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CELEBRATING A CENTURY



HOW PIONEERING
BLACK ADVENTISTS
HELPED SHAPE THE COLUMBIA UNION



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Helped Shape the Columbia Union

Douglas Morgan and Emory Tolbert

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About the Cover: Allegheny Conference workers meeting at Ethnan Temple in Pittsburgh, 1946.

Pictured Above: The Cleveland brothers—Earl, William, and Harold—contributed greatly to Adventist Church growth through their evangelism and leadership efforts.

Adventist Communication 2.0—R U Red-e?

It's 2007 church. Do you know where your target audience is? The answer is a no-brainer. America is working, googling, shopping, hanging out, and even churching online.

An increasing number of Americans (73 percent) use the Internet; 22 percent say it's their primary news source. One in five has watched a video online and listened to an Internet radio station during the last month. There are 13 million blogs and a plethora of podcasts. Over half the youth age 12-17 have a social networking webpage. Recently a young Frenchman landed a record contract in the United States after his homemade music video became an Internet hit. And millions, even president George W. Bush, watched cell phone footage of Saddam Hussein's "closed" execution on YouTube.

Ordinary people are using the Internet to change the world. That's why *Time* magazine recently named "you" its 2006 Person of the Year. "You control the Information Age," the editors declared. They deem the booming technology movement a "revolution" led by people who are seizing the reigns of global media one homemade video, podcast, ranting blog, and social networking site at a time.

GET YOUR SPACE

But are MySpace and YouTube the only places to forge this technology revolution? And are Adventists going to stand by and let others rule the Information Super Highway? Thanks to some early adaptors, we haven't been left behind ... yet.

My cousin Lauren, for example, is general manager of her church's Internet radio station. Three churches in Potomac Conference (Manassas, New Market, and Sligo) and a host of others across the United States podcast Sabbath services. A search for "Adventist" on iTunes yields 82 podcasts. The



most popular, *Cool Devotions*, provides timely spiritual messages. In addition, the Adventist News Network produces a weekly news podcast called *Ground 7 News*. Two sites—churchpond.com and praisevision.com—offer live and recorded webcasts of dozens of Adventist worship services. Allegheny East Conference recently produced a live Health Ministries training webcast. Hispanic young adults host pcjovenes.com, a popular interactive site that features news, Bible studies, youth program ideas, videos, photos, blogs, and podcasts in Spanish. They're even working on a movie that is evangelistic in nature.

So what about the rest of us? "If Jesus used every avenue to reach hearts, we must also," says Robert Henley, communication and information technology director for the Southeastern Conference in Orlando. "To reach today's culture, the Adventist Church needs to provide content in the normal channels in which people access it."

Americans are accessing the Internet, and if we want to reach them, we've got to get online. More of our churches and schools need to move beyond electronic billboards and maintain quality, interactive websites (available through www.adventistchurchconnect.com) that can supplement our ministries and share Christ with those who are surfing. (To see what we're doing, check out the subscription card inserted in this issue and visit www.columbiaunion.org. Also, let me know what *you* are doing.)

I call it Adventist Communication 2.0 because just like Steve Jobs' iPhone, it's going to take us to another level of communication. R U Red-e?

Celeste Ryan Blyden (cryan@columbiaunion.net) serves as assistant to the president for communication at the Columbia Union Conference and editor of the *Visitor* magazine.



Union VP Accepts Position in Ohio

Monte Sahlin, vice president for Creative Ministries at the Columbia Union, has accepted a call to serve as director of research and special projects



for the Ohio Conference. Sahlin, a pastor, author, administrator, and researcher, has served the union since 1998 and the Adventist

church for 35 years. "This affords me the opportunity to work at the grassroots level with pastors and churches that are actively seeking to find innovative ways to do the mission of Christ and impact their communities," he said. To that end, he will train and coach bi-vocational pastors, lead pilot projects, develop research-based service endeavors, and help churches engage new generations, etc.

"We are thrilled to have a person of Monte's experience, knowledge, and capacities join us in our conference's journey toward excellence in ministry, mission, and spiritual development," said Ohio president Raj Attiken.

Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union, also expressed his appreciation for Sahlin: "Monte has served this union well, and he will be missed at this office," he stated. "His legacy includes the metropolitan ministries initiatives, the numerous surveys that measure ministry effectiveness, and the many, many projects, ideas, and visions he has helped bring to fruition."

After 20 years away from ministry in Ohio, Sahlin and his wife, Norma, will return next month.—Celeste Ryan Blyden

Union Gets Multilingual Ministries Director

Ruben Ramos, former Hispanic Ministries coordinator for the Potomac Conference, has accepted a call to serve as assistant to the president for Multilingual Ministries at the Columbia Union.

"I'm looking forward to working with the leadership at the local conferences to see what their needs are and to find new ways of reaching all of our communities," says Ramos, who joined the union staff February 1.

Ramos began his denominational career as a literature evangelist in Pennsylvania. He became a Potomac Conference pastor in 1985 and then started serving the conference as Hispanic Ministries coordinator in 1995. During his tenure, the number of Hispanic churches grew from 14 to nearly 50.

"I believe that Ruben can serve as a catalyst for our growing multilingual population," says Columbia Union president Dave Weigley. "We are uniquely poised for growth and evangelism, and Ruben's ministry experience and passion for spreading the gospel will help us aggressively reach out to everyone."

Ramos is married to Nora, a music teacher at John Nevins Andrews School in Takoma Park, Md. Their three children, Carolina, Ruben, and Valeria, are students at River Plate Adventist University in Argentina.

New Jersey to Host Satellite Evangelism Series

"Tell it to Your World: The King is Coming" is the theme of LA RED 2007. Sponsored by the Adventist Church in North America, LA RED is the Hispanic evangelism component of the NET satellite series, and its theme corresponds with the current "Tell the World" initiative of the worldwide church.

The series will be aired March 30-April 8, 7:30-9 p.m., on the Esperanza TV and 3ABN networks and originate from the Bridgeton (N.J.) Spanish church. José Cortés, executive secretary for the New Jersey Conference, will be the speaker.

"We've registered over 300 churches already," says Cortés. "I'm excited because, for the first time, we are going to have baptisms every night." In preparation for LA RED, Bridgeton members are working with small groups to prepare candidates. "And every New Jersey church will have an evangelism meeting one week prior to the event," adds Cortés, who is expecting 12 to 15 million viewers worldwide.

This marks the first time that the satellite evangelism series will be uplinked from the New Jersey Conference and translated from Spanish to English, French, and Portuguese.

For more information, or to register your church, call the New Jersey Conference office at (609) 392-7131, ext. 206, or visit www.diloatumundo.org.



Potomac Hispanics Unite for Evangelism

Approximately 1,400 members from the Potomac Conference's 50 Spanish-speaking congregations recently journeyed to Ocean City, Md., for



the 10th Annual Hispanic Lay Evangelism Festival. The four-day event, themed "Jesús, haz de mí un discípulo" ("Jesus, Make Me a Disciple"), featured workshops, ministry exhibits, and inspirational messages. "The goal of this event is to motivate and train members to get involved in evangelism," said Ruben Ramos, then conference Hispanic Ministries director.

Traditionally, the Hispanic evangelism approach calls for members to make a commitment to host small group Bible studies—"hogares iglesias" (home churches)—in their homes and invite friends and



neighbors. As a result of this method, 1,197 people were baptized into Spanish-language congregations in 2006. Bill Miller (pictured), conference president and keynote

speaker for the Sabbath worship service, challenged attendees to increase that number in 2007.

Miller preached on what it means to be a disciple. "If God can fill boats with fish, how much more does He desire to fill the kingdom with souls," he stated. "If He can use fisherman, tax collectors, and doubting Thomases, He can use each of us to further His kingdom." Miller invited all to put self aside, become disciples of Jesus, and serve in His kingdom.

Many participants responded to the appeal to host home churches this year. They set a goal to have 430 by the end of 2007, up from the current 300.

During the worship service, Miller and the other Potomac Conference officers—vice president for administration Roger Weiss and vice president for finance Kurt Allen—presented



Ramos and his wife, Nora (pictured), with a beautifully framed print and a plaque of appreciation for their never-ending hard work and dedication to evangelism. Under Ramos' leadership, the Potomac Conference has experienced some of North America's highest growth among the Spanish-



Roger Weiss, Potomac Conference vice president for administration, prays for Hispanic pastors and Bible workers.

speaking membership. "It's exciting to watch the Lord work in our Hispanic churches," says Allen. "Because of their fervor, they're planting new



Pure Praise inspired attendees with musical worship.

churches, expanding their ministries, and seeing phenomenal membership growth."

Ramos was also honored because he was leaving the Potomac Conference to assume his new role as assistant to the president for Multilingual Ministries at the Columbia Union Conference beginning this month.—Jeanie Allen

To see more photos and a video news story of this event, visit www.columbiaunion.org.

Web Watch >

www.adventistbiblicalresearch.org

The Biblical Research Institute of the Adventist World Headquarters provides resources on the Adventist Church's understanding and position of its heritage, independent ministries, practical Christian living, philosophy, prophecy, science and religion, and theology.



In the Spotlight > Lynette and Don Wood

Building up congregations through ministry-minded activities is a long-time passion of Don and Lynette Wood of Fairlawn, Va., members of the Radford (Va.) church. Through BodyBuilders Ministries, this husband-and-wife team utilizes the interests and talents of church and community members to create "outreach and inreach" efforts.

"The formulation of BodyBuilders [last year] is really just the formalization of what we have done for years," says Lynette, a PhD and assistant accounting professor at Virginia Tech University. Don also works at the university as a communication

instructor. The couple started creating ministry ideas when they were both students at Takoma Academy and then Columbia Union College, both in Takoma Park, Md.

Some recent examples of their work include Dollars & \$ense, a money management workshop held last fall through their BodyBuilders' auxiliary, the Christian Financial Clinic (www.christianfinancialclinic.com). They also put on PraiseFest '06, a joint venture last summer with the university's Adventist Campus Ministries group called FRIENDS. The event spiritually strengthened university students and community residents. Other ministries they have initiated include a vegetarian supper club, inspirational holiday gift baskets, and child-led worship services.

"When the Lord gives us a ministry concept, we share the vision with the local church leaders," reports Don.

"Sometimes this results in a joint venture between us and the local congregation. Sometimes we move the idea along as a personal ministries project." For more information, contact Lynette at lynettewood@verizon.net.



PHOTO: CURTIS FRANCIS

What's New

Music > Endless Dream

The talented youth choir from the Washington Brazilian church in College Park, Md., collectively known as CJW, just released their second album. *Endless Dream* is a collection of songs by Brazilian composers, with all but one being translated into English.



CJW, conducted and directed by Denio Abreu, was formed in 2001 and released its first Portuguese album in 2005. It was through their collective dream, and through tireless fund-raising efforts, that both albums became a reality. Funds raised helped them build a recording studio—in an empty room of their church—and copy and distribute their albums.

As one of the first Portuguese choirs in the United States, CJW started with just 35 members, but has grown to its current list of more than 120. The group is made up mostly of Brazilian youth (ages 15 to 38) "who came to the United States to study or to work," said choir member Priscila Ruela. "Most of them live alone and are able to find in the choir a relaxed way to praise the Lord."

CJW has become well known in the Washington metropolitan area and beyond with their high-

energy performances. "We have performed at very small places, to about 20 people, and at very large programs to 3,000 people. Each time is special because we feel God's presence with us," adds Ruela. "Wherever this choir goes, it leaves behind its enthusiasm of telling others about Jesus."

For more information about CJW, visit www.washington-brazilianyouthchoir.com. To order one of their CDs, write to info@cjw.com.

Books > Jumpstart Connections: 31 Fresh Ideas to Invigorate Your Relationships

Well-published Seventh-day Adventist authors Ron and Karen Flowers have done it again! This time these two certified family life educators have teamed up with a London-based occupational therapist and author, Karen Holford, to bring readers new ways of building stronger personal relationships. This quick read provides simple, real-life messages from people who have "discovered vital keys to recovery and growth in relationships." The book includes 31 (one month's worth) "bite-sized" short stories that address many different types of relationships and lessons learned. To invigorate your relationships, order this book at your local Adventist Book Center or online at AdventSource.org.



What You Bring to the Table

WholeHealth

Good Medicine

The English language is full of idioms that promote a positive attitude: "Keep your chin up." "The sun will come out tomorrow." Even Scripture makes reference to the value of positive emotion in Proverbs 17:22: "A cheerful heart is good medicine: but a crushed spirit dries up the bones" (NIV).

Keeping one's chin up can be much more than just an expression of speech, however. Researchers worldwide have found a correlation between positive emotion and better health habits, lower blood pressure, improved immune function, decreased risk for depression, and decreased recurrence of breast cancer. Pessimists, on the other hand, are more likely to suffer depression and illness and have shorter lives. Two University of Pennsylvania researchers found that a daily gratitude journal is a simple exercise for cultivating optimism. Participants who kept the journal for two weeks increased happiness and decreased symptoms of depression for up to six months. Another way to develop a positive attitude is to adjust the conversations you have with yourself. Challenge negative thoughts (as if someone else is saying them to you) and replace them with positive self-talk. You'll keep your heart cheerful, and improve the probability of living a longer, healthier life.—*Lilly Tryon, MSN, RN, Adventist WholeHealth Lifestyle Medicine Center*



CELEBRATING A CENTURY



HOW PIONEERING BLACK ADVENTISTS HELPED SHAPE THE COLUMBIA UNION

Douglas Morgan and Emory Tolbert

When Adventism took root in Washington, D.C., in the late 1800s, the capital city had the largest concentration of blacks of any American city. Howard University, outstanding public high schools, and federal government jobs made Washington a place of opportunity and high achievement for black Americans.

The first sizable group of black Adventist believers, in what would become Columbia Union terri-

tory, worked and worshipped in full fellowship with white believers at the Seventh-day Adventist Church of Washington, D.C. "This church is a living miracle of the power of God, composed as it is of the two races," wrote revivalist A.F. Ballenger about the congregation in 1899. That year there were around 150 members. "The harmony which prevails is a great surprise to the members of other churches," the preacher added.

Attendees at an Allegheny Conference camp meeting witness a Sabbath afternoon baptism.



When the Bethel Literary and Historical Society, which exemplified this spirit of excellence, announced its 1899-1900 lecture series, scheduled speakers included the preeminent Booker T. Washington and several other well-known figures. Also among the invited speakers were two charter members of the city's original Adventist church, James and Isabella Howard. The participation of these believers in what historian Jacqueline Moore identifies as "the center of black intellectual life in the capital," is but one of many indicators that Adventism was gaining a favorable hearing among the nation's leading black citizens. In fact, through the witness of the Howards, Rosetta Douglass

Sprague, daughter of famed abolitionist Frederick Douglass, became an Adventist.



Lewis C. Sheafe (pictured), another leader who made a major impact in Washington during the early years of the 20th century, had been a highly regarded Baptist minister before joining the Adventist movement in 1896. He stirred widespread interest in the Adventist message in the summer of 1902 with an evangelistic campaign that, according to the *Washington Post*, attracted overflow crowds as large as 2,000 to an 800-seat tent.

These successes sometimes led to conflicts over race relations that would keep Adventism, in Washington, in an unsettled state for more than 15 years. With the segregation system rapidly spreading in the South and racial antagonism reaching its bitterest level in American history,

General Conference leaders determined that the rapidly growing Washington believers should be divided into two churches—one "white" and the other "colored."

Despite poignant and eloquent pleas by the aforementioned Howard against such compromise with sinful worldly policy, a traumatic separation ensued in September 1902. However, the original congregation, which took the name First Seventh-day Adventist Church, did remain racially integrated for a few years. One Sabbath morning in April 1904, Ellen White preached at First church, taking as her text the prayer of Christ recorded in John 17, "that they may all be one." She recorded favorable impressions about her experience at the mixed-race church.

**That they
may all
be one.
John 17:22**

Opposite page: Allegheny Conference workers meeting at Ethnan Temple in Pittsburgh, 1946.

Right: W.L. Cheatham was president of Allegheny Conference from 1954-1966.





Meanwhile, Sheafe, who had become pastor of First church, started the People's church in 1903. Most, but not all, of the members were black. Sheafe was eager to bring to black Americans the advantages of health reform and education that Adventism offered. As it became clear that blacks would not be welcomed at the college and sanitarium being established in Takoma Park, Md., the evangelist and his church members pled for funding and financial policies that would make possible the timely establishment of separate institutions for blacks in the city.

In 1907, the same year in which the Columbia Union organized, the People's church—the major black congregation in the territory—withdrawed from the Adventist denominational organization due to disputes over these matters and became an independent Adventist congregation. Speculation spread that First church would do likewise.

In a meeting at First church on March 30, 1907, Howard, the most influential member, took a decisive stand: "No condition brought about by the errors of our conference brethren would justify brother Sheafe in taking the extreme position that he did ... Don't let us move one peg from the organized work." Had Howard made a different choice at this juncture, the history of Adventism among the black population of the Columbia Union territory might have turned out very differently.

