

VISITOR



CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

DECEMBER 2012 • VOLUME 117 • ISSUE 12

Ministry in Motion

Telling the Story

* In New Market, Va.,
Bethlehem Comes to Life

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Ministry in Motion

Alexis A. Goring

Seventh-day Adventists employ a number of creative ways to share their faith and minister to others. As you look for ways to reach your community this holiday season, and in the year ahead, we hope to inspire you with these imaginative examples of ministry in motion.

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About the Cover: Joseph, played by Mark Zimmerman, and baby Jesus, played by Sophia Rivera, both from the New Market (Va.) church, are participants in the church's annual Journey to Bethlehem production hosted at Shenandoah Valley Academy. Photographed by Monica Grimes.

On the Web



Video – Steve Pacheco is a police officer and Seventh-day Adventist who started an organization to solve a problem. “When I was growing up, we couldn't play sports because we didn't play on Sabbath,” he recalls. “I don't want Sabbath to be a barrier to excellence for our youth.” His sports league, Maryland Excel, is a burgeoning ministry that's helping youth pursue excellence while honoring their faith. Meet him in this month's *Columbia Union Story* at columbiaunion.org/ videos, or scan this barcode using a free QR code reader app.

Calendar – Our 2013 *Visitor Calendar* is coming! The theme is “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made,” and it will feature God's creatures, great and small. Look for it in your mailbox next month. For additional, free copies, email bweigley@columbiaunion.net.

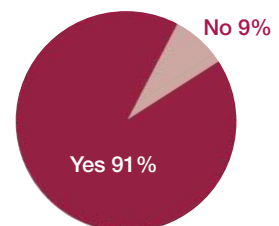


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Facebook – Are you a fan of our *Visitor* Facebook page? Connect with us at facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor and click the “Like” button. Then, share your church and school news and photos, promote your upcoming events or vote on next month's question: What age is your pastor—18-35, 36-49 or 50+?

Visitor Facebook Poll

Do you put up a Christmas tree?



Source: facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor

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MISSION STATEMENT ■ 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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Volume 117 ■ Issue 12

We Are Storytellers

Our *Visitor* team has the best job. We are storytellers. We help tell the story of what God is doing in and through His people in the Columbia Union.



We strive to find creative ways to tell your stories through the *Visitor* magazine, columbiunion.org website, email news, *Columbia Union Story* videos on YouTube, photos, the annual calendars, Facebook, Twitter, workshops and worship programs.

WHAT MAKES A STORY GOOD?

Everybody loves a story and everybody has a story. But, what makes a story good? In school, our teachers taught us that every story must have a beginning, middle and ending, but there's so much more. Stories paint pictures in our minds. Connect us. Move us beyond our circumstances. Help us see another point of view. Record history. And, help us remember what we otherwise might forget.

Stories come in different forms. Negro spirituals are testimonies of slaves relayed through music. The diaries of Anne Frank brought the horrors of the Holocaust to light. Garrison Keillor shares humorous accounts of life in Lake Wobegon via his radio program. Nursery rhymes share life lessons with our little lambs.

The Bible, often called God's Letter, is chock full of stories. I think the reason they are so good is that they make God real, relevant and relatable. Stories bring the Bible to life and help us know that God understands our humanness, frailties, needs, experiences, hunger and prayers. Through stories, God teaches, grows, prepares, calls and fills us with what we need most—love, grace and hope.

We laugh at the stories about people in the Bible, but we also learn from them. One of my favorites is the story of Elijah. In one day, he goes from victoriously calling down fire and then rain from heaven, to running for his life and praying to die. Sarah laughs at God and then laughs with joy over the birth of her son. Martha and Mary help us know that we aren't the only ones learning to play nice in the sandbox.

Jesus was a master storyteller. He used stories to teach, convict and convert. His story touched hearts, changed minds, transformed lives and changed the world.

Sometimes we wonder if you're reading our stories. But, we were thankful to learn from our *Visitor* survey (see highlights on page 5) and the Google Analytics Web usage report that you *are* reading the stories we share. Yet, more than that, our prayer is that these stories will touch hearts, change minds, transform lives and even change the world.

Celeste Ryan Blyden is editor and publisher of the Columbia Union Visitor.

Newsline

TAASHI ROWE



RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AWARD CONFERRED AT FESTIVAL

Walter Carson (pictured, far right), union vice president and general counsel, confers the first Adrian T. Westney Religious Liberty Award on Sen. Roger P. Manno (pictured, center, with the Westney family) at the union's first religious liberty festival. The senator supported a religious accommodation bill pending in the Maryland General Assembly that would have helped Seventh-day Adventists find religious accommodation in the workplace. Although the bill did not pass, Carson expressed his appreciation for Manno's support.—*Beth Michaels*

COLUMBIA UNION GIVES \$40,000 TOWARD SANDY RELIEF EFFORTS

At last month's Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee meeting, members voted to give \$40,000 to the Allegheny East and New Jersey conferences to aid them in their Superstorm Sandy relief efforts. Pictured in prayer are (left to right) Rob Vandeman, union executive secretary; José H. Cortés, New Jersey Conference president; Henry J. Fordham, Allegheny East Conference president; Seth Bardu, union treasurer; and Dave Weigley, union president.

Read more at columbiaunion.org/2012yearendmeetings.

16 WOMEN APPROVED FOR ORDINATION

Following the Columbia Union Conference Special Constituency's historic July 29 decision to ordain pastors without regard to gender, the union executive committee voted to approve the ordination of 16 women pastors. The women include Allegheny East Conference's Brenda Billings, Paula Olivier and Lisa Smith-Reid; Ohio Conference's Linda Farley, Lori Farr, Sandra Pappenfus and Carmen

Seibold; and Potomac's Karen L. Cress, Sharon Cress, Jennifer Deans, Debbie Eisele (below), Cheryl O'Fill and Sonia Perez. The vote included emeritus credentials for Chesapeake Conference's Charlotte McClure and Josephine Benton, the first female pastor presented for ordination in 1973.

The ordination approvals took place days before this year's General Conference Annual Council, where a voted document regarded the actions of the Columbia Union (along with that of the Pacific and North German union conferences, whose constituents also approved inclusive ordination) "as serious mistakes." The statement also said, "The world church does not recognize actions authorizing or implementing ministerial ordination without regard to gender."

Shortly before the Annual Council discussion, the union's three officers, Dave Weigley, president; Robert Vandeman, executive secretary; and Seth



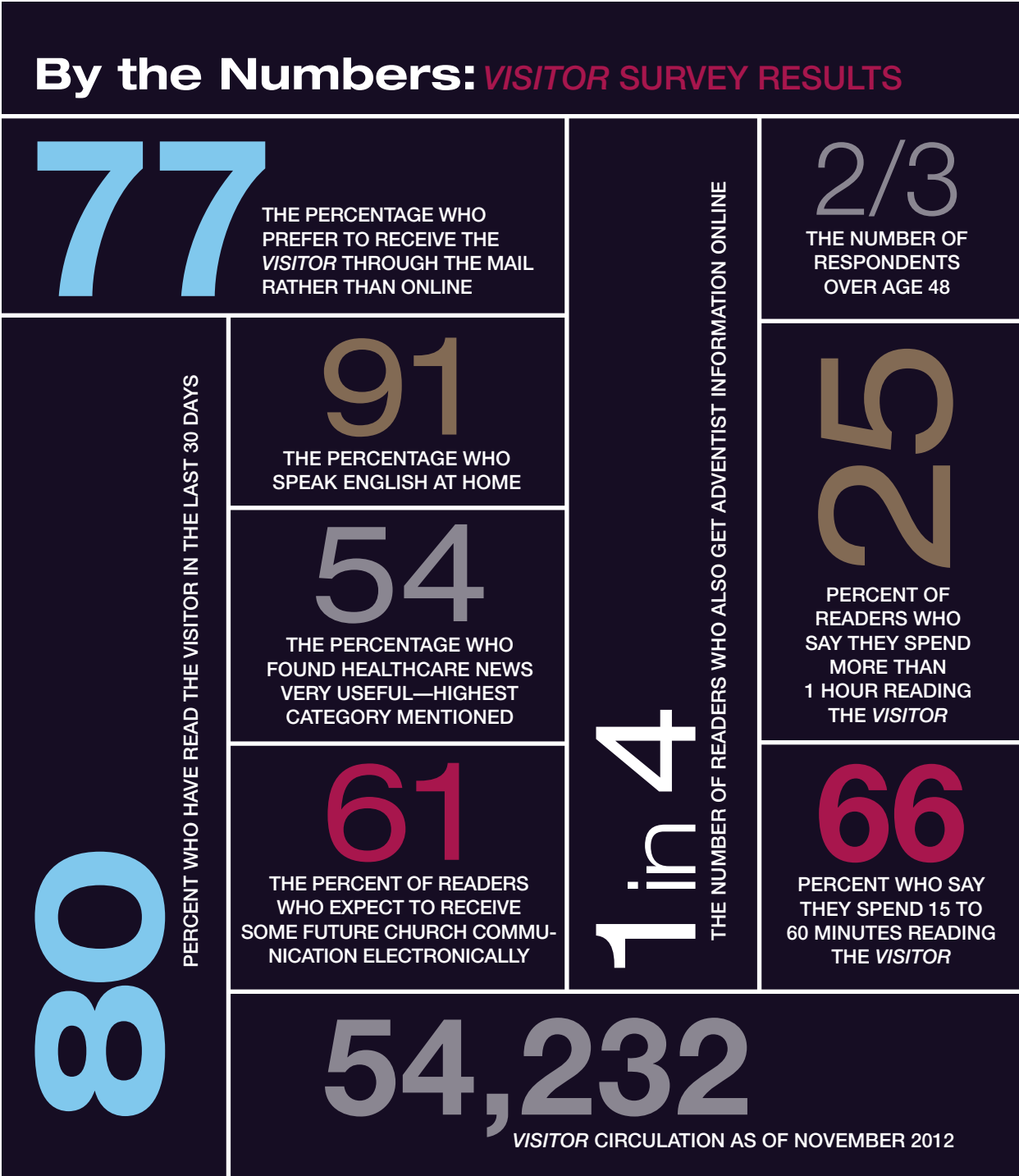
Bardu, treasurer, released a statement appealing for understanding stating, "We believe that God calls whom He chooses and our responsibility and privilege is to fully recognize His proven calls. ... While we in no way wish to force others to take this step, we believe it is necessary in our field and in the context of the culture in which we minister."

The world church recently launched a study on the theology of ordination that is now expected to explore women's ordination as well.



VISITOR READERS SURVEYED

Do members read the *Visitor*? To find out, the Columbia Union Conference *Visitor* Publishing Board (comprised of the union officers, the editor and presidents of the union’s eight conferences) commissioned Barna Group to conduct a scientific study and assess the value of the 117-year-old monthly news magazine. During this past summer, Barna called 607 members, randomly chosen from the mailing list, and inquired about their current consumption of news, information and spiritual articles; opinions about the *Visitor*; reading habits; and preferences for receiving church news in the future. According to editor and publisher Celeste Ryan Blyden, one of the key objectives was to learn whether members prefer to receive the *Visitor* by mail or online. Here’s a look at Barna’s key findings.





‘La imposición de manos’ es un reconocimiento público de mi llamado a servir en la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día. No siento que sea más especial ante el Señor -yo ya soy su hijo- pero claro que siento una mayor responsabilidad que es proporcional a la divina gracia y amor que Jesús me ha prometido. —Eliasib Fajardo, pastor de las iglesias Arlington, Metro NOVA y Sterling Spanish de Potomac Conference en Virginia durante su reciente ordenación. En la fotografía con su esposa Yerusi y sus hijos Jeriel y Jereli Adali.

ARTICULO ESPECIAL DE VISITOR: MINISTERIO EN MOVIMIENTO

Tradicionalmente los cristianos han utilizado la actuación para transmitir mensajes de esperanza y del amor de Dios. Los jóvenes



participantes de Manos para Jesús, han encontrado formas creativas y amenas de usar sus manos para ayudar a otros a alabar a Dios: Mimos y marionetas.

“Lorena Rodríguez y yo pensamos que este era el nombre perfecto para el ministerio, porque enfatiza que la obra que hacemos es toda para la gloria de Dios”, dijo Jennifer Segovia, miembro de la iglesia Hispana de Langley de Potomac Conference en Takoma Park, Md., sede del grupo. Aproximadamente diez adultos jóvenes dan voluntariamente de su tiempo, pero también son bienvenidos los jóvenes de todas las edades. Entérese de las otras formas creativas en que la membresía de Columbia Union Conference están glorificando a Dios en inglés en la pág. 8—Alexis A. Goring

IGLESIAS DE NEW JERSEY AYUDAN A VÍCTIMAS DE SANDY

Luego que la súper tormenta Sandy azotara la Costa Este, los miembros de las iglesias Vineland Spanish y Panamericana Spanish, de New Jersey Conference en Atlantic City, pastoreadas por Carlos Torres, entraron en acción. Poniéndose en contacto con sus amigos por medio de mensajes de texto y a través de Facebook solicitaron su ayuda para recolectar alimentos y ropa (en la fotografía) para los residentes afectados en Atlantic City.

Un sábado por la tarde cargaron dos camiones y se dirigieron hacia Atlantic City. Al llegar, los miembros de iglesia se estacionaron en un campo cerca de la playa, los residentes llegaban de los edificios vecinos a recibir alimentos calientes y ropas para el frío. Los miembros de iglesia eran como una visión de esperanza para los cansados residentes sufriendo de frío por la falta de electricidad en sus casas y departamentos.



DOCE GUÍAS MAYORES DE PHILADELPHIA SON INVESTIDOS

La iglesia Philadelphia Spanish I de Allegheny East Conference recientemente invistió a doce guías mayores. Esta fue la primera graduación de este tipo en la ciudad para los miembros del Concilio de Iglesias Hispánicas de la asociación.

“I Get To Do What I Enjoy.”

Jerico Aldana brings tremendous positive energy to every aspect of his life – from his daily patient care interactions to his hobbies of bowling and skateboarding. He recognizes that Loma Linda is a place where people share common values and where his desire to grow professionally is supported. Jerico is one of the people who help to make Loma Linda a center of clinical excellence and supportive faith-based care.

