Inside:

7 Ways to Get and Stay Happily Married

5 Stages of Marriage (Where are you?)

+ When Divorce Happens

Marriage Why it’s Still God’s Ideal
HAPPINESS IS POSSIBLE

What is it that makes marriage last? What are the secrets to a truly happy marriage? Are there no perfect marriages because there are no perfect people? Perhaps, but, as you’ll read in this issue of the Visitor, a happy, successful marriage is possible! While the featured writers have shared their experiences and outlined many practical dos and don’ts, we also wanted to share what we’ve learned about making marriage work these past 30 years:

Buy Lots of Duct Tape - Spouses are not mind readers; you have to communicate. Share your ideas, thoughts, dreams, plans, and feelings. Travel is a big part of our life work, so we make a genuine effort to stay connected and may talk several times a day. But communication also entails knowing when to use “duct tape!” It comes in handy when you want to say something that you really shouldn’t. At those times, we’ve discovered that mentally putting duct tape over your mouth works great. Sometimes it’s better to postpone a discussion for a more appropriate time, when you both are ready to focus on the issue. Finally, it helps to remember that God gave us one mouth for communicating—and two ears for listening!

Work Together - Finances are one of the top three issues couples fight about. To avoid this pitfall, build a budget together and really make an effort to live by it. Share in the decision-making, especially when it comes to major purchases. And make sure you include a personal allowance, no matter how small, for each spouse to use at his or her discretion.

Play Together - It’s okay to have individual hobbies, but find at least one recreational activity you can enjoy together. When we were first married, tennis was a sport that Becky enjoyed, but Dave had never really played. It wasn’t long before we were enjoying the game together; in fact, we still do! Walking is also a great activity to share and provides the added benefit of “talk time.” More recently we have discovered the fun of “riding” together—our horses, Fred and Rose, and our motorcycle, the “Silver Stallion.”

Use the Same Compass - Commitment to each other and having a mutual commitment to God are extremely important. We are a team, we are on a mission together, and we are purposely traveling in the same direction toward a common goal. We may take detours occasionally, but we know where we will both end up.

Get Ready for Heaven - They say marriage is supposed to be a little taste of heaven on earth, and for us that is true! But it’s also a wonderful model of what God wants in His relationship with the church. Much like a married couple has with each other, Christ’s desire is to enjoy an intimate spiritual relationship with the members of His Church. The Bible likens us to a bride who should be prepared for our Bridal gown—and the marriage supper. He is preparing for us. So, marriage is also a growing process that prepares us for heaven.

We’ve learned a lot in our marriage, but we’re looking forward to eternity where 30 years will seem like nothing!

Dave Weigley is president of the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Becky Weigley is a professional assistant for its Christian Leadership Center. They have two adult children and one grandchild.
CUC Names Interim Administrators
Gaspar Colón, PhD, and Joan Francis, PhD, were recently asked to serve as interim president and interim vice president of Academic Administration, respectively, at Columbia Union College (CUC) in Takoma Park, Md.

“Both Drs. Colón and Francis bring tremendous skills to these positions,” says Columbia Union Conference president Dave Weigley, who chairs the college’s board of trustees. “I am grateful that they have graciously accepted my invitation to serve while we continue searching to permanently fill these positions.

Colón, director of CUC’s Center for Metropolitan Ministries and a professor of religion, was recently voted Professor of the Year by CUC’s student body.

His leadership experience with ADRA, Adventist higher education, community development, and division-level church ministries, will help him fill the vacancy created by the departure of former president Randal Wisbey, DMin.

Francis, a professor and chair of the History and Political Studies Department, received CUC’s 2007 President’s Award for her commitment to student development. With a teaching record that spans 41 years, she fills the position recently held by Robert Young. —Scott Steward

Potomac Vice President to Retire
Roger Weiss, Potomac Conference vice president for administration and director of Multicultural Ministries, will retire September 1. Weiss has worked for the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 43 years. He spent the past 29 years with the Potomac Conference—the last 12 as vice president.

Read more about him on p. 42.—Jeanie Allen

President Chosen for Shady Grove Hospital
Dennis Hansen has been selected to serve as president of Shady Grove Adventist Hospital (SGAH) in Rockville, Md. Hansen joined SGAH in May 2006 as vice president and chief operating officer. Since March, he has also been serving as interim president.

“Dennis has brought a number of outstanding skills to Shady Grove Adventist Hospital and is the best candidate to lead as it continues to expand and serve the community,” says William G. “Bill” Robertson, president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare (AHC).

SGAH is in the midst of a four-year, $99 million expansion and renovation project that will add 144 private patient beds, 16 new operating rooms, a new Surgical Services Department, and new space for patient care units, etc. “It is an exciting time at Shady Grove,” Hansen says. —AHC Communication Staff

Kettering College Gets New Dean
Victor Brown is the new dean for Enrollment Management at Ohio’s Kettering College of Medical Arts (KCMA).

“Victor will bring great depth of experience, remarkable energy, and passion to his work on behalf of our college mission and community,” said Charles Scriven, KCMA president. “I believe the college has a bright future, and I am excited to be a part of it,” Brown says.

President Chosen for Shady Grove Hospital
Dennis Hansen has been selected to serve as president of Shady Grove Adventist Hospital (SGAH) in Rockville, Md.

Hansen joined SGAH in May 2006 as vice president and chief operating officer.

Since March, he has also been serving as interim president. “Dennis has brought a number of outstanding skills to Shady Grove Adventist Hospital and is the best candidate to lead as it continues to expand and serve the community,” says William G. “Bill” Robertson, president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare (AHC).

SGAH is in the midst of a four-year, $99 million expansion and renovation project that will add 144 private patient beds, 16 new operating rooms, a new Surgical Services Department, and new space for patient care units, etc. “It is an exciting time at Shady Grove,” Hansen says. —AHC Communication Staff

From the Pulpit
“Peter knew what it was to fall; he was a repeat offender. We too are repeat offenders and sinners in need of a Savior. But God promises that if you stay focused on Him and your calling, you will never fall.”—Bill Miller, Potomac Conference president, speaking at their 2007 camp meeting. To see photos from other camp meetings, visit www.07revive.com

Foundations of Our Faith
Join Pastor Doug Batcheler for a unique and inspirational revival that will strengthen your faith, ignite your passion for souls and brace your heart to stand for truth in the last days.

September 7-15, 2007
Lansing, Michigan
Convention Center
Live broadcast on 3ABN
Special four-day Empowered Church training symposium for church and lay leaders to help prepare God’s church for revival and growth.

More info: 800-538-7275
What’s New?

Book >
Hope Inside Grief

Doris Juanita Johnson knows how to walk inside grief, live inside grief, and hope inside grief. She wrote the book Hope Inside Grief after she discovered the powerful truth of hope the hard way, by losing her husband of 34 years to heart disease. “After the death of a loved one, there are many emotions to deal with,” she explains. “This book is a spiritual helpmate for anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one and can be used as a tool to comfort friends.”

Johnson, a retired bank administrator, mother of five, and grandmother of 11, is very involved in Allegheny East Conference’s Ephesus church in Richmond, Va. She wrote the 142-page book because she felt impressed by the Holy Spirit to tell her story through poetry, reflection, Bible texts, and testimony. “I was looking for a book that addressed my needs, but couldn’t find one,” she recalls. “I felt compelled to write and could not sleep; I had to get out of bed and type at all hours of the night.”

Through her book, interviews, and speaking engagements, Johnson aims to empower people to reach beyond their present circumstances. Order from www.tatepublishing.com or call (888) 361-9473. Contact Johnson at hope.serenity@yahoo.com.

WholeHealth

Marriage: Health Risk or Risk Reducer?

When talking about reducing the risk of certain common diseases such as heart disease, cancer, heart failure, or cirrhosis of the liver, few would look at marriage as a risk-reduction factor. However, according to one Harvard University study, married women are 20 percent less likely than single women to die of a variety of causes, including heart disease, suicide, and cirrhosis of the liver. Married men enjoy an even greater benefit. They’re two to three times less likely to die of such causes than single men.

The key to this health benefit may lie in the degree of marital happiness. Unhappy marital relationships have an opposite effect on health. Prolonged stress can negatively affect the cardiovascular, hormonal, and immune pathways. It has been observed that happily married couples enjoy better health partly because they handle and defray stress as a team, unlike their single counterparts.

God has created natural remedies for lifestyle diseases, and few are as rewarding as a healthy marriage. The many benefits that come as a by-product are a reminder that God has created a wonderful system for us to enjoy long, prosperous lives.—Clara Ilitalio, RD, LDN, Adventist WholeHealth

In the Spotlight >
Umoja Marriage Club

Marriage, it has been said, is like twirling a baton and eating with chopsticks at the same time. It looks easy until you try it! “Even though marriages are made in heaven, humans are responsible for maintaining them,” says Russell Thomas, Sr., a member of Allegheny West Conference’s Southeast church in Cleveland. So he decided to do something to help, something that would strengthen and unify his marriage and others.

In November 2006, he started a marriage club called Umoja, which means “unity” in the Swahili language. Twice a month couples gather to discuss marriage using various materials or books, such as Stephen Covey’s Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus, as discussion starters. Though there’s usually a meeting topic, Thomas purposefully keeps the agenda flexible. “Because we want to help where it hurts, any issue a couple brings to the table supersedes our plans for that meeting,” he explains.

To make their group a safe place to share and grow, members abide by several principles. “What happens in Umoja stays in Umoja,” Thomas says, citing one of the most important. Because of this, the club—now 10 couples strong—has been able to delve into deep waters, impart invaluable information on how they overcame various issues, and discuss pitfalls to avoid.

Umoja has impacted our marriage by teaching us how to define our roles and expecta-
MARRIAGE
and Why it’s Still God’s Ideal

Editor’s Note: Ever since we published a singles’ issue (Jan. 2005), readers have asked us to do an issue on marriage. Through planning with Willie Oliver, we decided to discuss this topic in three sections—before marriage, during marriage, and after marriage. The Seventh-day Adventist Church cares about marriage and wants members to build strong, healthy unions that give glory and honor to God and the institution He created and ordained. To that end, we hope you’ll find this issue informative, encouraging, and truthful:

Marriage is God’s ideal and He created it for our good. It is at once the most delightful—and the most challenging—activity given to mere mortals. What He meant for harmony and symphonic communication in this most important of relationships, turns to frustration, bitterness, and despair more often than we care to admit. When marriage is good, there is nothing better; when marriage is bad, there is nothing worse!

While it is okay to be single—given the problems in relationships caused by sin—there is no perfect marriage because there are no perfect people. What is the state of marriage today? Are there still benefits of marriage? And how can God’s people survive and thrive in marriage?

Marriage by the Numbers

The trend in recent decades suggests that Americans are less likely to marry. Statistics from the United States Bureau of the Census reflect a nearly 50 percent decline in marriages per 1,000 unmarried adult women from 1970 (76.5%) to 2004 (40.2%). Much of the decline represents a delay in first marriages. In 1960 the median age was 20 for women and 23 for men, and in 2005 that changed to 26 and 27, respectively. Other contributors include the increase in couples living together and a slight decrease in the predisposition of divorced people to remarry. The truth is, since 1960 the overall marriage rate in America has dropped 14 percentage points. Among African-American women that number is over 29 percent, which represents the highest of any group in American society.

