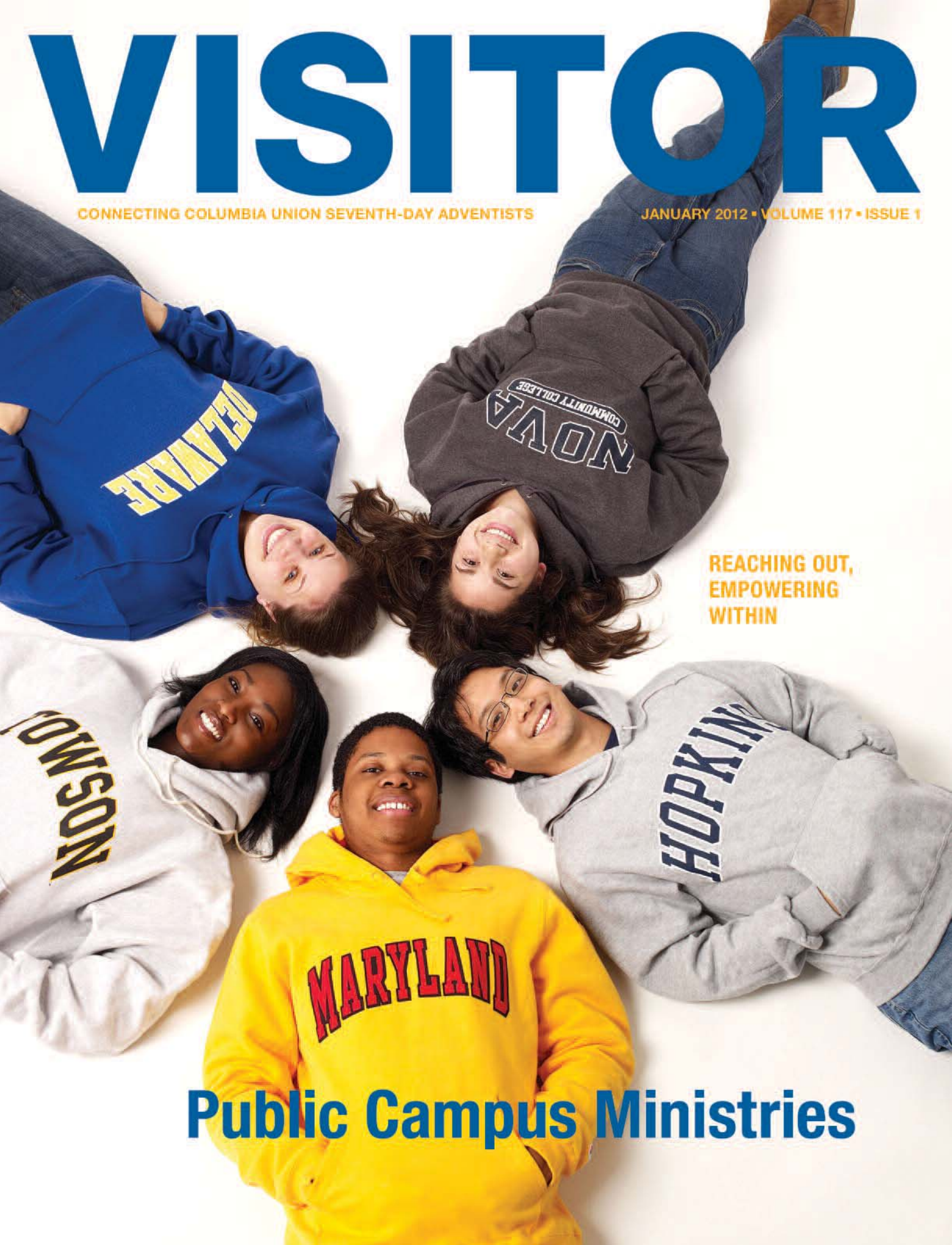


VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

JANUARY 2012 • VOLUME 117 • ISSUE 1



REACHING OUT,
EMPOWERING
WITHIN

Public Campus Ministries

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Reaching Out, Empowering Within

V. Michelle Bernard

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About the Cover: James Ferry photographed (clockwise) Emely Umaña from Northern Virginia Community College, David Park from Johns Hopkins University, Justin Greaves from University of Maryland, Elizabeth Adonu from Towson University and Erica Dashner from University of Delaware in his Columbia, Md., studio.

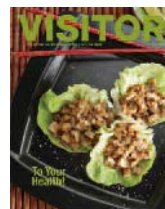
On the Web



Video – This month's *Columbia Union Story* video features ANEW, a ministry involving Seventh-day Adventist students who attend public colleges and universities. Read more about them on pages 10-14, then go to columbiaunion.org and click on Videos or scan this barcode using a free QR Code Reader App.

2012 Calendar

Did you receive your 2012 *Visitor* Calendar? It features vegetarian and vegan recipes that will get you off to a healthy start and keep you eating well throughout the year. For additional, free copies to share, email bweigley@columbiaunion.net or call (888) 4-VISITOR, ext. 4.



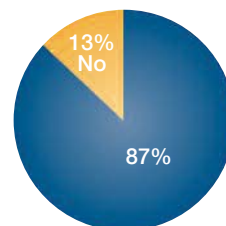
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¿Habla español? – Visite columbiaunion.org/noticias y lea las noticias en Español. Si tiene noticias o fotos que desea compartir, mande un mensaje al correo electrónico de la Editora de Noticias del *Visitor*, Taashi Rowe: trowe@columbiaunion.net

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Visitor Facebook Poll

Do you participate in a Campus Ministries program at a public college or university?



Source: facebook.com/ColumbiaUnionVisitor

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

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adventisthealthcare.com

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Volume 117 ■ Issue 1

Let's Pray!

On a recent trip to India to launch a new Missions Abroad hospital project, my wife, Becky, and I heard a number of people quote Ghandi's famous idiom, "You must be the change you want to see in the world."

While I admire the saying, I must admit that oftentimes my humanness gets in the way of my ability to be that change. In *Steps to Christ*, however, Ellen White reminds us that by coming to Earth, Christ became our example for how to effect change. "Our Savior identified Himself with our needs and weakness, in that He became a suppliant, a petitioner, seeking from His Father fresh supplies of strength, that He might come forth braced for duty and trial" (p. 93).

At the General Conference Annual Council and the North American Division Year-end Meetings last fall, leaders made an appeal for members around the world to pray fervently and in one accord for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our lives, families and church (read more on p. 5).

COLUMBIA UNION PRAYER LIST

Our Columbia Union leadership joins that call because we, too, want to see God's power and grace at work in our churches, schools, hospitals and ministries. Join us in praying for the many churches recently planted in Allegheny East, Allegheny West and Potomac conferences; the Cool Camps springing up in Pennsylvania that are engaging youth in the mission of our church; New Jersey's bold initiative to claim 80 unentered cities and towns for Christ; Mountain View's work to grow the church in West Virginia's state capital of Charleston; Ohio and its entities as they coordinate an evangelism series in Dayton; Chesapeake members as they share faith-themed tracts across three states; our schools, college and university that are preparing young people for service; our hospitals, which bring healing ministries to thousands; and the many newly baptized members across our union. Pray also that leaders and members alike will find ways to *experience the mission* of preparing more people locally and globally for Christ's soon return.

I know many of you share my desire to see God change and use us in 2012. Let's begin that change process together—on our knees.

Dave Weigley (dweigley@columbiaunion.net) is president of the Columbia Union Conference. Join him this month in reading Steps to Christ, chapter 11, "The Privilege of Prayer."





PETER FRANCHOT, COMPTROLLER FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND, presents Erwin Mack (left), a member of Potomac Conference's Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., with a Certificate of Recognition. The 80-year-old Mack received this and other citations, certificates and recognition from multiple government officials, including Governor Martin O'Malley, for his work founding and chairing the Takoma Langley Crossroads Development Authority for more than 20 years. Read more at columbiaunion.org/erwinmack.

UNION LEADERS TO DEFINE PRIORITIES

At a year-end meeting of the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee held at the union's headquarters, committee members, as well as union staff members, took the first step in defining the organization's values and priorities for the 2011-2016 quinquennium.

Pictured are Vilas Urtekar (left), a member of the New Brunswick (N.J.) English church, and Fred Manchur, president and CEO of Kettering Adventist Healthcare based in Kettering, Ohio, discussing integrity, equality, innovation, authenticity, transparency and servant leadership as some proposed values. Engaging youth and young adults topped the list of suggested priorities. A sub-committee will present a final, defined list at a March 2012 meeting.



Correction: The November 2011 *Visitor* Editorial should have stated that MyRon Edmonds pastors Allegheny West Conference's (AWC) Glenville church in Cleveland, which supported Ramah Junior Academy in increasing its enrollment to more than 90. AWC's other school, Columbus Adventist Academy, has an enrollment of 100. We regret the error.



TREASURERS MEET FOR TRAINING, ENRICHMENT

Some 40 conference treasurers and school business managers came away from year-end treasury meetings at the union headquarters in Columbia, Md., with the understanding that they add multifaceted value to their churches.

"In these meetings, we are very intentional about training and preparing the next generation of the church's financial leaders," said Seth Bardu (pictured standing), Columbia Union treasurer/chief financial officer. "We offer technical skills training, policy updates, reinforce the church's mission and inspire attendees on spiritual matters." Read more at columbiaunion.org/treasurymeetings.

PHOTO BY JIM CRAIG

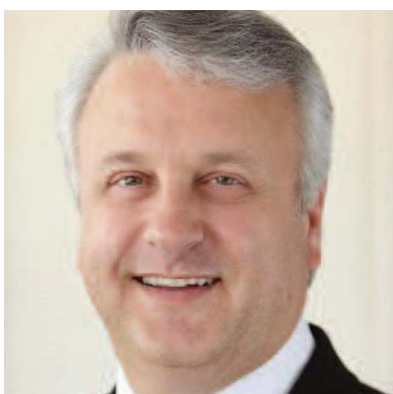
WHAT WILL YOU BE PRAYING FOR THIS YEAR?



HAM CANOSA, EdD

Columbia Union V.P. for Education

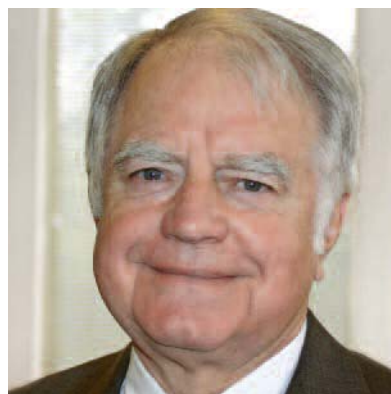
I will be praying for the Spirit-led, Spirit-given empowerment of all educational leaders and teachers in the Columbia Union; asking the Lord to make them effective, diligent and Christ-filled servants in Seventh-day Adventist education ministry.



FRANK BONDURANT

Columbia Union V.P. for Ministries Development

I will especially be praying for each of the local conference Homeland Missions projects we are partnering with in 2012. Each of these projects has the capability of impacting thousands of people in our territory with the gospel.



WALTER CARSON

Columbia Union V.P. for Religious Liberty

I will be praying for more jobs ... and for those faithful members who have lost their jobs because they refused to work on Sabbath and have been discriminated against because of their religion.

Adventists Called to Unite in Prayer

Leaders at every level of the Seventh-day Adventist Church are urging members around the world to begin 2012 in prayer. General Conference leaders are promoting a 10-day prayer initiative called Operation Global Rain (OGR). Born out of a grass-roots prayer movement that started in California and spread to 1,800 churches worldwide, OGR invites individuals, groups and churches to pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit January 4-14. Register and download materials at revivalandreformation.org.

For their part, the North American Division published a prayer calendar that calls for members to lift up one or two conferences each week throughout 2012. "Pray for a spirit of unity to develop within and across the 58 conferences and nine unions that make up the North American Division," says Dan Jackson, president. Members around the division will pray for the Columbia Union during February and March (see sidebar).

Columbia Union Conference leaders are supporting both efforts. "The entire world church will pray together in one accord, and I want us to be a part of it," says Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president. Read his prayer list for 2012 on page 3. —Celeste Ryan Blyden

FEBRUARY 5-11 – Allegheny East

FEBRUARY 12-18 – Allegheny West

FEBRUARY 19-25 – Chesapeake and Mountain View

February 26-March 3 – New Jersey

MARCH 4 – 10 – Ohio

MARCH 11-17 – Pennsylvania

MARCH 18-24 – Potomac Conference



PHOTO BY TONY VENTOURIS



TATIANA ESCOBAR, UNA JOVEN DE QUINCE AÑOS y miembro de la iglesia hispana de Langley Park en la Asociación de Potomac, Md., dobla ropas durante Lluvias de Bendiciones, un programa de alcance misionero anual que se realiza en días festivos. “Esta es la manera de retribuir a la comunidad”, dijo ella mientras doblaba ropa. “Me he fijado que las personas se llevan mucho, así que definitivamente hay necesidad”. Lea más en columbiaunion.org/lluvias.