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- Director – Public Relations: Job #52051
- Intern – Business: Job #52549
- Management Resident: Job #52548
- Manager – Global Finance: Job #52466

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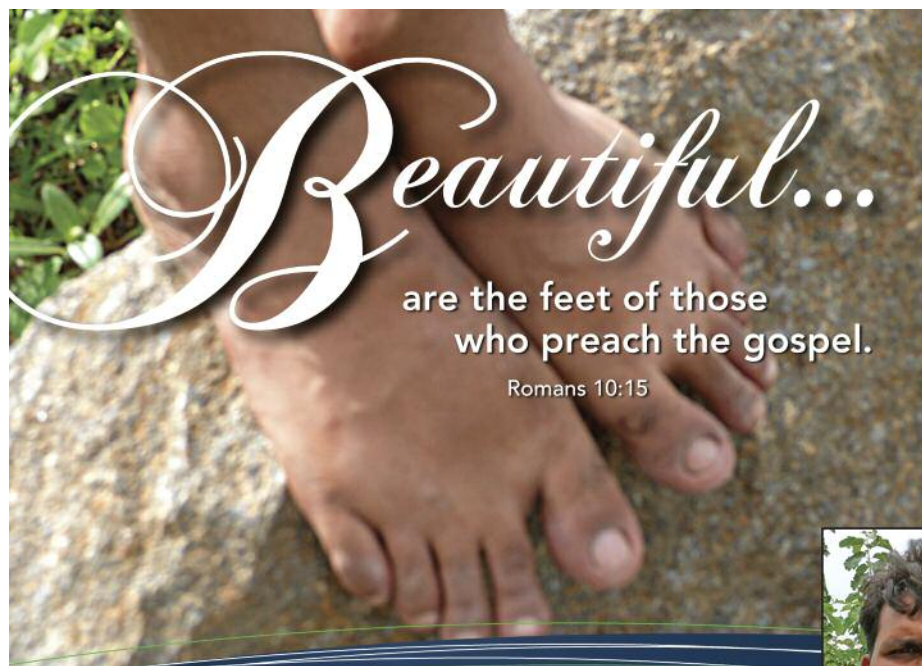


Jerico Aldana
Perioperative Technician



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Beautiful...

are the feet of those
who preach the gospel.

Romans 10:15

Worker: J. Kishor
Village: Valvadam
Country: India
Baptisms: 700

For five years, J. Kishor pastored a non-Adventist church in India.

Then one day he met an Adventist pastor at the local Christian bookshop. The two men become friends. Kishor took Bible studies and was baptized.

Now, as a Gospel Outreach worker, he shares with others the Bible truths that have brought him peace and joy.



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You can adopt a worker like J. Kishor.
Call or visit online:
goaim.org/adopt.

Ministry in *motion*

Alexis A. Goring

Seventh-day Adventists employ a number of creative ways to share their faith and minister to others. As you look for ways to reach your community this holiday season, and in the year ahead, we hope to inspire you with these imaginative examples of ministry in motion.

A Travel in Time

While traveling through the rustic, 9,000 square-foot replica village of ancient Bethlehem, with walls that rise 12 feet, there are plenty of stimuli to engage your senses. Pit fires burning along the route interrupt the cold night air, and tiki torches



light the path against the night sky. There are contrasting scents of smoke, freshly baked pita bread and live cattle. You can also delight in sampling homemade lentil soup while observing street market professionals hard at work. There are even little boys who expertly weave through the crowd pretending to pick pockets.

When the bustling city scene concludes, a guide leads your group of travelers to a manger just outside the town's walls. There you join a crowd gathered in quiet awe to observe Mary cradle baby Jesus while Joseph hovers protectively nearby.

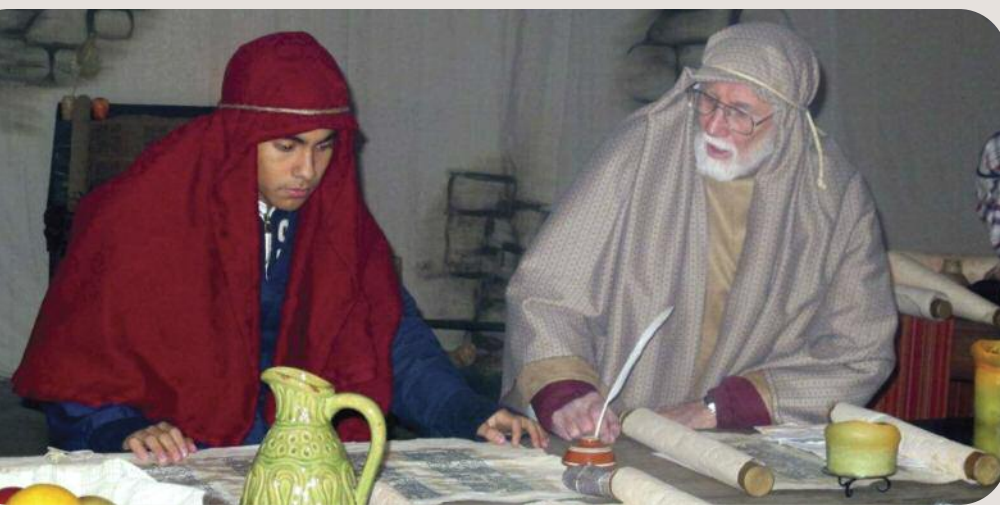
This travel back in time to one of the most renowned biblical towns, a ministry known as

Journey to Bethlehem (J2B), is made possible by the talents of more than 100 Seventh-day Adventist volunteers of diverse ages in and around New Market, Va. The Christmas production, hosted on the grounds of Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA), is expected to draw roughly 2,300 visitors this holiday season for their second annual succession of performances.

Journeys begin inside Potomac Conference's New Market church, where visitors register and enjoy the sounds of the season performed by Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary (SVAE) students. Guides rotate in to greet visitors, put them into "family" groups, then lead them outdoors to experience life during the first century.

Before travelers leave to contemplate what they've seen, they are guided into a tent, an area the event organizers call the evangelism booth. Here visitors receive free literature and hot cider, while Shane Anderson, senior pastor of the New Market church, asks them to share thoughts about their journeys and then delivers a homily.

Journey to Bethlehem is the brainchild of Shane's wife, Darlene. The idea came to her in early 2011, but she waited to proceed until she received confirmation from God



that it was His will. She then started working with talented members of her church to make the dream a reality. Anderson asked SVAE teacher Julie Fralick to write a skeleton script for J2B, then met with an editorial team to enhance it. She recruited Joy Lipscomb, a certified drama director, to do a walk-through of the different scenes and contribute to the storytelling. Anderson and Lipscomb also worked closely to cast the parts and supervise rehearsals.

“We had a real blacksmith run a blacksmith shop, a real potter making pottery for the guests to watch, educators teaching at the school of the rabbis, music teachers composing and performing music, barbers shaving heads of actors who had ‘taken a Nazarite vow’ and a chef baked authentic Middle Eastern bread in a brick oven that he built for the occasion,” shares Anderson. “Some of our actors hadn’t done much acting before, but the whole J2B experience still took the breath away from our guests.”

Anderson credits her church, as well as SVA and SVAE students and staff, for making the holiday production possible. It’s become quite popular among area Christians as well as the curious, which has caused the team to increase their number of scheduled performances, last year and again already this year. Like the gift of salvation, admission to J2B is free, thanks to conference funding and church donations. And, this holiday season, they hope to once again draw hearts to Jesus through drama.

Watch the promo trailer, see behind-the-scenes photos and get more info about Journey to Bethlehem at j2bnewmarket.com.



Hands of Praise

The young participants of Manos Para Jesus have found several imaginative and entertaining ways to use their hands to help others praise God: mime *and* puppetry. “In English, Manos Para Jesus means Hands for Jesus,” explains Jennifer Segovia (pictured, left, with her sister, Joana), a member of Potomac Conference’s Langley Park Spanish church in Takoma Park, Md., where the group is based. “Lorena Rodriguez and I thought this was a perfect name for the ministry because it emphasizes that the work we do is all for the glory of God.”

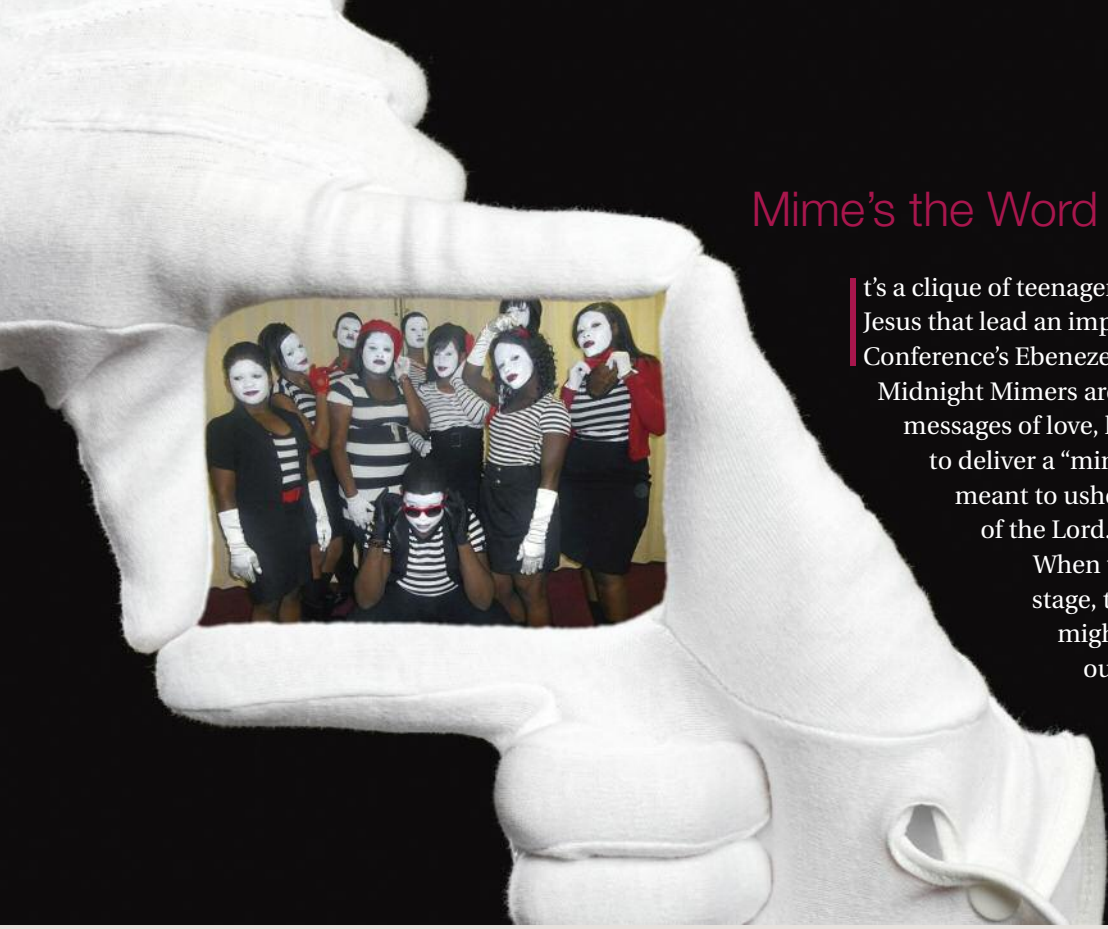
Rodriguez created Manos Para Jesus two years ago and serves as the group’s leader, while Segovia helps organize their events and performances. Approximately 10 young adults volunteer their time to this ministry, but youngsters of all ages are welcome. They hold practices once a week to prepare for performances at churches in the greater Washington, D.C., area. Although miming is their primary outreach, they also use hand puppets to minister to children.

When they’re not ministering at church, Manos Para Jesus members take their outreach efforts to the streets—feeding the homeless and hosting health fairs. “The ministry helps keep members active in church, especially teenagers,” says Segovia. “It is a great way to serve God in a creative way. When you’re doing something for the Lord full heartedly, you do feel His presence.”

The troupe has big dreams and hopes to one day perform in venues outside of the United States, such as Brazil.

Write to manosparajesus@gmail.com to schedule Manos Para Jesus for your event.





Mime's the Word

It's a clique of teenagers with a passion for sharing Jesus that lead an impactful ministry at Ohio Conference's Ebenezer Haitian church. The Midnight Mimers are skilled at conveying lyrical messages of love, hope and faith and promise to deliver a "mind-opening experience" meant to usher viewers into the presence of the Lord.

When the mimers take to the stage, their white-painted faces might initially appear humorous, but as the music begins and the troupe moves into perfectly syncopated action, the heartfelt routine begets

An Act of Faith

Although she was raised in an Adventist home and taught that Christians should isolate themselves from all things Hollywood, Ina Farrell now feels differently. "You don't isolate yourself from Hollywood, you *insulate* yourself," she explains. "Insulation is where you are certified in the field, you know who you are and you know

what people need. Then you go out into the world to be that light."

Farrell is an accomplished playwright and actor with an undergraduate degree in theatre, who put her dreams on hold to work a traditional job for many years. When her dreams kept tugging at her heart, the member of Allegheny East Conference's Germantown church in Philadelphia decided in 2006 to create Heavensong Entertainment.

Her theater is a family-friendly place where Farrell and her production team make it their duty to immerse the audience into a story, producing works that speak to all people and witnesses for Christ. The plots address issues like finances, health, parenting, faith, law and principles for living. Theater attendants are greeted with realistic set designs accompanied by convincing background soundtracks, featuring everything from trotting horses and a bustling marketplace, to a busy freeway. Her family-friendly creations have gained positive recognition, including a people's choice award at the 2011 Philadelphia Urban Theater Festival for her play "The Other Side of Love."

"I think that it can be challenging initially to work with the industry, but if you just write good theater, and you happen to be a believer, then your convictions are going to come through," she states.



respect for this talented ensemble. Through choreographed movements and exaggerated facial expressions, they interpret the lyrics of powerfully spiritual songs and hymns.

Five young Ebenezer Haitian members launched Midnight Mimers in the summer of 2010, but it has quickly grown to 10 high school guys and girls, aged 14 and up. The ministry has attracted youth of all backgrounds and faiths in the Columbus, Ohio, area, such as J.J. Pierre. Pierre once lacked any motivation to attend church but is now a baptized member of the Ebenezer Haitian church and the group's director. He devotes time to writing and choreographing the group's performances for churches and religious events. He's even started a mime group for younger members, aged 10 and under, who want to participate in outreach.

Ebenezer pastor Vergniaud Angrand is proud of his youth for their imaginative approach to worship. "Whether performed by only one individual or the whole troupe of about 15 members, each song brings the audience [within the church] to an atmosphere of true worship, or a level of entertainment outside the church setting," he says.

To have the Midnight Mimers perform at your church or event, contact midnightmimers@gmail.com.

Farrell clarifies that Heavensong Entertainment does a lot more than drama, which explains why the company slogan is "Where the Arts, Education and Faith Meet the Marketplace!" They are a content development and production firm that, in addition to stage plays, produces uplifting and entertaining content for the public, like children's books, expert blogs, even greeting cards. Some of the content is still in development.

"Teaching, training, mentoring, encouraging and motivating others to meaningful and lasting change has always been important to me," she shares. "Developing content that does this, and bringing it to the marketplace, is a part of fulfilling what I believe is my purpose."

Myheavensong.com: Get DVDs, a list of upcoming shows, cast pictures, interviews and much more. Also, follow them on Facebook and at twitter.com/myheavensong.

Youtube.com/user/myheavensong: For behind the scenes footage, clips, trailers and teasers.

Contact: info@myheavensong.com



Sharing Victory in Christ

It is the night of the event and you've read the reviews—it's going to be good! What you wait to witness is not only a concert, or just a play; it's an experience. The mix of gospel and contemporary music with scriptural sermonettes, drama and personal testimony is sure to make an emotional impact and to help you connect with God in a whole new way.

