

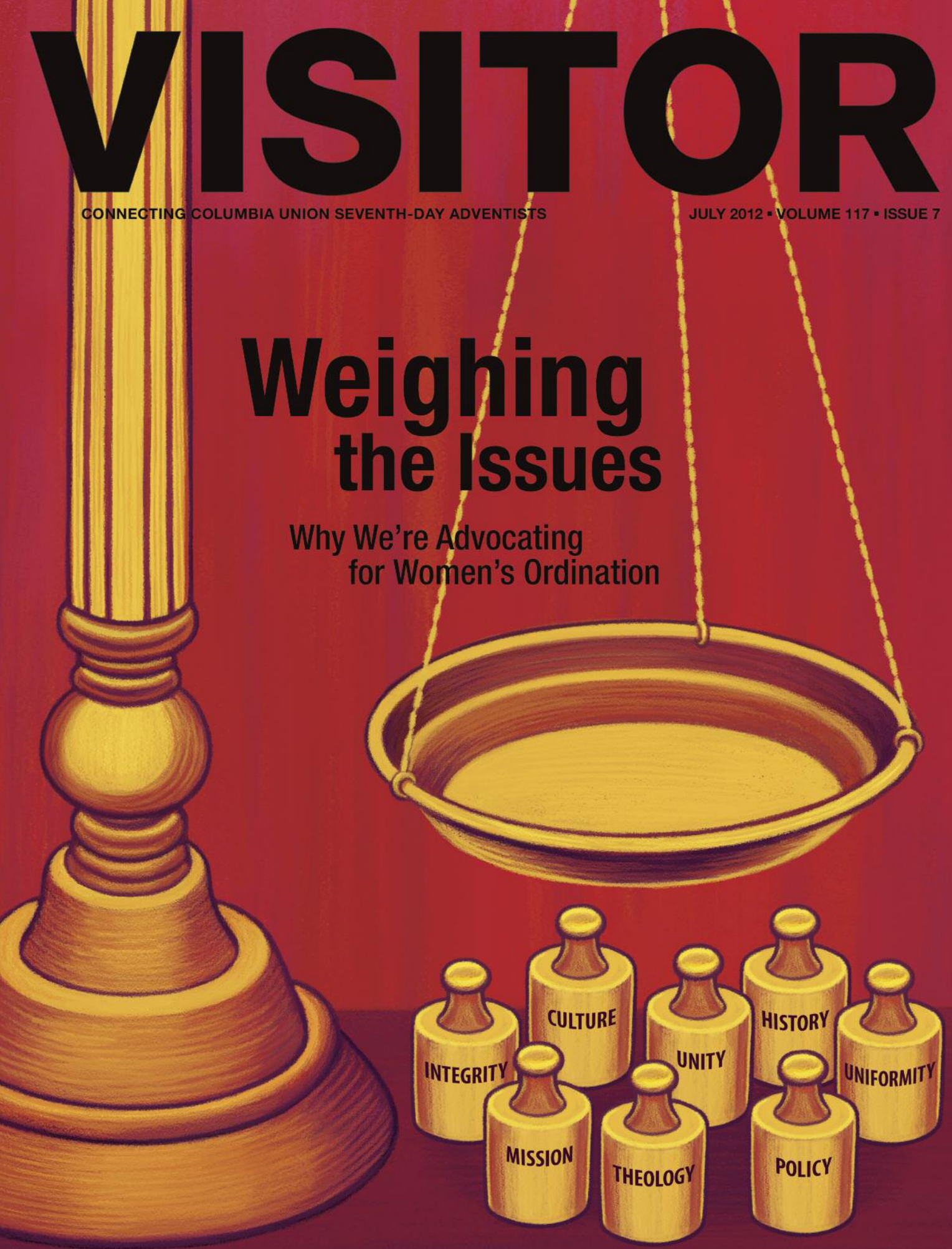
VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

JULY 2012 • VOLUME 117 • ISSUE 7

Weighing the Issues

Why We're Advocating
for Women's Ordination



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About the Cover: Illustration by Nata Metlukh

On the Web



What do You Think? – Want to weigh in on the discussion regarding women's ordination? Share your comments on our special webpage: columbiaunion.org/2012specialconstituency.

Read More – Find links to documents noted in this issue and additional resources about ordination at columbiaunion.org/2012specialconstituency.

Watch the Session – The meeting will be streamed at columbiaunion.org/2012specialconstituency on July 29 beginning at 10 a.m.

¿Habla Español? – Visite columbiaunion.org/noticias y lea las noticias en Español. Si tiene noticias o fotos que desea compartir, mande un mensaje al correo electrónico de la Editora de Noticias del *Visitor*, Taashi Rowe: trowe@columbiaunion.net

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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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Volume 117 ■ Issue 7

5 Reasons I Changed My Views



Since we announced plans to hold a special constituency meeting July 29, I've discovered that many members, pastors and leaders support our request to authorize ordination of women clergy. They realize that although we continue to debate the issue theologically, it's largely cultural. In his new book titled *Where Are We Going?* Jan Paulsen, immediate past president of our world church, writes, "The church has never taken the view that biblical teachings exclude the possibility of women being ordained to ministry on an equal footing with men. But global leadership has felt that local readiness and perceptions—heavily influenced by culture—have thus far kept us from moving forward on this as a global community" (p. 12).

A QUESTION OF POLICY

In moving forward, our union would join others who are at variance with General Conference policy. And, for many members, this is really the crux of the matter. It's why, for the last six years, I discouraged the union committee from approving the many conference requests to ordain proven female candidates. So what changed?

- 1 I can no longer dismiss the evidence of the Spirit's moving in China and other parts of the world where women are advancing the mission of the church, nor the promise of Joel 2:28-29.
- 2 In the early days, our church saw the value of encouraging both genders to serve according to their calling, and history tells of female pastors, missionaries, evangelists, conference presidents and General Conference treasurers (see pp. 16-17). In New York at the turn of the 19th century, for example, women won 60 percent of our converts.
- 3 We already accommodate policy variances in some places for practical purposes, cultural sensitivities or to advance our mission, e.g., polygamy, labor unions, women's ordination. In our cultural context, this issue has moral and ethical implications.
- 4 Only recently has there been an attempt to have us walk lockstep in policy. Our pioneers would have been hampered by such uniformity.
- 5 Mission should drive policy, not vice versa. As policies become outdated or problematic for the advancement of the gospel, we revise or abolish them, and/or create new ones.

So if we already differ in policy practice, what keeps us united? Mission. Theology. Doctrine. Commitment. Our allegiance to Christ and the Great Commission to share His love, grace and soon return unites us in a bond that cannot be easily broken. And our shared desire for revival and reformation, coupled with the moving of the Holy Spirit, compel us to act. How can we do otherwise?

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

Newsline

TAASHI ROWE



COLUMBIA UNION EDUCATION ASSOCIATE RETIRES

Ian Kelly, DMin, who spent 15 years at the Columbia Union Conference as the associate director of education, retired from his post at the end of last month. Kelly began working for the church in 1977 as a teacher at West Indies College High School in Jamaica. He went on to serve as principal at the Bermuda Institute, South Lancaster Academy (Mass.) and Browning Academy (Mass.). He also served as superintendent for the Greater New York Conference. Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president, is pictured presenting Kelly with an award of appreciation. His work at the union emphasized secondary education, teacher certification and school accreditation. He won't be retired for long. Next month he begins a new role as chair of the education department at Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Md.

ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES NAMES INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Potomac Conference's Board of Directors of the Adventist Community Services of Greater



Washington recently appointed Gene Milton to serve as interim executive director. Milton began this interim role in May immediately following the death of past executive director Ron Wylie.

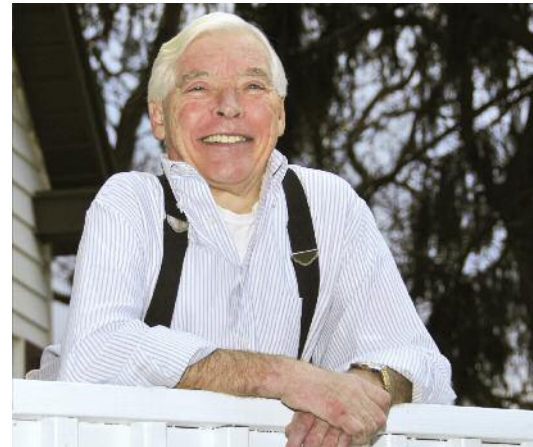
Milton, who is an experienced healthcare executive, will also continue to serve as special assistant to the president of Adventist HealthCare in Rockville, Md.

Milton previously served as regional vice president of Adventist HealthCare and president and CEO of the Hackettstown Regional Medical Center in Hackettstown, N.J. He holds a PhD in leadership from Andrews University (Mich.).

—Les Pitton

“CAN-DO” COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR DIES

Ron Wylie, executive director of Potomac Conference's Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington (ACSGW), passed away in May. Wylie became part-time executive director of ACSGW in 2004, and led the not-for-profit coalition of seven churches doing community services and development in Silver Spring and Takoma



Park, Md., “with vision and enthusiasm,” says Les Pitton, ACSGW chairman. “Ron's enthusiasm, can-do attitude and unique ability to see the forest beyond the trees is what made him such a special person. He will truly be missed.”

Wylie leaves behind his wife, Junamae Wegner; son, Rod, and his wife, Nicole; and two grandsons, Jacob and Brayden. Margaret Pascoe, his first wife, preceded him in death. Wylie was a member of Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md.

“ Now I can understand the Word of the Lord. ”

—Said about the new Russian Bible translation project led by WAU professor Mikhail Kulakov Jr. Watch video at columbiaunion.org/videos.

TWO TEACHERS RECEIVE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS

The Alumni Awards Foundation (AAF) recently presented two Columbia Union teachers with the 2012 Excellence in Teaching Award. Norman Niles (below), chair



of the mathematics department at Allegheny East Conference's Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa., and Kimberly Terry (above), who teaches fifth-grade and technology classes at Potomac's John Nevins Andrews School in Takoma Park, Md., are among the 10 award recipients.

Principals, superintendents, colleagues and former students nominated teachers from across the North American Division. AAF board members and staff presented each teacher with a \$2,000 gift, medallion and Certificate of Excellence during special events hosted by the recipients' schools. Colleagues, students and community members also took the opportunity to publicly thank the teachers for the impact they've had in their local schools. Read more at columbiaunion.org/2012aaf.
—Kaleigh Bengé

UNION NAMES OUTSTANDING ADMINISTRATORS, EDUCATORS

The Columbia Union's Office of Education recently named its 2012 Outstanding Educator and Outstanding Administrator award recipients. Pictured clockwise is Brian Kittleson, principal of Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville Adventist Academy in Silver Spring, Md., and Elisa Maragoto, principal of New Jersey Conference's Lake Nelson Seventh-day Adventist School in Piscataway. The union named them both outstanding administrators.



The union recognized Cathy Tomlinson, principal and teacher at New Jersey Conference's Cohansey Christian School in Bridgeton, and Allegheny East Conference's Sheresa Woodson, a teacher at the Ephesus Adventist School in Richmond, Va., as outstanding educators.

Calling the winners "richly deserving," Hamlet Canosa, EdD, the union's vice president for education, confessed that "the task of determining who would actually be selected was, like in years past, a difficult one." Read more about the recipients at columbiaunion.org/2012outstandingeducators.—Taashi Rowe

NEW UNION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ADDED

The 2011-16 Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee recently voted to accept two new members. Natalie Chandler (right) directs Pennsylvania Conference's Harrisburg church Adventurers and chairs the Harrisburg Adventist School Board. Claudya Hernandez (pictured on p. 6) is the communication director for Potomac's Langley Park Spanish church in Langley Park, Md.



Noticias

TAASHI ROWE



El pastor Javier Scharon, padre, y sus hijos Javier Scharon, Jr. (izquierda), y Galadiel Scharon, todos sirven en el ministerio.

JÓVENES DE ALLEGHENY EAST SPANISH COMPARTEN “EL AMOR DE SUS VIDAS”

“Puedes saber mucho acerca de Dios pero no conocer realmente a Dios”, le dijo Luis César Caballero, un pastor joven de Alabama, a unos trescientos participantes del Sábado Joven 2012 en la iglesia Dover First, en Dover, Del. Él continuó diciendo: “Pero cuando dedicamos tiempo a solas con Dios...nuestros corazones arderán y nuestra esperanza en Él cobrará vida”.

Caballero compartió estas palabras con los jóvenes hispano-hablantes y sus familias, que vinieron de seis iglesias en Allegheny East Conference Bay Area Ministerium, para reunirse en un día especial de sermones, alabanzas, presentaciones dramáticas, confraternidad, y diversión. Los jóvenes invitaron a Caballero como orador en este tercer día juvenil anual, y presentó además dos seminarios que reflejaron el tema: “El amor de tu vida”. Lea más en columbiaunion.org/sabadojoven2012.



NUEVO MIEMBRO DEL COMITÉ EJECUTIVO

Claudia Hernández, directora de comunicación de la iglesia Langley Park del Potomac, en Langley Park, Md., fue elegida recientemente para el comité ejecutivo de Columbia Union. “Estoy contenta de representar a los jóvenes adultos y a la comunidad hispana en Potomac”, dijo ella.

EL PROGRAMA RADIAL DEL POTOMAC IMPACTA LOS PROPIETARIOS DE LA ESTACIÓN Y COMUNIDAD

Acción Adventista y Ondas de Esperanza, transmitidas seis veces por semana, son dos ministerios de radio encabezados por José Esposito (abajo), director de los ministerios hispanos de Potomac Conference, que deberían costar más de \$1,000 USD al mes para difundir en el área de Richmond, Va. Sin embargo, los propietarios de Radio Ponder expresaron que los programas han sido de bendición para ellos, y ahora solamente piden \$200 cada mes.

Dirigido a la comunidad de la iglesia hispana, el programa *Acción Adventista*, de sesenta minutos de duración y transmitido los sábados, comienza con un mensaje bíblico. Durante el programa, los oyentes pueden llamar a la estación y compartir sus alabanzas y peticiones de oración, anunciar actividades de la iglesia y pedir transporte a los servicios y actividades de la iglesia. *Ondas de Esperanza* se puede escuchar en vivo en ministeriovuelve.com. Se transmite de lunes a viernes, y está lleno de mensajes y músicas inspiradoras. —*Jacqueline Sánchez*



DIECISÉIS IGLESIAS DE CHESAPEAKE SE REÚNEN PARA EL EVANGELISMO

Dieciséis iglesias hispanas de Chesapeake Conference se reunieron recientemente en la iglesia Spencerville en Silver Spring, Md., y en Long Reach High School en Columbia, Md., para una reunión de evangelismo con el evangelista sudamericano, Alejandro Bullón.



Esta fue la primera vez en que todas las iglesias hispanas de Chesapeake se reunieron para una reunión tan grande. “Las reuniones no fueron solamente para revitalizar las almas [de la feligresía], sino que les instamos a los hermanos a traer a sus amistades para que



Eduardo Muñoz, coordinador de los ministerios hispanos de Chesapeake Conference, sostiene el micrófono para Orlando Rosales, pastor de las iglesias hispanas en Baltimore y Dundalk, quien prepara a Carlos Medina, Jr. para el bautismo.

ellos también pudieran conocer a Jesús”, dijo Orlando Rosales, pastor de las iglesias hispanas en Baltimore y Dundalk en Maryland. Este fin de semana también una oportunidad para cinco personas que estaban recibiendo estudios para bautizarse. Pero 70 personas

fueron bautizadas en las semanas antes y después de la campaña. El viernes de noche, 10 personas se anotaron para recibir estudios. Rosales calcula que cerca de mil personas asistieron el último día de las reuniones.

