

VISITOR



CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

JUNE 2012 • VOLUME 117 • ISSUE 6

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God Versus the Red Dragon

Taashi Rowe

With its bottomless labor pool of 1.3 billion people, atheist, Communist China has emerged as the world's second largest economy. Still, despite all the trappings of its many Westernized cities, millions of China's inhabitants are rushing to mosques, churches and temples to learn more about God. Why is this happening, and what can we learn from our brothers and sisters there?

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Videos – *Columbia Union Story* is a DVD show produced by the Columbia Union Conference and hosted by president Dave Weigley. It features inspiring stories of members and ministries that are 6-8 minutes each. Watch them on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/ColumbiaUnion.

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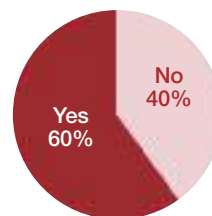
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Visitor Facebook Poll

Have you ever been on a mission trip?



Source: facebook.com/ColumbiaUnionVisitor

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

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Published by the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Printed at the Review & Herald Publishing Association.

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Volume 117 ■ Issue 6

Dreaming Joel's Dreams

I recently traveled to China with Raj Attiken, president of the Ohio Conference, and Taashi Rowe, *Visitor* news editor, who wrote this month's feature story. We went at the invitation of Rebekah Liu, an ordained minister and church leader, who implored us to come and see the blessings and needs of her people. One Sabbath we worshipped in a large city church that could not seat the throngs who gathered. When the pews filled, they sat on the floor. Bibles in hand, they listened intently to the message, soaking up every word of truth. Knowing that religion is not promoted in China, I was pleasantly surprised to learn that this was the "mother" church of dozens of others in the region. Apparently it's not unusual to have 60, 70 or even 80 smaller churches grow from larger churches. I was even more surprised to learn that it was not unusual for such churches to be pastored by women who lead 5,000, 10,000 or even 20,000 congregants.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

For some time I have wondered what it would be like to experience a time when Joel's prophecy is reality: "... I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters will prophesy ..." (Joel 2:28, NKJV). Could this be what's happening in China? And could this be

what Ellen White refers to when she says, "Before the final visitation of God's judgment upon the Earth, there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times" (*The Great Controversy*, p. 424).

How can that happen in the Columbia Union? Are we ready for it? In speaking with Pastor Liu about her level of involvement and leadership in ministry, one of the things she said stirred my heart: "Here, we recognize the calling of God irrespective of gender."

It challenged me to rethink my views about male and female roles in ministry. We want to be unified with the world church, but should we continue our current practice in order to do so? Can we, in good conscience and without biblical impetus, promote uniformity as unity?

My prayer is that we would find a way to fully and equally empower our sons *and* daughters who answer God's call to prophesy in His name.

Dave Weigley (dweigley@columbiaunion.net) is president of the Columbia Union Conference.

Union Calls Special Constituency Meeting

At its May 17 meeting, the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee received a report from an ad hoc committee assigned to study how to affirm women in ministry.

After discussing the report (included, in part, on p. 5), the committee voted:

1. To recognize its responsibility to act morally and ethically by expressing unyielding commitment to ordain qualified persons to the gospel ministry without regard to gender, and
2. To call a special constituency meeting for the purpose of authorizing ordination to the gospel ministry without regard to gender, and
3. To set the meeting date for July 29, 2012, at 10 a.m., at a location to be determined in Maryland.

The committee approved the motion by a vote of 34-6, with one abstention.

"I believe this action represents our committee's desire to move the mission forward, and we are calling this special session to facilitate a wider conversation," said Dave Weigley, union president, explaining the need for input from the larger constituency.

To help members understand the committee's perspective, leaders will publish a special July issue of the union paper, the *Visitor*. It will provide a review of biblical, historical and Spirit of Prophecy guidelines concerning the role of women in ministry.

“ I believe this action represents our committee's desire to move the mission forward, and we are calling this special session to facilitate a wider conversation. ”

—Dave Weigley



Ad Hoc Report Bolsters Case for Women's Ordination

SCRIPTURE

A. Scripture is clear that the end-time church is blessed with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all believers (Joel 2:28-29 and Acts 2:17-18) [and] with the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:9).

B. We are commanded to practice justice in our actions and relationships (Micah 6:8).

C. ... In Eden, God created male and female as equals, both spiritually and relationally, and both are necessary to fully reflect the image of God (2 Corinthians 5:17-20).



D. Multiple times throughout Scripture God chose women to lead His people (Deborah, Esther, Hulda, Anna, four daughters of Philip, Phoebe, Junia, etc.).

HISTORY

A. The Seventh-day Adventist Church was co-founded by a woman, Ellen G. White, who remains an authoritative and guiding voice.

B. At the General Conference Session on December 5, 1881, a motion was made: "RESOLVED, That females possessing the necessary qualifications to fill that position, may, with perfect propriety, be set apart by ordination to the work of the Christian ministry." Reported in *Review and Herald*, Dec. 20, 1881. It appears there was no record of any action taken.

C. Ellen White wrote in the July 9, 1895, *Review and Herald* of a ministry that women, who gave themselves to it, should be set apart to this work by prayer and laying on of hands.

D. ... In 1975 an action was taken to ordain deaconesses at GC Session. In 1985 the action was reaffirmed and in 2010 it was recorded in the *Church Manual*. Ordination of women elders was approved in 1975 and reaffirmed at Annual Council in 1984.

E. The General Conference voted to authorize women to serve as pastors (1990).



DIVERSITY IN UNITY

A. We affirm that diversity in unity "is part of the divine order for creation, redemption, restoration and for the church (Ephesians 4, John 17, 1 Corinthians 12:12).

B. We affirm God's leading in utilizing the talents of women for the mission of the church. "When a great and decisive work is to be done, God chooses men and women to do this work, and it will feel the loss if the talents of both are not combined" (*Evangelism*, p. 469).

C. We understand that "there must be room to recognize the need for a legitimacy of local adaptation of policies and procedures that facilitate mission while not diminishing the worldwide identity, harmony and unity of the Church" (GC Spring Council 2012, 116-12G Report).

Note: All scriptural references are from the New King James Version (NKJV).

Read the full report at columbiaunion.org/2012SpecialConstituency.

La Unión convoca una reunión especial de la constituyente

En su reunión del 17 de mayo, el comité ejecutivo de Columbia Union recibió un informe del comité ad hoc, al que se le asignó estudiar el tema de cómo afirmar a la mujer en el ministerio.

Después de examinar el informe (que sigue a continuación), el comité votó:

1. Reconocer su responsabilidad de actuar moral y éticamente al expresar un compromiso inflexible para ordenar a personas cualificadas para el ministerio del evangelio sin importar el género, y
2. Convocar una reunión especial de la constituyente con el propósito de autorizar la ordenación al ministerio del evangelio sin importar el género, y
3. Fijar la fecha de la reunión para el 29 de julio de 2012, a las 10 a.m., en Maryland, en una localidad que será determinada más adelante.

El comité aprobó la moción por un voto de 34-6, con una abstención.

“Creo que esta acción representa el deseo de nuestro comité de encaminar la misión hacia delante, y estamos convocando esta sesión especial para facilitar una conversación más amplia”, dijo Dave Weigley, presidente de la Unión, al explicar la necesidad del aporte de la constituyente general.

Para ayudar a la feligresía a entender la perspectiva del comité, los líderes publicarán en el mes de julio, un número especial de la revista de la Unión, *Visitor*. Éste proveerá un estudio de pautas bíblicas, históricas, y del Espíritu de Profecía en cuanto a la función de la mujer en el ministerio.

“Creo que esta acción representa el deseo de nuestro comité de encaminar la misión hacia delante, y estamos convocando esta sesión especial para facilitar una conversación más amplia.”

—Dave Weigley



Informe del ad hoc sostiene caso para la ordenación de la mujer

LA ESCRITURA

A. La Escritura es clara en que la iglesia de los últimos días es bendecida por el derramamiento del Espíritu Santo sobre todos los creyentes (Joel 2:28-29 y Hechos 2:17-18) [y] con el sacerdocio de todos los creyentes (1 Peter 2:9).

B. Se nos manda que practiquemos la justicia en nuestras acciones y relaciones (Miqueas 6:8).

C. ... En Edén, Dios creó al hombre y la mujer con igualdad, tanto espiritual como relacional, y ambas son necesarias para reflejar plenamente la imagen de Dios (2^{da} Corintios 5:17-20).



D. En varias ocasiones a través de la Escritura, Dios eligió a mujeres para dirigir a su pueblo (Débora, Ester, Julda, Ana, las cuatro hijas de Felipe, Febe, Junias, etc.).

LA HISTORIA

A. La iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día fue cofundada por una mujer, Elena G. de White, que permanece como una voz conductora y fidedigna.

B. En la sesión de la Asociación General del 5 de diciembre de 1881, se hizo una moción: "Se acuerda que las damas que posean las calificaciones necesarias para llenar ese cargo pueden, con perfecta propiedad, ser separadas por ordenación para la obra del ministerio cristiano". Informado en *Review and Herald*, 20 de diciembre de 1881. No parece haber registro de ninguna decisión.

C. Elena G. de White escribió el 9 de julio de 1895, en *Review and Herald*, de un ministerio en que las mujeres que se entregaran a él, "debieran ser separadas para esta tarea por la oración y la imposición de manos".

D. ... En 1975 se tomó un voto de ordenar a las diaconisas en una sesión de la Asociación General. En 1985 se reafirmó el voto y en el 2010 se registró en el *Manual de la iglesia*. La ordenación de mujeres como ancianas se aprobó en 1975 y se reafirmó en el Concilio Anual en 1984.

E. La Asociación General votó autorizar que la mujer sirva como pastoras (1990).



DIVERSIDAD EN LA UNIDAD

A. Afirmamos que la diversidad en la unidad es parte de la orden divina para la creación, redención, y restauración de la iglesia. (Efesios 4, Juan 17, 1^{ra} Corintios 12:12).

B. Afirmamos la dirección de Dios en utilizar los talentos de las mujeres para la misión de la iglesia. "Cuando ha de realizarse una obra grande y decisiva, Dios escoge a hombres y mujeres para hacer su obra, y ésta obra sentirá la pérdida si los talentos de ambas clases no son combinados" (*El evangelismo*, pág. 343).

C. Entendemos que "debe haber lugar para reconocer la necesidad de la legitimidad de la adaptación de pólizas y procedimientos locales que facilitan la misión de la iglesia sin disminuir la identidad mundial, la armonía y la unidad de la iglesia" (Reunión del consejo de la Asociación General en la primavera del 2012, informe 116-12G).

Nota: Todas las referencias de la Biblia son de la Versión Reina Valera Contemporánea.

Lea más en columbiaunion.org/ConstituyenteEspecial.

Potluck

BETH MICHAELS

What's New?

Books >

***New Lenses: How I Met Jesus on MTV* Jared Renaud Taylor**

"I hope to challenge readers to move from membership to discipleship and encourage [them] to see more of Jesus in the things

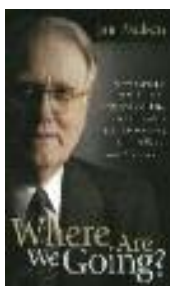
around them; even in places they wouldn't naturally think to look," says Jared Renaud Taylor, a member at Potomac Conference's Restoration Praise Center in Lanham, Md. It was while watching

MTV that Taylor realized an important aspect of worldly success that can aid Christians in the development of their relationship with God. Read more and order at newlensesbook.com.



***Where Are We Going?* Jan Paulsen**

Have distractions drawn Seventh-day Adventists away from God-given priorities? Jan Paulsen, who served as General Conference



president from 1998 to 2010, reflects on such questions and addresses issues such as the role of women in ministry, the loss of our young people

and how to build relationships. "What I've written here isn't advice I've gathered by research in books. Rather, it's the perspective I've developed through a lifetime of personal experience," says the member of Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. Order at adventistbookcenter.com.

***Never Scream Hippo* Anton Dormer**

Anton Dormer, an associate professor of biology at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., hopes this new take on the popular Aesop fable *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* will excite and inspire children to always tell the truth. "This book is unique in that

the story within can be illustrated by the child," explains this member of the university church, Sligo. This is his first book in the Illustrate-A-Story series, with the second one to be released this fall. Order at amazon.com.



Welcome to the Family

Mario and Nanthley Martinez

Mifflintown (Pa.) Church



Mario: When the turmoil of life seems overwhelming, I feel His hands over my shoulders, pulling me closer into that relationship that He wants with me. **Nanthley:** I feel like a weight has been taken off my shoulders, and I can breathe freely.

Did You Know?

According to a recent Gallup poll, the top-two metropolitan U.S. cities for overall well-being are located inside the Columbia Union:

- #1 – Lancaster, Pa.**
- #2 – Charlottesville, Va.**

Source: U.S. News & World Report, March 2012

On the Web

Facebooked >

Pierre Epsilon



I feel that true spiritual growth is a long-term thing.