On the other hand, among those who are college educated, marriage appears to have gained momentum in recent years. This represents a growing marriage gap in America. According to recent studies, the marriage rates for college-educated women were lower than their less-educated peers well into the 20th century. However, since about 1980 that trend has reversed, and college-educated women are marrying at higher rates than their less-educated peers.

The marriage situation remains quite dismal for those who are not college educated. While the number of couples getting married continues to drop among this group, out-of-wedlock births are rising. In 2000 more than 40 percent of high school dropout mothers were living without husbands. This was the case for only 12 percent of college-educated mothers.

Better Health, More Wealth

Because it is part of God’s original plan, marriage yields many inherent blessings. Scientific research shows that there are many other benefits: Married people live longer, have better health, earn more money and accumulate more wealth, feel more fulfilled, enjoy more satisfying sexual relationships, and have happier and more successful children than those who remain single, cohabit, or get divorced. Studies also show that violence is less common in married households and that divorce lowers male life expectancy—the equivalent of a pack-a-day cigarette habit. In short, there is great value in marriage despite inherent challenges and hard work.

No Perfect Marriages

We often say that there are no perfect marriages because there are no perfect people. So, in order to have a good marriage you have to be intentional about making your marriage work. Marriage also involves spiritual work, and without God’s help and power very little can be accomplished. “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it…” (Ps. 127:1, NKJV).

Sin will naturally cause your marriage to move toward a state of alienation and separation. To avoid this reality, earnestly look for God’s help to make you kinder, gentler, more understanding, patient, and forgiving. As James 1:19 counsels us, “Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry” (NLT). While many hope their spouse will learn to better understand them and speak their language, taking the initiative to understand your partner and learning to speak his or her language will go a long way to making marriage a little like heaven on earth.

The Real Enemy

Remember, your spouse is not the enemy; you’re on the same team!
THE 5 STAGES OF MARRIAGE

Where are you?

Stage One:

Passion prevails! Couples concentrate on what they have in common and are dominated by an intense physical desire for each other. In fact, this is the stage that many couples decide to marry.

Survival Tip: What are you thinking? After the euphoric honeymoon period, couples are faced with the mundane things of life, like working and paying bills. Each person notices that the other isn’t all they expected. Their spouse has bad breath in the morning, and at other times. She/he spends too much time in the bathroom and doesn’t clean up promptly after meals. The fantasy world of Stage One is gone. Couples now have to make decisions about the rest of their lives. (Those in second marriages now face the harsh reality of coordinating a blended family.)

Survival Tip: Every marriage experiences conflict and challenge. Stay connected, spend time together in different activities, and make a vigorous sex life a high priority.

Stage Two:

What was I thinking? After the euphoric honeymoon period, couples are faced with the mundane things of life, like working and paying bills. Each person notices that the other isn’t all they expected. Their spouse has bad breath in the morning, and at other times. She/he spends too much time in the bathroom and doesn’t clean up promptly after meals. The fantasy world of Stage One is gone. Couples now have to make decisions about the rest of their lives.

Survival Tip: Exercise and stay healthy and active so that you can enjoy the fruits of your labor.—Willie and Elaine Oliver

Stage Three:

Everything would be great if you changed. For the next 10 years couples try to change their spouse. When this doesn’t happen, some choose divorce or have affairs. Others stick it out because of religious beliefs, financial considerations, or concern for their children. Those who stay either resign themselves to living in unhappy marriages or look for better ways to communicate and manage conflict. Couples who choose the latter will be blessed because the best of marriage is yet to come.

Survival Tip: Exercise and stay healthy and active so that you can enjoy the fruits of your labor.—Willie and Elaine Oliver

Stage Four:

That’s just the way she/he is. Couples finally accept that they will never be on the same page about everything with their spouse. They realize that forgiveness is important, if they are going to make it, and accept that they are not that easy to live with either. They learn to live in peace—despite the differences—and strive to emphasize the positive.

Survival Tip: Never think that you have arrived in your relationship. Nurture each other every day by spending time together, talking, and touching.

Stage Five:

Together at last! At this stage couples have accumulated quite a bit of history. While they agree that marriage is difficult, there’s a sense of accomplishment because of the trials faced and overcome. Each has a greater appreciation for the other’s strengths and less consternation over differences. The children are older and independent so there’s more quality time for each other. There is a sense of having come full circle and having successfully learned the dance of marriage.

Survival tip: Every marriage has stormy periods. Professional Christian counseling may be good at this time. Research suggests that 86 percent of unhappy couples that choose to stay together are much happier five years later.
Before You Take The PLUNGE

7 Ways to Get and Stay Happily Married

Gaspar F. and May-Ellen Colón

Well, you’ve decided to get married. Congratulations! We would like to share some counsel that we wish we had when we were newly engaged. During the next few months you both will be very busy planning a wedding, but remember that your task has more to do with the marriage than the wedding. It’s important that this information become part of what you think and do throughout your engagement and beyond. It will provide a strong foundation for a healthy, happy marriage:

1. Get premarital counseling. Take advantage of programs (i.e., Prepare-Enrich) that may be offered by your pastor or conference. They provide practical tools that will help you navigate the marriage experience.

2. Save sex until after marriage. There will be times when the “dreaming” process becomes so intimate and romantic that you will be tempted to cross the line of purity. But stay focused and stick with your choice to remain sexually pure. You won’t regret it.

3. Practice little everyday graces. Things like opening the door for her or sharing a word of appreciation for his actions go a long way. Try not to take anything for granted. Make or buy a card. Send flowers for no particular reason. Surprise your sweetheart with a reminder of your love. It’s the little niceties that reveal a caring character. With these habits, your married life will not easily lose its luster. Remember that curiosity sparked your interest, affection grew into love, and love led you to want to spend the rest of your life together.

4. Worship together. Set aside a regular time to read scripture or a few paragraphs from a spiritual book. Pray with, and for, each other. Pray for your marriage. Pray for your dreams and your contributions as a couple to society and your church. This will not be easy and will take intentionality.

5. Manage your resources. Agree on spiritually motivated aspects of the budget like tithe and offerings. Develop a budget and choose which one of you is a better manager to administer the day-to-day outlay once you are married. Review your spending on a regular basis. During times of stress, remember that God has given us many good promises and “a thousand ways to provide for us of which we know none” (The Desire of Ages, p. 330). In addition to finances, it’s very important to manage your time: Make time for yourself. Make time for each other. Make time to prepare for the Sabbath. And make time to stay fit and care for your health.

6. Maintain outside friendships. Stay in touch with those who encourage you spiritually and emotionally. But remember to set a protective barrier—a sacred circle—around your relationship that you will not cross. Refrain from talking to friends about things that would violate your beloved’s trust or embarrass him or her. This is the foundation of an ever-growing love that will last a lifetime.

7. Learn to communicate. Communicating your strengths and weaknesses develops channels of openness and trust that are crucial for a lifelong relationship. Relate at levels that you have feared to engage in with others. Talk things through. Don’t try to fix it before you share it.

Give your marriage a fighting chance by implementing these seven tips before you tie the knot. You will bring honor and glory to God and give yourselves the joy of oneness for a lifetime.

Gaspar F. Colón, PhD, MPH, is interim president at Columbia Union College, in Takoma Park, Md., and a member of the Adventist Association of Family Life Professionals. May-Ellen Colón, PhD, is an assistant director of the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries department for the worldwide Church, as well as the current vice president for membership of the Adventist Association of Family Life Professionals. Married 35 years, they often collaborate on marriage seminars, using the concepts shared in this article. They have two adult children, one who is soon to be married.

Q: What’s wrong with marrying outside of our faith?

A: For Christians, marriage is a sacred covenant made between two persons publicly and before God. It goes beyond a human agreement or a legal contract. Sooner or later every couple will have to face moral and ethical decisions. Without common spiritual ground, these decisions will be difficult or impossible. Marriage is hard enough; the more values you share, the stronger your foundation.

Q: What’s wrong with living together before getting married?

A: Commitment is the most crucial element, or the cornerstone, of a lasting marriage. It holds two individuals together in a covenant of oneness. Living together before marriage demonstrates a lack of commitment and insecurity. There is no common long-term horizon. Each has dreams and aspirations that are temporary and often exclusive of the other. When a breakup occurs among unmarried couples, those broken bonds may make it difficult to bond with another person in the future (like twice-used tape) for fear of getting hurt again.—Gaspar and May-Ellen Colón
A comedian once said, “Researchers have found that the number one cause of divorce in America is … marriage!”

...While this may draw a laugh, the sobering reality is that 50 percent of marriages end in divorce. But this doesn’t mean that 50 percent of couples that marry get divorced. It’s those who get divorced two, three, four, or more times that actually inflate the percentages of “failed” marriages.

“In recent years the divorce rate has dropped to 40 percent, its lowest since the 1960s,” says Willie Oliver, Family Ministries director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. “This is due to a 10 percent drop in marriages and a 10 percent increase in co-habitation.”

Are Adventist divorce rates the same as the general public? “No,” states Oliver. “About 25 percent of Adventist marriages end in divorce. And some of those are considered prior to the individual joining the Adventist Church.”

Painful Experience

Despite a lower rate, members, pastors, and counselors say the impact of divorce is severely painful, and no less so for Adventists. “It’s like having major surgery with no anesthesia—there’s nothing to numb the pain,” says Jack Anders, a Silver Spring, Md.-based family therapist who has specialized in marriage and divorce counseling for over 50 years. “Starting over can be very hard—financially, emotionally, spiritually, and physically. Their dreams and plans are lost forever.”

Vinnie,* a divorcé from Maryland, agrees. “It’s a painful process that’s very frustrating,” he says. Apart from being difficult for spouses, Anders says divorce can rip families apart emotionally. “Children can develop trust issues, rebellious behavior, depression, guilt, shame, and falling grades,” he says. Jay from Ohio, who divorced after 19 years of marriage and four children, has seen it firsthand. “My kids thought they had done something wrong to cause our divorce,” he shares. “People say kids are resilient, but that’s not always true! I had to pick up my son from school numerous times because he was crying hysterically about the divorce.” Though he remarried 18 years ago and fathered two more kids, he still sees the effects of divorce on his family. “They still panic whenever my second wife and I have a mild disagreement. ‘Oh no!’ they say. ‘Are you getting a divorce?’”

That often causes another side effect of divorce—regret. “So many people say they wished they had worked out their problems instead of getting a divorce,” Anders says.

But not everyone gets divorced because of adultery, abandonment, or irreconcilable differences. For those who dealt with emotional, physical, substance, or sexual abuse, divorce was a life-saving decision. Naomi,* a fourth-generation Adventist from Maryland, suffered years of physical, verbal, and emotional abuse. “I was taught that adultery was the only biblical reason for divorce,” she says. “But when I saw how broken my son was becoming, I finally got the courage to leave. I was very scared, but God took care of us.”

