Dave Weigley (dweigley@columbiaunion.net) is president of the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, which democratically elects its leadership every five years.

For Want of a Nail

For want of a nail
the shoe was lost.

For want of a horse
the rider was lost.

For want of a battle
the kingdom was lost.

And all for the want of a horseshoe nail.

To Vote or Not to Vote?

I love history and enjoy reading, studying, and learning all I can about our roots. I’ve visited the sacred beaches of Normandy in eastern France, walked on the deck of the USS Nebraska in Pearl Harbor, and driven through miles and miles of Civil War battlefields in places like Gettysburg, Pa.; Chancellorsville, Va.; and New Market, Va. And last year I stood at the grave of my eldest brother, who is resting in Arlington National Cemetery. Through all of these experiences, I’ve realized an age-old truth: “Freedom isn’t free!”

I know for many of us there comes a sense of connection and pride when we see people in places like Iraq, Zimbabwe, South Africa, or India exercise their right and privilege to go to the nation’s polls and vote their conscience. The reverse is equally true when we hear of a country that oppresses its people and denies them this right.

Voting our conscience is an opportunity we get and sometimes take for granted. Soldiers, former slaves, women, and others have sacrificed so that you and I can experience this privilege and right. It’s a sacred exercise that gives you and me the opportunity to make a difference. Without question we have our own personal ideas of how this country should be governed. And that is the beauty of it all. Guided by our convictions (and the leading of the Holy Spirit), we choose the persons whom we believe will best lead our country. Maybe this was what the apostle Paul was speaking to when he penned the following words: Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God (Rom. 13:1).

3 KEY QUESTIONS

Should Seventh-day Adventists vote? As you’ll read in this issue, early Adventist pioneers encouraged members of the movement to exercise this God-given right (see article on p. 8). Because of this we’ve made a difference in religious liberty and other vital areas.

Does my vote count? Never think that your vote doesn’t count. Too many elections have been decided by just a few votes. Just ask the folks from Florida and Ohio.

If God is in control, why should I bother to get involved? If’s true that we live in one of the most exciting and crucial times of Earth’s history, with grave issues facing the nations of the world. But despite these troubling times, we have fantastic opportunities to share the good news of Christ’s love and herald His soon return. Now is the time for the church to exercise her influence on issues facing our world, and voting is one way you can play a part.

As I consider this issue, I’m reminded of a poem that may hit the proverbial nail on the head (inset).
Adventist Church Promotes Pedestrian Safety

The Seventh-day Adventist Church recently hosted the Multijurisdictional Pedestrian Safety Committee (MPSC) Conference. More than 40 representatives from various local, county, and state governmental agencies expressed concern about the increasing rate of pedestrian injuries and deaths within the Latino immigrant population in the Langley Park/Takoma Park (Md.) area. Attendees discussed ways to raise awareness and prevent further pedestrian fatalities. In addition, various presenters suggested ways to improve safety, including a proposal to build a new bus terminal on the northwest corner at New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard.

In addition to church and community leaders, representatives from Allegheny East, Potomac, and Chesapeake conferences were invited to participate. MPSC founder and director Erwin Mack, a Potomac Conference member, received an award of commendation from the Adventist Church for his contributions to his community. Through Mack’s leadership in the area, a number of groups, including Takoma Academy students in nearby Takoma Park, have helped the cause by passing out literature to Langley Park pedestrians.

“It’s important that Seventh-day Adventists be involved in local community activities because we are interested in the whole life of an individual, not just the spiritual,” said Ted Wilson, a vice president of the worldwide Adventist Church. “This is a good opportunity to show that we are actively involved in the betterment of people within our community.”

Another Potomac member, John Wagner, pastor of administration for Potomac Conference’s Sligo church in Takoma Park, helped plan the event.—Andrew Campbell

ASI Collects Record $8 Million Offering at Convention

More than 2,500 people—including 500 youth and young adults—recently gathered in Tampa, Fla., to attend the 61st annual Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries (ASI) Convention themed “By Knowing Him.”

