

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

MARCH 2013 • VOLUME 118 • ISSUE 3

As registration deadlines loom,
educators want to know

What school will Alexandra choose?

And what realities will influence
her family's decision?



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About the Cover: James Ferry photographed Alexandra Toscano and her parents, Tim and Cheryl Toscano, at his studio in Columbia, Md.

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VISITOR CONTEST

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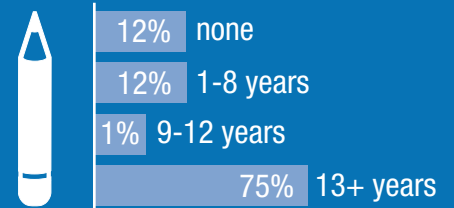


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Source: [facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor](https://www.facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor)

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COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE ■ 5427 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045 ■ (410) 997-3414 ■ (888) 4-VISITOR
 columbiunion.org ■ visitor@columbiunion.net

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Volume 118 ■ Issue 3

A GPS for Life

Like many of you, I grew up in a Seventh-day Adventist home and participated in just about every religious service the church offered. Thanks to dedicated Caribbean parents, my life revolved around the church and school. I didn't have a choice.



I finished school, got married, had a daughter and continued to faithfully attend church. Then my wife was diagnosed with lymphoma. Unexpectedly, I found myself with a 3-year-old, an ailing wife, a feeling of helplessness and an uncertain future.

People who knew me wondered aloud how I would make it and raise my daughter as a single parent. Not knowing where to turn, I reached back to my roots—those Bible classes, church activities, family devotions and the influence of my Christian teachers. I know that this was a turning point for me, a point when my traditional and surface relationship with Christ ended, and the real one began. If I hadn't had that foundation, I'm not sure how I would have made it. Now, as I look back, I know I made it *because* of that foundation.



PARTNERS IN FAITH

Recently I was asked why I sent and continue to send my daughter, Danielle, now 20, to Adventist schools. Though I take pride in our quality curriculum, strong academics, service component, commendable test scores and current technology, that's not really why I make the sacrifice year after year to keep her enrolled. Indeed, she could get a good education in another school.

I do it because I believe Proverbs 22:6, which says, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it." Our children spend about 32 hours a week in school. In addition to reading, writing and arithmetic, their teachers impact their life choices and character development. I want my daughter to be surrounded daily by practitioners and influencers of faith who can reinforce the lessons I teach her at home.

I do it because when she leaves my household and goes out on her own, makes life decisions and faces difficulties—which she will—I believe our values, spiritual foundation, exposure to faith in action and the relationship she developed with God will sustain and guide her.

I do it because teaching is not just a career, it's a ministry. Our teachers are ministers of the gospel who point our children to Christ and spend every day providing them with the tools they need to navigate the road of life.

Donovan Ross serves the Columbia Union Conference Office of Education as associate director of secondary education.

Newsline

TAASHI ROWE

NEW ACS DIRECTOR NAMED FOR GREATER WASHINGTON AREA

Last month Sheila Schlisner Hendricks began her new duties as executive director of the Adventist Community Services Center of Greater Washington (ACSGW). She replaces Gene Milton, who, since last summer, served as interim director.



Schlisner Hendricks most recently served as the executive director of the Good Neighbor Community Center in Nebraska. "We are fortunate to have such a dynamic new leader at this critical time in our history," said Les Pitton, chair of the board for the Silver Spring, Md., organization. The center offers a plethora of services ranging from emergency assistance, education, workforce development, and medical and dental services.

The Potomac Conference founded the ACSGW in 1983 under the auspices of three Maryland

churches: Sligo, Silver Spring and Takoma Park. Burnt Mills, Hyattsville, Triadelphia and Beltsville now serve as member churches, while the presidents of the Columbia Union, Chesapeake, Allegheny East and Potomac conferences serve on the governing board.

FORMER CHESAPEAKE, MOUNTAIN VIEW PRESIDENT DIES

J. Wayne Coulter, who served as president of the Chesapeake and Mountain View conferences, died in January following a yearlong battle with cancer. He was 76. Before he joined Chesapeake in 1985, where he was president for 10 years, he served as president of Mountain View from 1981 to 1985. He retired as president of the Illinois Conference in 2002 and moved with his wife, Sharon, to Tennessee, where he pastored the Decatur church. A memorial service was held last month at the Decatur church.—*Samantha Young*



"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall rise up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint" [Isa. 40:31]. I think my experience this morning shows that to wait upon the Lord brings rewards. I recommit my life to the Lord Jesus. ... I thank [you] for welcoming me fully into the gospel ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

—*Pastor Josephine Benton upon receiving emeritus ministerial credentials at Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., last month*



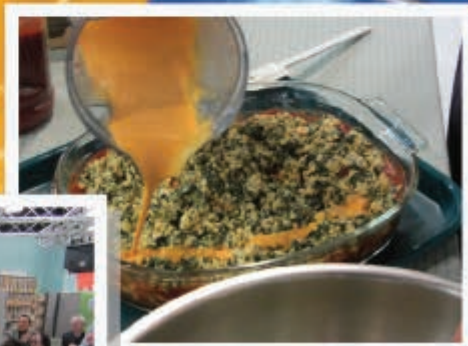
GOOD NEIGHBOR HOUSE MOVES, EXPANDS SERVICES

Visitors at an open house for Ohio Conference's Good Neighbor House (GNH) in Dayton, Ohio, view floor plans for a new facility made possible after initiating a \$1.9 million capital campaign. GNH, which opened their doors in 1994 with the support of eight area Adventist churches, provides dental, medical and eye services to the community. The new facility opens this month, and a grand opening is scheduled for early summer. Read more on page 28.—*Heidi Shoemaker*

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Noticias

TAASHI ROWE

PASTOR DE JÓVENES DE NEW JERSEY EN LOS JUEGOS DE INVIERNOS

En enero, el departamento de jóvenes de New Jersey Conference presentó su primer juego de invierno con equipos organizados de las iglesias para jugar volibol, baloncesto, y fútbol en tres lugares. Los juegos se



tuvieron cada fin de semana de enero, y las finales durante la convención de liderazgo juvenil en Tranquil Valley Retreat Center en Tranquility. Más de cuarenta equipos se inscribieron y jugaron con entusiasmo para ganar los trofeos.

El personal de la Asociación creó los juegos de invierno como una

manera para que los jóvenes crearan lazos más fuertes con sus amigos no adventistas. Es más, una de las reglas de cada equipo fue tener por lo menos tres miembros de la comunidad. Esto le dio a los jóvenes oportunidades para el evangelismo—invitar a sus amigos a una actividad amigable de la iglesia sin las presiones de estar en un santuario. Los líderes dieron una meditación y oración antes de iniciar los juegos. En la foto están Estefanny Llanto, de Paterson Temple en Paterson, junto a cinco amigos que invitó a participar en los juegos de invierno.

LA IGLESIA CENTRAL HISPANIC HACE QUE LAS FAMILIAS DE COLUMBUS SE MOVILICEN

Como parte de sus esfuerzos por ministrar a los vecinos de la parte del este de Columbus, Ohio, la iglesia Central Hispanic de Allegheny West Conference recientemente presentó un programa único de diez semanas usando una subvención de \$8,000 de National Latino Children Institute [instituto nacional de niños latinos]. Bajo el título “Salsa, Sabor & Salud,” los miembros de la iglesia proveyeron



Los niños del vecindario disfrutaron actividades físicas divertidas—como la carrera de sacos—que fueron parte del programa de salud de diez semanas de la iglesia Central Hispanic.

a los niños hispanos y sus familias consejos e ideas sobre la salud y la actividad física.

Cada sábado de tarde durante diez semanas, los miembros de iglesia se pusieron camisetas coloridas y comenzaron la aventura. El programa se organizó como una escuela bíblica de vacaciones con un giro inesperado sobre la salud y el ejercicio, e incluyó manualidades, aperitivos saludables, actividades y juegos físicos. Un total de cincuenta familias del área participaron y experimentaron los beneficios de un estilo de vida saludable.

TERCERA IGLESIA HISPANA PLANTADA EN CLEVELAND

Por muchos años, solamente había dos iglesias en Cleveland, Ohio Conference: la primera iglesia hispana y la iglesia hispana Ebenezer. Sin embargo, esto cambió después de que un grupo de hermanos con mente misionera decidieron compartir el evangelio en la parte del este de la ciudad. Ellos plantaron una congregación nueva y tuvieron su primer servicio en enero. El servicio tuvo veinticuatro miembros y visitas.

Peter Simpson, el pastor del distrito, dirigió el servicio para el nuevo grupo plantado en East Side. “Fue un día lleno de gozo y felicidad

“

No importa cuán difícil sea la prueba o las circunstancias, siempre debemos confiar en Dios. Dios no limita su amor. Cada criatura, judío, gentil, hombre, mujer, niño, joven, adulto, o anciano, puede contar con la providencia de Dios y su ayuda divina. Así como [la viuda de 1^a Reyes 17:1-6] fue probada, también somos probados en diferentes o similares circunstancias. Ella nos recuerda que el corazón del conflicto es precisamente demostrar que Dios es lo más importante en nuestras vidas, no importa lo que pida de nosotros, aún si lo entendemos o no.

—Un pasaje del sermón de Orlando Rosales sobre la mayordomía. Rosales es pastor de las iglesias Baltimore Spanish y Dundalk Spanish en Chesapeake Conference, y una de las doce personas que ganó el concurso de sermones sobre mayordomía de la División Norteamericana.

ARTICULO DE ESPECIAL VISITOR

Padres y educadores dialogan sobre la educación adventista

Katty Castro, un miembro de la iglesia hispana central de Columbus, Ohio, de Allegheny West Conference, fue escolarizada en casa por su madre durante los primeros años de su vida en Venezuela. Pero esa no fue la única razón por la que decidió escolarizar a sus propios hijos. “Mi hija más pequeña, Keyla, estaba un poco enferma y decidí que la vida era frágil y podría perderla en cualquier momento”, recuerda Castro. “También reconocí que tenía poco tiempo para edificar el carácter de mis hijos en Cristo”.

De eso hace cuatro años. Ahora Kevin tiene ocho años y Keyla tiene seis años, y Castro todavía sigue comprometida en escolarizar a sus hijos en casa. No obstante, la decisión de escolarizar en casa no es sólo suya. Cada año Castro y su esposo Walter le preguntan a Dios si deben continuar escolarizando a sus hijos pues saben que hay otra opción. “Creo en la educación Adventista del Séptimo Día porque soy producto de la educación adventista”, dice ella.

Los Castro (en la foto) están entre docenas de padres, educadores, pastores, y otros líderes de la iglesia que fueron entrevistados para dos artículos sobre la educación adventista este mes. Ambos artículos analizan lo que padres buscan en una buena escuela y cómo los adventistas pueden abordar sus preocupaciones de costo, distancia, y calidad en nuestras escuelas.



porque sabíamos que estábamos cumpliendo la misión que Dios nos había encomendado”, dijo Daniel Mason, anciano de la iglesia. “Estábamos muy contentos de tener visitas porque ello nos demostró que había personas en este lado de la ciudad en busca de un lugar de esperanza”. La iglesia está localizada en 1443 Addison Road.

centra en capacitación de discipulado hispano, se realizaron tres seminarios de capacitación regional en todo Potomac Conference el mes pasado. El tema de este año, “Jesús, esperanza para la familia”, animó a las personas a enfocarse en las unidades de

familia y en aceptar la responsabilidad de predicar la Palabra de Dios a los fines de la Tierra.

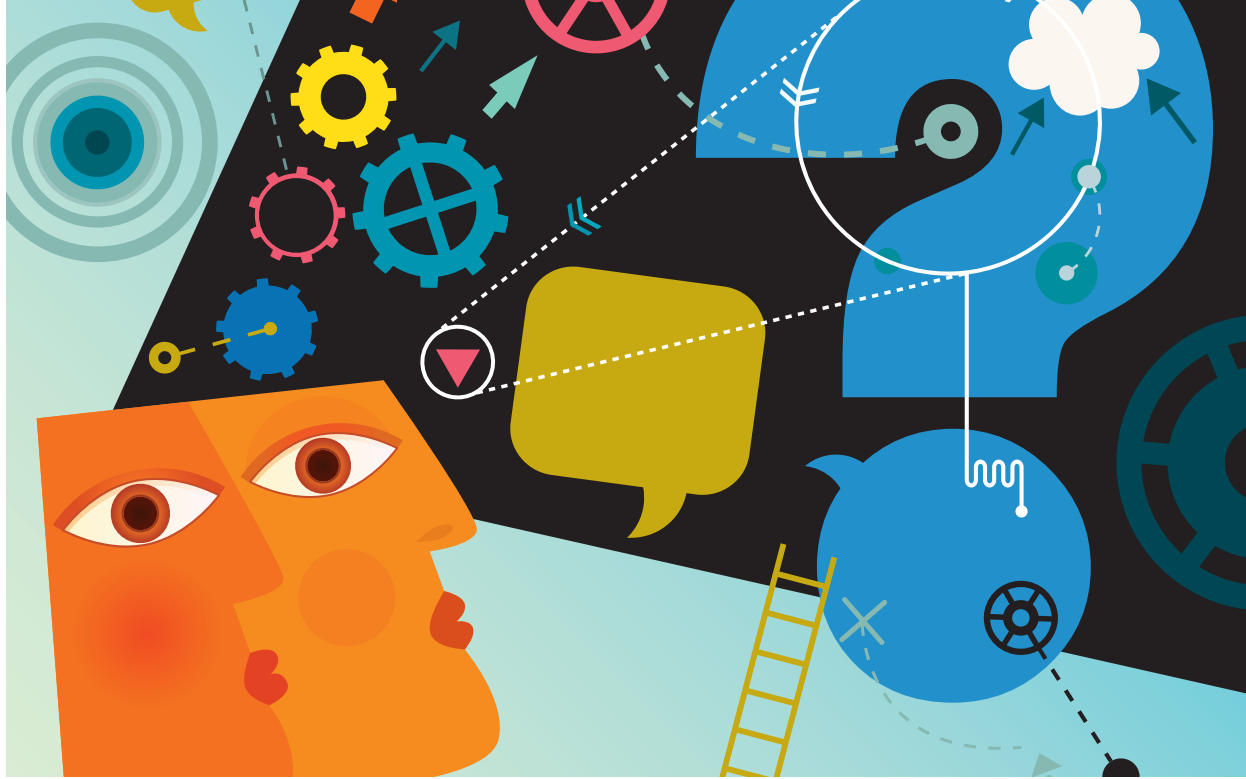
José Esposito, el director del ministerio hispano de la Asociación, el pastor Peter Simpson de Ohio Conference, y pastores locales, presentaron los seminarios y sermones a más de quinientos feligreses en el área de Richmond, Va.