Behind the curtains, the talent prepares to offer a

memorable performance. Out front a full live band entertains the growing crowd. Just before the actors, musicians and event host take their positions, they join hands and bow their heads to pray. Then, The Victory Experience begins.

"It's such a blessing to be a part of something that was completely birthed by God," says member Debbie Howell. "And, it's a blessing to come together with people who have a passion for seeking God and, through that relationship, have a heart to reach out to others."

A Laughing Matter

Dan and Richa Stevens actually do fool around when it comes to their ministry in the Kettering, Ohio, area. The husband and wife team started clowning, face painting and ballooning about 12 years ago as a way to weave Christ into education and evangelism.

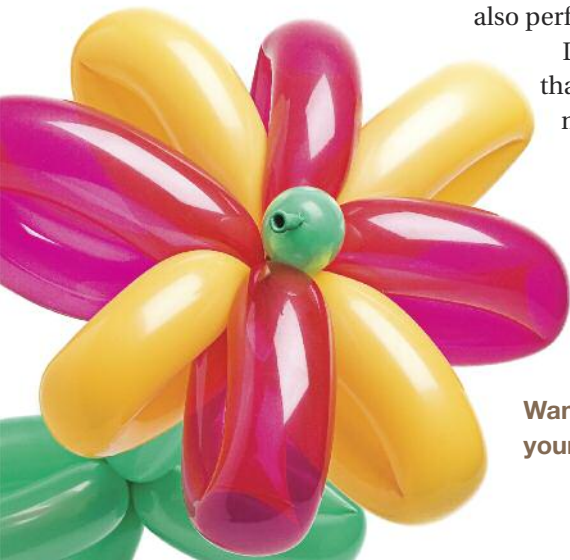
The fun-loving couple are professional Auguste clowns, the "least intelligent, yet most beloved." Richa, the chaplain at Kettering Medical Center, converts into Oopsie Heartwiggle to help patients of all ages temporarily forget their pain and worries. Dan, the administrative pastor at Ohio Conference's Kettering church, is an event clown named Dandy Doodle, who regularly contributes to fairs and parades, waving and stopping occasionally to, well, act silly.

The pair also paints faces of eager children who wish to be transformed into everything from animals to princesses to butterflies and mice. "We try to tell a story and teach a spiritual lesson that comes with the face painting we're doing," explains Dan. "Say a kid wants to be a mouse. While we're painting the whiskers and the nose, we're talking about how the mouse can jump and fall from a three-story building and not get hurt because God has gifted them in that way, and just like God has gifted the mouse, He has gifted you."

Balloon tying is the final part of the Stevens' three-fold ministry, and is Richa's specialty. Nowadays she primarily shares this talent at nursing homes making swords, hats, flowers and horses, but she also performs at women's wellness events, festivals and churches.

Dan and Richa want others to understand that their goal is to do more than help others have fun—it's about reaching people for Christ. "It isn't as much about clowning and ballooning and face painting as much as it is about ministry for us, because I can reach people that I couldn't reach as a hospital chaplain," shares Richa. "People let down their guard; they can talk. Sometimes when I'm face painting, a child will tell [me] their little heart. It's a time to minister to them and tell them Jesus loves them. It's not about what I do, it's about the relationships, and I know it's that way for Dan too."

Want to have Oopsie Heartwiggle and Dandy Doodle teach your youngsters (or young at heart) about God? Email dan@ketsda.org.





The Victory Experience was born in 2009 following a trying time for Summer Pearson (pictured, below), the group's founder. "In the midst of that [difficult time], I just began crying out to God, asking Him for direction, asking Him why certain things were happening, and I was just led to dig deeper into the Word of God," she recalls. "In that process, God started speaking to me about having victory, even in your trials, even in your struggling and in your pain."

God also planted a seed in Pearson's mind about a program to highlight that victory. She says God told her exactly who should be involved—some are

Christians of other denominations, what songs to sing, even the type of venues to perform in. It was the first time Pearson had received such a vision from God, and she was faithful to write everything down.

Later that year, Pearson felt impressed by God that it was time to get things started. Everyone she approached agreed to be a part of the ministry, including her mother, Gina

Anderson-Ford, who she asked to be the manager.

The Victory Experience gave their first performance in May 2010 at Chesapeake Conference's New Hope church in Fulton, Md., where Pearson and a number of the team members attend. The team obeyed God by sharing what He had placed on their hearts, but they

Thevictoryexperience.org:

Get more info, their 2013 show schedule, see show photos and order their DVD. You can also follow them on Facebook.



thought it would be their first and last performance.

That changed when multiple audience members started asking for more events. The Victory Experience now performs at least three to four times per year, from Philadelphia to cities in Virginia and New York. Trinidad and Barbados are on the radar for later.

"I believe one of the powerful things about this ministry is it lets people know that they are not alone. So many things people never talk about, we actually talk about," shares Pearson.

She's referring to topics like divorce, physical and self-abuse, and cancer. The honesty in team members' performances and testimonies regularly draws audience members to share their own life stories.

The multitalented team is ready for a new year of delivering inventive, inspired entertainment, centered around the theme "Love Letters." They are charged with renewed energy after receiving the Dove Foundation's top, 5-star rating for their documentary, *The Victory Experience*.

Alexis A. Goring writes from Silver Spring, Md.



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Brinklow Class Empowers Women in Self-Defense

This fall marked the second time this year that the Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., held a nine-week women and girls' empowerment course. Scores of adults, teens and elementary girls from the church and community received valuable information on understanding and relating effectively to toxic people as well as hands-on, self-defense skills.



Pastor Anthony Medley practices a self-defense move with Bernice Deshay.

Participants said the class was a blessing. "I have always felt that if someone attacks me, that may be the end of me. I am not very strong, and I have *never* been a fighter," said Shermete Coleman. "However, this class taught us that strength is not everything. There are things that I can do to protect myself. I felt empowered by learning little tricks that will allow me to feel confident knowing that I stand a chance."

Caroline Etienne added, "Not only did I feel empowered physically, I felt empowered mentally, socially and spiritually. I was reminded that I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Some of the topics, presented by several guest speakers, included aggression, bullying, depression, self-protection and sex crimes against women. Anthony Medley, senior pastor, a master instructor and fourth dan black belt; and Darnell Thomas, a master trainer of behavioral principals and strategies; led the hands-on sections of the course.

"God be praised for the opportunity to be the hands and heart of Jesus," said Betsy Johnson, the church's faith community nurse. She added that the class was a response to the world church's End It Now campaign to end violence against women and girls.—*Naeemah Phillip*

New Joy Member Organizes a Christian Storytelling Café

Phyllis Washington drew from her 40 years of Children's Ministries experience to address storytellers at the Christian Storytelling Café's soiree in Hagerstown, Md., last month. The Children's Ministries director for the North American Division engaged representatives of five faith groups and local business owners in the various ways to put pizzazz into Bible stories for children, including making balloon characters, face painting and paper cutting.

Faith Crumbly (right), café director and a member of the New Joy Fellowship church in Hagerstown, organized and facilitated this event for an adult audience in the social hall at the John Wesley United Methodist Church. She established the café in January as a friendship evangelism project, which the Hagerstown Area Religious Council continues to promote.

Crumbly started the café after learning that 80 percent of Americans do not know basic Bible stories. She facilitates the café's monthly storytelling sessions in a

local art gallery and in other venues around Hagerstown. Learn about upcoming café dates at columbiaunion.org/storytellingcafe.

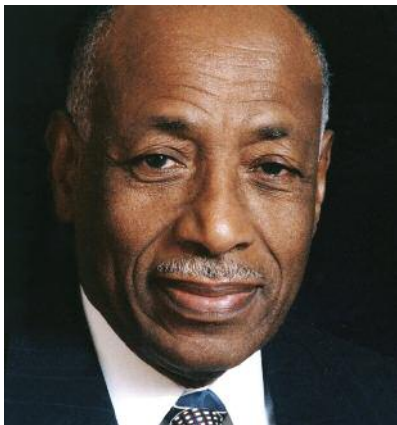


NEWS

Remembrance: Metropolitan Member Helped Develop ADRA

Milton E. Nebblett, a member and former pastor of the Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md., died in September at age 88. He was a former refugee advisor for the U.S. State Department in Vietnam and secured the Seventh-day Adventist World Service's (SAWS) first grant. The \$10 million grant came from the United States Agency for International Development.

Nebblett served as deputy director for SAWS, which then employed 12 people in its home office and 300 people worldwide. After securing the grant, the organization soon afterward became the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), which now employs 85 people in its international office and 6,000 people worldwide. He also pastored several Allegheny East Conference churches in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Washington, D.C.—*Ansel Oliver/Adventist News Network*



Ephesus School Makes Exercise a Daily Subject

This year students at Ephesus Adventist Junior Academy in Richmond, Va., are engaging in a new wellness program called "Let's Move!"

"We want to emphasize wellness and health and educate staff, students and parents on how healthy living improves the total



being and strengthens the physical and spiritual development of the mind and body," says Sheresa Woodson, principal.

Modeled after First Lady Michelle Obama's national "Let's Move!" program, students and teachers meet each morning for 10 minutes of instructional exercise conducted by Patricia Goodman, a personal trainer, and/or teacher(s). Students keep a daily log of their eating habits and exercise routines in a fitness and health journal. Parental supervision of these journals involves the parents encouraging the students with healthy eating habits and stimulating physical activities.

"Beginning the day with morning exercise helps stimulate the brain, wakes up the body and prepares us to focus better in class. The morning exercise is fun!" says eighth-grader Crystal Young.

Philadelphia Haitian Churches Net New Members

In an effort to live out the world church's call for revival and reformation, three Haitian churches recently spent time working to win fellow French speakers in Philadelphia to Christ. The Jerusalem French church recently completed a three-week missionary campaign based on the study of Revelation. They finished the campaign with 47 new members.

Yrvin Jean-Philippe, pastor of the Hebron church (New York City), preached the series themed "Jesus, the Conqueror of Conquerors." The program was also broadcast on Heavenly Vision, a local Haitian radio station.



Ushers reported that every night new visitors expressed their hunger for the Living Word. And, after 21 days of ceaseless prayers, including efforts from Bible workers, Pastor Abdonel Jean-Philippe, and the entire church welcomed their new members in two baptismal ceremonies.

The Mount-Nebo and New Maranatha companies, led by Pastor Jean Milca Fenelon, also led two evangelical series, which resulted in 16 baptisms.—*Johnispen Saint-Sauveur*

Allegheny East Exposé is published in the *Visitor* by the Allegheny East Conference ■ PO Box 266, Pine Forge, PA 19548 ■ Phone: (610) 326-4610 visitaec.com ■ President, Charles L. Cheatham ■ Communication Director, Robert Booker ■ Editor, Taashi Rowe

Responding to the Macedonian Call

When Martin Luther King Jr. responded to the need for support during the garbage workers' strike in Birmingham, Ala., he did it with the distinct biblical understanding that he was morally obligated to respond to this "Macedonian call" (see Acts 16:6-13). His spiritual foundation was clear as he reasoned that he was "cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states." Subsequently, he could not stand by and be unconcerned about what was happening there.

This was the foundational premise that the Allegheny West Conference (AWC) stood upon when we received a "Macedonian call" from our brothers and sisters in New Jersey in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy. Our Adventist Community Services (ACS) federations rallied together to provide help and comfort to the affected residents of that state.

With the support of my colleagues, our leadership team, we were able to pull together more than 300 personal care kits and more than 100 new blankets in a matter of five days. Volunteers, including Andrew Mobley (left), pastor of the Berea church in Middletown (Ohio), hand-delivered these disaster relief items to the ACS warehouse in Trenton, N.J., to be distributed to residents in need.

We are not the biggest conference, and I am sure there are other conferences that have done more than us, but we understand doctrinally what Dr. King meant when he expressed that "we are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects us all indirectly."



Robert Moore Jr.
Executive Secretary



Allegheny West Supports Evangelism in Dayton, Ohio

The Allegheny West and Ohio conferences, in conjunction with Kettering Adventist HealthCare, joined forces with It Is Written ministries to host "Revelation Today," an evangelism series in Dayton, Ohio. The effort was an 18-month collaboration that started with the mailing of more than 200,000 copies of *Steps to Christ* to homes in the Dayton area. The effort resulted in more than 1,000

requests for Bible studies, which members from area churches, representing both conferences, fulfilled prior to the start of the series.

John Bradshaw (left), speaker/director of It Is Written, was the presenter for the nightly crowds averaging 500. When he made his final appeal, 166 people made decisions for Christ, 86 requested baptism and 2,900 requested

Bible studies. Area churches are again responding to the "harvest" by sending laborers to the field.

This joint effort was a great success and sets the

stage for many other such events and endeavors to take place. "We experienced a real revival, and want to thank our colleague Raj Attiken, Ohio Conference president, for partnering with us," said William Cox, Allegheny West conference president.



Crystal Dell, from the Ethan Temple in Clayton, Ohio, dedicates her life to Christ at the "Revelation Today" series.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL REYNOLDS



Youth Leaders Plan Year of “Radical Change”

Allegheny West Conference youth leaders are gearing up for “Radical Change,” which is the theme the conference’s Youth Ministries department chose for 2013. Conference directors debuted the theme during a recent weekend retreat for youth leaders at the conference campgrounds in Thornville, Ohio.

Pathfinder, Adventurer, Children’s Ministries and Adventist Youth lead-

ers from near and far attended sessions intended to train and equip leaders with tools to enhance programming at their respective churches. In his opening message, Pastor Myron Edmonds of the Glenville church in Cleveland, shared his philosophy and out-of-the-box tactics on winning souls for the kingdom using Skype, a networking tool enabling viewers to connect via a computer.

A special addition to this year’s conference was a tract for about 40 teenagers, who participated in their own workshops and activities throughout the weekend. Whitney Raglin and Ray Bignall, two of the presenters for the youth, admonished them to explore untapped talent at their churches and “unpack their ministries.” Bignall told the group, “When your ministry stays in the box, it can’t grow to reach those who may truly need it, so the ministry you have to help those in your community is stunted ... and you are not being effective.”



Joel Johnson, AWC Youth Ministries director, feels this retreat is essential in equipping youth leaders for ministry and attracting and keeping youth in the church. Johnson, who served as the chaplain at Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa., for nearly two decades prior to assuming his current role, is certain the way to reach youth and bring about radical change is to “focus on spirituality. Everything must be Christ-centered!” he says.—*Tamaria L. Kulemeka*



Hillcrest Members Beautify Pedestrian Route

Members of Allegheny West Conference’s Hillcrest church in Pittsburgh recently dedicated its second annual Man vs. Weeds event to cleaning up the Chauncey Street Steps. This is a popular pedestrian route located in

Pittsburgh’s Hill District. Volunteers from the Hillcrest church, University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University and Clean Green cleared weeds, planted flowers and carried away debris and trash in the areas surrounding the stairway.