GRUPO HISPANO DE CHESAPEAKE CELEBRA SU PRIMER ANIVERSARIO

El grupo hispanohablante de la Asociación de Chesapeake en Columbia, Md., celebró su primer aniversario en el gimnasio de la Academia Adventista Atholton. En ese mismo día, el grupo se estableció oficialmente como el primer grupo hispano en Columbia. Miembros de la iglesia

hispana de Baltimore, la madre iglesia del grupo, y la iglesia hispana de Dundalk, también se unieron en la celebración. Aunque el grupo comenzó con sólo cuatro miembros, ahora hay diecisiete miembros. Lea más en columbiaunion.org/columbiaspanish.



Muchos de los que ahora se unen a la iglesia son nuevos al adventismo del séptimo día. Ellos traen su red de amigos a la iglesia, quienes a su vez, traen más amigos; eso crea un efecto bola de nieve.

—Rubén Ramos, asistente al presidente para los ministerios bilingües en la Unión de Columbia

Feligresía latina en números:

NÚMERO TOTAL DE LATINOS EN LA UNIÓN DE COLUMBIA: 21,850*

Conferencia de

POTOMAC: 9,959

NUEVA JERSEY: 7,084

PENNSYLVANIA: 1,971

ALLEGHENY EAST: 968

CHESAPEAKE: 904

OHIO: 669

ALLEGHENY WEST: 295

* De acuerdo a las estadísticas del 2011

LOS FELIGRESES EN OHIO PASAN CUARENTA DÍAS EN ORACIÓN

¿Qué ocurre cuando ciento setenta miembros latinos en la Asociación de Ohio se comprometen en pasar una hora con Cristo cada mañana durante cuarenta días? La experiencia se convierte en una bendición maravillosa para toda la Asociación, dijo el Pastor Oswaldo Magaña, coordinador de los ministerios hispanos de la Asociación.

Un elemento clave del plan devocional incluyó la oración intercesora, y así los participantes les informaron a sus amistades que se intercedía por ellos. El resultado incluye “testimonios de

los participantes que compartieron la manera en que Dios bendijo sus vidas a través de este programa. Uno de los amigos por los que muchos estaban orando [se bautizó] en diciembre, y una pareja joven tomó la decisión de casarse en la primavera y después bautizarse”, dijo William Rodríguez (derecha), pastor de cinco iglesias en el noreste de Ohio.

“Esto es sólo el comienzo”, añadió Magaña. Los participantes ahora dedican ciento ochenta mañanas adicionales en oración con el Señor. Lea más en columbiaunion.org/40mornings.



**Bautizamos cuarenta y dos mil hispanos ...
en la División Norteamericana.**

—Ricardo Norton, D.Min., director del Instituto de Ministerio Hispano de la Universidad de Andrews (Mich.)



Sección Especial del **Visitor: ANEW** une y prepara estudiantes para el ministerio en el campus

Emely Umaña, una estudiante de primer año en Northern Virginia Community College, creció asistiendo a escuelas adventistas y con planes de ir a la Universidad de Andrews (Mich.) hasta justo antes de su graduación de la Academia Shenandoah Valley en New Market, Va. Dios tenía otros planes para ella, dijo ella.

Umaña pasó el verano pasado en el programa de colportaje ANEW. Este programa es uno de varios ministerios de alcance misionero que prepara a adventistas de los campus seculares para interactuar con personas de otras creencias y trasfondos. Umaña dijo que “salí del programa con una mentalidad de misión”, lista para influir en su nueva escuela. Lea más acerca de Umaña y otros estudiantes del colegio en la página 10 (inglés), o para español en columbiaunion.org/collegeministries.

—V. Michelle Bernard

Potluck

BETH MICHAELS

What's New?

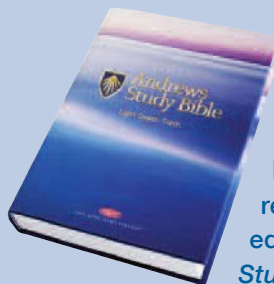
Book > *El Metodo Curativo de Dios* Mayra Guillen

After God healed her from stomach cancer, Mayra Guillen knew she had to share her story and God's mercy with others. In her new booklet, which means "God's Natural Healing," this member of Chesapeake Conference's Bowie Spanish church in Bowie, Md., shares the



natural remedies she learned from the physicians who treated her. "I want to help others get the information they need to avoid cancer and to have a better quality life," she said. Order a copy by calling (301) 996-2767.

Did You Know?



Andrews University Press (Mich.) partnered with Logos Bible Software to release a digital edition of the *Andrews Study Bible*. Purchase it for download onto your iPhone, Android or computer at logos.com/andrewsstudybible.

CD > *With My Whole Heart* Lloyd Mallory Singers

In their sophomore release, this 30-member choir offers 13 heartfelt renditions of songs like "Deep River" plus a new composition by



Lloyd Mallory, the group's founder and director, titled "Holy is Thy Name." Mallory, a member of Allegheny East's Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., hopes listeners "will want to hear and know more ... not only about the



group, but about the God we sing about." The Grammy Award-nominated release comes with an accompanying DVD of the two-day recording session. Read more and order at breathofliferecords.com.

Shirts > *Advent Angels* Kenneth Elliott Jr.



Wear a shirt with a bold statement about the Sabbath and you might get questions. But that's exactly what Kenneth Elliott Jr. hopes will happen when people wear one of the eight T-shirts he

Keeping Score

North American Membership

- 15** Percent with a family member in a public college/university
- 14** Percent with a family member in a public elementary school
- 10** Percent with a family member in a public high school
- 18** Percent with a family member serving in the military
- 12** Percent with a family member in prison

Source: Roger Dudley and Monte Sahlin (2010). 2009 Congregations Study for the North American Division. Berrien Springs: Institute of Church Ministry



created with interestingly designed phrases about the Sabbath, heaven and being a Christian. "I thought they would be good conversation starters and an easy way to let people know about literal Bible interpretations," explains Elliott, a member of Potomac Conference's Piney Forest church in Danville, Va. Order at adventangels.com.

On the Web

Facebooked >

What's on your prayer list for 2012?



Josue Sanchez

To keep a consistent, quiet time with Jesus every morning.—*Hagerstown (Md.) Church*



Chris Daley

Keep in constant view my life priorities by deliberate and focused contemplative moments, and be an agent of hope in an unsettled, uncertain world.—*Sligo Church, Takoma Park, Md.*



Blogged >

The crazy thing is that folk who have been in churches a long time start to think that the money they put in the [offering] plate is theirs. Mistake! Mistake! Thou needest a radical paradigm shift! *None* of the money in “your” bank accounts, purses, wallets, billfolds—or wherever you keep your money—is yours. It *all* belongs to the Lord.

Later in this series, I’ll get to dealing with tithe (the tenth) and its biblical purpose, but before we go deep, we’ve got to get this preliminary point straight in our minds. The prerequisite to a meaningful discussion on tithe is an understanding that *all* of who we are and what we own is *not* ours. We belong to God.—*Keith Goodman, Pastor, North Philadelphia Church* (<http://ksgoodman.blogspot.com>)

In the Spotlight > Denny Thomas



Denny Thomas has always taken the Bible at its word—and he started a ministry to reflect that conviction. He decided WONDERS, which stands for Widows and Orphans Never Denied Everlasting Reasonable Services, would be a way to give hope and aid to those that society too often forgets.

When Bible study showed Thomas that the seventh day is the Sabbath, he’d never heard of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In 2005 he found one within five miles of his house. “I walked in one Saturday morning, and a man came and embraced me,” Thomas remembers. “Within a week or two, there was a satellite evangelism program in the evenings. I attended each one, and was impressed with the Adventist people because they used that book I love to read—the Bible.”

Thomas joined Chesapeake Conference’s Pasadena (Md.) church and soon proposed the ministry based on James 1:27, “... to look after orphans and widows in their distress” (NIV). Widowed church members joined, they invited friends and a Bible study formed. From a party and \$100 gift on widows’ birthdays to major home refurbishment, WONDERS is filling a need. The team once helped a mother and daughter find and move into an affordable home then spent a year refurbishing the entire home, including new appliances and handicap-accessible bathrooms.

To date three participants have been baptized, including the late Bea Fortune, a charter WONDERS member who spent her life committed to the Catholic Church. “She was in her 90s and quite frail, but she insisted on being baptized in a river,” Thomas reports. “We tried to talk her out of it, but she said, ‘No, I’ve got to go to the river.’ It was a spiritual highlight for many of us to witness.”

As for the group’s future, Thomas promises, “Whatever the Lord shows us to do next, we’ll do it.”—*Tompaul Wheeler*



REACHING OUT Empowering Within

ANEW UNITES AND
EQUIPS STUDENTS FOR
CAMPUS MINISTRY

V. Michelle Bernard

Soon after Denver In Baptiste entered graduate school at Princeton University in Princeton, N.J., he felt alone, like he had no one to whom he could relate. The other molecular biology majors intellectually challenged his faith, something he'd never experienced before. He soon began withdrawing from his classmates, keeping to himself and became depressed. ❖ The situation looked bleak until Baptiste learned of a local campus ministry group and their connection to the ANEW network. He joined their efforts and quickly realized that other Seventh-day Adventist students felt challenged in similar ways, but they claimed greater faith because of it. He soon echoed their claims.



ANEW members enjoy the camaraderie
and spiritual focus they experience
at the annual fall conference.

David Park, ANEW founder and director, and Princeton graduate student Denver Jn Baptiste relax on Sabbath afternoon.



“Being challenged helped me search myself more, and, along with the help of other ANEW members, I was able to become more firm in my faith,” explained Baptiste, a member of New Jersey Conference’s Princeton church. “Just being able to relate to other students, the sense of community, has empowered me.”

A Mindset for Mission

Baptiste enjoyed that camaraderie with 100-plus other public college and university students who recently gathered in Halifax, Pa., to share encouragement and swap ideas at the fifth annual ANEW fall conference. Student-led Bible study, prayer, testimonies, evangelism workshops and reports of ministry in action jam-packed this year’s retreat. ANEW (anew-web.org) hosts the event to connect, equip and strengthen ministry-minded

students from across the Columbia Union Conference and beyond.

ANEW members are young, professional and serious about spreading the gospel to their peers. These are young people who didn’t wait for an invitation to ministry—they created one. There are now nearly 30 schools of higher education with active campus ministry programs connected to ANEW, which stands for Addressing the Now in Exercising the Will. In addition to a yearly retreat, ANEW members also have access to evangelism training, a summer canvassing program, ministry tools and speakers and, maybe most importantly, a network of support for those who face isolation in secular situations. The program is especially valuable to students in science fields, like Baptiste, who often face the most scrutiny for their beliefs.

20 Columbia Union Schools With Adventist Groups

Bowie State University—*Bowie, Md.*

East Stroudsburg University—*East Stroudsburg, Pa.*

Howard University—*Washington, D.C.*

James Madison University—*Harrisonburg, Va.*

Johns Hopkins University—*Baltimore*

Kutztown University—*Kutztown, Pa.*

Northern Virginia Community College—*Annandale and Manassas*

Penn State University—*University Park, Pa.*

Princeton University—*Princeton, N.J.*

Rutgers University—*New Brunswick and Newark, N.J.*

Towson University—*Towson, Md.*

University of Delaware—*Newark*

University of Indiana—*Indiana, Pa.*

University of Maryland—*College Park*

University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey—*Newark*

University of Pennsylvania—*Philadelphia*

University of Pittsburgh—*Pittsburgh, Pa.*

University of Virginia—*Charlottesville*

Villanova University—*Villanova, Pa.*

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University—*Blacksburg*

Faith in Action

Andrew Carroll, a graduate of Kutztown University in Kutztown, Pa., shared his testimony at the recent retreat, where he echoed Baptiste's experience of challenge and growth. "If you're with a diverse group, it makes you think about what you believe," he proposed. "It definitely strengthened [my faith]."

Carroll became a Christian at the end of high school and an Adventist during college. He tried to connect with other Christians on campus, but still longed to interact with people who shared his newfound belief. It was at an ANEW conference held at Chesapeake Conference's Wilmington (Del.) church where he found those connections.