After a brief period of reconciliation from 1913 to 1916, the People's church once again severed its denominational affiliation. Members who wished to remain connected with the denomination started the Ephesus church in 1917. The race-related issues at the heart of this saga did not go away, but, after the dust settled, there were two solidly established, energetic

black congregations in the District of Columbia Conference (renamed Potomac in 1924).

Persevering Against Enormous Odds

The pioneering endeavors of these early years in Washington, while tumultuous, generated a momentum that helped power much of the work that would subsequently develop throughout the Columbia Union. Among those converted to Adventism through Sheafe's evangelistic efforts was a young attorney, William Hawkins (W.H.) Green (pictured left), who also had taken some theological training at Shaw University in North Carolina. With encouragement and guidance from Sheafe, the talented young convert, who had argued cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, entered the Adventist ministry. Green's first assignment was in Pittsburgh, Pa., where from 1905 to 1909 he built a small fellowship that was called the "Pittsburgh No. 2" church.

In 1909 the General Conference session voted to form the North American Negro Department (later known as the North American Regional Department). This was the first of two major organizational milestones for the Adventist cause among black Americans. However, white leaders headed the department until W.H. Green was appointed director



John H. Wagner (seated) receives a property deed in the presence of other pioneering leaders from Allegheny Conference.

Right: Cleveland members engage in street corner evangelism.

Below: John Henry Wagner, first president of Allegheny Conference, 1944-1954. During his early work as a singing evangelist, he led a campaign in Newark, N.J., that resulted in numerous baptisms.

in 1918. With tireless zeal and systematic efficiency, Green oversaw a period of dramatic expansion of Adventism among African-Americans in the Columbia Union and throughout North America, earning the nickname "cross-country" Green.



The small Pittsburgh No. 2 church that Green had nurtured in his early ministry had no building of its own, and, after Green left in 1909, no pastor for three years. Its numbers dwindled toward the single digits—but members held on. The West Pennsylvania Conference was

finally able to send a minister in 1912, a young, energetic Jamaican—Adam Nicholas Durrant.

In January 1916, Pittsburgh No. 2 members began worshipping in their own building. By 1918 the congregation had grown to 130, overcrowding the new building.

Other stalwarts of this era included Robert L. Bradford, who, while Durrant was in Pittsburgh, was leading scores of new believers into what later became the Ebenezer church in Philadelphia. Both Bradford and Durrant would spearhead similar churches in Ohio, New Jersey, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. And then there was Peter Gustavus Rodgers. Under his dynamic leadership, the Third Baltimore church (today's Berea Temple) grew from a handful in 1911 to over 300 in 1918, and the fledgling Ephesus church in Washington grew from 60 in 1918 to close to 300 in 1923. In both places he oversaw the establishment of strong church schools.

The contributions of John Henry Wagner (pictured above) are also significant. Baptized as a youth

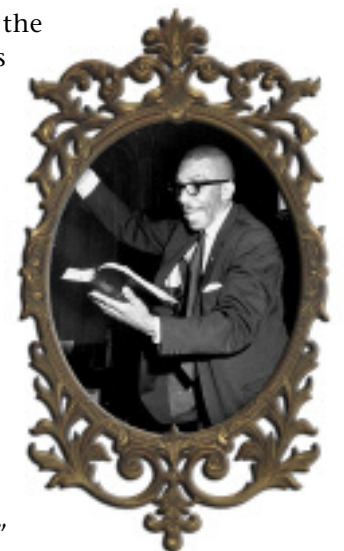


by Lewis Sheafe in Washington, D.C., the promising young man went to Oakwood College in Huntsville, Ala., and entered the ministry. Like Sheafe, Wagner enjoyed much success as a singing evangelist. He led a campaign in Newark, N.J., that is said to have resulted in the most baptisms of any northern evangelistic effort prior to the era of E.E. Cleveland.

Colored Conferences

Wagner's career intersected with the formation of regional conferences, which was the second major organizational milestone to emerge in response to the still-unresolved dilemmas raised in the first decade of the 20th century. In 1928, after the death of W. H. Green, the first "colored secretary" of the General Conference, a group of black ministers sought "to organize Negro conferences that would function in the same relation to the General Conference as the "white" conferences." Rejection of this proposal contributed to the departure of J.K. Humphrey and his large congregation in Harlem, N.Y., from the denomination, and left feelings of frustration on the part of many who remained.

Another unfortunate event occurred in October 1943 when gravely ill Lucy Byard was admitted to



Washington Sanitarium and Hospital in Takoma Park. When it was discovered that she was a “Negro,” she was refused treatment. Byard died after being transported by taxi to Freedmen’s Hospital in D.C.

This spurred a group of Ephesus members to organize the National Association for the Advancement of Worldwide Work Among Colored Seventh-day Adventists. Wagner, who was then secretary of the Colored Department of the Columbia Union, agreed to act as advisor. Much of their first meeting was spent on the telephone, contacting black Adventist leaders around the nation. The Byard tragedy was the most recent event in a long history of injustice. G. E. Peters (pictured below), then head of the General Conference’s Colored Department, had long protested the discrimination that he and other blacks suffered at the hands of fellow church members. Peters, for example, could not join his white colleagues for meals in the cafeteria used by other General Conference workers.

Allegheny Conference

At a General Conference meeting in 1944, president J. Lamar McElhany offered two alternatives: integrate blacks into the total structure of the church organization, or move toward organizing black conferences. Peters had already spoken with McElhany, and both had a good idea of the resistance that complete integration would face from members accustomed to segregation and certain privileges. During the meeting, McElhany supported the black conferences idea, noting that some large black churches had more members than some conferences. He reasoned that ministers who could serve large congregations could also run conferences.

Six African-American “regional” conferences and one mission that would soon develop into a conference, covered the same territories as seven of the nine North American unions. In the Columbia Union’s deliberations, approval was voted for the formation of a regional conference to be called the Susquehanna Conference. Peters felt the name would be too difficult to spell. When the floor was re-opened, the name “Allegheny Conference” was voted.

Wagner was elected as the first president of the new conference, which had about 4,000 members. The conference office opened in a bookstore, owned by Ephesus member Joseph L. Dodson, on Georgia Avenue in Washington, D.C., in 1945. Its resources were so meager that Wagner’s desk was a sink with a board across it. While the union had appropriated a small fund for the start-up of the regional conference, most of that was absorbed in bad debts and colporteur and Book and Bible House charges, etc.

Wagner seized the initiative in acquiring land near Pottstown, Pa., on which Pine Forge Academy was established. It was an opportunity to fulfill a long-held desire, similar to that of Sheafe’s decades before, that black young people in the north not be forced to attend Oakwood, in the deep South, or miss out on a distinctively Adventist education. Located on historic property once owned by a Sabbath-observing Quaker in the 18th century, and known as an Underground Railroad station in the 19th century, Pine Forge Academy has persevered for 60 years as a mighty bulwark of Adventist education.

Allegheny East and West Conferences

In 1966 the Allegheny Conference had nearly tripled in membership, prompting its 74 churches and 11,084 members to be divided into two conferences: Allegheny East and Allegheny West. An emphasis on evangelism, especially in the large cities where blacks resided, produced phenomenal growth over the years. The *Seventh-day Adventist Online Yearbook* reports the current Allegheny East Conference (AEC) membership at about 31,000 in 96 churches. The Allegheny West Conference (AWC) has over 12,000 in 49 churches.

Including Allegheny East and West, there are now a total of nine regional conferences throughout North America. Their presidents serve on what is known as the Regional Conference Presidents Council, currently chaired by AEC president Charles L. Cheatham. Through this association, they also serve on the Oakwood College Board, sponsor large-scale youth events, and promote various African-American ministries, including *Message* magazine. Originally known as the *Gospel Herald*, it



In addition to nurturing and representing their members, and furthering the Adventist work in urban areas, regional conferences were created to serve as a training ground for leadership among African-Americans, and other conference workers of color, who might not have received leadership opportunities under the previous system. Those they mentored broke down barriers in the larger church system. Notables include Washington-born Charles E. Bradford (pictured above) and West Virginian Harold L. Lee. Bradford became a regional conference president and, ultimately, president of the North

was founded by James Edson White in 1898 as an outreach tool. Today, over 100 years later, *Message* is still the only black religious and international journal focusing on Christian lifestyle, positive role models, and social-moral issues.

American Division, while the recently retired Lee became the first African-American to serve as president of the Columbia Union.

Today regional conferences serve as vital headquarters for ministries among urban populations, including immigrants from Africa, the Caribbean, Latin nations, and beyond. While the focus is on African-Americans, these conferences and their churches continue to cast a wide net for Christ in many diverse communities.

Douglas Morgan, PhD, is professor of history and political studies at Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md.

Emory J. Tolbert, PhD, is professor of history at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

SOURCES:* GENERAL CONFERENCE ARCHIVES & STATISTICS; ELLEN G. WHITE ESTATE; MOORLAND-SPINGARN RESEARCH CENTER, HOWARD UNIVERSITY; *LEADING THE RACE: THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE BLACK ELITE IN THE NATION’S CAPITOL, 1880-1920*, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA PRESS, 1999); *WE HAVE TOMORROW: THE STORY OF AMERICAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS WITH AN AFRICAN HERITAGE*, REVIEW & HERALD PUB. ASSN. 1984; *WASHINGTON POST*, 1902; *VISITOR* 1916, 1918, 1919, 1922; *NORTH AMERICAN INFORMANT*, 1957; ELLEN G. WHITE, MANUSCRIPT 45, 1904; *LIGHT BEARERS: A HISTORY OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH*, PACIFIC PRESS PUB. ASSN., 2000; *ORGANIZING TO BEAT THE DEVIL: THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADVENTIST CHURCH STRUCTURE*, REVIEW & HERALD PUB. ASSN., 2001; *REVIEW AND HERALD*, 1919, 1928; *NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL VOICE*, 1980, 1985

*FOR THE COMPLETE LIST OF THE AUTHORS’ REFERENCES, CONTACT LAVERNE HENDERSON AT (301) 596-0800 OR LHENDERSON@COLUMBIAUNION.NET.



Right: Robert Handy served as pastor of the Newark, N.J. church.



Center: W. A. Thompson served as Allegheny East’s first president from 1966-70, when he was elected to serve as the first black executive secretary of the Columbia Union Conference.



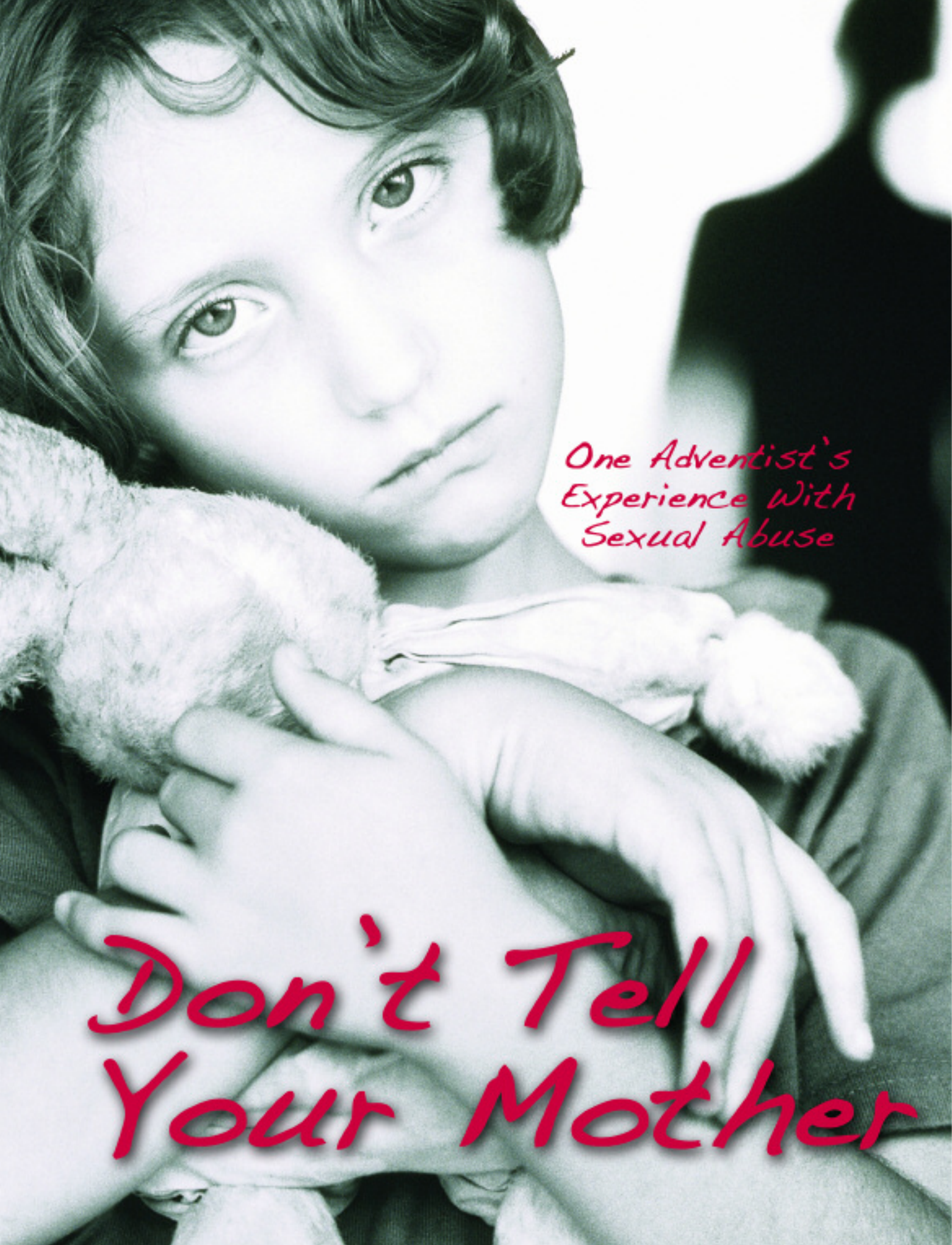
W.W. Fordham served as a pastor and evangelist in the New Jersey Conference from 1934-38 and in the West Pennsylvania Conference from 1939-43. He later became a conference president in another union.



F. L. Bland served as a pastor in the East Pennsylvania Conference from 1942-45 and secretary/treasurer for the Allegheny Conference from 1945-48.



Early in his ministry, Walter Starks pastored the Glenville church in Cleveland and the Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C. He also established the Stewardship Department for the Allegheny Conference. When Allegheny was split into two conferences, he served as the first president of Allegheny West from 1966-67.



One Adventist's
Experience With
Sexual Abuse

Don't Tell
Your Mother

It didn't happen often. Not as often as to some kids. But when I heard the heavy footsteps on the stairs, I knew. This would be the night.

My heartbeat turned dull and heavy, and I felt sick. "No, no," I pled silently. "Please let this be somebody else and not Daddy. Not again. Go away!"

My bedroom door swung open, and he smiled. He was wearing his robe, the turquoise one with stripes. I knew what to do, how to be somewhere else, inside my head, somewhere far away, where nobody could find me. Just don't be there. Wait for it to be over.

"Don't tell your mother," he always said. He didn't have to say that. I wouldn't have told my mother such horrible things for a million dollars. I wouldn't have told anyone.

Every Sabbath we were all there, in our pew at church. My parents were active members, though my father was never as active as my mother. But whom could I tell?

I thought I was the only one in the world. Today I know better. According to www.childmolestationprevention.org, it is estimated that two out of 10 girls and one out of 10 boys are sexually abused by age 13. The numbers for boys may be higher if you include physical and emotional abuse. The sad part is that the abuse is almost always by a friend or member of their family. These statistics are also true within the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

I was helpless then. Someone who was supposed to make the world safe for me, to help me feel strong and beautiful, instead made my life terrifying and sickening. I felt ugly, afraid, and, above all—powerless.

I am not powerless today. I know what to do. And here's what you can do:

TELL SOMEONE—When I finally told my mother she was horrified. And then she confronted my father. Life got better—for a while. We didn't know, in those days, the power of this sinful sickness. We, like lots of others over the decades and centuries, believed my dad when he wept bitterly and said he'd never do it again. He meant it. I still believe that.

GET HELP—The truth is that some things require serious, professional, experienced clinical help. We didn't know that then. I know it now. Churches are filled with loving, well-meaning, but ill-informed people who wouldn't have the faintest idea what to do with such a confession. Find someone who's been there and survived. This goes for victims as well as abusers. I am not naive enough to think there are no abusers reading this article. I want to tell you that Jesus died just for *you*! He can help you. Try to find a godly, compassionate person who will not judge you, but who will not let you keep hurting yourself and others either.

BEGIN TO FORGIVE—For your own healing, you must begin to forgive. Even yourself, if necessary. My dad didn't believe God could forgive him. So how could he get better? To forgive, we must understand clearly what forgiveness means. It doesn't mean excusing. I'll say that again. *It doesn't mean that we excuse the sin!*

Forgiveness involves cleansing from sin, not turning your head and pretending it isn't there. It may mean taking a clear look at cause and effect. When I learned of the unspeakable, demonic abuse my father and his family suffered when he was young, I didn't think, "Oh, that's why he does it." Or worse yet, "That makes it okay." What I saw is that my dad is a damaged, broken person in desperate need of the grace and trans-

formation only the Creator can bring. God enabled me to forgive and to love my father, and thus to close my own wounds.

