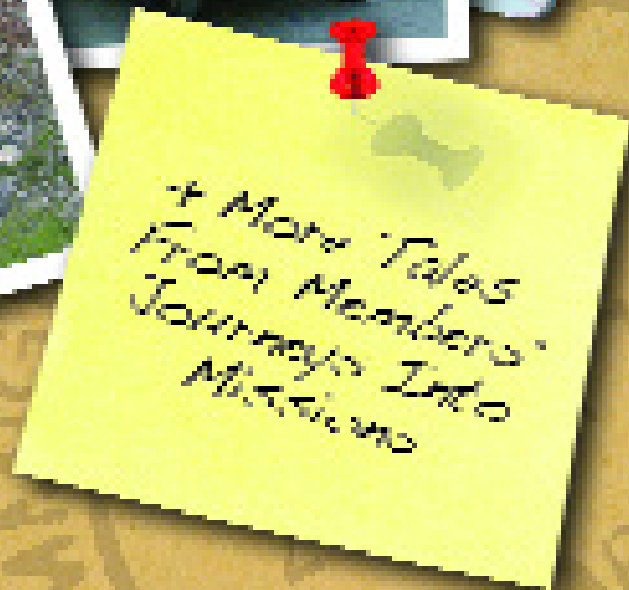


CONNECTING | IMPACTING | CELEBRATING

VISITOR

JULY 2008 • VOLUME 110 • ISSUE 7



Bandaging Belize by Bus



News & Features

10 | A Journey Into Missions

Have you ever been on a short-term mission trip? It doesn't matter if you have helped rebuild a flood-ravaged community or built a church or school overseas, the important thing is that you responded to God's call to serve. In this issue, we highlight stories from six Columbia Union members who also responded to the call. Read about their journey into missions.



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Ellen Poirier

On the Web:

Video – This edition features our Missions Abroad 2008 work in South Africa and Ohio's "great controversy" vision commemoration.

Podcasts – Let's talk about short-term mission trips.

About the Cover: Photos from short-term mission trips to Pittsburgh, New Orleans, Belize, Honduras, Peru, and Tanzania.

Let's Go!

Mission service is not a new concept. The early apostles were instructed to begin in Jerusalem—their home base—and then go to the uttermost parts of the world. And just nine years after the Seventh-day Adventist Church was officially organized, the first missionary—John Nevins Andrews—was sent to Switzerland to share the three angels' messages. One of his earlier converts, John Norton Loughborough, followed suit, accepting a call to establish the work in California and later Great Britain. Daniel T. Bourdeau engaged in evangelistic efforts in Switzerland, France, and Italy, while Stephen Haskell pioneered the work in Australia, New Zealand, and London. Anna Knight, a graduate of Mount Vernon Academy in Ohio, will forever be remembered as the first black female missionary to India.



These are just a few of the many dedicated Adventist missionaries I read about when I was young. And I'm sure you can think of others. These individuals were paid missionaries with service credits. They spent years or even their entire careers serving in foreign lands.

A WAY OF LIFE

Mission service is no longer limited to those who can dedicate themselves full-time to the cause. More and more conferences, schools, churches, and ministries are engaging members in "short-term mission trips" close to home or abroad. And I'm glad to see that, among others, Allegheny East Conference members are doing their part:

During the past 10 years, Global Vessels founders, William and Virginia Mathis of the Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., have enlisted professionals and students to build churches, schools, and orphanages in Tanzania. During two to three intense weeks, they erect buildings and share life-changing messages. In 2006 the senior class of our Pine Forge Academy spent two weeks in Puerto Rico remodeling and renovating a youth camp. For many, it was a life-altering adventure. Delaware Valley area pastors William Hall and Stephen Boyce and their members have teamed up with our Adventist Community Services director Minnie McNeil to serve in hurricane-ravaged New Orleans. Their pilgrimages have helped restore houses, hearts, and communities. Across the Columbia Union, many schools encourage and even require students to earn community service credit. This teaches children, early on, that service is a value, a tenet of the Adventist Church, and a way of life.



Allegheny East Conference leaders have engaged in mission work in Africa, India (above), Russia, and other parts of the world.

When we venture from our easy chair or church pew and make our way across town, across the state, or even across the ocean to lend a helping hand and spread the gospel, we see beyond our borders and develop a world view of God's church. And we learn that in order to become fully engaged with Christ, we must become engaged with our "neighbors" as well.

In this issue of the *Visitor*, you'll see how a number of Columbia Union members are doing that, one short-term mission trip at a time. My prayer is that you'll not only enjoy their testimonies, but that you'll soon have your own to share. What are you waiting for? *Let's go!*

Charles L. Cheatham is president of the Allegheny East Conference, headquartered in Pine Forge, Pa.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE COLUMBIA UNION REVOLVING FUND?

Revolving Fund Loan Program

CURF lends money to Adventist churches, schools and other eligible institutions throughout the Columbia Union. Borrowers generally use the proceeds to build, acquire, renovate and improve capital projects.

Revolving Fund Note Program

CURF raises cash for its loan program by offering Notes to Adventist investors. Adventist members, churches or organizations may purchase CURF Notes. CURF offers the Notes for sale only in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. Over 1200 investors hold some \$73.5 million in CURF Notes throughout the Columbia Union.

Please review the Offering Circular for additional information about CURF and risks associated with the purchase of CURF Notes.

This advertisement does not constitute an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy any of the securities. Any offer is made only by the Offering Circular. We are please consider any investment in CURF Notes only after careful reference to the Offering Circular. Neither CURF, AHC nor any other governmental agency guarantees or insures repayment of CURF Notes.

For information call 410-715-0388

Fax 301-696-6781

2007 Note Offering

\$45,000,000

90-Day Demand Promissory Notes

Variable Interest Rates

Columbia Union College Appoints Provost

Susan C. Scharffenberg has accepted a call to serve as provost of Columbia Union College (CUC), effective July 1.



Scharffenberg, who has 30 years experience in higher education, currently serves as assistant vice president for Academic Administration at the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Mission College in Thailand.

In the newly created provost position, she will serve as the college's chief academic officer, review the undergraduate curriculum, recruit and retain faculty, and implement the college's new three-school structure.

"I look forward to joining the administrative team and working with the president and faculty while we realign the programs to meet the goals of the strategic plan," she said.

Scharffenberg is familiar with CUC's history, due to her father and brother's attendance at the college. A graduate of Ohio Conference's Mount Vernon Academy, she also has two degrees in biology and a doctorate in horticulture. Read more in *The Gateway* newsletter on page 35.—Tanisha Greenidge

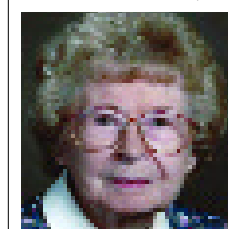
Longtime Editor, Administrator Dies

Kenneth H. Wood, who served for 16 years as editor-in-chief of *Adventist Review* and 28 years as chair of the board of the Ellen G. White Estate has died.

He was 90.

Until a recent illness, Wood was still a regular presence at the Adventist World Headquarters in Silver Spring, Md., and could be found three mornings a week at his White Estate office. "His contributions to the church he loved are incalculable," said vice director Tim Poirier who worked with Wood for 27 years. "We will miss his Christian witness, spiritual wisdom, and fidelity to the Scriptural truths we hold dear."

Wood was born in Shanghai, China, to lifetime American missionary parents. After matriculating a number of Adventist schools, he pastored in West Virginia and Ohio. In 1947 he accepted a call to serve as a ministries director for the New Jersey Conference, and in 1951 he was elected Sabbath School and Lay Activities director for the Columbia Union Conference. He pursued his interest in publishing and in 1955 joined the *Review* staff. He authored hundreds of articles and three books, including one with his wife, **Miriam** (a revered *Review*



columnist who died in March). Longtime members of Chesapeake Conference's

Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., the couple shared 56 years of marriage. They leave two grown daughters, seven grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE WHITE ESTATE AND JOEL SPRINGER/ADVENTIST REVIEW.

Newsline

CELESTE RYAN BLYDEN

Partnership Expands Washington Adventist Hospital's Services

Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH) and Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care, a federally qualified, comprehensive health center based in Washington, D.C., recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the opening of a primary care center in the Long Branch area of Montgomery County, Maryland.



The 3,600-sq.-ft. primary care center will provide a full range of services to area residents—regardless of ability to pay—such as prenatal care, pediatric/adolescent health services, adult health services, women's services, and social services.

"We believe our partnership will further expand access to healthcare services for the communities we serve—a key element in our Vision for Expanded Access initiative," said Jere Stocks, WAH president.

Bill Robertson, president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare (AHC) said he was proud to add Mary's Center to the many partnerships AHC has formed over the years, including Casa De Maryland, Mobile Med, and Impact Silver Spring.

County officials and leaders from Mary's Center joined Robertson (third from left) and Stocks (fifth from left) in the celebration.—AHC Staff

CURF Finances the Mission at Home

For 30 years, there had been talk of building a gym for the Crest Lane Adventist School near Westminster, Md. The small Chesapeake Conference K-8 school had 18 students and needed a place for recreation and classrooms.

But all that talk couldn't make coming up with the rest of the money a reality. Supporters from the conference's Reisterstown and Westminster, Md., churches had raised \$500,000—half of what they needed to complete the gym.

"We came to a point where we decided to either build the gym or stop talking about it," said Harold Greene, treasurer for the school and the Westminster church.

Church members decided to obtain a loan and build the long deferred gym.



Harold Greene (left) and Robert Shaffer participate in the groundbreaking ceremony for their new Crest Lane Adventist School gym. Half of the funds came from a Columbia Union Revolving Fund loan.

"Since the school served students from both churches, we decided to split the loan," Greene said. "But how could we explain to a traditional bank that two different organizations were taking out a loan for a third organization?"

Fortunately they didn't have to; they borrowed the needed funds from the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF).

"We already had savings in CURF," Greene says. "They understood how our churches and school worked. It was a very simple process."

BEST KEPT SECRET

CURF was established in 1968 by the Columbia Union Conference to "promote the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church by providing cost-effective financing to churches, schools, conferences, and other entities in the union." In 1992 the organization, which is governed by a board, became an independent, non-profit corporation able to make loans throughout the union's eight-state territory.

From the beginning, CURF has been able to make loans to church-related entities by "selling promissory notes" to church members and institutions. The borrowing organizations obtain loans at reasonable rates. The "noteholders" receive quarterly interest checks at or above market rates.

"CURF is the best kept secret in the union. We are able to make

loans to churches who need our help because of members who invest in the fund," says Peggy Lee, CURF's secretary/treasurer. "We tend to talk about the mission abroad but by investing in CURF you play a part in the mission at home."



In 2006, when Chesapeake's New Hope church in Burtonsville, Md., became too small for its growing membership, they sold their building and moved to a larger location in Fulton, Md. The new facility is better able to accommodate its 600 members.

"We needed \$1.6 million to pay for the larger property, and



A \$1.6 million CURF loan helped the New Hope church purchase this building.

so we looked to CURF," Pastor David Newman recalls. "CURF is family and, as family, they have worked so hard to help us."

Newman says, "One of the problems churches run into when they seek loans from commercial banks is that if they miss a payment the bank can take the church building. But CURF will work with you to restructure payments."

They've never missed a payment, but that doesn't surprise Lee. "The repayment record of our loans has been exemplary," she says.

Lee keeps a folder with pictures and stories of churches and schools that CURF has helped. She can flip through the folder and point out those currently using CURF loans.

"The pastor at Potomac Conference's Vienna (Va.) Spanish church called us one evening because the basement of the church was leaking. They had no heat and needed funding right away, and we were able to help him," Lee recalls.

CURF's funding also helped Chesapeake's Baltimore First church rebuild after a devastating fire; answered Allegheny East Conference's call to fund the new Pine Forge Elementary school building in Pennsylvania; helped Allegheny West Conference's Hilltop congregation build a state-of-art worship center in Columbus, Ohio; and supported Potomac's Farmville (Va.) church project.

VANS, BUSES, AND ORGANS TOO

CURF's work around the union has been more extensive than most members realize. Their funding has also helped start and build daycare and community services centers; purchase vans, buses, and organs; repair roofs and heating/air conditioning systems; and even build and renovate Potomac's Adventist Book and Health Food Store.

"CURF currently has 241 loans out and 1,256 investors," Lee says. "Technically note-holders may be required to

wait 90 days to receive payment after making a request. However, we have never failed to give money back the same day someone requests it."

Despite the blessing that CURF has been to the union over the years she worries that there will soon be a cash flow problem. "If members and institutions don't invest, we



The new Pine Forge Elementary building was funded with a CURF loan.

won't have any money to lend," Lee explains.

Some church members faithfully continue to keep their money in CURF for decades at a time.

Herbert Perrine from Mountain View Conference's Spencer (W.Va.) church has been investing in CURF all his adult life. "Yes I could put my money in a normal bank," he says, "but the money I invest is being used to build up the Lord's work and finish the gospel. To me that is far more important than giving it to a normal bank."

Jeddie Hooker, who now pastors the New Jersey Conference's Elizabeth English and Spanish churches agrees. He has benefited from using CURF loans at a previous

church and continues to personally invest in CURF.

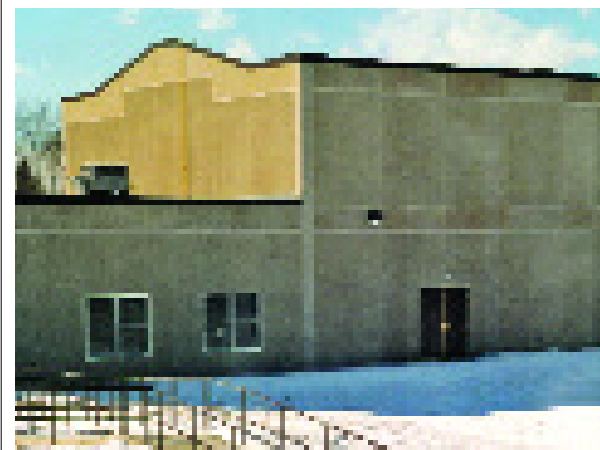
"I hope they continue to have success because I think they are doing a very good job," Pastor Hooker says.

Greene, who looked to CURF to build the gym, says: "We don't just take loans from CURF, we purchase notes, too, because we want to help other organizations just like us further the ministry."

For more information or to invest in the Columbia Union Revolving Fund, please contact Peggy Jean Lee, assistant treasurer, at (866) 721-CURF.

The transient nature of church memberships make it difficult for churches to get loans from commercial banks. CURF, however, works with both churches and conferences to literally build up their ministries.

—Peggy Lee



The Crest Lane school gym in was recently completed.

What's New?

Books > Stop Laughing—I'm Trying to Make a Point
Kim Peckham

It would be an understatement to say that Kim Peckham has a unique outlook on life. In his new devotional book *Stop Laughing—I'm Trying to Make a Point*, he easily puts the "ha-ha in hallelujah."



I have 100 billion brain cells.

My question is: "What do they do with their time?" They certainly aren't remembering where I left my cell phone.

—Kim Peckham

cover greater joy and happiness in Jesus than could ever be dreamed possible in this lifetime," he explains.

Through inspiring messages and spiritual insights, this member of Chesapeake's Triadelphia church in Clarksville, Md., more than adequately communicates his hope of a victory with Christ. "Christ gained the victory in the Father's power," he writes. "This



is our key to victory as well. By surrendering our will, choosing the cross, and relying completely on the Father's power, we can become *overcomers*." Pick up a copy at your local ABC and begin discovering Christ in an exciting new way.