Alrededor de cuatrocientas ochenta personas asistieron a los seminarios en el área de Dale City, Va., y más de doscientas cincuenta asistieron en Mount Rainier, Md. Otras dos reuniones de capacitación se llevaron a cabo en Takoma Park, Md., y Manassas, Va. En la foto están algunos miembros de un grupo pequeño que muestran como crecieron durante el año pasado. —*Jacqueline Sanchez-Ventouris*

POTOMAC CONDUCE CAPACITACIÓN REGIONAL DE DISCIPULADO

En lugar del mega evento anual en Ocean City, Md., que se con-





Tough Questions

Educators seek solutions for enrollment realities

BY TAASHI ROWE

DURING THE 2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR, the Columbia Union Conference claimed 5,853 students in its 101 K-12 Seventh-day Adventist schools. By the time the 2012-13 school year rolled around, overall enrollment dropped 11 percent to 5,232, and 12 schools closed.

Larry Blackmer, the North American Division vice president for education, doesn't find the number particularly surprising. "Our numbers peaked in 1974 and have, on average, gone down every year after," he reports. "Lots of people talk about why that is. ... We have an aging population in the church. Fewer families have children in the school-age range. Around 40 percent make less than \$20,000 a year, which means those families don't have access to our schools."

Monte Sahlin, director of research and special projects for the Ohio Conference, discussed the drop in enrollment in his "2004 Survey of Adventist Parents About Christian Secondary Education in the Columbia Union Conference." In the survey report he noted, "The most significant observation in these data is the comparison of the children of parents in the Baby Boom generation versus the children of Gen X parents. The decline in the percentage of children enrolled in Adventist schools is about one third."

Blackmer also believes that because of an increased focus on spirituality and decreased attention to specific religions, Adventists today are not as committed to their educational institutions as they were back in the heyday of the 1950s, 60s and 70s.

Conversely, Sahlin says the number of parents in his survey who believed Adventist education was important only dropped slightly from 1987 to 2004, and only 2 percent said it wasn't important at all.

Why the Decline?

In dozens of *Visitor* interviews with administrators, pastors, teachers and parents, three concerns rose to the top: cost, quality and, to a lesser extent, location.

Karl Lawrence, board chair of the Sligo Adventist School in Takoma Park, Md., remembers the 2002-03 school year when his school had an enrollment of 287. Today it's 194. There "is the perception and perhaps, to some extent, the reality that the quality of Adventist education has not sustained a sort of upward trajectory in comparison to the type of education offered by other sectarian and private schools," he surmises.

Dave Morgan, principal at Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) in Hamburg, Pa., recently wrote a 50-page

research paper for his master's degree in leadership at Andrews University (Mich.), which confirms that theory. He also found that parents find Adventist schools too expensive. Morgan, who recently took the helm at BMA after serving five years as Pennsylvania Conference's superintendent, is faced with declining enrollment at his alma mater. Five years ago, the school had 250 students. Today there are 147.

The misperception that Adventist schools aren't quality is a common one. Blackmer believes this is what leads parents to look for a "better return on investment for their kids' education." He notes that parents look for extracurricular activities and programs with a strong emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math, and differentiated instruction for students with learning differences. But, these are all challenges that several Columbia Union schools can meet.

Looking for Options

For Blackmer, when it comes to charting a path for a sustainable future, Adventist educators have very few choices, and closing schools is not one of them.

In Ohio, several Adventist schools are addressing the problem of affordability by participating in a state voucher program, which is serving as a life raft to keep them afloat. The program allows students who attend failing public schools to attend private schools on the taxpayer's dime. Due to the program, Allegheny West Conference's two schools have a higher combined enrollment of 190. Ohio Conference's Cincinnati Junior Academy (CJA) now claims 55 students, according to Elizabeth Panda, co-principal. "Before the program opened up in 2006, we [had] about 15 to 20 students and only two teachers," she says. "A majority of our students are on the program."

At the Clifton church, CJA's constituent congregation, "There's been mixed reactions," Panda says. "Some people believe Adventist education should only be for Adventists. I believe Adventist education is quality education, and we should offer it to whomever would like to take advantage of it."

In the New Jersey Conference, superintendent Sadrail Saint-Ulysse reports their large increase in membership is mostly from first-generation immigrants whose incomes do not allow for a private school education. To him the solution is obvious. "We have to provide [financial aid] for students who cannot afford to attend our schools," he states. To

accomplish that, he has a five-year strategic plan combining marketing and fundraising to raise his school's profile in and outside the church community.

Saint-Ulysse is also addressing another barrier to enrollment: transportation. The Collingwood church recently purchased a 24-passenger minibus to pick up students at two churches and transport them to the Meadow View Junior Academy in Chesterfield.

A few years ago, the conference closed its only senior academy, Garden State, and this year Saint-Ulysse made the hard decision to merge two schools and close another. He believes that with less funds going toward the upkeep of underutilized buildings, constituent churches and the conference can free up monies to strengthen the curriculum and provide financial aid to students.

Consolidating schools is not a new idea in the Columbia Union, especially in areas where state and regional conference boundaries overlap. "A few years ago, we proposed going from five boarding schools to one centrally located, high-tech, high-quality boarding school that would be focused on research-based academics and geared to practical application projects, service programming, etc. We thought we could reduce redundancy and perhaps lower overall operational expenses," reminisces Ham Canosa, EdD, Columbia Union education vice president. "It didn't fly."

Lawrence acknowledges, "There was a time when we could justify having three schools in fairly close proximity. But, if you go beyond the narrow and increasingly irrelevant conference borders, we just don't have the population to sustain it."

Allegheny West superintendent Yvette Cooper understands she cannot serve all her conference children who live in Ohio, much less Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. She is not against consolidating per se, but notes that this would require a new, perhaps even unprecedented, administrative model to address which conference a school would belong to.

The above solutions may work for some schools, sometimes, but Sahlin believes Adventists need to consider two obvious solutions to effectively address a systemic problem: "We need to do a much better job evangelizing our young adults, and we need to make a shift toward a mission school model, which is what most Adventist schools around the world do," he proposes.

With confidence in public school education falling to an all time low of 29 percent, according to a recent

5,232 The number of students enrolled at Columbia Union schools

469 The number of Adventist teachers in the Columbia Union

248 The number of students baptized in Columbia Union schools last year

234 The number of union teachers with graduate degrees

89 The number of K-12 schools in the Columbia Union

7 The number of union teachers with terminal degrees

6 The number of new academy principals for the 2012-13 school year

Gallup Poll, Adventists may be ignoring a crucial population. An Adventist mission school model does not put a cap on the number of community students enrolled, “but that would mean a shift away from the model where part of the Adventist school’s goal is to maintain a separate subculture ... A big chunk of the membership simply won’t support that,” Sahlin says.

Maybe. Maybe not. “I absolutely love that Dr. [Weymouth] Spence at Washington Adventist University is identifying student needs and making strides to meet them,” Dave Morgan says of the Takoma Park, Md., school. That method seems to be attracting not only Adventist students but also those of other faiths—whose attendance helped boost last year’s enrollment to 1,493, the highest in 20 years.

Is the Future Online?

Blackmer and many other church school leaders believe that the future of Adventist education lies in a murky arena somewhere between brick and mortar and online. According to Blackmer, the division sets aside \$350,000 a year, in cooperation with Griggs University, to develop an online distance education program. “If we could build a quality, affordable and acceptable cohort model online while tying students to a local boarding academy, I think we would double the number of kids participating,” he says.

Canosa strongly supports online models, but remains committed to face-to-face education. “We need to explore every avenue to allow Adventist kids to get an education in a brick-and-mortar setting,” he challenges. “I believe we will have to do some kind of blended education that can allow high schoolers to get their diploma in two or three years online *and* through face-to-face instruction.”

Can Quality and Religious Schooling Coexist?

For most people considering a church school, one of their top requirements is that the school provides their children with a strong spiritual foundation, something those interviewed believe is already being provided at union schools. As Blackmer notes, the ongoing ValueGenesis studies have proven that the longer a student is exposed to Adventist education, the more likely it is that they will stay in the church. “This is why I keep my son in Adventist schools,” says Saint-Ulysse. “The importance of passing on my faith to my son is so important that I would go so far as to say it’s more important than anything else he could get in a public school.”

For parents looking for quality, they may want to check out the oft-referenced 2006 CognitiveGenesis study, which offers a three-year comparison of the standardized test scores for students in grades 3-8 and 9-11. The findings showed that students at Adventist schools did better than their public school peers, and just as well or better than those attending other private schools. Also, Adventists offer the only private school system in the world in which 100 percent of its institutions are accredited. And according to Canosa, the union is implementing a five-year initiative to expand differentiated instruction training for teachers.

Blackmer says spirituality and quality academics are not mutually exclusive in our schools. “Adventist education *is* quality academics within an environment that promotes strong spiritual values, that is distinctly Adventist and provides a safe social environment for children to learn our Adventist values,” he says.

Desiree Bryant, Potomac’s associate superintendent, shares: “My mom used to always say Adventist education doesn’t cost, it pays [off]. It means that what we receive in dividends far outweighs the costs.”



Tough Choices

Parents share the realities that influence enrollment decisions

BY TAASHI ROWE

THE MOMENT JACK AND CHERYL SONCEAU, members of Allegheny East Conference's Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., realized their daughter, Lauren, would not be the next generation in their family to experience happy memories at a Seventh-day Adventist school was heart wrenching.

But at birth, Lauren weighed only 1 pound, 2 ounces, and had bleeding in her brain, which caused mild cerebral palsy. This meant she would have learning difficulties. The state provided the Laurel, Md., couple with a learning specialist. When Lauren turned 5, they sent her to an Adventist school but the teachers weren't able to accommodate her needs, recalls Cheryl.

After putting Lauren in two other Adventist schools and supporting her with out-of-pocket tutors, "We decided to put her in public school," Cheryl says.

Having never been in a public school setting before, the Sonceaus had no idea what to expect, but they are thrilled to see that Lauren is getting the support she needs in terms of technology and access to special educators. And, Lauren is blossoming and fully participating in school and church.

"She still is a kid who struggles with math and reading, but she's been on the honor roll almost every

quarter since fourth grade," Cheryl says. However, she adds, "I still mourn over the fact that Lauren is being denied the best for her in terms of her spiritual growth. But, my child told me this school year that before she takes her test, she quietly closes her eyes and prays. I know she took that from church school."

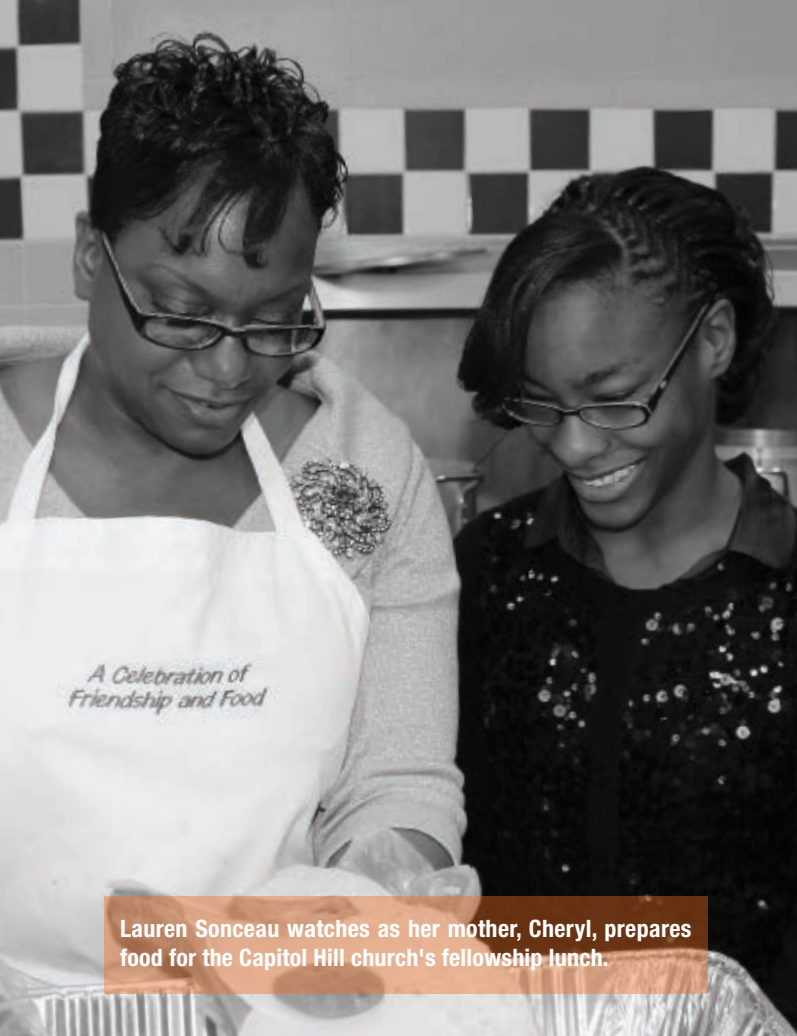
Faith and Friends

Is public school the only other option? Not if you ask Karen and Doug Hawk. The Hawks, who attend Mountain View Conference's Ripley and Spencer churches in West Virginia, have never really had great experiences with public schools. Karen remembers living in Southern Maryland when, one day, their son, Harley, told them that kids at school picked on him because he prayed at lunch. It was a difficult decision, but after much prayer, the Hawks decided to home school Harley.

When they moved on to 75 acres in Reedy, W.Va., some three-and-a-half years ago, they continued to home school, but with no neighbors, their daughter, Jessica, now 15, was extremely lonely. Karen called Cheryl Jacko, the principal of the nearest Adventist school, Highland Adventist School (HAS), in Elkins.

