

CONNECTING | IMPACTING | CELEBRATING

# VISITOR

APRIL 2025 • VOL 111 • ISS 114



## Play Ball

Churches  
Winners Through  
Sports Leagues

+ 25 Ways to  
Bring Christ to  
Your Community  
This Summer



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Taashi Rowe

Members all over the Columbia Union Conference are playing softball, basketball, volleyball, and even bowling so they can share Christ with people in their communities. Could sports be a legitimate outreach ministry?



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You want to do your part to fulfill the gospel commission and bring the people in your community to Christ, but the question is “How?” Our summer evangelism guide will give you 25 practical ideas and tell you who’s already using them. Start planning now, so you’ll be ready for summer!

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On the Web

**Podcasts:** *April 1:* General Manager John Konrad talks about WGTS’ new chaplaincy ministry. *April 15:* Neville Harcombe and Celeste Ryan Blyden talk about Missions Abroad work in South Africa.

**Plus:** News, videos, photo blogs, old *Visitor* issues, and more.

**About the Cover:** Teddy Allen, who plays softball for Washington, D.C.’s, Capitol Hill Cardinals, was photographed by John C. Middlebrook.

So, You Want to be a Witness?

The children of God are called to be representatives of Christ, showing forth the goodness and mercy of the Lord” (*Steps to Christ*, p. 115). What kind of witness would I be if I incorporated these words from the last chapter of *Steps to Christ* into my character and practice? The book tells us that each of us is sent “as a letter” to our world where we are to exhibit God’s goodness and mercy. This demonstration is to reflect an accurate picture of Jesus and how He wants us to live, thus showing His service to be attractive.



Reading this passage makes me realize how much grace I need every day, and how much grace we *all* need every day. I regularly witness how we as Christians have allowed the devil to use us to *not* reflect a right picture of God. When we let him, Satan leads us to:

- Mistrust God with unbelief and despondency.
- Doubt God’s willingness and power to save us.
- Think God wants to do us harm.
- Murmur against God.
- Keep uppermost in our minds the unkind and unjust acts of others.
- Make the Christian life look gloomy, toilsome, and difficult.



WHAT IF WE ...

- What if we didn’t dwell on our mistakes, failures, and disappointments, let alone those of others?
- What if we looked upon the bright spots and victories that God has given us?
- What if we made it a rule “never to utter one word of doubt or discouragement?”
- What if we consistently gave words of hope and holy cheer?
- What if we were never gloomy or morose?
- What if we cultivated a patient tenderness with the faults of others?
- What if we cast all our cares upon Jesus and rested in His presence with a calm, cheerful spirit?

If doubting God’s love for us and distrusting His promises grieves away the Holy Spirit, what would happen if we constantly did the opposite, as further noted in *Steps to Christ*: “Let us look to the monumental pillars, reminders of what the Lord has done to comfort us and to save us from the hand of the destroyer. Let us keep fresh in our memory all the tender mercies that God has shown us—the tears He has wiped away, the pain He has soothed, the wants supplied, the blessings bestowed—thus strengthening ourselves for all that is before us” (p. 125).

How powerful our witness would be when taking the hand of a friend or making a new one, if we had praise to God on our lips and in our heart. Such a testimony will attract our friends and neighbors to Jesus. They will see the peace and joy of the obedient life, anchored in serving Christ and communing with Him. And no doubt, when you come around to invite them to your evangelism meetings and church programs, you’ll have already planted positive seeds for the harvest.

Larry Bogcess is president of the Mountain View Conference, headquartered in Parkersburg, W.Va.

The North American Division with Mark Finley presents ...

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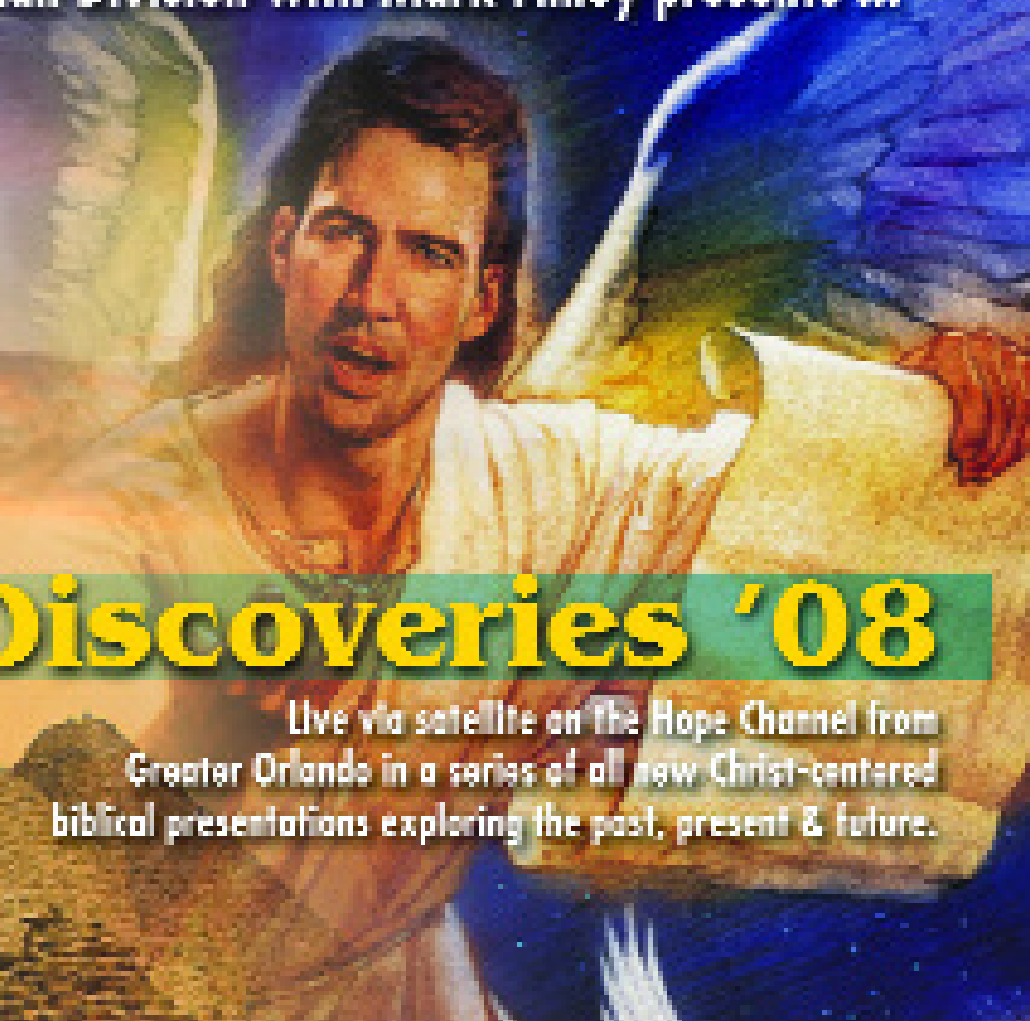
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## Spring Meeting Highlights

**E**ducation, Columbia Union College (CUC), and finances were high on the agenda during last month's Columbia Union Conference spring meetings. Conference presidents also discussed current evangelism initiatives, and many said they are seeking new ways to address obstacles to growth. The New Jersey Conference, for example, is engaging its pastors in "40 Days of Spiritual Intimacy with Jesus." Allegheny East Conference is studying the demographics and needs of its target audiences and using the findings in church-planting efforts. Potomac Conference is focused on creating healthy churches. Pennsylvania and Mountain View conference leaders are thrilled that so many members are getting involved in evangelism (i.e., giving Bible studies). "We recently had more than 300 members—including Philadelphia's Korean church (pictured)—participate in Equipping University with our



pastors," reported Pennsylvania president Ray Hartwell. "Our goal is to lead churches into mission, raise up lay pastors, and equip members to take Pennsylvania for Christ."

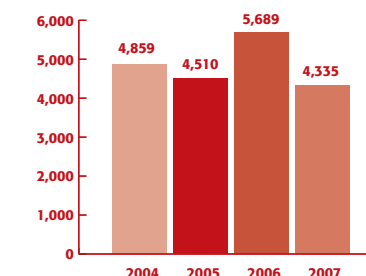
### Tithe Up \$2 Million

At the end of 2007, total union tithe was \$113.1 million, a \$2 million increase over 2006. Treasurer **Seth Bardu** says most of the money is forwarded to the General Conference, the North American Division, and back to the local conference. The Columbia Union retains \$9.1 million for operations, CUC, retirement, and financial auditing. About 20 percent of this also goes back to local conferences. And according to Frank Bondurant, vice president for Ministries Development, an additional \$200,000 will be used to seed local conference projects this year.



### Baptisms Down

Baptisms fell across the union from 5,689 in 2006 to 4,335 in 2007 (see graph). Union president Dave Weigley called for greater correlation between tithe and evangelism. "When you put resources behind the mission, you drive the mission forward," he said. He plans to set up a



thinktank to brainstorm strategies for bringing more of the 50 million people in this eight-state territory to Christ. Overall, unionwide membership increased to 124,700.

### Educators Approve Early Childhood, Distance Education

The Columbia Union Board of Education voted to pursue a distance education pilot program for K-12 students and teachers and to hire someone part time to identify and align all Early Childhood Education programs in the Columbia Union territory with church and government laws, policies, and accreditation requirements.

### CUC Board Approves Strategic Plan

Just 65 days into his new job, CUC president **Weymouth Spence, EdD**, gave his first report to Executive Committee members. He announced four major actions the CUC Board of Trustees had taken to strengthen the college. They approved his updated strategic plan, immediate implementation of a three-school model, \$2.8 million in budget cuts, and affirmation of the school's location. "We are staying in Takoma Park, Md., and are committed to revitalizing our present campus," Spence noted. See the full story in *The Gateway* newsletter on page 31.



# News From the Office of Ministries Development

## Disaster Response Leaders Unite, Plan, and Train

Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACSDR) leaders from seven local conferences (below), clad in their familiar yellow shirts, gathered at the Columbia Union Conference headquarters recently for an advisory council.



Potomac Conference Disaster Response coordinator Bob Mitchell, who also serves as Columbia Union coordinator, facilitated the meeting. Sung Kwon, director of Adventist Community Services (ACS) for the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists (NAD) and its Disaster Response arm, was also present and shared news about NAD's newly revised training curriculum.

Attendees engaged in lively discussion about the union's Disaster Response Action Plan and the union coordinator's job description. Each conference leader gave a brief report on their disaster preparedness activities. In addition to her report, Kitty Juneau, Chesapeake Conference ACSDR coordinator, led the group on a tour of her



conference's trailers (above) and explained how they could be used for disaster response.

Each of the participants left with a better understanding of their roles in disaster response and a renewed sense of unity and commitment to this vital ministry. To keep the channels of communication open, Mitchell and the conference coordinators plan to convene quarterly teleconferences.

## Community Mapping Project Completed in Allegheny East

Carl Sobremisana, project manager for the Community



Youth Mapping Project, recently completed a demographic analysis of

Jersey City and Montclair, N.J. The project was organized by leaders of the Columbia Union's Newark metro initiative—Adventist Community Development Services (ACDS)—and funded by NAD ACS.

According to Sobremisana, community mapping is a

method of discovering what social services are being offered in a particular geographical area and comparing that with the findings of community needs assessments. Local civic organizations use this information to determine what kind of programming is needed in a community. Now Adventist churches are using it as well.

For this study, young people from Allegheny East Conference's Beth-el church in Jersey City and the First church of Montclair surveyed the community and gathered the raw data. Sobremisana's report will help Adventist churches as they seek to reach and impact their communities. Because of the project, visibility of the Adventist Church has increased, and ACDS is now recognized as a partner and leader in the community.

## Pennsylvania Trains Members to Lead With Compassion

Eight Pennsylvania Conference churches and groups gathered in Harrisburg recently for Social Action Leadership Training (SALT). Their focus was to equip and prepare members to become actively involved in their communities through compassion ministries and make disciples for Christ.

The main presenter was Gaspar Colón, PhD, professor of Religion and director of the Center for Metropolitan Ministry at Columbia Union College (CUC) in Takoma Park, Md. Throughout the weekend, he shared the biblical basis for community action and social justice and challenged attendees to become "transformation

agents" in their communities.

Other presenters included Tamyra Horst, conference communication director and a coach for their Natural Church Development initiative. She instructed and led the members in team-building exercises. Andy Clark, director of the ACS Greater Pittsburgh ministry initiative and a CUC graduate, talked about how to gain a better understanding of a community and its needs from demographic research, interviews, and mapping.

Colón closed the weekend with a planning session. All of the participating leaders, including those from Allentown church (below), established goals for their churches, set deadlines, and received homework assignments, which they must have completed by this month's follow-up training session.



"This innovative SALT curriculum will help our churches create a positive balance between community service and evangelistic outreach," says Pennsylvania president Ray Hartwell. "It will help our churches to be healthy, grow, and benefit their communities."

## Bible Worker Aids Philadelphia Effort

As part of their 2008 evangelism initiative, the Pennsylvania Conference's

Philadelphia churches have enlisted the help of Bible worker Lillian Torres, who previously worked on Mountain View and Potomac conference efforts. Starting with the Philadelphia Boulevard and Lansdale (Pa.) churches, her plan is to assist and train members—a few churches at a time—to follow-up on the Bible study interests received from promotional mailings.



This is just one component of the conference's evangelistic initiative here, which includes tentative plans for citywide and regional evangelistic meetings and the planting of a new church in South Philadelphia. Area pastors (above), who recently met with Torres (seated), believe her efforts will complement and strengthen their ongoing outreach initiatives.

## Conferences Team-up for Disaster Response Drill

Chesapeake, New Jersey, and Ohio conferences recently collaborated to host an ACSDR training exercise at the Cherry Hill, N.J. church. More than 30 volunteers participated in the hands-on drill that was designed to assimilate the type of collection center operation that would be implemented in times of disaster.

Led by Chesapeake ACSDR coordinator Kitty Juneau and a team of experienced volunteers—Mark Hann, Ann Sulkowski, Clayton Flowers, and Richard and Connie Geer—attendees were taught how to receive, sort, and process donated goods and manage such an operation. They also role-played contact with donors, disaster survivors, public media, and community officials.

On-hand and lending additional expertise for the daylong training were union ACSDR coordinator Bob Mitchell; New Jersey's conference director, J. Wayne Hancock, and local co-coordinators, Norman Talley of the Tranquility (N.J.) church and Cherry Hill's Claudia Ramirez; and Ohio's coordinator, Pastor Roy Nelson.

Through this event and another recent training session for 56 volunteers, participants and leaders recognized the importance of having conferences and churches work



together in times of disaster. For their exemplary work over the years, ACSDR has been recognized by FEMA as one of the top voluntary organizations active in disaster response. —Joseph Luste, PhD

For more news and photos, visit [www.columbiaunion.org](http://www.columbiaunion.org).

## Potluck

BETH MICHAELS

### What's New?

#### Music > *Two Boards and Three Nails Blue Morning*

"It all started in a little, one-teacher school," recalls group member Mark Mirek. "Two boys (in grades 7-8) picked up a banjo and guitar and refused to put



them down." After adding a few more musicians, most from Ohio Conference's Piqua

church, their "organic" blue-grass/gospel band was born.

That was six years ago. The group now has seven members, aged 20 to 58, who sing and

### Did You Know?

Due to increasingly smaller demand, Postum—the favorite non-caffeinated beverage of many an Adventist—is now officially off the market. Thankfully, Columbia Union members can still find Roma, carob, chicory, and other coffee alternatives at your local Adventist Book Center.



play instruments like the mandolin, dobro, and fiddle. This sophomore release includes two cover tunes and 15 original songs, written primarily by Mirek and Brian Walker.

The group regularly plays for church events and community music fests. "Being a part of this group is a blessing," states 20-year-old Nathan Wagoner. "Through all our practice and performing, if just one person comes to Christ, it [will be] well worth it."

Sample and order their CD at [www.myspace.com/bluemorningband](http://www.myspace.com/bluemorningband).

#### Books > *Sixty-Six Puzzles About the Book of Sixty-Six, Book 2* Gwen Bradford Norwood

Empty nest syndrome drove author Gwen Bradford Norwood of Allegheny East



Conference's Pine Forge (Pa.) church to create a fun way to learn the gospel.