"When I saw people coming together for Christ, and just the level of excitement—singing, testimonies and preaching—it was such a faith-strengthening exercise," shared Carroll, a congregant at Pennsylvania Conference's Fleetwood church. "There was no other place I wanted to be."

Carroll's connections to ANEW members became essential after he was diagnosed with cancer. The strong support he received from the group helped him see past his

diagnosis and realize that God had a plan for him. Although no longer a student, Carroll continues to attend ANEW events and is excited about sharing the love of Christ and ministry tips with others.

Emely Umaña, a freshman at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), was another weekend attendee who lives ANEW's mission. Umaña grew up attending Adventist schools and planned to enroll at Andrews

University in Michigan until right before her graduation from Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va. God had other plans for her, she said.

Umaña, a member of Potomac Conference's Falls Church Spanish congregation, spent last summer in the ANEW canvassing program and believes she came out better prepared to interact with people from other faiths and backgrounds. She finished that experience with



ANEW is not something that happens once a year. Campus ministry in the mid-Atlantic should be happening every single day of the year.—David Park



David Park (far left) introduces the organization's current and past leaders.



The Calvary Singers from the Woodbridge Ghanaian church in Woodbridge, Va., provide special music.

a “mission mindset,” ready to impact her peers at NOVA.

Umaña found a ministry partner in another NOVA student, Kevin Larios, who attends Potomac’s Vienna Spanish church. Although their ministry is still in the process of becoming an official campus organization, it is already active. “If we wait for [others] to do all the work, it will never get done,” Umaña relayed. “God calls us individually to partake in the work.”

Leading by Example

ANEW’s campus ministry work is made possible through young professionals like Jacqueline Rivera, who has been serving as the organization’s communication director for three years. Rivera is one of the founders of a group that continues to minister at Rutgers University’s New Brunswick, N.J., campus. Although Rivera was a baptized Christian and a member

These young people didn’t wait for an invitation to ministry—they created one.



Andrew Carroll shares his testimony Sabbath morning.

of New Jersey Conference’s New Brunswick Spanish church, she said that it wasn’t until her first ANEW conference that she really chose to follow God. That conference, held in 2008, “fired her up” and made her realize that she wasn’t at school just to earn a degree, but to spread the three angels’ messages to those around her.

David Park, ANEW’s founder and director, hopes that all ANEW members realize this greater purpose. “The mission of ANEW is to see a great awakening take place on secular campuses that are standing ready when Jesus comes back to receive Him,” Park told the recent conference participants.



Kevin Larios joins the Friday night prayer session.

Support Makes Ministry Possible

One reason a number of college and university campus ministry groups across the mid-Atlantic are thriving is due to support from local churches and conferences via donations, Bible workers, meals and more. The New Jersey Conference funds evangelism and provides materials to several thriving campus groups in its territory through the Mission Caleb project. The team

Get More: To watch a video story about ANEW, go to columbiaunion.org/videos and click on 2012 Videos.

at Princeton University, led by Baptiste and Josephine Elia, gets double support from their Princeton church family. The Mission Caleb team and the Burlington (N.J.) church, led by Pastor Daniel Duffis, are also supporting outreach at both campuses of Rutgers University.

Rupert Bushner, Jr., DMin, Allegheny West Conference's (AWC) church growth director, recently hosted an evangelistic meeting at the University of Indiana in Indiana, Pa. The

meetings produced a new Adventist church next door to the campus (read more on p. 17). Several other AWC congregations are working to open campus churches.

This year the Ohio Conference is supporting campus ministries at The Ohio State University, Ohio University, Wright State University, University of Akron and Ashland University with training, prayer and funds to help pay chaplains' salaries.

Since starting last school year, the ministries already have 80-90 regular attendees. "The success thus far, under the blessing of God, is attributable largely to the fantastic team of campus chaplains that the Lord has brought to Ohio!" comments Raj Attiken, conference president. Read more about these groups at ohioacf.blogspot.com.

Attiken sees the campuses as a huge mission field and suggests, "It is important, during this formative time, that the church remains engaged with young adults to help keep them rooted and centered in their faith."

V. Michelle Bernard writes from Baltimore.

Public Campus Ministries Unite

ANEW is just one of 125 registered groups across the North American Division (NAD) that minister to Seventh-day Adventist young people on public college and university campuses. In 2005 the NAD established Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) to help oversee such initiatives and encourage young people to engage in the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and to offer pastoral support, professional training and access to resources. ACF also provides an avenue for unity and communication among the various groups. "Through ACF, we can provide them access and awareness to the larger church organization," explains Chaplain Ron Pickell, NAD coordinator for ACF (below).

Pickell attended the recent ANEW retreat and is excited by what he witnessed. "When I see a group like ANEW—their passion, sense of mission—I am excited about what they're doing," he commented.

To get more information and resources like ACF's *The Word on Campus* workbook series, visit acflink.org.



PHOTOS BY BRITNEY WHITEN AND V. MICHELLE BERNARD

650 Attend Allegheny East's Women's Retreat

Minnie McNeil, the Allegheny East Conference Women's Ministries director, prayed that God would send women to the conference's biennial retreat who desired a "well experience" and a closer walk with God. In response to her prayer, God sent so many women that additional provisions and hotels were needed to handle the unexpected numbers. Some 650 women came to this Spirit-filled weekend at the Founders Inn in Virginia Beach, Va., which also included special programs for teenage girls, led by Dolores Allen of the Bladensburg (Md.) church.

"Women at the Well: Drinking From the Well of Blessing" was the theme for the weekend. The women started the weekend by ministering to shelter residents in the local Tidewater area. Each area Women's Ministries leader led one segment of the weekend's programming. The divine worship hour included praise team music and the soul-searching preaching of Paula Olivier, pastor of the First church of Montclair in New Jersey. Her message of hope and reassurance inspired the women to be led by the Holy Spirit in their "well experiences" and resulted in many women rededicating their lives and making commitments for baptism. The main focus of the weekend was prayer and prayer groups burst forth throughout the hotel.

The women also collected \$3,700 to benefit the Women's Center at Valley View University in Accra, Ghana. Read more at columbiaunion.org/aecwomen.—Phyllis P. Edmonds



First Paterson Makes Prayer a Priority

After taking a spiritual inventory last summer, members of the First church of Paterson in New Jersey decided that prayer was their greatest need. So they started keeping prayer notebooks at their weekly prayer meetings and studied the power of prayer.

But they didn't stop there. They also organized a prayer walk through the streets of Paterson where they offered prayer along the way. They walked down to city hall and joined another church in a season of prayer, praise and testimony. From that experience, the Paterson members then decided to open their annual prayer conference to other local denominations. Last year was their sixth conference.

"We invited other denominations to host one night of the prayer conference's four nights," shared David L. King, Paterson's pastor. "The pastors brought their congregations and served as the master of ceremonies for the night. This was a great witnessing tool. We also forged a lot of relationships for the present and the future."

The main session was followed by breakout groups where attendees learned more about the art of prayer, the need to pray, why we pray and who should pray.

King reports that as a result of the local Baptist and Apostolic churches participating in this conference, they have had requests for Bible studies, visitors to the Sabbath services and some seeking ways to participate in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



New Jersey Prison Ministry Teams Sweep Awards

His mother was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but Thomas Henderson first met Jesus while he was incarcerated. While in prison, members of the Berean church in Newark, N.J., prayed for him. He returned to the church in 1988 and eventually became drug free. He now directs his energies at making sure that other young Adventists don't repeat his mistakes. In recognition of his exceptional growth, Henderson received the Christian Endurance Award at the conference's 31st Prison Ministries Federation banquet.

That evening, the federation also recognized Morris Wilder and Gloria Davis of the Revival of Hope group in Neptune, N.J., for serving in Prison Ministries for 30 years or more. Carl Bannister, a chaplain at the Hackettstown Adventist Hospital, received the Good Neighbor Award for his work volunteering with the Hillcrest church and at the Correctional Institution

for Women in Clinton, N.J.

The Chaplain of the Year Award went to Larry Akins, who is chaplain at the East Jersey State Prison. Akins is not a Seventh-day Adventist; however, he was recognized for instituting GED classes, starting discipleship groups, starting a music ministry and, most recently, for hosting a two-day gospel fest at the prison. The federation also named Orlando Moncrieffe Pastor of the Year. Moncrieffe, who pastors the First church of Teaneck in New Jersey, volunteers at the Northern New Jersey State Prison where he gives Bible studies, preaches at worship services, prepares the residents for baptism and conducts communion.

Harvey George received the Community Humanitarian Award for founding Friends of Lifers, a support organization that helps families and inmates serving lifetime sentences in the Jersey City area.

"This is just the federation's feeble attempt to thank the faithful



Edith Tucker, Allegheny East Conference Prison Ministries Federation president, presents Thomas Henderson with the Christian Endurance Award. Morris Wilder, vice president of the organization and an award recipient, looks on.

workers that God gives us to go into prisons to help the prisoners," said Edith Tucker, AEC's Prison Ministries Federation president. Read more at columbiaunion.org/aecprisonministries.

Jerusalem French Hosts College Fair

Driven by a commitment to Seventh-day Adventist education, the Jerusalem French church in Philadelphia recently hosted a college fair that drew multiple Adventist colleges and universities.



The Adventist Choice College Fair also drew some 200 attendees from Delaware, New Jersey and even Maryland. Representatives from Washington Adventist University, Pacific Union College, Canadian University College, Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences, Oakwood University, La Sierra University, Southwestern Adventist University, Union College, Southern Adventist University and Andrews University were also present.

Students were able to attend two financial aid workshops and apply to the institutions on the spot, without paying application fees.

Students who filled out college application forms at the fair avoided application fees.

"Praise God!" said an enthusiastic Rachele Martinez, a member of Jerusalem French who served as the church's liaison to the Association of Adventist Colleges and Universities, which organizes these fairs. "The main purpose of the college fair is to promote the breadth and diversity that exists in Adventist higher education throughout North America to church communities such as ours." This was the church's third time hosting this biennial event.

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Conference President Accepts New Call



Fredrick A. Russell leaves his post as Allegheny West Conference (AWC) president this month after accepting a call to the South Atlantic Conference. Russell replaces Carlton Byrd as the senior pastor of the Berean church in Atlanta. Byrd will now lead the Oakwood University church in Huntsville, Ala.

During Russell's three-plus years with the AWC, pastors and members were led to daily focus on experiencing the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the power and primacy of prayer. Russell, together with the other conference leaders, also developed a top-notch pastoral staff via recruitment and professional development, changing the way conference and ministry directors deliver services to the churches.

Under Russell's leadership, administrators also refocused the conference's priority to evangelism. As a result, nearly 20 churches and worshipping groups have been planted, nearly 2,000 people baptized and nearly \$800,000 raised

for evangelism. The conference is also on tap to establish at least two additional schools this year.

Russell's replacement at the conference will be announced soon.

PHOTO BY BRYANT TAYLOR

Hope for Today Goes to School

After Asa Estriplet and Marla Gray (right), two students at the University of Indiana in Indiana, Pa., attended Allegheny West Conference's church planters meeting early last year, they left on fire to spread the gospel. They envisioned starting a church in their college community. The pair launched their outreach by reviving a Friday night student group that used to meet on campus.

Most recently the two collegiates partnered with conference evangelist Rupert Bushner, Jr., DMin, to conduct one of his Hope for Today crusades on the university campus. For five nights each week of the three-week crusade, university students, as well as community residents who got wind of the meetings, came out to learn more.

"It's encouraging to see there is passion, that young people want to reach out to other young people with the gospel," commented Bushner. "Their passion and enthusiasm is exciting."



Berea Member Celebrates a Century

While surrounded by loved ones, Dorothy Fryson, a longtime member of the Berea church in Charleston, W.Va., recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Guests came from near and far, including members of the Shiloh church in Huntington, W.Va., and the Hilltop church in Columbus, Ohio, to help shower the Berea matriarch with appreciation.



During the special Sabbath service, Hilltop pastor Derrick Moffett, who once led the Berea congregation, presented the sermon. Afterward current Berea pastor Jason Ridley led out in numerous congratulatory speeches from church and family members, and then read congratulatory letters from President Barack Obama and church leaders.

Since 1971 Fryson has faithfully served her church as treasurer, clerk, Sabbath School superintendent, pianist, community service leader, personal ministries leader, elder and deaconess. She is currently serving as an honorary deaconess and assistant treasurer.

