

# VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

JULY/AUGUST 2018 • VOLUME 123 • ISSUE 6

## MISSIONARY AT MOTEL 6

Elmer Herrera Leads  
Worship Services at  
a Maryland Motel

Plus: Meet a  
Sabbath-keeping Dog,  
and Read Three More  
Stories of Modern  
Missionaries

+5 Uplifting  
Summer  
Reads

# Contents



## 4 | Newsline

## 6 | Noticias

## 8 | Missionary at Motel 6

Every Sabbath businessman Elmer Herrera and his team transform a motel conference room into a worship space.

## 14 | 5 Summer Reads

Summer is here. Time to head to the beach, bury your toes in the sand and relax with a good read. Here are five new books that will feed your soul (and stomach).

## 15 | Newsletters

## 44 | Bulletin Board

**About the Cover:** Elmer Herrera was photographed by Brad Barnwell in Frederick, Md.

## ON THE WEB

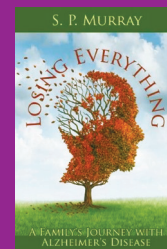
### ADVENTIST WINS JIU-JITSU CHAMPIONSHIP

Kayla Dehm, a member of Allegheny East Conference's Recreation church in Baltimore,



recently won the International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Adult Female Blue Medium-Heavy World Title at the competition in Long Beach, Calif. Dehm also uses her athletic abilities as a ministry and is one of the co-directors at her church's Jiu-Jitsu program held at Baltimore Junior Academy.

"One of my reasons to compete was so I could be an example of an Adventist athlete," says Dehm. "I feel there are a lot of [Adventist athletes], but there is a stigma around competition. ... But our physical ability has been given by [God]." Read more at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/adventistchampion](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/adventistchampion).



### LOSING EVERYTHING

Susan P. Murray, a member of New Jersey Conference's Rockaway church, started a journal documenting her feelings about her mother's decline from Alzheimer's. She turned those entries into *Losing Everything*, a book that gives a gritty glimpse into how the disease changes its victims and how it impacts those who love them. Read more at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/losingeverything](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/losingeverything).

### MEMBERS HELP CLEAN UP FLOOD DAMAGE

Volunteers from the North American Division, Allegheny East Conference and Chesapeake Conference



Adventist Community Services Disaster Response teams have joined forces to help clean up flood damage in the Baltimore and Catonsville, Md., areas following floods in the spring. See photos of their efforts and find out how you can help your church be prepared to serve when disaster strikes near your home at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/getready](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/getready).

PHOTO BY ARMANDO MIRANDA JR.

# VISITOR

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The *Visitor* is a monthly publication of the Columbia Union Conference reaching approximately 63,000 Seventh-day Adventist homes in the mid-Atlantic area. The *Visitor* provides news and information, inspiration for effective ministry and insight on issues with a spiritual focus to help engage members in experiencing the mission.

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Printed at Pacific Press® Publishing Association in Nampa, Idaho.

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Volume 123 ■ Issue 6

## Just Outside Your Door

I've often heard people say they would have loved to have served as a missionary; if only they didn't have so much student debt, or weren't in such a hurry to build their careers or buy a house, they would have traveled overseas to serve.

For two years, I worked as a missionary in South Korea. Teaching the proper pronunciation of English words and how to use them in everyday conversation occupied most of my time. I later edited textbooks for children, writing and reviewing sample conversations and stories that would serve as tools for them to practice English—tasks that I could have easily done in the U.S. as an ESL instructor or textbook editor. Each day and most weekends, I taught a class using religious materials and music to help my students improve their conversational English skills. Many enrolled just to learn English, but I hope some of the biblical truths we discussed remained with them.



Setting aside a specific period of time to focus on mission is a wonderful thing that has the potential to draw you closer to Christ and reach many people with His love. If you can find a way to do it, take the leap! And in this global economy, living and working in a foreign country will probably even help your resume stand out above others with similar education and experience.

## HOMELAND MISSIONARY

However, if you don't get the opportunity to serve abroad, why not serve in your own neighborhood? You already know the culture, come in contact with community members on a daily basis and understand the language. And maybe you've already developed friendships based on mutual interests and shared history with your neighbors, who also deserve to hear about Jesus.

Most of your missionary work will probably be pretty similar to what I was doing as a missionary overseas—interacting with people while accomplishing a specific job. Just think, your potential to influence people and win hearts might even be greater in your hometown.

Wouldn't you be willing to consult a longtime colleague or friend about relationship or family problems? To ask a trusted friend about their faith when yours is failing? Or to ask for prayer when you've seen your co-worker praying through situations on a regular basis?

This month we feature five inspiring stories of missionaries who are serving God in a variety of practical ways in parts unknown and here at home.

What makes them and you a missionary is your intent, not your job title or stamped passport. Don't think that your missionary dreams are dead if you haven't had the chance to live abroad; there's a mission field just outside your door.

V. Michelle Bernard serves as news, features and online editor for the *Visitor* magazine.

## Newsline



Young attendees at the Allegheny West Conference Hispanic Camp Meeting take a golf-cart ride around the campgrounds in Thornville, Ohio.

### STUDENTS RECEIVE CARING HEART AWARDS

Nine students from academies within the Columbia Union Conference recently received the Office of Education's annual Caring Heart Award. The following students were nominated for demonstrating a personal commitment to service and witnessing:

*Blue Mountain Academy:*

**Lorena D. Alves** ■ *Highland View*

*Academy: Catarina Sanches ■*

*Lake Nelson Adventist Academy:*

**Brendan Sierra** ■ *Pine Forge*

*Academy: Jonathan Williamson*



*Richmond Academy Principal Nancy Malashenko presents Wendy Reyes with the Caring Heart Award.*

■ *Richmond Academy: Wendy Reyes* ■ *Shenandoah Valley Academy: Pedro Teste-Pereira* ■ *Spencerville Adventist Academy: Favour Ogbue* ■ *Spring Valley Academy: Janelle Richardson* ■ *Takoma Academy: Taylor A. Gordon*—Visitor staff

### WILL BAKER SUPREME COURT CASE IMPACT ADVENTISTS?

The U.S. Supreme Court recently decided in favor of Jack Phillips, a Christian baker in Colorado, who refused to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple because of his religious convictions. The case, watched closely by religious liberty experts, highlighted the tension between gay rights and same-sex interests and the rights of those with religious convictions who feel that providing certain services to same-sex individuals violates their right to practice their religion.

The court ruled 7-2 that the ruling by the state's Civil Rights Commission had hindered Phillip's free exercise of religion rights, but not his free speech. Walter Carson, Columbia Union Conference general counsel, says "I think this decision will ultimately

be important because there are a number of cases in the courts with tension between the free exercise of religion clause and government laws seeking to safeguard same-sex rights. There were justices in the Obergefell case [that found a constitutional right to same-sex marriage] that identified the likelihood of such potential problems. The Supreme Court seems to be saying 'we can't give you an answer right now on how these cases will be decided.' This case is the beginning of laying the foundation where the Supreme Court will try to reconcile and preserve both same-sex rights and the rights of the free exercise of religion." Read more about how this case could impact Seventh-day Adventists at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/wedding-cakecase](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/wedding-cakecase).—V. Michelle Bernard



### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS TO USE ENCOUNTER BIBLE CURRICULUM

This coming fall, Columbia Union Conference elementary students will join others across the North American Division who study the Bible using the new Adventist Encounter Bible Curriculum. High school classes across the Columbia Union already use this program that promotes the Bible as the primary textbook, and encourages a deeper relationship with God through hands-on activities.

Elementary educators from across the union recently gathered at Chesapeake Conference’s Spencerville Adventist Academy (Md.) and at the Allegheny West Conference headquarters in Columbus, Ohio, for training sessions with Lanelle Cobbin, curriculum specialist and elementary Encounter developer.

Second- through fourth-grade teacher Deborah Wasmer at Pennsylvania Conference’s Harrisburg Adventist School, attended the training and says “The Encounter curriculum’s focus on building a relationship with God permeates each story and



*Pennsylvania conference teachers Kaisy Marschner, from Lehigh Valley Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, and Deborah Wasmer, from Harrisburg Adventist School, participate in an Adventist Encounter Bible Curriculum training.*

**“We exist to grow healthy churches that reflect Christ’s love and compassion in our communities.”**



*—Mountain View Conference’s new mission statement, developed and voted at a recent conference executive committee meeting*

activity. It provides each student an opportunity to delve into the Bible and make God personal to them through stories and shared experiences.”

An exciting [result] regarding the curriculum is that it’s getting students who have never engaged to participate in class, says Cobbin, who encouraged the teachers to help their students think deeper. “If [we’re] not stretched, there is no compulsion to move forward,” she says.—VMB

**WGTS UPHOLDS HIGHEST FINANCIAL STANDARDS**

For the third year in a row, the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) has recognized and accredited WGTS 91.9 for upholding the highest financial standards. “This is an important

honor and meaningful accreditation for WGTS,” says Kevin Krueger, general manager. “We make it a priority to be accountable to our donors and uphold the standards of ECFA, which include financial accountability, transparency, fundraising and board governance. Our donors give so generously, and it is our desire to help them feel invested in the ministry by knowing how their funds are being used to further our work in Washington, D.C., and the surrounding areas.”



WGTS 91.9 was the first Seventh-day Adventist organization to apply for accreditation with ECFA—who provides this status to leading Christian organizations—and received their first letter of acceptance in October 2015.—Lisa Krueger

**FREDERICK ADVENTIST ACADEMY DESIGNATED A MARYLAND GREEN SCHOOL**

The Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) recently named Chesapeake Conference’s Frederick Adventist Academy (FAA) a Maryland Green School. The nationally recognized award honors the school’s efforts toward sustainability, the reduction of environmental impact and environmental literacy. The award acknowledges the various initiatives implemented by FAA since 2014, when the school began its intentional move toward a more eco-conscious culture.

Read more in Chesapeake Conference’s newsletter on page 19. —Miranda Alvarez

*Maryland Governor Larry Hogan recognizes Frederick Adventist Academy staff, as well as past and present students, for their Maryland Green School status.*



## Noticias



Escuchando historias bíblicas en la carpa de las fogatas, en la reunión del campestre hispano de la Conferencia de Pensilvania en la Academia Blue Mountain en Hamburg, PA.

### ESTUDIANTES RECIBEN PREMIO CARING HEART

Nueve estudiantes de academias en la Unión de Columbia recibieron recientemente el premio anual Caring Heart de la Oficina de Educación. Los siguientes estudiantes fueron nominados por demostrar un compromiso personal de servicio y testimonio:

*Blue Mountain Academy:* **Lorena D. Alves** ■ *Highland View Academy:* **Catarina Sanches** ■ *Lake Nelson Adventist Academy:* **Brendan Sierra** ■ *Pine Forge*



*Tim Soper, capellán de la Academia Adventista de Spencerville, presenta Favour Ogbue con el Premio Caring Heart.*

*Academy:* **Jonathan Williamson** ■ *Richmond Academy:* **Wendy Reyes** ■ *Shenandoah Valley Academy:* **Pedro Teste-Pereira** ■ *Spencerville Adventist Academy:* **Favour Ogbue** ■ *Spring Valley Academy:* **Janelle Richardson** ■ *Takoma Academy:* **Taylor A. Gordon**—*Personal de Visitor*

### ESCUELAS PRIMARIAS UTILIZARÁN EL CURRÍCULO ENCOUNTER PARA CLASES DE BIBLIA

Este otoño, todos los estudiantes de primaria de la Unión de Columbia estudiarán la clase de Biblia con un nuevo Currículo: Advent Encounter. Las clases de la escuela secundaria en toda la Unión ya usan este programa que promueve la Biblia como el principal libro de texto, y fomenta una relación más profunda con Dios a través de actividades prácticas.

Los educadores de las escuelas primarias de la Unión de Columbia se reunieron recientemente en la Academia Adventista Spencerville (MD) de la Conferencia de Chesapeake y en la sede de la Conferencia de Allegheny West en Columbus, Ohio, para sesiones de



*Edgar Flores y Janelle Carnahan, maestros de la Academia Juvenil Meadow View de la Conferencia de New Jersey en Chesterfield, participan en un ejercicio en el entrenamiento del Currículo Bíblico Adventist Encounter.*

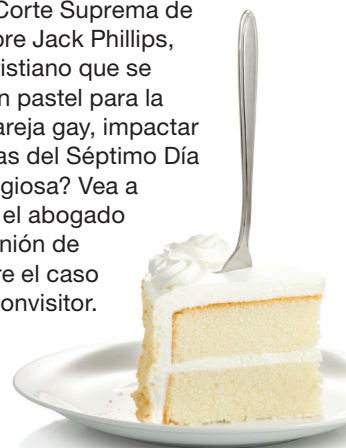
capacitación con Lanelle Cobbin, especialista en currículo y quien elaboró el currículo Encounter para escuelas primarias.

Un aspecto emocionante del plan de estudios es que está atrayendo a estudiantes que nunca se han comprometido a participar en clase antes, dice Cobbin, quien alentó a los maestros a ayudar a sus alumnos a pensar más profundamente. “Si no nos exigimos no hay compulsión para avanzar”, dice ella.—*V. Michelle Bernard*

### ¿AFECTARÁ A LOS ADVENTISTAS EL CASO DEL PANADERO EN LA CORTE SUPREMA?

¿Cómo podría la reciente decisión de la Corte Suprema de los EE. UU. sobre Jack Phillips, un panadero cristiano que se negó a hacer un pastel para la boda de una pareja gay, impactar a los Adventistas del Séptimo Día y la libertad religiosa? Vea a Walter Carson, el abogado general de la Unión de Columbia, sobre el caso en [columbiaunionvisitor.com/wedding-cakecase](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/wedding-cakecase).

