December 2012

On December 1, please join the world Adventist Church for a day of prayer and fasting for two Adventists imprisoned in the West African country of Togo. Pastor Antonio Monteiro and church member Bruno Amah have been falsely detained for eight months. Even though there is no evidence of guilt, the men have been held without hope of bail or a trial. Please pray for the safety of the men and their families, and a speedy release from prison. To learn more, visit nadadventist.org.

The Chesapeake Conference Adventist Community Services (ACS) and Disaster Response teams extend sincere appreciation to the many churches and individuals who responded to the call for help for the “Sandy” victims. Donated coats, boots, blankets and personal care items have been sent to several locations needing assistance in the Chesapeake Conference territory and surrounding areas. The focus has now shifted to long-term recovery, says Kitty Juneau, conference Disaster Response coordinator. She says that monetary donations are what are needed at this stage. Donations are tax-deductible, and should be sent to Chesapeake Conference, 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, Maryland 21044, Attention: Evelyn Gates.

Upcoming Christmas Events:

~ Messiah Sing-along—The Spencerville Adventist Academy Choir and Orchestra, with special guest musicians from Shenandoah Valley Academy, will present a Messiah Sing-along on December 1, 4:00 p.m., at the Spencerville church located at 16325 New Hampshire Avenue in Silver Spring, Maryland. Washington National Opera baritone Matt Osifchin and Baltimore Lyric Opera soprano, Coleen Daly, will uplift you with such memorable arias as “The Trumpet Shall Sound” and “He Shall Feed His Flock.” All are welcome to sing or just enjoy “And the Glory,” “Oh Thou that Tellest,” and the “Hallelujah” chorus to name a few. Bring your own Messiah score if possible, as supplies are limited.

~ A Holiday Craft Bazaar is planned for Saturday, December 1, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Highland View Academy gym located at 10100 Academy Drive in Hagerstown, Maryland. Peruse crafts and homemade gifts available for purchase. There is a $2 entry fee. Refreshments will be sold. Proceeds benefit the class of 2015. For more information, call Winona Hudson at (559) 284-1438.

~ A Sacred Brass Christmas Concert featuring Brass of the Potomac, directed by Steven Bulla, happens Thursday, December 6. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. at Spencerville Adventist Academy Fine Arts Center, located at 2502 Spencerville Road in Spencerville, Maryland. Tickets are available at www.spaac.net/tickets. Proceeds benefit the band program at Spencerville Adventist Academy.

~ Frederick church presents “The Many Moods of Christmas,” featuring the music of the Frederick Church Choir (Francisco de Araujo, conductor), piano soloist Andy Luse, and the New England Youth
Ensemble of Washington Adventist University (Dr. Preston Hawes, director), Saturday, December 8, at 7:00 p.m. A free-will offering will be collected. The church is located at 6437 Jefferson Pike in Frederick, Maryland. For more details, visit fredericksdachurch.org, or call (301) 662-5254.

~ The Annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols takes place at Spencerville church, December 8 at 4:00 p.m. The Columbia Collegiate Chorale and Pro Musica of Washington Adventist University will once again join the Spencerville Sanctuary Choir, under the direction of Dr. James Bingham. The choirs will sing carols interspersed with readings to tell the story of the plan of salvation through the coming of Jesus to this earth. A reception follows in the fellowship hall. The Spencerville church is located at 16325 New Hampshire Avenue in Silver Spring. Questions? Call (301) 384-2920.

~ “The Heart of Christmas,” a musical celebration during the 11:00 a.m. worship service, Sabbath, December 15, at the Wilna church, features the youth choir. A group will meet at the church again at 5:30 p.m. to go caroling. The church is located at 1010 Old Joppa Road in Joppa, Maryland. For more information, email sdapastortom@gmail.com, or call (410) 854-1866.

~ A Christmas Concert is planned at the Linthicum church, Sabbath, December 17 at 11:00 a.m. The church is located at 901 Andover Road in Linthicum, Maryland. For more information, call (410) 598-1536, or email houseofglass@aol.com.

~ Berkeley Springs church, located at 3606 Valley Road in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, offers a Christmas Eve service, Monday, December 24, at 7:00 p.m. Questions? Call Ruth Wright at (304) 258-6184, or email re95wright@gmail.com.

~ “The Night Before Christmas” is the title of the Christmas Eve service planned at New Hope church, 12350 Hall Shop Road in Fulton, Maryland. The event takes place Monday, December 24, from 11:00 p.m. to midnight. Visit lookingforachurch.org, or phone (301) 854-1866 for more information.

The Middletown Valley church hosts a free gospel concert featuring Neville Peter on Saturday, December 1, at 6:00 p.m. Peter has performed at the White House and Carnegie Hall and is a regular on BET’s Video Gospel program. The church is located at 1811 Arnold Road in Jefferson, Maryland. Call (240) 415-8268, or email mvsdaaevents@gmail.com for details.