"When my youngest daughter went to college," she explains, "I prayed and the answer was 'Write puzzles.'" Since then the mother of three, who serves as a Sabbath School teacher, assistant treasurer, deaconess, and Personal Ministries leader, has written seven such books geared toward people age 8 and up. "By the time Book 7 is published, all of the doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be in puzzle form," she states.

The 145-page book is chock

full of crossword, word search, fill-in-the-blank, and other brainteasers and will challenge people at all knowledge levels.

Schoolteachers, Sabbath School leaders, or anyone looking for a creative way to test their Bible knowledge or teach others, can purchase both editions at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) or request them through Barnes and Noble bookstores.



#### Technology > Online Music Store TheChristianJukebox.com

"With CD purchases decreasing, and downloads increasing, we felt this was the perfect way to help independent artists get exposure and spread their music through the Web," says Sandra Marley (above, left), vice president of TheChristianJukebox.com and a member of Allegheny East Conference's (AEC) Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C. She caught the vision of creator, president, and Web designer/programmer Simone Henry—a member of AEC's Capitol Hill



PHOTO BY DEREK MARLEY

church in D.C.—and the two singers and music lovers launched their self-funded site in October 2006. It currently gets 120,000 hits per month.

Approved artists of any genre who demonstrate a true

commitment to Christ can upload their music at no charge. Listeners can pay to download full albums or individual songs. Marley also reports that TheChristianJukebox.com partners with Internet radio stations, which interview and feature their artists. For more info, email [info@thechristianjukebox.com](mailto:info@thechristianjukebox.com) or call (877) 253-8986.

### WholeHealth

#### Busy Running To and Fro

Are you always racing, yet running behind? Feeling overwhelmed with the daily vortex of information that flows from your iPhone, Blackberry, PDA, voicemail, and email?

You may be experiencing what Edward Hallowell, Harvard psychiatrist and author of *CrazyBusy: Overstretched, Overbooked, and About to Snap!*, identifies as attention deficit trait, or ADT.

Manifesting symptoms similar to attention deficit disorder, ADT is actually culturally induced by our information-overloaded, multi-tasking, 24/7, fast-paced, modern lifestyles. Like a computer that operates somewhat erratically and slower than usual when several applications are running simultaneously, too many demands



on our time, energy, and attention have a negative impact on our well-being and efforts to live healthfully. Maybe this is what the angel foresaw when he told Daniel that in the end of time "many shall run to and fro" (Daniel 12:4).

Isaiah 46:10 offers the solution for busy Christians who want to focus on what's important in life, instead of merely reacting to demands for attention: "Be still and know that I am God." Why not intentionally create space each day to escape the busyness. This brief, reflective time could transform your life from busy to focused.—Lilly Tryon, MSN, RN, Adventist WholeHealth Wellness Center

### On a Mission > ACS of Greater Washington

Nestled in the pastoral setting of Sligo Avenue, in Takoma Park, Md., Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington—which opened in 1983—is a bustling center of compassionate activity. Supported by six area churches and stemming from the long history between Seventh-day Adventists and the city, it is considered "the" social services provider for Takoma Park.



Current executive director Ron Wylie (left) and his staff and volunteers open their doors Monday through Thursday to those in need. Each year they help over 6,500 people with basic services (food and clothing); housing and prescription assistance; and health education classes in conjunction with neighboring Washington Adventist Hospital. Community education is another component of the center's ministry. They offer three computer classes and ongoing ESL classes. They're also developing nutrition and food preparation classes and others to help the city's burgeoning immigrant population succeed in their new homeland.

Thanks to a newly acquired "memo of collaboration" with three local organizations, the center now provides students with computer and technology training after school. This service has already helped the staff acquire upgraded computers for their teaching lab and administrative network.

In addition to the physical needs he encounters daily, Wylie is also concerned about the spiritual needs of his clients. "Our purpose is to lead people to a personal relationship with the Lord that can provide them with peace and hope in spite of despairing circumstances," he says. To that end, he plans to offer "crisis ministry" training for lay pastors.—Frank Bondurant



# Play Ball

*Taashi Rowe*

Last October Corinne Rawling, and several other members of the Potomac Conference's Radford (Va.) Seventh-day Adventist Church, joined a local Christian volleyball league. They lost every game they played. But for the 48-year-old Rawling, and her teammates, playing the sport wasn't about winning and losing in the traditional sense. It was a way to interact with people whom they normally wouldn't.

Rawling says playing sports allows friendships to form in a natural way that doesn't happen when you walk up to strangers and hand them tracts. "You can't reach people as deeply without friendship," she explains. "When someone has an issue, they are more likely to come to you, and then you may have an opportunity to witness."



Rawling isn't the only Adventist who sees sports as more than just a way to get exercise. Members all over the Columbia Union Conference are playing softball, basketball, volleyball, and even bowling so they can share Christ with people in their communities. Some have also started sports leagues that engage multiple churches in seasonal games. While it may not always be written in their bylaws, these churches see sports as a legitimate ministry.

◆ **Basketball Scores 10 Baptisms** ◆ When the Emmanuel and Maranatha churches in Cincinnati, Ohio, joined the Allegheny West Conference's basketball league three years ago, no one could have predicted that 10 players would join the Adventist Church. Gary Ward Jr., 29, admits that when he talked to his pastor about starting a team, he just wanted to play a game he loved.

Lloydston Burton, who pastors both churches, opened up the team to community residents with the understanding that they would not swear, do drugs or alcohol, and that all team members would attend church on the Sabbaths there was a game. Once he had the green light, Ward invited his friends and cousins to join the "Saints."

"After attending services, they were able to see what our church was all about," Ward recalls.

"They saw that it's not just a one day thing; members call during the week to see how you're doing."

Ward, who saw young men leave the church because they felt limited by it, sees basketball as a way to prevent that. "If you go to a public school, basketball games are on Friday [nights] so Adventists can't join the team," he says. "If you take something away from someone, you have to replace it. You can't say no to everything. We have to show that you can believe in God *and* have fun; you don't have to sacrifice one for the other."



For Ward, basketball is also a way of giving something back. "Some don't see basketball as a ministry," he says. "But everybody has a different [spiritual] gift, a different way to minister."

His cousin, Marlyn Banks, 27, joined Emmanuel in August 2004. Banks said basketball alone did not bring him into the Adventist Church. But because he had to attend services to stay on the team, he heard a message that was pivotal in solidifying his decision. "It was one of those sermons where I felt like the pastor was talking to me," Banks recalls. He also felt welcomed and comfortable attending church with his basketball friends and knew he could share questions and concerns with the pastor.

◆ **Every Kid Ought to Play Baseball** ◆

Every summer, for the past seven years, more than 200 kids—ages 5 to 15—get to play baseball in an atmosphere of prayer through the Spencerville church's league in Silver Spring, Md. "From day one, parents, coaches, and members are given slips of paper listing the players' names so they can pray for them," says Kevin Davidson, senior division commissioner of the Spencerville Adventist Baseball League ([www.leaguelineup.com/sabl](http://www.leaguelineup.com/sabl)).

They accept every child who wants to play baseball, whether they attend Adventist, other Christian, or public schools. "This is about inclusion not separation," Davidson says. "Every kid ought to be playing baseball, and they should be playing in a Christian league."



While he can't say for sure that anyone has joined this Chesapeake Conference church from playing on the team, he believes the bond that team sports create affords each coach "a phenomenal [opportunity] to reach a kid's heart for God." He also points out that the kids are learning physical and mental skills and how to react to situations in a Christ-like way.

When asked if he sees the league as a ministry, Davidson responds, "When you start from a place of prayer, how can it not be?"



◆ **Softball, Barbeques, and Bible Studies** ◆

"It's easier to say, 'Come play ball with us!' than to invite people to church," says Michael McDaniel, 47, who has coached and played for Washington, D.C.'s Capitol Hill Cubs,



Athletics, and Cardinals softball teams for 14 years. But win or lose, this Allegheny East Conference church—part of the Metropolitan Area Adventist Softball Association that includes nine churches—always has a barbeque after the game. McDaniel, who recently became the league's commissioner, believes this environment makes it easy for members to get to know people outside of the church and vice versa.

In addition to the picnics, the league allows five nonmembers out of 25 people to join each team. There is no intense recruiting, but players often invite family, friends, and co-workers to participate or watch the game. As the relationships grow, they offer Bible studies and invite nonmembers to church. As a result, McDaniel knows of several players who have joined Washington-area churches.

"What you don't want is a team with eight or nine [people] who just want to play softball and have no interest in God," he notes. "This is not about winning some athletic scholarship. But it is about having fun and *also* about witnessing."

◆ **Standing Up for Our Faith** ◆

Jeff Thomas, a fifty-something elder at the Parkersburg (W.Va.) church, remembered how much fun the church had when they played volleyball years ago. So when members talked about rejoining the local Christian league, he looked forward to playing again.



Thomas, the team's coach, says that even though the league asks people who play to attend church twice a month, their main goal is to have fun—not push anyone to join.

Although they only started playing again in January, he has already seen its potential as a ministry. League tournaments used to be played on Friday evenings, so his team was prepared to forfeit those games. But organizers informed him that they changed the tournaments to Tuesdays and Thursdays so Adventists can play. "It is wonderful when we can witness like that, when people can see what we are doing, see us standing up for our faith," Thomas says.

It's also wonderful to see Adventists getting out into the community to play ball and share our faith!

*Taashi Rowe writes from Takoma Park, Md.*

*We have to show that you can believe in God and have fun; you do not have to sacrifice one for the other.*

*—Gary Ward Jr.*



# Historic Anniversary Celebration

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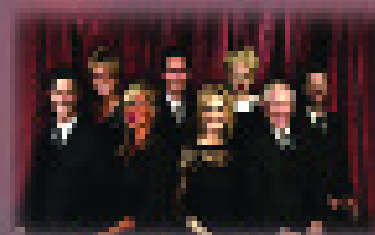


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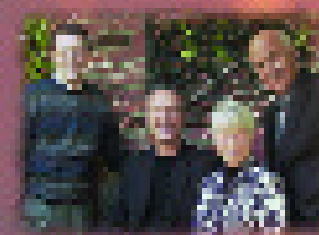
Saturday, May 10, 2008

Kettering Seventh-day Adventist Church Campus

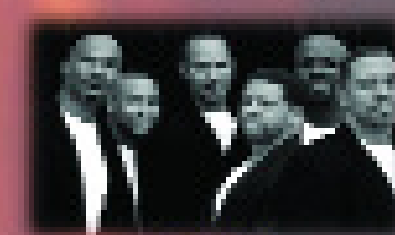
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# Get Out There!

## Ways to Bring Christ to Your Community This Summer

Compiled by Celeste Ryan Blyden, Mike Stevenson, Sam Belony, Sherry English, and Kris Stevenson

You want to do your part to fulfill the gospel commission and bring the people in your community to Christ, but the question is “How?”

As Ellen White counseled in *Christ's Object Lessons*, “We are not to wait for souls to come to us; we must seek them out where they are” (p. 229). So this summer, before you put up the tents, rent the halls, print the brochures, or knock on doors, get out there and mingle as one who desires the good of your community.

We hope this six-page guide—filled with practical ideas, innovative ideas, and even some new twists on old ideas—will help you get started:



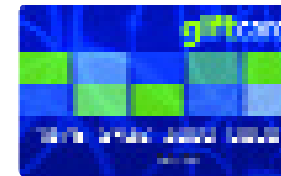
**1. Host a car show.** That's one way to get people to locate the Adventist church. New Jersey's Meadow View Junior Academy in Chesterfield is getting ready for its eighth annual antique car show, flea market, and fundraiser that attracts hundreds annually. Mt. Holly pastor Bob Hoyt shows off his 1950 Studebaker and enjoys meeting members of the community.

**2. Adopt a police officer or fireman.** Some churches adopt highways. But if you want to know the people in your neighborhood, why not visit them, pray for them, and honor them. Until recently Potomac's Takoma Park (Md.) church pastor, Dan Pabon, served as chaplain of the local police force where he spent time listening, praying with officers, and counseling them during difficult times.

**3. Give a caregiver a day off.** In every community, people care for elderly parents, disabled children, or others in need of constant support. This can be a lonely, draining responsibility where even the thought of complaining would cause undue feelings of guilt. Find them and offer to stay with their loved one so they can

take a break, go out for a meal, or run errands.

**4. Minister to military families.** Some soldiers are on their second and third deployments to Iraq.



No doubt their families could use a listening ear or helping hand. To help their children have a good holiday, WGTS, the radio station of Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md., held a gift card drive that yielded \$28,800.

**5. Plan a block party.** Be sure to get permission from authorities and support from neighbors. Chesapeake's Hagerstown (Md.) church shared health tips, veggie dogs, and music at last year's “Fun in the Sun” event, which drew 100 visitors. Allegheny East's (AEC) Garden of Prayer congregation in Baltimore had a fish fry, music, games, and a flea market.



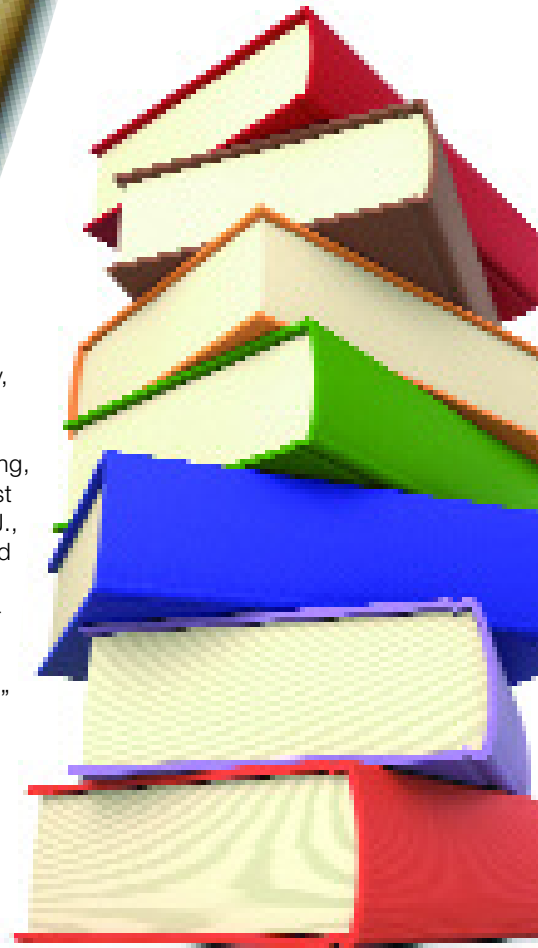
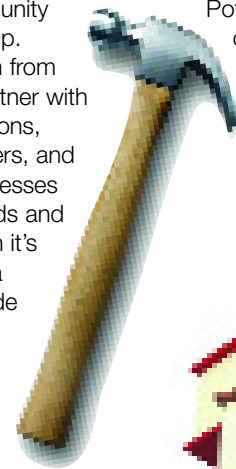
“We wanted to become better acquainted with our community and get back in touch with members who had strayed,” says Pastor Ron Edmonds. The event produced several new attendees.

**6. Organize an extreme makeover.** No need to call Ty Pennington. Once you've identified a home, park, or other community eyesore, fix it up. Get permission from authorities, partner with area organizations, recruit volunteers, and ask local businesses to donate goods and services. When it's finished, hold a community-wide dedication and celebration for everyone involved.

**7. Change your mindset.** If you want to reach the community, make sure your church is community-minded. That's what David L. King, Sr., pastor of AEC's First church of Paterson, N.J., emphasizes. “I redefined ‘community’ and told members that the community is where they are—on the bus, at work, where they shop,” he says. With this new understanding, members found it easier to witness. Soon visitors started coming from

their jobs and neighborhoods. As a result, they're enjoying a “steady stream of baptisms.”

**8. Start a book club.** Why should Oprah have all the fun? Invite friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers to participate and choose books that make for thought-provoking discussions. The Women's Ministries Book Club from Potomac's Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., is currently reading *A Commonwealth of Thieves*.







**9. Take summer camp beyond our borders.** While summer camps across the Columbia Union serve hundreds of Adventist youth (contact your conference youth department for 2008 schedules), two conferences have taken outreach to new heights:

**Mentoring Prisoners' Kids** - Thanks to Edith Tucker, president of Allegheny East Conference's Prison Ministries Federation, 60 to 70 children of incarcerated parents get to attend Camp Daniel L. Davis in Pine Forge, Pa. "While it's easy to minister to those without problems, I knew these 'at risk' children would truly benefit from a camp experience," she says. While they enjoy a week outdoors, their surrogates—grandparents or other relatives—get a break. When the kids return

home, these caregivers report improved behavior at home and school. As a result of the 3-year-old program, there have been several baptisms.