A highlight at the convention each year is the ASI Special Projects Offering. This year the offering supported 41 projects chosen from approximately 100 submissions, including construction, evangelism, archaeology, lay outreach, and media projects. Attendee response was overwhelming, pledging above $8 million—more than quadruple the 2007 offering.

ASI member organizations from the Columbia Union Conference that were represented included Miracle Meadows School, MissionServ International, Reaching Hearts International, and TEACH International.

A number of Columbia Union members also attended and were presenters at the convention. Repeat attendee Robert Wallace (above), president and CEO of Bithgroup Technologies in Baltimore, presented a business seminar at this year’s convention. He smiled when he added, “Every year my kids ask me, ‘When is the convention?’”

Business owner Denise Hayden of Allegheny East Conference’s Liberty church in Baltimore, and ASI president for the Columbia Union added, “The convention exceeded all my expectations. The seminars addressed all levels of the market and角度 to evangelism in the marketplace: children, nonprofits, ethics, for-profits, education, and health industries.”

Other union participants included Rafael Scarfullery (below with guitar), who teaches music at three colleges in Virginia. He played a hymn on the classical guitar, while Michelle Pauliah, from Ashton, Md., shared about an exciting evangelistic project.

The 2009 ASI Convention will be in Phoenix, Ariz., August 5-8. For more information, visit asi-ministries.org.—Steve Hamstra
“Fifty years ago religion did not play as important a role in world affairs. Today religion greatly affects politics and international relations.”—John Graz, Issues of Faith & Freedom

Potluck

BETH MICHAELS

What’s New?

Books > Issues of Faith & Freedom

John Graz

According to John Graz, director for Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, his new book is for anyone with an interest in our church and its public ministry. “It is one of the best ways to understand why the church is involved in religious freedom and about what we are doing,” explains Graz, a member of Chesapeake Conference’s Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. “It shows and explains how we deal with governments, officials, and other churches. It also gives a clear understanding about the difference between good relations and ecumenism.”

This collection of Graz’s published articles and sermons will answer such questions as: Should Christians become involved in politics in order to promote their values? and What was Jesus’ position regarding religious liberty? Your local Adventist Book Center will have a copy.

God’s Great Missionaries

Gary Krause

If the third-quarter Adult Bible Study Guide inspired you, pick up this companion book by author Gary Krause. “Actions may speak louder than words, but we need both,” says Krause, referring to just one of the many points he hopes readers will gain from its pages. “I’ve always been fascinated with how best to share the good news in ways that are attractive and meaningful to people from different cultures,” says the director of the office of Adventist Mission and member of Chesapeake Conference’s New Hope church in Fulton, Md. “It was fun to revisit the biblical ‘experts’ who faced the same challenges.”

In the book Krause connects biblical mission stories to contemporary examples. He hopes to remind readers that we need to knock down church walls and tell our communities about Jesus’ love.

Keeping Score

2007 Hospital Volunteers

2,380
Number of Volunteers

232,427
Number of Hours Contributed

269
Number of Departments Served

$4,357,157
Estimated Value of Pro-bono Contributions

Note: Figures from four Adventist hospitals in the Columbia Union.

Interestingly, a recent study published in the American College of Sports Medicine journal has identified these risks independent of physical activity. The researchers looked at healthy individuals who consistently exercised 30 or more minutes, five times a week. Significant metabolic risk factors (waist circumference, blood pressure, blood sugar) were observed in women who watched more than an hour of TV daily, and in men who watched two-plus hours each day.

With more than 639 skeletal muscles, our bodies were created to move! Prolonged sitting is counter to that design and sets the stage for poor health. However, reality is that many of us spend considerable hours every day in front of a computer and/or television screen. What can we do?