"I wish I had stepped out in faith then, but [HAS]

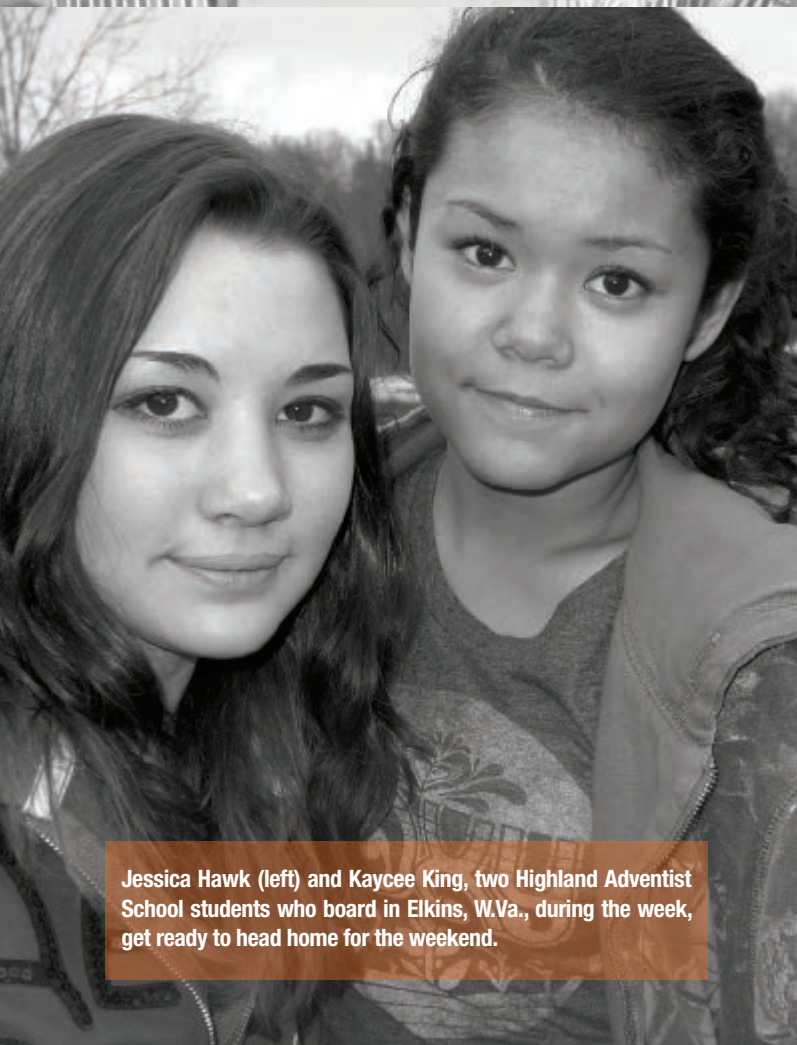




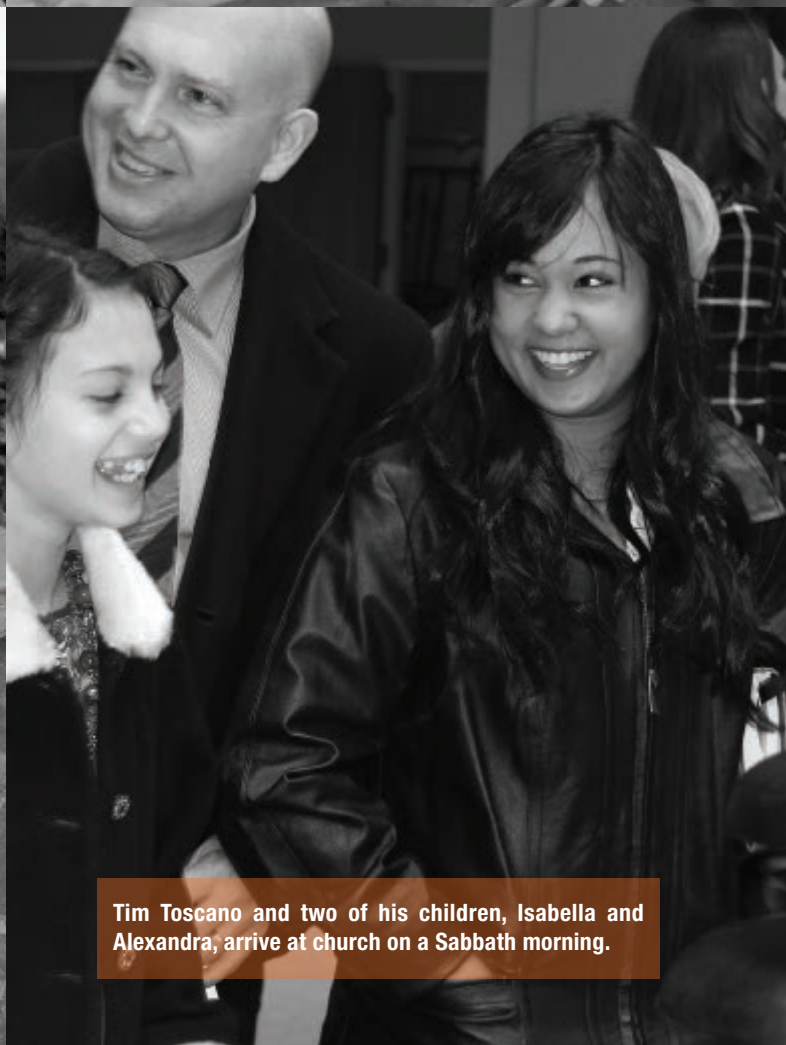
Lauren Sonceau watches as her mother, Cheryl, prepares food for the Capitol Hill church's fellowship lunch.



Gary Banks, pastor of the Pine Forge (Pa.) church, baptizes Saskeia Doris.



Jessica Hawk (left) and Kaycee King, two Highland Adventist School students who board in Elkins, W.Va., during the week, get ready to head home for the weekend.



Tim Toscano and two of his children, Isabella and Alexandra, arrive at church on a Sabbath morning.

was three hours away,” Karen says. “So I sent her to the public school here for five months.” Karen didn’t like what she saw there. “Jessie was so happy to have friends that she couldn’t see that those associations probably weren’t the best for her, and we love her too much to throw her to wolves,” Karen says.

So, despite the distance and cost, the Hawk family enrolled their daughter at HAS in January. “After a week at HAS, Jessie said she never wants to go back to public school. At HAS the kids don’t curse or do drugs, and knowing that my daughter gets to fellowship with young people like this has reinforced my faith in God,” Karen says.

It isn’t perfect. Karen says her daughter loves science and was excited to do experiments and projects in her old school’s lab. They don’t have that at HAS. Still, the Hawks believe this is a far superior place for their child, so they continue to make the sacrifice of paying for tuition, room and board, and spending 12 hours on the road each weekend.

A Daughter’s Faith

Sacrificing for an Adventist education is something that some, even those who are not Adventist, seem more than willing to make. Ann Farrington had never even heard of the Seventh-day Adventist Church when her daughter, Saskeia Doris, returned to their home in Bloomfield, Conn., after visiting a friend at Pine Forge Academy (PFA) in Pine Forge, Pa. Saskeia had fallen in love with the Allegheny East Conference boarding school and was convinced it was where she belonged.

“I didn’t know where the money would come from,” recalls Farrington, who works as a nurse’s aide. But, when she discovered that 99 percent of PFA students graduate, and a large majority move on to college, “I thought, ‘Wow, I want this for my daughter,’” Farrington says. None of her other children had gone to college and neither had she.

Although she was already a Christian, it was the faith of her youngest daughter that impacted Farrington. They kept praying, and at the very last

minute, God worked out the finances. Saskeia enrolled at PFA last fall. It wasn’t too long afterward that Saskeia prayed about being baptized. “She told me, ‘Mommy, I prayed and I’m ready.’ What she didn’t know was that I was praying too!” Farrington shares.

The Sabbath Saskeia came up from the baptismal waters, the first person she saw was her mother dressed in a white baptismal robe.

Open House

For some parents, choosing to send their kids to a private school is an easy choice, especially when funds aren’t an issue and they have poor public schools to choose from. But how do parents choose when they have free, excellent public schools in their neighborhoods? That’s the question Cheryl Toscano, a member of Potomac Conference’s Beltsville (Md.) church, ponders on a winter morning as she watches her oldest child, Alexandra. With high school in her near future, Alexandra is at an open house checking out Chesapeake Conference’s Spencerville Adventist School in Spencerville, Md. This school is about seven miles north of her current one, Beltsville Adventist School, in Beltsville, Md., where Alexandra’s three siblings, Nicholas, Isabella and Vincent, are also enrolled.

Despite the expense of sending four children to Adventist schools, Toscano says, “I’m not a public school advocate.” Toscano, who met her husband at the now defunct Garden State Academy in New Jersey, says, “Yes, academics are [emphasized] at Beltsville, but the overall person is also [important]. I’ve seen [my children] show such compassion to their friends and each other over the nine years they’ve been at that school.”

Toscano hopes her daughter will end up attending Spencerville. However, she also knows that her husband, Tim, and Alexandra may consider other options, including a highly regarded public school with a specialized music program that would fully nurture their daughter’s musical talents.

What will they choose? Only time will tell.

Your Turn

What influenced your enrollment decisions? Share your thoughts with us at [facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor](https://www.facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor) or tweet us @VisitorNews and mention #columbiaunion.

JULY 21-28, 2013



MESSAGE

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Cruise with us as we embark on our 2013 *Message* "Spiritual Retreat." Spend time relaxing as you partner with us to reach more souls for Christ.

Whether you are planning a vacation for yourself or your family, a honeymoon, or anniversary celebration, come and celebrate the greatness of God and the nearness of Christ's return as we sing, pray, learn, and live for the purpose of reaching others for Christ. We are cruising with a mission, but with fun for the entire family.

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MESSAGE

More Than a Magazine—A Ministry

First Church of Franklin Celebrates 10 Baptisms

On a good Sabbath, you may find 20 to 25 members attending the First church of Franklin (Va.), according to Ruyard Lord, pastor of the small flock. However, due to the quiet diligence of the members, 10 new members recently joined the church. None of the new members came as a result of a public evangelism meeting. Lord said he challenged his members not to rely on an out-of-town evangelist to do God's work. "I told them that they had to do the work themselves," he said. "I asked them if church was important to them, and once they



said, 'yes,' I told them they then had a duty to share what God has done for them with others." Over the course of year, the church members invited several people to church, 10 of whom eventually took Bible studies and then joined the church.

New members include (left to right) Shirley Perry, Tiffany Thomas, Toyra Winborne, Bryan Jayner, Shakeuha Sullivan, George Thomas Jordan (seated in wheelchair), Dora Johnson and William Johnson. Pastor Ruyard Lord is in the center.

Church of the Oranges Members Publish Book on Family Life

The education ministry of the Church of the Oranges in Orange, N.J., recently published *Guide to a Happy Family Life: From a Christian Perspective*, which highlights some of the important principles every family must embrace to live a happy life. The book is divided into three parts: relationships within the family, the relationship of the family with God and the relationship of the family with the community.

The book, which shares contributions from 26 authors from the church, came about as result of their participation in the church's "Cultivation of Adventist Talents for Christ" (CATCH) program, which aims to help Church of the Oranges members make use of their God-given talents for God. The goal of the book is to help readers:

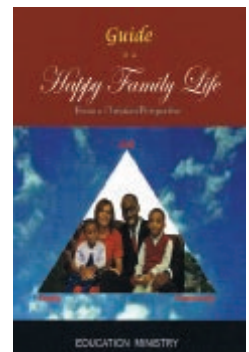
- Participate in church activities
- Raise their children in the fear of the Lord
- Adopt a healthy lifestyle for good health and longevity
- Involve themselves in the community by providing for the needs of the community
- Spend time as a family with the Lord
- Establish positive relationships among the members of their family guided by God's love

Guard their family from evil forces
Obey God's call
Discover their God-given talents to use for God's glory, and practice more healthy Christian principles for a healthy family life

"As a contributing writer, it is a joy to share and minister to each reader. I received a wonderful blessing after reading the valuable insights from the other authors. It is my prayer that the blessings contained in this book will continue to flow out to others to the honor and glory of God," said Charles H. Washington.

"This for me is a ministry highlight. Coordinating so many different gift levels for such a product is a demonstration of faith in God and people," said D. Robert Kennedy, PhD, EdD, the church's pastor and a contributor to the book.

The book can be purchased from Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble and directly from the church at 270 Reynolds Terrace. For more information, call the church at (973) 678-1951.—*Arulraj Johnrose*



Members Share 7,000 Copies of Message During Inauguration

We have to pray about this one because we don't know exactly the best way to get to the most people," exclaimed Robert Moses, Allegheny East Conference's (AEC) associate Publishing Ministries director, as departmental staff picked up a second team from Maryland. The team was one of several determined to spread love and hope to thousands of people in Washington, D.C., during the second inauguration of President Barack Obama, January 21. Some 21 AEC members came from Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland, braved the cold and joined Moses and Rodney Grissom, the conference's other associate publishing director, to witness to attendees.

Determined, they went in faith knowing that God would make a way. When they got to the National Mall the morning of the inauguration, God truly made their pathways straight. They found themselves just a few blocks away from where the crowds gathered to hear the swearing-in ceremony. At the end, in less than two hours, the team distributed close to 7,000 copies of *Message*, a sharing magazine.

"People came just to hear the inauguration, but they left receiving the message of hope, love and the soon coming of Jesus Christ," Grissom told the team after their work was finished.



Ephesus Church Showers Community With Blessings

When they noticed how the economic downfall was continuing to impact their neighbors in Richmond, Va., members of the Ephesus church recently stepped in and blessed community members with food for the sixth year in a row. Norma Foster, who has served as community services leader for the past 14 years, and her 33

devoted volunteers, created 550 food baskets for families in need. The Ephesus gym served as a gigantic pantry, which was stocked the night before with string beans, stuffing, cake mixes, bread, onions, turkeys, flour, oil, potatoes, etc. And, as early as 6:30 a.m., community members lined up to receive their blessings. Well over 150 people walked away with food to feed their families.