**Helping Single Moms** - When Ohio Conference youth director Mike Stevenson heard about the Indiana Conference's program for single mothers and their children, he decided to try it. At a cost of \$50 per mother and \$25 per child—often paid by local churches—they get to spend a week at Camp Mohaven in Danville, Ohio, relaxing and rejuvenating their bodies, minds, and souls. While the youth participate in Cub or Junior camp activities, their mothers attend seminars on a range of subjects, from managing finances to running a household. Last year, 11 moms and their children attended.—*Sherry English*



**10. Sponsor a "back to school" giveaway.**

Some families really can't afford all the supplies kids need for school. That's why AEC's Trinity Temple members in Newark, N.J., created "Knowledge in a Bag." Last fall they distributed 300 bags of school supplies to children in their community. Then at Christmas they gave

away over 250 toys. With these and other caring initiatives, it's no wonder they had more than 50 baptisms last year.

**11. Pray for opportunities to witness.**

That's what Potomac's Radford church did last year, and they were not disappointed. After a church picnic July 4, a few members returned to watch the local fireworks

because their location has a good viewing spot. Upon arrival, they were surprised to see the parking lot filling up with community residents! "I think they were surprised to see us too," laughs Radford member and conference communication director Don Wood. Not passing up an opportunity to serve, the small congregation scrambled to make a few light snacks to share. "It was a very spontaneous thing, but it

opened the door to additional community outreach," Wood says. Later that month, they kicked off an eight-week health series and several residents attended.



**12. Go green.** We know Jesus is coming soon, but while He tarries, do what you can to care for the environment. Make sure your church, school, and community recycles, and host a free workshop with expert speakers and community leaders.

**13. Invite your community to potluck.** Hold it in the church or in the park after church. Add music, stir in a children's story, and share practical tips like the eight principles of health (i.e., water, air, rest), and you'll have a great recipe to whet their appetite for VBS.

**14. Be the center of your community.** That's what Ohio's Village church did when they opened Agora, a used bookstore in a business storefront in downtown Mason. After hours it's used for community meetings, workshops, literary readings, film screenings,

musical performances, cultural events, and to display the work of local artists.

**15. Join the club.** Or start one like Russell and Marquita Thomas of Allegheny West's Southeast church in Cleveland. Their Umoja marriage club provides a safe place for couples to talk about issues, discuss books, and grow their unions. Now, who in your community wouldn't benefit from such a positive small group ministry?



**16. Be like Rocky Twyman.** Unless tragedy affects our members, most of us are content to watch the news and pray from afar. Not Rocky Twyman. This resourceful member of Allegheny East's New Life church in Gaithersburg, Md., seeks out those who are hurting and works to bring healing. Over the years, he has organized prayer vigils for families affected by crime; bone marrow drives for people he'd never met; and concerts in hospitals, prisons, and other places where people



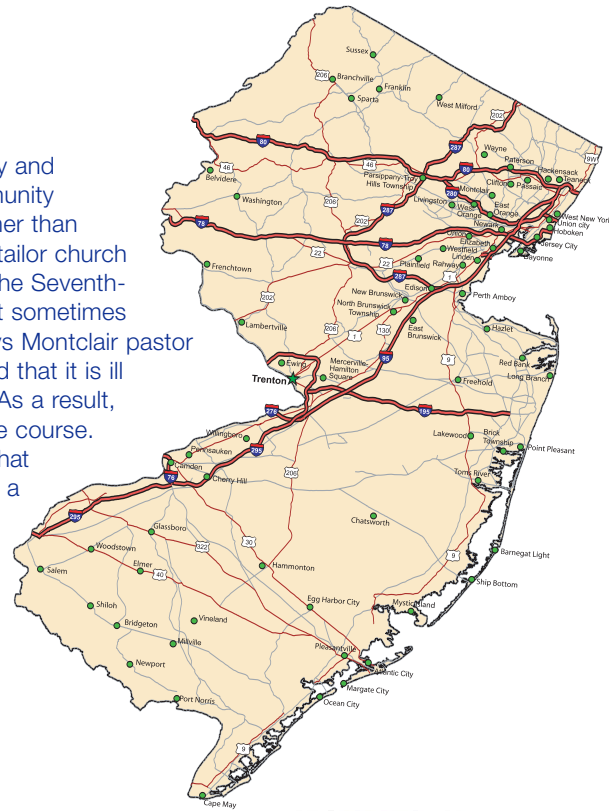
need hope. Because of his collaborative approach and deft public relations skills, many Adventist churches have been featured in the public media.

**17. Embark on a homeland mission trip.** It's less expensive, helps raise awareness of your church, and lets your community know you care. Pastor Mike Fortune and Ohio's First church of Toledo remodeled a "pocket park" across the street from the local women's shelter. Not only did the mayor lead the ribbon-cutting ceremony, their efforts garnered great media coverage.



**18. Map your success.** AEC's Beth-el church in Jersey City and First church of Montclair recently partnered with Adventist Community Development Services to make a "map" of their community. Rather than plotting roads, this map enables churches to identify needs and tailor church programs to meet those needs. "[One of] the greatest needs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in reaching the community is to realize that sometimes what we offer is not necessarily what the community needs," says Montclair pastor Moses Eli. From their assessments, his church quickly discovered that it is ill equipped to meet the needs of its expanding Latino population. As a result, they're developing an English as a Second Language course.

Another challenge revealed in their findings is that pornography and alcohol addictions are taking a heavy toll on the families and churches in the area. Future plans include seminars to teach people how to contain those addictions.—*Sam Belony*



**19. Go to the fair.** Holiday parades, county fairs, and Little League are summer's community fixtures. Have your Pathfinders march in the Memorial Day parade

like Chesapeake's Westminster (Md.) Timberwolves. Create a message float like members of Potomac's Staunton (Va.) church. Sponsor an exhibit at the fair like Chesapeake's Frederick (Md.) church.

**20. Go surfing.** Over 70 percent of Americans (208 million) are on the Internet and many use it to seek spiritual enrichment. To connect with Latinos, Potomac's PC Jovenes ministry hosts a very

popular youth website—[www.pcjovenes.com](http://www.pcjovenes.com)—and a social networking page on Facebook. In addition, Mountain View's Hannah Hendron, 11, created a blog called GEMS (Girls Embracing Moral Standards). Not to be outdone, her brother Benjamin, 9, created BIG (Boys Instigating Good). Both promote spiritual values to their peers. Visit [www.gemsclub.wordpress.com](http://www.gemsclub.wordpress.com) and [www.bigclub.wordpress.com](http://www.bigclub.wordpress.com).

**21. Chill at your local coffee shop.** If you want to be where the people are, you'll no doubt find them chillin' at your local java joint this summer. That's where central Pennsylvania



pastor Lonnie Wibberding (above) sets up a sign and offers free counseling (really!). The pastor of six churches and mission plants was intent on making friends in a county where there's not one Adventist church. In time he met the owner, who also runs a computer shop upstairs, and they decided to start a youth ministry together.



**22. Teach life skills.** Wouldn't it be great if there were a curriculum to teach youth the skills necessary to succeed in life? Paula Olivier (pictured, center), assistant pastor of AEC's Church of the Oranges in Orange, N.J., believed there should be, and proceeded to create one.

She got the idea during her senior year in college, but it was seven years before she launched the LifeSkills Academy with 12 participants—six church members and six community youth—who were instructed in five areas: basic auto care, job readiness, financial literacy, income tax preparation, and teen health.

The response was overwhelming. Community leaders, including the mayor, were thrilled and lent their support. A

local newspaper and a television station covered the story. Churches—Adventist and other denominations (one in South Africa!)—and even the local high school, expressed interest in implementing similar programs.

One year wiser, Pastor Olivier is working with community leaders and organizations to launch this summer's program. It will last six weeks (instead of three), accommodate 15 students, and involve a more comprehensive curriculum with education on drug prevention, sexually transmitted diseases, and housing. Students will also be required to volunteer at local businesses for 20 hours where they'll be evaluated for professionalism and ethical conduct.

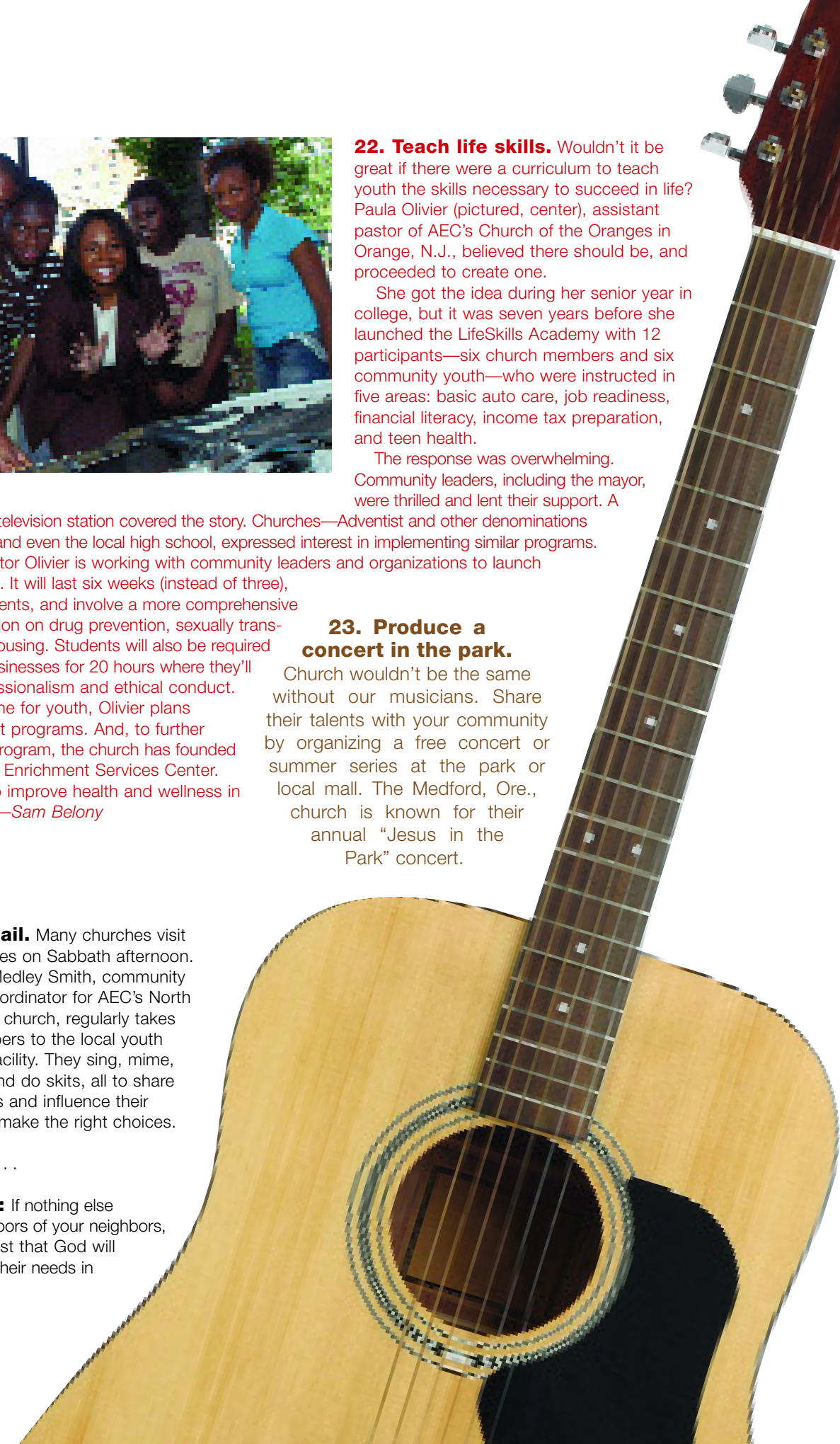
In addition to the one for youth, Olivier plans to develop similar adult programs. And, to further expand this outreach program, the church has founded the Community Family Enrichment Services Center. Through it, they aim to improve health and wellness in and beyond their city.—*Sam Belony*

**23. Produce a concert in the park.**

Church wouldn't be the same without our musicians. Share their talents with your community by organizing a free concert or summer series at the park or local mall. The Medford, Ore., church is known for their annual "Jesus in the Park" concert.

**24. Go to jail.** Many churches visit nursing homes on Sabbath afternoon. But Diane Medley Smith, community outreach coordinator for AEC's North Philadelphia church, regularly takes 30-35 members to the local youth correctional facility. They sing, mime, share poetry, and do skits, all to share positive messages and influence their incarcerated peers to make the right choices.

**25. Knock, Knock:** If nothing else works, knock on the doors of your neighbors, befriend them, and trust that God will use you to minister to their needs in *His* time and *His* way.



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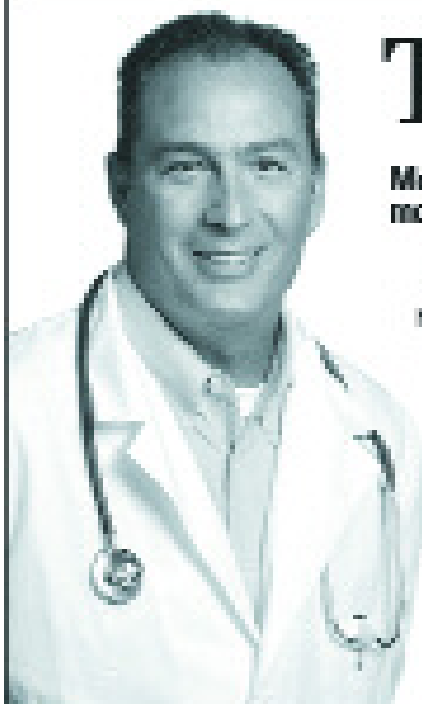
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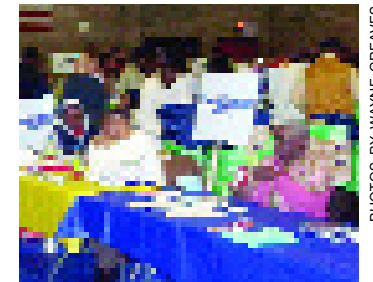
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## Church of the Oranges Serves Area Homeless

As a result of members' sincere desire to get out of the pews and positively affect their community, the Church of the Oranges in Orange, N.J., recently got involved in a string of neighborhood activities. One such activity came as a result of a new relationship the church developed with the assistant director of the city's Community Services. He contacted them when it came time for the city's Project Homeless Connect (PHC).



PHOTOS BY WAYNE GREAVES



Church of the Oranges members Ann Sanderson; Carlene Pennicook, Health Ministries leader; and Keith Morris distribute health and other helpful materials to area homeless.

PHC is a one-day, one-stop event where various community organizations come together to assist the homeless. The services included legal advice; clothing donation; and information on health, housing, and public benefits. The event was held on a Tuesday in a local skating rink. More than 60 community organizations participated and served more than 500 homeless men, women, and children. The church's Health Ministries department distributed pamphlets on addiction, substance abuse, and parenting. Through members' in-kind and cash donations, the church was also able to distribute 360 toiletry bags.

"Having accomplished a successful collaboration with the city, the city is taking a more active role in helping us with our own community initiatives," stated assistant pastor Paula Olivier. "On April 30, the church is sponsoring a prostate screening. The city has volunteered to help us recruit and publicize it through flyer distribution and free advertising on the cable television station." She added, "This initial experience has opened the door for further partnerships that will help to maximize our efforts to impact the community for Christ."

## Virginia Ministerium Hosts First Elders Banquet



Female elders from the Virginia Ministerium share a light moment.

The pastors of the Virginia Ministerium hosted their first local elders banquet at a conference center in downtown Portsmouth. More than 100 local elders and their spouses, from each of the ministerium's 15 churches, attend-

ed along with each church pastor and their spouse.

Michael W. Dyson, a district pastor in Suffolk and Franklin, Va., coordinated the evening. Adventist Chaplain Raynard Allen, stationed in Norfolk, was the guest speaker. Recording artist Kimberly Palmer presented the evening's special music.