I don't expect any more spiritual growth from camp meeting than from a sermon, serious Bible study discussion(s) or revival weekend at church. What is different is the corporate body ... worshiping with people that love God, that you don't normally see, is a different and refreshing experience ... especially depending on that place and church you are coming from.—*Restoration Praise Center, Lanham, Md.*

Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



Single, divorced or want to connect with other Ohio Conference

Adventist singles? Check out the recently added Ohio Adventist Singles Fellowship page.

Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



Little girls attended this year's princess tea with their moms and grand moms.

They learned that no matter who you are or what you enjoy doing, every girl is God's princess—at the Hamburg Community church.

In the Spotlight > Crossroads Adventist Preparatory School

ANCHORED IN CHRIST: Crossroads Adventist Preparatory School carries on a long tradition of Christian education sponsored by Chesapeake Conference's Baltimore First church in Ellicott City, Md. Crossroads opened its doors in 1996 and currently educates more than 60 students in pre-K through eighth grade.



STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE: Crossroads provides a holistic, Christian education and emphasizes service to God and man. Faculty members uphold the motto of building students' character, competence and creativity. "It is our goal that students become self-directed, autonomous learners; critical thinkers; moral and compassionate individuals," shares Karohn Young (above, center), principal. She also reports that Crossroads students average significantly higher than their grade levels on standardized and national exams.

IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY: Community outreach is established in every phase of the curriculum. The school's innovative approach to reaching the local and global community has also included participation in hosting many food, clothing and shoe drives for the needy, a community health fair, weeks of prayer, a multicultural fair and Grandparent's Day. The students have also assembled gift bags for local residents with personalized items and witnessing brochures, and sent handmade cards to Japanese families who suffered tsunami damage.

COMMITTED CHURCH AND

PARENTS: Baltimore First members continue to help raise funds that benefit the school. Recent donations have gone toward new classroom flooring and a playground. Through the Parent Teacher Fellowship, parents also actively volunteer for special events and projects. "I am very grateful for such a supportive school board and church family," says Young.





*How Adventism
is Flourishing
in Atheist China*

TAASHI ROWE

God Versus the RED DRAGON

THIS COULD BE NEWYORK CITY OR CHICAGO

I think as I press forward into a packed subway, except, when I look around, the hundreds of other passengers are all Chinese. As a black

Westerner, I am an anomaly and attract many stares. The fascination is mutual. I stare back at their colorful Western-styled hair, clothing

and gadgets in the belly of this clean, modern and

efficient Shanghai subway system. When the sheer force of the crowd spits me out at People's Square, I ascend the escalators and attempt to maneuver through the bustling crowds in one of China's

largest and most international cities. Situated on the banks of a

Yangtze River estuary, Shanghai is a picture of wealth and modernity.

With its bottomless labor pool of 1.3 billion people, atheist, Communist China has emerged as the world's second largest economy. Still, despite all the trappings of its many Westernized cities—endless high rises, increasing wealth, an attendant rise in consumerism and increasing freedoms—my tour guides tell me that millions of China's inhabitants are rushing to mosques, churches and temples to learn more about a God, Who for 60 years, did not exist to them.

Technically, the Seventh-day Adventist Church doesn't exist here either, yet during my 13-day visit, I learned there are approximately 400,000 Adventists in mainland China.

A Lesson in Growth

I first met Pastor Rebekah Liu—who I found to be fiercely intelligent and casually elegant—last November at our Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee. She spoke passionately, boldly and compellingly about the church's rapid growth in her homeland.

Curious to see how the Chinese church is growing, what we can learn from them and how we might help address their needs, I join Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president, and Raj Attiken, Ohio Conference president, in a country tour. After visiting with Pastor Liu in Shanghai, we travel to Beijing, Hangzhou, Wenzhou, Xi'an, Guilin, Chengdu and, finally, Hong Kong, and become steeped in this ancient country's history, culture, politics, religion and people. More importantly, we meet Adventist brothers and sisters who work passionately and tirelessly to tell people about God and how much He loves them.

We spend our first Sabbath enjoying a communion service in Shanghai. The church's co-pastors greet us at the main archway that serves as the entrance to a beautiful, Western-style, gothic cathedral. We cannot immediately gauge the number of attendees as we join various, scattered groups

engaged in foot washing. By the time everyone returns to their seats, however, it's evident that, even though the church accommodates 1,500 people, they surpass capacity. People sit on the floor and even in the lobby to hear the message. As they sing familiar songs like "Love Lifted Me" and "Jesus Loves Me" in Mandarin, I feel very much at home.

Weeds in the Sidewalk

During our travels, we learn that mainland China is considered an unorganized territory of the Adventist Church. Despite burgeoning membership, there are no Adventist institutions—seminaries, hospitals, schools, nursing homes nor printing houses. Not anymore.

We soon learn why. "I've spent my entire ministry working for the Chinese people," John Ash tells us as he sits down for Sabbath lunch at an upscale vegetarian restaurant in Hong Kong. The tall, reed-thin American transferred to China in 1970, served as a teacher, pastor and president of the Taiwan Conference and is now an associate secretary of the Chinese Union Mission (CHUM). CHUM is based in formerly British Hong Kong and, although they support the mainland

**WHEN WE CHOOSE PASTORS
HERE, GENDER DOESN'T ENTER
INTO OUR MINDS; ONLY WHO
IS AVAILABLE AND CAPABLE.**

—Pastor De-Zhang Zheng, Shanghai



REBEKAH LIU



ZHENGYI QIN



NIEVES YANG

DESPITE ALL OF THE TRAPPINGS OF ITS MANY WESTERNIZED CITIES, MILLIONS OF CHINA'S INHABITANTS ARE RUSHING TO MOSQUES, CHURCHES AND TEMPLES TO LEARN MORE ABOUT A GOD, WHO FOR 60 YEARS, DID NOT EXIST TO THEM.

churches, they have little administrative reach there.

He talks about how China experienced a period where, for 60 years, religion—including Adventism—was nonexistent. “Then little points of light started popping up,” he notes. “At first, we were not allowed to worship on Sabbath, but now, in some cases, we even own churches.”

We also meet Pastor Edmund Cao, 40, a graduate of Southwestern Adventist University (Texas), who leads the work in the western region. While on a noisy, crowded train in Hong Kong, he explains how difficult evangelism can be in Asia. “Many people don’t believe in supernatural beings and view Christianity as an imperialistic tool,” he explains.

Still, the church is growing. “I would describe growth in China like weeds in the cracks of a concrete sidewalk,” Cao comments. “Somehow we find a way to grow.”

Pastor Liu agrees. Despite some restrictions she says that, “Now is the freest time for religious adherents in China.”


Women Hold Up Half the Sky

As we talk to different people, our group is excited to learn about the mainland church’s congregational,

apostolic model. Ash estimates that there are some 48 “mother churches” with sometimes hundreds of plants. In Wenzhou City—nicknamed “New Jerusalem” because of its plethora of churches—one businessman has multiple congregations. He hosts us for lunch in a very tony suburb, gives us a tour of a beautiful, A-framed church built of cedar and tells us about the 200 congregations he pastors. Many of his churches started as he traveled around the country for business.

“Chinese are practical” is an assertion we hear frequently during our visit. And so, with a ratio of one pastor to every 4,000 members, the mainland churches must rely heavily on local elders. It is also common and practical for women, who make up a majority of the membership, to pastor mainland churches and several in China’s territories. On the mainland, they can even be ordained. This is partly because gender equality is core to the Communist philosophy, and as Liu explains, quoting Chairman Mao Zedong, father of the Communist movement in China, “Women hold up half the sky.”

She, her 69-year-old mother, Zhengyi Qin; and brother, David Liu—all ordained Adventist ministers—are responsible for some 400 churches in 14 counties around Sichuan Province. Qin started most



of them, but these are not the largest woman-led churches in China. According to Ash, another lady pastors 80 churches, the largest of which seats 5,000. In the West, these women would be equal to conference and union presidents.

Liu's husband, De-Zhang Zheng, who co-pastors a church in Shanghai with another ordained woman, claims female elders in China go back as far as 1949, with the first woman pastor getting ordained in the 1980s.

"When we choose pastors here, gender doesn't enter into our minds; only who is available and capable," he says. "Some people may say we are going against the church, but we ordain women because of the need of the work. If there was theological [reason] not to ordain women, we would not prosper."

On the issue of ordination, Cao is supportive "as long as God's work is advanced," he says. "I don't want to have any human ideas hinder His work."

Liu is clear about her calling. Remembering how God brought her family from atheism to become some of His most vocal evangelists, she says, "If you tell me God never called me, [I would say] 'No. That's a lie.'"



JOHN ASH



The Need for Training

When I meet 26-year-old Nieves Yang, one of the pastors on Zheng's team, I am surprised to learn that she holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish. While in college, she decided to offer her life to God. When she shared her desire with the church pastors and elders, they set her on a course to become a pastor.

In the West, or even in Hong Kong or Taiwan, Yang could study at an Adventist college. Instead she spent three years giving Bible studies and volunteering where she was needed. "They put me to work so that I was being trained by God Himself," she says. Today she is a full-time pastor on her way to becoming ordained.

Yang's story is typical. "Most pastors in China have not had formal theological training," reports Cao.

Pastor Liu is rare. She holds a bachelor's and master's in theology and is completing a Doctor of New Testament Studies at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.).

All for His Glory

I cannot help but feel inspired and enlightened by my travels in China. Without a typical corporate structure, many of our Chinese brethren see ministry as a personal responsibility. They remind me that God cannot be limited. He reveals Himself to people of all nations, languages, genders and education levels. It is clear that He can use anyone for His glory.

Columbia Union Revolving Fund

WELL INTO THE 21ST CENTURY, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Columbia Union is busy building the body of Christ through its many entities. As union membership increases, so does the need for churches, schools, conference offices and other structures.

The Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF) is the organization hundreds of Adventist entities have depended on for 44 years to get low-interest funding to fix, purchase, expand or build. Allegheny East Conference's Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., bought a new property with a CURF loan. Ohio Conference's Worthington congregation built a new church and school with a loan from CURF. Since it started, CURF has provided some 1,800 loans to institutions in the Columbia Union.

Flourishing Adventist entities with increasing needs can continue to call on CURF for their financing needs. CURF does make ministry possible.

**Columbia Union's
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Investment information should not be taken as an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy securities. Any offer to sell securities issued by CURF is made only through its offering circular and you should consider any investment in CURF with other information relevant to the offering circular. Note that CURF is not a government entity and its loans are subject to repayment of CURF. Notes

Adventists Best Peers in Johns Hopkins Diabetes Study

In 2009 the Johns Hopkins Center for Nutrition, in partnership with the American Diabetes Association, embarked on a study involving churches in Baltimore to see if churches could help members reduce their risk factors for diabetes. The Healthy Bodies Healthy Souls study of 15 churches included the following congregations: United in Christ, Cherry Hill and Miracle Temple. Results from the study were recently released.

The data collected from the results of the pre/post health assessments were measured and compared, which found that the cohort involving the Seventh-day Adventist churches did better than the cohorts involving other denominations in the areas of health outcomes, behavior and physical activity.

The first phase of the study involved all churches participating in health screenings and a questionnaire

that evaluated frequency of food consumption, food purchase and preparation and physical activities. In the second phase of the study, churches were charged with creating a collaborative intervention plan for their congregations. The plans included offering informational sessions on potluck dinners, exercise challenges, healthy cooking and healthy snacks.

Pastor Gary Adams of United in Christ and leaders from multiple church departments assembled to tackle the health challenges facing the church. The Hospitality Department served bottled water, prepared low-sodium meals, offered fresh sliced fruit during potluck dinners and formed exercise groups. Those churches not involved in the intervention phase were asked to continue their daily health routine.

Terry Black, a United in Christ member, said, "This program showed me a lot of different ways to prepare healthy meals and incorporate exercise into my busy schedule."

Amber Summers, MHS, RD, and a doctoral candidate at Johns Hopkins who worked on this study, says the program "has the potential to be transferred to other African-American church settings."—Myrtle Evans



Members at United in Christ discuss primary barriers to healthy eating.

Liberty Light Bearers Shine at Pathfinder Bible Experience

Twenty-four teams representing six unions and 13 conferences—including seven teams from the Columbia Union—recently participated in the first North American Division (NAD) Pathfinder Bible Experience, held at the General Conference building in Silver Spring, Md.

After answering 90 questions about the biblical books of 1 Samuel and Mark, the Liberty Light Bearers from Baltimore was one of two Columbia Union teams to place first.

"We are proud to represent for the Allegheny East Conference," exclaimed Monica Melbourne, a director of the Liberty Light Bearers. "This is the first time that the kids have participated in a Bible bowl. They worked so hard to be here."

The Pathfinders will study Acts and 1 and 2 Thessalonians for next year's challenge.—Pamela Scheib and Tanisha Greenidge



Pastor James Black, NAD's Youth Ministries director, presents the Liberty Light Bearers with a certificate recognizing their first-place status.