At the end of the day, Foster said of the food giveaways, "When you are faithful to God's program, He will be with you all the way." She noted that the program would not be possible without the support of volunteers from inside and outside the church, such as the Virginia Food Bank, the Pediatric Group and the Asphalt Disciples, a local motorcycle group whose members regularly donate food and lend their time to the event.

In addition to the food giveaway, the church also hosted a community service concert on a Sabbath evening.

Foster reports that because of the Ephesus church members sharing love and support in the community, three recipients of the food baskets have since become members of the church.—*Edie Allen*



Anthony Holley, Norma Foster and Johnie Goodman are surrounded by food collected by members to give away.

Aim Higher

Traditionally, our church has responded to Christ’s charge to care for children (see Matt. 19:14, 15) by focusing on Youth Ministries, but I think we now must aim higher by going lower! I believe that our children are leaders in training (not leaders in waiting) and are endowed with spiritual gifts to reach other children for Christ. However, with the litany of contemporary challenges we face in society—sexual molestation, child abuse, mixed/blended families, gang affiliation, teen violence, bullying and low self esteem—the church cannot afford to take a passive or do-little approach to ministering to our children. I believe we must ask ourselves: Why are we losing our children to secular culture at such early ages? And, are we in danger of losing our children in the church?

In these challenging times, we must explore best practices to connect our children with Jesus Christ and acknowledge that Children’s Ministries is a necessity, not a luxury. To help grow a successful ministry in the Allegheny West Conference (AWC), the Children’s Ministries department continues to fulfill the following vision:

- To get churches, ministry leaders and volunteers around the conference to fully embrace Children’s Ministries as an evangelistic/ministry component
- To equip our children to minister to others and lead their peers to Jesus
- To help children develop spiritual maturity through engaging and interactive learning centers

As you’ll see from the church efforts highlighted in this newsletter, ministry to children is a gateway to evangelizing families and the community at large. More members around the conference are needed to fulfill our mission to develop our children into spiritual champions.



Allen Baldwin
*Children's Ministries
Director*

Central Hispanic Church Gets Families Moving

As part of their efforts to minister to Latino neighbors in the eastern part of Columbus, Ohio, the Central Hispanic church used an \$8,000 grant from the National Latino Children Institute to host a unique, 10-week health program. Under the title “Salsa, Sabor & Salud (Music, Flavors & Health),” church members provided children and their families with tips and insights on health and physical activity.

Every Sabbath afternoon for the 10 weeks, church members donned colorful T-shirts and started the adventure. The program, set up like Vacation Bible School with a twist of health and exercise, included crafts, healthy snacks, physical activities and games. A total of 50 area families participated and

Katty Castro and her children, Keyla and Kevin, distribute flyers for the Central Hispanic church’s health event.



Local children prepare for a sack race, which was part of the fun activities related to the church’s 10-week health program.

experienced the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

“It was a blessing to see children and parents exercising together and encouraging one another to make a small change,” shared Katty Castro, who helped lead the initiative along with Pastor William Ovalle, Olivia Ramos and Aracelis Hernandez. “Every church member was fully involved in different functions, which resulted in a great triumph.”



Ephesus Church Increases Focus on Children

The Children's Ministries department at the Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, strives to provide spiritual, hands-on, exciting programs that will serve as a spiritual foundation for children to ultimately make Christ their personal Savior. Here are some recent highlights:

With a joint vision to increase interest in Sabbath School, and in the wake of the 2012 Olympics, the Children's Ministries and Sabbath School departments hosted their version of "the games." After a hot breakfast, leaders paraded the children and teens into the fellowship hall for a torch-lighting ceremony. Afterward, they all engaged in Vacation Bible School-style games that taught biblical truth and lessons about God.

One of Children's Ministries' most recent social



The Beginner Sabbath School class enjoys an interactive lesson during the Ephesus church's kids olympics.



During "One Starry Night," children get ready to sign their name in Hebrew at Bethlehem's census office.

events for the kids was "One Starry Night," where children joined Mary and Joseph in their visit to Bethlehem to take part in the census. Their journey included a visit to 10 stations, such as the inn, where they made pillows; Stargazer Hill, to better understand the stars as the Magi studied them; and the manger, where they gazed at Baby Jesus.

Once a month, church members also host children's church. After an opening session, the children are divided by age and rotated through four stations: Bible, Bible application, games and crafts. "This works really well because things are constantly changing, which helps keep the children engaged," explains Belvia Jackson, Children's Ministries coordinator.

Ethan Temple Kids Grace the Pulpit

God's Kids Excel all the Time—Everywhere" was the theme for Ethan Temple's first Children's Ministries Day, when they celebrated children and showcased their talents for God. Mattie Johnson and Darla Stirmire, departmental directors of the Dayton, Ohio, church, selected four outstanding youth to speak for the Sabbath morning service, giving the young people an opportunity to witness to their church family. The speakers—Ariel Dozier, Alexis Dulan, L. Nicholas McGhee and Deaysia Winn—each conveyed the importance of recognizing that young people can excel while ministering for Christ, be it in work, school or play.

"Each of the speakers is blessed academically, and they are all multitalented and use these gifts to serve the church and their community," commented Valerie McGhee. "My son, Nick, commented that he really enjoyed the opportunity."

The young people also performed a play about the

Christ Child titled "A Sign for All," along with a puppet show, and rendered vocal and instrumental selections. The weekend concluded on Sunday with a skating party sponsored by the Dayton Eagle Pathfinders.



Ethan Temple kids sing praises to God during the church's first Children's Ministries Day.



Blue Mountain Academy COMMUNIQUE

MARCH 2013

Sending Students on a Journey to Excellence

Blue Mountain Academy's (BMA) mission is simple: "to provide a Christ-centered Seventh-day Adventist education that leads students into lives of service for God." Making it become a reality, however, is no easy undertaking. Today's young people are encouraged from every direction to embrace the world's philosophy of "me first," to turn their backs on the very God that sustains their life.

BMA staff seeks to accomplish this mission by infusing the wonderful love of God into all of the influences—mental, physical, spiritual and social—we have on our students. Each of the 10 goals set by the North American Division under their Journey to Excellence guidelines (journeytoexcellence.org), plays an important role in that development.

When it comes to their mental and spiritual development, we seek to plant seeds that may one day, under the Master's gentle touch, come to fruition in a life committed to Him. As we like to say, BMA is "distinctly academic, decidedly Christian!" Here are ways we're addressing four of those 10 related guidelines:

The key component of student life on campus is the opportunity to get to know and **accept God**. This important step starts in our classrooms, where teachers begin each day with a moment of focus on what an awesome God we serve. Following this devotion are classes taught from a biblical perspective. Further opportunities for students to draw closer to God are given at chapels, vespers, Bible studies, small student-led groups and community service activities.

There are ways our students can grow in their



Senior Stephen Acosta shares his musical talents at a school function, which is one way that BMA helps young people grow in their commitment to the church.

commitment to the church. Annual mission trips give them a chance to see the global need of a world hungering to know about God. Student-led FOCUS weeks allow students to minister to each other, as does our student leadership classes and special retreats. Chances to share with our constituent churches are frequent and varied, such as preaching, singing, playing instruments or even doing gymnastics.

An intentional byproduct of these experiences is that students **build interpersonal relationships**. For instance, being exposed to diverse cultures on campus helps BMA students discover that they can work side by side, regardless of race or background. They also learn how to develop healthy, Christian relationships by experiencing positive dorm life with caring deans, learning positive family values during Bible classes and witnessing staff families model a real family unit.

We also teach students **responsible citizenship** by helping them internalize Jesus' approach to valuing those we share space with. For example, participating in community service outings and mission trips help students learn to respect God, others and themselves. Witnessing the school's firm stance on keeping the campus a farmland—despite pressure to develop—also teaches them to be accountable to the Earth God gave us.

In my next editorial, I will highlight six more goals for education, those that focus on personal development. Each one helps us send our students on a journey to excellence.



Dave Morgan
Principal



Shirley Martinez, Gabrielle Thurman, Robert Goulding and Joan Batiz-Hernandez prepare to worship.

Why We Restarted Student Council

Other than one-on-one conversations and in-class discussions, the other way BMA staff gets student input—something they highly value—is through an active Student Council (SC), a program that’s been inactive for years at the school. SC president Anna Bugbee (right) shares why she accepted the challenge to resurrect the organization this school year:

“Be the change you want to see in the world.” This was my reason for wanting to restart Student Council. I believe that if you truly want to make a difference, you have to start where you are.

Being on Student Council has inspired me to take pride in my school, with faculty that are constantly helping us. It is hard to please everyone, and sometimes it doesn’t feel like we are making as much of a difference as we want, but we are making change. Already this year, the council has had a voice in such topics as dress code, meals and modifying attendance issues.

Under the direction of Dave Morgan, principal and Student Council sponsor, SC participants are encouraged to first identify the problem they wish to address, then, rather than sit and complain, begin

seeking solutions. Mr. Morgan speaks on behalf of the administrative committee and helps the council craft their proposals to increase the odds of committee acceptance. This process tells us, the students, that what we think matters, that if we will apply the abilities God gave us, we can come up with a lot of positive solutions!



Spotlight: Senior Adam Lebo is “the Real Deal”

Blue Mountain Academy is serious about being a place where students feel loved and valued. It’s one of the ways staff fulfill the school’s mission. Senior Adam Lebo (below) is just one example of



these goals in action through Christian education.

Lebo’s entire Adventist educational experience has taken place at Reading Junior Academy in Reading, Pa., and BMA. His mom, Karin Lebo, recently wrote about his experience in Christian education: “Adam has teachers that focus on more than academics. His teachers have striven to model Christ’s character. They have prayed with him, laughed with him, set high expectations for him. They have challenged him to grow and introduced him to an eternity with God that has already begun.”

This year Lebo is a resident assistant in the Unruh Hall. His dean, Cory Enochs, says of him, “Adam has proven himself to be a very reliable and dependable part of the dorm program for two years now. I could talk about Adam a lot, but I think I will use the words of one of our freshman who said, ‘Adam is the real deal. [He] is the same person no matter what he is doing. He is a real role model and a great resident assistant.’”

Lebo says of his enrollment, “Being a student at Blue Mountain Academy and working with the staff has brought me closer to God than at any time before in my life. I’ve made memories that will last a lifetime and a relationship with God that will last for eternity.”

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

MARCH 2013

Let's Connect

One evening when our children were small and we were returning from the playground, we noticed a toddler approaching alone. After waiting a short time with no sign of a parent, we decided to look for his home. The toddler didn't know which way to go, so we started knocking on doors. Soon his mother came running down the street in search of him.

With much relief, she retrieved him and headed home. In the commotion of having guests in their home, the boy had wandered out the door and down the street. It was some time before his absence was noted. Every parent recognizes that moment of panic when you realize you've lost someone—momentarily, you hope—who is so important to you.

Are we so urgently concerned when a child of God has wandered from one of our congregations? We are instructed, "If a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted" (Gal. 6:1, NKJV). We may be tempted to be apathetic, complacent or judgmental. Instead, we are encouraged to restore gently. We can demonstrate genuine acceptance, love and support. Listening to their concerns with care and compassion, rather than defensiveness or condemnation, is most helpful.

Do you know someone who has drifted away from the church? How can you reconnect with them? Will you endeavor to restore them gently? This is the spirit of Jesus, our Shepherd.



Rick Remmers
President

Washington-Spencerville Korean Members Help Sister Churches on the Shore

The Barnabas Mission Team, comprised of skilled construction professionals belonging to the Washington-Spencerville Korean church in Spencerville, Md., recently impacted three congregations on the Eastern Shore—the Federalsburg (Md.) and Seaford (Del.) churches and the Seaford Spanish company.

For several years, the Federalsburg and Seaford churches have borne a heavy financial struggle to keep the former David G. Fleagle School building in Seaford from falling into disrepair, says Ken Scheller, Seaford's pastor. When the Seaford Spanish company rented the building for their worship space, funds became available to do minor repairs, but not the

major upgrades that were necessary.

So the churches partnered with the Barnabas Mission Team. The local congregations provided funds for materials, and 14 men and women from the Barnabas team (below) provided tools and skilled labor. They spent four days rewiring the electrical system and installed a drop ceiling in the 90-year-old wooden school building. They also replaced the old oil heater with a heating and air-conditioning unit.

For each of the past six years, the Barnabas Mission Team has chosen a building project and donated a week of their time to help others. See more photos at ccosda.org.—Carolyn Scheller



PHOTO BY ROY HYUNJIN KIM

THE CHALLENGE



THE Gathering IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS

JUNE 11-15, 2013 – HIGHLAND VIEW ACADEMY IN HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND.

Plan now to participate in this fresh approach to a reunion of the Chesapeake family of believers. Derek Morris, associate secretary of the General Conference Ministerial Association and *Ministry* magazine editor, is the featured speaker. Join us for five days of inspiring preaching, programming for children, youth and young adults, and seminars on family life, biblical studies, health and spiritual growth.

REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 1

You can register:

1. online at www.ccosda.org
2. by phone at 410-995-1910
3. by mailing a **check payable to Chesapeake Conference** to Chesapeake Conference Locating Committee, 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044

ITEM	PRICES	QUANTITY	TOTAL
DORMITORY ROOMS All rooms air-conditioned; windows have blinds			
GIRLS DORM -- ADULTS ONLY (18 years and older)			
1st floor - mens' rest rooms	\$115.00/5 nights price is for 2 people \$8.00/night each additional person		
2nd floor - ladies' rest rooms			
3rd floor - ladies' rest rooms			
BOYS' DORM -- FAMILIES & ADULTS			
1st floor - ladies' rest rooms	\$115.00/5 nights price is for 2 people \$8.00/night each additional person		
2nd floor - mens' rest rooms			
3rd floor - ladies' rest rooms			
<i>Fire code prohibits cooking in rooms. Bring your own bedding. Dorm rooms must be rented for the full time. There must be two persons in the room. Third and fourth persons will be \$8.00 per night per person.</i>			
TENTS (Available in trailer area only -- must pre-register)			
With concrete floor & electricity	\$45.00/5 nights		
	\$14.00/night		
Single cot with mattress	\$4.00 each		
Folding table	\$2.00 each		
Folding chair	\$1.00 each		
PERSONAL TENTS (With Use of Bath House)			
Space for your own personal tent	\$30.00/5 nights		
	\$7.00/night		
Space for your own personal tent w/electricity & water	\$40.00/5 nights		
	\$9.00/night		
Folding table	\$2.00 each		
Folding chair	\$1.00 each		
TRAILERS Length of trailer: _____ ft.			
Trailer space w/electricity, water, sewer	\$75.00/5 nights		
	\$17.00/night		
Trailer space w/electricity, water	\$65.00/5 nights		
	\$14.00/night		
Trailer space without hookups	\$35.00/5 nights		
	\$7.00/night		
TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED			\$

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MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

MARCH 2013

Testimony: We Finally Found a Sabbath-Keeping Church

Terry and I grew up with completely different backgrounds. I grew up in a Pentecostal church. She had no religious background. Throughout our marriage, we attended my family's Pentecostal church off and on. Then one day while channel surfing, we came across the *Amazing Facts* program. At first we were skeptical, but we listened and checked our Bibles and began to realize what speaker Doug Batchelor taught was, in fact, what the Bible said. I couldn't believe it! I had been taught the wrong thing for so many years!