Music > GRACEfull GRACE

The members of GRACE have been spreading God's



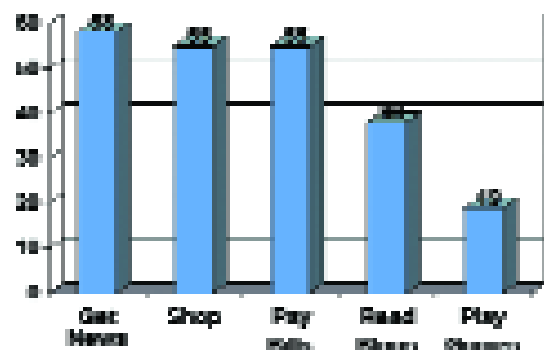
message through song since 2000. They have ministered at area churches, universities, county and municipal programs, and concerts in the Washington, D.C., area and across the United States. Their third recording project, *GRACEfull*, contains a variety of tunes including the spiritual "Soon Ah Will Be Done" and a touching rendition of "I Love You Lord/My Jesus I Love Thee" arranged by director Samuel "Eddie" Cromwell. The CD package also includes a DVD of a 2006 performance in Costa Rica.



Their motivation transcends material gain, and the group's 15 members say they're just focused on sharing the message of God's grace with audiences everywhere. Indeed the sincerity of their intent is evident in the results. To experience GRACE for yourself, visit thechristianjukebox.com.

Keeping Score

Internet Use by Columbia Union Members



Source: Center for Creative Ministry/Columbia Union Conference 2007 Survey

thoughts on a wide range of subjects, such as relationships, church life, finances, and even house-keeping. To enjoy Peckham's quips and quirky insights, pick up a copy at your local ABC.

He Shall Lift You Up
Jim Ayer

Jim Ayer longs to share his enormous passion for Christ. That's why the established author, who has preached the gospel in more than 43 countries, recently published *He Shall Lift You Up*. "My desire is to help readers dis-

WholeHealth

Could You Use a Break?

Although the pace of modern life creates a huge need for occasional breaks from work and stress, fewer Americans are taking vacations. An annual survey by Expedia.com notes the growing trend of employed Americans (currently 31 percent) not taking all their earned vacation days. Why? People feel that they can't leave their work. Many who do get away end up taking work with them or staying connected through email and cell phones.

Yet those who do vacation say they come back feeling better about their jobs and are more productive. In addition,



53 percent of employed U.S. adults indicate stronger relationships with family and friends after a vacation. Health professionals also cite benefits of taking a break from daily stress.

Jesus modeled this truth when He pulled away from the daily demands to take a break (see Mark 6:31, 32). His wisdom reveals that regular rest and refreshment are needed in order to accomplish His Kingdom work.

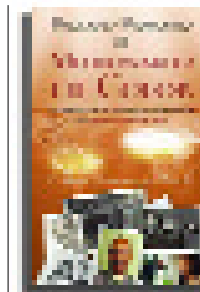


So, whatever you do, don't let this summer go by without taking a break!—Lilly Tryon, MSN, RN, Adventist WholeHealth Wellness Center

Mission Stories > Looking for good mission stories? We've got you covered:

Best Ever Mission Stories
Charlotte Ishkanian

Charlotte Ishkanian, editor of *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adult and Children's Mission*, recently published *Best Ever Mission Stories*, a collection of 26 short stories about children like Steve, Vladimir, and Carlos who courageously tell others about Jesus. Featuring stories from every world division, this compilation will inspire children of all ages to experience what it means to be a missionary. "Who knows what will happen?" Ishkanian dreams.



Union College in Takoma Park, Md., and nearby Bowie State University, thoroughly recounts the stories and

experiences of these dedicated ambassadors for God. Her 460-page compilation also features a variety of documentary-style photographs ranging from the early 1900s to today. "There were some marvelous experiences that we felt had to be shared," Hammond reflects. "The book is written for everybody, and I hope it will inspire others to share their faith and embark on mission trips of their own."

"Maybe our church will soon be full of people who say, 'A child invited me to come.'"

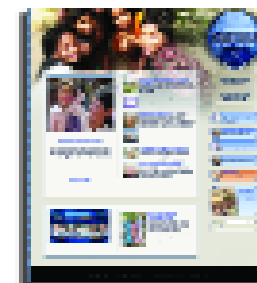


Precious Memories of Missionaries of Color, Carol Hammond, PhD

Through many touching letters and stories *Precious Memories of Missionaries of Color* chronicles the lives of African-American missionaries serving in Jamaica, Liberia, England, Brazil, and many other parts of the world. The author, currently an adjunct professor at both Columbia

Adventist Mission DVD

For generations *Mission Spotlight* featured world divisions and projects designated to receive the 13th Sabbath Mission Offering. Due to its recent conclusion, Adventist Mission has created a quarterly DVD that features a variety of short video stories from around the globe that can be used in Sabbath School, AYS, and other mission-related programs. Watch online at AdventistMission.org.



Only an Adventist ...
Your guilt trip ended the day Nabisco started using vegetable shortening in Oreos.

A JOURNEY INTO MISSIONS

Six Columbia Union Members Take us on a Photo Tour of Their Short-term Mission Trips

Beth Michaels

If you want to find the first reference to short-term missions, just open your Bible. Jesus introduced the concept when He told his disciples to go, teach, and baptize, and many other biblical characters followed suit. Two thousand years later, Christians around the world continue fulfilling this “Great Commission”—helping others in need and spreading His love.

Whether you’ve served the homeless at a soup kitchen in your town or helped build a school overseas, you have responded to God’s call. But while many Americans find it difficult to carve out time from their busy schedules to serve,

the increasingly popular short-term mission trip offers an achievable opportunity. Short-term missions range from one-week to two months of service.

As reported at lausanneworldpulse.com, the first recorded number of short-term mission volunteers in North America was published in 1965 by a student researcher. He claimed that 540 individuals were serving as short-term missionaries. Today some sources claim that well more than 1 million Americans do so.

Seventh-day Adventists can certainly be included in those numbers. The North American Division Office of Volunteer Ministries (OVM) reports that more than 10,000 groups (more than 80,000 individuals) from our continent made a quick, but lasting impact on the lives of others last year. Columbia Union volunteers made up 351 of those groups, but “that figure only represents about a quarter of the actual number,” reports Ludi Leito, OVM

Groups and communication coordinator.

The figure doesn’t include private, church, or school groups who didn’t register through the OVM.

“Your help is needed whatever your age, whether you’re fit or disabled, whether you want to build a church or orphanage, or teach another language,” adds Leito. “There is a position for everyone!” And there is a long list of Adventist-based organizations to find the job that’s right for you (see Resource Guide on page 21).

We asked six Columbia Union members to document their short-term mission experiences. If you’ve never been a missionary, we hope the following stories will give you a small taste of the exhilaration you, too, can experience by serving others.



Columbia Union Member Helps Found Largest Short-Term Missionary Organization

Richard Bainum (pictured), a long-time member of Potomac Conference’s Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., had gone on his fair share of short-term mission projects when he decided to create his own organization. Launched in 1980, Volunteers International primarily sent short-term missionaries to Thailand. “I saw a need there where no one was doing anything,” recalls Bainum, who now attends the Conference’s Manassas (Va.) church. “We sent about 150 volunteers between 1979 and 1981,” he says. They drilled wells and taught English at Cambodian and Vietnamese refugee camps.

Impressed with Bainum’s work, an organization called Maranatha Flights International, founded in 1969 in Berrien Springs, Mich., contacted him. In 1989 the organizations merged their efforts and became Maranatha Volunteers International. Now based in Sacramento, Calif., Maranatha is the largest Adventist organization coordinating short-term mission trips. To date more than 60,000 volunteers have served in 63 countries.

Through his friendship with current organization president Don Noble, “I was able to spark Don’s interest in building more than one church at a time,” Bainum reports. As a result, the organization redirected its approach to construction in the 1990s, making them a powerhouse at planting Adventist churches and schools here and abroad. Learn more at maranatha.org.



*“If a commission by an earthly king is considered an honor, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?”
—David Livingstone*

“The best remedy for a sick church is to put it on a missionary diet.”—Unknown

“Last people matter to God, and so they must matter to us.”—Keith Wright



BANDAGING BELIZE BY BUS

Kettering Medical Students Apply Class Work to Real Life

Rick Williams

Very early one morning, I, and 17 other people from Kettering College of Medical Arts (KCMA), boarded an airplane in Dayton, Ohio. Our group of instructors, support staff, students, and volunteers was about to embark on the final project of the International Health class for the KCMA Vaughan-Beaven Service Learning Honors Program. Our final destination: the small Central American country of Belize.

The service learning program allows students that are already in a medically service-oriented career track to reach beyond the routine and push their limits of time, energy, and resources. They learn not only service, but also how to incorporate it into a learning/teaching focus.

The multiple plane rides came to an end as we disembarked on the sun- and heat-drenched tarmac of Belize's international airport. We arrived at newly renovated La Loma Luz Adventist hospital—our host institution for the next 10 days—and found our sparse, but comfortable, quarters. We unloaded and prepared for the adventures that lay ahead.—Rick Williams is the director for the Division of Extension Education and Professional Training at Kettering College of Medical Arts in Ohio.



Local attendees were very interested and asked lots of questions, and their children enjoyed the handouts. We also held clinics in remote areas and did health assessments, dressed wounds, and gave them donated items such as vitamins, aspirin, and ointments.

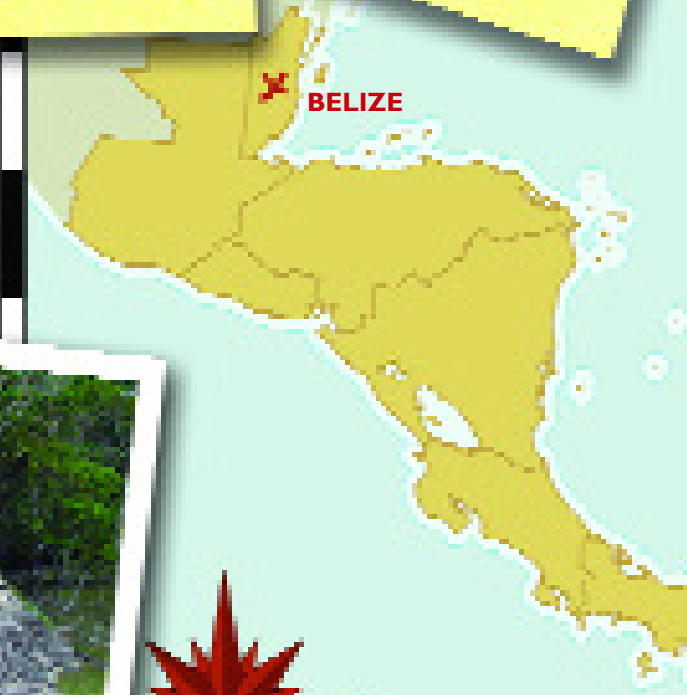
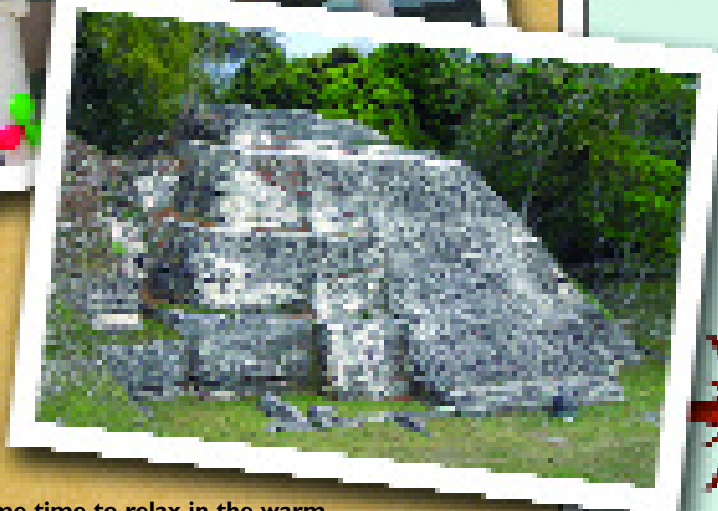
Left: We spent a week traveling almost the entire length of Belize either in a tired school bus or by boat. We faced many challenges—lack of communication, time, and resources—but in the end, everyone felt they received more than they gave.

"Although we come and go, I know our mission there was a blessing from God," said student Mike Rosselot. "He allowed us to minister to the children of Belize. They will always be in my prayers."

"This trip was amazing!" exclaimed student Ashley Brandt. "I loved being down there helping people. They were so nice, and it was obvious that they really appreciated all we had to offer."

"No book or article was able to accurately prepare me for what I was about to see," responded student Tara Jehn. "I feel that we have touched many lives through our efforts there."

We held health fairs in which the students set up their makeshift booths and talked to locals about nutrition, prenatal care, dental health, and respiratory disease. They also tested blood pressures and performed blood sugar tests and general health assessments.



We did get some time to relax in the warm waters and enjoyed the flora and fauna of this tropical region. We also got to visit the Mayan ruins of Xanantunich. Although this vast civilization has disappeared, there are many Mayan descendants living in Belize.

PROVIDING HOPE IN PERU

Columbia Union Youth Inspirit Earthquake Survivors

Abe Rivas

Our nine Columbia Union representatives recently left the comforts of home to embark upon a three-part, weeklong excursion to Peru, sponsored by the Ohio Conference Youth Department. Our first stop was in the capital city of Lima to join the Peruvian Central Conference South (APC Sur) in a conference-wide, multicultural youth rally. The special Sabbath day was filled with 700 youth, special guests (including us), and an intense panel discussion.

On Sunday our U.S. team visited with Adventist brothers and sisters near Lima who are still recovering from an earthquake that hit in August 2007. We prayed with and encouraged them and provided some clothing relief. We also met with a single mother and her family who have experienced a number of personal crises, including a bitter divorce and religious discrimination.

The last part of our tour was in Kawai, a small town by the Pacific Ocean. We participated and helped lead a four-day International Youth Congress, involving approximately 2,000 representatives from the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Peru, and Venezuela. Under the theme "I Live for Jesus," we all joined in worship, seminars, dynamic cultural interaction, and a young, Christian atmosphere.

To participate in next year's international youth congress and mission trip, contact me at (304) 312-8317 or abe.rivas@yahoo.es.—Abe Rivas, a bi-vocational pastor, is planting a Spanish church in Toledo, Ohio, and earning his Master of Divinity through the seminary at Andrews University (Mich.).



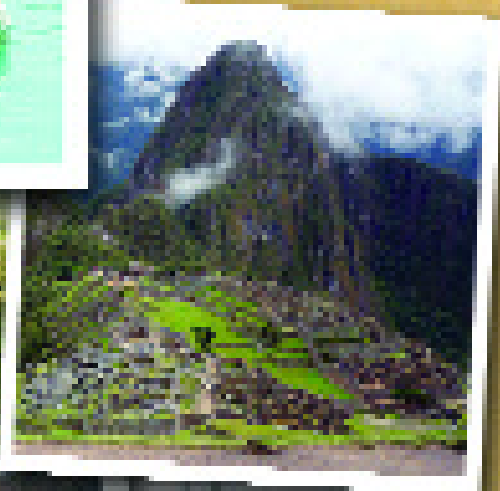
Sisters Anita, Jessica, and Sarah Gregg—members of the Logan (W.Va.) church—performed special music at the youth rally in Lima. The sisters also joined me and William Rodriguez, pastor of the Loraine (Ohio) church, in the panel discussion. Our group joined six Peruvian representatives in discussing issues such as the church, personal spirituality, and cultural diversity. Rodriguez shared about the dangers of the New Age movement. The panel successfully created an environment of cultural interaction between the young people.

