool, and using it in a church setting allows us to connect with members who cannot physically be in church,” said Loukota. “We used it with Grandfather for three Sabbaths, and I believe it assisted in his healing process.”

Patrick Morrison (front), associate pastor of the Spencerville church, chats via Skype with member Jack Anders. Dan Loukota assists.



PHOTO BY ROB VANDEMAN

Three Hispanic Congregations Officially Organized

The Annapolis Spanish and Laurel Maranatha Spanish companies were recently promoted to church status, and the Waldorf Spanish



Eduardo Muñoz, conference treasurer and Hispanic coordinator, offers prayer during the official organization of the Annapolis Spanish church.

group was organized into a company.

Each of the Maryland congregations commemorated the promotion with a special Sabbath celebration. Eduardo Muñoz, conference treasurer and Hispanic coordinator, and Rick Remmers, conference executive secretary, participated in the worship services.

"We are really happy with the way these groups have grown," said Muñoz. "The Waldorf group began with just five or six people gathering on Sabbath. Now they have about 35 attending."

The Annapolis and Laurel Maranatha congregations recently held evangelistic campaigns that resulted in three baptisms in Annapolis and four baptisms in Laurel.

"The churches are eager to welcome new worshippers," said



Ismael Nuñez, pastor of the Laurel Maranatha Spanish church, baptizes Alejandro Sunun (right).

Ismael Nuñez, the district pastor. "They are friendly and quickly help visitors and new members feel part of the church family."

Dover Volunteers Distribute 300,000 Pounds of Food

Twice each month, members of the Dover First church in Delaware sort food into baskets as part of the Hope Program. It all started 14 years ago when Carole Hoffercker noticed that the number of homeless and low-income families in Kent County was growing. As Adventist Community Services director for the church, she was in a position to do something about it. So Hoffercker and a team of

Volunteers at the Dover First church (Del.) fill baskets with groceries for distribution to homeless and needy families.

dedicated volunteers started a food pantry to respond to emergency requests for groceries.

Next, the church partnered with the local Moose Lodge to begin the Hope Program. Together they distribute food boxes to approximately 160 persons who are enrolled in the program. The groceries are obtained from the Food Bank of Delaware, and the Hope Program is now the food bank's largest distributor of food in Kent County. In addition, the church provides food at another outlet that serves about 100 families in southern Delaware. In the past year, they have dispensed

more than 300,000 pounds of food.

The food is not just a handout, says Hoffercker. It is important for people to maintain some dignity in the process. Participants in the program are asked to make a donation for a box of groceries valued at \$75-\$125 if purchased from a local supermarket. However, no one is turned away if they cannot make a donation. Participants are required to attend a monthly meeting that often includes free health screenings and information on important life issues.

"Some of these people have never set foot in a church, but are comfortable here," she says. "They have asked me to pray with them, and they have prayed for each other. I have seen miracles happen."

PHOTO BY CAROLE HOFFECKER



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Worthy of His Calling

Despite repeated efforts to provide a clear definition and an abundance of scholarly writing on the topic of leadership, the complexity of attributes that define effective and sustainable leadership remains an intellectual challenge. Contemporary and Christian leadership authors expand this dialogue with an edict beckoning an imperative of interwoven intellect and emotion. Pretty complicated, isn't it?

I do not believe this to be so. Ephesians 4:1 explains, "Therefore, I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God" (MSG). As Seventh-day Adventist educators, I believe our leadership, mission and purpose is crystal clear. We are to heed the great commission of Matthew 28:18-20, which implores us to prepare everyone, even our children, to witness to the world. Ellen White affirms that "our schools are to be educating schools and training schools ... they must have impressed upon them the greatness of the work, and that practical godliness must be brought into their daily experience, to be fitted for any place of usefulness in our world, or in the church, or in God's great moral vineyard" (*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p.114).

At Highland View Academy (HVA), we encourage independent, critical thinking. White shares, "While the children and youth gain a knowledge of facts from teachers and textbooks, let them learn to draw lessons and discern truth for themselves" (*Education*, p.119). As you read the pages of this newsletter, you will see how Christ is helping prepare our students for leadership. I pray for all of our schools and ask that you continue to pray for HVA as we seek God's direction for our students.



**Deborah Pacheco
de Treviño**
Principal

Students Minister in Parking Lots

HVA's new Parking Lot Ministries is showing students how to witness in small ways. When shoppers leave stores, the students are there to help them carry their groceries to the car, put shopping carts



Nathaniel Ramsey ('12) and Andrew Ramsey ('14) retrieve stray shopping carts in a store parking lot.

back where they belong or pick up trash. "You would think people would be suspicious, but since we are all wearing our HVA uniforms, and it's the middle of the day, people tend to open up," explains Chaplain Ricardo Woolcock.

Woolcock said it is a ministry he practiced at Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa., and in previous churches where he served. He said, at first, nervous students thought it would involve preaching or distributing tracts but now realize that all they have to do is help people. "People are so appreciative, especially the employees of the establishment," Woolcock says.

This ministry is one small way HVA is preparing young people to share their faith. "They are surrounded by Seventh-day Adventists at school and at church, so most youth have never had opportunities to share," Woolcock says. "We want an army of youth rightly trained. Everyone is on a different journey but every opportunity we put before them through Campus Ministries is about preparing them to share Christ."—Taashi Rowe

English Teachers Prepare Master Communicators

The teachers of HVA's English Department are preparing students to be critical thinkers and master communicators so they can better lead others to Christ. Megan Mason (below) recently joined the faculty. She graduated from Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., in 2008 and is pursuing a degree in Investigative



Forensics from the University of Maryland University College. Mason teaches English I and II. After her English II class finished studying a unit on journalism, she took them to the Hagerstown *Herald-Mail* newspaper. "Our trip was informative," said Joshua Calhoun ('13). "We learned about the history of newspapers, how they are made and how they are distributed to the community."

Jennifer Payne, MA, teaches American Literature and English IV. She is also teaching the newly developed Honors English IV class, which emphasizes critical thinking, presentation skills and advanced reading and writing. The English IV students recently finished studying William Shakespeare and took a trip to the Blackfriars Playhouse in Staunton, Va., to see a play. Khelsea Bauer ('11) said, "The troupe's interpretation of Shakespeare's comic play brought



Jennifer Payne, English teacher, works with Mackenzie Hall ('12).

the story alive to modern audiences."

Payne concludes, "Opportunities for growth outside of the classroom are valuable in enhancing students' understanding of the text and for seeing writing and literature's value in the real world."—*Renee Williams*

We Were Sent to Comfort

Attending Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC) was a life-changing event for me. The five-day ministry event, themed "No Turning



Back," was held in Baltimore, and I decided to go with friends. GYC showed me a core group of young people who were committed and devoted to the Lord and all the principles I stand for.