PFA Parent Weekend Highlights Student Successes



Parent Weekend at Pine Forge Academy (PFA) in Pine Forge, Pa., was a high time for students, faculty and parents. On Friday six students, including five sophomores, were inducted into PFA's National Honor Society chapter.

On Sabbath the students and their families led Sabbath School and divine service. In the evening, students who were on the Honor Roll the first semester were recognized at an Honors Convocation.

In addition, the Pine Forge Academy Foundation and others gave scholarships in excess of \$10,000. The highlight of the weekend occurred Sabbath afternoon when nine students gave their hearts to Christ through baptism. Justin Thornton, a freshman who was baptized, stated, "After I got baptized, I saw life in a different way. My life changed for the better!" Pictured is Sharda' Jean-Baptiste, who was baptized by Chaplain Toussaint Williams. —Noreena Ogidan

Pine Forge Science Labs Receive \$15K in Equipment

The Pine Forge Academy Science Department recently acquired new equipment to support science education. The equipment includes four portable science lab workstations, 12 portable micro burners, additional safety supplies and chemistry and physics kits. Funding for this \$15,000 venture was a joint effort between the school's administration, the Parent Association and a member of the school board.

"We believe that an intentional exposure of our students to quality education in our math and science offerings will ... produce a well-rounded student with enhanced critical thinking skills," says Neil Thomas, Science Department chair. —Noreena Ogidan

Seniors Oluwakemi Jacobs (left) and Re' Jeanne Greene set up the new portable science labs and portable butane burners.



Students Showcase Science, Spelling Chops at Conference-Wide Fair

Some 39 students representing the George E. Peters Adventist School in Hyattsville, Md.; the Calvary Adventist School in Newport News, Va.; Trinity Temple Academy in Hillside, N.J.; Sharon Temple Adventist School in Wilmington, Del.; the Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist School in Richmond, Va.; and the Baltimore

Junior Academy in Baltimore recently participated in the annual Allegheny East Conference Science Fair and Spelling Bee.

First-place winners for the science fair included Ja'Mani Walker from G.E. Peters for the K-grade 2 level, Danyel Brewer from Trinity Temple for the primary level, Jennae Whitted from G.E. Peters for the grade 3-5 level, and Deylen Woodson from Ephesus for the intermediate level.

Gloria Perry, the conference's associate superintendent, explained that, for the science fair, students had to use the Scientific Method to explain their projects. This year, for the first time, the spelling bee even included a K-3 division.

This was Liana Allen's first time participating in the spelling bee. "I prayed before every word. Doing that calmed me down, and God helped me all the way to first place!" said the G.E. Peters seventh-grader.



Grade 3-5 level science fair winners were Carrington Black from Calvary in third place, Kayla Bosman from Ephesus in second and Jennae Whitted from G.E. Peters in first.

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

Leaders Promote Purity at Young Adult Retreat, Cotillion

The Allegheny West Conference Youth Ministries Department recently hosted its first purity retreat, an inspirational event for young men and women to focus on the importance of sexual abstinence until marriage. During the four-day weekend retreat in Columbus, Ohio, conference leaders educated, challenged, inspired and affirmed the 130 young people in the physical, mental, social and spiritual values of sexuality.

The event included a cornucopia of presenters, including Richard Neil, MD, of Beaumont, Calif.; Kim Logan-Nowlin, PhD, of Detroit, Mich.; Officer Andre Ewing of the Cincinnati (Ohio) Police Department; Steve Garner, a graphic designer from Cincinnati; Pastor Derrick Moffit from the Hilltop Community Worship Center in Columbus; and Joel Johnson, conference Youth Ministries director. They hosted open forum sessions where they encouraged



Young retreat attendees learn about the importance and values of purity, before and after marriage.

the young people to freely ask any question. The 300 weekend attendees also enjoyed a performance by the Fabulous Acrobats team from China.

This year the conference



Leshay Peterson, from the Hillcrest church in Pittsburgh, Pa., and Derrick Dowdley, from the Berean church in Ashtabula, Ohio, spiffy up for the 30th annual cotillion/beautillion.

combined the purity retreat with the 30th annual conference cotillion/beautillion, which included 24 high school seniors. Event director and co-founder Cheryl Alli chose “Keep Holding On” as this year’s Saturday evening banquet theme. Mario Broussard Sr., from the South Fountain church in Springfield, Ohio, was the keynote speaker. The evening culminated with a consecration service where all attendees got to commit to sexual purity.

“It was so amazing how the young people remained intensely focused ... throughout the entire weekend,” commented Johnson. “It is so important that our young people, who are exposed to so many false ideas about sex ... are taught the true principles of sexuality from a biblical, Christ-centered basis.”—Conference Staff

Students Excel at Conference’s First Spelling Bee

The conference hosted its first spelling bee based on the text Luke 2:52: “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man.” Hosted by the Glenville church in Cleveland, parents, family and friends encouraged the 28 participating students from nearby Ramah Junior Academy and Columbus Adventist Academy in Columbus, Ohio. After more than 20 rounds, trophy winners for grades 1-3 were Jayla Simons, first place; Romiaun Speed, second place; and Deron Maina, third. For grades 4-8, trophies went to Michael Walker, first place; Chelson Cherestal, second place; and Tina Nguyen, third.

“Our goal is for Allegheny West students to participate in the state and national championships next year,”

reports Yvette Cooper, superintendent of education.

“Pray for our teachers and students as, together, we continue the journey to excellence.”



Hundreds Improve Skills at Leadership Summit

The Allegheny West Conference recently hosted its third annual Leadership Summit under the theme “Next Level Leadership.” More than 200 leaders from across the conference attended the three days of learning and dedication.

The plenary sessions included “How Churches Do Ministry,” presented by Jesse Wilson, DMin, associate professor of religion/theology at Oakwood University (Ala.). MyRon Edmonds, senior pastor of the Glenville church in Cleveland, shared his proven methods of “How to Utilize Youth & Young Adults in Your Leadership Team.” Carmen Griffith, Women’s Ministries director for the Southwestern Union

Conference, addressed “The Role and Function of Women on the Leadership Team.” Norman Miles, PhD, senior pastor of the Trinity church in Newark, N.J., shared “How Does a Healthy Church Leadership Team Relate to the Local Community?” After offering his challenge and vision for the conference, William T. Cox, Sr., AWC president, ended the session with prayer and an anointing ceremony for all attending leaders.

“This is such a refreshing time, to come and network with fellow leaders and be challenged by some of the denomination’s leading thinkers on leadership,” said Rochelle Long, from the Glenville church.



During a dedication ceremony at the Leadership Summit, Merci-Dieu Barionette, pastor of the Philadelphia Haitian church, anoints Joyce Bonner, from the Shiloh church in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Glenville Church Treats Youth to Special Weekend

The Glenville church in Cleveland recently hosted a special weekend for church and area youth that they kicked off with the Friday Night Lights Café. Young participants assembled in the decorated fellowship hall for a casual open mic session with two rules: honor God and respect the mic. In addition to free refreshments and a showcase of talents demonstrated by the young people, Christian rapper Andale’ flew in to give them a private concert and a timely message. He addressed them again the following day.

On Sabbath evening, the church’s drum and flag corps, Outreach Department and interested and energized church mem-

bers assembled with the youth at the nearby Forest Hill Park to participate in outreach. Although the chilly weather threatened to repel area young people from attending, performances by the drum and flag corps seemed to awaken the neighborhood. Soon curious neighbors came out to investigate.

Church members armed with granola bars, popsicles and water blessed each person with something as a gesture of kindness. Meanwhile, Andale’ again energized the crowd with his creative lyrics about God. Following Him, Kreative Generation, a three-man rap group made up of Glenville’s own, performed. Young and old, church-

and unchurched bobbed their heads and enjoyed the music.

John Coaxum, associate pastor, culminated the evening with inspirational words. He told the crowd that the Glenville church loves them, is there to support and encourage them and that they are always welcome to visit. “At the end of the day, I believe young people want to be involved in the church and in ministry,” said Coaxum. “We just have to make it relevant to them in a world that tells them it’s ‘wack.’ My goal is to marry church and ministry with joy and fun, so that young people will once again be excited about honoring God and helping others.”



Christian rapper Andale’ interacts with youth in a nearby park during the Glenville church’s youth weekend.

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

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

JUNE 2012

Watch! (Part II)

"Take heed, watch and pray, for you do not know when the time is" (Mark 13:33, NKJV).

Repeatedly in the scriptures, the encouragement to watch is linked with prayer. Prayer increases our awareness of what is happening in the spiritual realm. Thoughtful and intentional prayer draws our minds to what God wants to accomplish in our lives. It draws our minds away from the cares and distractions of this life.

There are many kinds of prayer. Watching in prayer allows us to focus on the presence and power of God. As we ask for and receive the Holy Spirit, our spiritual discernment is sharpened to help us understand what things in our lives will become a barrier to drawing closer to Jesus. Our understanding and application of the Bible is sharpened.

After providing a description of events leading up to His second coming, Jesus encourages us to, "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming" (Matt. 24:42, NKJV). Each of the advent signs becomes a reminder for us to be watchful. Instead of becoming fearful, we can be filled with hope and anticipation.

Jesus also reminds us that we don't actually know the precise time of His return. As a result, we need to live in a state of readiness at all times. We watch and make each day count because we know that it could be our last.

This appeal from our Savior is for everyone. "And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!" (Mark 13:37, NKJV). He doesn't want anyone left out. We have the privilege of walking each day with Jesus; watching and actively waiting for His return!



Rick Remmers
President

Delegates Re-Elect Officers at Constituency Session

At Chesapeake Conference's Third Quinquennial Constituency Session held last month at the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., 267 regular delegates and 164 delegates-at-large met to elect officers for the 2012-2016 quinquennial term. Delegates re-elected Rick Remmers, president; Eduardo Muñoz, treasurer; and Kleyton Feitosa, executive secretary.

"It is an honor to be invited to serve in leadership for the next quinquennium," said Remmers. "The combination of exciting opportunities and associated challenges will require a constant reliance on Divine wisdom. I value the prayers of our members as we move forward."

Church growth has been steady, averaging 424 new members each year, and this year topped 14,000. Eight new congregations were accepted into the sisterhood of churches. The Maryland churches include Annapolis Spanish, Beacon of Light (Salisbury), Frederick Spanish, Laurel Maranatha Spanish, Mizo (Burtonsville), Northeast (Baltimore) and South Carroll (Westminster). New Castle Spanish in New Castle, Del., also became a church.

One of the highlights of the quinquennium was the conference's financial stability during the recession. This is due to members faithfully returning tithe and accumulating a strong reserve fund over the years in anticipation of an economic crisis, said Muñoz.

Delegates voted seven conference priorities for

2012-2016, focusing on conference leadership, youth ministries, outreach, Christian education, diversity, spiritual growth and stewardship. These priorities came out of a conference-wide survey of constituents, elders and pastors.

"My sincere and heartfelt prayer is that God will continue to inspire and empower us to grow His kingdom in our territory," Feitosa said.



Delegates re-elect Eduardo Muñoz, treasurer; Rick Remmers, president; and Kleyton Feitosa, executive secretary.

NEWS

Ministries Development Director Appointed

As the new Ministries Development director for the Chesapeake Conference, Gary Gibbs will provide leadership for some conference goals over the next five years. "We're very pleased to have Gary joining us here in Chesapeake. His rich breadth of experience in various outreach methods will be a significant help in advancing the work of God in our field," says Rick Remmers, conference president.

PHOTO BY JOEL SPRINGER



Gibbs comes most recently from the Hope Channel, the Seventh-day Adventist Church's official television network, where he was associate director. He has also served as a pastor, evangelist, church growth consultant and founder of the Amazing Facts College of Evangelism.

Gibbs is no stranger to Chesapeake. He and his wife, Sherilyn, got married at the Frederick (Md.) church.

Northeast Congregation Celebrates Church Status

The Northeast company, a 71-member congregation in Baltimore, was recently promoted to church status. About 200 participated in a Sabbath celebration themed "We've Come This Far by Faith."

In his sermon, Rick Remmers



PHOTO BY SAMANTHA YOUNG

Left to right (back row): Rick Remmers, conference president; Sedley Johnson, senior pastor; Kleyton Feitosa, conference secretary; Iheanacho Odinma, associate pastor; (front row) Prince Itheme, head elder; Toolaram Singh, elder; and Alton Esdaile, elder

told the group, "You are here for a purpose. God has a plan. And just as this church has been planted, there are many more that need to be planted in Baltimore."

The group started in 2008 when 23 committed individuals, representing five area churches, began worshipping on Saturday afternoons in a local library. Led by pastors Sedley Johnson and Iheanacho Odinma, the group has grown steadily by offering Bible studies in the neighborhood and holding evangelistic meetings.

