HOW PIONEERING BLACK ADVENTISTS HELPED SHAPE THE COLUMBIA UNION
Editorial

He Will Guide You Into All Truth

Tamyra Horst

Edward Beers’ life was full of changes, but one aspect remained constant. See how the Holy Spirit guided him and his wife into truth.

In Every Issue

3 Editorial

4 Newsline

6 Potluck

18 Member Profile

Newsletters

25 Allegheny East
27 Allegheny West
29 Chesapeake
31 Columbia Union College
33 Highland View Academy
35 Mountain View
37 Mt. Vernon Academy
39 New Jersey
41 Ohio
43 Pennsylvania
45 Potomac
47 Spencerville Adventist Academy
49 Shenandoah Valley Academy
50 Takoma Academy

14 Don’t Tell Your Mother
One Adventist’s Experience With Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse has shattered the lives of families everywhere. Here one member shares her childhood experience and how she draws from it to empower others.

18 He Will Guide You Into All Truth
A Journey to Adventism

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Adventist Communication 2.0—R U Red-e?

Celeste Ryan Blyden

t’s 2007 church. Do you know where your target audience is? The answer is no-brainer. America is working, googling, shopping, hanging out, and even churching online.

An increasing number of Americans (73 percent) use the Internet; 22 percent say it’s their primary news source. One in five has watched a video online and listened to an Internet radio station during the last month. There are 13 million blogs and a plethora of podcasts. Over half the youth age 12-17 have a social networking webpage. Recently a young Frenchman landed a record contract in the United States after his homemade music video became an Internet hit. And millions, even president George W. Bush, watched cell phone footage of Saddam Hussein’s “closed” execution on YouTube.

Ordinary people are using the Internet to change the world. That’s why Time magazine recently named “you” its 2006 Person of the Year. “You control the Information Age,” the editors declared. They deem the booming technology movement a “revolution” led by people who are seizing the reigns of global media one homemade video, podcast, rants and blog, and social networking site at a time.

GET YOUR SPACE

But are MySpace and YouTube the only places to forge this technology revolution? And are Adventists going to stand by and let others rule the Information Super Highway? Thanks to some early adaptors, we haven’t been left behind … yet.

My cousin Lauren, for example, is general manager of her church’s Internet radio station. Three churches in Potomac Conference (Manassas, New Market, and Sligo) and a host of others across the United States podcast Sabbath services. A search for “Adventist” on iTunes yields 82 podcasts. The most popular, Cool Devotions, provides timely spiritual messages. In addition, the Adventist News Network produces a weekly news podcast called Ground 7 News. Two sites—churchpond.com and praelevision.com—offer live and recorded webcasts of dozens of Adventist worship services. Allegheny East Conference recently produced a live Health Ministries training webcast. Hispanic young adults host pcjovenes.com, a popular interactive site that features news, Bible studies, youth program ideas, videos, photos, blogs, and podcasts in Spanish. They’re even working on a movie that is evangelistic in nature.

So what about the rest of us? “If Jesus used every avenue to reach hearts, we must also,” says Robert Henley, communication and information technology director for the Southeastern Conference in Orlando. “To reach today’s culture, the Adventist Church needs to provide content in the normal channels in which people access it.” Americans are accessing the Internet, and if we want to reach them, we’ve got to get online. More of our churches and schools need to move beyond electronic billboards and maintain quality, interactive websites (available through www.adventistchurchconnect.com) that can supplement our ministries and share Christ with those who are surfing. (To see what we’re doing, check out the subscription card inserted in this issue and visit www.columbiaunion.org. Also, let me know what you are doing.)

I call it Adventist Communication 2.0 because just like Steve Jobs’ iPhone, it’s going to take us to another level of communication. R U Red-e?

Celeste Ryan Blyden (cryan@columbiaunion.net) serves as assistant to the president for communication at the Columbia Union Conference and editor of the Visitor magazine.
Union VP Accepts Position in Ohio

Monte Sahlin, vice president for Creative Ministries at the Columbia Union, has accepted a call to serve as director of research and special projects for the Ohio Conference. Sahlin, a pastor, author, administrator, and researcher, has served the union since 1998 and the Adventist church for 35 years. “This affords me the opportunity to work at the grassroots level with pastors and churches that are actively seeking to find innovative ways to do the mission of Christ and impact their communities,” he said. To that end, he will train and coach bi-vocational pastors, lead pilot projects, develop research-based service endeavors, and help churches engage new generations, etc.

“We are thrilled to have a person of Monte’s experience, knowledge, and capacities join us in our conference’s journey toward excellence in ministry, mission, and spiritual development,” said Ohio president Raj Attiken.

Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union, also expressed his appreciation for Sahlin. “Monte has served this union well, and he will be missed at this office,” he stated. “His legacy includes the metropolitan ministries initiatives, the numerous surveys that measure ministry effectiveness, and the many, many projects, ideas, and visions he has helped bring to fruition.”

During the worship service, Miller preached on what it means to be a disciple. “If God can fill boats with fish, how much more does He desire to fill the kingdom with souls,” he stated. “If He can use fishermen, tax collectors, and doubting Thomases, He can use each of us to further His kingdom.” Miller invited all to put self aside, become disciples of Jesus, and serve in His kingdom.

Ramos was also honored because he was leaving the Potomac Conference to assume his new role as assistant to the president for Multilingual Ministries at the Columbia Union Conference beginning this month—Jeanie Allen.

To see more photos and a video news story of this event, visit www.columbiaunion.org.
In the Spotlight > Lynette and Don Wood

Building up congregations through ministry-minded activities is a long-time passion of Don and Lynette Wood of Fairlawn, Va., members of the Radford (Va.) church. Through BodyBuilders Ministries, this husband-and-wife team utilizes the interests and talents of church and community members to create “outreach and inreach” efforts.

“The formulation of BodyBuilders [last year] is really just the formalization of what we have done for years,” says Lynette, a PhD and assistant accounting professor at Virginia Tech University. Don, who has worked at the university’s Adventist Campus Ministries for years, “really just the formalization of what we have done initatively.”

The couple started creating ministry ideas when they were both students at Takoma Academy and then Columbia Union College, both in Takoma Park, Md. Some recent examples of their work include Dollars & Sense, a money management workshop held last fall through their BodyBuilders’ auxiliary, the Christian Financial Clinic (www.chris-tianfinancialclinic.com). They also put on PraiseFest ’06, a joint venture last summer with the university’s Adventist Campus Ministries group called FRIENDS. The event spiritually strengthened university students and community residents. Other ministries they have initiated include a vegetarian supper club, inspirational holiday gift baskets, and child-led worship services.

“When the Lord gives us a ministry concept, we share the vision with the local church leaders,” reports Don. “Sometimes this results in a joint venture between us and the local congregation. Sometimes we move the idea along as a personal ministries project.” For more information, contact Lynette at lynametwood@verizon.net.

Music > Endless Dream

The talented youth choir from the Washington Brazilian church in College Park, Md., collectively known as CJW, just released their second album. Endless Dream is a collection of songs by Brazilian composers, with all but one being translated into English.

CJW, conducted and directed by Denio Abreu, was formed in 2001 and released its first Portuguese album in 2005. It was through their collective dream, and through tireless fund-raising efforts, that both albums became a reality. Funds raised helped them build a recording studio—in an empty room of their church—and copy and distribute their albums.

“As one of the first Portuguese choirs in the United States, CJW started with just 35 members, but has grown to its current list of more than 120. The group is made up mostly of Brazilian youth (ages 15 to 38) “who came to the United States to study or to work,” said choir member Priscila Ruela. “Most of them live alone and are able to find in the choir a relaxed way to praise the Lord.” CJW has become well known in the Washington metropolitan area and beyond with their high-energy performances. “We have performed at very small places, to about 20 people, and at very large programs to 3,000 people. Each time is special because we feel God’s presence with us,” adds Ruela. “Whenever this choir goes, it leaves behind its enthusiasm of telling others about Jesus.”

For more information about CJW, visit www.washington-brazilianyouthchoir.com. To order one of their CDs, write to info@cjw.com.

Books > Jumpstart Connections: 31 Fresh Ideas to Invigorate Your Relationships

Well-published Seventh-day Adventist authors Ron and Karen Flowers have done it again! This time these two certified family life educators have teamed up with a London-based occupational therapist and author, Karen Holford, to bring readers new ways of building stronger personal relationships. This quick read provides simple, real-life messages from people who have “discovered vital keys to recovery and growth in relationships.” The book includes 31 “bite-sized” short stories that address many different types of relationships and lessons learned. To invigorate your relationships, order this book at your local Adventist Book Center or online at AdventSource.org.

What’s New

Music > Endless Dream

What You Bring to the Table

Good Medicine

The English language is full of idioms that promote a positive attitude: “Keep your chin up.” “The sun will come out tomorrow.” Even Scripture makes reference to the value of positive emotion in Proverbs 17:22: “A cheerful heart is good medicine: but a crushed spirit dries up the bones” (NIV).

Keeping one’s chin up can be much more than just an expression of speech, however. Researchers worldwide have found a correlation between positive emotion and better health habits, lower blood pressure, improved immune function, decreased risk for depression, and decreased recurrence of breast cancer. Pessimists, on the other hand, are more likely to suffer depression and illness and have shorter lives. Two University of Pennsylvania researchers found that a daily gratitude journal is a simple exercise for cultivating optimism. Participants who kept the journal for two weeks increased happiness and decreased symptoms of depression for up to six months. Another way to develop a positive attitude is to adjust the conversations you have with yourself. Challenge negative thoughts (as if someone else is saying them to you) and replace them with positive self-talk. You’ll keep your heart cheerful, and improve the probability of living a longer, healthier life.—Lilly Tryon, RN, Adventist WholeHealth Lifestyle Medicine Center

Connections: 31 Fresh Ideas to Invigorate Your Relationships

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When the Bethel Literary and Historical Society, which exemplified this spirit of excellence, announced its 1899-1900 lecture series, scheduled speakers included the preeminent Booker T. Washington and several other well-known figures. Also among the invited speakers were two charter members of the city’s original Adventist church, James and Isabella Howard. The participation of these believers in what historian Jacqueline Moore identifies as “the center of black intellectual life in the capital,” is but one of many indicators that Adventism was gaining a favorable hearing among the nation’s leading black citizens. In fact, through the witness of the Howards, Rosetta Douglass Sprague, daughter of famed abolitionist Frederick Douglass, became an Adventist.

Lewis C. Sheafe (pictured), another leader who made a major impact in Washington during the early years of the 20th century, had been a highly regarded Baptist minister before joining the Adventist movement in 1896. He stirred widespread interest in the Adventist message in the summer of 1902 with an evangelistic campaign that, according to the Washington Post, attracted overflow crowds as large as 2,000 to an 800-seat tent.