I was particularly impacted on Sabbath afternoon, when hundreds of GYC attendees, in pairs, went throughout the city distributing health pamphlets, tracts and Bible study invitations. Some 1,400 people accepted Bible study invitations!

Near the end of the day, we came to one woman's house and invited her to attend health seminars at a local church. That is when she shared with us that she was battling cancer. She told us that her daughter got cancer when she was 14 years old, and she prayed that God would take the cancer from her

daughter's body and give it to her. Six months after that prayer, her daughter was cancer free. She said that she prays every night, but doesn't have a religion. After we talked with her, she signed up for Bible study.

We held hands with her and prayed that she would be healed. She was convinced that we were sent to her, and we were convinced that God led us to her.—*Stephanie Calhoun ('12)*

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MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

FEBRUARY 2011

An Adventist's Bucket List

Do you have a bucket list? You know, that list of things you must do before you die? Cars, shopping, hang gliding, houses—though they may bring some momentary enjoyment, will those things still be making a big impact in your life in 50 years? It's not likely. I believe there are things that will stand the test of time, things that deserve a place on my bucket list. Consider this list of really important things:

1. A saving relationship with Jesus Christ
2. Meaningful relationships with family and friends
3. A happy, loving home
4. A good education
5. The reward of knowing you've made a difference in your home, church and community
6. The satisfaction of serving others
7. Good health and fitness
8. Contentment
9. A rewarding career

If you agree that these nine priorities are really important, you will be excited to know your local Seventh-day Adventist school specializes in mentoring students in academic excellence, career preparedness, spiritual growth, wholesome relationships, healthy living and serving others. Students who master these important life skills are much more likely to experience success and contentment. The genius of Adventist education is in the unique combination of physical, mental, social and spiritual training. No one else is doing it quite like Adventist education. In fact, I think checking out Adventist education should be on every parent's bucket list!

For more information about how you can participate in, or support, Adventist education in Mountain View, contact the Office of Education at (304) 422-4581.



Cheryl Jacko

Assistant Superintendent

Greenbrier's Balloon Experiment Goes Up, Up and Away!

How many helium-filled balloons does it take to lift a child's plastic chair off the ground? That was the question Joni Stull posed to her K-3 science students at Greenbrier Valley Academy in Lewisburg, W.Va. Each

child took a guess, and then for fun they also asked the students in the upper grades. The lowest guess was four; the highest guess was 50. The actual number turned out to be 167 (the number of balloons purchased)! Not even that many would raise more than the front feet of the chair!

After the experiment, Stull's class wondered what they should do with those 167 balloons. They gave some to the students, and sent the rest off into the wild blue yonder with tags on them asking the finder to call the school. Later that day, a call came from Covington, W.Va., some 30 miles away—a balloon had been found!

The following Monday, a call came from Thomasville, Ga. The lady on the other end said she had found one of the balloons on a golf course there. The balloon had traveled 400 miles. Later that day, another lady called from the local Thomasville newspaper office. She wanted details for an article she was working on about the balloon and the school behind it! "Amazing! What an experiment!" Stull concluded.



EDUCATION NEWS

Valley View Offers Unique Assembly

Singing a raucous song, "Old Jonah" strode into the weekly assembly at Valley View School in Bluefield, W.Va. Dressed as a 17th century mountain man, Jerry Vencill regaled students and staff with tales of his lifestyle and exploits, all told—to the delight of his audience—in local idiom. His purpose went further than entertainment. In his final story,



"a young brave consented to carry in his jerkin a rattler just about frozen on the mountainside." As they reached the summit, the rattler sank his fangs into his benefactor. "Old Jonah" concluded that is what drugs and other hurtful life choices do.

Highland Students Experience History

Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va., recently held an historical costume party. Each student selected an historical character to research and then wore a costume representing that character. During



the school assembly, each student modeled his costume, and the other students guessed who they portrayed and learned details of the character's life.

"Our students were very creative with this event," said Cheryl Jacko, principal. "This was a great way to learn more about some important characters from history."

Mountaintop Sees Record Enrollment

Mountaintop Adventist School in Oakland, Md., opened the 2010-11 school year with 17 students—its largest student enrollment in recorded history. The school opened its doors with five students in the fall of 1988.

Eight children are enrolled in Dianne Hancock's room with pre-school, kindergarten and grades 1 and 2. Nine children are enrolled in Mary Brown's room in grades 3-8. A number of parents who have been home schooling their children have decided to enroll their children and inform their neighbors of what they have discovered at the school.

—Wayne Hancock



Brett Loughrie, Lucas Stewart and Raylee Seeders discover the reasons leaves change colors in the fall.

Amy Engelkemier dressed as Florence Nightingale, Linsee Mullenax as Amelia Earhart and Stacia Arbogast as Abraham Lincoln for the school's historical costume party.

Summersville Students Collect Food for Those in Need

Students from the Summersville Adventist School in Summersville, W.Va., enjoyed collecting food for their annual food drive, in cooperation with the Christ's Cupboard Food Pantry. Because of student help, the pantry can continue to feed between 350-400 families in Nicholas County.—Donna Nicholas



Taylor Hinkle and Matthew Iannacone collect food.

Brushy Fork Students Get Personal Computers

Second-grader Josh Stalnaker (below) is just one of the students at Brushy Fork Christian School in Buckhannon, W.Va., who is excited to have access to his own laptop. Students of all grades are using the refurbished laptops for school work, such as language arts and research.—Kingsley Whitsett



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SPIRIT

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY

FEBRUARY 2011

An Argument for Excellence

After fighting to start a new laptop program, persuading staff, board and stakeholders that this is what we need to do to make progress, I sometimes wonder if the battles are worth it. Despite all the calls for innovation, the reality on the ground is that people can be very resistant to change.

On the day we distributed the laptops, I looked into the eyes of one of my students who comes from a home where they could not afford one, and realized that we leveled the playing field just a little more for him. Students who

once had to compete for computer time in the old PC lab are now turning in homework through email, researching references quickly, following current events as they happen and producing outstanding presentations.

Innovation today means success for tomorrow. We are living in a changing world, and schools have to change with the times in which we live. If we love our students, we have to fight the battles for innovation and change for them. I feel that, as educators, it is time to deliver on our promise of excellence.

Joel Camick ('13), Josh Stone ('13) and Sheree Stevenson ('12) enjoy working on their new laptops.



Robert Stevenson
Principal

International Students Bring Mission Field Home

Some people are asking how to evangelize parts of the world where Christianity is not always welcome. Rather than sending missionaries overseas, Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) is bringing international students to their campus. The school is now home to students from seven countries, including Brazil, China, South Korea, Thailand, Columbia, Panama and Zimbabwe.

"When these students attend Mount Vernon Academy, they learn about a loving God from a [Seventh-day] Adventist perspective, and then return home sharing how they have experienced the love of God in a real way," explains Robert Stevenson, principal.