—*VMB*



### WGTS RECIBE ACREDITACIÓN POR RESPONSABILIDAD FINANCIERA

Por tercer año consecutivo, el Consejo Evangélico para la Rendición de Cuentas Financieras (ECFA) ha reconocido y acreditado a WGTS 91.9 por mantener los más altos estándares financieros. “Este es un honor importante y una acreditación significativa para WGTS”, dice el gerente general Kevin Krueger. “Hacemos que sea una prioridad rendir cuentas a nuestros donantes y mantener los



“Existimos para cultivar iglesias saludables que reflejen el amor y la compasión de Cristo en nuestras comunidades”.

—La nueva declaración de misión de la Conferencia de Mountain View, desarrollada y votada en una reciente reunión del comité ejecutivo de la conferencia

estándares de ECFA, que incluyen la responsabilidad financiera, la transparencia, la recaudación de fondos y la dirección de la junta. Nuestros donantes dan tan generosamente, y es nuestro deseo

ayudarlos a sentirse interesados en el ministerio al saber cómo se utilizan sus fondos para impulsar nuestro trabajo en Washington, DC y en las áreas circundantes”.

—Lisa Krueger



### COMPARTIR A DIOS EN UN MOTEL 6

Elmer Herrera y su familia se mudaron a Frederick, MD, a principios de la década de 2000. Él y su esposa, Olivia, ya habían ayudado a establecer iglesias en Hyattsville y Laurel, Maryland, y estaban ansiosos por volver a hacerlo cerca de su nuevo hogar.

Se unieron a un pequeño grupo que finalmente surgió como la iglesia hispana de Frederick en la Conferencia de Chesapeake. Pero Elmer, que dirige un pequeño negocio de pintura, dice que la iglesia estaba demasiado lejos de la comunidad hispana y quería comenzar otro grupo.

Los Herreras y otros tres adventistas del séptimo día lanzaron lo que ahora es la iglesia hispana Frederick Canaán, que originalmente se reunía en un apartamento todos los sábados y miércoles. El grupo creció tanto que necesitaban un lugar más grande. “Comenzamos a orar para que Dios nos dirija. Después de mucha investigación, la única puerta que se abrió fue alquilar una de las salas de conferencias en el Motel 6 local”, dice Elmer.

En las mañanas de los sábados durante los últimos dos años, Elmer y un grupo de unos 30 transforman una sala de conferencias en un espacio de adoración en el Motel 6 en W. Patrick Street. La ubicación proporciona un acceso más directo a la comunidad hispana que las iglesias adventistas en el área de Frederick que podrían alquilar, dice Elmer.

Si bien la ubicación es ideal para llegar a los residentes, esta casa de adoración no convencional tiene algunos inconvenientes. A veces las personas hacen fiestas cerca del espacio de culto alquilado, u otras organizaciones alquilan todas las salas, dejando a la iglesia sin un lugar para adorar o confraternizar esa semana.

Estos inconvenientes han puesto al grupo en busca de un lugar de encuentro más ideal y permanente. “Estaremos allí hasta que Dios abra otra puerta”, dice Elmer, quien agrega: “Lo más importante que le puede pasar a un ser humano es conocer a alguien, compartir estudios bíblicos y verlo crecer y bautizarse. No cambiaría eso por nada en el mundo”.—Andre Hastick



# MISSIONARY AT MOTEL 6

**& OTHER STORIES FROM THE MISSION FIELD**



Young adults conduct worship via the radio in Northern China, staff nurture an abused mother in Romania, a dog leads a village to accept the Sabbath in Indonesia, and, closer to home, a businessman plants a church at a Motel 6 in Maryland.





## UNITED STATES: **SHARING GOD IN A MOTEL 6**

*By Andre Hastick,  
Chesapeake Conference*

**E**lmer Herrera and his family moved to Frederick, Md., in the early 2000s. He and his wife, Olivia, had already helped to establish churches in Hyattsville and Laurel, Md., and were eager to do it again near their new home.

They joined a small group that eventually emerged as the Frederick Hispanic church. But Elmer, who runs a small painting business, says the church was too far from the Hispanic community and wanted to start another group.

The Herrerases and three other Seventh-day Adventists launched what is now the Frederick Canaan Spanish church, which originally met in an apartment every Sabbath and Wednesday. The group grew so large they needed a bigger place. “We started to pray for guidance. After much research, the only door that opened was to rent one of the conference rooms at the local Motel 6,” says Elmer.

On Sabbath mornings for the past two years, Elmer and a group of about 30 transform a conference room into a worship space at the Motel 6 on W. Patrick Street. The location is close to Frederick’s “Golden Mile” of businesses, and provides more direct access to the Hispanic community than other Adventist churches in the Frederick area that could be rented, says Elmer.

Actively participating in community events, like the annual Frederick Hispanic Festival, and

*Elmer and Olivia Herrera, Melvin Galdemez and Gabriela Moncada worked together to start what is now the Frederick Canaan Spanish church that meets at a Motel 6.*

practicing friendship evangelism with neighbors has helped boost church attendance. While the location is ideal for reaching the residents, this unconventional house of worship comes with some drawbacks. Sometimes people hold parties next to the rented worship space, or other organizations rent out every room, leaving the church without a place to worship or fellowship that week.

These challenging obstacles have left the group in search of a more ideal and permanent meeting place. “We’ll be there until God opens another door,” says Herrera, who adds, “The most important thing that can happen to a human is getting to know somebody, having Bible studies with them, and watching them grow and get baptized. I wouldn’t change that for anything else.”

## ROMANIA: **BATTERED BUT UNBROKEN**

*By Kimi-Roux James, Adventist  
Development and Relief Agency*

**S**taring in the mirror, Marie\* saw an ugly, bruised scar above her mouth that swelled over her

### **VIDEO MISSION STORIES!**

Visit [columbiaunionvisitor.com/modernmissionstories](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/modernmissionstories) to watch video stories about a pastor in Kenya that brought 105 people to Christ, a dog that helped convert half a village and the work ADRA and Adventist World Radio are accomplishing around the world.



entire cheek. The throbbing pain was unbearable. Tears slid down her face.

For the sake of her children, she couldn’t live with him anymore.

Her mind raced back to her own father who used to beat her for talking back to him. Staying with her parents was miserable and often violent. Then, at 17, Marie found solace and comfort in her boyfriend whom she ran away with, thinking life would be better.

Three weeks after moving in together, Marie found herself quarreling with her boyfriend and having to deal with his alcoholism. Later when she got pregnant, her parents disowned her, and she married her boyfriend out of remorse. Her new husband found work in construction, and she became a nurse, but home was not a happy place.

At work, Marie’s bruises became more visible. When concerned co-workers asked about the marks, Marie came up with excuses. She eventually confessed everything. “You should leave him,” her co-workers urged. “Your safety is our concern,” were the sympathizing words that beat into her head. Marie mustered up courage, and with her son, took refuge at her aunt’s home. After a three-month search, her husband found her there. He begged Marie to return home, promising change.



Despite her reservations, she did.

Years later the problems persisted, and by then, Marie had her second child, a girl. Her husband, however, lost his job, resorted to drinking and became increasingly violent. Marie's breaking point came when her daughter, an honor roll student, was no longer getting good grades, and her son got into trouble at school for hitting someone. While they argued, Marie's son lashed out in anger, "I'll find myself a stupid woman like my dad did to show who's the boss!" His response was the last straw; Marie took her children and left home for good.

"I realized that my son and daughter would have the same fate, and I don't wish for my son to become like his father," she says.

While surfing the internet, Marie discovered ADRA House, a women's shelter in Romania. For two months, she and her children found refuge there. The staff took good care of the family, providing medical care, social engagement, psychological services, legal aid, food, hygiene education and transportation.

"At ADRA House, the mothers experience changes and take steps toward a new life without verbal, physical, economic, social, psychological, sexual or religious violence," says Claudia Andrei (pictured above), an ADRA House psychologist. "We notice their

need to be valued and motivated in their struggle for self-knowledge, self-appreciation and increasing self-esteem for labor and market reintegration."

After two months, ADRA House staff directed Marie and her children to a specialized recovery center where they were able to gain further assistance in establishing a new life. Today her son, 17, and daughter, 12, are enrolled at another school and are doing well. No longer intimidated by her husband's threats, Marie divorced him and now has a stable job.

"I never thought I would receive such good treatment from strangers," Marie confessed in tears. "For the first time, I feel I am at home."

*In 2009 ADRA Romania founded the Emergency Center for Domestic Violence Victims, the largest service of its kind in southern Romania. Since opening its doors, 805 women have found shelter and hope there. Learn more at [www.adra.ro](http://www.adra.ro).*

## INDONESIA: SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST DOG

*By Andrew McChesney,  
Adventist Mission*

All the villagers raced to the airstrip, singing and dancing, when American mission pilot Gary Roberts landed at Suminka, a remote village in the Indonesian province of Papua.

It had taken 10 years to cut down the trees by hand to clear the way for an airstrip at their mountainous village, and Gary's mission plane was the first to land. This was a big event.

As Gary stepped out of the plane, the crowd grew silent. The singing and dancing stopped.

"Is this a Seventh-day Adventist plane?" a man asked.

He saw the three angels' logo on the airplane's tail.

Gary was surprised. He hadn't

expected people in Suminka, a village previously accessible only by a long trek by foot, to have heard about the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The people soon told him that many of them kept the Sabbath. The reason, they said, was because of an "Adventist dog."

### AN UNUSUAL DREAM

The story started several years earlier, just across the border in Papua New Guinea, when an Adventist pastor, Moses, and a lay pastor, Darius, had the same dream on the same night.

In the morning, one said, "I had a dream last night."

The other said, "I did, too, but I didn't want to tell you."

They both had seen an angel in the dream, and the angel said, "Go to Suminka."

A few days later, the two men set off on the three-day hike to the village.

Upon arrival they announced that evangelistic meetings would be held every evening for a week under a tree on the far side of the village. But on the day of the first meeting, Moses fell ill with malaria.



*Mission pilot Gary Roberts' plane was the first to land in Suminka, a village where half the residents became Adventists because of a dog's witness.*

He was terribly sick, and the locals predicted he would die.

“But if he gets better, then we will listen to him at the meeting,” they said.

All day Moses was sick. But at 5 p.m., he suddenly felt better. He took a bath and preached. Afterward, he felt very ill again.

This happened all week; he was sick until 5 p.m., then recovered, took a bath, preached and finally sank back into bed. At the meetings, he told people about the Sabbath and cautioned against eating unclean meat, such as pork. (Wild pigs are a popular dish in the Papua mountains.)

When the week ended, Moses made an appeal. No one came forward.

Moses and Darius returned home deeply disappointed. They wondered why they had the dream without any positive results.

#### A CHANGED DOG

Back at Suminka, life resumed as normal—until Saturday morning. The village’s best hunting dog, Dolby, got up and headed down the trail. Its owner and others thought it was onto something, so they followed. The dog went to the tree where the missionary had spoken and sat down. The villagers thought it strange.

The next Saturday and the next, the same thing occurred. Refusing to hunt on Saturdays, instead the dog would get up, walk over to the tree and sit down.



The villagers also noticed the dog stopped eating pork. It refused to hunt for wild pigs and other unclean animals.

“Dolby has become a Seventh-day Adventist,” one villager said.

“If he worships on Sabbath, we should too,” said another.

Many villagers began to keep the Sabbath and stopped eating unclean foods.

Gary Roberts, the mission pilot, was excited when he heard the story, and he later called Moses. The pastor was some distance away from Suminka, so he contacted Darius and told him to plan on spending a year in the village, teaching the people about Bible truths.

Today, about half of the village of 200 adults and children worship on Sabbath, and 21 people have already been baptized.

Dolby continues to shun unclean food. As a result, the people say he is a very healthy dog.

*Read more mission stories daily at [adventistmission.org](http://adventistmission.org). Churches in the Columbia Union can receive a complimentary subscription to Adventist Mission’s two magazines—with weekly mission stories—Mission and Children’s Mission—by contacting Rebecca Hilde at [rebecca.hilde@pacificpress.com](mailto:rebecca.hilde@pacificpress.com) or calling (800) 545-2449 or (208) 465-2527.*

#### CHINA:

### WAVES OF HOPE

*By Shelley Nolan Freestland,  
Adventist World Radio*

Outside the windows of the small high-rise apartment, the pre-dawn surroundings are pitch black. Miss Zhang\* leans into her microphone and welcomes her online listeners to the live internet worship called *Good Morning, China*.

One by one, the names of group participants pop up on the chat

“Dolby has become a Seventh-day Adventist. If he worships on Sabbath, we should too.”



Zhang, began quietly sharing their faith through the internet.

### GOING ON FAITH

This broadcast ministry is largely driven by the keen dedication of young, single people. The average age of radio team members is 28, in a country where it's a perceived liability to still be single past the age of 22. They are persevering despite considerable financial and personal sacrifice.

Zhang, for example, is highly trained as a Japanese translator and could easily land a well-paying corporate job. But like her team members, she is living on an income 30 to 40 percent lower than the local average. Even these funds are not guaranteed, as the young adults are actually working on a self-supporting basis. This includes paying the rent on the apartment where the studio is situated.

"It's a struggle," Zhang admits. "We feel guilty that we can't do more for our parents, who are working hard on farms far away from the city. Also, the reality is that many of us would like to get married, but it's not really [financially] possible at the moment. However, I choose to keep

screen. Some people are listening alone, while others gather in small groups: families at home, youth groups or clusters of people in a church. They tune in through their computers or mobile phones every weekday morning.