"We wanted this occasion to celebrate the ministry

efforts and support of our local church elders," said Pastor Gary Banks, Virginia area leader. Banks further defined the threefold purpose of the event: "We also wanted to strengthen the bonds between pastors and their elder teams, and to encourage all of our local elders to attend the training provided by the Allegheny East Conference (AEC) during its annual elders retreat." He added, "The pastor and elder are a team that can do a mighty work when under the direction of the Holy Spirit."

—Michael Dyson



More than 100 elders and their spouses from the Virginia Ministerium registered to attend their first local elders banquet.

PHOTOS BY LARRY MENNIS

## Baltimore Junior Academy Opens New Gymnasium

Honorable guests, church members, students, parents, and friends gathered recently to celebrate the grand opening of Baltimore Junior Academy's (BJA) new gymnasium. The day started with an open house where principal Dorine E. Robinson, school board chair Kenneth Jones, BJA national alumni president LaShawn Williams, and area home and school leader Veronica Williams all provided special remarks.

Later attendees made their way to the gymnasium for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The Liberty Heights church Pathfinder Drum Corps (below) started the celebration by posting the colors. BJA's upper and lower division choir provided special music. Special recognition was given to those who have played a special part in the construction of the new gym, including C.D. Jenkins, building committee chair and pastor of the city's Sharon church. BJA is also the current home to the Garden of Prayer congregation.

Honorable guests included Councilwoman Sharon Middleton (6th District) who said, "Baltimore Junior Academy has always been a well respected neighborhood school. The opening of this new gym is also another way this educational institution can continue to build and strengthen community



PHOTOS BY RICHARD THOMAS

The new Baltimore Junior Academy gymnasium was named in honor of Pastor C.D. Jenkins, who spent countless hours helping to make it a reality.

relationships and partnerships."

Students are excited about their new 74-ft. long gym. "I can't wait for a basketball team," said seventh-grader Kevin Cooper. The building project was an effort organized by AEC's six Baltimore-area churches.—*Tiffany Sewell and Veronica Williams*



## NEWS

### Mt. Sinai Concludes 5-Year Campaign

Members of the Mt. Sinai congregation in Trenton, N.J., spent a good part of the past five years actively witnessing to their neighbors and growing their membership. By dividing the church into groups, they spent weeks at a time distributing religious tracts after church services. During their five-year campaign, they



distributed more than 77,500 tracts. With the help of conference Bible workers, they followed up with their neighbors and generated 800 Bible study

interests. "There were so many, we had to stop," recalled Pastor Paul Turner.

To wrap up their outreach efforts, conference evangelist Conklin B. Gentry (above) recently led a five-week evangelistic effort in the church's neighborhood. As a result, more than 78 attendees were baptized, re-baptized, or professed their faith. The church plans to hold another campaign this summer to bring more interests to Christ.—*Beth Michaels*

### Officer Highlighted in Township Newsletter

Pastor Danny Davis (below), the conference's Trust Ministries officer and retired Youth Ministries director, was recently profiled in the Douglass Township (Pa.) newsletter, an area that includes Pine Forge. Selected for his long-time support of various city organizations and efforts, Davis' efforts with the Pine Forge Historical Society have been very appreciated.

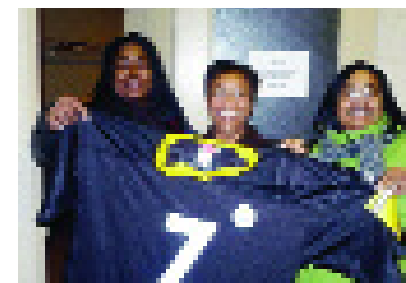


"Pastor Davis' history seemed to demonstrate what the Seventh-day Adventist community is all about: work, good health practices, reverence, and service to others," commented newsletter editor Sandra Lloyd on why they profiled Davis. "With the Adventist community being at least one very important area of the township that demonstrates harmony ... I have found that readers who regularly drive through the area are interested in the new buildings, such as the Jessie Wagner Elementary School [an Adventist institution] we featured in an earlier issue, and the yearly summer [camp meeting]."—*Beth Michaels*

**Allegheny East Conference**  
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www.myalleghenyeast.com ■ President, Charles L. Cheatham  
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## Rock of Faith Initiates Super Bowl Outreach

While all of America's football fans wondered if the Patriots could cap off a perfect season with a victory in Super Bowl XLII, the members of the Rock of Faith church in Pittsburgh used the occasion as an opportunity for fun, fellowship, and—most of all—evangelism. Members invited family and friends to join them for a Super Bowl party hosted by Eileen Moran. They gathered for food; games; the "big game," of course; and an added surprise. The evening was filled with excitement as guests won gifts and prizes by answering football trivia and guessing the game score before the end of each quarter.



Rock of Faith members Eileen Moran, Super Bowl party planner; Allison Wiles, a party prizewinner; and Melissa Dean, church treasurer, proudly display which team won their support.

Then, as millions of Americans turned their attention to the halftime show, Rock of Faith members held their own halftime show. Pastor Christopher Thompson gave "commercials" on upcoming church events and delivered a stirring message to invite the visitors to dedicate their lives to Christ.

"The party was a great opportunity for us to strengthen relationships among ourselves and build awareness about what we have to offer our community," said Pastor Thompson. "Most of all, it affords us the chance to extend the invitation to discipleship to those who may never have that chance in a church setting."

"It felt like one big family coming together," commented Allison Wiles, one of the party coordinators. "I believe that the hearts of those in attendance were really touched. To God be the glory for the great things He has done."

## Dale Wright Member Serves Swaziland Children

Chioma Patterson, a member of the Dale Wright Memorial church in Germantown, Ohio, recently joined 16 other volunteers from around the United States, New Zealand, and Australia to make a difference in Swaziland, Africa. The trip was through Seeds Of Hope Outreach (SOHO), a volunteer driven ministry that seeks to alleviate pain and hunger in the lives of orphans, vulnerable children, and elderly through programs that address their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.



Chioma Patterson, a member of the Dale Wright Memorial congregation in Germantown, Ohio, helps a little boy tie his new shoes, a gift through the Seeds Of Hope Outreach organization.

Patterson and the volunteers collected enough clothing, shoes, blankets, books, and other essential items to fill two 40 ft. by 20 ft. shipping containers. Each day for two weeks, they traveled to small villages to set up medical and

clothing clinics, pharmacies, and children's programs. At one clinic alone, they were able to serve more than 1,400 people.

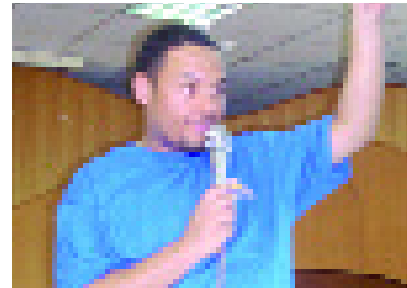


Swaziland currently has the highest HIV/AIDS rate in the world today. "We wanted to have a lasting affect on the children's lives," said Patterson. The way SOHO addressed this issue was to build "Welcome Places," which are scheduled for completion this month. These welcoming structures will provide residents with a place to find counseling, food, formal and HIV/AIDS education, as well as spiritual renewal.

"The things I will always remember are the smiles, songs, and children, who—in the eyes of the world—are in the most pitiful conditions," added Patterson. "But their condition does not stop their joy." For more information about SOHO, visit [www.seedsofhopeoutreach.com](http://www.seedsofhopeoutreach.com).

## West Virginia District Pastor Attends World Conference

Jason Ridley (below), pastor of the Charleston/Huntington, W.Va., district, recently represented his conference and local district at the World Conference on Youth and Community Service,



organized by the Youth Ministries department of the world church. Ridley was one of more than 1,500 delegates from 75 countries to attend the conference, held in Taipei, Taiwan. "It was a great experience for me to be able to work and worship with my brothers and sisters in Christ from all over the world," says Pastor Ridley. "It showed me how heaven is going to be, when we all get there together."

While in the country, Ridley also got the opportunity to visit Taiwan Adventist College located in Taichung. There he got to spend



Taiwan Adventist College students got a special treat when guest speaker Jason Ridley, pastor of the Charleston/Huntington, W.Va., district blessed them during several chapel services.

time with students, visiting their classrooms, and spoke several times for their chapel services.

## Ramah Junior Academy Dedicates Marshall Library

Lajuan Marshall (below) was born to teach, and ministered for 24 years to children in her classroom at Ramah Junior



Academy (RJA). She was also a loving and faithful mother to two sons, Bryan and Byran Marshall, and leaves them, a loving mother, and a host of family and friends to mourn. It was for her commitment to RJA that the school recently renamed its library in her memory.

Marshall often referred to her real boss as Jesus, and was determined to be accountable to Him. She took Ellen G. White's statement about every teacher being held accountable for time "used and misused" literally. With the help of the Lord, Marshall tried to utilize each minute, in every class,

to prepare her students for this world as well as the world to come. She spent countless hours devising new methods to reach her students for God. She aspired to place each of her children's hands into the hand of the Almighty. Because of Marshall's diligence at RJA, she was often referred to as Martha, Lazarus' busy sister. Teacher Celeste Giles, a co-worker and friend for 17 years—and Bible counterpart, Mary—often cautioned her to slow down.

Marshall's diligence was officially noted twice. The Columbia Union Conference presented her with the Zapara Award for Educational Excellence. The world honored her in the list of "Who's Who of American Teachers." Marshall also excelled as an RJA principal. Under her direction, students participated in feeding the homeless and providing clothing to more than 300 homeless.

Even in the midst of her illness, Marshall's heart was with her students, and she longed to return to teach for the 2007-08 school year. God, however, had a different plan, calling her to rest until His second coming. Goodnight,

sweet sister. I'll meet you in the morning.—Celeste Giles

## Calendar

- April**  
**4-6** Multicultural Ministries Institute, Cincinnati  
**6** Community Service Federation, Lynchburg, Va.  
**12-13** Women's Ministries 3-in-1 Conference, Huntington, W.Va.  
**17-19** Youth Congress, Akron, Ohio  
**27** NO/PA Community Service Federation, Erie
- May**  
**4** Cotillion/Beautillion, Columbus, Ohio
- June**  
**8** North Ohio District Leadership Training  
**25-29** Camp Meeting, Thornville

Catch the Vision is published in the Visitor by the Allegheny West Conference 1339 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43205 Phone: (614) 252-5271 President, James L. Lewis Editor, Bryant Taylor ■ www.awcsda.com

## A Pattern for Prayer

One of the great challenges of prayer is that it can so easily become self-centered and self-seeking. We can be so busy thinking of what we want that we have no time to think of what God wants for us. We can be so concerned about our own desires that we never think of God's will. And, we can be so busy talking to God that we never give God the chance to talk to us.

It is precisely this kind of situation that the Lord's prayer (Matt. 6:9-13) commands us and helps us to avoid. It begins by putting God at the center. All other things take their proper place when God is given his proper place. So this great pattern of prayer begins with the memory of God's majesty and purpose and the acceptance of His will.

The second part of the prayer contains three short petitions that take life—past, present, and future—and lays it before God. With an amazing economy of words, these brief petitions take the whole of life to the whole of God. When we come to God in an attitude of trusting surrender, as in the opening phrases of the prayer, the asking—from the last part of the prayer—becomes the natural way of including God in the details of our lives. This is precisely why the pattern of this great prayer must be the pattern of every prayer.



Rob Vandeman  
President

## Youth Leaders Enrichment Day Keeps Growing

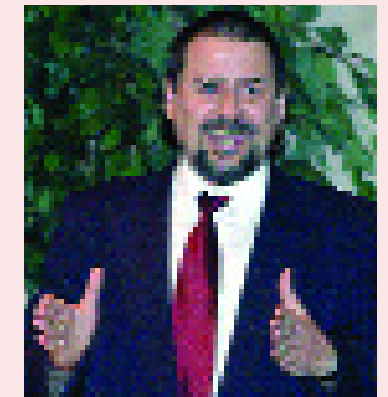
The annual Youth Leaders Enrichment Day, sponsored and organized by the conference Youth Ministries department, set another attendance record as more than 120 youth leaders recently took advantage of this unique training opportunity. Enrichment Day is designed to equip youth leaders with the proper leadership resources and tools to enable them to run effective ministry programs in their home churches.

Held at the Baltimore White Marsh church in Maryland, attendees were able to participate in three hourlong sessions in one of eight different tracks of study. The tracks included Adventurer Club, Kingdom

Kids (VBS), Youth Ministries, Pathfinder Basic Staff Training, Teen Leader in Training, Master Guide, Pathfinder Leadership Award, and Conservation Masters (Honors). Experienced youth ministry leaders and pastors taught the tracks.

The worship service featured music provided by Ascend, the Hagerstown (Md.) church praise team. Jonathon Tejal (above), Pathfinder director for the worldwide Adventist Church, presented an inspirational message on being the hands of Christ in the world today. Following the worship experience, attendees were treated to a fellowship luncheon organized by the host church and served by their Pathfinder Club members.

Enrichment Day is part of an annual training package that includes the Youth Leaders Convention, a weekend event held each September at the Mt. Aetna Camp and Retreat Center near Hagerstown. Together these two events give local youth leaders a great opportunity to expand their horizons, sharpen their skills, and share their experiences. Is it any wonder these gatherings keep growing?



More than 120 Chesapeake leaders enjoyed gaining greater knowledge of their ministries during Youth Leaders Enrichment Day.

## New Hope Shares Its Strength to Benefit Mozambique

As part of the mission focus of the New Hope church in Fulton, Md., a team of volunteers was organized recently to respond to critical needs in both their local community and around the world. The church volunteers are known as the SOS team, an acronym for Sharing Our Strength. Since their establishment in 2006, SOS team members have twice visited the Gulf Coast to assist with the ongoing saga left in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. They have also responded generously to the needs of an orphanage in Haiti by funding an addition that now houses more than 50 children. Since the first of the year, two teams have spent time assisting with the work at the orphanage.



Team leader Dave Wooster reported that momentum was building for a trip overseas when team member Monty Jacobs, who also serves on the Maranatha Volunteers International (MVI) board, shared the needs of the Adventist church in Mozambique. With more than 200,000 members in an incredibly poor country, and with relatively few church buildings, there is a desperate need to build houses of worship. Maranatha stepped up to the challenge and has committed to build 1,001 churches and several schools. The New Hope SOS team has planned a trip this coming summer to help build a school near Maputo, the country's capital. More than 40 people have already signed up.

Jacobs invited Wooster to MVI's annual convention

last September, where he learned that Maranatha was also planning to drill 1,001 water wells—one next to each church they build. Wooster's interest was piqued because his father ran a water well drilling business in Southern Maryland. He offered to help in any way he could. Within two months, MVI had set up a meeting with Wooster and his father to talk about the water project. That meeting resulted in a plan that cut the cost of the well and drilling materials in half by accessing supplies from his father's local contacts and shipping them



*In addition to the pipes, volunteers and New Hope church members helped collect and donate 4,000 bars of soap and other necessities for fellow believers in Mozambique.*

from Maryland. Materials to build 120 wells were purchased and shipped to the church, where more than 80 volunteers showed up to load the 2,000 pieces (nearly six miles worth) of pipe into two 40 ft. shipping containers.

The ripple effect of the SOS team's focus has been astounding. Once all of the drilling supplies were loaded, there was plenty of room in each container. A distress call was sent out to New Hope members and friends for donations of toiletries and school supplies. They received 4,000 bars of soap plus additional toiletries. Members of the Williamsport (Md.) church, as well as students and leadership from the Beltsville (Md.) school; Mt. Aetna Elementary school and Highland View Academy, both near Hagerstown, Md.; and the conference responded to the urgent appeal. In all more than 90 desks, 10 blackboards, 160 folding chairs, and miscellaneous school and medical supplies were also included in the shipment. Everyone who lent a hand, including Pastor David Newman (above), felt it was a nice touch to help their sister churches in Mozambique.



*More than 80 SOS (Sharing Our Hope) volunteers from the New Hope church in Fulton, Md., showed up to help load 2,000 pieces of pipe for drilling water wells in Mozambique.*

**The Challenge** is published in the *Visitor* by the Chesapeake Conference • 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044 Phone: (410) 995-1910 • President & Editor, Rob Vandeman

# Columbia Union College

## President Pushes New Initiatives to Shape Future

After just 64 days on the job, new Columbia Union College (CUC) president Weymouth Spence, EdD, participated in his first meeting with the Board of Trustees, and won overwhelming approval on four major initiatives that will shape CUC's future.