“Several community members and some of our church members use these steps to get to the Middle Hill [neighborhood], so we were thrilled with the opportunity to give back to our community and create an aesthetically pleasing and welcoming walkway for pedestrians as they pass through,” says Lynette Staplefoote, a community services leader at Hillcrest. The church was able to take on this endeavor through the help of the Love Your Block grant, which is a partnership between the city of Pittsburgh and The Home Depot Foundation.



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THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

DECEMBER 2012

Undimmed!

Joseph and Mary knew they had to make the trip. Certainly an obstetrician, had they been able to afford one, would have cautioned them against such travels so close to the anticipated date of delivery. Although they were of the royal line returning to their ancestral home, there were no family members awaiting their arrival. They attracted no special attention. They were just another young family dutifully going to register.

The Bethlehem locals were likely divided in their opinions about the extra traffic in town. But for the shepherds, this was not going to be an ordinary night. Terror gripped their hearts as the dark night was pierced by the brilliance of an angel. The heavenly messenger had an encouraging message of great joy. They were to go into town and find the Savior. But, they needed a warning. The Christ child would be found in a manger. They could bypass the mansions of the upper class. Jesus was born into a humble, working class family without any show.

Suddenly, the angels could not be restrained any longer. The large celestial band broke into song, "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men" (Luke 2:14, NKJV)!

Today we are just as close to heaven as were the shepherds. The glory of God is not dimmed. The joy of the angels is not diminished. God's plan for all the Earth is one of peace and favor. Don't let the jostle of the crowds distract you from the simplicity of His coming.

We can begin to enjoy now the shout of the saved, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns" (Rev. 19:6, NKJV)!



Rick Remmers
President

Record Crowd Convenes for Eastern Shore Gathering

Attendance at the Eastern Shore Gathering held recently in Cambridge, Md., swelled to about 330 adults and youth according to César González, pastor of the Cambridge/Beacon of Light district. Under the banner "Walk with God! Share His Grace!" Lonnie Melashenko, recently retired vice president of Kettering Adventist HealthCare in Ohio, encouraged attendees to share God's love with others in



A young attendee checks out one of the miniature horses on exhibit in the afternoon.

PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA YOUNG



Gary Gibbs (right), conference director of Evangelism and Ministries Development, invites participants to share their experiences witnessing and giving Bible studies.

ways that are meaningful and attractive to them.

In addition to inspiring preaching and testimonies, the day included special children's and youth programming, a bountiful potluck feast and an afternoon concert featuring soloist Angela Stevens and many talented local musicians.

NEWS

Eastern Shore Students Get Tangled Up in Reading Via the Web

The pre-K and kindergarten class (below) at Eastern Shore Junior Academy in Sudlersville, Md., uses Skype, a free Web-based videoconferencing service, to enhance their reading program and make friends across the globe, says their teacher Jennifer Miller.

They use the technology to connect with friends and relatives who live far away and hear why reading



is an integral part of their lives. Each Wednesday at a designated time, the students and the reader tune in for story time. The reader introduces her/himself and shares a favorite children's book. The kids eagerly introduce themselves and ask the reader questions following the story.

So far, the class has heard from readers in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Texas and Australia. To be a volunteer reader, contact Miller at (410) 505-4074.

Frederick Celebrates 100th Anniversary

The Frederick (Md.) church's recent 100th anniversary celebration drew a crowd of about 500. The weekend festivities, organized by Alberta Reed, began Friday evening with a communion service. Sabbath morning former Frederick

PHOTO BY BILL YOUNG



The Frederick Church Choir performs during the worship service.

pastors and their spouses shared memories. Lonnie Melsahenko, former speaker/director for the Voice of Prophecy, preached during the worship service. Following a catered luncheon served by local Pathfinders, the celebration culminated with a concert featuring organist Van Knauss.

Today the church has nearly 900 members, and operates a pre-K thru 10th-grade school with an enrollment of about 100 students.

"From its humble beginnings in 1912, at a tent meeting, where a handful of people accepted the message, until where we are today, God has certainly blessed this church through the years," said Robert Quintana, senior pastor.

Maryland Men of Faith Affirmed, Challenged at Conference

The seventh annual Maryland Men of Faith Conference took place recently at the Mount Aetna Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md. Keynote speaker, Justin Kim (right), Michigan Conference director of Public Campus Ministries, challenged the 175 men in attendance to be accountable and responsible. Kim directed the challenge equally to the 34 teenagers present, noting there is no such group called "teenagers" in the Bible—all are men.

"This conference gives men a chance to come aside to recalibrate and refocus, talk about our shared experiences and gain strength to be the men God has called us to be," said David Franklin, assistant pastor of Allegheny East Conference's Berea Temple in Baltimore and co-host of Hope Channel's program "Let's Pray." Franklin presented one of the 11 seminars offered at the event.

Visit mmof.org to listen to the day's events via free download.

—Tony Williams

PHOTO BY MARLON MING



The Challenge is published in the *Visitor* by the Chesapeake Conference 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044 Phone: (410) 995-1910 ■ ccosda.org President, Rick Remmers Editor, Samantha Young

Alumni Donations, Volunteers Keep Us Strong

We are one of the smaller boarding schools in the Columbia Union, but we are mighty. One secret to our success is volunteer support. We have been blessed to have wonderful alumni giving back to Highland View Academy (HVA), whether its through manual labor or financial contributions. We thank the following alumni:

Scott Miller, from the Class of 1990, is enjoying coaching the girls soccer team, including his daughter, Ashton, a sophomore. "I never saw myself coaching, especially girls soccer. This is truly an

unexpected joy!" Miller and his wife, Amy, are members of the Williamsport (Pa.) church.

Junior Seidl, from the Class of 1991 and a former HVA soccer player, is volunteering as the boys soccer coach. He has two sons enrolled at HVA: Brendon, a junior, and Brayan, a freshman. Seidl and his wife, Valeria, are members of the Frederick (Md.) church.

Gilbert Bohannon (pictured front, kneeling), from the Class of 1986, recently chaperoned a group of students on a trip to tour the USS Torsk submarine in Baltimore. He is an historian and has volunteered on the sub for 16 years, maintaining the archives on board. Bohannon has two sons enrolled at HVA: Charlie, a junior, and Tristan, a sophomore. He and his wife, Carol, are members of the Linthicum church in Linthicum Heights, Md.

Financial donors have also blessed HVA over the years. Most want to remain anonymous, but we are aware of how crucial their support is and are so grateful for all they have done for HVA. For those would-be donors waiting for an opportunity, please consider helping the school purchase six new microscopes and four printers, an illuminated HVA sign and scholarships for seven students. We appreciate your help.



Renee Williams
Director of Recruitment
and Development



New English Teacher Transfers From Higher Education

Lori Halvorsen Zerne joined HVA this year as the new English teacher. Prior to joining the academy faculty, she taught literature and writing classes at West Virginia University and Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She says leaving higher education wasn't difficult. "I looked forward to teaching secondary students the writing, reading and critical-thinking skills they need to be prepared for college and for lives as [Seventh-day] Adventists spreading the message of Christ's soon return," she said.

Zerne earned her bachelor's in English literature and writing from Andrews University (Mich.) and a master's and PhD from West Virginia University. She specializes in 18th century British literature, and in 2011 published an article about the author Frances Burney in *The Burney Journal*.

Zerne and her husband, John, have a 1-year-old son, Edmund, who she hopes will enjoy growing up at a boarding academy as much as she did. She graduated from Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va.



Environmental Science Students Learn on the Go

Ophelia Barizo, science department chair, keeps her Honors Environmental Science students busy with activities and exciting learning opportunities each year. Most recently her honors students did presentations on mycoremediations, mycotechnology (the use of mushroom mycelia in construction and packing materials), mycopesticides and mycofiltration at the annual mushroom fair of the Mycological Association of Washington, D.C. This year the event was held at the visitor's center of the Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, Md.

Lisa Beardsly-Hardy, director of education of the General



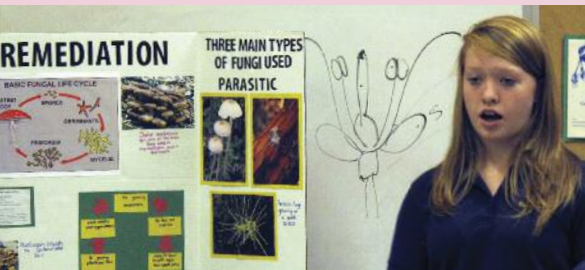
Conference, attended the students' presentations and congratulated them for a job well done. She said that she and her husband were "impressed by the breadth of presentations and the students' communication skills." Many observers, including some public and private school teachers in the capital area, wondered how these students "were so motivated to do such impressive research."

The students also took a field trip to the Baltimore Harbor, where they learned about testing water quality through a program conducted by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. During their outing, the students learned about the Chesapeake

Honors Environmental Science students enjoy a jaunt to the Baltimore Harbor to study water and marine life of the Chesapeake Bay.

Bay watershed and performed various tests on the water. Tests included determining how much dissolved oxygen and how many nutrients it contained, as well as its level of salinity. They also caught and learned about some of the bay's creatures, like oysters and blue crabs.

"I greatly enjoyed this trip," commented Kayla Miller. "One of my favorite parts was catching the animals. Overall, I believe it was an awesome and very educational trip."



Freshman Kayla Miller presents her display about mycoremediations to attendees at an annual mushroom fair in Washington, D.C.

Visiting Students Learn to "Make the Right Call"

This fall Highland View Academy chose the theme "Make the Right Call!" for the Academy Days



weekend. During the daily worship service, current and prospective students lifted God's name in prayer and praise, drawing lessons in part from the NFL referee lockout that took place this past summer. They reviewed the consequences of referees making inaccurate calls. In comparison, Student Association officers shared how they have "made the right call" to follow Christ while attending HVA. Gregg Cain, principal, added that the Lord will lead students next year wherever

Visiting student Carianne Cowell participates in interactive games at HVA's Academy Days.

they decide to go, and that they can all be witnesses for Christ.

During the two-day event, prospective students also enjoyed academic presentations in forensic science, physics, computers and Christian drama. Academy leaders also awarded scholarships from each area for next school year.

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MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

DECEMBER 2012

Spencer Member Practices Barbershop Evangelism

Phil Balisciano was brought up in a nominal Protestant home where he was not grounded in the Word of God. So he set off early to pursue what he thought was his real purpose in life—“having a good time.” That was his philosophy, but God had His own deep and wonderful purposes for this party lover.

As a young, married man, Phil met a charismatic barber who shared with him a pamphlet about Bible prophecy. “An appetite for prophetic biblical themes was born in me,” Phil said. In the prophecies he saw an appeal from God to surrender his life to Jesus Christ. He prayed and did just that.

While they were living in Connecticut, Phil and his wife, Cheryl, attended a Daniel seminar in a local hotel, and then went on to attend evangelism meetings led by Mark Finley. Phil began to present the material he was learning to his boss, but continued to work on Sabbath. In September 1979, his dad died in a car accident, so Phil was given that Sabbath off. At his dad’s funeral, he was faced with the two great realities of life: “There is a war going on, and I must choose.” That did it for Phil. In March 1980, he was baptized as

a Sabbath-keeping Seventh-day Adventist.

He worked several years in Connecticut and opened his own barbershop. There had been a big influx of young people from the Finley meetings, and Phil studied with them and many others he met as he was cutting hair. Several of these studies resulted in baptisms.

The Baliscianos soon moved to upstate New York. In Saranac Lake, Phil and Cheryl joined a home Bible study and within three years, the little company was buying back the same Adventist church that had, years before, been closed due to lack of attendance.

Later the Balisciano family moved to West Virginia. Phil opened his First-day Barber Shop as a witness to the sanctity of God’s holy day in Spencer, home of the closest Adventist church. He also got his real estate license.

Four barbers had businesses in Spencer when Phil rented his space for his First-day Barber Shop, which didn’t make for a very lucrative practice. In 2009, through God’s benevolent providence, he was led to purchase a barber shop business in Glenville inside the Glenville Hardware Store.

Business is good. With 100 to 150 weekly customers who enter his doors, Phil says contacts for spiritual things are phenomenal. Several have visited the Spencer church and even become members. “The Lord has called me to understand that there is no other more important thing than reaching others for Christ,” Phil shares. “This is important to me because the Lord has put His love in my heart for the souls He invested so much for.”

One Sabbath, after the fellowship meal, one of the young people said, “Let’s go to Phil’s. That’s where the action is.” That’s how it has always been with Phil, and he wouldn’t want it any other way. Before he knew Christ, life was a party. Now that he knows Christ, life is a celebration of all that is good in life. And, haircuts are part of that.—Chris Hasse



Phil cuts Pastor Farley Blankenship's hair. The pastor is one of his regular customers from the community.

Students Tackle Hands-on Math, Science Activities

Kathy Pepper, teacher at the Boulevard Adventist Academy in Charleston, W.Va., places a high value on having her students attend the Mountain View Conference's annual Math/Science Field Day. "Our school is very small, and getting together with other students in a larger setting is good for us. It builds associations outside of our own classroom and allows the children to work with others their own age. In a larger group, there are also more possibilities for doing bigger projects."

Held at the Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va., the Math/Science Field Day is a time when students come from across the conference to learn using hands-on activities and

experiments. This year the bulk of time was spent putting together a model trebuchet, and then testing their machine to see how far various objects would travel before hitting the ground. Students also used polymer beads that when placed in water would expand but be virtually invisible to the human eye. Of course, this involved throwing some of these expanded beads and having them explode when either landing on the ground or on a student.

"Our conference educational team is working hard to help Mountain View students learn to love math and science," said Cheryl Jacko, conference associate education director. "This year's Math/Science Field Day was a real



Students hold pieces of a trebuchet that their group will assemble and test.

success and gave our students a chance to do their own scientific investigations."

Toll Gate Members Honor Two of Their Own

Travelers recently came from far and near to attend homecoming weekend at the Toll Gate church in Pennsboro, W.Va. The church was established more than 30 years ago, and attendees spent three days sharing memories, photos and meals. During the program on Sabbath, Wilton and Janice Williams were recognized for their dedication and support in spreading the Seventh-day Adventist message in the Toll Gate community.



December is "Square Up" Month

Is your bank account square with God?

- Campaign for Community
- Tithes
- Offerings
- Arm-in-Arm

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse."

SPIRIT

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY

DECEMBER 2012

Gratitude is a Choice

Gratitude is a choice. It is a choice to view the circumstances of life through the lens of abundance that is found in the amazing capacity of the God of the universe to supply all our needs. This choice also reflects a confidence in Him who rules above all circumstances. Paul expresses his choice in these words, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God” (Phil. 4:6, NIV).

This holiday season, our staff and students at Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) invite you to join us in the practice of gratitude. When you face the stress of not enough—time, money, hospitality—lean into the abundance of God, and choose gratitude! Lay aside the anxiety of scarcity and pick up the hope of His promises to you.