These successes sometimes led to conflicts over race relations that would keep Adventism, in Washington, in an unsettled state for more than 15 years. With the segregation system rapidly spreading in the South and racial antagonism reaching its bitterest level in American history, General Conference leaders determined that the rapidly growing Washington believers should be divided into two churches—one “white” and the other “colored.” Despite poignant and eloquent pleas by the aforementioned Howard against such compromise with sinful worldly policy, a traumatic separation ensued in September 1902. However, the original congregation, which took the name First Seventh-day Adventist Church, did remain racially integrated for a few years. One Sabbath morning in April 1904, Ellen White preached at First church, taking as her text the prayer of Christ recorded in John 17, “that they may all be one.” She recorded favorable impressions about her experience at the mixed-race church.

When Adventism took root in Washington, D.C., in the late 1800s, the capital city had the largest concentration of blacks of any American city. Howard University, outstanding public high schools, and federal government jobs made Washington a place of opportunity and high achievement for black Americans.

The first sizable group of black Adventist believers, in what would become Columbia Union territory, worked and worshipped in full fellowship with white believers at the Seventh-day Adventist Church of Washington, D.C. “This church is a living miracle of the power of God, composed as it is of the two races,” wrote revivalist A.F. Ballenger about the congregation in 1899. That year there were around 150 members. “The harmony which prevails is a great surprise to the members of other churches,” the preacher added.

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Meanwhile, Sheafe, who had become pastor of First church, started the People’s church in 1903. Most, but not all, of the members were black. Sheafe was eager to bring to black Americans the advantages of health reform and education that Adventism offered. As it became clear that blacks would not be welcomed at the college and sanitarium being established in Takoma Park, Md., the evangelist and his church members pled for funding and financial policies that would make possible the timely establishment of separate institutions for blacks in the city.

In 1907, the same year in which the Columbia Union organized, the People’s church—the major black congregation in the territory—withdrawn from the Adventist denominational organization due to disputes over these matters and became an independent Adventist congregation. Speculation spread that First church would do likewise.

In a meeting at First church on March 30, 1907, Howard, the most influential member, took a decisive stand: “No condition brought about by the errors of our conference brethren would justify brother Sheafe in taking the extreme position that he did … Don’t let us move one peg from the organized work.” Had Howard made a different choice at this juncture, the history of Adventism among black Americans would have turned out very differently.

After a brief period of reconciliation from 1913 to 1916, the People’s church once again severed its denominational affiliation. Members who wished to remain connected with the denomination started the Ephesus church in 1917. The race-related issues at the heart of this saga did not go away, but, after the dust settled, there were two solidly established, energetic black congregations in the District of Columbia Conference (renamed Potomac in 1924).

**Persevering Against Enormous Odds**

The pioneering endeavors of these early years in Washington, while tumultuous, generated a momentum that helped power much of the work that would subsequently develop throughout the Columbia Union. Among those converted to Adventism through Sheafe’s evangelistic efforts was a young attorney, William Hawkins (W.H.) Green (pictured left), who also had taken some theological training at Shaw University in North Carolina. With encouragement and guidance from Sheafe, the talented young convert, who had argued cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, entered the Adventist ministry. Green’s first assignment was in Pittsburgh, Pa., where from 1905 to 1909 he built a small fellowship that was called the “Pittsburgh No. 2” church.

In 1909 the General Conference session voted to form the North American Negro Department (later known as the North American Regional Department). This was the first of two major organizational milestones for the Adventist cause among black Americans. However, white leaders headed the department until W.H. Green was appointed director in 1918. With tireless zeal and systematic efficiency, Green oversaw a period of dramatic expansion of Adventism among African-Americans in the Columbia Union and throughout North America, earning the nickname “cross-country” Green.

The small Pittsburgh No. 2 church that Green nurtured in his early ministry had no building of its own, and, after Green left in 1909, no pastor for three years. Its numbers dwindled toward the single digits—but members held on. The West Pennsylvania Conference was finally able to send a minister in 1912, a young, energetic Jamaican—Adam Nicholas Durrant.

In January 1916, Pittsburgh No. 2 members began worshipping in their own building. By 1918 the congregation had grown to 130, overcrowding the new building.

Other stalwarts of this era included Robert L. Bradford, who, while Durrant was in Pittsburgh, was leading scores of new believers into what later became the Ebenezer church in Philadelphia. Both Bradford and Durrant would spearhead similar churches in Ohio, New Jersey, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. And then there was Peter Gustavus Rodgers. Under his dynamic leadership, the Third Baltimore church (today’s Berea Temple) grew from a handful in 1911 to over 300 in 1918, and the fledgling Ephesus church in Washington grew from 60 in 1918 to close to 300 in 1923. In both places he oversaw the establishment of strong church schools.

The contributions of John Henry Wagner (pictured above) are also significant. Baptized as a youth by Lewis Sheafe in Washington, D.C., the promising young man went to Oakwood College in Huntsville, Ala., and entered the ministry. Like Sheafe, Wagner enjoyed much success as a singing evangelist. He led a campaign in Newark, N.J., that is said to have resulted in the most baptisms of any northern evangelistic effort prior to the era of E.E. Cleveland.

**Colored Conferences**

Wagner’s career intersected with the formation of regional conferences, which was the second major organizational milestone to emerge in response to the still-unresolved dilemmas raised in the first decade of the 20th century. In 1928, after the death of W.H. Green, the first “colored secretary” of the General Conference, a group of black ministers sought “to organize Negro conferences that would function in the same relation to the General Conference as the “white” conferences.”

Rejection of this proposal contributed to the departure of J.E. Humphrey and his large congregation in Harlem, N.Y., from the denomination, and left feelings of frustration on the part of many who remained.

Another unfortunate event occurred in October 1943 when gravely ill Lucy Byard was admitted to...
When the floor was re-opened, the name Peters felt the name would be too difficult to spell. It was voted for the formation of a regional conference. “Allegheny Conference” was voted.

reasoned that ministers who could run conferences. He believed black conferences idea, noting that Peters, for example, could not join his white members than some conferences. He met with McElhany, and both had a good feeling. The Black conferences would face from members accustomed to the church organization, or move toward urban areas, regional conferences were created to serve as a training ground for leadership among African-Americans, and other conference workers of color, who might not have received leadership opportunities under the previous system. Those they mentored broke down barriers in the larger church system. Notables include Washington-born Charles E. Bradford, who was elected to serve as the first president of the North American Division, while the recently retired Lee became the first African-American to serve as president of the Columbia Union.

Today regional conferences serve as vital headquarters for ministries among urban populations, including immigrants from Africa, the Caribbean, Latin nations, and beyond. While the focus is on African-Americans, these conferences and their churches continue to cast a wide net for Christ in many diverse communities.

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t didn’t happen often. Not as often as to some kids. But when I heard the heavy footsteps on the stairs, I knew. This would be the night. My heartbeat turned dull and heavy, and I felt sick. “No, no,” I pled silently. “Please let this be somebody else and not Daddy. Not again. Go away!”

My bedroom door swung open, and he smiled. He was wearing his robe, the turquoise one with stripes. I knew what to do, how to be somewhere else, inside my head, somewhere far away, where nobody could find me. Just don’t be there. Wait for it to be over.

“Don’t tell your mother,” he always said. He didn’t have to say that. I wouldn’t have told my mother such horrible things for a million dollars. I wouldn’t have told anyone.

Every Sabbath we were all there, in our pew at church. My parents were active members, though my father was never as active as my mother. But whom could I tell?

I thought I was the only one in the world. Today I know better.

According to www.childmolestationprevention.org, it is estimated that two out of 10 girls and one out of 10 boys are sexually abused by age 13. The numbers for boys may be higher if you include physical and emotional abuse. The sad part is that the abuse is almost always by a friend or member of their family. These statistics are also true within the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

I was helpless then. Someone who was supposed to make the world safe for me, to help me feel strong and beautiful, instead made my life terrifying and sickening. I felt ugly, afraid, and, above all—powerless.

I am not powerless today. I know what to do. And here’s what you can do:

**TELL SOMEONE**—When I finally told my mother she was horrified. And then she confronted my father. Life got better—for a while. We didn’t know, in those days, the power of this sinful sickness. We, like lots of others over the decades and centuries, believed my dad when he wept bitterly and said he’d never do it again. He meant it. I still believe that.

**GET HELP**—The truth is that some things require serious, professional, experienced clinical help. We didn’t know that then. I know it now. Churches are filled with loving, well-meaning, but ill-informed people who wouldn’t have the faintest idea what to do with such a confession. Find someone who’s been there and survived. This goes for victims as well as abusers. I am not naive enough to think there are no abusers reading this article. I want to tell you that Jesus died just for you! He can help you. Try to find a godly, compassionate person who will not judge you, but who will not let you keep hurting yourself and others either.

**BEGIN TO FORGIVE**—For your own healing, you must begin to forgive. Even yourself, if necessary. My dad didn’t believe God could forgive him. So how could he get better? To forgive, we must understand clearly what forgiveness means. It doesn’t mean excusing. I’ll say that again. It doesn’t mean that we excuse the sin!

Forgiveness involves cleansing from sin, not turning your head and pretending it isn’t there. It may mean taking a clear look at cause and effect. When I learned of the unspeakable, demonic abuse my father and his family suffered when he was young, I didn’t think, “Oh, that’s why he does it.” Or worse yet, “That makes it okay.” What I saw is that my dad is a damaged, broken person in desperate need of the grace and transformation only the Creator can bring. God enabled me to forgive and to love my father, and thus to close my own wounds.

But I don’t spend time alone with him, or allow my children to do so. It would be as unloving an act as putting a drink in front of a struggling alcoholic.

When people learn what happened to me, they sometimes ask how has it affected me. Well, how hasn’t it? I will never know what kind of person I might have been. But God has blessed me, despite the pain of those years and the lingering scars. He’s made me tender, compassionate, and quick to forgive.
I know how broken and sinful I am, and I want to be judged with mercy. He’s made me strong and beautiful after all.

I’m someone you can talk to. Those who live, work, and worship with me know that. I don’t keep dark secrets anymore. It’s not something I want to publish to the world, hence this anonymous story. But I share it when God tells me to. And there are people like me near you. May the Healer lead you to them. And turn you into one of them. It’s never too late. Tell your mother. Tell everyone who needs to hear.

Today my life is shaped by a ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation. I want the world to know Jesus loves, saves, and changes people. I want hurting and harmed men, women, and children everywhere to find safety and healing. I want the same for those who hurt them. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if those who used to hurt became godly, compassionate, and loving instead? God can do that. I know it because I’ve seen it firsthand.

To protect her privacy, the author remains anonymous.