Alcohol was the captor in the home of Joyce* from Maryland. “Looking back at my parents’ divorce, I was relieved,” she says. “It meant I wouldn’t have to suffer the emotional trauma of my father’s abusive alcoholism. Though my mom waited until I was 18 (for my sake) to get a divorce, it would’ve been better had she done so sooner.”

Getting Support

No matter the reason for divorce, it often comes with a stigma. “Before I went through divorce, I had a rather superior attitude,” Naomi admits. “I believed they just didn’t try hard enough or have enough faith in God.” “Divorced members experience many emotions: grief, anger, guilt, failure, depression and—almost always—a loss of self esteem,” says Steve Wilsey, who recently retired as associate pastor of the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. These feelings worsen, he explains, when others are more interested in “disciplining than healing.”

Fortunately, many members are finding support in their church families. Divorcé Charles Battles attends the Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., and belongs to their Suddenly Single support group. “About 25 of us meet once a month—at all sorts of places—and do all sorts of things like sharing Sabbath potluck,” he says. “It’s hard trying to go on without a partner; we support each other spiritually, emotionally, and socially.”

Lessons Learned

So what have divorced members learned from their experiences? “I really love my wife, but a second marriage is even harder,” says Jay. “People rush into divorce too quickly; it should be avoided at all costs! The grass is not greener on the other side.” Naomi learned that no one is exempt from divorce. Now happily remarried, she says, “I never knew a marital relationship could be so beautiful! My husband is like pure gold to my son.” Recognizing the hard work involved in marriage, Vinnie notes, “Behavior doesn’t lie. The only person I can change is myself.”

How to Help, Not Hurt

They all have suggestions for how members can effectively minister to divorcés: “Don’t avoid them,” says Anders. “Ask if they want to talk about it; they’ll know you care.” But “don’t take sides,” adds Battles. Pastor Wilsey agrees: “Listen to their story with compassion and a non-judgmental attitude. Listening is the most important gift you can offer.”

“Include them in as many church and social activities as possible,” Battles suggests. Also, try to remember what this person has been through. “Be sensitive about how you talk about divorce and divorcés,” says Naomi. Wilsey offers the last word: “Encourage them to look ahead and plan for the future.”

*Pseudonyms were used to maintain confidentiality.

Stacey Bondurant is Children’s Ministries coordinator for the Chesapeake Conference.
Adventists and Marriage

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has issued several statements and guidelines on marriage, divorce, and remarriage. These documents, along with the following resources and events, are designed to affirm healthy unions, mend hurting marriages, and heal individuals ravaged by divorce.

STATEMENTS

Seventh-day Adventists Believe
Published by Pacific Press; to order, visit www.adventistbookcenter.com or call (800) 325-8492; cost: $12.95.

Updated following the 2005 General Conference (GC) Session, this book outlines the 28 fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. “Marriage and the Family” is fundamental belief number 23. This single volume shows how each belief is grounded in the Bible and focused on Jesus Christ. More than 230 Adventist men and women were involved in the production of this book. Many contributed insights gained from years of study, prayer, and their personal walk with Jesus.

To see all of the beliefs online, visit www.adventist.org and click on “Adventist Beliefs” and “Fundamental Beliefs.”

Church Manual
Published by Review & Herald Publishing Association; to order visit www.adventistbookcenter.com or call (800) 325-8492; cost: $8.99 (paperback)/$11.99 (hardcover).

Every church library, pastor, secretary, and lay leader should own a copy of this newly revised 17th edition. Chapter 15 outlines the Church’s position on “Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage.” This edition includes all updates from the 2005 GC session.

To view the chapter online, visit www.adventist.org and click on “Adventist Beliefs” and “Church Manual.”

COUNSELORS

To find an Adventist marriage counselor, visit the North American Division’s Family Ministries website at www.adventistfamilyministries.com. Click on “North America,” “Resources,” and “Directory of Counselors.” Select your state/province and indicate your preference for an Adventist counselor.

MARRIAGE RETREATS


Resource Guide
LAVERNE HENDERSON

Unforgotten Wisdom

Tucked into the wine sayings of Ecclesiastes is this little story:

“There was once a small city with only a few people in it. And a powerful king came against it, surrounded it and built huge siege works against it. Now there lived in the city a man poor but wise, and he saved the city by his wisdom. But nobody remembered that poor man” (Ecclesiastes 9:14,15).

Imagine a small city with enough of a defense parameter to withstand an attacking army—home to just a few, but a home worth defending.

Against this small city came a great military force. The universe doesn’t say why the city was under attack. It does say that it was saved by one poor, wise man who was soon forgotten.

We don’t know his name. We don’t know what he looked like. We know nothing about his life or his history. The universe isn’t commemorating a hero. We know just one thing about him: through his wisdom he saved his city, his home.

What do you suppose was the saving weapon?

It could have been his experience—may be he was a soldier who understood the weakness of the sparse living had against his city. Perhaps he possessed great insight and could puzzle through the motives of the attackers. I suppose he could have possessed a great talent for diplomacy, somehow showing the wisdom of letting the city survive.

The storyteller leaves us to our own guesses. The man is forgotten, the city he saved is forgotten, even the great king who was stacking is forgotten. What did his wisdom achieve? In the moment of greatest need, his home was saved. And that is enough.

We all live in a small city—our earth is a very small place in a very big universe, and our home here is but a moment. Power and strength—all and all the other tools we automatically wield defensibly—are ultimately less useful than the stirring in the heart and mind called wisdom. In the end what matters most is that we are wise enough to save the things that matter most. This is true wisdom, and our calling.

William G. “Bill” Robertson President & CEO Adventist HealthCare
Working to End Disparity

Minorities and poor people in the United States have more health problems and are less likely to receive quality health care. These inequalities in health outcomes and in access to healthcare are known as "health disparities."

What attitudes and customs do people have towards health care? Before the gaps can be closed, they have to be discovered. The report card will provide guidelines as to what to do next to help resolve the disparities and improve access for everyone to quality health care. Not only will an agenda be developed for Adventist HealthCare, the Center will also get involved with the government and become a catalyst for change. It is an annual report card because communities never stop changing. The systems need to remain flexible.

The Center on Health Disparities has also begun working on raising the quality of interpretative services. Interpreters—both volunteers and bilingual staff—are being trained in effective interpretive skills. For example, care needs to be taken to the health provider relationship is developed between the doctor and the patient rather than between the patient and the interpreter.

Training and education are a big part of the Center’s mission. Health care providers and support staff are being trained to become more culturally sensitive to the diverse traditions and cultural norms of patients from around the world. Misunderstandings can lead to incorrect diagnoses and improper use of medications. Awareness of cultural differences can improve communication between health care workers and patients.

"We’re the health care field need to connect with our patients at a deeper level to understand what will inspire different individuals to follow a treatment plan, to perceive open access, and to believe that we are practitioners truly care," explains Marcos Pesquera, the Executive Director of Adventist HealthCare Center on Health Disparities. "This kind of knowledge and feasibility is what is going to positively impact the health of all our communities."

Bringing People Together

Marnes Pesquera, the Executive Director of the newly formed Adventist Healthcare Center on Health Disparities, has been given a pretty big assignment: equality, justice, and health care for all.

He wasn’t even looking for a job when a friend told him about the new initiative Adventist HealthCare was launching to address and eliminate health disparities in all communities served. He was intrigued by the honesty and courage that required. "Very few health care systems are willing to call it what it is," Pesquera says.

He investigated and became convinced that this new Center was aiming to do more than just bridge the gap—it wanted to close it.

Pesquera arrived in Boston from his native Puerto Rico when he was 18 to study at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy. He was interested in both health care and business, and he figured pharmacy was a career that would allow him to pursue both interests. After he and his wife moved to the Washington, D.C. metro area he worked as a pharmacist at a drug store, then as a clinical pharmacist and administrator, then he moved into managed care administration.

Because he could speak Spanish, he sometimes was called upon to translate for patients. He soon discovered that communication involves more than words. Once he was asked to help when an elderly Hispanic woman refused to listen to the advice of young female doctor. He found that the patient felt the doctor was too young.

He located an organizational chart showing that the doctor was head of the department, and finally convinced the woman that the doctor knew what she was doing.

"I wasn’t just interpreting words," Pesquera explains. "I was a cultural broker."

Now, in his new role with the Center on Health Disparities, he aspires to bring cultural competence to the health care providers at Adventist HealthCare facilities. "Through training and education of all health care providers and support staff, we address the issues that knowingly or unknowingly affect the way we perceive and treat each other," Pesquera says.

At a recent training session held during lunchtime at Washington Adventist Hospital, the room filled up quickly and more chairs had to be brought in. There were plenty of PowerPoint charts documenting facts about health disparities and detailing the different ways minorities are left out of health care. There were handouts demonstrations demonstrating how cultural difference affect communication. In the semi-darkness, as many attendees made notes in the margins of their handouts, Pesquera tried to include everyone in the presentation. The title of the seminar, "Culturally Competent Care," must have appealed to many, because more and more people crowded in.

This is gratifying. The health care workers obviously want to learn how they can better provide quality health care to everyone. They want to be able to deal competently and empathetically with individuals from different cultures and backgrounds.

Pesquera’s goal is even more ambitious: he’d like to put himself out of business. He envisions a time and place where everyone receives the same high quality care, regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or insurance provider. His dream is that someday there will be no need for a Center on Health Disparities because there is no disparity.
Buscando poner fin a las disparidades de salud

Las gretas tienen que ser destacadas para poder ser resueltas. El informe proporciona puntos de qué hacer después para ayudar a resolver las disparidades y mejorar el acceso a atención médica de calidad para todos. No solamente se desarrollará un plan de trabajo para Adventist HealthCare, el Centro también se involucrará con el gobierno local y se trechará en un agente de cumbre. Se trata de un informe anual porque las comunidades nunca dejan de cambiar. El sistema necesita permanecer flexible. El Centro para Disparidades de Salud también ha empezado a trabajar para mejorar la calidad de los servicios de traducción. Se está dando extrema atención y esto es destacado para que el público pueda entender mejor el servicio.

People Worldwide Learn Value of Listening

Scores of individuals and groups in 28 states and 19 countries recently discovered the importance of listening and experienced the joy of being heard during the second annual I Love to Listen Day. This observance was created in 2006 by Marva Shand-McIntosh (pictured), a member and education leader at the Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md. Shand-McIntosh has laid the groundwork for an enduring family listening tradition where participants make a commitment to improve their listening skills by sending a thank-you card to a good listener, compiling a list of positive listening habits, or visiting with an elderly person to “just listen.” Her many years as a certified speech language pathologist have convinced Shand-McIntosh that if people want to succeed, they must be effective listeners. “Listening is the foundation of all communication skills, and it also sends a powerful message of respect and understanding,” she says.

During the past two years, individuals and groups from numerous countries—including the United States, South Africa, China, Brazil, England, Canada, Australia, Germany, and Kenya—were engaged in listening activities. Next year, the day will focus on listening poems from children all over the world. Teachers and parents are encouraged to support children in this project. For more information, visit www.ILoveToListen.com or email ILoveToListen2@yahoo.com.