Women's Tea Draws 140 to Willow Brook

Recently an afternoon tea themed "Women of Grace," drew women from seven area churches. Dee Scalzo, Women's Ministries leader for the Willow Brook church in Boonsboro, Md., and women from the Willow Brook and Hagerstown churches coordinated the event.

"I saw the Lord's hand every step of the way in the planning," says Scalzo, citing several examples.

Hostesses used their creativity and own china to set their assigned tables. Speaker Charlotte McClure, a retired pastor of the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md.,

encouraged the women to "let God be God in the most intimate areas of our lives."

According to Scalzo, the event was a form of friendship evangelism. Many of the participants were friends, neighbors and Bible study students of members—and several were women who had been taking a break from church.—Jennifer Stefan



PHOTO BY JENNIFER STEFAN

Catherine Smith of the Hagerstown (Md.) church sports a 120-year-old hat that belonged to her grandmother.

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

God's Graduation Gift and Promise

Now that the school year has come to a close, I wonder and worry about the future of our students. They have crossed the stage and will quickly move on. For some, there is much excitement about “moving to the next level.” For others, it brings anxiety about the unknown. For most, this will be a time to decide who and what they will be, as people, Christians and leaders. I have heard students who can recite their plans without hesitation and others who are still trying to figure it out. Matthew 6: 21-24 provides an edict, which gives us great peace and comfort in how to live a Spirit-filled life that is worthy of His call.

The end of this school year also brings my official departure from Highland View Academy (HVA). However, I leave knowing that the staff has made a positive impact for Christ in the lives of the students, and we do not have to worry about tomorrow. I pray, as I ask for you to do, for each and every one of these young people as they seek God in all that they do!



Deborah Treviño
Principal

Forensic Science Students Tour National Crime Museum

Science teacher Ophelia Barizo recently led the Forensic Science class through a tour of the National Museum of Crime and Punishment in Washington, D.C. The group of 18 students and chaperones spent two hours exploring the elaborate images and interactive displays, reading about the history of crime and punishment.

“It was so much fun! I really liked the simulations,” said senior Ellie Bonilla. “We learned plenty of valuable information on the various fields and positions offered to those involved in forensic science.”

HVA's Forensic Science course is the first of its kind offered at any Seventh-day Adventist academy in the North American Division. The course applies science and technology to criminal and civic laws and covers major disciplines in forensic science, such as chemistry, mineralogy, anthropology, pathology, serology, biotechnology, computer forensics, toxicology and



At the museum, Jessica Callahan, Marci Corea, Makhela Libebe and Mackenzi Hall view an autopsy demonstration.

others. Students study a significant number of forensic cases, together with the scientific investigations involved in solving the crimes. The laboratory component includes lab investigations, such as fingernail, soil, blood, hair and document analysis; an introduction to DNA and glass analysis and several simulated crime scene investigations.

“The value of the class is that the kids get hooked on science in a very unique, relatable way,” explains Barizo. Senior Ryan Stough says he likes the class because he learned “the reality behind TV shows like CSI and NCIS.”—Autumn Banks ('12)



At the National Museum of Crime and Punishment in Washington, D.C., senior Ellie Bonilla learns to process a mock crime scene.

My Lifelong Impact

When I review my past four years at Highland View Academy, I wonder what are the best words I can use to describe a place that has consumed so much of my time. Hectic? Exciting? Life changing? Difficult?



Unforgettable? Looking back, I realize how much I have been truly blessed. Not just anyone is given the incredible opportunities that my classmates and I have had. Now the time has come to leave our high school comfort zone, but I believe we all depart confidently as well-prepared, Christian leaders.

Two years ago, my sister, Allison, and I prayed about starting a Bible study group on campus. We took the idea to our math teacher, Seth Ellis, who was extremely supportive and helped us start Mid-Week Bible Study, which continues today! I believe that HVA's undeniably strong, Christian leadership has helped shape me and my 31 classmates into the young people we are today, and I wouldn't trade it for anything!—Stephanie Calhoun ('12)

Stephanie Calhoun (second from right) rounds up fellow seniors and English teacher Jennifer Payne (middle) during Senior Recognition.

Science Teacher Wins Award, Regional Challenge

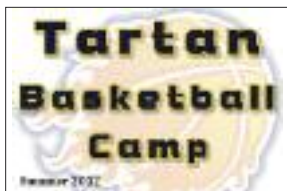
Ophelia Barizo, HVA Science Department chairperson and teacher, recently earned the 2012 PASCO STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Educator Award. The \$7,500 prize will be used in part to upgrade the school's science laboratory. The prize is an addition to her already significant number of grant awards for innovative classroom projects and technology, which now total more than \$750,000.

Teacher Ophelia Barizo (second from left) joins science students on a field trip to the Baltimore Harbor, where they studied the impact of human activities on water quality.



First Basketball Camp Planned

HVA, in partnership with nearby Mount Aetna Camp and Retreat Center, will introduce its inaugural Tartan Basketball Camp, June 24-



July 1, with the option to be a day-camper or stay overnight. The camp is designed to teach basketball fundamentals to intermediate and advanced players

through station work and competition. Boys aged 12-17 are encouraged to participate. Space is limited. Register at hva-edu.com.

New Summer Credit Recovery Courses Available Online

HVA will offer several online Credit Recovery (CR) courses this summer, June 18-July 28. These courses will enable a student to turn a failing grade into a passing one without having to retake the course. The course work can be completed online (from home) and an HVA supervising instructor will oversee the scoring.

CR registration ends June 8. Class size is limited. Each student must have a computer and Internet access. Courses will include, but are not limited to, freshman,

sophomore and junior English; World History; U.S. History; health; pre-algebra; algebra I and II; geometry and Environmental Science. For more information, call (301) 739-8480, ext. 222.

Highlander is published in the *Visitor* by the Highland View Academy 10100 Academy Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740 ■ Phone: (301) 739-8480 Fax: (301) 733-4770 hva-edu.com Principal, Deborah Treviño Editor, Teresa Kelchner

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

JUNE 2012

Spencer CHIP Participants Share Testimonies

According to the participants of the most recent CHIP seminar at the Spencer (W.Va.) church, the program has proven to be exactly what its new title designates, a Complete Health Improvement Program.

Sandra Morrison, a hospital social worker, said she didn't regret one penny spent on the program. Another participant, Carol Hall, has seen dramatic improvement in her cholesterol numbers. CHIP "is a tremendous program. I went from the high-risk level of 7 (above normal) for coronary artery disease to 5, which is in the normal range," she said.

Just before the program began, Jay Rodgers and his wife, Karen, were providentially led to the CHIP

website. He had been suffering severe angina and had been unable to carry out his normal work routine. A scant three weeks into the program, his pain was almost completely gone. Karen commented, "Jay is riding his exercise bike 40 minutes to an hour daily, and he really has to exert himself to feel even the slightest pain." By the time of the post-program blood draw, his cholesterol had dropped 25 points.

Lisa Freeland was the "biggest loser," and shed 13 pounds in six weeks. She now walks every day and continues to lose weight. In her home, her neighborhood, and even while at her job as a Wal-Mart checkout clerk, Freeland cheerfully helps spread the news that there is a program that offers "improved health" to anyone willing to "stick with it."

Spencer's CHIP staff—led by Suzanne Clayton, RN—continues to host monthly alumni meetings. Participants are still "tracking" their miles, losing weight and gaining a deeper resolve to pursue the "more abundant life" that Jesus promised to give.—Chris Hasse



Suzanne Clayton directed Spencer's first CHIP program.



Jay and Karen Rodgers treat fellow participants to a supermarket skit during the CHIP program.

Fourth Wellness Camp Slated for August

Mountain View Conference's fourth annual Wellness Camp will take place August 19-September 2 at the Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va. For an early bird rate of \$695, payments are due by July 2. Early bird spouses pay \$550 and early bird Wellness Camp alumni only pay \$500.

Those who meet the regular deadline of July 16 will pay \$795 plus \$650 for spouses. Wellness Camp alumni who meet the regular deadline will pay \$600.

For more information, call the conference office at (304) 422-4581, or visit mtviewconf.org and click the "Health Ministries" link.



Williamson, Logan Members Help With Flood Cleanup Efforts

After two weeks of periodic rain throughout southern West Virginia, a slow-moving thunderstorm moved into Logan and Lincoln counties in March. The severe storms flooded roads, homes and businesses; trapped several people in their homes and cars and washed out several roads and bridges. Pamela Kazee, who lives in Switzer, couldn't believe her eyes when she saw Mud Fork, usually a lazy little creek, turn into a river that spanned more than two football fields. "I'd never seen it like that before," she said.

During the downpour, Cesar Quispe (below), who pastors the Logan and Williamson churches, went to city hall and asked what he could do to help. City officials told him they would call him as needs arose.



Later Shannon Meade, a community volunteer and director of the Logan Family Resource Network, was pulled in to lead the disaster response team. Meade said, "As soon as I received this assignment, I immediately thought of Pastor Cesar Quispe who, after the grand opening of the new Better Living Center [in Logan] ... took the time to show me the store. He and his wife showed me how they had set up the store as an emergency shelter with cots in case the community needed it to be deployed."

Meade then invited Quispe to an organization meeting. Even though Meade was chosen to lead the disaster response team, she said, "What I did at that very first meeting was look at Cesar, and I realized that we have to get organized by someone that knows how this process should work."

Quispe responded by leading the team in prayer, and then worked with Meade to establish an emergency hotline, print magnets for volunteer vehicles going into the affected areas and recruit volunteers. Quispe called on J. Wayne Hancock, EdD, Mountain View Conference's director of Adventist Community Services (ACS)/Disaster Response, who then contacted all ACS leaders and pastors in the conference. Over the three-week recovery period, some 146 volunteers came from many faith-based organizations to help.

"We actually closed the Better Living Center during the weeks immediately following the flood," Quispe said. "They needed church members' manpower."

Logan and Williamson members worked side by side with other volunteers to distribute flood buck-



The severe storms flooded roads, homes and businesses.

ets; deliver personal care kits, food and clothing; and remove mud and debris from homes. The cleanup took about four weeks, and then it was turned over to long-term recovery teams. Quispe estimates that some 1,100 people were helped.

Meade concluded, "I am very impressed with the work ethic, the talents, capabilities and perseverance of Adventist ministers. I am also appreciative of the effective leadership [that] the Adventist Community Services/Disaster Response team showed to me personally."—J. Wayne Hancock



Williamson and Logan church volunteers helped to remove damaged furniture from flooded homes.

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

SPIRIT

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY

JUNE 2012

A Place for Lost Souls

Some may expect that with all the students gone, June would be a quiet month on a boarding school campus. But then the thunder of big V-TWIN motorcycles fills the air as the Christian Biker Camp Meeting comes to our campus. This is a group of true characters, with a love for Jesus and their fellow bikers.

On the heels of the bikers, a different group arrives, the pastor-led Ohio Conference Camp Meeting. The traditional camp meeting group has a different focus, but one thing we all have in common is a steadfast love for Christ.

It is beautiful to be part of a church where what binds us is not how we look or how we worship, but Who we strive to follow and Who we love to worship. As Mount Vernon Academy's (MVA) principal, I am proud to include myself and my school in a church that is committed to finding lost souls wherever they may be and bring them all to Jesus.



Robert Stevenson
Principal

NEWS



Saying Goodbye

I can still see the first day of my freshman year at MVA! I was filled with so many emotions that I couldn't begin to comprehend the huge decision I had made to start my life in the "Seventh-day Adventist bubble." Throughout the years, I spent growing and maturing, learning and experiencing, and trusting in God, I knew that I had a permanent family here among staff and students.

As I graduate, I look back and wish high school would never end! MVA was my home, and I hope to bring my future family back someday. I thank all of the many contributors and God for giving me this opportunity to live this life.—*Emily Getts*

Save the Date

MVA's registration is scheduled for August 12 for freshmen and August 14 for grades 10-12. For more information, call (740) 397-5411 or visit mvacademy.org.

Alumni Donate \$30,000 Over Weekend

"Each one of MVA's alumni are valued and treasured. Anytime they visit their alma mater, they are welcomed with open arms," said Margaret Sutton, Advancement and Alumni Relations director. Over the recent Alumni Weekend, attendees generously donated \$30,000, all of which will go to student aid. "Thank you to everyone who attended and gave!" she said.



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

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

JUNE 2012

Home & School Raises \$97K at Gala Auction



At the auction, Frank Perez, SVA board chair, shares plans of the new sports building.

Excitement filled the air for patrons and sponsors attending Spring Valley Academy's (SVA) Home and School Association's Auction Gala held recently in Kettering, Ohio. A silent auction commenced amidst the festive decor of a tropical setting. After dinner, auctioneer Doug Sorrell conducted a fun-filled, live auction, which netted a total of \$97,717.35!

"I am humbled and thankful that our parents, staff and community understand how important a Christian education is for our children," said Heidi Shull, co-president for the Home and School Association. Proceeds will go toward the school's Worthy Student Fund and a new sports building.

