Kentucky Family/Education Retreat
Margie Seely, American Union Education Department Director, Cedartown, GA

The American Union’s Education Department (including Orion Christian Academy) and the American Union’s Family Department are once again teaming up for a family/education retreat. This time it will be held in Petersburg, Kentucky, home of the Creation Museum. You are cordially invited to join families and teachers for a science and faith-filled weekend of discovery and fun.

The Creation Museum is dedicated to teaching the truth about Creation and the Flood and presenting a Biblical worldview. Inside its 70,000-square-foot museum, over 160 specialized exhibits and theater presentations bring the Bible to life. Outside, a 3-acre lake, artistic bridges, and nearly 6,000 plants beautify the botanical gardens, creating a virtual Eden for visitors to enjoy. A petting zoo and planetarium increase our awe and reverence for the creative God we worship. It is indeed a place to experience the beauty of God’s creation and the truth of His undying love for us. Come and be blessed!

Here is important information to help you plan:

Creation Museum Entrance Fee: Adults, ages 13 and up: $29.95. Senior Citizens, ages 60 and up: $23.95. Children, ages 0–12: FREE, with adult admission. All tickets good for two days’ entrance to the museum. Planetarium entrance is separate from the general admission. Those wishing to attend a Planetarium show will need to pay an additional $7.95 per person (regardless of age). Camel rides are $5 per rider.

Lodging: The Education Department is renting a group facility where we can cook, eat, and conduct church, worship, and other group meetings. There are also bedrooms, which can be rented for $60 per night (sleeping 4+) or $40 per night (sleeping 1-2). These rooms will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. There are also other hotels in the vicinity, some of which offer breakfast and/or special packages that include entrance fees for the museum. You are responsible for making your own lodging arrangements with these businesses.

- **Country Inns & Suites**: 859-689-0700. Located 7.5 miles from the museum, this hotel provides complimentary breakfast, free wireless, and a discounted rate for museum patrons. Part of your room reservation will be donated to the museum. Room rates range from $105 to $147 per night. If you have a Club Carlson account, you may be able to reserve a room for $63 per night.
- **Holiday Inn Express**: 800-322-8198. Located 5 miles from the museum, this hotel offers Creation Museum packages, which include two adult tickets to the Creation Museum, a $25 restaurant voucher, breakfast for two, and discounted room rates on the second night’s stay. Other add-ons may...
be available. Reservation packages are available online and can be booked through the Dearborn County Visitors Center (phone number listed above). Package prices are approximately $165.89 from Sunday through Thursday night.

- **Camping:** If you prefer to camp, bring an RV or trailer. One of the following campgrounds might work for you. Contact the sites below for rates and availability.
  
  - *Camp Shore Camp:* 812-438-2135 or [www.campshoreontheriver.com](http://www.campshoreontheriver.com) (best online reviews)
  - *Indian Springs Campground:* 513-353-9244 or iscg@fuse.net.
  - *Little Farm on the River:* 812-438-4500 or [www.littlefarmresort.com](http://www.littlefarmresort.com) (includes cabins)

**Food:** We will provide meals at the main group facility in Petersburg, Kentucky. Meal prices are $5 per meal for adults, ages 13 and up, and $3 per meal for children, ages 5-12. Children under the age of 5 eat for free. We recommend that you make your lodging plans first and then reserve your meal choices.

**What to bring:** Unless you are camping, linens and towels will be provided by your place of lodging. Weather will be nippy, so bring a warm jacket and other warm clothes. Good walking shoes will keep you comfortable as we tour the museum and the surrounding gardens. Be sure to pack your Bible and musical instrument(s) to enrich our praise and worship services. A camera is a must for recording all the wonderful memories we will make together.

