

VISITOR



CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

FEBRUARY 2012 • VOLUME 117 • ISSUE 2

IS IT TIME

To Run To
The Hills?

One Family
Says Yes.

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Sam Belony

Is it time for Seventh-day Adventists to run to the hills, as Ellen White instructs in *Testimonies for the Church*? Some, like Buddy and Beth Ackman, believe that Earth's "birth pangs" are our call to action, and they hope their transition to simpler living will inspire others to consider making "the move."

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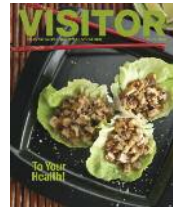
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On the Web



Video – Columbia Union Conference president Dave Weigley and treasurer Seth Bardu recently traveled to Liberia. In this interview, titled "Columbia Union Bread," Bardu shares what they did, who they met and what they learned about the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church there. Go to columbiaunion.org and click on Videos or scan this barcode using a free QR Reader App.

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



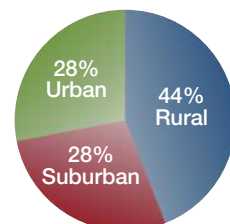
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¿Habla español? – Visite columbiaunion.org/noticias y lea las noticias en Español. Si tiene noticias o fotos que desea compartir, mande un mensaje al correo electrónico de la Editora de Noticias del *Visitor*, Taashi Rowe: trowe@columbiaunion.net

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Visitor Facebook Poll

Do you live in an urban, rural or suburban area?



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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ALLEGHENY WEST: William Cox, President; Bryant Taylor, *Visitor* Correspondent; 1339 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43205. Tel. (614) 252-5271 ■ awconf.org

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PENNSYLVANIA: Ray Hartwell, President; Tamya Horst, *Visitor* Correspondent; 720 Museum Rd., Reading, PA 19611. Tel. (610) 374-8331 ■ paconference.org

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Volume 117 ■ Issue 2

Are We Ready?

My wife and I recently watched the evening news when they ran a segment with a specialist on how to survive a crisis. He stated that 10 percent of the population are prepared, 10 percent are completely unprepared and the other 80 percent become frozen. As I listened to his remarks on survival, I couldn't help but wonder about Seventh-day Adventists and what we call "the time of trouble." Are we prepared for the chaos and trouble that will come upon the world?



Jesus warned His disciples of the crisis that was to come upon Jerusalem a short time after His ascension. In Luke 21:20 He said, "When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that the desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains." Yes, God could have protected the disciples in Jerusalem, but instead He warned them to get out of the city when they saw the sign.



In *Maranatha* Ellen White reports, "The time is not far distant, when, like the disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places ... so the assumption of power on the part of our nation in the decree enforcing the papal

Sabbath will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the larger cities ... Educate our people to get out of the cities into the country where they can obtain a small piece of land" (p. 180).

HAVE A PLAN

Our church teaches that the events of the national and international Sunday law will be two events separated by a period of undisclosed length. It is in this time of trouble that we shall have to provide for our own needs, thus the instruction to get away from the cities. I propose the question for us today is not *Should I go today or later*, but *Do I have an escape plan when (not if) God makes it plain to me that it is time to move?*

Daily news reports of disasters and political unrest tell us that the world is about to collapse into chaos. What we have been foretold is just about here. Are we prepared? May God give us all wisdom to discern the times, follow His direction and have a plan!

Ben Bogess recently retired from 20 years of pastoring Chesapeake Conference's Baltimore First church in Ellicott City, Md., and now enjoys country living in Carrollton, Ohio, with his wife, Marvel (above).

Newsline

TAASHI ROWE



Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, president of Liberia, meets with Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president; James Golay, the Liberian Union president; and Seth Bardu, Columbia Union treasurer. Check out the interview with Bardu at youtube.com/columbiaunion.

LIBERIA MATTERS, SAYS UNION PREZ

After a recent visit to Liberia, Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president, shares his impressions of the country's needs and his meeting with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf:

Q: Why was it important to you to make that connection on behalf of the Adventist Church?

A: We, as Adventists, believe we are instruments of God's love and care. We need to be where the needs are great—well, that's Liberia. It's a country just emerging from years of civil war, where malaria still is a problem, where most people do not have any type of healthcare and where, because of war, education is lacking. As Adventists first of all, and as part of the Columbia Union, it is our mission to share God's love here locally and globally.

Q: What was your impression of your visit with Sirleaf?

A: Sirleaf, the president (at 73), is a grandmother figure to many in that country. She is leading as an ethical and moral, caring grandmother. Read more at columbiaunion.org/Liberia.

“Herb [Broeckel] ... made a significant contribution to God's kingdom. What a blessing and inspiration he was to me. He will be missed.”

—Bill Miller, Potomac Conference president, upon hearing of the former conference president's death. Read more on p. 33.



Allegheny West Names New President

Last month the Allegheny West Conference Executive Committee selected William Cox, DMin, to serve as president. He replaces Fredrick Russell who accepted a call to serve as senior pastor of the Berean church in Atlanta. In his 32 years of pastoral ministry, Cox has been dedicated to populating the kingdom of God. He spent the past 13 years in Allegheny West Conference and currently pastors the Ethan Temple congregation in Dayton. Read more on p. 17.—Bryant Taylor

WHAT HAS HELPED SHAPE YOUR MINISTRY?



PAULASIR ABRAHAM

Associate Pastor, Southern Asian Church, Silver Spring, Md.

Next to the working of the Holy Spirit in my life, it is my wife, Huldah, who has been playing a major role in shaping my ministry. From day one of my ministry, til today, she has been a guiding force behind me. She helps me in many ways. She nourishes me with both spiritual and physical food and is a great support to my ministry!



D. DAVID KIM

English Pastor, Washington-Spencerville Korean Church, Silver Spring, Md.

As a college student, I convinced myself that God wanted me to pursue a path that will bring financial security, recognition and respect. A year out of college, I pitched chicken manure off the back of a flatbed... I slowly learned that when I surrender my own perception of success, God can grant true victory in life and in ministry.



LORI FARR

Pastor, Wooster, Canton and Carrollton Churches, Ohio

Prayer has shaped my ministry from the start. The Creator of the universe is waiting to bless us with an abundance of spiritual blessings—we have not because we ask not. So often we plot and plan, and then ask God. I have done this so many times. But, if we go to Him right from the start and, if we are willing to be still and wait on Him, we would be amazed at His goodness.

Union ASI Convention Slated for March



PHOTO BY DANIEL MENDEZ

Daniel Reed, owner of Nova HomeWorks, a flooring business in Ashburn, Va. (pictured with his wife, Lezlie, and children), is a member of Potomac Conference's Vienna (Va.) church and the Columbia Union chapter of Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI). "Our business is founded on the principle of reaching others for Christ through our workplace," Reed says.

Reed, along with other ASI members, will share how he ministers in the workplace at the union's annual convention slated for March 8-11 at the Vienna church. Ivor Myers, speaker/director of Power of the

Lamb Ministries, will present eight seminars over the weekend, and Henry Wright, pastor of the Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va., will speak for vespers. For more information, visit columbiaunion.org/asi, or register for the convention at plusline.org.—Denise Hayden

Noticias

TAASHI ROWE

ALLEGHENY ESTE INICIA UNA ESCUELA DE DISCIPULADO

La feligresía de la Asociación del Este de Allegheny (AEC) está participando en la extensión más nueva de la escuela de discipulado en la Unión de Columbia. Cuando los participantes terminen las ocho clases en septiembre, obtendrán un certificado en liderazgo de grupo pequeño. El departamento hispano del Seminario Teológico Adventista del Séptimo Día de la Universidad de Andrews en Michigan y los departamentos de ministerios multilingües e hispanos de AEC, otorgan la certificación.

“Los grupos pequeños son necesarios para terminar la obra”, explica Ramón Escalante, coordinador de AEC para el concilio de las iglesias hispanas. Se lo puede ver

instruyendo a los estudiantes. “La población está creciendo, y trabajar con los grupos pequeños nos permite alcanzar a más personas”.

Hable con su pastor para inscribirse en la clase o llame a Escalante

al (301) 741-2297. Las fechas de los próximos seminarios son el 19 de febrero, el 18 de marzo, el 22 de abril, el 20 de mayo, el 17 de junio y el 19 de agosto, y se realizarán el 3401 Old York Road, en Baltimore.



FOTOGRAFÍA: RUBÉN RAMÍOS

SE INVITA A LOS ADVENTISTAS A UNIRSE EN ORACIÓN

Los líderes en cada nivel de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día están instando a la feligresía mundial a comenzar el 2012 con oración. La División Norteamericana publicó un calendario de oración que señala una o dos Asociaciones por las cuales orar cada semana durante el 2012 (vea el recuadro). “La iglesia mundial orará unida, y deseo que nosotros seamos parte ello”, dijo Dave Weigley, presidente de la Unión de Columbia, quien aparece en la foto dirigiendo una serie de evangelismo en Summersville, W. Va. —*Celeste Ryan Blyden*

5 AL 11 DE FEBRERO – Allegheny Este

12 AL 18 DE FEBRERO – Allegheny Oeste

19 AL 25 DE FEBRERO – Chesapeake y Mountain View

26 DE FEBRERO AL 3 DE MARZO– Nueva Jersey

4 AL 10 DE MARZO – Ohio

11 AL 17 DE MARZO – Pensilvania

18 AL 24 DE MARZO – Potomac

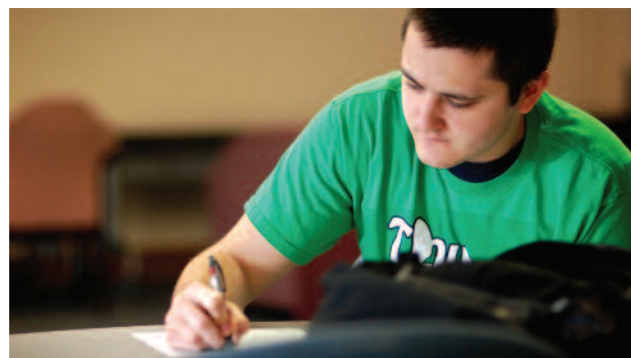
Sección Especial del *Visitor*: ¡Prestando atención señal de alerta!



Beth y Buddy Ackman, y sus cuatro hijos, vivían en un suburbio bullicioso de Maryland, cuando sintieron que Dios los llamaba a dejar atrás la vida de la ciudad. Ahora viven en un área rural en West Virginia para aprender a vivir fuera de la modernidad. Ahora asisten a la iglesia Toll Gate de la Asociación Mountain View en Pennsboro. Esperan que esta transición a la vida simple inspirará a otros adventistas a considerar hacer un cambio como este. Lea la entrevista en inglés en la página 10, o en español en columbiaunion.org/outofthecity.

Lea más noticias en línea en columbiaunion.org/noticias.

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Potluck

BETH MICHAELS

What's New?

Books > *Preparation for Eternity With God* Rick Streight

"I believe God is preparing His people and want to do my part in hastening Jesus' second coming!" states Rick Streight, a member of Chesapeake Conference's



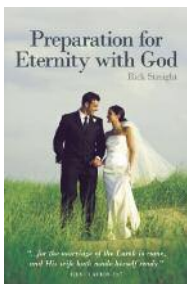
From the Pulpit

Our excitement ought to come from [knowing] what is happening in the end—that Jesus is coming again...
If I can tell Jesus, "Here, Lord. Take over my concerns," [then] I can fix my eyes on the prize of life: eternity!
—Bruce Banner, Pastor, Jersey City Heights Church, Jersey City, N.J.



PHOTO BY RON TAYAM

Blythedale church in Perryville, Md. In the book, Streight shares his



experience with "a fallen nature" in hopes that it might help others find a path to the Savior. "It is about a wonderful rescue mission from sin to

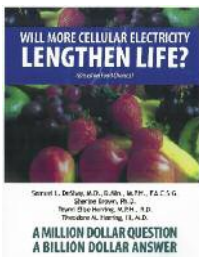
salvation," he adds. Pick up a copy at the Potomac ABC or order at amazon.com.

Will More Cellular Electricity Lengthen Life? Samuel L. DeShay

"Every cell in the body carries an electrical charge," reports Samuel DeShay, MD, DMin, a member of Allegheny East



Conference's Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md. It's the balance of potassium and sodium in our bodies that controls that electricity, he adds. In this book, which he wrote with three other professionals, DeShay gives Seventh-day Adventists more reasons to maintain a vegetarian diet, but shares that correct levels of potassium is



Keeping Score

2011 Natural Disasters

820

Number of loss-related events across the globe (e.g., earthquakes)

27,000

Number of disaster victims (not including deaths)

\$380

BILLION

Global economic losses

Source: clickgreen.org.uk

key in avoiding disease. Order a copy at ibpa-online.org.

Blog > *La Casa de Sweets* Jackie Gonzalez-Feezer

Jackie Gonzalez-Feezer has been baking since childhood, but now shares her sweet recipe creations (some are vegan!) for a higher cause. Through the year-old blog and baking fundraisers, the young mother has already raised \$2,150 for hungry children around the world. Visit lacasadesweets.com and enjoy



treats like Mini Gingerbread Cakes, read a Bible passage, donate to one of her favorite organizations and “feel a little happier knowing [you] are helping spread God’s love,” shares the member of Chesapeake’s Baltimore First church in Ellicott City, Md.