*Weymouth Spence, CUC president, addresses CUC trustees about four initiatives that will help secure the school's future success.*

"First and foremost, we wanted all of our constituents to know we are staying in Takoma Park and are committed to revitalizing our present campus," stated Spence. "The board has reconfirmed this, and we are on the same page. Now it's time for all of our constituents to join us and put away, once and for all, the idea of moving or closing CUC."

The board also approved a revised strategic plan, now known simply as "The Plan." It outlines growth in academic and spiritual programs, improvements in facilities and operations, and commitments to excellence and accountability. "It's now time to complete its implementation, but with a few revisions," said Spence of the plan, which was first adopted in 2004.

Spence and the board also agreed to implement what has been called the three-school model. Starting in the 2008-09 school year, CUC will be organized into a School of Graduate and Professional Studies, a School of Health Professions and Wellness, and a School of Arts and Social Sciences.

The board also adopted Spence's carefully balanced 2008-09 budget, which projects no increase in tuition and a flat enrollment. As a matter of fact, it will be about \$750,000 less than the current 2007-08 budget, and includes aggressive-but-realistic goals for fundraising. "The budget must be balanced; a culture of excellence demands it," announced Spence. "We will not

operate in the red. This budget allows for improved cash flow during the summer and for necessary infrastructure improvements such as repairs and upgrades in the residence halls," he added.

"I do not believe we can cut our way to success, so we will also develop new initiatives; but we had to make this budget work for the greater long-range good of the college," Spence explained. "The budget includes some cuts in staff and underperforming programs, but also allows hiring for new programs that meet market demands."—Scott Steward

## Music Groups Perform at Carnegie Hall

CUC's Columbia Collegiate Chorale and Pro Musica recently performed in a concert presented by MidAmerica Productions at Carnegie Hall in New York City. CUC's performance groups joined with several school chorus groups from around the United States to perform with the New England Symphonic Ensemble, the resident orchestra for the production company. "This was a great experience, and something you don't get an opportunity to do every day," said Trisha Davidian, a junior Music major. Members of CUC's music groups perform at Carnegie Hall and at other venues as a part of their training in music performance.—PR Staff



*Members of the Columbia Collegiate Chorale and Pro Musica gather outside Carnegie Hall before their recent performance.*



## NEWS

### Columbia Union Designates CUC Sabbath

The Columbia Union Conference has designated May 31 as CUC Sabbath. The special day will allow time for congregations to dedicate a portion of their Sabbath School or divine services to learn about exciting news, success stories, and future plans of the college. CUC will provide speakers, musicians, and printed material for as many congregations as possible. A special offering also will be taken. For more information, contact the CUC Marketing and Communications office at pr@cuc.edu or (800) 835-4212.

### Summer Teaching Institute Helps Union Teachers

CUC's Summer Teaching Institute, hosted by the Department of Education, will take place June 16 to August 8. The 2008 summer sessions are organized into four sections to provide convenient scheduling for traditional education majors, teachers seeking certification, and continuing education credits for certified teachers. The program includes post-baccalaureate 500-level courses and two technology seminars focused on digital photography and movie making. The institute meets requirements for certification with the Maryland State Department of Education and the North American

Division. To download the application, visit www.cuc.edu or call (800) 835-4212.—PR Staff

### Religion Department Hosts Keough Lectures

The Department of Religion will host the G. Arthur Keough Lectures on Friday, April 11, at 6:30 p.m. and Sabbath, April 12, at 3:30 p.m. in the H.M.S. Richards Hall chapel. Professors M. Imad Damaj, PhD, and Jack Spiro, DHL, EdD, will present two discussions under the theme "Understanding Other Faiths Among Monotheistic Religions" during this free, two-day lectureship. For details visit www.cuc.edu or call (301) 891-4125.

### Band Festival Draws Academy Performers

Columbia Union College's Concert Winds, under the direction of music professor Bruce Wilson, recently hosted the biennial Band Festival. Band Fest, as it is commonly known, is an honors program that allows students from Adventist academies around the United States to perform at the collegiate level.

Hours of practice, meeting new people, and sightseeing added texture and harmony to the week. The music performed at Band Fest is composed of difficult pieces that many of the students are expected to play "on the spot."

"It's definitely a fun challenge because we are able to play harder music than we do in our academy band," said Noelle Reid, a student at Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md.

This year attendees were honored to have guest conductor Stephen Bulla (above), chief arranger to "The President's Own" United States Marine Band and Marine Chamber Orchestra. Bulla also brought a commissioned piece titled "Commitment" that he arranged. Wilson was given a chance to play a solo for the piece



using the euphonium, a baritone-sounding brass instrument.

"To be able to join other musicians with high skill levels and create beautiful music was an enjoyable aspect of CUC Band Fest," said Dan Wagner, a student at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa.

For more information about CUC's music programs or scheduled performances, contact the Department of Music at (301) 891-4025.—Brittani Bissell and PR Staff

## CALENDAR

### April

- 5 CUC Choice Awards
- 6 Service Day
- 9 Awards Convocation
- 11-13 Alumni Weekend
- 11,12 Keough Lectures
- 13 Tastes of Takoma  
Acro-Airs Home Show
- 14 Psi Chi Induction Ceremony
- 18 Spring Concert—  
Black Student Union  
Gospel Choir

### May

- 2-4 Commencement Weekend
- 31 CUC Sabbath

The Gateway is published in the Visitor by the Columbia Union College 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 Phone: (800) 835-4212 ■ www.cuc.edu Weymouth Spence, EdD, President ■ Exec. Dir. of Marketing and Comm., Scott Steward ■ Editor, Tanisha Greenidge

## Why I Do This Work

While writing this, Highland View Academy (HVA) is in the midst of Student Week of Prayer. It started on Monday, and I'll have to say that particular Monday was one of the worse beginnings to a week I've had for some time. By the time the service started midmorning, I was ready to call it a week and go home!

When the students started song service, however, my shoulders began to relax and my breathing slowed. By the third song, I had forgotten the troubles of the day and was experiencing a real sense of peace. The students sounded wonderful, for any day, but especially for a Monday morning! The student speaker gave a wonderful talk, filled with passion and enthusiasm.

About 30 minutes later, by the conclusion of the service, I was a different person. By the time I left, my spirit was lifted and my heart was light. Though I still had some burdens on my heart and some unpleasant tasks for the week, I felt so encouraged. Once again, I realized what an impact Adventist education has on our young people. Once again, I renewed my will to forge ahead. Once again, I was reminded why I do this work.



Sheri Tydings  
Principal

## Conference Youth Gather to Worship

Nearly 70 youth from across the Chesapeake Conference recently gathered to learn and worship. The youth retreat theme and programming was designed to challenge youth to let God "Fill the Void" in their lives that social culture entices them to fill with



One Accord, HVA's praise band, provided music for the youth retreat.

so many other things. The weekend event was a joint effort of HVA and the conference Youth Ministries department.

Guest speaker LaClaire Litchfield

"The weekend was a blessing," said Brad Durby, HVA chaplain and one of the event coordinators.

"To see so many youth being led and inspired was wonderful. I can't thank Pastor Litchfield and the Chesapeake Conference pastors and youth leaders enough for making this such a great experience."



Students from across the Chesapeake Conference experienced spiritual nurturing during breakout sessions.

(right), Collegedale (Tenn.) Academy chaplain, encouraged attendees to look at their relationship with Christ in a different way. His practical examples, insightful look into Scripture, and sincere passion for the spiritual welfare of youth were an inspiration to everyone.



Conference pastors provided spiritual nurturing during breakout sessions on Sabbath. Pastor Vladimir Corea of the Highland View church led a seminar titled "Hope for a Generation in Crisis." Youth pastor Keith Acker, of the West Wilmington (Del.) church, led a discussion titled "Shh, God," and Highland View church youth leader Anthony Hackett spoke under the theme "God is FUNny."

## Alumni Weekend

Please plan to join us for Alumni Weekend, May 2-4. The fun-filled schedule includes:

**Friday:** The annual golf tournament will start at 8 a.m., and vespers at 7:30 p.m. at the Highland View church.

**Sabbath:** Fellowship and Sabbath School will start at 9:30 a.m. in the Administration Building. The divine service will be at 11 a.m. at the Highland View church. The alumni basketball game will finish the day at 9 p.m. in the gymnasium.

**Sunday:** The weekend comes to a close following the alumni soccer game at 11 a.m.

Plan now to attend. For more information, visit www.highlandviewacademy.com.

Education professor Jeannette Rogers Dulan, PhD, will help teach courses for CUC's upcoming Summer Teaching Institute.

## School Celebrates Cultural Diversity

The concept of an HVA International Fair originated more than 10 years ago as a way for international students—primarily from Argentina—to acknowledge the successful completion of the English as a Second Language program. Since that time it has grown into an event designed to celebrate the rich diversity of the school's student body.



Students Sebi Nestares, Dan Fonseca, and Paola Fonseca (in striped shirts), along with family members, serve Argentinean treats during the fair.

The gymnasium was recently transformed again as students and their families created booths to showcase native food, music, and dress, as well as facts about their country of origin. This year 19 countries were represented: Argentina, Brazil, England, Germany, Guam, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Korea, the Philippines, Peru, Puerto Rico, Russia, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago (below), the United States,



and U.S. Virgin Islands. Students kicked off the evening event with a parade of flags and then a welcome spoken in their native tongues.

The event is a wonderful way for students to take pride in their heritage and share things about their country with others. "The amount of work the students and parents put into this event is amazing," said Debra West, dean of girls and event coordinator. "It's really cool to learn about different cultures," responded junior Chris Malcolm. Throughout the evening, comments overheard from the crowd included, "Oh, you have to try this, it's delicious," or "I'm so full!" "This was the best international fair yet!" said Jeanne Ramos, a



HVA students Lauren (left) and Awmi (far right) Kawlni, and friends, proudly display traditional clothing from their home country of India.



Freshman Do Young An dons native Korean clothing.



Parent Glen Milam (right) coached students (left to right) Kari Petrelis, Victoria and Vivian Dye, Andrew Fishell, and Sidney Milam to represent Indonesia where he once served as a student missionary.

Hagerstown (Md.) resident and previous fair attendee. "The food, culture, and fellowship were enjoyed by everyone," relayed Duane Harris, father of HVA freshman Josh Harris. Brian Calhoun, parent of sophomore Jennifer Calhoun, added, "It was a wonderful opportunity to sample food from so many diverse countries!"

### CALENDAR

#### April

- 11 Third Annual Gospel Festival, 7:30 p.m., Highland View Church (HVC)
- 20 Olympic Day
- 23-27 Home Leave

#### May

- 2-4 Alumni Weekend
- 4 Awards Reception, 6 p.m., Gym
- 9 Covenant Drama Presentation, 7:30 p.m., HVC
- 10 Music Department Spring Concert
- 23 Consecration/Parent Tribute, 7:30 p.m., HVC
- 24 Baccalaureate, 11 a.m., HVC
- 25 Commencement 10 a.m., Gym

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## Members Lead the Charge for Jesus

Many years ago, Ellen White repeatedly called for a shared evangelistic ministry in which church members and ministers would unite in their endeavors: "The ministers and the church members are to unite as one person in laboring for the up building and prosperity of the church ... All should be laborers together with God, and then the minister can feel that he has helpers in whom it is safe to trust. The minister can hasten this desirable end by showing that he has confidence in the workers by setting them to work" (*Review & Herald*, July 9, 1885).

The call for ministry partnership of lay members and pastors has been sounding throughout Mountain View. Church members have joined voices with their pastors in the launch of 50 lay-led evangelistic meetings scheduled for 2008, with the surrounding help of the church's additional ministries: Sabbath School, visitation, community and health services, etc. Some plant, some water, and some reap, but God gives the increase (I Cor. 3:6-9). This plan has stepped off the pages of theory and onto the stage of action, with conversions and revivals following. I invite you, by your prayers and financial support, to join us in this united venture to proclaim the message of a soon coming Savior, and the power of His saving grace. What a joy and honor to be laborers together with Him! Don't deny yourself the privilege of participation.

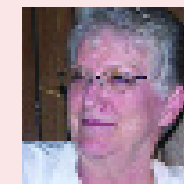


Larry Boggess  
President

## Member Highlights: Unique Ministries for Christ

**James LeVos, Medicine Man** - This beloved physician has served Ritchie and Doddridge counties, West Virginia, since 1979, in family practice at two clinics and as medical director at a nursing and rehabilitation center in Harrisville. Valued highly for his skills and compassion, Dr. LeVos (left) also makes house calls, a rarity these days. In the interest of meeting the health needs of the community, he elected to start a new service. Through Appalachian Wellness, LeVos gives free health consultations in homes three days a week. He is pursuing this new dimension of healthcare in addition to performing part-time service at the clinics and rehabilitation center. He voluntarily went on half-pay in order to make his services more accessible to the indigent. However, the medical boards under which he serves have chosen to retain him on full salary, knowing that LeVos's altruistic service dovetails with the overall intention of what his colleagues are seeking to offer in Appalachia, the best and most readily accessible healthcare for all, regardless of income, mobility, or other delimiting factors.

**Pat Ridpath and Chris Hasse, Religious Journalists** - Ridpath (right) is known for effortlessly sharing biblical truths with thousands of readers in central West Virginia. The "Pat's Chat" columnist has also recently



been promoting Ellen White's classic *Steps to Christ*. Ridpath, a member of the Buckhannon (W.Va.) church, dared readers to be inspired by White's insight, and directed them to the website [www.stepstochrist.us](http://www.stepstochrist.us), where visitors can download, read, or listen to the book. Of her regular column, Ridpath states, "Two of the papers were reluctant to pick up my 'Chat' but finally did and continue publishing it." She adds, "God has been good to bring positive comments from many ... a humbling fact that brings praises to God." Hasse is a poetess, religious writer, literature evangelist, Bible instructor, organic gardener, and member of the Spencer (W.Va.) church. She writes a regular column titled "Things New and Old" for the monthly, year-old publication *Two-Lane Livin'*. Dedicated to presenting issues relevant to central West Virginians, 12,000 copies are printed each month, plus an online version. "Chris' writing is intense, passionate, and creative," says Brian Jones, conference communication director. "Her primary emphasis is on the love of God and His power to save, in the context of the great controversy theme."



Spencer (W.Va.) church member Chris Hasse (right) shares her faith through a column in *Two-Lane Livin'* edited by award-winning journalist Lisa Hayes-Minney (left), the founder.

**Unique Ministries, Cont'd.**

**Frank Mott, Evangelistic Barber** - From the moment Mott (below) opens his barbershop each morning until closing time, "Bible class" is in open session.



Over the years, the Lord has taught Mott, a member of the Weirton (W.Va.) church, to skillfully sow seeds that rapidly germinate into open discussions with his customers on life's most vital issues. "I go to Frank's barbershop because he tells you about God and knows what and Whom he's talking about," said one regular customer. "Besides giving me good hair-

cuts, he teaches me truths I have never heard before!"

Mott's customers often engage him in discussions about the teachings of the Bible, especially drawing him out on doctrinal and prophetic issues. Over the years, Mott has distributed hundreds of resources to interested customers, many of whom are eager to discuss what they have read.

"Among those who want to discuss the Bible with me are ministers, Sunday School teachers, Masons, skeptics, and the list goes on," explains Mott. "In general, what amazes them the most is the tremendous difference between fundamental Scripture truth we look at and the teachings of their church or belief system. Many of them request literature on the subjects we have discussed." He adds, "Many come back and tell me they agree with what they have read, yet the majority are still held down by family ties and tradition. But I keep sowing seeds; it is the Lord who gives the increase."

**Nelson Mathers, "Johnny Appleseed"** - For the past several years, Mathers (right), a retired denominational schoolteacher, has faithfully distributed Adventist literature throughout the town of Elizabeth, W.Va., seat of Wirt County. He does this at his own expense on a relatively limited income. Everyone in town recognizes Mathers as the "Johnny Appleseed" of Christian literature, dedicated to sowing seeds of truth daily, and for this service the community respects him highly. Everyone is aware of his Mathers' Christian Lending Library, and quite a few utilize it.



Recognizing the value of his services, the local public library has donated many books to him, and occasional support comes from people sympathetic to his cause.