The program is highly interactive; some listeners queue up to read part of the featured Bible passage, while others submit questions to Pastor Jin\* as he presents the spiritual talk of the day. They have prayer time together and sing-alongs.

By midmorning, staff post a complete transcript online. The audio recording is also repeated for listeners who can't quite make the early morning live broadcast.

### EXPANDED PRESENCE

This scene is currently duplicated in several other cities in China, and it represents a huge breakthrough in church outreach. For years shortwave radio programs for China were produced outside of the country.

"More recently, however, we have felt that producers who live in the same communities as their listeners would be able to relate even better to the daily issues and circumstances faced by listeners there," says Adventist World Radio (AWR) Media Director John Chen\*. So, local volunteers set up several mini-studios in anonymous apartments located in selected cities, and new producers, such as

*Did you know that China is the Seventh-day Adventist Church's largest mission field?*



*Pastor Jane Odera continues to minister in her community.*

serving here. Radio is a good way to tell people about God.”

To check out AWR’s online programs in more than 100 languages, visit [awr.org/listen](http://awr.org/listen).

## KENYA: TIRELESS FOR GOD

By Celeste Ryan Blyden,  
Columbia Union Conference

Until recently Jane Odera served as a pastor in western Kenya’s Nyalgunga district. During her time in this largely un-entered region, she shepherded a district with five churches and two companies, and worked to revive three more companies.

Odera previously served as a literature evangelist in Kenya for 17 years, and, in 2016, became one of six female pastors in her conference. During the two years as a district leader, she helped to bring 105 people to Christ through six evangelistic meetings, camp meetings and personal evangelism efforts.

Though some of her congregations still worship outdoors under trees, others raised funds and purchased land for future construction. One company grew to church status and another congregation revitalized its educational program and now operates a school for 150 children, including many orphans.

“The community is overwhelmed by traditions and culture which has become a burden for the faithful,” she says, adding, “Many locations have been reached, and the converts still need much in Christian teachings and growth.”

### ANYWAY, ANYTIME

Odera was recently laid off from her position, but continues to hold on to God’s promises that He has a plan and a future for her. She would like to use this opportunity to pursue a master’s degree in ministry. In the meantime, she is working with friends in a

hospital supply business. Though not employed in full-time ministry, she is still tirelessly ministering. Through Bible studies, she is sharing her faith with friends who have not accepted the Seventh-day Adventist message, and also enjoys visiting and praying with patients at a hospital.

“Ministry can be done anyway, anytime,” says Odera. “We can minister to our colleagues through our character. My honesty and patience have ministered a lot to people I’ve met.”

\*Names changed for privacy or protection.

## HE SAID “GO”

Inspired by Jesus’ gospel commission in Matthew 28:19, the Office of Volunteer Ministries of the North American Division (NAD) promotes and facilitates short- and long-term volunteer service in the U.S. and abroad.

To qualify as a missionary through the NAD, applicants must be baptized members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church between the ages of 18 and 79. The lengths of the assignments vary from two months to two years.

### Is This Your Call?

Positions can range from an assistant cook at Potomac Conference’s Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va., to physical therapists in Haiti, where Justin and Shari Kim (pictured) served from 2014–16.

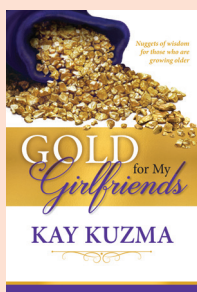
Here is a small sampling of open positions as of press time: **Fourth-grade Teacher** in Micronesia • **Chaplain’s Assistant/Bible Worker** in Peru • **Social Media Content Producer** in Argentina • **Public Health Coordinator** in Sierra Leone • **Outreach Ministries Assistant** in Ireland • **Kindergarten English Teacher/Assistant** in Albania • **Chemistry Teacher** in Thailand • **Pharmacy Assistant** in the Philippines • **Agronomist** in Angola • **Student Medical Assistant** in Zambia • **Cafeteria Director** in Kenya • **Assistant Dean** in Romania • **Graphic Designer** in Colombia • **Secondary Teacher for Refugees** in Lebanon • **Youth/Worship Taskforce** in Arizona

Visit [hesaidgo.net](http://hesaidgo.net) for more information on current mission opportunities.



# 5 SUMMER READS

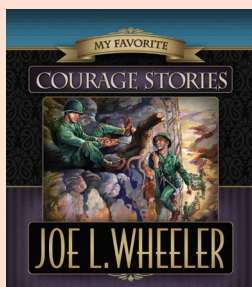
Looking for an uplifting summer read? Pacific Press® Publishing Association has released books that promise encouragement through various phases of life, a boost of courage, spiritual refreshment and recipes to utilize the abundant summer produce. Find out more about the following books at [adventistbookcenter.com](http://adventistbookcenter.com).



## GOLD FOR MY GIRLFRIENDS

by Kay Kuzma

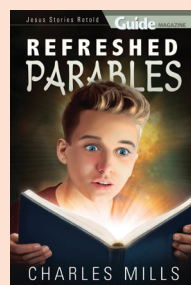
Forget about spending time trying to mask your age with glitter and glamour or pushing yourself to achieve more fame and fortune. These things are just temporary. Instead, focus on creating breath-taking moments that can never be taken away from you, never lost and never devalued. If you do that, then every age can be “golden,” encourages Kuzma. *Gold for My Girlfriends* is a fun, encouraging read for anyone anticipating those golden years—and for those who are already there.



## MY FAVORITE COURAGE STORIES

edited and compiled by Joe L. Wheeler

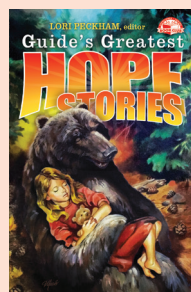
As one of America's leading story anthologizers, Joe L. Wheeler's collections include the *Christmas in My Heart* series, the *Great Stories Remembered* series, the *Heart to Heart* series and *The Good Lord Made Them All* series. *My Favorite Courage Stories* includes amazing, true stories of people with the courage to do what was right, regardless of the cost.



## REFRESHED PARABLES

by Charles Mills

If Jesus were alive today, what would He tell stories about? Fashion? Friends? Food? Pets? Popular children's author Charles Mills has “refreshed” 25 of Jesus' parables, retelling them by using examples from the everyday lives of kids today. Each story includes Bible verses where readers can find the original story told by Jesus.



## GUIDE'S GREATEST HOPE STORIES

edited by Lori Peckham

The 25 true stories from the pages of *Guide* magazine in *Guide's Greatest Hope Stories* are about kids who had nothing left but hope. Meet Sarah, the little girl lost in the woods, whose only hope of rescue was an unbelievable dream. Learn about the day prayer was the only thing standing between Peter's farm and the swarm of grasshoppers. Ride the Underground Railroad with Henry and the hope of freedom, and try to figure out how Tom's dog is going to rescue six men in danger of drowning.



## GREEN CUISINE FOR COMPLETE HEALTH

by Margaret Owens

*Green Cuisine* will help readers know how to turn that fresh summer produce into healthy, delicious meals for the family. More than 100 plant-based recipes—from main dishes, soups and salads to sweets and condiments—are available to help you lead your loved ones down the path to feeling better and living longer.

# ALLEGHENY EAST *Exposé*

## Communication Department Hosts Third Conference

The Allegheny East Conference's Communication Department recently hosted its third annual Connection and Ministry Communication Conference (CAMCON), themed "The Art of Communication." Attendees included pastors, communication leaders and team members representing some 20 churches.

Presenters included Alvin Kibble, vice president for the North American Division (NAD); Celeste Ryan Blyden, vice president for Strategic Communication and Public Relations at the Columbia Union Conference; Michelle Makariak of Technologies for Worship; Howard Bullard Jr., visual communication professor; Jamie Domm, Social Media + Big Data strategist for the NAD; Samuel Neves, associate communication director for the General Conference (GC); Jennifer Gray-Woods, associate general counsel for the Office of General Counsel; Ruth and Joshua Annan from Annan Productions; and Lonny Nelson of Adventist Church Connect.

Seminars included copyright compliance, social media, streaming, videography and visual communication. In addition to seminars, attendees participated in Sabbath worship, group discussions and daily group prayers.

The Communication Department is working toward organizing area communication groups, and



*Mike Williams, communication director for the Mt. Olivet church in Camden, N.J., wins Best Church Website and Best Video Production, and Sheldon Kennedy, communication director for Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., wins Best Social Media Presence.*

encourages all leaders to contact [lhewitt@aecsd.com](mailto:lhewitt@aecsd.com) to be added to the list. The next conference is scheduled for April 25–27, 2019.

## Allegheny East Holds Regional Spelling Bee

The Allegheny East Conference Office of Education (AECOE) recently held its annual Regional Spelling Bee at the Calvary Adventist School in Newport News, Va.



The 25 finalists who competed previously won from the qualifying rounds held at the local K-8 schools within the conference. The competition consisted of 16 rounds, using words from the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Eighth-graders Taylor Lawson (pictured sitting) from the G. E. Peters Adventist School in Hyattsville, Md., won first place, followed by second-place winner Blair Dyer (pictured at podium), also from G. E. Peters. Brandon Lewis from the Trinity Temple Academy in Hillside, N.J., placed third.

"The students came focused and prepared, and it was evident by their performance," says John Alberty, superintendent of schools.

Each year the first-place winner earns the opportunity for their school to showcase the AECOE Regional Spelling Bee trophy for one year and for the school to host the next annual spelling bee.

## Prison Ministries Federation Elects Officers

At a recent constituency meeting, members of Allegheny East Conference's (AEC) Prison Ministries Federation elected officers to serve for the next quinquennium. Constituents re-elected Ronald Timpson, a member of the Miracle City church in Baltimore, as federation president; Fitz Wilson of the Trinity Temple church in Newark, N.J., as vice president; and Romel Holley from the North Philadelphia (Pa.) church as treasurer.

To make the federation more efficient, committee members updated the bylaws and emphasized subscribing 100,000 incarcerated men and women to the *Message* magazine.

"It was a good meeting. Participants left with a determined resolve to reach those behind bars with the saving hope of Jesus Christ," says Colin Brathwaite, a member and leader of AEC's Prison Ministries



*Regional Prison Ministries chapter presidents pose with elected officers at the recent constituency meeting held at Miracle City church in Baltimore.*

Federation. "However, there is a great need for more workers, especially for young people to join the ranks."

## AEC Adventurers Participate in Annual Retreat

Members from Allegheny East Conference's (AEC) Adventurer Club recently showed up in record numbers for the third Black Adventist Youth Directors Association (BAYDA) Adventurer Fun Escape, held at the LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center (N.C.)

AEC comprised more than 300 of the nearly 1,000 participants in attendance. The AEC Adventurers led the Friday morning worship experience, re-enacting Nebuchadnezzar's feast in Daniel 1.

Organized by the Black Adventurer Coordinators Association (BACA) every three years, this "event is



*Patrick Graham, youth director, holds Azariah Washington, AEC's youngest "Adventurer" from the Macedonia Cubs in Chester, Pa.*

geared to provide educational seminars that will help shape the positive futures for our children," as stated on the registration website.

"I left motivated to make sure the Adventurer ministry is implemented in all of our churches," says Patrick Graham, AEC youth director and BAYDA president. "I'm extremely grateful to all the parents and grandparents who took the time to lend their support to the event."



*Newark Pioneers from the Trinity Temple church in New Jersey gather during the Adventurer's event.*



## Pastor Inducted Into MLK Jr. Board of Preachers

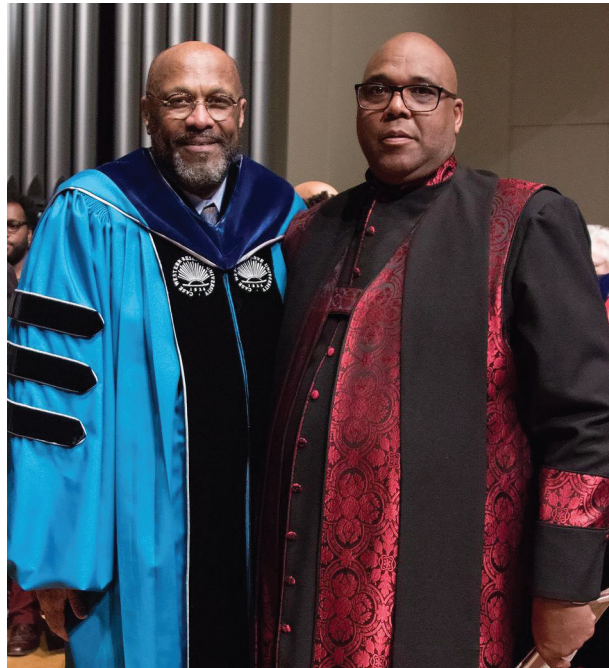
**J**erome M. Hurst, senior pastor of the Southeast church in Cleveland, Ohio, and the Allegheny West Conference's Adventist Community Services and public affairs and religious liberty leader, was recently inducted into the 33rd Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers of Morehouse College, based in Atlanta.

The Board of Preachers is comprised of ordained clergy from the Christian tradition, as well as faith leaders, such as rabbis, imams, priests and ministers. This wide array of leaders from diverse global, spiritual and ethical traditions exhibit a commitment and promise of using their religious positions of leadership to promote peace, tolerance, interfaith understanding, healing, reconciliation, nonviolence, moral cosmopolitan social progress, agapic justice and care for the ecosystem.

Hurst shared about the event with his congregation, acknowledging he did not get there by himself. "A wise man once said, if you ever see a turtle sitting on top of a fence post, you know somebody picked it up and placed it there. Turtles belong on the ground. I'm just a turtle," he explained.

