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JUNE 2006 • VOLUME 143 • ISSUE 6



## Retired Presidents Honored

3,500 Commemorate Ellen White's  
Great Controversy Vision

Plus: Meet 10 Top Students



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Some 3,500 people gathered recently in Ohio to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the vision that led Adventist co-founder Ellen G. White to write *The Great Controversy*. We take you there through photos and quotes.

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Have you read or recently re-read Ellen White's prolific work *The Great Controversy*? Why is it so significant to our church and future? As you contemplate its meaning in your life, read what attendees at last month's commemorative gathering had to say.

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This graduation season, we pause to recognize the Columbia Union Conference's Caring Heart Award recipients. On top of studying, working, and engaging in extracurricular sports, music, or spiritual activities, these exemplary students demonstrate personal commitment to service and witnessing. Meet this year's awardees from the Columbia Union's 10 academies and find out why they are tops!



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On the Web

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[columbiaunion.org](http://columbiaunion.org)

**About the Cover:** These Columbia Union presidents gathered in Kettering, Ohio, last month at Ridgely Terrace, the one-time mansion of inventor Charles F. Kettering. It currently serves as headquarters for Kettering Adventist HealthCare. Photo by Lee Ann Yahle.

Remember the Vision, Experience the Mission

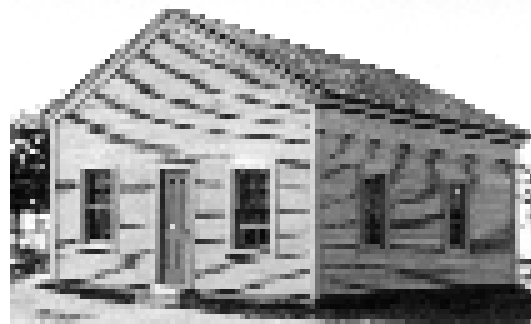
"If you don't become a Seventh-day Adventist, I'll never marry you!" Those were the words my father heard after proposing to his would-be bride. And before he led my mother down the aisle, he did indeed join the church. Pretty interesting way to do evangelism, don't you think? But my mother, Hazel Gates Weigley, was convinced that the message of this church was important. If she were going to marry and raise a family, it would be a family of Seventh-day Adventists.



This conviction my mother possessed came from becoming acquainted with the book *The Great Controversy*. Her faith journey began when a colporteur sold a copy of this prophetic work to her sister and brother-in-law, Evelyn and Darwin Heisey. As they read it, they were intrigued and decided to take Bible studies from the local Adventist pastor, who happened to be the father of *It Is Written* founder George Vandeman. After sharing with the other family members what they had learned, my mother, her brother Merle Gates, and their mother—my grandmother Nannie—decided to become Seventh-day Adventists along with Evelyn and Darwin. All of this came about because of *The Great Controversy*, which its author, Ellen G. White, said she "appreciated above silver or gold."

GETTING TO THE CORE

What is it about this book that makes it so special, and why would we recognize the 150th anniversary of its writing? *The Great Controversy* was the last of five books in White's Conflict of the Ages



On March 30, 1858, in this Lovett's Grove, Ohio, schoolhouse, Adventist co-founder Ellen G. White experienced an enlightening vision about the "great controversy" between Christ and Satan.

series, a collection of books that should be in every home. They identify the great struggle between Christ and Satan that culminates in Christ's final victory and the restoration of this world to its original Edenic beauty. According to White, it outlines the closing scenes of Earth's history and bears powerful testimony on behalf of the truth. "I am more anxious to see a wide circulation for this book than for any others I have written; for in *The Great Controversy*, the last message of warning to the world is given more distinctly than in any of my other books ..." she noted in *Colporteur Ministry*, pp. 127-128. This really gets to the core of why there is a need to share the timely message of Revelation 14 with the entire world.

To help us understand it better and prepare for the end of time, God called a dedicated woman who became a vessel in His hand. She received a powerful vision outlining the major issues facing the church through the ages—issues that when closely studied are the bedrock theme of the Holy Bible and also are seen more and more in these end times.

We, too, have the privilege of seeing a glimpse of this vision as we study, pray, and open ourselves to the leading of the Holy Spirit. And as my mother, father, aunt, and grandmother did in the years after they accepted this truth, we can find joy in sharing these truths with our family, friends, community, and the world, letting them know that the conflict is almost ended and Jesus is soon to return. So I again encourage you to read or re-read *The Great Controversy* and remember the vision. And, as you study and pray, commit yourself to *experience the mission!*

Dave Weigley ([dweigley@columbiaunion.net](mailto:dweigley@columbiaunion.net)) is president of the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Visit his photo blog at [columbiaunion.org](http://columbiaunion.org).

### Church Communication Leader Dies

Reger C. Smith Jr., associate communication director for



public relations for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, died last

month following a lengthy illness. He was 54.

Throughout 27 years of service to his church, the talented graphic designer worked in public relations at Hadley Memorial Hospital in Washington, D.C., co-owned a Maryland-based graphic design firm, worked at the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., and even designed and wrote for the *Visitor* magazine. He used his photography and design skills on numerous projects, creating brochures, banners, and other public relations materials for churches, schools, ministries, and other church organizations. He was the prime coordinator for the 2003 construction of a visitor's center at the Adventist World Headquarters, seen by more than 7,000 people each year.

A longtime member of Allegheny East Conference's Breath of Life church in Fort Washington, Md., he was also duly regarded as a talented musician, composer, arranger, and singer. In addition to performing at his church and churches across the country, he was involved with numerous musical groups, including the well-known Breath of Life Quartet and Heritage Singers. Many people don't know that

Smith was the lyricist for the official 2005 General Conference Session song. Titled "Jesus Christ How We Adore You," he wrote it to portray "Christ's many facets as a provider, mentor, creator, and redeemer."

He leaves a wife, Delores; a daughter, Katie, and son, Ross; two sisters; and his parents. An older sister preceded him in death 10 years ago.—*Adventist News Network*

### Kettering College Graduates Record 294

At its 40th annual commencement, Kettering College of Medical Arts conferred degrees and certificates on a record 294 graduates. This eclipses last year's record of 237 graduates and marks the third straight record-setting graduation class.

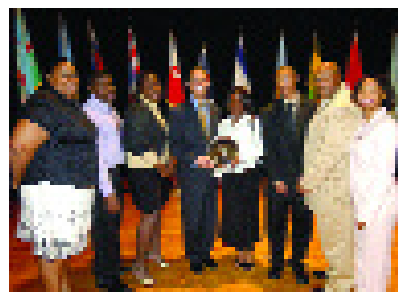
Commencement speaker, **Alvin Jackson, MD**, an Allegheny West Conference member and director of the Ohio Department of Health,



spoke about growing up in the south, in a community founded by former slaves after the Civil War. He shared how this tight-knit community not only looked after each other, but looked after their own health-care needs. That upbringing ultimately guided him to a life that has been dedicated to serving the underserved. He challenged the graduates to use their God-given gifts to help change the world. Look within your hearts and provide a glimmer of hope for those who are less fortunate, he said.—*Mindy Claggett*

### Baltimore Youth Receive Governor's Award

The United Youth Service Corps, a ministry of Seventh-day Adventist youth from Baltimore-area churches, was honored recently as a recipient of the Governor's Volunteer Service Award. Four youth and four adult members of the corps accepted the award from Maryland Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown (center).



A ministry of Baltimore Adventist Community Services, the United Youth Service Corps is comprised of 120 youth from 12 churches. Members gather each month to learn about a specific community concern (homelessness, AIDS, etc.) and explore ways they can partner with the community to address such issues. "Our goal is to teach youth how to model Christ's method of ministry," says Pastor Darriel Hoy (far right) who facilitates the corps in partnership with church youth leaders and youth pastors.—*Trish Swann*

**Correction**—An article by Hamlet Canosa, EdD, vice president for Education at the Columbia Union Conference, has been printed in the Summer issue of *The Journal of Adventist Education*. See <http://education.gc.adventist.org/jae>.

## New Music Guild Honors 22

Twenty-two professional and highly talented musicians from around the Columbia Union were honored recently during the first Guild of Adventist Musicians Music Awards Ceremony. Run like a



Hollywood-studded Grammy Awards ceremony, the event featured numerous musical performances, speeches, and well-deserved applause.

**Jeanette Nelson**, a music educator and member of Allegheny East Conference's



(AEC) Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C., founded the Guild of Adventist Musicians in 1991 with nine charter members. Its mission is to encourage and promote excellence in the performance of sacred music, provide a forum for mutual support of Adventist musicians, stimulate expression

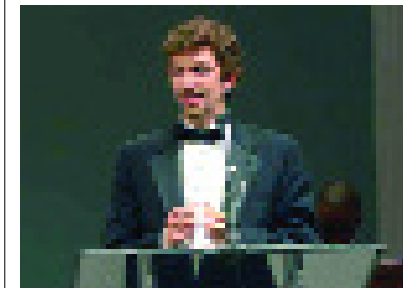


PHOTOS BY GREEN PHOTOGRAPHY

of musical gifts in the church, and develop training programs to enhance musical ability in young musicians. The awards program is their newest venture.

"I am grateful to all who played a part in bringing this project to fruition," said Nelson.

Churches and schools across the union submitted nominations in 2007, while a panel of hand-picked judges recently selected the winners in eight categories. At the awards program held at the Adventist World Headquarters in Silver Spring, Md., Pastor Charles Tapp of Potomac Conference's Seabrook church in Lanham, Md., used his



rich, bass voice to serve as the show's announcer. Then emcees Jude Patrick, MD, MPH, of AEC's Capitol Hill church and David Starks of AEC's Dupont Park church, both in the nation's capital, revealed the winners (listed).

One special segment of the show was the announcement of the Alyne Dumas Lee Award, presented to up-and-coming musician Sheri Jackson also of Dupont Park church.

"This was an evening I will never, ever forget," concluded one attendee about the event. "There were many performances worthy of Carnegie Hall," added another.—*Beth Michaels*

**Outstanding Choral Conductors**  
Jerry Taylor, Kettering (Ohio) church and David Green, Seabrook church, Lanham, Md.

**Outstanding Accompanist**  
Victoria Alma Castello, Metropolitan church, Hyattsville, Md., and Reginald Reid, Community Praise Center, Alexandria, Va.

**Outstanding Band Director**  
Tim Vandeman, Takoma Academy, Takoma Park, Md. (pictured, center)

**Outstanding Music Teacher**  
Esther Wroten, Dupont Park church, Washington, D.C.

**Outstanding Minister of Music**  
Erich Mace, Hampden Heights church, Reading, Pa.

**Outstanding Church Pianist**  
Mary Ann Sisson, Hightstown (N.J.) church

**Outstanding Organist**  
Marcellus Breach, Capital Memorial church, Washington, D.C.

**Most Valuable Assistant**  
Joseph Hammond, Dupont Park church

**Rising Star Award**  
Wendell David Phipps, Seabrook church

**Lifetime of Excellence in Music:**  
Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse, Columbia Union College, Takoma Park, Md. (pictured, below)

Alma Blackmon, Dupont Park church

Eugene Reid, Emmanuel-Brinklow church, Ashton, Md.

Allen Breach, Dupont Park church  
Edward Jackson, Dupont Park church

Laddie Bell, Seabrook church

Nevilla Ottley, Metropolitan church

Francisco de Araujo, Frederick (Md.) church

Charles Lee Brooks (posthumous), First church, Washington, D.C.

Gwendolyn and Allen Foster, Ebenezer church, Philadelphia

# Retired Columbia Union Presidents Honored

The highlight of the midyear meeting of the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee, held in Kettering, Ohio, last month, was a special luncheon honoring six retired presidents of the Columbia Union Conference. Themed “Celebrating a Century of

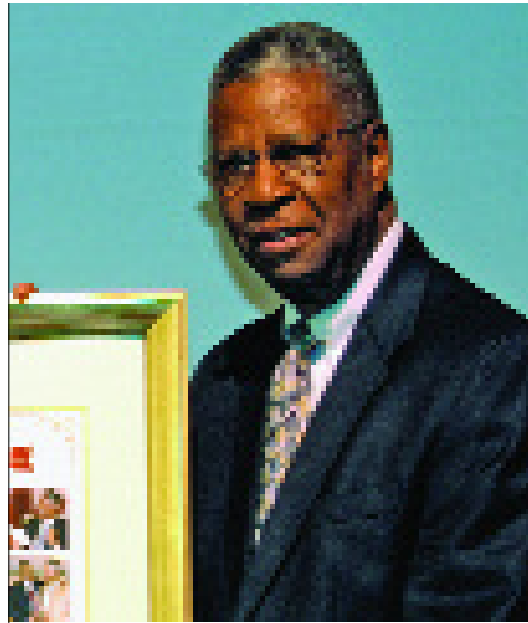
Leadership,” the event was the culmination of the union’s year-long centennial celebration. It historically brought to the same location those who led the union for over half of its 100-year existence. Since it was organized in 1907, the Columbia Union has had 16 presidents, including the current president, Dave Weigley. Honorees, accompanied by wives or family members, were presented with centennial mementos and displays that featured photos, quotes, and highlights from their tenures. They included William Quigley, who served from 1973-78 and co-presided with his predecessor Cree Sandefur (deceased) over the first ordination of a woman as church elder; Ron Wisbey, who served from 1985-1994 and implemented the “Vision 2000” initiative that positioned the local church as the central focus of the denomination; Ralph Martin (left), who served from 1994-97 and was noted for training and developing future lead-



ers; and Harold Lee (above), who served from 1998-2006 and was remembered for establishing a global mission service initiative and adopting the theme “helping people celebrate God’s transforming grace.” Also honored, but not present due to health concerns, were Wallace Coe, who led from 1978-85 and spearheaded the relocation of the union headquarters to its current



ministry,” said Weigley, elected after Lee’s 2006 retirement. He thanked them for their dedicated leadership, service to God’s church, and example to current leaders. “You led faithfully, and may we also lead in such a way that those who come behind us find us faithful.” The keynote speaker for the tribute was Charles Bradford (left), retired president of the



site in Columbia, Md., and Neal C. Wilson, who led from 1962-66 and went on to serve as president of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church. “You inspired my life and

North American Division. He reminisced about the former presidents and his connections to the Columbia Union during their tenures. They also reminisced and expressed their appreciation for the event.

“I spent nine years in Potomac Conference and three-plus years in the Columbia Union. They were such pleasant days, but I doubt that any day was more enjoyable than this particular day when I was able to come back and be honored with the other former union presidents,” said Martin whose sentiment was shared by all. “It’s a reunion that we value

highly, and we also are so thrilled to see the progress this union is making beyond what we saw or expected. The church has blossomed and grown in a beautiful way.”

*Retired president Ron Wisbey, who now serves on the board of Versacare, Inc., an organization that provides grants for creative ministry projects, unveiled “I Was Hungry ... .” This specially commissioned Nathan Greene painting will be featured in one of Kettering Adventist HealthCare’s facilities and encourages viewers to show compassion to their fellow man.*

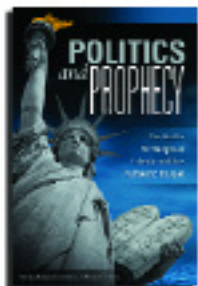


**Celebrating Leadership:** The current and retired Columbia Union Conference presidents standing with their spouses are (left to right) Dave and Becky Weigley, William Quigley, Joann and Ralph Martin, Barbara and Harold Lee, and Delores and Ron Wisbey. Photo by Lee Ann Yahle

What's New?

Book > Politics and Prophecy

This new release begins with an introduction on the foundations of freedom and the role of



liberty in prophecy, then tackles religious freedom in the workplace, the marriage debate, and more. The book combines the insights of eight highly qualified experts, including three of the Columbia Union's own—Dave Morgan, Jonathan Gallagher, and James Standish.

"The reader will gain the background to understand past events but also, more importantly, new events as they develop," explains Standish, Seventh-day Adventist Church director of Legislative Affairs and a member of the Capital Memorial church in Washington, D.C. "You don't have to be an Adventist Christian to realize that the intersection of religion and public policy is of critical importance. We have unique insights that allow us to lead—not simply to parrot—the beliefs of others."

Learn to protect your rights by picking up a copy at your local Adventist Book Center.

Resource > VBS Program Kit Castles and Crowns: A Royal Adventure

Are you gearing up for this summer's Vacation Bible School (VBS)? The Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., wants you to

teach your participants about the kings and queens of the Bible and our true heritage as children of the King of Kings. Produced in partnership with the North American Division, their evangelism kit—complete with music, manuals for each station of learning, and a CD with printable resources—is designed for a five-day VBS program that accommodates many different styles of learning. "Our hope is that each child who experiences the program will come away not only better understanding the character of God, but also embracing their own place as a

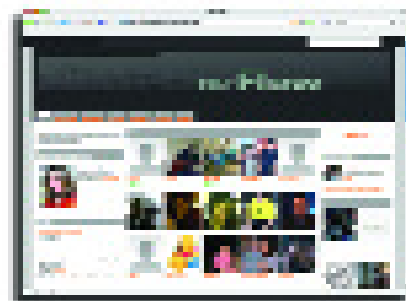


child of the King," says Candy DeVore, the company's children's religious education resource coordinator and member of the Highland View church. Get started at [adventistbookcenter.com](http://adventistbookcenter.com).