On the Web

Facebooked >

New Hope Young Adults



We’re pleased to announce our partnership with WGTS 91.9 FM, the nation’s

second largest Christian music station, for GODencounters happening February 10-11!

—*New Hope Church, Fulton, Md.*

Kettering Health Network



Don’t miss out on touring our brand new hospital! Hope you will join us!

Soin Medical Center Open House, Sunday, February 19, at 1 p.m.

—*Kettering Adventist HealthCare, Kettering, Ohio*

Lonnie Wibberding



Glad I work for a conference that has courage enough to talk about real

issues. Just spent a day talking about the battle against pornography for the Christian man with Bernie Anderson and Paul Coneff. Great, practical, real world stuff. My esteem for our administration went up today.—*Simple Church, Carnegie, Pa.*

In the Spotlight > Berkeley Springs (W.Va.) Church



HUMBLE BEGINNINGS: This Chesapeake Conference church started in 1969 at a local fire hall. The congregation developed their current property, mortgage-free, with help from retired General Conference workers and professional craftsmen, shares longtime member Luther Robertson.

Early on, Amazing Facts founder Joe Crews held a series that initiated church growth. Today the 125-member congregation employs traditional and unconventional evangelism.

OUTREACH, HEALTH AND YOUTH: Retired pastor Al Cyr and his wife, Darlene (pictured studying with Pam Zahm, left), are busy serving as part-time Bible workers to help manage more than 70 ongoing Bible studies. In November the church sponsored a weeklong series on natural remedies. “It’s the work of God,” explains Pastor Hal Butman. “He has come and settled His workers right here and it’s amazing.” The church’s youth are also evangelizing through door-to-door literature distribution, and have gone on mission trips to Honduras and Nicaragua with Quiet Hour Ministries over the past three years.

EVANGELISM IN ACTION: When the city holds its annual fall Apple Butter Festival, the church hosts a health expo nearby complete with free health screenings and information, reports Health Ministries director Lisa Shingleton. The church also prepares a monthly vegan meal for the community followed by a cooking demonstration and presentation through its Supper Club ministry. “Sometimes it’s hard to reach people with the Bible, but you can reach them with health,” comments member Lori Sipes.—*Mark Tyler*





Heeding the CLARION CALL

Seventh-day Adventists
have discussed end-time events
for more than a century.
Are Earth's "birth pangs"
calling us to action?
The Ackmans say yes.

Sam Belony



Evidences of approaching end-time events have been the topic of conversation among Seventh-day Adventists for more than a century. We preach that God's Word points in brilliant clarity to His soon return, like billboards for our journey. Yet, to many, His second coming has never felt more imminent. Wars and rumors of wars. Civil unrest. Global economic uncertainty. A multiplication of natural disasters the world over. Not unlike the clear shrills of a trumpet, God's people of our generation feel beckoned to revival!

Some, like Buddy and Beth Ackman, argue that Earth's "birth pangs" are calling us to action, "to get out of the large cities as fast as possible," as Ellen White instructs in *Testimonies for the Church* (vol. 6, p. 195). In their effort to prepare for our heavenly home with Christ, the Ackmans made a difficult decision to leave behind their bustling life in a Washington, D.C., suburb. They've taken up residence in rural West Virginia to learn to live "off the grid," and now attend Mountain View Conference's Toll Gate church in Pennsboro. They hope their transition to simpler living will inspire other Adventists to consider making "the move." We recently spoke with them to find out more:



VISITOR: Tell us a bit about you.

BETH: I met Buddy in 1993 on a dirt-car racetrack. He raced dirt cars! His cousin and I were friends. We were married in 1995 [then] I went to business school; Buddy was an auto mechanic. When we had our first child in 1998, I became a stay-at-home mom. I was not an Adventist at that time.

V: What denomination did you belong to?

BETH: I was raised Catholic. Buddy was raised Adventist, but had faded away from the faith. After we were married, we started doing Bible studies.

I got baptized in 1999. [Then] we had our second child and continued to raise our children in the Word of God, but we did not

Country Dwellers: Buddy, Beth, Elliott (13), Courtney (12), Abigail (7) and Micah (6)

feel complete. In 2004, when we were expecting our third child, Buddy went to an Out of the Cities meeting by Pastor Dave Westbrook of Back to Enoch (backtoenoch.org). We talked about moving before, but locally. We were looking for a place to move and couldn't find any, so we kept the matter in prayer.

Then we had our fourth child in 2005. We continued to listen to the Out of the Cities message. My husband had his own auto mechanic business, which made it hard for us to leave. We decided that if God wanted us to move then He would have to help us. We put the business up for sale and sold it within six weeks!

V: What did you do next?

BETH: Our next step was to sell the house, but we had no idea where we were going, so we went out of state looking for places. We put our house up for sale and the first people who looked at our house decided to buy it! We sold the

house June 1, 2007. But we didn't have anywhere to go, so we moved in with my mom. My husband went to work for somebody as a mechanic while we were traveling, looking for a place. Right after we sold our house, the housing market crashed. This was another sign we knew that the Lord was leading us to get out of the cities.

V: How did you know it was the right time to move?

BUDDY: We did this move on faith. I had no employment [and] knew no one. We had a good, prosperous business but gave it up and moved here. When we came here, I was going to work for people. I put out 30 applications, but no one responded. I decided to open my own business, and now the Lord is providing. It took us two years to make the move. It's not something we just jumped into in a day. We took our time.

BETH: We kinda tested the Lord by putting it before Him. The selling



of the business so quickly, that's how we knew the time was right.

BUDDY: This is something we felt we should have done a long time ago. I just wanted to make sure it was the right time. I believe when you have children, it's good to follow this counsel.

V: What did you leave behind?

BETH: We lived in a big house in Maryland, so we took what we could. We tried to downsize, leaving behind books, clothing and furniture. We did also leave behind our 3ABN satellite dish.

V: How hard was the transition?

BETH: A challenge!

BUDDY: Definitely a challenge. There is always something coming up. It's not something you can do overnight. We're *still* learning.

V: Was it hard to give up amenities?

BETH: We have a phone and the Internet.

BUDDY: We were glad to give up cable TV. We only have a satellite

dish for 3ABN and some local channels. There may be things that we will get rid of if the Lord moves us to, but we use the Internet as a tool for ministry.

V: What were some of the challenges?

BETH: Learning how to grow your own food.

BUDDY: It's difficult [because] the soil has to be right. Weather has a lot to do with it. Too much rain can be a problem. We have three different gardens, a green house [and] a small and big garden.

BETH: Another challenge is you gotta keep the deer and ground-hogs out of your garden. They are fun to look at, but not fun when they eat your food!

V: Can you tell us more about your ministry efforts?

BUDDY: We give out books [like] *Steps to Christ*, *The Great Controversy* and *National Sunday Law* and *Amazing Facts* pamphlets. That's a ministry I do with the business. I buy books and give them out to the customers. I also take books to the prison. It's our outreach ministry.

V: How did family and friends respond to your decision to leave everything behind?

BETH: Well, I think it started with most of them thinking we were a little crazy. There isn't much around here. We don't get a lot of visitors. There's a little shop 20 minutes away; big shopping is at least an hour away. Now

they respect us because of how we adjusted.

V: Are you content with your decision?

BETH: Definitely! I don't have any regrets! Me, personally, I would do everything the same way. The quiet life makes my walk with the Lord easier.

BUDDY: We are not bombarded with the temptations that city life offers. Our children adjusted and respect it. It has helped with our spiritual life and with our relationship with our children. I believe that's what the Lord would have us do, and I believe He's blessed us for doing it.

V: Are you where you thought you'd be?

BETH: Of course we always grow, but I feel that we are where the Lord would have us be.

GET MORE:
Want to know more about Seventh-day Adventist beliefs

regarding end times? *How to Survive Armageddon* is a new Bible-based study book written by Pastor John Brunt and published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association. Find it at your Adventist Book Center or adventistbookcenter.com.



BUDDY: Our goal is to have our home paid off. Then we would like to start a ministry with people who want to move out of the cities.

BETH: We also want to be more self-sufficient, running the house on solar panels and not rely on an electric company.

V: What advice would you give to others thinking of moving out of the cities?

BETH: Pray, pray, pray—a lot! Do a lot of studying. You *need* to understand why you're doing this. And it's not something you're going to be able to do during the time of trouble. There is so much involved. You have to be able to get a house established, start a garden [and make] sure that you have proper tools to help your children in their spiritual walk with the Lord. It's very difficult. Also, attend seminars. You will truly be blessed by them.

BUDDY: Be impressed by the Lord to do so. We did not make this move because of persecution. We made it because we felt that it was the right thing to do. After a lot of prayer, we were convinced this was right and it worked great for us. Being out here gives us a closer bond with our kids than we expected. And our relationship with the Lord is much better. Since moving here, our prayer life is much different. There is less hustle and bustle; people are more laid back. If you make this move for the right reason, it will change your life!

Sam Belony writes from Philadelphia.

8 STEPS to Making the Move

If prayer and Bible study are leading you to move out of an urban area, Bob Gregory, who runs an agriculture training program at Berea Gardens in Minnora, W.Va., suggests you first take the following steps:

1. **Eliminate debt** as much as possible.
2. **Seek a location** with land, water and energy (e.g., trees) sufficient to sustain you and/or your family. For example, half an acre of garden area and 4-5 acres of trees can sustain a family of four. The location should also provide you the liberty to *freely* use these resources. Impoverished areas are often more desirable in this sense.
3. **Research the area** and your potential neighbors. A few minutes at a local restaurant or convenience store chatting with the locals can yield wonderful information.
4. **Investigate state requirements for homeschooling.** Laws vary significantly.
5. **Acquire training** for a practical, marketable, hands-on skill that will benefit you *and* your neighbors (e.g., carpentry, plumbing, farming, medical skills). Working locally will enable you to live on a smaller income and devote more time to your business or industry.
6. **Gather supplies** now that you will need later: tools, equipment, seeds, etc.
7. **Learn how to grow your own food.** With proper training and a little experience, one person can grow enough food to feed a family of four by investing just 30 minutes a day!
8. **Be prepared to make sacrifices.** A rural lifestyle is an entirely different paradigm than urban living. Making the adjustment, although very fulfilling, can present challenges you will not anticipate. Prayerful determination is essential to your family's success.

Read more about country living at bereagardens.org and backtoenoch.org.

In My Opinion

Q & A

Is it Time?

Columbia Union members weigh in on end-time prophecy and whether Ellen White's charge to leave the cities applies to us today:



Staying in big cities unnecessarily causes damage to our spiritual purity. But at this time, we must remain and not let the multitudes perish. We are the "light of the world"; the ones commissioned to carry out this task. If we do not, who will warn them about what will happen if they do not change their ways?

A long time ago, God wanted Jonah to warn wicked Nineveh. Jonah tried to flee but was redirected and [as a result], Nineveh was saved. Now, do we serve the same God that Jonah served? If yes, then we are just as responsible as Jonah.—*Ron Tayam, Jersey City Heights Church, Jersey City, N.J., New Jersey Conference*



Honestly, I don't believe that it is time yet because the end time events talked about in Matthew 24 have not all occurred. The Word reveals in Matthew 24:8 that when we see signs, it's "the beginning of sorrows." In a sense, the Lord is preparing to make His second coming, but He is waiting for us to be ready by giving us continual warnings through every day news events. I don't think that the time is right now, but it is very near!—*Mikayla Diaz, Ephesus Church, Columbus, Ohio, Allegheny West Conference*



Mrs. [Ellen] White warned us to leave the cities more than 100 years ago! We are just so complacent. But look at the world around us. The cities are not even fit to live in. They are chaotic and expensive. Read about Enoch and John and the story of Lot. They lived in the country but preached in the cities.

My husband, Danilo, and I finally heeded the warning and in 2008 bought a cabin in West Virginia. But, God does not force upon us. Pray about it. Listen to that still, small voice. Don't resist the call.—*Esther Cadiz Belleza, Virginia Beach (Va.) Church, Potomac Conference*



The question I think more pertinent is one of rationale. Are we running to save ourselves, or do we go to help others? While I believe rural, self-sufficient living is always preferable to city life, there is an even bigger danger of Christians falling prey to a self-sufficient understanding of salvation. In other words, many believe we are saved by our own works rather than the work of Christ. This should never be.

Jesus' salvation was not merely spiritual; it was also physical. He personally came, not to run from trouble, but to offer His salvation in time of trouble. We should do the same.—*Stewart Pepper, Pastor, Charleston (W.Va.) Church, Mountain View Conference*

Metropolitan Church Baptizes 113

The pastors at the Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md., weren't planning on performing a baptism on this particular Sabbath. Members were in the midst of "Lifted," a two-weeklong evangelism campaign that attracted some 300 people each night, and the only baptism scheduled was for the second Sabbath. But the Holy Spirit had been working on Christopher Robinson those first few days, and he couldn't wait another week to publicly commit his life to Christ.

"He pleaded for us to do the baptism the next day. The seriousness in his eyes was the reason we filled the pool that first weekend," said Brenda Billingsy, Metropolitan's senior pastor. "When he took his stand, that opened the flood gates."