Violinists to Tour With New England Youth Ensemble

When freshman Karina Beebe attended the Washington Adventist University Band Fest in Takoma Park, Md., she never dreamed the future events that would unfold. While there she met her mother's college friend, Daniel Lau, DMA, director of piano studies. Lau then invited Beebe and fellow student, junior Kerstin Smith, to play for Preston Hawes, the university's New England Youth Ensemble (NEYE) director.

An impressed Hawes then invited both students to join the 85 musicians of NEYE for their tour of South Africa in May and June. The NEYE will present 20 benefit concerts in 15 different cities. All funds raised will benefit ADRA.



Kerstin Smith and Karina Beebe practice while their proud violin teacher, Mareta Alden, observes.

Students Serve in Arizona

Recently 18 high school SVA students and seven adult sponsors traveled to the Holbrook Indian School in Arizona for their annual mission trip. "This is the second

year our students have agreed to sacrifice their spring break so they could help in this worthy endeavor," says Ken Knudsen, chaplain.

Some of the projects included pressure washing and painting the exterior of buildings, installing windows, digging drainage trenches and doing miscellaneous interior construction. They also tutored in math and music classes, led out in worship and shared special music. "I want to be a servant of God," said senior Michelle Nieb. "It wouldn't be right for me to waste His time by passing up an opportunity for service."



Connections is published in the *Visitor* by the Spring Valley Academy
1461 Spring Valley Pike, Centerville OH 45458
Phone: (937) 433-0790 ■ springvalleyacademy.org
Principal, Jeff Bovee ■ Editor, Vicki Swetnam

Have You Found Him?

One of my favorite passages of Scripture is Jeremiah 29:12-14, which reads, “In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. I will be found by you, says the Lord” (NLT). I find that having a good prayer life not only involves prayer time in the morning and evening, but also involves praying while I am driving or involved with other activities. Recently while driving, a car pulled out in front of me, and, although I was able to avoid the accident, I experienced fear for a moment that I was going to hit the car and be injured. I quickly lifted up a prayer of thanks to the Lord for His protection and help in avoiding the accident.

I love knowing that God has promised to listen when we pray, even if it is while we are involved in some other activity. It is so easy for us to get so busy with daily activities that we do not stop to take the time to pray, and, as a result, many of us do not experience the blessings that God has in store for us. We take too many things for granted, myself included. Let us remember to frequently lift up prayers of praise and thanks to God for His protection and blessings while also praying for our needs. Because God has promised that we will find Him when we seek Him, I ask you today, have you found Him? “O taste and see that the Lord is good” (Ps. 34:8).



Jim Greene
Executive Secretary

NEWS

Bridgeton, Salem, Vineland English District Gains New Pastor

John Pifer was recently installed as the new pastor of the Bridgeton, Salem and Vineland English district. The three churches held a combined worship service at the Bridgeton church where Pastor Pifer presented his sermon “First Things First,” based on Revelation 14:6.



Jim Greene, secretary of the New Jersey Conference, introduced Pifer and his wife, Shannon, to the congregation. For the past five-plus years, Pifer served in the Atlantic County, Cape May Court House and Parkway South district.

“I believe we exist to seek the Lord and seek the lost,” Pifer says. “I believe our church members will invite their family, friends and neighbors to the worship service where we might ‘feel after Him, and find Him, though He be not far from every one of us,’” he adds, quoting Acts 17:27.

Collingwood Park School Students Perform for Board of Education

Students from the Collingwood Park School in Tinton Falls performed a mini concert for the the New Jersey Conference Board of Education meeting. The school has 11 students and one teacher—Stephen Buttery. Judi Sanderson, teacher’s aide, and Henoc Morrobel, music teacher for the conference schools, round out the staff. All students enrolled at Collingwood Park are involved in the music program, both as singers in the school choir and by playing musical instruments.



Retreat Draws Record Attendance

This year's New Jersey Conference Elders, Deacons and Deaconesses retreats drew more than 550 individuals to the two weekend events. The theme for the 2012 meetings was "Time to Pray."



Paul Richardson, the North American Division's associate Ministerial secretary, speaks at the English retreat.



Eddie Canales, vice president of Hispanic Ministries for the Southwestern Union, speaks at the Spanish retreat.

Tranquility Adventist School Adds New Classroom

Students at the Tranquility Adventist School in Tranquility recently built a brand new "classroom." They built this "outdoor classroom," also known as a greenhouse, from a recreational vehicle enclosure frame that a church member donated.

James Hunt, the school's principal, boasts two green thumbs and quite an imagination. He saw the makings of the greenhouse while at a Tranquility church member's house. "I saw the pile of pikes and thought, 'Wow, that would make a nice greenhouse,'" he recalled.

It took a while before they got the courage to build the greenhouse. A greenhouse company donated the

plastic covering and Lowe's home improvement store donated \$50 worth of lumber and hardware. The pastor donated his front door to make the storm door for the greenhouse. The older students tried several times before successfully and correctly placing the cover on the greenhouse. After failing twice, Jacob Gang wasn't discouraged. "Mr. Hunt, we can do it. Let's take it all down" and try again, he said. The third time was the charm.

With their greenhouse in place, the students planted cool weather seeds in bowls in late February, which they transplanted into trays three weeks later. Now a healthy crop of collards, kale, broccoli,

spinach, lettuce and cabbage is flourishing. "We plan to give the produce to the students' families and local church members," Hunt says. "In the process, the students are learning hands-on science, gardening, building and how to work."

However, he believes that one of the most important lessons his 16 students are learning is a spiritual one. "When you get to those weeds early, there's not much of a battle," he says. "It's kind of like sins in our lives. If you get them early in life and get them out, you'll have a much easier time later on."

The school will conduct their second children's summer gardening class for the community, and also start transplants for that class in the greenhouse.

James Hunt and his students at Tranquility Adventist School get ready to transplant their plants to the greenhouse.

PHOTO BY JAMES HUNT



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

New Associate Superintendent Joins Ohio Leadership

I am most pleased to share with you that Alison Jobson (below) has accepted the invitation to ministry as our associate superintendent,” announced E. Jay Colburn, Ohio Conference superintendent of schools. Many will recognize Jobson as the recent third-grade teacher at Spring Valley Academy in Centerville, a Pathways program presenter and the Ohio Adventist Wikispace “instigator” and manager. Others may recognize her as a member of her childhood Xenia church.



“While being an extraordinarily outstanding classroom teacher, Alison has also demonstrated excellent professional leadership by providing in-service for her peers in topics ranging from Mimio Interactive Teaching Technology, Developmental Reading Assessment, curriculum mapping, Discovery Education, Pathways and the Responsive Classroom approach,” commented Colburn. “Last summer, just for fun, Alison taught a Pathways Elementary Writing Methods course for Washington Adventist University,” the Columbia Union’s institution of higher learning in Takoma Park, Md.

“For me, Seventh-day Adventist education has always been more than a job or career—it’s been a calling,” stated Jobson. “The gift of sharing Jesus’ message and His teachings to children and families leaves an indelible impact on you. When I received the call to serve in the Education office of the Ohio

Conference, I was at once humbled and grateful for such an amazing opportunity.”

While Jobson’s heart remains in the classroom, she “almost immediately began to feel the tug of the Holy Spirit to accept the invitation.” She added, “It is often in times of contentedness and satisfaction that the Lord smiles and reveals to you something fresh and new to challenge your sensibilities in a totally different way.”

In addition to her educational leadership, Jobson will coordinate the Child and Family Education ministry. Jobson replaces the recently retired Cindy French-Puterbaugh.

OMU Draws Attendees From Three Conferences

After six years, Ohio Ministry University (OMU) continues to draw lay leaders, pastors and those interested in growing their church. This year was no exception with 188 registered guests from across Ohio, adding this year several from the Allegheny West and Pennsylvania conferences at the event in Dublin.

Workshops as well as featured speakers struck a chord with attendees, focusing on one goal: how to fill empty pews. Paul Richardson, Reconnecting Ministries coordinator for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America and executive director of the Center for Creative Ministry, shared practical ideas and resources about how local churches can reconnect with inactive and former members. Ron Whitehead, director of the Center for Youth Evangelism (Mich.), defined a church of refuge and explained how local churches can reach and engage teens and young adults.

To listen to and view presentations from the event, visit ohioadventist.org and select Ohio Ministry University under the Annual Events link.



Ohio Ministry University attendees unite in prayer to ask the Lord to help them fill their pews with more believers.

Haitian Church is Organized, Plans Outreach

In July 2001, a group of Haitians in the Columbus area came together to form the Ebenezer Christian Community Group. Around May 2004, the Ohio Conference accepted this group as a mission congregation with several goals: to enhance the gospel work in Columbus, form a community of

believers and host their first crusade. In 2010, with assistance from the Ohio Conference and several sister congregations in other conferences, the group purchased a building. Earlier this year, the Ebenezer Haitian church formally joined the sisterhood of Ohio churches with a consecration ceremony.

Sanctuary renovations are underway. Members are engaged in ministry, focusing on friendship evangelism. Pastor Vergniaud Angrand (left) assists people with a variety of services: navigating the immigration process, language interpretation and offering referrals for housing and employment. Also, the youth are preparing to launch a new ministry in East Columbus.

Their labors have borne fruit, and the church already claims more than 60 members. One technique they embraced early on was a new style



Ebenezer Haitian members join in the young congregation's consecration ceremony.

of church leadership. "Every single member of the church is a participant of a ministry. No one is left uninvolved," explained Pastor Angrand. "The church is committed to continue in engaging children, young people and adults in achieving the mission of the kingdom."



Cleveland Hispanic Churches Unite to Seek Revival

The Cleveland Spanish First and Ebenezer Spanish churches recently joined efforts to rejoice in fellowship, worship and service—ingredients for an atmosphere of revival. This past spring, the two Cleveland congregations celebrated the new birth of six children of God through an event they themed "First Fruits Baptism." Members met at the First church for a Week of Prayer led by the district pastor, Peter M. Simpson. Moved by the

Spirit of God, the congregants met with great fervor to hear the Word of God and ended the six days with a solemn communion service on Friday evening.

In the following weeks, the two churches will immerse in a training project called "Missionary Instructions and Training Seminars," followed by a series of seminars by Simpson that will train and equip at least 100 members in the art of witnessing and missionary effort.



Above: Following a recent Week of Prayer organized by the Cleveland Spanish First and Ebenezer Spanish churches, six people publicly demonstrated their commitment to God: (left to right) Victor Pacheco, Mariano Collazo, Carmen Collazo, Mariano Collazo Jr., Sequel Collazo and Gloriberta Lebrón.



PHOTOS BY ANGEL MIGUEL TORRES

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

Pennsylvania *Pen*

JUNE 2012

Community Unites to “Kick Butts”

Captain Kick Butts and his sidekick Lungs Woman recently greeted more than 60 community members at Reading Junior Academy (RJA) for “Kick Butts Day” in Reading. The event is an international endeavor to inspire youth to speak out against the fatal effects of tobacco use. Adventist WholeHealth Network, RJA and the Kenhorst Boulevard church sponsored this event with the support of other local institutions.

A team of 10 students and two staff members from Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) in Hamburg helped plan and run the event. The students organized six booths that featured fun and information on living smoke-free. These included “101 Things to do Besides Smoking”; “Lungs Exposed,” a multimedia booth that explored the impact of tobacco on the body; “They Put What in a Cigarette?” showcasing some of the 4,000 chemicals found in cigarettes; and “Public Policy,” where individuals could sign a petition written by BMA students asking the Pennsylvania state legislature for more monetary support for tobacco cessation and prevention programs.

Guests were given the opportunity to win a \$25 gift card by guessing the number of cigarette butts in a jar. The team collected 832 butts from a community playground, and 206 butts from an ashtray at a retail store.

BMA’s Ariel Aires provided two performances, taught the children acrobatic moves and participated in activities showing the impact tobacco has on breathing. Kids had so much fun that they stayed the entire three hours—even after their parents walked home.—*Alysha Hollingshead*

Captain Kick Butts, also known as Rico Gordon, a BMA senior, and his sidekick, Lungs Woman, better known as Maile Hoffman, a BMA senior, greeted community members at “Kick Butts Day.”



Young Adult Discovers Church Plant in North Carolina

At the invitation of his co-worker, Justin McLaughlin, a young adult from Philadelphia, attended Just Claim It—the third annual North American Division youth prayer conference held in Greensboro, N.C. McLaughlin

found what he was looking for when he attended Pastor Tara VinCross’s seminar Thursday morning. VinCross, pastor of the Chestnut Hill church in Philadelphia, showed a video showcasing Chestnut Hill’s REACH Philadelphia church plant, which is led by young adults ministering to young adults in Philadelphia.

After the seminar, McLaughlin approached VinCross and said, “This is what I’ve been waiting for. I want to join your church.”