HELPFUL WEBSITES:
www.childmolestationprevention.org
www.sarc-maryland.org
www.rainn.org
www.hotpeachespages.net
He Will Guide You Into All Truth
A Journey to Adventism

E
dward Beers has been many things in his
life including a farm boy, student, electric-
rical construction worker, and homebuilder.
But what’s most important to him is the time
spent working for God as a lay preacher and pas-
tor—for three denominations.
Beers grew up the youngest of five boys, with
one younger sister. At home he learned right
from wrong and what it meant to work hard.
His father taught him to work the farm and to
live a “good moral life.” The family attended
the Episcopal Methodist Church, although they did
n’t pray or read the Bible together at home.
However, it was at this church that a woman
taught Beers to pray before going to bed. From
the time he was seven years old, he’d kneel each
night and pray to God.
When he was 16 years old, his mother died fol-
lowing a five-year battle with cancer. It felt like
the end of the world had come for this close family.
“The night before her funeral, with her body in
the casket in the parlor of our home, my dad, my
four brothers, and I sat around the dining room
table talking all night about our need to get closer
to God,” remembers Beers. “That night of sorrow
and searching was a turning point for all of us.”
Soon after the funeral, Beers was invited by
friends to attend the Christian and Missionary
Alliance Church (CMA). “For me, this guiding by the
Holy Spirit has been continuous since my repen-
tance and conversion in August 1959,” he says.

THE GIFT OF SALVATION

It was at the CMA church that Beers first heard
about the gift of salvation and accepted Christ as
His Savior and Lord of his life. His new commit-
ment led him to Nyack College in New York. But
after a year, he left to train and work in the electro-
cal field. For eight years he worked in electrical con-
struction and as a lay preacher in the CMA church.
At 28 Beers knew that he wanted to serve God
full time. So he packed his belongings and left
Coalport, Pa., to attend Toccoa Falls College in
Georgia. After earning his degree, he interned for
two years with the CMA and was ordained into
ministry. For the next nine years Beers pastored in
two locations.
In 1983 Beers felt his life taking a new direction.
He resigned from the CMA and began a home-
construction business with his three sons. Yet the
call to share the gospel remained strong. By 1985
he was back in the pulpit, serving as pastor at the
Assemblies of God Church (AG) in Bessemer, Pa.
He held this position for the next 14 years. Then,
while still building and remodeling homes, Beers
continued to preach and serve as interim pastor
for several AG congregations in the area.

SPIRIT-FILLED TRUTH

One day his wife, Cynthia, spotted an insert
in the daily newspaper advertising Daniel and
Revelation Bible studies at the “Eat N Park”
restaurant in New Castle, Pa. “I asked her if
she’d like to attend, and she said, ‘Yes, it sounds
exciting,’” says Beers. While both were commit-
ted to God and had a personal relationship with
Christ, they learned many new things during
these sessions, which were sponsored by the
New Castle Seventh-day Adventist Church.
Classes began at the restaurant in October 2005
and later moved to the church.
“We were ecstatic about the wonderful truth
that was revealed to us from God’s Word by the
Holy Spirit,” says Beers. He also credits then
Pastor Shawn Shives and members Ray Bertus and
Mitch Terry with answering some crucial ques-
tions. Topics like the Sabbath, hell fire, and the
state of the dead had bothered him since his days
at college. “I just figured that my professors had
to know something that I didn’t,” reasoned Beers.
It wasn’t long before the couple was converted.
They were baptized into the New Castle church
the following December.
Beers knows that this final step was also part of
the Holy Spirit’s will for his life. “We were guided
into truth in a clear and powerful way when the
Sabbath and the historical fulfillment of scriptural
prophecies broke through as radiant light.”
—Ed Beers

We were guided into truth
in a clear and powerful way
when the Sabbath and the
historical fulfillment of scriptural
prophecies broke through
as radiant light.—Ed Beers

Always active in church, Beers (left) escorts Amy,
Christine, Calvin, and Colt to camp.

Baby Dedication: (left to right) daughter Mollie, wife
Cindy, daughter Stephanie, son-in-law Brandon with
baby Gage, and Ed Beers.

Ed and Cindy Beers became members of the New
Castle church (Pa.) after spending 25 years as a
pastoral couple in the Christian Missionary Alliance
and Assemblies of God Churches.
Profiles in Caring

Celebrating 100 Years of Service

In the gospels, Jesus uses declarative language to describe His mission and relationship to mankind:

1. I am the light of the world.
2. I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
3. I am the bread of life.
4. I am the good shepherd.
5. I am the resurrection and the life.

But all of these statements, there is one that is of special significance to those who serve in healthcare. Spoken on the night before His death, at the last meal that He would share with His disciples, Jesus told us our mission. He said, "I am among you as one who serves."

Jesus makes this declaration as He takes the food from the servant, gets down on His knees, and washes the feet of His disciples. He continues the preconceived notion the disciples have about the nature of the Messiah, and He makes clear His mission: Do you wish to see me? Do you want to feel my power, sense my presence, look in my glory? You will find six in the one who serves.

That statement contains the message that the DNA of Adventist HealthCare is the Servant Spirit that we seek in our ministry and that we endeavor to raise up in all our activities.

In 2007 we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of Washington Adventist Hospital—and our largest-serving institution. This celebration provides us with an opportunity to reflect anew, and to give thanks once again for the way that we have been blessed in the ministry of all of our institutions—those that are decades old, and those that are just being planned and brought into existence. In our celebration of the past, and in our planning for the future, our Lord has provided us with a meaningful task. It is to call our ministry, and our prayer—"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to all nations, and see this declaration fulfilled in the work of Adventist HealthCare."

William G. "Billy" Robinson President & CEO

Adventist HealthCare

Christ-Centered 12-Step Recovery Program for Addictions

Regeneration recognizes Jesus Christ as the Highest Power.

We believe that surrender to Christ can liberate us from the bondage of our addictions, compulsions, and obsessions.

Reaching Out To:
Active and inactive Recovery Groups
Anyone who is interested in receiving our newsletter
Contact us at our new website
www.adventistregenerationministries.org
or call Raye S. at 240-481-9117 or 301-592-1467

Regeneration is:
- A lifetime process of developing spiritual strength and stability in recovery. Our purpose is to build healthy relationships with God, ourselves, and our loved ones.

We welcome anyone:
- Who has a desire to stay clean and sober.
- Who has a hope to rise above the pain and turmoil engendered by the addiction of a loved one.
- Who wishes to break the bondage of compulsive behavior.

*For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline.* 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

Adventist Regeneration Ministries Service Board (North American Division)
12010 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Profiles in Caring

Adventist Heritage Tours

SPRING & FALL 2007

NEW ENGLAND OR GREAT LAKES TOUR

Tour includes more than a dozen sites.

Historic sites in Washington, D.C.; Boston; Portland, ME;
Lowlands near Niagara Falls; Orange; Littleton; Maine;

Shenandoah Valley Academy

(If It’s Better!)

- Spirituality: Our Number One Objective
- Dual Credit: Students can complete up to one year of college while at SVA
- Early Birds Program: Live at SVA during the week and learn on weekends.
- Student Fall: No student will be turned away because of finances.

Learn more about the new SVA
Meet the SVA Team and Principal Dale Townley

Shenandoah Valley Academy

30016 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Adventist Heritage Tours

SPRING & FALL 2007

NEW ENGLAND OR GREAT LAKES TOUR

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Historic sites in Washington, D.C.; Boston; Portland, ME;
Lowlands near Niagara Falls; Orange; Littleton; Maine;

M3 ADVENTURES

ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE • PROFILES IN CARING
A Century of Healing

In 1906; the city of Takoma Park cooperated by improving the water and sewage systems at a nominal cost. Modern for its time, when the 40-bed Washington Sanitarium opened on June 13, 1907, it promised favorable comments from visitors for its spacious grounds and gardens. In a friendly Christian atmosphere, patients at “The San” received a special diet combined with rest, exercise, and instruction on healthy living. Guests could work in the gardens, play croquet on the front lawn, or exercise in the well-equipped gymnasium. One of the sanatorium’s specialties was physical therapy. Fueled by the Adventist belief in the importance of the health message, the sanatorium evolved from serving “restcure” clients to helping more seriously ill patients. In 1910 the first class of nurses graduated, after three years of study and training. In 1918 the hospital joined the Colorado Union College, situated across the campus. Nursing and allied health students from many area colleges continue to receive their clinical experience at the hospital. A century ago patients would stay several weeks or even months under a literally sanitary regimen focusing on rest, diet, and exercise. Today nearly 18,000 patients are admitted annually. Each year more than 2,000 babies are delivered and more than 8,000 surgical procedures are performed. More than 65,000 patients use the Emergency Department each year.

The hospital’s name is well known in the community and through the years government officials and diplomats from various countries have been among its patients. However, the hospital has not lost sight of its responsibility towards the poor, providing more than $75 million in uncompensated care each year.

Washington Adventist Hospital is committed to leading-edge programs and services to support new specialties of surgery and medicine. Although the technology and equipment found in today’s hospital are infinitely more sophisticated than that of a hundred years ago, the commitment, skill, and compassion of its staff remains the hospital’s greatest asset. As Washington Adventist Hospital begins its second century, its dedicated employees continue to promote healthful living and healing of the body and soul.

The Power of a Dream

In the 1940s the residents of Hackettstown dreamed of having a hospital for their community in northwest New Jersey. Eventually a group of dedicated individuals formed the Hackettstown Hospital Committee. By 1956 they had pooled $22,500 out of their own pockets to purchase 13 acres of land in Hackettstown. Unfortunately, the project kept stalling due to changing state regulations, climbing costs, and other roadblocks. Although the obstacle seemed insurmountable, the dream didn’t die.

In 1967, a Seven-day Adventist pastor made an 18th-century visit to a Hackettstown banker. The conversation turned to a discussion of the worldwide need for hospitals. Generous gifts allowed the Adventists to begin the project, which continued until 1971. The hospital opened in 1980.

The Power of Kindness

In 1974, seeking to serve the rapidly growing community of upper Montgomery County, Maryland, the leadership at Washington Adventist Hospital embarked on the rigorous task of establishing a new hospital. Seven decades of experience in providing quality healthcare in Montgomery County eventually led to an invitation by civic and community leaders to establish Shady Grove Adventist Hospital.

Construction began in 1977 among the rolling pastures and hills, and Shady Grove Adventist Hospital opened two years later. Today the four-story, 209-bed acute-care hospital serves as a primary healthcare resource for a rapidly growing community that has increased dramatically since the hospital first opened its doors.

Shady Grove has added many valuable services to the area over the years. It houses the county’s first Pediatric Emergency Department and Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. In 2008, Shady Grove expanded its community-based healthcare services with the opening of three other facilities, including a free-standing Emergency Care facility in Germantown.

Shady Grove is also celebrating the completion of the first phase of a four-year, $99 million expansion and renovation project that will add a new lobby, fourth story between two new surgery departments, and 134 private beds.

The matron philosophy at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital incorporates what is called “the ministry of kindness.” This begins with hospital employees who share the responsibility of creating an environment encompassing an atmosphere of love and kindness. Patients and their families are treated as guests of the hospital, and employees strive to understand patients’ physical, emotional, and spiritual needs, and impart supportive love.

Shady Grove is also committed to patient-centered care that is nurturing and personalized. Patients are given choices and encouraged to actively participate in their healthcare. Each aspect of a patient’s care and healing is taken into account.