Artículo especial de *Visitor*: Por qué recomendamos la ordenación de la mujer

El 29 de julio, Columbia Union Conference convocará una sesión especial de la constituyente para votar una recomendación del comité ejecutivo que autorice la ordenación sin considerar el género. El anuncio atrajo un buen número de comentarios y preguntas de la feligresía en el territorio de la Unión, en Norte América, y aún en las Uniones hermanas alrededor del mundo. *Visitor* recientemente presentó algunas de las preguntas más comunes a nuestros oficiales de la Unión, incluyendo por qué el comité tomó esta acción, si es bíblico que una mujer participe en el liderazgo de la iglesia, y cuáles son las implicaciones para la iglesia en general.

Habrà, además, material adicional que definirá ordenación, ejemplos históricos de la mujer en el liderazgo de la iglesia, la entrevista con los oficiales de Columbia Union (derecha) y oportunidades para que usted haga comentarios en columbiaunion.org/constituyenteespecialdel2012.



Para más noticias en español, visite columbiaunion.org/noticias. Usted también puede enviarnos sus noticias en español y fotos a: visitor@columbiaunion.net.

Potluck

BETH MICHAELS

Did You Know?



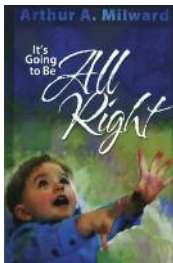
Adventist World Aviation recently

created a video about their flight-training program with Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa. Learn about this flight school for academy students and how it's preparing them for mission work. Visit tinyurl.com/awapa.

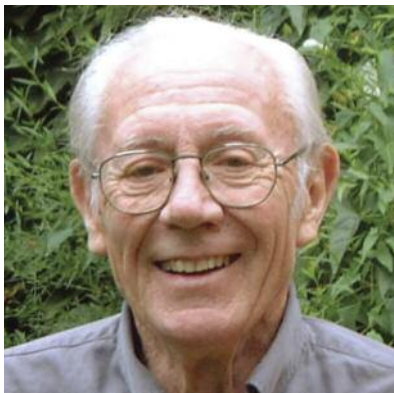
What's New?

Books > *It's Going to Be All Right* Arthur A. Milward

This posthumous release captures poignant events from Arthur Milward's colorful, sometimes traumatic, life as well as the challenging experiences of others. Yet through every sorrow, Milward, who was actively involved at



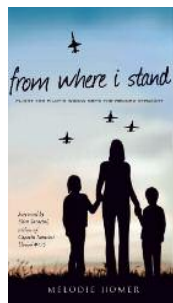
Pennsylvania Conference's Kennett Square Mission Group, offers hope. After prodding from Lori Peckham, his editor at the



Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., he also agreed to include three stories from his time in the British military. "They were the most powerful anti-war stories I had ever read," Peckham recalls. Order at adventistbookcenter.com.

From Where I Stand Melodie Homer

After a decade of challenges following the heroic death of her co-pilot husband on United Flight 93, Melodie Homer suggests,



"There is a better future ahead."

This member of New Jersey Conference's Mt. Holly church spells out the painful truths of her life following 9/11. "Life's difficult ... but if you hold strong to your faith in God, He'll continue to guide you," she shares. Read more and order copies at leroywhomerjr.org. Proceeds go to the LeRoy W. Homer Jr. Foundation, which benefits young adults wishing to pursue aviation careers.

App > Adventists InStep for Life

If you haven't yet signed up to participate in this year's Adventists

InStep for Life program or "Let's Move!" Day (September 23), it's not too late to put on your walking shoes! The app allows you to track exercise, get InStep news and report miles toward the "Let's Move!" Day goal! Help the Columbia



Union continue to lead the North American Division in number of miles logged—currently more than 96,400. The app is available for Android and iPhone users, but you must first register at adventistsinstepforlife.org.

Only An Adventist ... Knows 101 ways to prepare Fri-Chik

From the Pulpit



Living life filled with the Holy Spirit means living life on empty—empty of self.

—Ann Roda, Pastor of Family Ministries, New Hope Church, Fulton, Md.

On the Web

Members Weigh in on Women's Ordination:

Zdravko Plantak



So great to be a member of the Columbia Union at this time! We pray for continual blessing upon the leaders and lay people. And, I am looking forward to the constituency meeting in July where I desire to be a witness as the justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream!—*Sligo Church, Takoma Park, Md., via Facebook*

Dean Waterman



I believe the moment ordination was [allowed] in China ... it ceased to be a theological argument, but one of culture and preference. To the humble, gracious, Christ-like women in Potomac Conference ... you have shown that your ministry is not based on man's opinion, but on God's calling.—*Community Praise Center, Alexandria, Va., via columbiaunion.org*

Ean Nugent



If it truly is the will of the Lord, those who have been privileged by the Lord to receive this enlightenment ought to "bear with the scruples of the weak," praying that the Lord enlighten them as well (1 Cor. 8:9). ... The Spirit of Jesus cannot lead us to disregard their concerns of conscience and independently act in accord with what we see to be right.—*Hadley Community Church, Washington, D.C., via columbiaunion.org*

In the Spotlight > Access 2 Heaven Network



God gave Frank Jules a vision for how to take the gospel into all the Earth—through positive, online television programming. The result of that vision is the Access 2 Heaven Network (A2HN). Not only do Jules and his wife, Sally-Ann, reach the lost through A2HN, but they also aim to provide clarity to those who are confused about God.

Although Frank founded A2HN in 2005, viewership has boomed exponentially in the past two years. The network's current international viewership is between 7 and 8 million people, in 28 countries! Thankful for the growth, he points all praise upward. "We view Access 2 Heaven Network as God's network, because He's the one who put it all together. We're just the doorkeepers," he says.

The Juleses attend Allegheny East Conference's Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., and are thankful for Pastor Gene Donaldson's support. They believe God's perfect timing helped them craft A2HN's positive, relatable message for today's generation. Sixty percent of the network's viewers are between the ages of 13 and 35. Their original programming includes their three most popular shows: *A2HN Kids*, *Devotional Thought* and *Sermon of the Week*.

The Juleses' short-term goals for A2HN include finding a facility where they can house studio sets. Currently all shoots are on location. They also want to secure funding for all of their programs so they can turn their volunteer staff into full-time, paid employees. In the future, they hope to produce Christian-themed major motion pictures. Read more at access2heaven-network.com.—*Liz Anderson*





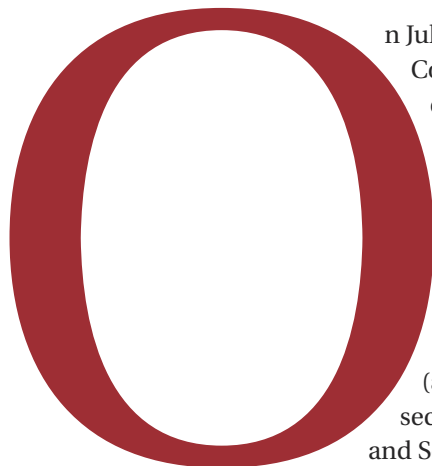
Columbia Union Officers Weigh the Issues

Union Executive Committee Calls Special Constituency

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 (see highlights printed in the June 2012 *Visitor*; or the full report at columbiaunion.org/2012specialconstituency). After discussing the report, the committee voted 34-6-1:

- 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.

WHY WE'RE ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN'S ORDINATION



On July 29 the Columbia Union Conference will convene a special constituency (see statement, left). The announcement drew comments and questions from members within the union territory. In an effort to understand the committee's position, the *Visitor* recently posed some of the most common questions to our officers (above) Rob Vandeman, executive secretary; Dave Weigley, president; and Seth Bardu, treasurer.

Q: Why is the union committee making this recommendation?

A: The matter of women's ordination has been studied and discussed within the Columbia Union for decades, even longer at the world level. Local conferences have frequently presented names of qualified women to our union committee requesting authorization to ordain them. In recent months, there has been significant movement in this matter at various levels of the world field. The convergence of all of these elements at this time seems to be the Holy Spirit's way of nudging us to decisive action. Given the latitude of our constitution and bylaws, we could have moved forward. However, we chose to follow a process, widen the conversation and enlist the support of our constituents.

What process did you follow?

Last year the North American Division (NAD) Committee sought to have commissioned ministers serve as presidents of conferences and missions (a policy known as E60). When it became clear that the world church leadership was not ready to step forward and include women in the church's leadership structure in this way, the North American Division asked each union to look for ways to affirm women in ministry within their territory. We then assigned an ad hoc study committee. In May they reported that while we affirm women in many tangible ways, the best way is to fully acknowledge the call of Christ on their lives, which our church traditionally does through ordination. After discussing the ad hoc report, the executive committee voted to receive it and act on it by calling a special constituency meeting. Delegates to this meeting are the ones who served at our last regular session held in April 2011.

What's motivating this committee?

One could suggest many relevant factors, but for our committee, mission and integrity are key.

Mission drives church policy, not vice versa. The job of this committee is to see that we as leaders move the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church forward. The policies we vote are designed to advance that mission in our field. In Joel 2:28-29 and again in Acts 2:17-20, we learn that, in these last days, God is going to pour out His Spirit on

“sons and daughters” who will prophesy in His name. We pray that we won't let policy impede the work of the Holy Spirit nor sideline those He calls.

Integrity is one of the values our committee adopted for the 2011-2016 quinquennium, which means that we do what we say. We say that we don't discriminate for any reason when hiring. But, when qualified, proven ministers who accept God's call complete the same rigorous educational and practical requirements as men, and are carefully vetted and approved by their conference committees according to policy, and we deny them the right to be ordained only because they are female, we violate our integrity—morally and ethically.

And, while we want to move the mission forward morally and ethically, we don't want to do it at the expense of unity, which we also value. But is uniformity in policy and practice the answer? We do not violate the value of unity by the absence of uniformity, because unity speaks to oneness in Christ within our diversity while uniformity implies compliance for the sake of sameness.

**“ IT IS THE
ACCOMPANIMENT
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
OF GOD THAT
PREPARES WORKERS,
BOTH MEN AND
WOMEN, TO BECOME
PASTORS TO THE
FLOCK OF GOD. ”**

GOSPEL WORKERS, PP. 96-97

3 THINGS YOU CAN DO

1 Share your thoughts at columbiaunion.org/2012specialconstituency.

2 Pray for God's guidance at the July 29 special constituency meeting.

3 If you are a delegate, prayerfully vote your convictions.

Excerpts From General Conference Positions on Policy Variance

"At the same time as the Church has worked to preserve unity, the effect of church growth has enlarged the understanding of diversity and its rightful place in a worldwide community. To expect that every entity of the world will look and function exactly like every other entity of its type may in itself become an impediment to mission. The development of structural designs in the history of the Church indicates that unity must be built on a stronger foundation than uniformity."

"There must be room to recognize the need for a legitimacy of local adaptation of policies and procedures that facilitate the mission while not diminishing the worldwide identity, harmony and unity of the Church."

SOURCE: Report 116-12G The General Conference and Its Divisions—A Description of Roles and Relationships in Light of Organizational Structure Development, Current Governance Documents, and Practices, p. 15, presented at GC Spring Council, April 2012. Read the full report at columbiaunion.org/2012specialconstituency.

Q: Is it biblical for women to engage in church leadership?

A: The study committee found strong biblical and Spirit of Prophecy support for women to engage in spiritual leadership, and church scholars have found no theological issue with it.

Some may not realize that ministers who are licensed or commissioned are required to be ordained as local elders before even being considered for further recognition (see *NAD Working Policy* L 26 05). This is evidence that we are already united in our global practice of ordaining both men and women to ministry at every level except one—pastoral.

So, as it stands now, a woman can be ordained as long as it's not as a pastor, and a woman can be a pastor as long as she's not ordained as one. But, to be commissioned as a pastor, she must be ordained as an elder first.

People are also confused about headship because of Ephesians 5:22-25, where Paul talks about the home, the body of Christ and the church. He says that man is the head of the home and Christ is the head of the church. He is suggesting that just as women are subject to their husbands in marriage, we are all subject to Christ as His body of believers.

Some fear that authorization of female ordination could lead to acceptance of same-sex marriage in our denomination. Is that possible?

That's an unfounded leap because these topics are in no way related. The church's stance on marriage is doctrinal (see *Fundamental Belief* #23), and we, therefore, affirm it.

Others have suggested that this move is rebellious.

Our committee consists of loyal Seventh-day Adventists who respect and are wholly committed to advancing the mission and message of our church. And, if this were theological or even doctrinal, we would continue to deny the requests we receive for female ordination from our conferences. But, this is an ecclesiastical practice of the church that, though very special to ordained ministers, holds no biblical mandate and discriminates against our mothers, sisters and daughters.

The General Conference (GC) strongly discourages policy variances, but recognizes that “the distribution of authority and responsibility in the Church along with the recognition that ‘authority rests in the membership’ present significant challenges in finding a balance between centralized authority and the more localized authority in churches, conferences, or unions.” They also realize that there are “several, perhaps many, instances where organizations have adapted General Conference and/or division working policy in a manner that reveals considerable diversity of application.” Their report concludes that “the relationship among entities of the Church is more than a matter of law and policy,” and that the “primary strength of the Church comes not from its structure but from its collective desire to live out a commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.”

What are the implications for the church overall?

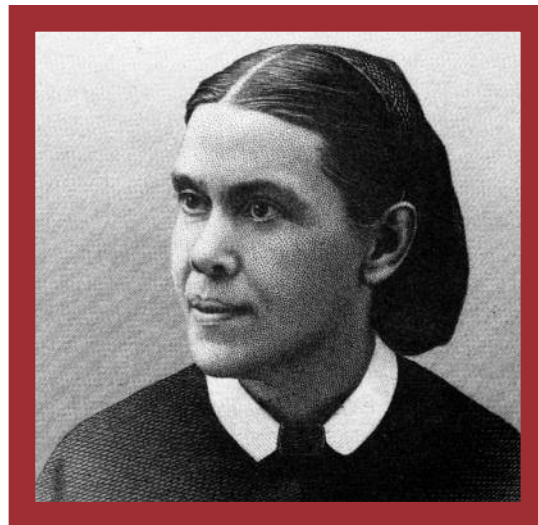
We see this discussion as a teaching moment for the church; a moment we pray will open hearts, minds and doors so that the Holy Spirit can work among God’s people.

We are aware of the risk of unintended consequences. That is one of the reasons our committee is taking the recommendation to a special meeting of our constituency. Were the tables turned, we would expect the same process to be followed at the local conference level.

We are part of a worldwide family of believers. What one part of the body does affects the entire body. But this is a matter of practice not doctrinal belief. We are united with the world church in doctrine, mission and spirit. We are working for the return of Christ as much as any other entity around this globe. And, we sincerely want to move the mission of the church forward so more and more people might hear the gospel message and be prepared for His return.

Church leaders are launching a study on the theology of ordination. Why not wait for their report?

Adventists have been discussing and studying women’s ordination for 130 years—almost as long as our existence (see timeline, pp. 18-20). Our inability as a world church to act on the outcome of these studies is largely because the primary concerns are cultural, not theological. So, regardless of what this



“ 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. ”

ELLEN WHITE, *EVANGELISM*, P. 469

new study will yield, can we expect a different outcome? Though the GC authorized ordination of women elders and deaconesses, there are parts of the world where leaders have concluded that it is not in the best interest of the church in their field. We anticipate the same variance of practice in regard to ordination of women clergy. Our action will help advance the church’s mission in our field. Mission compels us to do it; integrity compels us to do it now!

ORDINATION UNDERSTANDING

What is ordination, why do we ordain leaders and what does it take to achieve this special credential?

Ordination is the act by which the church sets apart an individual for a special function in the church by prayer and the laying on of hands. It follows biblical examples noted in the Old and New Testament, i.e., “And the Lord said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him; and set him before . . . all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight” (Num. 27:18-19). See also Acts 6:6; 1 Tim. 4:14; 5:22; 2 Tim. 1:6; and Titus 1:5.

Though not biblically or doctrinally mandated, ordination is ecclesiastical, which means it’s an adopted spiritual practice of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. As of the 2010 General Conference Session, three categories of church leaders are ordained—ministers, elders, deacons/deaconesses.