Jerome Fan ('11) and Na Hyoung Kim ('13) came to Mount Vernon Academy to learn English, but are also learning about God.



Why I Love MVA

"My experience at Mount Vernon Academy has been the best thing in my life. MVA is a good place to get closer to God and to meet new people. The best part about MVA is the people and how many cultures there are. In my class, there are five different cultures, and it is so much fun. I teach them, and they teach me things too. MVA is the best place on Earth to send your child so they can get closer to God and get to be a well-rounded person."—*Sharen Rose ('14)*

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY^{LLC}

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

FEBRUARY 2011

Welcome to Our School

Greetings in the name of Christ Jesus! We at Spring Valley Academy (SVA) are excited to share with the Columbia Union Conference family the many ways we are attempting to follow Christ. Our *Connections* newsletter will appear in this magazine every other month. As many of you already know, SVA is a day academy for grades PK-12 located in Dayton, Ohio, and provides college prep academics in a caring, Christian environment. This is our second year back “home” on campus since the fire of September 8, 2008, and we continue to marvel at how God has blessed our renovations. Our technology upgrades now include three computer labs, two mobile laptop carts (wireless classrooms), document readers, interactive whiteboards and student response devices. This past October, we fulfilled a long-awaited goal with the addition of a new preschool program for children aged 3-5.

We invite our alumni to come and visit their school! Alumni Weekend will be held April 15-16, and feature honor classes 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006. For a complete schedule of all weekend activities or for further information on SVA, visit springvalleyacademy.org. On behalf of Spring Valley Academy, I solicit your prayers as we faithfully strive to *Know, Follow, Share Jesus!*



Jeff Bovee
Principal

Students, Staff Raise \$15,000 for Kids With HIV/AIDS

By participating in a free-throw basketball tournament, Spring Valley Academy students raised \$15,000 to help children in Africa living with HIV or AIDS. Of that amount, SVA freshman Lindsey Haffner raised \$12,300.

SVA students worked with several Dayton, Ohio, area Seventh-day Adventist institutions, including Kettering College of Medical Arts, Kettering Adventist HealthCare and the Kettering and Centerville churches to raise the funds via a two-day basketball tournament

and youth rally. Five teams came from as far away as Texas. The youth rally, themed “More Than A Game,” included guest speaker Austin Gutwein, a junior high school student from Arizona. Gutwein is the founder of Hoops of Hope, a charity that raised more than \$1 million for orphans in Africa affected by the HIV/AIDS crisis. Student participants were challenged in advance to get sponsors for a free-throw challenge with all of the proceeds given to Hoops of Hope, which is raising money for an orphanage in Zambia.

Gutwein recognized Haffner, eighth-grader Alec Velasco and senior Andrea Hoover. They both shot 10 consecutive free throws for an additional bonus of \$100. Hoover went on and met the challenge of an impromptu donor who gave \$500 when she hit 25 more consecutive free throws! At the conclusion of the event, Gutwein signed and gave copies of his book, *Take Your Best Shot: Do Something Bigger Than Yourself*, to every student and told them that no matter what their skills were, no matter what their age, they can make a difference!

On Sabbath those teams attending the youth rally at the Kettering church received \$500—the amount of their entrance fee to the tournament—to go out and invest this seed money to make a difference and be “the salt of the Earth,” which was part of Pastor Karl Haffner’s sermon challenge that morning.



Andrea Hoover (front row, middle) and Lindsey Haffner (front row, right) helped raise \$15,000 for children in Zambia living with HIV or AIDS. Austin Gutwein (back row, center) is a high school sophomore who founded the Hoops of Hope charity.

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news

NEW JERSEY

FEBRUARY 2011

Make Christian Education Your Priority!

Our highest priority should be our children, especially their education and salvation. The Valuegenesis studies have documented that a Christian education greatly improves the odds of our children remaining active members in the church.

My heart is saddened as I see so many of our children not attending a Seventh-day Adventist Christian school. When I see members driving nice cars, living in upscale homes and giving their kids all of the latest toys and gadgets, but the children are not in Adventist schools, I have to wonder what the parent's priorities are. Are "things" more important than the salvation of your children?

And to those members who, like me, no longer have children at home, this does not mean that we can forget about Christian education. There are schools and families that need our support. The New Jersey Conference Executive Committee recently voted an Education Action Plan for our schools and churches. Beginning this year, this plan calls for all churches to join as a constituent church to one of our schools. Please consider the following counsel from the pen of Ellen White as you consider your priorities: "Let all share the expense. Let the church see that those who ought to receive its benefits are attending the school. Poor families should be assisted. We cannot call ourselves true missionaries if we neglect those at our very doors who are at the most critical age and who need our aid to secure knowledge and experience that will fit them for the service of God" (*Counsels on Education*, pp. 202-203).



José H. Cortés
President

NEWS

Collingwood Hosts Gift-Making Workshop

The Collingwood Park School and Child Development Center in Tinton Falls recently hosted a gift-making workshop. "Our goal was to provide a fun and useful activity for the families to do together at our school," reports James Hunt, principal. "We wanted to draw families together from the seven area [Seventh-day] Adventist churches that seldom interact." As a result, 25 children, aged 3-12, put together step stools that they could give as presents.



Twenty-one parents and church members helped these budding carpenters follow in young Jesus' footsteps. The motto was, "It's more blessed to give than to receive."

Central Korean Celebrates 11 Baptisms

The Central New Jersey Korean church recently welcomed 11 members through baptism. Young Uoo Suh, senior pastor, along with Stephen Lee, associate pastor for English Ministries, gave Bible studies and performed the baptisms. "We welcome these 11 members into God's family," said Pastor Suh.



John Samuel-McGregor, from the Collingwood Park church, helps his children Zoe and Zachary build stools.

Belleville Spanish Becomes 82nd Organized Church in Conference

The Belleville Spanish company was officially organized as the 82nd church within the New Jersey Conference. Some 89 charter members were on hand to sign the register as well as a number of leaders from other Hispanic churches in the north New Jersey area.

José H. Cortés, conference president; Jim Greene, vice president for administration; and Modesto Vazquez, vice president for finance, joined Alexis Grajales, pastor of the Belleville Spanish church, in the organizing ceremony.

The Rev. Wesley Neal, of the Wesley United Methodist Church, also attended the organization service and congratulated his church's tenants on their rapid growth and for achieving church status. "I always enjoy hearing the enthusiasm with which your church sings their hymns," he said. "Our church is pleased to rent to your congregation, and we hope that this relationship may continue for many years."



José H. Cortés, conference president, signs Belleville church's certificate of organization in the presence of Modesto Vazquez, conference vice president of finance, and Pastor Alexis Grajales.