VinCross didn’t realize that he wasn’t a Seventh-day Adventist. On Friday night, McLaughlin made a decision to be baptized. He approached Pastor Manny Cruz, North American Division associate Youth Ministries director, who said, “Let’s go for it! Which local church do you want to join?” He replied, “The REACH Philadelphia church plant.”

VinCross baptized McLaughlin in the Sheraton Hotel’s pool on Sabbath morning, surrounded by a dozen members of the REACH group who hugged, supported and welcomed him into the fellowship of believers. Watch a video of the baptism at vimeo.com/38278473.—*Tara VinCross*



Pastors Manny Cruz and Tara VinCross surround Justin McLaughlin in the baptismal pool.

Hartwells Donate Bates Concordance

Ray Hartwell, Pennsylvania Conference president, and his wife, Jeanne, associate Ministerial secretary, recently donated to Southern Adventist University (SAU) (Tenn.) a rare Bible concordance used by early Adventist pioneer

Joseph Bates. The book contains notes written by Bates, and Adventist heritage scholars consider it a historically valuable artifact.

The concordance originally belonged to Jeanne's great-grandfather, an Adventist pastor. The Hartwells graduated from Southern in 1978. "We knew this was an important piece of Adventist heritage and wanted the concordance to be accessible for research and enjoyment by scholars, historians and church members," Jeanne said.

Southern Adventist University will most likely house the book in the Ellen G. White Resource Room

of the McKee Library on campus, making it available to all who would like to view it, while protecting it from deterioration.



Ray and Jeanne Hartwell present the concordance to Gordon Bietz (left), SAU president, and Joe Mocnik (right), director of the McKee Library.



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Potomac People

JUNE 2012



Radio Programs Impact Station Owners, Community

Airing six times a week, *Acción Adventista* and *Ondas de Esperanza*, two radio ministries spearheaded by Jose Esposito (left), director of Potomac's Hispanic Ministries, should cost more than \$1,000 per program to broadcast in the Richmond, Va., area. However, owners of Radio Ponder expressed that they have been blessed by the programs and now ask for just \$200 each program.

Geared toward the Hispanic church community, the 60-minute program *Acción Adventista*, which airs on Saturdays, starts with a biblical message. A time follows for listeners to call the station and share their praise and prayer requests, announce church events and request rides

to church services and activities. The program closes with the children's program *Tu Historia Preferida*.

Ondas de Esperanza airs live Monday through Friday at ministeriovuelve.com. It's a less interactive program with an inspirational message by evangelist Alejandro Bullón and music. Since January 14, most people in the Potomac Conference territory, as well as parts of Pennsylvania and Chesapeake, have been able to tune in to 1030 AM and 1380 AM to hear the programs. "We hope that listeners will feel compelled to go to one of our churches and become involved or attend an event," says Jacqueline Sanchez, administrative assistant at the Adventist Center for Evangelism and Discipleship, Potomac's Hispanic Ministries headquarters in Temple Hills, Md. "Our office number is announced so people can call us with questions, request a copy of the message or find a local church."

"This ministry is increasing awareness of the needs around us and motivating us to take action," Esposito says.—*Jacqueline Sanchez*

21 Attend CHIP Series at Filipino Capitol

Last year the Filipino Capitol church determined to place greater emphasis on helping their community. After much discussion, they concluded that holding a Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) would be the best way to make an impact.

"We spread the word about CHIP a couple of months before," said Lemuel Niere, senior pastor. "One Sabbath in February, the church members went door to door and handed out invitational brochures about the program and its benefits. Now we're planning to use CHIP as an outreach program each year."



At CHIP seminars sponsored by the Filipino Capitol church, attendees learn to eat better and balance their diets.



Attendees are taught that simple exercises and stretches can dramatically improve overall health.

This year 21 people enrolled for the three-hour meetings held each weekday in March, paying to receive blood work, books and materials. A speaker from Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore hosted the class's graduation ceremony. Filipino Capitol's Health Ministries coordinators continue to keep the alumni engaged by sponsoring monthly gatherings to discuss progress and other health topics.

The church plans to use more health-focused outreach programs this year, including one for diabetes awareness and another to help people quit smoking. For more information and additional photos, visit pcsd.org.

Potomac People

Kinder Kare Ministry Encourages Hurting Kids

Children pulled from their homes by social services often can't take much, if anything, with them. I started Kinder Kare so they could have something more than the clothes on their backs, something that they can call *theirs*," explains Janet Olsyne, administrative assistant at the Potomac Conference office in Staunton, Va.

Olsyne and her husband, Ron, started the program in 2010 to provide age- (infant to 16) and gender-specific backpacks filled with items like toys, books and personal hygiene products. Volunteers distribute the items to Harrisonburg, Va.'s social services office and the Mercy House. Additionally, packs to the Mercy House, a privately owned care provider for the homeless, include Bible-themed coloring books, hardback Bibles for youth and a picture of Jesus with a note from the Harrisonburg church.

Olsyne's inspiration for Kinder Kare came from her husband's aunt. "For years, Ester knitted blankets for kids coming out of drug homes," she explains. "She passed away in 2010, and I felt compelled to keep the legacy going."

Since the inception of this ministry, more than 200 packs have

been distributed. While restocking the supply at the social services' office one day, the lead social worker shared the story of one recipient. "She told me that a 15-year-old boy had come in. They handed him a pack. He rummaged through it and took a few items and handed the bag back," said Olsyne. "The social worker told him the whole thing was his. He stared at her for a second and quietly said, 'I've never owned a backpack before.' For him, just the bag would have been enough to make a difference."

Later Olsyne witnessed an interaction between a father and his children. "There were two beautiful blonde-haired kids sobbing in the arms of their crying dad," she recalled. "The social worker was trying to gently end the visitation and it made me realize all over again how emotionally draining this is for the children and parents. Often times, the kids don't understand what's going on. I realized *that's* who we're reaching out to. Stories like these tug at my heart strings and keep me motivated and moving forward."

Initially, the Olsynes financed Kinder Kare themselves. As the needs grew, the Harrisonburg church decided to ask for donations and put a separate line on their tithe envelopes for the ministry. During the holiday season, the Harrisonburg church Women's Ministries group collects the names of hurting children and submits them to Olsyne so that she can also give them backpacks. A member of the women's group also knits blankets for these children.

"I was a bit reluctant to start initially," Olsyne admitted. "It's much easier and more comfortable not to



Once every few months, volunteers help Janet Olsyne (left) pack and distribute the bags, which are filled with items like toys, books and personal hygiene products.

do something or to have an idea and not implement it. But, Bill [Miller, conference president] is always encouraging us to step outside of our comfort zones and reach out to people through our strengths. I'm so happy I did. I can see God working every step of the way. It's so encouraging to see how the branches of an idea can spread when God, love and faith are at the center."—Tiffany Doss



Since Kinder Kare started in 2010, more than 200 backpacks have been distributed to children.

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

Students Help During Mission Trip, Service Week

Nearly 20 Takoma Academy (TA) students plus staff recently journeyed to Tanzania to provide missionary support to Global Vessels, a Seventh-day Adventist nonprofit, at their Havilah Orphanage. TA's own faculty member Virginia Mathis and her husband, Frazier, started Global Vessels in 1998.

On the recent 10-day sojourn to East Africa, students toiled in the construction of the orphanage's administration building and learning center. They also conducted Vacation Bible School for the local children, and spent time with students of the nearby Tanzania Adventist Secondary School. A tour to the Ngorongoro Crater and nearby Mt. Kilimanjaro offered an opportunity for them to observe the beauty of Africa's flora and fauna.



Freshman Gabrielle Watson and others assist at area gardens during TA's Service Week.



Freshman Briana Marshall and junior Ashley Laing help build an administration building at the Havilah Orphanage in Tanzania.

While these students engaged in missionary work in Africa, the remainder of the student body labored locally during TA's Service Week. They welcomed the opportunity to be of assistance and make a difference in the community. Their labor included tree planting, water-front cleanup, restoring hiking trails, mulching and painting. Some students, under the direction of Reginald Alexander, Allegheny East Conference's associate director of Publishing, also knocked on doors in neighboring communities and shared Jesus as part of an ongoing literature program called Youth for Change. Each week young people take literature and a joy of knowing Jesus to a dying world.

Student Week of Prayer Highlights God's Faithfulness

Takoma Academy students, with support from Chaplain Mario Broussard, entered into its Student Week of Prayer with the theme "God on Call." Every day students met for up to 45 minutes to worship and minister to each other in song, drama, poetry, prayer and the spoken Word. Speakers from each class presented a daily message with a profound and relevant impact, as would be expected when peers, under the prompting of the Holy Spirit, share Jesus. In his message, sophomore Derrick Green (right) reminded his peers that Daniel did not let his environment and circumstances shake his faith in God, and when he called on God, He answered. God always answers.

David Hooker, a TA faculty member, concluded the week calling the student body into a deeper and more conscious relationship with God. Pastor Paul Graham, a guest presenter from the Restoration Praise Center in Lanham, Md., added to the impactful week. He shared from his own life story and admonished students that, while parents know they can't always be there for their growing years, God has promised to never forsake them. God is always on call!



Students Shine Through Awards, Achievements

Takoma Academy strives to promote among its students excellence, team spirit and a willingness to explore life beyond the classroom. Throughout the year, students reflected these qualities through academic and external achievements.

Sophomores Rachelle Pichot, Leena Daniel and Noelle Francis (right) participated in the Washington, D.C., region of the inaugural Euro Challenge 2012. The Euro Challenge is a program launched and supported by the Delegation of the European Union

to the United States in Washington, D.C., with support from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The young ladies gave a presentation on Portugal's high government debt and deficit.

Junior Merlique Blackwood attained a Silver Key Award for excellence in writing from the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. She continues to write and is motivated by a quote she picked up on Twitter, "Show me how you worship and I'll show you my pen and paper."

Graduating senior Desmond Stanback won the Education, Goals, Opportunities and Sports, Inc. organization's News Channel 8 Glenn Harris Sports Talk Show Player of the Year award for basketball. Stanback led TA to yet another championship title this season.

Freshman Karee-Anne Rogers and sophomore Jae Bradley, with support from TA faculty member Hilary Daly, earn acknowledgment for their participation in this year's DC Regional Brain Bee.



"Takoma Academy has really added focus and greater direction to my future," he says.

Graduating senior Jeremy Cox got an opportunity to be part of the Maryland governmental process. He served as an intern for a week at the Maryland State House, working closely with several senators and administrative staff.

Freshman Karee-Anne Rogers and sophomore Jae Bradley participated in the DC Regional Brain Bee. Participants prepared by engaging in scientific reading and rehearsal of statistical and factual knowledge on the brain, nervous system and spinal cord. Hilary Daly, a Science Department faculty member, supported their participation.



Alumni Reunite During Weeklong Celebration

Moving away from the traditional alumni weekend, the Takoma Academy Alumni Association hosted a week of activities to celebrate "the lasting legacy of Takoma Academy and the positive role that her alumni have played in today's world and local community," stated Henry Pittman ('82), alumni president, during the opening ceremony. Pittman

shared a bit of his story and the motivation he gained while at TA that helped him press through difficult times. Through tears, he also shared the story of teachers who believed in him when he did not even believe in himself.

Under the theme "Redemption Reunion Restoration," the week's activities included a pep rally and alumni basketball game, awards dinner, evening vespers and Sabbath worship. TA's choir and steel band added to the Sabbath worship experience, when guest speaker Mario Torres, from the Clarksburg (Md.) church, culminated

Henry Pittman ('82), alumni president; Laura Benn, a retired TA faculty of 40 years; and Manny Montero ('88) enjoy catching up during this year's Alumni Week.



the event by reminding attendees that Jesus promised to return and take His loved ones home during the greatest reunion.

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

From the White House to Our Campus

I recently attended a meeting at the White House with Arne Duncan, Education secretary; senior White House advisors; and several college presidents from across the country. We met to discuss issues on higher education relative to access, affordability, student success and accountability.

At the end of the meeting, we accepted President Obama's challenge to do what is necessary for America, to once again, have the highest share of college graduates in the world by 2020. It was important for Washington Adventist University (WAU) to be at the table and actively participate in such discussions. One primary reason is that many of our students cannot afford private higher education, and these federal funds play a major role in preparing them for lifelong careers. Our university is sensitive to these issues and that is the reason for WAU's *Vision 2020*.

Vision 2020 is a continuation of the strategic planning process to create a culture of excellence at WAU. Based on various assessments that we conducted over the past four years, we now have the data that will guide us in developing action plans that will transform us into a thriving university that is continuously produces graduates who demonstrate competence and moral leadership to their communities. We will continue to develop game-changing actions, under the six institutional pillars of excellence: quality, people, finance, growth, service and community.



Weymouth Spence
President

NEWS

Mock Trial Team Ends Season on High Note

WAU's Mock Trial Team won their first event of the year against Howard University. In a spirited competition, held in Morrison Hall Chapel, the team walked away with awards for best attorney going to Asara Greaves and best witness to Angelica Carrasco. In a later trial, they tied with the University of Maryland.