Ephesians Member Appointed to State Board

Penny Johnson of Richmond, Va., was recently appointed by Governor Timothy M. Kaine to serve a four-year term on the state’s Fair Housing Board. Johnson is vice president and senior community development officer of community relations for the Wachovia Corporation. She is also a member of the Housing Planning Committee and the Chesterfield County Affordable Housing Task Force.

“I am honored, humbled, and excited,” responded Johnson about the appointment. She believes much of the reason she earned the position is “through my work in the community promoting affordable housing and bringing together key players, and my ability to easily form relationships and build innovative partnerships.”

Johnson is a Sabbath School teacher and communication director for the Ephesus church in Richmond. In her board position, she will be assisting anyone who believes they have been discriminated against in housing because of their race, color, religion, sex, disability, national origin, disability, or because they have children. “I pray before each meeting for God’s wisdom—he gave to Solomon—in making decisions that affect people’s lives,” she states.—Beth Michaels
Breath of Life Member Speaks in India

It always amazes me how God arranges circumstances in our lives to do His good pleasure,” said Hercules Pinkney, EdD (front row, far right), was recently invited to lead a delegation to India to discuss a community college model he is leading at Montgomery College in Maryland. He sits with delegation members and Akhaqur Rahman Kidwai, PhD, governor of the state of Haryana (front middle), explained Pinkney. Montgomery College in the process of constructing a science and technology business park and a technology business incubator on the Germantown campus. Pinkney added, “The secondary purpose was to gain access to India-based businesses interested in expanding into America and, more specifically, in Montgomery County.”

Hearing of Pinkney’s upcoming visit, Spicer Memorial College (India) invited him to be the Consecration speaker for their 2007 graduation ceremony. Pinkney not only addressed the seniors but also participated with Nida-Erik Andrews, DM in, Andrews University (Mich.) president and the Commencement speaker in Spicer’s Day Program, a dedication ceremony for missionaries, and a class lecture. Pinkney was also asked to share God’s Word with the Adventist church in New Delhi during their recent commemoration Sabbath and afternoon Adventist Youth program. Pinkney—named 2003 Educator of the Year by the African American Chamber of Commerce—and his wife, Patricia, have three children: Nicole, Craig, and Robert; and one granddaughter, Jordan.—Beth Michaels

Philadelphia Women “Learn to Love”

Women of the Southwest Philadelphia church recently stole away on a weekend to “learn to love.” Participants of the Loving Well Retreat learned of four people types: the person who is a “joy” to live with, to do His good pleasure, “said Lifechurch in Fort Washington, Md. “Would you believe that, in a 15-day span, it was possible for me to meet and speak with the president and the 2007 graduating class of Spicer Memorial College, and Bible study leader, and spiritual gifts facilitator for the Breath of Life church in Fort Washington, Md. “Would you believe that, in a 15-day span, it was possible for me to meet and speak with the president and the 2007 graduating class of Spicer Memorial College,

Columbus Adventist Academy Promotes Health, Safety

Columbus Adventist Academy (CAA) embarked on its fifth year of operation with the theme “Service to God and Man.” Students participated in several community service activities throughout the 2006-07 school year to promote the theme. In November students and teachers purchased and distributed 9-volt batteries to 100 homes in the school neighborhood. The batteries were accompanied by a Thanksgiving poem and facts about smoke detectors and fire safety. At Christmas time, an angel tree party was hosted in order for CAA students and nearby Epheus church members to distribute donated Christmas gifts to 100 children who have one or more immediate family members incarcerated. The gifts are given in the name of the prisoner.

In April 41 of the school’s 68 students participated in Jump Rope for Hearts, raising $1,388.41 for the American Heart Association. A visitor was so impressed by their efforts that they wrote a check for $11.99 in order to bring the fund-raiser total to an even $1,400. The final event for the year was Walk of Diabetes. Students invited parents, church members, and community neighbors to take their lunch hour and join them in walking the 3.8-mile path at a nearby park. Local vendors and doctors provided water and sunscreen for the participants.

All of the school’s events this year were linked to health, safety, and social issues that have a profound impact on the community. The activities also helped students learn important information while having fun.—Sharon L. Lewis

Melrose Avenue Member Promoted at Virginia Tech

Kevin G. McDonald (picture), member of the Melrose Avenue church in Roanoke, Va., was recently promoted to vice president for Multicultural Affairs at Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, Va. McDonald has served at the university as director of the Office for Equal Opportunity since 2005. He assumed his new responsibilities on June 25.

“In his role as director of the Office for Equal Opportunity, Kevin exemplified the university’s commitment to furthering an inclusive campus community,” said Charles W. Steger, Virginia Tech president. “After an extensive national search, we found that the very best candidate with the vision, the leadership, and the character needed for this very important position was right here among us.”

As vice president for Multicultural Affairs, McDonald will provide leadership in the development of university policies and practices related to intercultural relations, diversity, and equity issues, and programs that strengthen and sustain a more diverse and inclusive campus community. In addition, the Office for Equal Opportunity will now report to the office of the vice president for Multicultural Affairs.

“I’m truly grateful for the opportunity,” expressed McDonald. “Although I’m sure the challenges will be plentiful, I look forward to working collaboratively with cross-functional partners that will move the university forward in its diversity and inclusion efforts.” He adds, “At the end of the day, I hope that people can still see Christ in me and the work that I do.”

McDonald earned a bachelor’s degree from Andrews University (Mich.) and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from The Ohio State University College of Law. He is a certified mediator in both traditional and transformative/social justice models of mediation and holds an affirmative-action certificate from Cornell University. He is a member of the Association for Conflict Resolution.—Mark Oczarski

Allegheny East Conference

PO Box 268, Pipers Forge, PA 15458
Phone: (810) 328-4615
www.mycleghenyeast.com
President, Charles L. Cheatham
Communication Director, Robert Booker
Editor, Beth Michaels

Melrose Avenue Member Speaks in India

The president of Andrews University; the governor of Haryana, India; and the congregation of a Seventh-day Adventist church in New Delhi, India?

Pinkney is vice president and provost of the Germantown Campus of Montgomery College in Montgomery County, Maryland. Akhaqur Rahman Kidwai, PhD, governor of the State of Haryana, India, invited him to lead a six-member delegation from the Maryland school in order to “discuss the feasibility of replicating our community college model in the 53 technical colleges within the State of Haryana,” explained Pinkney. Montgomery College is in the process of constructing a science and technology business park and a technology business incubator on the Germantown campus. Pinkney added, “The secondary purpose was to gain access to India-based businesses interested in expanding into America and, more specifically, in Montgomery County.”

Hearing of Pinkney’s upcoming visit, Spicer Memorial College (India) invited him to be the Consecration speaker for their 2007 graduation ceremony. Pinkney not only addressed the seniors but also participated with Nida-Erik Andrews, DM in, Andrews University (Mich.) president and the Commencement speaker in Spicer’s Day Program, a dedication ceremony for missionaries, and a class lecture. Pinkney was also asked to share God’s Word with the Adventist church in New Delhi during their recent commemoration Sabbath and afternoon Adventist Youth program. Pinkney—named 2003 Educator of the Year by the African American Chamber of Commerce—and his wife, Patricia, have three children: Nicole, Craig, and Robert; and one granddaughter, Jordan.—Beth Michaels
Brazillian Congregation Growing in Pittsburgh

The young Brazilian Temple congregation (pictured) in Pittsburgh recently held their first Sabbath service in their new building. Since their first meeting in July 2006, the 40-member group has been worshipping in a home in Moon, Pa. Their new, small facility is a former bank.

The group’s new pastor, Paolo Von Neutegem, with his wife, Sara, and their two adult sons, Guillerme and Paula Enrique, have been leading the congregation since their move to the area in February. The pastor proclaims his vision is simply “to increase the Brazilian work in the Pittsburgh area so that it results in a large congregation.”

Libeny H. Dubreuz, Sr., Multicultural Ministries director for the Allegheny West Conference, and his wife, Sara, first organized the group. Dubreuz was happy to address the growing congregation again, this time as guest speaker for the joyous occasion. “Since the Von Neutegems moved from Florida, the work increased very fast,” stated Dubreuz. “We praise the Lord for their dynamic vision.”

Churches Unite to Provide Community Health Fair

Churches from two conferences recently joined hands for their first community outreach collaboration. The Allegheny West Conference’s Victory church and the Ohio Conference’s Delaware church reached out to their mutual Delaware, Ohio community, providing free health screenings and education through a joint health fair.

Tecora Rogers, PhD, from the Hilltop church in Columbus, Ohio, spearheaded the project by guiding area coordinators—Janice Fort and Brenda Sales of Delaware church and the Ohio Conference’s Delaware church—through the health fair stations. Many volunteers graciously offered their talents and energy to make the event successful, including area professionals who performed blood pressure checks, visual screenings, and other health services. The Delaware Discoverers Pathfinders, directed by Karen Hall, distributed flyers for advertisement, and managed the juice station for those who fasted in order to have their blood glucose level checked. A local dentist, along with students from Ohio State University, provided dental screenings while a psychologist, along with case manager/Delaware church pastor David Sullivan and Victory church pastor Lawrence Shepherd, conducted mental health screenings and follow-up surveys. Two attending Spanish interpreters proved to be very helpful.

After participants’ results were recorded, Ohio Adventist physicians Kevin Banks, MD, and Steve Burks, MD, advised them according to their test results. Children weren’t left out. They were entertained with balloons, face painting, popcorn, videos, and even a clown. All attendees were welcome to sample the free vegetarian food provided by church members Amy Hornsby and Pat Crampton. The two churches look forward to working together again.—Maya Sullivan

Let’s Dispense Gospel Medicine

I’ve been reading lately in the Gospel of Luke and imagining what it must have been like for Luke to leave his medical practice for the preaching life. The way I figure it, he did not stop carrying his black bag. He simply repacked it, taking out the scissors, scalpel, and tincture of iodine to make room for the medicine of the gospel—those healing stories of God that did more to put people back together than all the potions in the world. He told stories with power to mend broken lives and revive faint hearts. Instead of pills and potions, he carried gospel medicine; medicine that works, strangely enough, through words.

There is a multitude of ways to share the Good News. Every now and then we may be called upon to stand in some public place and give account for the hope that is in us, but nine times out of 10, our dispensing of gospel medicine is of the quiet kind. We might read the Bible to a sick friend, tell the truth to someone who has asked for it, end a quarrel with an apology, or write a note that restores hope. We are all doctors of the gospel. We are all tellers of the story. Tell it in a way that heals and restores!

Pathfinders Compete at Annual Fair

Twelve Chesapeake Pathfinder Clubs met recently on the spacious lawns of the New Hope church in Fulton, Md., for the annual Conference Pathfinder Fair. Club members, wearing their colorful field uniforms, gathered for a roll call and devotional and then started competing for points in lashing, log chopping and splitting, and fire building.