But I don't spend time alone with him, or allow my children to do so. It would be as unloving an act as putting a drink in front of a struggling alcoholic.

When people learn what happened to me, they sometimes ask how has it affected me. Well, how hasn't it? I will never know what kind of person I might have been. But God has blessed me, despite the pain of those years and the lingering scars. He's made me tender, compassionate, and quick to forgive.

Every
Sabbath
we were
all there,
in our pew
at church.



I know how broken and sinful I am, and I want to be judged with mercy. He's made me strong and beautiful after all.

I'm someone you can talk to. Those who live, work, and worship with me know that. I don't keep dark secrets anymore. It's not something I want to publish to the world, hence this anonymous story. But I share it when God tells me to. And there are people like me near you. May the Healer lead you to them. And turn you into one of them. It's never too late. Tell your mother. Tell everyone who needs to hear.

Today my life is shaped by a ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation. I want the world to know Jesus loves, saves, and changes people. I want hurting and harmed men, women, and children everywhere to find safety and healing. I want the same for those who hurt them. Wouldn't it be wonderful if those who used to hurt became godly, compassionate, and loving instead? God can do that. I know it because I've seen it firsthand.

To protect her privacy, the author remains anonymous.

HELPFUL WEBSITES:

www.childmolestationprevention.org
www.sarc-maryland.org
www.rainn.org
www.hotpeachespages.net

ADVENTIST SEXUAL ABUSE RESOURCES

Spousal Abuse Resource Center in Belair, Md. Call the 24-hour helpline at (410) 836-8430.

Ministry Care Line is a service for pastors, educators, professionals, other employees, and their families. Call (800) 767-8837.

Polly's Inn Ministries in Columbus, Ohio. Contact Rose Hofacker at (614) 761-8847.

Sexual Abuse and Assault Center at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville, Md. Call (301) 279-6225.

Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day is recognized annually throughout the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, on the fourth Sabbath of each August. Visit www.wm.gc.adventist.org for materials and details.



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He Will Guide You Into All Truth

A Journey to Adventism

Edward Beers has been many things in his life including a farm boy, student, electrical construction worker, and homebuilder. But what's most important to him is the time spent working for God as a lay preacher and pastor—for *three* denominations.

Beers grew up the youngest of five boys, with one younger sister. At home he learned right from wrong and what it meant to work hard. His father taught him to work the farm and to live a "good moral life." The family attended the Episcopal Methodist Church, although they didn't pray or read the Bible together at home. However, it was at this church that a woman taught Beers to pray before going to bed. From the time he was seven years old, he'd kneel each night and pray to God.

When he was 16 years old, his mother died following a five-year battle with cancer. It felt like the end of the world had come for this close family. "The night before her funeral, with her body in

the casket in the parlor of our home, my dad, my four brothers, and I sat around the dining room table talking all night about our need to get closer to God," remembers Beers. "That night of sorrow and searching was a turning point for all of us."

Soon after the funeral, Beers was invited by friends to attend the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church (CMA). "For me, this guiding by the Holy Spirit has been continuous since my repentance and conversion in August 1959," he says.

THE GIFT OF SALVATION

It was at the CMA church that Beers first heard about the gift of salvation and accepted Christ as His Savior and Lord of his life. His new commitment led him to Nyack College in New York. But after a year, he left to train and work in the electrical field. For eight years he worked in electrical construction and as a lay preacher in the CMA church.

At 28 Beers knew that he wanted to serve God full time. So he packed his belongings and left Coalport, Pa., to attend Toccoa Falls College in Georgia. After earning his degree, he interned for two years with the CMA and was ordained into ministry. For the next nine years Beers pastored in two locations.

In 1983 Beers felt his life taking a new direction. He resigned from the CMA and began a home-construction business with his three sons. Yet the call to share the gospel remained strong. By 1985 he was back in the pulpit, serving as pastor at the Assemblies of God Church (AG) in Bessemer, Pa. He held this position for the next 14 years. Then, while still building and remodeling homes, Beers continued to preach and serve as interim pastor for several AG congregations in the area.

SPIRIT-FILLED TRUTH

One day his wife, Cynthia, spotted an insert in the daily newspaper advertising Daniel and Revelation Bible studies at the "Eat N Park" restaurant in New Castle, Pa. "I asked her if she'd like to attend, and she said, 'Yes, it sounds



Always active in church, Beers (left) escorts Amy, Christine, Calvin, and Colt to camp.

exciting,'" says Beers. While both were committed to God and had a personal relationship with Christ, they learned many new things during these sessions, which were sponsored by the New Castle Seventh-day Adventist Church. Classes began at the restaurant in October 2005 and later moved to the church.

"We were ecstatic about the wonderful truth that was revealed to us from God's Word by the Holy Spirit," says Beers. He also credits then Pastor Shawn Shives and members Ray Bertus and Mitch Terry with answering some crucial questions. Topics like the Sabbath, hell fire, and the state of the dead had bothered him since his days at college. "I just figured that my professors had to know something that I didn't," reasoned Beers. It wasn't long before the couple was converted. They were baptized into the New Castle church the following December.

Beers knows that this final step was also part of the Holy Spirit's will for his life. "We were guided into truth in a clear and powerful way when the Sabbath and the historical fulfillment of scriptural prophecies broke through as radiant light," he states. "I thank the Lord for the faithful teaching ministry of the New Castle church."

Today Beers serves as a deacon and alternates with other members in teaching Sabbath School and preaching. Cynthia is a deaconess and often serves as Sabbath School superintendent and children's storyteller. They also minister together

by singing duets. "It's great traveling to different places, preaching, and singing for our wonderful Lord!" says Beers.

He and Cindy recently had the privilege of dedicating their newborn grandson, Gage Michael, at the New Castle church. Many of their family attended the service and the meal that followed. The Beers continue to pray for their family and friends and share Bible truth in their community and beyond.

Tamyra Horst is assistant to the president for communication at the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Reading.

We were guided into truth in a clear and powerful way when the Sabbath and the historical fulfillment of scriptural prophecies broke through as radiant light.—Ed Beers



Ed and Cindy Beers became members of the New Castle church (Pa.) after spending 25 years as a pastoral couple in the Christian Missionary Alliance and Assemblies of God churches.



Baby Dedication: (left to right) daughter Mollie, wife Cindy, daughter Stephanie, son-in-law Brandon with baby, Gage, and Ed Beers.

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Beltville Adventist School Monday, February 12, 4-8 p.m.	Norfolk SDA Church Monday, February 28, 4-8 p.m.
Olney Adventist Preparatory School Tuesday, February 13, 5-8 p.m.	Tappahannock Junior Academy Wednesday, February 29, 4-8 p.m.
Manassas Adventist Preparatory Sch. Wednesday, February 14, 4-8 p.m.	CF Richards Junior Academy Tuesday, March 6, 4-8 p.m.
Roanoke Adventist Preparatory School Sunday, February 25, 4-7 p.m.	Mountain View Conference Buckhannon SDA Church Buckhannon, WV Wednesday, March 7, 4-8 p.m.

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Profiles in Caring

Celebrating 100 Years of Service

In the gospels, Jesus uses declarative language to describe His mission and relationship to mankind:

"I am the light of the world,"

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life,"

"I am the bread of life,"

"I am the good shepherd,"

"I am the resurrection and the life."

But of all the "I am" statements, there is one that is of special significance to those who serve in healthcare. Spoken on the night before His death, at the last meal that He would share with His disciples, Jesus told us our mission. He said, "I am among you as one who serves."

Jesus makes this declaration as He takes the towel from the servant, gets down on His knees, and washes the feet of His disciples. He confounds the preconceived notion the disciples have about the nature of the Messiah, and He makes clear His mission: Do you wish to see me? Do you wish to feel my power, sense my presence, bask in my glory? You will find me in the one who serves.

That statement contains the formative values—the DNA—of Adventist HealthCare. It is the Servant Savior that we seek in our ministry and that we endeavor to raise up in all of our activities.

In 2007 we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of Washington Adventist Hospital—our longest-serving institution. This celebration provides us with an opportunity to reflect anew, and to give thanks once again for the way that we have been blessed in the ministry of all of our institutions—those that are decades old, and those that are just being planned and brought into existence. In our celebration of the past, and in our planning for the future, our Lord has provided us with a singular focus: Jesus is among us as one who serves. It is our calling, our mission, and our greatest joy to see this declaration fulfilled in the work of Adventist HealthCare.

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





A Century of Healing

in 1906; the city of Takoma Park cooperated by improving the water and sewage systems at a nominal cost. Modern for its time, when the 40-bed Washington Sanitarium opened on June 13, 1907, it garnered favorable comments from visitors for its spacious grounds and gardens. In a friendly Christian atmosphere, patients at "The San" received a special diet combined with rest, exercise, and instructions on healthy living. Guests could work in the gardens, play croquet on the front lawn, or exercise in the well-equipped gymnasium. One of the sanitarium's specialties was physical therapy.

Fueled by the Adventist belief in the importance of the health message, the sanitarium evolved from serving "rest-cure" clients to helping more seriously ill patients. In 1910 the first class of nurses graduated, after three years of study and training. In 1916 the hospital parlor was turned into a maternity ward and the sewing room was converted into a delivery room. In 1918 a hospital building was built and the name was changed to Washington Sanitarium and Hospital.

Through the years the facilities were enlarged and developed to keep up with needs. The Lisner Memorial wing was built in 1940. There was a \$1.4 million six-story hospital expansion in 1950. A five-bed coronary care unit was established in 1967. In 1973, with the completion of a \$14 million expansion project that replaced or enlarged all major ancillary services, the name was changed again to Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH).

In 1956, after 49 years of being part

of the hospital, the School of Nursing was transferred to Columbia Union College, situated across the campus. Nursing and allied health students from many area colleges continue to receive their clinical experience at the hospital.

A century ago patients would stay several weeks or even months under a leisurely sanitarium regimen focusing on rest, diet, and exercise. Today nearly 18,000 patients are admitted annually. Each year more than 2,000 babies are delivered and more than 8,000 surgical procedures are performed. More than 45,000 patients use the Emergency Department each year.

The hospital's name is well known in the community, and through the years government officials and diplomats from various countries have been listed among its patients. However, the hospital has not lost sight of its responsibility towards the poor, providing more than \$17.5 million in uncompensated care each year.

Washington Adventist Hospital is committed to leading-edge programs and services to support new subspecialties of surgery and medicine. Although the technology and equipment found in today's hospital are infinitely more sophisticated than that of a hundred years ago, the commitment, skill, and compassion of its staff remains the hospital's greatest asset. As Washington Adventist Hospital begins its second century, its dedicated employees continue to promote healthful living and healing of the body and soul.

Washington Adventist Hospital opened in 1907 and is celebrating a century of healing; however, its history goes back to 1903 when, at the suggestion of Ellen White, a group of leaders from the General Conference in Battle Creek traveled to Washington, D.C. in search of a new location for denominational headquarters, a publishing house, a college, and a sanitarium.

They found a suitable parcel of land in suburban Takoma Park. A physician from Boston had cleared the land, intending to build a medical institution, but when he ran out of funds and was forced to abandon the project, the property was sold to the Adventists for \$6,000. Mrs. White was pleased with the site and contributed a portion of the proceeds from the sale of her book *The Ministry of Healing* to help build the sanitarium.

Construction on the four-story building began



A Ministry of Kindness



In 1974, seeking to serve the rapidly growing communities of upper Montgomery County, Maryland, the leadership at Washington Adventist Hospital embarked on the rigorous task of establishing a new hospital. Seven decades of experience in providing quality healthcare in Montgomery County eventually led to an invitation by civic and community leaders to establish Shady Grove Adventist Hospital.

Construction began in 1977 among the rolling pastures and fields, and Shady Grove Adventist Hospital opened two years later. Today the four-story 269-bed acute-care

hospital serves as a primary healthcare resource for a rapidly growing community that has increased dramatically since the hospital first opened its doors.

Shady Grove has added many valuable services over the years. It houses the county's first Pediatric Emergency Department and Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. In 2006, Shady Grove expanded its community-based healthcare services with the opening of three other facilities, including a free-standing Emergency Care facility in Germantown.

Shady Grove is also celebrating the completion of the first phase of a four-year,

\$99 million expansion and renovation project that will add a new lobby, four-story tower, new surgery department, and 144 private beds.

The treatment philosophy at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital incorporates what is called "the ministry of kindness." This begins with hospital employees who share the responsibility of creating and communicating an atmosphere of love and kindness. Patients and their families are treated as guests of the hospital family, and employees strive to understand patients' physical, emotional, and spiritual needs, and impart supportive love.

Shady Grove is also committed to patient-centered care that is nurturing and personalized. Patients are given choices and encouraged to be actively involved in their health care. Every aspect of a patient's care and healing is taken into account.

As upper Montgomery County continues to grow, so will Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, and so will its ministry of kindness.

The Power of a Dream

In the 1940s the residents of Hackettstown dreamed of having a hospital for their community in northwest New Jersey. Eventually a group of dedicated individuals formed the Hackettstown Hospital Committee. By 1956 they had pooled \$22,500 out of their own pockets to purchase 15 acres of land for a hospital. Unfortunately, the project kept stalling due to changing state regulations, climbing costs, and other roadblocks. Although the obstacles seemed insurmountable, the dream did not die.

In 1967, a Seventh-day Adventist pastor made an ingathering visit to a Hackettstown banker. The conversation turned to a discussion of the worldwide chain of hospitals operated by the Adventists. At this point a member of the original hospital board of directors entered the bank and was invited to join in the conversation about the hospital. This led to the suggestion that the Adventist Church build a hospital in Hackettstown.

Adventist church officials dispatched Milton Murray to visit Hackettstown and conduct a feasibility study among the townspeople. Murray, a successful fundraising pro-

fessional who had conducted capital campaigns for colleges and hospitals throughout the Americas, managed to secure pledges from several local businessmen. In May 1969, the United States Public Health Service awarded the hospital a grant of \$500,000. With these pledges, the grant, the Adventists' promise of \$1.25 million, and the overwhelming generosity of local citizens and businesses, the financial obstacles were surmounted and the project moved forward.

One notable fund drive was known as "The Bucket Brigade." Civic clubs, churches and community groups provided volunteers, sometimes dressed up in bandages or hobbling on crutches, with "Help Our Hospital" signs and buckets to collect money. The volunteers caught the attention of vacationing and weekend motorists driving through Hackettstown to the Poconos during the summer. By the first summer's end, they had collected more than \$25,000, and after three summers it was over \$100,000.

The groundbreaking was held in August 1970. Over 5,000 people—five times the number expected—showed up for the hospital's opening ceremonies. On February 23,



1973, the doors of Hackettstown Community Hospital were opened to admit patients to the long-dreamed-of 106-bed acute care facility.

In 2005, the newly renamed Hackettstown Regional Medical Center opened a new patient tower, the Joan Knechtel Cancer Center, and a new Medical Office Building, continuing its long-term commitment to serve the community that came together powerfully to establish the institution so many years ago.

A Pioneer in the Adventist Medical Work



Laurretta Elby hailed from Buchanan, Michigan where she started her career by teaching elementary school for several years. She then moved to Detroit. In 1884, she married Daniel Kress, and they moved to Canada.

A devoted and strict Christian, Laurretta Kress influenced her husband to not only quit drinking and smoking, but also to join and become an active member of the First Baptist Church. The couple returned to Michigan and Daniel Kress became the pastor of the First Baptist Church until 1887, the year that he resigned over a debate with his congregation about which day of the week the Sabbath should be celebrated.

Laurretta and Daniel Kress moved to Battle Creek, Michigan where the Seventh-day Adventist church had its headquarters. Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, director of the Battle Creek Sanitarium, recruited both of them to study medicine at Battle Creek Sanitarium, and later at Ann Arbor.

Sanitariums were a popular phenomenon in the 19th century. With two small daughters to support, the Kress family combined their studies with work to pay for their education. Unable to pay for her studies, Laurretta acquired a loan from Dr.

Kellogg to continue her education.

Laurretta and Daniel Kress both graduated in May 1894. They stayed in Battle Creek for five years, where they opened their home to many orphaned children. Then the Kress family began their travels to establish other institutions following the principles of the Battle Creek Sanitarium.

In September 1899, the Kress Family opened a sanitarium 20 miles from London. Away from the smoke and dust of the city, they offered cooking and health classes, as well as other lectures for patients. A year later, the Kress family made arrangements to go to Australia to work at a small hospital at Coorangbong. In December 1902, the Wahroonga Sanitarium was opened in Sydney, Australia.