Jersey City Heights Spanish Youth Give to Local Pantry

The Stars of Jesus Adventurer Club and Rainbow of Peace Pathfinder Club (right) from the Jersey City Heights Spanish church, recently participated in "Let's Make a Difference." They collected and donated food to the Saint Mary's House Food Pantry, which feeds the homeless and needy in Jersey City. Pantry coordinators were very grateful and mentioned that prior to these donations they only had three cans of sweet potatoes. The Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs have been working on their community service awards and honors and were very glad to see their work make a difference. "We were blessed to help out the community in which we worship," said Mairym Azcona, Adventurer Club director.



Conference Welcomes Full-Time Pastor

After five years as a bivocational pastor in the conference, Alejandro Pastor recently became a full-time pastor. He is a native of Peru and a theology graduate of River Plate College in Argentina. He is pastoring the Dover, Morristown and Hackettstown Spanish churches and the Lafayette English church.

dates

NEW JERSEY

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** Music Training North New Jersey, *Newark Church 3-6 p.m.*

March

- 5** Women's Day of Prayer
- 6** Children's Ministries Training *Conference Office*
- 12** Youth Ministry Zone Training *Vineland Church, 5-7 p.m.*
- 19** Annual Orchestra Concert *Waldwick School Gym, 6 p.m.*
- 25-27** Spanish Elders Retreat *Tranquil Valley Retreat Center*
English Women's Retreat *Hamilton Park Hotel Florham Park*

New Jersey News is published in the *Visitor* by the New Jersey Conference
2303 Brunswick Ave., Lawrenceville NJ 08648
Phone: (609) 392-7131 ■ njcsda.org
President, José H. Cortés ■ Editor, Jim Greene

Clyde, Norwalk, Sandusky Pastor Ordained

A pastor's heart is attentive and seeks to know his people's cares ... is tender and listens to the Spirit's call," read Peggy Pearce, a member of the Clyde church. During Pastor Marius E. Marton's ordination service, she read from the poem titled "A Pastor's Heart." Marton, a full-time pastor in the Ohio Conference since 2007, was recently ordained into the gospel ministry at his church in Sandusky. Members from his other churches in Clyde and Norwalk were also in attendance.

Music played a prominent role in the service, as Marton is a musician and composer, who studied music composition at Baldwin-Wallace College Conservatory of Music in Berea, Ohio, prior to entering full-time ministry. He and his wife, Marika, work together as a team in proclaiming God's love and grace. Friends and members recognized her contribution by reading two poems, "The Pastor's Wife" and "To Our Pastor's Wife."

"Serving God together with the people in these three churches has been a growing process in the development of [my] ministerial skills as [I have] grown to love the members of these churches during the past three and a half years," said Marton.

Marius Marton, his wife, Marika, and their children are flanked by clergy care coordinator Marwood Hallett and his wife, Cindy, and conference president Raj Attiken and his wife, Chandra.



Pianist Inspires Mount Vernon Hill Members

The marketing was complete. The local paper ran two promotional pieces about her. Posters were distributed to area churches and now the evening was upon them. Still, the members of the Mount Vernon Hill church and from the community were not certain what to expect when Mary Grace Gellekano began her concert that Friday evening. She played a medley of spiritual



Mary Grace Gellekano says even though she was born with what could have been seen as disabilities, God created her perfectly.

hymns, followed by a variety of classical and religious pieces, concluding with Rimsky-Korsakov's *Flight of the Bumblebee*. During the performance, everyone remained silent, absorbed in the music played beautifully by this young woman known as Mary Grace.

What makes this concert unique? Gellekano was born without a right forearm, and her right leg is eight inches shorter than her left leg. In her testimony, she admitted often asking God why she was born this way. After many years of prayers and tears, God helped her to realize: "I was created perfect after all! If my stub was any longer or shorter, I would not be able to play."

Gellekano has played for a worldwide Seventh-day Adventist worship program, appeared on 3ABN and The Hope Channel and was featured in the *Adventist Review*. She admits she could be more famous—earning more, perhaps millions of dollars as agents told her—but there could be no talk of God, only about herself. "I cannot do this," she said, "God wants me to need Him."

One Hill member admitted, "I didn't know what to expect. She was amazing! I just wish more people could have heard her tonight."

The following Saturday, other churches in central Ohio were treated to performances in Westerville and Reynoldsburg.

Hamlet Celebrates 70 Years

Worship for members of the Hamlet church in Amelia has changed dramatically since Robert Boothby pitched a tent on November 16, 1940, for their first service. During a special 70th anniversary celebration, longtime members and friends, along with previous pastoral couples, returned to reminisce about their history with the Hamlet church.

Randy Phipps, a bivocational pastor who began his work at the Hamlet church in 2004, presented awards of merit to Walter and Virginia Weber and Ramona Rought for their longevity in

serving the Hamlet church.

"As with most churches, we have had our ups and downs," Pastor Phipps shares. However, "I have seen God leading this congregation from the beginning of my ministry here. Even though we have not filled every pew ... the Lord has sustained the church. We are growing spiritually, financially and more together in Christ."

Pastor Randy Phipps recognizes Ramona Rought as one of the church's longest-attending members.



PHOTO BY ROBERT GEIGER

Chillicothe Pathfinders Give Back to the Community

With the help of the Chillicothe Trailblazers Pathfinder Club, many needy families who are not already connected to local food banks were able to enjoy healthy meals this winter. Lori Anderson, Pathfinder director, said families around the church's neighborhood were notified via fliers that students would be coming around to collect canned goods for the drive. Hitting the streets with wagons, they hauled the goods back to the church—collecting more than 200 items in the process. The group also asked their church members for donations in order to purchase additional food. Donations in hand, the Trailblazers received a discount from Community Markets, a local grocery store chain, which enabled them to stretch their funds even further. When the time came, members delivered food baskets to families throughout the area.



According to Anderson, the families selected were those not already being assisted by their local food pantry; they were ones who could use the help but might have been too shy to ask. "The people who use our pantry, they know how to get what they need," she said. "These families we delivered to, some of them are in need for the first time, and others have just never asked before."

Because they were referred by a family member or a friend, many were not even aware the food was coming. "I do it because of the look on their faces when you hand them the basket," said Eric Anderson, a Pathfinder. Katlyen Plummer agreed that she likes to volunteer and hand out baskets to help brighten someone else's day.

Conference Launches e-Newsletter

Faithpoints is a new Ohio Conference e-newsletter designed to help members share their common faith, local church happenings and upcoming conference events. Take a peek at the first issue at faithpoints.blogspot.com. Like what you see? Be sure to subscribe at ohioadventist.org. For more information, contact the Ohio Conference at (740) 397-4665, ext. 165.



Pennsylvania *Pen*

FEBRUARY 2011

Young Adults Impact Pittsburgh

Thirty young adults from across Pennsylvania recently converged on the city of Pittsburgh for a day of worship and service. The theme of the day was “Ministry to the Poor and Suffering.” After a light breakfast, Kris Eckenroth, former conference Youth and Young Adult Ministries director, led the group in an interactive Bible study, asking participants, “How do you get salvation?” Young people needed to back up their answers with Bible texts.