He went on to say, "I thank you, my church, for allowing me to get involved and open up the church doors to the community. It's because of you that I was able to receive this award."

Cecily Bryant, the communication director of the Southeast church, says, "He gave honor and glory to the Lord and gratitude to individuals who have supported him."



*Jerome M. Hurst (right), senior pastor of the Southeast church, stands with keynote speaker Marvin A. McMickle, president of the Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, during Hurst's induction into the 33rd Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers of Morehouse College ceremony.*

## Miracle of Faith Hosts Children's Day

**T**he Miracle of Faith congregation in Waynesboro, Va., held their first Children's Day this year. Organizers welcomed guests from Bethel church in Staunton, Va., and guests from C. F. Richards Academy, also in Staunton. Students from Caleb Robinson's grades 3-5 class performed special music, and two children from Miracle received special prayer during a child blessing service. Children conducted the scripture reading, offering and children's story.

"[It's] so wonderful to hear the children singing praises to God," said one attendee. "It's a very good thing to have children on the platform, and taking an active part [in the] service," says member J. Claire Cole. Another member, Rachel Hutchinson, beamed, "I truly enjoyed the children!"

Church member Thomas Johnson adds, "It is such a wonderful day of progress; watching our children serve God. I enjoyed sitting back and watching!"

Miracle members say they hope this will not be the last of dynamic and collaborative services.



## Ladies Gather for Smidget Retreat

More than 70 women from the Western Pennsylvania and Northern Ohio Women’s Ministries recently gathered for their fourth annual Smidget Retreat, themed “God Moves Mountains,” at the Holiday Inn in Boardman, Ohio.

Beverly Moore, district leader for the Western Pennsylvania Women’s Ministries, and Anita Burroughs, assistant district leader, both from the Ethnan Temple in Wilkinsburg, Pa., co-organized the event.

During the total 11 hours attendees spent together, they listened to inspiring music, watched liturgical dance and listened to presentations on the impact of the #MeToo movement, the importance of living with balance and the life of Joseph. Burroughs directed a skit on the life struggles of women who take a stand for Christ. Attendees also experienced a relaxed pajama fashion show, a pool exercise class and a performance by “Momma-Rapper,” a grandmother who raps Christian gospel.

A panel of pastors’ wives from seven churches within and outside of the Allegheny West Conference opened up about struggles and joys they encounter in their role as shepherdesses. They also shared what church members can do to care and support them in more positive ways.

“The women who attended the Smidget left educated, encouraged and empowered as some women gave their lives to Christ and will soon begin Bible studies for baptism,” says Moore.

Burroughs adds, “Attendees left the hotel determined

to walk into our varied ministries with God in front of us, behind us, in us and around us.”



Women from 10 churches gather for the fourth annual Smidget Retreat.



Sabrice Turner, a member of Ethnan Temple, and at 16, the youngest retreat attendee, along with district Women’s Ministries leader Beverly Moore, give advice on how Marlene Waller, Harriet Wilson, Flossie Johnson and Lucille Colbert, senior church members in the Allegheny West Conference, can help mentor younger generations.

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PHOTOS BY ANITA BURROUGHS

# THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

## The Church as a Body

During the past few months, the Chesapeake Conference has pursued a process of dialogue with members, pastors and educators resulting in the executive committee approving an updated strategic plan: Our Vision—Fulfilling the Great Commission through vibrant, healthy churches and schools.

So, what does a healthy church look like? Well, when it comes to our physical health, most of us are familiar with the eight natural remedies: nutrition, exercise, water, sunshine, temperance, fresh air, rest and trust in God. What if we were to adapt these principles to the church?

A healthy church would be fed by a nutritious diet—Jesus, the Bread of Life, and His Word—as the foundation of faith and practice. Exercise would come in the form of active member involvement in service, ministry and witness. People would maintain spiritual fitness as they ministered to others.

Everyone who came into the church would be washed clean by the waters of baptism and renewing their commitment to Jesus through the communion service, including the foot washing. Sunshine would brighten every worship service and event, and Jesus, the Light of the World, would radiate in the lives of members and shine out into the community.

Temperance would come naturally, as members would abstain from criticism, backbiting and divisive movements. The fresh air of the Holy Spirit would gently blow through each service and ministry, bringing joy, hope and peace in its wake. Everyone who attended would find rest, knowing their salvation was secure in Jesus and they could commemorate His creative and redemptive power each Sabbath.

Finally, trust in God would allow them to move forward boldly in fulfilling the gospel commission and inviting others to enjoy their sweet fellowship and great hope.



**Rick Remmers**  
President

## Frederick Adventist Academy Named Green School

The Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) recently named Chesapeake Conference's Frederick Adventist Academy (FAA) a Maryland Green School. On May 31, students accepted the award at the Maryland Youth Summit, where they met Larry Hogan, the governor of Maryland.

The nationally recognized award honors the school's efforts toward sustainability, the reduction of environmental impact and environmental literacy. The certification also acknowledges the initiatives implemented by FAA since the school began to be more eco-conscious, due to the school's environmental club.

In 2014 a former teacher started the club with the goal of developing student interest in the environment. The club's first major project encouraged students to collect recyclables from classrooms. FAA additionally incorporated an environmental component to the curriculum and made each class in charge of its own garden bed.

Since that time, FAA has become a Certified Schoolyard Habitats® Site, a place where students can engage in cross-curricular learning in a hands-on way (pictured).

Today sustainability measures have expanded to include composting bins, water bottle filling stations

and paperless newsletters, while also continuing Outdoor School. FAA plans to further their efforts by adding six garden beds, installing more water bottle filling stations and building a monarch way station.

FAA aims to attain the nationwide designation of "eco-school" and is currently in the application process. In all, the school hopes to maximize their efforts by encouraging students to address local environmental issues and instilling ideals that will last long after they leave the classroom.—*Miranda Alvarez*



## Conference Shares Gospel in Cuba

In March of 2018, President Rick Remmers, along with a team of Chesapeake Conference pastors, embarked on a mission trip to Cuba. During this trip, 12 churches held a one-week evangelistic series, and Chesapeake pastors preached in 10 of those meetings in the Pinar Del Rio region of Cuba.

Lack of transportation did not impede members and guests from attending the nightly meetings. Many even arrived on horse-drawn wagons to hear the Word of God! Countless visitors found the topics of the meetings to be of personal relevance to them.

One local attendee shared, “My most favorite sermon from the pastor was about the state of the dead. My father passed away about two months ago, and I have suffered his loss so much. Sister Maria invited me, and I would like to consecrate my life to Christ.”

While the nightly meetings were the focus of the trip, other ministry took place during the mission effort. The Chestertown and Rock Hall churches of the conference gave and blessed two local Adventist pastors in Cuba with new electric motorcycles.

As a result, this gift will now enable the two pastors to travel to their multi-church districts, as they were unable to do so freely in the past, due to lack of transportation.

Many churches also received media equipment to help with their future local outreach efforts. Additionally, conference pastors gifted local pastors bags of rice, beans and other staple foods to supplement what their small monthly salary can buy. The Pinar Del Rio regional church leadership also received treasury training, as they are currently a mission seeking to officially organize as a conference.

At the conclusion of the mission trip, many gave their lives to Christ—65 people chose to be baptized during the event, and 360 others made the decision to be baptized in the near future. Local Bible workers in Cuba have been hired to stay in the area for three



*Pastors gather in Cuba to dedicate newly gifted motorcycles.*



*David Klinedinst, evangelism director and trip coordinator, baptizes a woman who attended the weeklong series.*

additional months to help churches follow up with baptismal interests.



PHOTOS BY FRITZ KOLLE

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

# MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

## Why We Continue to Serve in Honduras and Beyond

Why do we spend all that money to send students to another country for just 10 days? Wouldn't it be better used by sending a check overseas and letting the local people spend it as they see fit?" Have you ever heard these questions? Have you ever thought them yourself? At the Mountain View Conference (MVC), we have a decisive answer.

Every other year, the MVC Office of Education plans an out-of-country mission trip for MVC students and teachers. In coordination with the Office of Education, Youth Director Walter Cardenas planned this year's mission trip to Roatan Island, Honduras. While the west end of Roatan Island is a vacation destination, the rest of the island has a high rate of poverty and need. That is where we went to work.

Participants conducted eye clinics and health screening events throughout the island, continued construction on a classroom at the Adventist school in Jonesville and provided VBS programs and evangelistic meetings at two local churches.

We had interesting, new experiences: a boat trip through a thicket of mangrove trees, trying to sing along with church members who sang at the top of their lungs in Spanish, petting dogs that showed up at



Senior Lori Prendergast from the Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va., gives small gifts to children waiting in line at the health clinic.



Emily Hostetler, a junior from Highland Adventist School, helps a patient measure his BMI.

our health clinic. What impressed us the most were the many smiling, friendly faces, the adorable children, the delicious food, the hospitality and the commitment of the local church to share the gospel with the people of their island. We felt privileged to join them in that work during our 10-day trip.

When asked to share about the trip, our students conveyed some deep insights. One said, "I think this trip helped me grow as a person. I learned never to take things for granted." Another shared, "I know we were sent there to help them, but in so many ways, it was them who helped us. ... I'm sure that most everybody came home crying." A student speaker said, "My biggest blessing was the good feeling of someone getting baptized because of what I had been preaching." And finally, one first-time student missionary gave us our marching orders: "Go be a missionary. Don't let anything hold you back."

The spiritual and leadership growth showed by our students during our trip are why we continue to sacrifice and work to keep our MVC student missionary program alive and well. These experiences are changing lives both here and in the countries we visit. Thank you for your support of Adventist missions and the ministry of Adventist education in the Mountain View Conference.—Cheryl Jacko, Superintendent of Schools

## Alumna Recalls Education in Mountain View Conference

From kindergarten through high school, I attended schools in the Mountain View Conference (MVC). MVC may be rural, but the opportunities certainly are not lacking. Adventist education reached far beyond books and memorization of facts and numbers; it included learning about my Creator through nature. At Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va., I spent many days *and* nights outside—from mountain biking to backpacking, from orienteering to studying outer space.

Two things that had a profound effect on my character was setting up a tent and building a fire at the age of six. Through my teacher's patient encouragement, I learned to do things that once intimidated me. More than that, I learned persistence and gained a can-do attitude toward life.

Another valuable lesson I learned was to keep life simple. At school, I spent lots of time camping and backpacking; the less stuff I brought with me, the better. Now as an adult, I strive to keep my life simple, making time for my family and friends, and, most importantly, my relationship with God. As a result, I felt thoroughly prepared when I began my bachelor's degree in nursing and started my own photography business. The experiences in the MVC were part of my education, and I'm thankful for growing up in such a wonderfully empowering environment that prepared me for real life.—*Jennifer Gorospe*



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*Vicki Griffin,  
speaker and author*

Mountain View Conference Women's Retreat  
October 5 - 7, 2018  
Valley Vista Adventist Center  
532 Valley Vista Ln.  
Huttonsville, WV

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# news

## NEW JERSEY

### We're Living in His Presence

The idea of being “In His Presence,” the theme of this year’s Hispanic Women’s Retreat, unifies every aspect of who we are. At the event, we learned, through the story of Esther, that it is in His presence we find our true identity. Our past and present circumstances and mistakes do not and should not define us. As we find refuge in His presence, we come to understand that our identity is in Jesus.

It is this first step of discovery that will lead to the second step: recognizing our purpose. Once we know our identity is in Jesus, He will make it clear to us that our number one objective is to serve Him, and, in that process, bring glory to Him. God simply uses different platforms to accomplish His goal.

For Esther it was to be queen of the Medo-Persian Empire. God positions us where we are to fulfill what He intended before the beginning of time. Whether a homemaker, student, teacher or doctor, our role is to understand that our identity is in Him and that our true purpose is not a career or motherhood; it is to



*Elisa Maragoto, principal of the Lake Nelson Adventist Academy in Piscataway, N.J., speaks at the Hispanic Women’s Retreat.*



*More than 450 women, as well as some men, including President Jorge Aguero, along with his wife, Amalia, listen to various presentations.*

bring glory to God in whatever we do and wherever He places us.

The more time we spend in His presence, an amazing thing occurs. We not only understand His purpose; we begin to fulfill it. That is, we bring forth life. Esther was not chosen to simply be queen; she was hand-picked to bring glory to God and ultimately bring life to her people.

Women were designed to bear life, and more than just physical life. As we discover our identity in Jesus and understand our purpose to serve Him and bring glory to Him, out of our “heart will flow rivers of living water” (John 7:38, NKJV). An encouraging word, a genuine act of kindness, a gesture of compassion or a simple smile can bring forth life to someone dying within.

It is only in His presence that we learn our identity is in Jesus. It is only in His presence we recognize our purpose: to serve Him and give Him glory. And it is ultimately in His presence that we bear life to the world around us.—*Elisa Maragoto*

## New Pastors Join Conference



In 2012 **Joel Brisson** graduated from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (Mich.). He was a lay pastor in Lynn, Mass., prior to joining the New Jersey Conference. Brisson will serve as the associate pastor for the Maranatha French church in Newark, the Philadelphie French in Jersey City and the All

Nations Community church in Maplewood. Brisson and his wife, Klaudia, have a 3-year-old, Josiah, and 1-year-old twins, Krislie and Klael.