Ephesus Member Knits for Those in Need

Seasoned knitter Jean Hazell, a member of the Ephesus church in Columbus, decided she wanted to use her talents to help others. With a deadline in mind, she set out to knit as many clothing items as she could then asked a church elder where her donation might best be used. Their prayer and dedication led Hazell to the local YWCA Family Center, where she recently delivered her 60 creations: hats, scarves and baby sweaters. "I wanted them to benefit those who needed them," she said.



PHOTO BY BRYANT TAYLOR

Conference Salutes Three Retirees

Allegheny West Conference leadership claims a better and stronger conference because of the ministry and sacrifice of the following three men. They may be retiring from their pastoral roles, but not ministry:



Stephen T. Lewis has given 48 years to the pastoral ministry, serving in three conferences: Central States, South Central and, of course,

Allegheny West. He faithfully pastored across the Allegheny West territory, including at the Lynchburg, Toledo, Lima, Ethnan Temple, Ephesus, Glenville, Central, Zanesville and Newark churches. He also started three new churches, and has been a centurion baptizer (100 baptisms) three times. He holds the distinction of being the first pastor in Mid-America Union history to baptize 100 souls in a year (1972). Lewis' gifts also enabled him to serve as conference secretary and director of several departments: Stewardship, Family Life and Young Adult Ministries.

Lewis' distinct view of ministry is to "help people find Christ in order

to be prepared for His second return." His wisdom for young pastors is simple, "Keep the focus on Jesus and on having an experience with Him because, as pastors, we can never give what we don't have."

Edward Brown devoted 32 years to the Allegheny West Conference, leading at the Waynesboro, Gordonsville, Charlottesville, Staunton, Covington, Lynchburg, Hilltop, Delaware, Springfield, Lima, Lorain, Bethel (Cleveland), Temple of Praise, Twinsburg, Hillcrest (Pittsburgh) and Uniontown congregations. His strength has been assisting congregations to enter their own church buildings. The Charlottesville, Afton/Waynesboro and Hillcrest (Pittsburgh) churches stand today as a signal of his dedication to ministry and members.

Brown believes the strength of ministry is learning to work with and encourage people. His love of evangelism is evident when he makes statements like, "Church growth is the number-one priority."

Although **James Davis** served for 28 years in the Allegheny West territory, all of those years were devoted to just three congregations: Lorain, Oberlin and Warren, all in Ohio. All three congregations refer to him as



the "money man," because he helped build the Warren church and helped the other two churches get out of debt. He is proud that he never left a church with a mortgage.

When asked for his secret to ministry, Davis says, "Love people and they will add to your ministry. If you do something you like and you have people who like what you are doing, you will have success. People are the key."

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awconf.org ■ President, Vacant
Editor, Bryant Taylor

Certificate Programs Jump Start College Careers

This school year, Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) is making available to its students a series of advanced certificate programs in three areas: STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), Christian leadership and music achievement. Most of the certificates require students to take specified advanced courses in their desired field and complete a hands-on senior project.

The STEM Certificate offers three emphases: life science, physical science and technology. The Technology Emphasis Certificate additionally requires students to pass three certification tests in areas such as A Plus Computer Repair, Windows Client Implementation and Windows Server Implementation. The Music Achievement Certificate, which was created more than 10 years before the other certificates, has slightly different requirements. Some of these include taking music lessons, participating in music groups and performing a senior recital.

One of the greatest purposes of the certificates is to challenge students who would like to go beyond the generalized coursework, explains Mel Wade, BMA's Information Technology director and one of the committee members who put together the certificate programs. The committee created the certificate programs to focus on areas with a large demand for knowledge in the workforce, which will put ambitious BMA students ahead of the academic curve and guide them toward a promising career.



(Left to right) Sophomore Jorrdan Bissell and juniors Jethra Link and Levi Collins look for a chemical reaction during a science experiment.

The caliber of the curriculum in the certificate programs might also help students test out of certain college classes, says Cary Corbin, BMA's physics and algebra teacher. He reports that one of his past students was able to test out of all her college mathematics courses due to what she had learned at BMA.

The Technology Emphasis Certificate offers yet another way to help BMA students stay ahead of the curve. By the time a student receives this certificate, explains Wade, he/she has already been certified in several marketable areas, which can help them find a job to help pay their way through college.

"We're passionate about the certificates because we want our students to be exceptional in their accomplishments," comments Wade. "We want to highlight the academic strengths of the school and celebrate the academic successes of the students in the various programs."

Rose Bechtel, BMA's Life Sciences teacher, says she is excited about the certificate programs. She has already incorporated math and engineering principles into each unit of the courses she teaches, and is implementing new ideas to challenge her students. Later this year, students will create lifelike models of the muscular system using mannequins.

Corbin encourages students to join the certificate program because it will give them a firm grounding for a particular field in college. "It's challenging, and it will lead to a sense of accomplishment," he adds.

—Ashley Richards



Joan Batiz-Hernandez and Shirley Martinez share a light moment with Mr. Bones, the skeleton they use to study for STEM Certification.

NEWS

New Student Hails From China

Guanbo Shao has come all the way from China to spend his senior year at Blue Mountain Academy, the school he first heard about from alumnus Philip Forney ('92). He knew he wanted to get a college

degree in America, so attending BMA made sense. It would help him get a feel for American schools.

Once Shao made the decision to come to America, however, it took him four months and many steps to make it possible. Some of these steps included applying for a one-year visa (which included an interview) and transferring schools.

Shao says leaving his family in China wasn't too difficult

because he can talk to them online and gets to go home during the summer. "That makes it more bearable," he says. Plus, he's quickly made lots of friends at BMA and is enjoying programs like photography. "I especially like the music program," Shao says. He is involved in La Sonnette, the choir, and band, where he plays the timpani.

After he graduates this spring, Shao plans to attend Penn State University, where he'll major in business.—*Ashley Richards*

Volunteers Rebuild Girls' Dorm Bathrooms

Phase III of the bathroom renovation project is well underway at Blue Mountain Academy. This phase covers the bathrooms in the North Wing of Ellis Hall, the girls' dormitory. Bathroom demolition started during Thanksgiving break when volunteers tore out the showers, shower enclosures, toilets, sinks, piping and tiles.

Now volunteers are rebuilding the bathroom, including installing new plumbing, rebuilding the walls, finishing the ceiling, replacing the tile and all of the fixtures and finishing the flooring. The bathrooms should be complete by next spring.

Herb and Marilyn Dennison, both from the Class of '67, are plumbers who have been helping with the renovations. They are excited about the project and to support Christian education. The girls at BMA are excited about having a great facility.—*Ashley Richards*

Senior Benefits From Aviation Program

Senior Chris Kiessling (below) has been studying for his pilot's license since the eighth grade. For the past two years, he has been taking ground school through Blue Mountain Academy's aviation program, which has existed in some form since 1970. This past summer, he passed the written exam and then more recently passed the flight test to receive his license—his dream come true!

Eric Engen, who sponsors the aviation program, reports that Kiessling is one of 90-100 BMA students who have participated in the program to date. Students who take ground school earn Applied Arts credit, and the school works closely with Adventist World Aviation, an organization that supports pilots and missionaries, to offer the flight training. "Our focus is with an emphasis on mission training," Engen explains.



Volunteers Jeff Chilson (left) and Paul Shobe make headway on the girls' bathroom renovation project.

Now that Kiessling has his license, he hopes to find a job flying for a charter service. Eventually, he'd like to fly for a high profile company like Blue Star Jets or NetJets, but for now, his goals are simpler: get his pilot's license and graduate high school.—*Ashley Richards*

Calendar

January

17-21 Student Week of Prayer

February

10-11 Pennsylvania Conference Youth Rally

March

2-3 Elementary School Music Fest

April

1 Robotics Challenge
13-14 Academy Days
27-28 Alumni Weekend

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THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

JANUARY 2012

Face the New Year With Confidence

So what do you put your confidence in? Looking ahead to the blank slate of 2012, what are the things that give you hope? These days many people have been forced to answer that question. Those who have carefully saved and invested for retirement have watched those funds melt away as the stock market takes one tumble after another. Others who have no financial cushion are wrestling with the financial impact of a job loss or disability.

Some people place their confidence in their education only to find employers want experience, and there aren't enough jobs to go around. Confidence in our health can be shattered by one test result from the doctor's office. Family relationships can become strained or fractured. Each of these unexpected reversals can leave us feeling alone and disillusioned.

David knew what it was like to experience betrayal and loss. Even as one of the most heralded warriors in the nation he said, "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the Lord our God" (Ps. 20:7). He certainly knew generals who liked to count their chariots and the size of the cavalry. But David turned to the Lord.

We can face 2012 with confidence in the name of the Lord our God. For all of the alarms that have gone off in the media in the recent past, we do not need to be unsettled. God remains on His throne. His Word is sure. Facing the uncertainties of this life can serve as a helpful reminder that our confidence must remain rooted in the unchanging God of the universe.



Rick Remmers
President

Korean Churches Partner in Health Evangelism

Washington, D.C., area Korean churches, the Maryland Korean Association and the Maryland Pharmaceutical Society jointly sponsored a Health and Social Services Expo held recently at the Washington-Spencerville Korean church in Silver Spring, Md. The

contributing Chesapeake Conference churches were Baltimore Korean and Washington-Spencerville Korean. Three Allegheny East Conference congregations—the Nova Korean church in Annandale, Va., the Virginia Korean church in Manassas, Va., and the Maryland Central Korean church in Gaithersburg, Md.—also participated.

The churches offered seminars on health, nutritious cooking, social services, smile therapy, stretching and medical consultations and screenings, as well as tax, finance and immigration advice. The participants distributed Korean-language outreach publications and correspondence Bible studies and invited visitors to attend church. Church members also invited attendees to sign up for notification of future health food events.

In addition to seminars, there were a variety of Korean specialty food booths as well as a health food market. The market offered items that are hard to find in most Korean grocery stores according to Laurie Ro, one of the organizers.

The Washington-Spencerville Korean church is located at the former Spencerville Adventist Academy. The gym and 26 classrooms were fully utilized for the expo.—Charles Yang



A visitor purchases health foods offered for sale at the expo.

Women's Retreat Draws 250 to Eastern Shore

Under the theme "Designer of Our Lives," 250 women gathered in Ocean City, Md., for a weekend of spiritual refreshment and friendship.

This year, for the first time, general sessions and seminars were offered in both English and Spanish. Elizabeth Talbot, associate speaker for the Voice of Prophecy radio broadcast, led attendees in an in-depth Bible study that focused on the Book of John.

Highlights of the weekend included a Sabbath afternoon concert featuring Angela Bryant-Brown, Odalis Rodriguez, Angela Stevens and Jenny Peño; early morning walks in the sand; seminars; a prayer room and a Sabbath vespers on the beach.

"God is the Designer of my life and He knew exactly when I needed the spiritual feast that I received this weekend," wrote an attendee on the survey provided.

Plans are underway for an autumn retreat in 2012. Details will be posted on the conference website, ccosda.org.



Rina Erhart, a member of the Spencerville church, gets acquainted with Shirley Benton, Columbia Union Women's Ministries director.



(From left) June Franklin and Denise Mayberry of the Berkeley Springs (W.Va.) church, and Phyllis Lanning of the Williamsport (Md.) church enjoy conversation while waiting for the hat-themed Saturday evening program to begin.



Triadelphia Fosters Community Relationships

Are you a thermometer or a thermostat?" asked May-Ellen Colón, PhD, of her fellow members during her sermon at the Triadelphia church in Clarksville, Md., on a recent Sabbath. Colón (pictured

second to last) is the director of the General Conference's Adventist Community Services International and directs community services for the Triadelphia church. She explained that thermometers merely

register the environment, but thermostats register the environment and do something to change it for the better.

Leaders organized the worship service to raise awareness in the congregation of the importance of being change agents—like a thermostat—in the community, and to express appreciation to several local organizations.—*Josh Rosales*



Representatives from local organizations participate in a special worship service focused on community service held at the Triadelphia church.

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MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

JANUARY 2012

We Want You in 2012!

As a young man growing up on the farm, on occasion I would find myself near the post office of our small county seat. I would see a sign with a man wearing a hat and the words, "I want you!" with his finger pointed directly at me. I eventually found out that the man with the hat was Uncle Sam and the sign was used to encourage young people to join the Army and become United States soldiers.

As we now begin a new year, the message that we want to get out to every young person and young adult at the very beginning of 2012 is, "We want you now!" This year we will continue developing a strong, involved, evangelistic army of lay workers and also foster a very aggressive ministry to equip young adults and youth for ministry.