PERU

SOUTH AMERICA



We visited several Adventist families affected by the earthquake, but were especially touched by a backslidden couple who had lost everything. We prayed with them, and their pastor recently informed me that they started going to church again. A second family was facing many crises, including religious discrimination from the local priest. The daughter was facing the risk of school expulsion for professing to be Adventist. We prayed with them, shared some clothes, and assured them about God's never-ending love. That week the priest desisted from his previous actions.



We did get some time to experience the diverse Peruvian culture and people. We visited several Incan sights, including the highlands of Cuzco with the largest known temple. The most famous sight was 7,875 feet above sea level: Machu Picchu. This ancient stone city is hidden between mountains with views and structure everyone must see at least once. ✨ In Kawai we joined 2,000 delegates in our first International Youth Congress. Pastor Javier Donate (above with guitar) from Miami, the guest speaker, challenged the young people to live victoriously in the name of Jesus. There were a number of enriching seminars dealing with youth and secular society, peer pressure, Internet evangelism, and other topics. The highlight was when 56 young people gave their lives to Jesus through baptism, and many others decided to start a meaningful ministry in their communities.

PRESSING ON IN PITTSBURGH

Mountain View Students Help Rebuild the Flood-Damaged Region

Rebekah Ruediger

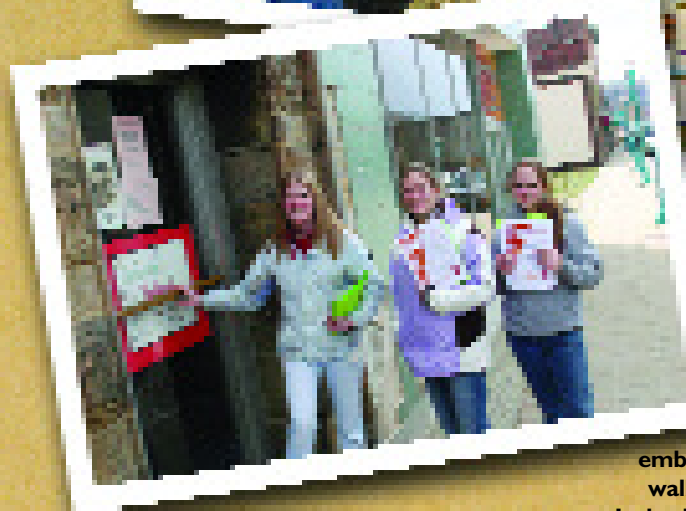
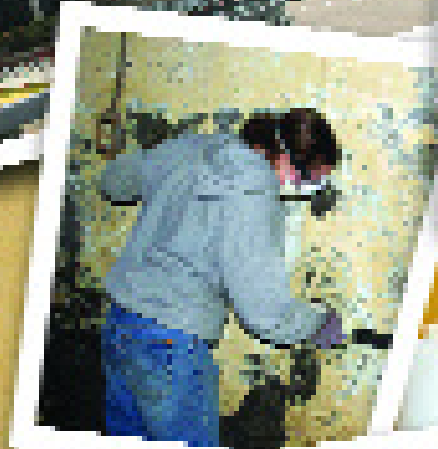
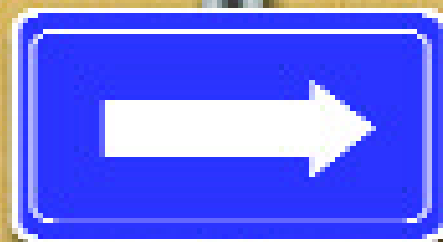
When me and 11 other students—plus our chaperones—arrived in Carnegie, Penn., I was not feeling very “into” our homeland mission trip, especially when I saw our living quarters. However, I quickly decided that I better stop thinking about myself and try to have a good time. After all, I had raised money for the trip. I prayed that God would help me forget about myself. Boy does He answer prayers!

Our spring break trip involved volunteers from two Mountain View Conference schools: Highland and Summersville Adventist schools, both in West Virginia. The conference’s Office of Education sponsored us. Our hosts were staff from Pennsylvania Conference’s Adventist Community Services-Greater Pittsburgh (ACS-GP), led by executive director Pastor Andrew Clark.

We performed a number of services for a small suburb called Heidelberg, which is still rebuilding following the flood damage Hurricane Ivan delivered in September 2004. We held a book drive, helped remodel the ACS center, cleaned and organized books for ACS’s Conscious Café, helped renovate a flood-damaged home, and conducted Sabbath services. Of course, I found more things to complain about that week (the sack lunches, the showering schedule, etc.), but the experience led me

closer to God. I got so into the work that I did not want to leave at the end of the week. I had stopped thinking of myself and thought of the lives we had touched.—Rebekah Ruediger just completed her sophomore year at Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va.

Rebekah Ruediger just completed her sophomore year at Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va.



“To me, mission means going out there expecting to help someone, but going beyond that—stepping out into the unknown with the Word of God as a lamp unto our feet—and taking the light unto those that are in darkness,” says author Rebekah Ruediger.

Opposite page: Our group helped refurbish the ACS-GP headquarters building, providing more staff office space. “The historic, decorative, ridged, and embossed metal ceiling made fitting the wall especially challenging,” said Cheryl Jacko, Highland Adventist School principal.

Top: One of the homes we helped renovate looked beautiful on the outside, but was ugly and disgusting on the inside—just like some Christians. Cleaning up the house was very time-consuming and messy. We scraped the mold and grime from concrete walls, removed old appliances, and shoveled out mud. I asked God to help me be patient, so He helped me think about the appreciative people who would live there someday.

Center: We hosted a local book drive through ACS-GP’s Conscious Café, with proceeds benefiting the local volunteer fire department. The drive involved passing out flyers around town, collecting the books, and then cleaning (that’s me in the photo) and organizing them for resale. Conscious Café is a local hotspot, created at the request of local residents, where ACS serves fruit shakes, herbal teas, and vegetarian sandwiches.

Left: All student volunteers helped plan and present the Sabbath morning divine worship at the ACS center. Stacy Blanz (pictured, speaking), a junior at Highland Adventist School, was the speaker. On our last day, a neighborhood restaurant treated us to a catered vegetarian breakfast. The ACS staff has been working with the restaurant owner to develop vegetarian options for his menu.



TENDING TO TOTS IN TANZANIA

Takoma Academy Volunteers Lay Foundation for a Growing Orphanage

C. Dunbar Henri

After a year of planning and fundraising, our Takoma Academy (TA) group of 11 students and nine adults was eager to fulfill an ongoing mission in Arusha, Tanzania. We went to lay the foundation for the fourth building of a Seventh-day Adventist orphanage. A previous TA group had helped construct the first building, with each one housing 10 orphans. We also helped Pastor Noah Washington, formerly of Allegheny East's Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., conduct a week of prayer.

The trip was made possible through fundraisers, such as sending appeal letters to family and friends, hosting car washes and a concert, and selling various items. We worked hard to get there and hard while we were there, but were blessed tenfold by the experience.—*C. Dunbar Henri is principal at Potomac Conference's Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md.*

After 15 hours on an airplane—including an overnight stay and three connecting flights—plus a bus ride loaded with luggage, our group was ready to get to work in Arusha. To make a firm foundation for the building, we had to lay rock after rock, fill spaces with gravel, and then cover it all with plastic and wire mesh before the concrete could be poured. It was tedious and backbreaking but everyone, including student Whitney Hucks (below), kept smiles on their faces. We did it all for the orphans (below).

We did get a chance to enjoy the country's beauty. We got our feet wet in a waterfall at Mount Kilimanjaro, took a safari to the Ngorongoro Crater, and visited a Masai village.

LENDING A HAND IN HONDURAS

Highland View Team Constructs a School Auditorium in Santa Barbara

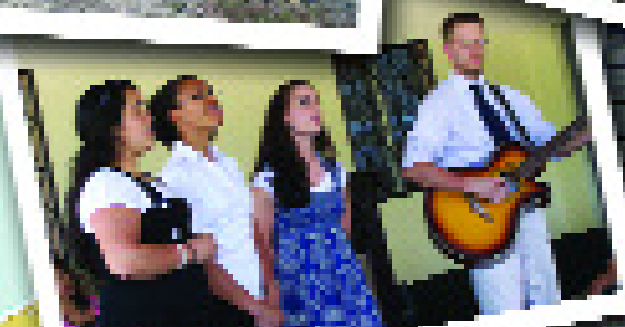
Katy Yeary

Irecently joined a group of 20 volunteers on an annual short-term mission trip to Santa Barbara, Honduras. Sponsored by Chesapeake Conference's Highland View church in Hagerstown, Md., it also included Highland View Academy (HVA) students and members of the Martinsburg (W.Va.) church. Our task was to add block walls to the auditorium of a high school, Instituto REACH Internacional. The auditorium will become a multipurpose facility for the school and city, and will also serve as the Gualjoco Seventh-day Adventist Church. We worked hard making mortar and moving and laying blocks. When we weren't building, we worshiped, ate, and socialized with children who lived in the adjoining orphanage, El Hogar de Niños. We had so much fun helping the community and felt satisfied by making a difference. The children and community still need help, but with trips taking place three times a year, progress is being made.—*Katy Yeary just completed her sophomore year at Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md.*

Our volunteers would take turns with the various jobs of sifting sand for mortar, mixing the mortar (or "mescal"), and making blocks. We were nowhere near as good as the local workers, but they were friendly and glad to help. By the trip's end, the auditorium was ready for a roof! ✨ My sister, Apryl Kelley (above, right), and I enjoyed spending time with Nelson, the orphanage director. On Sabbath, our volunteers led the divine service, which the residents loved. The children especially loved spending time with us and appreciated the toys, books, and clothes we gave them. During one afternoon, some of the orphans accompanied us on a trip to the local waterfall!



"Everyone was exhausted, but seeing the smiles on the children's faces gave us all the energy boost we needed to keep going," said Sheri Thorn, who just finished her junior year. "You do not need to have superpowers to change the world; you just need the love of Jesus in your heart to make a difference."



AFRICA

TANZANIA

HONDURAS

CENTRAL AMERICA

RENOVATING NEW ORLEANS

Two Allegheny East Conference Ministerials Continue Katrina Cleanup

Stephen A. Boyce, Sr.

Twenty-one members of Allegheny East Conference's Delaware Valley and Bay Area ministerials answered the Macedonian call as found in Acts 16:9 to go and help. We boarded airplanes in Philadelphia on our way to New Orleans. Our goal: to help at least six families still affected by the 2005 blow of Hurricane Katrina continue on the road to recovery.

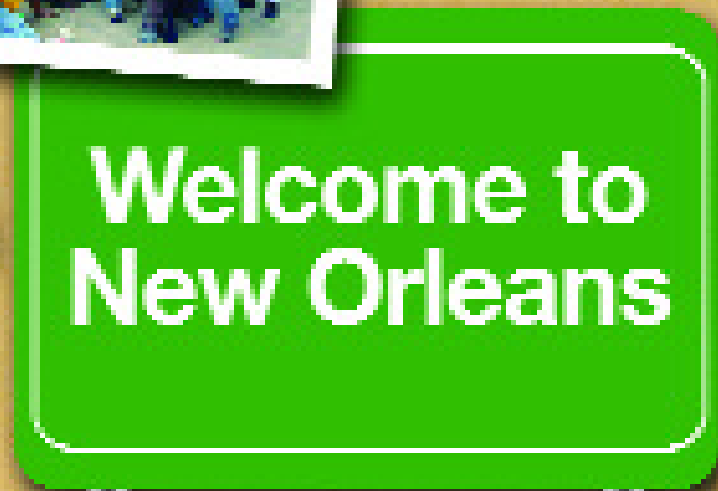
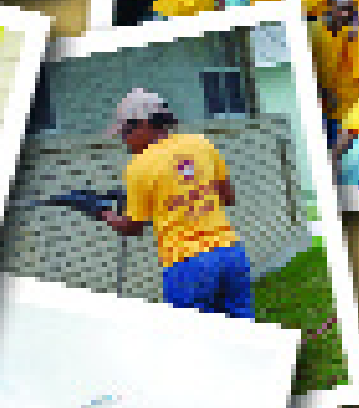
There is still much to do in New Orleans. Many are still homeless and in need of assistance, others still have not been able to contact family members and don't know if they are alive, and many others are depressed and in need of encouragement.—*Stephen A. Boyce, Sr., is pastor of Sharon Temple in Wilmington, Del.*

"I was amazed that New Orleans' redevelopment is moving along so slowly," said Minnie McNeil, Allegheny East ACS director, "and impressed with their ability to be grateful for what they have."

Our team built fences and a shed, put on vinyl siding, remodeled a kitchen and bathroom, tiled and sheet-rocked a new room, and painted several home exteriors. Some houses were power washed to remove water stains and markings that identify if it's been inspected by local police or military. We were blessed to have both young and older members of our delegation working side by side to complete the projects. ✨ A different member of our group shared a spiritual thought each day, which was followed by a rousing song service. Those who should be thanked for their participation and leadership are ministerial pastors William E. Hall, Pete Palmer, and

Stephen A. Boyce, Sr.; as well as the conference's ACS director, Minnie McNeil (in red cap). Astley Shakes from Philadelphia served as project manager. The host organization for the trip was the National Association of Katrina Evacuees.

PHOTOS BY JOSE L. TROSS



Short-term Mission Trips

Whether you're a volunteer or trip organizer, here are some helpful resources to prepare you for your journey into missions:

DVD

Heritage Missions New Horizons DVD – This video will show your youth group the great needs of people in developing countries and help them understand why missions are so important. Web: adventsource.org; Tel.: (800) 328-0525. Cost: \$19.95

EVENTS

Columbia Union Mission Trips – Sponsored by the Chesapeake Conference and endorsed by the union, these trips are geared for high schoolers, homeschoolers (ages 13-19), collegiates, and young adults from any conference. Tel.: (410) 995-1910; email: areynolds@ccosda.org

Global Vessels – This Clarksville, Md.-based nonprofit needs volunteers to help complete a five-year orphanage community in Tanzania. Web: globalvessels.org; Tel.: (301) 596-0945

The Quiet Hour – This 70-year-old ministry seeks people to preach, teach, heal, help, build, translate, and love. Join their next trip to Brazil, Sept. 10-29. Web: thequiethour.org; Tel.: (800) 900-9021

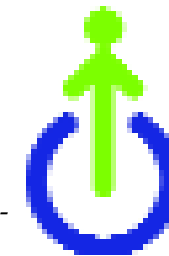
Cruise With a Mission – This is a unique spiritual retreat, social gathering, and service opportunity for collegiates and young adults all rolled into one fabulous Holland America cruise. Next ship launches December 14-21. Web: cruisewithamission.org; Tel.: (800) 968-8428

MissionServ International – Join this Frederick, Md.-based organization for a "vacation with a mission" to Northeast Brazil, September 18-29. Web: missionserv.org; Tel.: (301) 662-5200

Outpost Centers International – They network and nurture more than 60 Adventist supporting ministries around the world who offer short- and long-term mission opportunities. Web: outpostcenters.org; Tel.: (423) 236-5600

WEBSITE

HeSaidGo.net, an online resource of the NAD Office of Volunteer Ministries, provides a plethora of information. Request a free CD with instruction manuals and a fantastic training-resources handbook that discusses communication skills, cross-cultural awareness, project development, and management.