Pathfinders were able to demonstrate their knowledge and expertise in knot tying (lashing) by using rope to bind together four pieces of lumber in such a fashion that it would support one of their club members as they dragged the bundle across the field past the finish line. A second lashing event required the Pathfinders to build a 20-foot flagpole that would stand on its own by lashing together six pieces of lumber. In addition to the point-earning activities, there were also fun, non-competitive events such as hawk throwing, archery, paintball, and crafts, as well as a chance to share stories and display earned honors.

One of the day’s highlights was the announcement of the 2006-07 Conference Pathfinder of the Year awards: Roxie Sanderson and Herbie Sweezy (pictures). Sanderson is a member of the Waldorf (Md.) Wildcat club and Sweezy is part of the Baltimore First Rangers from Ellicott City, Md. These young people were recommended by their peers for their outstanding leadership within their clubs and for service to their communities. “These young people really embody the true spirit of Pathfindering,” said Ann Reynolds, conference Youth Department secretary. At days end, the Pathfinders returned to their homes tired but with smiles on their faces and with ribbons they were awarded for their individual and club performances.
Spencerville Members Learn to Reconnect

More than 60 people from local Chesapeake churches gathered recently at the Spencerville (Md.) church for a seminar on how to better reconnect with former Seventh-day Adventist members. The seminar presenter was Paul Richardson (pictured), the Reconnecting Ministry coordinator for the North American Division and president for the Center for Creative Ministries. Richardson shared several compelling stories about the personal struggles of former Adventists. Based on his research, he has concluded that many of these former members miss the fellowship of the church but don’t know how to reconnect. He added that church members must be educated on how to gracefully receive them back.

Richardson closed the meeting by sharing what he calls the “Eight Habits of Highly Effective Reconnecting Churches.” Herein he outlined the attitudinal adjustments local church leaders and congregations must make to welcome back former members. He also outlined practical steps a congregation can implement to make it easier to reconnect with them. One example was having a special Sabbath School class where former members would feel comfortable.

It has been estimated that there are between 100,000 and 150,000 former Seventh-day Adventist members in the Baltimore/Washington area. For more information, contact Richardson at www.creativeministry.org, or call (800) 272-4664.

Atholton School Continues Expansion

The corner blocks of the Atholton Adventist School gymnasium stood extended for 40 years as members waited in anticipation of the day when a new school wing would be added. After 40 years, the summer of 2001 initiated the school’s “extreme school makeover.” The makeover of the Columbia, Md., school ended up spanning more than five years and represented more than 10,000 hours of volunteer labor by faithful church members. It expanded the elementary program into a full junior academy, offering one of the finest ninth- and 10th-grade curricula anywhere in the North American Division.

Atholton’s conversion has created 11 attractive full-sized classrooms, several smaller classrooms for breakout sessions, a completely refurbished gymnasium, a beautifully appointed library, a fully equipped science lab, and a modern computer lab. In addition to its 13 full-time classroom staff, Atholton boasts two part-time teachers, three teacher’s aides, four private music instructors, and an administrative assistant.

This fall Atholton is once again expanding its program. The new pre-kindergarten program will be housed in a brand new modular facility adjacent to the main school building. This classroom is the first phase of the future Early Childhood Learning Center. It is directed by a fully certified Adventist teacher and assisted by a full-time teaching aide. The developmental curriculum and facility are designed to excite and encourage student learning and the development of positive social skills.

Choral Groups Perform With Acclaimed Composer

Columbia Union College’s CUC Columbia Collegiate Choral, directed by James Bingham, PhD, and the New England Youth Ensemble, directed by Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse, recently accompanied internationally celebrated composer John Rutter (pictured). The collaboration was for Rutter’s five-movement piece “Mass of the Children” during the Fifth Rock Creek Festival.

According to a review in the Washington Post, “Rittenhouse and her ensemble displayed boundless energy” and Bingham gave “a heartfelt rendition of Ralph Vaughan Williams’ ‘Serenade to Music.’” The evening started in the Great Hall of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C., with five lively numbers from the New England Youth Ensemble. The orchestra performed Mozart’s overture to “The Marriage of Figaro,” “The Bartered Bride” from “Dance of the Comedians” by Smetana, and “Trumpet Concerto in E Flat” by Franz Haydn. CUC junior Jose Oviedo’s trumpet solo on the “Concerto for Four Violins” by Vivaldi received loud applause.

Bingham directed the “Serenade,” performed by 16 singers in the college’s choir, who were accompanied by the orchestration of strings and harp. For the finale, Rutter’s “Mass of the Children” included CUC’s groups, St. Paul’s professional choir, and the Bel Canto Chorus from the Children’s Chorus of Washington.

“Everywhere we go, from California to South Africa, and even here in our own home, it’s the response of the audience that I enjoy the most,” exclaimed Rittenhouse. “It’s a wonderful way to represent what we stand for in our beliefs, and it represents CUC.”

The two CUC music groups, conducted by Rutter, also recently performed at Carnegie Hall. The festival concert marked their last performance of the season.—PR Staff

Coach Hosts Summer Soccer Camp

Anthony Ogunsanya, head coach of CUC’s men’s soccer team, created a Christian-based summer soccer camp as a fun way to train and teach youth to play soccer in a safe environment. Ogunsanya developed the idea for the camp in 2005 when he noticed that many adults and youth lacked the fundamental skills common in the game of soccer.

“I feel I can impact the lives of Christian athletes by teaching discipline and the Bible,” said Ogunsanya, as he looked over CUC’s ballfield dotted with children, ages 6-14, in shin guards, knee-high socks, and multicolored jerseys.

“Coach O’ has led several adult and youth soccer teams and has played the sport at the college level. His goal through the camp is to teach the young students new skills and refine existing skills in a nurturing and challenging camp experience. Soccer students are divided into groups according to skill level.”

Ogunsanya, along with his college assistants, focused on both technical and tactical play with experienced players. More importantly, camp was started each day with a devotional, and the coach taught the students Bible memory verses.

“I loved camp. There were a lot of good players to play against, and my favorite part was when coach played against all of us,” said 11-year-old camper Lydia Frierson. The camp operates in two, one-week sessions in June and July. For more information, write to msoccer@cuc.edu.—Candace Hamilton

The Challenge is published in the Visitor by the Chesapeake Conference • 9600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044 Phone: (410) 995-1910 • President, Rob Vandeman
FYE Program Prepares Freshmen for Success

CUC’s campus community is preparing to welcome incoming freshmen to the First Year Experience (FYE) program on August 22. This semester-long class is themed “Destinations” and will focus on preparing students to think deeply about their future.

“We want students to know that no matter where the journey takes them or where they’ve come from, success is possible,” said Tami Shipowick Hoyt, the FYE program director.

According to Shipowick Hoyt, FYE was created to help students make a successful transition to college life. This one-credit course will outline tips in developing relationships with faculty and peers, and offer forums on how to become a successful individual spiritually, academically, and socially. FYE will expose freshmen to the various facets of academic life. With a student/teacher ratio of 15:1 at CUC, they are assured plenty of access to their professors. Each FYE class is provided a student leader who is available to answer questions and lend personal advice to each student throughout the semester.

“My hope is to continue the tradition that kept me here and to help train the incoming freshmen to become the leaders of tomorrow,” said Juan-Jose Garza, a sophomore political studies major and the show’s team members—including host Ty Perington—to build a home for the Hawkins family.

Alumnus Makes an “Extreme” Difference

David Luecke (pictured), a 1984 HVA graduate, is the founder and president of Capitol Homes, Inc., a home building company located in Middle Tennessee. Capitol Homes was recognized in 2006 by Builder magazine as one of the 100 fastest growing builders in the country. The company recently accomplished another endeavor—building a home for ABC’s Extreme Makeover: Home Edition. Capitol Homes worked with nearly 2,000 volunteers, 100 companies, and the show’s team members—including host Ty Pennington—to build a home for the Hawkins family.

Luecke says the best part of the project was “the incredible number of people who wanted to help. It was amazing to see kindness in people’s hearts. The only frustrating moment was when people wanted to donate more than what we had the ability to accept.”

Luecke has many fond memories of his two years at HVA. A lot of the core values he holds dear were formed during that part of his life. Luecke still has as much enthusiasm for life as he did then. “I hope my classmates are enjoying life as much as I am,” he chuckles. —Jenny Harlow

More Than We Dare Ask

The 2007-08 school year brings some changes to Highland View Academy (HVA), as each year typically does. Several new staff members are joining us, and we are adding a few new classes. We are also being blessed with a higher enrollment.

In anticipation of a new school year new and students arriving, I am reminded once again of Ephesians 3:20. I especially like the Contemporary English Version, which reads, “His power at work in us can accomplish more than we dare ask or imagine.” There are some things that I’ve asked the Lord to provide to us this school year, and I have imagined some things that I hope will happen. But have I fully opened myself to let His power work in me so that even more than I’ve asked or imagined can be accomplished? I hope so. Would you please pray for HVA faculty, students, and the parents who are sending their children to our academy? Pray for our academic success, our spiritual emphasis, and our safety.

And most importantly, please pray, throughout the year, that every one of us will be open to the Holy Spirit’s leading. We hope that even more than we have yet asked for or imagined will indeed become reality!
School Year Ends With Eight Baptisms

What better way to end a school year than to have students make a personal commitment to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior! During graduation weekend, eight students were baptized at the Highland View church in Hagerstown, Md. Baptized students included graduating seniors Chad Banks and Roberta Plantak; junior Angelique Bagrimvano; sophomores Laura Boyer and Mary Hostetler; and freshmen Jennifer Cahnoun, Jordan Corces, and Kenji Nomura.

Campus Ministries director Banje Maxson baptizes sophomore Mary Hostetler.

During graduation weekend, eight students were baptized at the School Year Ends With Eight Baptisms

Warmth continued in the smiles and hugs between old friends. If a picture is worth a thousand words, the accompanying photos can attest that the baptism provided special music for the church service.

Students Reconnect at Alumni Weekend

HVA’s recent alumni weekend started with a beautiful day for the 10th Annual Golf Tournament at the Beaver Creek Country Club golf course in Hagerstown, Md. Although the weather cooled off for Sabbath, the warmth continued in the smiles and hugs between old friends. If a picture is worth a thousand words, the accompanying photos can attest that the weekend was enjoyed by all attendees.—Jenny Harlow

The Honor Class of 1987 had the largest percentage of returning classmates.

August
16 Registration for community students, 5-8 p.m., Admin. Building
19 Registration for Dormitory Students, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Admin. Building
20 First Day of school
24, 25 Commitment Weekend
31 Boys and Girls Sept. 2 Club Campouts

September
6-9 Columbia Union Student Leadership Conference
20-23 Senior Survival

Highland Student’s Prose Earns Second Place

Britney Thompson (pictured), an eighth-grader at Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va., won second place and $75 in a recent essay contest sponsored by the regional newspaper The Inter-Mountain. Thompson’s winning composition included her colorful reminiscences of the community where she was born, as well as constructive ideas for improving area services for young people. “I am very proud of Britney,” states principal Cheryl Jacko. “She has been an outstanding student in our school’s creative and research writing instruction program. This honor is well deserved.”