Among the fruits of Mathers' labor is the local Nazarene church's congregation-wide acceptance and

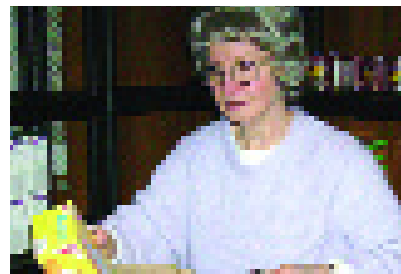
study of *Steps to Christ*. The youth Sunday school class is going through this book each week and intensively discussing its content. This summer the youth intend to give all parents who send their children to VBS a free copy of *Steps to Christ*.

**Logan Members, Reaching Out** - Members of the Logan (W.Va.) church wanted to accomplish more outreach. A discussion of the ministries already in place revealed that a growing number of families came regularly to the monthly food pantry. "I wish we could do something more spiritual for them," said one member.

On the next Monday morning, every automobile that arrived at the church was greeted, shown to a parking space, and everyone inside invited into the sanctuary to sit comfortably out of the cold. When an informal service started, several participated in the singing and made prayer requests. With each passing month, feedback becomes more personal and spiritual.

Another idea came about when a member surprisingly asked, "Pastor, don't you think we should have a prison ministry?" Pastor Linden St. Clair admits he had been thinking about the same thing, and had even gone to the regional jail to see about it, but nothing had come of it. About a month later, "As I listened to the messages on the church answering machine," reports St. Clair, "I heard, 'This is chaplain Goodman at the penitentiary. We are interested in you coming to hold services here.'"

Recently four members of the Logan church held their first Sabbath service at the penitentiary, with about 15 inmates attending. They plan to return on the second Sabbath of each month.



Logan (W.Va.) church member Brenda Wright fills bags of food from the pantry.

**Mountain View  
EVENTS**

- April**
- 6 Education Fair & Music Festival, Summersville
- 13 Board of Education
- May**
- 2-4 Singles Retreat, Valley Vista

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**Discovering the Joy of Sharing Christ**

For several years, Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) has promoted its goal of helping students discover Christ and themselves. We want to create an environment where students are able to enjoy the ultimate reward of discovering what a difference it makes to have Christ as their personal Savior.

Our students have found that as they grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, another great reward is to share that discovery with others. With this in mind, the faculty, staff, and students are committed to restructuring our program for the 2008-09 school year to allow for additional, monthly opportunities of such discoveries—the joy of selfless service and the ministry it provides.

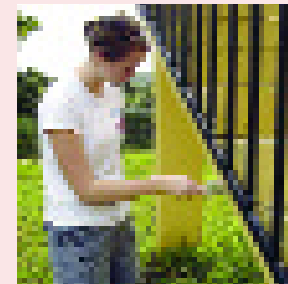
Our desire as an institution is to impact our community for Christ. MVA is excited about the 2008-09 school year and the new opportunities it will present for displaying Christ's love through both words and actions. We solicit your support and prayers as we continue our journey of discovering how sharing the love of Christ will impact those around us.



David Daniels  
Principal

**Student Gains Blessings From Puerto Rican Mission**

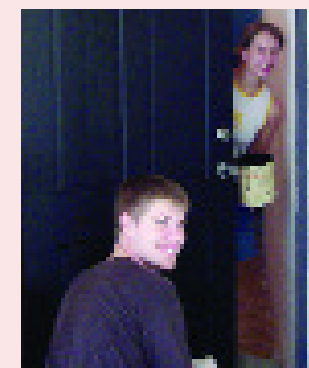
Twenty-seven seniors and sponsors spent eight days in Puerto Rico for their senior class/mission trip. Class member Kylie Wilson (left) reflects on her experience:



When we arrived in the capital city of San Juan, we were directed onto an old school bus and shuttled to the Pedro Lopez Ramos Seventh-day Adventist Camp in El Yunque National Forest, approximately 40 minutes away. Night had fallen by the time we arrived in the little valley where the camp was situated.

For three days, we painted buildings and doors at the camp during the first half of the day. Sometimes, after we painted, a morning rain would come and wash all our work away and we would have to start again after it dried!

During two of the afternoons, we traveled to a nearby beach after our morning's work. We played in the waves, basked in the sun, and bonded with each other.



Class members Matt Brown and Jessica Schneider paint a doorway of an Adventist camp in Puerto Rico.

The rest of the week was filled with various excursions, which included snorkeling, kayaking the Bioluminescent Bay in Vieques, and visiting Old San Juan.

It was great fun working with my classmates, and we felt good to be helping the camp. The experience deeply touched me emotionally, physically, and spiritually. The power of God to transform and renew us through small experiences linked with big miracles is one that should never be underestimated. The Lord always provides a blessing to those who do His work, and we certainly felt blessed!

We had a lot of fun on our class trip, yes, but more importantly, we grew together in the love and knowledge of our Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope that He will always help me to give Him praise for the beautiful things He has done, is doing, and is still yet to do. There is no doubt in my mind what an awesome future He has planned for every single one of us; and not a day goes by when I am not more excited about my future with Him.



MVA seniors cool off after a morning of hard work.

## Mission Team Builds “Dream” Church in Belize

Her name was Aunt Tillo. She had been in the little fishing village of Placencia in Belize as long as anyone could remember. In fact, she was responsible for delivering most of the people in the village in her role as local midwife. She had become a Seventh-day Adventist at a fairly early age and over the years taught the children of the village about Jesus. In time, a number of these children joined God’s church.

Located on a remote peninsula on the coast, Placencia started to attract attention as a tourist destination because of its white, sandy beaches and wonderful marine life. The little Adventist church grew as well thanks to Aunt Tillo’s efforts. The members met in a little wooden shack (above) situated on part of her property. It was her dream to see a solid church building constructed, one that would withstand the frequent hurricanes and would be a more inviting structure. A few groups had promised to come, but each time the plans failed.

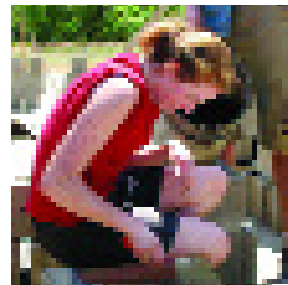
This story was told to the Mount Vernon Academy mission team on their first Friday evening in the country. Twenty-four students and sponsors had the privilege of fulfilling Aunt Tillo’s wishes. She had recently donated her land—a very high value in the now-burgeoning tourist town—to the church. Although Aunt Tillo died only months before the MVA group arrived, she was able to know for certain that “her church” would finally be built.



Working early in the morning and late in the evening to avoid the intense tropical heat, the MVA team was able to complete the floor, walls, and “hurricane ring” of the church in five days, leaving only the roof to be completed. Since the teens and their supervisors accomplished the work quickly, the group was also able to visit the local Mayan ruins of Xunantunich and Altun Ha and do some snorkeling in the warm ocean.



Juniors Bruce Cuevas and Jackie Ruiz lay block for one of the church walls.



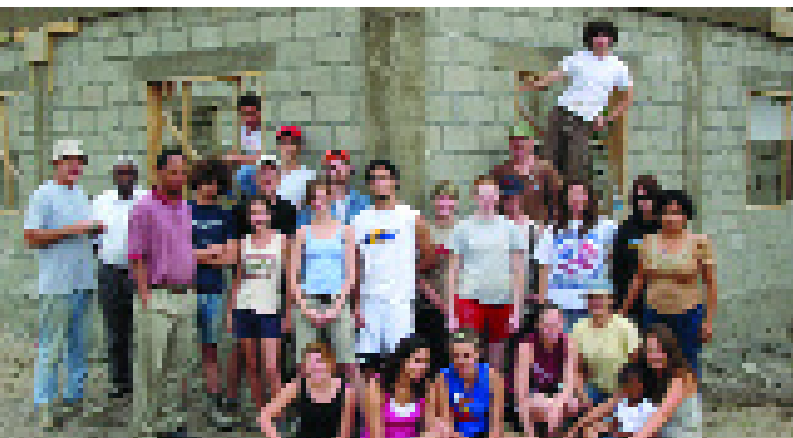
“It was fulfilling,” said junior Katie Roddy (left), “to build a church that can help fulfill God’s work and someone’s dream at the same time.” The participants came home with a renewed sense of purpose and a greater appreciation for how God works through others.—*Tim Soper*

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

**April**  
19 Acronics Homeshow  
20 Junior/Senior Banquet  
25-27 Alumni Weekend  
27 Alumni Golf Tournament  
27-May 2 Junior Boston Trip  
30-May 4 Home Leave

**May**  
7 SA Picnic & Elections  
11 Spring Concert  
20-21 Final Exams  
23-25 Graduation Weekend  
25 Commencement

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The MVA Belize mission team proudly displays their completed work on Aunt Tillo’s church in Placencia.

## The First Pillar: A Movement of Prayer

I believe in the power of prayer. When connected with heaven, we find peace, wisdom, and strength that otherwise—as human beings—we wouldn’t experience. I have received a call from God and the constituents of New Jersey to lead the church in this state. I consider it a great responsibility and an undeserved honor. I know that I need His help; I absolutely depend on Him for everything. I also feel that, in some manner, I depend on each one of you. I need you to pray for me. The mission of the church must be accomplished, but the task is bigger than us.

My first responsibility as your president and pastor begins at 5:30 a.m. every day, when I pray for each New Jersey pastor, teacher, elder, or leader and for my prayer partners. If you want to be on my prayer list, email me at [presidentpraying@njcsda.net](mailto:presidentpraying@njcsda.net) with your request. This is only for prayer. If you wish your prayer to be included on the conference prayer circle through our website at [www.njcsda.org](http://www.njcsda.org), you need to authorize me to do so.

Jesus is coming soon! I believe that it is not with an army, nor by force, but with God’s Spirit (Zech. 4:6). We need to build a prayer movement—as it was in the times of the apostles—that leads us to a great spiritual revival. “And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness” (Acts 4:31, NKJV). We need a prayer movement like nothing ever seen in our conference. Prayer is the first pillar of our ministry.



**José Cortés**  
*President*

## Robbinsville Community Experiences Power of Prayer

The Robbinsville Community church in Trenton knew that their pastor, Art Randall, was being treated for a blood clot in his leg that was creating jaundice, but when the local elders and about 25 members arrived at his home on a Wednesday evening for an anointing service, he relayed worse news. A CT scan the previous Friday revealed a mass on his pancreas with possible spreading to his liver. They anointed the pastor, together with his wife, at 8:30 that evening.

For the next month and a half, the local elders asked the church to pray at 8:30 every evening for their pastor and his family. The conference administration and staff also held him up in prayer each morning. News of Pastor Randall’s cancer spread, and soon family and friends across the United States were also praying. Randall was anointed again two days later.

Soon thereafter, the doctor performed a biopsy of

several spots on Pastor Randall’s liver, but all of the results were negative. Later his doctor inserted a stint in his common bile duct. This would open the blocked duct and relieve the jaundice. During the procedure, the doctor expected to find the cancerous mass obstructing the duct, but instead discovered it was only a gallstone. As a result, the next scheduled treatment—a biopsy of the pancreas and the cancerous tissue—were cancelled and an MRI of the affected area scheduled. Randall had the MRI five days later.

The next evening conference administrators came to his house and anointed Pastor Randall yet again. When Randall’s wife, Beth, finally got hold of the doctor the next week, they got the miraculous news: The MRI showed no mass on his pancreas. The cancer was gone!

“Somewhere between the CT scan and the MRI, God took care of the problem,” said Pastor Randall. “I believe that God has healed me and still has work for me to do.”

When the Robbinsville congregation got news of his healing, excitement rippled through the pews. “See what God can do for us when we unite in prayer,” church elder Harry Walker testified.

God demonstrated that He wants to bestow His healing power on us: not just on one man, but on the entire church, the community, the nation, and the world.—*Sandra Covell Dombrowski*



The Robbinsville congregation pulled together in prayer and saw the power of the Lord at work in their pastor, Art Randall.

NEWS

**Cherry Hill Hosts Tri-Conference Disaster Training**

New Jersey and Chesapeake conferences recently conducted a joint ACS/Disaster Response (ACS/DR) training exercise for 34 pre-trained and volunteer participants from their territories, along with the Ohio Conference. Hosted by the Cherry Hill church, the exercise taught volunteers (below) how to set up and conduct a "hands-on" drill for a Collection Center Operation. These operations occur upon request by federal, state, or other agencies as a result of natural or manmade disasters.

Chesapeake's Disaster Response director Kitty Juneau led the training session with assistance from church members. Other participants were Roy Nelson, Ohio's Disaster Response coordinator, and Wayne Hancock, EdD, New Jersey's director of Education, Community Services, and Disaster Response.

The joint exercise was intended to model actual operations and issues during a crisis that could be encountered by both management and volunteers alike. Sample donated goods were brought in, sorted, and boxed in accordance with established rules. Other scenarios were played out as well through simulated contact with donors, disaster victims, the media, and local building officials. A previous session was held at the Cherry Hill church in November 2007 where 56 attendees were indoctrinated into the ACS/DR program, which also qualified attendees to serve as general volunteers.—Joseph Luste, PhD



**First Filipino Celebrates Debt Freedom**

During a special church service recently, members of the First Filipino church in Plainfield rejoiced—with jubilant cheers—as the mortgage papers for their first building were burned in a ceremonial act. Paying their debt within one year of ownership, they praised God for the special blessing.

"I can now retire," said outgoing pastor Rudney Bartolome, bringing to mind those trying 18 years as he led the church in massive fundraising so they could have a church of their own. "It's a dream come true, and to God be the glory!" he exclaimed. He leaves both of his churches, First Filipino and Jersey City Heights English, debt-free.



As conference treasurer Jim Greene lights the mortgage papers of the First Filipino church, (left to right) former conference president LeRoy Finck, outgoing pastor Rudney Bartolome, and church treasurer Tina Pastores watch with delight. Photo by Merari Doyle

Conference administrators joined in the celebration. In his message, president José Cortés stressed the five pillars that must hold the First Filipino church: it needs to be the house of prayer, Bible study, evangelism, stewardship, and families. During the afternoon program, visitors from Hungarian, Indonesian, Korean, and other neighboring churches joined them for a concert.—Manny Mullaneda

**Lake Nelson, New Brunswick Host Jewish Outreach**

The Lake Nelson and New Brunswick churches have Jewish

Ministry groups who meet the first and third Sabbath of each month from 4:30 to 7 p.m. for study and fellowship. Visitors are welcome to learn about the Hebraic roots of our Adventist faith while learning to share it with Jewish neighbors.

Some upcoming special events include a Passover Seder on April 19. Reserve a spot to enjoy Passover teachings, food, customs, and fellowship. Another event is Festival



The Lake Nelson church's Jewish Ministry group enjoys reaching out to their Jewish neighbors.

of the Nations on May 4, a popular Lake Nelson school fundraiser. The Lake Nelson church will be hosting a table for attendees to enjoy tasty Israeli food and meet the ministry members. For more details, or to RSVP for the seder, contact Elayna Moffit at (732) 742-7292 or Christine Oliva at (848) 203-5679.

dates  
NEW JERSEY

- April**
- 4-6 English Elder's Retreat  
*Tranquil Valley Retreat Center (TVRC)*
  - 11-13 Hispanic Women's Retreat  
*Cape May*
  - 18-20 Hispanic Elder's Retreat  
*TVRC*
  - 26 "Go Wide!" Southern NJ Youth Rally, *Vineland*

New Jersey News is published in the Visitor by the New Jersey Conference 2160 Brunswick Ave., Trenton NJ 08648 Phone: (609) 392-7131 ■ President, José Cortés ■ Editor, Laffit Cortés www.njcsda.org

**Ministry University Provides Hope, Renewal, Practical Ideas**

Ohio Ministry University recently brought together nearly 200 lay leaders and pastors from across the conference. They heard presentations by Stuart Tyner (below) on spiritual growth through grace-oriented



churches, by Greg and Shasta Nelson (right) on sharing Christ with secular people, and by Monte Sahlin on church growth. They also enjoyed fellowship and discussion

groups at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, a northwest suburb of Columbus.

"I was really blessed and have renewed hope that I want to share," wrote one participant. "The practical testimonies were excellent," wrote another attendee. "It was a very stimulating weekend for working to save souls." A third person wrote, "It has challenged me to evaluate myself. How can I be more grace-oriented? How does God want to grow me so I can be more effective for Him?"