Set a goal to balance screen time with movement. Create cues to take a “moving” break every 30 minutes. Drink more water for a “built-in” reminder. Use commercial breaks as opportunities to move. Wear a pedometer for daily feedback on your activity amount. And don’t forget to explore nonscreen activities for leisure time.—Lilly Tryon, MSN, RN, Adventist WholeHealth Wellness Center

In the Spotlight > Fertility Specialist, Educator, and Businesswoman Diana Broomfield

Busy is an enormous understatement when describing the life of Diana Broomfield, MD, of Allegheny East Conference’s Miracle Temple in Baltimore. This reproductive endocrinologist/fertility specialist with her own practice in Columbia, Md., has also found time to create and run Fertility Today Magazine; serve as director of the OB/GYN residency program at Howard University Hospital in Washington, D.C.; co-host the new Keeping the Faith TV series produced by the Adventist Media Center based in Simi Valley, Calif.; complete an MBA at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore; start a new consulting firm with her husband, Darius Lecointe, PhD, JD; and establish a nonprofit organization, among other talents. This is all on top of raising three children—aged 8, 10, and 16.

Broomfield knew at age 7 that she wanted to be an OB/GYN physician. “I really understood reproductive endocrinology and I liked microsurgery, so in college I decided to sub-specialize,” she recalls. “The bottom line was the babies. I figured the greatest gift you can give somebody who wants to have a child, and can’t, is to help them have one,” she adds.

Although she helps people through her practice, the Maryland IVF Fertility Health and Wellness Center, Dr. Broomfield felt she should educate a much larger audience. That’s why she created Fertility Today Magazine (fertilitytoday.org). Launched in 2005, this quarterly publication is distributed—in print and digital format—to readers in 17 countries, and is still growing. Dr. Broomfield and her brother, Ramon Broomfield, who helped start the magazine and now acts as vice president of marketing and sales, hope the magazine will empower consumers “so that when they make a decision about fertility, it is one they won’t regret,” she states. As a result, each article is written and edited by a minimum of two internationally renowned specialists.

In the Spotlight > Fertility Specialist, Educator, and Businesswoman Diana Broomfield

To learn more about Dr. Broomfield, listen to the October 1 AudioVisitor podcast at columbiaunion.org or on iTunes.
Adventists and Politics

A Look at How the Seventh-day Adventist Church Established a Political Presence

While the Seventh-day Adventist Church provides sanctuary to its members, it must also speak truth to those in power. In fact, engagement with civil authorities provides church members with unique opportunities to witness for their faith, and, at the same time, effect dramatic changes in the lives of fellow citizens. Is the political thicket a safe place for Christians? Has the Adventist Church effectively entered this realm? Should members remain silent or pursue political solutions for problems facing American society today?

Perhaps history can provide some guidance in response to such questions. In 1888, at a camp meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, Ellen White had retired from the day’s activities when persons seeking counsel interrupted her preparation for an evening of rest. Apparently, in her absence, meeting attendees had introduced a resolution to support temperance legislation “at the ballot box.” Delegates had expressed reservations on whether or not they should become involved in the political process. Mrs. White dressed, returned to the auditorium, and spoke for 20 minutes on the issue, stating, “Yes,” church members should vote at the ballot box in support of prohibition.

Other early Adventist leaders engaged in the political process to protect the interests of the church and its members. In the late 1800s, Sen. Henry W. Blair of New Hampshire introduced a Sunday Day of Rest bill in Congress. The Adventist Church—relying on the leadership of Alonzo T. Jones (left), editor of The Adventist Review, who testified before congressional committees—effectively led the opposition to this law proposal.

Early Church Politicians

Throughout the past century, a number of other Adventists have influenced the political world. George A. Williams served on the Nebraska state House of Representatives (1919-21). Robert Lee Stump served on the Arizona House (1959-67), the Arizona Senate (1967-76)—including the final year as president—and as an Arizona congressman (1977-2003). According to wikipedia.com, “In his 26 years in the House, [Stump] became a noted member of the House Armed Services Committee, serving as chairman from 2001 to 2003. He was also well known for taking good care of his constituents, frequently answering the phone himself at his Washington office.”