—Celeste Ryan Blyden

Social Networking Website > theFlow

Move over MySpace! Christian youth now have safe Internet territory to mingle, create profiles, upload videos, start discussions, and join groups. Created by



Keeping Score

Internet Use by Columbia Union Members

- 79% Personal Internet Access (General Public)
- 60% Personal Internet Access
- 50% Using Broadband
- 21% Using Dial-up

Source: Center for Creative Ministry/ Columbia Union Conference 2007 Survey

Insight magazine, theFlow—"where people talk about the Water of Life"—is clean and Christ centered.

"Our goal is to connect with youth on their level and interact with them in a way they are familiar," says Nick Bejarano, site administrator. "We also want to create a place where youth of all faiths can come and learn about our unique Adventist message and what it has to offer them in the 21st century."

To make new friends, visit <http://insightmagazine.ning.com>.

WholeHealth

Little Things Matter

Keeping track of our daily eating patterns is one of the keys to successful weight management. However, scientists at the USDA's Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center in Maryland found that people do not necessarily remember their past accurately. When they asked 98 men and women how

much they ate in a 24-hour period, they found that six out of seven women underreported by an average of 621 calories, and six out of 10 men underreported by an average of 581 calories.

Often it isn't the type and volume of food eaten during mealtimes that is forgotten, but the seemingly insignificant "little" bites of food throughout the day: the Pringles chip sample at the grocery store (10 calories); the midafternoon chocolate kiss (25 calories); the oatmeal cookie picked up in the break room (35 calories), and the food sampled while cooking dinner or during clean up.



The impact of these little bites adds up. A regular daily intake of merely 50 extra calories adds up to a five-pound weight gain over the year. If you struggle to maintain a healthy weight, challenge yourself to pay attention to the little things. They matter.—Lilly Tryon, MSN, RN, Adventist WholeHealth Wellness Center

Web Watch

religiousliberty.info

Access more resources, get free email updates about our unique Adventist perspective on religious liberty, and learn how to be a part of the annual Religious Liberty Summit this year, June 12-14.

In the Spotlight > Al Newhart

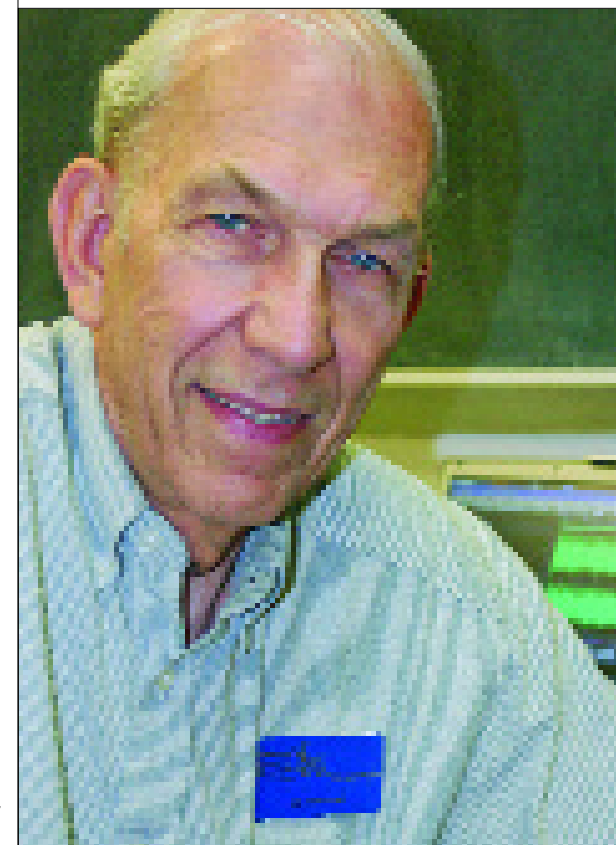
You've seen him at conventions, churches, camp meetings, retreats, and even General Conference Sessions, fastidiously setting up his recording machines and equipping speakers with microphones. In case you've wondered, that tall, lanky gentleman with the white hair and warm grin is Al Newhart, founder of American Cassette Ministries.

His 33-year-old ministry houses some 20,000 recordings—the "biggest archive of Adventist speakers in the world." His 48-page catalog reads like a who's who among renowned Adventist preachers and evangelists including C.D. Brooks, Joe Crews, Doug Batchelor, and many other greats who have delivered powerful sermons and testimonies you'd like to hear again.

It all started in 1975 when 52-year-old Newhart, an engineer for Bell Telephone, retired early because he felt impressed by the Holy Spirit to start a tape ministry. "Then, out of the blue, I got a call from longtime Adventist revivalist Emilio Knechtle asking me to tape his messages," recalls Newhart. He did that for 20-plus years, promoting Knechtle's recordings worldwide. He expanded the ministry at the request of other speakers who wanted to make their keynote sermons or seminars available to the masses. "Many people have been changed by listening to the tapes because they highlight Christ, share the gospel, and dispel deception," says Newhart.

For decades the powerful messages were immortalized on cassette, but now Newhart and his wife and ministry partner, Marion—members of Pennsylvania Conference's Harrisburg First church—offer CDs, DVDs, and even MP3 files. With the demise of cassette tapes, they recently changed the name to American Christian Ministries. "But," notes Al, "once in a while we still get requests for cassettes."

To get your sermons; seminars; nature DVDs; music CDs; and copies of the children's program, *Your Story Hour*, visit [americanchristianministries.org](http://americanchristianministries.org) or call (800) 233-4450.—Celeste Ryan Blyden



# Remembering the Vision

**I CAME FOR THE FELLOWSHIP** and to hear Elder [Charles] Bradford,” said William Rodriguez, from the Lorain (Ohio) Spanish church. “I came to hear Smuts Van Rooyen and he did not disappoint,” said Worthington (Ohio) member Suzy Juarros. “I came to hear the Heritage Singers,” said Joe Marrow of Cincinnati’s Shiloh church. “I came to hear the messages,” said Beverly Banga-an who traveled with a small group from Taylor Mill, Ky.

They joined some 3,500 members and leaders who gathered in Kettering, Ohio, last month for a special event commemorating the 150th anniversary of the vision that sparked Ellen White’s writing of *The Great Controversy*. Sponsored by the Ohio Conference, Kettering Adventist HealthCare, and the Columbia Union Conference, the Sabbath event was packed with inspiring messages, all types of music, and well-planned programs for all ages.

“It was great to wake up and see so many people gathering here,” said Carrie Smith, a dormitory student at Kettering College of Medical Arts. “I wanted to see what it was all about.”

According to Raj Attikan, president of the Ohio Conference, which spearheaded the event, it was all about inspiration, fellowship, heritage, solidarity, and hope in the long-awaited advent of Jesus Christ. “It’s good for us to tell the story and to recognize that our lives and what we do are part of the larger story of God, His universe, and this controversy that’s going on,” he said. “Events like this give us a sense of the movement of history within the church and a future we can embrace and shape as we remain faithful both to the gospel and to the mission that God has given us.”

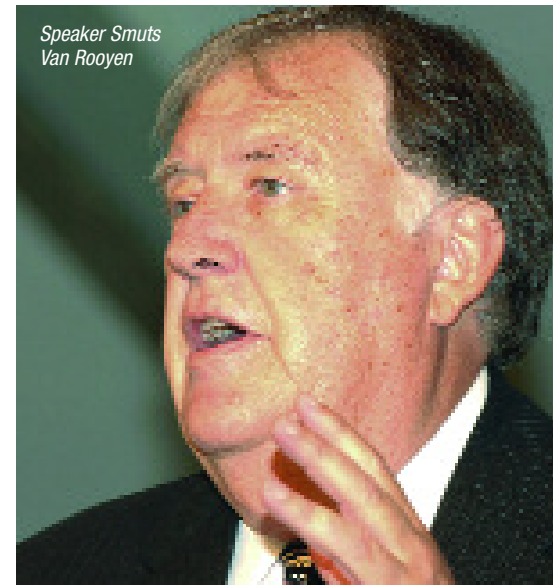
Jan Paulsen, president of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church and speaker for divine worship, commended the organizers on their efforts: “This is a wonderful occasion,” he said. “Apart from the fact that we’ve come together to remember and celebrate, what a spiritual fellowship this has been, what a wonderful experience of nurturing the family in the faith that we share.”

## 3,500 Commemorate Great Controversy Vision, Book, Message

By Celeste Ryan Blyden



While the young adults packed the Kettering church sanctuary and the youth enjoyed activities in the gym, the adults filled this tent to overflowing.



Speaker Smuts Van Rooyen

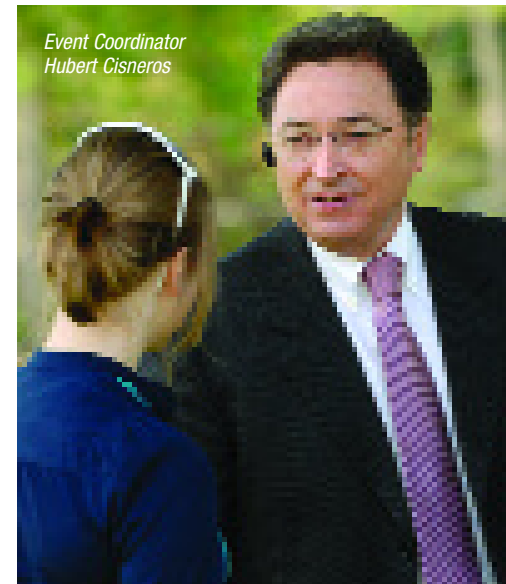


Vocalist Kennecia Grant sings appeal for speaker Charles Bradford.



Raj Attikan greets attendees.

PHOTOS BY CELESTE RYAN BLYDEN, MARCELLUS DE OLIVEIRA, AND LEE ANN YAHLE



Event Coordinator Hubert Cisneros



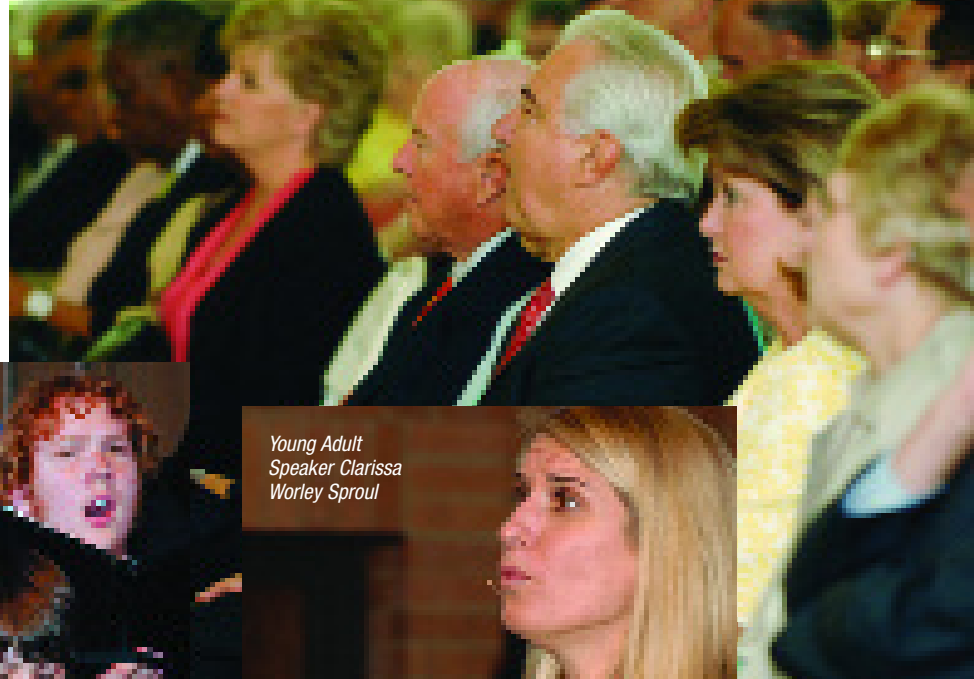
## FROM THE PULPIT

Most Adventists are so familiar with Ellen White's insights regarding the ongoing cosmic conflict between Christ and Satan that we almost take them for granted. Our understanding of the great controversy impacts nearly everything that we believe and practice. It has brought us profound theological understanding of such truths as the character of God, the origin of sin, and God's solution to the sin problem, to name a few. But also, in practical, day-to-day ways, those same insights into the cosmic battle now raging impact the way we think, live, worship, and share our faith.—*James R. Nix, director, Ellen G. White Estate*

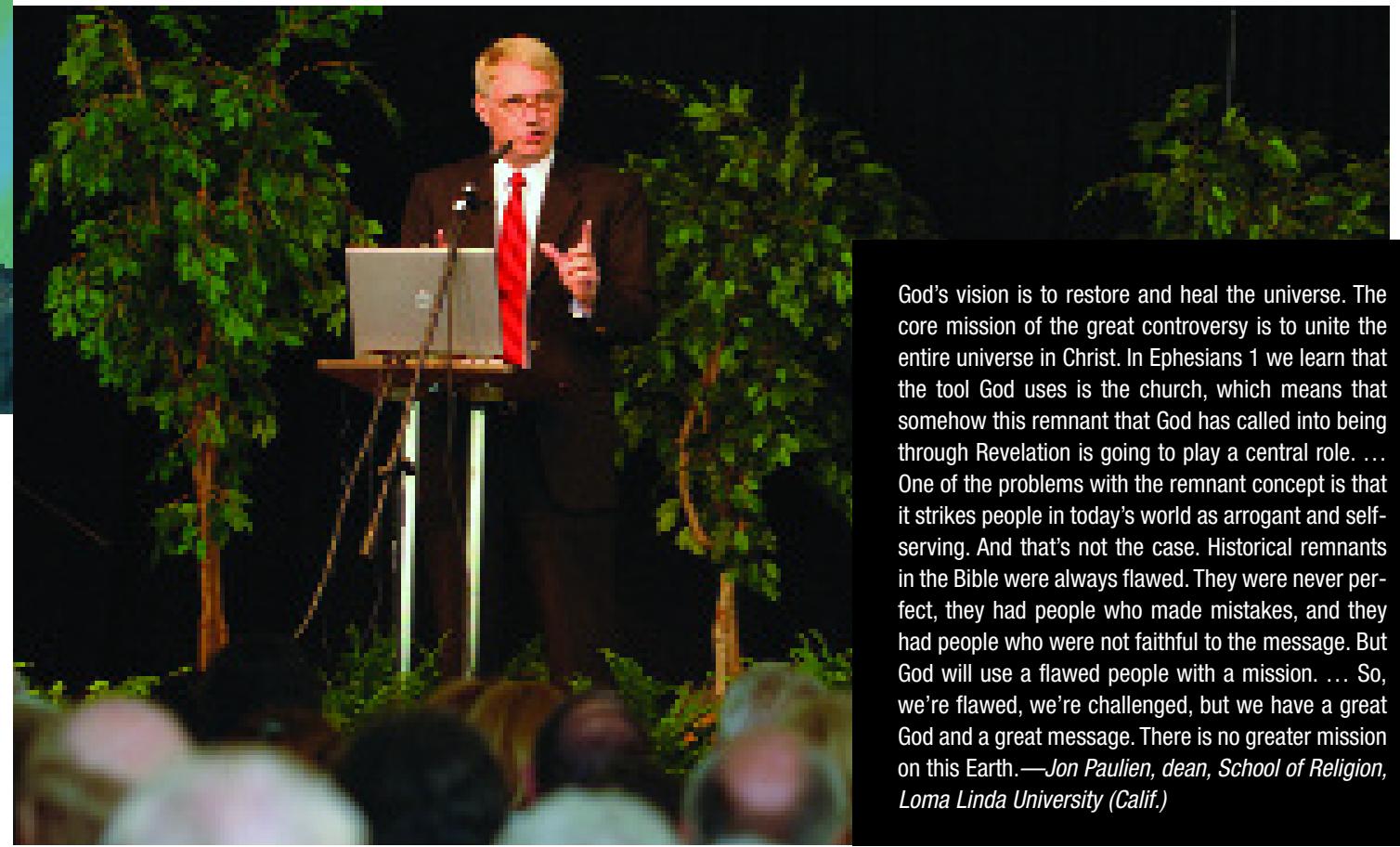
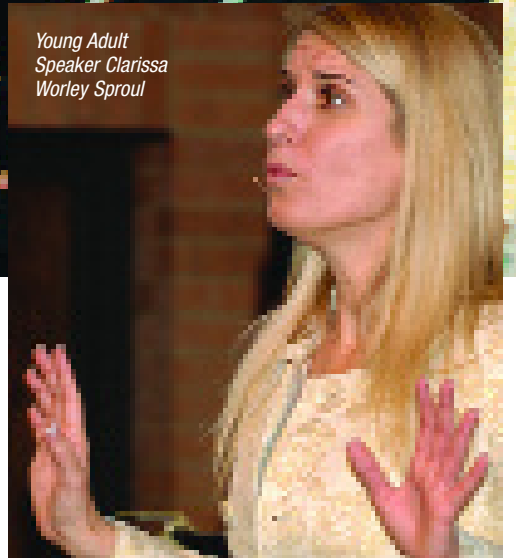
Today we have gathered to remember a vision—a distinct message—given by our Lord to a brand new movement a century and a half ago. Many years have passed since that vision was given, and all of the pioneers have since gone to their rest awaiting its final fulfillment. But the vision and the mission of that young movement have not changed. It is still our mission and purpose to give the clarion call of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14 and prepare the world for the return of Jesus Christ.—*Dave Weigley, president, Columbia Union Conference*