ORGANIZATIONS

Maranatha Volunteers International – This oldest and largest short-term mission organization provides opportunities for ordinary people to make service a part of their lives. Watch videos, peruse blogs, order free resources, and read about the upcoming convention (Sept. 5-6) at maranatha.org. Tel.: (916) 920-1900

Adventist Frontier Missions – They're looking for young adults with a desire to share Jesus with unreached people around the world. Short-term volunteers are needed to assist career missionaries. Web: afmonline.org; Tel.: (269) 473-4375

REACH International – They exist to Render Effective Aid to CHildren around the world with food, shelter, love, education, and a chance for eternity. Web: reach.org; Tel.: (800) 869-1412

BOOKS

Short-Term Missions: A Team Leader's Handbook - Based on his experience organizing short-term mission trips, Lary Brown, DMin, offers practical tips and suggestions for organizers. Web: adventsource.org; Tel.: (800) 328-0525. Cost: \$19.95

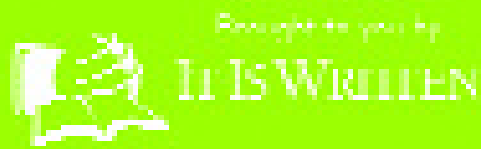


Passport to Mission – This second-edition book (also available in Spanish, Korean, and Portuguese) provides valuable basic training for this most important commission in your life. Download the English edition free through the Adventist Volunteer Service website (adventistvolunteers.org) or order from the Institute of World Mission at (269) 471-2522. Cost: \$7, plus S&H

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YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

JULY 2008

Sacred Interruptions

Rebekah Wang Scriven, MD, FACP

One Friday afternoon, I was rushing to finish my work so I could get home to prepare for Sabbath and out-of-town family that were arriving for the weekend. As I walked down the hospital hall, a dark-haired woman flashed me a smile. We exchanged greetings, and then we both suddenly stopped in our tracks. "You're the doctor who came to my mother's room six months ago to ask how things were going," she exclaimed. I immediately remembered that her mother was the petite Italian woman who had, at that time, just lost her husband and was now hospitalized herself. We spent precious minutes talking about her family, and I told her I would keep her in my prayers. I was saddened when she told me that her mother had just passed away.

The conversation was an interruption in an already hectic day, yet it proved to be a sparkling moment that nourished my heart. This woman expressed her appreciation for the nurses, physicians, and others who had lovingly cared for her mother. She said that because God's love and grace were evident in all the interactions during her mother's hospital stay, she was moved to inquire about becoming a volunteer at Kettering Medical Center! She wanted to join the team who gave her family a touch of grace when it mattered so much.

SMALL MOMENTS, ETERNAL SIGNIFICANCE

Being director for clinical quality, I facilitate relationships between physicians, nurses, patients, and families, which means my days are a continual stream of unexpected interruptions. When I get busy and overwhelmed, I reflect on that special moment with the daughter of one of our patients, and feel



wonder and gratitude at how God uses us to bless others each day. Experiences like these remind me that, to quote a favorite author, Henri Nouwen: "Interruptions are my work!" What a blessing to see the power of the Gospel expressed in so many ways each day, and to know that seemingly small moments have eternal significance.

Rebekah Wang Scriven, MD, FACP, a sought-after speaker on medical and spiritual topics, serves as medical director for clinical quality at Kettering Medical Center in Kettering, Ohio.

**My dream is
that every person,
whether patient, visitor, or
employee, who comes
through the doors of
Kettering Medical Center
leaves more emotionally,
spiritually, and
physically whole.**

—Rebekah Wang Scriven



Kettering Director Volunteers in Nepal

Kathryn Stiles

Recently, Rebekah Wang Scriven, MD, medical director for clinical quality at Kettering Medical Center in Ohio, and a team of volunteers from Pacific Union College and St. Helena Adventist Hospital in California, traveled to Nepal to support the medical outreach efforts of Scheer Memorial Hospital. Despite the political unrest there, they helped conduct a free community healthcare camp for people in the remote Nepali village of Dhunkharka and made many new friends along the way.

STARTED BY MEDICAL MISSIONARIES

Nestled in the dramatic mountains of Nepal, in the town of Banepa, which is 16 miles from Katmandu, Scheer Memorial Hospital has served millions of Nepali citizens for over 50 years. Started by Seventh-day Adventist physician Stanley Sturges, MD, in the late 1950s, it has become one of the most respected and renowned hospitals in the country. Dr. Sturges came from Loma Linda University (Calif.) with his wife,



Barbara Brown, speech pathologist at St. Helena Adventist Hospital (Calif.), joins the fun. Medical teams are enthusiastically welcomed by the villagers.

Raylene, and three children to direct the development of the hospital. At the time, no physicians were in the area and neither was an Adventist church or support system for the young missionary family. They lived with a local Nepali family and village elder for two years. The elder's grandson later became the assistant mayor of Banepa and a big supporter of the hospital.

It all began with a one-room clinic, where they compassionately cared for the urgent needs of the community. Funding for the hospital came from Clifford Scheer, who donated it as a memorial to his parents, Charles and Carolyn Scheer. Funding for equipment, room furnishings, and medical supplies came from an organization called CARE and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Within two years, a 20-bed hospital was built to serve the medical needs of at least half a million people in the Kavre district. Over the years, the hospital has grown and is now considered the premier provider of health-care to well over a million Nepali residents. Dr. Sturges and his family later relocated to Ohio where he practiced medicine for many years at Kettering Medical Center.



Volunteers (left to right): Dana Melashenko Wallace; 9-year-old Rosa Thompson, who came with her mother Annie, a social worker in England; Samuel Adams, MD, of St. Helena Adventist Hospital; Rebekah Wang Scriven; and Barbara Brown.



Rebekah Wang Scriven (center), medical director of clinical quality for Kettering Medical Center, pauses for a picture with her new friends in Dhunkharka village. Most villagers cannot make the arduous trip to Banepa where Scheer Memorial Hospital is located, so medical personnel regularly conduct health clinics in remote areas and greatly appreciate volunteers who come to assist.

Today Scheer Memorial Hospital continues to expand its outreach through medical missionary programs.

Dr. Scriven's trip, highlighted in this feature, was sponsored by Pacific Union College, Scheer Memorial Hospital, and two Nepali government offices. Though it was not advised due to the current political strife in Nepal, the group prayed intensely and felt peace about proceeding. They had a very successful trip, were housed by local communist leaders in the Dhunkharka village, and were not exposed to any obvious signs of danger.

To learn more about Scheer Memorial Hospital and its mission opportunities, visit scheermemorialhospital.org.



Dana Melashenko Wallace, whose parents, Robert and Connie Melashenko, have joined the Kettering Adventist HealthCare family, soaks up the beauty of luxurious hand woven Nepali fabrics. Robert Melashenko, MD, is chairman of Anesthesia for Grandview Medical Center, a Kettering Adventist HealthCare facility in Dayton, Ohio.



The volunteer medical team worked closely with nursing students from the Scheer Memorial Hospital School of Nursing.



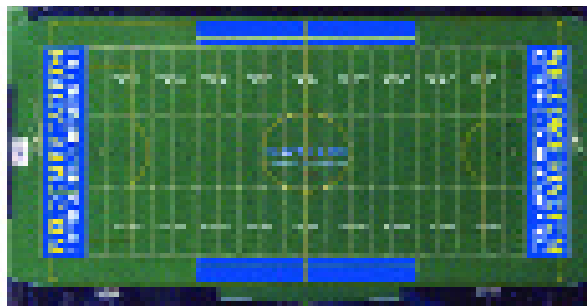
Kettering Supports Stadium Renovation

Kettering Adventist HealthCare is deeply committed to providing community benefits above and beyond the legal requirements. This year, a large financial investment was given to a Dayton, Ohio, stadium that is in dire need of renovation. Welcome Stadium is shared by several city high schools, athletic organizations, the University of Dayton, and hosts a wide variety of sporting and community events. "Kettering



Adventist HealthCare's contribution to this stadium was not a business decision, it was the right thing to do for our community," said Fred Manchur, president of Kettering Medical Center (above).

The financial gift will be used, among other things, to improve the field (below) with modern turf that is less damaging to the athletes when they fall. "This upgrade of Welcome Stadium could never have happened without help from Kettering Medical Center," said superintendent Percy Mack. Dayton Public School athletic director, Jonas Smith, commented, "We are grateful that concern for the safety of our athletes has always come first with Kettering Medical Center." Renovations began last month.



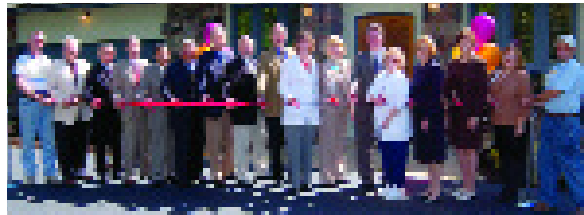
This architectural rendering shows how Welcome Stadium will look after the renovation is completed.

Ceballos Joins Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries

Mario Ceballos, DMin, (right), vice president of Spiritual Services and Missions for Kettering Adventist HealthCare, has recently accepted a position



with the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church. He now serves as associate director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries at the Adventist World Headquarters in Silver Spring, Md. In his new role, Ceballos will travel the globe providing leadership and inspiration to Adventist chaplains. He lived and worked in Kettering for five years and was a member of the Dayton (Ohio) Central Spanish church.



During his tenure at Kettering Adventist HealthCare, Mario Ceballos presided over the grand opening of Stonebridge Administrative Building, an historic facility that once belonged to the family of inventor Charles F. Kettering. It was renovated in 2006 to be used as the administrative offices for Spiritual Services and Missions, led by Ceballos.

Commissioned Painting to Hang in Kettering Facility

Kettering Adventist HealthCare president and CEO Frank Perez recently received a very special painting that will be hung in one of Kettering Adventist HealthCare's facilities. The painting, themed "I Was Hungry ...," is the work of Christian artist Nathan Greene. It depicts a small girl reaching out to a homeless man, and is intended to encourage viewers to show compassion to their fellow man.

"This painting is a beautiful illustration of God's will for each of us to serve others by meeting their immediate needs," Perez said. "It is our mission at Kettering Adventist HealthCare to do just that, to care for people when they are at their most vulnerable."

Retired Columbia Union Conference president Ron M. Wisbey (right), who now serves on the board of Versacare, Inc., an organization that provides grants for creative ministry projects, presented the specially commissioned painting to Perez, on behalf of Versacare president, Robert Coy, and chairman, Charles Sandefur.



3535 Southern Boulevard
 Kettering, Ohio 45429
 (937) 266-1200
www.khcnetwork.org

Baltimore Youth Join Millions for 20th Global Service Day



Baltimore Adventist Community Services recently pulled together thousands of young people do volunteer work for the 20th Annual Global Youth Service Day.

Recently Baltimore Adventist Community Services (BACS) mobilized more than 3,000 young people from the Baltimore area to participate in the 20th Annual Global Youth Service Day, the largest service event in the world. With thousands of youth and their leaders involved, the event helps youth identify and address the needs of their communities through service-learning and community service.

In celebration of Global Youth Service Day, Baltimore youth designed and participated in many different activities, such as tree planting, cleaning grounds, and an Earth Day celebration. The youth of Miracle Temple Worship Center in Baltimore, helped raise awareness of homelessness by sleeping out in the church parking lot for one night. The following day, volunteers from Sarah's Hope helped prepare lunch for a community

homeless shelter, while Linthicum (Md.) church members made "hope totes" for the Helping Up Mission.

"[The nationwide event] has grown from 250 students our first year to 3,000 participating students this year," reports BACS executive director Darriel Hoy. "And this is our third year as a lead agency."

According to the leading service-learning researcher RMC Research Corporation, service-learning programs are proven to increase student academic achievement.

For more information about Baltimore ACS, visit abetterbaltimore.org. For more information on Global Youth Service Day, visit YSA.org.—George Johnson Jr.

First Serenity Conference Unites Sisters Across the Union

Sixty ladies from across the Columbia Union territory—Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio—and from as far away as Georgia recently met in Baltimore for the first Sisters of Serenity (SOS) Conference. The two-day event, held at Miracle Temple in Baltimore, was intended to recharge and connect sisters



At the Sisters of Serenity Conference Gina Brown, PhD, from Columbia Union College encouraged women to write down seven things they wanted to be free from, put it in a bag, and burn it.

PHOTOS BY CHIP DIZARD AND CAMERON ANDERSON

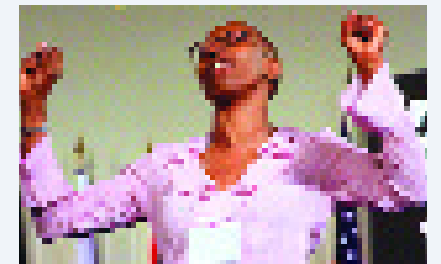
experience Christ and His unique purpose for their lives.

"We do this by providing an atmosphere of tranquility, solace, and friendship through the bonds of sisterhood," says SOS president and conference organizer Louvenia Anderson (pictured above), also a member of Miracle Temple.

The conference was so well received, that SOS has decided to continue through monthly, toll-free "Fire Side Chat" phone conferences. The phone conferences are open to all Christian women. The dates are: July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, and December 15.

Every conference starts at 8:30 p.m. Call the following toll-free number—(712) 432-1699—and then push in the code number 226817 to be connected.

For more information about SOS, call (410) 254-5757.—Beth Michaels



Conference Holds 16th Spelling Bee and Science Fair

The winning word was “exuberant,” which school officials said explained the general mood of students participating in the final leg of the 16th annual conference-wide Spelling Bee and Science Fair. Seven of 11 conference schools made it to the finals, recently held at Sharon Temple Adventist School in Wilmington, Del.

Lawrence-Paul Williams, a

seventh-grader at Sharon Temple, said, “I was so nervous but I prayed to God and was assured I was doing my best.” He placed third in the science fair portion.

The science fair was divided into three categories with top prizes going to the following projects: grades K-2, “The Sipper Spinner”; grades 3-5, “Food Digestion”; and grades 6-8, “Just Do It.”

Associate education superintendent Gloria Perry said the annual event is an activity that combines social interaction with academic excellence. “Independent science projects afford students the opportunity to develop skills that will help them to look at the world in new and creative ways that may lead to an improved quality of life for all mankind.”

As for the spelling bee, she said, it will help students to become effective communicators who think critically as they read, write, listen, speak, and view the world.



Spelling bee contestants await their challenge.

For this year’s science fair, first-place winners in the following categories included: grades K-2, Annie Carty from Trinity school in Hillside, N.J.; grades 3-5, Micaela Rivera from Sharon Temple; and grades 5-8, Selina Allen from George E. Peters school in Hyattsville, Md.

The first-place winner for the spelling bee was Kyre Samuda from G.E. Peters.—*Taashi Rowe*



Science fair winners for the grades 3-5 category were, from left to right: third place, Makya Davis; second place, Maria James; and first place, Micaela Rivera.