Jerry L. Pettis (pictured right with Rep. Gerald Ford) served as a U.S. representative from California (1967-73). When he died suddenly in a plane crash, President Gerald Ford published a statement that read in part, “It was my great privilege

and pleasure to work closely with Jerry for eight years—first as a colleague in the House, and then as president. I will miss his loyal support and wise counsel.” Rep. Randall Sauder of Georgia (1995-2000), Philadelphia Mayor John Street (2001-08), and Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas (1995-present) are a few others.


The Church’s 3 Political Arms

The Adventist Church continues to speak effectively concerning issues of importance to the well-being of both its members and society at large. More recently it has used the leadership of James Standish—former director of Legislative Affairs for the worldwide Adventist Church—to speak to political power and authority on the church’s behalf. Standish monitored a variety of legislative proposals before Congress, and, each year, invited Adventist members from across the country to speak to congressional members in Washington, D.C. Recently Standish’s efforts proved successful as the House passed legislation imposing a duty on the tobacco industry to reveal the contents of its products. The church also maintains a United Nations liaison permitting it to influence world thought leaders, as well.

Through America’s court system, church and individual Adventist lawyers have brought cases seeking to expand rights guaranteed by the religion clauses of the First Amendment. In the early 1960s, the church retained legal counsel to represent the interests of an Adventist—Adell Sherbert—from South Carolina before the Supreme Court in the matter of Sherbert v. Werner. She had lost her job for refusing to work on Sabbath. Not only did the court decide the case in her favor, but it also established an important legal principle that continues to afford Adventists and other Americans important protections. (Find more at wikipedia.org.)

Adventist attorneys such as Lee Boothby, a former Michigan congressman (1962, 1976), also used the courts to create legal rights and remedies for church members. Many believe that Boothby’s advocacy single-handedly brought about favorable regulations by the Equal Employment

by Walter E. Carson

PHOTO COURTESY OF JERRY L. VISITOR

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WHITE ESTATE

PHOTO COURTESY OF LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ELLEN G. WHITE ESTATE

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Opportunity Office, and, eventually, resulted in modifications to Title VII of the federal Civil Rights Act. These changes required employers to reasonably accommodate a person’s religious beliefs in the workplace.

In addition, the church routinely issues statements addressing moral concerns of our time (adventist.org/beliefs/statements/index.html). It has spoken on issues such as family violence, environmental stewardship, human cloning, temperance, and the sanctity of marriage. What is to be done with such church statements? Are they merely decorative pieces to adorn a website, or might they become reality as church members and leaders encourage politicians to enact such statements into law?

Certainly, there is an important role for the church and its members to play in the political process. How else is the church to engage public officials on matters it believes to be important?

Missed Opportunity?

A regret of this writer was his missed opportunity to join Martin Luther King Jr.’s march on Washington, D.C., in 1963. Having attended a local Adventist church and college, I have no recall of being encouraged to become involved in this grand effort to bring down the evils of slavery and discrimination in this country. Perhaps I was not listening, or maybe my church was not speaking as effectively as it could have, calling its members to unite with citizens to persuade the government to change its laws. Did we miss an important opportunity? Perhaps it was this regret, in part, that inspired my own pursuit of a seat in a state House of Delegates. Although the effort proved unsuccessful, the opportunity allowed me to be a witness for my faith and to meet political leaders in my community, people of integrity that shared my own concerns for a quality government and the common good. The experience was painless, and provided a sense that a person could be both an Adventist and a politician.

Today the Adventist Church and its members are surrounded with the results of sin. We can wring our hands and lament these conditions, or we can embrace the teachings of Christ and continue to speak for truth and Christian principles in society. We can join with others in the political processes afforded to citizens to effect change. And, as we await the soon return of Christ, we can also become candidates for elective office using our positions of influence to create better lives for our communities.

Walter “Wally” Carson, Esq., serves as vice president and general counsel for the Columbia Union Conference. In that role, he also directs public affairs, religious liberty, and trust services.