Mountain View Conference Schools Welcome Calls

Nearly all Mountain View Conference schools are situated in beautiful rural or small-town settings. There is still time to enroll. Friendly personnel at each school will be happy to take your call and explain what you need to know about their school. All conference schools, listed below, are accredited:

Highland Adventist School (K-12) in Elkins, W.Va.
Greenbrier Adventist Academy (K-10) in Lewisburg, W.Va.
Mountaintop Adventist School (K-12) in Oakland, Md.
Parkersburg Academy (K-12) in Parkersburg, W.Va.
Summersville Adventist School (K-8) in Summersville, W.Va.
Valley View Adventist Academy (K-12) in Bluefield, W.Va.

School contact information is available by calling the conference Education Department at (304) 422-2581.
Marlinton and Hinton Companies Formed

The Marlinton fellowship was recently voted into official company status by those attending Mountain View Camp Meeting held at beautiful Valley Vista Camp in Parkersburg, W.Va. The group got its start in October 2006 when Robert L. “Doc” Michael held a 10-night series of public meetings at the public library in downtown Marlinton. After the original series of meetings ended, Pastor Michael started a Bible-marking class on Thursday evenings, where five are now learning additional Bible truths. One is now preparing for baptism. Presently 17 people are regularly attending Sabbath services. “This is a dream fulfilled through much prayer and effort. Marlinton is my hometown, where I grew up as a Methodist. But once I became an Adventist, the Lord put a burden in my heart to help form a body of believers there committed to disseminating our unique message of present truth,” states Pastor Michael. “I praise God for what He has wrought in establishing this dedicated and beautiful unified congregation in Marlinton.”

Following an evangelistic series in Hinton, W.Va., several years ago, conducted by Pastor Gerald Freeman of the Michigan Conference, a branch Sabbath school became firmly established. This Hinton group has been meeting faithfully for the past several years, led by their pastor, David Byrkit. The congregation has been conducting outreach in that small, but historic railroad town in southern W.Va., through Bible studies, a thrift store ministry, health and family counseling, as well as personal visitation. Hinton, a hub of Wiccan activity and publications, is seeing darkness of spiritualism dispelled through the courageous work of the little Adventist flock in the heart of town.

Teaching Students to be Christ’s Example

Mahatma Gandhi once advised, “Be the change you want to see in the world.” This quote encompasses what we hope to instill in our students at Mount Vernon Academy (MVA). When we consider the calling the Lord has placed in our lives, it is imperative that we examine ourselves and determine if we are what God wants us to be. Our educators face an interesting daily challenge: making sure we are focused on living the change we want to see in the “MVA world.” This challenge is not unique to our school, but one faced by all those who are blessed with the opportunity to educate and serve young people. Mount Vernon Academy is committed to a challenge found in the book Education—to help young people develop the character of Christ and a life of selfless service. Ellen White’s directive motivates our faculty and staff to help students become “change agents” in their community and to model traits they want to find in others. As Christians, we should each strive to be the example of Christ that we want to see in the world.

Seniors Witness Power of Prayer in Puerto Rico

Each year MVA students are offered an out-of-country mission trip as well as many in-state and local community service opportunities. This year the graduating Class of 2007 decided to make their class trip a special mission project in Puerto Rico. The seniors worked at the Seventh-day Adventist camp in the El Yunqué National Rainforest. The mission team arrived in San Juan around 9 p.m. Even that late, the heat was much more intense than the group had imagined. They started their two-hour bus ride into the mountains of the national rainforest.

The roads were curvy and steep, but the bus barreled on easily. When they arrived at camp, the students were delighted to discover an industrial fan in each room to keep them cool. Following worship the next morning, the team started their duties—painting cabins, raking leaves, mopping floors, and cleaning a basketball court. The basketball court soon became the focus of their mission work. The dirt around the court needed to be dug out to prepare for cementing the court’s surface. Students devoted the next three days to mixing and spreading. The work was not easy, and the weather provided no comfort. Many students got deep blisters on their hands, and the heat fatigue even the strongest workers. But they kept going until the task was completed. Finishing the basketball court gave the students a real sense of pride and accomplishment.

On their final morning, something very special happened. The “unstoppable” bus that had many times taken the group to and from town, without fault, could not climb the hill leading out of camp. Each time the driver attempted to climb the hill, the bus would just stop. Even after unloading the students and luggage, the bus still failed. As the bus backed down the hill again, the students got together and prayed. On the next attempt, the bus passed the praying students, slowed to a crawl, but never stopped. It was obvious that it had a Helping Hand. The most important lesson learned from the trip: prayer overcomes obstacles.

—Aaron Myers
Seniors are excited to be in Washington, D.C., for their government trip. Why did you choose to attend MVA? "I liked the campus, and I have family here," said one freshman. Another said, "I heard good things from my friends who attended, and I wanted to see for myself." One sophomore exclaimed, "I wanted to go to a Christian school that had a multicultural background and a loving, supportive staff." A senior concurred, and added, "visited campus and really liked the environment. I knew that I would fit in." As a senior, how has MVA impacted your life? "I found myself and discovered God's purpose for my life," replied one. Another stated, "Along with improving my spiritual life, MVA has taught me to be independent, hard working, and responsible." "It gave me opportunities to succeed, nurtured new skills, and provided an environment for me to meet friends I will value for the rest of my life," claimed one graduating student.

What do you like about the academics provided at MVA? "The teachers know their material," stated one sophomore. A junior responded, "Teachers challenge us by pushing us to our limit and beyond. That means good education." Another junior added, "We use many different types of technology in our classes." "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future." Of the different religious and outreach programs provided at MVA? "I have the opportunity to learn from willing, caring staff and take college-level classes," replied one senior. Another felt, "The teachers actually care about my future."
The Kindergarten/Primary Division (pictured) of the Cherry Hill church wanted to do something to help children around the world. The teachers and children agreed to buy one cow, two goats, and 100 chickens through ADRA to help families in Vietnam, Sri Lanka, and China. Their goal was to raise $550 this year. In January the group got permission from the church board to have a one time, special offering to start them on their way to their goal. The teachers provided special music and took up an offering, which totaled more than $200. They also held a “Barn Yard Bash” on a Saturday evening and raised over $400. Within three months, the group raised more than $1,000. They were able to purchase the cow, 100 chickens, seven goats, provide medical needs for more than 30 children and families, and nourishing food for more than 50 children.

In all, the group is helping in more than 17 countries.—Claudia Ramirez

Cherry Hill Children Raise Money for ADRA

Darlene Jackson from the Laurelwood English church in Woodbury won second place during the hat parade.

Rye is a private Christian counselor in Texas with a doctorate in Adlerian Psychology. Dennis Johnson was the guest speaker for the Hispanic attendees. Price is a private Christian counselor in Texas with a doctorate in Adlerian Psychology. Dennis Johnson was the guest speaker for the Hispanic attendees.

Leadership Couple Announces Retirement

A fter more than 30 years of service in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Lou and Bette Toscano (pictured) have announced their retirement, effective July 31. The Toscanos started their denominational service in pastoral ministry in the New Jersey Conference and also pastored in the Indiana Conference for 11 years.

Following a very fulfilling and successful time of service as a pastor, Lou was invited to serve as trust officer for the Northern New England Conference. Lou and Bette joined the Ohio Conference staff in 1996. Lou provided leadership to the Ohio Conference Association and served as director of planned giving, Lou’s thoughtful, inspiring, and Christ-centered teaching and preaching ministry has been an added bonus valued by Ohio constituents. Bette served as administrative assistant to the conference president and executive secretary, and as editor of Mission Ohio. She has also been responsible for producing the many newsletters, advertising material, posters, etc., for the conference’s communication efforts.

“Lou and Bette have become very much a part of our office family and have been a wonderful blessing to God’s work in Ohio,” observed president Raj Attiken. “They leave a strong legacy of commitment, love, and dedicated service,” he added. “We will miss them immensely.”

Executive Committee Implements Changes

Several actions were voted recently by the Ohio Conference Executive Committee and its sub-committees. After careful examination of the scope, effectiveness, and other aspects relating to the practice of staffing Ohio churches with bi-vocational pastors, it was voted to continue the plan and to add elements designed to strengthen the ministry of such pastors. Currently the conference has 40 vocational and 30 bi-vocational pastor positions.

After reviewing several options regarding the future of Camp Mohaven in Danville, the committee voted to explore the option of developing and upgrading the present facility, and of building a retreat center on the campus. A detailed feasibility study has been requested. Students from households that are not members of the Ohio Conference have, for many years, been required to pay an additional fee to be a part of the conference’s school system. At a recent meeting of the K-12 Board of Education, an action was voted that will result in the elimination of this fee. This action supports the conference’s vision that its churches and schools have a strong community-focused mission and ministry.

The committee voted to allocate increased funding for the operation of Camp Sonpower, making this ministry more affordable to churches. It is a week-long day camp operated in local churches and schools. Fifteen camps will be held in 2007.

Mission church status was granted to the Cleveland Ghanaian, Hamilton Spanish, and Peebles Community congregations.

Executive Committee implements changes
Conference Ordains Four Pastors

Gabriel Montalvo – Pastor Montalvo and his wife, Ana, have led the Philadelphia Spanish II, Grace Spanish in Chester, Lehigh Valley Spanish in Allentown, and a mission group in Easton since August 2005. Montalvo’s childhood dreams were to become a medical doctor and/or minister of the everlasting gospel. In 1992 he graduated with a degree in respiratory therapy. He started his ministry as a lay pastor at the Philadelphia Spanish IV church in 1997. A year later, he became the pastor of the Philadelphia II Spanish church.

In 2000, while working full-time as a supervisor for a respiratory department in a local children’s hospital and leading the church full-time, he decided to enroll in Atlantic Union College’s (Mass.) Adult Degree Program. He finished three degrees: theology, religion, and personal ministry. His greatest desire for ministry is for people to see Jesus in him while leading the church in meaningful ministries. The Montalvo’s have three children: Gabriel II (19), Aaron (13), and Diana (10).

James Wibberding – After studying auto body repair and broadcasting, Wibberding spent a summer co-pastoring, which set a new direction for his life. He felt the call to ministry. Wibberding and his wife, Laura, both earned degrees from Adventist universities. He is presently working on a Doctor of Ministry through Andrews University (Mich.). Pastor Wibberding has published two books: Learn to Preach Before Next Weekend and Sabbath Reflections: A Weekly Devotional. His pastoral experience in Pennsylvania includes the Warren, Corry, Brockway, Clearfield, Distant, and Seneca churches. He now pastors at Lansdale and Souderton. The Wibberding’s welcomed their first child, Kara, in January.

Brian Cassell – A native Pennsylvaniaan, Cassell is a fourth generation Adventist. At 11 years old, he took a personal stand for Christ. He attended Southern Adventist University (Tenn.), beginning as a business major, but then accepted God’s call to study for pastoral ministry. He graduated in 2000 with a theology degree. Cassell married his high school sweetheart, Miriam, that same year, and they started their ministry at the Hampden Heights church, where he was associate pastor. They then pastored in the Kingston/Slocum/Drums district for three years before he attended the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. Following his graduation in December 2006, Cassell is now pastoring the Hampden Heights church. His desire is to serve God by seeking and saving lost people, and disciplining others to join in.