Germantown Congregation Burns Mortgage

The Germantown church in Philadelphia recently celebrated



Current and former Germantown church pastors and conference leaders celebrate the burning of their church’s mortgage.

the burning of their mortgage. During the weeklong revival themed “This Far by Faith,” former pastors took turns reminiscing and inspiring the nightly attendees, beginning with founding pastor Alfred R. Jones. On the last day, during a special divine worship service, the mortgage was officially burned.

“Certainly, we have come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord,” said Pastor Jackson M. Doggette, Jr. “We have arrived at a significant moment of reflection, celebration, and thanksgiving to God.”

The church was organized as a result of the Lord’s blessings in an evangelistic effort held by Pastor Jones. The property was purchased in February 1974 and now boasts a membership of 300.

—*LaTasha Betts Hewitt*

Allegheny East Conference
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Phone: (610) 326-4610
myalleghenyeast.com
President, Charles L. Cheatham
Communication Director, Robert Booker
Editor, Taashi Rowe

Ramah Graduates “Reach for the Stars”

Eleven graduates of Ramah Junior Academy’s (RJA) eighth grade are well on their way to meeting their class theme of “Reaching for the Stars.” The school recently celebrated a graduating class of six girls and five boys. Riki Jones and Asya Shadeed-Bey graduated with honors. Christa White, the class valedictorian, graduated with highest honors.

Highlights of the graduation include: a solo by Alecia Johnson, the welcome by Raven Kamara, opening anthem and prayer by Ta’Nasia Winston, a poem by Nathaniel Montgomery, scripture by Brandon Mosley and Jacob Lett, a speech from Christa White, and a speech by Tianecia Martin, the class president. Kawayn Giles introduced the speaker.

Harry Jenkins, eighth-grade teacher and class sponsor, presented special awards. Students who attended RJA from kindergarten through eighth grade also received awards. Cliff Wright Jr., men’s dean at Mt. Vernon Academy announced scholarships for RJA graduates planning to attend that school in the fall.

The speaker was Pastor Randall Giles of the Madison church in Ohio. Also present was Pastor Collin Parkinson, superintendent of education for Allegheny West Conference, and Mary Conwell, principal at Ramah.—*Harry Jenkins*



Ramah Junior Academy’s eighth-grade graduation ceremony included participation from the graduates, as well as awards, and scholarships to Mount Vernon Academy.

PHOTOS BY RODERICK BACON

Columbus Academy Ends Sixth Year With Graduation

Columbus Adventist Academy closed out its sixth year with kindergarten and eighth-grade graduation ceremonies. Eight kindergarteners and four eighth-graders marched in their caps and gowns and were awarded their diplomas. Three eighth-graders completed the school year with academic honors: Jasmyne Martin, valedictorian; Kristopher Owens, salutatorian; and Aaron Terrell, honor student. The school year was brought to a close with a picnic at The Homestead Park in Hilliard.—*Sharon Lewis*

Conference Congratulates Academy Graduates



Allegheny West Conference congratulates its Mt. Vernon Academy graduates. From left to right: Tearsa Smith, Ashley Leverette, and Joshua Asamoah.

Victory Church Reaches New Audiences via TV

The Victory church in Delaware, Ohio, may be a small church—42 members—but that doesn't stop them from doing their part to help fulfill Matt. 24:14, which says, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations; and then shall the end come."

Recently, the Victory church, which is just north of Columbus, presented a concert at a local TV station. They brought in friends from the area churches: Patty Mosby, Frank Hale III, Pamela Graham, Cheryl Duncan, and Megan Mobly. Two of their own members also sang, Ernestine S. Mitchell and her daughter Linda Reynolds.

Following the concert they were approached by the station and informed of an opening in the programming schedule and asked if they would be interested in airing future programs. Lawrence Shepherd, a retired minister who pastors the church, along with first elder Joe Reed, saw it as a marvelous opportunity to spread the gospel.

The church now airs evangelistic messages by

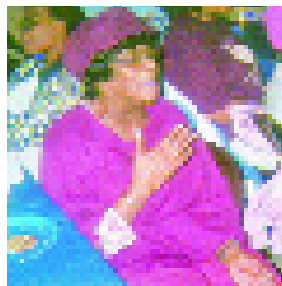
several of the premier evangelists of the denomination, such as C.D. Brooks, Walter Pearson, and Kenneth Cox. This is their method of spreading the gospel in their community and abroad. In addition to TV they are also featured on the TV station's website.

Pastor Shepherd advises other small churches to do their part to bring the gospel to the world. "Being a small church should not inhibit your global impact," he says.



Victory church members, Linda Reynolds (pictured) and her mother Ernestine Mitchell, evangelize through gospel music.

Women of Melrose Church Host Prayer Breakfast



Food, fellowship, and prayer were on the menu as the women of the Melrose church in Roanoke, Va., recently gathered for a prayer breakfast. The Women's Ministries department under the leadership of Jean Mills hosted the breakfast with the theme "As Close as Sisters."

The church's two women elders Patricia Hatch and Hermania Ferguson, led out in the event. Hatch spoke on the physical, spiritual, and emotional health of relationships and Ferguson spoke about the importance of having a vibrant and active prayer life.

The ladies reported enjoying the information and the interconnectivity

of relationships to their faith experience.

Jean Mills says, "I hope this momentum will continue to build and flow over to all the ladies of the church."



At a recent prayer breakfast, the women of Melrose church were inspired to make prayer central and foremost in their daily lives.

Calendar

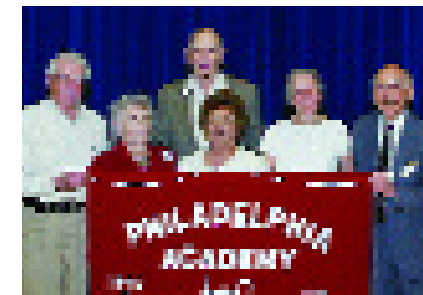
July

- 11, 12 Haitian Symposium, Roanoke, Va.
- 13-21 Summer Camp, AWC Campground, Thornville, Ohio
- 25, 26 Multi-Cultural Ministry Leadership Institute, Columbus, Ohio

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BMA Celebrates Alumni Weekend

Alumni weekend continues to be a time for nostalgia and renewing friendships as alumni and friends fill the halls of Blue Mountain Academy (BMA). The excitement of seeing classmates from 10, 20, and even 50 years ago is often accompanied by a fond embrace, screams of delight, and a tear or two. This year was no exception, as hundreds



Alumni from 10 different graduating years posed for class photos. See any familiar faces in the Class of 1948 (left) or Class of 1943 (right)?



of alumni flooded the campus for a weekend filled with fun.

The festivities began with the annual golf tournament,

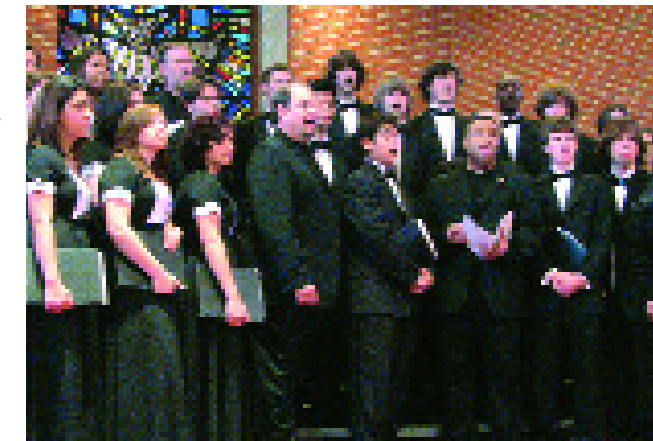
which raised more than \$3,000 for a special school project. Friday evening vespers featured graduates from Philadelphia Academy and the class of 1988.

"Philadelphia Academy was established in 1939 and we embrace them as our own," said Kathleen Sutton, director of advancement for BMA. "The sale of the Philadelphia Academy facility supplied major funding for the purchase and building of BMA, which opened in 1955."

Dave Ferguson, campus chaplain, was the Sabbath speaker, and the afternoon concert featured Bel Canto and the King's Heralds.



BMA's annual golf tournament raised more than \$3,000 for a special school project.

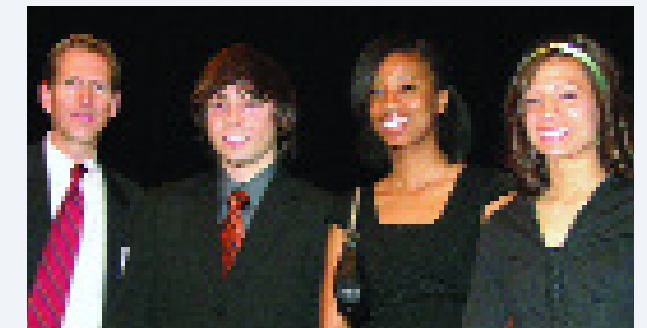


Hundreds of people attended the the Sabbath afternoon concert featuring Bel Canto and the King's Heralds quartet.

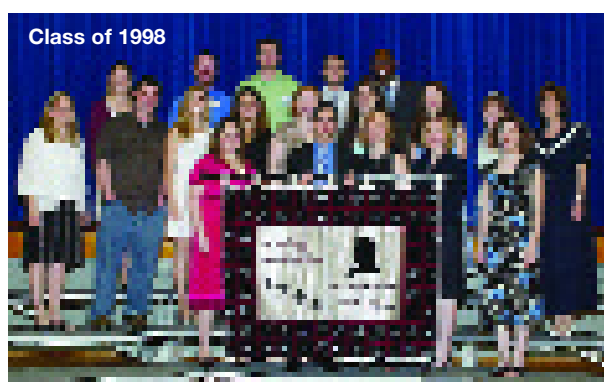
Memorial Fund Benefits Students

Several BMA students received the J. Thomas Diller Memorial Scholarship on the Sabbath morning of alumni weekend. J. Thomas Diller, a 1967 graduate of BMA, was killed in Vietnam.

The memorial scholarship was established in his name to benefit students on the basis of need, citizenship, character, and scholastic endeavors. His classmates, family, and friends continue to support this scholarship fund and many, many students have benefited from it.



Jim Fazio, alumni president, presented the J. Thomas Diller Memorial Scholarship to Jacob Kondrath, Charlene Reid, and Cecilia Dias. Not pictured: Evan Anderson and John Richards.



Coming EVENTS

August

- 15-16 New Student Orientation
- 17 Registration
- 18 2008-09 Classes Begin
- 28-30 Senior Retreat

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Forgiven as We Forgive

In the second petition of the Lord's Prayer we are faced with a quandary—a conditional request: We are forgiven as we forgive. This is also the only petition that Jesus feels compelled to amplify (see Matt 6:14-15). Why is this? Does God begrudge His forgiveness? No, not at all. It is simply that by the very nature of the universe, we must give in order to receive. So when we forgive, it unleashes a flood of forgiving graces from heaven and among human beings.

Forgiveness does not mean that we will cease to hurt. It does not mean that we will forget, but in forgiving we will no longer use the memory against others. It does not mean that we pretend the offense did not really matter, but that we will not let the offense control our behavior any longer. What then is forgiveness? It is a miracle of grace whereby the offense no longer separates. We no longer use the offense to drive a wedge between us. Forgiveness means that the power of love that holds us together is greater than the power of the offense that separates us. Forgiveness frees us to receive God's grace and to welcome each other back into the circle of fellowship.

That which tends to separate us from others is plentiful, however, our challenge is to make sure that in the myriad of opportunities we have to separate from each other, that we choose to forgive. It is a must for our own spiritual health.



Rob Vandeman
President

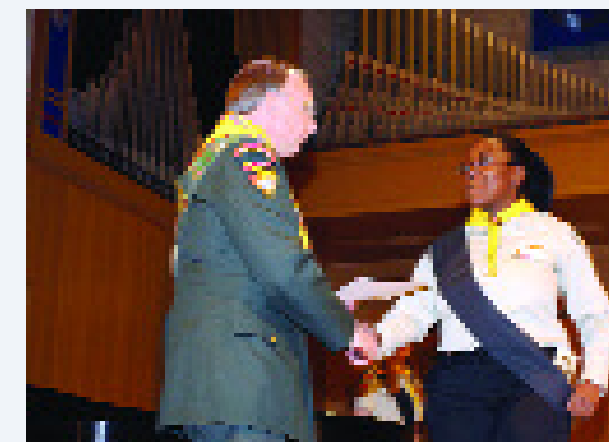
Spencerville Pathfinders Finish First at Bible Bowl

After more than 20 Friday night practice sessions and four levels of matches, one number stood out for the Spencerville Pathfinder Bible Achievement (PBA) team from Silver Spring, Md., the number 1. They finished with a first-place standing at the North America Division (NAD) finals at Andrews University (Mich.).

A record-breaking 45 teams participated in the NAD Pathfinder Bible Achievement. Forty teams finished in the first-place tier. The remaining five teams finished at the second-place level. More than 800 Pathfinders and their sponsors were on hand as Terry Dodge, the creator of the PBA program (sometimes referred to as



The Spencerville team brought back a first-place win in the final round of the NAD Pathfinder Bible Achievement. Back row, left to right, Kwun Tran, Zachary Hess, and Tommy Varghese. Front row, left to right Katelyn Juneau, Janet Mwebi, and Matthew Fennell.



Team captain Janet Mwebi receives the first-place certificate from "Mr. PBA" Terry Dodge.

Bible Bowl) led the teams through 90 questions on the Gospel of Matthew.

To reach the division finals, teams had to achieve a first-place finish in their area competition, the conference finals, and the union finals. Chesapeake sent two teams to the NAD finals—Spencerville and Triadelphia.

PBA organizers say the program is not just about winning. They say the study of the Scriptures inspires change and that is the greatest achievement of all.

Chesapeake Adventurers Make "Friends 4 Ever"

Nearly 400 registered for Chesapeake's annual Adventurer Family Weekend held at Mt. Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md. The entire weekend was organized around the theme "Friends 4 Ever."

During Sabbath School, each participant rotated through three different focus groups: discipleship with Cinnamon Pettijohn, community with the Pikesville Adventurers, and mission with Kitty Juneau. This was followed by worship featuring Steven Hernandez from New Jersey along with the praise team from the Frederick (Md.) church.

For Sabbath afternoon, Adventurers chose from a number of activities such as a fun hike or working on two different Adventurer awards like Prayer or Steps to Jesus. Another group worship experience in the HVA gym brought the Sabbath hours to a close.

"It was a deeply moving, religious experience to hear the youngsters pray and to do so with such a sense of presence as to what they were learning," said Ann Reynolds, secretary in the conference's youth department.

Sunday morning the Adventurers turned their attention to fun and games that included archery, canoeing, crafts, horseback riding, mountain biking, basketball, Frisbee, golf, horseshoes, and monster volleyball. The look on the children's faces said it all: it was a great weekend made even better by making friends forever.



Carl Rodriguez, conference Youth Ministries leader, prepares Adventurers for a fun hike.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANN REYNOLDS AND ROBERT MENCH

The Challenge is published in the Visitor by the Chesapeake Conference • 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044 • Phone: (410) 995-1910 • President, Rob Vandeman

Columbia Union College

1000 Fort Monroe Avenue, Towson, MD 21286 • Phone: (410) 253-1000 • Fax: (410) 253-1001

Board of Trustees Meets, Selects Provost

The Columbia Union College (CUC) Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and invitees recently gathered for a three-day retreat that ended with a board meeting.

Board chairman Dave Weigley opened the meeting with remarks. CUC president Weymouth Spence, EdD, gave a report that included his vision for the college's future, information on the college's three-school structure and development for the capital campaign.