Daniel Kittle
Principal

MVA Hosts Soccer/Volleyball Tournament

Bump!” “Set!” “Spike!” “Goal!” These are just a few of the sounds and images at Mount Vernon Academy’s annual Bill Jarvis Soccer/Volleyball Tournament. Starting on a Wednesday evening and ending the following Sunday morning, the school’s campus was filled with energized teenage athletes belonging to six soccer teams and nine volleyball teams. Spring Valley Academy came in first in soccer while MVA (below) came in second. The Gilead Christian School team from Mt. Gilead, Ohio, placed first in the volleyball tournament, and Spring Valley Academy from Centerville, Ohio, came in second.

In addition to spending time on the court and field, students really connected at Friday night vespers and in Sabbath school and church. For some, meeting new faces, making memories with newfound friends and reconnecting with old friends was what the tournament was really all about. “I loved going to work on the court, but also thoroughly enjoyed the spiritual aspect of the



tournament,” said Kaydra Bailey, senior and co-captain of the MVA Eagles volleyball team. “Everyone was a friend, and I could tell that Jesus was a common interest throughout the tournament!”

Carla Valles and Out of the Box, her drama ministry team from the Elyria (Ohio) church, brought the Word to students on Sabbath morning through drama and acting.

The majority of the visiting teams resided in either the dormitories or the gymnasium, which resulted in players getting to know each other a little better. Although the weekend was one of the busiest at MVA, all the teams came together for a common cause.—Jordan Price



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

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY^{.ORG} CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

DECEMBER 2012

Boys and Girls Teams Perform Well at Tournament

The Spring Valley Academy (SVA) Girls Varsity Volleyball and Boys Varsity Soccer teams recently participated in the 2012 Jarvis Invitational hosted by the Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon, Ohio. There were a total of six soccer teams and nine volleyball teams attending the tournament.

The boys varsity soccer team (right) also triumphed and won first place with only one point scored against them the entire tournament! After a victory prayer, team members lifted Coach Daanan Foster and carried him in a victory celebration! SVA's Lady Stallions Varsity Volleyball Team also had reason to celebrate as they took second place! Don Warman coaches the team.



Students Learn Team Building During Senior Survival

SVA's Class of 2013 recently embarked on a Senior Survival experience at Camp Mohaven located near Mount Vernon in northeast Ohio. The experience was part of their senior Bible class grade and included journal writing, group activities, participation, attitude and attendance as measured through the evaluations of both staff and group members.

When they arrived at the camping site, they received basic materials (such as plastic, duct tape, etc.) to build their shelter for the next five days, making sure it would withstand the wind and/or rain. The team-building activities were designed to challenge seniors individually and strengthen them as a class. "I went into Senior Survival thinking that I knew my classmates and friends but, after this experience, my class grew closer than I ever thought was possible. It was an overall life-changing experience!" exclaimed Aliane Kubwimana.



Kindergartener Makes a New Friend

In every school year, there are times when an administrator experiences a special connection with a precious little one that doesn't go unnoticed. Recently Darius Hoggard, a kindergartener at SVA, hurt his arm when he fell off the playground equipment at recess. Not only did he bravely refrain from tears at the time of the injury, he also continued doing so while Vern Biloff, principal, kept a faithful and comforting vigil by his side in the clinic until his mother arrived.

When Biloff phoned Hoggard's mom later that night, she was surprised to hear from the principal. She confirmed that Hoggard's arm was indeed broken and said how brave he was when they reset his arm before placing it in a cast. Naturally, once Hoggard returned to school, his many friends signed his cast and that included his new friend, Principal Biloff!



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Phone: (937) 433-0790 ■ springvalleyacademy.org ■ Principal, Vern Biloff ■ Editor, Vicki Swetnam

NEWS NEW JERSEY

DECEMBER 2012

Thanks for God's Protection and Blessings

As I reflect on all that has happened this year, my heart is deeply moved by all God has done for His people here in New Jersey. We experienced God's protecting hand over our members as Superstorm Sandy wrought devastation upon New Jersey and New York. As I write this article, I have not heard of a single church member in New Jersey who lost their life during the storm. Yes, many of us have suffered damage and loss to our homes, but we have all been protected by God, and I thank God for His protection of each one of you and your families.

Since this is the Christmas season, my mind is also drawn to the marvelous gift of God's Son, Jesus. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may we all remember that God gave His all for us, and the best way to show our thanks for His gift is to share the Good News with friends and neighbors. I thank God daily for the faithfulness of all our members in returning their tithe and offerings! I also pray daily for our members and our conference that God will continue to bless and lead in each of your lives. As we remember all that Christ has done for us, may you all have a warm and happy holiday season!



José H. Cortés
President

Executive Committee Makes Changes to Departmental Directors, Coordinators

At a recent meeting of the New Jersey Conference Executive Committee, some changes were made to departmental director assignments for the next five years. These changes were effective November 1, with the exception of the communication director, who will transition this month. The following is a list of the departmental directors and their responsibilities:

Name	Departments and Services
Jorge Agüero	Personal Ministries & Family Life
Amalia Agüero.....	Women's Ministries Coordinator
José Cortés.....	President, Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries and Religious Liberty
Eleazar De Gracia	Trust Services Field Representative
Tom Dunham.....	Health Ministries & Sabbath School
Mike Gill	Adventist Community Services (ACS) & Worship Ministries
Noel Gonzalez.....	Music Ministries
Jim Greene	Executive Secretary, Human Resources and Trust Services
Joyce Greene.....	Associate Treasurer
Mark Jagitsch	Prayer Ministries Coordinator
Paulo Macena	Communication, Children's and Youth Ministries
Christina Macena.....	Children's Ministries Coordinator, Communication Assistant
Juliana Marson	Singles Ministries Coordinator
Ramon Merle.....	Tranquil Valley Retreat Center Director
Smith Olivier.....	Men's Ministries Coordinator
Jorge Pillco	Media Ministries
Leonel Pottinger	Ministerial Secretary, Prison Ministries, Stewardship and Prayer Ministries Associate
Claudia Ramirez.....	ACS Disaster Response Coordinator
Sadrail Saint-Ulysse	Education/Superintendent of Schools
Young Uoo Suh	ShareHim Coordinator
Milca Vazquez.....	Conference Membership Clerk
Modesto Vazquez	Treasurer and Property Management

After Superstorm Sandy, New Jersey Members Lend a Helping Hand

"I've never seen anything like this before," said Claudia Ramirez, whose colleagues had just dropped her at home. They spent the day delivering 200 personal care kits to a shelter in northern Burlington County. "I've seen a family lose a house or a few families lose their homes to fires, but nothing like this. These were hundreds of people who just lost everything because of Sandy."

Ramirez is New Jersey Conference's Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS DR) coordinator and has been involved in this ministry for close to a dozen years. Although Sandy, which was downgraded from a hurricane to a super storm, battered much of the East Coast, it hit New Jersey hard. Many homes across the state were flooded, power lines downed and mile-high sand piled up on the roads.

Fortunately, the conference's disaster response team was prepared to help. They brought personal care kits filled with items like washcloths, combs, soaps, toothbrushes, toothpastes and deodorants. They also brought toys for the kids.

At the conference office in Lawrenceville, the disaster response team keeps floor-to-ceiling shelves

stocked with kits just for times like this. In the event of a disaster, ACS DR gets calls from state and local agencies asking for their help with donations management, which is their specialty. Right after the storm, conference leaders pulled their old office building off the market so they could use it as their disaster response headquarters.

Local Churches Pitch In

While ACS DR teams are vital in times of great need, local churches have also pitched in to help. One Friday evening after the storm, Carlos Torres, pastor of the Atlantic City, Vineland and Panamericana Spanish churches, and some of his members contacted fellow church members in southern New Jersey. They wanted to bring items to those hurting in Atlantic City. Members responded by texting their friends and making appeals on their Facebook pages. And, on Sabbath afternoon, they brought food and clothes to the Vine Haven Adventist School in Vineland where Pathfinders and church members sorted bags of clothes and food baskets.

When they pulled into a field near the beach in Atlantic City and



Calvin Lester, Claudia Ramirez and Joseph Luste, all members of the Cherry Hill church, also serve on the conference's disaster response team.

parked, people started to come out of the surrounding buildings to get a hot meal and some clothes. The people were cold and tired from not having electricity in their homes and apartments, so these church members were a welcome sight.

Mike Gill, the conference's ACS director and pastor of the Laurelwood, Woodbury and Cherry Hill churches, noted that when members do this kind of work, "They are really the hands and feet of Jesus. And those in need see a sermon in shoes and work gloves."

ACS DR also trains volunteers to work in the warehouses that are often set up after disasters. To sign up for classes, email Ramirez at carami4144@aol.com.—Taashi Rowe/Jim Greene

Members from several southern New Jersey Conference churches team up and sort food to give to those affected by Superstorm Sandy.



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Ohio Classrooms Get Innovative

Well known for their inventive ministerial practices, the Ohio Conference is now applying innovation to their K-8 school classrooms through the introduction of Responsive Classroom (RC). This approach to elementary education helps create a well organized, managed setting that builds better relationships within the classroom, school and community.

“The RC approach guides the instruction of the teacher as they strive to create a fun, rigorous and developmentally appropriate environment. Students benefit from the high academic and behavioral expectations,” explains Alison Jobson, associate superintendent.

For example, an RC school day begins with a purposeful, whole group, morning meeting that includes a message, a greeting, a share and an activity or game. Many teachers include worship as well. This short time spent together sets the tone for the school day and gets the learners ready to transition from home to school in an inclusive and fun way.

“They know that they are safe to take risks and be challenged in a community of learners that respects and values them,” Jobson adds. “What’s so awesome is that the children really begin to become a part of the learning and teaching process in a whole new way. This elevates their sense of responsibility. RC principles also support our mission to educate students for the kingdom of God.”

Two recent research studies at the University of Virginia uncovered that using Responsive Classroom increases student engagement, improves academic achievement, decreases discipline issues and leads to



higher quality teaching. It also integrates social and academic learning skills to generate the most productive learning environment, and students are more engaged in the classroom.

Teachers were introduced to RC at an in-service this fall. An RC consultant challenged teachers to take one component that they learned and implement it into their classrooms. This initiative has follow-up support for teachers as they continue to learn about the components of the program.

The teachers also benefitted from RC principle demonstrations. After learning about RC’s modeling principle, Dana Holland, principal/teacher at Toledo Junior Academy in Toledo, asked, “How are kids supposed to know what to do unless we show them?” Holland already implements many of the RC components into her classroom. After completing a skit illustrating one of the discipline techniques, Mark Mirek, principal/teacher at the Piqua Seventh-day Adventist Christian School in Piqua, stated, “It’s that easy!”

According to Jay Colburn, education superintendent, “The teachers were overwhelmingly positive after an actively engaging Responsive Classroom workshop. It was encouraging to hear teachers at all levels of experience naming multiple takeaways that will enhance classroom relationships, and the directly correlated, academic performance.”

For information on how to introduce RC to your school, contact Jobson at ajobson@ohioadventist.org.

Ohio educators learn new teaching techniques through the widely researched Responsive Classroom approach.



Faith, Culture, Justice the Focus at Innovation Conference

At the eighth National Conference on Innovation, conference and educational leaders from across the country were inspired on subjects ranging from ending slavery and human trafficking, to reaching youth in churches today, to embracing reconciliation and forgiveness.

Presenters included Mark Wexler, executive director and co-founder of Not for Sale, a movement to abolish slavery. He shared tools and concepts that engage business, government and grassroots organizations to incubate and grow social enterprises to benefit enslaved and

vulnerable communities. David Kinnaman, president of Barna Group, the nation's leading research organization on the intersection of faith and culture, reminded the audience, "Younger Christians can help point



churches toward new practices and approaches to faithfulness."

Presenter Miroslav Volf (left), founder and director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture, challenged attendees saying, "Forgiveness means I do not count against you the deed you have committed against me. For Dr. Phil, forgiveness is a gift you give yourself, but for Christians, it is a gift we give to someone else. Grace is always a risk but it is a risk worth taking."

At the conclusion of the weekend,

participants were asked to "name one specific action you will personally take or an initiative you will launch in your personal life, family, profession, congregation, school or community." Several dozen did so, and shared them privately or publicly. One attendee wrote, "Live forgiveness. Teach forgiveness. Bear witness to Christ that all may see Him and experience His radical forgiveness."

Volf is the keynote presenter at next year's conference, October 6-8.



Camp Mohaven Celebrates 50 Years

This fall, as Camp Mohaven celebrated 50 years of service to the Ohio Conference, more than 100 people from around the country returned for a weekend of fellowship and reminiscing. Attendees included campers from Mohaven's first year to recent counselors.

PHOTOS BY BRENT RUTH

"Fifty years old! That means that I was a camper the first year they opened," mused Jacqueline Akert, a former student of nearby Mount Vernon Academy and Mohaven camper presently living in Milwaukee. "I met my oldest and dearest friends at Camp Mohaven."

Several key individuals from Mohaven's past were also present to share their experiences, including Ron Streeter, a former youth director, and Joe Pool, MD (pictured right with his wife, Thelma). Pool is the camp's last surviving property owner, out of five.

"After breakfast on Sunday, goodbyes were shared and promises to keep in touch were

Thom Juarros, Ron Streeter and Steve Carlson represent several generations of Camp Mohaven directors.



extended," reports Dave Robinson, current camp ranger.

Mohaven continues to expand and develop. Donations for the two new bathhouses are welcome. Checks for Camp Mohaven may be sent to 18744 Turkey Ridge Road in Danville, OH 43014.



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Pennsylvania *Pen*

DECEMBER 2012

Pennsylvania Delegates Re-elect Conference Administrators

Delegates to the Fourteenth Triennial Session of the Pennsylvania Conference voted last month to re-elect Ray Hartwell, president; Will Peterson, executive secretary; and Ron Christman, treasurer. They also voted Jeff Bovee, vice president of education; Tim Madding, director of leadership and spiritual growth; Tamyra Horst, communication director; Floyd Dare, trust services director; and Leandro Robinson, Youth and Young Adult Ministries director, to serve for the next three years.

“Jeanne and I take seriously and humbly the call of leadership to the Pennsylvania Conference,” Hartwell told delegates gathered at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa. “We take seriously the call of the [Seventh-day] Adventist Church in these last days to share the gospel with our communities across Pennsylvania. It is a team effort. ... Together we can continue God’s work. It is our desire that every person

in every community across our state hears the message of salvation and hope that our church has to share.”

After the Pathfinder color guard presented the flags, Pastor Jerry Small invited delegates to sing “To God be the Glory,” which was the theme of the day. Dan Jackson, North American Division president, challenged delegates to allow God to take whatever is in their hands and use it in service for Him. “There is

only one true north in the Adventist Church—Jesus. He is the center of everything we say and do,” Jackson reminded delegates during his devotional thoughts.

Three churches were voted into the Pennsylvania Conference: Grace Outlet in Reading, Lancaster Hispanic 2 in Lancaster and Kingston Hispanic in Kingston. As they were officially welcomed into the constituency, Hartwell prayed with delegates from each of these churches.