"I joined the mock trial class not knowing then that it would be filled with such invaluable information and exciting experiences. Our coaches, with their tough

love, gave us everything we needed and more," said Greaves, a junior history major.

Alumni Steve Brennwald, a defense attorney in Washington, D.C., and Petra Aaron, Baltimore City's assistant state's attorney, are the team's coaches.



WAU's Mock Trial Team includes (front row) Katherine Case, Asara Greaves, Angelica Carrasco, (back row) Christopher McArthur, Eric Kannampuzha and Stephen Williams Jr.

SIFE Team Stands Out at Regionals

WAU's SIFE team was named a Rookie of the Year and First Runner-Up Region Champion at the SIFE USA Regional Competition recently held in Baltimore. The event is one of 11 regional competitions held across the United States. Participating students in SIFE, or Students in Free Enterprise, use business concepts to develop community outreach projects that improve the quality of life and standard of living for people in need.

The SIFE program culminates with an annual series of competitions where teams present the results of their projects to business leaders who evaluate them.



Washington Adventist University Graduates One of its Largest Classes

This spring slightly under 300 students passed through Washington Adventist University's Gateway to Service in Takoma Park, Md. Relatives and friends packed nearby Sligo church to witness one of the largest graduating classes in the university's history. University officials say the numbers are symbolic of a growth spurt that they have been experiencing in recent years.

The Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Science



PHOTOS BY EDUARDO GRANT



Nineteen students received associate of applied science and associate of science degrees.

Keynote speaker Scott McClure (left), a Washington attorney, urged graduates to remain true to the university's commitment to a life of service and social justice. A WAU education, he said, is about engaging minds and transforming lives, which means grasping the information necessary to be competent in one's field or the pursuit of further studies. It also involves an action plan that incorporates the values of kindness, respect, honesty, candor, ethics and following the Lord.

Nirupama Rao, WAU's distinguished Gateway to Service honoree and ambassador of India to the United States, was recognized for her contribution to liberal arts education, says WAU's president, Weymouth Spence, EdD. Rao holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in English literature and is a published poet. She joined the diplomatic service in 1973 and, in addition to her Washington post, has served her country in Sri Lanka, Moscow and Beijing.

In a presentation liberally sprinkled with the wisdom of compatriot Mahatma Gandhi, the Indian civil rights leader, Rao commended WAU's emphasis on character education, which she said is



Nirupama Rao, ambassador of India to the United States, was WAU's distinguished Gateway Service honoree.



Regina Johnson, class president, who received her degrees in religion and business administration, addresses her fellow graduates.

degrees were conferred on 237 students, while graduate degrees in business administration, counseling psychology, professional counseling psychology, healthcare administration, public administration, nursing education and nursing and business leadership were conferred on 45 students.

critical for preparing young minds to face the challenges of the contemporary world.

Graduation weekend activities began with the Consecration Service at Sligo church. Grant Leitma, PhD, chair of the Psychology Department, gave the address. On Sabbath Rear Admiral Barry Black, the 62nd chaplain of the United States Senate, served as keynote speaker.

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 Communication Director, Grace Virtue

Profiles in Caring



Deidre Washington, Research Associate (on left) with Emecobong Martin, Project Coordinator for the Center on Health Disparities, discuss the "BEAT IT!" project's main goals during a community advisory board meeting in February.



Washington Adventist Hospital
Shady Grove Adventist Hospital
Hackettstown Regional Medical Center
Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital
of Maryland
Adventist Behavioral Health
Adventist Home Care Services
The Reginald S. Lourie Center for Infants
and Young Children
Adventist Medical Group
LifeWork Strategies
Cytology Services of Maryland

The Calling

They are words that come from the story of the earth's beginning. They are a proclamation of God's intent, anchoring the account of the origin of our species: "Let us make human beings in our image, in our likeness" (Genesis 1:26). Millennia later these words still capture our attention and our hearts. In this grand statement, and from the very beginning, mankind is blessed with infinite worth for the simple reason that we are in the image of God.

There are many ways to think about what makes our lives worthy. Our achievements, our potential, our productivity, our net worth. What we do, what we are aspiring to become or to do, where we have influence or power, the assets that we bring, the talents or skills or experiences that enrich us. We think about family and networks and opportunities. We think about being in the right place at the right time or being just plain lucky.

None of those things come close to the worth that is ascribed to us because we are in the image of God.

This awesome (and that's just the right word for it) understanding of who we are demands our respect. In Adventist HealthCare, this is the respect that calls us to recognize the infinite worth of the individual and to care for each one as a whole person.

It is this respect that calls us to listen to the voices of those we work with and work for, creating in us a desire to know and understand the interests, needs, and perspectives of those with whom we interact.

It is this respect that under girds the conviction that we will treat others as we ourselves want to be treated.

It is this respect that calls on us to engage with all persons equally, and that draws us to connect with those whose voices and needs may have been ignored or neglected. It is this respect that provides us with a permanent perspective of civility, kindness, and compassion as we encounter difficulties, conflict, crisis, disease, disability, and disappointment.

We are a species born from God's own heart, crafted by his own hands, and meant to live a life that reflects the divine back into our world. This is a high calling—one of infinite worth. And respect.

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



A Mission of Health Equity for Adventist HealthCare

Improving African Immigrant Health through Culturally Appropriate Care

The Adventist HealthCare Center on Health Disparities in Rockville, Md., is hard at work on a 20-month project that will have a significant impact on the Washington, D.C. region's African immigrant community and aim to alleviate the challenges health-care providers face while serving this population.

The project began this past fall when the Center on Health Disparities was awarded a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health (OMH) to design curricula to improve health outcomes of African immigrants. Termed "BEAT IT!" (Becoming Empowered Africans through Improved Treatment of Diabetes, Hepatitis B, and HIV/AIDS), this project will address strategies to improve disease self-management for patients and offer training to assist health-care providers in delivering culturally appropriate care.

In the Washington, D.C. area, African immigrants account for more than 150,000 people with over 38,000 living in Montgomery County alone.

According to the OMH, the prevalence of chronic diseases such as diabetes, hepatitis B and HIV/AIDS among African immigrants is continuing to grow. This has strengthened the importance of finding ways to ensure that health-care providers are delivering effective care and support to this population. However, there are many hurdles to overcome before this can be accomplished.

Some of the challenges faced among many providers include difficulty with identifying appropriate resources and understanding the cultural needs of their African immigrant patients. Additionally, many patients experience barriers to communicating with health-care practitioners, which often results in reduced medical adherence. The goal of the "BEAT IT!" project is to assist health care providers in understanding African culture and perceptions so that it can help reach necessary improvements to intake and discharge procedures for patients.

The project is directly tied to the Center's mission of reducing and eliminating health

disparities among local underserved populations. Established in 2007, the Center has served as an important extension of Adventist HealthCare's mission to "demonstrate God's care by improving the health of people and communities through a ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing."

The Center has been collaborating with an advisory board of community leaders, health-care experts, community clinics and local African immigrant residents in developing the project. Once the curricula are implemented at Adventist HealthCare hospitals and aligned clinics, outcomes will be formally tracked and measured, and made available to other health-care organizations.

"By sharing our project with health-care providers, we hope to empower others in the industry to spread the mission of health equity and enable them with the tools to do so," said Marcos Pesquera, Executive Director of the Adventist HealthCare Center on Health Disparities.

Members of the Center on Health Disparities' community advisory board representing Washington Adventist Hospital, from left: Olubunmi Momoh, Pharm.D., Clinical Pharmacist; Elias Mamo, M.D. Infectious Disease Specialist; Mabel Ankrab, RN, Director of Unit #300, and Judith Kurtis, LCSW-C, ACM, Director, Case Management.



Members of the Center on Health Disparities' community advisory board representing Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, from left: Nelson Akwo, Pharm.D., Pharmacist; Jo Cimino, MS, RN, ACM, Director, Case Management; and Skip Margot, RN, MS, Chief Nurse Executive and VP of Patient Care Services.



Learn More

To view a three-minute video about the BEAT IT! Project, visit the Center on Health Disparities Facebook wall: www.facebook.com/HealthDisparities

Adventist HealthCare In The News

Maryland Secretary of Health Speaks to Physicians about Electronic Health Records

The Secretary of Maryland's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene delivered the keynote address in March to physicians at Adventist HealthCare's first Annual Ambulatory Care EHR Support (ACES) Program.



Secretary Joshua Sharfstein, M.D. discussed electronic health records during an Adventist HealthCare conference in March.

Secretary Joshua Sharfstein, M.D. and other health-care experts discussed various topics concerning advanced use of electronic health records (EHRs) and showcased practices that have successfully implemented eClinicalWorks under the ACES Program.

The ACES Program was established by Adventist HealthCare in 2010 to help outpatient physicians implement EHRs in their practices. Since its launch, the program has grown to include more than 100 physicians. The program is aimed at giving providers shared electronic access to the patient data needed in order to deliver coordinated care that is focused on the prevention and management of chronic disease.

"Programs like ACES help us fulfill our mission of delivering population-based care to ensure the wellness of the communities we serve," said William G. "Bill" Robertson, President and CEO of Adventist HealthCare. "By partnering with physicians through this program, we are able to improve care coordination and reach patients at all stages of their health-care experience."

Shady Grove Adventist Designated High-level Chest Pain Center

Shady Grove Adventist Hospital has been nationally recognized for providing a higher level of care and outcomes in treating heart attack patients. The Society of Chest Pain Centers (SCPC) has granted the hospital accreditation as a Cycle III Chest Pain Center with PCI (percutaneous coronary intervention, or angioplasty).

Only four hospitals in all of Maryland hold a cycle III chest pain accreditation, which is currently the highest designation granted. "We are pleased to be recognized for the exceptional care provided by our cardiac and emergency teams," said Dennis Hansen, president of Shady Grove Adventist Hospital. "Achieving this accreditation demonstrates that Shady Grove Adventist Hospital exceeds the rigid standards set by the Society of Chest Pain Centers to ensure patients in our community get the life-saving treatment they need when having a heart attack."

Each year, more than 600,000 Americans die from heart disease, making it the leading cause of death in the U.S. More than five-million people visit U.S. hospitals each year with chest pain.

The Society of Chest Pain Centers is a non-profit international society dedicated to reducing heart attack deaths with rapid, early treatment – when treatments are most effective – as well as teaching the public to recognize and react to early symptoms of a possible heart attack.

Washington Adventist Receives Award for Breastfeeding-Friendly Workplace

Washington Adventist Hospital has been selected as the only hospital in Montgomery County, Md., to receive the 2011 Regional Breastfeeding-Friendly Workplace Recognition Award. The hospital's lactation program was honored with a Silver Level award, the second highest level.

The D.C. and Maryland Breastfeeding Coalitions established the Workplace Awards in 2010 to recognize local companies who are committed to providing breastfeeding support, education, time, and space for new mothers to breastfeed and/or pump breastmilk in the workplace.

"We are proud to be recognized as a local example of how to support mothers who wish to continue to breastfeed once they have returned to work," said Judith Campbell, Lactation Consultant at Washington Adventist Hospital. "We truly care about the health and well-being of our employees and their families. Promotion and support for breastfeeding is an easy way to encourage healthy lifestyle choices."

Shady Grove and Washington Adventist Hospitals Team Up with Walgreens

Shady Grove Adventist Hospital and Washington Adventist Hospitals have teamed up with Walgreens on a new program to provide bedside delivery of medications to hospitalized patients, with pharmacists helping to ease their transition from hospital to home. Currently, Shady Grove Adventist in Rockville and Washington Adventist in Takoma Park are the only hospitals in Montgomery County to offer bedside delivery services with Walgreens.

Prior to discharge, patients can elect to have prescriptions delivered to their bedside by a Walgreens pharmacy technician. Pharmacists then talk with patients about any important information regarding their medication therapies and are available to answer patient questions and concerns. Walgreens completes the request for any necessary insurance authorizations, fills the prescriptions and delivers directly to the patient's hospital room.

Other benefits to patients include, a free patient hotline for medication consultation with a pharmacist; refills at any Walgreens location or other pharmacy of their choice; and refill reminders for patients with chronic conditions such as cancer, organ transplant, and HIV.

Una misión de equidad en salud para Adventist HealthCare

Mejoramos la salud de los inmigrantes africanos a través de una atención culturalmente adecuada



The Center on Health Disparities team. In front, from left: Talya Frelick, Project Coordinator; Adeline Assani-Uea, Project Consultant on the African immigrant grant; Marilyn Lynk, Program Manager and Emeobong Martin, Project Coordinator. Back, from left, Interns Saira Walia, Vana Derderian and Samantha Bathie; Deidre Washington, Research Associate and Marcos Pesquera, Executive Director.

El Center on Health Disparities (Centro de desigualdades en la salud) de Adventist HealthCare en Rockville, Md., trabaja arduamente en un proyecto de 20 meses de duración que tendrá un impacto importante en la comunidad de inmigrantes africanos de la región de Washington, D.C. y aspira a aliviar los retos que enfrentan los proveedores de atención médica cuando atienden a esta población.