The gift of God in Jesus Christ was and is God's solution to the sin problem. It's the only thing that's going to secure victory in the great controversy. There is no other solution; there is no other answer. So the initiative God has taken in Jesus Christ is an offer to us, which we must accept if we're going to be on the winning side. If we don't accept this offer, there is no victory for us. Jesus Christ is God's only solution.—*Jan Paulsen, president, Seventh-day Adventist Church*



*Young Adult Speaker Clarissa Worley Sproul*



God's vision is to restore and heal the universe. The core mission of the great controversy is to unite the entire universe in Christ. In Ephesians 1 we learn that the tool God uses is the church, which means that somehow this remnant that God has called into being through Revelation is going to play a central role. ... One of the problems with the remnant concept is that it strikes people in today's world as arrogant and self-serving. And that's not the case. Historical remnants in the Bible were always flawed. They were never perfect, they had people who made mistakes, and they had people who were not faithful to the message. But God will use a flawed people with a mission. ... So, we're flawed, we're challenged, but we have a great God and a great message. There is no greater mission on this Earth.—*Jon Paulien, dean, School of Religion, Loma Linda University (Calif.)*

# What Does the *Great Controversy* Mean to **You?**



The vision Ellen White had gives us context and structure for a world-view that is premised in hope. This helps us make sense of the pain and suffering in the world and gives us a sense of peace that ultimately all things will work together. It's also an affirmation that God has been involved in this movement from the inception, and we know that He's continuing to lead.—*Karl Haffner (left), senior pastor, Kettering Church; speaker, young adult worship service*

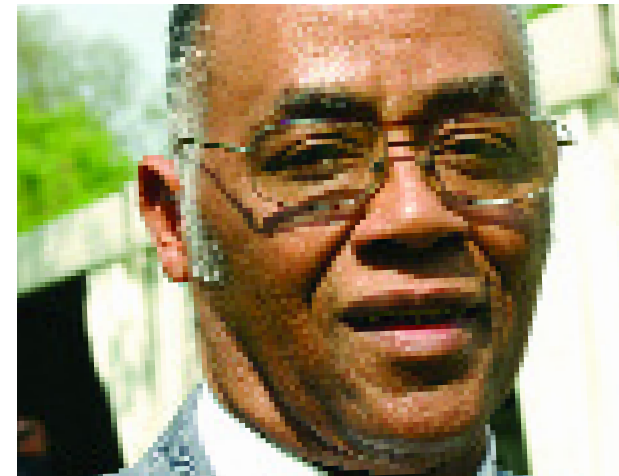


It's all about the war for our souls. It's going on constantly around us, and it's really important that we are aware of it. Ellen White was an inspired speaker and a lot of her materials really helped me understand the Bible and a lot of other things better.—*Carrie Smith (above), student, Kettering College of Medical Arts*

This book helps me understand why we have sin in the world, about the history of the Christian church in general, and why I'm a Seventh-day Adventist. I wish members understood that this conflict between Christ and Satan is going to continue all the way to the end, and then there will be confirmation that God is God.—*Joe Marrow (left), Shiloh Church, Cincinnati*



It means that there's hope for humanity and hope for our salvation. We are in the end times, and we need to hurry up and spread the message because we're running out of time.—*William Rodriguez, Lorain Spanish Church*



It's a very enlightening book that has great authority and messages for the last times. It's important to know, as the end of time draws near, what events that are going to take place and how to be ready for those events.—*Leonard Lewis, Clifton Church, Cincinnati*



A speaker asked how many of us are tired of this world, and I am in many ways... The controversy goes on, however, the battle is already won, and we don't need to worry. I know where my heart is, I know where my home is, I know my family's going to be there, so I'm not anxious or worried. I'm not thinking about the end in any kind of scary way. I know Jesus loves me and wants me to be in heaven with Him. And that's a positive thing.—*Suzy Juarros, Worthington Church*



As part of the remnant we have a huge responsibility that we cannot run away from—to be true to our Lord every moment of our lives and to be able to confirm for our communities the times in which we live and help clarify what is coming.—*Frank Perez, president and CEO, Kettering Adventist HealthCare; event co-sponsor*



See more photos at [columbiaunion.org](http://columbiaunion.org)



# 10 Tip-Top Students

Meet the 2007-08 Caring Heart Award Recipients

In March we featured exemplary principals and schools in the *Visitor*. Now, in this graduation season, we spotlight exemplary students who recently received the Caring Heart Award. This Christian Service Recognition Award honors secondary school students who have demonstrated a personal commitment to service and witnessing activities. Every year a junior or senior from each Adventist academy is chosen to receive the award, which includes a \$500 scholarship to be used toward a mission trip or college tuition. The North American Division Board of Education established the scholarship with private funding. Congratulations to the Columbia Union recipients:

## 1• Matthew Master A Driving Force for Good

Whether it is leading fellow students in worship, visiting the elderly, participating in a mission trip, or touring to spread God's love through music, if something is happening to benefit others, Matt Master is not far away. This four-year senior at Pennsylvania Conference's Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) has served in numerous leadership positions including Student Association (SA) president. Not only has he taken part in dozens of service activities and tasks, he routinely is the creative, driving force behind them. Indeed BMA has been blessed by the passion of his leadership and the openness of his heart. That's why we chose to bestow this

year's Caring Heart Award to Matt Master in thankfulness and appreciation for his example.

## 2• Michael McDowell Happy to Give Back

Michael McDowell is receiving scholarship funds from the Commonweal Association and has to maintain community service hours. However, the real reason this junior at Potomac Conference's Takoma Academy (TA) does community service is to give back to his neighborhood and church—Potomac's Pennsylvania Avenue church in Capitol Heights, Md. Many people have done good things for McDowell, and he is so thankful that he feels he *must* give back.

One experience that will have a lasting impact on him was volunteering for Share-A-Thon, a fundraiser for WGTS, Columbia Union College's radio station. He loved answering the phones and had the opportunity to be on air, which meant a lot to him.

TA requires 20 hours of community service for each year of attendance, but McDowell has already logged over 400 hours in his three years of attendance. That's why he's TA's Caring Heart Award recipient.

## 3• Seth Mayers Caring in so Many Ways

Ever since he first enrolled in Potomac's Richmond Academy (RA) in the sixth grade, senior Seth Mayers has shown a willingness to help in any capacity, with a graciousness that is rare. He has put up Christmas trees, carried risers, painted buildings, raked leaves, hauled computers, delivered Christmas presents, dug holes for

playground equipment, and performed many other acts of service. In 2005 his quick thinking and knowledge of CPR helped save his cousin's life after a Motocross racing accident.

Today Mayers also serves in a position of great trust as a student operator of RA's computer network. RA's kindergartners run to play with him and have given him the nickname "Cornbread." He, in turn, has nicknames for them and enjoys giving them attention.

Through the years, Mayers has shown outstanding sportsmanship in competition swimming, soccer, and Motocross racing. He loves to work with his hands and is currently rebuilding a 1973 Toyota FJ40. He is also pursuing a pilot's license and would eventually like to be a helicopter pilot.

## 4• Julie Marques Leading by Example

Graduating senior Julie Marques will long be remembered at Chesapeake Conference's Highland View Academy (HVA). She came to HVA from Brazil at the end of her freshman year. Though she was not proficient in English, she got involved right away. Her caring attitude, ready smile, and genuine interest in others immediately won her many friends. Teachers also quickly came to love this intelligent, highly motivated student.

During her junior year, Marques was elected class president, and this year served as SA's public relations officer. She proved to be a very capable leader, yet could often be found quietly working behind the scenes. In addition to her leadership roles, she engaged in Bible retreats, nursing home visitations, the 30-Hour Famine, and Operation Christmas Child.

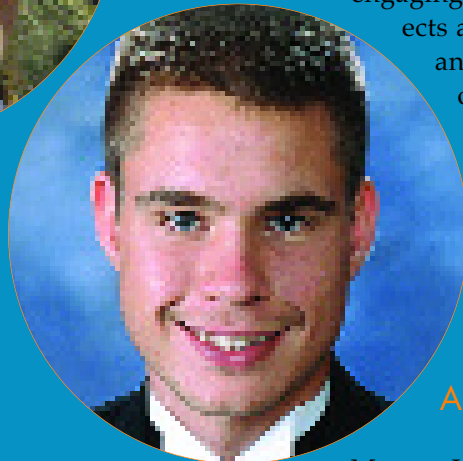
Perhaps Marques, whose calming confidence has a positive impact on everyone she encounters, can best be described as someone who leads and serves by example—and with love!

## 5• Andy Ford Always Willing to Serve

At Ohio Conference's Spring Valley Academy (SVA), senior Andy Ford is known for his willingness to serve. His desire to help those in need is so great that he regularly volunteers in the campus ministry program at SVA, helping with youth rallies, vespers, and Bible studies. For several years he has assisted the Kettering (Ohio) church with children's and youth ministries programs. And this year, he so wanted to participate in SVA's mission trip to the Holbrook Indian Reservation that he worked extra shifts to raise the money.

Indeed, Ford has shown a spirit that is worthy of being recognized with the Caring Heart Award.





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**6 • Samantha Stertz**  
Selfless Servant

Throughout her time at Ohio's Mount Vernon Academy (MVA), senior Samantha Stertz has been a wonderful example of caring for others. One of her strengths was her willingness to be involved with children, and they seemed drawn to her. To provide them with an active environment where they could learn Bible truths in an age-appropriate way, she created, planned, and led "Children's Church" once a month and participated in a puppet ministry for area children.

Also very active in MVA's voluntary service program, Stertz collected food, distributed

supplies, made greeting cards, and prayed with people. In addition, she helped plan weekly programs for her peers. Her eagerness to participate often spilled over to her friends and peers, engaging many in various projects and ministries. For these and other demonstrations of selfless service, MVA is proud to acknowledge Stertz as this year's caring heart recipient.

**7 • Morgan Jedamski**  
A True Gentleman

Morgan Jedamski is a true gentleman. He has the rare ability to see and answer needs before being asked. If there's a door to be opened or a heavy load to be carried, this four-year senior at Potomac's Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) can always be counted on to help.

Over the years, he has participated in SVA's Spring Break mission trips, Sabbath afternoon trips to feed the homeless in Washington, D.C., and local nursing home visitations. Even if he is not participating in an actual event, the church junior deacon and employee in SVA's plant services department can be found helping in the background.

Known as a peacemaker, he is able to diffuse tense situations and calm tempers in a Christ-like manner. He is the type of student every school dreams of having and has clearly demonstrated the caring heart and giving spirit recognized in this award.

**8 • Dwight LaMar King**  
Anointed and Willing

Dwight LaMar King is a senior at Allegheny East Conference's Pine Forge Academy (PFA). The

honors student excels in academics and co-curricular activities. He enjoys basketball, baseball, cross-country running, tennis, and singing with the renowned PFA Choir.

Most importantly, King has consistently demonstrated outstanding passion and caring for his fellow man. He serves as a church junior deacon; is involved extensively in PFA's community service programs; and has helped facilitate the "Bible warriors," a door-to-door witnessing endeavor targeting the community surrounding this historic boarding academy. Indeed, King is a warm, loving, anointed young man, willing to work in any capacity. For this, and more, we honor him with the Caring Heart Award.

**9 • Anna Murat**  
Defined by Caring

If you look up "caring heart" in the dictionary, don't be surprised to see a picture of Anna Murat. This senior came to Potomac's Tidewater Adventist Academy as a blossoming sixth-grader full of energy and expectations. Since that time, she has grown into a beautiful, Christian young lady who always puts God first. This school year, she was the senior class president, yearbook editor, a pre-K student volunteer, and a soprano choir member. She also does gymnastics and loves to play basketball, volleyball, softball, and soccer.

Murat is also an active member of Potomac's Portsmouth (Va.) church, where she serves as a role model for youth. She works with VBS and Flag Camp, teaches Sabbath School, gives children's stories, and often provides special music with her sisters.

Beyond church and school, Murat readily demonstrates what it means to love and give to others unselfishly, and often goes out of her way to help others. In addition to helping her mother teach others about healthy living, she voluntarily transports students to and from school when they have no other way to get there. And most notably, she recently used her time, talents, and abilities to help further the gospel by serving as a missionary in the Brazilian Amazon.

**10 • Melissa Breetzke**  
A True Servant

Faculty and students at Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) in Silver Spring, Md., agree that Melissa Breetzke is the essence of a truly caring individual. Her disposition is always friendly, her Christian spirit is strong, and her willingness to give is always evident. Breetzke never seeks the limelight. Instead, she quietly serves in ways often unnoticed, such as volunteering for three months as a hospital chaplain. She is also on the prayer team at the adjoining Spencerville church. At SAA, Breetzke is student chaplain and religious vice president, constantly reflecting the spirit of Christ. For the many at SAA who have been touched by her kind heart, this graduating senior will be missed.



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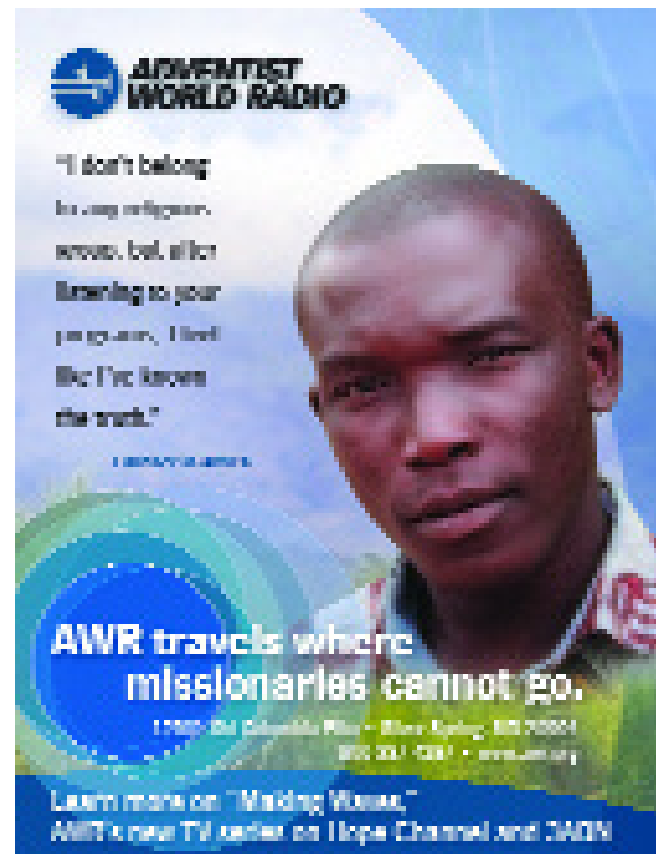
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# Profiles in Caring



## Seasons of Faith

**T**he classic book on management ethics, "Who moves whom?" means immediately my thoughts turn to the meaning of the word faith. "What is it that I trust?" "To what values am I most loyal?" "What are the things in my life to which I have the highest confidence?" Faith is really the building block of our entire society. The most basic value is determining what has value and what contributes to our health and happiness.

We have had to show you will all agree on the same set of values. Let's say the value coming from our homes is peace, that the trust we put in each other is love, that the trust we put in our leaders doesn't contain something that is going on behind us or our eyes.

We have faith in the constitution, in the rule of law, in the common sense and scope, and in the way our political process enables us to elect a government. When we have faith in these understandings of our society, our work changes, and we have faith in the power of democracy to set things made right.

We have faith in the relationships we have with our fellow man, our family members, our friends. We have faith in the common humanity we share with all men and women, and in the values we hold dear through our families, our lives, our faith, our work, and our acceptance of what we do in life.

Faith is the trust we give to the systems of religion, government, institutions, and beliefs that govern us. "Faith communities" all around us. The stability of each society is built on the trust of the most valuable aspects of our society.

Faith really is what matters most in all of life's meanings. I don't know a special meaning for our own kind of religion, but I do know being more and appreciative of all the other ways through which we can be a faith full, and faithful, society. Trust, faith, is the first choice we make, and the one most worthy of keeping.

William C. "Bill" Johnson  
 President of NCF  
 Adventist HealthCare



## Potomac Ridge Behavioral Health Hosts Symposium

**T**he number of teenagers who struggle with depression and thoughts of suicide is growing, and mental health professionals are increasingly concerned. In January Potomac Ridge Behavioral Health held a symposium on "Understanding, Responding to, and Managing and Effective Treatment of Serious Mental Illness Among Youth Injuring Themselves."

The main purpose of the symposium was to help clinicians better identify children and teens at risk for suicide. The program was the work of Rachel Cohen.

Last year Rachel and her best friend Rachel Smith died of self-inflicted wounds because they were on the edge of an acute episode. "The suicide risk is like many unmet and unmet needs, including what led them to take their own lives, and what could have been done in process."

Trey Cohen, Rachel's father, spoke about his life, sharing, writing from her diary and putting a personal face on the topic. He talked about how his daughter had been a "nurse" — the colloquial term for self-harm involving deliberately cutting the skin with a razor or knife. Cutting is often done to release an intense emotion and stress. He spoke of Rachel's struggle to deal with her pain and disease and being apart from a mother.

In the months since his daughter's death, Mr. Cohen has spent a lot of time looking back. In hindsight he's got a warning sign and says he wishes he'd done it differently. He said that he would have advised his children to share what he's learned with other parents and other kids who are struggling with the problem and who talk to a family."

After presenting at the symposium was Janet Cochran, a social worker who spent time in the treatment of self-harming adolescents and who had counseled Rachel as young as 12.