James Standish is the newly elected executive director for the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.
Hard by Interstate 70, a highway that slices through Maryland’s 6th Congressional District, sits Harry Grove Stadium, home to the Frederick Keys, a minor league affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles. It is a quintessential American locale, a place where baseball dreams are nourished, kids jostle for foul balls, and post-game fireworks color the summer sky.

On a muggy July evening, minutes before the start of another game, a gentleman with a professorial bearing walks to the pitcher’s mound. He is introduced as the local congressman and gently lofts a ball to home plate for the ceremonial first pitch. It’s a scene no doubt repeated countless times across America during this, an election year for members of Congress.

Yet this scene and this man hold a special distinction. Roscoe Bartlett (below), an eight-term congressman, is a personification of Seventh-day Adventists engaged in the political process. Indeed, his congressional service is leavened by his distinct faith.

“I live my faith as a member of Congress in the same manner that I have lived my faith in my previous jobs and experiences,” says Rep. Bartlett, a member of Chesapeake Conference’s Frederick (Md.) church. “It influences my decisions every day.”

A Religion of Community

Politics and Adventists. For some, both now and throughout our church’s history, the pairing of these words is an uncomfortable mix, an awkward dance best avoided. For others, politics is a path to service, a way to live faith by serving others or advocating for community well-being.

Bert Beach (above, far left, with Eleanor Roosevelt), former director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the worldwide Adventist Church, wrote an essay in 1997 on the intersection between faith and politics for Dialogue, a church journal. “From the birth of the Christian church, this question has been raised again and again: What is the role of the Christian in politics?” he asked.

Commenting recently, Beach, a member of Chesapeake’s Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., cautions against allowing political involvement to become a “demanding taskmaster” where one focuses solely on “self-promotion” or “self-glorification,” rather than on helping others.

He does, however, advocate for individual engagement in the political process as an extension of one’s faith. “Thus, Christianity is not a religion of isolated individualism or insulated introversion; it is a religion of community. … Commitment to Jesus Christ means commitment
As a teacher of 15- to 18-year-olds,” Scriven says, “my goal was to put students in situations where they would be interested in the political process, with the fairly modest goal of hoping that, down the road, it would at least convince them to vote later in life.”

More than 150 students volunteered for the campaign. Shortly after the election, Rep. Van Hollen spoke at a school assembly, answering questions about politics and policy to the rapt attention of students.

“For an Adventist government teacher, that’s about as good as it gets,” recalls Scriven, who currently lives in France with his wife and children and teaches at an international school outside Nice. “Instead of shying away from politics and the political process, our students were listening to a newly elected congressman telling them how important they were to his victory.”

To all God’s children, and commitment begets responsibility for the welfare of others,” he wrote in the Dialogue essay. To abdicate this responsibility, he continued, “is in itself a political action, which opens the way for political control by those supporting less than Christian values.”

A Practical Education

Concern about political apathy among Adventist youths spurred Jonathan Scriven, who taught history and economics at Potomac Academy (Takoma Park, Md.) from 2001 to 2003, to provide practical opportunities for his students to see the benefits of political engagement up close. He volunteered for the 2002 campaign of Rep. Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, who was running his first race for Congress. Scriven offered students the opportunity to learn firsthand how an individual can make their voice heard.

“I ran for this position to help develop a better community service and witnessing for his faith. Commitment begets political activity is a straight path to community service and witnessing for his faith. I ran for this position to help develop a better community service and witnessing for his faith. It is not always easy, but it has been my experience that if I can trust God to lead me into my political endeavors, and make sure that God gets the glory, things will work out for good.”

Easier to Witness

Likewise, for Peter Gagliardi, a member of the Luzerne County (Pennsylvania) Republican Committee, political activity is a straight path to the American Lung Association of the Mid-Atlantic, Diane Berlin, vice chair of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling and coordinator of Smoke-Free PA; Vincent DeMarco, national coordinator of Faith United Against Tobacco; Kevin O’Flaherty representing the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids; and Susan Roberts of the American Cancer Society.