Along with Pastors Geoff Starr and Scott Shafer, Mountain View Conference officers are re-doubling our efforts to assist the young adults and youth in reaching their friends for Jesus. This year, more than ever before, we are planning activities and training that will equip young adults and youth to share their faith and provide leadership in their local churches.

Young adults and youth, watch your email for details, answer your cell phones when we call looking for suggestions and get ready to move out as volunteers for the army of God. Surely, He wants you today!



Larry Boggess
President

Union President Preaches at Summersville

Dave Weigley (below), Columbia Union president, served as the guest speaker during a recent series of evangelism meetings at the Summersville (W.Va.) church. First-time visitors received Bibles and nightly door prizes such as worship CDs and copies of *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*.

Weigley covered a range of topics, including "Signs of the Times," "Creation," "Judgment," "The Rise of the Antichrist" and "Salvation." Some 21 people who were not Seventh-day Adventists attended on opening night and three to five new people attended each night for all eight nights.

The meetings concluded Sabbath morning, and in a message titled "Starting Over," Weigley shared the



PHOTOS BY HOWIE MCCORMICK

Pastor Jim Buchanan stands beside Tom Moses (right) who joined the Summersville church after attending the evangelism meetings.



story of his brother who served as a machine gunner in the Marines before later giving his life to the Lord. During the appeal that morning, five people came forward for baptism, including four members of the church's youth program.

Since the conclusion of the meetings, Jim Buchanan, the church's pastor, is leading a study group on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. at the church.

—Howie McCormick

NEWS

Mountain View Says Goodbye to Lewisburg Member

Mountain View Conference members are mourning the death of Charlie Wilson, the husband of Suzan Wilson, who is a teacher at Greenbrier Valley Academy in Lewisburg, W.Va. Members of the Lewisburg church, the Wilsons have lived and worked in this conference for over 15 years.

"His love for Jesus, along with his devotion and commitment to Christian education, was evident in the many hours of service he gave volunteering with Mountain View schools and on mission trips," said Larry Boggess, conference president. "We look forward to the glorious day when Christ will wipe away every tear."

Wilson leaves behind his wife; children, Lori, Timothy and Demetria; granddaughter, Maria; and twin grandsons, Caleb and Jacob. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Greenbrier Valley Academy.



Youth Ministries Director Returns to Conference

This month Geoff Starr returns to the Mountain View Conference where he will once again serve as the conference's Youth Ministries director. Starr spent two and a half years at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.) where he finished a Master of Divinity.

"I am very excited about summer camp 2012 as well as the youth rallies that will be held throughout the conference," Starr shares. "Through my education and work with the Center for Youth Evangelism [at Andrews], I feel better equipped to let God use me to lead others to Christ. I am looking forward to working with churches so that they are better equipped to continue welcoming, uplifting and involving youth and young adults."

Starr, who holds a bachelor's in Theology from Southern Adventist University (Tenn.), adds, "It is my prayer that the people that I am called to serve will look to Christ, as I look to Christ, and let His Word lead us every step of the way."

Upcoming Events

■ **January 29, Winter Fest:** All youth are invited to attend this year's Winter Fest at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville,

Charles Wilson takes his granddaughter, Maria, for a ride.

Geoff Starr is pictured with his wife, Miranda, and their children Benjamin and Katie.

W.Va. The theme is "Whiter Than Snow." Geoff Starr, Youth Ministries and camp director, will be the speaker. For more information, contact Jane Browning at the conference office at (304) 422-4581.

■ **February 10-12, Pathfinder Winter Camp:** All Pathfinders are invited to attend this year's winter camp at Valley Vista Adventist Center. The theme is "Friendships Around the World." Linden St. Clair (below), pastor of the Lewisburg, Marlinton and Rainelle churches in West Virginia, will speak. For more information, contact Jane Browning at (304) 422-4581.



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news

NEW JERSEY

JANUARY 2012

It's Time To Pray

Because we need God's blessings personally as well as corporately, we proclaim 2012 as the Year of Prayer in the New Jersey Conference. We believe that prayer is not just a way of preparing for the work; it is essentially the most important part of the work. To pray is a fundamental pillar that sustains and keeps up the life and mission of the church. In my understanding and practice of ministry, prayer is vital and has no substitute. Before I go to talk with the people about Jesus, I need to go to Jesus and talk about the people. *It's time to pray!*

When we minister to the community and the church, or we carry out any other duty or line of work, it's time to pray! We very much need to pray, because prayer is the breathing of the soul; if we do not pray or don't pray enough, we may experience spiritual death. If we have little or no desire to pray; then, it's time to pray!

Ellen White writes, "Our heavenly Father waits to bestow upon us the fullness of His blessing. It is our privilege to drink largely at the fountain of boundless love. What a wonder it is that we pray so little! God is ready and willing to hear the sincere prayer of the humblest of His children. ... Without unceasing prayer and diligent

watching we are in danger of growing careless and of deviating from the right path. The adversary seeks continually to obstruct the way to the mercy seat, that we may not by earnest supplication and faith obtain grace and power to resist temptation" (*Steps to Christ*, p. 94).

As the Body of Christ, the New Jersey Conference embraces the mission of sharing the light of the gospel with the people in the cities and towns where there is no Seventh-day Adventist presence. Since this mission is bigger than all of us, it is truly time to pray!



José H. Cortés
President

*New Jersey Conference
staffers meet daily for prayer.*



Church Leaders Invited to Regional Training

Church clerks and leaders of Sabbath School, Personal Ministries, Stewardship and Youth Ministries are invited to attend a series of training events over the next few months. Because many church leaders carry more than one ministry responsibility, which can create scheduling conflicts when selecting which training events to attend, conference leaders will be organizing regional training seminars throughout the state. These training events will be held on Sabbath afternoons or Sundays. The only exception to this regional training of leaders will be the Youth Ministries Convention to be held at the Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Tranquility during the weekend of January 20-22. Please refer to the conference calendar on the next page for the schedule and location of your various ministry training events during the months of January-March.



Conference Celebrates Bookstore's Grand Reopening

The New Jersey Conference recently celebrated the grand opening of the new Revive bookstore located at the conference office in Lawrenceville. After being closed for the past 18 months, the conference partnered with the Review and Herald Publishing Association (RHPA) in Hagerstown, Md., to reopen the bookstore. The R&H is operating the bookstore under their Home Health Education Service (HHES) division and will incorporate the traditional bookstore operations with their HHES Literature Evangelist program in New Jersey.

During the grand opening and dedication service conducted just prior to the opening of the doors, José H. Cortés, conference president; Mark Thomas, RHPA president; Doug Sayles, RHPA director of sales; Luis Biazotto, HHES director; Haylin



Lopes, conference publishing director; and Cleber Machado, Revive bookstore manager, made special remarks. Rob Vandeman, executive secretary of the Columbia Union gave the Prayer of Dedication for the new bookstore.

"This is not the inauguration of a store," Cortés said. "This is the birth of a ministry in New Jersey ready to revive [and] to serve the community and to service the church."

During his remarks, Machado said, "We are here to serve your needs, and if there is something you want that we do not have in stock, please let me know and we will order it for you."

More than 300 people were present for the event, and many favorable comments were heard from the customers. "I am glad they have the bookstore open again. It is very nice and I like the layout," said Gwen Simon, a retired employee from the former Adventist book and health food store.

Revive bookstore hours are:

Sundays: 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Monday–Thursday: 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

Fridays: 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Mark Thomas, president of the Review and Herald Publishing Association; Rob Vandeman, executive secretary of the Columbia Union; and José H. Cortés, president of New Jersey Conference; cut the ribbon for the grand opening of the new Revive bookstore.



dates

NEW JERSEY

January

- 7** Day of Prayer and Fasting
Local Churches
- 8** Children's Ministries Training (Spanish) Zone 7, Vineland
Spanish Church, 9 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
- 12** Children's Ministries Training (Spanish) Zone 3, West N.Y.
Spanish Church, 6:30–10 p.m.
- 14** Church Clerk Training (English)
Conference Office, 3–7 p.m.

Children's Ministries Training (English) Zones 5 & 6, Laurelwood
English Church, 3–6:30 p.m.

North Jersey Sabbath School Training (Spanish), Waldwick
School, 3–6 p.m.

North Jersey Stewardship Training (English), Newark
English Church, 3–6 p.m.
- 20–22** Youth Ministries Training
Tranquil Valley Retreat Center
- 21** South Jersey Personal Ministries Training (Spanish), Bridgeton
Spanish Church, 3–6 p.m.
- 21–28** Stewardship Emphasis Week
Local Churches
- 26** Children's Ministries Training (Spanish) Zone 3, West N.Y.
Spanish Church, 6:30–10 p.m.
- 28** Church Clerk Training (Spanish)
Conference Office, 3–7 p.m.

Children's Ministries (Spanish) Training Zone 3, Guttenberg
Spanish Church, 3–7 p.m.

North Jersey Stewardship Training (Spanish), West N.Y.
Spanish Church, 3–6 p.m.

North Jersey Sabbath School Training (English), Newark English
Church, 3–6 p.m.
- 29** Family Ministries Leaders Training
Conference Office, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Women's Ministries Leaders Training, Conference Office
10 a.m.–3 p.m.

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President, José H. Cortés ■ Editor, Jim Greene

ACTS '11 Attendees Focus on Diversity, Mission

From a compelling description of how New Testament Christianity is practiced by the church in China, to admonitions for the Seventh-day Adventist Church from an institutional perspective, to inspiring reflections by former Ohio Conference leaders, to a practical and stimulating exposition on biblical principles of witnessing—all interspersed with joyful singing and music—it was a rich and inspiring display of our unity, our diversity and our commitment,” observed Raj Attiken, Ohio Conference president, about the recent ACTS '11 conference-wide gathering. “It was a chance to lift high the name of Jesus as our response to the world’s needs.”

Approximately 1,500 members from across Ohio and beyond converged in Wilmington to celebrate “Acts of the Holy Spirit” in advancing

God’s mission in the world. Rebekah Liu (left), one of only five pastors in a 400-church district in the Sichuan Province of Southwest China, started the weekend by explaining how the Adventist Church has grown there. From 1957-87, she reported, there was no membership. Today, however,

through the leading of the Holy Spirit and without the organizational structure of the denomination, there is more than 10,000 members.

Other presenters included Ted Wilson, General Conference president, who encouraged constituents to pray in pairs. Ganoune Diop, PhD, the Adventist



At the event, Raj Attiken, conference president, and Don Reynolds, who served as conference president from 1976-80, acknowledge 150 years of ministry in Ohio.

Church’s newest liaison at the United Nations, concluded the day with a presentation on helpful biblical principles with a Trinitarian approach to witnessing.

The one-day event highlighted diversity in music, gender and nationality within the denomination. Program participants and attendees hailed from America, Asia, India, Ghana, Hungary, Senegal and Belize. The Kettering Praise Orchestra out of the Kettering church offered contemporary Christian orchestral music while Sojourners, a group from the Columbus Ghanaian church, presented African harmony.

Mariya Marton, from the Mansfield church, led kids aged 12 and under back in time to “Hometown Nazareth ... Where Jesus was a Kid” to experience a food market, rabbi school, carpentry shop and singing with Joseph the carpenter. Seth Pierce came from Seattle, Wash., to do the presentations, while Steve Carlson, Ohio Conference’s youth director, organized the praise music. Kettering College staff facilitated team-building activities, Spring Valley Academy in Centerville shared their drama team and Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon provided special music.

Attendees’ comments about the weekend included, “This weekend was such a blessing,” and “What an inspiration to see the youth of Ohio united in their worship.” Carlson added, “God is good, and what a joy it was to be a part of His work!”

Visit ohioadventist.org to view video links to the main presentations. Another conference-wide convocation is planned for Sabbath, September 22.



Guest presenter Ganoune Diop, PhD, and Bob McGhee, associate pastor of the Worthington church, appeal to the Lord during a prayer session.

Innovators Unite, Walk of Faith Earns Innovation Award

Much of the conference's seventh annual National Conference on Innovation, held at the Crowne Plaza in Dayton last year, highlighted health, nutrition and the ethics of eating. Some of the questions attendees addressed at the three-day event include, "How does marketing influence what we eat?" "Who put McDonald's in charge of kids health?" and "Where is the Adventist voice in this national debate?" Conference leadership is pleased with the turn out of 160

attendees and their overwhelmingly positive responses to the event.

A highlight of the weekend included a presentation of Kettering Adventist Healthcare's (KAHC) \$3,000 Innovation of the Year Award to the Walk of Faith Fellowship Community Center located in Cleveland. The award will benefit the center's food bank. Award criteria included innovation (the uniqueness and strength of the idea), missional impact, entrepreneurship, sustainability, and aspiration and growth. Kevin Kuehmichel (right), Walk of



Faith pastor, happily accepted the award from Fred Manchur, KAHC president and CEO.