As upper Montgomery County continues to grow, so will Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, and so will its ministry of kindness.
During the holiday season, the pastors, entire membership, and Women’s Ministries leaders of Baltimore’s Berea Temple church entered into partnerships with the Allegheny East Conference (AEC), Baltimore Junior Academy, Crossroads School, Prison Fellowship, the Maryland House of Corrections for Women (MCI-W), and the National Women’s Prison Project (NWPP) to bring joy to more than 1,300 children of prisoners. Fostering such partnerships has enabled the church to reach more people since Prison Fellowship and Prison Ministry began this journey three years ago.

The first holiday project was the annual Angel Tree Christmas program held at Berea Temple. This project now gives joy to 100 children, with gifts given to them in their parents’ name(s). Co-pastor Jimmy Ferguson was assisted by Berea Temple’s young people in distributing the gifts after a fantastic play “The Fumbly Bumbly Angels,” presented by students of Crossroads School in Ellicott City, Md.

Another program was Holiday Cheer at the NWPP in Baltimore. The company’s director, Alfreda Dawkins—an ex-offender—and a group of volunteers welcomed some 500 children and their newly released parents and/or caretakers for a Christian celebration. Each child chose a gift from the Winter Wonderland and then received personal gifts, again given in their parents’ name(s).

On the following day, Dawkins returned to the MCI-W in Jessup, Md.—for the first time since serving 10 years there—to give joy to 700 more children. Joining her was Edith Tucker, AEC Prison Ministry Federation president and Berea Temple member. After Tucker solicited help from area churches, community groups, and individual contributors, a plethora of toys, clothing, gift cards, food, and lots of love were given.—Edith Tucker

Children of Prisoners Enjoy Holiday Cheer

AWC President Gives Financial Seminar

Allegheny West Conference (AWC) president James L. Lewis (pictured) recently gave a three-day financial seminar for the Sharon church in Baltimore. Lewis empowered members to get out of debt and take back control of their finances. He touched on topics concerning financial freedom (relief from overdue bills and financial bondage), living beyond our means, and materialism—the tendency to be more concerned with material rather than spiritual things.

Lewis has more than 26 years of denominational experience, and is a former pastor of the Sharon church. He also had a career as a treasurer before his denominational work.—Marcia Omondi

Duport Park Elects New Elders

Pastor E. Dean Peeler, DMin, of the Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C., recently ordained five new elders in his congregation. Of those five, the 100-year-old church is celebrating its first elected female head elder, Sinie Evans (pictured). A native of Newport News, Va., Evans retired from secondary school administration. She also served as chair for the Dupont Park Adventist School Board.—Jerri McLean

Share Your News • Send your most recent church news and photos to rbooker@myalleghenyeast.com, and copy bmichaels@columbiaunion.net.
The annual Allegheny West Conference (AWC) “Preachout” was held recently at the Glenville church in Cleveland. The day was a celebration of preaching, beginning with an early morning message from Pastor Perry Jennings of the Charleston/Huntington (W.Va.) district. The 10 a.m. speaker was Pastor Jeffrey Baskins from the Pittsburgh/Uniontown (Pa.) district. The noon speaker was Pastor Joseph Grider (pictured) from Houston, Texas, and Pastor Jerome Hurst from the Hilltop church in Columbus closed the day. The event attracted approximately 900 attendees from across the conference.

Several Glenville members and groups, including Christina Fowler (pictured), Marquita Gibson, Lights of Love, and Women of Worship, provided special music. The David Thomas Singers, an interdenominational group from Cleveland, provided an afternoon concert.

**Conference Retirees Acknowledged**

The conference recently celebrated three of its fellow team members for their years of service. The former co-workers, family members, and guests shared in a time of appreciation as Pastor Lawrence Shepherd, retired pastor of the Southside church in Columbus and former conference Family Life, Children’s Ministries, and Singles Ministries director; Robbye Lewis, retired teacher from Columbus Adventist Academy; and Seymour Cole, retired pastor of the Bethel church in Stauton (Va.), marked time with their retirement.

The multipurpose building at the conference campgrounds was transformed into a beautiful banquet hall to host the festivities. Music created an atmosphere of celebration, including a rousing trumpet solo by Pastor William McPherson of the Rock of Faith church in Pittsburgh.

Park Street Outreach Center Feeds Community

“By looking at the latest hunger study, the use of local food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters continues to grow with an estimated 3,000 men, women, and children receiving help each week,” reported The Chronicle newspaper in Elyria, Ohio, recently. The Park Street Community Outreach Center, located in Oberlin, Ohio, is one of the local food pantries that are filling this great need in Lorain County. Besides a monthly food pantry, bread and pastries are available weekly, and there is a clothing give-away once a month.

The center is operated under the direction of Willie Mae Johnson (pictured), a Park Street church member. She, along with other church members, passed out more than 110 Thanksgiving boxes from their food pantry for the holidays. It is their prayer that many will come to know Christ through these ministries.

Johnson was honored recently at the Oberlin Rotary Club annual dinner. She was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow for her service to the community, partly through the food pantry, which she started more than a year ago.—Angèle Peterson
Bethel Sponsors Community Health, Fun Fair

The Bethel church in Cleveland recently sponsored a large community health and fun fair. This event was a festival of Christian love and joy. Bethel members got acquainted and socialized with community neighbors and other visitors.

The fair activities included free health screenings for blood pressure and diabetes, free food, and prize drawings. The young adults enjoyed playing basketball, while the children were excited over the dunking machine and balloon bounce. Several singing groups entertained the crowd with live Christian music.

The Pathfinder groups from Bethel and nearby Glennie and Temple of Praise churches made their debut. The Pathfinders marched down Wade Park Avenue while being escorted by the city’s police patrolmen. It was very moving to see the young folk marching through the community as a witness to others.—Beverly Robinson

Smyrna Church Celebrates 45th Anniversary

In September 1960, evangelist George R. Rainey pitched a tent on the fertile ground of Lynchburg, Va. From his effort 77 people accepted the third angel’s message and were baptized. Three other baptisms followed at the Roanoke (Va.) church—a total of 125 people outwardly proclaiming the soon coming of our Lord.

The charter members met in the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church every Sabbath until the construction of the current Smyrna Seventh-day Adventist Church was approved in September 1961. D.J. Williams was the congregation’s first pastor.

Eighteen pastors later, Smyrna recently celebrated its 45th anniversary. The weeklong celebration started with the congregation’s first pastor. Conference administrators all shared tributes and acknowledgements.—Oscar Sherrod, director of Sabbath School, Children’s Ministries, and Religious Liberty for the South Atlantic Conference.

During the morning worship service, Yvonne Tucker, anniversary chair, welcomed all guests, and two graduates of Smyrna’s Discover Bible School received their diplomas (as pictured). A beautiful plaque that honored all former and current pastors of Smyrna was unveiled and the church’s cornerstone dedicated. A fellowship dinner was served afterward.

The celebration culminated with a black-tie gala held at a local hotel, with Pastor Williams as guest speaker. Conference administrators all shared tributes and acknowledgements.—Pastor D.R. Milton

Chesapeake Youth Get “Locked In”

Imagine being “locked” into a confined area, overnight, with more than 330 energetic young people. Pizza boxes are stacked to the ceiling, and few, if any, of the youth will sleep. This scene describes the conference-wide, Youth Lock-In held recently, an annual event sponsored by the youth Department.

Youth and Pathfinder groups from every area of the conference convened upon a gymnasium and health club in Columbia, Md. From 8 p.m. Saturday night until 8 a.m. Sunday morning, the young people swam in the pool, scaled the climbing wall, played various sports, and enjoyed fellowshipping together. Most importantly, their faith was built up by devotional talks given by Keith Acker, youth pastor of the West Wilmington (Del.) church, and Chelsey Jourdian (pictured), Bible worker coordinator for the General Youth Conference.

Laughter is a Gift

In the Bible I find two types of laughter. The first is the cynical laughter of disbelief, like when Sarah laughed at God’s promise of her bearing a son in her old age (Gen. 18), or when the crowd laughed at Jesus’ suggestion that the daughter of Jairus was not dead but asleep (Mark 5). The second type is the laughter that comes from reverence. It comes as a gift, when the grin is occasioned by that unexpected grace of God. Sarah learned to laugh that way also (Gen. 21:5).

There never seems to be a shortage of the first type of laughter, especially in church circles. We’ve seen it all. We seldom expect God to bring a fresh intrusion of His power and grace into a particular situation. But we must ask, as God did of Abraham and Sarah, “Is anything too hard for the Lord?” (Gen. 18:14). Should we not expect new blessings? Should not our faith be like standing on our tiptoes looking to see what God is going to do next? Nothing is too difficult for the Lord! I need to live more expectantly, and I suspect many of you do as well.

I like to laugh, and nothing makes me laugh more than when God intrudes his grace into a seemingly impossible situation. I’ve witnessed it many times. I expect I’ll see it again soon. And I expect it will make me laugh with delight!

Review and Herald Hosts Authors Day

Recently more than 115 students from the conference’s Crest Lane, Friendship, Rocky Knoll, Susquehanna, Crossroads, and Gettysburg elementary schools came together for Authors Day at the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md. Students got to meet some of their favorite authors, purchase books, and retrieve autographs. Students also received instruction on how to write stories and draw cartoons, and got to use their imaginations in creating characters for possible stories. One of the highlights was a tour of the printing press, and a step-by-step explanation of the process of book making.—Beth Banks

Obituaries

Rob Vandeman
President

Jerry D. Thomas, author of the Detective Zack series, and communication director for the Southwestern Union, autographs his books.
Middletown Valley Church Breaks Ground

More than 120 church members, friends, and special guests recently gathered to celebrate the official groundbreaking ceremony for the new sanctuary (phase II) of the Middletown Valley church, located in Jefferson, Md. Among the special guests were Roscoe Bartlett, PhD, a U.S. Congressman; Joseph Bartlett and Paul Stull from the House of Delegates; Columbia Union executives including president Dave Weigley; and conference leaders including president Robert Vandeman.

The speakers challenged the congregation to dedicate the site for the glory of God. Attendees’ hearts were warmed by the challenges given, and by the beautiful instrumental music presented by staff of the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md. There was also a special feature by Pathfinder drama club of the Willow Brook church in Boonsboro, Md. God’s Spirit was felt as the soil was turned over by those who held the 12 gold shovels.

Middletown Valley church was founded by action of the Frederick (Md.) church in 1989. The members met in the Methodist church in Middletown for one month starting in January 1990, then moved to the Christ Reformed Church. The church body moved into their new church (phase I) on Christmas Day of 1999. On Sabbath, December 24, 2005, the committed members placed enough donations on their Christmas tree to make it possible to pay off the balance of the mortgage on phase I.