“Adventists have historically been supportive of better health practices and for people to stop smoking,” adds Clevenger. “As faith leaders, we cannot stand idly by, but must act to ensure that all Pennsylvania workers have equal protection from the more than 4,000 chemicals found in secondhand smoke.”—Tamyra Horst

Pennsylvania Adventist Supports Smoke-Free Legislation

Pennsylvania Faith United Against Tobacco, a diverse coalition of faith leaders, won a victory recently as lawmakers approved smoke-free legislation that covers all workplaces and protects Pennsylvanians from the dangers of secondhand smoke.

David Clevenger, PhD (center), pastor of Pennsylvania Conference’s Carlisle, Shermansdale, Hershey, Capital Area, Pleasant View, and Lebanon churches, reports that it wasn’t a total victory. “It was not exactly what we asked for in total, but there is now a ban on smoking in public places such as restaurants, etc.” he reports. “The legislature decided to allow some places to have smoking, such as some bars and casinos. We felt this was not fair, nor did it cover the needs of the workers in those establishments, however, we were successful!”

Clevenger, representing the Seventh-day Adventist Church and Adventist Regeneration Ministries, joined professionals across the state to hold a press conference at the state capital earlier this year, urging the legislature to enact a comprehensive smoke-free legislation. His cohorts included the likes of Deborah Brown, vice president of the American Lung Association of the Mid-Atlantic; Diane Berlin, vice chair of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling and coordinator of Smoke-Free PA; Vincent DeMarco, national coordinator of Faith United Against Tobacco; Kevin O’Flaherty representing the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids; and Susan Roberts of the American Cancer Society.

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To show the diverse nature in which Seventh-day Adventist Christians can make a difference and a positive influence among the most influential leaders of our country, the Visitor proudly introduces 25 members who work in politics and government:

Renee Battle-Brooks  
Chief of the Child Abuse, Sexual Assault, and Vulnerable Adult Unit, Office of the State’s Attorney for Prince George’s County, Maryland  
Prosecutes crimes against children, all sexual crimes against adults, and physical abuse against vulnerable adults.  
Stigo Church, Takoma Park, Md.

Shirley Benton  
Branch Chief, Contract Management Branch  
Department of Defense  
Ensures the accurate input and payment of government contracts, authorizes daily disbursements, and conducts training with government contractors in relation to the global war on terror.  
Ephesus Church, Columbus

Barry C. Black  
62nd Chaplain, U.S. Senate  
Provides spiritual leadership to senators and their families.  
Berea Temple, Baltimore

Col. William B. Broome  
Chaplain, Pentagon  
Provides religious support for the Pentagon’s nearly 25,000 personnel.  
Vienna (Va.) Church

Mark A. Brown  
Deputy Chief Information Security Officer, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)  
Supports the chief information security officer in managing the HHS enterprise-wide information security and privacy program.  
New Life Church, Gaithersburg, Md.

Roderick Cartwright  
Chief of Procurement, National Gallery of Art  
Oversees corporate procurement and contracts function, staffing, and the entire gallery.  
Capitol Hill Church, Washington, D.C.

Michelle L. Chin, PhD  
Legislative Assistant, Office of Sen. John Cornyn  
Serves as the education policy advisor.  
Capital Memorial Church, Washington, D.C.

Peter Gagliardi  
Committeeman, 6th District Republican Committee, Pennsylvania  
Helps Republican candidates get elected.  
Kingston (Pa.) Church

Richard W. Guldin, PhD  
Director, Quantitative Sciences Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service  
Leads the Forest Inventory and Analysis program (the nation’s tree census) and serves in several international networks related to forest sustainability.  
Spencerville Church, Silver Spring, Md.