Preston Monterrey – Pastor Monterrey became an Adventist at age 16 and spent 17 years ministering as an active layman, sharing the Blessed Hope with thousands. During that time he traveled through Puerto Rico, Central America, and South America as a revivalist and literature evangelist. Monterrey worked as a phone-chaplain at Adventist Information Ministry (at Andrews University) for five years before joining the Pennsylvania Conference pastoral team. Monterrey has worked as an Adventist minister for nearly seven years, including his part-time work in the Lake Region and Illinois conferences. He presently ministers to the Canton and Sayre churches. His mission is to restore suffering humanity; to empower people’s bodies, minds, and spirits by God’s Word; and to educate them with Christian values. The pastor and his wife, Valerie, have five children: Michelle, Elizabeth, Preston Jr., Christian, and
Western Camp Meeting to Present “Unknown” Christ

Encounter the Unknown Christ! This year’s theme for Western Pennsylvania Camp Meeting is “Unknown Christ.” The event will be held September 14-15 at Laurel Lake Camp in Rosslerton. Dave Weigley (pictured right), Columbia Union Conference president, will be the featured speaker. He will preach from the Book of Mark about trying to understand the will of God in our lives, and will review the true identity of Christ. Weigley’s passion is to witness people making a decision to follow Jesus and accepting discipleship into the Adventist movement. A graduate of Blue Mountain Academy, he has deep roots in Pennsylvania.

J.P. and Ani O’Connor (left) will provide an inspiring concert. This pastoral couple of the Chestnut Hill church in Philadelphia has been singing together for eight years.

The weekend will also include prayer, fellowship, and activities for children and young people. Applications are available in local churches and in the August issue of the You Making a Difference newsletter. Apply online at www.paconference.org.

Members Invited to Arise and Build

Just as Nehemiah faced a series of challenges when the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt, so has the leadership of the Everett church. But they have been faithful throughout the process, not wavering from the conviction that God has called them to arise and build. Members believe the promise, “… The God of heaven will set your enemies far from you. Your descendants will be as numerous as the sand of the sea.” (Neh. 2:20).

Arise and Build projects successful and are requested again to help erect a new building on September 23 for the Everett church.

Implementation of these plans. Their new location will give more positive exposure and provide new opportunities for the members to reach their communities.

All conference members are asked to set aside two Sundays, September 23 and 30 (as a rain date), to help erect a new building for this deserving church. Generous contributions, faithful giving to the Arise and Build offering throughout the year, and time and energy given during the building process, are all appreciated. Remember, “Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it” (Ps. 127:1). Please keep this project in your prayers.—Bill Peterson

Volunteers have made the past three Arise and Build projects successful and are requested again to help erect a new building on September 23 for the Everett church.

Our Teachers are Privileged

Potomac teachers were asked to complete the following statement: “I feel privileged to teach as an Adventist educator because…” Below are just a couple of their insightful responses:

“We have the freedom to talk about that which the public school educator is gagged—God, His love for us, and how through Christ we are invited to know Him forever!” said Dewayne Beyer from Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md.

“Nothing is more rewarding than watching my students become leaders in our churches and communities,” answered Verni Hsu from the Beltsville (Md.) Adventist School. “I am educating my students not just for the present and immediate future, but also for eternity.

When the teachers were asked to complete this statement: “A high point in my school this year was…” some of their replies were:

“Our Outdoor School at Camp Blue Ridge (in Montebello, Va.): we had a fantastic time learning, playing, and getting to know each other better,” recalls Jim Minty from Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary in New Market, Va.

“Watching God’s leading in all aspects: ITBS scores on the rise, enrollment growth, money put in savings, building project on the drawing board, and lives changed into the likeness of Jesus! And to think I get paid to do what I do!” exclaimed Grant Wolters from Tappahannock (Va.) Junior Academy.

Amy Bailey from Beltsville Adventist School pulls together the essence of Adventist education with this reflection: “In preparation for graduation, one of our eighth-graders wrote a beautiful poem that included the phrase, ‘Leaving Beltsville is like leaving home’. I couldn’t agree more. This is why the education is about: building a family of believers that laugh together, learn together, and lives together now and for eternity.”

Vienna Academy Students Serve Community

A number of young people from Vienna Adventist Academy (VAA) recently delivered beautiful bouquets of cut flowers, as well as colorful spring flowers for Vienna (Va.) church member Evelyn Robinson. The students seemed delighted in the fact that they were doing a good deed. The flowers are now blooming throughout the yard and are a witness to others as she delights in telling her neighbors about the shining faces of the youngsters who took time out to plant them.

Throughout the year these youngsters also help in delivering Easter baskets, soldier care kits, toys, and Thanksgiving baskets. They have also walked for the hungry. The Vienna church and VAA are very active in the community and are always willing to help others with a smiling face.—André Richards

UPCOMING EVENTS

Southwest Virginia Camp Meeting – The event will be held September 7-9 at the Rural Retreat (Va.) Fairgrounds. Keynote speaker will be Marvin Moore (pictured), speaker, author, and editor of Signs of the Times magazine. Other speakers include revivalist Ron Goos, Adventist Mission planning director Homer Trecartin, and conference president Bill Miller.

Youth and Children’s Ministries Leadership Training – Reserve your space for September 7-9 to attend the conference’s leadership training at Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va., sponsored by the Children’s and Youth Ministries departments. The last day to register is August 27. For more information, call (540) 886-0771. Online registration is available at www.paconference.org.

What’s happening

August

3-8 Young Adult Prayer Trip Union Pathfinder Camporee, Patapsco State Park, Md.
12 Church Planting Summit, Hamburg First Church Hispanic Youth Retreat, Haltax
31 Sept. 2 Western Camp Meeting, Laurel Lake Camp Adventurer Retreat Everett Arise and Build Big Day, Everett Arise and Build Big Day (Rain Date), Everett

September

14-15 Everett Arise and Build Congress 
21-23 Everett Arise and Build Big Day, Everett Arise and Build Big Day (Rain Date), Everett
30 Everett Arise and Build Big Day

October

5-7 Pathfinder Fall Campout, Laurel Lake Camp
12-14 Fall Women’s Retreat Laurel Lake Camp

Vienna Adventist Academy students, led by Renee Shive, back row, left, serve Vienna, Va., church member Evelyn Robinson (front center).

Larry Marsh
Vice President for Education
A young Roger Weiss (right) interprets for former conference president Kevin Mittlinder (1975-1980), demonstrating one of his long-time valuable services to the Potomac Conference.

A couple years ago Roger Weiss, Potomac Conference vice president for administration and director of Multicultural Ministries, first talked about retiring, but agreed to stay on until another president was named and to coordinate the 2007 Potomac Conference Camp Meeting. Weiss has been an integral part of this conference for the past 29 years.

Weiss has dedicated more than 43 years of service in ministry to the church he loves. During his 12-year tenure as vice president, he exemplified “servant leadership” to constituents, committee members, pastors, teachers, and co-workers. Others not only saw him as a faithful leader, but as a man who loves his Lord and tirelessly worked to save souls for the kingdom. It was not uncommon for Weiss to visit two or more churches during any given Sabbath.

Weiss’ passion for evangelism is evidenced by the growth in Potomac. Former conference president Kenneth Mittlinder called Weiss to serve as pastor at the Capital Spanish church in Washington, D.C., in 1976. When Weiss first came to Potomac, there were only two Spanish congregations with 243 members. As of June 2007, there are 54 Spanish congregations with more than 6,000 members! He has planned 12 Potomac Conference camp meetings and coordinated six constituencies.

It Started in Argentina

Weiss was born in Entre Ríos, Argentina, but his family moved to California when he was a teenager. He graduated from San Pasqual Academy in Escondido (Calif.) and attended La Sierra College in Riverside (Calif.) for several years. Weiss returned to Argentina to attend River Plate College to complete his education. He met Lira Neugebauer, a nursing student, and knew she was to be his life partner. Weiss completed his theology degree in 1964 and then worked for a year as a Bible instructor in the Central Argentine Conference while Lira completed her nursing degree. They were married in April 1965 in his childhood church, and the first South American Adventist church in Crespo, Argentina.

Soon after they married, Weiss started his pastoral ministry at the Central Brooklyn (N.Y.) Spanish church where he served as assistant pastor. He also pastored the Bakersfield (Calif.) Bilingual church and the South Brooklyn (N.Y.) Spanish church. In 1973 the Weiss’ packed up and moved to Spain, where he served as departmental director for Lay Activities and Sabbath School for the Spanish Union of Churches. Weiss joined the Potomac Conference in 1978 and pastored the Capital Spanish and Washington Spanish congregations. He later served as director of the Church Ministries department before accepting his current position. The Weiss’ have three adult children: Kenneth and Brenda Weiss; Ingrid and Leon Silklers; and Jocelyn and Joel Bennett; and six grandchildren—Arihene, Corbin, Ashton, Coller, Grayson, and Adallah.

“God gave Potomac a special blessing in Roger and Lira,” says Herb Broeckel, former conference president. “They not only taught the many constituents who strive to establish the Lord’s Lunch program—first implemented at the Takoma Park (Md.) church—at the Potomac (Md.) church. On the first and third Friday of each month a diverse group of people get together to prepare food to feed the hungry and homeless. On Sabbath morning they distribute the food. Davison is always seeking to involve others in the program. At SAA she is involved in chapels and other ministries. In addition to her award plaque, Davison received a Bible engraved with her name and a $500 scholarship that can be used for tuition assistance at SAA or to participate in a mission service activity inside or outside the country.

Junior Receives Caring Heart Award

The 26 members of Spencerville Adventist Academy’s (SAA) senior class enjoyed the event-filled weekend that ended their high school career: graduation. In addition to citing their class text, Proverbs 3:5-6, the Commencement speaker, Benjamin S. Carson Sr., MD, challenged them to “be willing to work hard, ask God for wisdom in making important decisions, and work to know God.” The well-known physician also told them to remember, “God loves you and He wants what’s best for you. He is the only one you need to please.” He also reminded them to think of others first.

Many of the Class of 2007 (pictured with class sponsors) demonstrated excellence in music, drama, sports, and leadership, as well as academics. Faculty and staff know these new graduates have a successful future ahead of them and look forward to hearing from them in the future as alumni.

A younger Roger Weiss (left) interprets for former conference president Ken Mittlinder (1975-1980), demonstrating one of his long-time valuable services to the Potomac Conference.

A young Roger Weiss (right) interprets for former conference president Kevin Mittlinder (1975-1980), demonstrating one of his long-time valuable services to the Potomac Conference.
Academy Says Farewell to Class of 2007

 Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) recently graduated 54 seniors (most pictured). This class has shown amazing strengths and abilities over the past year. Three graduates tied as valedictorians with a GPA of 4.0: Heather Blackburn, Jace Coston, and Jeraylin Wile. There were 12 seniors that finished their education as second-generation graduates, two as third-generation, and two as fourth-generation. Fifty-two seniors are planning to attend college in the fall. This class has bonded together especially well since 55 percent of the seniors were four-year SVA students and five have gone to school together since they were in kindergarten.