Ms. Cochran outlined the audience through a detailed description of the self-harming population and why they are so difficult to identify and treat. "Typically it was



self-harmers high achieve who they with demanding expectations from themselves and from family. "They don't know how to cope with their emotions," she explained. "Coping provides them with a feeling of control when they feel their life is out of control. They feel they have no control over their emotional pain, but they can control how much they hurt the teacher."

Self-harm is difficult to treat because the teenagers keep it hidden and they don't see the severity of the problem. However, "this is a very treatable population," Ms. Cochran stated. "Even if they might fight you every step of the way."

The lives of children, including their own, is extremely important, and he is sure that people don't like to think about. But she says I hope her speaking, writing, and thinking.

ing the problems are in the open. "The topic of mental health and suicide is talked to me every day," said Ms. Cohen. "We need to leverage all our resources and our role and be there."

By sharing her experience with suicide, the 100 mental health professionals from the Washington, D.C., and Baltimore area at Potomac Ridge Behavioral Health's symposium, Trey Cohen helped them a light on the struggle many children and teenagers face.



## Assessing for Suicide Risk

**O**n April 8 and 9, Adventist Behavioral Health's Behavioral Health Services hosted the Potomac Ridge Symposium on Mental Health's (AHO) clinician training program on recognizing, suicide risk. This educational, interactive program is based on current research and clinical best practices and is available to mental health professionals in order to effectively assess and manage suicide risk.

According to Alan Brennan, Ph.D., executive director of AHO, mental health clinicians are under trained to assess suicide risk and develop a treatment plan. "We simply not taught very well to recognize an individual's risk," he explains, "so they essentially learn on the job."

The typical assessment of suicide risk consists of one question: "Are you thinking about suicide?" If the patient denies it, then that ends the process. "The reality is that most patients at risk are thinking about it," Dr. Brennan explains. "We know that these patients at greatest risk killed themselves because we weren't listening to them."

The goal of the training was to help clinicians better recognize, assess, and respond to a patient's risk of suicidal thoughts and their families. The program included an on-line pre-symposium, two on-line modules, a two-day symposium, and post-symposium on-line learning activities.

The training went beyond merely acquiring knowledge. The clinicians were also taught skills through case application exercises, exercises, and vignettes. They are now better able to intentionally gather risk assessment information, formulate suicide risk, develop an intervention plan, and provide management for their clients.

The training program was well received by the clinicians. "According to suicide risk is an untapped," shared Susan Maki, President of Behavioral Health's Behavioral Health Services. "The clinicians are now more confident in the ability to do this, you don't have the usual parental and risk changes your behavior."

## The Provider of Choice

**S**usan Maki is President of Behavioral Health's Behavioral Health Services, providing leadership at Potomac Ridge Behavioral Health's three campuses, as well as to the Regional & Local Center for Infants and Young Children and the behavioral health units at Washington, D.C., and Baltimore Hospital.

The organization Ms. Maki presides over is a top provider of mental health services in Maryland. "My goal is for us to become the provider of choice because we are the best at what we do in terms of our services," she states. "Families and patients seek our services because they know that if they come to us they will get the help they need."

Ms. Maki is committed to helping patients realize their potential and feel a sense of hope. "Sometimes it is very hard for patients—those who have been suffering with a mental health issue for a long time and those who are diagnosed with a mental health issue for the first time—to believe there will ever be any kind of relief from their illness," she explains.

When Ms. Maki looks at the big picture, she sees a need to do more, she sees that much more to be done in bridging the gap between the private and public sectors, meeting the needs of a growing and diverse population, providing education, prevention, and community based services. "I have looked at the role we can play in the community," she says. "Our greatest failures are failures."



# Simposio de salud mental

**E**l simposio de salud mental que se realizó en el congreso de la Asociación Adventista de la Salud Mental en los Estados Unidos en el campo de la salud mental.

Por Susan Hodge, Behavioral Health Therapist en el campo de la salud mental. El congreso de la salud mental que se realizó en el campo de la salud mental y se realizó en el campo de la salud mental.

El propósito principal del congreso era ayudar a los profesionales a comprender mejor a aquellos afectados y mejorar el cuidado de la salud mental.

El día pasado, Rachel y su mejor amiga, Rachel Smith, participaron en un congreso de salud mental. Fue un día muy interesante y aprendieron mucho de lo que se está haciendo a nivel nacional y cómo se puede hacer mejor.

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Desde la muerte de su hijo, Mr. Williams ha pasado mucho tiempo reflexionando en los momentos más difíciles de su vida.

Después de eso, puede ver los cambios de comportamiento y cosas que le habrían gustado haber hecho antes. Entendí que la salud es esencial en la vida y que la salud es esencial en la vida y que la salud es esencial en la vida.

Finalmente, presenté en el congreso un video que se realizó en el campo de la salud mental y se realizó en el campo de la salud mental.

Mr. Williams presentó a la audiencia una demostración de cómo se puede hacer un diagnóstico y cómo se puede hacer un diagnóstico. Él dijo que la salud es esencial en la vida y que la salud es esencial en la vida.

Los resultados que se obtuvieron son muy interesantes y aprendieron mucho de lo que se está haciendo a nivel nacional y cómo se puede hacer mejor.

La idea que se presentó es que se puede hacer un diagnóstico y cómo se puede hacer un diagnóstico. Él dijo que la salud es esencial en la vida y que la salud es esencial en la vida.

Al congreso le siguieron un día de 100 profesionales de salud mental de Washington, DC, y el día de Baltimore en el congreso de Potomac Health Behavioral Health. Fue un día muy interesante y aprendieron mucho de lo que se está haciendo a nivel nacional y cómo se puede hacer mejor.




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# ALLEGHENY EAST *Exposé*

JUNE 2008

## New Life Member Honored, Promotes Gas-Price Prayer

**R**ocky Twyman, a member of the New Life church in Gaithersburg, Md., has been in the news recently for a number of community activities and contributions. Most recently, in honor of National Volunteer Week, the Montgomery County Council presented Twyman with a proclamation dedicating April 29 as Rocky Twyman Day. The honor was a result of his efforts to recruit nearly 14,000 minority donors to the national bone marrow registry since 1992.



Brian Williams, anchor for NBC Nightly News, congratulates Rocky Twyman after the Congressional Medal of Honor Society gala where the New Life church member was acknowledged for being the Maryland finalist for the new Above & Beyond Citizen Honors.

The Congressional Medal of Honor Society also recently saluted Twyman for his bone marrow registry activism. The society declared him the Maryland finalist for its newly created Above & Beyond Citizen Honors, the nation's most prestigious civilian award. In addition to the dignitaries, celebrities, and athletes who attended the gala, the four living U.S. presidents and the Joint Chiefs of Staff were invited to join the 51 honor recipients. Twyman hopes to carry his bone marrow drives to next year's Oscar awards ceremony.

The community organizer and public relations consultant recently founded another outreach effort, uniting people of varying faiths and nationalities around the country. Pray Down the High Gas Prices Movement swept across the country and gained media attention. He urged citizens to go to the pump and use the power of prayer to make the prices fall.—Beth Michaels

## NEWS

### United Missionary Youth Week Forges Commitments

The United Missionary company in East Lansdowne, Pa., recently hosted its first youth week of prayer. Under the theme "Deliverance," event speaker Edwin Smith of the Newtonville (N.J.) First church emphasized the importance of trusting God in seemingly difficult and challenging situations. His nuts-and-bolts examination of riveting and well-known Bible stories resounded with the swelling congregation each evening.

A youth singing group (above) was formed during the week and presented a contemporary number on the closing Sabbath, much to the congregation's delight. Pastor Wayne Scott commended youth leader Paulette Allwood and her AY team, Clive McLean and Kingsley Wright, for accepting the challenge of coordinating the week's event. McLean reported that their team prayed for each attendee to have an encounter with Jesus. By week's end, 13 young people gave their hearts to the Lord.



### New Speaker Announced for Camp Meeting

As published in the May issue of *Exposé*, Charles D. Brooks (right) is the guest speaker for one of two divine services for Allegheny East Conference Camp Meeting. However, the date that he will be speaking has changed from June 28 to July 5. Brooks is speaker/director emeritus of the Breath of Life Ministries, and has served the denomination for more than 56 years.



A second speaker has been identified for the divine service on June 28. Jesse Wilson, DMin (left), is the director of the Doctor of Ministry program in Urban Ministries for Andrews University (Mich.) and the associate professor of religion at Oakwood University (Ala.). He is a sought-after spokesman in the areas of church-community relations, civil rights, and police misconduct in urban areas. Wilson has pastored in Tennessee, Alabama, and Southern California, and has frequently appeared on major television networks such as BET and CourtTV, as well as the *Tavis Smiley Show*.



## Delaware, Bay Area Ministerials Sponsor Katrina Mission Trip

Members of the conference's Delaware Valley and Bay Area Ministerials (below) answered the Macedonian call found in Acts 16:9 to go and help. A group of 21 volunteers recently boarded airplanes traveling from Philadelphia to New Orleans with the goal of helping at least six families affected by Hurricane Katrina continue on the road to recovery.



The volunteers built fences, mounted vinyl siding, remodeled a kitchen and bathroom, tiled and sheet-rocked a new room, and painted home exteriors. Some houses were power washed to remove water stains and markings that identify if a home has been inspected by local police or military. The Spirit of the Lord was in their midst as they prayed each day for help in winning souls to Christ.

Those who should be thanked for their participation and leadership during the trip are ministerial pastors William E. Hall, Pete Palmer, and Stephen A. Boyce, as well as the conference's ACS director, Minnie McNeil. Astley Shakes from Philadelphia served as project manager. The host organization for the trip was the



PHOTOS BY JOSE L. TROSS

Mission trip volunteers help renovate the roof of one of the six Katrina-destroyed homes they helped to rebuild.

### National Association of Katrina Evacuees.

There is still much to do in New Orleans. Many are still homeless and in need of assistance, others still have not been able to contact family members and don't know if they are alive, and many others are depressed and in need of encouragement.—Stephen A. Boyce, Sr.

## Dupont Park Celebrates Renovations, Youth Day

The Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C., was recently honored with a number of distinguished visitors following the culmination of a \$1.2 million renovation of their church facility. Among those who attended the weeklong celebration were world church leaders, former pastors, and U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas. The renovation, spearheaded by Senior Pastor Emil D. Peeler, DMin, and overseen by treasurer Terrell



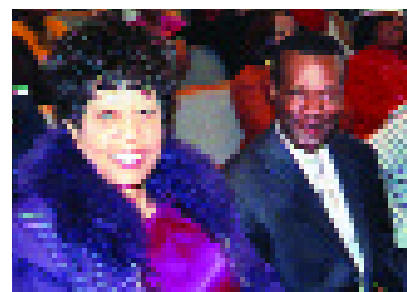
The youth choir stands in front of one of the church's new plasma screens—one result of their \$1.2 million renovation project.

Danley, includes a state-of-the-art sound system, 10 plasma screens, furnishings, lighting, new pews and carpet, renovated restrooms, a marble-tiled lobby, and more.

During the renovations, the neighboring New Macedonia Baptist Church opened their facility for Dupont Park members to use at no cost. The Baptist members were happy to repay the

Adventist church for when the situation was reversed.

Another political figure worshipped with Dupont Park during its Youth Day service. County executive Jack Johnson (Howard County, Maryland) joyfully joined in the celebration. The day included a rousing sermon by Youth Pastor Gregory Nelson and a performance by a 60-voiced youth/celebration choir directed by Linda Brown. Following the service, nearly 200 youth answered the call for a spirit-filled consecration and rededication to the Lord. In the afternoon, attendees enjoyed a concert by the Positive Vibrations Youth Steel Orchestra.—Jerri McLean



Dupont Park member Jerri McLean joins county executive Jack Johnson in celebrating Youth Day.

**Allegheny East Conference**  
PO Box 266, Pine Forge, PA 19548  
Phone: (610) 326-4610  
www.myalleghenyeast.com  
President, Charles L. Cheatham  
Communication Director, Robert Booker  
Editor, Beth Michaels

## Hillcrest Pathfinder Receives Distinguished Youth Award



Hillcrest church member Aaron A. Horne was also recently among 80 middle- and high-school aged students to be awarded—for a second time—the prestigious Pittsburgh Carson Scholars Fund, presented by Benjamin Carson, MD.

Aaron A. Horne, a 13-year-old member of the Hillcrest church in Pittsburgh, was recently one of 13 youth from around the nation to be presented the Distinguished Youth Award from the North American Division Youth and Young Adult Ministries office. The awards were presented during the Youth Leadership Summit held in Dallas.

Horne's loving fellow church members nominated him for the award, proudly boasting of his many outstanding qualities. He was ultimately selected because of his excellence in Pathfinders and academics—two of the award's four categories. Here are some of the things church members said about him:

"Aaron exhibits leadership qualities among his fellow Pathfinders and peers and is dedicated and committed to the things he puts to his mind. Extracurricular activities keep him busy and occupied, yet he has learned to manage his time well. Baptized when he was 10, Aaron maintains his faith in God and has a high respect and honor for his parents, guardians, adults, and peers. As an 8th-grader at the St. Bartholomew School in Pittsburgh, he maintains a grade point average above 3.75 and is consistently on the honor roll. His service to community is seen in conservatory and neighborhood clean up projects, feeding the homeless, and assisting the elderly in various activities."

## Ephesus Members Lead New Lambs to the Water

One of the greatest joys of the Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, is filling the baptismal pool and witnessing "kingdom candidates" give their lives to Christ. Five such individuals recently made this life-changing decision, and all of them are evidence of the importance of friendship evangelism.

Senior Pastor William T. Cox, DMin, started a relationship with James and Mecca Glenn and continued to study with them. The couple decided to follow the Lord all the way and have even started their own evangelistic

ministry: videotaping Sabbath sermons and sharing them with friends.

Ephesus' associate and youth pastor Ken Dixon (bottom, far right) conducted studies with Ariann Jade Herna'ndez and Ashley Palmer (bottom, center) and they, too, made their decision for Christ. Now these young ladies are excited about being witnesses for Jesus. Herna'ndez is seeking missionary opportunities and Palmer is endeavoring to share the gospel with young people.

Ephesus member Jacqueline Parris recently invited her co-worker Fred Logan (above, center) to church. Soon after Logan attended, Parris introduced him to Paul Lambert (above, right), a conference Bible worker, and asked him if he'd conduct Bible studies with Logan. When Lambert asked him about following the Lord all the way, Logan gladly accepted and now continues to share the gospel with anyone who will listen.—Paul Lambert



## Youth Experience "Extreme Makeover" at Congress

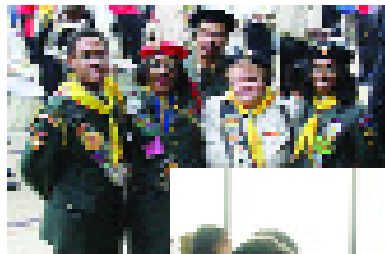
Youth from across the Allegheny West territory recently converged in Akron, Ohio, for the conference-wide youth congress. Under the theme "Experiencing an Extreme Makeover," attendees went seeking spiritual growth, personal development, fun, and fellowship.

To help kick off the Wednesday night opening session, Cleveland

area churches cancelled their prayer meeting services and joined the youth for a power-packed prayer service. James Doggette, DMin, professor of Homiletics at Oakwood University (Ala.), and senior pastor of the Madison

Mission church in Madison, Ala., was the guest speaker. He challenged the youth to commit themselves to a relationship with God that leads to the ultimate extreme makeover: sanctification.

The delegates were enthralled with the workshops and presenters, including David Wallace, a youth motivational speaker from Las Vegas; Carla Valles, creator of the No Excuses youth ministry in Elyria, Ohio; Karen Thrower from South Atlantic Conference; and Jack McCrary, pastor of Charlottesville/Gordonsville, Va.



Master Guide area coordinators were happy to join in the fun.



A father proudly poses with his children after they publicly accepted Christ as their Savior through baptism.



A young group from the Maranatha church in Cleveland does a sign language presentation.

district. The main youth speaker was Andrea Trusty-King (below), co-pastor of the Maranatha church in San Diego.

Adults and young kids were not left out of the fun and spiritual lift. Yvonne Footman and her crew from Beaufort, S.C., conducted a children's congress covering the topic of money management. Emil Peeler, DMin, senior pastor of the



Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C., came and blessed the adults. A choir from Charleston, S.C., closed the Sabbath with a concert.



Donald Burden, AWC youth leader, directs the drum corp in a Pathfinder parade through Cleveland.



Musical group Under Construction, comprised of members from Cleveland area churches, leads the youth congress praise service.

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

# THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

JUNE 2008

## Feed Me Heavenly Convenient Food

The central petition of the Lord's Prayer—"give us this day our daily bread"—relates our heavenly Father to every detail of our lives, and it teaches us that there is nothing in life too trivial to bring to God. It underscores our absolute dependence upon Him for everything, and it expresses our conviction that He is more than able to meet our needs. Like the song goes: "When we have exhausted our store of endurance, when our strength has failed 'ere the day is half done, when we reach the end of our hoarded resources, the Father's full giving has only begun. His love has no limits; His grace has no measure, His power no boundary known unto men; for out of His infinite resources in Jesus, He giveth and giveth and giveth again."

This petition additionally expresses our confidence that God will also supply the greatest necessity of life: Jesus. For in effect we pray, "Father, give me this day, Jesus—in all His strength to match my weakness, in all His patience to meet my hurried life, in all His purity to meet my sin, etc." It is summed up in the petition of the old spiritual, "In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus."