The Process

In North America, pastoral ordination candidates are expected to earn a Master of Divinity from the Seventh-day Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.) or an accredited school, become an ordained local elder and pastor for several years.

Generally, after five or more years of experience, a conference-level committee reviews the candidate’s accomplishments, looking for evidence of God’s leading in their ministry. They carefully examine the candidate’s personal religious experience, knowledge of

Scripture, acquaintance with and full acceptance of the fundamental teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and attitude toward denominational organization. The committee then votes to recommend his name to the conference executive committee, which then votes to recommend him to the union executive committee. Approved names are then voted by the union executive committee, which is the body that ultimately decides ordination of all pastors. The decision is then communicated to the division committee, and the individuals are recognized during a special ceremony in their local conference.

Upon receiving their ministerial credentials, they can serve in ministry positions

around the world as assigned or invited and at every level of the church organization. The ordained minister performs many functions, among which are to preach, baptize, conduct the Lord’s Supper, perform

“ THE DOCTRINE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS (SEE ROM. 12:4-8, ETC.) TEACHES THAT GOD GIVES GIFTS FOR SERVICE TO ALL WITHOUT RESPECT TO RACE OR GENDER. INCLUDED AMONG THOSE GIFTS ARE THOSE OF EVANGELIST, PROPHET, TEACHER AND PASTOR . ”

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST ENCYCLOPEDIA

the marriage ceremony, organize churches, unite churches, and ordain local elders, deacons and deaconesses. They also can serve as presidents at all levels of the denomination.

Women’s Ordination

The Seventh-day Adventist Church ordains women as elders and deaconesses (voted in 1975, 1985 and 2010) and places them as pastors (voted in 1990), but withholds the ecclesiastical recognition of being an ordained pastor. This is despite the fact that the Adventist Church was co-founded by Ellen G. White, a woman who received visions from the Lord and used them to help establish and steer the development and mission of the church. Today’s worldwide ministry is a testament to what can happen when anyone and everyone accepts the call of God to do His bidding. Mrs. White was not the first person God enlisted to receive His prophetic instruction, but at age 17, she was the one who accepted His call.

“If you would give me all the gold your house could hold, I would not cease giving my testimony for God,” she once wrote. “I will not keep silent, for when God imparts His light to me, He means that I shall diffuse it to others, according to my ability” (*Signs of the Times*, June 24, 1889).

Since then women have contributed much to the growth and success of the remnant church, laboring alongside men to advance the cause of Christ and finish the work, organizing and preaching evangelism initiatives, and serving in key leadership positions. Though an 1881 resolution seemed to indicate approval of pastoral ordination for women (as reported in the *Review and Herald*, Dec. 20, 1881), subsequent votes in 1990 and 1995 denied related requests. Today’s women clergy are “commissioned,” which allows them to perform many, but not all leadership functions within the denomination (see graphic).

Sources: Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia, *Review and Herald Publishing Association*, 1996; NAD Working Policy, 2011-2012, L-35

ILLUSTRATION BY NATA METLUKH

WEIGHING THE ISSUES
ORDINATION VS. COMMISSIONING

Ordained Clergy	Commissioned Clergy
Preach	Preach
Baptize	Baptize
Perform Marriages	Perform Marriages
Lead Communion	Lead Communion
Organize or Unite Churches	X
Ordain local elders, deacons and deaconesses	X
Serve as president of local conferences, unions, division and the General Conference	X



11 PIONEERING WOMEN MINISTERS

From day one, women have been serving as ministers and evangelists in the Seventh-day Adventist Church

■ In 1844 at age 17, **Ellen G. Harmon (White)** received her first vision and commenced a 70-year public ministry. As co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and author of more than 100 titles, she remains the most translated woman author worldwide and the most translated author in American history (photo, p. 2).

■ Pennsylvania native **Sarah A. Hallock Lindsey** served as an evangelist in her home state and in western New York with her husband, John. In the early 1870s, she became the first Adventist woman to be licensed as a minister (not pictured).

■ In the 1880s, **Ellen S. Edmonds Lane** and her husband, Elbert, were co-evangelists in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Virginia and Tennessee. [1]

■ **Lorena Florence Plummer** was elected executive secretary of the Iowa Conference in 1897. For a time in 1900, she was acting conference president. From 1913 to 1936, she led the General Conference Sabbath School Department. [2]

■ **Minnie Day Sype** was a licensed Adventist minister from 1902 to 1956. As an evangelist, she planted churches in Oklahoma and Iowa, at times performing marriages and baptisms. [3]

■ **Maybelle Vandermark** was the first woman to graduate from Washington Missionary College (now Washington Adventist University [WAU] in Takoma Park, Md.) with a ministerial degree. From 1933 to 1935, she served as the sole pastor for a district of churches in Virginia. She later taught Bible at Washington Missionary College from 1940 to 1952. [4]



■ **Madelynn Jones** graduated with a degree in theology from Columbia Union College (now WAU) in 1948. The following year, she graduated from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (then in Takoma Park, Md.) with a master's in theology and biblical theology, a first for women. [5]

■ In 1972 **Josephine Benton** became the first woman ordained as a local church elder. The ceremony, officiated by Potomac Conference president W.G. Quigley and Columbia Union Conference president Cree Sandefur, took place at the Brotherhood church in Washington, D.C. From 1979 to 1982, she pastored the Rockville (Md.) church. [6]

■ In 1989 the Ohio Conference Executive Committee endorsed its Worthington pastor, **Leslie Bumgardner**, as a candidate for ordination. A week later, the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee endorsed her as their first candidate for full ordination no earlier than August 1990 on the basis that it is “morally right and theologically correct.” [7]

■ When **Hyveth Williams** was invited to shepherd the Boston Temple in 1989, she became the first female senior pastor in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. During her seven-year tenure, attendance grew from 27 to 350. [8]

Sources: multiple websites, documents, biographies and Josephine Benton's book, Called by God. To review the book, visit columbiaunion.org/2012specialconstituency.

BY THE NUMBERS

20 Number of women clergy and chaplains in the Columbia Union

122 Number of women pastors in North America

130 Number of women enrolled in the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.)

Jessie Weiss Curtis

Something unusual was taking place in the country near the town of Drums, Pa., during the summer of 1927. A large tent had been pitched in a field, and what was going on in the tent was attracting a lot of attention. A newspaper reporter counted 110 automobiles parked in the fields around the tent one evening, and ascertained that people were flocking in from a radius of 20 miles. In an article titled, “Kingston Girl Holding Services Near Drums,” the reporter explained the attraction that was drawing the owners of these many automobiles: “Stirred with the desire to give the gospel to the people, Miss Weiss secured a tent, and with the aid of two men pitched it on the C. A. Straw farm and people are flocking by the hundreds to hear her.”

Night after night the crowds arrived in time to participate in the old-time congregational song service, and stayed until the sermon was finished. “With the skill of a clergyman of long years experience,” the article stated, “Miss Weiss declares that she will teach no doctrine but what she can substantiate from the Word of God. Her repertoire of subjects reaches out over a wide range.”

At the conclusion of her first evangelistic series, [she] presented 80 converts ready for baptism. The Drums, Pa., Seventh-day Adventist Church was born.—*Josephine Benton in Called by God writing about the evangelist and licensed minister (1945-1972) who helped establish several churches in Pennsylvania (available at adventsource.org)*



TIME

THE ROAD TO ORDINATION

Adventists have discussed and studied women's ordination for 130 years

1880s: A number of women served as pastors in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Between 1872 and 1945, at least 16 women carried ministerial licenses.

1895: In a July 9 *Review and Herald* article, Ellen White wrote that some women should be set apart for service in the church by "prayer and laying on of hands."



1970: On June 5, GC officers discussed the role of women and agreed to appoint "an adequate committee to consider this large topic . . . and to submit a report for consideration at the 1970 Autumn Council" (Minutes, GC Officers Meeting, June 5, 1970).

1973: In October the Annual Council voted to accept the Mohaven Committee's report, that "continued study be given to the theological soundness of the election of women to local church offices which require ordination" and "that in areas receptive to such action, there be continued recognition of the appropriateness of appointing women to pastoral evangelistic work."

1850

1900

1950

1970

1881: At the General Conference (GC) Session on December 5, a motion was made to ordain women to gospel ministry. "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." It was reported in the *Review and Herald*, Dec. 20, 1881, but the item was referred to the GC Committee.

1950: On May 3, GC officers discussed ordination. "A.V. Olson explained . . . A statement from the pen of Sister White, as found in the *Review and Herald* of July 9, 1895, has been understood by some to provide for the ordination of certain sisters in church service. After some discussion, it was 'Agreed, To recommend to the General Conference Committee following the session that a small committee be appointed to study and report on this question'" (Minutes, GC Officers Meeting, May 3, 1950).

1973: Requests from two overseas divisions for further study, the rediscovery of Ellen White's 1895 quotes on ordaining women, and the employment of several women as pastors at Adventist churches led the church to establish two study committees. In July the GC Committee established an ad hoc committee to study the role of women in the church and ordination.

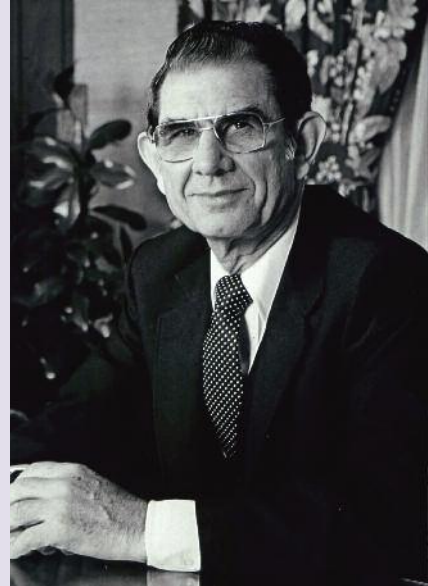
In September the Council on the Role of Women in the Seventh-day Adventist Church met. Known as the "Mohaven Committee" because they convened at Ohio Conference's Camp Mohaven in Danville, the group consisted of 13 men and 14 women who published 29 "Mohaven Papers" and recommended that women be ordained as local church elders and that those with theological training be employed as associates in pastoral care. The group also proposed that a pilot program be developed to lead to ordination by 1975.

NE

1974: A year later at Annual Council, attendees voted to **continue studying** the theological issues, saying, "The time is not ripe nor opportune" to ordain women to the gospel ministry.

1977: General Conference president Robert H. Pierson alerted Spring Meeting attendees that the role of women was **under continuing study** and a report would be given at the 1977 Annual Council. However, after a poll of the world field yielded negative response, it was deleted from the agenda.

1980: As the fifth priority in his keynote address at GC Session, new GC president Neal C. Wilson stated, "The church must find ways to organize and utilize the vast potential represented by our talented, consecrated women. I am not only urging that women be represented in the administrative structure of the church, but also that we harness the energies and talents of all the women so as to better accomplish the task of finishing the work assigned by our Lord."



1975

1975: At March's Spring Meeting, leaders recommended that the church stop granting women ministerial licenses (after 100 years) and instead grant missionary licenses. They also encouraged women to become Bible workers and assistant pastors and voted to permit ordination of deaconesses (reaffirmed in 1985 and 2010) and women elders (reaffirmed in 1984) with discretion.

1979: Annual Council voted 10 ministerial internships for women pastors and Bible instructors in North America.

In September 1973, the Council on the Role of Women in the Seventh-day Adventist Church met at Ohio Conference's Camp Mohaven in Danville.



1980

1984: Early in the year, three Potomac Conference women pastors, ordained as elders, held baptisms with the approval of the Columbia Union Conference. This swiftly brought ordination to the forefront again, and GC officers urged conference and union leaders to table further plans until they could convene a **worldwide Biblical Research Institute study commission** with representation from each division.

Although a 1979 action allowed non-ordained men to baptize, the 1984 Annual Council defeated the Potomac and Columbia Union request to allow women to baptize candidates in their own local churches with conference authorization. They did, however, reaffirm a 1975 decision to approve women elders to be ordained. *In action 272-84GN (also noted in the GC Working Policy as BA 60 10) they voted "to advise each division that it is free to make provision as it may deem necessary for the election and ordination of women as local church elders."**

1985: After weighing a proposal to ordain women pastors to the gospel ministry, GC delegates in New Orleans voted instead to **study it further**, reform ordination practices for men and provide “affirmative action” by placing qualified women in leadership roles that do not require ordination.

1989: GC Annual Council delegates voted 187-97 in favor of accepting a two-pronged recommendation from the Commission on the Role of Women in the Church—rejecting women’s ordination, but permitting qualified women to baptize and perform marriages.

1995: Delegates to the GC Session in Utrecht, Netherlands, voted 1,481 to 673 to deny an NAD request to allow divisions to individually decide whether women should be ordained to the gospel ministry.

**These actions are examples of times when the world church authorized each division to decide whether or not to ordain women elders, and whether or not to allow women to baptize or perform marriages in their field.*

1985

1990

2000

1988: At a May meeting, NAD leaders called for an end to discriminatory policies affecting Adventist women in ministry. During the meeting in Loma Linda, Calif., they voted unanimously their objection to the current discrepancies in how the church treats men and women who have the same training and qualifications. Soon after, the Potomac Conference voted to cease discriminating against women in ministry and permit them, along with unordained males, to baptize and perform marriages in the local church.

1990: At GC Session in Indianapolis, delegates voted 1,173 to 377 to accept the 1989 commission and Annual Council’s recommendations that women not be ordained at this time. At Annual Council that October, they voted to authorize women to serve as pastors and authorized them to perform baptisms and marriages in some divisions.*



2010: At the GC Session in Atlanta, delegates reaffirmed their 1985 decision to allow ordination of deaconesses. World leaders also agreed to **study a theology of ordination** scheduled to be completed by the 2014 Annual Council.

Sources: “Ordaining Women to the Gospel Ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church,” compiled by North American Division Communication; “An Outline of the History of Seventh-day Adventists and the Ordination of Women” by Kit Watts (updated April 1995); and “Women in Recent Adventist History” by Bert Halowiak, *Adventist Review*, May 1995, pp. 21-23

“ Women who are willing to consecrate some of their time to the service of the Lord should be appointed ... Not a hand should be bound, not a soul discouraged, not a voice should be hushed; let every individual labor, privately or publicly, to help forward this grand work. Place the burden upon men and women of the church, that they may grow by reason of the exercise, and thus become effective agents in the hand of the Lord for the enlightenment of those who sit in darkness. ”

*“The Duty of the Minister and the People,” *Review and Herald*, July 9, 1895, p. 25*

First Person: A Dying Mother's Wish Inspires NOVA Korean Church Health Fair

My small church, the NOVA Korean church in Annandale, Va., is blessed with many healthcare professionals, such as nurses, dentists, nurse practitioners, physicians and others. Many of our 75 members staff the NOVA Community Health Center (NCHC), a nonprofit organization we started after seeing a need for affordable medical care, especially among recent immigrant communities.

The idea for this monthly health fair came from physician Gino Kim's mother. Kim remembers when his mother was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. While preparing for her last days, she and the family traveled to health centers in the United States and to her native South Korea. As she was visiting these places, she was impressed by the volunteerism and Christian love shown by many Seventh-day Adventist church members who tried to comfort her and her family. Kim, an internist, accompanied her on many of those travels. She told him that her last days were made much more bearable because of all these strangers helping her and her family. During some of these travels, she encouraged her son to use his skills as a physician to serve strangers.

When Kim shared with Pastor Won Hoi Koo and other church leaders the idea of offering a monthly health fair held every fourth Sabbath after potluck, they all immediately supported it. In January we entered our fourth year of doing these health fairs. Most church members and all healthcare workers now participate in the smooth running of the fair.



Gino Kim, MD, meets with a patient. Kim and other NOVA Korean church members staff a monthly health fair.



A nurse checks a patient's blood pressure.