These seniors will be missed next year. They join the SVA alumni of nearly 5,000 graduates since 1911. The coming school year will mark the 100th year of operations by SVA. We are proud of our heritage and traditions and look forward to a burgeoning group of new students that will replace them on August 12.

Further Renovations Scheduled for Price Hall

For the past 44 years, Price Hall (pictured) has anchored the west side of SVA’s beautiful campus. It recently received an impressive facelift that makes it appear even statelier, but it only covers the work that needs to be completed inside.

Beginning in mid-August, a team from Maranatha Volunteers International will visit the campus to begin the removal of the built-in furniture and beds that have been in place since 1983. As soon as the volunteers leave in early September, the construction crews will initiate the expensive remodeling of good old Price Hall, the boys’ dorm.

All of the old bathroom interior walls and fixtures will be removed and replaced with new private showers, fixtures, and sinks. Each of the rooms will be gutted and receive new dressers, closets, desks, chairs, and beds. The floors, walls, and ceilings will all be renewed and/or replaced. The entire electrical and plumbing systems will be replaced, and individually controlled heating and A/C units will be installed in each room. The lobbies, kitchens, laundry rooms, and common spaces will all be renovated, making Price Hall virtually new.

Such a renovation comes at a price. The price tag for this project is projected to be $2 million. Approximately $1.2 million of the funds have been committed as of this writing. Fund-raising efforts are continuing and leadership is hopefully optimistic that the work will begin and be completed as scheduled, in April 2008. If any friends and/or alumni of SVA are willing to help fund this project, please call Jan Strickland Osborne at (540) 740-2020.

Spotlight

Students Return to Belize to Finish Building Projects

The Spenerville Bullet Tree School was also a big construction job. The students needed a new sewer system and bathroom facility. In order for this enormous job to be completed, a new sewage tank had to be dug out, and then cinder blocks laid. This required seemingly endless amounts of cement, all mixed by hand.

While most of the construction workers stayed on the job all day, a small group stayed back and had the opportunity to work with local children through VBS. They interacted with the children and teens through songs, Bible stories (turned into skits), and crafts, which soon became one of the highlights of the day for many.

Putting in a new sewer system at the Spenerville Bullet Tree School required lots of digging and cement mixing.

Putting in a new sewer system at the Spenerville Bullet Tree Church required lots of digging and cement mixing.

Volunteers International will visit the campus to begin the removal of the built-in furniture and beds that have been in placesince1963. As soon as the volunteers leave in early September, the construction crews will initiate the expensive remodeling of good old Price Hall, the boys’ dorm.

All of the old bathroom interior walls and fixtures will be removed and replaced with new private showers, fixtures, and sinks. Each of the rooms will be gutted and receive new dressers, closets, desks, chairs, and beds. The floors, walls, and ceilings will all be renewed and/or replaced. The entire electrical and plumbing systems will be replaced, and individually controlled heating and A/C units will be installed in each room. The lobbies, kitchens, laundry rooms, and common spaces will all be renovated, making Price Hall virtually new.

Such a renovation comes at a price. The price tag for this project is projected to be $2 million. Approximately $1.2 million of the funds have been committed as of this writing. Fund-raising efforts are continuing and leadership is hopefully optimistic that the work will begin and be completed as scheduled, in April 2008. If any friends and/or alumni of SVA are willing to help fund this project, please call Jan Strickland Osborne at (540) 740-2020.
Working in His Vineyard

Matthew 28:19-20 is well known as the “gospel commission.” It states, “Therefore go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you…” Takoma Academy (TA) is in the “business” of educating for eternity, which is fulfilling the gospel commission. How blessed we at TA are to have such cultural and racial diversity. Truly we are making disciples of “all the nations” and baptizing them and teaching them. Another school year begins soon and with it comes another opportunity to share Jesus Christ. We must all be about hastening the Lord’s coming, and I thank the Lord for giving us, TA, the opportunity to work in His vineyard.

NEWS

First Mary L. Banks Scholarships Awarded
Mary L. (Bostick) Banks was the fourth child born to Clyde and Leila Bostick on December 29, 1943. She married James L. Banks in 1968, and from this union was born four children, all Takoma Academy graduates: Julie (’87), Jason (’88), Lori (’91), and Landon (’96). In September 1982, Banks was laid to rest. Her desire for education continued on in her children. All four have undergraduate degrees and one a master’s. A scholarship fund recently developed in Banks’ honor now supports TA students. To contribute to the Mary L. Banks Scholarship Fund, donations can be mailed to TA.

CUC Education Department Shows Appreciation
During the 2006-07 school year, several TA teachers took in Columbia Union College (CUC) education majors as student teachers in their classrooms. In appreciation for their assistance to the college, Dale Johnson, PhD, of CUC’s Education Department, recently awarded a small donation to TA. TA’s following teachers are appreciated for their cooperation: Tom Ballard, social studies; Laura Benn and Vashon Williams, physical education; and DeWayne Boyer, religion.

Graduates Plan Future Education
Takoma Academy recently graduated 67 seniors. On Friday evening of graduation weekend, there were teacher and parent tributes. For the first time, all TA teachers surrounded the seniors and gave them a prayerful blessing. On Sabbath Randal Wishey, DMin, former president of Columbia Union College, addressed the seniors. On Sunday morning, the spiritual feast was continued with Charles D. Brooks, speaker emeritus and former speaker/director for the Breath of Life television ministry, as he encouraged the graduates to remember their spiritual roots. It was a blessing to note that every senior plans to receive higher education.

Calendar

AUGUST
15 Open House, 6-8 p.m.
17 Making it Count, 8 a.m.-Noon, All Freshmen
19 Orientation Day
20 School Starts, Noon Dismissal
24 Spiritual Dedication Service, 7 p.m.
25 SC Handshake

SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2007
Host Hotel-Sheraton BWI

Dr. Hyveth Williams
Author Pastor of Campus Hill SDA Church

Dr. James Doggett
Oakwood College, Madison Mission Church

Alvin Slaughter Concert

Dr. Cedric Dent
Luncheon Speaker
The area is a natural habitat for aides and current enrollment of 80.

Takoma Park, Md., and Virginia Beach, Va. Five teachers; school with lower than the D.C. area, the median of Virginia and much property taxes tend to be less than Virginia Beach. Community values. Employment (770) 441-6022 or toll-free missionary endeavors, gifts for and see our area.

PREPARED PHONE CARDS:
Multiple types and rates for the Central Unit of the United States, with a pen pal album. For information, send a report of the organization, and enjoy 10% discount on all services. For vacationers, short-term rentals: $30, $40, $75 per night. $299,000. Call (863) 453-9855 store. Adventist hospital nearby.

FREE MISSION AVAILABILITY CONTACT:
During the 1970s, the Central Unit of the United States began a letterbox system using the names of your missionary endeavors, gifts for sharing the gospel with others. Contact Adventist World Aviation for a quarterly newsletter.

PHILLY NEWSMAN Realtor, GRI, CRS (800) 505-4669 phillynewsmiman@comcast.net

REAL ESTATE
AVON PARK, FLORIDA
Beautiful two-story, 3 br, 2.5BA, 1,584 sq. ft., house and separate guest cottage, overlooking Lake Wales. Walk distance to Adventist church—12-15 minute walk. New home, spacious, and semi-modern. Property taxes: $2,305.00 (422)-853-2682 or (800) 853-2682 — or e-mail info@thebarnworth.com.

BUYING, SELLING, OR INVESTING?

Making an informed decision begins with gathering as much information as possible.

Come to our free, public event to learn about various topics, such as ‘Prepare Your Home to Sell’, ‘The Best Time to Buy’, ‘Investing in Real Estate’, and more. Call us or visit our website for this month’s free class, date and location. (Space is limited)

Anger, eating disorders, grief, etc. Focus: depression, anxiety/stress, and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teens, and groups. Children, teens, and groups. Children and confidential online mail. Winston opportunities to visit or write to world adults, teen
BELTSVILLE ADVENTIST SCHOOL 50TH ANNIVERSARY ALUMNI REUNION. Alumni, friends, and former faculty are invited back to Beltsville Adventist School (BAS) for its 50th Anniversary Alumni Reunion celebration, September 15. Join your fellow classmates for fellowship, friendship, and fun, as we celebrate the momentous occasion. For more information, call (310) 937-2033 or manysherry@gmail.com.

ADULTS SINGLES RETREAT October 12-14, MT, Atrium Retreat Center, Hagerstown, MD 21702. Guest speakers: James H. Dotson, J.D., Ph.D., health education, founder and CEO/President of Training for Transformation, Inc. (T3). The principal focus of this ministry is helping individuals to learn God’s principles for healthy sexuality and apply those principles to their lives. Howard W. Cook, Ph.D., was formerly senior pastor at Salem Park (M) church and associate director of the Ellen G. White Estate. He is now retired and living in Berkeley Springs, W.Va., Pastor William Fugle is an associate director of the Ellen G. White Estate. He served as a district pastor in the Southern England Adventist Church and taught at Atlantic Union College. For more information and registration, contact farm. Information: 538-5060@yahoo.com, tel. (410) 937-2031 or Janet: dwellerinthelane@hotmail.com. Deadline: September 25. Please visit www.levensheaspeaks.com.

THE EASTERN REGION FEDERATED KING’S CROWN 38th Annual Convention will be held October 19-26 at the Embassy Suites in Columbus, Hagerstown, Ohio. For more information contact Brenda Palmer at Bpalmer@awequury.com or (814) 778-1365.

OAK PARK ALUMNI REUNION October 26 at Gales Grill, Gales, Nevada, Iowa. For more information, go to www.oakparkalumni.org.

ANYONE ATTENDING WAKEFIELD (L.I.) ADVENTIST CHURCH: If you have ideas, stories, and/or articles we can use for a church and school history profile, please contact Shirley Coulter at 567-244-7318. Thank you and God bless.

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. The church in Laurinburg, N.C., will be celebrating its 50th anniversary during the week of August 29-Sept. 2. Theme: “To the Nest Level ... Heaven Nest.” All former members and friends are encouraged to join us for the celebration. For more information, contact (704) 527-1500 or visit our website, www.laurinburgadventist.church.
Auto Mechanics
Business Education
CUC Connection
Drama
Elements of Literature
Foreign Languages
Graphic Design
Health & Fitness
Intramural Sports
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus
Knowledgeable Staff
Literature & Language Arts
Mentoring Programs
Newspaper
Orchestra
Pottery
Quality Education
Racial Diversity
Student Council
Trigonometry
Unity
Video Productions
Work-Study Program
Xylophone Lessons
Yearbook
Zero Tolerance Policies

Covering the ABC's of EDUCATION for LIFE and PREPARATION for ETERNITY since 1904.
8120 Carroll Avenue  Takoma Park, MD 20912  301-434-4700  www.TA.edu

Call today to reserve your space for the 2007-2008 school year!