And may I be so bold as to suggest that a better translation of this petition might read like this: "Give us this day, bread suited for our need." It may be the bread of joy, or the bread of tears, but, whatever it is, we know it comes from the hand of a loving Father who knows our true needs. This realization makes my heart echo the prayer of the wise man, which seems to me the great commentary upon this petition: "...feed me with food convenient for me" (Prov. 30:8).

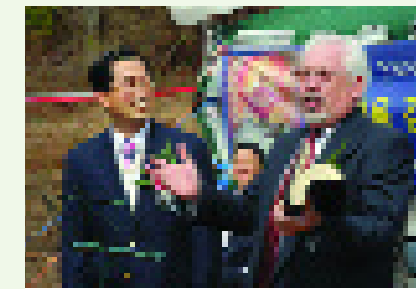


Rob Vandeman  
President

## Baltimore Korean Church Breaks Ground

On a recent cool, Sunday morning, members of the Baltimore Korean church gathered at the site of their future church home in Columbia, Md. They praised God for His leading and turned over dirt in a ceremony marking the commencement of their long-anticipated building project. The four-acre site sits on a hilltop overlooking Grace Drive (just west of the intersection of Route 32 and Cedar Lane) at the south end of town.

When completed in early 2009, the 25,000 sq. ft. complex will include a 350-seat worship center, a



Pastor James Miho Lim and conference president Rob Vandeman help lead the groundbreaking ceremony.

youth chapel, three offices, 17 classrooms, and a gymnasium. The estimated cost of the new facility (and land) is \$4.3 million, made possible in part by a loan from the Columbia Union Revolving Fund.

The groundbreaking ceremony

featured encouragement from county executive Ken Ulman and county council vice chair Mary Kay Sigaty (both of Howard County, Maryland), representatives from Meka Construction, and conference leaders.

The 170-member congregation has been meeting in Severn (Md.) near Fort Meade for the past 25 years. The church views the move as strategic, since Howard County has a large concentration of first- and second-generation Korean residents.



Conference, church, and county leaders all put gold-plated shovels to work in over-turning ground for the Baltimore Korean church's new four-acre complex in Columbia, Md.



## Highland View Mission Team Continues Building in Honduras

The Chesapeake Conference continues to play a leadership role in short-term mission projects to Honduras. The first of three teams targeting projects in Santa Barbara during 2008 recently spent a week working toward the completion of a sanctuary/multipurpose auditorium at Instituto REACH Internacional.

Coordinating their efforts with a group from Campion Academy in Colorado, the Chesapeake team completed the upper level of the new facility.

Each group took materials and labored to see the building project advance quickly. All that remains to be finished on the auditorium is the installation of the roof, which will be tackled by a group this August.



The Highland View church in Hagerstown, Md., donated a brand new computer lab, including 64 new computers, for Instituto REACH Internacional.

Pastor Vladimir Corea of the Highland View church in Hagerstown, Md., served as the mission trip coordinator. "To say that the Lord is doing amazing things there is a terrible understatement," he said. Corea also noted that the assistant administrator and one English teacher at El Hogar de Niños orphanage were once students there when the first Chesapeake team arrived in the mid-1990s. Another former student is now attending River Platte University in Argentina and plans to return to Santa Barbara to teach.



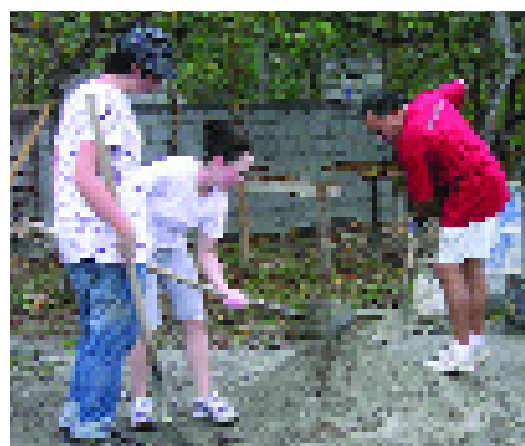
The Highland View team takes a rest at the neighboring El Hogar de Niños Adventist orphanage.

Corea reports that his own church members are also making an impact in the Santa Barbara community. Highland View Academy (HVA) alumna Felicia Ford has been teaching English at El Hogar for the past year, and Corea's eldest daughter, Mandy, also an HVA alumna, will be one of three college students spending the coming school year there as part of an ADRA project. The relief agency distributes food supplies every five weeks to more than 65,000 residents in the surrounding communities.

Steve Herr, HVA chaplain and Bible teacher, served as the team pastor on this trip. He also participated in the very first two trips to Santa Barbara while a student at HVA 13 years ago. In one of his Sabbath morning sermons, Herr recounted his experience and shared the impact those trips made upon his life and how they helped him choose his life work.

Steve Finney, youth pastor of the Martinsburg (W.Va.) church, reports that a group he is coordinating will head to Santa Barbara in July. That group will be working on a small Adventist church in town and hopes to complete their \$6,000 project within two trips.

The strategy of targeting a project with repeated trips seems to be paying good dividends on the investment. The impact Adventists are making in the community is becoming evident. Team members are always impressed by the reception they receive. For the past two years, the visiting teams have stayed in a private facility near the orphanage. The family that owns the building are not Adventist, but have provided 24-hour security and have not charged the groups for its use.



Highland View church pastor Vladimir Corea (right) and two Highland View Academy students mix mortar for making brick blocks.

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

# Columbia Union College

## 2008 Graduates Celebrate Commencement Weekend

Columbia Union College (CUC) recently celebrated Commencement weekend, held at the campus' Sligo church. During the weekend, graduates received a number of inspiring messages, including a Consecration message from alumna Stefanie Johnson ('01), controller at Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences. Her message "Act as if..."

challenged students to keep their lives connected to God through faith. "We follow a God that no one else can see. Are you going to believe without seeing?" she asked. Johnson reminded them that belief without action will fade away and die.

Gaspar Colón, PhD, director of the Center for Metropolitan Ministry and religion professor, empowered the graduates on Sabbath to accept God's calling for their lives through his message titled "Up, For This is the Day...!"

During Commencement, math major and senior class president Laci Lizzaraga thanked those faculty and staff members who saw beyond the obvious and took into

account the possibilities inside each student.

Vijayan Charles (left), a general surgeon and CUC Board of Trustees member, gave the Commencement address titled "Faith and Science: Navigating the 21st Century." He urged students to get on the ball and to "know where you are



going; life is a voyage." He warned them to take the precautions necessary for the journey, gather the tools needed for success, be ready at all times—opportunity never waits for convenience—and banish fear to ensure success. "All fear is subject to failure," said Charles, "but with God all things are possible."

At the culmination of the weekend, college president Weymouth Spence, EdD, conferred degrees to 174 graduates and encouraged them to begin each day with the Lord. "From now on, start your day by saying, 'Every day I will add value to others,'" he charged. Among those graduating were 41 Masters of Business Administration, 24 Bachelors of Arts, three Bachelors of Music, 99 Bachelors of Science, and seven associate degrees.—Michael Martell, Candace Hamilton, and Daniella Daley



More than 170 students gathered to celebrate their achievements during Commencement weekend.

## Freshmen Conduct Campus Church Service

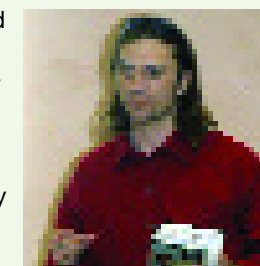
The freshmen class recently organized a campus church service. The student-led service included a cello trio (below), testimonies, praise and worship, and a special sign language performance. The service was well attended by all groups of the student body.

Senior theology major John Paul Dukate (right) delivered a compelling sermon titled "Planning for the Future: No Vision, No Purpose." Dukate encouraged students to commit



their plans to the Lord based on the promise found in Proverbs 16:3. "God is rocking our world, trying to get our attention to draw us closer to Him," he said.

"This service was not only intended for the freshmen, but to unite everyone in God," said class president and biology major Steev Campbell. Berny Jacques, a junior history and political studies major, added, "It was a blessed experience and I was happy to see students take part."





## Graduates Reunite for 2008 Alumni Weekend

Former graduates recently returned to Columbia Union College's campus for Alumni Weekend. The event included three days filled with G. Arthur Keough Lectures, worship services, an alumni business meeting, and an exciting tour of Washington, D.C.

Graduates in honor classes '88, '83, '78, '68, '58, and '48 attended, and all attendees received an update on the college from president Weymouth Spence, EdD, at the annual banquet. Spence shared his vision for the college and his hopes for improved quality education as a result of the streamlined academic programs.

"Each school will share equal importance in CUC's new three-school model: the School of Arts and Social Sciences, School of Health Sciences and Wellness, and School of Graduate and Professional Studies," explained Spence. He discussed how the arrangement of majors into the three schools will benefit students.

During the vespers service, a number of awards and dedications were presented. Student missionaries were dedicated (right) during a special prayer led by CUC chaplain Otis Coutsoumpos. Senior theology major Sara May Colón and faculty

and staff member Anthony G. Fatcher were commended for their service to the campus community and presented with the Zella Holbert Awards.

Robert Lemon ('73), treasurer at the Adventist World Headquarters, received the Alumni of the Year award for his dedication to church service. During his Sabbath sermon, titled "Where Should We Be Found?" Lemon also encouraged the congregation to find themselves at the feet of Jesus.

Honorary Alumni of the Year awards went to Judy Cichosz, a friend and supporter of the college,



Left to right: Rebecca Spence joined her husband and college president, Weymouth, when he and CUC supporter Judy Cichosz were awarded Honorary Alumni awards by outgoing alumni president Lee Wisel ('74) and new Alumni Association president Duane Reid ('01).

a number of songs on the piano, including his hit song "Angel," which gets regular airtime on the college radio station WGTS 91.9 FM.—*Tanisha Greenidge*

and president Spence. Cichosz told the audience she feels that CUC possesses a secret ingredient that differentiates it from other colleges. "I sense the presence of the Lord whenever I visit Wilkinson Hall, the library, and other areas on campus," she explained.

Newly elected Alumni Association president Duane Reid recognized Spence for his commitment to higher education. "The Alumni Association wanted to let Dr. Spence know that as an honorary alumni, he will always be part of the CUC family," said Reid.

The weekend ended with a special concert featuring John Stoddart ('93), a well-known contemporary music recording artist and producer. Stoddart performed



Alumni shared memories and laughs during the annual banquet in the Sligo church atrium.

## We Can Start Anew

Summer is, without question, my favorite season. Mostly, I suppose, it is because of the warm weather. For educators, though, it is also time to catch a breath and look forward to a fresh start. It is a time to celebrate the successes of the previous school year, recover from mistakes made, and an opportunity to redirect efforts to make improvements for the year to come. It is a blessing to enjoy successes and a blessing to have fresh starts!

I'm so grateful for a God who lets us start anew. We can put away our failures and mistakes with a prayer. Though we may remember them with pain, He throws them into the depths of the sea to be forgotten forever! I'm grateful that He also celebrates our successes with us. It simply feels good to know He is proud of us, even though what we view as accomplishments are trivial by comparison.

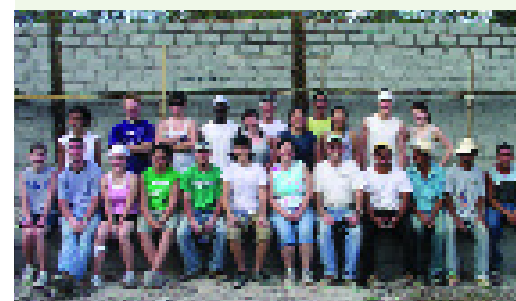
Even though most of you reading this are probably not educators, I encourage you to take some time this summer to reflect—celebrate the successes in your life, throw your errors into the sea, and cherish the fact that our God does the same!



Sheri Tydings  
Principal

## Students Continue Mission Work in Honduras

A group of 10 Highland View Academy (HVA) students and 10 members of the Highland View church in Hagerstown, Md., recently traveled to Santa Barbara, Honduras, for the annual Spring Break Mission Trip. Their goal was to work with an organization called REACH Ministries, which runs an orphanage, elementary and high school, and day care center. The project for the Highland View group was to add



The Highland View team, along with their local hires, proudly displays their nearly completed work in Santa Barbara.

walls to the auditorium of the high school, Instituto REACH Internacional. The auditorium will be a multipurpose facility for school and civic functions for the city. Eventually it will also become the Gualjoco Seventh-day Adventist Church.

When not working, the group spent time at El Hogar de Niños orphanage eating meals, having worship, and playing with the children. "Making a connection with the local people who live and work there is the most meaningful thing we can do on a mission trip," said Stephen Herr, HVA chaplain.

One day during the trip, the group took a break to tour Santa Barbara. The first stop was the ADRA ware-

house. Any of the 65,000 people living in the vicinity can get beans, rice, and oil in exchange for 80 hours of physical labor per month, including fixing the mountain dirt roads so government and ADRA vehicles can access the remote villages. The group also toured the Santa Barbara hospital, which Highland View groups have assisted in past years. While at the hospital, two TV news stations interviewed Pastor Vladimir Corea and some of the students about their experience.

Later that day, the group went to a park called Pulaphanzak, where they got to hike to a cave behind a large, beautiful waterfall. "I really bonded with the older children who came with us to the park and enjoyed the intensity of the waterfall," said junior Korrin Battle.

Santa Barbara holds a special place in the hearts of HVA students and church members. During the past 13 years, Chesapeake Conference and HVA students have gone to Santa Barbara eight times, including three times a year for the past three years.—*Stephen Herr*



Sophomore Nathaniel Bankes and junior Mary Hostettler help lay bricks for the new auditorium/multipurpose room of Instituto REACH Internacional.

### CALENDAR

#### June

- 6 Summer Session I Ends
- 8-12 Xtreme PSP Class
- 9-Jul. 3 Summer Session II

#### July

- 4 Independence Day—  
Campus Closed
- 7-31 Summer Session III
- 14-18 Xtreme PSP Classes
- 31 Summer  
Commencement

The Gateway is published in the Visitor by Columbia Union College 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 Phone: (800) 835-4212 • www.cuc.edu Weymouth Spence, President Tanisha Greenidge, Editor

## Music Students Experience Scandinavian Life

Twenty-six HVA students and chaperones recently found themselves on a flight headed north. The Music Department tour to Scandinavia was underway! Although the group landed during Iceland's sunrise, it was the middle of the night for Marylanders. The jetlag made it hard for them to stay awake, but a visit to the Blue Lagoon Spa revived spirits and bodies. After soaking in its healing waters, the group was off to Reykjavik.

Throughout the tour to Iceland, Finland, Sweden, and Norway, the HVA group stayed at Adventist schools where they were well cared for by new Scandinavian friends. HVA combined voices from its traditional and gospel choirs to perform several times during the trip, and were blessed to participate in worship services in other languages. Students experienced the Northern Lights, unique foods, four different languages, an overnight ferry ride, and ate in an Adventist restaurant! The castle in Turku, Finland, and the ship museum in Stockholm, Sweden, were some historical highlights, and everyone enjoyed the amazing power of nature while visiting the Gullfoss waterfall and geysers in Iceland.

"I really enjoyed the tour because I got to visit parts of the world I'd never been to, and to minister through music," said junior Kyly Bauer. For more photos, visit <http://hvascandinaviatour2008.blogspot.com>.—Jennifer Payne



HVA students experienced life in four Scandinavian countries during the recent Music Department tour.

## Campus Gets a Needed Facelift

The HVA campus is undergoing some needed renovations. Throughout the summer months, a multitude of improvements will be made. New windows and exterior doors and new, energy-efficient heating and air-conditioning systems are being installed in the dormitories. In addition to enhancing their aesthetics, these improvements will substantially lower energy usage and cost. The dorm bathrooms will also look new, with upgraded plumbing fixtures, repaired showers, and new tile.



The new administration building entryway is partially completed.

Other campus projects include new, weather-barrier entrances and roofing for the administration building, upgraded bathrooms in the gymnasium, new sidewalks, and insulation repairs. "We have needed some of these improvements for quite some time," reports principal Sheri Tydings, "and I am amazed at the generosity of so many people. Not only have individuals and organizations given tremendous financial support, many others have saved us thousands of dollars by giving their time and labor expertise."

During the past several years, the school—under the guidance of business manager Andrew Choi—has been able to set aside funds for capital improvements. However,

much of this work would not have been possible without the generous contributions of the Chesapeake Conference, the Commonwealth Foundation, Herb and Marilyn Dennison, other private donors, and volunteer laborers, including members of the Highland View church in Hagerstown, Md., and the Williamsport (Md.) church.

### CALENDAR

#### July

- 11 Early Application Deadline
- 31 Application Deadline

#### August

- 13 Registration for Community Students, 5-8 p.m.
- 17 Registration for Dormitory Students, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
- 18 First Day of School
- 22-23 Commitment Weekend

Highlander is published in the Visitor by the Highland View Academy 10100 Academy Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740 ■ Phone: (301) 739-8480 Fax: (301) 733-4770 ■ Editor, Sheri Tydings [www.highlandviewacademy.com](http://www.highlandviewacademy.com)



Volunteers from the Williamsport (Md.) church repair and re-shingle the roof of HVA's administration building.