As I studied my Bible more, I was amazed by how much I had to unlearn! And the more I studied, the more I changed. I stopped drinking, and many other sinful things left my life. I have to say, when I learned about the true Sabbath, that is when I really began to change. We both gave notice to our employers that we would no longer work on Saturday, and started searching for a Sabbath-keeping church, but were unable to locate one. We then began to hold Sabbath services in our own home with not only our children, but also my father and anyone else who wanted to come.

Everyone around us could see us changing, so much so that my brother-in-law, Tony Collins, brought me a Bible from the trailer he rented; he found it in the back room, in a closet and up on a shelf. At first this Bible

looked to me to be just another large family Bible, a King James Version. Then one night I began flipping through it and found study guides in the back that taught the same Bible facts I'd been learning. This renewed our interest in searching for a Sabbath-keeping church.

Then one day Terry said she thought she saw a sign announcing Saturday services. We were very excited! We drove by slowly and saw the Seventh-day Adventist sign. We had finally found a Sabbath-keeping church! The funny thing is, we had driven by this church, with a very noticeable sign, just about every day for the past 10 years!

The very next Sabbath, we drove to the Kingwood church, went in and asked if we could attend church with them. They gladly accepted and welcomed us. Paul Dixon, the lay pastor, started studying with us, and we were amazed to find out that he also came from a Pentecostal background. Paul figured he knew what doctrinal beliefs we would have when we studied together, but he was flabbergasted when he realized that we had already embraced the Bible truths the Adventist Church teaches.

Paul later baptized us in the Cheat River. We are still happily attending that little amazing church.—*Rob Dalton*



The Dalton family: (Left to right) Nick (21) with his fiancée, Shyla; Terry; MaKayla (16); Lance (18) and Rob

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

Frostburg Member Honors Sabbath During Baseball Championship

When the Mountain Ridge Miners High School baseball team from Frostburg, Md., prepared to compete in the 2012 state championship game, they knew one of their coaches would not make the trip. Gene Harden, the team's assistant coach and an active member of the Frostburg (Md.) church, would not be able to participate because the championship game would be played on Sabbath. At the beginning of the season, "Coach Harden" explained to the players that he made a commitment to always honor the Sabbath, and thus would not be present at games played on Saturday.

Harden has played baseball since he was 7 and coached for many years. "I care about these kids," he

says about the players. Along with other coaches, Harden frequently prays with the team at practices, and gives team members his cell phone number. Graduates from three years ago still call to "talk with coach." Harden says, "Baseball has done so much for me, and I am glad I can do something to make a difference in the lives of these kids."

After starting the season with a record of 6 and 5, the Miners only lost one more game in a 26-game season to qualify for postseason play. Defeating a strong pitcher in the semifinals, the team advanced to play the defending champions at Ripken Stadium in Aberdeen, Md. At a short practice on Friday afternoon, Coach Harden reminded the team, "I will not be with you, but I'll pray for you." Later team members told other coaches, "This must be awfully important to Coach Harden for him not to go with us." Relating the experience, Coach Harden says, "It was a hard thing, but I wanted the kids to know that there are things a lot more important than baseball."

The team went on to win 2-1 on a two-out double in the last inning to claim the state championship title. Coach Harden met the team after sundown as they celebrated in a parade through downtown Frostburg, and described the experience as the "highlight of my life."

When asked what he would say to others who are facing Sabbath challenges, Harden shares, "It is a very difficult thing. There can be no compromise. If you compromise one time, you compromise everything. You will be rewarded if you do not sway from what you know."

—Scott Shafer

Frostburg (W.Va.) member Gene Harden (far left) enjoys coaching a high school baseball team and teaching them about honoring personal commitments.



It's Time for Adventure!

Enjoy a weekend of fun, worship and relaxation or, bike or hike the Greenbrier River Trail, at the Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va.

April 26-28

The weekend hosts are Fairmont members Steve and Regina Boyce. The cost is \$44, which includes two nights of lodging and five meals.

Registration is required. RSVP by April 11.

To register, call Steve at (304) 677-0336; Regina at (304) 657-4745 or the Boyce home at (304) 534-3309.

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NEWS

NEW JERSEY

MARCH 2013

Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus

When a preacher opens the Bible to a particular passage, he may envision a real place where the story happened. That vision is a special power that comes to help the delivery of the sermon. I call it “the power of knowledge.” The congregation really loves these presentations because there is something different and personal that the Holy Spirit uses to impress them.

This is one of the elements that made the New Jersey Conference pastoral team’s recent visit to the land of the Bible so valuable and interesting. We flew from Istanbul—the ancient city of Constantinople in Turkey—to Tel-Aviv, Israel. Later that evening, we reached Jerusalem, “the city of the Great King.” We entered singing “The Holy City.” What a place full of history!

We followed Jesus’ steps from Bethlehem to Nazareth, to the Jordan River, then to the gate where He did His triumphal entrance. We carried on to the Gethsemane Garden, to the high priest’s house, to Herod’s palace, to the court of Pontius Pilate, thru the Via Dolorosa, all the way to Calvary and, finally, to the tomb from where He resurrected and proclaimed victory over sin and death.

Even though we do not worship stones, rivers or the Sea of Galilee, following the footsteps of Jesus was definitely an unforgettable experience. We cannot be the same preachers again.



José H. Cortés
Conference President

Maranatha Member Impacts Others Thru Online Ministries

When Radhamés Valerio felt called by the Lord at 19 years old, he listened. Just 16 days after getting baptized, the Lord revealed to him the gift of singing. The young man decided to make a difference and to share Jesus through God-given tools and resources. Today, nearly 30 years later, Valerio remains a strong believer and is a very active member and leader at the Maranatha Spanish church in Union City.

His international ministry efforts over the years have included five musical productions, and he has served as a special guest on many national and international TV programs, including New Jersey Conference TV. During the past 14 years, his ministry has spread to the Internet, where he maintains several websites, including alabanzas.net, and an online radio station, rvmradio.com, which also transmits through most smart phones.

Valerio created RVM radio just over a year ago with the objective of sharing Jesus through music and beautiful messages. Through it he also offers Bible studies, health information and testimonies. RVM transmits blessings 24 hours a day to Spanish-speakers living in North America and around the world. During his first live broadcast last month, which included a sermon, more than 300 online listeners from several countries tuned in, and more than 150 overwhelmed the limited call-in line.

“Many of the people who listened to our radio station for the first time expressed to us that God had inspired them to support this ministry,” Valerio reports. “Others began to make plans to promote the radio in social networks among their friends. They feel that many of their friends will come to the feet of Jesus in this way.” He adds, “For me, it is a privilege to use the knowledge that the Lord has given me in His work.”



Young Members Find Evangelistic Opportunities at Winter Games

In January the youth department promoted the conference's first winter games with church-organized teams playing volleyball, basketball and soccer. Congregations across New Jersey participated, with the games taking place in three locations. For churches in zones 1-3, the games took place at the Waldwick Adventist School in Waldwick. Zones 4-5 played their games at the Lake Nelson Seventh-day Adventist School in Piscataway, and Zones 6-7 played at the new Delaware Valley Junior Academy in Woodbury. The games occurred every weekend of January, and the finals took place during the Youth Leadership Convention held at the Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Tranquility. More than 40 teams registered and enthusiastically played for the trophies.

Conference staff created the winter games as a way for church youth to create stronger bonds with their unchurched friends. Consequently, one of the rules was for each team to have at least three members from the



Estefanny Llanto (far left), who attends the Paterson Temple church in Paterson, invited five of her high school classmates to play on her volleyball team for the winter games.



community. This gave the youth evangelistic opportunities—to invite their friends to a friendly church activity without the pressure of being in the sanctuary. Leaders offered a devotional and prayer before the games started.

Many youth invited friends and say they had a great time introducing them to church members and sharing Jesus in a very sociable, welcoming environment. Cesar Gonzales (pictured left, far left), a Passaic I church member, invited three friends to be part of his team. “Sometimes it is hard to invite my friends to come to the church, but to participate in the games my church was promoting was actually very easy,” he noted. “We have the passion for sports in common. All my friends [came] and had a great time!”

Noel Emus (pictured left, second from left), from the Maranatha Spanish church, invited the friends who have been studying the Bible with him. He says he invited them to the games hoping to strengthen their friendship with other members of his church.

Ruben Arias, invited by an Adventist friend he has known for five years, had never visited an Adventist church. “I love playing soccer, and I love having fun with my friends, so this is a great place to know people. It is like I have known them for a long time,” he said.

New Jersey youth say they look forward to the summer games, which will take place in July. More information is coming.



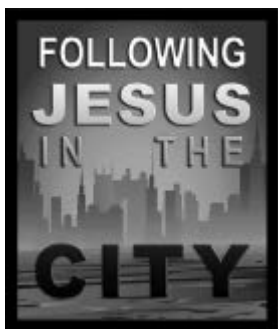
Churches Focus on Metro Areas Thru New Initiative

The Ohio Conference recently launched a focused and comprehensive initiative to expand the ministry presence and influence of Seventh-day Adventists in the state's metropolitan areas. The conference titled the initiative Following Jesus in the City. Currently four out of five Ohioans live in the seven metropolitan areas in a state with nearly 11.5 million people.

At its recent gathering, the Metro Strategy Committee, a think tank of ministry leaders, reviewed the vision and strategies being employed in the various cities through the initiative, offering constructive feedback on each ministry. Some of these ministries involve establishing new "centers of influence"—or what the General Conference has dubbed Life Hope Centers—that will offer a variety of services aimed at improving the physical, emotional and spiritual life of people in these areas. Others involve church-based programs that provide specific opportunities for people to experience hope, wellness and financial

freedom in the context of God's redeeming grace.

Nearly all of the ministries involve high levels of collaboration between congregations, and churches and community agencies, businesses, healthcare providers and educational institutions. One ministry utilizes technology to establish modes of training,



PHOTOS BY KEVIN KUEHMICHEL

Raj Attiken, conference president, and Jeba Moses, pastor of the Clifton church in Cincinnati, consider ideas for ministries being proposed under the new initiative Following Jesus in the City.

equipping, worshipping and relationship-building between pastors and members.

"The variety of approaches taken to expand our mission in the cities, and the vision and commitment of the pastors who are leading these ministries, are impressive and inspiring to observe," said conference president Raj Attiken, who co-moderates the meetings with Monte Sahlin, director of research and special projects.

"The keys to reaching major metropolitan areas are collaboration among Adventist churches in each region; strong community involvement and visibility; teaching members to do friendship evangelism; a rich, spiritual foundation rooted in prayer and Bible study; and starting many small congregations or Simple Church groups to cover each neighborhood and suburban community," explains Sahlin, summarizing the project research from his book *Mission in Metropolis*.

Kevin Keuhmichel, pastor of the Walk of Faith Fellowship in Cleveland and a committee member, comments, "This is wholistic mission. ... It is not judgmental. We serve because Jesus served, and for no other reason."

At Ohio Ministry University, March 23, two Ohio Conference pastors will share firsthand experiences from metropolitan ministries they implemented in their territories. Pastors and lay leaders who attend will have the opportunity to ask questions and discover what may work for their churches and communities.

Resource materials and other assistance are available by contacting Sahlin at montessahlin@gmail.com.



Members of the conference's new Metro Strategy Committee discuss and offer feedback on new ministries created to target metropolitan areas in Ohio.

Good Neighbor House Moves, Expands Services

Fifteen years ago, Marianne Cruz volunteered at the Good Neighbor House (GNH) as a dental assistant. When she left the area, she never imagined returning as an unemployed and uninsured dental patient in need of emergency care. Was the GNH still around? Receiving unemployment benefits and caring for an extended family of seven, Cruz stepped out in faith and called the facility to see if they could help her husband with a serious, painful molar infection. Within 24 hours, a GNH dentist assisted her husband.

"No one should have to make the choice between getting the emergency dental care that they need or being able to pay their mortgage and keep a roof over their head. Because of the Good Neighbor House, we didn't have to make that choice," said Cruz.

According to Tiffany Collie, development director, "Good Neighbor House had modest beginnings, operating out of a 'house' in the early years. We were founded in 1994 as the collaborative endeavor of eight Dayton Seventh-day Adventist churches."

Since 1996 entity volunteers have provided dental, medical and eye services to the community. As demand for services intensifies, the GNH continues to provide basic services while making an effort to grow in two critical areas: providing greater access to affordable

dental care and expanding nutritional services. Nutritional services include a specialized food pantry that provides fresh, healthy foods as a way to eliminate obesity and chronic illness within underserved populations.

In December 2011, the GNH launched a \$1.9 million capital campaign to expand. They then purchased and renovated a new facility in downtown Dayton and will open for services this month.

"The Good Neighbor House facility will enable increased services and programs to people in need," commented Fred Manchur, CEO of Kettering Adventist HealthCare, which employs many of the volunteers. "Kettering Adventist HealthCare is very proud of the work that the quality volunteers provide and are pleased to partner with them to improve the lives of the communities we serve."

Collie anticipates that by 2014, GNH volunteers will be able to better serve and offer more specialized services to more than 13,000 neighbors. She believes the GNH is "a bridge to self sufficiency." She adds, "The majority of our patients are working, but they are making minimum wage and can't afford the cost of going to the doctor's office without insurance."