Hartwell emphasized four priorities for the conference during his president’s report: First, a commitment to moving youth and young adults into ministry; second, creating and growing grace-filled Adventist churches; third, reaching the large metro areas of Pennsylvania through the conference’s new Mission to the Many ministry, which places young adult missionaries into cities



Pennsylvania Conference delegates re-elected (left to right) Will Peterson, executive secretary; Ray Hartwell, president; and Ron Christman, treasurer. Darlene Peterson and Jeanne Hartwell are also pictured.

and trains them to work with local churches in reaching their communities; and fourth, encouraging, equipping and empowering everyone for mission. (The president’s report can be seen at vimeo.com/paconference.)

Along with financial reports from Christman, delegates also heard reports from Blue Mountain Academy, Adventist WholeHealth, Laurel Lake Camp and Retreat Center and Mission to the Many.

After delegates headed home, the Pennsylvania Conference team gathered for prayer, recognizing that while the meeting they had worked on all year was over, their work was just beginning as they continue to serve Pennsylvania by “Revealing Jesus, Making Disciples.”



Delegates brought with them supplies for New Jersey residents impacted by Superstorm Sandy.



Pathfinders “Live Out Loud for God”

More than 170 Pathfinders from all across Pennsylvania gathered for the annual Pathfinder Fall Camporee at Laurel Lake Camp and Retreat Center in Rossiter. Leandro Robinson, conference Youth Ministries director, preached about the weekend’s theme “LOL4G: Living Out Loud for God.”



The Milton Wilderness Warriors led worship music Sabbath morning, after which their member Orlando Acosta was invested as a Master Guide.

Sabbath afternoon four young ladies and a staff member from the Hamburg Blue Mountaineers, along with Pam and Michael Scheib (left), took nonperishable food items, donated by each Pathfinder, to the food bank in Punxsutawney.

While the Pathfinders helped sort the food items, the director of the food pantry asked questions about Pathfinders. The group explained that Pathfinders is a scouting, co-ed organization affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church for young people, aged 10-17, and that their primary emphasis is leading young people into a relationship with

Christ. They also explained that Pathfinders collect food for the hungry around the holidays. The food pantry staff was very impressed with the program.

Pathfinders also spent Sabbath afternoon earning the Dog, Endangered Species, Heart and Circulation and Geocaching honors and participating in a “scavenger hunt” hike. A hayride Saturday night and the tie-dye honor on Sunday morning completed the weekend.

Honorable Mention trophies were awarded to the Danville Coyotes, Easton Hummingbirds and Gettysburg Brigade. Honor Club trophies went to the Hamburg Blue Mountaineers, Milton Wilderness Warriors, Pittsburgh Steel City, Valley View Trailblazers and Washington Wildcats.
—Pamela Scheib

Pennsylvania Conference Marriage Retreat March 1-3, 2013

*“Promises
in Paris”*

For more information, call 610-374-8331 x218.
Register online at www.paconference.org.

Join Ruber and Ketty Leal, Family Life specialists, as they present, “A Joyful Marriage” at the Crowne Plaza in historic downtown Harrisburg, Pa.

Potomac People

DECEMBER 2012

Annual Pastor/Teacher Convention Shifts My Focus

Arriving early Monday morning for my fourth pastor/teacher convention, I focused my attention on event preparation. My new assistant and I hustled to set up audio/visual needs, coordinate with speakers on their presentations and work out other last minute details that always come with being in charge of communication.

I, along with the 300 pastors and teachers, anticipated the messages of two well-known Seventh-day Adventists: George Knight, an author and retired professor who taught for many years at Andrews University

(Mich.), and Ben Maxson (pictured doing a presentation), the lead pastor of the Paradise church in California and former director of stewardship at the General Conference. My focus, however, changed as I sat at the feet of these two disciples. Both of them spoke from the heart—two individuals with more than 70 years of church leadership experience between them. They focused on our connection to Jesus and how a simple relationship with Him is life changing. It amazed me how their messages synced even though there was no theme, and they did not communicate prior to our meetings. It became clear the Holy Spirit had a message pertinent for our conference leaders to hear: “Look to Me and I will direct your paths. I will teach you how to make disciples of men.”

By the end of the convention, I think conference president Bill Miller aptly summed up the two days, “I feel like I just sat in front of a fire hose of knowledge and I’m trying to soak up as much as I possibly can.” And, I realize that my focus has shifted to where it should have been all along.



Dan Jensen

Communication Director



Tappahannock Church Starts FM Station

Because he attended a stop-smoking seminar and *Baired Voice of Prophecy* seminars in his early radio career, local station owner Danny Wadsworth was familiar with the Tappahannock (Va.) church and the members’ passion for community outreach. That’s why he called Clinton Adams, Tappahannock’s pastor, to offer him his 300-watt station.

“We were thrilled with the news and realized the divine opportunity God had placed in our path,” recalls Pastor Adams. “We also understood there would be a substantial financial and manpower commitment.”

After seeking God’s will, Adams says members started donating. One member gave 80 percent of his coin collection. Another donation came from the conference. The pennies kept coming in and the ministry kept moving forward.

Church members later converted an old classroom into a small radio station and installed a 90-foot tower. “We heard there was a noncommercial FM station available in the area. Satan worked hard. He didn’t want us to expand the area we were witnessing to.”

Through teamwork, faith and nearly \$13,000 later,

Tappahannock church members met their deadlines—with only 10 hours to spare—and secured WRAR 98.9 FM (or 1000 AM) this past summer. “The station is now up and running smoothly,” reports Pastor Adams. “We are reaching people with the Good News!”—*Tiffany Doss*



Pastor Clinton Adams, Judi Hayes, Bill Tingler, Ida Minter and Hollis Wolcott review the FM license they received earlier this year for their new station.

Potomac People

Conference Ordains Three Pastors Into the Ministry

At Potomac's third ordination service in October, Bill Miller, conference president, commented, "This is truly the reason we exist—to grow healthy, disciple-making churches." Here are the stories of the three pastors Miller was delighted to ordain that month:

Eliasib Fajardo, pastor of the Arlington, Sterling and Metro NOVA Spanish churches in northern Virginia, surprised his family by announcing he would continue his education in theology after high school. He had never expressed the desire to pursue a ministerial career, but he felt Jesus calling him.

One university's committee denied Fajardo's admission request, saying he was too young and didn't look like a pastor. Fajardo refused to be discouraged and started actively serving young people in a nearby church. In 2001 he graduated with a bachelor's in theology from Montemorelos University (Mexico), where he met his wife, Yerusi Hernandez, and eight years later obtained his Master of Divinity at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.).



Debbie Eisele recently became the first female pastor to be ordained in the Columbia Union. Eisele has ministered at the Sligo



church in Takoma Park, Md., for nearly 12 years. She previously spent some 20 years as a missionary living abroad with her family. "It felt so good to be affirmed," she says. "When I got up from the ordination prayer and saw all our beautiful elders—from all over the world—standing there in support, I thought, 'If this isn't unity, I don't know what is.'"

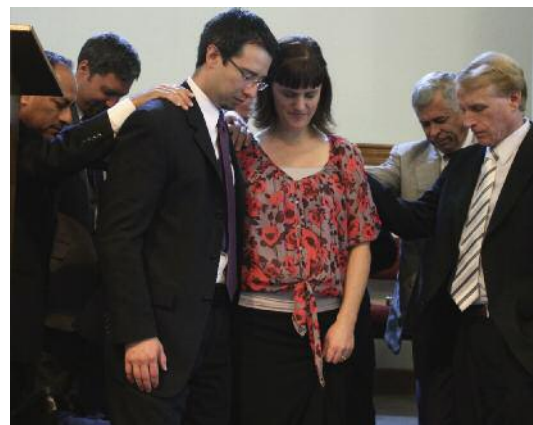
Eisele studied at Andrews University then attended the seminary at Schloss Bogenhofen in Austria, where she met her husband, Herbert. They began married life as student missionaries in Liberia and then moved to Vienna, Austria. When Eisele and her family moved to the South Pacific, she immersed herself in volunteer youth ministry in Australia, Papua New Guinea and Fiji and later completed a master's degree in youth ministry from La Sierra University (Calif.).

Michael Messervy, pastor of the Williamsburg, Gloucester and Newport News congregations in southern Virginia, says his interest in ministry was fostered as a student at Upper Columbia Academy (Wash.). "Several teachers took a personal interest in my spiritual and leadership development," Messervy recalls. "When it was time to choose a major for an

undergraduate degree, I had already tasted the enjoyment of spiritual leadership and teaching. It was reinforced by encouragement from several mentors and peers that I trusted for their honest and godly insight."

After graduating in 2003 from Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) with a bachelor's in theology, Messervy started his ministry at a four-church district in southwest Virginia. In 2005 he and his wife, Amelia, moved to Richmond where Messervy worked at the Patterson Avenue and Far West End churches under Robert Banks, Potomac's associate for pastoral ministries. Messervy later completed his Master's of Divinity through Andrews University, and, in January 2010, the family relocated to their current district.

"We feel honored to affirm these individuals' calls into the gospel ministry, and feel blessed to have them as part of our ministerial team," said John Cress, director of pastoral ministries.



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God is Always Right on Time!

Our Heavenly Father knows what we need and when we need it. It is amazing how even before we think to ask, He has already intervened on our behalf!

Just a few weeks ago, there were serious decisions to be made on behalf of the school, and I decided to retreat into my office to take a breather. I told my receptionist that I would be in my office and that I should only be contacted if the building were on fire! I went in, took a seat and began to contemplate over that decision, but soon my office phone began to buzz. I immediately thought to myself, "I guess the building is on fire, so I'd better answer." My receptionist told me that there was a board member who would like to come in and speak with me. As I opened the door and saw their smile, I nearly cried. My visitor said, "Principal Thrower, I know that you are very busy, but I just wanted to come by and pray for you." What an awesome God we serve! He knew exactly what I needed and when to send it.



Carla Thrower
Principal

Men Don Aprons for a School Cause

Takoma Academy's (TA) Parent Association, led by Karen Benn-Marshall, recently hosted its second annual cooking fundraiser in the school gymnasium. This year the event showcased the culinary talents of TA's fathers, husbands and male faculty and staff members. More than 25 men adorned in aprons stood behind their food stations with smiles of accomplishment, dividing their foods into appetizers, main courses, desserts and exotic beverages. The fundraiser benefits various projects on campus that promote instructional opportunities for students. This year the money goes toward science lab upgrades.

Melvin Hayden III and Paul Graham, pastors of two



area churches, hosted the evening, while TA students offered vocal and instrumental renditions for the night's entertainment.

"I am always excited when the community comes together to support my school. Seeing parents having so much fun at events like these is great," commented Adriana Hayden, sophomore class president. "I can only imagine how much more can be achieved if more individuals participate so willingly."

The event encourages camaraderie and promotes great fellowship in the community while raising funds for a worthy cause. It was not important whether the men prepared their dishes without the assistance of significant others; what was most important were their contributions.



David Thrower, TA's second vice principal, happily serves up his dish to a fundraiser supporter.

Alumni Inspire, Receive First Tigers Roar Awards

Takoma Academy has started a new tradition. During the last chapel of each month, one of the school's many outstanding alumni will be featured and address the TA student body. They are encouraged to share nuggets of their life's journey and how the TA experience has promoted their success.



Judge Joseph L. Wright (above) of the District Court of Maryland for Prince George's County was the first speaker for the series. Judge Wright grew up in the Baltimore City foster system until the age of 9, when Leroy and Sophronia Wright, a Seventh-day Adventist couple, adopted him. They soon enrolled him at the Dupont Park Adventist School in Washington, D.C. He transferred to public school his junior year but was not happy there

and always longed to be part of the TA community. He eventually got an opportunity to attend TA his senior year but needed to find a way to pay his tuition. To see his way through, he started working with the federal government his senior year and handed monthly checks to then principal Richard Osborne. He graduated from TA in 1985.

"Joseph's story is one of perseverance and hard work, not to mention a deep sense of commitment and responsibility," said junior Thomas Bailey.

Malini Joel, MD, was the second alumni to address the student body. She graduated from TA in 1993 and had the honor of being the senior class president, valedictorian and a recipient of the John Graham Sportsmanship Award. She shared that the extra activities outside of the classroom caused her to hone time management and perseverance traits that aided her along the way.

It was TA faculty who inspired Joel to pursue her career. For the last seven years, she has been practicing as a family doctor with Johns Hopkins Community Physicians in Rockville, Md. Dr. Joel, along with her husband and two children, is an active member of the Southern Asian church in Silver Spring, Md.



Senior Tiffany Saunders asks an alumni presenter how their time at Takoma Academy influenced the decisions they made later in life.

"Dr. Joel motivated me to do well now so that I can have the life that I have imagined," noted sophomore Mariah Gray. "I learned that while I am having fun, I need to be working hard as well."

Both presenters received the school's new Roar of the Tiger award. The award is meant to recognize outstanding alumni who best represent the Takoma Academy mission of helping to improve society and promote the cause of Christ.



Principal Carla Thrower (right) and Ronnie Mills, assistant to the principal for fundraising and alumni, present alumna presenter Malini Joel, MD, with one of the school's first Roar of the Tiger awards.

Calendar

December

- 9 ACT Testing
- 14 Choir/Drama
Christmas Program
- 20 Half Day
- 21-Jan. 6 School Closed

January

- 21 Martin Luther King Jr.
Day—No School
- 27 SAT Testing

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Partnering With God

Someone recently asked what was the single most important action I took to change the direction of our university. My quick response was “praying, asking God for divine guidance along with a special request for patience, determination and the ability to do and say the right things at the right times.” He was satisfied to an extent, but persisted with another question: “So, what did you do?”

On further reflection, my answer today would be that I established a partnership with God to identify who my customers were and then created a culture of excellence in order to provide a product that exceeded the expectations of the customers. In an organization with multiple customers, such as trustees, faculty, staff, students, constituents, parents and even government and accrediting agencies, how does one exceed multiple customer expectations?

The first and most important step in transforming an organization is identifying and understanding its core values and vision. Once established, they can be used to determine operational issues, such as goal-setting, decision-making, establishing criteria for effective hiring and identifying appropriate behaviors.

At Washington Adventist University (WAU), our core values and vision have helped us declare the institution’s higher purpose, create an internal and external image of the organization, communicate a message internally and ensure that our pillars of excellence—quality, people, finance, growth, service, community—are continually aligned with our operational values.



Weymouth Spence
President

Nursing Students Commit to Service

Some 109 students in the Edyth T. James Department of Nursing recently participated in an annual dedication ceremony at nearby Sligo church. The dedication takes the place of the once traditional capping ceremony for nurses and marks the transition from classroom to clinical work for nursing students. The ceremony also affirms students’ desire to help others through service.

Emily Mize, PhD, chair of the nursing department, dedicated the class and led the students in the WAU nurses’ affirmation.

Lois Peters, keynote speaker and philanthropist, urged the students to be competent and compassionate professionals guided by the example of Christ and the love of God.

“I thought it was very important to have this ceremony put in place in order to instill in the students a sense of pride in the profession,” said Shilpa Prasad, a sophomore. “As nurses, we take on the role of advocates, caretakers, teachers and confidants with our patients. It was a very special reminder of the mind-set that we as students should maintain as we go through this academic program.” She added, “I see a great advantage in attending an institution that emphasizes the importance of spirituality in healthcare.”