Centerville Church Welcomes New Associate Pastor



Bill Hrovat recently left his post in the New York Conference where he has served since 1984 as a Bible worker, pastor and conference evangelist. He is now an associate pastor at the Centerville church, serving alongside Winston Baldwin, senior pastor, and Robert Zegarra, another associate pastor.

Hrovat is a graduate of Atlantic Union College (Mass.) and the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.). His wife, Jennifer, is a

hospice and home healthcare nurse. They are pictured with their three children (left to right) Christopher (3), Madelyn (5) and Olivia (7). "We are very happy and excited to join the Centerville church family and look forward to getting better acquainted with all of you!" comments Pastor Hrovat.

Camp Meeting Returns to Ohio

Camp Meeting is returning to Ohio this year, with programming taking place June 10-16 at Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon. The new tradition of featuring Ohio's homegrown speakers continues. Seminars will include "Eat More—Weigh Less" by Jeba Moses, pastor of the Clifton church in Cincinnati; "The Sanctuary in Heaven" by Newark church pastor Tom Hughes; "Sinless Perfection—What Does All the Bible Say?" by Yuliyana Filipov, pastor of the Worthington church; "The Seven Blessings of Revelation" by Laszlo Hangyas, pastor of the Brooklyn and Westlake district; and "Fundamental Beliefs on Five Fingers" by Ron Anderson, who leads the Chillicothe and Jackson district. Summer activities will also include the second annual Biker Camp Meeting, June 8-10, at Mount Vernon Academy. More details are available at ohioadventist.org.

Calendar

March

31-April 1 Ohio Ministry University
Dublin

May

19-20 Men's Retreat
Camp Mohaven

June

8-10 Rev It Up Revival!
Biker Camp Meeting
Mount Vernon Academy (MVA)

10-16 Camp Meeting, MVA

17-July 15 Summer Camps
Camp Mohaven

August

8-12 Columbia Union Camporee
Camp Mohaven

September

22 A New Song with Elizabeth
Talbot, *Wilmington*

October

5-7 Camp Mohaven 50th
Anniversary

19-21 Women's Retreat, *Dublin*

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Raj Attiken ■ Editor, Heidi Shoemaker

Pennsylvania *Pen*

JANUARY 2012

Churches Support Laurel Lake Summer Camp Ministry

Pennsylvania Conference churches caught the vision for making Laurel Lake Summer Camp mission-oriented. Fifty churches sponsored more than 100 children for a week at summer camp. Last year more than 300 attended the summer camp program, with a third of those kids giving their lives to Christ for the first time.

Their efforts were in response to the vote at the 2010 special constituency meeting, focusing on the future of Laurel Lake Camp (LLC) in Rossiter. At that meeting,

constituents voted to implement a 29er Club to raise funds for both LLC and Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg. Churches were also encouraged to sponsor young people from their communities to attend camp.

While the 29er Club failed to meet voted goals, both the Pennsylvania Conference Executive Committee and the Pennsylvania Conference Association Board voted in a joint meeting to continue the ministry of Laurel Lake Camp. Encouraged by the support of local churches, committee and board members voted to establish a management committee to oversee the youth camp and retreat center. This committee will develop a three-year strategic plan, which will be subject to an annual review. LLC must also maintain a balanced budget on an annual basis, raising a minimum of \$80,000 in donations, while receiving a \$100,000 subsidy from the Pennsylvania Conference.

"The goal of the ministry at Laurel Lake Camp, as well as any ministry here in the Pennsylvania Conference, is to become outward focused in reaching those who do not yet know of the promise and joy of Christ's soon return," shares Ray Hartwell, conference president. "This ministry can provide a valuable addition to the gospel commission we have been charged with. It is our prayer that the management committee and supportive members will be led by God to carry on this work."



Thanks to sponsorship from churches like Mt. Jewett, more than 300 youth attended Laurel Lake Camp last summer.

Blue Mountain Academy Students Brighten Orphanage

On one fall morning, four excited students of Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) loaded into a boxy, blue van headed to Reading. Their destination? The Children's Home of Reading. Their mission? To paint murals to brighten the hallways of the home. The children eat, sleep, play and spend most of their time together in the three buildings that comprise the home.

Senior Alyssa Bianco and juniors Ezequiel Rodriguez, Avonelle Davis and Hannah Ashburn painted murals to give back to the kids who live there. "It was a great experience. The kids that live there have been through so much, and it was great to do something that I love, that will help cheer up their day," Ashburn said. The day was filled with talking, laughing and genuine fun, which was an extra blessing for the BMA students.



Avonelle Davis and Hannah Ashburn help brighten the hallways of the Children's Home of Reading.

Housing Secured for REACH Youth Ministry

Mission interns recently moved into their new home on 68th Street in Philadelphia and hosted a group of young people for an afternoon of praise and testimony. This 68th Street home is designed to be a place of joy, hope, prayers and praises—a place where young people will grow in relationship with Christ through the Chestnut Hill church's REACH ministry.

REACH stands for the five core values of the REACH church and internship: Restoration, Empowerment, Action, Community and Hope. REACH is focused on raising up a new, Seventh-day Adventist congregation in Philadelphia, as well as raising up a new generation of leaders in the Adventist Church who are actively involved in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and His soon return.

This home, which Jennifer Schwirzer's nonprofit corporation purchased, along with another apartment in Philadelphia that Jesse Spencer donated, will be home for the interns serving Philadelphia and reaching young

professionals and young people on the more than 90 colleges and university campuses in Philadelphia. It will also provide a meeting place for the ministry.

Members of the Pennsylvania Youth Challenge team, students at Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy and other volunteers put in many hours repairing and renovating the home for use. But the

house still needs much work! Skilled and unskilled labor is needed to replace windows, power wash the basement floor, scrape and paint, clean, tile and garden. Anyone interested in helping with the renovations or wanting more information on the REACH ministry, can contact Schwirzer at (215) 233-1286, Jennifer@jenniferjill.org, or visit reachphiladelphia.org.



Tunkhannock Church Signs Oil and Gas Lease

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Floyd Dare, Trust Services director,

signed an oil and gas lease with Carrizo (Marcellus) LLC, for the Tunkhannock church on their 30 acres of property. In exchange, the church received checks totaling \$176,740.06.

The leases, 18 pages in length, provided \$5,750 per acre to the church with 20 percent royalty on the net income from production of oil and gas. Additionally, Carrizo and its assignees are prohibited from conducting any surface operations on the church's 30 acres during the life-

time of the lease, except for minor seismic testing; all acreage is to be permanently included in the drilling unit(s); existing water quality is to be maintained; and Carrizo is obligated to act as a prudent operator while taking into consideration the church's property interests. Helen Clayton, who died in 1990, contributed the 30 acres ideally located on Route 6 to the Tunkhannock church.—*Gerald Grimaud*



A Carrizo (Marcellus) LLC representative, hands a check to Robin Kilmer, Tunkhannock church treasurer, in the presence of other church officials.

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Potomac People

JANUARY 2012

We Performed 7,800 Baptisms in India

The Bible says: “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, as a testimony to all nations; and then the end will come” (Matt. 24:14, RSV). But, there are still a lot of places where the good news needs to be preached, including India.

Recently the Potomac Conference sponsored a 50-village evangelistic outreach in the South Andhra section of India in the Southern Asia Division. Ten villages came together at each site as laymen preached the gospel for a 10-night reaping series. As a result of our planning and partnership with the Holy Spirit, 7,851 people chose baptism. We covered 50 villages, but there is a need in more than 1,000 villages in just this section alone. These



Bible workers baptize eager new believers in India following an evangelistic crusade funded by Potomac Conference.

are Hindu villages waiting for someone to come and preach “this gospel of the kingdom” message.

While in India, a non-denominational pastor came to the section leaders and said that he and his congregations were also ready to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This pastor, a PhD, had met the section leaders while they prepped for the series. He informed them that he had left his employment to become a pastor. The leaders conducted a Bible study with him about our church’s message. He then studied the message with his congregations—up to 300 members each in 60 villages—and they were all convicted of the Sabbath truth and the soon return of Jesus. Read more at columbiaunion.net/indiabaptisms.

In John 16:8 it states, “And when He comes, He will convince the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment ...” (RSV). We witnessed the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and our lives have been changed. Yes, His power is still active on planet Earth, for He is eager to return.

A fellow disciple on the journey...



Bill Miller
President

Members Take Advantage of Town Hall Meeting

The Potomac Conference held its final town hall meeting of 2011 at the Vienna (Va.) church where nearly 80 members showed their support. Bill Miller, conference president, started the night with a brief overview of membership statistics throughout the last century. Several officers then shared updates from their respective departments, but the constituents were the ones who provided much of the evening’s input. Topics ranged from camp meeting and Camp Blue Ridge, located in Montebello, Va., to education and evangelism.

“We are so encouraged by the ways in which we see the Holy Spirit moving throughout the conference,” commented Miller. “We see so many opportunities here in Northern Virginia, and the enthusiasm of the membership is energizing.”

Read more about the meeting at pcsda.org.

Elena Perez, a member of the Vienna (Va.) church, raises questions about educational needs throughout the conference at the recent town hall meeting.



Potomac People

Ladies Represent 60 Churches at Annual Hispanic Retreat

More than 1,000 women, representing 60-plus Hispanic churches and five local conferences, converged at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Va., for Potomac Conference's 13th annual Hispanic Women's Ministries retreat. Attendees hailed from the Allegheny East, Allegheny West, Chesapeake, Mountain View and Potomac conferences, and one special group even traveled from Milan, Italy.

Keynote presenter Elizabeth Talbot, associate speaker for the Voice of Prophecy, kept to the event theme, "Surprised by Love," through in-depth studies of the

Bible intended to help the audience understand why they should trust in Christ and His permanent love.

Talbot later expressed that she especially enjoyed getting to share the great news of salvation through Christ to a large group of attendees who are not members of an Adventist congregation.

Breakout seminars covered topics like family life, health, diet, beauty and how to live a life full in Christ. Also, guest presenter Zoraida Velez Delgado (below) led a special program for the 120-plus teen attendees. She shared with them their worth before Jesus and how to

break free from Satan's lies.

"We praise God for His indispensable presence in this event through the Divine Spirit, and for the hundreds of women who will give their lives to Jesus through baptism in their churches," said Carmen Esposito, Hispanic Women's Ministries director.

PHOTOS BY TONY VENTOURIS



Guest presenter Elizabeth Talbot (second from left), associate speaker for the Voice of Prophecy; Carla Baker, Women's Ministries director for North America; and Carmen Esposito (far right), Potomac's Hispanic Women's Ministries director; pray before one of the retreat sessions.

C.F. Richards Earns Middle States Certification

C.F. Richards Junior Academy in Staunton, Va., recently became the first school in Virginia, public or parochial, to receive a Middle States School Certification.

Accreditation by the Middle States Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools is recognized around the world as an indication of trustworthiness, educational quality and a commitment to ongoing school improvement.

"The cool thing is that we didn't have to go through much change to achieve this certification," commented Grant Wolters, principal. The school simply needed to demonstrate consistency with administration and teaching staff, which indicates strong signs

of long-term success within the school, he explained.

"This certification is important to our school because it gives us the ability to communicate that we have high standards, not only in the denomination, but also in the 'real' world," added Wolters. "However, none of this takes the place of our number-one priority. We are here ... to ensure that each one of our children is walking in the Truth."



Grant Wolters, principal at C.F. Richards Junior Academy in Staunton, Va., enjoys teaching.

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Spotlight on Spencerville

JANUARY 2012

Open the Door

The whirlwind of Christmas has quieted. The decorations have come down and the relatives have returned home. For some this is a lonely time. For others it is a welcome relief from all the stress a holiday can bring. I find it is a good time to reflect on my priorities. Was Christ a significant part of my Christmas, or was He a small ornament on the mantle of my fireplace? The wonderful thing about our Savior is that He “stands at the door and knocks.” He never gives up on us. When we open the door of our lives, He comes in and sups with us. Let’s take Christ off of the mantle of our lives and let Him fully into our hearts.



Brian Kittleson
Principal

NEWS

Students Host Grandparents’ Day

Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) students greeted more than 120 of their grandparents with a warm welcome and continental breakfast during the school’s 14th annual Grandparents’ Day. The school then treated the relatives to a musical concert featuring the elementary and middle school choirs and band, as well as the high school handbells. Grandparents seemed to agree that visiting their grandchildren’s classrooms, to see them in action in the new school facility, was the highlight of the day! As one grandparent put it, “It’s pretty cool in the new school!”