At the end of that Sabbath, 61 additional people joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Metropolitan church normally ends its worship services around 1 p.m., but on that Sabbath, the pastors were in the baptismal pool until 4 p.m.

The baptisms didn't end there. On the following Sabbath when the evangelism meetings ended, an additional 51 people took a stand for the Lord, bringing the total baptized over the two weekends to 113.

As people gave their lives, they shared their testimonies, including one young lady who walked into the church two weeks before. She said the Holy Spirit directed her to come to that church and to ask



Pastors Brenda Billingsy and Marquis Johns embrace Genaye and Chris Robinson. The couple made the decision to get baptized together.

specifically about baptism. The next night, her husband joined her at the meetings then, on that first Sabbath, in the baptismal pool.

The meetings were a multiplatform series. Marquis Johns, the church's associate pastor, spoke powerfully those two weeks following a traditional public meeting model. However, a young adult himself, he readily utilized social media such as Facebook and Twitter to also reach the community. They even placed commercials on PraiseVision.com promoting the meetings.

Billingsy noted that the church's leaders and members were also strategic in meeting community members. In the run-up to the campaign, they went door to door in the neighborhood, not only to raise awareness about the meetings, but also to inform them that the church was there to help them in any way possible. They hosted a free VaShawn Mitchell concert, which attracted well over 1,000 attendees. The church also held a health fair on the Sunday following the baptisms.

With such tremendous results from their "teach, baptize and teach" model, Billingsy and Johns are preparing their newly baptized members to take an active part in the three evangelism meetings planned for this year.

PHOTOS BY CLAUDETTE SMITH



New Sabbathkeeper:

When Adrian Mundle, a used car sales manager with more than 18 years of experience took a stand for the Lord, he realized that he would have to stop working on Sabbath. "Since I've been out of a job, I've registered at the University of Maryland to do my accounting degree," Mundle says. In church, "I've done a few Sabbath School mission stories, I'm training with [Metropolitan Media Ministries] and I'm also an usher."

BJA to Partner With Johns Hopkins

The Baltimore Junior Academy (BJA) School Board recently voted to partner with the Johns Hopkins University Medical School Department of Ophthalmology on an upcoming research project. The Baltimore-based medical school is seeking funding to research a new device and procedure that will allow the public to do effective and accurate eye tests at home. The procedure is purported to be easy enough for children.

In their proposal for funding to do the research, BJA is named as a partner. This means that should the university's proposal be accepted, the school will encourage its constituency and community to participate in the research. A decision for funding is expected by April. Should the proposal be accepted, the project will begin in July and continue for two years.

"Having been asked to partner with the prestigious Johns Hopkins is such an honor for Baltimore Junior Academy," says Carol Cantu, the school's principal. "Should the proposal be funded, the school will receive monetary benefits, but much more is that the school will be a part of global, historic, breaking medical news that will change the course of medical science forever."



Carol Cantu spends time with some of her students at Baltimore Junior Academy.

Miracle Temple Member Fundraises for Cancer Research

One year ago, Louvenia Anderson, a fitness instructor and a member of Miracle Temple in Baltimore, received devastating news. She was diagnosed with a rare combination of cancers: Myelodysplastic Syndrome and Acute Myeloid Leukemia. No research has been done on the disease and there is no cure at this time.

One day while at a class for cancer patients, Anderson found out about the Leukemia & Lymphoma

Society (lls.org) and their Light the Night fundraiser. She was impressed to raise \$10,000 toward research for this cancer.

Anderson rallied her family and friends, co-workers, church family and members of The Serenity Sisters Group (which she founded) and challenged them all to join her in raising \$10,000 toward research for this disease. They raised nearly \$8,500 and counting.

On the day of the walk, friends from as far away as Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Washington, D.C., came out in bad weather to show their support.

"I prayed up to the day of the walk that God would prepare my body and sustain me to attend the walk, and God answered my prayers," Anderson said. "I was

able to participate in the activities and fellowship before the walk. I waited at the site while others walked for me, and they were excited to do so."

Looking back at the experience, Anderson says she realized "how truly blessed I am. It was a very cold, rainy, snowy, icy day and family and friends showed up in droves in spite of the weather conditions."



Wendy Slayton (left) and Teriko Epps participated in the Light the Night fundraiser and walk in honor of their sister and friend, Louvenia Anderson (center).

Correction: The article titled "New Jersey Prison Ministries Teams Sweep Awards," which appeared in the January *Exposé*, has been revised. Visit columbiaunion.org/aecprisonministries to view the updated version.

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Conference Announces New President

At a special meeting of the Allegheny West Conference Executive Committee, the committee selected William Cox to serve as the new conference president. Cox replaces Fredrick Russell, who accepted a call to serve as senior pastor of the Berean church in Atlanta.

Cox, along with his wife, LaTanya, has dedicated 32 years of pastoral ministry to populating the kingdom of God. He started his service in the Southwest Region Conference, where he spent 17 years before moving to the Southern California Conference. There he pastored the Berean church in Los Angeles. He spent the past 13 years of his ministry in the Allegheny West Conference and currently pastors Ethan Temple in Dayton, Ohio.

Cox is a graduate of Oakwood University (Ala.) and the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (La.), where he received a Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Christian Education. He also received a Doctor of Ministry from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton.

Upon accepting of the position, Cox explained to the committee why he believes God led in this decision: "When you do what God has asked you to do, He will make Himself personally responsible for your success."



As new Allegheny West Conference president, William Cox (left) joins administrative leaders Robert Moore, executive secretary, and Zenobia Seward, treasurer.

Charlottesville Hispanic Mission Grows the Kingdom

When 100 percent of a congregation is united, God manifests Himself with power," shares Josue Gabriel Mego, pastor of the Central Hispanic Mission of Charlottesville (Va.). "The same miracles that He did yesterday, He is doing today in the city of Charlottesville."

Those miracles have come as a result of his members developing strategic growth activities like vigils, revivals, concerts and dramas performed by the children (right). Most recently the mission team hosted Nights of Power, a revival that attracted more than 60 people from the community. Ten are candidates for baptism. Although members worry they will not have



enough seating in their 150-capacity sanctuary, they still plan to win 300 new people for the kingdom of God. "We believe that with the support of everyone, we can reach this goal," adds Mego.

The Central Hispanic Mission of Charlottesville only started last November with 20 people. Mego established the congregation in coordination with the Multicultural and Church Planting Ministry of the Allegheny West Conference, directed by Pastor Walter Castro.



Josue Gabriel Mego (center), pastor of the Central Hispanic Mission of Charlottesville (Va.), and two of his elders demonstrate the congregation's bond of unity.

Shiloh Creates Program for Young Women

With a burden on her heart for the young ladies of her congregation, Karen M. Williams, the Women's Ministries leader of the Shiloh church in Cincinnati, Ohio, sought volunteers to assist with the creation of a dynamic and Spirit-filled program. Together they created Young Women of Honor.

The program launched with an initiation ceremony last May where the girls, aged 10-18, signed commitment forms promising to follow through with all the program's activities, and to do so in a Christ-like manner. They marched single file into the sanctuary wearing pretty white dresses and holding a long, pink flower while melodious trumpet music played and Infinite Praise, a local group, sang. Leaders introduced the girls, sharing brief bios on each, and solemnized the occasion with a prayer of dedication. Then each girl received beautiful, pink scarves as proof of their initiation and commitment to the following activities:

- Learn how to give Bible studies and share their faith
- Participate in SWAG (Stylish Women's Attire for God), where they learn proper facial and hair care, wardrobe selection and perform a runway show
- Role-play the pros and cons of interviewing for a job
- Play volleyball and other physical exercises under the direction of a professional trainer
- Distribute *Message* magazines at the Midwest Black Family Reunion at Sawyer Point
- Learn about healthy foods, grocery shopping and preparing veggie wraps
- Participate in a small group workshop where young adult women discuss and answer questions relevant to current teen issues

At Shiloh's recent Family Life Holiday Celebration, the church highlighted the girls and had them showcase their individual talents: singing, playing instruments or public speaking. The girls also conveyed what they enjoyed about the program. All of them received special completion awards and gift certificates for following through on



Shiloh church's Women's Ministries volunteers proudly pose with their Young Women of Honor participants.

their commitment. Congratulations to finishers Shantel Crawley, Deja Dockery, Micah Hughes, Olivia McDonald, Karis Price and Sarah Smart.—Karen Williams



Deja Dockery and Mariah Jackson distribute *Message* magazines at the Midwest Black Family Reunion.

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THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

FEBRUARY 2012

An Example of Love

Valentine's Day! For some this is a must-observe holiday. For others it's more of a burden than a blessing. But when it comes to expressions of love, the example God gives to us is very instructive.

God has a committed love for each of us. Repeatedly in the Old Testament we read of the unfaithfulness of the Israelites. But God remained committed to them and to His promises. Even His acts of judgment were designed to rebuild the relationship. How do you demonstrate commitment in your love toward others?

God's love is giving. There are blessings all around us that remind us of God's love and care for us—our church, friends, family, the Scriptures, the beauty of nature, healthy foods to eat and life itself. All of these and more testify of God's love. What do you give to those you love?

God's love is sacrificing. The greatest example is seen in Jesus coming to this Earth and sacrificing His life on the cross to pay for our sins. Are you willing to sacrifice for others in order to demonstrate your love?

God's love is creative. Certainly the world around us illustrates God's creative power. But there are so many additional creative ways He expresses His love—the Sabbath, instructions for building an ark, parting the Red Sea, a bronze snake for healing and a coin in a fish for taxes. How can you be creative in displaying your love to others?

God's love is expressed. In all the ways above God has exhibited His love. But He has also repeatedly told us of His love. Will you express your love to your mate, your children, your family and your God? Go ahead! You have the greatest example to follow.



Rick Remmers
President

Waldorf Supports Expansion, Continued Growth

The Waldorf (Md.) church is bursting at the seams. Membership has swelled in recent years and now more than 260 members attend weekly. According to the pastor, Volodymyr Grinchenko, the sanctuary seats only about 100 comfortably, so they now offer two services each Sabbath and plan to add a third service.

The Waldorf church was the fastest growing church in the conference in 2010, Grinchenko says. "We are in the center of movement and growth, which brings a lot of responsibility," he says.

With that in mind, the community-oriented congregation has a four-phase plan for expansion. They have raised \$300,000 and pledged another \$280,000 toward building a new 400-seat sanctuary, the first phase of the project that is slated for completion this fall. Future phases include a community center/gymnasium that the county hopes to use on weekdays, a commercial kitchen and a school building for the 100-plus children who attend the church.

A groundbreaking ceremony held recently signaled the next step of the project. Visit waldorfsda.org to follow the project.



Left to right: Ron Litten, the architect; Bill Murray, project manager; Roland Plater, the chairman of the building committee; Kleyton Feitosa, Chesapeake Conference executive secretary; Volodymyr Grinchenko, Waldorf church pastor; John Appel, Chesapeake Conference Ministerial secretary; Randy Dresser, Waldorf church head elder; and Justin Reid, Waldorf church Stewardship director.

Frederick Adventist School Helps Kids Locally and Abroad

“One Book, Two Book, Read Book, New Book” was the theme for Frederick Adventist School’s recent sale and cake auction where they raised \$2,700 for the school’s student financial aid program.

“Our used book sale is a wonderful example of recycling,” said Robin Correia, principal. “Participants have an opportunity to clean out and update their personal book collections while helping students who need tuition assistance.”

The 25 cakes submitted reflected the creativity of students, staff and families. Third-grader Will Zimmerman brought a “Lego Man” cake. Principal Correia’s “Miche Bag” cake looked so real you had to see it to believe it was made from cake, said parent volunteer Teresa Kelchner. Leftover children’s books, music CDs and videos from the sale were donated to an orphanage in Nepal where a library is being established for the 180 children rescued from human trafficking.

Third-grader Nate Minty proudly displays the Christmas tree cake he made using Rice Krispies cereal at Frederick Adventist School’s recent fundraiser.



PHOTO BY TERESA KELCHNER

Nearly 300 Accept Christ During Evangelism Initiatives

Many churches in the Chesapeake Conference employed traditional and creative forms of evangelism recently to reach people in their communities.

The Hagerstown (Md.) congregation drew local residents by screening *Forks Over Knives*, a feature film that uses scientific data to advocate a plant-based diet of unprocessed foods for optimum health.

Seventh-day Adventist evangelist Alejandro Bullón conducted meetings in six area churches, filling many to capacity. As a result, 250 people accepted Jesus as their Savior and 50 were baptized. The meetings were held in five Spanish

churches—Annapolis, Baltimore, Frederick and Washington-Spencerville (all in Maryland); Parksley (Va.)—and the Capital Brazilian Temple in Highland, Md.

Franke Zollman, pastor of the Williamsport (Md.) church, used a unique approach in a series that spanned more than two months. Each meeting focused on a strong archaeological topic followed by a biblical topic. For example, a lecture on King Tut’s tomb—filled with treasures for the afterlife—was paired with a Bible study on the doctrine of the state of the dead.

“I find that people will come to hear me talk about archaeology and the Bible that would never come to hear just about the Bible,” says Zollman.