The nursing program at WAU is approved by the Maryland Board of Nursing and accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commissions.



500 Participate in Fall Service Day Activities

More than 500 WAU students, faculty and staff recently took to the streets of Maryland and the District of Columbia with one goal in mind: to impact the community in new ways.

Pay it Forward, one of 19 service day projects, proved especially popular with the students. Participants were given \$10, which they had to use to meet the need of one or more strangers they encountered. Students reported combining funds to meet a larger need, including paying for groceries.

“This project appeals to the creativity of students,” said Alcira Groomes, Student Association president and project leader. “By serving in [nearby] Langley Park, students realize that they do not have to go very far to find opportunities to bless others or exemplify what the ‘Gateway to Service’ [motto] means to our community.”

Gwen Moore, a freshman music major, said, “Pay it Forward was amazing. What I liked most were the responses I got from helping people randomly and the opportunity to choose them. I loved seeing how surprised they were from receiving a gift from out of nowhere, and I was glad to be the one that contributed to that blessing.”

Kaneil Williams, chaplain of missions and chair of the service day planning committee, said he was not surprised to see whole departments and clubs invested in making a change. “Our institution has a long legacy of service,” Williams said. “Service reminds us of our greater purpose [and that] only what we do for Christ will last.”

Some 200 students from the nursing department, led by Professor Kane Taffe, participated. “This is the first time the university



WAU students beautify the community.

has seen such a response from this department,” said Baraka Muganda, vice president of the Office of Ministry. “Professor Taffe’s leadership is a model of excellence for us all.”

The nursing students educated the community about mental health, nutrition and self-breast examination screening, and provided blood pressure checks.

Charles L. Short, special assistant to Montgomery County Executive Isaiah Legget, joined the effort and encouraged the student body to continue to examine their place in meeting the needs of the community, especially in areas of poverty and youth/juvenile service. His message resonated especially with students who went to local primary and secondary schools and the neighboring Langley Park community.



Charles L. Short, special assistant to Montgomery County Executive Isaiah Legget, addresses the student body.



Pay it Forward participants use their money to buy toys for kids in the Langley Park community.

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

Profiles in Caring



Bill Robertson, President and CEO of Adventist HealthCare, gets his flu shot in September as part of the organization's Help Stop the Flu campaign. As a commitment to high quality and patient safety, Adventist HealthCare employees receive the seasonal flu vaccine each year. For the past two years, Adventist HealthCare has achieved 100% compliance for health care worker flu vaccination.



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Hackettstown Regional Medical Center
Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital
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No Regrets Over Saying I'm Sorry

They are two of the most powerful phrases in our language: "I love you" and "I'm sorry." They share the distinction of being among the hardest words to say. And they can both be devalued quickly by two other words: "if" and "but."

For example, there is nothing quite so frustrating as sentences that start with "I love you, but..." Just reading it on the page brings up a defensive response in one's mind. And "I'll love you if..." is clearly manipulative and destructive.

But since the focus of this column is the second phrase, "I'm sorry," it's important to note that either one of these words—"if" or "but"—can also sink an apology.

The words "I'm sorry" can save a relationship. But a sentence that begins with the words, "I'm sorry if you..." attempts to shift the blame for hurting someone away from the speaker and make the injured party somehow responsible.

When you hear "I'm sorry, but..." how do you feel? Like fighting? Like walking away? Like calling in a mediator? Certainly not like forgiving.

In health care, the role of the simple apology when there is an unexpected outcome is an important aspect of patient care. The reasons for this are quite simple: it promotes healing and it is essential to the relationships of trust so necessary to our effective service. Despite concerns about increased liabilities, health-care professionals have sought for ways to express regret—to simply say, "I'm very sorry that this has happened." It may be hard to say, but it almost always helps get a situation that has gone awry back on course.

In the 1949 film "She Wore a Yellow Ribbon," John Wayne's character says, "Never apologize and never explain—it's a sign of weakness." In the 1970 film "Love Story," Ali MacGraw's character says, "Love means never having to say you're sorry."

They were both wrong, but their sentiments may give a little insight into the imperfect way we approach things. (By contrast, John Lennon said, "Love means having to say you're sorry every fifteen minutes.") Perhaps it is because of pride or embarrassment. Perhaps we are still so angry about something that an apology seems like giving in. Perhaps we are concerned about being humiliated. Maybe it's just having to face the fact that we aren't perfect and that we make mistakes.

There is no statute of limitations on an apology. Even though it is often difficult to find the determination to say "I'm sorry," the key elements of an effective apology are very straightforward: Be direct. Acknowledge the wrong. Express your remorse. Invite response. Be sincere.

Ultimately, an apology is measured by whether or not the words are consistent with the rest of how a person (or organization) behaves. As a currency for restoring broken relationships, apologies are only as good as the one who stands behind them. No ifs, or buts.



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

Flu Shot Program Expands Access to Care for Community, the Underserved

Adventist HealthCare joins with organizations to provide free flu vaccinations

Adventist HealthCare launched its fifth annual flu vaccination campaign this fall, which focuses on prevention to help stop the spread of the flu in the region. The “Help Stop the Flu” campaign provides the public with access to local flu shot clinics and encourages the community to take immediate action against the flu through vaccinations and prevention.

“Getting a flu shot is the best defense you can take against getting the flu,” stated Judy Lichty, Regional Director of Health & Wellness for Adventist HealthCare. “In addition to getting vaccinated, it’s important to make healthy lifestyle choices including getting plenty of sleep and exercise, eating the right foods, and washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.”

During the 2012-2013 flu season, Adventist HealthCare is offering flu shots for adults and children in close to 50 sites throughout Montgomery and Prince George’s counties

in Maryland and surrounding communities. Through these clinics, Adventist HealthCare vaccinates thousands of residents each year and remains one of the largest providers of flu vaccines in Montgomery County. By partnering with other organizations, Adventist HealthCare is able to offer free flu shots to many in the community.

In October and November, Adventist HealthCare and Washington Adventist Hospital partnered with CASA de Maryland to provide valuable health-care services to the local underserved by hosting two free flu vaccination clinics at the Silver Spring, Maryland Welcome Center.

“We are proud to partner with local organizations like CASA de Maryland to ensure the health of our community by continuing to expand access to quality health-care services, especially for those who need it most,” said Joyce Newmyer, President of Washington Adventist Hospital.

Also in October, Adventist HealthCare collaborated with WTOP radio and M&T Bank to offer another free flu shot clinic at Westfield Montgomery Mall in North Bethesda. More than 180 people received free vaccinations as part of this collaboration.

Since being launched in 2007, Adventist HealthCare’s Help Stop the Flu campaign has vaccinated thousands of residents through flu shot events held at its facilities, local churches, malls, businesses and community centers throughout Montgomery and Prince George’s counties in Maryland.

“These clinics help to support our goal of bringing prevention programs to the community which provide an equal opportunity for health for all,” said Marcos Pesquera, Executive Director of the Adventist HealthCare Center on Health Disparities. For additional information about clinics, the seasonal flu and vaccinations, visit www.HelpStoptheFlu.com.



far left top; Norma Martinez (right, front) and Marcela Alvarado (back, left) from CASA de Maryland help translate consent forms into Spanish for local Silver Spring residents during the free flu shot clinic.

far left bottom; Marilyn Dennis, RN, with Adventist HealthCare’s Health & Wellness department, delivers free flu shots to community members on Oct., 15, 2012.

left; Brenda Blackburn, RN, Registered Nurse with Adventist HealthCare helps administer free flu shots at Westfield Montgomery Mall during a free flu shot clinic in collaboration with WTOP radio and M&T Bank.

Adventist HealthCare In The News

'Pink Fling' Event Brings Breast Cancer Awareness, Expert Advice to Community

Adventist HealthCare helped raise breast cancer awareness in our community at our first ever Pink Fling event on Sept. 30 at Westfield Montgomery in Bethesda, Md.

The fun and educational event, co-sponsored by Shady Grove Adventist and Washington Adventist Hospitals, was emceed by Jane Peck, Executive Director of Cancer Care Services at Adventist HealthCare. With help from volunteers across Adventist HealthCare, community members from throughout the region received free, expert information and advice on promoting breast health, and approximately 70 local women took the breast cancer health risk assessment and received counseling from physicians to discuss their results.

Thanks to our Foundation teams, sales of gift bags and shopping discount cards to the mall also helped raise more than \$2,000 for programs that support breast health services for low-income women in our community. The event featured informative and enlightening expert physician panels, with physicians from across Adventist HealthCare giving advice on mammograms and high-density breasts risk. Attendees were also treated to a healthy cooking demonstration, an exercise demonstration, and a "Survivor Fashion Show" featuring breast cancer survivors from our community. For photos, visit www.facebook.com/AdventistHealthCare.

Washington Adventist Hospital Performs County's First Single-Site Robotic Surgery

Washington Adventist Hospital has become the first hospital in Montgomery County to perform a da Vinci robotic single-site operation. This comes less than a year after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved single-site instruments for the da Vinci robotic surgical system last December.

Innovative single-site technology allowed Washington Adventist Hospital's surgical team to remove a patient's gallbladder, called a cholecystectomy, through a single, one-inch incision made through the belly button. The surgery was performed on Friday, September 7.

"By making only one incision, patients experience virtually no scarring, minimal pain and a quick recovery," said Bobby David, M.D., general surgeon, who performed the procedure. "We are pleased to be able to offer this unique technology that will serve to revolutionize surgery and enhance the care we provide to our patients."

Using state-of-the-art robotic and computer technologies, the da Vinci surgical system has allowed surgeons at both Washington Adventist Hospital and Shady Grove Adventist Hospital to perform complex operations with greater precision. The robot translates the surgeon's hand, wrist and finger movements into precise, real-time movements of surgical instruments. Specially trained surgeons control the robot from a console, using high definition cameras and manipulating the high-performance, miniature instruments to perform the operation.

All of this translates into an easier recovery for patients with less pain due to fewer and smaller incisions.



Robert Jepson Named Vice President of Business Development

Longtime Adventist HealthCare employee Robert Jepson has accepted the position of Vice President of Business Development for Adventist HealthCare. This role includes two areas of focus. The first and most immediate responsibility involves working to submit a new Certificate of Need (CON) application for Washington Adventist Hospital.

The second, longer-term responsibility will be to help lead our strategy of attracting new physicians to our entities as we continue to expand and improve access to care in the Washington, D.C. region.

Jepson has been an integral part of Adventist HealthCare for 20 years, most recently serving as Vice President of Government Relations and Public Policy. He has been instrumental in advocating for our organization on a national, state and local level and strengthening many of our vital community partnerships. His knowledge of Maryland health care and Adventist HealthCare, plus his work ethic and strong personal skills, will be major assets in this new position. Jepson is a member of Frederick Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Lichty Selected for Leadership Montgomery Class

Judy Lichty, Regional Director of Health & Wellness for Adventist HealthCare, has been selected for the Class of

2013 of the Leadership Montgomery Core program.

A nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, Leadership Montgomery brings together current and emerging leaders and offers them a unique opportunity to increase their understanding of the complex social and economic issues of Montgomery County and the region.

Leadership Montgomery has more than 1,800 graduates and participants, including many current executives throughout Adventist HealthCare. Lichty is a member of Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church.

For more news, go to
AdventistHealthCare.com/about/news/

El programa Flu Shot (vacunas contra la gripe) le brinda acceso a atención médica para las personas que menos tienen

Adventist HealthCare trabaja junto con organizaciones para brindar un servicio de vacunación gratuito contra la gripe



Marilyn Dennis, RN, del departamento Health & Wellness de Adventist HealthCare preparan suministrar vacunas gratuitas contra la gripe a los miembros de la comunidad en octubre en conjunto con CASA de Maryland.

Adventist HealthCare presentó su quinta campaña de vacunación anual este otoño, la cual se concentra en la prevención para ayudar a detener la propagación del virus de la gripe en la región. La campaña Help Stop the Flu (Ayuda a detener la gripe) le permite al público acceder a consultas locales de vacunación contra la gripe y alienta a que la comunidad trabaje para contrarrestar el virus de la gripe mediante la vacunación y la prevención.

“Vacunarse contra la gripe es la mejor defensa que puede tener una persona,” mencionó Judy Lichty, director regional de Health & Wellness de Adventist HealthCare. “Además de vacunarse, es importante realizar elecciones de vida saludables entre las que se incluyen dormir cierta cantidad de horas y realizar ejercicio, comer los alimentos indicados y lavarse las manos con jabón y agua durante al menos 20 segundos.”

Durante la temporada de gripe 2012-2013, Adventist HealthCare ofrecerá vacunación contra la gripe para adultos y niños en alrededor de 50 ciudades desde los condados de Montgomery y Prince George en Maryland y las comunidades de los alrededores. Mediante estas consultas, Adventist HealthCare vacuna a miles de residentes cada año y sigue siendo uno de los proveedores más importantes de vacunas contra la gripe en el condado de Montgomery. Al trabajar junto con otras organizaciones, Adventist HealthCare puede ofrecer vacunas gratuitas contra la gripe a muchas personas de la comunidad.

En octubre y noviembre, Adventist HealthCare y Washington Adventist Hospital trabajaron en conjunto con CASA de Maryland para ofrecer valiosos servicios de atención médica a las personas que menos tienen al realizar dos consultas gratuitas de vacunación contra la gripe

en el Silver Spring, Maryland Welcome Center. “Estamos orgullosos de trabajar en conjunto con organizaciones locales como CASA de Maryland para garantizar la salud de nuestra comunidad al continuar con la expansión del acceso a servicios de atención médica de calidad, especialmente para quienes más lo necesitan,” dijo Joyce Newmyer, Presidente del Washington Adventist Hospital.

Además, en octubre, Adventist HealthCare colaboró con WTOP radio y M&T Bank para ofrecer otra consulta de vacunación gratuita contra la gripe en Westfield Montgomery Mall en North Bethesda. Más de 180 personas recibieron vacunación gratuita como parte de esta colaboración.

Desde que se lanzó en 2007, durante la campaña de Help Stop the Flu de Adventist HealthCare se han vacunado a miles de residentes en eventos de vacunación que se realizaron en las instalaciones, iglesias locales, tiendas, comercios y centros comunitarios a lo largo de los condados de Montgomery y Prince George en Maryland.

“Estas consultas ayudan a sustentar nuestro objetivo de ofrecer programas de prevención a la comunidad los cuales brindan la misma oportunidad de salud para todos,” dijo Marcos Pesquera, director ejecutivo del Adventist HealthCare Center en Health Disparities. Para obtener más información acerca de estas consultas, la vacunación y la época de gripe, visite www.HelpStoptheFlu.com.