The church hopes to start construction—weather permitting—this month, and finish the project by late summer.—Pastor K. Dick Thomas

Zervos Appointed CUC’s Alumni Endowment Chair

Bryan Zervos (pictured), director of development for CUC’s Office of Advancement, was recently appointed to dualy serve as chair of the Alumni Endowment Committee by CUC’s Board of Trustees. In his role as chair, Zervos will guide the committee on investment decisions and determine how college assets are allocated. “I’m very lucky to have the support that I do,” said Zervos of his new position. “Along with the board’s help, I want to maintain a balanced portfolio that produces, in perpetuity, scholarships for students.”

He hopes to keep the Alumni Endowment Committee small, nimble, and representative of CUC’s constituents. “This is not going to be a passive group,” said Zervos. “It’s one thing to manage $4 million, it’s another to think about the $15 to $20 million from future sales of assets. It’s exciting to consider the possibilities.”

Zervos succeeds former chair H. Dean Boland, Esq., managing partner of Boland and Brush, LLC. As director of development, Zervos oversees relations with alumni and friends, gift planning and trust services, the annual fund, and other research.—PR Staff

Blythedale Celebrates 85 Years of Christian Education

About 200 people recently gathered at the Blythedale church in Perryville, Md., to share memories and celebrate the 85th anniversary of the Susquehanna Adventist School (SAS, formerly known as the Blythedale Church School and then Blythedale Junior Academy). Featured guests included Hamlet Canosa, Ed.D, union vice president for education, and Carole Smith, conference superintendent of schools.

The school opened its doors in 1921 with 11 students, with Ruth (Douglas) Ropka as the first teacher for grades 1 through 8. The school met in a designated

Many of Susquehanna Adventist School’s alumni and teachers gathered to celebrate the school’s 85th anniversary.

part of the church until a facility was purchased nearby with two large rooms. The early years of the school presented hard times, necessitating dedicated parents and church members to work together and make extraordinary sacrifices to keep all the children in the school. Parents sometimes provided rooms in their homes to

teachers and out-of-state students. Some donated produce or wood from their farms while others donated their time to cut the wood to help with tuition costs. Everyone did what they could.

The school with such humble beginnings continued to grow over the next two decades, necessitating a church expansion program. In 1946 the school moved into their current facility, built next to the Blythedale church. The school reached a high enrollment of 80 in those years, and employed a staff of three teachers.

Through the years more than 1,700 students have attended SAS under the tutelage of more than 50 dedicated, Christian teachers. Students have gone on to become missionaries, health workers, and educators, but, most importantly, they have gone on to become dedicated Christians.—David Mau

Edited by Frank Bondurant

New Counseling Certificate for Adult Program

The School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS) at Columbia Union College (CUC) recently approved a new certificate program in Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Counseling. “This new program is supported by the Social Work and Psychology departments,” said Gina Brown, PhD, dean of the SGPS. “It is part of an expanded focus to bring more options for students pursuing professional careers.”

According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, nearly 17.6 million adult Americans abuse alcohol or are alcoholic. Several million more adults engage in risky drinking that could lead to alcohol problems. CUC’s Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Counseling certificate program is designed to assist professionals in meeting the course requirements for certification by the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (commonly known as the CPC Board) as a certified associate counselor (bachelor’s level) or certified supervising counselor (associate’s level).

“Excitement is building with those who hear about the program,” said John Gavin, MSW, chair of the Department of Social Work. Classes include “Issues in Alcohol and Drug Counseling,” “Treatment of Substance Abuse,” “Pharmacology of Psychoactive Drugs,” “Development and Abnormal Psychology,” as well as “Individual, Group, and Family Counseling.”

Admission to the program requires an associate or bachelor’s degree from an accredited educational institution approved by the CPC Board—or equivalent in another state—or an associate’s degree in a health or human services counseling field that includes, but is not limited to, social work, psychology, nursing, or clinical lab science. Registration is ongoing and classes are offered on a continuous basis. Guidance will be provided in securing supervisory clinical experience and for taking the required examination developed by the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium/Alcohol and Other Drug Use.

“I am excited about the opportunity to serve the community with this new program and look forward to working with applicants,” said Rahneeka Hazelton, an SGPS enrollment counselor and coordinator for the new counseling degree.

The SGPS is targeted at working adults and offers online courses, an MBA program, and a degree completion program. For more information and admission requirements, contact the SGPS at (877) 2-GO-BACK, or sgps@cuc.edu.—Marketing and Communications Staff

SGPS counselor Rahneeka Hazelton (left) counsels a student.

Through the years more than 1,700 students have attended SAS under the tutelage of more than 50 dedicated, Christian teachers. Students have gone on to become missionaries, health workers, and educators, but, most importantly, they have gone on to become dedicated Christians.—David Mau

Current SAS students performed special music for the celebration.

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Editor, Frank Bondurant
Let Us Seek God’s Will

Do you ever face a situation and just don’t know the right answer? Sometimes it’s a small issue with little repercussion, even if you don’t make the best decision. Other times your decision will have long-lasting consequences that affect many people. It can be a bit overwhelming. Proverbs 3:5,6 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight” (NIV). Praise God for that promise, because left to our own human wisdom we would all be in trouble!

Ellen White also gives us counsel in Testimonies to the Church, page 512, on how to discover God’s will. She says there are three specific ways to know God’s will: through the Holy Scriptures, through providential workings, and through the appeals of the Holy Spirit. I am a firm believer that God will lead us to make the right decisions; however, we must commit ourselves to sincerely, diligently, and willingly seek out His will.

I would like to challenge everyone to prayerfully seek out God’s will for our every decision. Period. Whether big or small, or whether it affects only us or many others. Whatever the circumstance, let us lean not on our own understanding but seek His will.

Student Draws National Attention to Sierra Leone Issue

Juniior nursing major Abibatu Dainkeh pictured) was recently interviewed on the PBS program The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer. As a refugee, Dainkeh discussed her experiences growing up in war-torn Sierra Leone.

National attention recently centered on the small African country with the release of the movie Blood Diamond, which depicts the civil war and chaos caused by the brutal mining and sale of diamonds in the country during the 1990s.

“Sierra Leone seems to be on the other side of the world, so it helps to educate people on the issues,” said Anne Davenport, media producer for the PBS program. She hoped Dainkeh’s face would “drive home an issue” for the show’s 2.5 million viewers. Dainkeh belongs to the group Youth for Sierra Leone Improvement (www.youthforsieraleone.com), which seeks to educate the public about Sierra Leone.—PR Staff

CUC nursing students practice procedures during class time.

Community Grant Adds to Nursing Education

Advanced students in the Edyth T. James Department of Nursing spend part of their curriculum caring for older adults, thanks to funds from the Community Development Block Grant awarded by the City of Takoma Park’s City Council.

This outside program helps develop CUC’s commitment to the community and draws positive reactions from the residents. “They are so enthusiastic about the program because they are helping the students to learn. It is a valuable relationship for both,” said assistant professor Carolyn Braudaway.

She adds, “It helps them remember that they weren’t always 82.”

Senior and junior nursing students spend at least one day a week at Victory Towers, an independent living facility for seniors age 62 and older. “It changes the students’ perception of the elderly,” said Braudaway. “They are able to see elderly living independently in the community and living at an optimal level of wellness.” Students apply what they’ve learned from other nursing courses and discuss proper medication use and how to navigate the healthcare system with residents. In the spring, students conduct group sessions and give seminars on anxiety, grief, and depression. “The students make a contribution to the seniors’ wellness with their health teaching and group sessions,” said Braudaway. Students also provide health services such as blood pressure checks, weight assessments, and nutritional counseling.

“At first I went because it was required,” said junior nursing major Genet Mesele. “But now I wouldn’t mind going there and just talking with the residents.”

Mesele speaks Amharic with an older resident from Ethiopia and, through her friendship, the woman now feels comfortable attending the sessions and getting her blood pressure checked.

Thanks to the community grant, the funds have contributed to the education of more than 70 nursing graduates since it was first received in 2004.

CALENDAR

February
1 Black History Month Begins
7 Music Festival
10 Valentine’s Banquet
19 President’s Day
25 CUC Spring Open House
26-28 Midterm Exams
March
1-11 Spring Break
12 Classes Resume
18 Mother/Daughter Luncheon
Halcyon Hall
30-Apr. 1 College Days

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HVA students welcome guests to the Frederick church Christmas program with video music.

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NEW

Students Bestow Holiday Blessings

Among many holiday events, Highland View Academy (HVA) students and faculty recently gathered at the Mt. Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md., for a holiday party. The festive event was planned and hosted by the Student Association. The camp lodge was decorated beautifully, and students wearing holiday colors, Santa hats, and reindeer headgear added to the decor. Amidst games, songs, skits, and food, holiday greetings and presents were exchanged.

Christmas programs featuring the HVA choir and orchestra, the gospel choir, and the Covenant drama team blessed hundreds of people in the Hagerstown and surrounding communities. One such program was a presentation of the music and dance performances performed for the Highland View church in Hagerstown. The program consisted of many delightful musical selections, and the drama members brought the Christmas story to life. One Sabbath the HVA music students joined the Frederick (Md.) church in their annual Carols by Candlelight program. This program also featured the Frederick church choir, the children’s choir, and many other talented adult performers.

HVA students also celebrated the Christmas season by sharing with others. Once again, students participated in the Operation Christmas Child program, an organization that helps provide Christmas gifts to children in need. Approximately 30 boxes full of student-purchased toys, school supplies, and candy were packed for delivery.

HVA neighbors also received a Christmas “present” from the school. Students and faculty bundled up and raked, piled, burned, and disposed of leaves at six homes in the neighborhood.

New Students Welcomed

Seven new students recently joined the HVA campus for second semester. These students include two freshmen, Tae II (Terry) Jang and Jaesung Lee; three sophomores, Daniel Goldberg, Boram Lee, and Lexi Park; and two juniors, Robby Parsons and Ryan Young.

We welcome them all to our campus and look forward to getting to know each one better!
Chesapeake Pastors Worship With Students

Praise songs and prayer fill the HVA library each weekday as students and faculty gather midmorning for Prayer and Praise. This special time was added a few years ago to give the entire school a chance to worship together each day, in addition to the daily worship with their teachers in the classroom.

Recently area pastors were asked to lead out during Wednesday’s worship time. To date Pastor Tom Boggsess of the Martinsburg (W.Va.) church; pastors Rick Renners and Josué Sanchez of the Hagerstown (Md.) church; Pastor Vladimir Corea of the Highland View church in Hagerstown, Md.; and Pastor Frank Zollman of the Williamsport (Md.) church have given worship thoughts. Students and faculty alike have been blessed by the messages.

Week of Prayer Yields Baptismal Candidates

Anthony Hackett, senior theology major at Columbia Union College (CUC) in Takoma Park, Md., recently shared his amazing personal testimony with HVA students during the fall week of prayer. Armed with a solid Biblical perspective, Hackett brought stories and lessons of the Bible alive in a dynamic, relevant manner to the teens through drama and humor.