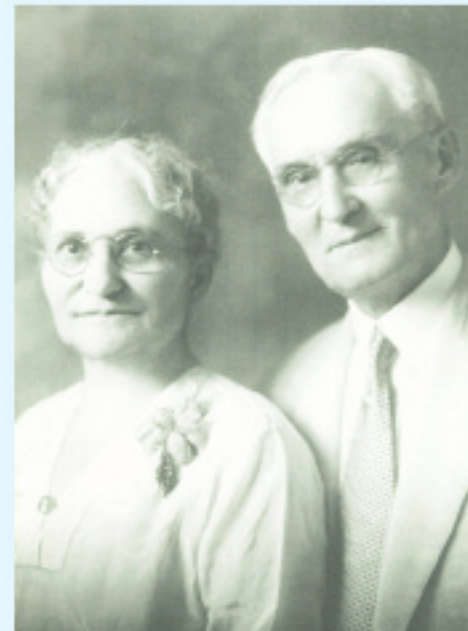
After establishing two sanitariums overseas, the Kress family moved to the Washington, D.C. area in 1907 to manage Washington Sanitarium. Founded by the Seventh-day Adventist church, the sanitarium was located in the rural and isolated town of Takoma Park, overlooking Sligo Creek. "The San," as it was popularly known, had rooms for 40 patients and a staff of 12. Daniel Kress became the first medical director of this sanitarium, and Laurretta Kress became one of the staff doctors.

The Washington Sanitarium, now Washington Adventist Hospital, is the oldest medical facility in Montgomery County, and Laurretta Kress was the first female physician to practice in the county.

The "Kress Maternity and Children's Hospital" was opened in 1916 as an inde-

pendent unit; however, it was still part of the sanitarium. Directed and managed by Laurretta Kress, it exclusively treated expectant mothers and children. During her career, Laurretta delivered more than 5,000 babies.

Laurretta and her husband combined their medical practice with her teaching career, traveling around the country giving health lectures at Adventist hospitals and churches. They retired in Orlando, Florida, where The Kress Memorial Church was named in honor of their work as pioneers in the Adventist medical work.



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ALLEGHENY EAST *Exposé*

FEBRUARY 2007

Children of Prisoners Enjoy Holiday Cheer

During the holiday season, the pastors, entire membership, and Women's Ministries leaders of Baltimore's Berea Temple church entered into partnerships with the Allegheny East Conference (AEC), Baltimore Junior Academy, Crossroads School, Prison Fellowship, the Maryland House of Corrections for Women (MCI-W), and the National Women's Prison Project (NWPP) to bring joy to more than 1,300 children of prisoners. Fostering such partnerships has enabled the church to reach more people since Prison Fellowship and Prison Ministry began this journey three years ago.

The first holiday project was the annual Angel Tree Christmas program held at Berea Temple. This project now gives joy to 100 children, with gifts given to them in their parents' name(s). Co-pastor Jimmy Ferguson was assisted by Berea Temple's young people in distributing the gifts after a fantastic play "The Fumbly Bumbly Angels," presented by students of Crossroads School in Ellicott City, Md.

Another program was Holiday Cheer at the NWPP in Baltimore. The company's director, Alfreda Dawkins—an ex-offender—and a group of volunteers welcomed some 500 children and their newly released parents and/or caretakers for a Christian celebration. Each child chose a gift from the Winter Wonderland and then received personal gifts, again given in their parents' name(s).



On the following day, Dawkins returned to the MCI-W in Jessup, Md.,—for the first time since serving 10 years there—to give joy to 700 more children. Joining her was Edith Tucker, AEC Prison Ministry Federation president and Berea Temple member. After Tucker solicited help from area churches, community groups, and individual contributors, a plethora of toys, clothing, gift cards, food, and lots of love were given.—*Edith Tucker*



Left to right: AEC Prison Ministry Federation president Edith Tucker joined Lettie Carr, Protestant chaplain at the MCI-W; Alfreda Dawkins, NWPP director; and Rinnay Johnson, ex-offender and radio host on WCAO-AM Heaven 600; to give joy to hundreds of children of inmates and newly released offenders.

NEWS

AWC President Gives Financial Seminar

Allegheny West Conference (AWC) president James L. Lewis (pictured) recently gave a three-day financial seminar for the Sharon church in Baltimore. Lewis empowered members to get out of debt and take back control of their finances. He touched on topics concerning financial freedom (relief from overdue bills and financial bondage), living beyond our means, and materialism—the tendency to be more concerned with material rather than spiritual things.



Lewis has more than 26 years of denominational experience, and is a former pastor of the Sharon church. He also had a career as a treasurer before his denominational work.—*Marcia Omondi*

Dupont Park Elects New Elders

Pastor E. Dean Peeler, DMin, of the Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C., recently ordained five new elders in his congregation. Of those five, the 100-year-old church is celebrating its first elected female head elder, Sinie Evans (pictured).

A native of Newport News, Va., Evans retired from secondary school administration. She also served as chair for the Dupont Park Adventist School Board.—*Jerri McLean*



Share Your News ■ Send your most recent church news and photos to rbooker@myalleghenyeast.com, and copy bmichaels@columbiaunion.net.

PFA Enjoys Extreme Upgrades

After 50 years of service to the Pine Forge Academy (PFA) campus, the Wagner Hall administration building has received an up-to-date look and improved services. As part of a \$1 million-plus capital campaign project, the first phase of



Classrooms in Wagner Hall were remodeled and now include built-in teacher stations and wiring for SMART boards and computer access.

renovations to Wagner Hall have been completed. They include: new heating and air conditioning with temperature-controlled classrooms, new windows and ceilings, new flooring, handicapped accessible



All science and chemistry labs received updated equipment.

bathrooms, a new reception desk, updated offices, and more storage.

The rededication of this campus landmark was held during the school's 60th anniversary celebration. High-profile leaders were present such as Philadelphia mayor John F. Street; Pottstown mayor Sharon Thomas; congressman James Gerlach; AEC president Charles Cheatham and other

administrators; and Maranatha vice president and project architect Don Kirkman. Cheatham and Henry Fordham, conference executive secretary, are both alumni of PFA. C.D. Brooks, a retired Adventist church leader, was present to represent John H. Wagner, the father of Brooks' wife, Walterene. The building was named after Wagner, who was the first president of the Allegheny Conference.

Students React

"The first time the students walked into that building, it was just awesome to watch their expressions," explained principal Cynthia Poole-Gibson. "They couldn't believe it, and many immediately started saying how nobody better mess it up. One student couldn't say anything and just cried."

"I can't wait until I'm in a position to give back," responded senior Richard Martin, Student Association president.

Funding

New donations continue to come in from alumni and friends. One of the newest donations came from a generous benefactor. Their \$250,000 donation, arranged by friends of the academy, was given



Hallways were updated with new flooring and lockers.

to support the school's work. The donor, previously unfamiliar with the school, decided after a visit that PFA has a remarkably positive



The attractive new library includes a more user-friendly layout for locating books, as well as a new computer lab.

influence on the development of its students as well as the surrounding community.

"We were overwhelmed at their generosity and their recognition of what we do here at the academy," said Poole-Gibson.

Phase II

As part of the overall renovation project, phase II will include con-

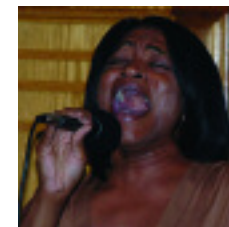


structing the first addition to the campus since the 1970s. The Paul R. Jones Complex will house the cafeteria, student center, auditorium, and library. The completion date of this project has not yet been set. Donations are still needed to help make this dream a reality. Contact the PFA Foundation at (301) 595-4006, or PFA at (610) 326-5800, ext. 218.—*Beth Michaels*

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Conference "Preachout" Attracts Members

The annual Allegheny West Conference (AWC) "Preachout" was held recently at the Glenville church in Cleveland. The day was a celebration of preaching, beginning with an early morning message from Pastor Perry Jennings of the Charleston/Huntington (W.Va.) district. The 10 a.m. speaker was Pastor Jeffrey Baskins from the Pittsburgh/ Uniontown (Pa.) district. The noon speaker was Pastor Joseph Grider (pictured) from Houston, Texas, and Pastor Jerome Hurst from the Hilltop church in Columbus closed the day. The event attracted approximately 900 attendees from across the conference.



Several Glenville members and groups, including Christina Fowler (pictured), Marquita Gibson, Lights of Love, and Women of Worship, provided special music. The David Thomas Singers, an interdenominational group from Cleveland, provided an afternoon concert.



NEWS

Conference Retirees Acknowledged

The conference recently celebrated three of its fellow team members for their years of service. The former co-workers, family members, and guests shared in a time of appreciation as Pastor Lawrence Shepherd, retired pastor of the Southside church in



(Left to right) Conference secretary Carl Rogers, treasurer Zenobia Seward, and president James T. Lewis (far right), honor the service of retirees Robbye Lewis, Pastor Lawrence Shephard, and Pastor Seymour Cole (not pictured) with beautiful plaques.

Columbus and former conference Family Life, Children's Ministries, and Singles Ministries director; Robbye Lewis, retired teacher from Columbus Adventist Academy; and Seymour Cole, retired pastor of the Bethel church in

Staunton (Va.), marked time with their retirement.

The multipurpose building at the conference campgrounds was transformed into a beautiful banquet hall to host the festivities. Music created an atmosphere of celebration, including a rousing trumpet solo by Pastor William McPherson of the Rock of Faith church in Pittsburgh.

Park Street Outreach Center Feeds Community

"By looking at the latest hunger study, the use of local food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters continues to grow with an estimated 3,000 men, women, and children receiving help each week," reported *The Chronicle* newspaper in Elyria, Ohio, recently.

The Park Street Community Outreach Center, located in Oberlin, Ohio, is one of the local food pantries that are filling this great need in Lorain County. Besides a monthly food pantry, bread and pastries are available weekly, and there is a clothing give-away once a month.

The center is operated under the direction of Willie Mae Johnson (pictured), a Park Street church member. She, along with other church members, passed out more than 110 Thanksgiving boxes from their food pantry for the holidays. It is their prayer that many will come to know Christ through these ministries.

Johnson was honored recently at the Oberlin Rotary Club annual dinner. She was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow for her service to the community, partly through the food pantry, which she started more than a year ago.—*Angèle Peterson*



Bethel Sponsors Community Health, Fun Fair

The Bethel church in Cleveland recently sponsored a large community health and fun fair. This event was a festival of Christian love and joy. Bethel members got acquainted and socialized with community neighbors and other visitors.

The fair activities included free health screenings for blood pressure and diabetes, free food, and prize drawings. The young adults enjoyed playing basketball, while the children were excited over the dunking machine and balloon bounce. Several singing groups entertained the crowd with live Christian music.

The Pathfinder groups from Bethel and nearby Glenville and Temple of Praise churches made their debut. The Pathfinders marched down Wade Park Avenue while being escorted by the city's police patrolmen. It was very moving to see the young folk marching through the community as a witness to others.—*Beverly Robinson*



Pathfinder clubs from three Cleveland churches paraded through a main city street during Bethel church's health and fun fair.

Smyrna Church Celebrates 45th Anniversary

In September 1960, evangelist George R. Rainey pitched a tent on the fertile ground of Lynchburg, Va. From his effort 77 people accepted the third angel's message and were baptized. Three other baptisms followed at the Roanoke (Va.) church—a total of 125 people outwardly proclaiming the soon coming of our Lord.

The charter members met in the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church every Sabbath until the construction of the current Smyrna Seventh-day Adventist Church was completed in September 1961. D.J. Williams was the congregation's first pastor.

Eighteen pastors later, Smyrna recently celebrated its 45th anniversary. The weeklong celebration started with guest speaker Andre Saunders, DMin, pastor of the

Ross Street and Emmanuel churches in Danville and South Boston, Va., respectively. Jack McCrary, pastor of the Bethany and Calvary churches in Charlottesville and Gordonsville, Va., respectively, delivered a

Westney, associate director of Religious Liberty for the union.

The celebration continued through Sabbath with platform guests Marvin Brown, director of Community Service and Stewardship for the conference; and former pastors Williams, Westney, Joseph P. Lewis, and Seymour Cole. The guest speaker for Sabbath worship was Oscar Sherrod, director of Sabbath School, Children's Ministries, and Religious Liberty for the South Atlantic Conference.

During the morning worship service, Yvonne Tucker, anniversary chair, welcomed all guests, and two graduates of Smyrna's Discover Bible School received their diplomas (as pictured). A beautiful plaque that honored all former and current pastors of Smyrna was unveiled and the church's cornerstone dedicated. A fellowship dinner was served afterward.

The celebration culminated with a black-tie gala held at a local hotel, with Pastor Williams as guest speaker. Conference administrators all shared tributes and acknowledgements.—*Pastor D.R. Milton*



Attendees of the recent 45th anniversary of the Smyrna (Va.) church witnessed the unveiling of the church's cornerstone.

dynamic message on Monday. Tuesday's speaker was Pastor Willie Butler of the Jackson Street United Methodist Church. On Wednesday Smyrna's current pastor, D.R. Milton, challenged the church with a soul-stirring message entitled "Master, Say On." On Friday evening, the featured speaker was former pastor Adrian

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Laughter is a Gift

In the Bible I find two types of laughter. The first is the cynical laughter of disbelief, like when Sarah laughed at God's promise of her bearing a son in her old age (Gen. 18), or when the crowd laughed at Jesus' suggestion that the daughter of Jairus was not dead but asleep (Mark 5). The second type is the laughter that comes from reversal. It comes as a gift, when the grin is occasioned by that unexpected grace of God. Sarah learned to laugh that way also (Gen. 21:6).

There never seems to be a shortage of the first type of laughter, especially in church circles. We've seen it all. We seldom expect God to bring a fresh intrusion of His power and grace into a particular situation. But we must ask, as God did of Abraham and Sarah, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" (Gen. 18:14). Should we not expect new blessings? Should not our faith be like standing on our tiptoes looking to see what God is going to do next? Nothing is too difficult for the Lord! I need to live more expectantly, and I suspect many of you do as well.

I like to laugh, and nothing makes me laugh more than when God intrudes his grace into a seemingly impossible situation. I've witnessed it many times. I expect I'll see it again soon. And I expect it will make me laugh with delight!



Rob Vandeman
President

NEWS

Chesapeake Youth Get "Locked In"

Imagine being "locked" into a confined area, overnight, with more than 330 energetic young people. Pizza boxes are stacked to the ceiling, and few, if any, of the youth will sleep. This scene describes the conference-wide, Youth Lock-In held recently, an annual event sponsored by the conference Youth Department.

Youth and Pathfinders from every area of the conference converged upon a gymnasium and health club in Columbia, Md. From 8 p.m. Saturday night until 8 a.m. Sunday morning, the young people swam in the pool, scaled the climbing wall, played various sports, and enjoyed fellowshiping together. Most importantly, their faith was built up by devotional talks given by Keith Acker, youth pastor of the West Wilmington (Del.) church, and Chelsy Jourdan (pictured), Bible worker coordinator for the General Youth Conference.



Randy Fishell, editor of Guide magazine, illustrated the basics of cartooning.

Review and Herald Hosts Authors Day

Recently more than 115 students from the conference's Crest Lane, Friendship, Rocky Knoll, Susquehanna, Crossroads, and Gettysburg elementary schools came together for Authors Day at the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md. Students got to meet some of their favorite authors, purchase books, and retrieve autographs. Students also received instruction

on how to write stories and draw cartoons, and got to use their imaginations in creating characters for possible stories. One of the highlights was a tour of the printing press, and a step-by-step explanation of the process of book making.—*Beth Bankes*



Jerry D. Thomas, author of the Detective Zack series, and communication director for the Southwestern Union, autographs his books.

Middletown Valley Church Breaks Ground

More than 120 church members, friends, and special guests recently gathered to celebrate the official groundbreaking ceremony for the new sanctuary (phase II) of the Middletown Valley church, located in Jefferson, Md. Among the special guests were Roscoe Bartlett, PhD, a U.S. Congressman; Joseph Bartlett and Paul Stull from the House of Delegates; Columbia Union executives including president Dave Weigley; and conference leaders including president Robert Vandeman.

The speakers challenged the congregation to dedicate the site for the glory of God. Attendees' hearts were warmed by the challenges given, and by the beautiful instrumental music presented by staff of the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md. There was also a special feature by Pathfinder drama club of the Willow Brook church in Boonsboro, Md. God's Spirit was felt as the soil was turned over by those who held the 12 gold shovels.

Middletown Valley church was founded by action of the Frederick (Md.) church in 1989. The members met in the Methodist church in Middletown for one month starting in January 1990, then moved to the Christ Reformed Church. The church body moved into their new church (phase I) on Christmas Day of 1999. On Sabbath, December 24, 2005, the committed members placed enough donations on their Christmas tree to make it possible to pay off the balance of the mortgage on phase I.

The church hopes to start construction—weather permitting—this month, and finish the project by late summer.—*Pastor K. Dick Thomas*



Church members, friends, and special guests gather at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new sanctuary of the Middletown Valley church.

Blythedale Celebrates 85 Years of Christian Education

About 200 people recently gathered at the Blythedale church in Perryville, Md., to share memories and celebrate the 85th anniversary of the Susquehanna Adventist School (SAS, formerly known as the Blythedale Church School and then Blythedale Junior Academy). Featured guests included Hamlet Canosa, EdD, union vice president for education, and Carole Smith, conference superintendent of schools.