## Get Involved in Youth Ministries!

Wondering what to do this summer? Well, let me put your wondering heart to rest. I believe everyone should get involved with youth programs in their region. There are many ways to get involved. Send your children to summer camp at the Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va. Activities planned by our skilled and responsible staff promise fun for every child. Best of all is the camp's spiritual atmosphere. Last year there were 48 decisions for baptism among nearly 100 campers—nearly half of the attendees. God is working at Valley Vista, and I believe every one who comes to camp with an open heart will leave with a stronger walk with God. This year the camp theme is "Burn the Ships." I don't want to give anything away, but we're encouraging our youth to forget the things of the world and look to Christ.

You can also support youth through our active Pathfinder groups or through school activities. Just last month, our schools participated in an inspirational mission trip to help people in Pittsburgh. And if you come to camp meeting, you may hear people talk about ShareHim evangelism, where youth are leading meetings and preaching in churches and on college campuses. They are involved in serving Christ.

This summer the conference opens a new building where our youth may be refreshed and equipped for service. Thank you to those of you who have supported our youth in this way. I, and the youth, look forward to seeing you this summer.

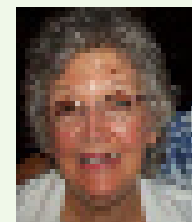


Geoff Starr  
Youth Director

## Wheeling Church News

### Member Pursues Outreach for Christ

Rosemary Zuk (below) is committed to blanketing the city of Wheeling (W.Va.) with *Steps to Christ*, accompanied by a Bible study offer—all at her own expense. In order to accomplish this goal, Zuk, a member of the Wheeling church, saves money from her modest retirement funds until she accumulates enough to afford a new mailing to an uncovered part of the city. It will take her a year or so to complete this mission, but she deems it well worth the investment. Dozens of Bible study leads have emerged from this mailing project, which will help foster attendance to the Wheeling church's hosting of a major ShareHim outreach in coming months.



### Members Honor Civic Leaders

When the Wheeling (W.Va.) church board approved a plan to invite the civic leaders in its county to a special service, the secretary promptly sent out RSVP notices of invitation to the local mayor, fire chief, sheriff, chief of police, and judges. The invitation assured them that this was not a political event but one dedicated to affirming them in their demanding and often thankless



work for the welfare of the community. More leaders accepted the invitation than were ultimately able to appear: Hon. Arthur Recht (left) and Hon. James P. Mazzone. They both expressed their appreciation for being invited to a meeting uncolored with partisan motives, but instead for friendship's sake and to be spiritually fed from Scripture.

For special music, Richard Gummerson, retired from the U.S. Army Band, sang "America the Beautiful" in a moving and meditative fashion. Pastor Brian Jones presented a message from Isaiah 9:6,7, a text that elucidates the qualities of Christ's perfect government of righteousness and peace. Pastor Jones also gifted each visiting official (above) a copy of *The World's Next Superpower* by evangelist Mark Finley. Weirton church members, who joined in the service, have decided to have a similar event next year at their church.



## Highland School Installs New Geothermal System

Students at Highland Adventist School (HAS) in Elkins, W.Va., had to endure a lot of noise during classes recently. The school installed a geothermal heating and cooling system that required the drilling of six, 200-ft. geothermal wells.

Frame Drilling Company, owned and operated by Elkins church member Jack Frame III, installed the new system. A geothermal system provides many advantages over a conventional one. It is "green," or economically friendly, because it produces no greenhouse gasses, no pollution, and will operate at a fraction of the cost of a conventional system. Additionally, because it has no open flame, it produces no possibility of explosion. The system is part of the school's energy-conserving design, which includes extra insulated walls and ceilings, a conditioned crawl space, and a building-wide heat recovery system.

"We want to thank Frame Drilling Company for their expertise on this project," stated Elkins church pastor Don Jacko, who served as general contractor for the building project. "This is a great contribution to our energy-efficient building plan. The students and staff are really enjoying the even, pleasant heat of the new, energy-efficient system, and our treasurer is pleased by the lowered utility bills."—Cheryl Jacko



The Frame Drilling Company works on hole number 5 for Highland Adventist School's new geothermal heating and cooling system.

## Highland Students Learn Hydroponic Science

Students at Highland Adventist School will soon be growing tomatoes thanks to a \$600 grant from the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh, a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of analytical chemistry through science education.

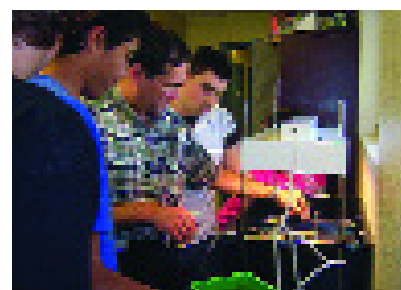
"The program we developed for our grant proposal is a classroom science unit where we will be growing plants using a hydroponic growing system," stated principal Cheryl Jacko. "The students will compare various hydroponic



Eighth-graders Joel Grey, Scott Wentz, and Chryston Alley help assemble the new hydroponic growing system.

growing conditions and nutrient mixtures to see which one works best for growing tomatoes and other vegetables." She continues, "Hands-on science education is a major component of our academic program, so we are really looking forward to experimenting with the new equipment."

HAS offers a challenging, Christian curriculum for students in grades K-12. Contact the school at (304) 636-4274 or [highlandadventistschool.org](http://highlandadventistschool.org).



Highland biology teacher Don Jacko (center) helps students set up new equipment for growing hydroponic vegetables.

## Mountain View EVENTS

### June

2 Walk 100 Miles Ends, Valley Vista Adventist Center (VAC)

15-20 Lifeguard Camp, WAC

20-28 Camp Meeting, WAC

### July

6-13 Adventure Camp, WAC

13-20 Junior Camp, WAC

20-27 Teen Camp, WAC

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

## A Family United in Purpose

Educating young people is a tremendously important responsibility that requires the talents, prayers, finances, and emotional support of so many people; it takes a family. At Mount Vernon Academy (MVA), we are very fortunate to have our beloved alumni as an active part of our family.

This year's alumni weekend was exciting as old friends were reunited and new memories made. As I visited with alumni of all ages, I remained encouraged that they are still excited about their alma mater and MVA's mission to model Christ's character through selfless service to others. Many of them have or are currently serving their "brothers and sisters," both in this country and abroad, and know the importance of lending a helping hand.

Because of our alumni's faithful and generous financial support and prayers, students are able to receive a quality, Christian education and to benefit from unique, service-oriented opportunities. Hearing students tell stories about how they have been impacted by their mission experiences or community outreach projects is such a blessing. Through interacting respectfully and showing random acts of kindness to those around them, I know our students' lives have been changed because they are following Christ's leading.

Yes, we are a big family at MVA; we are united. The faculty/staff, alumni, parents, and friends pray that our students will continue modeling the character of Christ through selfless service to others as they continue on life's journey.



Margaret Sutton

Director of Development/Alumni Relations

## Sophomores Study Church History in Battle Creek

In reviewing our past history, having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what the Lord has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us and His teaching in our past history" (*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, p. 196).

With these words as their inspiration, MVA sophomores recently traveled north to historic Battle Creek,

Mich., to visit the birthplace of the Adventist Church. Students spent time touring the Adventist Historic Village, a collection of homes and buildings that are a prominent part of our church's history. Attendees were inspired by stories of the early Adventist pioneers, and felt a closer connection to their past.

The annual trip to Battle Creek fits into the sophomore curriculum nicely, but the true purpose is to inspire today's young people with the same passion and zeal as the early believers. The world needs the message of the Adventist Church now more than ever. Christ is coming soon! The founders of our church believed and lived this message. The students of MVA now have a clearer understanding of who they are, and thus a clearer understanding of where they must go.—Tim Soper



Sophomores Victor Burke and Jake Erskine experience a turn-of-the-century exercise machine during their recent trip to Battle Creek, Mich.



Students also visited the Sojourner Truth memorial.

### Career Fair Provides Glimpse Into Future

Mount Vernon Academy recently hosted its annual career fair to shift the students' minds to their futures. School leaders want students to start considering possible careers, so they will be motivated to succeed now.

Various professionals, including the local mayor, a physician, nurse, psychologist, and real estate agent attended and answered questions about their different fields of work. The students inquired about education requirements, average salary, benefits, and daily routines in order to obtain a better understanding of each career. All of the community professionals enjoyed their time with the students, found them to be bright and inquisitive, and have pledged to assist with future career fairs on campus.

"The career fair allowed us to see a glimpse of what our futures might hold," reflected sophomore Ashley Evans. "We were able to realize the pros and cons of what career choices would be best for our futures."—Joe Lee



Joe Lee, MVA's career counselor, meets with juniors Bruce Cuevas and Sherika Blanc and sophomore Jason Holmes.

### Rock & Roll Fitness Program a Success

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it" (1 Corin. 9:24).

With this text as inspiration, MVA's Rock & Roll (rock representing muscle building and roll referring to cardio exercises) Fitness Program was designed to help students establish lifelong exercise habits. Through the program, students are able to interact with adults who have made fitness a priority in their lives regardless of the time, effort, and sacrifice it requires.

During its first year, Rock & Roll highlighted the fitness philosophies of MVA staff. Participants were selected by a group of students who admired those staff members for their dedication to fitness. Despite busy personal and professional lives, many of our staff accepted the personal fitness challenge and felt encouraged to become even more active in their exercise programs.

This year the program expanded into the local community through Knox Community Hospital. Jason Mentzer, the hospital's wellness coordinator, worked

with the academy to develop a nomination campaign. Hospital employees appointed their fittest coworkers, then MVA students interviewed the top nominees and featured them in a short video. The entire MVA student body then voted for one male and one female hospital employee to showcase in this year's Rock & Roll video.

"The response to the challenge was wonderful," reported Mentzer. "It really got [our employees] thinking about the benefits of exercise, and it was a wonderful way to promote healthy lifestyles and fitness to students."

MVA plans to continue utilizing the Rock & Roll campaign for getting involved with community organizations and helping its students realize that fitness is an important aspect of any profession.



Senior Samantha Stertz and sophomore James Syvertson interview a Knox Community Hospital employee.

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

### August

- 10-13 Girls Basketball Camp
- 10-14 RA Training
- 17 Freshmen Registration
- 18 Freshmen Classes Begin
- 20 Registration
- 21 Classes Begin
- 27 Lake Day
- 28-31 Senior Survival
- 31 Sunday School

Spirit is published in the Visitor by Mount Vernon Academy  
525 Wooster Road, Mount Vernon, OH 43050 ■ Phone:  
(740) 397-5411 ■ Principal, David Daniels ■ www.mvacademy.org  
Editor, Amy Soper

### Pillar Families are a Stronghold for Our Youth

For the past decade, youth specialists from all denominations have declared that youth ministry today is in crisis. "It's one factor we haven't mentioned: our woeful inability as mainline protestants to retain our young," said United Methodist Bishop Will Willimon in the August 17, 1997, issue of *Christianity Today* (pp. 17-18). As a church, we have not been effective in leading our young people to mature Christian adulthood. Even with all the training—from the North American Division to the local conferences—and the increasing number of resources available to those of us leading youth ministry, we are seeing no appreciable increase in the percentage of adults in our culture who are living out their faith.

The family or, more specifically, parents can help reverse this trend. A recent *USA Today Weekend* survey of more than 250,000 teenagers indicated that 70 percent of them identified their parents as the most important influence in their lives.

Parents, please read and live Deuteronomy 6:4-9. We all have to suffer either the pain of discipline or the pain of regret. Parents, let us all reinstate the family altar in our homes. Let us wake up early to pray and study the Bible as a family. Let us honor God as good stewards and evangelize with our families, our loved ones, and neighbors. Ellen White told us, "If Christian parents seek Him earnestly, He will fill their mouths with arguments, and for His name's sake will work mightily in their behalf in the conversion of their children (*Testimonies to the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 323). May the Lord bless us as we strive to raise an army of youth by establishing strong families around our conference.



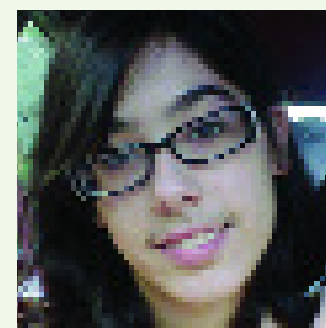
Laffit Cortés  
Youth/Communication  
Director

## NEWS

### Robbinsville Youth Raises Funds for Greece

My name is Stefanie Kanellis (below), and I am 16 years old. My nationality is Greek, from my dad's side of the family. Recently I raised money for victims of the wild fires that ravaged Greece last year. The wild fires destroyed homes, churches, schools, hospitals, businesses, land, etc., and almost consumed Ancient Olympia. I'm glad that other countries helped the people of Greece to contain and stop the fires, but I wanted to do something to help the people. Greece is a wonderful place.

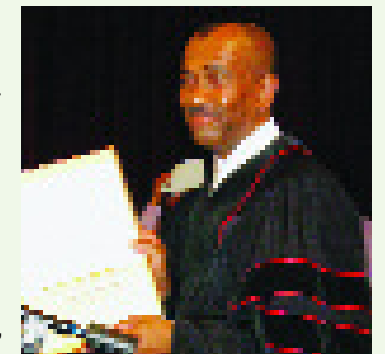
I started at my school, Meadow View Junior Academy, in Chesterfield. I made two types of buttons that students and parents could receive for a donation. I also got dona-



tions from my home church, Robbinsville, and the Saint George Greek Orthodox Church near my house let me use their parking lot to do a carwash. A few of my friends helped me wash cars after their church services. With the help of these groups, I raised a total of \$729.50.

### First Newark English Church Ordains Pastor

Conference officials and pastoral leadership of the First Newark English church recently ordained their pastor, Andre D. Ascalon (right), to the gospel ministry during a special ceremony. Members, family, and visitors helped celebrate the occasion.



The service started with a prayerful song by the church's youth choir, followed by a message from conference president José Cortés. Cortés reminded all attendees that being a pastor involves "responsibility and faithfulness to God," and explained that an ordination is "more than a promise—it is a divine calling from God."

After the presentation of a robe and certificate, and a superb piano duo by two young members, Tiyannah Stewart and Jennifer Remy, the service came to a close with another song by Caroline DeFreitas.—Gabrielle A. Baker

## School Preps Laity for Evangelism

How do you reach a dying world with the saving message of the gospel? How do you appeal to a technologically connected culture that is seemingly so disconnected from the truth? How can the words of an unschooled carpenter from the Middle East, recorded 2,000 years ago, resonate today in an iTunes, Xbox, MySpace world? More than 200 lay members from across New Jersey recently flocked to the Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Tranquility to grapple with the answers.

The "School of Evangelism" is a conference-sponsored event and is part of an ongoing effort to involve more members in evangelism and to reach more lost souls. This year's event featured a lively, but intense, mix of seminars, brainstorming sessions, worship, and personal devotion time. Instructors included conference office staff and pastors from various districts. The history of the church, the role of worship in evangelism, elements of an evangelistic sermon, and preparing a budget for an evangelistic campaign were among the many topics addressed.

Conference president José Cortés hopes that each attendee will participate in an evangelistic campaign some time this year, including some who will be featured speakers. Given the limited funds available to support churches in this regard, the conference is seeking at least 100 faith partners willing to pledge \$1,000 toward evangelism this year. In response to an appeal made during the program, a number of the attendees signed pledges.

Besides the evangelism school, in an attempt to activate even more of the laity for service, assistant director of Personal Ministries Pastor Tom Dunham hopes to conduct seminars on helping members identify their ministry profile. Additional training for elders is also planned.—Peter Anderson



Members of the Dover and Morristown Spanish churches participate in a breakout session on developing an evangelistic budget.

PHOTO BY JIM GREENE

## Women's Ministries Retreat Delivers Blessings

English-speaking ladies from across New Jersey and as far away as England recently traveled to the Grand Hotel in beautiful Cape May for the 12th Annual Spring Women's Ministries Retreat. Attendees arrived with an expecta-

tion of blessings from the Lord's servant from the Oregon Conference, Ginny Allen.

The blessings *did* abound. Allen was the speaker at the first Women's Ministries retreat, and ladies who had attended were quite happy to have her return. With an emphasis on prayer, Allen presented four seminars over the course of the weekend. She shared ways to have effective Bible study, and outlined steps to obtain an effective prayer life.

The weekend also included a "Sweet Hour of Prayer" each morning, and the famous "Crazy Hat Parade" on Saturday evening. The gorgeous scenery, warm sunshine, wonderful fellowship, and tasty meals left all the ladies talking about saving up to attend next year.—Gloria Izzard



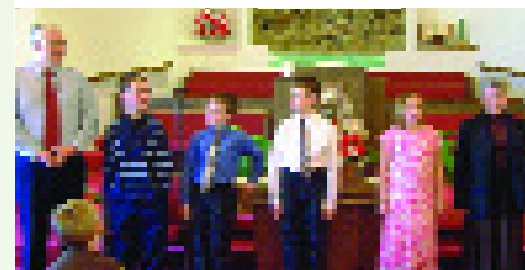
Newly appointed Women's Ministries director Amalia Aguero (left) enjoys interacting "on stage" with retreat guest speaker Ginny Allen.



Attendee Kayo Yamamoto, an exchange student from Japan, had fun participating in the "Crazy Hat Parade."

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

## Newark Congregation Celebrates Baptisms



Young and "old" baptismal candidates at the Newark church take a stand for Christ.

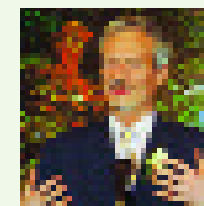
Six people recently made the decision for baptism at the Newark church, each one with a unique story about what brought them to this important step in their lives. Steve Allen found the church through the witness of church elder Donna Goodall. Four young people also took the stand for Christ. MaKayla Davis, Austin Grimm, and Joshua and Nicholas Lines all attend the Newark school and recently completed Bible studies with their pastor. The day of their baptism, it was also Nicholas' birthday, so he was born twice that day!