A grand opening is scheduled for early summer. Visit goodneighborhouse.org to learn more about the new facility.

PHOTOS BY DAVE HUITMAN



Left: Visitors to the Good Neighbor House open house held earlier this year look over floor plans for the new facility.

Good Neighbor House volunteers transport food donations from the old facility to the new one, where they will also offer nutrition services.



Left: After a year of raising funds to expand their services, the Good Neighbor House has a new, larger facility in downtown Dayton.



Pennsylvania Pen

MARCH 2013

God's Grace at Church

Have you ever wondered why Jesus was so angry when He cleansed the temple? As I thought about it, I realized that I've missed something very important in the story all these years. Jesus wasn't angry simply because they'd turned the temple into a marketplace. He wasn't just angry that people were lying and cheating in His temple. He was principally angry because His house symbolized salvation. It was a place where anyone could come and learn more about Him and be restored to Him. Instead, people were being treated without the unconditional love that He intended for them to find there. They were being taught—among other things—that God is greedy and values money over people, that we have to buy or earn His love, that God can't be trusted, that His representatives don't care and that maybe God doesn't either.

What does Jesus see when He comes to our churches these days? Does He see us only accepting people "like" us? Does He see us raising our eyebrows and giving each other that knowing look when someone comes to church with a tattoo or a nose ring or an odd shade of hair? Or does He see unconditional love and acceptance?

If Jesus was the greeter at your church or mine, I believe His face would glow with joy to see whoever was coming through the door, no matter what their dress, lifestyle or sins. We don't need to condone the sin, but we do need to care. The Holy Spirit's job is to convict people and our job is to love them. Jesus said, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35, NIV).



Jeanne Hartwell
*Associate Ministerial
Director*

Kingston, Hazelton Churches Find Places of Worship

For more than a year, members of the Kingston Hispanic church have been dreaming of having their own place to worship. God recently answered His people's prayers. In January they purchased a church facility (pictured) that includes a sanctuary with a capacity for 200 or more people, a very large basement with a commercial kitchen, two large parking areas for a least 70 vehicles and a very large parsonage with a two-car garage.

God's miracle did not end there; the Hazleton Hispanic Mission group was also looking for a place to worship. They lost the place where they were meeting due to permits. As they searched for a new church home, most of the places they found were either too small or too expensive. God answered their prayers and led them to a beautiful church building. Again, God provided a miracle as the owners accepted their offer, which was lower than the asking price. They have been worshipping in their new church home since December.

"When we thought that it was going to be basically impossible for us to find a place that we could afford,



our Lord was already working and delivered for His people," shares Edwin Mendoza, pastor for both churches.

Allentown Young Adults Reach Out Through Small Groups

The young adults at the Allentown church are leading three small group ministries each week. More than 20 people attend their Monday night Word on the Street group, which is an outreach program designed for those who don't know Christ. When they started the group last August, only five people attended.

Each Wednesday night, Stephanie Maldonado leads a group of young women through a book study using *Every Young Woman's Battle*. This outreach program called V-Unit is intentional about helping young women grow in purity and tackling the tough subjects. On Friday nights, the young adults meet to bring in the Sabbath together. Francois Bessing leads the group as they worship in music, prayer and discussion.

But small groups aren't the only way Allentown young adults are reaching out. This fall they held a walkathon and raised \$700 in support of their ministry. They also hosted the Multifaith Intercultural Banquet, which attracted so many people from the community they almost ran out of tables, chairs and food. People



Allentown's young adults host a multifaith banquet for their community.

from different faiths and cultures were invited to enjoy a meal together and build friendships. Even the town's mayor, Ed Palowski, came out to show support for their efforts.—Shannon Taylor

Real Me

Teen Conference

This fun and interactive day will focus on discovering who we really are and how we can live to be the women God created us to be. Participants will learn new things about themselves, laugh, talk, and receive resources to guide their journey to the Real Me.

March 24, 2013

Hamburg Seventh-day Adventist Church
8:30 am - 5:00 pm

For more info, contact thorst@paconference.org or call 610.374.8331. Register at www.paconference.org.

Potomac People

MARCH 2013

1,000 Attend “Larger Than Life” Youthfests

Some 150 teenagers participated in Potomac Conference’s first of two sponsored youthfests this year, both of which focused on the theme “Larger

Than Life.” At the first event, held at Richmond Academy (RA) in Richmond, Va., guest speaker Fred Warfield (left), executive pastor at the Takoma Park (Md.) church, encouraged young attendees to read the Bible, pray and face life’s tests by letting God grow them spiritually.

During special workshops, youth learned how to better handle peer pressure, develop a praise team, overcome life’s

obstacles and understand God’s desire for their life. Conference leaders screened films throughout the event, including a spotlight on the conference’s recent mission trip to Brazil. Renee Cerovski, an RA graduate and ADRA volunteer, also video conferenced in to share stories about her mission experience in Madagascar.



PHOTOS BY CYRIL DUFIAS



Youth toss around balloons that they later popped and then prayed for the concern written inside.

One evening activity focused on the power of prayer. Attendees stuffed hundreds of balloons with written prayer requests, then tossed them around the room. After a good mixing, each student grabbed one, popped it and prayed for the request inside. Students also had the option of participating in a prayer walk.

“These activities connected the youth and stretched their perceptions of God,” explains Desmond Suarez, RA’s Bible, history and computer teacher and the event’s main organizer. “God blesses in larger-than-life ways. He equips us with gifts that allow us to live a life not of this world.”

At the second youthfest, hosted by Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md., more than 850 young people showed up to hear guest speaker Ryan Bell, senior pastor of the Hollywood (Calif.) church. Bell challenged attendees to press past normal social reactions to those in need and, instead, to look at, touch and speak to them directly, like the disciples did.

“Youthfests serve the important purpose of showing youth that even though they may be part of a small youth group in their home churches, in reality, they are part of a much larger movement,” says Denny Grady, conference Youth Ministries director. “When they experience this kind of a rally, it provides them with encouragement and strength to stay true to their values and beliefs.”

At the first youthfest, eight young people made their decisions to be baptized, and many more made commitments to Christ.—Rachel Simons

Upcoming Youth Events

Visit this link for a list of youth activities:
pcsda.org/files/Youth/2013-2014Calendar.pdf.



Band Motivo, a local praise team, engages young attendees in musical worship.

Potomac People

91-year Sentence Directs Prisoner to God

In this second edition of a three-part series, meet another former inmate whose life has been changed by conference outreach. Within the last year, Potomac Conference Prison Ministries staff has refocused their efforts to better connect pastors and lay members to the 2020 vision. They hope to develop 12 new prison ministry teams that will be active in intensive re-entry programs and in highly populated inmate areas, as well as 24 new teams in the Spanish community.

As the metal door clanged shut and the solitude of “the hole”—as it was known by the prisoners at the Staunton (Va.) Correctional Center—started to settle in, the warden’s words continued to ring in his ears: “I know you believe in God. Well, this is going to test your faith. We’ll see you in 60 days.”

He never expected his life to turn out like this. Born in 1957 to a hardworking family man, Lenroy Chapman, now a member of the Woodbridge (Va.) church and an active conference Prison Ministries member, watched his father work hard to care for him, his nine brothers and four sisters. His father was not only a custodian for the National Bank, a job he held for 30 years, he also owned Chapman’s Bicycle Shop in Fredericksburg, Va.

As a teenager in the late ‘60s and early ‘70s, Chapman found himself surrounded by drugs. Temptations grew, and with prodding from his younger brother, Curt, the two soon started stealing from homes to help fund their drug habit. When those items failed to fully satisfy their growing addictions, Curt purchased a pistol, which they used to hold up grocery stores in neighboring towns. One thing led to another, and before he could compre-

hend the level of his crimes, Lenroy and Curt started holding up banks up and down the East Coast.

The FBI started watching Curt’s home in 1980, then finally arrested him in Dumphries, Va. Lenroy got away, however, and ran to Bowling Green, Va., where he continued his life of crime. His luck ran out one year later, caught by the police after holding up a bank in Triangle, Va. He can still remember the judge declaring, “I hereby sentence Lenroy Chapman to 91 years of confinement, to be served out in the state of Virginia!”

Life “on the inside,” as Lenroy calls it, was a life filled with fear. “You never knew when someone was going to come up from behind and stab or hurt you,” he explains. “The only peace I found was in my prison cell, locked away from the other prisoners.”

After two or three years, Lenroy knew he couldn’t live the rest of his life with this fear. “I heard there was someone named Pastor Neil from the Triangle Lutheran Church who came to meet with the prisoners,” he recalls. “I felt something tell me to start studying with him. When I did, I finally found peace against the storms. I truly believe finding God saved me from committing suicide.”

In what Lenroy believes was a mistake by the prison system, he was granted parole in late February 1991, just 10 years after his sentencing. He was a week away from release, preparing for life “on the outside,” when his grandmother passed away. Lenroy received a day pass to attend the funeral, but “I knew something wasn’t right,” he said. “I felt it as I left the prison.” He would soon find out just how bad things were about to get.

See next month’s issue of Potomac People for the conclusion of Lenroy’s story.



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Spotlight on Spencerville

MARCH 2013

Outreach Efforts Lead to Character-Building

Where does character development fit into a student's daily grind of academics, music lessons, sports and home responsibilities? For Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA), it happens all day long, especially when students are involved in helping others.

During the holiday season, Amber Mayer's pre-K class visited the Elternhaus Assisted Living facility in Dayton, Md., to perform a nativity play, complete with Christmas carols sung along to sign language. They also presented each resident with homemade Christmas cards, a continuation of the "cards of cheer" activity for the residents that the class participates in each month.



Third-graders proudly display the homemade cards they are ready to send to cheer up someone in the community.

"This was a very special time because our 4 year olds actually got to meet the 'grandmas' and 'grandpas' that they make cards for. We call them our 'grand-friends'!" Mayer explained.

Bev Waln's second-grade class (right) raised donations for the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., a facility internationally recognized for its pioneering efforts in treating children with cancer. When the children raised more than \$250 for this project, Waln and Tracy Belliveau, a parent assistant and head room mother, offered to double the amount.

Kathy Young's third-graders have also been doing "community cards" all school year. These cards are included in packets to welcome soldiers home from overseas duties, sent to church members or friends on the class prayer list, or taken to those who are discouraged or homebound. Young shared, "I hope this activity will instill in my students the small, everyday



Pre-K students perform for their "grandfriends" at a nearby assisted living facility.

acts of kindness that we can do to help make someone's day a little better!"

Becky Koeppen's fourth-grade class works with the large, extended Arthur family from the Spencerville church who feed the homeless in downtown Washington, D.C., once a month. Koeppen's students create "notes of encouragement" for the homeless.

By involving students in various outreach activities, staff members believe the children learn leadership qualities, nurture their self-esteem, model Jesus' character and prepare for eternity. "It is so inspiring to see the joy revealed on the faces and reactions of students who are participating in helping others!" said Barbara Plubell, elementary vice principal. "Service to others is part of who we are here at SAA, as shown by our motto: 'Love to learn, live to serve, all for Christ.'"



Spotlight

Choir Participates in Disney World Concert

It's been said that it takes practice, practice, practice to get to Carnegie Hall. Spencerville Adventist Academy choir members were surprised to learn that it also takes lots of practice to get to be a part of the candlelight processional at Disney World's Epcot Center in Orlando, Fla. After sending in an audition DVD, it excited the SAA students to learn that they would perform in the processional for the second time in three years.

To make the trip south possible, choir members participated in endless fundraising efforts, like hosting benefit concerts, selling cookie dough and collecting generous donations from the Spencerville community. While maintaining their normally busy concert repertoire, singers also attended extra after-school practices. All the work paid off when the 31 choir members (pictured below) left ready to perform a completely memorized sacred Christmas carol production with Disney's world-renowned orchestra December 30.

"I really liked how prepared [festival staff] were for us as soon as we got there. The director went right to work," recalls senior baritone Caleb Uzcatogui. "We rehearsed everything, and an hour later we were on stage singing."

SAA students also noted how well the other 300-plus choristers from all over the United States were just as prepared for this festival.

Matt Rajarathinam, a sophomore baritone, says his greatest memory was the reaction of the audience. "I think one of the most beautiful sights was being a part of the candlelight [festival] and seeing the joy on people's faces as we were singing for them."

The Sabbath day before their memorable performance, the students performed at the Forest Lake Academy church in Apopka. The group also enjoyed a Sabbath afternoon at the Wekiwa Springs State Park. However, what sophomore Hanna Thompson remembers most is the camaraderie and friendships she made on the tour. "We were in a really small bus for 18 to 20 hours. That kind of brings you together," she laughs. Excited about this experience, SAA students already want to start fundraising for next year's trip.

"Although the Disney tour was a highlight of the year, the choir's work and ministry is not done. We will be performing for churches in the Chesapeake Conference, as well as at Choral Fest at Washington Adventist University," reports Robert A. Martinez, choir director.



Senior Sara Hernandez joins in the holiday singing.



Senior Vanessa Baioni and sophomore Hailey Butler join more than 300 carolers during the candlelight processional at Disney World's Epcot Center in Orlando.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY

HAPPENINGS



MARCH 2013

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

Bible Trip Teaches Seniors About Other Faiths

At Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA), students not only learn about the history and beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but also gain insights into other major world religions so they can be better prepared to witness. To foster this education, seniors take a Bible trip each year to visit various worship centers.

This year the first stop on the Washington, D.C., tour was the National Cathedral, the sixth largest church in the world that seats about 3,000 people. Though founded by the Episcopal church, the cathedral is referred to as “a house of prayer for all nations,” where parishioners lift up a different state in prayer each week.

The next stop was an Islamic mosque, where the girls had to wear long sleeves and head coverings, and everyone removed their shoes. Students sat on the floor while one of the mosque leaders taught them the five pillars of Islam. SVA students also arrived in time to observe the noon prayer. “It was very quiet,” noted Kimberly Krebs. “They go through this prayer

ritual five times a day, everyday, at the same times.”

The seniors next visited a Buddhist temple. This was not an ornate, large building, but rather a home converted to serve as a monastery for the monks and a place of worship. A monk, poised under a large statue of Buddha, briefly explained Theravada Buddhism and the purpose of meditation. Another monk gave a video presentation on the history of Buddhism and its leader.