The school opened its doors in 1921 with 11 students, with Ruth (Douglas) Ropka as the first teacher for grades 1 through 8. The school met in a designated

teachers and out-of-state students. Some donated produce or wood from their farms while others donated their time to cut the wood to help with tuition costs. Everyone did what they could.

The school with such humble beginnings continued to grow over the next two decades, necessitating a church expansion program. In 1946 the school moved into their current facility, built next to the Blythedale church. The school reached a high enrollment of 80 in those years, and employed a staff of three teachers.

Through the years more than 1,700 students have attended SAS under the tutelage of more than 50 dedicated, Christian teachers. Students have gone on to become missionaries, health workers, and educators, but, most importantly, they have gone on to become dedicated Christians.—*David Mau*



Current SAS students performed special music for the celebration.



Many of Susquehanna Adventist School's alumni and teachers gathered to celebrate the school's 85th anniversary.

part of the church until a facility was purchased nearby with two large rooms. The early years of the school presented hard times, necessitating dedicated parents and church members to work together and make extraordinary sacrifices to keep all the children in the school. Parents sometimes provided rooms in their homes to

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New Counseling Certificate for Adult Program

The School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS) at Columbia Union College (CUC) recently approved a new certificate program in Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Counseling. "This new program is supported by the Social Work and Psychology departments," said Gina Brown, PhD, dean of the SGPS. "It is



SGPS counselor Rahneeka Hazelton (left) counsels a student.

part of an expanded focus to bring more options for students pursuing professional careers."

According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and

Alcoholism, nearly 17.6 million adult Americans abuse alcohol or are alcoholic. Several million more adults engage in risky drinking that could lead to alcohol problems. CUC's Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Counseling certificate program is designed to assist professionals in meeting the course requirements for certification by the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (commonly known as the CPC Board) as a certified associate counselor (bachelor's level) or certified supervised counselor (associate's level).

"Excitement is building with those who hear about the program," said John Gavin, MSW, chair of the Department of Social Work. Classes include "Issues in Alcohol and Drug Counseling;" "Treatment of Substance Abuse;" "Pharmacology of Psychoactive Drugs;" "Development and Abnormal Psychology;" as well as "Individual, Group, and Family Counseling."

Admission to the program requires an associate or bachelor's degree from an accredited educational institution approved by the CPC Board—or equivalent in another state—or an associate's degree in a health or human services counseling field that includes, but is not limited to, social work, psychology, nursing, or clinical lab science.

Registration is ongoing and classes are offered on a continuous basis. Guidance will be provided in securing supervised clinical experience and for taking the required examination developed by the International Certification

and Reciprocity Consortium/Alcohol and Other Drug Use.

"I am excited about the opportunity to serve the community with this new program and look forward to working with applicants," said Rahneeka Hazelton, an SGPS enrollment counselor and coordinator for the new counseling degree.

The SGPS is targeted at working adults and offers online courses, an MBA program, and a degree completion program. For more information and admission requirements, contact the SGPS at (877) 2-GO-BACK, or sgps@cuc.edu.—*Marketing and Communications Staff*

Zervos Appointed CUC's Alumni Endowment Chair

Bryan Zervos (pictured), director of development for CUC's Office of Advancement, was recently appointed to dually serve as chair of the Alumni Endowment Committee by CUC's Board of Trustees. In his role as chair, Zervos will guide the committee on investment decisions and determine how college assets are allocated. "I'm very lucky to have the support that I do," said Zervos of his new position. "Along with the board's help, I want to maintain a balanced portfolio that produces, in perpetuity, scholarships for students."



He hopes to keep the Alumni Endowment Committee small, nimble, and representative of CUC's constituents. "This is not going to be a passive group," said Zervos. "It's one thing to manage \$4 million, it's another to think about the \$15 to \$20 million from future sales of assets. It's exciting to consider the possibilities."

Zervos succeeds former chair H. Dean Boland, Esq., managing partner of Boland and Brush, LLC. As director of development, Zervos oversees relations with alumni and friends, gift planning and trust services, the annual fund, and other research.—*PR Staff*

Student Draws National Attention to Sierra Leone Issue

Junior nursing major Abibatu Dainkeh (pictured) was recently interviewed on campus for the PBS program *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*. As a refugee, Dainkeh discussed her experiences growing up in war-torn Sierra Leone. National attention recently centered on the small African country with the release of the movie *Blood Diamond*, which depicts the civil war and chaos caused by the brutal mining and sale of diamonds in the country during the 1990s.

"Sierra Leone seems to be on the other side of the world, so it helps to educate people on the issues," said Anne Davenport, media producer for the PBS program. She hoped Dainkeh's face would help "drive home an issue" for the show's 2.5 million viewers. Dainkeh belongs to the group Youth for Sierra Leone Improvement (www.youthforsierraleone.com), which seeks to educate the public about Sierra Leone.—PR Staff



Community Grant Adds to Nursing Education

Advanced students in the Edyth T. James Department of Nursing spend part of their curriculum caring for older adults, thanks to funds from the Community Development Block Grant awarded by the City of Takoma Park's City Council.

This outside program helps develop CUC's commitment to the community and draws positive reactions from the residents. "They are so enthusiastic about the program because they are helping the students to learn. It is a valuable relationship for both," said assistant professor Carolyn Braudaway. She adds, "It helps them remember that they weren't always 82."

Senior and junior nursing students spend at least one day a week at Victory Towers, an independent living facility for seniors

age 62 and older. "It changes the students' perception of the elderly," said Braudaway. "They are able to see elderly living independently in the community and living at an optimal level of wellness." Students apply what they've learned from other nursing courses and discuss proper medication use and how to navigate the healthcare system with residents. In the spring, students conduct group sessions and give seminars on anxiety, grief, and depression. "The students make a contribution to the seniors' wellness with their health teaching and group sessions," said Braudaway. Students also provide health services such as blood pressure checks, weight assessments, and nutritional counseling.

"At first I went because it was required," said junior nursing major Genet Mesele. "But now I wouldn't mind going there and just talking with the residents." Mesele speaks Amharic with an older resident from Ethiopia and, through her friendship, the woman now feels comfortable attending the sessions and getting her blood pressure checked.

Thanks to the com-

munity grant, the funds have contributed to the education of more than 70 nursing graduates since it was first received in 2004.

CALENDAR

February

- 1 Black History Month Begins
- 7 Music Festival
- 10 Valentine's Banquet
- 19 President's Day
Campus Closed
- 25 CUC Spring Open House
- 26-28 Midterm Exams

March

- 1-11 Spring Break
- 12 Classes Resume
- 18 Mother/Daughter Luncheon
Halcyon Hall
- 30-Apr. 1 College Days

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CUC nursing students practice procedures during class time.

Let Us Seek God's Will

Do you ever face a situation and just don't know the right answer? Sometimes it's a small issue with little repercussions, even if you don't make the best decision. Other times your decision will have long-lasting consequences that affect many people. It can be a bit overwhelming. Proverbs 3:5,6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight" (NIV). Praise God for that promise, because left to our own human wisdom we would all be in trouble!

Ellen White also gives us counsel in *Testimonies to the Church*, page 512, on how to discover God's will. She says there are three specific ways to know God's will: through the Holy Scriptures, through providential workings, and through the appeals of the Holy Spirit. I am a firm believer that God will lead us to make the right decisions; however, we must commit ourselves to sincerely, diligently, and willingly seek out *His* will.

I would like to challenge everyone to prayerfully seek out God's will for our every decision. Period. Whether big or small, or whether it affects only us or many others. Whatever the circumstance, let us lean not on our own understanding but seek *His* will.



Sheri Tydings
Principal

NEWS

Students Bestow Holiday Blessings

Among many holiday events, Highland View Academy (HVA) students and faculty recently gathered at the Mt. Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md., for a holiday party. The festive event was planned and hosted by the Student Association. The camp lodge was decorated beautifully, and students wearing holiday colors, Santa hats, and reindeer headgear added to the decor. Amidst games, songs, skits, and food, holiday greetings and presents were exchanged.

Christmas programs featuring the HVA choir and orchestra, the gospel choir, and the Covenant drama team blessed hundreds of people in the Hagerstown

and surrounding communities. One such program was a vespers the music and drama departments performed for the Highland View church in Hagerstown. The program consisted of many delightful musical selections, and the drama members brought the Christmas story to life. One Sabbath the HVA music students joined the Frederick (Md.) church in their annual Carols by Candlelight program. This program also featured the Frederick church choir, the children's choir, and many other talented adult performers.

HVA students also celebrated the Christmas season by sharing with others. Once again, students participated in the Operation Christmas Child program, an organization that helps provide Christmas gifts to children in need. Approximately 30 boxes full of student-purchased toys, school supplies, and candy were packed for delivery.

HVA neighbors also received a Christmas "present" from the school. Students and faculty bundled up and raked, piled, burned, and disposed of leaves at six homes in the neighborhood.

New Students Welcomed

Seven new students recently joined the HVA campus for second semester. These students include two freshmen, Tae II (Terry) Jang and Jaesung Lee; three sophomores, Daniel Goldberg, Boram Lee, and Lexi Park; and two juniors, Robby Parsons and Ryan Young. We welcome them all to our campus and look forward to getting to know each one better!



HVA students welcome guests to the Frederick church Christmas program with violin music.

Chesapeake Pastors Worship With Students

Praise songs and prayer fill the HVA library each weekday as students and faculty gather midmorning for Prayer and Praise. This special time was added a few years ago to give the entire school a chance to worship together each day, in addition to the daily worship with their teachers in the classroom.

Recently area pastors were asked to lead out during Wednesday's worship time. To date Pastor Tom Boggess of the Martinsburg (W.Va.) church; pastors Rick Remmers and Josué Sanchez of the Hagerstown (Md.) church; Pastor Vladimir Corea of the Highland View church in Hagerstown, Md.; and Pastor Frank Zollman of the Williamsport (Md.) church have given worship thoughts. Students and faculty alike have been blessed by the messages.

Week of Prayer Yields Baptismal Candidates

Anthony Hackett, senior theology major at Columbia Union College (CUC) in Takoma Park, Md., recently shared his amazing personal testimony with HVA students during the fall week of prayer. Armed with a solid Biblical perspective, Hackett brought stories and lessons of the Bible alive in a dynamic, relevant manner to the teens through drama and humor.

Hackett's personal testimony included many difficult life circumstances that were beyond his control. He shared how God brought him through those trying situations and eventually led him to CUC and the field of ministry. As Hackett shared his own struggles with life and how God provided answers, students became more and more inspired by God's power to shape and form our lives if we let Him have control.

Senior Ashley Dunbar said, "Anthony shared some of the things he has been through and let us know that his life wasn't always easy. It encouraged me to keep trusting in God even when things aren't going well."

During the Friday evening ves-



Senior Columbia Union College student Anthony Hackett shares his testimony with HVA students during week of prayer.

pers, Hackett challenged the students to make the decision to commit their lives to Christ through baptism. Twelve students signed up for baptismal classes, and many more rededicated their lives to Christ.

CALENDAR

February

- 2-4 Bible Retreat
Somerset County, Pa.
- 17 International Night
7 p.m., Gymnasium
- 21-25 Varsity Basketball
Tournament
Spring Valley Academy
Home Leave

March

- 10 Senior Play
7:30 p.m., Gymnasium
- 11 Parent-Teacher
Conferences
10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Administration Building
- 12-17 Student Week of Prayer
- 16-17 30-Hour Famine
- 29- Spring Break
- Apr. 9 Honduras Mission Trip
England/Scotland
Educational Tour

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MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

FEBRUARY 2007

Why Health Reform?

I used myself in an experiment 24 years ago. I had someone draw my blood. For the first drawing, I had fasted. Immediately afterwards I ate a couple pints of ice cream. Then my blood was drawn every half hour and spun down to separate the serum. I made a slide of the results. It took some manual dexterity to do this. Two things surprised me: as my serum became cloudier, my dexterity was lessened, and my thinking and feelings became looser. I became more carefree, lax, and unprofessional.

We try to do many things our way, be it eating, drinking, not exercising, etc. Then we look to man's concoctions, whether scientific or mystical. When we go against what God is telling us in any aspect of our lives, we are in rebellion against God and, in turn, life itself. Health reform—God's simple methods—which brings us into submission and dependence upon our Creator, is designed to reconcile us to God. Anything that takes our eyes and hearts away from Jesus, and total dependence upon Him, works against us and is deformative in its tendencies.

"... The law of Ten Commandments has been lightly regarded by man; yet the Lord will not come to punish the transgressors of that law without first sending them a message of warning. Men and women cannot violate natural law by indulging depraved appetites and lustful passions, without violating the law of God. Therefore He has permitted the light of health reform to shine upon us, that we may realize the sinfulness of breaking the laws which He has established in our very being" (*Counsels on Health*, p. 20).

"Much of the prejudice that prevents the truth of the third angel's message from reaching the hearts of the people, might be removed if more attention were given to health reform. When people become interested in this subject, the way is often prepared for the entrance of other truths ... " (*Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, p. 121).

Brothers and sisters, let us keep our eyes on Jesus and His plan for our health, and whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, let us do it "all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31).



Daniel Morikone
Health Ministries Director

Pastoral Couple Transitioned

Daniel Morikone, Health Ministries director for the conference, recently transferred his pastoral leadership to the Parkersburg and Toll Gate district. His wife, Valerie, also now works part-time at the conference as an office assistant. Among her duties, she will work on

the SonRise publications, editor of the *Shepherdess* newsletter directed toward pastors' wives.

Morikone spent his first 23 years, after graduating from Pacific Union College (Calif.), working in various nursing and health administrative positions. His last six years of nursing were spent in the wellness field. He also spent over six years in literature evangelism work.

In September 2000 the Morikones (pictured) accepted the call to pastor the conference's Logan/Williamson district. At the beginning of 2001, he added to his pastoral work the role of Health Ministries director for the conference.

During the Morikone's six years in the Logan/Williamson district, the Lord blessed them with two active congregations, and among other things, opened the way for two thriving thrift stores and three food pantries to be established.

"My vision for my new district is to help people go from where they are to where God wants them to be, spiritually, mentally, and physically," stated Morikone.



Marlinton Fellowship Opens

The Marlinton (W.Va.) Adventist Fellowship recently met for its first worship service, with 12 in attendance. This was the fulfillment of a dream for Pastor R.L. "Doc" Michael to establish a church in his hometown.

In October 2006 Pastor Michael conducted a Revelation seminar at the public library to lay the groundwork for establishing the new church. When the library coordinator refused to let him continue meeting there, Marlinton's mayor, Dotty Kellison—who did not miss any of the first 10 meetings—graciously allowed him to continue presenting the Adventist doctrines in the conference room of the municipal building free of charge.

Members of the Summersville, Franklin, and Lewisburg churches helped to sponsor the meetings. Elders from the Summersville church have pledged support to ensure that the new church has reliable speakers and financial help until they can function independently.

Adventists living in the county are very excited to have their own meeting place. They previously had to cross several mountains each Sabbath to worship with other believers.—Yvonne Michael



A Revelation seminar helped spawn the spiritual growth of these new Marlinton Adventist Fellowship members.

Valley View School Library Opens

At the snip of scissors, the ribbons across the door fell away, and the library at Valley View Adventist School in Bluefield, W.Va., was officially declared open. The man wielding the scissors was Daniel Kereth, guest speaker at the



Daniel Kereth (left), the 88-year-old Austrian guest speaker and former librarian, happily cut the ribbon for the opening of the new school library. He poses here with Ken Cronjé, Valley View Adventist School teacher and librarian.

local Veterans Day celebration. Seventy years before, he had been incarcerated briefly in one of the infamous concentration camps in Germany. Himself a veteran and a librarian—most recently for the archives at the nearby Concord College—he happily accepted the honor of opening the library.

Over the past two years, the

library has taken shape in two permanently mounted adjacent trailer homes with a connecting door. A new facility, completed in time for the opening, is the Singer Heritage Room. This room houses a fascinating collection of items, most of them gifts from Richard Singer of Falling Waters, W.Va., a long-time employee at the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md. The holdings of this room include:

- 249 books on church history and related subjects, the earliest from 1841
- 1,416 copies of *Present Truth*, dating from 1919
- 205 copies of *Youth's Instructor*, dating from 1914
- 1,086 copies of the *Adventist Review and Sabbath Herald* from 1902
- 39 copies of the *Sabbath School Worker* from 1925

A scrapbook contains promotional materials for evangelistic campaigns held during World War II, in venues as diverse as the American Legion Hall and the War Memorial Auditorium. Very precious is a fabric chart from 1911, showing the various images and

beasts related to prophecy.

Total current holdings of the library exceed 6,700 books. The Spirit of Prophecy holdings alone account for 300 books, with 200 more on Adventist history.

Bible and history classes meet in the library, with ready access to the research facilities, as well as church members and friends from the Valley View community. The work done by Valley View teacher Ken Cronjé as librarian, and by Rosalie Stockil as cataloguer, is much appreciated. For more information, call (304) 325-8679.—Alice Cronjé

Mountain View EVENTS

February

- 18-20 Ministers Meeting, Valley Vista Retreat Center
- 20-21 Valley Vista Camp Management & Planning Committee
- 25 Walk 100 Miles Begins

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

SPIRIT

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY

FEBRUARY 2007

Seniors Define Spirituality

For the past two years, I have had the pleasure of teaching personal finance to our seniors. Teaching this class gives me an opportunity to hear firsthand from the students and learn about their experiences at the academy.