Williamsport members made the 130 visitors feel welcome and

provided programming for children during the lectures.

Anibal Hansell, pastor of the Cornerstone church in Exmore, Va., is ebullient about what is happening in his community. Members spent three months building friendships with 100 neighbors in preparation for a series of meetings held by Florida evangelist T.A. McNealy. When the series concluded, 26 guests were baptized—more than doubling the membership. The congregation is energized and engaged in visiting and studying with the new members, Hansell says. He adds, “It has revived their confidence in evangelism, and now the members want to baptize 50 more over the next year and fill the church.”

The conference evangelism committee has earmarked \$300,000 for evangelism in 2012.

PHOTO BY FRANKE ZOLLMAN



The Williamsport (Md.) church displays some 500 artifacts dating from 3,000 B.C. to A.D. 1,000 in the church foyer during a recent archaeologically themed evangelistic series.

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Editor, Samantha Young

God Always Leads

Several months ago, I met with a student for dinner to discuss a couple of Highland View Academy's (HVA) policies. I was able to address her concerns quickly, but I spent most of my time listening as she recounted her first visit to a Seventh-day Adventist church. That first experience was wonderful, and she noticed that the people looked different—all of the women wore dresses and the men wore suits. No one made her feel uncomfortable; however, she did not own a dress.

At the ripe age of 9, she decided to find a job to buy a dress for her next journey to the church. She worked diligently for several weeks to make that happen. From that point on, she attended church faithfully and on her own. As I listened to her story, tears overwhelmed me because she is currently an HVA student who demonstrates a thoughtful, Spirit-filled and reflective approach to living out her spiritual convictions. Ellen White tells us, "The whole gospel is comprised in learning of Christ" (*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 456).

At Highland View Academy, our goal is to "restore [each student] in the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realized—this was to be the work of redemption. This is the object of education, the great object of life" (*Education*, pp. 15-16).



Deborah Treviño
Principal

I Went Hungry So Others Won't Have To



Worldwide 925 million people are hungry. Every day as many as 11,000 children under age 5 die due to hunger-related causes. That's one death every 8 seconds.

Every year hundreds of thousands of students participate in World Vision's 30-Hour Famine, or the Famine. For the past eight years, HVA students have joined the initiative and gone without food for 30 hours to raise awareness and funds for those in need. Every \$30 raised by our school can help feed and care for a child for one month.

My freshman year at HVA, I participated in the Famine for the first time. I wasn't sure how I would do. It ended up being quite a harrowing experience. On Friday night, in the ninth hour of the fast, my mind moved from food to people as each student was sent to a different spot in the gym to pray and reflect on what God had to tell them about this experience. I focused on a small candle glowing in front of me as we prayed silently.

Leaders came around every 30 seconds and blew out a candle to represent a life lost to hunger-related disease. When it came time for the candle in front of me to be blown out, I grew angry. This candle represented a child and when it no longer burned, that meant that a life had been lost. I couldn't bear that thought! This truly taught us what it meant to be a servant of God and how He has called us to take care of the hungry and needy around us. Ever since that weekend, I have vowed to make sure this event never leaves HVA.

To donate to this worthy cause, which has become a staple event for HVA students each spring, call the school at (301) 739-8480.
—Marci Corea ('12)



Seniors to Perform Prize-Winning Play

The Class of 2012 will be performing the Pulitzer-prize winning play *You Can't Take it With You*, a comedy in three acts by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman. At first the Sycamores seem crazy, but it is not long before the audience realizes that if they are mad, the rest of the world is madder. In contrast are the unhappy Kirbys. The plot shows how Tony, the attractive young son of the Kirbys, falls in love with Alice Sycamore and brings his parents to dine at the Sycamore home on the wrong evening. Antics ensue and it becomes clear that one of these families knows the best way to live and the other has a lot to learn. It is a hilarious play but one with a valuable message.

Mark your calendars. Performances will be Saturday, March 17, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, March 18, at 4 p.m.

School Family Builds Chapel in Brazil

Recently a Highland View Academy family—Junior, Valeria, Brendan and Brian Seidl—participated in an incredible mission trip, where they and 11 other American volunteers helped build and inaugurate the first chapel of the HOPE Buildings ECO-LEIGO Series in Brazil. Building this chapel was a joint venture between MissionServ International, a Maryland based non-for-profit organization, and The Quiet Hour Ministries. The chapel is located in Manguinhos, which is close to Joao Pessoa, capital of the State of Paraiba in Brazil. The congregation is part of the Northeast Brazil Mission.

Brendan Seidl, an HVA sophomore, and his family participated as part of their commitment to help the two organizations build 17 churches by December. Edward Scott, a



Brian Seidl (right), an eighth-grader at the Frederick Adventist School in Frederick, Md., smooths on the mortar.

successful businessman from Frederick, Md., and a business contact of the MissionServ International leaders, also volunteered.

The volunteers, aged 13-70, faced a major challenge as they built the chapel. Heavy rains that flooded the area made the soil so wet that it was almost impossible to press it into bricks that would dry in time for the building to be constructed during their visit. After three days of hard work, the first truckload containing thousands of bricks were moved to the construction site and the interlocking building system began. One week later they secured the roof over the

walls and opened the building to the public.

HVA hopes to join the initiative and to build one of the churches as a mission project for the upcoming school year. For additional information on the HOPE Buildings Project, contact Dirci Marquat at dircimarquat@yahoo.com or (240) 382-9140.



HVA sophomore Brendan Seidl puts muscle into his volunteer work.



The U.S. mission team, including HVA's Seidl family, celebrates their completion of a chapel in Brazil.

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MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

FEBRUARY 2012

Arm in Arm for Youth Evangelism

I want to say thank you to all Mountain View Conference members for your dedication to and faithful support of the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in our conference. By faithfully returning your tithe and offerings, blessed by the Spirit of God, you help to advance this mission so that Jesus can come soon. At the same time, we must do better to equip our young adults and youth to share the gospel.

The Arm-in-Arm Offering, received each month, goes directly to support evangelism and minister to young people. Fifty percent of the offering goes to support our youth through church schools, Pathfinder and Adventurer programs and conference-wide youth initiatives, including youth camp at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va. The other 50 percent goes to support conference-wide evangelism ministry. Arm-in-Arm is vital for these ministries.

Filling our church with evangelism-focused young people is a major goal that conference administrators set for this quadrennium. Your increased support in giving liberally to the Arm-in-Arm Offering will go a long way in sending the message to our youth that they are important and that their ministry to others is vital to accomplishing the mission of the church in Mountain View. We must not falter in this part of the mission. Help us keep the spirit of evangelism glowing brightly in our local churches.



Larry Boggess
President

NEWS

Highland Students Participate in Brain Games

A team of students from Highland Adventist School (HAS) in Elkins, W.Va., recently participated in the Southwestern Adventist University's annual Brain Games in Keene, Texas. The theme of the math and technology competition was "Warfare Through the



Joel Grey, Alex Engelkemier and Hannah Frasure display the trebuchet they built.

Ages." Joel Grey, a senior; Alex Engelkemier, a sophomore; and Hannah Frasure, a sophomore; were selected to represent the school.

The students competed with teams from around the country to complete various technology challenges related to warfare techniques through the ages. They constructed and operated a trebuchet (from medieval times), fired a potato gun (representing World War II cannons), launched rockets (representing modern weaponry) and tried out an ancient, biblical sling. The goal of the various technology challenges was to use mathematics to determine trajectory and distance of the various weapons. The HAS team came in first in the rocket-launching contest, which included a game-show-format math trivia segment.—Cheryl Jacko

Girl's Generosity Inspires Valley View Member

Elsie Mitchem, a member of the Valley View church in Bluefield, W.Va., was collecting money for Campaign for Community when Iyanna Burke came to the door. "Five pennies and a gently worn coat were all [she] could spare, when a neighbor she'd never met knocked on her door and asked for help," reported the *Princeton Times* in its December 23 issue. The article, titled "5 Pennies and a Coat: Straley Avenue Child Inspires Holiday Hope With Her Generosity," reports that "the warm gesture touched Mitchem and left the lady used to having doors closed in her face on the brink of tears."

Pathfinder/Adventurer/Eager Beaver Groups Grow

Over the past year, the numbers of Pathfinders in the Mountain View Conference have increased. There are now six clubs, up from two. There are also five other churches where children are showing strong interest in forming clubs. "I would love to have more active clubs," shares Joel Stecker, the conference's Pathfinder director. "It's my goal to get to each church and share my passion for Pathfinders."

There are also more Adventurer (for first- thru fourth-graders) and Eager Beaver (for kindergarteners) clubs popping up around the conference.

"We are reaching more kids and that's what's most important. These are tremendous avenues to reach children for Christ," Stecker continues. "The most active club ... has 13 members. Can we pass that number again? I'd love to see it!"

To find out more about starting a Pathfinder Club at your church, call the conference office at (304) 422-4581.



Clayetone Farley, Haiden Keeling, Hannah Keeling and Jessica Pepper, members of the Charleston (W.Va.) church's Pathfinder Club, ready to pack a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child.



Fawn Kesseling, a Summersville (W.Va.) church Pathfinder, tries to stay warm at the recent Mountain View Conference Pathfinder Camporee.



Gabriel George practices his presentation for Pathfinder Sabbath at the Spencer (W.Va.) church.



Toll Gate Pathfinders Breanna Foster, Courtney Ackman and Lizzie Foster have fun on a recent outing to the Cass Railroad.



Eve Smith, a Parkersburg Adventurer, learns about butterflies.

Save the Date

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 (right), 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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SPIRIT

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY

FEBRUARY 2012

Stand Out

Are we still willing to be bold for Christ in the interesting times that we live? In 2 Timothy 1:7, Paul challenges Timothy that the Lord did not give a spirit of timidity but a “spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.” As the western world becomes more and more closed to the message, are we becoming apologetic about our love for Jesus or is the spirit of power, love and self-discipline still out there?

In a Seventh-day Adventist school, we strive to give our youth the opportunity to allow God’s Spirit to imbue His power into His children. We strive through community service, mission trips, music and the classroom to guide our students to an *unapologetic* relationship with Christ. The only thing that will enable any Christian to stand up for Christ is a personal relationship with Him. All of a sudden the song “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus” makes sense. This generation will truly have to stand up as they stand out for Jesus.



Robert Stevenson
Principal

NEWS

Music Groups Focus on Mission

Like most schools, Mount Vernon Academy’s music program includes a choir, band and handbells.

They also attend music festivals, visit churches, perform for other schools, and participate in promotional concerts. But what then makes the MVA music program so special? “It is our vision and commitment to our church’s mission,” David Nino, music director, explains. “MVA offers music with a mission!”



Why I Love My School

“I’ve always wanted to attend Mount Vernon Academy. When I was younger, the Echoliers sang at my church and ... I wanted to be one of them. My friends who went here would always tell me about all of the fun events they were having here. [Now that I’m a student], I love everything about this school.”

—Adly Altidor (’15)



Students Fill Dumpster

On a recent Community Service Day, MVA students helped fill a Dumpster (below) as their way of helping out with the town of Mount Vernon’s Community Restoration Project.

So why does MVA give up precious study time for these community service days? “The answer is that MVA is about more than just academic excellence,” says Robert Stevenson, principal. “MVA is committed to growing Christian young people who know how to serve and bless others.”—Wendy Feese



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525 Wooster Road, Mount Vernon, OH 43050 ■ Phone: (740) 397-5411
mvacademy.org ■ Principal, Robert Stevenson ■ Editor, Tina Stevenson

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY^{.ORG}

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

FEBRUARY 2012

High School Students M-Pact Community



High school students at Spring Valley Academy (SVA) recently participated in a community-wide service day dubbed “Project M-pact.” Under the direction of their teachers, students planted trees and cleaned local creeks and parks, did yard work for their neighbors and worked with the Catholic Social Services Day Care Center on various projects.

Ken Knudsen, SVA chaplain, coordinated the project in conjunction with The United Way of the greater Dayton, Ohio, area. “It is always a blessing when we can see that our kids truly do make a difference in our community at large,” he said.

School Sponsors Bone Marrow Drive

Last August Cindy French-Puterbaugh, Ohio Conference associate superintendent of Education and an SVA alumna ('70), was diagnosed with leukemia. She has been fighting this disease ever since, and a bone marrow donor is urgently needed. None of her siblings are a match. Nor was there a perfect match for her through the National Marrow Donor Program (marrow.org).

So SVA hosted a bone marrow donor drive that involved a simple inside cheek swab at no cost to the donor. More than 50 people participated in the drive.

“I think it is wonderful to simply give people the opportunity to be a part of making a difference,” French-Puterbaugh said. “I certainly was not aware of the great need until I was diagnosed. I am thrilled that regardless of what happens to me, the bone marrow



Left to right: Marshall Brown of the National Marrow Donor Program; Trixi Johnson, SVA nurse; Jeff Bovee, principal; Kari Schebo, vice principal; Cali Campillo, fifth-grade teacher; and Cindy French-Puterbaugh.

bank will increase due to my need and the efforts of those who responded.”