Maria Wixwat noticed, “The main focus of worship here was meditation to reach enlightenment, and realizing your interconnectedness to the universe.” They also learned about the belief in reincarnation, and Aren Bruce learned that Buddhists believe that “nothing has its own creator. We all belong to one universe; we are all united. You achieve happiness by learning how to live selflessly and serve others,” he explained.

An Orthodox Jewish synagogue was the final stop. This time, to the girls’ delight, the boys had to cover their heads with yarmulkes. To respect traditions, the boys sat in the center and the girls on the side. They were amazed to learn that there are 613 different laws an Orthodox Jew must obey. “The main focus of their worship seems to be to respect the Sabbath, follow all the rules and do good actions,” summarized Lucas Campos. “Keeping God (‘Elohim’) happy is of prominent importance.”

At each house of worship, the students got to ask questions regarding the practices and belief systems they observed, which gave them a deeper understanding of each faith. “While the students did not always agree with their religious views, they remained respectful of the individuals,” noted Tim Harley, senior Bible teacher.



Seniors listen to a monk describe the history of Buddhism.



Andrew Jensen and Leo De Silva learn about Orthodox Judaism at a temple in the Washington, D.C., area.



Kerriane Vaz dons a mandatory head covering while visiting an Islamic mosque for the senior Bible trip.

HAPPENINGS

Students Shine Through Community Services

Aside from their annual Community Service Day each November, where Shenandoah Valley Academy students minister to New Market, Va., residents through home reconstruction, crop harvesting or animal care, SVA students also participate in witnessing opportunities outside of school hours.

In late fall, a group of students took a trip to New Jersey and New York to join New Jersey Conference's disaster response team in their clean-up efforts following Superstorm Sandy. The school group cleared trash from a yard at one residence in New York, which was home to a grandmother, mother and baby.

"They lost everything and couldn't live in their house," recalled senior Lauren Long. "We went on the beach to

look for things that might have belonged to them, but didn't find much. The guys shoveled tons of sand off the property and dumped it away from the house."

The group also sorted clothing and served hot meals at the conference's Adventist Community Services center. "This one lady was telling me she had no hot water, heat or electricity for a few weeks. She had been taking showers with *cold* water," added Long. "It made me really appreciate what I have ... the little things which are actually *big* things when you think about them!"

Freshman Steven Genus added, "To see the way people were affected by Sandy and how they lost everything, and to know that I still have everything, makes me more thankful for what I have and makes me appreciate everything more. Being able to help people with what they lost made me feel good inside."

Earlier in the school year, members of SVA's boys and girls clubs opted for a less extravagant banquet so they could save financial resources to help a few families in need. In December club members hosted a Christmas party at the local Italian restaurant, providing pizza and presents to attending children. Leftover presents were given to children at the Rockingham Memorial Hospital in Harrisonburg, Va. They also gave a financial gift to a veteran undergoing treatments at an area veteran hospital.

Members of SVA's National Honor Society recently did outreach at a local fast food restaurant. They spent one evening painting windows, and another evening coloring and face painting with the visiting children. Senior Brady Griffin even dressed as Santa and visited with the children.

During spring break this month, a group of students will minister in Panama during SVA's annual mission trip. A report on that trip is coming soon.



Sophomore Andrea Herrera sorts clothes for the victims of Superstorm Sandy.



SVA students joined New Jersey Conference's Superstorm Sandy relief efforts.

Vision 2020: Building a Thriving University

From their base in scenic Takoma Park, Md., Washington Adventist University (WAU) leaders are laying out a set of goals they hope to achieve by 2020 in a document called *Vision 2020*. Buoyed by a recent growth spurt, not previously seen in its 108 years, WAU leaders are seeking to build a stable brand, characterized by program excellence, and to take advantage of the unique status it enjoys as the only four-year, residential college in Montgomery County, a diverse and largely affluent suburb of Washington, D.C.

Weymouth Spence, EdD, president for the past five years, says *Vision 2020* is a continuation of the planning process to create a culture of excellence at Washington Adventist University. “Based on assessments conducted throughout the past four years, such as graduate surveys, employee satisfaction surveys and learning outcomes, we now have the data that will guide us to develop action plans that will transform us into a thriving university,” Spence said. “We are developing game-changing actions under the six institutional pillars of excellence: quality, people, finance, growth service and community.”

Those game-changing plans are meant to create a culture of excellence modeled on the Baldrige Program, a high-octane formula designed to raise awareness about the importance of performance excellence in

driving the American and global economy. The program stresses assessment and educates institutional leaders about organizational best practices.

“It is important to note that we are not redoing the strategic plan,” Spence explained. “*Vision 2020* is a projection of where we would like to be. What we are seeking to do is get input from the community—from staff, faculty, the board of trustees—on some concepts and directions that we need to take.”

Academics

Ultimately, the president sees WAU’s quest for excellence centered around: 1) exceeding institutional and accreditation standards; 2) developing a strong curriculum in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM); 3) emphasizing service learning; 4) on-going program review; and continuous strategic reinvestment in the quality of programs. Programs would be designed to foster greater collaboration with K-12 institutions, strengthen remedial education as well as liberal arts and STEM curricula, and attract more federal, state, foundation and private funds.

“Academic administration, inclusive of the deans, chairs, faculty and leaders of academic units, are fully committed to the vision of the university, which is to ‘produce graduates who bring competence and moral leadership to their communities,’” said Patrick Williams, interim provost.

Finance

Significantly improving the financial health of the institution is another critical component of *Vision 2020*. After struggling financially for many years, the institution, within the past seven years, has made a turnaround and is now on a positive growth trajectory. Increased enrollment, contributions from alumni and friends, and prudent budgetary choices have contributed to the institution’s improved financial performance. The university’s Consolidated Financial Index score, a higher education financial health measurement, currently beats the average of all private colleges in Maryland.

Aligning the budget with the strategic plan, establishing a sustainable endowment, establishing working capital, generating additional revenue, enhancing fundraising and budgeting for surplus or other important financial targets are all ways that Patrick Farley, executive vice president for finance and administration, plans to keep WAU on this positive trajectory.



Two New Members Appointed to University's Board of Trustees

Washington Adventist University's Board of Trustees recently appointed two new members. **Henry Fordham III** (below), newly elected president of the Allegheny East Conference, takes Charles Cheatham's place on the board. Cheatham was the conference's previous president. Fordham will serve on the board's advancement subcommittee.

Fordham earned his undergraduate degree in history and theology from Oakwood University (Ala.) and a master's degree in Jewish history from The Ohio State University. In December 2010, he was awarded a doctorate in theology after completing the United Theological Research University's external studies and research scheme in India.

Fordham has pastored churches in Maryland; Delaware; Virginia; Washington, D.C.; New Jersey; South Africa; East Africa; West Africa; England; Australia; Puerto Rico; and Colombia.

Fordham has also received several recognitions from political leaders in Maryland, including Kurt Schmoke, former mayor of Baltimore, and Kwesi Mfume, a former United States congressman. He has served as mayor for the day in Preston, England, and was declared a distinguished citizen of Louisville, Ky., by its mayor, David L. Armstrong.



E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, who now serves as the vice president for medical affairs for the University of Maryland, was also newly appointed to the WAU board. He will serve on the board's academic affairs subcommittee. "I am extremely pleased with the appointment of Dr. Reece," said Weymouth Spence,

WAU president. "His experience and extraordinary accomplishment are not just inspirational but are of real value to our work here. I look forward to working with him at this very exciting time for WAU."

A celebrated academic and physician, Reece is the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers distinguished professor and dean of the university's school of medicine. He is a professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medicine, and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. He is also a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

A native of Jamaica, Reece completed a medical degree from New York University School of Medicine; a doctorate in biochemistry from the University of the West Indies in Jamaica; and a Master of Business Administration from the Fox School of Business and Management of Temple University in Pennsylvania. He remained on the full-time faculty at Yale University School of Medicine in Massachusetts for almost 10 years, during which he served as a clinical instructor and later as assistant professor before receiving an accelerated promotion to associate professor.

Reece has also served at Temple University as a professor and chair of the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, and vice chancellor of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and dean of the College of Medicine. He was appointed to his current position in 2006 and in 2010 served as acting president of the University of Maryland.

In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Reece, a member of Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., is actively involved in research and education.





your healing MINISTRY

Staying Focused

MARCH 2013

I recently observed a patient approach the front desk at one of the hospitals within the Kettering Adventist HealthCare System. I could tell that they were asking for directions and as soon as they received them, they were on their way. This particular patient, like every patient we have the privilege to treat, was entrusting us with the care of their life. Patients want to get well so they can enjoy life. The trust our patients place in us is a great reminder of why we call what we do, sacred work.

As Kettering Adventist HealthCare President, I am committed to consistently living up to that trust for every patient. My vision is that every patient will receive the very best care anywhere within our network of facilities and physician practices. If I were a patient, I would want to feel very confident that I am going to be treated with compassionate, safe, quality health care wherever I go within Kettering Adventist HealthCare.

Our leadership team has committed to a set of guiding principles that will ensure that we are on the right path.

- We want to make sure that our culture, the way we operate, is patient-centered and reflects our spiritual mission.
- We want our patients to feel valued and confident that they are receiving excellent clinical care in a safe environment. We expect a great experience for every patient, every time, and everywhere within our network.
- We want our employees and volunteers to feel a deep sense of pride in the sacred mission of health care.
- We want our physicians to play a key leadership role in providing great patient care.
- We want to be faithful stewards of the resources God has given us so that we can live out our mission.

It is not only our patients who trust us. God trusts us. As an Adventist healthcare organization, we know that we have been entrusted by God to serve as an extension of Christ's healing ministry. At Kettering Adventist HealthCare, our mission is to improve the quality of life for the people in the communities we serve. Our best planning and efforts need to be directed toward that mission.



Terri Day

Terri Day
President
Kettering Adventist HealthCare

Terri Day is a member
of the Kettering Seventh-day
Adventist Church

*Every day, our leaders,
employees, physicians and
volunteers give their very
best to improve the quality of
life of the people we serve.*



your healing MINISTRY

Legacy of Healing By Christina Keresoma



Legacy of Healing Reaches out to the Dominican Republic

A team of physicians, nurses, students, and volunteers led by Dr. Steven Schmidt, a Kettering Physician Network plastic surgeon, and his mother Mafi, spent a week in the Western Dominican Republic bringing much needed medical attention to the local residents. The team spent five days this past August performing over 500 various medical and dental procedures. This trip was Dr. Schmidt's tenth such

trip. He attributes the success of the program to his mother, Dr. Schmidt, along with his mother heads up the Legacy of Healing Mission Outreach. Additional to the medical care, volunteers used puppets, which were hugely successful, to teach basic hygiene to the locals.

A soon-to-be-medical student, Shelby Tanguay from Dayton, Ohio, has been traveling with Dr. Schmidt and his team since her high school years. She developed a love



for medicine by first observing and then helping the team wherever they needed her. Her clinical experience through study and observation during past mission trips made her a valuable assistant.

"I had the opportunity to work on a young boy who had an extra nub on his hands and feet. Knowing that the extra parts did not cause him harm I asked him why he wanted them to be removed. He told me that he really wants to play baseball but they don't make gloves that would fit his hands," says Shelby. "I sat there for a second thinking about how I take my hands and feet for granted every day. I believe God puts people in our path to help remind us of what we need to be thankful for."

Legacy of Healing teamed up with World Water Relief to build a water filtration system at one of the local schools so that everyone could have clean water. Infectious diseases related to impure water are the most common preventable cause of death in children. To ensure the filtration system stays running, Legacy of Healing raised money to pay a local company to come out and change the filters every two months for ten years.

"It is important to help others whom may have medical needs, but it is just as important to teach basic hygiene and give clean water to help prevent diseases," says Dr. Schmidt.

"Mission trips are a life changing experience and they help motivate the young people for medical school and ignite a fire inside them for mission outreach and service. With God's help I will continue to organize a trip each year,"

- Steven Schmidt M.D.
at Kettering Adventist HealthCare
and Medical Director of the Legacy of Healing



Photos Courtesy of Dr. Steve Schmidt & Shelby Tanquary



NEWS



MARCH 2013

First in the World to Receive Gamma Knife Upgrade

Kettering Adventist HealthCare was the first to bring Gamma Knife to the Dayton region in 1999, and we recently upgraded to the Leksell Gamma Knife Perfexion system continuing the legacy of innovation.

"We have the only gamma knife unit in the region, and now the most advanced gamma knife in the world with our new upgrades," says Douglas Einstein, director of Radiation Oncology at Kettering Adventist HealthCare.

Gamma Knife is a type of radiosurgery that uses concentrated beams of radiation for the precise treatment of tumors in the brain while minimizing damage to the healthy tissue around it. The new upgrade enhances communication between the physician and the Gamma Knife unit.



Radiation Therapist Kathy Wagoner (left) and Gamma Knife Coordinator Diane Kessack (right) prep the first patient since the upgrade, Cathy Bryan of Beavercreek, for a Gamma Knife procedure.



Kettering Adventist HealthCare Welcomes Jarrod McNaughton

Jarrod McNaughton became part of the Kettering Adventist HealthCare team in February, as the network's Vice President for Missions and Development. He will be responsible for missions, community relations, development, and marketing.

He will assist in aligning services across the network while continuing to expand the KAHC influence in the Dayton and state communities.

"We are delighted to have Jarrod and his wife Heidi, a registered nurse. Join our community," says Fred Manchur, CEO of Kettering Adventist HealthCare. They are a welcome addition to our team.



Kettering College Connects with Local Community

The Kettering College Office of Spiritual Life and Kettering Adventist Church welcomed Christian recording artist

Fernando Ortega to Dayton for

a free concert on Friday, February 1. The concert took place at the Kettering Adventist Church, in Kettering. Admission was free, and everyone was welcome.

"We support free Christian concerts to enrich the experience of our student body and reach out to our community," says Victor Brown, Dean for Enrollment and Student Life for Kettering College.