Every day teachers open class with a devotional thought. I started one day like any other, but it ended with a renewal of purpose. During the devotion I asked the students, "What, in your minds, makes a staff spiritual?" Since I had already thought about the question, I began this discussion having my own preconceived ideas of their responses. I anticipated them to speak about biblical knowledge, prayer life, or involvement in spiritual things. To my surprise, without exception, they referenced the willingness of staff to be available and to "just be there." They mentioned the staff's desire to just spend time with them and to be willing to listen. The one thing that spoke directly to me, however, was that they felt things, at times, were too hectic for those expectations of "spirituality" to be expressed.

As a staff we have looked again for the guidance of Ellen White in the book *Education* to affirm our purpose as educators. On page 16 she states that, "Love, the basis of creation and of redemption, is the basis of true education." While I appreciate and understand the importance of biblical knowledge, prayer, and involvement in spiritual things for spiritual growth, we must remember that "the greatest of these is love." As adults, regardless of our role in the life of a young person, we must remember that they see spirituality long before they hear it.



David Daniels
Principal

Video Editing Class Pursues Outreach

The video editing class at Mt. Vernon Academy (MVA) has taken a new stance on film editing. Instead of just learning the basics of digital film editing and creating unsubstantial film sequences, the stu-

dents have focused on a wider range of possibilities. The usual documentaries and amateur drama have been replaced with well-planned, focused outreach. To accomplish this goal, the students decided to produce and shoot a video on Christian values. Upon completion of this video, they plan to submit it to a Christian film festival.

The theme of this film focuses on the decisions that people, in general, make in everyday life. The film *Moment vs. Eternity* depicts a person that does not have a relationship with God and is living entirely for the moment. After having a tragic accident, the main character realizes that God has given him a second chance with life and depicts how he chooses to get to know God as his Creator and Savior.

One goal of the students is to make a film that will impact viewers so much that it causes them to step back and reevaluate their own lives. They want viewers to recognize whether they are living for the moment or eternity. The students are also benefiting from this project, as they focus on the activities they participate in daily, and as they apply the learned principles to their own lives.—Aaron Myers and Video Editing Students



Video editing teacher, Aaron Myers (top left), and MVA students critique an assignment. The class is preparing a film to submit to a Christian film festival.

How Strong is Your Petro?

Following graduation from Oakwood College (Ala.), Shaun Dixon, MVA fitness and outreach director, moved back to his birthplace in Baton Rouge, La., after 17 years away. While driving around, it was obvious things had changed. The neighborhood where his family had lived for over 50 years was now an area of heavy drug activity.

“My college friends and I would often talk about these types of neighborhoods and how we could change them once we graduated,” he explained. “Now was my chance.” After asking God about his purpose in this fallen city, he says God’s answer was simple: “Buy back the drug houses and make a movie about the experience.” Like Sara in the Bible, he laughed. “While I had no money and no experience in real estate or movie making, I did have a simple philosophy: if God wanted me to do something, He would open the doors,” he said.

The first door was Louisiana Technical College, Sidney N. Collier Campus in New Orleans. Dixon approached their video production class with the idea of documenting a neighborhood’s re-creation. They agreed

and together they produced the first scene, where Dixon interviewed residents about changes they felt their neighborhood needed. For the renovation he met with a friend from Huntsville, Ala., whose brother was interested in buying blighted property in the city. It was the summer of



During his recent visit to New Orleans, MVA’s fitness and outreach director Shaun Dixon stopped by his uncle’s house, located in the Ninth Ward, to see how badly damaged it was after Hurricane Katrina.

2006 and Dixon’s dream was being fulfilled.

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, the Ninth Ward, and Feliciana Street where the documentary and neighborhood re-creation were being implemented. Residents and the production crew were scattered, equipment destroyed, tapes lost, and Dixon relocated to MVA to accept his current position. “After all the upheaval, I wondered about the future of the Ninth Ward and of the movie *Petro*. I still felt God wanted me to move forward, but how?” Dixon said.

He asked for a sign: if the movie’s tapes, still in New Orleans, were returned in good condition, he would move forward. That’s exactly what happened, and on November 17, he and MVA senior Vijay Veerula traveled to Baton Rouge to shoot Scene Two. They interviewed several former New Orleans resi-

dents, Dixon’s employer at Earl K. Long Medical Center, and the mayor-president of Baton Rouge Melvin “Kip” Holden.

Scene Three was filmed during Christmas break when Dixon traveled to Roseberg, Texas, to interview a minister from Scene One who relocated there with half of his congregation.

“After the storm, I came across an appropriate text for our movie: Matthew 7:24-27,” Dixon explained. He added, “*Petro* is a biblical term for ‘rock’ or ‘foundation.’ Originally I used this title since we planned to rebuild houses beginning with the foundation. If New Orleans is to be rebuilt, or if people plan to rebuild their lives in new cities, they must start with their foundation.”

Dixon and his assistants hope that *Petro* challenges viewers to look at their life and ask, “What’s the most important thing in my life, what is my foundation?”



MVA senior Vijay Veerula (left) went with Shaun Dixon (right) to interview Melvin “Kip” Holden, the mayor-president of Baton Rouge, for the film *Petro*.

of EVENTS

February

- 18 Student Association Banquet
- 28-March 4 Home Leave

March

- 4 Home Leave Ends
- 6-8 Sophomore Midterms
- 9-10 Ohio Conference Elementary Music Festival
- 12-16 Ohio Graduation Test (Sophomores)
- 13-15 Midterm Exams
- 26-27 Sophomore Bible Trip, *Battlecreek, Mich.*
- 30-8 Spring Break

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525 Wooster Road, Mount Vernon, OH 43050 ■ Phone:
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FEBRUARY 2007

Blinded by Unbelief

Have you ever been plagued by the same problem over and over—the same pain, the same plight—for so long that unconsciously, somewhere along the line, you lost sight of the fact that God was the Almighty Helper? Moses did.

We are all accustomed to moving; and we don’t pack up and move out until an abode of some kind has been secured and awaits us. And the last thing on our to-do list is to have the water turned off. No faith really needed there—that’s walking by sight.

But God turned off the water *before* Moses had secured his new place of residency, *before* Moses had moved out. Add to that a family who had become masterful at playing the blame game, and Moses suddenly found himself demonstrating a distrust of God. Wearied, his human weakness blocked his view of God’s loving care. “The cessation of the miraculous flow of water should therefore have been a cause of rejoicing, a token that the wilderness wandering was ended. Had they not been blinded by their unbelief, they would have understood this.” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 414). Irritation, impatience, and frustration result from what seems like unbearable problems. It is then that we need to remember, “God has made ample provision for his people; and if they rely upon His strength, they will never become the sport of circumstances” (*PP*, p. 429). We need never be blinded by unbelief.



LeRoy Finck
President

NEWS

Pastoral Family Joins Spanish Church District

Noel Gonzales accepted a call to join the conference as pastor of the Harrison, Rahway, and Plainfield Spanish churches.



Pastor Noel Gonzales is joined by his family (left to right) Lynette Arianna (1), Keven (5) and his lovely wife, Lisandra, in serving the conference.

Gonzales, a native of Cuba, was born into the pastoral ministry. His father was an Adventist pastor for 30 years. Gonzales began his own pastoral ministry at the age of 19, when he worked for several years in various districts in Cuba. Gonzales next came to the United States to work for the Missouri Conference, where a new group was born under his leadership.

Somerville Spanish Promoted to Company

The Somerville Spanish group recently celebrated their promotion to company status. At a recent celebration service, attendees enjoyed an inspiring sermon by president LeRoy Finck. After a delicious potluck meal, the congregation praised the Lord with a concert led by two talented child saxophone players.

In the afternoon, conference officers joined the congregation for the promotion. Thirty-five people signed the membership book that day.

The congregation’s first week of prayer as a company was held by Gregory Castro, a pastor from the

Dominican Republic. The special week prepared the platform for a blessed campaign led by a lay preacher from Nicaragua, Frank Flores. Twelve souls gave their hearts to Jesus.—*Pastor Jorge Garcia*



Somerville Spanish church pastor Jorge Garcia (standing), supported by conference officers, addresses the congregation during their promotional service to company status.

Atlantic County Celebrates Women’s Day Tea

The Atlantic County church in Northfield recently celebrated their annual Women’s Day Tea. Visitors came from several conferences to fellowship and share ideas. Many of the women started an email prayer chain to continue the blessings of praying together.—*Avis Jackson*



Ladies from several conferences gathered to bless and be blessed, including (left to right) Betty Mason, a Women’s Ministries director from the Allegheny East Conference; Gloria Izzard, New Jersey Conference clerk; and her daughter, Shila Izzard; Avis Jackson, Atlantic County church Women’s Ministries director; and Roseann Metrinko, New Jersey Conference Women’s Ministries coordinator.

Pastor Osvaldo Utz Retires

Pastor Osvaldo and Norma Utz (pictured) of the Jersey City, Union City, and Guttenberg Spanish churches recently retired. The couple is now enjoying their new retired life in Tennessee. Pastor Utz is a native of Argentina. He graduated from River Plate College and finished the nursing course at River Plate Sanitarium and Hospital. Before coming to North America he worked in the Lake Titicaca Mission as a missionary for five years, and as a pastor in Ecuador and Argentina. Upon moving to the United States, he worked at Loma Linda Medical Center (Calif.), and later as a pastor at the Southern New England Conference where he worked for 21 years. The last seven years have been with this conference. We wish the Utzes the blessings of the Lord.



New Hope Group Becomes Company

The New Hope group, a new Korean congregation located in Fair Lawn, was recently promoted to company status. The new pastor,



Sang Ki Ahn (pictured), started this group with enthusiasm, and there are now several new members.

This is the third Korean congregation in New Jersey.

During the special promotional Sabbath service held recently,

attendees enjoyed an inspiring sermon from conference president LeRoy Finck. In the afternoon conference officers José Cortés, executive secretary, and James Greene, treasurer, joined the celebration. Cortés explained the process of promotion, and Greene gave the prayer of dedication. Fifty people signed the membership book that day. The service was enhanced by a performance from the church choir (pictured), and a delicious Korean meal served afterwards.



dates NEW JERSEY

February

- 4 ABC Open
10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Youth Ski Trip
- 9-11 English Lay Evangelism School, TVRC
- 11 ABC Open
10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 16-18 Spanish Couples Retreat
- 16-19 Evangelistic Revival, Vineland
- 19 President's Day—ABC/Office Closed
- 22 Association Board
9-10 a.m.
Executive Committee
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

March

- 1-4 Youth Prayer Congress
- 4 ABC Open
10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 9-11 PUSH Retreat

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Phone: (609) 392-7131 ■ President, LeRoy Finck ■ Editor, Aura Garcia ■
www.njcsda.org

Health Ministries Director Appointed

Chris VanDenburgh, nurse coordinator for NW spiritual care at the Kettering Adventist HealthCare, has been dually appointed the Health Ministries director for the Ohio Conference. VanDenburgh has been involved in parish nursing and community health education for a number of years. "Chris brings to this role a broad awareness of health education issues, experience, and passion, and our constituency will be well served by her leadership," stated president Raj Attiken.

The objectives of the Health Ministries effort in Ohio will be to encourage and educate Seventh-day Adventists and others to adopt and maintain a lifestyle that will foster the highest possible level of physical and emotional health. It will also serve to assist churches in developing credible, research-based health and lifestyle ministries for themselves and their communities.

VanDenburgh is excited about this new ministry and states: "I would like to see a health ministry emphasis in every church in our conference and help members develop in body, mind, and spirit."



The new Health Ministries director, Chris VanDenburgh, speaks with a visitor attending the health fair she organized during Ohio Camp Meeting for the Mt. Vernon community.

Three Mission Churches Established

The Ohio Conference has recognized and endorsed three new congregations as "mission" churches. Each of these churches was formed around a clear mission and has, since its inception, demonstrated a commitment to achieving their stated mission. A specific set of criteria and a detailed on-site review by the conference's Church Life Committee are a part of the process by which a group qualifies for "mission church" status.



Peebles Mission Church: This group was developed under the leadership of Phil and Glad Lewis (pictured) who, in 1998, began a personal Bible study ministry in the small rural community in Southwest Ohio. In December 2005 the Hillsboro church purchased a building in Peebles to house the growing congregation. Lewis continues to provide lay leadership to this growing church.

Cleveland Ghanaian Mission Church: As the third Ghanaian Adventist congregation in Ohio, the Cleveland Ghanaian Mission Church serves a growing

Ghanaian and African population in Ohio. They started meeting in homes in January 2006, and by November, this growing congregation started meeting in the Lakewood church gymnasium. This church is under the lay leadership of William Koomzon. The Columbus Ghanaian church will serve as their mother church.

Hamilton Spanish Mission Church: The birth story of the Hamilton Spanish congregation includes its start at the Cincinnati Village church in Mason and then the Cincinnati Spanish company. Since getting established in Hamilton in June 2004, the group has grown to an average attendance of 85. This congregation is under the leadership of Pastor Richard Rechichar (pictured), who also leads the Hamilton and Middletown district. Rechichar is in the process of learning Spanish to better pastor this new mission church.



Child and Family Education Ministry Established

At a recent meeting, the conference Executive Committee took steps to provide a new and comprehensive service to guide and support the effort by parents, congregations, and schools, to enhance the spiritual development of children.



A consortium that includes the conference Office of Education, Youth Department, and other entities will provide leadership to this endeavor under the direction of Cindy French (pictured), associate superintendent of schools.

The unanimous and enthusiastic support for this strategy came following the committee's

review of relevant research information, such as:

A child's spiritual identity is largely set by age 13.

The chance of a person embracing Jesus as Savior is 32 percent for children between ages 5 and 12, 4 percent for 13 to 18 year olds, and 6 percent for 19 year olds or older.

Fewer than 10 percent of church households spend any time during a typical week either reading the Bible or engaging in substantive prayer as a family unit. However, about three out of four church parents (72%) believe they are doing well when it comes to providing a regular regimen of spiritual experiences and instruction to their children.



Conference members Michael Perone (left) and Callen Stevenson represent the many children who will be positively affected by the new Child and Family Education ministry.

As she reflects on what she would like to accomplish, French says, "This ministry's success will be evident when parents are confidently involved in the spiritual development of their children, through the training and resources they have received from their church

and school, and when children's lives are transformed through recognizing God's calling at a young age."

The goals of the new Child and Family Education ministry include:

- Developing and implementing processes to assist and equip parents to provide spiritual, emotional, and material support to children;
- Developing and implementing systems to nurture children to discover their spiritual gifts and God's call on their life; to instill a passion to love, obey, and serve God; to provide opportunity for every child to personally be involved in some form of ministry; and to develop pillars of spiritual life in children;
- Building, in children, resiliency to self-destructive behaviors; and
- Developing common goals and synergies between the home, church, and school.

"We envision the Child and Family Education ministry will be a radical departure from traditional Children's Ministries efforts, and that it will launch a fresh and rigorous strategy to nurture the spiritual development of children," observed president Raj Attiken.

Mark Your Calendars

Town Hall Meetings Scheduled

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming scheduled town hall meetings:

March 26, 7 p.m. in Columbus

March 28, 7 p.m. in Lakewood

April 9, 7 p.m. in Toledo

April 10, 7 p.m. in Akron

April 12, 7 p.m. in Kettering

Lakeside Friendship Get-a-Way Planned

Plan now to attend the second Lakeside Friendship Get-a-Way at Maumee Bay State Park on Lake Erie. This family-friendly event will be held **June 28-July 1**. For more information, contact Bette Toscano at information@ohioadventist.org.

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Phone: (740) 397-4665 ■ President, Raj Attiken
Editor, Bette Toscano ■ www.ohioadventist.org

Pennsylvania Pen

FEBRUARY 2007

Camp Meeting: Sharing Our Creator's Glory

The 2007 Pennsylvania Conference Camp Meeting will be held June 15-23 on the beautiful campus of Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) in Hamburg. Dynamic speakers such as Clifford Goldstein, editor of the *Senior Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*, and Dan Smith, senior pastor of La Sierra University (Calif.) will speak on the theme, "Sharing Our Creator's Glory." Other guest speakers will include Larry Lichtenwalter, pastor of the Village church in Berrien Springs, Mich.; Elaine Kennedy, research scientist and adjunct profes-

sor of geology at the Southwestern Adventist University dinosaur field station in eastern Wyoming; Gaspar Colón, PhD, director of the Center for Metropolitan Ministry at Columbia Union College (Md.); Neil Nedley, MD, a full-time practicing physician in internal medicine in Oklahoma; and Tom Cusack, pastor of the Erie, Corry, and Lowville (in Wattsburg) churches. These speakers will challenge and inspire people in their daily walk.