Students Raise \$600 to Buy Christmas Gifts

Students in the middle school and high school divisions held a coin drive to benefit needy families in the community during the holidays. The students happily reached their goal of \$600, which allowed them to



Janelle Richardson, Matthew Taulbee, Chaplain Ken Knudsen, Kristin Babienko and Leesa Boddie wrap Christmas gifts.

spend \$100 on each of the six children they “adopted” for Christmas.

The students excitedly loaded the buses headed to Target and Wal-Mart where they shopped for their “adopted” kids. Once they returned to the school, they immediately began wrapping and tagging all the presents.

Sharon Williams, sixth-grade teacher, shared, “The students are quick, savvy shoppers and the whole day runs like clockwork. We truly hope this holiday will be one of blessings and cheer for these families!”

Connections is published in the *Visitor* by the Spring Valley Academy
1461 Spring Valley Pike, Centerville OH 45458
Phone: (937) 433-0790 ■ springvalleyacademy.org
Principal, Jeff Bovee ■ Editor, Vicki Swetnam

NEWS NEW JERSEY

FEBRUARY 2012

Small Groups, Evangelism and Mission Caleb – Part 1

Pastor Alexis Grajales recently called to tell me about a “problem” he was having at his church. He said, “Pastor Cortés, on Sabbath 19 new disciples were added to the Somerville Spanish church through baptism for a total of 28 this year. But we have many more new people coming every day, and we are confronting a complication with the capacity of the temple. The benches are packed with people! We are putting additional chairs in the corridors and in each empty space and that is a problem!” I replied, “This is a good ‘problem’! I would like all churches to have that problem! And I am praying every day for this.”

We must emphasize that this congregation has been blessed. The Somerville Spanish church is one of the newly organized churches within the New Jersey Conference. They sent 12 disciples to plant a Caleb Mission in the town of Flemington with the help of Brother Joe Navarro. Thirty-two people are already meeting, and soon they will be organized as a company of believers. As you will see, opening a Mission Caleb does not weaken the mother church, but rather strengthens it!

I was filled with gratitude to hear about the work this church is doing through the Caleb Mission and how they are preparing the ground for evangelistic campaigns through small groups. Next month I'll share with you how Pastor Grajales' other churches are also growing.



José H. Cortés
President

Four Teachers Commissioned

The New Jersey Conference recently honored four teachers and granted them the Commissioned Ministry of Teaching Credential. Those commissioned were Elisa Garcia-Maragoto, principal of the Lake Nelson School in Piscataway; Elayna Barnhill Moffit, vice principal of the Lake Nelson School; Ruth Nino, principal of the Waldwick School in Waldwick; and Malou Saint-Ulysse, principal of Meadow View Junior Academy in Chesterfield. To become eligible for commissioning, a teacher must complete a minimum of six years of teaching and maintain a teaching certification.



Anne Clark, now retired after 35 years teaching in Seventh-day Adventist schools, shares a special message during the commissioning service.



Malou Saint-Ulysse, Ruth Nino, Elayna Moffit and Elisa Maragoto (with daughter Sabrina) are honored during their commissioning service.

Sadrail Saint-Ulysse, conference superintendent of schools, and Elaine Nieves, administrative assistant in the Education Department, organized the program. Anne Clark, a retired teacher with over 35 years of teaching experience, was the special speaker. José H. Cortés, president, gave the commissioning prayer, and Jim Greene, vice president for administration, presented the teachers with their Certificate of Commissioning and their Commissioned Ministry of Teaching credentials.

Williamstown, Swedesboro Celebrate New Members

It was a high and holy covenant day at the Williamstown church when 12 people joined God's family. Ten joined through baptism and two through profession of faith.

The rebirth and adoption of these 12 youth and adults into the family of God, was the culmination of the church's ongoing evangelistic campaign. They also viewed the North American Division's "Prophecies

Decoded" series last fall.

Caesar Sprianu, who pastors the Williamstown, Swedesboro and Perth Amboy Hungarian churches, officiated the baptisms that included nine people from Williamstown and one person from Swedesboro. The parents of two of those baptized joined the Williamstown family through profession of faith.—*Edward W. Fields*

PHOTO BY EDWARD FIELD



Left to right: Pastor Caesar Sprianu, elder Peter DeLea, Eric Fields, NaTalya Fields, Alyssa Fields, Sean Fields, Tyann Bessix, Kenneth Ogalo, Euginia Thompson, Mary Hence, John Kronberger and Tinah Ogalo. Vincent Small, an elder, is far right.

14 Join Luzo-Brazilian Church

Two months after their new church building was completed, the Luzo-Brazilian church had its first baptismal ceremony. And what a bumper crop of new members it was as 14 were baptized.

"Seeing these new members entering in the baptistery and rising from the waters with smiles on their faces, rejoicing with their new brothers and sisters, reminded us that this is the main reason for the existence of the church—bringing people to God's kingdom," Pastor Paulo Macena remarked.

Macena made an alter call following the program and was overjoyed when 15 people came forward to prepare for the next baptism.

The new members are Lucilene Guido, Marcelo Guido, Vivian Silva, Alceu Santos, Elizia Albuquerque, Jose M. Albuquerque Jr., Tiago da Silva Lima, Renato Moreira Botelho, Patricia Martins Goncalves, Idalino Rodrigues Araujo, Ezequiel da Silva Lima, Michael Da Costa Silva, Roberta Da Costa Silva and Leonica M. De Jesus.



February

- 4 Sabbath School Training (Spanish), South Jersey, *Panamericana Spanish Church*, 3-6 p.m.
Stewardship Training (English) South Jersey, *Delaware Valley Junior Academy (DVJA)*, 3-6 p.m.
- 5 Children's Ministries Training (Spanish) Zone 7, *Vineland Spanish Church*, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
- 9 Children's Ministries Training (Spanish) Zone 3, *West New York Spanish Church*, 6:30-10 p.m.
- 11 Children's Ministries Training (English) Zones 5 & 6, *Laurelwood English Church*, 3-6:30 p.m.
Church Clerk Training (Spanish) *Conference Office*, 3-7 p.m.
Sabbath School Training (English) South Jersey, *DVJA*, 3-6 p.m.
Stewardship Training (Spanish) South Jersey, *Vineland Spanish Church*, 3-6 p.m.
- 18 Children's Ministries Training (Spanish) Zone 3, *Guttenberg Spanish Church*, 3-7 p.m.
Church Clerk Training (English) *Conference Office*, 3-7 p.m.
Personal Ministries Training (Spanish) North Jersey, *Passaic I Church*, 3-6 p.m.
- 19 Children's Ministries Convention (English), *Conference Office* 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
- 23 Children's Ministries Training (Spanish) Zone 3, *West N.Y. Spanish Church*, 6:30-10 p.m.
- 24 Prayer & Praise Night (All Languages) North Jersey *Maranatha French Church*, 7-9 p.m.
- 25 Personal Ministries Training (English), North Jersey, *Maranatha French Church*, 4-7 p.m.
- 26 Children's Ministries Convention (Spanish), *Conference Office*, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
- 26 Youth Ski Day

New Jersey News is published in the *Visitor* by the New Jersey Conference 2303 Brunswick Ave., Lawrenceville NJ 08648 Phone: (609) 392-7131 ■ njcsda.org President, José H. Cortés ■ Editor, Jim Greene

MVA Special Constituency Highlights Strengths, Needs

More than 190 Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) stakeholders recently assembled for a special session of the Mount Vernon Academy Corporation, where the corporation reported on items such as current operations, finances, fundraising, a financial audit, Ohio Conference subsidies, demographic trends and future prospects.

Principal Robert Stevenson gave the first report, which focused on the academy's many program features and the impact they continue to have on their students. Bie An Tija Fong (below), MVA's business manager, then described the actions the school has taken to turn around their financial operations and stabilize fiscal operations.



Kimberly Westfall, from General Conference Auditing Services, informed participants that the academy had received an unqualified, "clean" opinion for the 2009-10 school year. Margaret Sutton, MVA's development director, shared a five-year history of donations and expressed appreciation

to the donors. Doug Falle, Ohio Conference treasurer, detailed the conference's financial subsidies for the past five years, funds MVA has received from Ohio Advance and funds the academy owes the conference. Vince Waln, chair of the Ohio Conference Finance Committee and an MVA trustee, gave a progress report on appeals made on IRS issues.

Monte Sahlin, the conference's director of Research and Special Projects, presented information pertaining to school-aged children, attitudes toward MVA and the percentage of families interested in a boarding academy experience for their children. Jay Colburn, superintendent of Education, gave additional demographic information. His summation: the availability of eighth-graders for recruitment as freshman and the number of MVA seniors will present enrollment challenges for the next few years.

After acknowledging that the Ohio Conference and MVA administration, faculty and staff are doing all they can to keep the academy's operation strong and viable into the future, conference president Raj Attiken appealed to attendees for specific areas of needed support. These areas, which will help the academy continue its ministry, include increased church support for Ohio Advance, increased giving for student aid and other areas of financial need, assistance in identifying and recruiting Adventist students attending public schools, assistance in marketing the academy, volunteering for special projects and paying bills.

"We have given full and open disclosure of the academy's situation and appealed to our stakeholder constituents and constituent churches to now demonstrate their interests in MVA's future," observed Attiken about the meeting. "We will remain optimistic about our constituency's commitment to this academy."



To help open the special session, MVA student Tee Appiah presented a moving testimony.



The Mount Vernon Academy Echoliers added a spiritual tone to the session with their vocal presentation.

OMU to Equip Members With Tools for Church Growth

Does your church have empty pews? Missing members? More silver hair than not? Then don't miss Ohio Ministry University (OMU), a two-day workshop designed to help lay pastors and leaders help solve these and other issues facing the church today.

Some 70 percent of Ohio Conference members report that they have relatives or close friends who no longer attend church. At least one in four members have also stopped attending. Paul Richardson, the Reconnecting Ministries coordinator for the North American Division and executive director for the Center for Creative Ministry, will teach attendees how to reconnect with these missing members. Ron Whitehead, director of the Center for Youth Evangelism, will teach how your church can reach and engage teens and young adults.

Loren Seibold, an Ohio district pastor and adjunct instructor at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.), will focus on the role of the local elder and the skills needed to lead small congregations. Dan and Richa Stevens, veteran Children's Ministries leaders, will train attendees in face painting and how to use fun activities to address children's spiritual needs. Monte Sahlin, the conference's director of Research and Special Projects, will share how your church can become visible and make an impact in the community.

OMU will take place March 31-April 1 at the Embassy Suites in Dublin. To register, contact your pastor or Heidi Shoemaker at (740) 397-4665, ext 165.

Does your church have empty pews?

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Lancaster Church Hosts Fruitful Weekend Series

Last fall after months of preparation and teamwork, the Lancaster church invited evangelist Kenneth Cox to lead a series of meetings. Community and church members, as well as visitors from surrounding central Ohio churches,

attended the weekend event where Cox spoke on topics ranging from a new birth in Christ to the inspiring promise of heaven waiting for those who love God. Vocalist and pianist Dona Klein also blessed attendees throughout the series.

By the end of the weekend, Cox and former Lancaster pastor Travis Dean baptized nine attendees who studied with local Bible worker Freda Shultz. The newly baptized members included two Lancaster Seventh-day Adventist School students, a mother and her son, a husband and wife team and 95-year-old Ralph Aldenderfer.

At the series' conclusion, the evangelistic and Lancaster church

pastoral team, including current pastor Mike Barnett, visited the Ohio Correctional Institution in Chillicothe. Many of the 120 inmates had been watching Cox's "Give Me the Bible" DVD series every Tuesday and completed quizzes that Shultz created. During their visit, eight men accepted Jesus as their personal Savior.

"The love and concern the Cox team showed to the church members and friends will always be remembered," noted member Bonnie Shone.



PHOTO BY AL SCHONE

Evangelist Kenneth Cox baptizes meeting attendee Ralph Aldenderfer.

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P. O. Box 1230, Mount Vernon, Ohio
43050 ■ Phone: (740) 397-4665
ohioadventist.org ■ President,
Raj Attiken ■ Editor, Heidi Shoemaker

Pennsylvania *Pen*

FEBRUARY 2012

Nine Students Baptized at Blue Mountain Academy



A special weekend at Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) in Hamburg involved inspirational talks, having fun and spending time with the church family. The weekend was especially memorable for several students. Sheldon Cooper, a pastor from North Carolina, shared his personal story, which left a huge impression on the students. He spoke to them about hope, faith and the power of prayer. As a result, nine students stepped up to be baptized or re-baptized on Sabbath morning.

The weekend also included performances from the Southern Adventist University's (Tenn.) Gym Masters. The team also presented the Sabbath School program. BMA's Aerial Aires joined their performance, offering families and students a demonstration of athletic ability and physical strength.

"God showered our campus with His love, inspiring us and making us yearn for more weekends like that," shared Daniela Castillo ('14).

Tylor Curtis, a senior, makes the ultimate commitment to Jesus Christ.