Prior to serving as the senior pastor of the Gwanghyewon church in Korea, **Sungmin (Jay) Cheong** received a bachelor's degree in theology from Sahmyook University in Seoul. His wife, Jeong-Hyeon Hong, also from Korea, worked for ADRA Korea. Cheong will be the youth pastor for the Central New Jersey Korean church in Rahway and the Trenton Korean church in Bordentown. In Korea, the couple sang for the Golden Angels, a mission-driven singing group for the Northern Asia-Pacific Division.



As of June 1, **Carlos de la Cruz** has served as the associate pastor for the Bridgeton Spanish church. Cruz was born in New Jersey to Puerto Rican parents. He later married Wendy, originally from the Dominican Republic. Carlos graduated from Southern Adventist University (Tenn.), in May 2018 with a bache-

lor's degree in theology. Wendy also graduated from Southern Adventist University with a master's degree in

outdoor education. Carlos' favorite Bible verse is 1 John 2:6: "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked" (NKJV).

**Hadid Cortez** comes to the conference as an associate pastor for the Lake Nelson church in Piscataway and the New Brunswick English church. Cortez was born in Montemorelos, Mexico, into a pastoral family. At the age of five, his family moved to Andrews University, where he received his elementary education. He finished his secondary and high school education in Montemorelos, where he also graduated from the Montemorelos Conservatory of Music with degrees in Piano Performance and Violin Performance in 2013. Cortez also studied at Andrews University in May 2018, and received bachelor's degrees in music and religion.



### Calendar of Events

**Seminario Adventista Laico (SAL)/Lay Training Institute:** July 15, *New Jersey Conference Auditorium*

**Pathfinder Camporee 2018:** August 16-19, *Tranquil Valley Retreat Center*

**Spanish Couple's Retreat:** August 31-September 2, *Embassy Suites Hotel, Piscataway, N.J.*

**English Women's Retreat:** September 7-9, *Embassy Suites Hotel, Piscataway, N.J.*

**Youth Evangelism:** September 14-22, *local churches in the New Jersey Conference*

**Master Guide Camporee:** September 28-30, *Tranquil Valley Retreat Center*

*For more information, visit [njcsda.org/events](http://njcsda.org/events).*



## Hispanic Ministries Launches Online Radio Station

On January 26, a new, bright light illuminated the entire state of Ohio and beyond,” says Peter Simpson, Hispanic Ministries coordinator for the Ohio Conference, adding, “[This light] is STAR ON—Stereo Adventist Radio ONline (Stereo Adventista).” Six months later, the station has an average of 1,200 daily listeners, with up to 1,600 on weekends.

Conveniently located on the top floor of the First Cleveland Spanish church, the internet-based radio station evolved by “the Hispanic Ministries department envisioning a means to enlighten the territory of the Ohio Conference with the three angels’ messages, and, at the same time, nourish, encourage and teach church members,” says Simpson. “STAR ON will be a permanent light for the church in Ohio, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, preaching and teaching the gospel of Jesus.” The station presently offers 10 live programs.

The site also enables users to search for an Adventist church near their home, request Bible studies, learn about Ohio Conference Hispanic events and find other Adventist resources.

Simpson’s son, Roy, conference assistant treasurer, is one of the on-air personalities for “Youth Sabbath,” a program focused on the youth and young adults in Ohio. “There are different topics



*Peter Simpson, Hispanic Ministries coordinator; Ryan Simpson, technical director; Wilson Baca, pastor of the Ebenezer Spanish church in Cleveland; Winston Simpson, pastor of the First Cleveland Spanish church; and Ruben Ramos, vice president of Multilingual Ministries for the Columbia Union Conference, speak on-air during one of the many live Stereo Adventist Radio Online programs.*

and [segments], but the most important thing is that [young people] feel connected to the program,” says Roy. “What I like the most about the program and the radio station is that it provides more room for people to be involved in ministry.”

Peter says the Hispanic church members have received this radio station with unprecedented excitement. Many Adventist listeners have even called the station to express their gratitude to God and to the Ohio Conference for such an important initiative.

“Now we feel connected, united and stronger to preach the gospel,” said one member who called the station one Friday night. “We have no excuse! We now have all the tools needed at hand to preach the gospel in Ohio,” said another caller.

STAR ON’s reach extends beyond Ohio, as listeners throughout the U.S., Mexico, Central and South America, Dominican Republic and even Spain have connected with station managers. Peter prays that “by the grace of God, [the station] will be ON until Jesus’ second coming!”

To listen online, visit [stereoadventista.org](http://stereoadventista.org).



## Columbus Eastwood Ladies Make Quilts for Premies

Sometimes a ministry begins by happenstance. This was the case five years ago when leaders from the Women's Ministries team of the Columbus Eastwood church made too many quilts for their annual campout. A church member inquired about purchasing the extra quilts to take them on her regular visits to Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus. "I told her, 'Absolutely not!'" said member and spokesperson Lois Ruth. "You cannot buy them, but we will *give* them to you' ... and that was when we realized what we needed to do [with the quilts]."

Ruth and others partnered with Brenda Fortner, leader of the Columbus Eastwood Women's Ministries. "Brenda has a heart for babies," says Ruth. "Babies just seem to flock to her." Once the ladies used the original inventory of quilts, they began meeting one Sunday a month to make more quilts and blankets for premature babies from the local hospital.

"Just thinking about the babies and the pictures we receive of the moms and babies warms our hearts," shares Ruth. "You just want to bless people and ease their pain as much as you can. If one of these little, tiny quilts can help do that, then we are happy to get together once a month."

Church and community members donate funds and material for this cause. The ladies use some of the funds to purchase discounted material. Women of all ages, experienced seamstresses and novices alike, spend several hours making beautiful creations for strangers. Once completed, members pray over, attach



*A sick boy at Nationwide Children's Hospital lays on a quilt made by the Columbus Eastwood Women's Ministries team.*



*Lois Ruth (standing, second from right) and the Columbus Eastwood Women's Ministries team hold two handmade quilts for infants at a local hospital.*

custom-made tags identifying the church ministry and transport quilts to the hospital for delivery.

Ruth's daughter, Laura, and her friend Taylor Antle, active members of Columbus Eastwood, are two of the next generation helping with this project. "I've always been told that Women's Ministries is for older women," says Antle, "but I've realized in the last couple of years that that's not true; it's meant for all of us ... and I want that [sense of] community."

Ruth shares that one of the most touching stories is about a child with spina bifida who had been confined to the hospital since birth. This little boy received one of the Columbus Eastwood quilts. His parents wrapped him up in the lovingly made creation, and he beamed. "He had the biggest smile! He loved the fabric!" says Ruth. Quilt by quilt, child by child, the ladies of the Columbus Eastwood Women's Ministries are showing God's love to children and parents in a real and practical way.

# Pennsylvania Pen

## Conference Pastor, BMA Alumnus Retires

Dave Woodruff grew up in Pennsylvania, and in 1966, graduated from Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) in Hamburg. After beginning his pastoral ministry in the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference, he moved back to Pennsylvania in 1984, where he pastored the New Brighton, New Castle, Sharpsville (now Shenango Valley), West Chester, Chester (now Grace Hispanic), Chambersburg, Waynesboro, York, Hanover, Lansdale, Phoenixville Mission and Souderton churches. He retires from full-time pastoral ministry September 1, 2018.

"Not only has Dave served 35 years as a pastor in our conference, he has also been a great help at camp meeting each year," states Gary Gibbs, conference president. "There is no question that his calm, steady management will be greatly missed across Pennsylvania. I am thankful for his service and wish him God's richest blessings in retirement."

Woodruff and his wife, Cindi, will be moving from the southeast corner of the state, to Erie, the northwest corner of Pennsylvania, where they will help care for Cindi's parents.



## Smalls Serve 40 Years in Pennsylvania

Gerald "Jerry" Small and his wife, Linda, have spent their entire pastoral ministry in Pennsylvania. They joined the conference in 1978 where Jerry began his journey as a pastoral intern at the Philadelphia Boulevard church. He previously worked as a nurse at the Kettering Medical Center in Ohio.

From Philadelphia, they moved to the northwestern side of the state, where Jerry pastored the Seneca church, later adding the Warren church in Russell. After moving to the Lancaster and Ephrata church district in central Pennsylvania, Linda became a teacher's aide at the former Central Penn Christian School.

While Jerry pastored in Carlisle, Shermans Dale, Stroudsburg, Sayre, Johnstown and Indiana, Linda taught at the former Fair Oaks Seventh-day Adventist School in Carlisle, the Pocono Adventist Christian School in Stroudsburg and in New Jersey Conference's Tranquility and Waldwick Adventist schools. She also served on the Pennsylvania Conference Board of Education.

"I thank Jerry and Linda for their many years of service to God and the Pennsylvania Conference," states Gary Gibbs, president. "They have been a blessing to many and will be missed across our conference."

Jerry is retiring August 1, 2018. The Smalls, along with their grandson Dylan (pictured), are moving to a little cove in the mountains of Murphy, N.C. "I was a high school junior in 1964 when I felt the call to ministry," Jerry shares. "After 44 years of ministry—a dream filled with twists and turns, with joys, miracles and seeing souls come to the kingdom—I find it time to take a different path of ministry. But not to go and do nothing. Just a time to sow seeds in a different venue where I am not in charge."

Linda adds, "We don't know what is ahead on this new path ... the Lord is leading us, but we know for sure that any journey He has ever led us on has been full of ... surprises and adventures. We won't be bored!"



## Brandt Retires After 40 Years of Educating

After 40 years of serving both the former Greater Johnstown Seventh-day Adventist School in Johnstown and the York Adventist Christian School (YACS), Sharon Brandt turned a new page as she retired July 1, 2018.

"I feel so blessed to have had the privilege of teaching in Adventist schools and to work with so many wonderful people over the years," says Brandt, a 1974 graduate of Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, and a 1978 graduate of Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md.

"Sharon is an outstanding Christ-centered Adventist teacher who has played a major role in leading hundreds of students to Jesus each and every day in her classroom at York Adventist Christian School," shares Jeff Bovee, vice president for Education.

"Sharon always made her students feel cared for and loved," shares Jennifer McCary, principal of YACS. "As a co-worker, I couldn't have asked for a better team member."

During their retirement, avid photographers Brandt and her husband, Arlen, look forward to exploring national parks and spending more time with family.



### Pennsylvania Conference Fall Women's Retreat

## *The Beauty of Brokenness*

*Ever feel broken? Broken heart? Broken plans?  
Broken dreams? Life doesn't go back the way you  
wanted or hoped?*

*Join us for a weekend of exploring God's redemptive  
love and grace that uncovers beauty in and through  
our brokenness, filling our lives with joy and peace.*

**September 21-23, 2018**

Laurel Lake Camp & Retreat Center  
Rossiter, Pa.

For more information or to register, go to [paconference.org](http://paconference.org) or email [thorst@paconference.org](mailto:thorst@paconference.org)

# Potomac People

## Solid Rock Connects Mission and Media

In an effort to make disciples of all nations, Solid Rock church members in Arlington, Va., have recently focused their attention on a different sort of “nation”—cyberspace. In two years, the church’s Facebook page



Arthur Admana teaches JD Hernandez how to lead a live production during a Sabbath service.

has gone from 500 followers to more than 32,000. Church leaders report that after weeks of watching online, the number of viewers who are now physically joining the Sabbath worship service has grown.

“On any given week, we have between 3,000 and 5,000 viewers tuning into our live-streamed services,” says Vince Maclsaac, pastor. “We began streaming to reach the world. I remember one week ... I was sharing about a family of five I had met who watch us online every week. They were actually watching at home at that moment and messaged me while I was talking about them and wanted me to know how included they felt.”

In addition to ensuring there’s a clear livestream available each Sabbath, the congregation works diligently to create fresh, new content each week. They also design their own online photo and video advertisements. Maclsaac says the three biggest ministry rewards are having new people visit Solid Rock, embracing past attendees who return to church after watching online and knowing there are countless people positively impacted by the good news of a risen Savior.

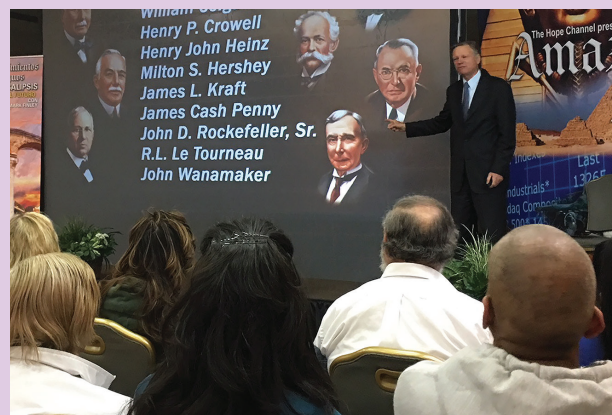
## More Than 40 Baptized After Revelation Meetings

During a recent five-week Revelation and Ancient Discoveries prophecy seminar conducted in Manassas, Va., by evangelist Mark Finley, a member of the Living Hope church in Haymarket, Va., more than 40 people chose to be baptized. “We averaged more than 300 in attendance each night,” says Randy Davis, pastor of the Manassas church and one of the event coordinators. “By the last Sabbath, 42 people had been baptized in participating churches, and we have been following up with around 100 others who are interested in Bible studies and/or baptism.”

In coordination with the Allegheny East Conference, five Potomac Conference churches helped organize this event. “Opening night was so full that we couldn’t all fit in the room,” says Davis. “We ended up changing our schedule to include two meetings per night on the weekends.” Davis reports that approximately 633 individuals attended at least one of the meetings, with half of them identifying themselves as not Adventist.

Meetings included Finley’s powerful Christ-centered preaching, special musical numbers performed by various artists and health talks presented by Finley’s wife, Teenie.