Although Zina Kennedy has attended the church for 50 years, she never took this final step. When Pastor Tom Hughes asked her to join, she enthusiastically said, "Yes!" Kennedy's son, E.J., who is an ordained Adventist minister, was happy to join Pastor Hughes in the baptismal tank. It was certainly a day of rejoicing in heaven and on Earth!

## Cleveland Hungarian Celebrates 30th Anniversary

The Cleveland Hungarian church has been worshipping in the same building for 30 years, due to the hard work of its founding members. In order to commemorate this milestone, the church recently hosted a special two-day celebration under the theme "Great is Thy Faithfulness." It was a time of homecoming for many—a chance to see familiar faces and the opportunity to make new friends.

Guest speaker Erno Osz-Farkas (right), secretary of the Hungarian Union Conference, blessed attendees with his Sabbath message. The weekend also included special performances by the church choir, orchestra, and Ghanaian group, while founding members recounted their church-building experiences with attendees.



The Cleveland Hungarian church had its humble beginnings at the local YMCA. Throughout the years, members also enjoyed services in the basements of other Adventist churches and even in the pastor's home. Members dreamed of a church to call their own, and finally started taking steps toward that dream in 1973 by purchasing land in Westlake. Ground-breaking started in July 1975, and with fervent prayer, dedication, sacrifice, and manual labor, the church was completed. They held their first service in March 1978.

Today the church is a thriving congregation consisting of members from several nationalities, including Hungarian, Yugoslavian, Romanian, Peruvian, Indian, and English, with services held in both Hungarian and English. Members are active in many ministries and use their talents to conduct health seminars and cooking schools, produce TV and radio programs, participate in the combined choir, men's choir, and orchestra, and lead the youth in Pathfinders. They are grateful for how the Lord has led them and look forward to His guidance in the years to come.—Andrea Sestak



The Cleveland Hungarian congregation sings praises during the celebration weekend.



The church's founding members get special recognition during the 30th anniversary celebration.

## New Hope Fellowship Plants Church, Hosts Outreach

New Hope Adventist Fellowship, located in Clyde, has stepped out in faith to plant a new church facility in nearby Fremont. They have been renting a facility in Fremont—a larger city with more outreach options—since September 2007. In keeping with their mission statement “to reach out, nurture, and meet the physical and spiritual needs of our community,” local pastor Marius Marton recently enlisted the assistance of conference youth director Mike Stevenson to help plan and organize a door-to-door outreach day in Fremont.

The congregation happily welcomed volunteers from the Ravenna and Reynoldsburg Pathfinder clubs to help with the day of community ministry. After an inspiring sermon by Stevenson and a fellowship meal, the group of 18 volun-



teers (left) distributed books, magazines, tracts, brochures, flyers, and Bible study cards to approximately 350 area homes. Residents were invited to take advantage of the church’s free services, including seminars on health, diet, and personal finances; marriage counseling; and Bible studies. Members also offered to meet their physical needs, such as helping the disabled get their groceries, medication, or books; to visit them; or read to them from the Word of God.

It was an abundantly blessed Sabbath for all, and the response from the community was immediate! In the week following the outreach, people called for services and Bible studies, and one person started attending church.

## Kettering Music Director Earns Guild Award

Jerry Taylor (right), 22-year music director of the Kettering church, was recently rewarded for his enduring tenure in musical leadership. At the recent Guild of Adventist Musicians Music Awards Ceremony in Silver Spring, Md., Taylor was one of 22 highly talented musicians from around the Columbia Union to be honored. Following peer nominations sent in last year, Taylor won the Outstanding Choral Conductor award.

“It was a bit of a surprise, a little embarrassing, and yet I think everyone likes to know that others think they have done a good job,” said Taylor of the award.

Taylor grew up in Adventist schools, and says, “I worked my way through college as the church janitor—not a glamorous job, but it gave me keys and access to the college church pipe organ.” He earned his Master in Church Music in 1981 from Indiana University, graduating with “highest distinction.” After



teaching at Ozark Academy (Ariz.) for four years, he went onto Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va., “where I built the pipe organ in the church there.”

Of his many accomplishments, one of Taylor’s favorites was being able to convert a 12-member choir at Kettering church to a complete music department with a 50-member choir, string orchestra, brass ensemble, four handbell choirs, and some developing praise teams. He is also quite proud of his two adult sons, Greg and Todd. Greg is a Bible teacher at Spencerville Adventist Academy in Silver Spring, Md. Todd is a manager in Cincinnati.

—Beth Michaels

Mission Ohio is published in the *Visitor* by the Ohio Conference ■ P.O. Box 1230, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050  
Phone: (740) 397-4665 ■ President, Raj Attiken  
Editor, Nancy Barnett ■ [www.ohioadventist.org](http://www.ohioadventist.org)

## New Castle Dedicates Church Building

Members of the New Castle church have faced more than their share of struggles during the past several years. An explosion in their community revealed structural damage to the building that led to its demolition. Led by lay leaders Albert Ranalla and Douglas Dickson, this small group of believers continued meeting in a rented space and ministering to the community.

New Castle members coordinate the *Signs of the Times* magazine ministry for the five Adventist churches in the area. They deliver more than 200 copies each month. These contacts have recently led to more than 10 Bible studies. While the studies have been conducted through the mail, Ed Beers, a new Bible worker in the area, is beginning to make personal contacts and to offer continuing one-on-one Bible studies.

After much searching and prayer, the New Castle group recently located a new church building and was able to purchase it without a mortgage. While it needs much work, members are excited to have a new home and recently dedicated the building. They have big plans this year, beginning with a six-night marriage seminar with speaker Dwayne O’Fill, followed by a cooking school. In September, Dick Faber, lay pastor for the neighboring Shenango Valley church, will help New Castle hold an evangelistic series.



New Castle church members are proud of their new church building and have big plans for outreach this year.

## Adventist WholeHealth Welcomes New Administrator

C Cheryl Goff (below) steps in as administrator for Adventist WholeHealth Network (AWHN) located in Reading, succeeding Dick Spotts. She recently spent eight years at the Pottsville Hospital. A gradu-



ate of Blue Mountain Academy (BMA), Goff brings a background in cardiac rehabilitation and lifestyle management of disease. She believes that health ministry is an effective first step in evangelism. “People can’t think about spiritual things when they’re

concerned about their health,” Goff states. “I’ve seen lives change dramatically when they begin living healthy lives.” She’s excited about being able to “finally take lifestyle management into ministry.”

Goff and her husband, Ron, are members of the Anchor Pointe church plant in Shoemakersville. They have two college-aged sons, James and Jonathon.

Outgoing administrator Spotts (right) retired for the first time in 1996. At the time he was working as the senior vice president and chief operating officer for

Hackettstown Hospital in New Jersey. He has also worked for Shawnee Mission, the Treasury Department at the Adventist World Headquarters, and several academies, including BMA in Hamburg and the former Garden State Academy in New Jersey. He came out of retirement to serve as director of operations for Reading Rehab. After retiring a second time in 1998, Spotts worked part-time for the Adventist Book Center in Hamburg.

Spotts left retirement again in 2006 to serve in his recent role at AWHN. He’s attempting to retire again. “That’s it,” he says, then laughs and adds, “No, that’s not true.” He finds work hard to leave. But his wife, Donna, has other plans. She told him, “You’re not working after 50 years of marriage!”

But Spotts has already been offered a job at an ABC in Texas. The couple moved to Keene in May to be closer to their grandchildren. He plans on being involved in the school where they attend. He feels confident that Goff will do a great job with AWHN.



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**Historic Anniversary Celebration**  
*Love of the Ages*  
May 10, 2008  
Clyde, Ohio  
A Vision of Hope

## Blue Mountain Academy Principal Accepts Call

Blue Mountain Academy principal Spencer Hannah (right) recently accepted the call to help lead Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) in New Market, Va. Hannah has served at BMA for 14 years, nine of those as principal and five as vice principal. Both of his children are BMA graduates. Spencer asks for continued support of the school, saying, "I want to thank Pennsylvania constituents for their support of BMA. You can be proud of your school." He adds, "It is a flagship among boarding schools across North America. They still need your support to deal with a physical plant that is over 50 years old. They are working on remodeling and repairing both dormitories over the next few years and will not be able to accomplish that without your support."



"Spencer has served BMA faithfully and with great strength," comments conference president Ray Hartwell. "Under his leadership, a different climate and attitude toward learning and campus life has emerged. The spiritual atmosphere has been lifted, and his ability to treat students redemptively has added immensely to the development of so many BMA students and graduates." He adds, "The enrollment has continued to climb and several new initiatives have been accomplished, others have been started and are showing fruit. Spencer will be missed, and we all wish he and Eva every blessing in the Lord."

## Conference Says Farewell to Retiring Staff Members

**Alan Dean** – Dean (below) and his wife, Betty, moved to Pennsylvania in February 1996. They had recently



closed a bakery and natural foods business in Roanoke, Va. The couple moved near Pittsburgh to be closer to Dean's elderly father

and to work with the nearby Richland church. Fulfilling a dream, Dean enrolled in the conference lay pastor training program.

Upon completing his training in 1998, Dean was invited to pastor the Butler/Richland district. During the next four years, he helped complete the new sanctuary for the Richland church and a new home for the Butler church. In 2002 Dean was transferred to the Seneca/Warren district, where he pastored until this past May. He helped implement community health screenings, cooking classes, health seminars, county fair booths, and events throughout the district. Dean now hopes to assist churches in western Virginia and to join in some mission trips.

**V. Eric Kotter** – Three weeks after Kotter's birth in the Baltic country of Estonia, communist soldiers

deported his parents to Siberia. He was miraculously placed in the care of his aunt and grandparents. Three years later, they escaped to Germany, where his aunt joined the Adventist Church. After immigrating to the United States, the family joined a church in New York City where Kotter started fourth grade. He transferred to Blue Mountain Academy during his senior year.

After graduating from Columbia Union College and then the seminary at Andrews University (Mich.), Kotter (below) started his pastoral ministry in South Boston, Va.



Kotter and his wife, Bonnie, retire after 37 years of full-time pastoral ministry. He recently served the Harrisburg First church, but has also pastored in five conferences. The couple plans to spend their retirement reconnecting with friends, writing, traveling, and assisting their local church.

**Lester Pelley** – Pelley (right) has been a conference associate treasurer since August 1997. He started his career at Atlantic Union College (Mass.), where he was hired as an

accountant before his graduation in 1965. He held several other positions there before moving to Pennsylvania.

Pelley retired in April after 42 years of service in the Adventist Church. He will continue to reside in Sinking Springs and looks forward to spending more time with family and enjoying his hobbies: walking, gardening, and music appreciation.



## What's happening

- June**
- 13-21** Camp Meeting, *Blue Mountain Academy*
  - 22-29** Adventurer Camp *Laurel Lake Camp (LLC)*
  - 29-July 6** Family Camp, *LLC*

**Pennsylvania Pen** is published in the *Visitor* by the Pennsylvania Conference 720 Museum Road, Reading, PA 19611 Phone: (610) 374-8331, ext. 210 President, Ray Hartwell ■ Editor, Tamara Horst ■ [www.paconference.org](http://www.paconference.org)

## Who Makes Up Your Congregation?

I am fascinated by the diverse communities that we have in Potomac. Some have strong ties to their history and haven't changed characteristics in over a hundred years. Some have changed so much that those who lived there 100 years ago wouldn't recognize them. Other communities have such a strong legacy that they could write a book. Then there are those that are off the beaten track, and many of us don't notice them at all. Some communities are hard to miss—they have every type of ethnicity, lifestyle, economic status, social issue, and political affiliation. What kind of community are you in?

The "pen of inspiration" has told us that, as disciples, it is our privilege to go. "The world is perishing for want of the gospel... In the command to go into the highways and hedges, Christ sets forth the work of all whom He calls to minister in His name. The whole world is the field for Christ's ministers. The whole human family is comprised in their congregation. The Lord desires that His word of grace shall be brought home to every soul" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 228).

Do you think of the people that are standing in line with you at the grocery store, at the gas station, or at the concert you attended as members of your congregation? Now there is a new twist! Let's turn our communities upside down for the kingdom. After all, they are *all* members of our congregation.



**Bill Miller**  
President

## Potomac Sets New Course for Evangelism

Glen Altermatt (below), the new conference associate of pastoral ministry/evangelism, is "extremely excited" about his new assignment. "With our conference's emphasis on growing healthy disciple-making churches, evangelism plays an important role," he says. "Our Lord's command is to, 'go make disciples'. You can't make a new disciple unless you first win them."



Altermatt observes that when members become involved in soul winning, great things happen. The Florida native and church growth expert is looking at new, creative ways for churches to reach into their communities and become intentional about making connections. "One of my objectives is to provide resources to pastors and churches that will give many options and opportunities for everyone to see how and where they can fulfill God's call in their lives," he clarifies.

Part of the challenge Altermatt sees is getting congregations to move away from the old paradigm. "In the past, we have relied upon the brochure to garner in a crowd, but it's left out an important piece of the puzzle," he explains. "There is little or no connection between those who come and the current members." He notes

that some studies have shown that the best retention rates come from those individuals who already have a relationship or connection with someone in the congregation. "One of my passions is to help churches develop a harvest mentality, where members are experiencing the joy of soul winning and seeing the results lived out in the lives of those they have led to Jesus."

To help Potomac members experience this joy, Altermatt has set what he calls "ambitious goals" that Potomac expects to reach by the power and grace of God:

- Every church holding an evangelistic meeting will have a plan, which includes the necessary pre-work and follow-up.
- Every church will have at least one baptism beginning in 2009.
- Increase the number of evangelistic meetings held each year by 10 percent.
- Host a field school of evangelism in conjunction with one of our colleges by 2010.
- Hold a multi-church, citywide series by 2010.
- Reach the following baptismal goals: 1,950 in 2008; 2,250 in 2009; and 2,500 in 2010.

Altermatt extends this invitation: "Catch the vision with me and become an active agent for Christ in your church. This is a partnership that will change your life."

### Vienna Students Highlight Story of Jesus

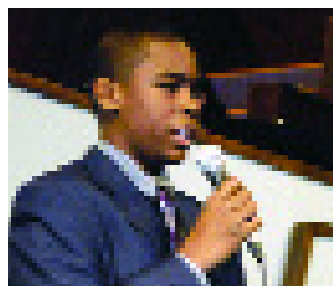
The Vienna (Va.) church sanctuary was filled with members, friends, and proud parents as more than 70 of Vienna Adventist Academy's 84 students presented a special Easter program full of seasonal songs and recitations.

The program started with instrumental praise by piano students followed by a recorder selection

from the fourth- and sixth-graders (above). Other performances included a memorized recitation of "One Solitary Life" by fourth-grader Kevin Ghimire, a self-penned composition by fourth-grader Max Bromme, a presentation by eighth-grader Vivian Arnez, and a number of musical selections by various school choirs.

Seventh-grader Blake Brown (below) was the guest speaker, performing his self-written piece "Were You There? (According to Simon Peter)."

"I am so pleased with all the students and faculty," said Nicole Abonkhese, principal. "Christian education provides the best chance for children to be well grounded in the knowledge of Jesus and to be prepared for whatever the future might hold."—*Evelyn Shanko Robinson*



### Elders Retreats Bring Inspiration, Purpose

Whether in the rustic setting of Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va., or in the modern sanctuary of the Damascus (Md.) Grace Fellowship church, the 2008 Elders Retreats challenged attendees. Elders from across the conference were commissioned to shift the

focus of their congregations to winning lost souls for the kingdom. The two events saw a total attendance of nearly 200. Keynote speakers were Marcellus Robinson, DMin (left), senior pastor of the Emmanuel-Brinklow church in



Ashton, Md., and Ivan Warden, associate director for the Ellen G. White Estate.

"There was an outstanding spirit there," said Ray Pichette, PhD (below), vice president for pastoral ministry and retreat presenter. "We were all blessed by deeply spiritual sermons, and the seminars were purposeful and practical on growing healthy churches. God showed up and blessed us."

Attending pastors also appreciated the sessions. "My elders and I have been coming to the retreat for the past four years," commented Brandon Koleda, pastor of the Williamsburg (Va.) church. "As a pastor, it is a great time to bond with my leadership team. At each retreat, we learn more and more about leading our congregation to greater health and growth. Most importantly, we learn together."



### Hyattsville Evangelistic Series Brings Revival

Following a decision by the Hyattsville (Md.) church and their pastor, Ebenezer Samuel, in late 2007 to start focusing on personal evangelism, every Sabbath was devoted to encouraging members to follow Christ's commission to the church. Then the church went a step further and hosted a weekend of lay evangelism training led by Mario Torres and his team from the Frederick (Md.) church.

One result of the session was the organization of a month-long prophetic seminar, which the church had not done since 2000. Touching on the awesome power of God during creation, the Holy Spirit took control and five people were baptized.

"The team had a wonderful time sharing the gospel, and the meetings have given us an opportunity to work together," commented Pastor Samuel. "We look forward to launching another series in the fall."—*Diane Bryson*



Hyattsville (Md.) church pastor Ebenezer Samuel (far left) proudly poses with new and current members.