"Patients" to this health fair not only get blood draws but also counseling about the possible need for prescription medications and referrals. The church's dental professionals also provide routine dental consultations. Because we do not have our own church building (we worship at the Edgar Allan Poe Middle School), it has become increasingly difficult to provide full, routine medical care. Therefore, during the past year or so, we have streamlined the process so we can serve as many patients as possible in a very efficient manner. We also offer vegetarian cooking classes, health seminars and concerts.

At each health fair, there are about 40 patients. Patient ages range from 15-75, with the average age about 45 years old, and there are slightly more women than men. Most patients are either Korean or Spanish speakers (Dr. Kim is fluent in Spanish). About 45 percent of patients are Koreans. About 70 percent of patients have high cholesterol.

Although our goal is to provide affordable medical care, due to space, legalities and personnel issues, we are not able to provide more services at this time. However, based on our three years of solid experience running health fairs, we are now poised to pursue our goal of providing more comprehensive healthcare. We are slowly accumulating funds for the future and planning a more comprehensive fundraising effort.

I'm still amazed to see how the hope of a mother sewed the seeds of this valuable Christian service in our church members.—Jerry K. Lee

Four Join Fourth Street Friendship Family

It seemed only fitting that at the recent Fourth Street Friendship church's Community Guest Day, four former guests became members of the Seventh-day Adventist family through baptism.

Charles Duke got lost trying to find the Fourth Street church in Washington, D.C., one Sabbath, and by the time he arrived, the service was over. However, he knew he would be back. Duke, who was previously an Adventist, says getting re-baptized was an opportunity to put his past behind him

and recommit himself to Christ.

Last year Melvin Rhodes started praying for a way to get closer to God. In December God answered his prayer through a work colleague who invited him to church. He visited in January and never looked back. "It is a joy to be baptized. It is long overdue," Rhodes said. "I grew up in the [African Methodist Episcopal] church and was looking for a way to return, but [instead] God led me here."

Before she went into the baptistry, Dorothy Martin said, "This

church has been so warm and inviting that after the first time I came here, I just had to come back."

Sharon Pruitt learned about Adventists when she began studying the Sabbath for her women's group at a Presbyterian church. She then joined the Allegheny East Conference's 24-hour prayer line where she met Andrew Harewood, pastor of the Fourth Street church. After losing her husband and one of her sons, she was angry with God. But, she found Harewood's ministry such a blessing that she made the two-hour drive from Philadelphia to Fourth Street. "When I came here in August, it felt like home," she said. "I know God wants me to do something here."

PHOTO BY TILUANA GRIFFIN



Dorothy Martin, Sharon Pruitt, Melvin Rhodes and Charles Duke get ready for baptism.

Mitchellville Members See Bible Work as a Privilege

Melvyn Hayden III, pastor of the Mitchellville church in Largo, Md., believes that "sharing the gospel is the greatest privilege we have." Members of his church's Bible work team (pictured), which is led by Kevin Mitchell, agree and are faithfully exercising this privilege. Three members share what they love about this ministry:

Terence Monkou (third from left) makes connections everywhere he

goes. He says, "Giving Bible studies is my strength. I thought I would join this group and share that strength."

Although he is new to doing Bible work at Mitchellville, 24-year-old Aman Anderson (third from right) has two years of experience in Florida. "One of the main things that appeals to me about Bible work is that there are so many ways to be a blessing," he says. "There are some people who close the door in your

face but so many others who are yearning and waiting for someone to tell them about Christ."

Verina Sanders-Soremekun (second from left) has Bible work in her blood. Her mom and dad were top soul winners and book sellers when they worked for the Allegheny East Conference. "I love the Lord. We are His advocates," she says. "I asked Him to direct me in this ministry, and He's been doing just that."

Team members have found many ways to fulfill their commitment. Some give studies at church, in homes, at restaurants and cafes, over the phone and even by Skype.



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Temple Emmanuel Member Named a Top U.S. Doctor

For his leadership in the community, Edward Demond Scott, MD, a member of the Temple Emmanuel church in Youngstown, Ohio, recently received an award and got inducted into *Kaleidoscope Magazine's* Forty-Forty Club 2012, a select group of African-American professionals, aged 40 and under, who are making significant contributions in northeast Ohio. The magazine's staff named Scott among the best doctors in America in 2012.

Scott, a family physician in Akron, Ohio, recently led in the opening of an innovative health center that offers community-based preventative educational services and family medical care. He is also the executive director for health equity at Summa Health System.

"I am grateful for this recognition and thank God for the opportunity to work to improve the health of our community," comments Dr. Scott.

His wife, Rosanna Dean-Scott, MD, says, "I am so proud of his work to heighten awareness and educate regarding health and healthcare disparities in our community. His preventative focus is in line with God's plan for us all. These awards honor his commitment to his calling."



PHOTO BY JAMES VAUGHAN

Ramah Junior Academy Hosts Special Anointing

From 9 p.m. to midnight on a recent Saturday evening, Ramah Junior Academy hosted a Spirit-filled prayer service where pastors, parents, teachers and well-wishers gathered at the Cleveland-based educational facility to petition God on behalf of the school. Three area pastors—MyRon Edmonds and John Coaxum, senior and assistant pastor, respectively, from the Glenville church and Collin Parkinson from the Temple of Praise—each led a group of prayer warriors throughout the school to anoint desks, walls, chairs and lockers.

Attendees also earnestly prayed for a renewing of the Holy Spirit, for students and their families to draw close to the Lord, for the staff's faithfulness and leadership, for an increase in finances and volunteers, among other goals. They even prayed about building renovations

they hope to see come to reality and about needs, such as an art teacher; a new gym, flooring and playground; and a drama program.



Ramah parent Tracy Reid prays over the kindergarten classroom.

"By the end of the night, the feeling in the room was electrifying," says Simone Cameron, whose husband, Kevin, is the school principal. "You could literally feel the presence of God."



Violet Cox of the Glenville church anoints and prays for Ramah Junior Academy student Kendall Cameron.

Allegheny East, West Women's Clubs Share Ideas

After both groups spent 40 years separately dedicating their efforts to outreach and spiritual support, members of the Allegheny East Conference-based Better Halves Club and Allegheny West-based Bethel Ladies Club gathered recently to worship together. Some 20 ladies (some pictured), about half of each groups' members, and their families gathered for three days in Columbia, Md., to fellowship and share ideas on how to better reach their communities for Christ.

Jeannette Johnson, president of the Bethel Ladies Club, which is based at the Bethel church in Akron, Ohio, had hoped for some time of the two clubs meeting. Their weekend together included a tour of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C., Sabbath worship at the Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., and a day of praise and prayer for their groups' efforts, which include retreats, community teas, student support, mission outreach and other activities.

"[There] were tears and encouragement as individuals shared how the clubs are a bonding experience for women," shared Carol Wallington, president of the Better Halves Club, whose members hail from several churches in the Washington, D.C., area.—*Beth Michaels*



Carol Wallington, president of the Better Halves Club, enjoyed time with her daughter, Charlyce Wallington-Reynolds, and other members of the Bethel Ladies Club.

Ephesus Church Satisfies Columbus Academy Mortgage

Not only did Columbus Adventist Academy (CAA) in Columbus, Ohio, recently satisfy their \$1.2 million mortgage, but they also did it in record time—three years! It was members and friends of the school's constituent Ephesus church who rallied together to complete the seemingly impossible task.

In 2002, under the leadership of Pastor William T. Cox, who now

serves as conference president, the Ephesus church built the school as an edifice to foster Christian education. In October 2008, Donald L. Burden left the Allegheny West Conference office as the ministerial and youth director to lead Ephesus. He immediately rallied the church body to perform some much-needed repairs on the building.

The leadership team also desired to liquidate the remaining \$670,000 on the mortgage that put a constant strain on the church's finances. In May 2009—after a very successful evangelistic campaign ending in 100 baptisms—the leadership team launched an aggressive campaign. Members began to attack the mortgage with all denominations of

currency. A distraught treasurer even once counted 21,000 pennies!

In 2010 "miracles took place on all fronts," reports one member. The church baptized more than 160 new believers and also purchased, debt free, 13 acres of land. In 2011 CAA's enrollment increased from 75 students to 106, and the church celebrated 100 years of ministry.

"Because of the many members that believed it could be done, and a leadership team that said it would be done, we stand as a testimony that God is indeed able," said Pastor Burden. "With God, all things are possible!"—*Karen Williams*



Donald L. Burden, Ephesus church pastor, proudly burns the \$1.2 million mortgage for Columbus Adventist Academy.

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Blue Mountain Academy COMMUNIQUE

JULY 2012

You Belong Here

Summer is a great time to kick back and relax, but if there's one thing we've learned by now, it soon comes to an end. That also means school is about to begin again. As you turn your thoughts to where you will settle this year, allow me to invite you to be part of a school experience that focuses on one thing—you.

For over 50 years, Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) has existed for students like you. During those 50 years, young people have come to learn more about God and answer questions like Who is He? Why should I even care? And if I do care, now what do I do? BMA gives you the opportunity to learn how to serve your God. It's a community of young people with one purpose, one focus and one goal—serving God. We believe you have been uniquely created with gifts, personality and talents that, once further shaped through the BMA experience, will allow you to successfully go into the world and make a difference.

God is waiting to come back and take us all home. You have what it takes. God is calling you—today! Come to Blue Mountain Academy. Learn what it takes to serve your God and make a difference in this world. You belong here!



David Morgan
Principal

Academy Days Visitors Get Glimpse of BMA Life

Blue Mountain Academy's Academy Days 2012 started during a recent Friday morning with prospective students flooding the halls with laughter and joy. After registration, they gathered in the sanctuary, where current BMA students conducted a worship service. Guests were then handed over to the Student Association for group activities, games and fun until lunchtime. The day ended with campus tours and Friday evening vespers in the sanctuary.

After Sabbath School and church in the sanctuary on Sabbath morning, BMA students treated guests to another afternoon of activities around campus. On Saturday night, the Aerial Aires concluded Academy Days with their annual gymnastics home show.

The weekend's activities gave the prospective students a chance to experience many aspects of academy life. Performances by students in the Bel Chorale, La Sonnette Ensemble, Aerial Aires and the drama class gave them a taste of what activities are available to them if they attend BMA.—Sierra Emilaire ('14)



Public school student Caleb Marr, a member of the Beaumont church in Harveys Lake, Pa., registers for Academy Days.

BMA students engage prospective students in spiritual activities.

Aviation Program Shows Progress

There are a number of developments in the Adventist World Aviation (AWA) program at Blue Mountain Academy. Jonathan Springer ('13) and Bobby Locke ('15) joined the private pilot ground school program, and two students from recent classes, Kelsey Landa ('11) and Christopher Kiessling ('12), are now certified private pilots. Kiessling will spend five weeks this summer with AWA missionaries in Guyana before heading to Walla Walla University (Wash.) to pursue a degree in aviation.

Recent renovations on the campus include the installation of a pilot-controlled lighting module for

the runway lights and a rotating beacon. The lights can now be activated via airport radio frequency from up to 10 miles away. The lights stay on for 15 minutes and then automatically shut off.

After installing the wiring for the new runway lights in 2010, the aviation team filled the trenches and packed down the soil. However, general settling and the weather had caused ruts to form. Earlier this year, the Blue Mountaineers Pathfinder Club from Hamburg, Pa., spent half a day spreading and tamping topsoil and planting grass over the trenches. The Pathfinders plan to finish the job in September. The



A Blue Mountaineer Pathfinder Club member pours grass seed over a trench where the runway lights were installed last year.



Steve Saint (third from left), a missionary pilot, speaker and author, meets BMA's recent aviation team (left to right): sophomores Bobby Locke and Jonathan Ringer; senior Jonathan Springer; Eric Engen, BMA's ground school instructor; and alumni Kelsey Landa ('11) and Christopher Kiessling ('12).

remaining part of the airport lighting project, the runway end identifier lights, awaits necessary funding.

"It is exciting that BMA students can take advantage of this partnership we have with AWA, and learn the role that aviation can serve in spreading the gospel," says Eric Engen, BMA's ground school instructor. Watch a recent video about the program by visiting tinyurl.com/awapa.



Volunteers fill settled trenches that cover wiring for the new landing lights.

Senior Named Caring Heart Award Winner

This year the Columbia Union Conference Office of Education's Caring Heart Award for Blue Mountain Academy went to graduating senior Maile Hoffman (right). Winning students are selected for their demonstration of personal commitment to service and witnessing activities.

"Maile is one of the most outgoing and caring students that I have had the privilege to work with," comments Cory Enochs, Student Association sponsor. "As Student Association president, I have watched her grow into a great leader among her peers. She is a very important part as to how our student body views caring for one another. We are honored to recognize her for this award."



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THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

JULY 2012

“Increase My Faith!”

A very short prayer in the Bible reveals one of our greatest needs. It happened when Jesus challenged his disciples to always forgive. When confronted with this “impossible” mandate, the disciples had no other choice but come to Jesus and pray, “Lord, increase our faith!” (Luke 17:5).

On a number of occasions, the disciples witnessed firsthand what faith is able to accomplish. They saw Jesus heal the servant of a centurion (Matt. 8:5-13). They saw Jesus touch two blind men and restored their sight (Matt. 9:27-29). They were with Jesus when a desperate woman touched His garment and received healing (Matt. 9:22). And, they marveled at the incredible restoration of a demon-possessed girl (Matt. 15:21-28).

Through these healings and other incredible encounters between Jesus and sinners, the Bible shows how faith is an indispensable component in every restoration of the body, mind and soul. Faith also allows us to understand, accept and obey the commands of Jesus even when they seem too hard to follow. That is what the disciples were asking for—a faith that would enable them to forgive and show mercy without limits. If you are facing a spiritual challenge in your life today, pray this short and powerful prayer, “Lord, increase my faith!” Of all the things we may ask God for, faith is one that He is always ready to give.



Kleyton Feitosa
Executive Secretary

Capital Brazilian Temple Ministers Abroad Via Internet

Although she lives in a different country, Luciana Ferraz de Campos has been blessed by a sermon series streamed live from the Capital Brazilian Temple in Highland, Md. De Campos, who lives in New Zealand, learned about the service from her daughter, Bruna Campos de Souza, who attends the church. Because of those sermons, de Campos recently

returned to God and reconciled with her own mother.

De Campos’ parents separated when she was 5 years old growing up in Brazil. Soon after, her mother remarried and moved to a farm in the countryside leaving her three daughters, aged 14, 7 and 5 years old, alone in the city. Her mother returned every few days to see her daughters. However, de Campos resented her mother’s absence and her difficult childhood. De Campos became a mother at 15, and at 16 she received Bible studies, accepted Jesus and was baptized. Later she became estranged from her mother.

Four years ago, de Campos moved to New Zealand. There is no Portuguese-language church for de Campos to attend in New Zealand, so Bruna encouraged her mother to follow Capital Brazilian Temple’s worship services online. De Campos did, and the Holy Spirit touched her heart to return to God and forgive her parents. She recently spoke to her mother for the first time in 12 years.

The church began streaming services in 2009. Fritz Kolle, the church’s media director, says this ministry exists to connect loved ones to Jesus.

Last year during a youth evangelism effort, the church had more than 40 sites connected each night. Watch live at capitalbrazilian.org.—Jimmy Cardoso



Bruna Campos de Souza, pictured with her husband, Emerson, and their children, connected her mother in New Zealand to church services at the Capital Brazilian Temple via the Internet.

NEWS

Highland View Welcomes New Principal

This month Gregg Cain begins his new role as principal of Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md. Cain comes from Forest Lake Academy (Fla.) where he served six years as a vice principal.



Pikesville Church Equips Members for Evangelism

On a recent Sunday, the Pikesville International church in Baltimore offered a workshop featuring Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC) Atlantic. This was one in a series of training sessions aimed at equipping members with soul-winning skills. In 2010, as part of the Chesapeake Conference's "An Open Door in Baltimore" New Year's Day outreach effort, Pikesville's Youth and Men's ministries members directed chartered school buses into neighborhoods throughout Baltimore and collected hundreds of names for Bible studies. Pikesville members are now following up with 400 of the names collected.