“This series of meetings has awakened and revived us!” says Davis. “Several members in the participating churches decided to be re-baptized, and [others] re-dedicated their lives to Jesus. ... The best part is the harvest that began during the seminar continues as we follow up after the meetings.”



Evangelist Mark Finley conducts a prophecy seminar in which 42 people chose to be baptized.

# Potomac People

## 119 Students See Clearly Thanks to BACC Project

More than 100 students in the Beltsville, Md., area schools can now clearly see what's written on chalkboards, in PowerPoint presentations and books, thanks to a joint project between the Beltsville Adventist Community Center (BACC), area school principals and the Daniel Migael Foundation—a group of volunteers dedicated to making vision care accessible to those who may not have readily available resources.

Conducted at the Beltsville Adventist School, BACC, a community service center, sponsored free eye exams for 146 students from High Point High School, Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School and the Calverton and Vansville Elementary schools. A team of volunteer optometrists—some local and others from the Daniel Migael Foundation—conducted the exams. The foundation provided the necessary equipment, as well as free prescription lenses and frames.

BACC staff members and young adults from Beltsville church's Pathfinder Teen Leadership Team helped distribute more than 100 eyeglasses to those in need of vision correction. "Students had dozens of choices of frames," says Sifa Potauaine, associate pastor of Beltsville and pastoral leader of BACC. "The Daniel Migael Foundation knows that students need to get glasses they like, or they won't wear them. The point of the project was to help underachieving students with vision problems. If they don't wear the glasses, they aren't being helped."



*An eye care specialist from the Daniel Migael Foundation—an institution who partnered with the Beltsville Adventist Community Center—provides a free eye exam for a local student.*



*Luci Sloan, a volunteer from Beltsville Adventist Community Center, helps a student register for the free eye exam.*

This project started last fall, after conversations started between Potauaine and principals from area schools. "The principals said they thought many students from low-income families were struggling in school because of vision problems," explains Potauaine. "Principals also noted that there were some families who probably couldn't afford vision exams or glasses. I was aware of the Daniel Migael Foundation and began working with them to see if it would be possible for them to come to the Beltsville area." The school principals then identified students for vision testing and encouraged them to take the free eye exams. More than two dozen volunteers helped coordinate the project to ensure smooth registration and a stress-free exam.

BACC opened in the fall of 2012 and is located directly behind the Beltsville church at 4220 Ammendale Road. The center serves the community by providing food and rental assistance on a case-by-case basis. Free computer usage for employment searches is available, as well as assistance with updating or reviewing resumes, grievance and prayer support, job counseling and other needed emergency assistance. In addition, the center has a county social services agent on site each day to help people with resources, such as food stamps, housing needs, medical assistance for families, and special needs for senior citizens and those who are blind or disabled.—Ann Laurence

## 7 Friends and I Got Baptized During a Campus Revival

The Highland View church (HVC) and Highland View Academy (HVA)—both located in Hagerstown, Md.—joined forces for a “Week of Hope” revival this past spring. Flooding the campus with the Holy Spirit, Andrew Ashley, the enrollment counselor for Southern Adventist University (Tenn.), inspired students, staff and community members with real and personal depictions of God. At the end of the week, eight students, including myself, chose to proclaim our belief in God through baptism.

The church—whose members distributed more than 15,000 fliers to the community—and the school together presented a spiritual emphasis week that incorporated the academy’s student-led Week of Prayer. This meant that student leaders preached in the mornings during chapel, and Ashley spoke in the evenings. HVC members organized a free supper every night, provided free childcare and gave out prizes at every meeting.

“This was the best Week of Prayer I’ve ever gone to,” says Darlene Ntakirutimana, a junior who was the first to request baptism. When she heard Ashley preach about the lukewarm church of Laodicea, she knew she needed to make a change. She remembers, “It felt like he was talking directly to me.”

Ashley’s zeal was contagious. “The goal of this week,” he explained, “is to paint a picture of God that is irresistible and easy to fall in love with. We need to choose Him because the devil is after us. So, who are you going to choose?”

His message of urgency resonated with many of the young people; however, making that choice was a little frightening. Luci Borges, a freshman who ended up choosing to be baptized, shares, “I felt like something was holding me back. I think it was just me being scared.”

I spent Week of Prayer in deep conversation with God, praying fervently for all my friends and loved ones to accept Jesus in their hearts like I had a long time ago, though I hadn’t been baptized yet. I have always tried to be secure in my convictions before professing them to the world. When Ashley made an appeal during prayer, I knew that it was time for me to make a public choice I had privately made years ago.

Seven students celebrated baptism the final Sabbath, with one more, Joshua Ogle, joining us the following Sabbath. One after another, HVC Pastor Cesar Grassiotto buried and raised us in Christ. We then embraced each other, feeling overwhelmed by the grace of God.—*Reagan McCain* (’21)



At the conclusion of Week of Prayer, Leslie DeLeon, Reagan McCain, Luci Borges, Chispa Kayonga, Darlene Ntakirutimana, Kenyi Bolanos and Jiamya Morris celebrate their decision to be baptized.

PHOTO BY AUSTIN GOMEZ



# the LEGACY

## OUR JOURNEY

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF LAKE NELSON ADVENTIST ACADEMY

### Our Commencement of a Dream

June 3, 2018: Lake Nelson Adventist Academy (LNAA) held its first commencement ceremony ever, celebrating the Class of 2018. Decades prior, in 1959, a different commencement ceremony was held on its grounds. The campus did not look the same as it does today. No gowns were worn that day, nor did “Pomp and Circumstance” play in the background. It was a simple ceremony. Still, for a group of God-fearing individuals, it was the *commencement* of a dream.

This ceremony was the inauguration of a place where God’s redemptive power and education would unite to help build characters and transform lives. Those gathered at that commencement could only dream what June 3, 2018, would be like. They wouldn’t have been able to grasp the reality of the moment in the same way as we did—a beautiful, rewarding and fulfilling moment. Most importantly, it was an experience where we felt God’s confirmation through His presence.

At this year’s commencement ceremony, we remembered that through challenges and unforeseen trials, God used those He had already positioned to fulfill His will.



We thank and extend our appreciation to the Columbia Union Conference for their support. LNAA is also full of gratitude to the New Jersey Conference for their backing, affirmation and confirmation. To the New Brunswick and Lake Nelson churches, we are eternally grateful, for they walked by faith not by sight; when we faced the Red Sea of more than \$1.5 million, both churches stretched out their hands, and in the name of Jesus, divided the sea for us. Today LNAA walks on dry ground.

Parents, with immeasurable sacrifice, you, too, walked by faith and listened to God speak by assuring yourselves that your children are taught of the Lord.

As LNAA sends out to the world the first senior class, we hope and pray the students remember that what God has purposed for them no one can annul. The world calls for them to be strong and courageous. Moreover, as they learn to follow their Maker wherever He leads them, we pray they will recognize that He is the secret to success.

Congratulations to the inaugural Class of 2018!  
—Elisa Maragoto, Principal



Legacy is published in the *Visitor* by the Lake Nelson Academy ■ 555 South Randolphville Rd., Piscataway, NJ 08854  
Phone: (732) 981-0626 ■ Fax: (732) 981-0770 ■ [lakenelsonacademy.org](http://lakenelsonacademy.org) ■ Principal, Elisa Maragoto ■ Editor, Leonora Seferlis



# PFA POST



Visit us online at [PINEFORGEACADEMY.ORG](http://PINEFORGEACADEMY.ORG). Excellence is no accident.

## Diverse Learning Options Expand Curriculum and Reach

**P**ine Forge Academy (PFA) will introduce a new online learning opportunity for the 2018–19 academic year, allowing the school to reach a greater number of students and families. They will also continue to enhance their curriculum by offering dual-credit classes and a new math initiative, created by the Math department.

Pine Forge Academy Online, powered by EdOptions, will offer online classes to support student learning in grades 9–12. This program will target three key areas: a full-time option for homeschoolers; credit recovery for missed coursework; and some Advanced Placement (AP) classes PFA currently doesn't offer. PFA administrators and trustees are excited about potential student growth with this new learning option. To learn more about how to enroll in the online learning program, visit [pineforgeacademy.org](http://pineforgeacademy.org).

Next school year, PFA will again partner with Montgomery County Community College (MontCo) in Pottstown, Pa., to offer dual-credit classes to students who are in PFA's Honors and AP programs. Currently PFA provides students the opportunity to enroll in Honors classes, which help prepare them for AP courses. Students who enroll in this program will have the opportunity to learn from a college curriculum and earn credits that will give

them a head start on college credits.

Via PFA's website, students will be able to view a potential list of offered courses: English, math, science, music and foreign language.

Finally, as a testament to the strong talent at PFA, and in conjunction with the PFA/MontCo partnership, MontCo will permit eligible PFA teachers to instruct customized courses on PFA's campus.

PFA also began another initiative this past school year. The Math department offered Math Camp twice to improve test scores and provide added math support for students. Junior Aliya Lambert says, "Participating in Math Camp [last school year] benefited me by teaching me new strategies to help me with the math portion of the ACT." Jonathan Tyrell, also a junior, agrees, "I attended Math Camp because my biggest concern has been the math section of the ACT. I wanted to increase my math scores."

The main objective of Math Camp is to increase students' ACT scores. The intensive mathematics sessions engaged students for up to 10 hours. Students in grades 9–12 practiced, reviewed and learned a wide variety of mathematical concepts, ranging from pre-Algebra and Intermediate Algebra to Coordinate and Plane Geometry and Trigonometry. By a way of measuring the camp's success, after the second camp session, some students improved their ACT math scores by seven points.



*Pine Forge Academy Online will offer online classes to support student learning in grades 9–12.*



# Spotlight

## on Spencerville

*Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy*

### Students Make a Difference in Puerto Rico

A group of 50 students from Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA), along with adult chaperones, recently traveled to the cities of Utuado, Florida and Arecibo in Puerto Rico in an effort to bring some relief after Hurricane Maria devastated the island last fall.

The group, including Andrea Jakobsons, youth pastor of the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., and Brian Show, mission trip coordinator, stayed at Campamento Adventista Elias Burgos, a camp powered by a single generator. The site also served as the base for group worships, meals and daily task preparation.

The majority of the work consisted of transforming an abandoned school into a community center to be used by ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) to help the neighbors in that region. The students fixed a roof, built a shower room, poured a sidewalk and painted the walls both inside and out.

"I absolutely loved this mission trip," exclaims senior Ethan Wu. "It was really satisfying to see the transformation from a rundown, damaged building to a new, clean, beautiful community center."

Additionally, the group led a VBS program at a nearby school in Arecibo. Some students also participated in several worship services at the Florida church in Puerto Rico. On Sabbath morning, they preached, led song service, sang special music and performed a skit for the children's story. Junior Eloise Tran says, "It was one of the coolest experiences ever. ... It felt good to help other people that needed it."

On Sabbath afternoon, the students walked around the town of Florida distributing Bibles, *Steps to Christ*



Students and chaperones enjoy sharing Bibles and books in the town of Florida in Puerto Rico.

and *The Desire of Ages*, donated by members of the Spencerville church. Locals welcomed the group and seemed excited to receive the Bibles and books. "I especially like that we got to go around the neighborhood and give out Bibles to the people that lived there. They were so grateful and kind to us," says freshman Zoe Oster.

"My favorite part was giving my own Bible to a man who kissed it when he received it because he was so grateful to have a Bible of his own. He said, 'Now I will see you all in heaven,'" senior Rachel Rajarathinam shares. Youth pastor Andrea Jakobsons says, "It was evident that God has been working on the island and in the hearts of the people there, bringing good out of a tragedy."



SAA students conduct a VBS at a school in Arecibo.

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

# SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY<sup>.ORG</sup> CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

## Aquatic Engineers Win Third Place in Nationals

The LEGO® Robotics club at Spring Valley Academy (SVA), named the Aquatic Engineers, recently built and programmed an autonomous robot with the ability to solve simulated challenges.

The 10-member team won third place out of 24 teams at the Adventist LEGO Robotics League Southern Challenge for their robot's innovative design and successful completion of real-world challenges relating to transporting, using and disposing of water. Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) hosted this regional competition, themed "Hydro Dynamics."

The Aquatic Engineers were among the top six teams from the Southern Challenge invited to the national competition at Forest Lake Academy (Fla.).



Hailey Case, Noah Hahn, Emily Sauser and other Aquatic Engineers describe their autonomous robot during the Adventist LEGO Robotics League national competition.

At the event, the Aquatic Engineers placed 11th in robot performance and third overall. "I like how it feels to work together to achieve a goal—it's like you're a part of something," expresses sixth-grader Hailey Case.

"What an exciting year it has been!" says Sam Joseph, SVA's robotics coach. "I had the distinct privilege of watching this year's team grow tremendously. The Aquatic Engineers are an exemplary and talented group of young people. I can't wait to experience what awaits us as we contemplate next year's theme, 'Into Orbit,' which encourages teams to explore ways to live and travel in space."



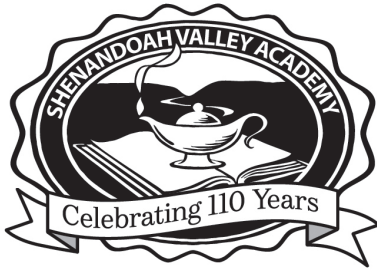
Emsley Lunde, Emily Sauser, Leyla Marton and Katy Breakie enjoy a trip to LEGOLAND® theme park after the tournament.

The Adventist LEGO Robotics League is part of a global program that helps young people develop technology, science, problem-solving and research skills, as they build and program robots to achieve specific tasks.