The group spent the afternoon visiting shelters, under bridges and streets where homeless people live in downtown Pittsburgh. They also distributed blankets and toiletries. Young adults, freezing in the winter wind, caught a small glimpse of what it must be like to live on the streets.

“We sought out to impact Pittsburgh for Jesus,” shares Eckenroth, “but found that serving the poor and those in need left us changed forever.”

Impact weekends are scheduled every three to four months in 2011, alternating between young adult weekends and youth weekends, all happening in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. Youth are invited to Impact Pittsburgh April 9. For more information, contact the youth department at dreese@paconference.org.



Pathfinders Reach Out and Grow

More than 700 Pathfinders from the Pennsylvania, Chesapeake and Mountain View conferences gathered for the annual Pathfinder Fall Camporee on Pathfinder Hill at Laurel Lake Camp in Rossiter. With more than 300 from the Pennsylvania Conference alone—this was the conference’s largest attendance for a “local” camporee.

The camporee, themed “Reaching Out, Growing Within,” was planned as an outreach to the Punxsutawney community, just north of the camp. The weekend began with a parade in downtown

Punxsutawney, featuring floats by various clubs and their drum corps, along with the local police and fire departments.

At the end of the parade, clubs went to Barclay Square where James Black, North American Division Youth Ministries director, led the Sabbath worship service. He challenged club directors to continue to reach out to their church and community.

More than 300 volunteers participated in 10 community service projects in the afternoon. The Pittsburgh Steel City Pathfinders set up a blanket outreach booth with Pathfinders from several clubs creating 38 blankets, which they later gave to the Punxsutawney Hospital. The Steel City Pathfinders also “prayer walked” the neighborhood around the town square, praying for each residence and business and taking prayer requests at doors. Several “booths” and activities were also set up in the town square.

Sunday began with the Master Guide investiture of Kerry Stahl from the Lewisburg Wilderness Warriors and Paul Wiesner from the Gettysburg Brigade. Throughout the day, Pathfinders had the opportunity to earn several honors as well as participate in other activities, including a fishing derby, mountain boarding, mountain biking and a 1-mile run.—*Pamela Scheib*



Ernie Blachek illustrates Jesus feeding 5,000 people by feeding 700 Pathfinders Goldfish and pretzels.



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 June 10-18, 2011 Camp Meeting Reservation Application
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Date _____

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City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____ 3rd choice _____

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

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

Children	Age	Gender

Full Time Rates/Location	Amount	Total
Dorm room w/2 single beds	\$257.00	\$
Tent w/electricity & floor (1 double or 2 single cots included)	115.00	\$
Small personal tent or trailer space up to 20ft. No Electricity (Field by Boys' Dorm)	48.00	\$
Cabin - Keystone (5 sets of bunk beds)	115.00	\$
Trailer space w/ limited Electricity usage Keystone (trailer size _____ ft.)	131.00	\$
Trailer space w/ limited Electricity usage Grove City (trailer size _____ ft.)	131.00	\$

Part Time Per Day Rates/Location	Amount	Total
Dorm room w/2 single beds Dates Requested _____	\$31.00	\$
Tent w/electricity & floor (1 double or 2 single cots included) Dates Requested _____	27.00	\$
Small personal tent/trailer space up to 20ft. No Electricity (Field by Boys' Dorm) Dates Requested _____	14.00	\$
Trailer space w/ limited Electricity usage Keystone (trailer size _____ ft.) Dates Requested _____	24.00	\$
Trailer space w/limited Electricity usage Grove City (trailer size _____ ft.) Dates Requested _____	24.00	\$

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

Total Charges \$ _____

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Due \$ _____

PROTOCOL:

1. A completed application with **payment in full** is required for all reservations. Partial payments will be returned to sender. Checks should be made payable to ***Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists***. Applications will be processed on a first come first served basis only.
2. Telephone reservations for late applicants will only be accepted within the last week prior to camp meeting only.
3. Reservations must be made by the party attending camp meeting. Reservations cannot be made by one party for another.
4. **Children under 18 years of age are not permitted** to stay overnight at any of the camp meeting facilities unless accompanied by an adult.
5. **ABSOLUTELY NO PETS** are allowed in the campgrounds or in the camping areas! Names of local kennels will be provided in your confirmation packet.
6. Use of microwaves, air conditioners, and other electrical appliances are **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** due to the lack of adequate electricity. **THIS INCLUDES ALL RECREATIONAL VEHICLES PARKED IN KEYSTONE AND GROVE CITY.**
7. We regret that we are unable to provide wheel chairs and other equipment for the disabled.

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Date _____

Potomac People

FEBRUARY 2011

The True Goal of Christian Education

I sometimes find myself pondering what Ellen White would be thinking if she were alive today. Her understanding of the goal of Christian education is captured in her book *Education*, where she says, “To restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind and soul, that the divine purpose in His creation might be realized—this was to be the work of redemption. This is the object of education, the great object of life” (pp.15-16).

She believed that this fundamental purpose of education, from the earliest years through graduate studies, was to encourage the full development of each student’s personal capabilities, that this “development of all our powers is the first duty we owe to God and to our fellow men” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 329). She also challenged students “to reach to the highest point of intellectual greatness ... if balanced by religious principles” (*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 48).

She especially emphasized the importance of joining intellectual pursuits with “a knowledge of some trade or occupation by which, if need be, he (or she) may earn a livelihood” (*Education*, p. 218). This message is evident as we look at our world today. One of the questions we must be asking ourselves as parents and educators is this: Are we providing our children with the tools that will allow them to succeed and continue to share the gospel in the coming century? I see this as one of the most important issues of our time, and continue to pray that God will help us as we seek to educate and train our young people to take up the cross and follow Him.



Keith Hallam
Vice President for
Education

Memorial Walk Honors Slain Student Missionary

One year after Kirsten Wolcott was slain while serving as a missionary on the Micronesian island of Yap, Tappahannock Junior Academy (TJA) in Tappahannock, Va., held a memorial walkathon in her honor. Wolcott, who attended TJA, was on leave from Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) serving as a student missionary when she died.

More than 200 people participated in the Kirsten Wolcott Memorial Walk. The walkathon raised \$10,000 to support mission efforts at TJA. Local businesses also donated to support the missions cause. One walker noted that though she is no longer with us, her missionary spirit lives on.

Wolcott’s mother, Karen, is a teacher at TJA and is also helping to organize a mission trip for the upper grades. Next month the students will leave for Holbrook Indian Mission School (Ariz.). They will do some renovations on staff housing.

Rainy Park, a Southern Adventist University student, wrote the book *Love, Kirsten*, which details Wolcott’s brief stint as a missionary. Park attended the memorial walk, as did the ambassador from Yap, along with some of his family and friends.—*Mary Liles*



Family and friends of Kirsten Wolcott remember the slain student missionary through a memorial walkathon.