John Griffin, leader of Men's Ministries, said he was impressed with the material shared at the training, which was open to all



PHOTO BY JOSUE SANCHEZ

Michael Olesimeka, of GYC Atlantic, leads a practical evangelism workshop at the Pikesville (Md.) International church.

Baltimore-area churches.

It remains the goal of the church's Personal Ministries and Sabbath School departments to continue "harvesting our own backyard," says Earle "Geoff" Greaves, a church elder. "The Holy Spirit is empowering us to work together."

Enjoy a peaceful weekend away to reconnect with God, rejuvenate your body, and replenish your soul. Relax and laugh with friends you don't see often. Meet new friends with the same interests as you. Let God speak to you through the beautiful views of nature. Listen to seminars that will encourage you in your spiritual walk. Go hiking or biking. Roast marshmallows at the bonfire by the lake. Take a few moments out of your busy life for you!



FEATURED SPEAKER (ENGLISH)
Heather Quintana
Editor, Vibrant Life Magazine



FEATURED SPEAKER (ESPAÑOL)
Susana Schulz
Former Women's Ministries director, South American Division

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER VISIT:
WWW.CCOSDA.ORG/ARTICLE/193

MOUNTAIN VIEW POINT

JULY 2012

Young People Pledge to Reach Every Home in Charleston

Can a group of young people knock on all 23,453 homes in Charleston, W.Va., this year? Young people in the Mountain View Conference, who are partnering with Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC), say an exuberant “Yes!”

The first event to reach West Virginia’s capital, themed “This Soil Also,” began on a rainy Friday evening as GYC representatives, conference administrators, pastors, young people and supportive church members from around the conference streamed into the Charleston church to hear GYC speaker Valmy Karemera, who encouraged everyone to be witnesses.

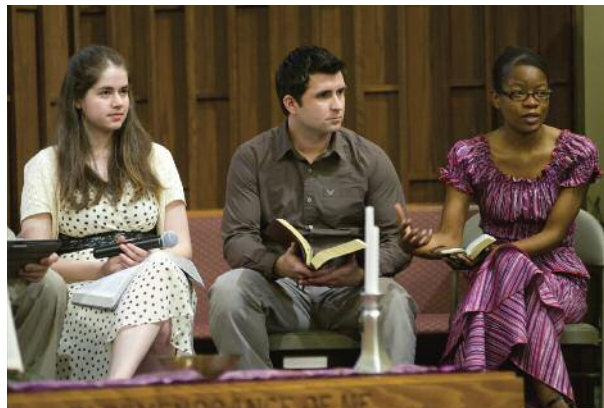
On Sabbath morning, a panel of six young people (some pictured) discussed how to be witnesses for God in all arenas, be it in a secular workplace, a school setting or a church leadership position.

In the afternoon, 56 people paired off and descended on the city of Charleston taking surveys and offering Bible studies. Jessica Cheever, from the Webster Springs (W.Va.) company, shared the story of a local man named Noah, who willingly took part in the survey and, when asked if he had a prayer request, spoke of a burden on his heart. After they prayed with him, he signed up for Bible studies.

In just two hours, the young people knocked on almost 900 doors and received more than 100 requests for Bible studies. They also distributed more than 600 tracts and prayed with more than 125 people.

At the end of the Sabbath, many young people committed to continue working in Charleston. For more information, visit facebook.com/This.Soil.Also.WV.

—*Jessica Cheever, Kathy Pepper and Daniella Pusic contributed to this story*



Adventist Education Mission Highlighted at Summit

The Mountain View Conference recently hosted an education summit at the Summersville (W.Va.) church featuring guest speakers Shane Anderson, pastor of the New Market (Va.) church, and Dale Twomley, principal of the Fletcher Academy in North Carolina.

Larry Boggess, conference president and education superintendent, called this summit to remind church members that “God has designed the Seventh-day Adventist Christian education system to fulfill the mission

that He has given the church. We must remain focused on that vision.”

Anderson spoke about the mission and value of a Seventh-day Adventist Christian education. He also presented practical ideas for making Adventist schools excellent, emphasizing that “the spiritual development of the students must be primary” and “excellence in academics and programs” secondary.

Twomley said, “Satisfied parents and students [are] the best advertising.” Drawing from his time with a food company, Twombly emphasized that when a product is not selling, the worst thing to do is spend money on advertising that product in hopes of increasing the sales. Instead, it’s better to improve the product and then it will sell itself.

There were two breakout sessions and a question-and-answer session. Cheryl Jacko and Donna Nicholas, the conference’s associate superintendents, presented the results of an online education survey that queried Mountain View members.



Miranda Starr, a teacher at Parkersburg Academy, and Mary Beth Wiesner, a teacher at Montessori Adventure, both in Parkersburg, W.Va., discuss the value of Adventist education in their small group.

Mountain View Young Adults Pray

Talks about prayer went beyond just methods, and went right to the heart of why we pray and what it's all about," said Tricia Lee Wilkins, who attended Mountain View Conference's first Young Adult Prayer Conference at the Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va.

The Morgantown, W.Va., resident continued, "[Pastor Walter Cardenas] talked about keeping that line of communication open, that it's more of a relationship that flows as naturally as a relationship we have between humans."

The main speaker, Victor Martinez, a volunteer youth leader from Alexandria, Va., spoke on the

theme "The Great Invitation," and explained how God invites humans to have a relationship with Him through prayer. Workshop presenters shared steps for growing closer to Christ through prayer and, as a result, bringing others to know Him.

Sushana Williams, from Morgantown, said once she gets home she plans "to work on ... just spending time with God, turning off everything else and spending time with Him."

Participants included Mountain View Conference young adults aged 18-34 and their families. Geoff Starr, conference Youth Ministries director, says plans are already in the works for the second annual



Tricia Lee Wilkins and Sushana Williams, both from Morgantown, W.Va., enjoyed a spiritual lift at the prayer conference.

Young Adult Prayer Conference in 2013. Read more at columbiaunion.org/mtvprayer.—Trudy Squires

All Things Beautiful... In HIS Time

Womens' Retreat

September 14 - 16, 2012*

Valley Vista Adventist Center ~ Huttonsville, WV

*Come refresh yourself in a weekend designed for you!
Know that HIS timing is perfect.*

Guest Speaker, Denise Reinwald, from Pennsylvania, is a Licensed Massage Therapist with Adventist WholeHealth Network. She spends her days gratefully ministering to the needs of those in chronic pain. She loves words and the power they have to create and recreate. Her own journey of healing has profoundly shaped the way she sees God and the stories she tells of His strength, love and loyalty.

For additional information call the Mountain View Conference at 304-422-4581

*Early Bird Registration ends August 20, 2012

Mission Caleb in Action

I realize that, for many folks, the work of planting new churches in these times can seem very daunting if not practically impossible. Nevertheless, if we open our eyes, we shall see the wonders of the Lord multiplying day by day through New Jersey Conference's Mission Caleb initiative. Just recently I had the joy of participating in a new church plant in Bayonne, which is in the northern part of the state. Several months ago, 12 committed disciples began to work in the area by offering small group Bible studies, visiting homes and surveying residents. Today they have 30 people attending. They are now renting a very nice church facility from the cordial Calvary Episcopal Church at 954 Avenue C, and, by the grace of the Lord, are now offering regular services to the community. This growing group is fully committed to their true mission, which is to share the gospel with all the inhabitants of that worthy community.

What thrills me more is that this is not an isolated event. During the course of the last year, we organized five new churches that will be accepted into the New Jersey Conference sisterhood of churches during our constituency meeting September 23. Please don't think, however, that all these churches sprung up simply from spontaneous generation. Church planting requires time, much prayer and dedication; there must be intentional planning and genuine commitment.

What then lies behind these developments in the New Jersey Conference? Do you suppose what we are seeing is nothing more than isolated occurrences appearing on an otherwise common backdrop? By all means, no! I am utterly convinced that what we are seeing is exactly the kind of miracle God blesses His people with when pastors and laymen unite their energies for the advancement of the kingdom of heaven. Thank you, pastors! Thank you, mother churches and thank you, Lord!



José H. Cortés
President

Newark English Little Lights Adventurers Shine



The 24 members of the Little Lights Adventurer Club at the Newark English church have been very busy serving the Lord and having fun. Their director Carol James says the Little Lights is the number-two Adventurer club in the conference. This year they visited with their senior pastor, Andre Ascalon (left); cheered up residents of a nursing home; volunteered at a soup kitchen; made thank-you cards for their local firemen and policemen and joined 1,000 other Adventurers from around the conference for Family Time Out.

"This is a club where the children and their parents learn about Jesus," says James, who has worked with Adventurers since the 1980s. "The most important thing we do in this ministry is show the kids that the most fun they can have is not watching TV, it's learning about God through nature, helping people around them and growing in Christ."—*Taashi Rowe*

NEWS

Elizabeth English Elder, Deacons Ordained

Three deacons and one elder from the Elizabeth English church were recently ordained at the New Jersey Conference Elders, Deacons and Deaconesses retreat. "These are all faithful men who love the Lord," said Pastor Andre Ascalon (below, far right). Pictured from left to right is elder Nwaji Ebere and deacons Marlon Dixon and Omar Mullings. Hector Sharwane, a deacon, is not pictured.



15 Join Williamstown English Church

The Williamstown congregation strongly believes in following Christ's edict in Matthew 28:19, which compels all to go and make disciples. On a recent Sabbath, 15 joined the Williamstown family. Eleven celebrated their discipleship through baptism, two transferred their membership and two joined by profession of faith.

The new members (below) include Elizabeth Mondragon,

PHOTO BY EDWARD W. FIELDS



Abigail Jacobo, Justin Pessoa, Nathan Lupo, Jesse Baptiste, Eric Fields Jr., Benjamin Jacobo, Ana Jacobo, Joshua Pessoa, Rachael Ogungbile, Grace Ogungbile, Abigeal Ogungbile, Emmanuel Ogungbile, Young Hui Dwyer and James Dwyer. Pastor Caesar Sprianu is pictured far left.

—Edward W. Fields

Waldwick School Celebrates 12 Baptisms

After a Week of Prayer led by Jonathan Nino, chaplain of the South Lancaster Academy (Mass.), 12 Waldwick Adventist School students (above) accepted Christ and asked for baptism. They engaged in further studies and were then baptized at the Waldwick church, which is located on the school's campus.

Before his transfer to South Lancaster Academy, Nino taught at the Waldwick school. "It is an honor to be a part of the lives of these students as they accept Jesus as their personal Savior," he said. "The future of the church is secure as we see these young people join the ranks of the saved and our church. I pray for each one of these newly baptized members."

Ruth Nino, Waldwick's principal,

said, "What a privilege to be a part this important spiritual milestone in the lives of our students! This is what Christian education is all about—helping our students to know and accept Jesus as their personal Savior!"

dates NEW JERSEY

July

- 15 Adventist Community Services Advisory, *Conference Office* 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 28 Men's Ministry Training *Conference Office*, 3-6 p.m.

August

- 4 Family Ministries Leadership Training, *Conference Office* 3-6 p.m.
- 8-11 Columbia Union Pathfinder Camporee, *Camp Mohaven Ohio*
- 11 Sabbath School Friends Day Local Churches
- 24 South New Jersey Prayer & Praise Night, *Bridgeton Spanish Church*, 7 p.m.
- 26 New Jersey Conference Pathfinder Day, *Meadow View Jr. Academy*, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- 26 Organizing Committee for Conference Constituency Meeting, *Conference Office*, 10 a.m.

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Dayton Korean Members Serve Maasai in Kenya

Five church members recently joined Young Hwa Yoon, pastor of the Dayton Korean church in Dayton, Ohio, and his wife, Victoria, on a trip to Kenya. The group met other Korean-American missionaries there to help the region's Maasai people. "God did more than expected," Yoon said of the trip.

During the day, Yoon, his team and the director of Health for the Central Kenyan Conference, helped the Maasai with basic needs like medicine, vitamins and glasses. Yoon, a former optometrist, and his wife, a nurse, addressed eye conditions caused by excessive smoke in inadequately vented homes. While he administered the eye drops, he would counsel the Maasai to return to the local pastor for additional treatment, which enabled pastors and residents to establish relationships.

During the evenings, the group evangelized. Simultaneous evening meetings took place at 10 sites within central Kenya. According to Yoon, these meetings helped empower local lay leaders, encouraging



The Dayton Korean mission team and local lay pastors provided basic health needs and shared Christ with many locals.



Pastor Young Hwa Yoon treats a Maasai during his mission trip to Kenya.

them to "make a bridge between the community and the church ... and obtain contacts for local pastors to follow up." By the end of the trip, the missionaries had treated more than 1,000 Maasai, baptized 83 locals and converted another 139.

While there, Yoon also met 45 pastors within the Central and South Kenyan conferences, only seven of whom are financially supported by the church. The rest are lay pastors. Seeing an opportunity to assist, he united them for a pastoral meeting. For the first time, all area pastors had contact information for each other and could encourage each other.

There is still much to be done. Yoon and his congregation share his global mission vision, outlined best by Ellen White: "When the members of the church of God do their appointed work in the needy fields at home and abroad ... the whole world will soon be warned and the Lord Jesus will return to this Earth with power and great glory" (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 111).



The Dayton Korean church members capture a moment with some of the Maasai they assisted and baptized.

15 Schools Participate in Elementary Worship Festival

More than 140 students from 15 Seventh-day Adventist schools across Ohio converged in Mount Vernon for the Ohio Conference Department of Education's annual Elementary Worship Festival. Coordinated this year by David Niño, Mount Vernon Academy music director, workshop leaders and clinicians taught students about a variety of topics,

from puppetry (right) to photography. Some 300 visitors from across the conference showed support for the students by attending the Sabbath afternoon program. Funds raised by the visiting schools prior to the event and on the final Sabbath went to support Christian Record Service's National Camps for the Blind.



Those who coordinated this year's festival include (left to right) Sharon Williams, a middle school teacher at Spring Valley Academy in Centerville; Jay Colburn, superintendent of education; Lina Pooler, choir and handbell director at Forest Lake Education Center (Fla.); David Niño, music director at Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) in Mount Vernon; Tracy Arnett, principal at Eastwood Seventh-day Adventist Junior Academy in Westerville; and Robert Stevenson, former MVA principal.



Women's Retreat to Focus on "Christian Fragrance"



The annual Ohio Conference Women's Retreat will be held a bit later this year, October 19-21, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. This year's theme is "We are a Fragrance of Christ," and will feature guest speaker Hyveth B. Williams, DMin (left). Williams plans to continue her passion for reaching and healing people with powerful spiritual insights, with a message based on 2 Corinthians 2:14-15: "In the Messiah, in Christ, God leads us from place to place in one perpetual victory parade. Through us, he brings knowledge of Christ. Everywhere we go, people breathe in the exquisite fra-

grance. Because of Christ, we give off a sweet scent rising to God, which is recognized by those on the way of salvation—an aroma redolent with life" (*Message*).

For additional information or a brochure, visit ohioadventist.org and click on the Annual Events link, or call (740) 397-4665, ext. 165.

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Pennsylvania Pen

JULY 2012

Huntingdon Valley Students Take Local Mission Trip

Students from the Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy (HVCA) in Huntingdon Valley, recently went on a mission trip to Salem, W.Va., where they worked for Miracle Meadows School, which educates at-risk children, aged 7-17. While there, students helped clean, mow lawns for current staff, organize materials inside a gym and inventory books in a library.

Each night HVCA students enjoyed interactive group worships with the students and staff at Miracle Meadows. "It was spiritually enriching and beneficial for our group and theirs," shares principal Richard Bianco. "It was a blessing to know that what we did would help several children in the near future. We had to sleep in school classrooms at night, take cold showers, work around a lot of bugs and face other obstacles that we wouldn't normally encounter. Despite all of those things, it felt so good to help. It wasn't easy, but it was definitely worth it."