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EMPLOYMENT

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S

School of Social Work seeks full-time faculty. Candidate must have MSW degree from a CSWE-accredited program and a PhD in related field. Candidates should be able to demonstrate CBT skills. Must have a strongly expressed commitment to Jesus Christ, the teachings and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and a Seventh-day Adventist church member in good and regular standing. Please submit a curriculum vitae via email to René Drumm (rdrumm@southern.edu), Dean, School of Social Work, Southern Adventist University.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S

School of Computing invites applications for a computing professor for fall 2013. A graduate degree in computer science, software engineering, computer information systems, or computer engineering is required; candidates with a doctoral degree are preferred. Duties include teaching undergraduate computing courses, directing student projects, research, advising computing majors and serving on university committees. The successful candidate will be a member in good and regular standing in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Please send a curriculum vitae to halterman@southern.edu.

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seeks graduate faculty to join our mission-focused team at the MSN and DNP levels. Candidate must hold current family/adult NP certification. Requisite qualities include interest in research, successful teaching and advanced practice nursing experience, flexibility and commitment

to Seventh-day Adventist education. The candidate must be a member in good and regular standing in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Doctorate required. Send curriculum vitae or inquiries to Dr. Holly Gadd, hgadd@southern.edu; SAU School of Nursing, POB 370, Collegedale, TN 37315.

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is seeking applicants for the position of program director for a new physician assistant program. A master's degree is required; doctoral degree is preferred. Adventist University is a faith-based institution, which seeks candidates who fit the unique culture and mission of the college. Please email CV to Dr. Len M. Archer, Assoc. VP for Academic Administration, Adventist University of Health Sciences, 671 Winyah Drive, Orlando, FL 32803; len.archer@adu.edu.

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Orlando, Fla., is seeking a physical therapist program director beginning 2013. The program director will provide overall academic leadership developing this program, and salary will be competitive. Requirements: doctoral degree from regionally accredited school, PT academic experience, and eligible for Florida PT licensure. Preferred: senior faculty status. Submit letter of interest, curriculum vitae, three references and/or letters of recommendation to Dr. Don Williams, Sr. VP Academic Administration, Adventist University of Health Sciences, 671 Winyah Drive, Orlando, FL 32803; don.williams@adu.edu.

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is seeking applicants for an accounting, finance or economics professor for their new Master of Healthcare Administration program. A doctoral degree is required. Submit CV to: Dr. Benita David, Chair of Healthcare Administration, Adventist University of Health Sciences, 671 Winyah Drive, Orlando, FL 32803; benita.david@adu.edu.

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is seeking a law student for a six-to eight-week summer clerkship in 2013. This position is limited to students who have finished only one year of law school. Ideal candidates would be in the top 25% of their class. Duties include legal research and other projects. Please send résumé and transcript to david.gordon@ahss.org.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Cincinnati	6:30	6:37	7:44	7:51	7:58
Cleveland	6:17	6:25	7:33	7:40	7:48
Columbus	6:23	6:31	7:38	7:45	7:52
Jersey City	5:47	5:55	7:02	7:10	7:17
Norfolk	5:59	6:05	7:12	7:18	7:24
Parkersburg	6:18	6:25	7:32	7:39	7:46
Philadelphia	5:52	5:59	7:07	7:14	7:21
Pittsburgh	6:11	6:18	7:26	7:33	7:41
Reading	5:55	6:02	7:10	7:17	7:24
Richmond	6:03	6:10	7:16	7:23	7:29
Roanoke	6:13	6:20	7:26	7:33	7:39
Toledo	6:24	6:32	7:40	7:48	7:56
Trenton	5:50	5:58	7:05	7:12	7:20
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TRAVEL/VACATION

CONSIDER CLEMMER'S COVE in Rehoboth Beach, Del., for your summer vacation. Adventist-owned home offers 4BR, 2.5BA, eat-in kitchen, separate dining and living rooms, sunroom. Deck and hot tub in fenced yard. No pets allowed. Sunday-Sunday rentals. Call (240) 764-4004 for available dates June through August.

LEGAL NOTICE

QUADRENNIAL SESSION OF THE ALLEGHENY WEST CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the third quadrennial and 16th regular session of the Allegheny West Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9 a.m. on Sunday, May 19, 2013, at the

Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church, 3650 Sunbury Rd, Columbus, Ohio 43219. This meeting is called for the purpose of electing officers, departmental directors and committees; to amend the constitution and bylaws; and any other business that may properly come before the session at that time.

*William T. Cox, President
Robert Moore, Secretary*

ALLEGHENY WEST CONFERENCE CORPORATION MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the legal meeting of the Allegheny West Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in connection with the third quadrennial and 16th regular session of the Allegheny West Conference on Sunday, May 19, 2013, at the Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church, 3650 Sunbury Rd, Columbus, Ohio 43219. The purpose of this meeting is to elect a Board of Trustees for the ensuing four-year period and to transact any other business that may properly come before the Corporation at that time. The delegates of the third

quadrennial and 16th regular session of the Allegheny West Conference are delegates for this session.

*William Cox, President
Robert Moore, Secretary*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY ALUMNI WEEKEND, April 12-14. You are invited to attend. Visit wau.edu/ alumni or call (301) 891-4133, for more information. We look forward to seeing you!

LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING 2013, April 19-21. "One University Changing the World." Celebrating 50 years of Adventist Colleges Abroad. 4500 Riverwalk Parkway, Riverside, Calif. More info: Julie Narducci: alumni@lasierra.edu, (951) 785-2578, lasierra.edu/alumni.

BROADVIEW ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND, April 26-27. Mark your calendars, call your classmates and start planning for this weekend now. Honor classes: 1943, 1953, 1963, 1973, 1983, 1988,

1993 and 2003. Where: North Aurora Adventist Church, North Aurora, Ill. Friday night vespers, Sabbath School and church. All ideas and information are welcome. For communication purposes, we need your email address. Email: Ed.Gutierrez@att.net, or call: (630) 232-9034. More information to come.

ANNOUNCING ACADEMY DAYS at Oklahoma Academy! If you are a student who is serious about your walk with the Lord and His mission for your life, Oklahoma Academy may be just right for you. Come April 19-21 for our Academy Days weekend and find out. Call (405) 454-6211 to make your reservations today! Also visit: oklahomaacademy.org.

"YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY REUNION will take place June 7-9 for alumni and warmly welcomed schoolmates of 1963 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Mich. Honor classes: 1933, 1943, 1953 and 1963. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. Also, you may contact GLAA Alumni Office at (989) 427-5181 or visit: glaa.net for further information.

Statement of Policy—Nondiscrimination in Adventist Schools

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in all of its church-operated schools, admits students of any race to all privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools and makes no discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, handicap, ethnic background or national origin in the administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs and extracurricular programs.

The governing body of the Church has ruled officially, and in practice abides by, the following policies:

1. Equal employment opportunities shall be afforded, with no discrimination in recruitment or hiring against any employee or application because of race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, age or sex except where age or sex is a bona fide occupational qualification.
2. Preferential hiring shall be practiced only on the basis of freely chosen adherence to Adventist tenets essential to the operation of an Adventist institution.
3. Compensation and benefits will be administered without regard to race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, creed, age or sex except where age or sex is a bona fide occupational qualification.
4. Decisions for the promotion of employees will be based upon the qualifications of an individual as related to the requirements of the position for which he or she is being considered.
5. Inasmuch as the personal life and professional identity of an individual are inseparable, all employees are expected to conform to the standards of conduct that are in harmony with Seventh-day Adventist practices.

Allegheny East—Baltimore Adventist Academy, Calvary Adventist School, DuPont Park Adventist School, Ephesus Adventist School, George E. Peters Adventist School, Hillside Adventist School, Jessie R. Wagner Adventist School, Pine Forge Academy, Sharon Temple Adventist School, Trinity Temple Adventist School, Wilbert F. Mays Adventist School

Allegheny West—Columbus Adventist Academy, Ramah Junior Academy

Chesapeake—Atholton Adventist Academy, Baltimore White Marsh School, Crest Lane SDA School, Crossroads Adventist Preparatory School, Eastern Shore Junior Academy, Frederick Adventist School, Friendship Adventist School, Highland View Academy, Martin Barr Adventist School, Mount Aetna Adventist Elementary School, Rocky Knoll SDA School, Spencerville Adventist Academy, Susquehanna Adventist School, Wilmington Junior Academy

Mountain View—Brushy Fork Christian School, Charleston SDA School, Greenbrier Valley Academy, Highland Adventist School, Mountaintop SDA School, Parkersburg Academy, Summersville Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, Valley View SDA School

New Jersey—Lake Nelson SDA School, Meadow View SDA School, Tranquility Adventist School, Vine Haven Adventist School, Waldwick Adventist School

Ohio—Cincinnati Junior Academy, Clarksfield SDA School, Eastwood SDA Junior Academy, Elyria Christian Academy, Lancaster SDA School, Mansfield SDA School, Mayfair Christian School, Mount Vernon Academy, Mount Vernon SDA Elementary School, Newark SDA School, Piqua Seventh-day Adventist Christian School, Spring Valley Academy, Toledo Junior Academy, Twin Oaks SDA School, Worthington Adventist Academy, Zanesville Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School

Pennsylvania—Blue Mountain Academy, Blue Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Elementary, Central Penn Christian School, Gettysburg Seventh-day Adventist Church School, Harrisburg Adventist School, Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy, Irvin Comstock SDA School, Lehigh Valley SDA Elementary School, Mountain View Christian School, Pocono Adventist Christian School, Reading SDA Junior Academy, Wyoming Valley Adventist School, York Adventist Christian School

Potomac—Beltsville Adventist School, C.F. Richards Junior Academy, Desmond T. Doss Junior Academy, John Nevins Andrews School, Manassas Adventist Preparatory School, Olney Adventist Preparatory School, Powell Valley Christian School, Richmond Academy, Roanoke Adventist Preparatory School, R. A. Lewis Christian School, Shenandoah Valley Academy, Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary School, Sligo Adventist School, Stanley Adventist School, Takoma Academy, Tappahannock Junior Academy, Tidewater Adventist Academy, TLC Prep, Vienna Adventist Academy, Yale Adventist Elementary School

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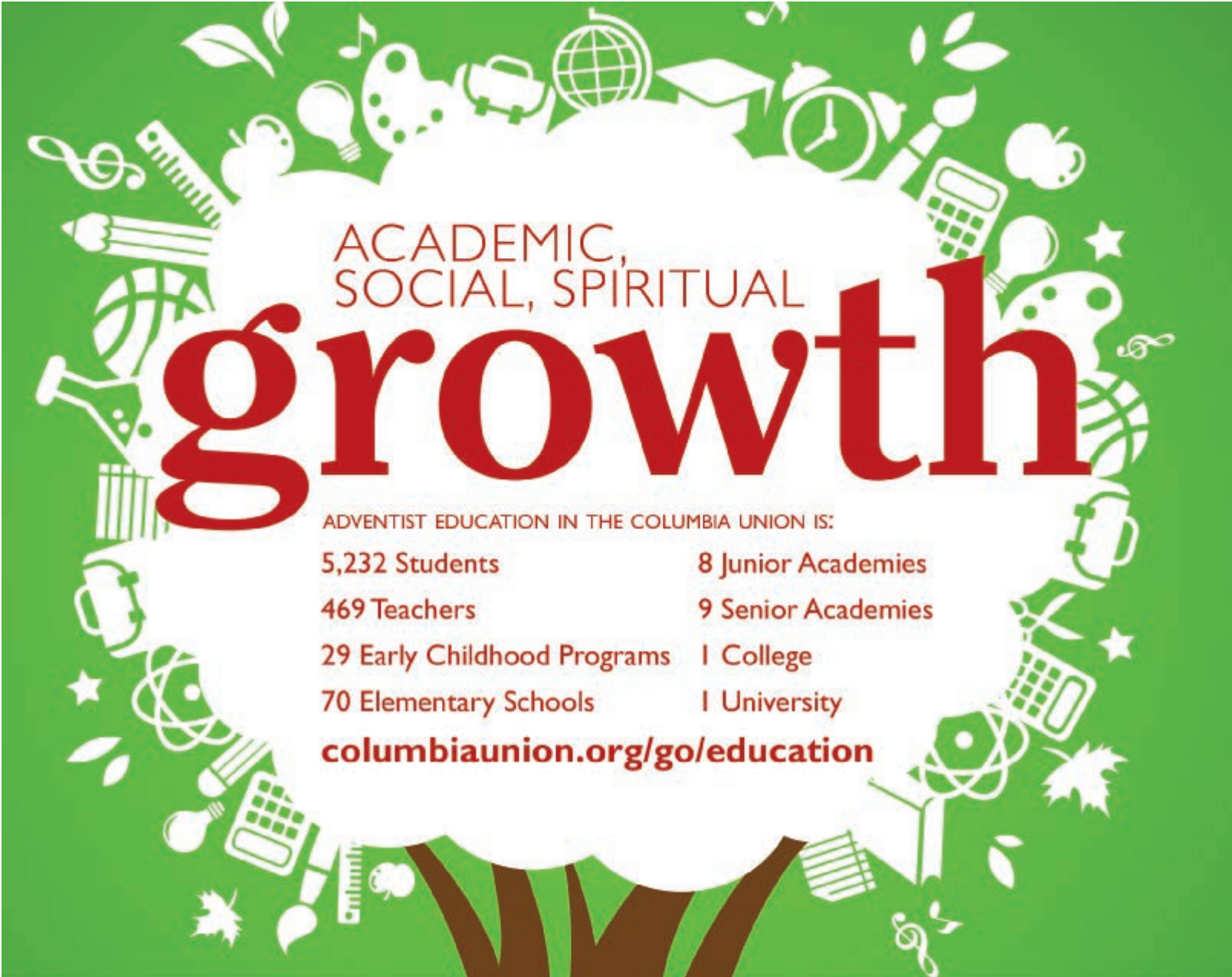
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In the Allegheny West Conference, a CURF loan helped the Ohio Central Korean church in Worthington, Ohio, construct their first house of worship. In the Chesapeake Conference, CURF funds helped Eastern Shore Junior Academy in Sudlersville, Md., replace a 40-year-old boiler with a new geothermal system. With a CURF loan, Washington Adventist University's radio station WGTS 91.9, based in Takoma Park, Md., was able to purchase equipment that helped them expand their potential listenership to more than 1 million.

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1 College

70 Elementary Schools

1 University

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