Potomac People

Woodbridge Breaks Ground for new Facility

The Woodbridge (Va.) church recently broke ground to fulfill plans to build a new facility. With plans in the works for nearly four years, the congregation has been looking forward to beginning this project.

"We needed more space," said Rick Jordan, senior pastor. "We were turning people away [from] our second service."

The groundbreaking had some unique components. The church asked Ray Meyer, who had been a member when the church was founded in 1970, to represent the church's original members by taking part in the ceremony, while

Catherine Lloyd, an Adventurers Club member, represented the church's future.

The building plans are split into two phases. The first phase, a 20,000-square-foot structure, will include a multipurpose worship space that will seat more than 300 people, eight large classrooms with restrooms and storage, two warming kitchens, a library, an office suite with a conference room and large foyer area. They hope to be using the facility by early 2012.

There is not yet an official date set for the completion of Phase II, a 40,000-square-foot space, which will include a full gym/fellowship hall

and a sanctuary that will seat more than 600 people.

Pastor Jordan says he wants to use this new facility to actively serve the community. "I want the church to be the center of the community," he said. "I envision that people are going to know who we are, where we're located and what we have to offer."

Potomac Conference and Columbia Union Conference officials were present at the groundbreaking, including Bill Miller, conference president; Jorge Ramirez, conference vice president for administration; and Walter Carson, union vice president and general counsel.

—Adrienne Suarez

Ceremonial Groundbreaking: Pastor Rick Jordan; Catherine Lloyd; Ray Meyer; Chuck Woods, general contractor; Martin Noeh, Prince William County supervisor; Dennis DeLizzio, architect; Walter Carson, Columbia Union Conference vice president; Bill Miller, conference president; and Jorge Ramirez, conference vice president.



Students Condition Their Faith at Teen Bible Retreat

Potomac Conference's Teen Bible Retreat recently drew 166 teens, chaperones and presenters to Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va., to become spiritually fit. The youth represented churches, academies, public schools and home schools from around the conference. The retreat's theme, "G90X ... Eternal Life Fitness," was a spin off from the popular P90X exercise DVD. The retreat featured a combination of

breakout sessions, group building activities and inspirational messages from guest speaker Michael Jenkins, a Seventh-day Adventist pastor in Los Angeles. Students spent the weekend learning techniques to become not only physically fit, but also mentally and spiritually fit.

The retreat is an annual event sponsored by the conference's Youth Ministries department. "Many thanks go out to those churches, schools

and youth leaders who made it a priority to bring their high school-aged students," said Denny Grady, conference Youth Ministries director. "This event, along with all the other events planned by our Youth Ministries team, really does have eternal life impact on the lives of teens."

Buz Menhardt, associate pastor of the New Market (Va.) church, leads a spiritual fitness breakout session at the conference's Teen Bible Retreat.



PHOTO BY SHELBY COSGROVE

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

Distinctly Adventist?

Over the last couple of months, I have had the opportunity to be a part of several focus groups on education reform. A few of the groups have specifically examined the reforms that need to take place in Seventh-day Adventist education. What consistently emerged in all of these groups was the belief that our education system needs to be “distinctively Adventist.” After these meetings, I listen to the conversations that take place, and what I’ve discovered is that everyone has a different perspective about what distinctively Adventist means. So the question becomes: Does being distinctively Adventist matter? The simple answer is, of course it does!

However, at Takoma Academy (TA), we are still seeking an answer to this question. We recognize we must first be committed to becoming distinctively Christian before we can truly define what it means to become distinctively Adventist. As Christians we recognize the significance of emulating the character of Christ and selflessly sharing His love with others in our school and society. We want others to see us as Adventists—a people “distinctively” committed to the character of Christ, committed to serving the community and committed to sharing the message of His soon return.



David Daniels
Principal

Campus Families Encourage Bonds

Last year at the annual Columbia Union Student Association Leadership Training retreat, Takoma Academy’s Student Council (SC) officers realized the school needed more unity and school spirit. While brainstorming how the issue could be approached, Phillip Malcolm (’11), SC president, came up with the idea of having campus families. The families are created by randomly placing students into family groups.

Each family has 12-15 members, including five to eight freshman and sophomore “children,” four junior and senior “parents” and a staff member who serves as a “grandparent.” Each Tuesday campus families meet for 10 minutes to have worship, share issues or get to know each other better.

The first campus family activity of the year occurred around Thanksgiving. Family groups had the opportunity to share stories and facts about each others’ lives while having a meal together.

“[Campus families] are a good way to get to know students who are not in [my] classroom on a personal level,” shares David Hooker, science teacher.

Kamesha Laurry (’12) commented, “You’re meeting new people who you never thought you would be talking to and forming lasting friendships [with].”

Student Council leaders say they hope campus families will encourage students to form bonds and friendships and really get to know each other as a family. “[Takoma Academy] needs campus families to be united and in one spirit with God,” Malcolm concludes.—*Sara Scur (’11)*



Students exchange gifts during a campus family meeting.

Students Participate in Service Day

In *Testimonies for the Church*, Ellen White writes, "There is earnest work for every pair of hands to do. Let every stroke tell for the uplifting of humanity. There are so many that need to be helped. The heart of him who lives, not to please himself, but to be a blessing to those who have so few blessings, will thrill with satisfaction" (*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, p. 37). In adherence to White's counsel, Takoma Academy recently organized a Community Service Day. "This is a vital part of being committed to Christ," David Daniels, principal, explains. "Service to others teaches humility and

selflessness. It is an opportunity to follow the example of Christ. It provides an outlet for the faith of each student."

Some 200 students served in many capacities in the community. Some stayed close to campus, helping nearby elementary schools and churches with fall cleaning. Others helped clean and prepare food at local community organizations, such as libraries, Catholic charities and soup kitchens.

Whether raking leaves with the city gardener and spreading mulch around the largest ash tree in Maryland, or making wire cages to place around newly planted trees, the students exhibited a spirit of willingness and persistence.

By working in the community, some students shared that they were able to open some doors to Christ, which may have previously been closed. They have softened some hearts that previously were hard. And they have planted some seeds that, with continued nurture, may someday blossom into more workers for Christ.

"We hope that each reader will uplift in prayer those who were served and those who served, that God will bless the efforts and the seeds planted," Daniels says.

Samuel Singh ('13) and Joel Argueta ('13) rake leaves in the community.



Justin Sanders ('14) helps out at next-door Sligo Adventist School.

Alumni Weekend Moved Up a Week

Former students, faculty and staff are invited to attend TA's upcoming Alumni Weekend April 15-17. Participants will enjoy seeing old friends, playing in the annual golf tournament, listening to a concert and playing in a basketball game that pits them against current students. For more information, email Kathy Coleman Hecht ('77), president of the Takoma Academy Alumni Association, at president@taalumni.org.