A benefit concert takes place at the Pikesville church, Sabbath, December 8, at 4:00 p.m. The proceeds will be used for an evangelistic effort in Pune, India. Washington Adventist University students and church workers will conduct a two-week campaign as well as provide medical care and health screenings. For more details, email pikesvillecommunications@gmail.com.

A Depression Recovery program, sponsored by the Annapolis church, begins with an information session, Monday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m. Gain control over your thoughts and improve concentration and energy levels. The group will meet Monday evenings in January and February. The church is located at 1996 Generals Highway in Annapolis, Maryland. For more information, email melzettawilliams@yahoo.com, or call (410) 266-8887.

Train to be an evangelist! Elder Robert Folkenberg will be at the Triadelphia church on Sabbath, December 15, 2:00-5:00 p.m., to conduct a training seminar for those interested in holding Share Him evangelistic meetings, either in the United States or overseas. The training is for pastors and lay members. The church is located at 12950 Brighton Dam Road in Clarksville, Maryland. For more details, call Pastor Robb Long at (301) 854-3678. To learn more about Share Him, visit www.sharehim.org.

Preserve holiday memories at a Scrapbooking and Spiritual Retreat, January 4-6, 2013, at Mount Aetna Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Maryland. Heather-Dawn Small, Women’s Ministries director for the Seventh-day Adventist world church, is the worship speaker for the weekend. To register and get pricing, contact Diana Fishell at (301) 824-6045, or email mtaetnacamp@myactv.net.

“A Lifetime of Love” is the theme for the fifth annual marriage retreat co-sponsored by Triadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church and Linden Linthicum United Methodist Church. The retreat takes place February 8-10, 2013, at the Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland. Joan and Rich Liversidge are the featured presenters. Register by December 17 to get the early-bird rate of $249.00 per couple. The fee includes lodging for two nights, brunch, dinner and tea on Sabbath, and brunch on Sunday. To learn more, call Mark and Peggy Lee at (301) 317-5428, or Jeff and Sandy Hartz at (443) 864-6328.

The Youth Ministries department sponsors Family Ski Days at Jack Frost and Big Boulder resorts in Pennsylvania, Sundays, December 23 and January 14. Enjoy a fun, inexpensive day in the snow. Skiing and snowboarding packages that cover lift ticket, rental, and a lesson are available from $35-
$41. Tubing can be added for $10, or tube all day for $37. These fees include a $2.00 per person fee for mandatory accident insurance. Groups of more than 15 get one free leader ticket. The deadline to register for the December 23 ski day is December 19 at 5:00 p.m. To register, email Youth Ministries director Carl Rodriguez at crodriguez@ccosda.org, or call (410) 241-4919.

**Conference Finances at a Glance** reflect the ongoing faithfulness of our members during difficult times. We are appreciative that Chesapeake members continue to be steadfast in tithing and giving offerings. According to conference treasurer Eduardo Muñoz, there has been a very small increase in tithe—just .22 percent this year. There is one less Sabbath this year than last year, so the hope is that there will still be a modest gain. The Chesapeake Advance offering (CAP) is down from last year. Much of this offering is given back to churches to support building projects, education, evangelism and church planting. More than $200,000 was used for evangelism this year. Members who are traveling during the holidays can give online via their church website.

**Congratulations to Orlando Rosales**, pastor of the Baltimore Spanish district, who was one of 12 individuals selected on November 12 as a winner of the Stewardship Sermon Contest sponsored by the North American Division and Ministry Magazine. The winning sermons were chosen from 100 submissions and will be published in a book.

**Deep sympathy is offered** to Eastern Shore Junior Academy teacher Jennifer Miller and her family. Miller’s brother, Jerome “J.J.” Tyson, was killed November 3 in a work accident in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. He will be greatly missed by his wife Missy and their three children, his mother, and Jennifer and her family. Please keep them in prayer during this sad and difficult time.

**December Sunset Calendar and Offering Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sunset</th>
<th>Offering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>4:44</td>
<td>Local Church Budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 8</td>
<td>4:43</td>
<td>North American Division/Inner City Ministries/World Budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 15</td>
<td>4:44</td>
<td>Local Church Budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 22</td>
<td>4:46</td>
<td>Chesapeake Advance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 29</td>
<td>4:51</td>
<td>North American Division Evangelism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Note: Sunset times published above are for Baltimore, Maryland. For Delaware and the Eastern Shore, subtract two minutes. For West Virginia and Western Maryland, add three minutes.

*Chesapeake Currents is published monthly by the Communication Department – Samantha Young, director/editor

www.ccosda.org • syoung@ccosda.org • (410) 995-1910 • (301) 596-5600

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