Hackett’s personal testimony included many difficult life circumstances that were beyond his control. He shared how God brought him through those trying situations and eventually led him to CUC and the field of ministry. As Hackett shared his own struggles with life and how God provided answers, students became more and more inspired by God’s power to shape and form our lives if we let Him have control.

Academy Days Draws Prospective Students

HVA students and faculty recently welcomed 85 visiting seventh- through 10th-graders to Academy Days. This special event is designed to give prospective students the opportunity to catch a glimpse of what HVA has to offer. In going on a self-guided, team-learning course offering, students learned about Campus Ministries programs, competed for scholarships, and got to meet lots of new friends. Scholarship winners included Alicia Graham and Addii Hudsons from Atholton Adventist School in Columbia, Md.; Peter Koerting from Wilmington Jr. Academy in Delaware; Danielle Meadows from Rocky Knoll Adventist School in Martinsburg, W.Va.; and home-schooler Jason Shokey from Hagerstown, Md.

Benjie Masson, HVA recruiter and Campus Ministries co-director, emphasized the advantages of an Adventist education, and challenged visitors to prayerfully seek God’s leading as they plan for their high school education.

The visiting students were friendly, enthusiastic, and a lot of fun to interact with. I’m looking forward to getting to know them better when they become students at HVA,” said Jennifer Payne, English teacher.

Why Health Reform?

I used myself as an experiment 24 years ago. I had someone draw my blood. For the first drawing, I had fasted. Immediately afterwards I ate a couple pints of ice cream. Then my blood was drawn every half hour and spun down to separate the serum. I made a slide of the results. It took some manual dexterity to do this. Two things surprised me: as my serum became cloudier, my dexterity was lessened, and my thinking and feelings became cloudier. I became more carefree, lax, and unprofessional.

We try to do many things our way, be it eating, drinking, not exercising, etc. Then we look to man’s concoctions, whether scientific or mystical. When we go against what God is telling us in any aspect of our lives, we are in rebellion against God and, in turn, life itself. Health reform—God’s simple methods—which brings us into submission and dependence upon our Creator, is designed to reconcile us to God. Anything that takes our eyes and hearts away from Jesus, and total dependence upon Him, works against us and is deformative in its tendencies.

“The law of Ten Commandments has been lightly regarded by man; yet the Lord will not come to punish the transgressors of that law without first sending them a message of warning. Men and women cannot violate natural law by indulging depraved appetites and lustful passions, without violating the law of God. Therefore He has permitted the light of health reform to shine upon us, that we may realize the sinfulness of breaking the laws which He has established in our very being” (Counsels on Health, p. 20).

“Much of the prejudice that prevents the truth of the third angel’s message from reaching the hearts of the people, might be removed if more attention were given to health reform. When people become interested in this subject, the way is often prepared for the entrance of other truths…” (Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene, p. 121).

Brothers and sisters, let us keep our eyes on Jesus and His plan for our health, and whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, let us do it “all to the glory of God” (1 Cor. 10:31).

Pastoral Couple Transferred

Daniel Monikone, Health Ministries director for the conference, recently transferred his pastoral leadership to the Parkersburg and Toll Gate district. His wife, Valerie, also now works part-time at the conference as an office assistant. Among her duties, she will work on the SonRise publications, editor of the Shepherds newsletter directed toward pastors’ wives.

Monikone spent his first six years of ministry graduating from Pacific Union College (Calif.), working in various nursing and health administrative positions. His last six years of nursing were spent in the wellness field. He also spent over six years in literature evangelism work.

In September 2000 the Monikones (pictured) accepted the call to pastor the conference’s Logan/Williamson district. At the beginning of 2001, he added to his pastoral work the role of Health Ministries director for the conference.

During the Monikone’s six years in the Logan/Williamson district, the Lord blessed them with two active congregations, and among other things, opened the way for two thriving thrift stores and three food pantries to be established.

“My vision for my new district is to help people go to where they are to go where God wants them to be, spiritually, mentally, and physically,” stated Monikone.
Marlinton Fellowship Opens

The Marlinton (W.Va.) Adventist Fellowship recently met for its first worship service, with 12 in attendance. This was the fulfillment of a dream for Pastor R.L. “Doc” Michael to establish a church in his hometown. In October 2006 Pastor Michael conducted a Revelation seminar at the public library to lay the groundwork for establishing the new church. When the library coordinator refused to let him continue meeting there, Marlinton’s mayor, Dotty kellison—who did not miss any of the first 10 meetings—graciously allowed him to continue presenting the Adventist doctrines in the conference room of the municipal building free of charge.

Members of the Summersville, Franklin, and Lewisburg churches helped to sponsor the meetings. Elders from the Summersville church have pledged support to ensure that the new church has reliable speakers and financial help until they can function independently.

Adventists living in the county are very excited to have their own meeting place. They previously had to cross several mountains each Sabbath to worship with other believers.—Yvonne Michael

Valley View School Library Opens

At the snip of scissors, the ribbon across the door fell away, and the library at Valley View Adventist School in Bluefield, W.Va., was officially opened. The man wielding the scissors was Daniel Kereth, guest speaker at the local Veterans Day celebration. Seventy years before, he had been incarcerated briefly in one of the infamous concentration camps in Germany. Himself a veteran and a librarian—most recently for the archives at the nearby Concord College—he happily accepted the honor of opening the library.

Over the past two years, the library has taken shape in two permanently mounted adjacent trailer homes with a connecting door. A new facility, completed in time for the opening, is the Singer Heritage Room. This room houses a fascinating collection of items, most of them gifts from Richard Singer of Falling Waters, W.Va., a long-time employee at the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md. The holdings of this room include:

- 249 books on church history and related subjects, the earliest from 1841
- 1,416 copies of Present Truth, dating from 1919
- 205 copies of Youth’s Instructor, dating from 1914
- 1,986 copies of the Adventist Review and Sabbath Herald from 1902
- 39 copies of the Sabbath School Worker from 1925

A scrapbook contains promotional materials for evangelistic campaigns held during World War II, in venues as diverse as the American Legion Hall and the War Memorial Auditorium. Very precious is a fabric chart from 1911, showing the various images and beasts related to prophecy.

Total current holdings of the library exceed 6,700 books. The Spirit of Prophecy holdings alone account for 300 books. More on Adventist history, Bible and history classes meet in the library, with ready access to the research facilities, as well as church members and friends from the Valley View community. The work done by Valley View teacher Ken Cronje as librarian, and by Rosalie Stockel as cataloguer, is much appreciated. For more information, call (304) 325-8679.—Alice Cronje

Seniors Define Spirituality

For the past two years, I have had the pleasure of teaching personal finance to our seniors. Teaching this class gives me an opportunity to hear firsthand from the students and learn about their experiences at the academy.

Every day teachers open class with a devotional thought. I started one day like any other, but it ended with a renewal of purpose. During the devotion I asked the students, “What, in your minds, makes a staff spiritual?” Since I had already thought about the question, I began this discussion having my own preconceived ideas of their responses. I anticipated them to speak about biblical knowledge, prayer life, or involvement in spiritual things. To my surprise, without exception, they referenced the willingness of staff to be available to “just be there.” They mentioned the staff’s desire to just spend time with them and to be willing to listen. The one thing that spoke directly to me, however, was that they felt things, at times, were too hectic for those expectations of “spirituality” to be expressed.

As a staff we have looked again for the guidance of Ellen White in the book Education to affirm our purpose as educators. On page 16 she states that, “Love, the basis of creation and of redemption, is the basis of true education.” While I appreciate and understand the importance of biblical knowledge, prayer, and involvement in spiritual things for spiritual growth, we must remember that “the greatest of these is love.” As adults, regardless of our role in the life of a young person, we must remember that they see spirituality long before they hear it.

Video Editing Class Pursues Outreach

The video editing class at Mt. Vernon Academy (MVA) has taken a new stance on film editing. Instead of just learning the basics of digital film editing and creating unsubstantial film sequences, the students have focused on a wider range of possibilities. The usual documentaries and amateur drama have been replaced with well-planned, focused outreach. To accomplish this goal, the students decided to produce and shoot a video on Christian values. Upon completion of this video, they plan to submit it to a Christian film festival.

The theme of this film focuses on the decisions that people, in general, make in everyday life. The film Moment vs. Eternity depicts a person that does not have a relationship with God and is living entirely for the moment. After having a tragic accident, the main character realizes that God has given him a second chance with life and depicts how he chooses to get to know God as his Creator and Savior.

One goal of the students is to make a film that will impact viewers so much that it causes them to step back and reevaluate their own lives. They want viewers to recognize whether they are living for the moment or eternity. The students are also benefiting from this project, as they focus on the activities they participate in daily, and as they apply the learned principles to their own lives.—Aaron Myers and Video Editing Students
How Strong is Your Petro?

Following graduation from Oakwood College (Ala.), Shaun Dixon, MVA fitness and outreach director, moved back to his birthplace in Baton Rouge, La., after 17 years away. While driving around, it was obvious things had changed. The neighborhood where his family had lived for over 50 years was now an area of heavy drug activity.

“My college friends and I would often talk about these types of neighborhoods and how we could change them once we graduated,” he explained. “Now was my chance.” After asking God about his purpose in this fall-en city, he says God’s answer was simple: “Buy back the city. It was blighted property/unconsciously, somewhere along the line, you lost sight of the fact that God was the Almighty Helper.” Moses did. But God turned off the water before Moses had secured his new place of residency, before Moses had moved out.

2006 and Dixon’s dream was being fulfilled.

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, the Ninth Ward, and Feliciana Street where the documentary and neighborhood re-creation were being implemented. Residents and the production crew were scattered, equipment destroyed, tapes lost, and Dixon relocated to MVA to accept his current position. “After all the upheaval, I wondered about the future of our movie: Matthew 7:24-27,” Dixon explained. He added, “Petro is a biblical term for ‘rock’ or ‘foundation.’ Originally I used this title since we planned to rebuild houses beginning with the foundation. If New Orleans is to be rebuilt, or if people plan to rebuild their lives in new cities, they must start with their foundation.”

Dixon and his assistants hope that viewers will look at their life and ask, “What’s the most important thing in my life, what is my foundation?”

Blinded by Unbelief

Have you ever been plagued by the same problem over and over—the same, the same—fore so long that unconsciously, somewhere along the line, you lost sight of the fact that God was the Almighty Helper? Moses did. We are all accustomed to moving; and we don’t pack up and move out until an abode of some kind has been secured and awaited us. And the last thing on our to-do list is to have the water turned off. No faith really needed there—that’s walking by sight.

But God turned off the water before Moses had secured his new place of residency, before Moses had moved out. Add to that a family who had become masterful at playing the blame game, and Moses suddenly found himself demonstrating a distrust of God. Weary, his human weakness blocked his view of God’s loving care. “The cessation of the miraculous flow of water should therefore have been a cause of rejoicing, a token that the wilderness wandering was ended. Had they not been blinded by their unbelief, they would have understood this.” (Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 414). Irritation, impatience, and frustration result from what seems like unbearable problems. It is then that we need to remember, “God has made ample provision for his people; and if they rely upon His strength, they will never become the sport of circumstances” (205 p. 426). We need never be blinded by unbelief.