Calendar

February

- 12 Valentine's Day Banquet
- 21 President's Day/Washington's Birthday—*School Closed*
- 22 Teacher Professional Development Day—*School Closed*

March

- 3 National Honor Society Induction, 7 p.m.
- 10 Open House, 6 p.m.
- 13 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 18 Noon Dismissal
- 21-25 Spring Break
- 28 Board of Trustees Meeting 7 p.m.
- 31-Apr. 1 Midterm Exams

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

Our Students Inspire Our Excellence

Our students are the pride and joy of our campus. They come from all faiths, cultures and backgrounds—all with a single focus: to be prepared for service to their communities. That focus is why we are deliberate about our vision here at Washington Adventist University (WAU), which is to produce graduates who bring competence and moral leadership to their communities.

Every person we hire, every policy we implement, every course we teach, every piece of equipment we purchase and every partnership we establish, must be supportive of this mission. The focus of our learning community is to assess, create, support and enhance a learning-centered environment that is central to the university's vision of growth, excellence and leadership. Our goal is also to develop the whole person by inspiring faith in a loving Creator God and encouraging a passion for knowledge, truth and service to humanity. In her book *Education*, Ellen White writes, "Character building is the most important work ever entrusted to human beings; and never before was its diligent study so important as now" (p. 225).

As I walk around the campus and interact with students, I am hearing them say, "WAU is teaching me what I need to know when I go out into the real world," or "The people at the university make it worth it."

Our students are entering the "Gateway to Service" and their lives are being transformed. This is exciting work! We ask that you please continue to pray and support your university, because we are engaging minds and transforming lives.



Weymouth Spence
President

29 Nursing Students Inducted Into Honor Society

Twenty-nine students in the Department of Nursing recently became inaugural members of the WAU nursing honor society. During a formal program, students were inducted following the requirements of Sigma Theta Tau, the International Honor Society of Nursing.



After their induction into Sigma Theta Tau, Mitsi Wellington, Julianne Septus and Angela Gimose proudly display their certificates.

The keynote speaker for the event was Gina Brown, PhD, dean of the School of Health Professions, Science and Wellness. Brown and other faculty members presented each student with shawls, cords and membership certificates.

Brown, who has overseen growth within the department, shared, "The Edyth T. James Department of Nursing is delighted about this new honor society. This is a high honor and one that most schools try to obtain." She added that induction of the nursing students gives yet another edge of excellence to the department and distinguishes the graduates as nurses who are at the top of their field.

During the opening speech, Marilyn Montenegro, a graduating senior and president of the steering committee for the honor society, said, "When we consider this milestone, we thank God, but also stand in awe of the tremendous responsibility He has given—'For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required'" (Luke 12:48).

Nursing student enrollment has swelled to more than three times what it was just three years ago. For the first time, the department is graduating two classes of seniors, thereby producing the numbers needed to qualify for membership within this elite community.

—Mary Christine Ramos

University Mourns the Death of Iconic Figure

Betty Howard, PhD, former dean of students on the campus when it was known as Columbia Union College, died on December 2, 2010, in California. She was 77.

“Dean Howard,” as she was affectionately known, served as the dean of women at Columbia Union College from 1967-1970 and from



1979-1983. She also served at Southern Adventist University (Tenn.), Walla Walla University (Wash.) and Hinsdale Adventist College (Ill.). Howard became the second president of the new Association of Adventist Women, Inc., from 1982-1986 and again from 1995-1996.

In 1983 she became the acting dean of students at the college. She developed program initiatives for students that included counseling and support for new and foreign students. She was also well known for her love for students and international missions. In 2006 the university recognized her as Alumna of the Year.

Former men’s dean, Glen Milam said, “Dean Howard provided me with much mentoring in deaning



and acting as a student missions sponsor, but, more importantly, she advised me on living a Christ-centered life.”

A memorial service for Howard was held last month at the campus’ Sligo church. Her son, Frank Howard, and his wife, Marilyn, survive her.—*Communication Staff*

Senior Shares Sabbath Paper With Scholars

Geoﬀ Crowley, a senior theology major in WAU’s Department of Religion, was the only undergraduate student to present a scholarly paper at the most recent annual gathering of Seventh-day Adventist theologians and biblical scholars in Atlanta. The prestigious gathering of the Adventist Society for Religious Scholars (ASRS) meets in conjunction with the Society of Biblical Literature and Evangelical Theological Society, where most professors from institutions of higher



education present scholarly papers for critiquing and conversation.

The theme of the conference was “The Rest is Easy: The Sabbath in Adventist Theology and Practice.” Crowley’s paper, titled “The Sabbath People,” examines the relationship between the theology of Sabbath and the Year of the Jubilee. Highlighted in his presentation was the need for “Sabbath people” to be more socially and ethically inclined in their relationships with the underprivileged. He explains that the Sabbath and the Year of Jubilee are intertwined with the Adventist call to live jubilee lifestyles.

Zack Plantak, PhD, chair of the Department of Religion and last year’s ASRS president, commented, “Geoff is one of our top students, and it was a real pleasure to see him get that far on his own merit.” Additionally, Plantak expressed pride that “[Geoff’s] was the only voice in the community of Adventist thinkers that brought the issues of justice into conversation with the Sabbath doc-

trine and showed where other contemporary non-Adventist scholars that Crowley conversed with in his paper ... are pushing forward.” Crowley expressed delight while recalling his experience as a presenter: “I really enjoyed the meetings. It was a good opportunity to engage with other Adventist scholars.”

—*Communication Staff*

Calendar

March

- 2-4 Midterm Exams
- 5-12 Spring Break

April

- 7-10 Alumni Weekend

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

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is seeking a software engineer to join our staff. Primary project is to write new software (written in .NET) to facilitate our 50-seat call center. AIM is the Evangelistic Contact Center for the North American Division located in Berrien Springs, Mich. Visit callaim.org/jobs.php to see full posting.

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	Feb 11	Feb 18	Feb 25	Mar 4	Mar 11
Baltimore	5:38	5:47	5:54	6:02	6:09
Cincinnati	6:10	6:18	6:26	6:34	6:41
Cleveland	5:55	6:04	6:12	6:20	6:29
Columbus	6:03	6:11	6:19	6:27	6:34
Jersey City	5:26	5:34	5:43	5:51	5:58
Norfolk	5:41	5:48	5:55	6:02	6:09
Parkersburg	5:58	6:06	6:14	6:22	6:29
Philadelphia	5:31	5:40	5:48	5:55	6:03
Pittsburgh	5:50	5:58	6:07	6:14	6:22
Reading	5:34	5:42	5:50	5:58	6:06
Richmond	5:45	5:52	5:59	6:06	6:13
Roanoke	5:55	6:02	6:10	6:17	6:23
Toledo	6:02	6:11	6:20	6:28	6:36
Trenton	5:30	5:38	5:46	5:54	6:01
Wash., D.C.	5:41	5:49	5:56	6:04	6:11

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LEGAL NOTICES

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY - 2011 CONSTITUENCY MEETING

Washington Adventist University, Incorporated, Constituency Meeting Notice is hereby given to all whom it may concern, that a constituency meeting of Washington Adventist University, Incorporated, a corporation organized and existing under and by the virtue of the laws of the state of Maryland, will be held Friday, April 15, 2011, at 10 a.m. in the Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church in Takoma Park, Md., according to Article III, Section C.2 of the Washington Adventist University Bylaws.