Weslynn Sahly, pictured with her seventh-grader

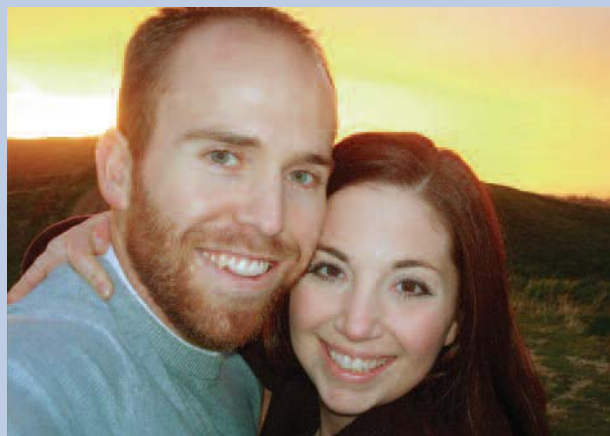


Third-grader Caleb Thompson is happy to show his work to his grandparents, who visited from Australia.

grandson, remarked, “Grandparents’ Day is really nice! I haven’t missed one since Cameron started school.”

Bible, English Teacher Joins Staff

Spencerville Adventist Academy has a new staff member. Somer Knight recently started teaching seventh- and eighth-grade Bible, freshman Bible and English and is leading Campus Ministries for the high school. She and her husband, Curtis, an emergency



medicine resident at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., relocated from California this past summer where she taught for the past nine years at Redlands Adventist Academy.

“What a privilege it is to partner with a community that is so clearly invested in and committed to the spiritual health and growth of its students,” said Knight. “I am looking forward to encouraging students to understand Jesus as the irresistible choice, and to enable them to express themselves through service to their Redeemer.”

Spotlight

Alumnus Presents Yo-Yo Assembly

SAA students in grades kindergarten through fifth recently got to enjoy a special assembly put on by alumnus Drew Tetz, from the Class of 2006, who is now a yo-yo professional. Tetz and his colleague, Takeshi Kamisato, kicked off the special program with some “old school” tricks such as “walk the dog” and “rock the baby.”

After explaining some of the advances in yo-yo technology that now make possible more

complicated tricks and routines, Tetz and Kamisato demonstrated how the yo-yos can dance around in all sorts of formations—and the strings never get tangled!

“I don’t think I could ever do that,” marveled third-grader Tyler Griffin, pictured with Tetz (left) and Kamisato, who got called up to help with the demonstration. “It was really cool watching the show and getting to go up front.”



Physics Students Compete in Brain Games

Three senior physics students along with their teacher, Nathan Hess, recently traveled to Southwestern Adventist University (SWAU) in Keene, Texas, to participate in Brain Games, this year themed “Seige: Engines of War.”

The SWAU math and history departments collaborated to have students from the 18 participating schools build and experience war apparatus from three different eras: the Middle Ages, World War II and the Cold War.

Students competed by creating catapults, slings, trebuchets and/or rockets, but they needed to be familiar with the math concepts necessary to successfully complete their tasks. SAA’s team placed second for their catapult/trebuchet, third in the rocket competition and first in the potato launch. “Firing the rockets up

in the air was exciting!” remarked Kaitlyn Froelich. “One of our rockets traveled about two miles!”

The goal of Brain Games is to help students use powers of creative thinking and problem solving and show that math can be applicable in real life. “I never thought applying math to real-life situations could be so fun!” exclaimed Brandon Injety.



Senior physics students Josue Hernandez, Kaitlyn Froelich and Brandon Injety show off the flag they created to represent their team at Brain Games.

Academy Day Planned

All interested, graduating eighth graders and other incoming high school students are invited to attend Spencerville Adventist Academy’s Academy Day on Thursday, February 2, from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Visiting students will get the opportunity to meet teachers and students, hear and see the school’s touring groups perform, compete for scholarships, play against basketball teams and check out the new school with its welcoming and positive atmosphere. To RSVP, contact Heidi Wetmore at (240) 883-3502 or hwetmore@spencerville.org.

Calendar

January

- 11-13** Semester Exams
- 31** 100th Day of School
Bagel Breakfast
School Board Meeting

February

- 2** Academy Day
- 4** Talent Show
- 20** No School—*Presidents Day*
- 21-24** School Spirit Week
- 28** School Board Meeting

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

SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY HAPPENINGS

JANUARY 2012

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org



Students, Staff Demonstrate Good Works

The Holy Spirit is moving on Shenandoah Valley Academy's (SVA) campus, reports Chaplain Tim Harley. This was most evident at the Fall Week of Prayer when 13 students committed to studying for baptism and another 37 for rebaptism. The week also spawned student-led weekly fasting and prayer groups that continue to meet.

There is also an increased energy among SVA's student body to engage in service and ministry projects provided by the Campus Ministries Department. Students regularly minister to the needs of the homeless in Washington, D.C., and Harrisonburg, Va., with food, clothing, personal care items, literature, music and friendship. Students are also involved in singing and taking flowers to local nursing home residents.

SVA students are working with Campus Ministries to revive a local children's program called FLAG (Fun Learning About God). The program will provide a Vacation Bible School-type environment Sabbath afternoons for the children of New Market, Va. Nick Lapido, SVA's

Student Association pastor, and other willing students are also leading a regular Adventist Youth Society program.

Most recently the entire student body and



Freshman Sarai Delcid spends time with Walter, one of the students' favorite local SPCA animals.



Senior Raissa Delgado picks apples for the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank.

faculty engaged in the annual Community Service Blitz. This year participants helped paint a two-story home for a disabled neighbor of the school. Another handicap accessible home in town received a landscaping makeover. The Harrisonburg Homeless Ministry's farm put one group from SVA to work in the fields, and another group cleaned kennels and walked dogs at the Shenandoah County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

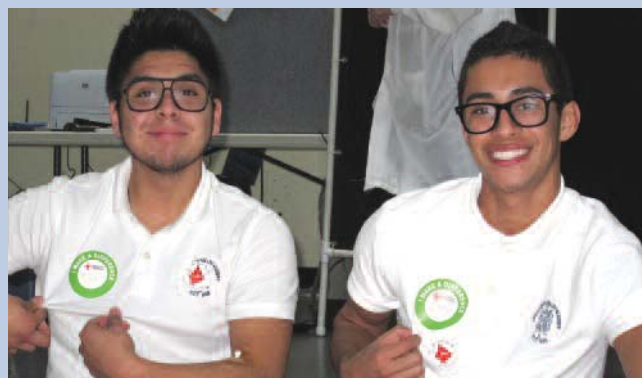
SVA students also worked with the New Market church on their "Journey to Bethlehem" project, while yet another helped a widow in the community with household chores. The largest group gleaned apples in an orchard near Strasburg, Va., and bagged more than 3,000 pounds of apples for the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank.

Annual Blood Drive Helps Save 403 Lives

Several SVA students and staff members participated in this year's blood drive. The slogan "Every pint saves three lives" motivated many of the participants to respond and helped them overcome their fear of needles for the chance to make a difference. Other students assisted the Red Cross volunteers with registration or by serving snacks to the donors.

The drive also brought in local residents, giving the student volunteers a chance to be witnesses for the school and Christ. Through the school's dedicated efforts, the Red Cross was able to collect 31 pints of blood. In essence, SVA helped save 403 lives!

Seniors Jonathan Prieto and Reuben Ramirez are proud blood donors during SVA's annual blood drive.



HAPPENINGS

NEWS

Campus Surprises Principal With Grand Appreciation

The students, faculty and staff spent several weeks planning Principal's Appreciation Day for their beloved leader, Spencer Hannah. On a Tuesday morning, the entire campus crowded the foyer to shout, "We love you, Mr. Hannah!" The students displayed a giant banner, dropped balloons and cheered as he stood speechless by the scene.

That evening everyone gathered outside the Student Center for a "chuck wagon supper." A bluegrass band led by New Market (Va.) church pastor Buz Menhardt serenaded



Students and staff surprise Spencer Hannah with a grand display of appreciation for his four years as principal.



Juniors Young Kim, Kevin Rhee and Christina Champion show off the catapult they created for the Brain Games competition.

them as they ate Western goodies. Festivities concluded with a special video featuring students and parents expressing their gratitude for Hannah. View the video at shenandoahvalleyacademy.org.

Seniors Enjoy Extravaganza

The Senior Extravaganza Weekend is one of SVA's biggest events of the year. This year's weekend started on Friday when the school officially recognized its graduating Class of 2012 at the Senior Recognition Service. Gabrielle Griffin, SVA's history and government teacher, challenged the students to remember God as the "absolute monarch of the universe" and gave each of them a yellow ribbon attached to a nail to remind them that God is waiting to bring them home. Teachers then prayed over each senior.

On Saturday the class held a silent auction and talent show. During intermission, Pastor Buz Menhardt from the New Market church directed a live auction. A kitchen collection, which included a senior recipe cookbook, an apron signed by the seniors and other cooking items, sold for \$510. The annual giant cake baked by Bob Ockenga, cafeteria director, received more than \$6,000 in pledges—a new SVA record! In total, the event brought in \$13,220, which goes toward the acquisition of the senior class gift and trip.

Students Display Math Intellect at Brain Games

Christina Champion, Young Kim and Kevin Rhee attended the annual Brain Games weekend challenge at Southwestern Adventist University (SWAU) in Keene, Texas. "Siege: Engines of War" was the theme for this year's challenge, where students from 18 schools investigated the science of force and trajectory by constructing a catapult and then aiming it to hit targets in a cardboard city. SVA's team was the only group to hit anything at all! In order to be successful, students needed to be well versed in



Jennifer Landivar Ramirez displays the kitchen collection that raised \$510 for the Class of 2012 during the Senior Extravaganza auction.

the concepts of ballistics—angle, force, distance and trigonometry.

Other challenges included designing a slingshot to hit a giant Goliath, shooting a potato cannon at war targets and launching a rocket over a large pond. The intense "mathletics" competition on Saturday evening made their heads hurt a bit, but they did win first place: individual \$2,000 college scholarships to SWAU and a \$1,000 prize to SVA's math and science departments.

Calendar

January

- 25-29 Southwestern Basketball Tournament
- Home Leave

February

- 3-4 Youthfest
- 9-11 Washington Adventist University Music Festival
- 12 International Food Festival
- 13-18 School Spirit Week
- 24-25 Music Tour

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

Vision 2020

The Spirit is growing at Washington Adventist University (WAU)! We are now at a critical point in the development of a master plan to facilitate expanded enrollment, new undergraduate and graduate programs, increased technology, increased aid to an aging infrastructure and the modernization of the campus.

During the past year, we engaged consultants to work with trustees, students, faculty, staff, Washington Adventist Hospital and the community to gather data in developing a long-term plan for the university called *Vision 2020*. I am happy to report that there was a high degree of excitement among the participants to create a master plan to support the WAU learning community far into the future. A major feature of the plan is that there is a consistent focus on what is best for our students. It is a bold plan that provides an excellent foundation by addressing essential academic and environmental priorities.

The campus master plan is our facilities blueprint for the future and, like any plan, priorities will be revised and new and better ideas will emerge. The plan can be found at wau.edu. It is an ambitious undertaking and provides for the direction needed to make sound financial decisions and articulate specific needs for future academic programs and buildings. Continue to keep the university in your prayers because we are committed to the task of engaging minds and transforming lives.



Weymouth Spence
President

Participation in SIFE Puts Students Back in Business

This year 35 WAU students with varying majors will be actively seeking to better themselves and their community through participation in the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) program. SIFE is an international non-profit organization that works with business and higher

education leaders to positively impact communities.

"We will be working with Can Hunger, which is sponsored by Campbell's, to raise 5,000 pounds of canned food for the needy," said an enthusiastic Lee Pope, a senior business administration major and WAU chapter president. "Another project is sponsored by Sam's Club, where we will work with a small business to train them in environmentally friendly business practices."

The business department, through the sponsorship of faculty member Kimberly Pichot, reignited WAU's involvement with SIFE following a 2004 attempt, which was not sustained. Pichot says she is sponsoring the program because "students who are involved in SIFE programs graduate with increased business skills that help them get better jobs after graduation."