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Baltimore	4:43	4:44	4:46	5:22	4:56
Cincinnati	5:15	5:16	5:18	5:22	5:28
Cleveland	4:57	4:57	5:00	5:22	5:10
Columbus	5:07	5:07	5:10	5:22	5:20
Jersey City	4:29	4:29	4:32	4:36	4:42
Norfolk	4:48	4:49	4:52	4:56	5:01
Parkersburg	5:03	5:04	5:06	5:10	5:16
Philadelphia	4:35	4:36	4:39	4:43	4:48
Pittsburgh	4:53	4:54	4:56	5:01	5:06
Reading	4:37	4:38	4:40	4:45	4:50
Richmond	4:51	4:52	4:55	4:59	5:04
Roanoke	5:02	5:03	5:06	5:10	5:15
Toledo	5:04	5:04	5:07	5:11	5:17
Trenton	4:33	4:34	4:36	4:40	4:46
Wash., D.C.	4:46	4:47	4:49	4:53	4:59

all former students, faculty, staff and supporters. Golf Tournament Sunday morning, April 21; Friday evening Welcoming Reception and Sabbath morning services on campus; Campus potluck and reunions, April 26-28; and Ladies' Gala Tea, Sunday afternoon. Honor classes: '50+, '3's and '8's. Contact: (951) 351-1445, ext. 244, jnelson@lsak12.com and LSA website: lsak12.com/alumni.

OBITUARIES

BROOKS, Lee Roy, Jr., born December 15, 1917, in Kingsport, Tenn.; died April 17, 2012, in Princeton, W.Va. He was a member of the Valley View church in Bluefield, W.Va. He was a postman in Bluefield for many years. He served in the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II, stationed at the Panama Canal as a radio operator. He was a member of the Military Amateur Radio Service (MARS) and was a trustee of the Amateur Radio Club of Bluefield. He was preceded in death by his wife, Elsie Brooks. Survivors: his sister, Mary Louise Wilson; his cousin, George Brooks; and his best friend, Keith Leonard.

CASH, Robert W., born August 2, 1920, in Arpin, Wis.; died January 28, 2012, in Grand Rapids, Mich. He was a member of the Wyoming

(Mich.) church. He was an accountant for Cedar Lake Academy (Mich.), 1946-47 and for the South American Division from 1947-56; the treasurer for the Ecuador Mission, 1956-58 and for Union Springs Academy (N.Y.), 1958-62; a cashier at Columbia Union College, now Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., 1962-65; an auditor for the Columbia Union Conference 1965-77; and an auditor for the General Conference Auditing Service, 1977-87. He is survived by his sons, R. William "Bill" Cash of Vallejo, Calif., and Fred Cash of Honolulu, Hawaii; his two grandsons and two granddaughters; and his former wife (divorced in 1991), Kathryn Elting of Yountville, Calif.

DART, George Charles, who served as president of the Southern California Conference from 1986 to 1993, died March 3, 2012, in Loma Linda, Calif. Elder Dart served the church for more than 50 years in the capacity of pastor, educator and administrator. He started his ministry in Ohio as a singing evangelist, then as a pastor in Mansfield and a Bible teacher at Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon, Ohio. From there, he served as principal of Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa. He moved in 1963 to Texas to pastor the Keene (Texas) church and then served as president of the

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Texas Conference. He served next as the principal of Milo Academy (Ore.) and eventually as superintendent of schools for the Oregon Conference. After his retirement, Elder Dart served as principal of Ozark Adventist Academy (Ark.). He is survived by his four children: Chuck (Sherri), Cheri (Alan), Jed (Lee Lee) and Jolene (Kent); and grandchildren: Chad, Kristi, Caroline and Heidi.

DIPIETRO, Carmello, born January 7, 1926, in New York, N.Y.; died February 2, 2012, in Grasonville, Md. He was a member of the Grasonville (Md.) church. He served in the Army/Air Corps during World War II and also served in Japan as part of the occupation forces. He was discharged May 1946 and married Elizabeth Hawley June 30. Carmello enjoyed wood-working and was known as "Mr. Fixit" because of his talent for home improvements. He was employed by the Review & Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md. and the government printing office. He served as a deacon and elder in both the Takoma Park (Md.) and Grasonville churches. He is survived by his loving wife of over 65 years, Elizabeth; his children: Gloria (William) Mansfield of Queenstown, Ohio, Darlene (Lorne) Vernon of Stevensville, Ohio, and Ken (Joanne) DiPietro; a sister, Josephine DiMaria; and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

HAMM, William "Bill" Charles, born June 13, 1931, in Coatesville, Pa.; died March 16, 2012, in Altamonte Springs, Fla. He was a member of the Forest Lake church in Apopka, Fla. He is survived by his wife, Doris Dietrich Hamm of Apopka, Fla.; and his sister, Catherine "Kitty" Indart of Churchville, Va.

HARPER, Linda Ann, born June 23, 1942, in Newark, Ohio; died January 12, 2012, in Newark. She was a member of the Newark (Ohio) church. Linda worked for Western Electric and Continental Can Company for many years before retiring. She is survived by her husband, Philip D. Harper; her sons, Jeffrey and Michael Jacks; her sister, Marilyn Sue (Lyle) Bowers; her grandchildren: Adam, Hilary, Nick and Zack; and her great-grandchildren: Kenadie and Kamdyn.

HARRIS, Lester E., Jr., born June 4, 1922, in Washington, D.C. to Irene and Lester Harris; died suddenly at his home in King and Queen, Va., February 1, 2012. He was a member of the Kilmarnock (Va.) church. An Army medic in the South Pacific during World War II, he came home with the idea of becoming a medical doctor. But, the pull of his love of nature was too strong. After graduating from Washington Missionary College,

now Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Md., and Cornell University (N.Y.), he spent the rest of his life as a biology professor. He taught for 50 years at WAU, La Sierra University (Calif.) and Middlesex High School (Va.). Lester spent his life loving God and the natural world that God created and shared that love with his students. Lester was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Marjorie. He is survived by his children: Lester "Jay" III, Deborah, Charles and Julia; as well as his brother Richard; and many family and friends.

LIU, David J., was born in Honolulu, Hawaii; died December 11, 2011, in Olney, Md. He was a member of the Olney (Md.) church. Dave taught elementary school in Montgomery County, Md., for 47 years and at Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, Md., for five years. He was the first tenor in the Hilltoppers quartet for 50 years. He coached basketball at Takoma Academy in Takoma Park and helped with Pathfinders at the Wheaton (Md.) church. Survivors: his wife, Snookie Liu of Olney; his sons, Jeremy (Esther) Liu of Ridgefield, Wash., and Jason (Laura) Liu of Irvine, Calif.; granddaughter Isabella of Irvine; and grandson Anderson of Irvine; his sisters, Mabel Wong of Sunbury, Ohio, and Beatrice Bartner.

McKENZIE, Paul, born March 5, 1931, in Frostburg, Md., the oldest of 13 children; died June 7, 2012, at Florida Hospital Waterman in Tavares, Fla. He was a member of the Umatilla (Fla.) church. He spent three years in the U.S. Army and settled in Mount Vernon, Ohio. He had a career as a plasterer and as a car salesman. He moved to Forest City, Fla., in 1965. He owned a car lot, Paul's Used Cars, for 32 years, and continued doing plastering. Paul and his wife, Dorothy, lived in Mt. Dora, Fla., for 18 years. He is survived by his wife of 60 years; his two sons, Dennis (Sherry) McKenzie and Neil (Linda) McKenzie; a daughter, Juanita Gold; 11 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; three brothers: Murrell (Pauline) McKenzie, Delbert (Glenda) McKenzie and David McKenzie; three sisters: Donna (Leonard) Cutter, Eileen (Roger) Miller and Jane (Bill) Stairs. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Carolyn McKenzie; two sisters, Darlene McKenzie and Virginia Shriver; four brothers: Wayne, Carl, John and Darrell.

MENDIETA, Humberto A., born February 5, 1942, in Managua, Nicaragua; died March 19, 2012, in Pennsylvania. He was a member of the Lehigh Valley Hispanic church in Allentown, Pa. He was a recent graduate of the Escuela de Teologia Para Discipulos (School of Discipleship) held in Pennsylvania.

He is survived by his wife, Fanny Cortés Mendieta of Whitehall, Pa.; his daughter, Carmen I. Mendieta of San Francisco, Calif.; his sons: Humberto A. Mendieta from Pennsylvania, Humberto Carlo Mendieta of Nicaragua, and Enzo Mendieta of California.

METCALF, Anna V., born May 27, 1927, in Virginia; died March 12, 2012, in Baltimore. She was a member of the Brooklyn (Md.) church. Survivors: her daughters: Lois Kova, Linda Serio, Sharon Harris and Gay Metcalf.

MOWRY, George C., born January 4, 1917, in Cumberland, Md.; died February 24, 2012, in Hagerstown, Md. He was a member of the Hagerstown church. George graduated from Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon, Ohio, and Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, Md. He pastored churches in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota, before retiring to Hagerstown. He and his wife, Irma, were married for over 70 years, until she died three years ago. He is survived by his nephews: Alvin Mowry, R.D. Mowry and Dan Toms; and more nieces and nephews.

SHAMPO, Doris A., born August 20, 1922, in Amherst, Mass.; died March 14, 2012, in Hagerstown, Md. She was a member of the Martinsburg (W.Va.) church. Doris worked for 23 years as a sewing machine operator at the Review & Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown. She is survived by her daughter, Robin Lee, of Hagerstown; her son, James Shampo; and her granddaughters: CaliAnne and Barbara Lee of Hagerstown.

TAYLOR, John "Benton," Sr., born February 11, 1920, in Baltimore, to the late Eva Tyler and John Wilder Taylor; died April 10, 2012, at home, in Westerville, Ohio. He was a member of the Worthington (Ohio) church. After graduating in 1947 from Washington Missionary College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, Md., with a degree in theology and business, he began his career as an educator, both as a teacher and administrator in the Adventist school system in New Jersey. He also taught in Ohio, Florida and Kentucky. He later earned a master's degree from Andrews University (Michigan). After 35 years of service for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, he retired in 1982. He was preceded in death by his parents, two infant brothers and two adult brothers. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Ruth Reusing Taylor; his sons, John B. (Barbara) Taylor, Jr. of Cicero, Ind., and Jeffrey C. (Dawn) Taylor of Laurel, Md.; his daughter, Marsha R. (Steve) Morgan of Westerville; six grandchildren; his

sister, Nancy Monninger, of Ashville, N.C.; and many nieces and nephews.

VAN NOSTRAND, Gary L., born August 24, 1940, in Mount Vernon, Ohio; died May 5, 2012, in Mount Vernon. He was a member of the Ohio Conference. He graduated from Mount Vernon Academy in Ohio in 1958. Gary owned and operated Northside Manor Nursing Center in Mount Vernon and maintained a charter fishing boat for several years at Lake Erie. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Ann Van Nostrand of Mount Vernon; his son, Gary Van Nostrand, Jr., of Murfreesboro, Tenn.; his daughters: Vicki (Gerald) Erskine of Lewisburg, W.Va., Lori (Steve) Wycoff of Marysville, Ohio, and Kristi (Peter) Schumacher of Morrow, Ohio; his mother, Lucille (Dotson) Long of Charlotte, N.C.; his sisters, Pat (Jeff) Davis of Charlotte and Susan (John) Peters of Clearwater, Fla.; and six grandchildren.

WYLIE, Ronald J., born January 31, 1935, in Bay City, Mich.; died May 15, 2012, in Columbia, Md. He was a member of the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. Ron was an attorney in private practice in Columbia, but was also involved with many cases over the years relating to the church/members. He was the executive director of Adventist Community Services at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife, Junamae Wegner Wylie of Glenwood, Md.; his son Rodney (Nicole) Wylie of Westminster, Md.; his grandson, Brayden Wylie of Westminster; his mother, Cieta Wylie of Sandy Spring, Md.; and his son-in-law and daughter-in-law, Gene and Linda Wegner of Laurel, Md.

ZEMAN, Rudolph "Rudy" F., born May 22, 1924, in New York City; died February 10, 2012, in Bethlehem, Pa. He was a member of the Phillipsburg (N.J.) church. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving in the European Theatre during World War II. He married Gisele Mireille Droz, whom he met in France during the war. He worked for Hackettstown Regional Medical Center in Hackettstown, N.J., for 35 years, most recently as chaplain, and previously as director of environmental services. A woodworker and canoeist, he enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. An avid reader of the Bible, he touched many people's lives. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Gisele, of Bangor, Pa.; his son, Daniel (Nena) Zeman of Ridgefield, Conn.; his daughter, Anne-Elizabeth (Bill) Hosko of Bangor; his son-in-law, Jean-Louis Marchand, of Easton, Md.; his seven grandchildren: Valerie Marchand Welsh of Phila.; Jon-David Marchand of Clarksburg, Md.; Stephanie Zeman Zanvetta of Orange, Conn.; Jeremy Zeman of Englewood, Colo.; Jonathan Zeman of Stamford, Conn.; Seth Hosko of New York City; and Sarah Hosko Mahoney of Forks Twp., Pa.; and four great-grandchildren.

Columbia Union Revolving Fund

WELL INTO THE 21ST CENTURY, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Columbia Union is busy building the body of Christ through its many entities. As union membership increases, so does the need for churches, schools, conference offices and other structures.

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- ★ Mission Trip opportunities to Peru and Africa
- ★ An active literature evangelism program, Youth for Change
- ★ Two Weeks of Prayer each year
- ★ Week of Outreach to give back to and show Christ's example in our community.
- ★ Bible Studies to help students develop personal, saving relationships with Christ.
- ★ Relationships with local youth pastors provide additional spiritual mentors and resources for school and students.



ACADEMICS

- ★ One college preparatory diploma ensures all graduates are prepared to finish college.
- ★ A supplemental honors certificate is awarded to students who exceed diploma requirements.
 - ★ Nine Advanced Placement (AP) Courses prepare students for rigorous classes.
 - ★ Dual credit courses for both high school & college credit through WAU.
 - ★ Fine arts opportunities include vocal and instrumental music classes, drama, and art.
 - ★ The Freshman Summer Enrichment program helps students transition to high school.
 - ★ A Sophomore Summer Science Enrichment program exposes participants to lab experiments and ACT & SAT preparation.
 - ★ Students have been selected for Georgetown University's Summer at Georgetown and Loma Linda University's Minority Introduction to the Health Sciences.
 - ★ Students have been awarded the National Merit Scholarship and National Achievement Scholarship for PSAT tests scores.



COLLEGE & CAREER PREPARATION

- ★ All students take the ACT (EXPLORE, PLAN, ACT) & SAT standardized testing.
- ★ TA offers a semester-long College Preparation course for upperclassman.
- ★ College Fair and Career Fair are both hosted at TA each school year.
- ★ The Career Cruising program helps students assess career interests and goals.



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- ★ Offer soccer, volleyball, flag football, basketball, track, and golf
- ★ Participate in tournaments in Georgia, Ohio, Texas, and Washington
- ★ 2010-11 League and Tournament Championship Titles
 - ✓ Atlanta Adventist Academy's MLK Tournament - Girls' & Boys' Varsity Basketball
 - ✓ Maryland Independent School Athletic League - Girls' & Boys' Varsity Basketball
 - ✓ Mount Vernon Academy's Bill Jarvis Soccer Invitational Champions