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

Weymouth Spence, President

COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE CONSTITUENCY MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 26th regular constituency meeting of the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held April 16-17, 2011, at the Southern Asian Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 2001 East Randolph Road, Silver Spring, Md. The first meeting will convene at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 16. The second meeting will begin Sunday, April 17, at 9 a.m.

This 26th meeting of the constituency will be held for the purposes of receiving reports for the five-year period ending December 31, 2010; the election of officers and an executive committee for the

ensuing term; and transaction of such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

Dave E. Weigley, President
J. Neville Harcombe, Secretary

COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a regular meeting of the Columbia Union Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a corporation, will be held Sunday, April 17, 2011, in connection with the 26th constituency meeting of the Columbia Union Conference, at the Southern Asian Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 2001 East Randolph Road, Silver Spring, Md.

The purposes of this meeting are to elect a board of trustees for the ensuing five-year period and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Delegates to the 26th constituency meeting of the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are likewise delegates to the association meeting.

Dave E. Weigley, President
J. Neville Harcombe, Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIP LEADERSHIP TRAINING WORKSHOP

to be held in Parkersburg, W.Va., (1800 38th Street) Friday, April 29-Sunday, May 1. For registration and more information, visit adventistchip.org, email info@adventistchip.org or call (866) 732-2447.

OBITUARIES

CLEMONS, Lena Ann,

born September 8, 1931, in Charleroi, Pa.; died December 6, 2009, in Princeton, W.Va. She was a member of the Valley View church in Bluefield, W.Va. She is survived by her sons, Chris Skaggs of Princeton, and Paul Eugene Skaggs, Jr. of Wellsburg, W.Va.; her daughters, Susan Ingler of Bloomingdale, Ohio, and Virginia Pritt of Valley Grove, W.Va.

GARNETT, Madia Elbertha,

born April 24, 1918, in Bensonville, Liberia, to Rev. James Garnett and Mary Karneh Tolbert Garnett; died June 3, 2010. She was committed to a Christian life, which began in the Baptist Church, where her father was a minister. Elbertha was first married to the late Ambassador John D. Cox, which union was blessed with her only son, Eric. At the dissolution of their marriage, Elbertha entrusted the parenting of young Eric to his father and stepmother while she travelled abroad to further her education. While pursuing her college education in the United States, graduating with a master's degree

in education, she joined the Adventist Church. Upon her return to Liberia, she became a member of the Adventist church in Monrovia, where she was an active member of the senior choir and Dorcas society for many years. She later became an executive committee member of the Liberian Mission. In 1983 Elbertha was assigned as the educational leader for a crusade in Monrovia. Through her leadership, 600 new members were baptized. Elbertha was also an executive committee member of the West African Union. She held this position until she matriculated to the United States in 1992. She also contributed to the educational ministry of her church. She became the principal of the Seventh-day Adventist Junior and Senior High School in Monrovia, as well as serving as the school's dean of administration. She is survived by her son, Eric (Magretta) Cox Sr.; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; and two sisters-in-law, Rev. Dr. Genevieve Garnett and Thelma Garnett.

GOLLA, Ann E.,

born September 27, 1938, in Brooklyn, N.Y.; died August 5, 2010, in Shakopee, Minn. She was a member of the Mansfield (Ohio) church. Ann was preceded in death by her husband, William, and her parents, Joseph and Katie (Lamnek) Bereqasasi. She is survived by her sons, Warren (JoAnn) Golla and Mark Golla; her daughter, Jennifer, and two granddaughters, Sierra and Anika.

LESTER, Mearl H.

born January 13, 1918, in McDowell County, W.Va.; died October 25, 2009, in Bluefield, W.Va. He was a member of the Valley View church in Bluefield, W.Va. He is survived by his wife, Lillian Lester, of Bluefield.

WHAY, Christine Mae,

born March 6, 1922, in Staunton, Va.; died June 4, 2010, in Weems, Va. She joined the Waynesboro (Va.) church in the early 1940s, and then moved to Kilmarnock, Va., in 1945. She was a faithful member of the Kilmarnock church for 65 years, holding many offices. She assisted in the direction and operation of the FLAG Camp for 20 years. At her home—Lumber-lost Park. She is survived by her husband, R. Henry Whay; her daughters, Joyce R. Walker of Charlottesville, Va., and Sarah R. Rice of Weems; a son, Richard M. Rogers of Topping, Va.; granddaughters, Karen Franklin of Weems and Sharon Hardy of Lancaster, Va.; a grandson, Michael Walker of Ruckersville, Va.; two sisters: Barbara Ann Sharp and Margaret Britt of So. Waynesboro, Va.; and one brother, Eugene Sharp of Weems.

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

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Choose

Some years ago, a popular song touted one of the keys to health in a catchy tune: "Don't Worry, Be Happy!" Having a positive, happy attitude has been linked to improved health, faster recovery after a major cardiac event, protection against stroke, lower risk of developing the common cold and many other positive health indicators. The converse is also true: there is an association between habitual, negative thinking and increased risk of disease and mortality.

Our attitude is either helping us or hindering us. Not only is it a cornerstone to the healthy, productive functioning of the rest of our body, but it also impacts our efforts to change our behaviors. We want to break a bad habit or establish a good one, yet the automatic negative thoughts drive the decisions and choices we make.



Fortunately, the solution is found in God's Word: "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ" (2 Cor. 10:5, NIV). As we monitor our inner dialogue and make a conscious effort to choose God's perspective, we'll reap the benefits of a positive attitude and good health.

REFLECT – Do I tend to view my circumstances through a lens of fear, worry or other negative thinking? What is there in my life, right now, that is worth being happy about?

RESPOND – Dear God, in my vulnerability I often forget Your promises. Transform my outlook and set me on a path of positive thinking and health. Amen.

RELATE – I pause frequently to check my thinking and choose a positive attitude.

REMEMBER – "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live" (Deut. 30:19, NIV).

RESOURCE – Watch Katia Reinert, MSN, FCN, North American Division Health Ministries director, talk more about this topic at youtube.com/user/ColumbiaUnion.

Wellness coach Lilly Tryon is the principal contributor for the 2011 Visitor Calendar, expounded upon here each month.





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