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 June 15-23, 2012 Camp Meeting Reservation Application
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Date _____

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1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____ 3rd choice _____

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

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

Children	Age	Gender

Full Time Rates/Location	Amount	Total
Dorm room w/2 single beds	\$265.00	\$
Tent w/electricity & floor (1 double or 2 single cots included)	120.00	\$
Small personal tent or trailer space up to 20ft. with electricity (Field by Boys' Dorm)	60.00	\$
Cabin - Keystone (5 sets of bunk beds)	120.00	\$
Keystone Trailer space with electricity usage (trailer size _____ ft.)	120.00	\$
Grove City Trailer space with 30 amp electricity usage (trailer size _____ ft.)	135.00	\$

Part Time Per Day Rates/Location	Amount	Total
Dorm room w/2 single beds Dates Requested _____	\$35.00	\$
Tent with electricity & floor (1 double or 2 single cots included) Dates Requested _____	25.00	\$
Small personal tent/trailer space up to 20ft. with electricity (Field by Boys' Dorm) Dates Requested _____	20.00	\$
Keystone Trailer space with electricity usage (trailer size _____ ft.) Dates Requested _____	25.00	\$
Grove City Trailer space with 30 amp electricity usage (trailer size _____ ft.) Dates Requested _____	30.00	\$

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

Total Charges \$ _____

Payment Enclosed \$ _____

Due \$ _____

PROTOCOL:

1. A completed application with **payment in full** is required for all reservations. Partial payments will be returned to sender. Checks should be made payable to **Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**. Applications will be processed on a first come first served basis only.
2. Telephone reservations for late applicants will only be accepted within the last week prior to camp meeting only.
3. Reservations must be made by the party attending camp meeting. Reservations cannot be made by one party for another.
4. **Children under 18 years of age are not permitted** to stay overnight at any of the camp meeting facilities unless accompanied by an adult.
5. **ABSOLUTELY NO PETS** are allowed in the campgrounds or in the camping areas! Names of local kennels will be provided in your confirmation packet.
6. Use of microwaves, air conditioners, and other electrical appliances are **PROHIBITED** due to the lack of adequate electricity. **THIS INCLUDES ALL RECREATIONAL VEHICLES PARKED IN KEYSTONE WITH 20AMP SERVICE.** (Does not apply to Grove City trailer sites because they all have 30amp service.)
7. We regret that we are unable to provide wheel chairs and other equipment for the disabled.

Signature

Print Name

Date

Potomac People

FEBRUARY 2012

Former Conference President Passes Away

The Potomac Conference is saddened to report the passing of Herb Broeckel, who served the conference for 35 years with his wife, Jeannie. He retired as conference president in 2002.

“Herb served Potomac Conference in many different capacities, from pastor to president, and in each one made a significant contribution to God’s kingdom,” said Bill Miller, current president. “What a blessing and inspiration he was to me! He will be missed.”



During his 52 years of denominational service, Broeckel served Potomac as a pastor and director of the Youth, Religious Liberty and Communication departments. He later became the conference’s executive secretary and then president. He also led the Mountain View and Central California conferences. For the last several years, he pastored the Farmville (Va.) district.

Dave Weigley followed in Broeckel’s footsteps as Potomac president until taking his current title in 2005 as Columbia Union Conference president. “He was a wonderful Christian leader and much loved for his caring approach to leading the Potomac Conference,” Weigley recalled.

Broeckel leaves behind his wife; son Greg; daughter Gail and her husband, Brian Matt; beloved granddaughters Jennifer and Leah; sister Rose Broeckel Cannon and her husband, John; as well as special nieces, nephews and brothers and sisters-in-law.

Seabrook Church Ordains Discipleship Pastor

Family, friends, church members and fellow pastors packed the Seabrook (Md.) church sanctuary for the recent ordination of Jimmy Muñoz, Seabrook’s discipleship pastor. Bill Miller, conference president, presented the homily and spoke to Muñoz and other attending ministry leaders about the utmost importance of having a relationship with God. This, Miller said, should take precedence even over the work of ministry.

Muñoz’s mother, Solmedis Muñoz, shared how proud she is of her son and how the Lord brought them through many unfavorable circumstances during his childhood. She spoke in Spanish and Muñoz’s mother-in-law, Barbara Trecartin, later read an English translation of her moving speech.

“I testify to the truth that He has put the best people in my life and blessed me on the journey that has made this day possible,” Muñoz commented while he thanked a long list of people



Potomac Conference leaders join the Seabrook (Md.) church pastoral team in praying over Jimmy Muñoz and his wife, Rebecca, during his ordination service.

who helped him along the way. He also spoke of his desire to see everyone present that night in the kingdom of heaven.

After the prayer of ordination by John Cress, the conference’s vice president for Pastoral Ministry, and the laying on of hands, Seabrook’s senior pastor, Damein Johnson, congratulated Muñoz and presented him to the congregation.



Jimmy and Rebecca Muñoz thank the Seabrook congregation for their support.

Potomac People

New Market Church Presents Journey to Bethlehem

It was a Sunday evening and the smoke from three fire pits drifted lazily through the cool air. An ancient wood shed sat several yards away—only this one was crowded with four adults, one wriggling baby and a pint-sized donkey. And if you squinted in the right direction, you just might have seen two soldiers on horseback, patrolling for any wayward taxpayers.

These were common scenes at the New Market (Va.) church as it

geared up to present to the community Journey to Bethlehem (J2B), an interactive dramatic recreation of first century Bethlehem. Although J2B was in the works for approximately nine months, director Darlene Anderson readily points out, “This was our first attempt at doing a Christmas program on this scale for the community.” She adds, “The learning curve for us was steep, but we truly enjoyed the preparations and feel so blessed to have had the opportunity to share the real message of Christmas with people up and down the valley.”

The 9,000 sq. ft. recreation of Bethlehem was part of a story told over a space of several acres on the grounds of Shenandoah Valley Academy. Every night more than 100 actors helped re-enact the night of Christ’s birth, complemented by real livestock. The entire production cost about \$30,000 and required the work of more than 450 volunteers. Tours, which were handicap accessible, lasted approximately 45 minutes.

The New Market church hoped for at least 800 guests, but when all of the tickets for the free event “sold out” within four hours, the



New Market church volunteers portray a shepherd worshipping baby Jesus as parents Joseph and Mary look on.

team quickly realized they needed to add more hours and one additional night. The church distributed an additional 700 tickets, and put more than 750 additional guests on a waiting list.

“J2B is a win-win, really,” states Anderson. “It’s a blessing for our church family, and a blessing for our community. And, we sincerely appreciate all the support we received from our members and church family at large. God truly blessed our efforts.”—Shane Anderson



Ellie Anderson, who attends the New Market (Va.) church, leads a donkey during one of the Journey to Bethlehem performances.

Sterling Spanish Church Organized

What started as a dream in our small group became a reality by God’s grace,” said Roque Ayala during the Sterling Spanish com-

pany’s recent organization service. He and Oscar Garcia are pioneers of the Sterling, Va., congregation. Members from eight area Hispanic churches came to witness the high day, where Bill Miller, conference president, presented the key ingredients of a healthy congregation. Miller challenged the congregants to expand the “church fence” in Sterling by welcoming others into God’s family.

When Jorge Ramirez, Potomac’s vice president of Administration, invited forward all who wanted to officially be counted as members of the company, more than 30 people signed the document. “We give God the full credit and applause for the

[organization] of this company,” commented Eliasib Fajardo, host pastor. “Let us not glorify in what we have done; it is what God has done through us.”

Ayala added, “It is a day of joy and thanksgiving. To God be the glory for great things He has done. There were many challenges that brought us to this day, but God has been with us.”



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God is Moving on Our Campus

It is hard to believe that as you read this article, over half of the school year is complete. I continue to be amazed at the Lord's leading as He helps Takoma Academy's (TA) community grow together toward one goal: challenging our young people to develop personal relationships with Christ. This consistent goal has led to a change in the second semester worship schedule; the chaplain now has time to guide us in a school-wide Bible study that includes parents who are able to attend.

This schedule change—combined with our new Parents in Prayer group that meets each Monday morning, with families helping write and sponsor spiritual plays and with local youth pastors giving additional Bible studies to students—continues to demonstrate that the Spirit of God is moving on our campus. He has a mighty work for our students to do in these last days.

Your prayers and continued support are needed as we take this journey with our young people, and as we continue to represent Christ through our ministry.



David Daniels
Principal

Plan B Production Depicts Plan of Salvation

Takoma Academy recently introduced to the community *Plan B*, a dramatic performance designed to share the message of Christ, His love and His ultimate plan of salvation for His children. The play presented a modern-day depiction of the plan of salvation and what happened during the dissension of all the angels from heaven. Written and directed by Derek and Kim Green, the parents of sophomore Derrick

Green, the performance included a cast of TA faculty, students, parents and community members.

Plan B started with conversations among the Godhead and their plan for creation. Lucifer, played by junior Jordan Graham, became jealous because he was not included in the discussion and, therefore, prepared to destroy the Godhead's plan, or Plan A. Lucifer consistently manipulated situations that successfully destroyed Plan A in the Garden of Eden, which forced the Godhead to create Plan B—our Savior, Jesus Christ, coming to Earth to represent the ultimate sacrifice that Satan could not destroy.

"Aside from reaffirming for the audience the loving relationship Christ wants with His children, one of the best aspects of the play is how so many individuals in the community came together to make it a reality," shared David Daniels, principal. He added that this solidified the idea that Takoma Academy's purpose is not only to educate students, but also to make sure their entire community understands the love of Christ and His desire to see all of us in the kingdom.



In Takoma Academy's production of Plan B, junior Jawanza Charles played Joseph, sophomore Derrick Green played Jesus and freshman Elizabeth Hardy portrayed Mary.

TATODAY

School Introduces Standards-Based Grading

Students, parents, teachers, administrators and colleges/universities most commonly use student grades to determine a student's progress and achievement. Students typically receive letter grades in their courses; however, the interpretation of the grade can be ambiguous. Does the grade identify the student's competency in completing a skill or understanding a concept? Or does the grade simply reflect a student's ability to complete a task, turn in their homework on time or take a test?

A common practice is for student grades to be calculated from completed assignments and recorded into weighted categories such as homework, quizzes, projects and tests. Unfortunately, this type of grading focuses mostly on a student's ability to complete and submit assignments. It does not necessarily provide an accurate picture of their understanding.

Takoma Academy administration and teachers believe it to be essential that student grades be a true reflection of what the student knows and their ability to apply these skills; therefore, the school has been reviewing current grading practices, conducting research and designing a new standards-based grading structure.

Standards-based grading begins by establishing specific



learning outcomes (standards) that students are expected to achieve to ensure their college readiness. The clearly identified standards allow for teachers to categorize their grade books by mastery of the standard instead of the type of assessment. For example, instead of categories being homework, quizzes, projects and tests for the English department, the categories may be writing, reading, speaking and listening, and use of language. This allows educators the ability to provide specific feedback to students and parents about a student's progress toward meeting the identified goals in those areas.

Under the standards-based grading model, teachers identify learning objectives, which provide students opportunities to ask questions and get feedback.

TA has already begun integrating the Common Core Standards into the curriculum. These are college and career readiness expectations in the areas of English, math and literacy adopted by 45 states (so far) to provide consistency in student learning. Adding the practice of standards-based grading will continue to help students understand their progress toward meeting those goals.

Takoma Academy administration and teachers believe in ensuring that students learn and master the necessary skills and concepts to be successful in college and the workplace.



TA's new standards-based grading model will allow teachers like Tim Soper to clearly articulate student progress toward meeting learning expectations.

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Phone: (301) 434-4700 ■ ta.edu
Principal and Editor, David Daniels

Vision: Building Character

The stated vision for Washington Adventist University (WAU) is to produce graduates who bring competence and moral leadership to their communities. An essential aspect of this vision is character building. In Ellen G. White's book *Education*, she states: "True education does not ignore the value of scientific knowledge or literary acquirements; but above information it values power; above power, goodness; above the intellectual acquirements, character. The world does not so much need men of great intellect as of noble character. It needs men in whom ability is controlled by steadfast principle" (p. 225).

Further, White said, "Character building is the most important work ever entrusted to human beings; and never before was its diligent study so important as now." My friends please continue to pray for the administration, faculty and staff that as we impart knowledge in business, science, arts and technical skills, that we will model the life and teachings of Jesus to our students and co-workers. Our task is not only to prepare our graduates for the world of work, but also for the new world—eternity.



Weymouth Spence
President

Advancement Vice President Talks Sports, Money

Pinning down Bruce Peifer can be a challenge. On some days, WAU's vice president of Advancement and Alumni Relations has his door open to students or colleagues who drop by to see "coach." On other days, his calendar is booked solid with meetings, as he assumes his role as the member of the WAU leadership team responsible for fundraising.

Peifer, who holds a bachelor's and master's in health/physical education from Loma Linda University (Calif.), came to WAU in 2004. Below, student Kevin Manuel talks to him about his dual passions and goals:

Question: What is your most memorable coaching experience?

Answer: The year at WAU when, for the first time, a young woman qualified for an NCAA track and field championship. I coached her when she ran the 800 meters, but she did not go because that event was held on a Sabbath. It was a memorable experience to see a young person work that hard to attain that goal but still hold on to her beliefs.

Q: What is the most important lesson you have learned from sports?

A: No matter how good you think you are, how hard you have worked and how great you have become at your sport, eventually, there will always be someone better

than you. If that doesn't teach the humility that Christ wanted us to learn, I don't know what does.