Young adults will enjoy their own meetings on Sabbath morning and each evening throughout the week. Afterglow is a time each evening, after meetings have ended, for worship, volleyball, and fellowship.

ticing physician in internal medicine in Oklahoma; and Tom Cusack, pastor of the Erie, Corry, and Lowville (in Wattsburg) churches. These speakers will challenge and inspire people in their daily walk.

Kelly Mowrer, sometimes called the "NET pianist," will provide an inspiring concert of worship and praise. Family worship's "God's

Wonderful World" will feature Sergio Manente, director of the leadership program at BMA. Young adults will again enjoy their own meetings Sabbath morning and each evening throughout the week. Meetings and activities are also planned for youth and children.

A community health expo will be held on Sunday, June 17, featuring free screening for blood pressure, lung capacity, and body fat analysis; a Harvard step test; and a computerized health age appraisal. Free anti-stress massages will also be provided. Dr. Nedley will offer a presentation about depression, and Floyd Dare, Pennsylvania Conference Trust Services director, is working with Social Security Services on a presentation of Medicare benefits and explanations.

Camp meeting attendees will also be able to choose from two Health Ministries training opportunities:

■ A health expo workshop by Charles Cleveland, president of Health Education Resources (www.healthexpopos.org), and his wife, Phoebe, will be held June 16 and 17. Learn positive evangelism strategies for community outreach and how to organize and conduct a health expo in your community.

■ A depression recovery workshop by Dr. Nedley will be held June 17 and 18. This will prepare participants to help facilitate their own eight-week seminar and assist others in achieving optimal mental health.

This year promises to be a powerful camp meeting experience that will bless and strengthen attendees. I invite you to reserve your place now by sending in an application, available on the second page or at www.paconference.org. Bring family and friends for this week of fun activities, spiritual growth, inspiring music, and fellowship.—Ray Hartwell, President



Camp meeting is a time for the whole family. While parents attend seminars with dynamic and challenging speakers, children have their own fun meetings and activities.

PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
720 Museum Road, Reading, PA 19611-1492 Phone (610) 374-8331
June 15 - 23, 2007 Camp Meeting Reservation Application
FAXES AND WALK-INS NOT ACCEPTED

Date _____
Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____ 3rd choice _____

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

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

Children	Age	Gender

Full Time Rates/Location	Amount	Total
Dorm room w/2 single beds -Extra Mattress - Each (Dorm Only)	\$208.00 9.50	\$ \$
Tent w/electricity & floor (1 double or 2 single cots included) -Extra single cot w/mattress - Each (Tent Only)	92.50 16.00	\$ \$
Small personal tent or trailer space up to 20ft. No Electricity (Field by Boys' Dorm)	39.00	\$
Cabin - Keystone (5 sets of bunk beds)	93.50	\$
Trailer space w/ limited Electricity usage Keystone (trailer size _____ ft.)	107.00	\$
Trailer space w/ limited Electricity usage Grove City (trailer size _____ ft.)	96.00	\$

Per Day Rates/Location	Amount	Total
Dorm room w/2 single beds -Extra Mattress - Each (Dorm Only)	\$28.00 6.00	\$ \$
Tent w/electricity & floor (1 double or 2 single cots included) -Extra single cot w/mattress - Each (Tent Only)	22.00 6.00	\$ \$
Small personal tent/trailer space up to 20ft. No Electricity (Field by Boys' Dorm)	11.50	\$
Trailer space w/ limited Electricity usage Keystone (trailer size _____ ft.)	19.00	\$
Trailer space w/limited Electricity usage Grove City (trailer size _____ ft.)	16.00	\$

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

Total Charges \$ _____
Payment Enclosed \$ _____
Due \$ _____

PROTOCOL:

1. A completed application with payment in full is required for all reservations. Checks should be made payable to **Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**. Applications will be processed on a first come first served basis only.
2. Telephone reservations for late applicants will only be accepted within the last week prior to camp meeting.
3. Reservations must be made by the party attending camp meeting. Reservations cannot be made by one party for another. Please duplicate the application if you need one for a friend.
4. Children under 18 years of age **ARE NOT PERMITTED** to stay overnight at any of the camp meeting facilities unless accompanied by an adult.
5. **ABSOLUTELY NO PETS** are allowed on campgrounds or in camping areas! Please be aware that if you should choose to bring a pet, you will be required to remove it from the campus/campground. Names of local kennels are provided.
6. Use of microwaves, air conditioners, and other electrical appliances are **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** due to the lack of adequate electricity. **THIS INCLUDES ALL RECREATIONAL VEHICLES PARKED IN KEYSTONE AND GROVE CITY.** We cannot be responsible for damages sustained to your recreational vehicle due to electrical issues.
7. We regret that we are unable to provide wheel chairs and other equipment for the disabled.

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Date _____

By signing this application I agree to abide by the Protocol as stated above.

NEWS

William G. Johnsson Honored at Southern Asian Church

William G. Johnsson, retired editor of the *Adventist Review*, was honored recently at the



Kurt Allen (far left), vice president for finance, thanks recently retired Adventist Review editor William Johnsson and his wife, Noelene, for their many years of service to the church and the conference.

Southern Asian church (SASDAC) in Silver Spring, Md. SASDAC pastor Franklin David and Juan Prestol, North American Division treasurer, expressed gratitude to Johnsson for his service to the Southern Asia Division, and for his 24 years as the magazine's editor. Many church members, as well as Pastor David, fondly remember Johnsson as their teacher at Spicer College in India.

First Deaf Congregation Organized

The Spring of Hope Silver Spring (Md.) deaf group was recently elevated to company status with 29 charter members. Now called the Deaf Evangelistic Adventist Fellowship (DEAF) company, it is the first deaf congregation in the conference. David Trexler is their pastor.

The members were greatly honored to have conference officers participate in their inaugural celebration. In his celebratory inaugural message, president Bill Miller challenged the congregation to "go into the community and reach those that we cannot reach."

Currently there are 28 million hearing-impaired individuals living in the United States, and only 2 percent attend church. Of those, only 300 are Seventh-day Adventist.



Following their recent promotion to a company, members of the newly formed Deaf Evangelistic Adventist Fellowship pose with conference leaders.

Victoria Harrison, Spring of Hope pastor, was instrumental in preparing the group for their new status.—*Pastor David Trexler*

Northern Virginia Ghanaian Celebrates

Conference officers and many distinguished guests recently rejoiced with members of the Northern Virginia (NOVA) Ghanaian company as they celebrated officially becoming a church. Seventy-three people signed the charter membership. Pastor Emmanuel Acheampong



and several others were instrumental in planting the congregation in Alexandria, Va.

Following the organization service, Pastor Acheampong was ordained. Growing up in Ghana, Africa, Acheampong was introduced to the Seventh-day Adventist Church by a classmate. He is married to Agnes and they have three children: Moses, Diana, and Nils-Frank.—*Jeanie Allen*

Potomac Welcomes New Companies, Churches

During 2006 nine new companies were organized and four congregations became churches. Congratulations to these new bodies of believers:



Roger Weiss (left), vice president for administration, presents a Certificate of Organization to Glenmont Spanish church's associate pastor, Victor Debiase (far right), and Miguel Provincia, a Glenmont member.

The Glenmont Spanish church in Beltsville, Md., and the D.C. Spanish company are being led by José Esposito.

The Northern Virginia Ghanaian church located in Alexandria, Va., is pastored by Emmanuel Acheampong.

The Deaf Evangelistic Adventist Fellowship (DEAF) company located in Silver Spring, Md., is being pastored by David Trexler.

The Ethiopian church, in Washington, D.C., is the first Ethiopian congregation in Potomac. Fasil Ketema is their pastor.—*Jeanie Allen*

Potomac People

New Washington Ethiopian Pastor Ordained

Conference officers recently joined Fasil Ketema and his wife, Yenework, and their family and friends at the Capital Memorial church in Washington, D.C., for Ketema's ordination service.

Pastor Ketema transferred from St. Louis, Mo., where he served as elder and actively participated in many aspects of church ministry. There he met and married Yenework, and started communicating with other Adventist Ethiopians. They started meeting yearly in the Washington, D.C., area. With much prayer and encouragement, the couple moved to the capitol area and was instrumental in organizing the Washington Ethiopian group. Ketema and his wife have three children: Abigail, Brook, and Christiana.

Following the ordination, about 50 people signed on as charter members of the Washington Ethiopian company as it was promoted to a church.—*Jeanie Allen*



Dean Coridan (right), Iowa-Missouri Conference president and long-time friend, presents Fasil Ketema for ordination.

Leadership Changes Announced

The Potomac Conference would like to formally welcome its new pastors and leaders, and bid farewell to others moving to new missions.

Homero Salazar and his wife, Olga, are now serving the Washington Spanish church in Silver Spring, Md. Pastor Salazar previously served in the North Puerto Rico Mission as Youth Ministries director.

Lloyd Mallory, Jr. currently serves as minister of music and worship at the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md. Lloyd recently graduated from UCLA with a doctor of musical arts degree in choral and instrumental conducting.

Mark Sique also serves the Sligo church as the pastor for children. Before coming to Sligo, Sique worked in several capacities for the Ministerial Department at the Adventist World Headquarters. He is married to Marifel, a medical technologist.

Melvin Hayden III now serves as youth pastor of the Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va. Hayden, married to Donna, previously served as teacher and

chaplain at Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md.

Jennifer Deans serves the Vienna (Va.) church as youth/associate pastor. Deans is a recent graduate of the Andrews University Seminary (Mich.) and is newly married to Kevin.

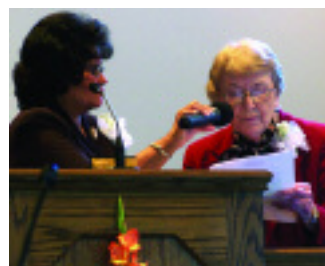
Choon Man Lee currently serves as district pastor of Korean groups in Richmond and Newport News, Va. He and his wife, Young Hyun Lee, previously served in the Michigan Conference.

Harry Sharley and his wife, Lori, have said farewell to their flock at the Waynesboro (Va.) church. He recently accepted a call to the Upper Columbia Conference to serve as senior pastor of the Yakima (Wash.) church.

John Neff recently left as pastor of the Powell Valley church in Dryden, Va. He and his wife, Birgitta, recently accepted a call to the Texico Conference to pastor the Albuquerque Heights (N.M.) church.

—*Jeanie Allen*

Waynesboro Celebrates 60th Anniversary



The Waynesboro (Va.) church recently celebrated their 60th anniversary, with union president Dave Weigley as the featured worship speaker. Former pastors who attended included Elmer Malcolm, Herb Broeckel, Merle Whitney, and Harry Sharley.

One of the day's highlights was when charter member Alease Anderson (pictured right, with lay pastor Evelyn Sullivan) shared the story of how she received an original hand-written letter by William Miller, one of the Seventh-day Adventist Church founders. Realizing the value of this document, Anderson donated the letter to the Ellen G. White Estate so it could be preserved for the benefit of church history researchers. At Anderson's request, on behalf of the anniversary, the White Estate sent her a copy of the letter, a picture of William

Miller, and a letter of thanks for her donation.—*Jeanie Allen*

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Phone: (540) 886-0771 ■ www.pcsda.org ■ President, Bill Miller ■ Comm. Asst., Jeanie Allen

Spotlight on Spencerville

FEBRUARY 2007

Be Real With Our Youth

Working with young people is such a blessing. Because Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) is a K-12 school—all studying under one roof—I have the privilege of interacting daily with a broad spectrum of ages. But there is a common denominator among this diverse group, “smelling power.” I am not referring to their noses. I am speaking about their ability to know when the significant adults in their lives truly love them and are truly committed to the Lord.

In the adult world, we can sometimes do a pretty good job of “faking it” with our peers. This just doesn't work with young people. Maybe this is why James says in chapter 3, verse 1, “Don't suppose that everyone who thinks he can lead or teach should be put into office. God expects more of leaders and teachers and will judge them more strictly than others” (*The Clear Word Bible*). Yet what a privilege it is to be called to work with our children. The responsibility is daunting, but the reward is eternal. Have you prayed for a teacher lately?



Brian Kittleson
Principal

Spencerville Ringers Attend RingFest 2006

The SAA Ringers recently got the opportunity to participate in the seventh annual handbell festival RingFest 2006 in Toledo, Ohio. Along with bell “ringers” from 10 other academies from the Columbia, Lake, and Southern unions, SAA was determined to make this the best festival yet! After a grueling nine-hour bus trip, students anticipated long practices. In addition to long days of practicing, each day started and ended with worship presented by Pastor Gary Patterson, a retired general field secretary for the Adventist World Headquarters.

In the middle of one of the practices, Dean Wagner, one of the clinicians and a regular clinician for Handbell Exploration International, recounted to the students his inspiration for writing one of the mass pieces they were playing: “Fantasy on Kingsfold.” He admitted to the more than 170 teenagers that he had gone through a major struggle in his spiritual walk. He was at the point of calling himself an atheist,

but then God revealed Himself. The inspiration led him to write the song. Wagner is known nationally for his work as a handbell composer, arranger, and clinician.

The concert on Friday evening, featuring more than 1,000 bells, went beautifully, as did the performance for the Sabbath morning service at the Toledo First church.

Throughout the festival, attendees were repeatedly told to “never stop ringing.” This bell festival was wonderful, but more than all the sweaty gloves, missing music, and malfunctioning bells, each attendee grew spiritually.—*Joanna Saggurthi ('08)*



More than 170 handbell players from 10 academies, plus music instructors and other school faculty, got together to play and learn during RingFest 2006.

Campus Ministries Enriches Students' Lives

This school year Spencerville Adventist Academy started a Campus Ministries team. There has been a growing interest in spirituality among the students, especially through the avenue of service to others. Many students have expressed a desire to share the joy that they have found in Jesus, and the student-led team works hard to provide opportunities for that very purpose.

It is easy to fall into the trap of simply entertaining youth rather than providing opportunities for ministry and service. The fear of failure often leads adults to take total responsibility for planning programs and events rather than placing these responsibilities in the hands of students. In doing this, many students have been denied the opportunity to grow, not only in spirituality, but also in leadership. Leadership opportunities like these can be powerful and life changing. The Campus Ministries team has planned events like vespers, chapels, and prayer groups, and has developed outreach teams that travel to different locations for various ministry opportunities. The most exciting aspect of these trips is that they are all planned, organized, and led by the students.

During a spiritual retreat at the

beginning of the school year, students were asked to come up with as many ideas for ministry as possible. The list that was created was truly incredible. They suggested numerous things, from shoveling a neighbor's snow to putting on an evangelistic series for public school students. When students are empowered for ministry, ownership always occurs. The Campus Ministries team continues to refer to the list and provide opportunities for ministry for the student body.

Some of the most exciting ministry opportunities have resulted from trips to other Adventist academies. It seems that much of the interaction between schools normally only comes during sporting events. The students felt strongly that they were missing amazing opportunities to worship together. They said that they enjoy being able to share their love of Christ with others through drama, song, and the spoken Word.

The team is also currently contacting local area churches to inquire about opportunities for ministering to them, from leading out in the church service, to helping out with a local community service project.

The school asks for continued prayers in this process. Everyone would like to continue building the Campus Ministries program. God has blessed the school with amazing student leaders, and teachers



After Spencerville Adventist Academy Campus Ministries students presented a vespers service to students of Shenandoah Valley Academy, they joined together in prayer groups.

and staff are excited to be able to empower them to do the work of the Lord!—Chaplain Greg Taylor

Academy Day Planned

Spencerville Adventist Academy's annual Academy Day is scheduled for **Thursday, March 8**. This is your or your guest's opportunity to:

- Check out the school
- Hear about the opportunities SAA has to offer
- Meet the teachers
- Make some new friends

For more information, contact Heidi Wetmore at (301) 421-9101, ext. 102, or hwetmore@spencerville.org.

Spotlight is published in the *Visitor* by the Spencerville Adventist Academy 15930 Good Hope Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20905 ■ Phone: (301) 421-9101 www.spencervilleacademy.org Principal, Brian Kittleson Editor, Heidi Wetmore

The Campus Ministries team is led by (back row, left to right) chaplain Greg Taylor, Jarrod Lutz, Heidi Davenport, Estee Milburn, Daniel Czajkowski, (front row, left to right) Robin Welsh, and Rheba Correia.

Mississippi Mission a Success

Disaster relief mission trips have been a part of SVA since the early 90s. Students and staff have been involved in post-flood, tornado, and hurricane relief locally and nationally.

Recently a group of students and staff took their vacation time to make another trip to southern Mississippi to help with the rebuilding efforts. Students sided, shingled, cleaned, and painted homes for residents of Pearlinton, Miss., who are still displaced by the 2005 hurricane. The greatest part of the trip was the interaction with the people whose homes were being fixed. There was so much gratitude expressed in hugs—and even tears.



Students Build Character, Change Lives

Building God's character into the students has been the work of Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) for nearly 100 years. We believe that character development must be done intentionally. It cannot be assumed that students will develop good characters simply by going to Bible classes and worship services.

Recently SVA students had the opportunity to develop three of the eight Christian character traits intentionally developed at SVA:

Being my brother's keeper: demonstrating understanding and concern for others,

Initiative: moving from thought to action, and

Service: putting your need before mine.