Sheryl Cubero, an eighth-grader, and Davel Parker, a seventh-grader, organize materials.



BMA Students Connect Residents With Services

Students and staff of Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) in Hamburg, along with Seventh-day Adventists from surrounding churches and community professionals, recently spent a day serving and providing resources to more than 500 people in the Reading area.

Called the Welcome Table, the idea for the event came from Shawnessey Cargile, BMA chaplain, and Jason Foster, pastor of the Grace Outlet church in Reading. After learning that 41.3 percent of Reading residents live under the poverty level, the two designed

the Welcome Table collaborative to make a difference.

"The goal of the Welcome Table is to bring two groups of people together—the people of the church/professionals and those in need of a helping hand," Cargile said. "We want to make a community connection ... not just for the day, but hopefully create a longer relationship."

The event was held at the Reading Fairgrounds Square Mall. BMA students and staff manned various stations that provided counseling, prayer, health checks, dental screenings, massages, small engine repair, clothing distribution and hair styling.

Students said they enjoyed the opportunity to serve the community. "I liked helping with the hair station and working with the little girls' hairstyles," shared senior Alyssa Ferguson.

Other community groups also shared opportunities and resources that day, including the Adventist Whole Health Network, the Reading Library, Faith Kitchen and United Community Services. Visitors enjoyed two free meals and learned about available soup kitchens and food pantries. Over the next year, the Welcome Table will continue to serve free meals the first Tuesday of the month.

"A lot of people who came were really poor. It was the best feeling to supply a need. It was neat that we could give back to the community," Hannah Ashburn ('13) reported.—Rose Bechtel



Courtney-Lynn Harvey ('12) braids a little girl's hair.

Stroudsburg Church, School Team Up, Reach Community

The Stroudsburg Seventh-day Adventist School and the Stroudsburg church's Health Ministries department recently spent the day sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with their neighbors.

Church members led vegetarian cooking demonstrations (right) and shared samples. Guests and church members were not only fed physically but also spiritually through the Stroudsburg church's ministry team and the Adventist Book Center, which had a booth where they sold books and items mainly pertaining to health. They also provided free health tracts and information. The Adventist Whole Health Network team provided blood pressure, dia-

betes and cholesterol screenings. People also browsed the health displays that the students prepared.

The highlight of the day was the LEGO robotics display. Students demonstrated their creation, which won third place in the FIRST LEGO League robotic competition amongst Pennsylvania Conference Adventist schools.

During the day, several families registered their children for the upcoming school year. The day ended with a bang when Stroudsburg's Pathfinder drum corps, Stars of the Master, gave a festive performance as they marched on the church grounds.

—Sandra Pascal



100 Attend Princess Tea

More than 100 girls under age 12 and their moms and grandmothers recently attended the second Pennsylvania Conference Princess Tea at the Hamburg church. The fireside room was transformed into a princess party complete with castles, pink and purple balloons and tiny "carriage" treat boxes. The princesses moved about the room during the Princess Ball, enjoying seven different stops—each one featuring a story that told a bit about what it meant to be a princess and an activity to go along with the story.

They decorated tiaras and took pictures against a castle backdrop. They also learned that God's princesses tell other girls that they, too, are God's princesses. They learned to share this news by decorating two cookies—one for themselves to eat and one to share with a friend.

That afternoon, little girls giggled and created crowns; sat attentively listening to stories of Gigi, God's little princess; played with Hula-Hoops and learned that princesses do wear hiking boots. They also enjoyed an afternoon tea complete

with butterfly-shaped peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Before the day was over, princesses talked about next year.

Tamyra Horst, the conference's Women's Ministries director who organized the event, says, "My desire is to minister to girls from the time they are little through their adult years, helping them to grow closer to God and realize who they are in Him. The world works hard to teach women, beginning in their teen years and younger, that they are not enough and don't measure up. I want them to know that in God's eyes, they are exactly who He created them to be."

Kathy Cates reads a story to attentive princesses.



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Potomac People

JULY 2012

Takoma, Shenandoah Valley Academies Gain New Principals



Two Potomac Conference senior academies announced new principals for the 2012-13 school year: Carla Thrower will serve at Takoma Academy (TA) in Takoma Park, Md., and Travis Johnson at Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) in New Market, Va.

Thrower will be in familiar surroundings at TA. She and her husband, Donald (pictured), are parents of a TA graduate, with another child enrolling soon. She most recently served as an adjunct professor in education at nearby Washington Adventist University.

Thrower says she is always looking for new ways to integrate faith into the learning experience. With expertise and interest in analytics, she also seeks to provide resources and lesson plans that will improve teacher performance and ensure students from all

backgrounds are academically achieving at their highest level. Thrower holds master's degrees in administration and supervision, curriculum and instruction, and math and science instruction.

Johnson (pictured with his wife, Nicole, and two children, Madelyn and Gracelyn) hails from Ogden, Utah. He approaches teaching and administrative duties with high energy and a committed focus. He holds a bachelor's in business administration and master's in teaching.

In just five years of teaching, plus another year in Japan, Johnson has been successful in raising academics in his classrooms, improving Iowa Test of Basic Skills scores from an average of 22 to 54 percent. Johnson's vision for SVA is to recreate an engaging and successful environment that will bring stability and growth.

—Tiffany Doss



Richmond Academy Launches Virtual Classroom

The Columbia Union Conference and Potomac Conference are partnering with Richmond Academy (RA) to provide a complete and accredited Seventh-day Adventist education to students in the Richmond, Va.,



Richmond Academy students try out a MacBook Air laptop, which will be used for the school's new virtual classroom.

area and beyond who, because of finances, location or other reasons, have previously been unable to attend an Adventist school. To accomplish this mission, RA will become a Connected School, offering real-time, fully interactive classes to off-campus students using video conferencing technology. This summer RA will install new video cameras, large screen monitors and video conferencing software to connect teachers to all student locations. They plan to roll out the pilot program next school year.

Richmond Academy is modeling their new online classes after an extremely successful program in Georgia. RA will partner with the Desmond T. Doss Junior Academy in Lynchburg, Va., to provide a Connected classroom for RA's off-campus students. All RA Connected School students will receive MacBook Air notebooks and will meet with RA campus students for events to help them feel connected to the student body.

"RA's excited to share its motto—'Loving, Learning, Living in Christ'—in a new, relevant and exciting way," says Malcolm Hutchinson, RA principal.—Eryn Savoy

Potomac People

Stafford Church Directs Successful Area Food Program

We distribute over 2.75 million meals and 3.4 million pounds of food each and every year,” reports Oya Oliver, executive director of the Fredericksburg (Va.) Area Food Bank. “The majority of the food gets distributed by our volunteer network. We really couldn’t provide this service without them.”

She is referring to the more than 100 volunteers who work alongside the food bank’s 18 part-time staff



members each week as they serve and maintain contact with people in need. The volunteers help organize and prepare boxed shipments to a number of denominational congregations throughout the greater metropolitan area.

The Fredericksburg Area Food Bank is a full-scale warehouse operation comprised of 32,000 square feet of dry storage with enough refrigeration and freezer space to store 80,000 pounds of perishable

items. More than 70 food pantries and food assistance programs collaborate to address the needs of the hungry through the food bank.

Stanley Thompson (left), director of the Stafford (Va.) church’s food ministry, coordinates this effort with several of the largest churches in the Fredericksburg area, including two Baptist churches—Mt. Ararat and Ramoth—and the Strong Tower Lutheran Church. “I love this ministry,” he comments. “I see the impact it’s having on those we serve, as well as those who volunteer to help. It’s a win-win, and I can’t say enough good things about the people I volunteer with.”

As director for several years, Thompson has seen this program grow in ways he never dreamed possible. “When we started this program, we served approximately 50 meals every week. Since we’ve partnered with three other churches in this area, we’ve grown to 300 meals per week. We’re expecting to reach 600 meals per week by the end of the year.”

The Stafford members started their ministry about seven months ago. “I saw the way several Baptist churches were working in the community and asked if they would help start a food ministry at our Adventist church,” explains Thompson. “They were very gracious and said that even if we couldn’t do anything in return for them, they’d help us make a great action plan.”



Volunteers help sort through food donations, which totals 3.4 million pounds each year.

One of the current volunteers was a recipient of the food bank program less than a year ago. Now she and her daughter help the team deliver meals each week to others within the community. “I really appreciated the assistance this program provided to me and my family when we needed the help, and now this provides me an opportunity to give back.”

Shirley Oesterle, food ministry coordinator for the Mt. Ararat Baptist Church, clearly states what many of the volunteers appreciate about the ministry: “It’s amazing that God put this team together ... but I find that, if you join together with other people in your community, you can accomplish a lot more together than on your own.”



Oya Oliver (left), executive director of the Fredericksburg (Va.) Area Food Bank, and Dayna Klein, major gifts/marketing coordinator, work with area volunteers to deliver some 300 meals each week to those in need.

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

Spotlight on Spencerville

JULY 2012

Our Mighty Schools

Why do so many people choose Seventh-day Adventist education when there is a “free” education offered just down the street? I think all parents want their student to receive an excellent education *and* discover or grow a saving relationship with Christ. At times, I hear rumors that our Adventist schools compromise academics over the spiritual. I would argue that the two are never mutually exclusive and that our schools do both.

Our schools provide strong academics in a uniquely Adventist environment, a fact supported by a recent study. The four-year study revealed that students in our schools outperform the national average. It also reported that the longer a student is in Adventist education, the more they outperform the national average. And, academic rigor is directly supported in the Bible: “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl. 9:10, NIV). Mighty things are happening in Adventist schools this fall. See you there!



Brian Kittleson
Principal

Sophomores Participate in Mock Trial

The Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) sophomore Bible class recently participated in a mock trial at the Circuit Court for Baltimore County in Towson, Md. “I wanted to get my sophomore Bible students excited and interested in issues of religious liberty,” said Robert Martinez, Bible teacher. “Most students in high school take for granted the rights and liberties granted to them by the constitution of the United States.”

Students prepared an actual religious liberty case based on the question of whether or not religious schools have the right to govern themselves and to set their own rules of conduct for students, faculty and staff. The sophomores chose to play parts on the defense, plaintiff, jury or camera crew.

“This experience was very eye opening. It was fun to talk with my peers about the case, even though we got into a few arguments,” admitted Stephen Eide, who presented opening arguments for the plaintiff.

Tomi Sodimu, who argued for the defense, stated, “I enjoyed having the mock trial in an actual courtroom. It was really cool and it actually helped me to get into character.”

Martinez is already planning for next year’s mock trial and hopes that the project will generate more interest by students, faculty, staff and the community on issues concerning religious liberty.



While preparing for their mock trial (above) at a county court house (below), sophomore Matthew Fennell gives arguments in front of a jury of fellow classmates.



Spotlight

NEWS

Senior Receives Union Caring Heart Award

This year the Columbia Union Conference Office of Education's Caring Heart Award for Spencerville Adventist Academy went to senior Josué Hernández. SAA staff describes Hernández as "a positively delightful young man with a loving heart for all people."

Although Hernández is a senior and has limited contact with elementary students, staff says they clearly know who he is, look up to him, sense his caring spirit and appreciate how he treats them like his own little brothers and sisters. His high school friends see him as genuine— not putting on airs.

Hernández is purposeful about using his gifts for the Lord. He demonstrated that during a recent mission trip when, with genuine care, he

sought the children of the community to share with them God's love.

"His love for others is not contrived, but natural," explains DeWayne Boyer, religion teacher. "He's not been at Spencerville Adventist Academy for long, but he's earned admiration from his classmates and seeks to instill in others the same passion he has to reach out and touch a hurting world."

Adventist Children's Chorus Wins Competition

Spencerville Adventist Academy's Adventist Children's Chorus (ACC) recently participated



PHOTO BY MERLE POIRIER

in the Music in the Parks festival in Hershey, Pa., where they sang "Panis Angelicus" by Cesar Franck and "Alleluia" by Randall Thompson. The treble choir (below), which involves 66 students from grades 3-8, is dedicated to singing sacred music to the glory of God.

To avoid conflict with the Sabbath, the group chose not to attend the festival's awards ceremony Friday evening. Instead, Jane Lanning, choir director, approached the ceremony coordinator early in the afternoon to ask for the judges' results. For the second year, they took home first place for an elementary treble choir and the trophy for best elementary choral group.

"When I see 9 year olds singing in four-part harmony to glorify their God, I know there is exceeding joy in heaven!" exclaims Lanning. The choir, which started two years ago, is also open to home-schooled children.

Alumni Welcomed Home

There was a good turnout for this year's SAA Alumni Homecoming. At the roll call Sabbath morning at the nearby Spencerville church, students and alumni represented every decade from the 1940s on.

After the Friday night vespers, the weekend also included an alumni handbell group and choir performance during the divine service, followed by a potluck. The alumni musical drama review on Saturday night was a highlight for many. Alumni who had performed in the school's musical dramas during the past 12 years got the opportunity to perform their former roles on the new stage (pictured above with drama director Jane Lanning, top row, center).

"I just wanted to thank everyone who had a part in planning alumni weekend, especially Jane Lanning and Merle Poirer. It was a blast!" remarked Candace Culpepper Child ('03).

Calendar

August

- 20 First Day of School
- 27 Prospective Student Open House, 9:30 a.m.

September

- 3 Labor Day—No School
- 9 ACTs
- 16 High School Beach Day
- 20-23 SALT Retreat

Spotlight is published in the *Visitor* by Spencerville Adventist Academy 2502 Spencerville Road, Spencerville, MD 20868 ■ Phone: (301) 421-9101 spencervilleacademy.org ■ Principal, Brian Kittleson ■ Editor, Heidi Wetmore



SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY

HAPPENINGS



JULY 2012

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

11 Students Choose Baptism

It was a cool, Friday evening when the entire Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) campus gathered at the beautiful Lake Arrowhead for a final vespers of the 2011-12 school year. After a few games and picnic supper, several students shared their testimonies with the group before Tim Harley, SVA chaplain and Bible teacher, baptized 10 students. Skyler Menhardt was the 11th student to commit her life to Christ, with her baptism performed by her father, Buz Menhardt, pastor of the New Market church.

Chaplain Tim Harley prepares to baptize Nick Lapido (left) and Frankie Dorsey during a vespers at Lake Arrowhead.



Students Perform Mock Trial

Objection! Your Honor, counsel is leading the witness.” This was one of many objections raised by teams as they led the first mock murder trial for government class. Over the course of three days, six attorney teams, each with three lawyers, presented evidence and interviewed witnesses to convince the jury either to convict or acquit the accused. The prosecution then had to prove the defendant’s guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, while the defense attempted to create questions and doubt in the jurors’ minds.

“It was cool to try to point out the faults in the prosecution’s case,” said Boone Menhardt, one of the defense attorneys.—*Gabrielle Griffin*

Victor Cabral and Ashley Trubey are ready for the mock murder trial.

Music Groups Tour Montreal

The SVA Music Department recently took their handbell ensemble, concert choir, orchestra and select choir, the Shenandoans, to Montreal for a one-week tour. In all, about 100 people, including sponsors, packed three buses and headed north.

The student musicians got to perform at area Seventh-day Adventist churches and engage in workshops with clinicians from McGill University. The group also visited the Montreal Biodome and Saint Joseph’s Oratory in Mont-Royal, took a day trip to Quebec City and saw the Montreal Symphony in concert.

“Besides having a wonderful time bonding and growing together as musicians, they also enjoyed being able to share their music with the wonderful people of Montreal,” commented Melissa Anderson, choir director. “It was definitely a tour to remember!