These projects will entail teamwork with other organizations, including churches, educational institutions and local businesses, and the students will have to develop a business plan to financially sustain them. The students will then present these strategic plans in competitions that convene progressively on the local, national and international level. WAU students are eagerly looking forward to the SIFE 2012 Cup, which will be held in Washington, D.C.—Kevin Manuel



Lee Pope, president of the WAU chapter of Students in Free Enterprise, participates in SIFE's first meeting.

Social Work Program Gets Eight-Year Re-accreditation

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) recently granted re-accreditation to the Bachelor of Social Work program at Washington Adventist University through June 2019. The program, which is an off-campus program of Andrews University (Mich.), began in 2003 with five students. It currently has 30 students. Its re-accreditation included a CSWE site visit last year.

"Social work education is based on 12 core competencies and more than 70 individual practice behaviors

that are infused into our learning activities and field education," said John Gavin, department chair. "Our partnership with Andrews University ensures that we are meeting the highest standards in social work education and that students can get licensed and attend graduate school."

More than 25 students have completed the program so far and are working in the profession across the country. WAU's program attracts traditional students who recently completed high school as well as non-traditional students who want to complete their degree or make a career change. Classes are held one evening each week, which allows working students to keep their day jobs. Nontraditional students can complete the general education courses through the School of Graduate and Professional studies, which offers classes in the evenings, on weekends and online.

According to their website, CSWE is a nonprofit national association representing more than 3,000 individual members, as well as graduate and undergraduate programs of professional social work education.



John Gavin (left), chair of the Social Work department, and Ralph Johnson, former interim provost, flank Frank Baskind, CSWE site visitor.

WAU Presents at Conference for Institutional Researchers

Janette Neufville, WAU's associate vice president for Institutional Research and Effectiveness, is hailing her recent participation in the Maryland Association of Institutional Researchers (MdAIR) conference as a significant event for her office, and WAU overall. Held under the theme "Moving from Silver to Gold: Innovations in Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment in the Next 25 Years" at Hood College in Frederick, Md., the conference commemorated MdAIR's 25th anniversary.

Neufville's presentation shared tools to support strategic planning, institutional assessment and student learning outcomes assessment. The demonstration highlighted WAU's implementation of multiyear strategic planning across

the entire institution and biannual status reporting against that plan. Departmental/unit-level assessments, both academic and non-academic, were addressed along with curriculum mapping and defining learning outcomes for courses, such as general education requirements and the overall learning objectives of the institution.

"The presentation has made our office a resource to mentor similar offices at other schools through the strategic planning and effectiveness processes, as well as raise the profile among peer institutions," Neufville said. "Several institutions have reached out to us for this support, as many are not yet doing multiyear planning and/or do not have mature or consistent accountability processes in place."



The Gateway is published in the Visitor by the Washington Adventist University ■ 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 ■ Phone: (800) 835-4212 wau.edu ■ President, Weymouth Spence Communication Director, Grace Virtue



your healing MINISTRY

The Importance of Outreach

JANUARY 2012

Often, as I go about my duties as the President and CEO of Kettering Adventist HealthCare, I am aware of how the concept of outreach lies at the foundation of our mission.

This concept was learned in a very practical manner, while living as a young lad in the Province of Saskatchewan, Canada. Each year our local Seventh-day Adventist church sponsored the familiar outreach project in our community called Ingathering. In those days we would go door-to-door asking friends and neighbors for donations for the less fortunate. These monies were distributed within our community, as well as nationally and internationally. My Dad supervised me and a few other boys from our church as we asked for donations. I can still picture my Dad, mapping out an area of several blocks in our town and assigning a block to each of us. While we went door-to-door, Dad cruised along slowly in our family car, keeping careful watch over us, playing Silent Night over a loudspeaker on the top of our car. That memory still brings a smile to my face.

During those early years, I participated largely because it was expected of me. As the years passed, I matured in my Christian faith and understand how this outreach is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. A favorite parable in the...



Fred Manchur

Fred Manchur

President and CEO of Kettering Adventist HealthCare, Member of the Kettering Seventh-day Adventist Church

Gospel of Matthew, 26:34-45, calls each of us to “*feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; and visit the sick.*”

Eventually, I was attracted to a career in the healthcare field, where I have an opportunity to continue to reach out. A visit to any of our local Network facilities will provide evidence of ways in which outreach is practiced on a daily basis. Our team of professionals take time to listen, counsel, educate, celebrate, pray and grieve with our patients and their loved ones. This outreach extends to our local community through the Good Neighbor House, Kettering College scholarships and student volunteering, and internationally through sponsorship of medical staff on missions in Paraguay and Argentina.

My life's journey convinced me of the importance of outreach. Today, my experience at Kettering Adventist HealthCare has only deepened that conviction.



your healing MINISTRY

Finding God in the Everyday

by Christina Keresoma

Annually Kettering Adventist HealthCare has the privilege of showcasing its mission at the Mission Conference that is held locally at the Kettering Seventh-day Adventist Church. This year the focus was local outreach. Outreach means something different to each of us and "doing" mission outreach work is often hard to define.

Jesus puts it very simply in Matthew when He tells us to feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, visit the sick and incarcerated, clothe the naked.

Comfort comes in many forms and is so simple to give.

Robert Martin a registered nurse, who overheard a conversation between a patient and his spouse about how they had to come to the hospital because he was having some cardiac related symptoms and ending up needing a pacemaker put in. The couple had come to the area for a local cycling event in their motor home. Little did they know that their life and situation was about to change. The wife had never driven the motor home and would have to drive this large vehicle back to their home state of Indiana. She knew she could not do it. Robert overheard this discussion and thought to himself that he could help. So he offered to drive it to his home and park it there until the husband could recoup and come at a later time to pick it up. The couple accepted his offer and 3 months after his procedure came back and picked up their motor home.

Sheila Roush, a physical therapist for the Out Patient Neuro Rehab and Balance Center, met Rama, a high school senior in the clinic where he was being fitted for long leg braces... Graduation was approaching and Rama's new goal was to walk for graduation. Sheila thought that was very doable. They started talking about the ceremony and planning for what obstacles he would need to overcome. After talking with Rama, Sheila found out there were going to be stairs. Stairs posed a new set of problems. Walking was a reachable goal, but stairs would use different muscles and the use of crutches. Rama was determined to do it, and she knew with his outright commitment, it could be done. They planned every scenario and even practiced with his gown. The high school staff met him at the venue and went over the entire set up. They started working scenarios with one crutch, both crutches, and the wheelchair up on the stage. Sheila was nervous for him, but he wanted to reach his ->



Rama walking on his own. ↓





JANUARY 2012



-> goal and she had faith and trust that it would go ok. The night of graduation she was fortunate to sit with Rama's family. As Rama walked up the first step she said to herself a little prayer...

..."Please Lord I need to have faith that this is going to be ok". He made it and as he walked down she thought she would be the only one who would jump up and cheer but the whole auditorium jumped up and cheered as well.

Some of the most common stories we remember about Jesus is how he helped the wounded and healed the sick.



Heidi Loughran a registered nurse was working her typical shift at the wound center when a patient came to them from another facility. He was wet, dirty, and unshaven and his dressings had not been changed for a long time, so long that the dressings were imbedded into his foot. The caregiver could not bear to see him like that, so they bathed him, shaved him, and cleaned him. The caregivers also took pictures before they cleaned him up and called the nurse supervisor and informed her of his condition and their concerns. He was admitted to the hospital and while he was getting care the program manager contacted adult protective services and let them know about the situation. Fortunately, when he was discharged he was able to go to a new long term care facility and is now receiving better care.

Each of these stories reveal that in a routine day we meet people in our local community with great needs, some more obvious than others. Just making the extra effort to pay attention and reach out to the people we meet, can make such a difference in their lives.

NEWS+



Network News

JANUARY 2012

Annual Thanksgiving Adopt-A-Family Food Drive

Employees rallied together with their corresponding departments to raise food and gift certificates for the yearly food drive. The donated goods don't just go to anyone; they will go to fellow KAHC employee families in need. The event pulled in a large amount of non-perishables and donations, twenty nine fully packed boxes once all the goods were collected, with an average of 25 items per box.



Medical Mission Trip Brings Healing to Impoverished in Paraguay

Forty-eight physicians, nurses and other volunteers spent a week in Paraguay this summer caring for indigent patients. In the face of overwhelming poverty, God used these volunteers to touch lives both physically and spiritually.

"These trips are huge undertaking because we work with native physicians in advance to identify and pre-screen surgery patients, we make our own travel arrangements, and we bring a lot of our own medical equipment," said Dr. Schmidt. "This time, we set up five operating rooms at Asuncion Adventist Hospital and performed about 150 surgeries."

Lending a Helping Hand

Medical Director Jorge C. Echezarraga was given the responsibility by the Argentina Union Conference to run Belgrano Adventist Sanitarium, a hospital in Argentina, and create a spiritual emphasis and gain a financially viable and competitive edge. This journey took a real turn for the positive when Jorge looked toward hospitals in North America for help. He feels God led them to Kettering Adventist HealthCare and is grateful for advice and help that KAHC has given. KAHC located gently used Cath Lab equipment that was delivered from North America and set up in December 2011. With this new lab equipment BAS is now on track to reach their goals and better serve the local community.

KAHC feels blessed to be able to give a lending hand to one of our sister hospitals. Mission outreach helps build corporate mental health, benefitting both employees who give and communities that receive.



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Cincinnati	5:30	5:37	5:45	5:53	6:01
Cleveland	5:12	5:19	5:27	5:36	5:45
Columbus	5:22	5:29	5:36	5:45	5:53
Jersey City	4:44	4:51	4:59	5:07	5:16
Norfolk	5:03	5:10	5:17	5:24	5:32
Parkersburg	5:18	5:25	5:32	5:40	5:49
Philadelphia	4:50	4:57	5:05	5:13	5:22
Pittsburgh	5:08	5:15	5:23	5:31	5:40
Reading	4:52	4:59	5:07	5:15	5:24
Richmond	5:06	5:13	5:20	5:28	5:36
Roanoke	5:17	5:24	5:31	5:38	5:46
Toledo	5:19	5:26	5:34	5:43	5:52
Trenton	4:48	4:55	5:03	5:11	5:20
Wash., D.C.	5:01	5:08	5:15	5:23	5:31

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT RETREAT, themed "Love for a Lifetime," will be held February 17-19. Looking for that perfect gift for your spouse? Register now for this special weekend getaway at Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, Md. Register before Dec. 17 to receive early registration rate. For more information, please email us at MarriageEnrichment@comcast.net; or contact Mark and Peggy Lee: (301) 317-5428, or Jeff and Sandy Hartz: (443) 864-6328.

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LSA Library; Sabbath morning alumni roll call and reunion 9:30 a.m. at LSA gym; evening basketball varsity/alumni tournament; LSA Gala Ladies' Tea, April 29 at 4 p.m. For more information, call: (951) 351-1445, ext. 244; email: Isaalumni@lsak12.com; website: lsak12.com/alumni.htm.

UNION COLLEGE

HOMECOMING: Alumni, friends and former faculty are invited to homecoming, April 5-8. Honor classes are years: 1942, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1972, 1982, 1987, 1992 and 2002. Special Unionaires reunion—celebrating 25 years under the direction of Dan Lynn. For more information, contact the alumni office at (402) 486-2503, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506 or alumni@ucollege.edu.

OBITUARIES

DEANE, Mavis A., born May 1, 1924, in Greene County, Va.; died May 23, 2011, in Ruckersville, Va. She was one of the original members of the Amicus church in Rochelle, Va., joining in 1948. For many years she was the church treasurer and also served in several other capacities. Survivors: her daughter, Alda Shifflett of Ruckersville; her sons, Edward

(Alice) Deane and Roy (Sonya) Deane, both of Ruckersville; her sister, Edith DeVaughn of Florida; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews, family and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Roy Edward Deane, and her parents and eight siblings.

GERNET, Evelyn W., born October 24, 1906, in Pricetown, Pa.; died May 20, 2011, in Willow Grove, Pa., at the age of 104. She was a member of the Buck's County church in Warminster, Pa. She taught church school in many locations (Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky), where her husband, B. P. Gernet, served as pastor. They were both graduates of Washington Missionary College (now Washington Adventist University) located in Takoma Park, Md., and then served in ministry as a team for 67 years. Evelyn was also active in voice and piano. She was preceded in death by her husband in 1996. Survivors: her daughter, Yvonne M. Phelps of Southampton, Pa.; her granddaughter, Patricia Harvey of Doylestown, Pa.; and her grandson, Steve W. Day, Jr., also of Doylestown; and her great-grandsons: Matthew and Andrew Harvey, Steve W. Day, III, and Sean C. Day—all of Doylestown.

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