"I am pleased with your engagement, and I appreciate your support of CUC's mission," he told attendees.

He also announced that Susan C. Scharffenberg, PhD, (below) would join CUC's administrative team as the new provost on July 1.

"Dr. Scharffenberg's credentials are impressive and, with her years of experience she will be able to fulfill the role of provost efficiently and effectively," said Gina Brown, PhD, dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies and a member of CUC's Provost Search Committee.

Scharffenberg has 30 years experience in higher education and previously served as the assistant vice president for academic administration at Mission College in Thailand.



CUC president Weymouth Spence (left) expressed his appreciation to board members attending the retreat.

The provost position will replace the academic vice president at CUC. Board members also shared their appreciation for the work that Joan Francis, PhD, interim academic vice president, gave during the time she served CUC in that capacity.

"I'm looking forward to the future fellowship and partnership to build a substantial Christian institution near the nation's capital," Spence said.

Plans were also received for a collaborative effort between CUC's new School of Health Professions, Science and Wellness and Adventist HealthCare, Inc.

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Music Groups Take Summer Tour

The Columbia Collegiate Chorale and New England Youth Ensemble will jumpstart their summer tour this month in Greece as participants in the opera, *Festival of the Aegean*, directed by MidAmerica Productions. After their performances in Greece, the group will also travel to Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Austria to perform choral works and operas in different venues and churches.

Free Capital Summer Session Program Offered

CUC's Capital Summer Session is a three-week program that allows students to earn three free college credits. Juniors or seniors in high school, academy, or

even those who have never taken a class at CUC can register for the July 21 to August 7 program. For more information, call (800) 835-4212 or email css@cuc.edu.

First Year Experience Encourages Students to "Reach for Change"

Incoming freshmen will receive an introduction to college life during CUC's First Year Experience (FYE), a one-credit class designed to help them transition successfully. The program begins with "Gateway '08," which runs from August 20-25. The weekend will begin with a parent dinner and annual FYE ceremony. "Gateway '08" culminates with the reading of a summer book that challenges students to meet the program theme, "Reach for Change."

College Recognizes Great Community Service With New Award

CUC recognized two community organizations with the Gateway to Service Award, a new honor created to express appreciation for community residents who provide services and demonstrate caring to those in need. Award recipients were recognized during Tastes of Takoma, a CUC community festival.

The first award went to Safe Takoma, a not-for-profit, volunteer-based organization that actively works to provide public safety in commercial and residential areas.

"The college's first Gateway to Service Award, given in response to our efforts, was a very welcome vote of confidence," said Seth Grimes, the president of Safe Takoma.

The second award went to Alice Sims, founder of Art for the People, a nonprofit organization that provides support and encouragement for people without opportunities for self-expression. Sims says the organization enriches the lives of children, those in homeless shelters, at-risk teens, the developmentally disabled, and senior citizens.—Daniella Daley



Community residents Alice Sims and Seth Grimes recently received CUC's Gateway to Service Award.

Pioneers Win National Baseball Championship

CUC's Pioneers baseball team recently won the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) National Championships after a four-day tournament played at the War Memorial Stadium in Hampton, Va.

The Pioneers secured the first-place title after winning four games to reach the championship event. In the final game against The Apprentice School, the Pioneers were down but rallied in the third inning with three hits to win the game 8-1.

In 2007 the team ranked fourth in the USCAA, and according to Pioneers head coach Michael Ricucci, the seniors vowed that

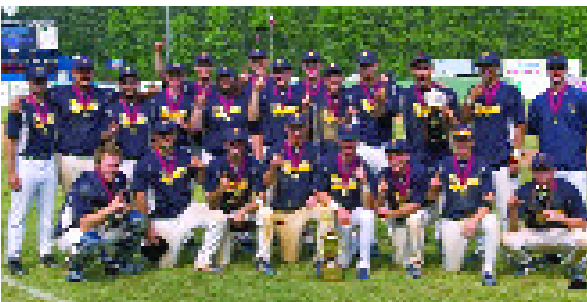


The winning team celebrates. Later team members received a victory party with supporters at the college.

2008 would be their year to win. "The seniors' goal was to make it to the championship, and it was inspiring to watch," he said. "I've never been so proud of these guys."

Senior first baseman Matt Acevedo was chosen as the tournament's Most Valuable Player. In addition, CUC players Hector Sepulveda, Kendall Hurst, and Jason Fischer were voted to the All Tournament Team.

According to Ricucci, Acevedo has a chance of making it into a professional league. Earlier in the semester, another CUC player signed to a professional team. The Pioneers ended the 2008 season with a record of 30-23.—PR Staff



CUC's Pioneers baseball team is overjoyed with their win to become the 2008 USCAA Division II National Champions.

CALENDAR

July	
3	Session II Ends
4	Fourth of July Holiday
7-31	Summer Session III
14-18	Xtreme PSP Begins
21-Aug. 7	Capital Summer Session
31	Summer Commencement
August	
20-25	Freshmen Registration and First Year Experience Program
22-27	Freshmen Registration
26	Classes Begin
30	CUC Sabbath

The Gateway is published in the Visitor by the Columbia Union College 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 Phone: (800) 835-4212 ■ cuc.edu Weymouth Spence, President ■ Editor, Tanisha Greenidge

How Important is Your Health?

John, the beloved apostle and revelator, wrote three beautiful epistles on the essentials of Christian life. In one of those epistles, he wrote, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (2 John 3). As you read the Gospels, it becomes evident that Jesus' entire mission was pervaded with a ministry of wholistic healing (see Matt. 8:16b, 17).

Jesus is the Great Physician, but His healing power does not excuse us from being temperate in our eating, drinking, exercise, recreation, and rest. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit (see 1 Cor. 3:16-19; 6:19, 20; 10:31), and for that reason "the health should be as sacredly guarded as the character" (*Healthful Living*, p.10).

In this age of stress and excessive activity, that is sometimes hard to do—we eat whatever is convenient as we rush between appointments, we rob ourselves of sleep, and sometimes cannot find time to exercise. Perhaps even our communion with God falls by the wayside, but we have help from heaven above to reform through the gracious mercies of the Lord.

Are you interested in having revitalized health that you may glorify the Creator? Then please read the next article on this page to find the scepter of sure hope held forth.



Brian Jones
Communication Director

Conference Presents Wellness Program

Looking for an affordable, nearby, quality, live-in wellness program?

The Mountain View Conference Health and Temperance Department, under the leadership of Pastor Daniel Morikone, is offering a 16-day, live-in Wellness Camp at Valley Vista Adventist Center (pictured) in Huttonsville, W.Va., August 15-31.



Here's what to expect at this camp: lifestyle change that will enhance vitality and overall well-being; superb plant-based meals; two complete blood tests at the start and finish of the program; physical, spiritual, and mental renewal; hands-on cooking demonstrations; walks; instructive talks; socialization; support in the common objective of restored health; rejuvenation; presentations on the causes of disease, and massages. A lifestyle coach

will be on hand to help attendees obtain maximum, lifelong benefits from the program.

With several hundred beautiful, peaceful acres and numerous trails, the camp offers rustic (but comfortable) accommodations, including bathhouses. All instructional meetings are held in a comfortable, centrally located lodge, and meals are taken in the dining hall.

All Columbia Union church members are invited to attend. The regular fee, due by July 31 is \$625 per person. That's just slightly over \$35 a day. Register by July 15 and the Early Bird fee will be \$575. For a 15-day extension of the Early Bird fee, please mention that you read this information in the *Visitor*.

Pre-registration is necessary for the sake of ordering supplies. Forms are available at all Mountain View churches.

To register or get directions, call the conference office at (304) 422-4581, or send an email to wellnesscamp_mvc@yahoo.com.

Mail registration forms and checks (payable to Mountain View Conference) to Mtn. View Wellness Camp, 1400 Liberty Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101.

"Men and women should be informed in regard to the human habitation, fitted up by our Creator as His dwelling place, and over which He desires us to be His faithful stewards" (*Our High Calling*, p. 267).

—Brian Jones

Highland Adventist Eighth-Grader Wins State Award



Joel Grey, an eighth-grader at Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va., recently became a Knight of the Golden Horseshoe. As a Knight of the Golden Horseshoe, Grey joined 221 West Virginia students who earned top marks in the Golden Horseshoe test, which evaluates students' knowledge of the state's history, citizenship, civics, government, economics, geography, and culture. The test has been administered to eighth-graders in West Virginia every year since 1931. This year 22,000 students took the test. The program takes its name from the golden horseshoes given to the early explorers of West Virginia. Students were recognized in a special pinning ceremony at the state capitol in Charleston. For more information about Highland Adventist School, visit the website at highlandadventistschool.org.—Cheryl Jacko

Joel Grey, pictured with his Golden Horseshoe award and certificate, outscored thousands of students statewide in a test that gauged students' knowledge of West Virginia.

Lewisburg Member Shares Him

Last summer Delsie Pack went with Stewart Pepper (pastor of the Lewisburg, W.Va., church) and several other people to an evangelism outreach team meeting in Beckley, W.Va. By the time she left the meeting a couple hours later, the Holy Spirit had impressed her to do an evangelistic meeting in her own church.

In September she went to Valley Vista, the conference's camp, for training on conducting ShareHIM evangelistic meetings. She then bought a computer to access the lessons. Then her work began in earnest.

She had to learn how to use the computer and the program. Each evening and sometimes in the morning and afternoon, she would practice. There were 18 sermons in all that she needed to learn. And she says she practiced each one "30 or 40 times."

Finally opening night rolled around, the night she had been anticipating for more than six months. She was ready, the equipment was ready, the people came, Pack opened her mouth, God spoke through her, and the people said, "Amen."

One by one the evenings came and went. Pack shared the Sabbath, the state of the dead, Jesus' Second Coming, and more. The people came back each evening to hear the messages.

Then came the exciting Sabbath morning when two of the attendees took their stand for Jesus. Both attended the meetings faithfully and wanted to commit their lives to doing what God wanted

them to do. Pastor Pepper baptized Jessica McCoy and Lloyd Richmond on May 17. As she watched the baptisms, Pack beamed with a smile on her face and tears in her eyes.—Kathy Pepper



Known for being shy, Delsie Pack (center) could not resist the Holy Spirit's urging that she share His good news with others. She is shown here with two people who committed themselves to God after faithfully attending her meetings.

Mountain View EVENTS

- July**
- 6-13** Adventure Camp (Ages 7-9) Valley Vista Camp
 - 13-20** Junior Camp (Ages 10-12) Valley Vista Camp
 - 19** SW Region Outreach Leadership Team Conf. Charleston
 - 20-27** Teen Camp (Ages 13 and Up) Valley Vista Camp
 - 26** SE Region Outreach Leadership Team Conf. Beckley
 - 27** Executive Committee Meeting

Mountain Viewpoint is published in the Visitor by the Mountain View Conference 1400 Liberty Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101 • Phone: (304) 422-4581 President, Larry Boggess Editor, Brian Jones • mtviewconf.org

Lord, Are You Concerned About the People of New Jersey?

This is the question I ask early every morning, just before dawn. Because God has called us to minister to this state, and our church has been assigned to lead the charge, it has become my daily custom to intercede for the people of New Jersey.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in New Jersey and its leaders understand that we must complete the mission Christ left His church. It is imperative to maintain clear focus on the present, the future, and the state of society in order to know where we are, and where we are to lead. Therefore, we commit ourselves to prayer, and to study the needs of the church in this state. What is our part in this spiritual feast? To set aside our personal agendas, and place all our plans at His feet. He will direct our path according to His divine providence.

To understand his direction, however, we need to be a people with a vision. God's Word says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Prov. 29:18). This is much more than words. It is an integral philosophical component of our mission. So I encourage not just our pastors but our members to share God's love with the people of New Jersey.



José Cortés
President

NEWS

Indonesian Pioneer Church Celebrates 15th Anniversary with Baptisms

The Indonesian Pioneer Church in Edison recently marked its 15th anniversary with a three-day celebration that included two baptisms. The new members, Raymond See and Marianne Mirasol, studied the Bible for nine months with one of our members.

Approximately 150 people came to support the anniversary events. As they celebrated, members of the church recalled six of the many who have joined the church over the years: a former Muslim, another from a different Protestant denomination, two siblings from the Catholic church, one who had never read the Bible, and a young man who was one of the



The Indonesian church celebrates its 15th anniversary with two baptisms. Right to left: Adrie H. Legoh, senior pastor; Darryl Weku; Maria Weku; Raymond See; Marianne Mirasol; and Hiskiah Missah, associate youth director for the worldwide Adventist church.

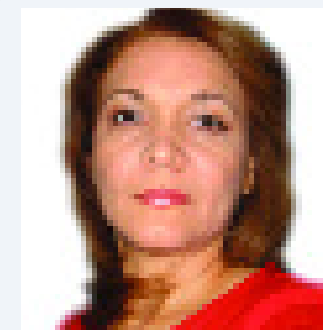
founders of the first satanic church in Manado, Indonesia.

On the last day of the celebration, family and friends gathered at Merrill Park in Iselin for a bit of fun in the sun. That same night, a young lady approached one of the church members to

inquire about Bible studies. With no time wasted, the member introduced her to Hepburn and had their first Bible study the next day.—Jane Pai

Conference Welcomes New Women's Ministries Director

Amalia Aguero (below) is the new Women's Ministries director for the conference. She, and her husband, Pastor Jorge Aguero, has served in ministry for more than 25 years. Before coming to the conference, she served as a teacher, secretary, and Children's Ministries director.



As Women's Ministries director, Aguero says she would like to focus on three concerns facing the average Adventist woman: "enlivening her spiritual walk and relationship with Jesus, raising an awareness of the importance of her physical and mental health, and encouraging her to take a more active role in soul-winning through Bible study groups and preaching."

Aguero says some of the ways she plans to meet those objectives include: spiritual retreats, reading clubs, the "Intimacy with God" program, health fairs, and evangelistic meetings.

Member Spotlight: John Hakizimana

I was born Roman Catholic in Rwanda, a country that became infamous for the atrocious killings that took place there in 1994. I was 12 years old at the time and soon became disillusioned with people in general. I also could not understand the teachings of the church about the nature of God, so I left the Catholic Church to search for the truth.

In my quest to understand truth on my own terms, I did not know where to begin, so of course I

to always bring up arguments against Christians. I loved stumping them with nonsensical debates, which they could not clearly defend.

However, in all my arguments, in all my searching for the truth, I knew that I was nowhere near the peace of mind that Christians possessed.

I did, however, respect a Christian friend from high school. He was a very intelligent fellow and one whose opinion I always valued. We never talked about his denominational background, but when I had a question about faith, I could trust him to give me a good explanation.

Little did I know that he was praying for me to give my heart to Jesus.

Like millions around the world, I also read *The DaVinci Code*. However, I enjoyed it so much that I set out on a quest to prove that the Bible was wrong. So I went out and bought myself a Bible and tried to read it from cover to cover, as one would read a regular book.

Although I love the old English of the King James Version, and greatly appreciate the works from

the Shakespearean era, to my dismay I could not keep focused on the Bible.

One day, my friend invited me to watch the first of a series of seminars, that dealt with prophecy, and I accepted. As I attended the seminars I discovered that the Bible is not a boring book, and that it is supported by historical findings. Thus began my love relationship with the Bible and, instead of me proving that its

contents were misleading and contradictory, the Bible proved itself right and proved me wrong.