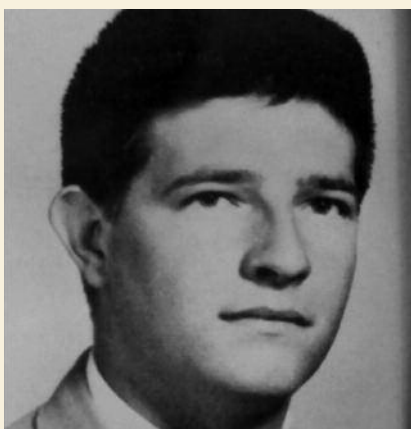
SVA student musicians visit Oratoire Saint Joseph, one of their many stops during a one-week tour of Montreal, Quebec, in Canada.

HAPPENINGS

The Hannahs Say Goodbye

The Shenandoah Valley Academy student body recently hosted an appreciation luncheon for principal Spencer Hannah and his wife, Eva, for their four-and-a-half years of service to the academy. For the 2012-13 school year, Hannah will transfer his principal duties to Champion Academy (Colo.), where he once served as a math teacher and later as vice principal (1981-1991).

Hamlet Canosa, EdD, Columbia Union Conference vice president for education, hands Spencer Hannah a special plaque to commemorate his 13 years as a member of the Columbia Union School Administrators Council.



Alumnus Gets Diploma After 47 Years

Howard Powell graduated from SVA in 1965 but never collected his diploma. Soon after graduation, Powell reports that he and his brother, Walter, got jobs in Maryland and neglected to give the school a forwarding address. But thanks to Walter, Howard—a Vietnam veteran currently living in Parkersburg, W.Va.—received the diploma in time for his 66th birthday.

“I found out three weeks before his birthday that he never got his diploma,” explains Walter. “I called SVA and they found it in a file. They sent it by Priority Mail, along with a copy of his senior portrait (left).”

Walter had the picture framed and presented it, along with the diploma, to Howard at the annual convention of the West Virginia Marble Club, of which Howard is president. There wasn’t a dry eye in the building, says Walter.

Applesauce Produces Student Work Opportunities

It is more financially feasible than ever to enroll a child at SVA now that the school has coordinated a student work program with Bowman Apples, Inc. This new industry, which opened in May, is housed in the academy’s old recycling center. The

work includes students packing a variety of applesauce-based fruit pouches for Bowman’s vendors. Applesauce with mangoes, pears, bananas and butternut squash are just a few of the flavorful combos. SVA’s current production goal is 100,000 pouches per day.

Any student interested in attending SVA will get the opportunity to earn cash toward their school bill, plus bonuses when quotas are met and/or exceeded. To enroll, contact Jeff Twomley, SVA’s business manager.

Ashley Smith and Lissette Rivera take advantage of SVA’s new student work program—packing applesauce products for Bowman Apples, Inc.



Robert Moncada and Nate Fortunado sort through packages of applesauce.

Happenings is published in the *Visitor* by Shenandoah Valley Academy 234 West Lee Highway, New Market, VA 22844 ■ Phone: (540) 740-3161 shenandoahvalleyacademy.org ■ Principal, Spencer Hannah ■ Editor, Mary Long

Postcard From Russia

Did you know Washington Adventist University (WAU) is helping to feed people around the world? One of our esteemed professors, Mikhail Kulakov Jr., DPhil, is leading a team that's translating the Bible into modern literary Russian so the millions of people in his homeland can enjoy spiritual food from the Word of God.

At the same time, John Konrad, vice president and general manager of our WGTS 91.9 FM radio station, is helping the leaders at Zaosky Institute, our sister educational institution in Russia, develop a media center that will broadcast the gospel in 11 time zones.

I just returned from Russia where I, along with religion chair Zack Plantak, PhD; Kulakov and Celeste Ryan Blyden, assistant to the president for Communication at the Columbia Union Conference, attended a board meeting where we heard updates on the translation project and participated in the groundbreaking for the new media center.

During our stay, a group of WAU students (some pictured) arrived to commence a mission trip in the region.



As you know, the theme of my presidency is "making connections." Russia is just one of the many places WAU's students and servant leaders are making connections and advancing the cause of Christ. This is just one more way we are engaging minds and transforming lives. Are you ready to participate in our ministry? Email me at wspence@wau.edu.



Weymouth Spence
President

Music Chair Publishes Major Work for Women's Chorus, Harp

Maestro James Bingham, chair of WAU's Department of Music and director of the university's Columbia Collegiate Chorale and elite choir, Pro Musica, recently published *Procession and Carols: A Christmas Suite for Women's Chorus and Harp*. The work describes the story of the enunciation and birth of Christ through the use of medieval carols, many of which emphasize the perspective of women.

The work is approximately 30 minutes long and, therefore, regarded as a major work. It will be included in the list of new major works and distributed to national and international music retail establishments.

Bingham, who has been at WAU since 1994, began his musical training in Australia. His love of choral music intensified during his undergraduate studies at Avondale College in New South Wales, Australia. After earning his bachelor's in education, he moved to the

United States where he earned both a master's in music theory and composition and a PhD in education from Andrews University (Mich.).



Alumni Return to Serve as Chaplains

Washington Adventist University now has two alumni serving as chaplains. “They are both outstanding young people,” said Baraka Muganda, vice president of ministry. “We are pleased that they have accepted the call to serve, and we are expecting great things from them.”

Regina Johnson (below), a 2012 graduate, spent the 2008-09 academic year in Argentina. She served



as student dean in the women’s residence hall, a public relations officer for the Student Association and as the 2012 senior class president. In spring 2010, Johnson, along with a small group of students, spent a month as a student missionary in Uganda and Kenya. Evangelistic efforts there led to the baptism of more than 200.

“It’s exciting ... to continue programs I’ve been involved with, now in a leadership role,” said Johnson of her new appointment. “With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can accomplish great things.”

Kaneil Williams (right) received a Bachelor of Arts in Theology from WAU in 2007. He also holds a master’s in educational administration and policy from Howard University in Washington, D.C. His experience in global missions includes educational development, church construction and evangelism across



Central America and in West Africa. Williams’ experience in therapeutic youth residential services and education is expected to serve him well in his new position as chaplain of missions.

According to Williams, his motivation to serve comes from Micah 6:8: “He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

WGTS Sponsors Gym Makeover



WAU’s weight room is undergoing a significant makeover, thanks to sponsorship from university-owned radio station WGTS 91.9 FM. What started as a donation of equipment has resulted in a transformation of a much-used college facility.

“For as long as I have been here, the weight room hasn’t had very many upgrades,” said Zaneta White-Haliburton, a senior majoring in health and wellness. “Seeing new equipment and an actual promise of a makeover is very exciting.”

John Konrad, WGTS general manager, began the transformation when he donated a much-needed elliptical machine and treadmill. The

radio station made further donations of money and equipment to make better use of the space. More equipment will be purchased over the next few months.

Benjamin Johnson, head of athletic training and head coach of the Acro Airs and women’s volleyball team, said, “It’s great to see an institution like WGTS believe in, and help out, a good cause like the university’s weight room.”—William Ryan Jackson

Graduate student Keisha Tulloch enjoys the new treadmill.

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



Jesus is Closer Than You Think

JULY 2012

It is minutes before he is wheeled into the procedure room. In moments, the sedating drip will gently render him unconscious. Before that happens, his physician offers to pray with him. A deeply religious man himself, the patient eagerly says, "Please."

Weeks later, he invites his cardiologist to dinner. In the restaurant, he clasps his doctor's hands and tells him; "Your prayer meant so much to me. It relaxed me and gave me confidence. I must tell you that I love you for what you did."

The cardiologist was a Seventh-day Adventist; his patient a Rabbi.

The research is clear: prayer before surgery lowers blood pressure and contributes to positive outcomes. It is the "intensity" of the prayer in the intensity of the moment, not duration, that makes the difference. The language I like is: "A prayer for healing contributes to a procedure to cure."

Through such prayers, Seventh-day Adventist hospitals point the acutely ill they serve toward "hope," both lowercase (hope) and uppercase (Hope). Regardless of their religious beliefs (or lack thereof), patients need hope as they face their uncertain maladies. Oddly, when that future seems less promising and hope diminishes, they are often more open to Hope.

In the ministry of Jesus, physical cures and spiritual healing were inseparable. Illness was explained as divine punishment for someone's sins. By healing the sick, Jesus announced God had forgiven them. By our healing the sick, we announce that God, through us, is bathing them in love and in the Hope that no matter what happens, God's will gives us a future.

We who work every day in this ministry of healing find we are being healed in surprising ways. Oddly enough, holding the hand of a dying patient brings "life" to that caregiver. Jesus told us in Matthew 25 that when we care for the sick, the homeless, the hungry, and the naked, we care for Him at the same time.

Many believers will tell you that when they hurl themselves into the world's needs, their faith in God is. Adventist physicians and nurses who spend time in overseas mission efforts report being spiritually energized when they return. As Ellen White reminded us in *Desire of Ages*, we cannot be as close to Jesus in the Holy Land as we are at the bedside or in the homeless shelter.

For that reason, Kettering Adventist HealthCare (along with all its Adventist partners around the world) is grateful that it contributes to the healing ministry Jesus commanded the church to provide for a world in agony.

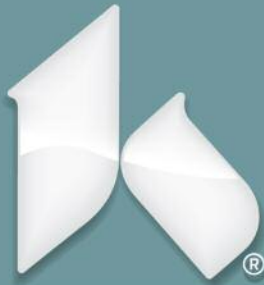
James Londis is a member of the Kettering Adventist Church.



James Londis
James J. Londis, Ph.D.

Chair, Humanities and
Social Sciences
Kettering College

*"A prayer for healing contributes
to a procedure to cure."*



your healing MINISTRY

Always Ready to Roll

Graduate Learns to be Prepared When God Calls

by Julie Thompson

(This article originally was published in the winter 2012 issue of the Kettering College magazine, Pacesetter.)

Some people may not believe God cares about the finer details in someone's life. Joanne Cross '08 does.

It was a normal Saturday night in September 2009 when this truth became evident to Cross. She had come home exhausted from working third shift as a nurse at Kettering Medical Center and was debating whether she should crawl into bed or head to church. Her bed beckoned her tired body, but her spirit finally won, leading her to the weekly service.



After church, she was introduced to a surgeon who was sharing about his upcoming mission trip to Bangladesh. Cross listened to his plans, and when he mentioned that his team lacked a nurse, God began to tug at her heart. She immediately offered to go, even though she had had no experience in an operating room setting, and had just a mere five days to readjust her life and hop on an international flight.

"First of all, I prayed about it," Cross recalls the night she decided to go on the trip. "I told God that if he really wanted me to go, then he would have to make it happen."

Cross wasn't disappointed. Within three days, she had ordered plane tickets at the same price the other team members had ordered months in advance. She cleared her work schedule and received her visa to travel. In just a few short days, Cross found herself standing in a makeshift operating room in a place far away.

Cross helped treat 3,500 patients that week and conduct 40 procedures – including the removal of tumors and abscesses.

"We were in the middle of nowhere, but people heard we were there," Cross said. "We would wake up at midnight and hear the crowd building, waiting for us to open the next day. These people don't speak our language, but they trust themselves to us to help make them better."

Cross returned from the trip a changed person. Cross had developed a love for nursing at Kettering College, and now she had a passion for traveling to the mission field. It was a transformation that only God could do, for even nursing wasn't on Cross' radar when she first considered her options for college.





Born and raised in South Africa, Cross moved with her family to the United States in 2000 and settled in Chicago. Cross' family roots come from both Africa and England. Her parents chose to move to the United States to avoid political unrest in their family's homeland. Cross' quick decision to travel to Bangladesh came as a shock to her parents.

Now mission trips come along in Cross' life much like occasional holidays. In February 2010, she and two other colleagues from Kettering Medical Center traveled to Haiti to help in the earthquake relief efforts. Later, she joined a medical group on a mission cruise, where they stopped at different ports to provide community service. In 2011, Cross traveled to Honduras and then returned to Bangladesh.

Her trip to Bangladesh was a little different this time. She returned with friends she knew and with more experience. The team stayed at an orphanage, treating people from all over the area. As the nurse in charge of registration, Cross was the first to see the crowds pushing through the gates to get help. Despite the magnitude of desperation she was witnessing, Cross had reason to believe her presence was making an impact. Each night after the clinic would shut down, the girls in the orphanage would call Cross and her friends with the little bit of English they knew.



"They would say, 'Hey sister! Come, come,'" Cross said. "They would pull us into their quarters, and we would sit on their beds while they put on a play for us. They were soaking up the attention and just loved having us there."

Though Cross, 23, is just three years into her nursing career, she said she has matured and changed through her travels and work. While other nurses are seeking steady, full-time work, Cross thrives in her job as a fill-in nurse on Kettering's pulmonary floor because it gives her the flexibility to go on multiple mission trips each year. If there's one thing she's learned since 2009, it's that she had better be ready to roll when God tells her it's time to go.

NEWS



Network News

JULY 2012

Hand Surgeon Gives African Boy a Life Changing Gift

Mory, a seven-year-old boy from the Ivory Coast, received a gift from a local surgeon and Southview Medical Center that will undoubtedly change his life.



Dr. Brent Bamberger, the director of the Hand Center of Southwestern Ohio at Southview, donated a two-hour surgery to free up fingers that were fused to Mory's wrist.

"What happens with these kids is they have an open flames around their homes," Dr. Bamberger explained. "Unfortunately, sometimes they fall into the fire, and when they do, their hand heals bent in a poor position."

Based on the way his hand had grown, Dr. Bamberger figured Mory's fingers had been fused that way for at least five years.

With therapy Mory is working to gain function of his fingers by doing drills of grasping and pulling.

Dr. Bamberger believes Mory will make a full recovery.

Cancer Care at Fort Hamilton Honored

The Fort Hamilton Hospital Gebhart Center for Cancer Care is one of a select group of 106 cancer programs in the United States to receive the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons' Outstanding Achievement Award.

The award recognizes cancer programs that strive for excellence in providing quality care to cancer patients. It is granted to facilities that demonstrate a Commendation level of compliance with seven standards that represent six areas of cancer program activity: cancer committee leadership, cancer data management, clinical management, research, community outreach, and quality improvement. Facilities also must receive a compliance rating for the remaining 29 cancer program standards.

"We are honored to receive this very prestigious award," said Linda Yarger, director of the Fort Hamilton Hospital Gebhart Center for Cancer Care. "This award signifies our commitment to excellence for our patients dealing with cancer. Our physicians, healthcare professionals and state-of-the-art equipment provide an environment where miracles happen every day."

College Runs for a Cause

Annual 5K benefits Good Neighbor House

Sponsored by Kettering College and the Clinton Trott Society, the fourth annual Spring into Health 5K on April 15 had 257 participants – more than double last year's 105.

Philip Minutolo, a second-year sonography student, was the top finisher on a challenging course with a time of 20:36.8. The event raised \$5,500 for the Good Neighbor House.



The Good Neighbor House, founded by eight Dayton-area Adventist churches in 1994, gives help and hope to the underserved in the Dayton community, providing food pantry services, health promotion, clothing and household items to individuals and families in need.

The 2013 Spring into Health 5K is tentatively planned for Sunday, April 7. More information will be available on the Kettering College website, www.KC.edu/5K.

LET'S MOVE! DAY

Sunday, September 23, 2012



HELP US REACH OUR 2 MILLION MILE GOAL!

Register at www.AdventistsInStepForLife.org

Whether you host a 5K run/walk, join a community event, or organize other activities, consider how your team can involve as many people as possible in physical activity. Invite your community to join your church, school, or hospital as we move together and promote a healthier lifestyle.

Find resources and information at www.AdventistsInStepForLife.org



Let's Move Day is an event of Adventists InStep for Life. It is sponsored by the North American Division Health Ministries Department in partnership with Adventist Community Services, Children's, Disabilities, Education, Family, Women's, Youth, and Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, and the Ministerial Department.

Appreciated For Who I Am.