Q: What made you decide to work in the Office of Advancement?

A: For 30 years I've had to fundraise for athletic programs. I did this at Oakwood University (Ala.) where we raised \$10 million. Someone saw this and the next thing I knew, I was wearing a suit and raising money for the institution.



Bruce Peifer is pictured embracing his dual roles at the university.

NEWS

School of Health, Science and Wellness Gets New Dean

Karen Benn Marshall, PhD, has been appointed dean of the School of Health Professions, Science and Wellness at Washington Adventist University.

"It is a privilege to be given the opportunity to work at a Seventh-day Adventist institution where I can openly share my faith," said Marshall. "I look forward to working in an environment where students are prepared for wider and more meaningful service."

PHOTOS BY KEVIN MANUEL



Prior to her WAU appointment, Marshall served as chair and professor of Biology at the nearby Montgomery College's Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus. She also taught at Oakwood University

(Ala.) for 10 years and served as director of its Allied Health Program.

Marshall received her terminal degree in science education from Morgan State University in Baltimore. Her research interests include: attitudes toward science and achievement in science, informal science education and achievement in science among African-American students. She has researched, published and lectured extensively on education, science and human anatomy and authored a chapter in the *Handbook of College Science Teaching* as well as the book *The Tough Professor and the Easier Way*.—Keisha Tulloch

Music Building Completed

The first new building in 40 years at Washington Adventist University is now complete. Larry E. Walker, principal for the construction company the Walker Group, declared the Leroy and Lois Peters Music Center (below) finished in December.

The building features cutting-edge technology, multiple practice rooms, libraries, SMART classrooms, recital rooms and teaching studios and is expected to add enormously to the timber of university life, in general, and to the richness of its fine arts programs. Its completion is a punctuation mark on a dream, which has had its fair share of twists and turns.

Funding for the project came

from the state of Maryland, which provided a \$2.2 million grant with the understanding that WAU would match that amount and complete the building within a year. The university board voted the \$2.2 million—\$1 million of which was donated by philanthropists Leroy and Lois Peters of Howard County, Maryland. A formal grand opening of the building is planned for Alumni Weekend, April 13-15.

—Kevin Manuel

Mini Grant Helps Students Pay Tribute to Martin Luther King Jr.

Washington Adventist University recently won a Martin Luther King Jr. Collegiate Challenge Mini Grant for the maximum amount of \$1,000 by the Michigan Campus Compact in partnership with Wisconsin Campus Compact and the Corporation for National and Community Service.



Sophia Ward, PhD (above), student success and engagement specialist, partnered with Dean Nemeka Mason, first-year residence life coordinator, to apply for the grant. The funds went to support a service day in honor of King where several WAU student groups participated.



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Profiles in Caring



Center on Health Disparities Conference attendees included (from left) panel moderator, Gayle Tang, RN, MSN, Senior Director, National Linguistic and Diversity Infrastructure Management, Kaiser Permanente; Marcos Pesquera, Executive Director, Center on Health Disparities; William G. "Bill" Robertson, President & CEO, Adventist HealthCare; United States Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin; and Maryland Del. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, 2011 Blue Ribbon Award winner.



Washington Adventist Hospital
Shady Grove Adventist Hospital
Hackettstown Regional Medical Center
Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital
of Maryland
Adventist Behavioral Health
Adventist Home Care Services
The Reginald S. Lourie Center for Infants
and Young Children
Adventist Medical Group
LifeWork Strategies
Cytology Services of Maryland

The Hope Factor

We were waiting for a table at a local restaurant when a young family came in just behind us. The wife was pushing a stroller with an excited young girl aboard. The husband followed behind her, along with two other people. He was seated in a wheelchair, and both of his legs had been amputated. From his physique and age and demeanor, it seemed quite clear to me that he was a wounded warrior, one of the young American heroes who have made an extraordinary sacrifice for our freedom.

Soon enough we were seated, and the family was seated near us. Out of the corner of my eye, I could see how diligently they all were working to create a great experience out of a simple restaurant visit. The two individuals with this young family seemed to be particularly interested (and possibly skilled) in helping the man adjust and navigate his way through challenging situations, and they were also clearly supporting the rest of the family. The little girl was playful and happy to be with her daddy. Her mom was both cheerful and clearly determined that things go well. There was a lot of smiling, talking and laughing together.

Touched by their circumstances, I was even more inspired by their determination and hopefulness. Especially their hopefulness.

One doesn't need to look too far to find uncertainty in our world—it's everywhere. It looms over our nation and world, and it figures prominently in large and small ways in our lives. A whole host of uncertainties were apparent in that simple familial scene that played out in front of me in the restaurant. But uncertainty does not dominate us. Uncertainty gives rise to hope, and hope changes everything.

Hope empowers determination, unleashes creativity, takes risks, reaches forward, embraces the future and pushes us to keep moving, even (and maybe especially) through uncertainty. And it keeps doing all those things and more even when our circumstances are difficult, unfair and challenging.

If uncertainty has a thousand ways to push into our lives, hope responds with a thousand and one ways to push back. Uncertainty is all around. But I'm responding with hope.

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



Center on Health Disparities Conference

Exploring the Impact of Health Care Reform on Vulnerable Populations

Nearly 300 people attended the Adventist HealthCare Center on Health Disparities conference on Nov. 2 to hear national and regional health leaders and policymakers discuss why health-care reform must continue to move forward in order to make a difference to those vulnerable populations that need it most.

“We look forward to the results of this conference to move forward in addressing health disparities,” said U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Md.), one of the event’s keynote speakers. He noted how the experts and work at the conference would provide valuable insight toward ways to make the health care “a fairer, better system that we can provide in the United States of America.”

The event, held at the University of Maryland University College in Adelphi, Md., also featured Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Additional speakers and panel presentations tackled the question of how the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) has -- and will continue to -- impact the health of underserved populations with the goal of eliminating health disparities. The Center’s Progress Report provided an update on health disparities affecting communities in

the tri-county Maryland region surrounding Washington, D.C., comprised of Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George’s counties.

“Through the Center’s 2011 Progress Report, our expert speakers and panel discussions, we are addressing the impact that health-care reform has had on achieving health equity, especially as evidence continues to show that racial and ethnic minorities in the area are still disproportionately affected by poor health outcomes compared to non-minorities,” said Marcos Pesquera, Executive Director of the Adventist HealthCare Center on Health Disparities.

Maryland Delegate Shirley Nathan-Pulliam (D-Baltimore County) received the Center’s 5th Annual Blue Ribbon Award in recognition of her longstanding commitment to minority health.

“She has been the voice of disparities in the state of Maryland, sounding the drumbeat for 18 years,” said Robert Jepson, Adventist HealthCare’s Vice President of Government Relations and Public Policy. “Delegate Nathan-Pulliam is spreading the word on health disparities and inspiring others to do the same.”

High school seniors Amalia Rivera Oven and Sewit Haile presented the award to Del. Nathan-Pulliam. The students are part of

a group called Teen Ambassadors against Health Disparities that works to educate other teens about how to achieve health equity. The group has testified before the Montgomery County, Maryland School Board. Del. Nathan-Pulliam also arranged for the group to speak before the Maryland State Senate.

Since its start five years ago, Adventist HealthCare’s Center on Health Disparities has worked on research, training, education and health-care services to understand and address the challenges that racial and ethnic minorities face in accessing quality health care and achieving healthy outcomes.

Last year alone the Center delivered culturally competent care training for 6,000 health professionals in the greater Washington region.

“Through its partnership with governments, health providers and numerous community entities, the Center on Health Disparities has made great strides in addressing health disparities in Frederick, Montgomery and Prince George’s counties,” said William G. “Bill” Robertson, President & CEO of Adventist HealthCare. “The Affordable Care Act has created a strong impetus to improve health equity across all populations. We must continue to work together to ensure all our communities have access to health care.”



Robert Jepson, Vice President, Government Relations & Public Policy, Adventist HealthCare (left) and speaker Uma S. Ahluwalia, Director, Montgomery County Department of Health.



(From left) Marilyn Dabady-Lynk, Ph.D., Program Manager, Center on Health Disparities; Gaurov Dayal, M.D., Senior Vice President & Chief Medical Officer, Adventist HealthCare; Joshua Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and Maryland State Delegate Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, 2011 Blue Ribbon Award winner.

View more photos and learn more about the conference at www.adventisthealthcare.com/disparities or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/HealthDisparities

Adventist HealthCare In The News

Adventist HealthCare Becomes Largest Buyer of Green Energy

Adventist HealthCare is now the largest purchaser of green energy of any health-care system in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Green Power Partnership, a national program that recognizes organizations that voluntarily use green power from eligible renewable sources.

Adventist's achievement, which follows the recent expansion of its already substantial Energy and Sustainability Program, is part of an overall strategy deployed by AtSite and The Walker Group, Adventist's energy and sustainability management team. The most recent purchase took place in October.

This energy initiative and earlier efforts have resulted in Adventist HealthCare now purchasing nearly 15% of its electricity in the form of green energy. At 6.75 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) per year of green energy, Adventist has exceeded all other health-care providers participating in the EPA's Green Power Partnership. Through this purchase, Adventist is reducing its carbon dioxide emissions by 5,119 metric tons each year, which is equivalent to each of the following:

- Removing 1,004 passenger vehicles from the roads each year
- Reducing total gasoline consumption by 573,892 gallons annually
- Reducing 11,905 barrels of oil from U.S. oil consumption per year
- Reducing the electricity production necessary to power 638 average homes each year.



Adventist has also recently kicked off an aggressive efficiency and consumption

reduction program that is expected to improve the organization's environmental performance through the removal of an additional 10,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide from its footprint by 2014.

"An integral part of our mission is to improve the health of our communities and an important way to achieve this is by reducing our carbon dioxide emissions," said William G. "Bill" Robertson, President & CEO of Adventist HealthCare. "In addition, the money we save will help us invest in long-term energy efficiency initiatives while advancing our overall mission of providing quality care to our patients."

New Vice President of Operations Joins Shady Grove Hospital



Eunmee Shim took over the role of Vice President of Operations at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in November.

Shim most recently served as Chief Operating Officer for Adventist Health Systems, Florida Hospital Flager in Palm Coast, Fla. Her responsibilities included overseeing clinical and ancillary staff and providing leadership that led to the improvement of quality, patient satisfaction scores and financial performance measures.

She brings a background in process improvement and has successfully launched a comprehensive Cancer Care Program and implemented a Cerner Computerized Provider Order Entry system.

She has more than 20 years of experience in the health-care industry and shares the hospital's commitment to faith-based care. She holds an M.S.N. in Nursing Informatics from Columbia University School of Nursing as well as a B.S.N. from Sahmyook University in Seoul, Korea.

Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital Retains Prestigious Accreditations

Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital of Maryland has been re-accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) International in all four specialty areas – brain injury, spinal cord injury, amputation and stroke. This reaffirms Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital as the only hospital in a five-state area to hold specialty accreditations from CARF International for care of hospitalized patients in all four areas.

These accreditations represent the highest level of recognition that can be awarded to a rehabilitation hospital. Each specialty accreditation lasts for three years. Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital was accredited for its stroke and amputation care in 2008 and for its brain injury and spinal cord injury programs in 2010. With the recent re-accreditations, all of the specialties are now on the same three-year re-accreditation cycle.

"These accreditations demonstrate the exceptional care that stroke, amputation, brain injury and spinal cord injury patients receive from the team at Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital of Maryland," said Dr. Terrence Sheehan, chief medical officer of Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital of Maryland. "We work to help these and all of our patients learn how to adapt to life following injuries and life-altering conditions."

In order to obtain the CARF accreditations, Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital completed a rigorous, peer-reviewed application process as well as a two-day site survey by a CARF team. The process required the rehabilitation team to demonstrate the hospital's commitment to providing the highest quality of care for patients with stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injuries, amputations and other conditions that cause functional limitations, such as, orthopedic and neurological conditions.

Learn more at www.AdventistRehab.com.

La conferencia del Center on Health Disparities

explora el impacto de la reforma de atención médica en poblaciones vulnerables

Cerca de 300 personas asistieron a la conferencia del Center on Health Disparities (Centro de Disparidades en la Salud) del Adventist HealthCare el pasado 2 de noviembre para escuchar a líderes en el campo de la salud y a legisladores nacionales y regionales en su análisis de porqué la reforma de la salud debe continuar avanzando para que se logre una diferencia en aquellas poblaciones vulnerables que más la necesitan.

“Estamos pendientes de los resultados de esta conferencia para continuar abordando las disparidades de la salud” señaló el senador de los EE.UU. Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Md.), uno de los conferencistas principales del evento. Anotó cómo los expertos y el trabajo en la conferencia ofrecerían una perspectiva importante para hacer que la atención médica sea “un sistema más justo y mejor que podamos ofrecer en los Estados Unidos de América”.

El evento, llevado a cabo en University of Maryland University College en Adelphi, Md., también presentó al Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, Secretario del Departamento de Salud e Higiene Mental de Maryland.