Soon I was back home after graduating from college, and my friend invited me to his church, the New Brunswick Spanish church. They were welcoming, and I enjoyed a great meal and fellowship with his family. I also returned a few times.

I spent the summer of 2005 in Boston where, as God would have it, there were two Adventist young ladies in the same program I was in, one of whom was from Rwanda. Only God can provide a nurturing environment like that for a brand new Christian.

When I came back from Boston, my friend referred me to the New Brunswick English church nearby. The Sabbath I went, there was a call for baptism, and I alone stood up. An elder Vilas took my name and took me under his wing, not only as a new disciple, but also as a son. Because of the Vilas family, the prayers of my friend, the youth at my church, and the youth leaders both at the church and the conference, I am now a disciple of Jesus Christ. I am now like the apostle Paul who, after having persecuted the church for such a long time, became a zealous preacher of the Word.

In a fitting turn of events I've preached at the New Brunswick Spanish church twice, and my friend translated for me, both times. Isn't God great?

New Jersey News is published in the *Visitor* by the New Jersey Conference 2160 Brunswick Ave., Trenton NJ 08648 Phone: (609) 392-7131 ■ President, José Cortés ■ Editor, Laffit Cortés njcsda.org



John Hakizimana is a teacher at the Lake Nelson Adventist School and a member of the leadership team of the Youth Ministries department of the New Jersey Conference. He is also a member of the New Brunswick English church.

followed the "path" that most take and studied Eastern religions (Taoism, Hinduism, and Buddhism, and even a bit of Egyptian esoteric mysticism). But even before I started my search, I understood that there is indeed a divine power that created the universe and holds it together. To me, accepting God was not a problem. My problem was accepting the salvation story.

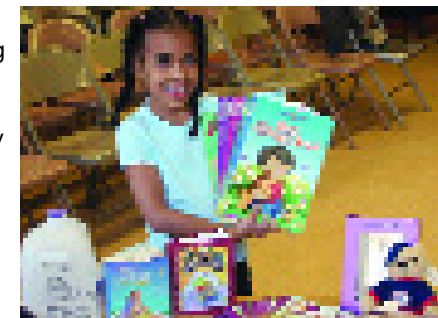
Thus, I did not believe in Christianity, and made it my point

Mount Vernon First-Grader Helps the Needy

The staffers at the Adventists Caring Through Sharing (ACTS) center, located in Mount Vernon, have been greatly encouraged by their young friend, Lauryn Daniels (right), a first-grader at Mount Vernon Adventist Elementary School who is doing her best to help others.

Now in its fourth year of operation, the facility serves 250 families every month. In these days of high food costs, ACTS is taking seriously Christ's instruction found in Matthew 25, to provide for those in need.

Daniels has embraced the mission and recently began raising money and collecting items to donate to the ACTS center. So far she has collected shoes, crayons, stuffed animals, and \$135, proving one is never too young to make a difference for God.—*Breta White*



Ashtabula Octogenarian Talks Aging with Students

Recently Elizabeth "Betty" Stowers, a respected elder and integral part of the Ashtabula church, shared her life in a very unique way, touching the lives of nursing students in her community.

By collaborating with a nurse educator for a local college course focusing on older adult developmental self-care, Stowers was able to visit the classroom and discuss the physiological, psychological, sociological, and spiritual impact of aging. The title of Stowers' presentation was, "A Walk With Betty Through Time."

This unique teaching methodology was accomplished by narrating Stowers' life through photographs depicting milestones. Photographs from childhood, high school graduation, marriage, family gatherings, and symbolic family events to date were shown weekly over the span

of the course. Each time a photograph was introduced in class, the students were to reflect on the image and observe the progression of age-related changes that correlated with the course content. In addition, narrative storytelling was implemented to communicate Stowers' significant life events.

Her identity was not revealed until the last day of the course. When the final photograph of Stowers at 84-years-old was displayed, her life story came full-circle as she enthusiastically entered the classroom with greetings of "I love all of God's children."

Her warmth garnered an emotional response from the students as they witnessed her enthusiasm and life's blessings. She joyfully reminisced and shared her autobiography, which included accounts related to family values, spirituality, social relationships, functional ability, health and wellness beliefs, and how these impact the nursing profession that cares for older adults.

Interwoven throughout the presentation was her true adoration and unconditional love for the Lord as she acknowledged how her life has been fulfilled by His teachings. In closing she said, "Caring comes from the heart, and someday you may be caring for an older person like me."

This teaching methodology was deemed highly effective as students waited eagerly to learn more about Stowers each week. Upon meeting her in person, the students were touched by her kindness, warm-hearted spirit, and compassion for others.

By conveying a Christian attitude in caring for others and sharing the spiritual love of the Lord in this class, Stowers became an ambassador for the church.—*Lora J. Leonard*



During a presentation designed to help nursing students understand the impact of aging, Betty Stowers (shown here with her husband Ivan Stowers) also shared how God has blessed her.

Pennsylvania Pen

JULY 2008

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Ordinary Missionaries

I must've been 7 or 8 years old when our neighbors invited all the kids in the neighborhood to attend a "Good News Club" in their yard. For five days, a couple of teenagers came and taught us Bible stories and songs. On the last day, those teenagers reminded us again of how much Jesus loved us and invited us to give our lives to Him. I committed my life to God that day, and from that point on, I knew I belonged to Him.

I don't remember their names or even what they looked like but those young missionaries changed my life—and are a part of the impact my life has had.

This month young people from across our conference are becoming missionaries who may never know the difference they have made. They will be serving as literature evangelists, holding Cool Camps in three locations, and some of our local youth groups are even planning mission trips in and outside of the conference.

You may feel like an ordinary person, but you have a God who can do extraordinary things through you if you allow Him. As we commit to God, He invites us to tell others what He has done in our lives.



Tamyra Horst
Assistant to the President
for Communication

Pathfinders Place First in Bible Achievement

If you quiz Pathfinders from the Harrisburg Diplomats or the Reading Hampden Hawks clubs on the book of Matthew, you'll find that they know their stuff! This is not surprising since club members won first place in a North American Division (NAD) Pathfinder Bible

Achievement competition recently held at Andrews



Harrisburg Diplomats (left) and Hampden Reading Hawks (right) finished in first place at a recent division-level Bible Achievement competition.

University (Mich.).

The two clubs were among the 45 clubs from the NAD that competed. Pathfinders were asked 90 questions on the book of Matthew. All clubs that came within 90 percent of the highest score earned a first-place award.

If you'd like more information on next year's competition, please contact Pamela Scheib at papathfinders@verizon.net.—Pamela Scheib



PHOTOS BY BETSY COLON

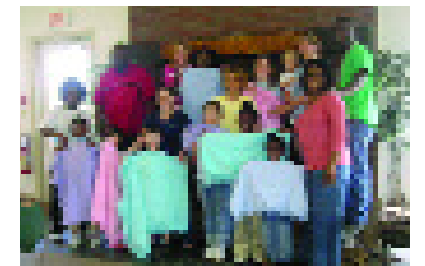
Adventurers Attend Family Retreat

Some 65 Adventurer-age children and their families recently gathered at Laurel Lake Camp in Rossiter for the annual Adventurer Family Retreat.

Over the weekend, the Adventurers worked on the Camper award, which involved learning the safety rules of camping, how to pitch a tent, and how to build a fire. They also made trailmix. For their outreach project, they made 52 fleece blankets for the Punxsutawney Hospital. Saturday night the Adventurers had a "pajama party" in the lodge with their families and enjoyed trailmix!

The speaker for the weekend was LeAnn Austin, director of the Steel City Adventurer Club. She spoke about God's leading and protection.

Adventurer clubs came from Allentown, Distant, Easton, Gettysburg, Lehigh Valley Spanish, Pittsburgh, Pleasant View, Valley View, and Waynesboro.—Pamela Scheib



Pennsylvania Adventurers had fun learning the rules of camping and how to help others at their annual family retreat.

Mission Story: It's Who You Know

When RiLinda Fetherolf started working at the Becker Subaru dealership in Allentown, she wasn't looking for anything more than a job. However, after noticing some Christian literature placed in the waiting room of the dealership, she hesitantly accepted Rodney Becker's invitation to attend a Doug Batchelor series at the Allentown church where he was a member.

As a result of those meetings, Fetherolf began attending the Allentown church and a small group meeting at the Beckers' home. A year later, she hadn't really made a commitment, but, when Becker told her he would be going to Kenya with ShareHIM for a mission trip, she signed up to help with children's or health ministries.

As she thought about going to Kenya to share Jesus, Fetherolf realized her own need to make a commitment to God. So she began taking Bible studies and preparing for baptism.

On the Sabbath before the Pennsylvania team (which included Bethlehem church members, Ed and Josephine Varley) left for Kenya, Pastor Paul Wasmer baptized Fetherolf. He also had a commissioning service for Becker and Fetherolf. In his sermon that day,

"It's Not What You Know That Counts," Wasmer emphasized that you don't have to know everything in order to share your faith—it is *Who* you know and your willingness to be used by Him that is the most important thing.

When they arrived in Kenya, the team learned that the organizers needed volunteers to speak in some locations. Fetherolf felt God urging her to volunteer to speak. After obeying His prompting, she was assigned a location.

The first night of the meeting, the pastor of her location asked if she was ready and if she had done this before. She told him that



Inspired by plans to go on a mission trip to Kenya, RiLinda Fetherolf became a baptized member of the Allentown church.

this was her first time speaking in public.

Fetherolf was nervous, but as she stepped on the platform and prayed her first public prayer, she felt a great peace and knew that God was leading. Using the ShareHIM script and slides, she shared Jesus with more than 2,000 people.

God blessed the series with 112 baptisms.

Back home from Kenya, Fetherolf continues to learn as she continues to share Him.—Paul Wasmer

A group of ordinary people, just like RiLinda, Rodney, Ed, and Josephine will be in Panama sharing Jesus from July 8-26. You, too, can share Him overseas. Look for information

at paconference.org, click on the Ministries tab, and then click the "Overseas Evangelism" link.



Fetherolf prayed her first public prayer while on a mission trip to Kenya. This prayer gave her the peace she needed to share Jesus' love with crowds of more than 2,000 people.

What's happening

July

6-13 Junior Camp
Laurel Lake Camp

13-20 Tween Camp
Laurel Lake Camp

20-27 Teen Camp
Laurel Lake Camp

August

29-31 Hispanic Youth Retreat
Camp Hebron

September

19-20 Fall Camp Meeting
Laurel Lake Camp

26-28 Community-based
Ministries, New Cumberland

Pennsylvania Pen is published in the Visitor by the Pennsylvania Conference 720 Museum Road, Reading, PA 19611 Phone: (610) 374-8331, ext. 210 President, Ray Hartwell ■ Editor, Tamyra Horst ■ paconference.org

Potomac People

JULY 2008

Casting a Vision

It was August 28, 1963. Martin Luther King Jr. stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, and with passion and vision gave one of this generation's greatest vision statements: I have a dream today to let freedom ring.

This was a vision for every sector of this country, where character was to displace skin color and where every culture could be distinct yet unified in freedom. Today that speech is still casting a vision.

Years later, Apple Computer, Inc., chairman Steve Jobs recruited John Sculley from PepsiCo to become Apple's CEO. Jobs is reputed to have asked Sculley: Do you want to spend the rest of your life selling sugared water or do you want a chance to change the world?

King, Jobs, a teacher, a pastor, a parent, an employee—somewhere in each of our lives, someone showed us a horizon we wanted to reach. We were motivated to reach for the unknown because of a thing called vision.

A motivating vision is the song in the heart that elicits incredible joy in the lives of organizational participants, shapes the rhythm of their work, and demands to be shared with strangers. We need inspiring vision in our churches today. In Potomac we have a vision of bringing one of life's greatest joys to each member: equipping them to bring someone to Jesus. We envision doubling our membership by 2020.

Sound like too big a goal? Good! God loves impossible goals. I want to challenge every congregation and every school to start planting a song in their hearts by casting a powerful vision for the kingdom. I challenge you to join me in the mission to bring new vitality and the promise of eternal life to your local communities. By His Spirit we, together, will pursue this vision and will rejoice when he says, "Well done!"



Bill Miller
President

Potomac Pastors Meeting Focuses on Discipleship

Potomac Conference pastors recently returned from their three-day meetings in Montebello, Va., with a deeper understanding and passion for disciple making and disciple training.

The meetings included intense seminars and stirring devotionals from speakers like Bill Miller, conference president; José Rojas with the North American Division and pastor for Maryland's Millennium Ministries; and Dave Buehring a nationally recognized expert in discipleship training based in Nashville, Tenn.

Here's what Potomac pastors had to say about the things they took away from the meetings:

"I was inspired by the challenge to *repent*, to embrace the joys and the cost of discipleship."
—Debbie Eisele, Pastor for Nurture, Sligo Church (Md.)

"It was helpful to see that other pastors struggle with the same issues I do."
—Mike Hewitt, Associate Pastor, North Valley (Va.) Church

"The meetings ignited in me a passion to practice and teach discipleship. I now have the desire to confront and resist my shadow mission and be about God's true mission for my life."
—Will Johns, Pastor, Waynesboro (Va.) Church

"My commitment was reaffirmed to the mission of Christ and the church."
—Luis Begle, Pastor, Greenbelt and Langley Park (Md.) Spanish Churches



Jose Rojas, director of Adventist Volunteer Ministries, shared his music at the meetings.



Some 112 people joined the Adventist church as a result of the series.



JULY 2008

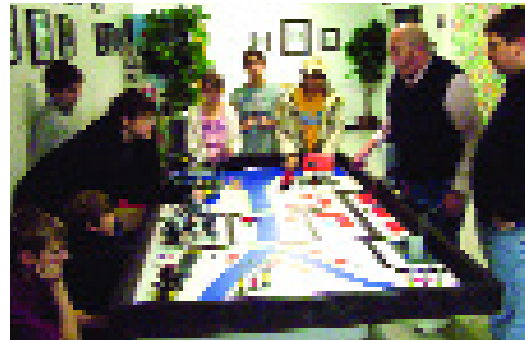
www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

SVAE Robotics Team Takes Success to New Levels

Although it was their first year competing, the Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary (SVAE) robotics team, the Gigabots (right), tied for first place at the East Coast semi-finals at Southern Adventist University (Tenn.), and then recently went on to do well at the finals at Andrews University in (Mich.). Not wanting to compete on Sabbath, SVAE students and staff joined the Adventist Robotics League, which works with the First Lego League. Their challenge in this nationwide program was to design, build, and program autonomous robots (from Lego bricks, a memory chip, and a motor) to perform 12 tasks in 2.5 minutes, plus research and present some aspect of energy.

The eight seventh- and eighth-grade students were guided by SVAE teacher Gordon Miller and coaches Bill Dodge and Kris Hanon. In addition to learning robotic design and programming, they experienced the benefits of cooperation and teamwork, perseverance under pressure, problem solving amidst obstacles, and patience to endure. "This experience included many real-life challenges," Miller said. "Through it all, the children put God first—in their kindness to each other and their competitors and in keeping God's day special."