Tyner is currently pastor for Family Ministries at the La Sierra University church in Riverside, Calif. He has written a number of books and helped develop many of the Sabbath School materials published by the

Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Nelsons are in private practice as career and life coaches in San Francisco. They also lead a ministry called Second Wind, which connects young, urban professionals in a very secular city. Sahlin is the conference's director of research and special projects.

Many of the participants were especially impressed by Tyner's presentations and ordered supplies of his new book from Pacific Press, *Searching for the God Grace*, to use in small groups and midweek meetings. "Our goals were to help our local church leaders know how to develop a truly spiritual environment in their congregations, and to encourage our churches to move into

more effective ministry in the community," reflected conference president Raj Attkin. "Clearly, we made significant progress on both of these."

When all of the comments on the feedback sheets were reviewed, not a single individual was entirely negative about the event. About 7 percent of the respondents wrote positive feelings as well as pointing out weaknesses. Four out of five (80 percent) were entirely positive in their evaluation. Nine out of 10 selected the most positive response to the question, "To what extent did we achieve the goals of this event?"

"As local leaders follow through on ideas from this event, we are available to help," said Sahlin. "We are already working with a number of these churches to help them study community needs and think about what God wants them to do to have a significant impact where they are." He added, "A strong, Christ-centered spirituality is essential to the success of these efforts."

Plans are being developed for next year's Ohio Ministry University. Participants are welcome to send suggestions for topics or speakers by writing to Sahlin at montessahlin@gmail.com or calling the conference office.



Ohio Ministry University attendees enjoyed opportunities to interact and dialogue.

## Worthington Member's Call to Ministry Affirmed

Pastor Carmen Seibold's call to the gospel ministry was recently recognized, affirmed, and celebrated at a special service performed at the Worthington church. The service of consecration included a homily presented by Fritz Guy, PhD, research professor of Philosophical Theology at La Sierra University (Calif.), a long-time friend of Seibold and her pastor husband, Loren. In his presentation, Guy highlighted the important, and often unique, role that women played in the life and ministry of Jesus, as evidenced in the Gospel narratives, and in the mission of the first century Christian church. He drew attention to some compelling biblical evidence for the validation of the ministry of women in our time.

Seibold has been involved in leadership and ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church for many years. She holds a Master of Divinity and is currently serving as a hospice chaplain.

The act of consecration, through prayer and the laying on of hands, was particularly moving as Worthington's ordained elders surrounded Seibold. The conference leadership and several members of the congregation participated in various aspects of the program.



Marwood Hallett, the conference's Clergy Care/Leadership Development director, welcomes Carmen Seibold (seated) to the gospel ministry while Worthington church pastors and elders show their support.

## Women's Ministries Leaders Earn Certification

Early on a recent Sunday morning, at about 4:30 a.m., a tour bus filled with 40 women left Cleveland. The destination was the Concourse Hotel and Convention Center in Columbus, where an all-day Women's Ministries Leadership Certification Training event was taking place. The Cleveland ladies joined other women from all over the state of Ohio, a total of 120 eager Women's Ministries leaders.

Leadership courses at the event were intensive, and offered certification on four levels. Many courses had general application, so that leadership skills can be applied beyond ministry to women, such as in the workplace. Topics ranged from "How to Make a Public Presentation" to "How to Reclaim Inactive Members."

The Women's Ministries department at the Adventist World Headquarters provided certification criteria, curriculum, and materials, and each participant received a signed certificate upon completion.

This training event was the second annual collaboration with Allegheny West Conference (AWC) Women's Ministries. Last year AWC sponsored the event and invited the Ohio Conference women to participate. This year the roles were reversed, with Ohio Conference serving as sponsor. The sponsorship baton will be passed back to AWC for the 2009 training event.

—Lucy Cisneros

## Calendar of Events

### April

18-20 Hispanic Women's Retreat  
Mohican Resort & Conference Center

### May

2-4 Pathfinder Fair, Mount Vernon Academy (MVA)  
10 Great Controversy 150th Commemoration,  
Kettering Church

### June

7 Hispanic Camp Meeting, MVA  
8-14 English Camp Meeting, MVA

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Editor, Nancy Barnett ■ [www.ohioadventist.org](http://www.ohioadventist.org)



Women's Ministries Leadership Certification Training attendees enjoyed excellent presenters and a rewarding learning experience.

## God Still Does the Impossible

During 2007 six youth groups from across Pennsylvania did what many skeptics viewed as impossible. The youth, aged 8 to 19, from the Hampden Heights, Spanish II, Maranatha, Lehigh Valley Spanish, Meridian Road, and Reading Spanish churches held evangelistic series in their communities. They preached sermons accompanied by PowerPoint presentations. Many wondered if they could take on such a task with so little experience. The truth was that they could not do it alone, but accompanied by the power of the Holy Spirit, the impossible took place. These young vessels of the Lord spoke with conviction and power. Claiming the promises of God, they went forward in faith.

I must admit that when I was their age, I would not have been willing to be involved in something like this. It seems to me that this generation is different, more willing and more gifted. God's prophetic word spoken through the prophet Joel appears to be coming true. In Joel 2, God promised that He would "pour out His Spirit on all flesh" before the second coming, which would result in "your sons and daughters" prophesying. I believe this is happening and that Jesus is coming soon. It is His Spirit that enabled the six youth groups to boldly preach God's Word. Not only did their messages change the hearts of those listening, but also changed their own hearts; solidifying in their hearts and minds both the truth and reality of God's Word. At each location, the "impossible" happened and souls were won for God's kingdom.



Kris Eckenroth  
Youth/Young Adult  
Ministries Director

## Reading Spanish Teens Preach, 16 Peers Respond

Six youth from the Reading Spanish church recently held a weeklong evangelistic series proclaiming "Jesus Loves Jeans" to their neighborhood peers. With the help of youth leaders Barbara and Paco Vasquez, the Adventist youth spoke to kids from all sorts of backgrounds. Some already knew Christ. Some just needed



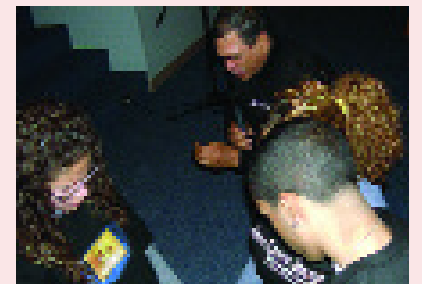
Reading Spanish youth member Erica Montano speaks to her peers during the "Jesus Loves Jeans" evangelistic series.

a little faith and hope. Others, who knew little about Jesus, got to see Him through young preachers Erica Montano (15), Antonio Fuenmayor (14), Jean Carlos (19), Samuel Mendez (16), Andrianna Lorenzo (16), and Diana Henriquez (15).

Sixteen teens came forward for baptism and chose to give their hearts to Christ during the series. It was also a life-changing experience for the coordinators, giving them the satisfaction of leading others to Christ and showing them God's love.

Pastor Juan Lopez and his congregation all helped to make "Jesus Loves Jeans" a reality—praying,

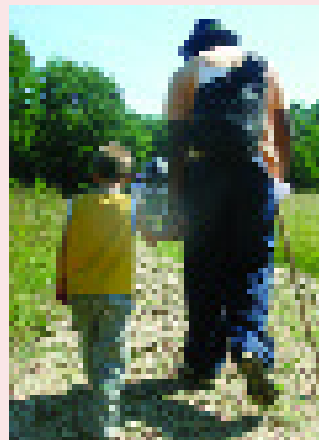
affirming, and even helping in the kitchen with food and drinks. Lopez said he was amazed at how God worked on the hearts of attendees as they responded to the nightly appeals given by the youth. "They were not famous evangelists or giving charismatic appeals, yet the power of God worked on hearts, and many people responded," he recalled.



Pastor Juan Lopez prays with the speakers and attendees.



"After this, we're not going to be afraid to do anything for God," exclaimed Fuenmayor (left). The youth will get their chance to do His bidding again this summer in response to an invitation to hold the series in New England.  
—Jalane Torres



## Children, Teens, Families Invited to Camp

Pack your suitcase and get ready for fun and growing closer to God! With five weeks of summer camp at Laurel Lake Camp in Rossiter, there is something for everyone. Children aged 7-10 are invited to Adventure Camp, June 22-29. They can enjoy swimming in the clear-blue waters of the pool, exploring in the Nature Center, riding horses or taking a pony ride, creating a craft masterpiece, jumping on the Aqua Jump, and much more.

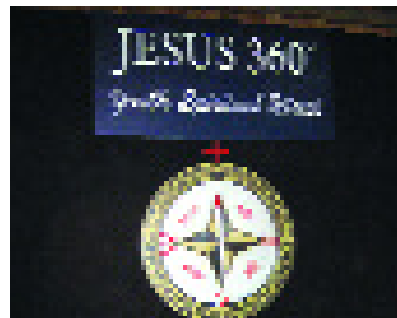
Bring the whole crew—mom, dad, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins—to Family Camp, June 29-July 6, and enjoy all that summer camp has to offer. Junior Camp and Tween Camp are both designed for ages 10-12. The weeks of July 6-13 and July 13-20 will feature archery, scouting out camp on the back of a horse, splashing through the Water Olympics at the pool, exploring the trails on a mountain bike, or nailing a cartwheel in gymnastics.

Teens, aged 13-17, are invited to experience adventure, friendship, and God (always in all ways), July 20-27. The week will include jet skiing and water skiing, horseback riding, crafts, and more. Some special highlights will include a memorable teen event. Whether you're surrounded with new or old friends, a week at camp will be an unforgettable mix of activities, friendships, and God's love. For more information or to register, visit [www.laurellakecamp.com](http://www.laurellakecamp.com).

## Youth Ministries Teaches "Jesus 360"

More than 380 teenagers recently participated in the first spiritual retreat hosted by the Pennsylvania Conference Youth Ministries department in quite a few years. The event was held at Laurel Lake Camp in Rossiter, Pa.

Jennifer Miller, a teacher at the Lehigh Valley school in Whitehall, first brought up the idea to revitalize the event last summer. Plans were soon made and a theme chosen: "Jesus 360." Through the theme, leaders hoped to challenge teens to involve Jesus in every area and direction of their lives. Once registration was opened, groups from all across the state started registering. The conference was hoping for at least a hundred



to attend, but God thought bigger. More than 90 additional young people were turned away due to limited space at the camp.

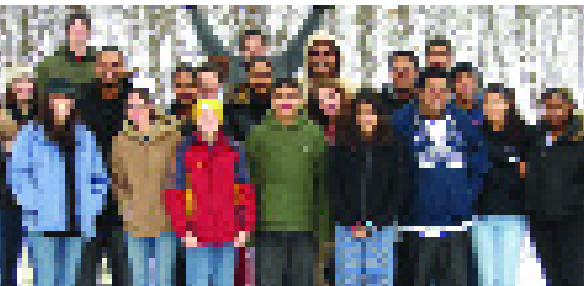
Youth Ministries partnered with the conference's Education department as well as the chaplain's office of Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) in Hamburg, Pa., to make the retreat a success. As a result, teens from elementary schools, junior academies, BMA, and local church youth groups were involved. Four BMA teens were selected to be the weekend speakers: Justin McAuliffe, Amanda Gomez, David Krajewski, and Myer Rutledge. A team directed by BMA student Emily Ferguson led worship in music. The weekend included worship, the Compass Café, an

obstacle course, sledding, a three-on-three basketball tournament, an improv comedy team, and a show by BMA's Aerial Aires gymnastics team. It was a wonderful weekend that proved to be life changing for many.—*Kris Eckenroth*

### What's happening

- April**  
**4-6** Community-based Ministries, *Harrisburg*  
**11-13** Young Adult Camp Meeting Team Retreat, *Laurel Lake Camp*  
**12** Children's Ministries Workshop, *Williamsport*  
**25-26** Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) Alumni Weekend  
**25-27** Adventurers Retreat
- May**  
**4** Pathfinder Fair, *BMA*  
**4-5** BMA Academy Days

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Youth from the Kingston church were blessed by their experiences at the "Jesus 360" retreat.

## NBC Affiliate Features Rocky Mount Lifestyle Center

The news health team of an NBC affiliate in Roanoke, Va., recently ran a special report on the Rocky Mount Lifestyle Center and two participants of its recent Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) session. The report, presented by WSLN 10 news anchor Karen McNew, aired on the channel's Friday evening news. John Kelly (right), health center director, provided expert commentary.

Soon after the report, the center held a graduation for the class at the Rocky Mount church. "We had 18 graduates with an average weight loss of eight pounds in four weeks, as well as clinically significant drops in most risk factors measured," Kelly noted. "God is good." Of the 50 attendees, Kelly reported that at least 35 were not affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. "They were singing our praises for the wonderful lifestyle changes they made," recalled Kelly. "We are also having full attendance at the weekly follow-up meetings on Tuesday nights."



## Conference Charts New Course in Ministry

In an interview with conference president Bill Miller, communication director Don Wood learns more about the Growing Healthy Churches Initiative (GHCI) that is changing the landscape of ministry in Potomac:

### Wood: What is the Growing Healthy Churches Initiative about?

**Miller:** GHCI came as a result of an assessment about the condition of our congregations. As we looked at raw data on Potomac, we gleaned that 23 percent of our churches are healthy or have sustained growth over five years; 28 percent are dying or have more than a 3 percent average loss per year over 15 years; 44 percent have plateaued; and 5 percent have not existed long enough to have solid figures. We intend to assist

growing churches and to provide tools and resources for churches that are dying or stagnate.

### Wood: What is a healthy church?

**Miller:** A healthy church is one that is characterized by, but not limited to, the following:

1. Church leadership and parishioners who seek to grow spiritually and to be a positive spiritual influence.
2. A membership that experiences numeric growth and can reproduce (plant a new church).
3. A membership that is community-focused, discipleship-trained, and active.
4. Members have a clear direction in terms of mission/vision and values: know where and why they are going, and have a pretty good idea how they are going to get there—faith.
5. Members actively proclaim the three angels' messages, both locally and globally.

### Wood: How do those characteristics translate into action?

**Miller:** We have prayed, studied, counseled, and read about this. It is the desire of the administration that, in the next five years, 50 percent of our churches will be actively participating in discipleship, and that 50 percent of our churches will show annual growth of 7 percent. If this starts to happen, it will be evident that God's people are allowing His Spirit to do big stuff through them. It is time that we get on with *His* mission, not ours.



## Presenters, Sanctuary Replica Sets Up Camp Meeting

Mark Finley (right), vice president of the Adventist Church's Center for Global Evangelism; Barry Black, U.S. Senate Chaplain (below); and Dick Duerksen of Maranatha Volunteers International are three of the presenters lined up for Potomac Conference Camp Meeting, June 17-21. The renowned Wedgewood Trio will also make an appearance.



"Work is underway and we're excited," states Glen Altermatt, camp meeting coordinator. "This year's theme is 'Behold the Lamb,' and conference leaders want the membership to do just that." He adds that the goal is to go beyond holding meetings. They want to schedule activities with a solid purpose.



To complement powerful preaching, there will be a showcase of the exciting Messiah's Mansion, a life-size replica of the Mosaic sanctuary that God instructed Moses to build in the wilderness. Everything is to scale and will transport viewers back to Israel's biblical days. Through guided tours, people will be able to see the plan of salvation "come to life" with the visual aid of sanctuary furniture.

Friday evening and Sabbath services will be accessible to anyone through satellite telecasts. Make plans to participate in a powerful spiritual experience. For schedules and important information, visit [www.pcsda.org/pc\\_campmeeting/campmeeting.asp](http://www.pcsda.org/pc_campmeeting/campmeeting.asp).

## NEWS

### Culpepper Spanish Earns Company Status

Thirty-four members strong, the Culpepper Spanish company celebrated with tears of joy as conference president Bill Miller shared hearty congratulations for their new company status. The contagiously joyous members are already planning to be organized into a full



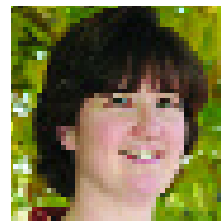
church before year's end. This will serve as the launching point for their evangelistic thrust in the area. The congregation's outreach is modeled after the dynamic "house church" movement pioneered by José Esposito, Potomac Spanish Ministries coordinator. Local pastor Jimmy Munoz (right) is proud to be part of such a healthy, growing church.