El proyecto empezó el otoño pasado cuando se le otorgó al Center on Health Disparities una donación de \$200,000 de parte de la Oficina de Salud para las Minorías (OMH, por sus siglas en inglés) del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de Estados Unidos para diseñar currículos que mejoren los resultados de la salud de los inmigrantes africanos. Este proyecto, denominado "BEAT IT" (Becoming Empowered Africans through Improved Treatment of Diabetes, Hepatitis B, and HIV/AIDS [africanos facultados mediante un mejor tratamiento de la diabetes, hepatitis B y VIH/SIDA]), abordará las estrategias para

mejorar el automanejo de enfermedades para pacientes y ofrecerá capacitación para asistir a los proveedores de atención médica a brindar una atención culturalmente adecuada.

En el área de Washington, D.C., los inmigrantes africanos suman más de 150,000 personas con más de 38,000 que viven tan sólo en el condado de Montgomery.

De acuerdo con la Oficina de Salud para las Minorías (OMH), la preponderancia de enfermedades crónicas tales como diabetes, hepatitis B y VIH/SIDA entre los inmigrantes africanos continúa creciendo. Esto ha fortalecido la importancia de encontrar rutas para garantizar que los proveedores de atención médica ofrezcan atención y apoyo efectivos a esta población. Sin embargo, hay muchos obstáculos que superar antes de que esto se pueda lograr.

Entre algunos de los retos que enfrentan muchos proveedores se incluyen la dificul-

tad para identificar recursos apropiados y entender las necesidades culturales de los pacientes inmigrantes africanos. Además, muchos pacientes se enfrentan con barreras de comunicación con los profesionales de atención médica, lo que con frecuencia resulta en una adherencia deliciente del tratamiento médico. La meta del proyecto "BEAT IT" es asistir a los proveedores de atención médica a entender las percepciones y cultura africanas a fin de poder ayudar a alcanzar las mejoras necesarias en los procedimientos de ingreso y egreso de pacientes.

El proyecto está directamente vinculado con la misión del Centro que es reducir y eliminar las desigualdades en la salud entre las poblaciones locales mal atendidas. El Centro—establecido en 2007—ha actuado como una extensión importante de la misión de Adventist HealthCare para "demostrar el cuidado de Dios mejorando la salud de las personas y comunidades mediante un ministerio de sanación física, mental y espiritual".

El centro ha venido colaborando con una junta asesora de líderes comunitarios, expertos en atención médica, clínicas comunitarias y residentes locales inmigrantes africanos en el desarrollo del proyecto. Una vez que se implementen los currículos en los hospitales Adventist HealthCare y clínicas asociadas, se hará seguimiento y se medirán los resultados formalmente y se pondrán a disposición de otras organizaciones de atención médica.

"Al compartir nuestro proyecto con los proveedores de atención médica, esperamos facultar a otros en la industria para extender la misión de equidad en la salud y proveerles las herramientas para hacerlo", señaló Marcos Pesquera, director ejecutivo de Adventist HealthCare Center on Health Disparities.



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www.AdventistHealthCare.com

Obtenga más información

Para ver un video de tres minutos acerca del proyecto BEAT IT, visite el muro de Facebook del Center on Health Disparities:
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August 4	Terry Johnsson
August 11	William Johnsson
August 18	Fred Kinsey
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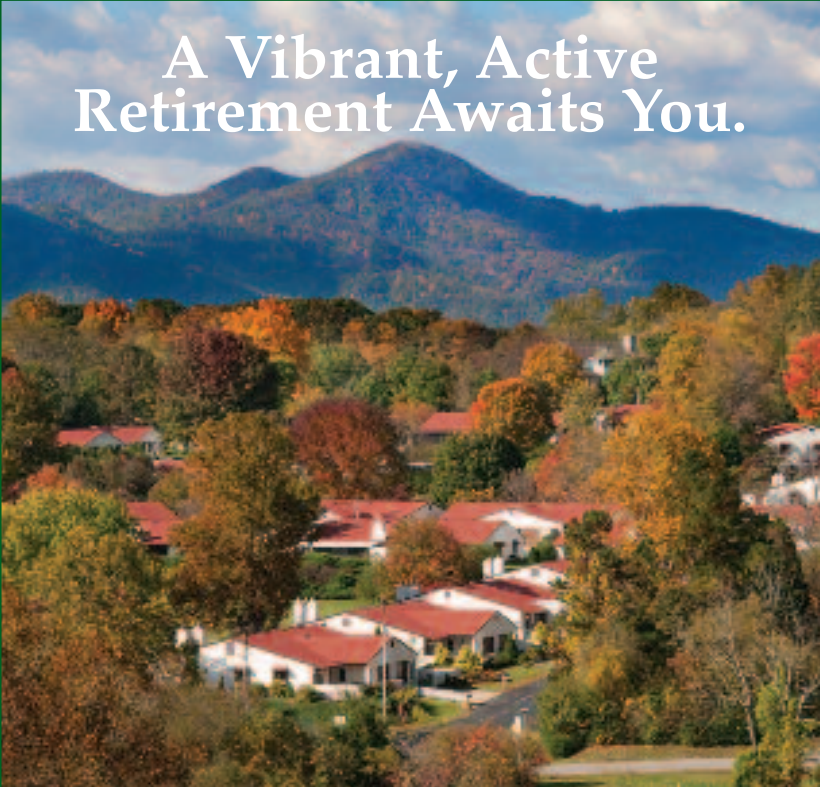
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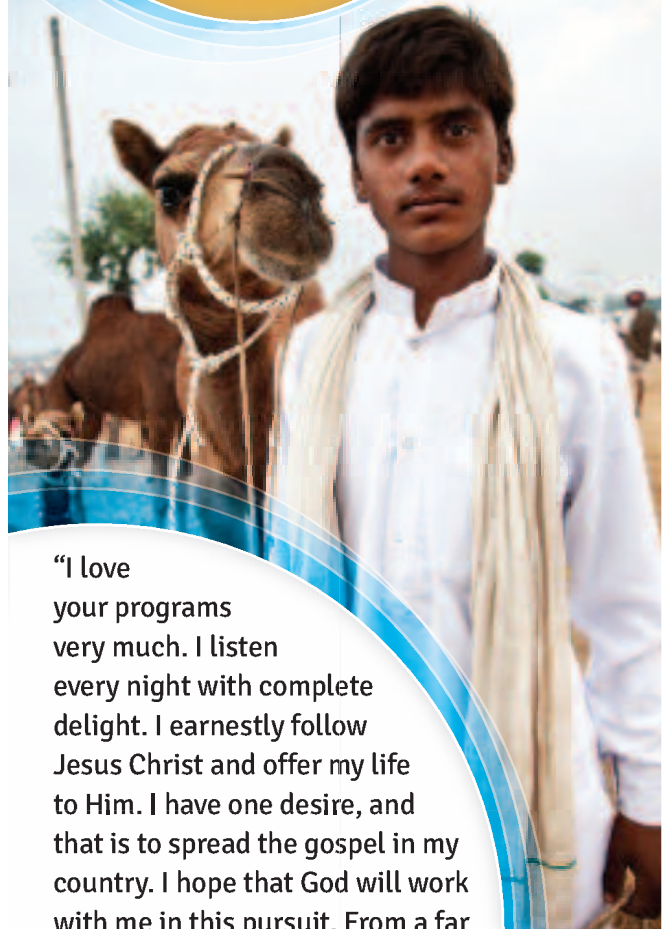
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AUTHORS WANTED: If you've written your life story, want to tell others of God's love, or desire to share your spiritual ideas and want it published, call TEACHServices.com at (800) 367-1844, ext. 3, for a FREE manuscript review.

TRAVEL/VACATION

RVS! Adventist-owned and -operated RV dealership has been helping Adventists for over 35 years. Huge inventory of new and used trailers and motor homes: Jayco, Newmar and Hurricane. Courtesy airport pickup and on-site hook ups. Call toll-free: (888) 933-9300, Lee's RV, Oklahoma City; leesrv.com; or email: Lee.Litchfield@leesrv.com.

CONSIDER CLEMMER'S COVE in Rehoboth Beach, Del., for your summer vacation. Adventist-owned home offers 4BR, 2.5BA, eat-in kitchen, separate dining and living rooms, and sunroom. Deck and hot tub in fenced yard. No pets allowed. Sunday-Sunday rentals. Call (240) 764-4004 for available dates June through August.

LEGAL NOTICE

COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE SPECIAL CONSTITUENCY MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a special constituency meeting of the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held Sunday, July 29, 2012, at the Southern Asian Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 2001 East Randolph Road,

Silver Spring, Maryland. The meeting will convene at 10 a.m.

This special constituency meeting will be held solely for the purpose of considering Action No. 12-18 of the May 17, 2012, meeting of the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee, to wit: To recognize its responsibility to act morally and ethically by expressing unyielding commitment to ordain qualified persons to the gospel ministry without regard to gender; to call a special constituency meeting for the purpose of authorizing ordination to the gospel ministry without regard to gender; and, to set the meeting date for July 29, 2012, at 10 a.m. at a location to be determined in Maryland.

This action by the Columbia Union Executive Committee shall be the sole agenda item for the special constituency meeting.

Dave E. Weigley, President
Robert T. Vandeman, Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEED TO RECONNECT WITH GOD? Want your kids to grow spiritually? Join us for our Mega Week celebration July 29-Aug. 5. Sunday-Friday: Revival & VBS, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Saturday: Adult & Children's Church, Gospel on the Lawn, 6-9 p.m.; Sunday: Fun Day, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Location: Wheaton

10th Annual Southwest Virginia Weekend Camp Meeting

September 7-9

Rural Retreat Virginia Fairgrounds

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For more information, visit:
swvacampmeeting.org
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Adventist Book Center Specials
Camping—Motels—Friends
Sabbath Vegetarian Potluck

Sunset Calendar

	Jun 1	Jun 8	Jun 15	Jun 22	Jun 29
Baltimore	8:28	8:32	8:35	8:37	8:37
Cincinnati	8:59	9:03	9:06	9:08	9:08
Cleveland	8:54	8:59	9:02	9:04	9:04
Columbus	8:55	8:59	9:03	9:04	9:05
Jersey City	8:22	8:26	8:29	8:31	8:31
Norfolk	8:19	8:23	8:26	8:28	8:28
Parkersburg	8:47	8:51	8:54	8:56	8:57
Philadelphia	8:24	8:28	8:31	8:33	8:33
Pittsburgh	8:44	8:49	8:52	8:54	8:54
Reading	8:28	8:32	8:36	8:37	8:38
Richmond	8:26	8:30	8:33	8:35	8:35
Roanoke	8:35	8:39	8:42	8:44	8:44
Toledo	9:03	9:07	9:11	9:12	9:13
Trenton	8:23	8:27	8:30	8:32	8:33
Wash., D.C.	8:28	8:32	8:35	8:37	8:37

Adventist Church, 3132 Bel Pre Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20906. For more information, visit: Wheatonsda.org, or email: Wheatonsda@hotmail.com.

150TH ANNIVERSARY NEW YORK CONFERENCE HERITAGE CAMP MEETING. Enjoy special features by guest "pioneers," attend "barn meetings" in the main tent, and renew your commitment to watch and be ready. Plan to attend June 22-30 at Union Springs Academy. For more information, visit nyconf.org.

THE ALLIANCE OF PRISON MINISTRY ORGANIZATIONS AND AFFILIATES 22ND ANNUAL CONVENTION will be held July 25-29 at the Sheraton Rutherford, N.J., co-sponsored by the New Jersey and Allegheny East conferences. 25 prison evangelism and community-related workshops will be offered. Why not ask your church/ministry to help you to attend this convention? For more information or to register, contact Adventist PlusLine, (800) 732-7587 or plusline.org.

OBITUARY

CORRECTION:

WRIGHT, Kenneth A., Jr., born November 11, 1934, in Union Springs, N.Y.; died September 11, 2011, in Winchester, Va. He was a member of the Berkley Springs (W.Va.) church. He graduated from Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in 1963 with a BS in Business Administration. Following graduation, Kenneth managed two credit unions before entering denominational service. He served at the Voice of Prophecy, then at the Arizona Conference, Bass Memorial Academy, Mountain View Conference, Wisconsin Conference, Pakistan Union, Potomac Adventist Book Center and the General Conference Treasury Department. He retired in 2005 and moved to West Virginia. Survivors: his wife, Ruth E. Wright, of Berkley Springs, W.Va.; a daughter, Sharon E. Wright, of Pasadena, Md.; a son, Kenneth A. Wright III, of New Smyrna Beach, Fla.; and a brother, Burton L. Wright, of Avon Park, Fla.

For information on placing an obituary in the Visitor, call Sandra Jones at (888) 484-7486 or download a submission form at columbiaunion.org/obituary. Obituaries are placed in the order they are received.

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