SA's Adopt-a-Child program. The students outlined their party plans and their intent to invite migrant children from the area.

"How many can you take?" asked the official. "How many do you have?" asked the two school leaders. Probably more than 70 came the answer. "Great! We'll take them all!" the SA officers exclaimed.

SVA and Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary School (SVAE) students combined their efforts to throw a really big Christmas party for 75 children of local migrant workers. The students each put in their own cash to buy gifts for the kids, and groups of three students each adopted their own kids for two hours. They played games, ate snacks, did arts and crafts, and opened gifts. There was at least one gift for every child. SVA science teacher Jonathon Borne even appeared as Santa to pose for pictures for the kids to take home.

Happy kids went home with their happy parents. For some, this was their very first Christmas in the United States. The local newspaper also thought the event was special and did a cover feature.—Principal Dale Twomley, PhD



The Student Association (SA) officers decided they wanted to have a really big Christmas party, not for the SVA students, but for the kids from the nearby community. SA president Caitlyn Carney ('07) and vice president Heather Blackburn ('07) called the local Migrant Education Program officials and told them of



Brother and sister seniors, Micheal and Lisa Pichette, share a new toy with one of the many local migrant children who got to celebrate a special Christmas provided by SVA students.

Happenings is published in the *Visitor* by Shenandoah Valley Academy ■ 234 West Lee Highway, New Market, VA 22844 Phone: (540) 740-3161 ■ Principal, Dale Twomley, PhD daletwomley@hotmail.com ■ Editor, Tim LaPierre ■ www.youracademy.org

Love Will Never End

What is love? How often does that word get used in such a casual way, when it should be used sparingly. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary (www.m-w.com), love can mean “strong affection for another arising out of kinship or personal ties” or “affection based on admiration, benevolence, or common interests,” among other definitions.

I believe the main biblical lesson in 1 Corinthians 13 is that love is a characteristic that will *never* end. Prophecy will cease. Faith will cease. But, love *never* ends. Wow! When you truly love someone, you always think of that person first. It is more than affection. Affections come and go, but *love* will never end.

Seeking to give our best to others is a principle that has to be applied to each student we teach. Without God, it is impossible to have that kind of love that never changes and seeks to give the best to others. However, with God, *all* things are possible.



C. Dunbar Henri
Principal

NEWS

Fine Arts Program Highlights Christ’s Birth

A Friday vespers held recently at Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., was a high time for Takoma Academy (TA) students. Coordinating the art, choral, drama, and musical groups into one program was a tremendous undertaking. English teacher Myrna Candelaria led the drama section, art teacher Marquita Halstead led art, religion teacher Melvyn Hayden III led the gospel choir, and music teacher Tim Vandeman led the choral and instrumental groups. Everyone worked together for the program, which uplifted the good news of Christ’s birth. TA students are credited for writing all of the narrations and scripts. It was a fantastic event.



Students (left to right) Jennifer Gomez, Cyndi Rodriguez, and Roxanna Segovia, along with TA board member Erwin Mack (as Santa) educated residents for Pedestrian Safety Day.



Families Adopted for Christmas

Applied Arts teacher Virginia Mathis and sophomore Shaine Midkiff wanted to do something special for someone in the community for the holidays. Mathis contacted the nearby Adventist Community Services Center in Takoma Park, Md., who provided the names of families in need.



Donations were collected to bless several selected families. Students, teachers, and staff together donated \$800 plus a plethora of toys. On the last day of classes before Christmas break

began, the school closed early for everyone to enjoy a special Christmas program in the gymnasium.

Two families from the community got to meet with Santa (principal Dunbar Henri) and his elves and open lots of presents. The remaining toys were donated to the local Adventist-owned WGTS radio station for their holiday toy drive.



TA Today is published in the Visitor by Takoma Academy ■ 8120 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 ■ Phone: (301) 434-4700 Principal, C. Dunbar Henri ■ www.ta.edu

Advertising Guidelines and Rates

The Columbia Union Visitor accepts classified advertising as a service to its members. Announcements for Adventist church-sponsored events, legal notices, and obituaries will be printed without charge on a space-available basis. The Columbia Union Visitor editors reserve the right to refuse or discontinue advertisements at any time and may edit classified ads to comply with editorial policies. The Visitor also does not guarantee the integrity of any product or service advertised.

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LEGAL NOTICES

CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE SECOND QUINQUENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the second quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 22, 2007, in the Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church at 16325 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20905. This meeting is held for the election of officers and any other business that may properly come before the session at that time.

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Organizing Committee described in Article V, Section 1, of the bylaws will convene at 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 11, 2007, at the conference office, 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044, for the purpose of selecting the Nominating Committee for the regular session and nominating the Constitution & Bylaws Committee for the next quinquennium. There will be one delegate chosen for the organizing committee for each constituent church, plus an additional delegate for each 500 church members or major fraction thereof.

**Robert T. Vandeman, President
Charles J. Griffin, Secretary**

CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION SECOND QUINQUENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the second quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists shall be held in connection with the regular quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on Sunday, April 22, 2007, at the Spencerville

Seventh-day Adventist Church, 16325 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring MD 20905, at 11 a.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect trustees and officers, as well as to transact other business as may come before the session at that time. Delegates to this meeting shall be the delegates of the Chesapeake Conference session.

**Robert T. Vandeman, President
Charles J. Griffin, Secretary**

HIGHLAND VIEW ACADEMY SECOND QUINQUENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the second quinquennial session of Highland View Academy Incorporated will be held in connection with the regular quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on Sunday, April 22, 2007, at the Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church, 16325 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20905, at 11:30 a.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect board members and transact any other business as may come before the session at that time. Delegates to this meeting shall be the delegates of the Chesapeake Conference session.

**Robert T. Vandeman, President
Sheri Tydings, Secretary**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“YE OLDE CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY ALUMNI REUNION” will take place June 7 to 10, for Cedar Lake Academy alumni and warmly welcomed schoolmates of 1957 and earlier, on the campus of Great Lakes Adventist Academy (formerly CLA). Honor classes: 1937, 1947, and 1957. For information, call the GLAA Alumni Office at (989) 427-5181, or visit www.GLAA.net.

UNION COLLEGE HOMECOMING Alumni, friends, and former faculty are invited to “Meet Me at the Rock Pile,” April 5-8, 2007. Honor classes are 1937, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1967, 1977, 1982, 1987, and 1997. For more information contact the alumni office at (402) 486-2503, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506 or alumni@ucollege.edu.

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION— The Atholton Adventist Church, located in Columbia, Md., will be celebrating 50 years in God's service the weekend of April 27-29. All former members and friends are encouraged to join us. Needed—pictures, missionaries, and musicians that were former members. For more information, call (410) 997-8093 or visit our website at www.atholton.org.

Bulletin Board

	Feb. 9	Feb. 16	Feb. 23	Mar. 2	Mar. 9
Baltimore	5:36	5:44	5:52	6:00	6:07
Cincinnati	6:08	6:16	6:24	6:31	6:39
Cleveland	5:52	6:01	6:10	6:18	6:26
Columbus	6:00	6:09	6:17	6:25	6:32
Jersey City	5:23	5:32	5:40	5:48	5:56
Norfolk	5:39	5:46	5:53	6:00	6:07
Parkersburg	5:56	6:04	6:12	6:19	6:27
Philadelphia	5:29	5:37	5:45	5:53	6:01
Pittsburgh	5:48	5:56	6:04	6:12	6:20
Reading	5:32	5:40	5:48	5:56	6:11
Richmond	5:42	5:50	5:57	6:04	6:11
Roanoke	5:53	6:00	6:08	6:15	6:21
Toledo	6:00	6:09	6:17	6:26	6:34
Trenton	5:27	5:35	5:44	5:52	5:59
Wash., D.C.	5:38	5:46	5:54	6:02	6:09

SUNSET CALENDAR

A COMMUNITY PRAISE CENTER IN BOWIE, MD? The Community Praise Center Adventist Church in Alexandria, Va., has an exciting new evangelistic service every Sabbath at 5 p.m. in Bowie, Md., at the Bowie High School (15200 Annapolis Rd., Bowie, MD 20715). All believers that live in the Bowie, Largo, Landover, Upper Marlboro, Kettering, Capital Heights, Mitchellville, or the surrounding areas are invited to join us, as we are trained in evangelism and worship together. For more information, contact Pastor Melvyn Hayden III at pastormhayden@aol.com.

OBITUARIES

BOWARD, Harry J., born June 17, 1922, in Hagerstown, Md.; died November 14, 2006, in Hagerstown. He was a member of the Hagerstown church. Survivors: his son, H. Dean Boward and two grandsons, Michael D. and Mark D. Boward.

CRAIG, Helen C., born August 25, 1926, in Albion (Erie County), Pa.; died September 17, 2006, in Fairview (Erie County), Pa., at the age of 80. Helen was a fourth-generation Adventist and a member of the

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Erie church and worked for the denomination for 44 years. Helen was a graduate of Mt. Vernon Academy in Ohio, and received degrees from Washington Missionary College (now CUC), State Teachers College, and Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. Her teaching career began in western Pennsylvania from 1944-1957. For two years Helen was dean of girls at Indiana Academy, then moved to New Jersey in 1959, where she was a teacher and administrator for the next 16 years, and lastly as 9th-10th-grade teacher and principal of the Waldwick Adventist School. In 1975 she became the Chesapeake Conference elementary supervisor and in 1978 added Sabbath School Department director to her duties. In 1983 Helen became the associate director of the Sabbath School Department of the General Conference, writing and editing children's religious materials and traveling all over the world working with Vacation Bible schools. She retired to Erie, Pa., in 1988, where she remained active in community services and other church work. She outlived her five brothers, Jesse, Richard, Harold, Robert, and Frank, and two sisters, Myrtle Sanford and Mildred Davis. She will be keenly missed by several cousins and 21 devoted nieces, nephews, and their families.

FRITZ, Pat, born May 19, 1937, in Paramount, Calif.; died September 16, 2006, in Martinsburg, W.Va. She was a member of the Williamsport (Md.) church. Two of the things Pat loved most, were family and music, and they filled her childhood home. She took piano lessons, and by the time she was 12 it was clear that music would play an important role in her life. Her father bought her a Kimball console piano and that piano moved with her wherever she went. Her long fingers routinely graced the keyboard to relieve stress, express joy, commemorate special occasions, and create new traditions. Pat graduated from Lynwood Academy in 1955, and started classes at La Sierra College, where she particularly enjoyed her English classes. She worked briefly at the General Conference and then began her career at the Review and Herald Publishing Association from 1979-2002, where she worked in various capacities. In retirement, Pat stayed busy working on freelance editing projects for the Review, helping care for her aging mother, and taking spontaneous drives in the country with her husband Jerry. By far, her pride and joy was the family cookbook she published in 2005. She lovingly coaxed recipes from the family, catalogued, wrote, edited, and published what is now a cherished family heirloom. Pat is

survived by her husband Jerry; a son, John Fritz; and two daughters, Laurie Gauthier and Donna Bearden.

NELSON, Beverly J., born November 5, 1931, in Indianapolis, Ind.; died December 8, 2006, in Big Prairie, Ohio. She was a member of the Millersburg (Ohio) church. Beverly is survived by her husband, Roger E. Nelson; sons, Bruce R. (Anne) Nelson, Fred L. (Anna) Nelson; daughters, Audrey D. (Jack) Robinson, and Karen E. (Corbett) Arnold; grandchildren, Angela, Pamela, Holly, Ana Maria, Laura, Nathan, Lisa, Joshua, David, Caleb, and Scott.

ROOSENBURG, Jennifer A., born February 1, 1985, in Berrien Center, Mich.; died June 13, 2006, in Houston, Texas. She was a member of the Gentry (Ark.) church. Jennifer was the daughter of Pastor Tim and Karen Roosenberg of the Blythdale and Wilna churches in Maryland. The Roosenbergs have also pastored the Hagerstown, Md., and Gentry, Ark./Ozark Academy churches. Jennifer was a junior wellness major at Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas. She also worked three summers at Camp Yorktown Bay. In 2005 she was the girls' director. She died gracefully after a seven-month fight with leukemia. Jennifer is survived by her parents, Pastor Tim and Karen Roosenberg of Port Deposit, Md.; her brothers Michael and Caleb, both of Port Deposit; and her sister, Heidi DePaula, of Loma Linda, Calif.

SKEGGS, Helen, born January 16, 1914, in Baltimore, Md.; died November 29, 2006, in Chattanooga, Tenn. Helen was a charter member of the Chestertown (Md.) church. She is survived by her son, Elder Robert W. Skeggs and daughter-in-law, Thelma Skeggs; daughter, Janet Lewis; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

THORNTON, William W., born March 26, 1952, in Washington, D.C.; died October 28, 2006, in Lanham, Md. He was a member of the Seabrook (Md.) church. William and his wife Eleanor were previous members at the Brinklow, (Md.) church and the Pennsylvania Avenue (Wash. D.C.) church. He is survived by his wife Eleanor Thornton of New Carrollton, Md.; his daughters Adrienne, Nicole, Kimberly, and Ebone; two sisters, one brother, and a host of nieces and nephews.

TRIEVEL, Lottie, born February 24, 1922; died September 22, 2006, in Reading, Pa. She was a member of the Pottstown (Pa.) Charlotte Street church. She is survived by her daughter, Mary Kelly, and four other children.

WHITE, Marcella Earle, born March 21, 1952, in Washington, D.C.; died November 4, 2006, in Lanham, Md. She was a member of the Seabrook (Md.) church. Survivors: her husband Donald E. White; her son Flint N. White; her sisters Betty Elwood, Shirley Martin, Frances Tavenner, Linda Shaw, Paulette Ireland, and Brenda Phillips; and her brothers Joe, Richard, Mike, Doug, and Tom Geraci; and her mother, Marjorie L. (Smith) Geraci. She was preceded in death by her father, Claymore Geraci, and her sister Nancy Santangelo.

WOOD, Alice Jane, born July 21, 1927, in Norristown, Pa.; died June 8, 2006, in Hedgesville, W.Va. She was a member of the Williamsport (Md.) church. Survivors: her daughter, Linda Hile; sons, Richard Wood of Saskatchewan, Canada, Ronald Wood of Frederic, Wis.; her sisters Betty Water of Greenville, N.C., Althea Cree of Fredericksburg, Va., Dolores Master of Falling Waters, W.Va.; her brother, Robert Pohle of Dayton, Ohio; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

OBITUARY CORRECTION:

HILL (Bowman) Lois Jeanne, born March 12, 1929, in Pittsburgh, Pa.; died October 4, 2006, in Upper Marlboro, Md. She was a member of the Seabrook (Md.) church, where she displayed her passion to minister to the sick and shut-in of her church family. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, James R. Hill, Jr., of Upper Marlboro, Md.; her children: Dwight R. Hill of Dayton, Ohio, Lisa L. Hill Lux and husband Douglas of Miami Beach, Fla., Robbin K. Hill-Bowers and husband Donnell of Upper Marlboro, Md., and Stewart E. Hill and wife Sonya of Bowie, Md.; a sister Alyce Hartzler of Sacramento, Calif.; and three grandchildren: Rachael S. Hill of Oakland, Calif., and Solomon and Sydnee Hill of Bowie, Md.

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MONTE SAHLIN

Are We Serious About Mission?



Most of the 50 million people who live in our Columbia Union mission field live in just 10 metro areas (10 of the 25 largest in the United States)—Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Newark, Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Norfolk-Virginia Beach, and the suburbs of New York City in northern New Jersey.

However, most of our churches, members, and pastors are not located in these mission fields. The majority of our resources are deployed where only 15 percent of the population lives.

We have failed to follow the instruction found in the Spirit of Prophecy: “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me’” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143). We focus our efforts almost entirely on “reaping” and have done little “sowing” along the lines specified above—and the results are telling.

Over the past few years we have done detailed research of the situation in five of these metro areas, listing every community, the number of Adventist Church members living there (as well as noting the unentered neighborhoods), and what type of ministries these churches offer. Surveys of the general public revealed that two-thirds have never heard of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Most of the third who have can’t remember even one fact about our message and ministries.

SOWING SEEDS

In May 1999, to address this situation, the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee voted a strategy for Metro Initiatives in our 10 major metropolitan areas. Since that time, several innovative, experimental metro mission agencies have been established: Adventist Humanitarian Resource Center in Philadelphia, Adventist Community Development Services in Newark, Adventist Community Services of Greater Pittsburgh, and Baltimore Adventist Community Services. Two similar agencies have existed for a number of years: Good Neighbor House in Dayton and Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington. Several smaller projects are now underway: Symposia Community Bookstore in Hoboken, N.J.; Teen Esteem, a youth center in Cleveland; and Agora Community Center in Cincinnati.

These ministries, led and staffed by homeland missionaries, are a serious attempt to do what Ellen White wrote about a century ago. Much is riding on these experiments, and all of them need your prayers and support. How can *you* help?

Monte Sahlin is vice president for Creative Ministries for the Columbia Union Conference. Contact msahlin@columbiaunion.net or (800) 438-9600.

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