## Visiting School "Tribes" Experience Academy Life

The Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) campus was alive with activity recently as students from schools around the Eastern half of the country came down to the valley to experience Academy Days. More than 160 young guests from Virginia, Maryland, Connecticut, and as far away as Florida, participated in the weekend activities.

Upon arrival, students were assigned to a "tribe" and introduced to their SVA student ambassadors, who hosted them throughout the weekend. Tribes toured the campus in a series of six stops, their groupings evidenced by various tribal colors and by placards

announcing "Reuben" or "Gad" (or one of Jacob's other sons), which the ambassadors herded along.

As visiting students toured the campus, they got acquainted with the dorms, church, pool, student center and other buildings. At each stop, they were given an opportunity to earn points for their tribe by answering a trivia question about that particular area.

Meanwhile, parents and sponsors met in the auditorium for a chat with principal Dale Twomley, PhD.

Due to chilly weather, the cookout, picnic supper was moved to the cafeteria, after which guests loaded buses for a ride over the mountain to tour Luray Caverns. Later, an ice cream social was followed by worship in the chapel. Any remaining energy was burned off in the gym during scholarship auditions for sports and music.

Additional students arrived on Monday morning, joining Sunday's guests in mini-sessions of six classes typically taken by freshmen. At each stop, tribes were again given the opportunity to earn points through a fun activity or quiz, as well as learn a bit about what typically happens in that class.

After lunch the focus turned to SVA's seventh objective: fun. Tribes competed in three-legged races, Frisbee tosses, balloon bursting contests, and various other activities to, again, earn points for their tribe. The afternoon concluded with a closing assembly when \$57,000 in scholarships—each valued from \$500 to \$1,500—was awarded to 53 attendees. The scholar-

ships were in sports, music, Bible knowledge, and math. Members of the tribes of Dan and Issachar were each awarded cash prizes for earning the highest number of points for the weekend.

"I got to do activities with others, meet new people, and make new friends," said Nicolas Lapido, an eighth-grader from John Nevins Andrews School in Takoma Park, Md. "I really like SVA. It takes away the from the distractions of the city so you can focus more on God."

"At first I was a bit nervous," added Reuben Ramirez, an eighth-grader at Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary School, "but the ambassadors were really helpful and answered any questions that we had. I also had a great time getting to know people

from other schools."

As SVA's director of recruiting, Gail Daneker, bid the young guests goodbye, she felt a personal connection to many of them. "They came with open hearts and giving spirits," she said. "It was an incredible two days."

Anyone interested in attending SVA this August can contact

Daneker at (540) 740-2210. We'd love to see some "tribe" members return.



Academy Days visitors have a great time using the new handheld remote answer devices that coordinate with SVA's SmartBoards.



Current SVA students invite Academy Days guests to join their campus families for daily prayer time.



Potential students try out for volleyball scholarships during their recent visit.

**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  
Email: daletwomley@hotmail.com  
www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org



# www.ta.edu TATODAY

News you can use from Takoma Academy

JUNE 2008

## Mission Work in Tanzania Changes Students' Lives

**M**e and 10 other students and nine adults from Takoma Academy (TA) recently boarded Ethiopian Airlines on our way to the Mt. Kilimanjaro Airport in Arusha, Tanzania. We were on our way to help rebuild an orphanage.

The first thing we noticed upon our arrival was that Africa is very different from the television portrayal of one big desert. Once we stepped off the plane, we saw beautiful, tall green trees, lovely flowers, and stunning landscapes. It was also soon apparent that the Tanzanians work very hard and are grateful for everything they have. Many of them wear the same clothes every day and were happy to have them. They live in such poverty that it was difficult to believe that their living arrangements did not depress them. We asked one native if he liked living the way he did, and,

TA students and adults arrive in Tanzania ready to get to work.

surprisingly, he answered yes; that was his home and he did not want to leave. These wonderful people were happy with just barely enough to get by.

Our work on the orphanage included moving heavy bricks, big rocks, gravel, and making cement. It was torture, and at the end of the day, everyone was exhausted. However, seeing the smiles on the children's faces gave us all the energy boost we needed to keep going.

The orphans were very attachable and would hug and kiss us. All they wanted to do was hold our hands. It softened our hearts to see the joy they got from playing with



Juniors Jamal Douglas and Kris Austin, and seniors David Byass and Vijay Ganta spend some fun and quality time with the Tanzanian orphans.

us and getting our attention. Everyone had the hardest time leaving: Seeing the kids cry as we left was so sad.

Traveling to Tanzania made us realize that we have a lot of reasons to be grateful. We take for granted little things like paved roads, traffic laws, water pressure, and loving parents. We assume that each morning we will have food and electricity. Our rituals and habits even make us forget to say thank you. The trip was a reminder to be grateful for the things God has allowed us to have.

Coming home was sad because we miss the children and realize we don't have the finances to go back and check on them. However, there are people here that need just as much help. There are people who would be happy and grateful to receive just a little portion of kindness, maybe just a smile or a meal. For some, we might be the only Jesus they see. You do not need to have superpowers to change the world; you just need the love of Jesus in your heart to make a difference.



Sheri Thorn  
Junior



Trip volunteers lay iron mesh before pouring the concrete floor of the new facility.

## Calendar

June	
4,5	Semester Exams
6	Last Day of School/Exam Make Up Day
6-8	Graduation Weekend
29	Registration, Noon-4 p.m.

TA Today is published in the Visitor by Takoma Academy  
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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY PICTURE NEEDED:**

If you have a picture of the academy on Germantown Avenue, in Philadelphia, please send to Philadelphia Academy Alumni Association, email durangokids@earthlink.net or mail to Caesar DiMemmo, 1161 Mountain Rd, Newburg, PA 17240.

**MISSION TRIPS TO HONDURAS JULY AND AUGUST 2008:**

Chesapeake Conference will be hosting two mission trips this summer to an orphanage in Honduras. July 10-20 will be for high-school-aged students. The second trip is August 3-15 and is geared for college students and young adults. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Ann Reynolds at areynolds@ccosda.org or call (410) 995-1910.

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Baltimore First Church

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

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

For more information:

Email  
mdmenoffaith@verizon.net

Phone  
(410) 465-6864  
Baltimore First Church

**SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY (SVA)**

will host a dessert reception for all SVA alumni during Potomac Conference Camp Meeting Friday, June 20, at 6 p.m., in the former Home Ec room on the lower level of the Student Center. All former students and staff and their families are invited to join us for this evening of good food and fellowship.

**PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOP FOR NURSES,**

June 20, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., New Market, Va. Topic: "Intentional Spiritual Encounters: Integrating Faith into Nursing Practice." CEUs. Visit [adventistnursingconnection.org](http://adventistnursingconnection.org) for details and to register, or email Linda Royer at [RBL@shentel.net](mailto:RBL@shentel.net), or call (540) 477-9653.

**MUSIC AT THE 2010 GC SESSION**

in Atlanta, June 23 through July 3. Needed: high-quality sacred music from vocalists, instrumentalists, choirs, ensembles, etc. Please visit [gcsession.org](http://gcsession.org) for details and application. Send all requested materials to NAD Music Coordinator, Attn: Ron Christman, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600. Deadline for application: January 31, 2009.

**SABBATH SERVICES AT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK:**

Mid-America Union, Rocky Mountain Conference, and Centura Health will be providing Sabbath services at Yellowstone National Park from May 31 through August 30. Please plan to join these services if you will be visiting the park this summer. For more information, contact Rocky Mountain Conference, (303) 282-3670.

**SINGLES POTLUCK AT CAMP MEETING**

Enjoy camp meeting at Shenandoah Valley Academy (234 West Lee Highway, New Market, VA 22844 ([pcosda.org/pc\\_campmeeting/campmeeting.asp](http://pcosda.org/pc_campmeeting/campmeeting.asp)). After the divine service, all singles are invited to a potluck at 720 Battlefield Bluff Drive, New Market, VA 22844. For directions, visit [asamchesapeake.com](http://asamchesapeake.com) or contact Cynthia Malcolm, (540) 740-3332.

**OBITUARIES**

**DONOPHAN, Alvin C.,**

born December 18, 1918, in Kent County, Del.; died November 23, 2007, in Kent County, Del. He was a member of the Forest Grove church in Dover, Del. An Army war hero, he served in both WWII and Korea, receiving many awards and medals, including two bronze stars. Survivors: his wife, Mable; sons John, David, and Steven; and daughters, Maryann and Gloria.

	Jn 6	Jn 13	Jn 20	Jn 27	July 4
Baltimore	8:31	8:34	8:36	8:37	8:36
Cincinnati	9:02	9:05	9:07	9:08	9:07
Cleveland	8:58	9:02	9:04	9:04	9:04
Columbus	8:58	9:02	9:04	9:05	9:04
Jersey City	8:25	8:29	8:31	8:32	8:31
Norfolk	8:22	8:25	8:28	8:28	8:28
Parkersburg	8:50	8:54	8:56	8:58	8:56
Philadelphia	8:27	8:31	8:33	8:34	8:33
Pittsburgh	8:48	8:51	8:54	8:54	8:53
Reading	8:31	8:35	8:37	8:38	8:37
Richmond	8:29	8:32	8:34	8:35	8:34
Roanoke	8:38	8:41	8:44	8:44	8:44
Toledo	9:06	9:10	9:12	9:13	9:12
Trenton	8:26	8:30	8:32	8:33	8:32
Wash., D.C.	8:31	8:35	8:37	8:38	8:37

SUNSET CALENDAR

**GROUT, Geraldine Isabel (Hale),**

born June 16, 1923, in West Groton, Mass.; died February 21, 2008, in Clinton, Mass. She and her husband actively served the South Lancaster Village church for many years. She was the church historian, founder of the church's Adventist Heritage Center, and communication director. She was the youngest of three girls. She graduated from Groton High School in 1941, and earned her undergraduate degree and master's in education (1950) at Boston University and her Doctor of Philosophy in Business Education from the University of Indiana in 1960. She married John Grout on April 21, 1957. She began her career as a teacher at Troy High School in Troy, N.H., in 1947. In 1949 she continued her teaching career at South Lancaster Academy, where she was also women's dean. She spent three years at Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md., where she was department head and an associate professor of business education. She taught secretarial science at Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Mass. She was also a licensed nursing home administrator at the Hale Convalescent Home in West Groton, Mass., for several years. She worked as a secretary in the E. E. Miles Bindery and was editor of the *Atlantic Union Gleaner*

for 22 years. Retiring in 1996, she ended her long career of service to the church. She will be missed by her husband, John, of 50 years, her nieces and nephews, and other family members and friends. She was preceded in death by her sisters Marjory and Thelma.

**LINDSJO, Eleanor M.,**

born December 21, 1909, in Crescent Mills, Calif.; died February 7, 2008, in Dayton, Md. She was a member of the Triadelphia church in Clarksville, Md. Eleanor taught in Adventist elementary schools in Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Oregon, and John Nevins Andrews Elementary School in Takoma Park, Md. She also taught at Walla Walla College. She edited and wrote textbooks for the General Conference Education Department for 22 years. She is survived by a sister, Arlene Grimley, and preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Holger Lindsjo, who taught at the Adventist seminary at Andrews University (Mich.), and Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md.

**METZINGER, Mary A.,**

born February 28, 1913, in Youngstown, Ohio; died March 18, 2008, in Poland, Ohio. She was a member of the Evergreen church in Boardman, Ohio. She belonged to the Dorcas Society and taught Sabbath School. Her joy in life was to help others and tell them about

Jesus. Her favorite Bible verse was Phil. 4:13, which became her motto. During WWII she worked at Truscon Steel Corp. She retired in 1973 from North Side Hospital as a nurses aide. She is survived by daughter and son-in-law Martha and Robert Enlow of Canfield, Ohio; daughter and son-in-law MaryAnn and Allen Smith of Peoria, Ariz.; daughter Susan Waldo of Glendale, Ariz.; brother Michael Blasko and his wife, Diane, and brother Andrew Blasko, both of Middletown, Ohio; 12 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren. Mary was preceded in death by her parents, John and Anna (Dernyer) Blasko; husband, Lawrence (Bud) Mesinger; brother John Blasko; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**SAMMONS, Delores E.** born January 9, 1925, in Battle Creek, Mich.; died November 29, 2007, in Kent County, Del. She was a member of the Forest Grove church in Dover, Del. She is survived by her husband, Uylsses; sons Emery and Arden; and daughters Sharon, Cathy, Jill, Vanessa, and Tammy.

**TYLER, Franklin M. Sr.**, born February 19, 1934, in Easton, Md.; died December 24, 2007, in Easton, Md. He was a dedicated member of the Grasonville (Md.) church, serving at their Community Services

Center and Eastern Shore Junior Academy. Frank was a building contractor, and is survived by his wife, Virginia; sons and daughters-in-law, Franklin Jr. and Sue Tyler and Ronald G. and Sherry Tyler; a brother, James Tyler; a sister, Nellie Leonard; and three grandchildren, Kyle, Lauren, and Jill.

**VANMETER, Catherine**, born August 2, 1933, in Montgomery County, Md.; died October 21, 2007, in Hagerstown, Md. She was a member of the Triadelphia church in Brookeville, Md. Survivors: her daughter, Gail Hedges; sons Donald, Robert, and Charles VanMeter; and a brother, Joshua Dill.

**WEST, Robert Lee**, born September 9, 1938, in Rochelle, Ga.; died October 22, 2007, in Hagerstown, Md. He was a member of the Hagerstown church. He is

survived by a step-daughter, Anna Marie Johnson; stepsons, Raymond Johnson, Charlie Johnson, and Gregory Sterner; eight step-grandchildren; and four step-great-grandchildren.

**YUSCHAK, Rachael**, born July 24, 1925, in Fort Seneca, Ohio; died February 25, 2008, in Frederick, Pa. She was a member of the Evergreen church in Boardman, Ohio. Rachael graduated from nursing school at Chaffin in 1966 and retired from St. Elizabeth Hospital in 1986. She is survived by her husband, Peter Yuschak; daughter, Karen Yuschak; daughters and sons-in-law: Tina (Russ) Nesmith of Frederick, Pa., and Rose (Peyton) Bogley of Jefferson, Md.; a brother, Harvey Flory of Fort Myers, Fla.; and a sister, Margaret Katherine Pourhassani, of Lisbon, Md. She was preceded in death by her parents, Harvey and Ruth Shaull Flory.

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For information on placing an obituary in the *Visitor*, please call Sandra Jones at (888)4-VISITOR or email [sjones@columbiaunion.net](mailto:sjones@columbiaunion.net). Obituaries are placed in the order they are received, on a space-available basis.

**SLIGO BY THE SEA 2008**

June 28 Steve Chavez  
July 5 Dave Weigley

July 12 Terry Johnsson  
July 19 Larry Evans

July 26 Becky Brillhart  
August 2 Fred Kinsey

August 9 William Johnsson  
August 16 Marianne Scriven & Hillhaven Chorale Group  
Ben Carson

August 23 Kermit Netteburg  
August 30 William Loveless

Services held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church 10301 Coastal Hwy., Ocean City, Md. (410) 524-7474 Sabbath School: 10 a.m.—Worship Service: 11 a.m. Casual dress is appropriate.

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Denver  
October 9-12, 2008

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

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**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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Volume 113 ■ Issue 6

**Why I am a Seventh-day Adventist**



From early childhood, I yearned to understand life's meaning. Having been raised in a nonreligious home, the field of conjecture on spiritual truth was wide open to me. From age 13 onward, I was filled with wonder. "Who am I?" "How did I originate?" "What is life's true aim?" These questions so consumed me that I dropped out of college at 18 to embark on a self-guided tour into mystic realms unknown. On this wayward search, I nearly destroyed my life.

My guiding light was the occult and westernized forms of eastern religion. This track led me into briery paths that ended in a morass of addiction to psychedelic drugs. Occasionally I would cry out for deliverance, only to plunge back into deeper darkness. I had no idea what Christianity taught, except that its adherents worshiped a crucified martyr and kept certain holidays draped with decorations, merriment, and indulgence.

But in my early 20s, through a marvelous chain of providences, the Lord brought me to a grateful acceptance of Christ as my Savior, and a growing surrender to His grace. Through earnest Bible study, my spiritual experience became molded by the glorious power of God's Word (see Matt. 4:4; John 8:31-36; James 1 and 2). Having settled this, I resolved not to evaluate any teaching of the Bible by its acceptance with professed Christians.

**SPECIAL CHURCH, SPECIAL MISSION**

With the help of a consecrated Adventist couple, Frank and Evelyn Earl, I gained a wide-angle view of the "great controversy" theme in the Bible, and saw that God had raised up a movement from virtually all denominations, as prophesied in Revelation chapters 10-14. This special church with a special mission was unique because of its adherence to the *whole* counsel of God, and its commitment to rapidly disseminate saving truth in all its fullness worldwide. This church magnified Christ and His righteousness (Tit. 2:11-14; Rev. 14:6-12). This church stood ready, with unbiased compassion, to meet the needs of suffering humanity, whether it be one person or whole nations stricken with calamity (see Isa. 58). This church did not beg the world's pardon for keeping the commandments of God and having the faith and testimony of Jesus (Rev. 14:12; 19:10). This church loved and served as Christ did.

I respected these principles then and still do. And that is why I am a Seventh-day Adventist.

*Brian Jones, baptized in 1975, pastors the Weirton and Wheeling (W.Va.) churches and serves as communication director for the Mountain View Conference.*

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Visitor Magazine  
Columbia Union Conference  
5427 Twin Knolls Rd.  
Columbia, MD 21045

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Permit No. 266