**Special appeal:** Our purpose for this trip is to learn more about the God we love and serve, not to exalt ourselves. We kindly ask that you carefully select the clothing you bring. Before packing, ask yourself whether your clothing will honor God or draw attention to your own body. We also request that you think carefully before selecting the electronics you will bring. Movies, music, and video games must be the kind that God Himself could enjoy with you. If something doesn’t measure up to that criteria, leave the item behind.

**Reservations/Questions:** Make your reservation and payment online at [ocaedu.org](http://www.ocaedu.org). If you have any questions, feel free to contact:

- Lisbeth Hunger (770-715-0419)
- Margie Seely (404-673-2980)

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Learn more about the Creation Museum by visiting their website at [www.creationmuseum.org](http://www.creationmuseum.org)

Photos provided by David Berkowitz. Use of these photos in no way shows his support or endorsement of the IMS or any of its subsidiaries. [http://www.flickr.com/photos/davidberkowitz/6010466676/in/photostream](http://www.flickr.com/photos/davidberkowitz/6010466676/in/photostream).
Baptism of Michael (Mikey) Petrovich
Pastor Henry Dering, Cameron Park, CA

“As they [Philip and the eunuch] went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?’ And Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ And he answered and said, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.” Acts 8:36-38, NASB.

Sabbath, June 14, was a beautiful, warm, and sunny day in Rancho Murieta, California. Lovely Lake Clementia with its graceful swans and Canada geese was the beautiful setting for the baptism of Mikey Petrovich, the second son of Tom and Anne Petrovich. Believers from Sacramento and San Jose and the angels of God witnessed with great joy the baptism of this fine young man. Even his Aunt Linda Holmstroem Suárez from Georgia was there for this blessed occasion! We were all thrilled to witness Mikey take his stand on the Lord’s side, acknowledging his faith in Jesus Christ as his Saviour, and promising henceforth to live for Christ.

May the Lord richly bless our dear young Brother Mikey as he begins his new life with Jesus. May he, and all of us be faithful till the end.

I “celebrated” my third birthday in Shriner’s Hospital in Sacramento, CA, after being bitten by a rattlesnake. The doctors split open my swollen right leg from below the knee to the ankle and hoped for the best. But my family prayed, and God graciously heard those prayers. All I have left are two 12-inch scars on either side of my leg and vague memories. Now, my battle is with a far greater serpent than that rattlesnake. I know God still hears our prayers for help. May we all remain faithful to Him.

Mikey Petrovich
My Testimony
Persia Suárez, Cedartown, GA

Editor’s Note: During the Centennial Commemoration in Cedartown, Georgia, Persia Suárez and Prudence Khatide, from South Africa, were baptized on Friday, August 1, 2014. The ceremony took place at Hightower Falls in Cedartown, Georgia, and was officiated by Persia’s father, Pastor Idel Suárez, Jr., president of the General Conference. The following is Persia’s testimony.

The story is told of a young servant girl who left her loving Master to join a new rebellious group that excelled in destroying all that was good. The girl was soon found out by the authorities and sentenced to death. When her Master heard this, He ran to the authorities and begged for her release. However, the authorities decided that the damage she had caused could be repaid only with the high price of blood. The Master then decided that he was going to pay the debt; he would die to save the life of his undeserving servant girl. When the day of the execution came, the townspeople grabbed the Master and beat him up. They then forced him to carry the object of pain that was to kill him. He died an excruciating death. He died for something he did not do. He died for me, the undeserving servant girl, who should die for my own sins. He died, to offer me the gift of eternal life. That’s why I choose to live my life for Him now.

Editor’s Note: “And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.” Revelation 14:13. Mikey Petrovich and Persia Suárez are cousins and the great-grandchildren of Pastor August Holmström, a pioneer of the IMS Reform in Estonia. A book describing his life of service and untimely death is being prepared for publication very soon. (Updates and publication information can be viewed at www.margieseely.wix.com/marieholmstroem.)

2014 Calendar

- November 7-10: Family/Education Retreat, Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky
  (see registration information on pages 1-2 of this newsletter)
- December: Youth Outing in Austria