Pastoral Family Joins Spanish Church District

Noel Gonzales accepted a call to join the conference as pastor of the Hamilton, Roadway, and Plainfield Spanish churches. Gonzales, a native of Cuba, was born into the pastoral ministry. His father was an Adventist pastor for 30 years. Gonzales began his own pastoral ministry at the age of 19, when he worked for several years in various districts in Cuba. Gonzales now came to the United States to work for the Missouri Conference, where a new group was born under his leadership.

Atlantic County Celebrates Women’s Day Tea

The Atlantic County church in Northfield recently celebrated their annual Women’s Day Tea. Visitors came from several conferences to fellowship and share ideas. Many of the women started an email prayer chain to continue the blessings of praying together.—Avis Jackson

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Pastor Osvaldo Utz Retires

Pastor Osvaldo and Norma Utz (pictured) of the Jersey City, Union City, and Guttenberg Spanish churches recently retired. The couple is now enjoying their new retired life in Tennessee. Pastor Utz is a native of Argentina. He graduated from River Plate College and finished the nursing course at River Plate Sanitarium and Hospital. Before coming to North America he worked in the Lake Titicaca Mission as a missionary for five years, and as a pastor in Ecuador and Argentina. Upon moving to the United States, he worked at Loma Linda Medical Center (Calif.), and later as a pastor at the Southern New England Conference where he worked for 21 years. The last seven years have been with this conference. We wish the Utzes the blessings of the Lord.

New Hope Group Becomes Company

The New Hope group, a new Korean congregation located in Fair Lawn, was recently promoted to company status. The new pastor, Sang Ki Ahn (pictured), started this group with enthusiasm, and there are now several new members. This is the third Korean congregation in New Jersey. During the special promotional Sabbath service held recently, attendees enjoyed an inspiring sermon from conference president LeRoy Finck. In the afternoon conference officers José Cortés, executive secretary, and James Greene, treasurer, joined the celebration. Cortés explained the process of promotion, and Greene gave the prayer of dedication. Fifty people signed the membership book that day. The service was enhanced by a performance from the church choir (pictured), and a delicious Korean meal served afterwards.

Health Ministries Director Appointed

Chris VanDenburgh, nurse coordinator for NW spiritual care at the Kettering Adventist HealthCare, has been dually appointed the Health Ministries director for the Ohio Conference. VanDenburgh has been involved in parish nursing and community health education for a number of years. “Chris brings to this role a broad awareness of health education issues, experience, and passion, and our constituency will be well served by her leadership,” stated president Raj Attkin.

The objectives of the Health Ministries effort in Ohio will be to encourage and educate Seventh-day Adventists and others to adopt and maintain a lifestyle that will foster the highest possible level of physical and emotional health. It will also serve to assist churches in developing credible, research-based health and lifestyle ministries for themselves and their communities.

VanDenburgh is excited about this new ministry and states: “I would like to see a health ministry emphasis in every church in our conference and help members develop in body, mind, and spirit.”

Three Mission Churches Established

The Ohio Conference has recognized and endorsed three new congregations as “mission” churches. Each of these churches was formed around a clear mission and has, since its inception, demonstrated a commitment to achieving their stated mission. A specific set of criteria and a detailed on-site review by the conference’s Church Life Committee are a part of the process by which a group qualifies for “mission church” status.

Peebles Mission Church: This group was developed under the leadership of Phil and Glad Lewis (pictured) who, in 1998, began a personal Bible study ministry in the small rural community in Southwest Ohio. In December 2005 the Hillsboro church purchased a building in Peebles to house the growing congregation. Lewis continues to provide lay leadership to this growing church.

Cleveland Ghanaian Mission Church: As the third Ghanaian Adventist congregation in Ohio, the Cleveland Ghanaian Mission Church serves a growing Ghanaian and African population in Ohio. They started meeting in homes in January 2008, and by November, this growing congregation started meeting in the Lakewood church gymnasium. This church is under the lay leadership of William Koomzon. The Columbus Ghanaian church will serve as their mother church.

Hamilton Spanish Mission Church: The birth story of the Hamilton Spanish congregation includes its start at the Cincinnati Village church in Mason and then the Cincinnati Spanish company. Since getting established in Hamilton in June 2004, the group has grown to an average attendance of 85. This congregation is under the leadership of Pastor Richard Rechichar (pictured), who also leads the Hamilton and Middletown district. Rechichar is in the process of learning Spanish to better pastor this new mission church.
Child and Family Education Ministry Established

A recent meeting, the conference Executive Committee took steps to provide a new and comprehensive service to guide and support the effort by parents, congregations, and schools, to enhance the spiritual development of children. A consortium that includes the conference Office of Education, Youth Department, and other entities will provide leadership to this endeavor under the direction of Cindy French (pictured), associate superintendent of schools.

The unanimous and enthusiastic support for this strategy came following the committee’s review of relevant research information, such as: A child’s spiritual identity is largely set by age 13. The chance of a person embracing Jesus as Savior is 32 percent for children between ages 5 and 12, 4 percent for 13 to 18 year olds, and 6 percent for 19 year olds or older.

Fewer than 10 percent of church households spend any time during a typical week either reading the Bible or engaging in substantive prayer as a family unit. However, about three out of four church parents believe they are doing well when it comes to providing a regular regimen of spiritual experiences and instruction to their children.

As she reflects on what she would like to accomplish, French says, “This ministry’s success will be evident for 13 to 18 year olds, and 6 percent for 19 year olds or older. About 10 percent of church members review of relevant research information, such as: A child’s spiritual identity is largely set by age 13. The chance of a person embracing Jesus as Savior is 32 percent for children between ages 5 and 12, 4 percent for 13 to 18 year olds, and 6 percent for 19 year olds or older.

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Camp Meeting: Sharing Our Creator’s Glory

The 2007 Pennsylvania Conference Camp Meeting will be held June 15-23 on the beautiful campus of Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) in Hamburg. Dynamic speakers such as Clifford Goldstein, editor of the Senior Sabbath School Bible Study Guide, and Dan Smith, senior pastor of La Sierra University (Calif.) will speak on the theme, “Sharing Our Creator’s Glory.”

Other guest speakers will include Larry Lichtenwalter, pastor of the Village church in Berrien Springs, Mich.; Elaine Kennedy, research scientist and adjunct professor of geology at the Southwestern Adventist University; Gaspár Colón, PhD, director of the Center for Metropolitan Ministry at Columbia Union College (Md.); Neil Nedley, MD, a full-time practicing physician in internal medicine in Oklahoma; and Tom Cusack, pastor of the Erie, Cory, and Lovelvle (in Wattsburg) churches. These speakers will challenge and inspire people in their daily walk.

Youth Rally Scheduled

On February 10 the Youth Department, partnering with Blue Mountain Academy (BMA), will be holding its free “Heart Attack” Youth Rally, to be held on the BMA campus. All youth groups are invited to attend. The rally will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 9 p.m. The day will include powerful speakers, inspiring worship, and great social interaction with other youth from across the state. There is no cost for this event. Both lunch and supper will be provided. Please register your group by calling Daisy Lopez at (810) 374-8321, ext. 212, or dlopes@pacconference.org.

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William G. Johnsson Honored at Southern Asian Church

William G. Johnsson, retired editor of the Adventist Review, was honored recently at the Southern Asian church (SASDAC) in Silver Spring, Md. SASDAC pastor Franklin David and Juan Prestol, North American Division treasurer, expressed gratitude to Johnsson for his service to the Southern Asia Division, and for his 24 years as the magazine’s editor. Many church members, as well as Pastor David, fondly remember Johnsson as their teacher at Spicer College in India.

First Deaf Congregation Organized

The Spring of Hope Silver Spring (Md.) deaf group was recently elevated to company status with 29 charter members. Now called the Deaf Evangelistic Adventist Fellowship (DEAF) company, it is the first deaf congregation in the conference. David Trexler is their pastor.

The members were greatly honored to have conference officers participate in their inaugural celebration. In his celebratory inaugural message, president Bill Miller challenged the congregation to “go into the community and reach those that we cannot reach.”

Currently there are 28 million hearing-impaired individuals living in the United States, and only 2 percent attend church. Of those, only 300 are Seventh-day Adventist.

Victoria Harrison, Spring of Hope pastor, was instrumental in preparing the group for their new status.—Pastor David Trexler

Northern Virginia Ghanaian Celebrates

Conference officers and many distinguished guests recently rejoiced with members of the Northern Virginia (NOVA) Ghanaian company as they celebrated officially becoming a church. Seventy-three people signed the charter membership. Pastor Emmanuel Acheampong and several others were instrumental in planting the congregation in Alexandria, Va.

Following the organization service, Pastor Acheampong was ordained. Growing up in Ghana, Africa, Acheampong was introduced to the Seventh-day Adventist Church by a classmate. He is married to Agnes and they have three children: Moses, Diana, and Nils-Frank.—Jeanie Allen

Potomac Welcomes New Companies, Churches

During 2006 nine new companies were organized and four congregations became churches. Congratulations to these new bodies of believers:

Following their recent promotion to a company, members of the newly formed Deaf Evangelistic Adventist Fellowship pose with conference leaders.

Roger Weiss (left), vice president for administration, presents a Certificate of Organization to Glenmont Spanish church’s associate pastor, Victor Desbiase (far right), and Miguel Provincia, a Glenmont member.

The Glenmont Spanish church in Beltsville, Md., and the D.C. Spanish company are being led by José Esposito. The Northern Virginia Ghanaian church located in Alexandria, Va., is pastored by Emmanuel Acheampong. The Deaf Evangelistic Adventist Fellowship (DEAF) company located in Silver Spring, Md., is being pastored by David Trexler.

The Ethiopian church, in Washington, D.C., is the first Ethiopian congregation in Potomac. Fasil Ketema is their pastor.—Jeanie Allen
New Washington Ethiopian Pastor Ordained

Conference officers recently joined Fasil Ketema and his wife, Yenework, and their family and friends at the Capital Memorial church in Washington, D.C., for Ketema’s ordination service. Pastor Ketema transferred from St. Louis, Mo., where he served as elder and actively participated in many aspects of church ministry. There he met and married Yenework, and started communicating with other Adventist Ethiopians. They started meeting yearly in the Washington, D.C., area. With much prayer and encouragement, the couple moved to the capital area and was instrumental in organizing the Washington Ethiopian group. Ketema and his wife have three children: Abigail, Brook, and Christiana.

Following the ordination, about 50 people signed on as charter members of the Washington Ethiopian company as it was promoted to a church.—Jeanie Allen

Leadership Changes Announced

The Potomac Conference would like to formally welcome its new pastors and leaders, and bid farewell to others moving to new missions.

Emmer Salazar and his wife, Olga, are now serving the Washington Spanish church in Silver Spring, Md. Pastor Salazar previously served in the North Puerto Rico Mission as Youth Ministries director.