### New Team Members Join Conference Staff

**Lynette Christ** – The conference's new Human Resources assistant has lived in Maryland from the age of 5. Before coming to Potomac, she served the Chesapeake Conference in the Trust Services department. She and her husband of less than two years, David, attended the Westminster (Md.) church.

"As an employee, I want to contribute to the mission of growing healthy, disciple-making churches by being



dedicated to learning and executing my job duties to the best of my ability," explains Christ. "I want to adopt and promote our mission with all of the employees and constituents I contact. Personally, I'll contribute by making the goals, mission, leaders, and workers of the Potomac Conference a matter of constant prayer, and by joining the disciple-making process with my local church," she adds.

**Crystal Knittel** – The conference's new Communication assistant grew up in Chattanooga, Tenn., and moved to California 20 years ago. She most recently worked for the San Joaquin Community Hospital/Adventist Health in Bakersfield, Calif., as the gift shop assistant. She and husband, Jeff, recently moved back East in August 2007, settling in Penn Laird, Va. Jeff is now the safety manager for Wal-Mart's Transportation Fleet out of Mt. Crawford. The Knittels have two children: Andrew (20), a sophomore at Southern Adventist University (Tenn.); and Rachel (18), a senior at Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va. "I hope to contribute to the conference's mission by supporting God's work here, and by the way I conduct myself in all aspects of my life," Knittel notes.



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Phone: (540) 886-0771 • [www.pcsda.org](http://www.pcsda.org) • President, Bill Miller • Communication Director, Don Wood

## New Principal Elected



Spencer Hannah recently accepted the invitation of the SVA Board of Trustees to be the academy's new principal, starting in the 2008-09 school year. Hannah has 20 years of administrative experience in Seventh-day Adventist boarding schools and is currently the principal of Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) in Hamburg, Pa. Hannah and his wife, Eva, have a daughter attending college and a grown son. They will relocate to New Market, Va., this summer.

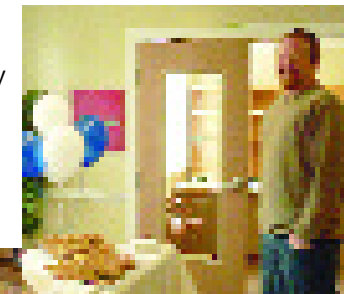
As principal, Hannah will work closely with the teachers, staff, and students in all areas of operations to meet the school's seven objectives. With his special skills of developing strong relationships with these groups, Hannah will provide leadership as SVA contin-

ues to grow and improve in all areas. SVA's current principal, Dale Twomley, PhD, was elected to serve as the school's president and business manager. Twomley will work closely with Hannah in the overall direction of SVA and give special focus on the institution's financial development, including new industries.

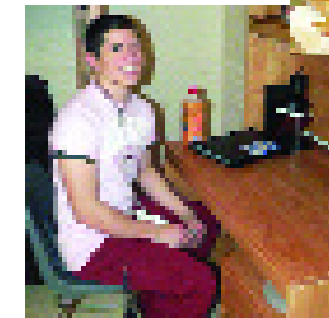
In announcing the administrative changes for next school year, Bill Miller, SVA's chairman of the Board of Trustees, said, "SVA is very fortunate to have Mr. Hannah join the SVA team. By all measures, BMA has been one of the most successful Adventist boarding academies for years." He added, "This reassignment of responsibilities will allow both of these proven leaders to focus on specific areas while working together on our administrative team."

## Renovated Boys' Dorm Unveiled

Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) male students recently became the school's "men of 'Stiel" when they moved into their new dormitory, Phanstiel Hall. After



On opening day, dean Gerry Davis distributed homemade cookies.



Sophomore Justin Montanara immediately puts the new desk in his reconstructed dorm room to good use.

The SVA Board of Trustees renamed the dormitory Phanstiel Hall in recognition of the extraordinary financial gifts and support of Howard and Louise (Hart, '76) Phanstiel. At a time when the boys' dorm had become nearly unusable, the Phanstiels donated \$1 million to jump-start the renovation last summer. This gift was in addition to \$800,000 the couple recently



Senior Keith Timms finds a resting spot in the dorm's new parlor.



donated to finish the remodeling of the girls' dormitory, Hadley Hall. Everyone at SVA is very grateful for their support and gifts.

and beds, new bathrooms and laundry facilities, and each floor has its own kitchenette and study room. There is also a new lobby on the third floor, and the entrance lobby had a makeover.

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  
E-mail: [daletwomley@hotmail.com](mailto:daletwomley@hotmail.com)  
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# Come On Down!

## SVA ACADEMY DAYS April 13-14, 2008

Come on Down... to Shenandoah Valley Academy and then come down into the Valley Conference. It's all part of SVA's Academy Days.



Starting with lunch at noon on Sunday, enjoy:

- Golfing • Dinner • Football
- Dance & fireworks • Family Inservice • Miniature Golf

Available in scholarships for:

- Music • Math • Science
- Music • Sports

Up to \$50,000 in scholarships available on Sunday!

Starting at 9 a.m. on Monday visit classes and dorms, attend and attend our annual work opportunities. Cook, paint, woodwork!

Two parents will **Come on Down** in the world-famous Valley Conference on Sunday evening. Then, spend the night in our newly remodeled dormitories. Bring your sleeping bags and towels.

If you can't make it to Academy Days, **Come on Down** another time. Having problems with transportation to Academy Days? Give Mr. Bill Griesmer a call for some help.

TMJ, owned Shenandoah Valley Academy  
 (540) 340-3061  
 294 N. Lee Highway  
 New Market, VA 22844  
[www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org](http://www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org)

**NEW COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP**

<p><b>April 2:</b> Tom Goss Medical Lunch Worship, Bible, Basketball</p> <p><b>April 9:</b> Kenneth Reed, John Goodland</p>	<p><b>April 16:</b> Kevin Tom Johnson Medical Lunch Sunday Inservice</p> <p><b>April 23:</b> Dr. Joe Stirling Johnson Musical Concert Worship, Bible Study</p>
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seeks two instructors for full-time positions in the School of Journalism and Communication. Course subjects may include speech, public relations, media production, photography, and new media. Candidates should have demonstrated success in college teaching, and/or professional work experience, with a strong commitment to Seventh-day Adventist education. A master's degree in the field is required, and a doctorate is preferred. Send CV to Dr. Greg Rumsey, rumsey@southern.edu, School of Journalism and Communication, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315.

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**Write:** Adventist World Aviation Box 251 Berrien Springs, MI 49103

**Email:** [info@flyawa.org](mailto:info@flyawa.org)

**Register online:** [www.flyawa.org](http://www.flyawa.org)

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**"YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY REUNION** will take place June 12-15 for alumni and schoolmates of 1958 and earlier, at Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA), formerly CLA. Honor classes: 1928, 1938, 1948, 1958. For further information, contact the GLAA Alumni Office at (989) 427-5181 or visit [www.GLAA.net](http://www.GLAA.net).

**ASAM CHESAPEAKE SINGLES CAMPOUT** will be held on May 2-4 at Big Meadow Campground in Shenandoah National Park. All are welcome. Tent or hotel accommodations available; meals provided. For more information and fees, contact Carolyn Huffstickler (540) 373-4642 or email [connerbareta@hotmail.com](mailto:connerbareta@hotmail.com). Deadline: April 21; [www.asamchesapeake.com](http://www.asamchesapeake.com).

**Chesapeake Adventist Single Adult Ministries Retreat**

*April 25-27*

**Mt. Aetna Camp Hagerstown, Md.**

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

*Gaspar and May-Ellen Colón*

**Theme:** "Sabbath: It's all About Him"

**Andrea D. Hicks**

**Workshops:**

"Why Do Some Romantic Relationships Fail?"

"Awakening Your Heart After Love Dies"

"Tools for a Successful Single Adult Ministry"

**Prices:** Weekend (meals and lodging): Cabins \$85; Sabbath (No overnight stay) \$40

**Registration Deadline: April 17**

For more information and a brochure: visit [www.asamchesapeake.com](http://www.asamchesapeake.com) or call (410) 992-9731.

	Apr 11	Apr 18	Apr 25	May 2	May 9
Baltimore	7:41	7:48	7:54	8:01	8:08
Cincinnati	8:12	8:19	8:26	8:33	8:39
Cleveland	8:03	8:11	8:18	8:26	8:33
Columbus	8:07	8:14	8:21	8:28	8:35
Jersey City	7:32	7:39	7:47	7:54	8:01
Norfolk	7:37	7:43	7:49	7:55	8:01
Parkersburg	8:00	8:07	8:14	8:21	8:28
Philadelphia	7:36	7:43	7:50	7:57	8:04
Pittsburgh	7:55	8:03	8:10	8:17	8:24
Reading	7:39	7:46	7:53	8:01	8:08
Richmond	7:42	7:48	7:55	8:01	8:07
Roanoke	7:52	7:58	8:04	8:11	8:17
Toledo	8:11	8:19	8:26	8:34	8:41
Trenton	7:34	7:41	7:49	7:56	8:03
Wash., D.C.	7:42	7:49	7:55	8:02	8:09

**SUNSET CALENDAR**

**Maryland Men of Faith**

Presented by Personal Ministries Atholton and Baltimore First Seventh-day Adventist churches

**Upcoming Events:**

Frank Bondurant  
May 20 at 7 p.m.  
Beltsville Church

Clifford Goldstein  
July 29 at 7 p.m.  
Baltimore First Church

Third Annual Conference  
October 4 - All day  
Mt. Aetna Camp and Retreat Center  
Hagerstown, Md.

[www.mmof.org](http://www.mmof.org)

**For more information:**

**Email**  
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**Phone**  
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Baltimore First Church

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**LA SIERRA ACADEMY 2008 ALUMNI WEEKEND—**  
When: April 26-27. Where: La Sierra Academy campus. Steve Blue and Jackson Gingles, speakers; honor class reunions; golf tournament on Sunday. Call (951) 351-1445, ext. 210, for details, or visit [www.lsak12.com](http://www.lsak12.com).

**BROADVIEW ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND—**  
the first weekend in May. All alumni are encouraged to attend. Mark your calendars. Call your classmates and start planning for this weekend now. Honor classes: 1948, 1958, 1968, 1978, 1983, 1988, and 1998. Friday night Vespers, Sabbath School and church. All ideas and information welcome. For communication purposes, we need everyone's email address. Send it to: [scross@broadviewacademy.org](mailto:scross@broadviewacademy.org) or call Shona Cross at (630) 677-4387. More information to come. Don't miss it! Broadview Academy Alumni Association is alive and well. Our school still binds us together!

**OBITUARIES**

**BRISTOW, Harvey E., Jr.,** born June 4, 1941, in Portsmouth, Va.; died Dec. 30, 2007, in Crystal River, Fla. He was a member of the Inverness

(Fla.) church for eight years and served as an assistant treasurer at Shenandoah Valley Academy from 1964-1966, and as boy's dean from 1966-1968; Bible teacher/associate pastor at Jefferson Academy, 1968-1970; principal at Fort Worth Junior Academy, 1970-1973; principal at Indianapolis Junior Academy, 1973-1976; principal at Highland View Academy, 1976-1979; Bible, history, and business teacher at Takoma Academy, 1979-1987, and principal, 1987-1992; chaplain at Washington Adventist Hospital, 1992-1995; and Bible teacher at Greater Miami Academy, 1996-1997. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Ruth Bristow, of Inverness, Fla.; daughters Teresa Kelchner of Mt. Airy, Md., and Carol Hipps of Burtonsville, Md.; four grandchildren; his mother, Leone Bristow of Calhoun, Ga.; his brother, Raymond Bristow of Salem, Va.; and a sister, Mary Ellen Van Horn of Calhoun, Ga.

**CALES, Emma Mae Gordon,** born September 17, 1922; died December 8, 2007. She was a member of the Christiansburg (Va.) church. At 85 years old she was the last of the charter members of the Radford church in Radford, Va.

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**NEXT CONVENTION:**

**Denver October 9-12, 2008**

**COLUMBIA UNION STORY**



... [www.adventisthealthcare.com](http://www.adventisthealthcare.com)

SAM BELONY

**People First**

There were sermons to preach, disciples to teach, banquets to attend. Avid truth-seekers had traveled from afar to hear the Master speak and fellowship with Him. But as soon as He heard of Simon's mother-in-law's sickness, Jesus turned His back on all and went to her bedside (see Mark 1:29-31). Lunch could wait. Teaching could wait. Fellowship could wait. She came first!



Christ's method of evangelism was simple: People's needs took precedence. Before denouncing sin or preaching the kingdom of heaven, He first healed their infirmities, fed their hungry, and raised their dead. And the greater their need, the more tender His touch.

Even with our modern scientific enlightenment, there is great evidence that people still have needs:

- An excess of 8 million people die annually as a result of poverty.
- 33.2 million people are currently living with HIV, and 2.5 million of them are children under 15<sup>1</sup>.
- Roughly one-sixth of the world's population lives on less than \$1 per day.

This is disheartening, but until the Lord appears in the clouds and forever declares, "It is finished!" people will always have needs. Diseases will continue to roam rampant. Children will die of hunger, AIDS, and cancer the world over. People in poverty-infested nations will continue to be malnourished. People who seemingly have everything will suffer from depression and hopelessness. Day by day we can expect to see sin's prevailing darkness deepening its grip on our communities. The question is, as a church, what do we do about it? What can we do?

**Follow the Leader**

Christ left us countless examples. From changing water to wine in Cana, to inviting the thief on the cross to His Father's kingdom, the focal point of His ministry had been meeting the needs of communities. As His followers we are also called to be a beacon of hope, to develop a connection with our communities, to mingle with them (without compromising our doctrine), to learn what their needs are, and then to meet them.

So this year, before we go out and invite them to our Revelation seminars, our tent efforts, or our Bible studies, let's put people—and their needs—first.

*Sam Belony, a member of Newark's Trinity Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church, writes from Randolph, N.J.*

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

**COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS** ■ 5427 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045 (888) 4-VISITOR ■ <http://www.columbiaunion.org>

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- ALLEGHENY WEST:** James L. Lewis, President; Bryant Taylor, *Visitor* Correspondent; 1339 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43205. Tel. (614) 252-5271 ■ [www.awconf.org](http://www.awconf.org)
- CHESAPEAKE:** Rob Vandeman, President; (vacant), *Visitor* Correspondent; 6600 Martin Rd., Columbia, MD 21044. Tel. (410) 995-1910
- MOUNTAIN VIEW:** Larry Boggess, President; Brian Jones, *Visitor* Correspondent; 1400 Liberty St., Parkersburg, WV 26101. Tel. (304) 422-4581 ■ [www.mtviewconf.org](http://www.mtviewconf.org)
- NEW JERSEY:** José Cortés, President; Laffit Cortés, *Visitor* Correspondent; 2160 Brunswick Ave., Trenton, NJ 08648. Tel. (609) 392-7131 ■ [www.njcsda.org](http://www.njcsda.org)
- OHIO:** Raj Attiken, President; Nancy Barnett, *Visitor* Correspondent; P.O. Box 1230, Mount Vernon, OH 43050. Tel. (740) 397-4665 ■ [www.ohioadventist.org](http://www.ohioadventist.org)
- PENNSYLVANIA:** Ray Hartwell, President; Tamra Horst, *Visitor* Correspondent; 720 Museum Rd., Reading, PA 19611. Tel. (610) 374-8331 ■ [www.paconference.org](http://www.paconference.org)
- POTOMAC:** Bill Miller, President; Don Wood, *Visitor* Correspondent; 606 Greenville Avenue, Staunton, VA 24401. Tel. (540) 886-0771 ■ [www.pcsda.org](http://www.pcsda.org)

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- KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE:** Frank Perez, President & CEO; Kathryn Stiles, *Visitor* Correspondent; 3965 Southern Blvd., Kettering, OH 45429. Tel. (937) 395-8167 [www.kmncnetwork.org](http://www.kmncnetwork.org)

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## Blue Mountain Academy

### Alumni Weekend

April 25 - 27, 2008  
Honor Classes:  
Lake Ariel Academy,  
Philadelphia Academy, 1943, 1948, 1953,  
1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988,  
1998, Former Faculty & Staff  
The King's Herald's join Bell Cantos in Concert

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April 25, 2008  
Register Today!  
info@bma.us or 610-562-6214

### Academy Days!

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