## Welcome Back Open House, Monday, August 13

Please join SVA for the following events:

- **5-6:30 p.m.** Outdoor picnic, sponsored by the Home & School Association
- **5 p.m.** Kindergarten Parent Meeting in the kindergarten room
- **6:30 p.m.** "Meet the Team" in the gymnasium. Visit one of the information stations.
- **7 p.m.** Two 25-minute K-6 class rotations while MS/HS students pick up schedules, locker combinations and iPads



# Impact Shenandoah

*Serve God – Value Knowledge – Accept a Life of Service*

## Alumna Jane Bainum Honored With 2018 Pillar Award

At this year's Alumni Weekend, 80th Honor Class alumna Jane (Goyné) Bainum ('38), was honored as the 2018 Dale E. Twomley Pillar Award recipient. The Pillar Award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated vision, leadership, humility and love in extraordinary service and support of Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) and its students. The SVA Alumni Association honors Bainum with deep gratitude as a champion of the underserved, and for her lifelong investment in her alma mater—especially in the lives of SVA students with the least financial resources:

A generous philanthropist with a commitment to helping underserved populations, Jane Bainum is a 1938 graduate of Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA). Bainum's education at SVA deepened and solidified her personal values and faith. Born in Tillamook, Ore., Jane and her family moved to Pennsylvania when she was five. She met Stewart Bainum at Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md. The two were married in



1941, and during their 72 years of marriage, were blessed with four children, 10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. The Bainums raised their family in Silver Spring, Md., as they built several successful businesses together. Stewart, who passed away in 2014, always highlighted Jane's contributions to their partnership and success in business.

In 1968, the Bainums established a charitable foundation known today as the Bainum Family Foundation. For 50 years, this foundation has provided educational opportunities and support for children living in poverty. Due to their own childhood experiences and the strength they gained through their Adventist schooling, the Bainums saw education as a pathway out of poverty. Today, the foundation continues to honor their legacy and support the ongoing philanthropic efforts of four generations of the Bainum family.

Jane divides her time between Chevy Chase, Md., and Naples, Fla., where she spends time with friends and extended family. She is an avid reader and fervent Washington Nationals baseball fan. As the



family matriarch, she delights in family gatherings. She remains an active philanthropist with a deep commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

## Loyal, Generous Class of '93 Supports SVA With Gift



At the Sabbath worship service during Alumni Weekend, classmates Jason Liu (left), Roy Wu (center) and the 25th Honor Year Class of '93 present a surprise-worthy student gift of \$25,000 to Principal Don Short and Development and Alumni Director Janel Ware, and challenged all other classes to do the same!

Impact is published in the *Visitor* by Shenandoah Valley Academy ■ 234 West Lee Highway, New Market, VA 22844  
Phone: (540) 740-3161 ■ shenandoahvalleyacademy.org ■ Principal, Donald Short ■ Editor, Janel Haas Ware

# www.ta.edu TATODAY

News you can use from Takoma Academy

## You Can't Take Away Her Smile

On Easter Sunday, as I, Ronnie Mills, prepared to leave for an exciting, new position as the associate director of development for the Voice of Prophecy in Loveland, Colo., I could not have anticipated how one of my friend's lives would take a dramatic turn. That day, Angela Bryant-Brown, former Social Media manager for Takoma Academy (TA), saw her 30-year-old son, Roderick Eldridge, fall asleep in the Lord.

For four years, Eldridge, affectionately known as "Buddy," battled ulcerative colitis (UC), liver disease and rectal cancer. He defeated both the UC and cancer, but succumbed to the liver disease.

Some say losing a child is the hardest thing a parent could ever face. The experience often breaks the strongest of people—the pain and sadness of such a loss becoming unbearable. But for Bryant-Brown, her fortitude, praise to God and testimony that He has sustained her through this process has won her the admiration of many. I sat down with her to understand how she was able to keep smiling:

**Mills:** What advice would you give to a family who has a relative facing a terminal illness?



**Bryant-Brown:** First, if you don't know God or have a relationship with Him, get to know Him *now*. If you don't have that anchor, you will be emotionally tossed and turned.

Second, if you know God, trust Him *completely*. He is the only one that can help you navigate through your storm.

Third, lean on your friends and family who are in the Lord.

Lastly, minister to your loved one who is terminally ill. If they don't know God, introduce them and pray with and for them. If they do know God, reassure them that He is in control, loves them dearly and will return to take them home with Him.

**Mills:** What would you like people to know about Buddy?

**Bryant-Brown:** Buddy was so much like me, but I didn't realize that until I heard the kind remarks at his memorial service. He was a people person, had a great sense of humor and was musically talented. But most importantly, he knew his Lord and Savior and encouraged others to know Him, too.

**Mills:** How did your experience teaching at TA help you and your son spiritually?

**Bryant-Brown:** Buddy is a byproduct of Christian education. I have been and still am passionate about it, and have devoted my time and talent to TA for the past two years. Furthermore, it is because of my commitment to Christian education that Buddy accepted Christ as his Savior and is peacefully resting in Him.



# KETTERING COLLEGE



*During spring break, Emily (in center picture) and 34 people from the Kettering College community—10 clinic staff, 24 students, and the campus chaplain—visited Belize on a mission trip. The group saw approximately 800 patients during the full week of clinics.*



## Finding My Calling to Missions

By Emily Aviles

During my undergraduate experience, I volunteered in Guatemala and fell in love with missions.

After many prayers about occupational therapy (OT) school, I chose to attend Kettering College, even though mission opportunities were not part of the curriculum like they were at some other schools; I put faith in God's plan, knowing He wanted me here.

After I enrolled, the program decided for the first time to allow the Belize mission trip to count towards fieldwork, which for me was my Level I in pediatrics. While in Belize, I had the opportunity to evaluate childhood development,

educate new mothers, watch Dr. Aebker (my professor) treat patients, and go on home visits. My favorite memory from the trip was talking with a young woman diagnosed with cerebral palsy. She had been wheelchair-bound her whole life, which led to her getting kicked out of school. Although her educators did not want to make accommodations for her, she hasn't given up. She decided to use a family member's computer to continue learning. She taught herself English by listening to Americans speak, taught herself how to speak and sing in Turkish for fun, and has a dream of becoming a psychologist. Dr. Aebker educated her mother on stretching and proper

positioning in the wheelchair. I still think of her and wish we had been able to do more.

I left Belize with new skills, friendships, and memories, but I also left wanting more. I believe God has been calling me to do more. I desire to end each day knowing I did all I could to promote health, aid in maintaining skills, and advocate for my clients. Although I'm unsure if I'll be overseas or in an area in need within the US, I know God has a plan for me in the mission field as an OT. When He places something on your heart, you humbly go.





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FLOWERING CRABAPPLE TREES ON THE CAMPUS OF WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY.

## WAU: A BEST VALUE SCHOOL

Citing Washington Adventist University's academic programs, student satisfaction, and affordability, the Best Value Colleges website ([www.bestvalueschools.org](http://www.bestvalueschools.org)) named WAU a Best Value School for a second straight year.



**Weymouth  
Spence**

The nominating body recognized the value of our location, size, and diversity. Located in suburbs of the Nation's Capital, we are a short Metro ride from many cultural and educational attractions. Employment and internship opportunities abound with

WAU's proximity to the federal government, industry-leading corporations, as well as the Columbia Union Conference, North American Division, and the Seventh-day Adventist World headquarters. Our campus community engages students from nearly 32 states and 40 countries in an intimate, Christ-centered learning environment.

The University's affordability was also noted. Our cost of attendance is 18.7 percent less than the national average for colleges, and well below that of other Seventh-day Adventist schools.

WAU offers nine graduate and 47 undergraduate programs, including online offerings courses and accelerated evening degree programs for working adults.

Washington Adventist University is securing the future of Christian education by providing discerning students and parents a competitive, best value alternative to secular institutions.

This is Washington Adventist University.

–Weymouth Spence, President

## WAU CELEBRATES ITS FIRST REACH GRADUATION

The REACH Center for Urban Evangelism (REACH CUE) culminated its first year operating on the campus of Washington Adventist University with the graduation of its third cohort of students this Spring. The graduates included LeShawn Browne and Charlique Dobney of the Allegheny East Conference, Jessica Quiñones from the Chesapeake Conference, and Justine Kline of the Pennsylvania Conference.

Initiated in Philadelphia by the Columbia Union Conference in 2015, REACH provides meaningful ministry training for young adults in the mid-Atlantic. REACH CUE merged with Washington Adventist University in the Fall of 2017. The program encourages students to grow deeper in their walk with Jesus, and empowers them as agents of restoration and hope in urban communities. This one-year experience offers students 15 religion credits at a discounted rate, and hands-on, practical learning experiences in the field.

Alumni have testified that this experience has given them "a clearer direction in life" and the feeling of being "equipped and confident in doing ministry." Others have said it has shaped their mentality for service. From spiritual retreats, to speaking opportunities, to field trips to a variety of churches and urban centers, the students testify that this was a meaningful year. These latest REACH graduates continue their education, some at WAU, and others returning to their previous university. We look forward to seeing how God will use them to impact their campuses and serve as leaders in local churches.

REACH CUE is now accepting applications for the 2018-2019 year. The Fall semester begins August 27. Interested students may apply at [reachcolumbiaunion.org/apply](http://reachcolumbiaunion.org/apply).



**WAU's REACH graduates reach their goal.**

## WAU LAUNCHES REDESIGNED MASTER'S IN RELIGION THAT QUALIFIES GRADUATES FOR CERTIFIED CHAPLAINCY SERVICE

Washington Adventist University's newly redesigned Master of Arts in Religion program with a concentration in Clinical Pastoral Education will qualify graduates to become an Associate Certified Chaplain.

The redesigned program features new courses such as Pastoral Dimensions of Medical Ethics Decisions, Spiritual Side of Post Traumatic Disorder, and Introduction to Chaplaincy. Offered by the university's School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS), the new program starts in the fall semester which begins August 27. Courses are taught in the evening in accelerated eight-week terms.

Clinical Pastoral Education provides students of all faiths with the professional skills needed to minister to others and to function as part of an interdisciplinary team. Graduates will be eligible for certification through the Board of Chaplaincy Certification Inc., an affiliate of the Association of Professional Chaplains.

Admission to Washington Adventist University's Master of Arts in Religion program requires an undergraduate degree in any field and two prerequisite undergraduate courses with a grade of "B" or better. They include RELT 250 Principles of Christian Faith and either RELB 307 Introduction to the Old Testament or RELB 345 Introduction to the New Testament.

For more information or for help with the application or registration process, visit [wau.edu](http://wau.edu), call **(301) 891-4092**, or email [sgps@wau.edu](mailto:sgps@wau.edu).



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### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Fall Semester

- **New Student Orientation and Registration:** August 20-26
- **Last Day to Register for Fall 2018:** August 24
- **Classes Begin:** August 27

**WAU Center for Law & Public Policy 10th Annual Attorney Pre-Law Student Dinner: Sunday, September 23, WAU Campus**  
More information or RSVP [prelaw@wau.edu](mailto:prelaw@wau.edu), or call (301) 891-4572

#### WAU Offering: Sabbath, September 29

On behalf of your children, friends, and community members, we celebrate the Lord's mighty work at Washington Adventist University.

Won't you be His helping hand on WAU Sabbath as together we engage minds and transform lives? Thank you for your support and the continued power of your prayers.

#### Anna H. Wang Presidential Concert Series: Saturday, November 10, 8:00 p.m.

Leroy and Lois Peters Music Center, featuring the Parker String Quartet

SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 16

## Visionaries Gala

CONGRESSIONAL COUNTRY CLUB  
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## The Stewardship of Health and Healing

The Biblical prophet Jeremiah wrote, "Behold, I will bring [the city] health and cure, and I will heal them" (Jeremiah 33:6) to remind people of God's promise that still brings us hope today.

As I have the opportunity to talk with members of our Adventist HealthCare team, people will often tell me stories. Some of the stories are funny; some are quite serious. And some of them are so filled with joy that they make everything we do feel important and significant.

These stories are the powerful culture-shaping experiences that we share with one another because they give meaning and shape to our work. They help explain who we are.

Some of the stories have happy endings describing cures, but some stories simply focus on how we work together with patients and their families to confront the challenges they face as a result of an accident or disease.

I think all of these stories embody our value of stewardship. Our stewardship of the time, talents, training, resources and opportunities to serve are at the very heart of our mission and our calling. Individually and together, we strive for the best outcomes, the highest standards and the most favorable results to bring healing to the community we serve.

In fact, we believe that when we act as responsible stewards of all that is entrusted to us, we are aligning ourselves with the spirit of grace and abundance found in the heart of God. Accordingly, when we extend our hands, we aspire to be the channel God works through to bring health and hope to life, because we remember that God said in Exodus 15:26, "I am the Lord, who heals you."

**Terry Forde**  
President & CEO  
Adventist HealthCare



## Shady Grove Medical Center and Washington Adventist Hospital Earn National Awards for Stroke Care

Adventist HealthCare's two main hospitals have each received two awards from the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association for life-saving, high-quality stroke care. These honors were awarded during National Stroke Month in May, which raises awareness about the signs and symptoms of stroke.

The first award, Gold Plus Quality Achievement, recognizes each hospital's adherence to Get With The Guidelines-Stroke, a hospital program that focuses on improving stroke care through consistent use of the latest scientific treatment guidelines. To receive this award, Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center and Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital achieved 85 percent or higher compliance with the program's standards for two or more consecutive 12-month periods.

"Washington Adventist Hospital is consistently recognized for providing fast, efficient and coordinated stroke care, which speaks to our caregivers ongoing dedication to helping save lives and prevent serious brain damage for patients experiencing stroke," said Daisy Bui, MD, a neurologist and medical director of the Stroke Program.