Lloyd Malloy, Jr., currently serves as minister of music and worship at the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md. Lloyd recently graduated from UCLA with a doctor of musical arts degree in choral and instrumental conducting.

Mark Siguel also serves the Sligo church as the pastor for children. Before coming to Sligo, Siguel worked in several capacities for the Ministerial Department at the Adventist World Headquarters. He is married to Manfiel, a medical technologist.

Melvin Hayden III now serves as youth pastor of the Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va. Hayden, married to Donna, previously served as teacher and chaplain at Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md.

Jennifer Deans serves the Vienna (Va.) church as youth/associate pastor. Deans is a recent graduate of the Andrews University Seminary (Mich.) and is newly married to Kevin.

Choon Man Lee currently serves as district pastor of Korean groups in Richmond and Newport News, Va. He and his wife, Young Hyeon, previously served in the Michigan Conference.

Harry Sharley and his wife, Lori, have said farewell to their flock at the Waynesboro (Va.) church. He recently accepted a call to serve the Upper Columbia Conference to pastor the Albouquerque Heights (N.M.) church.

Be Real With Our Youth

Working with young people is such a blessing. Because Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) is a K-12 school—although under one roof—I have the privilege of interacting daily with a broad spectrum of ages. But there is a common denominator among this diverse group, “smelling power.” I am not referring to their noses. I am speaking about their ability to know when the significant adults in their lives truly love them and are truly committed to the Lord.

In the adult world, we can sometimes do a pretty good job of “faking it” with our peers. This just doesn’t work with young people. Maybe this is why James says in chapter 3, verse 1, “Don’t suppose that everyone who thinks he can lead or teach should be put into office. God expects more of leaders and teachers and will judge them more strictly than others” (The Clear Word Bible). Yet what a privilege it is to be called to work with our children. The responsibility is daunting, but the reward is eternal. Have you prayed for a teacher lately?

Waynesboro Celebrates 60th Anniversary

The Waynesboro (Va.) church recently celebrated their 60th anniversary, with union president Dave Weigley as the featured worship speaker. Former pastors who attended included Elmer Malcolm, Herb Breenick, Merle Whitney, and Harry Sharley. One of the day’s highlights was when charter member Aleese Anderson (pictured right, with lay pastor Evelyn Sullivan) shared the story of how she received an original hand-written letter by William Miller, one of the Seventh-day Adventist Church founders. Realizing the value of this document, Anderson donated the letter to the Ellen G. White Estate so it could be preserved for the benefit of church history researchers. At Anderson’s request, on behalf of the anniversary, the White Estate sent her a copy of the letter, a picture of William Miller, and a letter of thanks for her donation.—Jeanie Allen
This school year Spencerville Adventist Academy started a Campus Ministries team. There has been a growing interest in spirituality among the students, especially through the avenue of service to others. Many students have expressed a desire to share the joy that they have found in Jesus, and the student-led team works hard to provide opportunities for that very purpose.

It is easy to fall into the trap of simply entertaining youth rather than providing opportunities for ministry and service. The fear of failure often leads adults to take total responsibility for planning programs and events rather than placing these responsibilities in the hands of students. In doing this, many students have been denied the opportunity to grow, not only in spirituality, but also in leadership. Leadership opportunities like these can be powerful and life changing. The Campus Ministries team has planned events like vespers, chapel, and prayer groups, and has developed outreach teams that travel to different locations for various ministry opportunities. The most exciting aspect of these trips is that they are all planned, organized, and led by the students.

During a spiritual retreat at the beginning of the school year, students were asked to come up with as many ideas for ministry as possible. The list that was created was truly incredible. They suggested numerous things, from shoveling a neighbor’s snow to putting on an evangelistic series for public school students. When students are empowered for ministry, ownership always occurs. The Campus Ministries team continues to refer to the list and provide opportunities for ministry for the student body.

Some of the most exciting ministry opportunities have resulted from trips to other Adventist academies. It seems that much of the interaction between schools normally only comes during sporting events. The students felt strongly that they were missing amazing opportunities to worship together. They said that they enjoy being able to share their love of Christ with others through drama, song, and the spoken Word.

The team is also currently contacting local area churches to inquire about opportunities for ministering to them, from leading out in the church service, to helping out with a local community service project. The school asks for continued prayers in this process. Everyone would like to continue building the Campus Ministries program. God has blessed the school with amazing student leaders, and teachers

After Spencerville Adventist Academy's annual Academy Day is scheduled for Thursday, March 8. This year the student body was asked to come up with as many ideas for ministry as possible. The list that was created was truly incredible. They suggested numerous things, from shoveling a neighbor’s snow to putting on an evangelistic series for public school students. When students are empowered for ministry, ownership always occurs. The Campus Ministries team continues to refer to the list and provide opportunities for ministry for the student body.

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and staff are excited to be able to empower them to do the work of the Lord! —Chaplain Greg Taylor

Students Build Character, Change Lives

Building God’s character into the students has been the work of Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) for nearly 100 years. We believe that character development must be done intentionally. It cannot be assumed that students will develop good character simply by going to Bible classes and worship services.

Recently SVA students had the opportunity to develop three of the eight Christian character traits intentionally developed at SVA:

Being my brother’s keeper: demonstrating understanding and concern for others

Initiative: moving from thought to action, and

Service: putting your need before mine.

Disaster relief mission trips have been a part of SVA since the early 90s. Students and staff have been involved in post-flood, tornado, and hurricane relief locally and nationally.

Recently a group of students and staff took their vacation time to make another trip to southern Mississippi to help with the rebuilding efforts. Students sided, shingled, cleaned, and painted homes for residents of Pearlington, Miss., who are still displaced by the 2005 hurricane. The greatest part of the trip was the interaction with the people whose homes were being fixed. There was so much gratitude expressed in hugs—and even tears.

Mississippi Mission a Success

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**Fixes Program Highlights Christ’s Birth**

A Friday vesper held recently at Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., was a high time for Takoma Academy (TA) students. Coordinating the art, chorale, drama, and musical groups into one program was a tremendous undertaking. Art teacher Myrna Candelaria led the drama section, art teacher Marquita Halstead led art, religion teacher Betsy Hayden III led the gospel choir, and music teacher Tim Vanderman led the chorale and instrumental groups. They worked together for the program, which uplifted the news of Christ’s birth. TA students are credited for writing all of the narrations and scripts. It was a fantastic event.

**Families Adopted for Christmas**

Applied arts teacher Virginia Mathis and sophomore Shane McKiiff wanted to do something special for someone in the community for the holidays. Mathis contacted the nearby Adventist Community Services Center in Takoma Park, Md., who provided the names of families in need.

Donations were collected to bless several selected families. Students, teachers, and staff together donated $800 plus a plethora of toys. On the last day of classes before Christmas break began, the school closed early for everyone to enjoy a special Christmas program in the gymnasium. Two families from the community got to meet with Santa (principal Dunbar Henri) and his elves and open lots of presents. The remaining toys were donated to the local Adventist-owned WGT5 radio station for their holiday toy drive.

**Employment**

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**MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

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For current postings, visit www.mhonline.org and click on Employment or contact the job line at (606) 527-1833.

**RESUME and APPLICATION**

Contact Joe Skula, Human Resources, for a free quarterly newsletter. Write to: Human Resources, 10000 Adventist Plaza Blvd., Silver Spring, Md., 20901. (301) 526-2328.

**PINE SPRINGS RANCH**

Seeking a cook/cook/chef to join our food service department, assisting the food service director in the preparation and service of meals. Prior experience in commercial food preparation is desired. Persons applying for this position must have a passion for food, creativity and enjoy working with people. The position is full-time, with benefits and will require frequent weekend work. For additional information, please contact Brian Schwab at (951) 659-4131, ext. 313, bschwab@pinesrpingsranch.org.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**FREE MISSION AVIATION**

Contact Adventist World Aviation for a free quarterly newsletter. Write to: Adventist World Aviation, 151, Bensenville, IL 60106, or email info@awav.org, or register online at www.awav.org.
ADVENTIST-REALTOR.COM is a nationwide real estate professional service for Adventist church members and employees in the process of buying or selling homes with a Nationwide Network of 150 real estate offices. We are ready to serve you Contact Linda Dye, DRE, (800) 522-3888 or visit our website. Realtor’s real estate office. Register online for a free account.

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UNION COLLEGE HOMECOMING 1987, 1997, and 1997. For more information contact the alumni office, 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044, or visit the website provided for you by the General Conference. www.union.edu/athletics. Looking for an Adventist lawyer? Call the LAW OF QUINQUENNIAL. There will be one delegate chosen for the organizing committee of each constituent church council, plus an additional delegate for each 500 Adventist church members or major fraction thereof.

TRAVEL/VACATION

CAB LODGE VACATION. An Adventist family will never forget a trip to the beautiful Hairpin, H桂花nty and ski resort. A great view of the mountains. Visit the website for more information.

A COMMUNITY PRAISE CHURCH May 4-7, 1997. Honor classes: 1957, 1967, and 1977. For more information contact the alumni office, 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044, or visit the website provided for you by the General Conference. www.union.edu/athletics.

BOWARDS, Harry J., 99, of 9727 E. High St., Hagerstown, Md., died November 14, 2006, in Hagerstown. He was a member of the Hagerstown Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors include his son, H. Dean Boward and two grand-sons, Michael D. and Mark D. Boward. 60TH ANNIVERSARY CHURCH The Altoona Adventist Church, 8th and 9th Streets, Altoona, PA, will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in God’s service this year. All former members and friends are encouraged to join us this year. The church will also have an outdoor auction, a duck derby, a basket raffle and a large meal. Tickets are on sale now. Reserve your table for the banquet tonight, April 22, 2007, at the Altoona Adventist Church, 2135 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20901, at 8 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect board members and transact any other business as may come before the session at that time. Delegates to this meeting are elected from each local church and will be the delegates of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

“YE OLDE CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY ALUMNI REUNION” Friday, April 22, 2007, in the Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church at 15325 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD, at 11:30 a.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect board members and transact any other business as may come before the session at that time. Delegates to this meeting are elected from each local church and will be the delegates of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

HIGH VIEW ACADEMY CHURCH Renewal Session Notice is hereby given that the second quinquennial session of High View Academy Incorporated will be held in connection with the second quinquennial session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church on Sunday, April 22, 2007, at the Seventh-day Adventist Church, 16325 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20901, at 8:30 a.m.

Delegates to this meeting are elected from each local church and will be the delegates of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

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ost of the 50 million people who live in the United States live in just 10 metro areas (10 of the 25 largest in the United States)—Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Newark, Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Norfolk-Virginia Beach, and the suburbs of New York City in northern New Jersey.

However, most of our churches, members, and pastors are not located in these mission fields. The majority of our resources are deployed where only 15 percent of the population lives.

We have failed to follow the instruction found in the Spirit of Prophecy: “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired to do what was best for each one.”—The Review and Herald, October 4, 1891.

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I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth, 3 John 4