Conferencistas adicionales y presentaciones de paneles abordaron la pregunta de cómo la Ley para la protección del paciente y atención asequible (ACA, por sus siglas en inglés) tiene un impacto, y continuará teniéndolo, en la salud de poblaciones marginadas con la meta de eliminar las disparidades de la salud. El informe de progreso del Centro ofreció una actualización de las disparidades en la salud que afectan a comunidades en la región de los tres condados de Maryland que rodean a Washington, D.C., que corresponden a los condados de Frederick, Montgomery y Prince George.

“A través del informe de progreso del Centro del 2011, nuestros conferencistas expertos y las discusiones de paneles, hemos abordado el impacto que la reforma al sistema de salud ha tenido para alcanzar la equidad en salud, especialmente en la medida que la evidencia continúa mostrando que las minorías raciales y étnicas en el área todavía están desproporcionadamente afectadas por resultados de salud deficientes en comparación con las no minorías”, anotó Marcos Pesquera, Director Ejecutivo del Center on Health Disparities del Adventist HealthCare.



Marcos Pesquera, Director Ejecutivo del Center on Health Disparities del Adventist HealthCare (i.) y el Senador de EE.UU. Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Md.).

La delegada de Maryland, Shirley Nathan-Pulliam (D-Condado de Baltimore) recibió el quinto premio anual Blue Ribbon del Centro en reconocimiento por su compromiso de larga data hacia la salud de las minorías.

“Ella ha sido la voz de las disparidades en el estado de Maryland, que ha mantenido el tema sobre la mesa por 18 años”, anotó Robert Jepson, vicepresidente de Relaciones y Política Pública de Adventist HealthCare. “La delegada Nathan-Pulliam está esparciendo la voz acerca de disparidades en la salud y ha inspirando a otros para que hagan lo mismo”.

Los estudiantes de último año de secundaria Amalia Rivera y Sewit Haile entregaron el

premio a la delegada Nathan-Pulliam. Los estudiantes son parte de un grupo llamado Teen Ambassadors (embajadores adolescentes) contra las disparidades de la salud que trabaja para educar a otros adolescentes para alcanzar la equidad en salud. El grupo ha testificado ante el Condado de Montgomery, la Junta Escolar de Maryland. La Delegada Nathan-Pulliam también dispuso que el grupo hablara ante el Senado estatal de Maryland.

Desde que empezó hace cinco años, el Center on Health Disparities del Adventist HealthCare ha trabajado en investigación, capacitación, educación y servicios de atención médica para entender y abordar los retos que las minorías raciales y étnicas enfrentan para tener acceso a atención médica de calidad y para alcanzar resultados positivos.

Tan sólo el año pasado, el Centro ofreció capacitación para brindar servicios médicos con atención a la cultura a 6,000 profesionales de la salud en la región de Greater Washington.

“A través de sus asociaciones con gobiernos, proveedores de salud y numerosas entidades comunitarias, el Center on Health Disparities ha dado grandes pasos para abordar las disparidades en la salud en los condados de Frederick, Montgomery y Prince George”, señaló William G. “Bill” Robertson, Presidente y CEO de Adventist HealthCare. “La Ley de atención médica asequible ha creado un ímpetu fuerte para mejorar la equidad en salud para todas las poblaciones. Debemos continuar trabajando juntos para garantizar que todas nuestras comunidades tengan acceso a la atención médica”.



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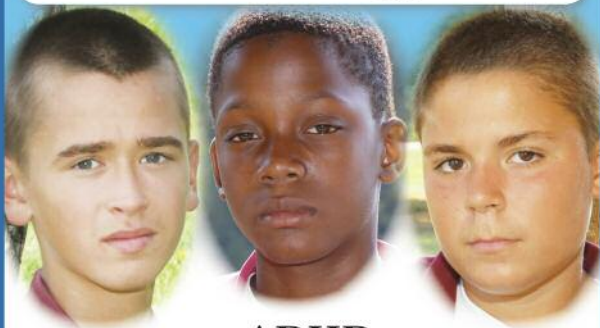
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EMPLOYMENT

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST

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UNIVERSITY seeks professor of film to teach directing, screenwriting and film theory. MFA in film production preferred. Broad knowledge of field, advanced technical skill, professional production experience and strong storytelling abilities are requisite. Must be a Seventh-day Adventist Church member in good and regular

standing. Send cover letter, curriculum vitae, statement of teaching philosophy, portfolio samples and at least three references to Randy Craven, Dean, School of Visual Art/Design, Southern Adventist University, POB 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST

UNIVERSITY seeks professor to teach literature and freshman writing. Top candidate will hold a PhD in English, have a record of successful teaching, be a Seventh-day Adventist Church member in good standing and provide a statement of how he/she will present course content in harmony with each of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14: 6-12. Send CV and materials to Jan Haluska, English Department Chair, POB 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370, or haluska@southern.edu.

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Programs focus on lifestyle change, health education, hands-on cooking and exercise. 14-day sessions: Feb. 26-March 11; March 18-April 1. Cost: \$740. Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, Tenn. Contact Darlene Keith: (931) 724-6706; visit: wildwoodhealthretreat.org; or email: darlenekeith@gmail.com.

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

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SINGLE AND OVER 40? The only interracial group exclusively for Adventist singles over 40. Stay home and meet new friends in the United States, with a pen pal monthly newsletter of members and album. For information, send a large, self-addressed, stamped envelope to ASO 40, 2747 Nonpareil, Sutherlin, OR 97479.

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MARYLAND ADVENTIST PODIATRIST: Dr. Scott Nutter, highly trained, experienced and board certified, is available in several locations to help your foot/ankle problems, including arthritis, heel pain, spurs, diabetes, calluses, ingrown nails, sprains, fractures, warts, bunions, etc. Surgery, if it is needed, at Adventist hospitals. Laurel: (301) 317-6800; Greenbelt: (301) 345-5200; or Columbia: (410) 531-6350.

MOVE WITH AN AWARD-WINNING AGENCY: Apex Moving & Storage partners with the General Conference to provide quality moves at a discounted rate. Call us for your relocation needs. Adventist beliefs uncompromised. Call Marcy Danté at (800) 766-1902 for a free estimate. Visit us at apexmoving.com/adventist.

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SUMMER GREAT CONTROVERSY TOUR, June 22–July 5, with Dr. Gerard Damsteeg of Andrews University. See prophecies of Daniel and Revelation come alive! Visit Rome, Italy and Reformation sites in the Waldensian Valleys, Switzerland, Germany and France. A most exciting experience! Call or fax: (269) 471-5172, email: gctours@mac.com.

CAPE COD VACATION: An Adventist family will rent weekly, biweekly, etc., their lovely, fairly new, spacious and semi-contemporary vacation home on beautiful Cape Cod, Mass. 3BR, 1.5BA, Jacuzzi tub, washer/dryer, cable TV, dishwasher, microwave, great room with cathedral beam ceiling

Sunset Calendar

	Feb 3	Feb 10	Feb 17	Feb 24	Mar 2
Baltimore	5:29	5:37	5:45	5:53	6:00
Cincinnati	6:01	6:09	6:17	6:25	6:32
Cleveland	5:45	5:53	6:02	6:11	6:19
Columbus	5:53	6:01	6:10	6:18	6:25
Jersey City	5:16	5:24	5:33	5:41	5:49
Norfolk	5:32	5:40	5:47	5:54	6:01
Parkersburg	5:49	5:57	6:05	6:13	6:20
Philadelphia	5:22	5:30	5:38	5:46	5:54
Pittsburgh	5:40	5:49	5:57	6:05	6:13
Reading	5:24	5:32	5:41	5:49	5:57
Richmond	5:36	5:43	5:51	5:58	6:05
Roanoke	5:46	5:54	6:01	6:08	6:15
Toledo	5:52	6:01	6:10	6:18	6:27
Trenton	5:20	5:28	5:36	5:45	5:52
Wash., D.C.	5:31	5:39	5:47	5:55	6:02

and skylights, outdoor shower, huge deck, fenced-in backyard with a small swing set and a sand-box, on .5 acre—just 900 feet from a great beach. Call (301) 596-9311.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST PODIATRISTS are now signing up on Facebook to network, dinner devotional at national meetings, advertise for associates/ partnerships (position available in Maryland) and to sell practices. Please tell every Seventh-day Adventist podiatrist you know to visit our page and "like us" on Facebook at: *Seventh-day Adventist Podiatrists*.

SABBATH SUNDOWN SERENADE CONCERTS, February/early March schedule, at the Hagerstown (Md.) church: February 11, at 5 p.m., the superbly talented soprano, Karla Rivera Bucklew; February 25, at 5 p.m., Jermain Cain on the three-manual Digital Allen Organ; March 3, at 5 p.m., the Williamsport (Md.) Church Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Harry Mayden; and March 10, at 5 p.m., Kelly Mowrer, international concert pianist and host of *Live At The Well* program

on 3ABN. Everyone is welcome. Church location: 11507 Robinwood Drive in Hagerstown (21740). For additional information, call (301) 733-4411. To request a copy of the Winter-Spring 2012 Hagerstown Sabbath Serenade Concert Calendar, send your email address to office@hagerstownadventist.org.

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES ALUMNI WEEKEND, April 13-15. Join us for the grand opening of the Leroy & Lois Peters Music Center, April 14, at 8 p.m. Visit wau.edu/alumni for a list of events and activities, or call (301) 891-4133 for more information.

PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE'S MARRIAGE RETREAT, themed "Love on the Farm," will be held March 24-26. The featured speakers will be Claudio and Pamela Consuegra, North American Division Family Ministries directors. It will be held at the Best Western Premier Central Hotel and Conference Center in Harrisburg, Pa. To register online, visit paconference.org, go to the Ministries page and click on Family Ministries. For more information, contact Jeanne Hartwell at jhartwell@paconference.org or (610) 374-8331.

OBITUARIES

GUEST, Patricia A., born November 25, 1939, in Atlanta, GA.; died June 28, 2011, in Womelsdorf, Pa. She was a member of the Reading Kenhorst Blvd. church in Reading Pa. Survivors: her step-brothers, Jeffrey and Nonathan Guest; her uncles, George and Jack Huggins; her cousins: Florence Erwin, and Donald, Tim and Bruce Huggins.

KEENEY, LeRoy P., Jr., born June 11, 1959, in Lebanon, Pa.; died July 10, 2011, in Womelsdorf, Pa. He was a member of the Kenhorst Blvd. church in Reading, Pa. Survivors: his wife, Annamarie; his sons, Christian and Christopher; and his daughters, Natasha Adams and Nichole Schlear.

LAYTON, Seward F., born May 27, 1924, in Johnstown, Pa.; died May 26, 2011, in Johnstown. He was a member of the Johnstown church and served as head elder. He is survived by his wife, Doris (Coughenour) Layton; his daughters: Janice (David) Lincoln of Summerville, N.C., Beverly (Joseph) Demma of Xenia, Ohio, and Susan Constable of Berrien Springs, Mich.; his sons, Frederick (Joyce) Layton of Berrien Springs, and Daniel Layton

of Johnstown; 12 grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren.

MEIER, Humberto J., died March 11, 2011, in Libertador San Martin, Entre Rios, Argentina, after battling leukemia. Born in Brazil to missionary parents, he began working in health ministry in 1963 through 1973 in Peru on the Amazon mission launches and at the Nevati Station for the Inca Union Mission and the East and South Peru missions. In 1973 he received a call from the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference and immigrated his family to the United States to pastor the New Orleans Spanish church, and later assisted in planting the New Orleans Kenner Spanish church. In 1979 Pastor Meier began his ministry in the Potomac Conference, helping to establish and build the Washington Spanish church, and later pastoring the Rockville Spanish, Capital Spanish, Woodbridge Spanish, Manassas Spanish and Vienna Spanish churches. He retired in 1997 from the Potomac Conference. Survivors: his wife, Mary Lou Palau Meier; his daughter, Monica McCartney; his sons, Carlos Arturo Meier and Juan Meier; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; two brothers, a sister, and numerous cousins.

PEARSON, Virgil "Pete," born September 26, 1930, in Allen County, Ind.; died July 4, 2010, in Hicksville, Ohio. He was a member of the Hicksville (Ohio) church. Survivors: his wife of 59+ years, Betty Pearson of Hicksville; his son, Alan (Jo) Pearson of Portland, Ore.; his daughter, Wendy (Mark) Wehrung of Sheridan, Wyo.; and grandsons: Andrew and Ryan Pearson of Portland; Reid Pearson of Culver City, Calif.; and Anthony Aiello of Sheridan, Wyo.

TRESSLER, Ruth J., born December 16, 1931, in Coudersport, Pa.; died July 1, 2011, in Apollo, Pa. She was a member of the Greensburg (Pa.) church, where she served as Sabbath School superintendent and children's division leader, as well as VBS coordinator at the Leechburg church from 1960-1980. She taught school in Coudersport, Pa. and Pittsburgh, Pa., schools, plus more than 30 years at a local public school. Survivors: her husband, William (Bill) Tressler of Apollo; her daughter, Vicky (Gilbert) Pioche of Farmington, N.M.; her son Ken (Lisa) Tressler of Home, Pa.; her sisters, Betty Calder of Ocala, Fla., and Rita Lindgren of Twin Falls, Idaho; four grandchildren; and five step-grandchildren.



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