The second award, Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite Plus, recognizes the hospitals for maintaining a short time period between a patient's arrival at the hospital and treatment with clot-dissolving medication. Providing the medication within the first three hours after stroke symptoms begin has been shown to significantly reduce the effects of stroke and lessen the chance of permanent disability.

"Shady Grove Medical Center has achieved top honors from the American Stroke Association for stroke care for the past five years," said Perry Smith, MD, neurologist and medical director of the Stroke Program. "This continued recognition demonstrates our multidisciplinary stroke team's commitment to providing quick and comprehensive care for our stroke patients."

Since 2011, each hospital earned designation as a Primary Stroke Center from the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services. To hold the designation, both Shady Grove and Washington Adventist have established a rapid and coordinated team approach to stroke care, and met requirements relating to timeliness of care and community education about stroke.



## New Chief Medical Officer at Shady Grove Medical Center Sees Connection Between Faith and Health

"The arc of my career feels as if I am truly coming home," says Dr. Patsy McNeil, who in May became Chief Medical Officer of Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center in Rockville, Maryland.

McNeil's impressive career began at non-Adventist institutions, but her philosophy of caregiving was shaped in her family home. There, she grew up reading "Back to Eden" by Jethro Kloss and "Ministry of Healing" by Ellen White.

"They gave me a true framework for health and faith," she says. "The drive to really interact and improve the lives of people from every walk of life became not only core to my professional life, but also core to who I am as an individual."

Dr. McNeil earned her medical degree at Vanderbilt University and completed her emergency medicine residency at the University of Cincinnati. She worked for six years in Washington, D.C., before joining the Emergency Department at Shady Grove Medical Center in 2006, through its physician partners at U.S. Acute Care Services (USACS).

"A lot of my passion is embedded in the field of patient experience," Dr. McNeil says. "Are we adding to the health, well-being, education and ease of patients when they present to us, or are we detracting?"

To help answer these questions, Dr. McNeil served as Chief of Patient Experience and Director of Patient Experience for USACS East and Mountain division, creating educational programs and improving the processes around patient-centered caregiving.

*"The drive to really interact and improve the lives of people from every walk of life became not only core to my professional life, but also core to who I am as an individual."*



Dr. Patsy McNeil, who became Chief Medical Officer of Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center in May, says reading books growing up, such as "Back to Eden" by Jethro Kloss and "Ministry of Healing" by Ellen White, helped give her a true framework for health and faith.

Dr. McNeil, who attends the Seabrook Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lanham, Maryland, also has advocated for more inclusive and nurturing medical workplaces. As chairwoman of USACS's Women's Initiative and her service on its Diversity and Inclusion Council, she championed the recruitment of more women physicians and physician leaders. She also authored the group's robust Parental Leave Policy.

Sharing her God-given talents "are woven into the fabric of who I am," Dr. McNeil says. She is a board member on journalist Soledad O'Brien's PowHERful Foundation, which works nationally to mentor at-risk young women. Dr. McNeil also has conducted medical missions in Haiti and helped elderly African-American diabetes patients manage their disease.

"Patsy has earned the respect and admiration of her physician colleagues and those who have worked with her here at Shady Grove," President John Sackett said in announcing Dr. McNeil's appointment. "We are delighted to have her in this important leadership role."

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# WHY ME? PART 2 WHY NOW?

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### ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE:

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### THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

is seeking an experienced cyber security analyst to assist in installing, configuring and maintaining all aspects of organization's security and network systems, as well as conducting security assessments. A bachelor's degree in a related field with a minimum of four years of experience is required. Master's degree preferred. Must be a Seventh-day Adventist church member. Interested applicants should send résumé to [stavenhagenr@gc.adventist.org](mailto:stavenhagenr@gc.adventist.org).

### OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY

seeks full-time nursing professor, starting July 1. Responsibilities include providing didactic and clinical instruction; teaching courses in pediatric nursing and pediatric clinical; and student advisement. Prefer Master's in Nursing with minimum five years of clinical practice in nursing with family and children. Visit [oakwood.edu/human-resources](http://oakwood.edu/human-resources) or send application, curriculum vitae and transcripts to [hroffice@oakwood.edu](mailto:hroffice@oakwood.edu).

**UNION COLLEGE** seeks full-time professor of communication with strong experience in emerging media and public relations, beginning July 2019. Doctorate is preferred. Please submit curriculum vitae to Dr. Mark Robison,

Humanities Division chair, at [mark.robison@ucollege.edu](mailto:mark.robison@ucollege.edu).

## MISCELLANEOUS

### SINGLE? WIDOWED?

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For more information, contact Cheryl Jacko, Principal, Highland Adventist School  
Tel: (304) 636-4274

Email:

[highlandadventistschool@gmail.com](mailto:highlandadventistschool@gmail.com)  
[highlandadventistschool.org](http://highlandadventistschool.org).

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### MARYLAND ADVENTIST DENTIST, DAVID LEE, DDS, FAGD, AFAAID, FICOI, FAACP,

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

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### STANDIFER GAP

**SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SCHOOL,** Chattanooga, Tenn., is celebrating its 70th Anniversary (1948-2018) on September 28 & 29. All former students and former teachers are invited to attend our celebration.

Festivities will begin on Friday through Saturday evening. Contact: (423) 892-6013, or for further details, visit [sgsdaschool.org](http://sgsdaschool.org).

**40TH WEIMAR INSTITUTE HOMECOMING.** Celebrating 40 years of God's blessings at Weimar Institute this year! If you attended academy, or pursued higher education here, join us November 2-4. Honor classes: '83, '88, '93, '98, '03, '08 and '13. For more information, call (530) 422-7964, or visit [weimar.edu/alumni](http://weimar.edu/alumni).

## OBITUARY

**BARKER, Laurie**, born January 9, 1965, in Wooster, Ohio, the daughter of Larry O'Neil and Nancy Parker; died July 23, 2017, at the Majora Lane Care Center in Millersburg, Ohio, after a period of declining health. She was a member of the Millersburg church. She loved cats and playing bingo, and collected angels. Survivors: Her sons: Nicholas (Amanda) Hiller of Nashville, Ohio, Lucas (Courtney) Hiller of New Philadelphia, Ohio, and Daniel (Stephanie) Hiller of Nashville, Ohio; grandchildren, Collin, Brynn, Nakita, Brooklynn, Oliver and Kora; step-grandchildren, Alexis and Kaitlin; a

great-grandson, X'Zavier; her father, Larry (Thelma) O'Neil of Mansfield, Ohio; her mother, Nancy Parker of Wooster, Ohio; her sister, Regina Naylor of Wooster; nieces, Sarah Naylor and Maria Myers; and nephews, Elijah Naylor and Allen Stahl.

**NETTEBURG, Ronnalee**, born July 20, 1946, in Takoma Park, Md., to Wayne and Mildred Olson; died August 19, 2017, at home in Silver Spring, Md. When Ronnalee was 6 months old, the family moved to Lebanon, where they served as missionaries for 17 years. She learned Arabic and Arab ways. Her gift of hospitality came from the Arab culture, as did her desire to invite people to her home. In 1964 Ronnalee graduated from the Vincent Hill School, the Adventist boarding academy in India. She attended Union College (Neb.) for four years, graduating with a nursing degree in 1968. She also met Kermit Netteburg at Union, and they married in July 1968. Nursing was her lifelong passion and profession, and Ronnalee worked at hospitals in Colorado, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and Maryland. She taught nursing for 15 years, first at Andrews University (Mich.), and then Columbia

Union College in Takoma Park, Md., as well as serving as the social committee chair for both schools. She also developed a parish-nursing ministry at the Sligo and Beltsville churches in Maryland. Ronnalee's desire to invite people home continued throughout her life, and she hosted thousands at their home for meals, and many overnight. She also had a great love for her family. She is survived by her husband, Kermit; their three children: Charity (John) Pitton, Kristin (Michael) Priest, and Olen (Danae Bland) Netteburg; and seven grandchildren: Tobias, Seth and Benjamin Pitton, and Lyol, Zane, Addison and Juniper Netteburg.

**STRICKLAND, William James**, age 85, born July 22, 1931, in Coffee County, Ga.; died January 3, 2017, in Harrisonburg, Va. Bill was a member of the New Market (Va.) church. He was a teacher and school administrator at Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) in New Market, Va., for 40 years. In addition to classroom teaching, he was very involved in teaching students about the outdoors, taking groups on backpacking trips each month in the Blue Ridge Mountains. To introduce students to mission

work, he also organized trips to Cuba, Mexico, Colombia, Panama, Puerto Rico and Spain. Before joining the staff at SVA, Bill was dean of boys at Philadelphia Academy (Pa.) and at Highland Academy (Tenn.). Bill is survived by a son, David Strickland of Troy, N.C.; a daughter, Janice (William) Osborne of New Market; granddaughter, Rebecca Wheatley Wilson of Timberville, Va.; grandson-in-law, William Osborne of New Market; and great-granddaughters, Sadie Jean, Charlotte Marie and Lucy Ellen Bailey Wilson, all of Timberville. His wife, Dorothy Quackenbush, preceded him in death October 2005.

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Obituaries are posted on a space-available basis, as a free service for church members of the Columbia Union, present or past.

## Sunset Calendar

|              | Jul 6 | Jul 13 | Jul 20 | Jul 27 | Aug 3 | Aug 10 | Aug 17 | Aug 24 | Aug 31 |
|--------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Baltimore    | 8:36  | 8:34   | 8:30   | 8:24   | 8:17  | 8:09   | 8:00   | 7:51   | 7:40   |
| Cincinnati   | 9:07  | 9:05   | 9:01   | 8:55   | 8:49  | 8:41   | 8:32   | 8:22   | 8:12   |
| Cleveland    | 9:03  | 9:01   | 8:56   | 8:50   | 8:43  | 8:34   | 8:25   | 8:14   | 8:03   |
| Columbus     | 9:04  | 9:01   | 8:57   | 8:52   | 8:45  | 8:36   | 8:27   | 8:17   | 8:06   |
| Jersey City  | 8:31  | 8:28   | 8:24   | 8:18   | 8:11  | 8:02   | 7:53   | 7:43   | 7:32   |
| Norfolk      | 8:28  | 8:26   | 8:26   | 8:28   | 8:11  | 8:03   | 7:55   | 7:46   | 7:36   |
| Parkersburg  | 8:56  | 8:53   | 8:49   | 8:44   | 8:37  | 8:29   | 8:20   | 8:10   | 8:00   |
| Philadelphia | 8:32  | 8:30   | 8:26   | 8:20   | 8:13  | 8:05   | 7:56   | 7:46   | 7:35   |
| Pittsburgh   | 8:53  | 8:51   | 8:46   | 8:41   | 8:34  | 8:25   | 8:16   | 8:06   | 7:55   |
| Reading      | 8:37  | 8:34   | 8:30   | 8:24   | 8:17  | 8:09   | 8:00   | 7:49   | 7:39   |
| Richmond     | 8:34  | 8:32   | 8:28   | 8:23   | 8:17  | 8:09   | 8:01   | 7:52   | 7:42   |
| Roanoke      | 8:44  | 8:41   | 8:38   | 8:33   | 8:26  | 8:19   | 8:10   | 8:01   | 7:51   |
| Toledo       | 9:12  | 9:09   | 9:04   | 8:58   | 8:51  | 8:42   | 8:33   | 8:22   | 8:11   |
| Trenton      | 8:32  | 8:29   | 8:25   | 8:19   | 8:12  | 8:04   | 7:55   | 7:45   | 7:34   |
| Wash., D.C.  | 8:37  | 8:34   | 8:30   | 8:25   | 8:18  | 8:10   | 8:01   | 7:52   | 7:41   |

## Bulletin Board

### SLIGO BY THE SEA 2018 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

Join us in Ocean City, for a relaxed,  
inspiring Sabbath Service.

|              |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| June 30      | Charles A. Tapp     |
| July 7       | Dunbar Henri        |
| July 14      | Rick Remmers        |
| July 21      | Nathan Krause       |
| July 28      | Debbie Eisele       |
| August 4     | Anthony Kent        |
| August 11    | Morgan Kochenower   |
| August 18    | Nikolaus Satelmajer |
| August 25    | Mike Speegle        |
| September 1  | Gerald Klingbeil    |
| September 8  | Ronald Halverson    |
| September 15 | Bonita J. Shields   |
| September 22 | Donald McFarlane    |

**Sabbath School at 10 a.m.**  
**Worship Service at 11 a.m.**

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 10300 Coastal Hwy.  
Ocean City, MD 21824—Casual Attire Appropriate

For more information, please visit  
[sligochurch.org/sligobythesea](http://sligochurch.org/sligobythesea), or call (301) 270-6777

# EQUIP Exchange

empower serve lead

*Saturday, September 8 • 3:30 PM*

**PRESENTERS:**



*Tim Maddox*  
Lead Pastor  
Beltsville Adventist Church



*Alfonzo Greene III*  
Pastor of Discipleship &  
Administration & Campus Pastor,  
"The Bridge" in Huntsville, AL



*Sergio Quevedo*  
Senior Pastor/Church  
Planter in Boston, MA



*Sifa Pastanovic*  
Ammendale Campus Pastor,  
Beltsville Adventist Church



*Will Johns*  
Tech Road Campus Pastor,  
Beltsville Adventist Church

EQUIPExchange is focused on church planting and church growth. Learn skills that you can use in your local setting. Ted-talk like presentations from practicing church planters in the field and classes that will teach you "How" to accomplish the task.

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- Philippians 4:13**

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