Their dedication and hard work paid off. At Southern, as the only representatives of the Columbia Union, the Gigabots tied for overall first place with first-place awards in four categories: robotic design, programming, research, presentation, and team work. At the finals, they achieved first place in robotic design and presentation, second place in performance, and third place in teamwork.—Rick Maloon



Amicus Seminar Shows How Lifestyle Affects Health

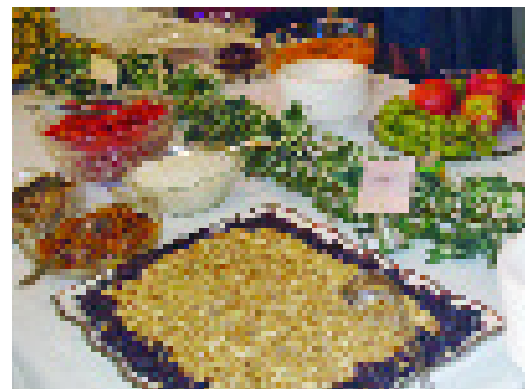
Members of the Amicus church in Ruckersville, Va., are rejoicing for the 15-plus persons that recently attended their eight-week lifestyle seminar. Each evening attendees were welcomed with a delicious, vegan meal (right) and demonstrations of some of the recipes.

The real "meat" of the seminar followed with science-backed presentations showing that diet and lifestyle can affect chances of developing life-threatening diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and high blood pressure. Physicians Agatha Thrash and James LeVos joined the seminar by teleconference to address specific concerns.

"Table Talk" was the last item on the agenda each evening. During this time, participants were divided into smaller groups, each with a group leader. They reviewed their progress in following the recommended program during the preceding week, asked questions, and shared concerns.

"We praise God for the opportunity we were given to share with members of the community the truths we have been given regarding healthy choices and the wonder of the God that created each of us," said Sue Endres. Several of the attendees to this seminar who were not members of the Adventist Church came to the two-week prophecy seminar that followed.

The Whole Foods Market in Charlottesville, Va., generously provided all the food for the meals and demonstrations.



Attendees to the Amicus church's lifestyle seminar learned how a healthy diet reduces the risk of lifestyle-related diseases. They also got a chance to eat healthy, delicious vegan meals.

Potomac People is published in the Visitor by the Potomac Conference ■ 606 Greenville Ave., Staunton, VA 24401
Phone: (540) 886-0771 ■ pcsda.org ■ President, Bill Miller
■ Comm. Asst., Don Wood

Alumni Return for Centennial Celebration

A record crowd was on hand recently to celebrate Shenandoah Valley Academy's (SVA) centennial.

While it is difficult to know an exact number, it is estimated that between 1,400 and 1,600 people attended the events throughout the weekend, starting with Friday's annual golf tournament and ending with Sunday's Worthy Student Benefit Brunch.

Music permeated the campus the entire weekend with alumni presenting music for the Sabbath School program, an afternoon concert of alumni singing in a reunion choir, an afternoon Christian music festival featuring the musical talents of SVA alumni, and an evening concert just for the children.

One of the Sabbath afternoon highlights was the open house and tours of the newly remodeled dorms



More than 1,400 people celebrated SVA's 100 years of educating young people in a Christian atmosphere.

torical DVD about the school, which shows historical photographs of the school, staff, and students, as well as voice recordings of some of SVA's patriarchs. It also tells the story of SVA's role in educating young people over the past 100 years.

Speakers for the weekend included George Akers, ('43) and former SVA principal (1955-1959); Karl Haffner ('80), senior pastor of the Kettering (Ohio) church; and Gordon Hadley, PhD, ('38).

For a copy of the DVD, email obsornej@sva-va.org.
—Jan Osborne



Alumni joined the SVA choir to sing the "Hallelujah Chorus" during worship service.

and the Student Center. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on the steps of the boys' dorm to acknowledge its new name, Phanstiel Hall, in recognition of the significant contributions made by S. Louise Hart, Class of 1976 and Howard Phanstiel to the campus.

The weekend also meant saying goodbye to J.J. Henline who had been a physical education teacher and athletic director at SVA for 40 years. At his retirement open house, former students and staff filled the cafeteria to capacity to wish him well and pay tribute to his years of service.

Alumni said they especially enjoyed visiting the archive museum that had been set up for the weekend. The mini-museum gave visitors the opportunity to look at old yearbooks and school newspapers and to see archived materials that have been donated to the school through the years. Visitors also watched an his-



Beth Snyder Mashburn (Class of 1976) joins principal Dale Twomley in cutting the ribbon at the newly renamed boys dormitory, Phanstiel Hall.

Happenings is published in the Visitor by Shenandoah Valley Academy ■ 234 West Lee Highway, New Market, VA 22844
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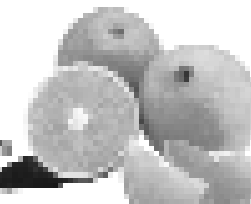
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MARYLAND ADVENTIST DENTIST: David Lee, DDS, FAGD, has practices located in Silver Spring and Ellicott City, Md. He is extensively trained in implant, cosmetic, TMD/TMJ, sedation, and laser dentistry. Dr. Lee is an associate fellow with the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, as well as many other certifications. For appointments, call (410) 461-6655 for Ellicott City or (301) 649-5001 for Silver Spring. Mention this ad and receive 10% discount on all services (excluding third-party payers). Our office is a participating provider with Adventist Risk Management. We welcome new patients.

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LEGAL NOTICES

QUADRENNIAL SESSION OF THE ALLEGHENY EAST CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS Notice is hereby given that the Third Quadrennial Session of the Allegheny East Conference of

Seventh-day Adventists will convene Sunday, September 28, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. in the Myers Auditorium of the Martin Luther King Communication Arts Center at the Bowie State University, Bowie, Md. This meeting is called for the election of officers, departmental directors, and committees that may properly come before the session at that time.

Charles L. Cheatham, President
 Henry J. Fordham, Secretary

ALLEGHENY EAST CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION MEETING Notice is hereby given that the legal meeting of the Allegheny East Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventist will be held in connection with the Third Quadrennial Session of the Allegheny East Conference at 2 p.m. on Sunday September 28, 2008, in the Myers Auditorium of the Martin Luther King Communication Arts Center at the Bowie State University, Bowie, Md.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect a Board of Trustees of the ensuing four-year period and to transact any other business that may come before the Association at that time. The delegates of the Third Quadrennial Session of the Allegheny East Conference are delegates of this session.

Charles L. Cheatham, President
 Henry J. Fordham, Secretary

MEETING OF THE PINE FORGE ACADEMY CONSTITUENCY Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Pine Forge Academy will be held in connection with the Third Quadrennial Session of the Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in the Myers Auditorium of the Martin Luther King Communication Arts Center at the Bowie State University, Bowie, Md., Sunday, September 28, 2008, at a time that will be called by the chair. This meeting is called to elect a Board of Trustees for the academy and to transact any other business that may come before the constituency at that time. The delegates of the Third Quadrennial Session of the Allegheny East Conference are delegates of this session.

Charles L. Cheatham, President
 Henry J. Fordham, Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SABBATH SERVICES AT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK. Mid-America Union, Rocky Mountain Conference, and Centura Health will be providing Sabbath services at Yellowstone National Park from May 31 through August 30. For more information contact Rocky Mountain Conference, (303) 282-3670.

MUSIC AT THE 2010 GC SESSION in Atlanta, June 23-July 3. Needed: high-quality sacred music from vocalists, instrumentalists, choirs, ensembles, etc. Please visit gcsession.org for details and application. Send all requested materials to NAD Music Coordinator, Attn: Ron Christman, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600. Deadline for application: January 31, 2009.

COLLEGE VIEW ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND Oct. 10-12. Honor classes '48, '58, '68, '78, '83, '88, and '98. Special feature Saturday, Oct. 11, 11 a.m. is Bill Chunestudy, class of '68 and vice president for Academic Administration for the California Preparatory College in Redlands, Calif. All former students welcome. More information at collegeviewacademy.org.

CHESAPEAKE SINGLES invites singles to a potluck picnic on July 27 at 4 p.m. Drinks and ice cream will be provided. Meet at the Snook Chapel on the lower level of the Chesapeake Conference office, 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044-9988. For more information, visit asamchesapeake.com or call Fred Thomas at (410) 992-9731.

WHITE ESTATE OPEN HOUSE The Ellen G. White Estate is hosting an open house the afternoon of Sunday, September 14. You are invited to tour the White Estate vault, see Ellen White's original handwritten works, and view the many other exhibits related to our church's heritage. Hours are noon to 4 p.m. Groups of 25 or more are asked to call in advance for scheduling: (301) 680-6540. Please note that no food services are provided. The White Estate is located at the Seventh-day Adventist World Headquarters, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD.

BALTIMORE FIRST 120TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION All former members and friends are invited to join Baltimore First Seventh-day Adventist Church on September 27 as they celebrate their 120th anniversary. The church is located at 3291 St. John's Lane, Ellicott City, MD 21042. For more information, call the church office at (410) 465-6864.

ANDREWS ACADEMY HOMECOMING WEEKEND: Oct. 17-19. All alumni of Emmanuel Missionary College Academy, Andrews University Academy, and Andrews Academy plan now to join us for special services on Fri. evening and all day Sabbath. Honor classes are 1939, '44, '49, '54, '59, '64, '69, '74, '79, '84, '89, '94, '99, and 2004. For more details, contact the Academy Alumni office at (269) 471-6140, or email acadaalum@andrews.edu.

	July 11	July 18	July 25	Aug 1	Aug 8
Baltimore	8:34	8:30	8:25	8:18	8:10
Cincinnati	9:07	9:05	9:01	8:56	8:49
Cleveland	9:04	9:01	8:57	8:51	8:43
Columbus	9:02	8:57	8:52	8:45	8:37
Jersey City	8:28	8:24	8:18	8:11	8:03
Norfolk	8:26	8:22	8:17	8:11	8:04
Parkersburg	8:53	8:50	8:44	8:38	8:30
Philadelphia	8:30	8:26	8:21	8:14	8:06
Pittsburgh	8:51	8:47	8:41	8:34	8:26
Reading	8:34	8:30	8:25	8:18	8:09
Richmond	8:32	8:29	8:24	8:17	8:10
Roanoke	8:42	8:38	8:33	8:27	8:20
Toledo	9:09	9:05	8:59	8:51	8:43
Trenton	8:29	8:25	8:20	8:13	8:05
Wash., D.C.	8:34	8:31	8:25	8:19	8:11

SUNSET CALENDAR

Maryland Men of Faith

Presented by
 Personal Ministries
 Atholton and Baltimore First
 Seventh-day Adventist churches

Upcoming Events:

Clifford Goldstein
 July 29 at 7 p.m.
 Baltimore First Church

Third Annual Conference
 October 4 - All day
 Mt. Aetna Camp and
 Retreat Center
 Hagerstown, Md.

Visit: mmof.org

For more information:

Email
mdmenoffaith@verizon.net

Phone
 (410) 465-6864
 Baltimore First Church

PRISON MINISTRIES EVENT. The Alliance of Prison Ministry Organizations (APMOA), formerly known as Adventist Prison Ministries Association, will hold its 19th annual convention in Philadelphia, July 23-26, at the Crown Royal Hotel. There will be over 25 prison ministries and community services workshops. For more information, contact Dan McManus at dmcmanus67@hotmail.com.

OBITUARIES

OLDHAM, Esther Mae, born May 19, 1919, in Ohio; died April 30, 2008, in Littleton, Colo. She took nurses training under Harry Miller, MD, in Mount Vernon, Ohio, and later received a bachelor's and a master's degree from Loma Linda University (Calif.). She served as director of nurses at the New England Sanitarium and Hospital; Youngberg Memorial Hospital (Singapore); Saigon Adventist Hospital during the war in Vietnam; Battle Creek Hospital (Mich.); and Sycamore Hospital in Dayton, Ohio. She was preceded in death by her brother George Oldham and sisters Lola Butler, Helen Greer, and Nina Hodge. She is survived by her brother Harold Oldham; her sisters Ruth Merrill, Miriam Mellish, Thelma Burton, and Grace Green; and many nieces and nephews.

OBITUARY SUBMISSION

For information on placing an obituary in the *Visitor*, please call Sandra Jones at (888)4-VISITOR or email sjones@columbiaunion.net.

Obituaries are placed in the order they are received, on a space-available basis.

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THE CHURCH RESPONSIBILITY REPORT

THE CHURCH RESPONSIBILITY REPORT



Back to the Future

25th Anniversary

THE CENTRAL

THE CHURCH RESPONSIBILITY REPORT

The mission of a church is to serve the community in Christ. The church is called to be a light in the world and to bring the good news of the gospel to all people.

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The *Visitor* provides news and information, resources for effective ministry, and insight on issues with a spiritual focus to help people celebrate God's transforming grace in preparation for His return.

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KETTERING COLLEGE OF MEDICAL ARTS: Charles Scriven, President; Mindy Claggett, *Visitor* Correspondent; 3737 Southern Blvd., Kettering, OH 45429. Tel. (937) 395-8601 • kcma.edu

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ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE: William G. "Bill" Robertson, President & CEO; Ray Tetz, *Visitor* Correspondent; 1801 Research Blvd., Suite 400, Rockville, MD 20850. Tel. (301) 315-3030 adventisthealthcare.com

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE: Frank Perez, President & CEO; Kathryn Stiles, *Visitor* Correspondent; 3965 Southern Blvd., Kettering, OH 45429. Tel. (937) 395-8167 khnetwork.org

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Volume 113 • Issue 7

I Didn't Want to Go

I didn't want to go. But for the first time, our academy's annual mission trip to Belize was not just your typical church-sponsored trip—it was also a *mandatory* select-choir tour. I was required to go.



I had already experienced a mission trip to Belize the previous year, and I didn't see the point in going again. *Why would I put myself through that unbearable heat for a second time?* I thought. *And why should I give up my spring break two years in a row?* After all, we were going to the same city, ministering to the same people, and playing with the same kids. Surely, my experiences would be the same.

AN UNEXPECTED BLESSING

God ministers in amazing ways, especially when you're least expecting it. After a few days on our trip, I realized that not only



was I being incredibly selfish before, but I was also utterly and completely wrong. The Belizean people joyfully sang along with our more familiar songs, which brought a smile to my face. No one had ever responded to our

music like they did. I soon discovered that not only were we a blessing to them, they were a blessing to us as well.

After our singing, the pastor made an appeal. At first, there appeared to be no outward response, and I could see that this was not an easy decision for them. Several minutes had passed when finally one woman bravely made her choice to stand. Then another. Soon, there was an entire group standing to show their commitment to Jesus. By the end of our trip, 22 local people—and some of our own—decided to give their lives to Christ. Suddenly, the heat didn't matter as much as it did the year before, and the absence of a relaxing spring break didn't seem like such a big deal.

Watching those local baptisms touched me, and I discovered that the blessing of people dedicating their lives to Jesus is just too big of a reward to miss. As I wrote in my journal that night: "I've come to view these baptisms as something that's eternal. Everlasting. As I watch them give their lives to Him, I get a feeling like I've never experienced before ... and I can't wait to feel that feeling again."

Ellen Poirier, a junior at Andrews University (Mich.) and Visitor summer intern, is pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in graphic design.

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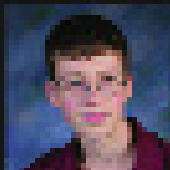
SLIGO BY THE SEA 2008

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| June 28
Steve Chavez | July 5
Dave Weigley |
| July 12
Terry Johnsson | July 19
Larry Evans |
| July 26
Becky Brillhart | August 2
Fred Kinsey |
| August 9
William Johnsson
MaryAnn Scriven &
Hillhaven Chorale Group | August 16
Ben Carson |
| August 23
Kermit Netteburg | August 30
William Loveless |

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