Jessica Castaneda loves laughter, music and her family. She also loves her job at Loma Linda and the chance to grow personally and professionally. *Jessica* is one of the people who help to make Loma Linda a center of clinical excellence and supportive faith-based care.

Many Strengths. One Mission.

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*Jessica Castaneda
Admitting*

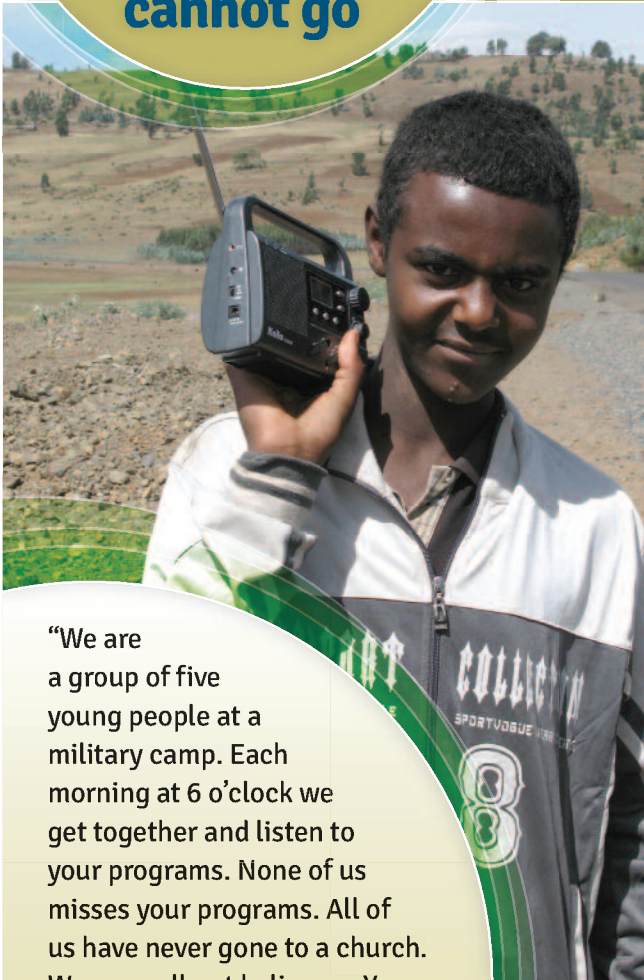


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“We are a group of five young people at a military camp. Each morning at 6 o’clock we get together and listen to your programs. None of us misses your programs. All of us have never gone to a church. We were all not believers. Your programs took us back to life.”

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Visitor News Bulletin

VISITOR

News Bulletin

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COLUMBIA UNION STORY

Twenty years ago, Russian native Mikhail Petrovich Kulakov Sr., had a dream. He wanted to translate the full Bible into modern language Russian because the current translation is 130 years old. Before his death in 2010, he completed the Pentateuch, Psalms and the New Testament. Now his son, Mikhail Kulakov Jr., a professor at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., is working to complete it by 2015. Learn more in the July *Columbia Union Story* video.

columbiaunion.org/videos

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COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE

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Columbia Union Calls Special Constituency Meeting

July 29, 10 a.m.

Read More Weigh In Watch Live

Find links to documents noted in this issue and additional resources, share your comments and watch the session live July 29.

ENGLISH
columbiaunion.org/2012specialconstituency

SPANISH
columbiaunion.org/constituyentespecialdel2012

Bulletin Board

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EMPLOYMENT

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is searching for a qualified candidate for the position of Institute of Church Ministry director. A doctorate degree is preferred, plus significant experience in applied research. For additional information and to apply, please visit: andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is searching for a qualified candidate for the position of assistant herd manager, located at Indiana Academy in Cicero, Ind. For additional information and to apply, please visit: andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_hourly.cgi.

FLORIDA HOSPITAL COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES is seeking a curriculum coordinator to work with both the academic departments and faculty on curriculum, mapping and course development in a blended learning environment. Qualifications: PhD in Curriculum Development preferred, with 10 years of successful teaching in higher education. Send inquiries to: Dr. Don Williams, Sr. VP Academic Admin., Florida Hospital College, 671 Winyah Drive, Orlando, FL 32803; (407) 303-5619; don.williams@fhchs.edu.

FLORIDA HOSPITAL COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES, ORLANDO, FLA., is seeking a physical therapist program director beginning 2013. The program director will provide overall academic leadership developing this program, and salary will be competitive. Qualifications: Minimum doctoral degree from regionally accredited school; senior faculty status; understanding of higher education and contemporary clinical; eligible for Florida PT licen-

sure; and PT academic experience. Submit letter of interest, curriculum vitae, three references and/or letters of recommendation to Dr. Don Williams: don.williams@fhchs.edu, or fax (407) 303-5671.

FLORIDA HOSPITAL COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES is seeking applicants for the position of program director for a new physician assistant program. A master's degree is required; doctoral degree is preferred. Florida Hospital College is a faith-based institution, which seeks candidates who fit the unique culture and mission of the college. Please email CV to: Dr. Len M. Archer, Associate Vice President for Academic Administration, Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences, 671 Winyah Drive, Orlando, FL 32803; len.archer@fhchs.edu.

ADVENTIST RISK MANAGEMENT is looking for an experienced system and database analyst. If you are an IT professional, seeking full-time employment and interested in this position, send your résumé to careers@adventistrisk.org, or call Andrea Ashman at (301) 680-6810.

UNION COLLEGE, in Lincoln, Neb., seeks biology professor. Terminal degree strongly preferred; deep commitment to integrating Adventist faith, teaching and scholarship essential. Several specialties acceptable. Submit vitae and cover letter to Dr. Carrie Wolfe, Chair, Division of Science, cawolfe@ucollege.edu. Deadline is September 30.

UNION COLLEGE is seeking a tenure track faculty member to teach foundational level courses and clinical in BSN program. Prior teaching experience and minimum

of MSN in nursing required. Qualified candidates will possess a commitment to Christian Adventist values. Email cover letter and résumé/curriculum vitae to thstims@ucollege.edu.

ELTERNHAUS, a 23-bed, practicing Adventist assisted living home in Maryland, seeks single, female, live-in volunteers as assistant "house mothers." Be a friend to every resident through: conversations, counseling, eating together, activities, crafts, games, exercises, walks, music, drives, Bible studies, vespers, church, reading, flower gardening, pets, videos, etc. Helpful: psych nursing, hospital-nursing experience. Essential: practicing Adventist church member, patient, loving, out-going personality, teachable in new skills. Provided: room, board, parking space and stipend for one-year commitment. Call Diane Crane (410) 707-7071, email: harrellhousecirca1897@gmail.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

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INTERNATIONALBIBLES.COM: An online religious superstore, 7115 Mormon Bridge Rd., Omaha, NE 68152; email: service@international-bibles.com; phone: (402) 502-0883.

FREE SIMPLE SOLUTIONS NEWSLETTER: What can you do to prevent a fire? How can you make sure your children are safe from predators? Sign up to receive a FREE monthly electronic newsletter from Adventist Risk Management filled with Simple Solutions to help minimize risks and prevent accidents at your home, school, church or place of business. Every edition has something for you. Email: subscribe@adventistrisk.org for your FREE subscription. Adventist Risk Management, providing risk management solutions for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

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REAL ESTATE

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SERVICES

MARYLAND ADVENTIST DENTIST, David Lee, DDS, FAGD, AFAAID, has practices located in Silver Spring and Ellicott City, Md. He is extensively trained in implant, cosmetic, TMD/TMJ, sedation and laser dentistry. Dr. Lee is an Associate Fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, as well as having many other certifications. For appointments, call (410) 461-6655 in Ellicott City or (301) 649-5001 in Silver Spring. Mention this ad and receive a 10% discount on all services, excluding third-party payers. We welcome new patients.

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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.

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LEGAL NOTICES

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, MD 20904. 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

Sunset Calendar

	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27	Aug 3
Baltimore	8:36	8:33	8:29	8:23	8:16
Cincinnati	9:07	9:05	9:01	8:55	8:47
Cleveland	9:03	9:00	8:55	8:49	8:41
Columbus	9:03	9:00	8:56	8:50	8:43
Jersey City	8:30	8:27	8:22	8:16	8:09
Norfolk	8:27	8:25	8:21	8:16	8:09
Parkersburg	8:55	8:53	8:48	8:42	8:35
Philadelphia	8:32	8:30	8:25	8:20	8:12
Pittsburgh	8:53	8:50	8:45	8:39	8:32
Reading	8:36	8:33	8:29	8:23	8:15
Richmond	8:34	8:31	8:27	8:22	8:15
Roanoke	8:43	8:41	8:37	8:31	8:25
Toledo	9:11	9:08	9:03	8:57	8:49
Trenton	8:31	8:28	8:24	8:18	8:10
Wash., D.C.	8:36	8:33	8:29	8:24	8:17

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

CONSTITUENCY MEETING OF THE NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS, INC.

Notice is hereby given that the 39th regular constituency meeting of the New Jersey Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc., is called to convene at 10 a.m. on Sunday, September 23, 2012, at the Robbinsville Community Seventh-day Adventist Church on 2314 Route 33, Robbinsville, NJ 08691.

The purposes of this meeting are to elect officers, committees, and to consider recommendations for amendments and revisions of the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws, receive reports of the organization, and to transact such other business that may properly come before the constituency at this time.

Each church is entitled to one delegate for its organization and one additional delegate for each 50 members or major fraction thereof. The delegates-at-large shall be composed of the members of the conference executive committee, the members of the constitution and bylaws committee, the credentialed and licensed employees of the conference, and members of the executive committees of the Columbia Union, the North American Division, and the General Conference who may be present.

Local churches, conference-operated institutions, departmental directors, committees and boards of the conference may propose items for the agenda. Local churches may recommend members of their delegation as candidates for the various committees.

José H. Cortés, President
James A. Greene, Executive 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

Bulletin Board

Lawn, 6-9 p.m.; Sunday: Fun Day, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Location: Wheaton Adventist Church, 3132 Bel Pre Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20906. For more information, visit: Wheatonsda.org, or email: Wheatonsda@hotmail.com.

MOUNTAIN VIEW CONFERENCE'S FOURTH ANNUAL WELLNESS CAMP

will take place at the Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va., August 19-September 2. For more information, call the conference office at (304) 422-4581 or visit mtviewconf.org and click the Health Ministries link.

CUMBERLAND VALLEY RETIREES ASSOCIATION (CVRA)

Come join in the fellowship, potluck and special features (including musical presentations) the second Sunday of each month. You only need to be 50 to join. Meet other Christians who share the joys of retirement. We meet at the Hagerstown Adventist Church from noon to 2 p.m., and we share laughter and learning as well as home-cooked meals. For more information, or to join, please contact: Beverly Hessel, president, at (301) 797-1726, or Marian Phillips, PR Secretary, at (301) 797-5291.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL BOUNTY-PITCAIRN CONFERENCE

to be held at Pacific Union College in California, August 20-21. Presentations and discussions about Pitcairn Island, the tiny South Pacific isle from which Adventist gospel-giving sprang in the Pacific Ocean area. Featuring the premiere of a television documentary on Pitcairn and Skype interviews with leaders on the island. Hundreds of Pitcairn-crafted items and memorabilia will be on display and for sale. For complete details about the conference, visit 2012BPC.com.

OAK PARK ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER 28-29

All alumni and former faculty and staff are invited to this special reunion weekend. The 2012 honor classes are: 1937, 1952, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977. Location: Gates Hall, 825 15th Street, Nevada, Iowa. Make plans to attend. For more information, contact Mary Dassenko Schwantes, (636) 527-0955, or email: maryschwantes@sbcglobal.net. We need your email—postage is too expensive. Contact Warren Woledge by email: warren2u@gmail.com, or phone: (402) 570-0346.

OBITUARIES

BURGER, Mary Ann,

born December 9, 1928, in Hagerstown, Md.; died July 22, 2011, in Hagerstown. She was a member of the Hagerstown (Md.) church. Survivors: her daughters: Deborah Files, Sheree Rauth and Sheila Hoover; sons: Larry Burger, Christopher Burger and Bud Burger; her sisters: Vivian Rohrer, Joan Shaw and Glendora Burger; a brother, Francis Albert; nine grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

CHANAY, Martha, born February 22, 1939, in Massillon, Ohio, to Throllis and Catherine (Cookston) Dean; died November 1, 2011, in Killbuck, Ohio. She was a member of the Millersburg (Ohio) church. Martha was employed as a cook for the Millersburg Junior High School. She is survived by her daughters, Jan (Bart) Mohler of Millersburg, and Barbara (Tom) Arnold of Killbuck; her sons, Bill (Karen) Chanay of Coshocton, and Jim Chanay of Killbuck; 13 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; her sisters: Barb Gabriel of Georgia, Sharon Vance and Mary Lou Grindstaff, both of Tennessee, and Carol Sivey of Mount Vernon; and her brothers: Austin and Larry Ross, both of Mount Vernon. She was preceded in death by her husband, Willis Dean; a daughter, Rhonda; and her brother, Robin Ross.

GEORGE, Lucy (Sosigian), born October 28, 1921, in Coatesville, Pa.; died September 20, 2011, in Monroeville, Pa. She was a member of the Washington Heights church in Apollo, Pa. Many years ago, Lucy enrolled in a Bible-correspondence course through the Voice of Prophecy. Upon completion of the course, she received Bible studies in her home and was soon baptized and became a member of the Adventist church. Her decision had a profound spiritual impact and influence. Her husband, Charles J.; sister, Margaret; brother, Moses; and sons, Charles and Joseph, all made their decisions for Christ. She is survived by her husband; sons; brother and wife, Catherine; her brother-in-law, Christopher; niece, Christine; and nephew, Michael.

HARRIS, Melvin Victor, born November 5, 1929, in Pasco, Wash.; died September 20, 2011, in Howard County General Hospital, Columbia, Md. He was an active member of the Beltsville (Md.) church until his death. He served in local churches over the years as an elder, deacon, Sabbath School teacher and teacher. Melvin graduated from Upper Columbia Academy (1947) and Walla Walla University (1953) with a BS in architectural engineering. He served two years in the

U.S. Army. After military service, he moved to Pacific Union University (Calif.), where he established the Planning and Design Dept. under the direction of the Northern California Conference. There he designed the campus of Rio Lindo Academy. The family then moved to Kettering, Ohio, where Melvin was the owner's representative for the construction of the fifth floor of the Kettering Hospital. He also worked in the Risk Management Dept. at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Silver Spring, Md. (then in Takoma Pk., Md.). A love for volunteer firemen started in California, where he was active in fire fighting, which continued in Maryland, where he was a member of the CO. 16, Silver Spring Volunteer Fire Department and CO. 39 in Bowie. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Peggy Curtice Harris; daughter, Melanie Harris; son, Mark (Liz) Harris; and two granddaughters, Kris Harris (Ted) Flo and Kim Harris; and his sister, Maryrose Begis.

LANGSTON, Constance M., born May 30, 1938, in Washington, D.C.; died July 18, 2011, in Harrisonburg, Va. She was a member of the New Market (Va.) church. Survivors: her brothers, Gary (Janet) Langston, MD, and Barleigh Langston.

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Sligo by the Sea 2012

Sabbath School: 10 a.m.

Worship Service: 11 a.m.

Speaker Schedule:

June 30	Steve Chavez
July 7	Kermit Netteburg
July 14	Ron Halversen, Jr.
July 21	Ron Halversen, Sr.
July 28	Rick Remmers
August 4	Terry Johnsson
August 11	William Johnsson
August 18	Fred Kinsey
August 25	Larry Evans
September 1	Charles Tapp
September 8	Robert Quintana
September 15	Dunbar Henri
September 22	Steve Chavez
September 29	Vladimir Corea

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Columbia Union Revolving Fund

IN THE LATE 1960s, the Seventh-day Adventist Church inside the Columbia Union territory was growing, but there was little space to house new believers and school their children. Without funding, building and renovating worship and educational facilities would essentially come to a standstill.

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