John Hall  
Correctional Program Coordinator, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections  
Provides alcohol and other drug education, therapy, and counseling for incarcerated males.  
Findlay (Ohio) Church

Debra A. Hill  
Councilwoman, City of Warrensville Heights, Ohio  
Chairs the safety committee that deals with crime and police issues.  
Southeast Church, Cleveland, Ohio

Rodney Cartwright  
Chief of Procurement, National Gallery of Art  
Oversees corporate procurement and contracts function, staffing, and the entire gallery.  
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Southeast Church, Cleveland, Ohio

Neil Albert  
Deputy Mayor of Planning and Economic Development, District of Columbia  
Coordinates, supervises, and executes all outgoing communication, and supervises the congressional staff.  
Emmanuel-Brinklow Church, Ashton, Md.

Debra Anderson  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
Communications Director, Office of Rep. Chaka Fattah  
Represents the people of the 6th district of Maryland in Congress.  
First Church, Washington, D.C.

Richard T. Baldwin  
Corrections Chaplain, Richland Correctional Institution  
Protects inmates’ religious rights under the First Amendment and provides religious support for the Penitentiary’s nearly 25,000 personnel.  
Berea Temple, Baltimore

Rep. Roscoe G. Bartlett  
Congressman, 6th District, Maryland  
Represents the people of the 6th district of Maryland in Congress.  
Frederick (Md.) Church

Col. William B. Broome  
Chaplain, Pentagon  
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Mark A. Brown  
Deputy Chief Information Security Officer, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)  
Supports the chief information security officer in managing the HHS enterprise-wide information security and privacy program.  
New Life Church, Gaithersburg, Md.

Wes Holden  
Director of Constituent Services, Office of Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV  
Organizes the senator’s briefings and schedule and works with constituents to solve problems.  
Ripley (W.Va.) Church

Alvin D. Jackson, MD  
Director of Health, Ohio Department of Health  
Implements Gov. Ted Strickland’s Turnaround Ohio plan—making affordable, quality healthcare accessible to all Ohioans.  
Central Church, Columbus

Penny Johnson  
Fair Housing Board Member  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
Finds resolutions for housing discrimination complaints.  
Ephesus Church, Richmond, Va.

Leon A. King II, Esq.  
Director of Legislation, Office of The Honorable Frank Rizzo, City of Philadelphia  
Executes and assists in shaping the legislative agenda of an at-large councilmanic office.  
Ebenezer Church, Philadelphia

Victor Marshall  
Correctional Chaplain  
Hocking Correctional Facility, Nelsonville, Ohio  
Conducts religious services and upholds the religious rights of prisoners.  
Marietta (Ohio) Church

The Honorable Lisette Shirdan-Harris  
Judge, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, Family Court Division  
Presides over cases involving child custody, child support, divorce, and domestic violence.  
North Philadelphia Church

To show the diverse nature in which Seventh-day Adventist Christians can make a difference and a positive influence among the most influential leaders of our country, the Visitor proudly introduces 25 members who work in politics and government:
Many other church members across the Columbia Union Conference territory are serving their church and country through positions on political and governmental boards, departments, as assistants to top leaders, and in other forms of service:

Rick Blondo (pictured), of the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., is a management and program analyst at the National Archives and Records Administration.

Don Bonchack (pictured), a member of the Atholton church in Columbia, Md., works at the FEMA headquarters office as a Volunteer and Donations Specialist.

Jude Boyer-Patrick, MD, MPH (pictured), of the Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., is serving her second term on the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission, where she assists community clinics that often serve as safety nets for uninsured and underinsured Marylanders in need of healthcare services.

Jennifer Geyer, of the Pleasant View church in Elizabethville, Pa., is a clerical supervisor at the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

Seabrook (Md.) church member Derrick Green is serving on the Public Relations Subcommittee for the Prince George’s County Democratic Central Committee. Greene has also created and is holding “Liberty in Jeopardy” workshops to inform Adventists and others about our freedoms. The next one will be November 1 at the Ephesus church in Richmond, Va. Contact Green at (301) 345-7700 for more details.

George Johnson Jr. is associate director of Communication for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.
The Right Place

Supervision is crucial like a role model who sets the right pace as a leader. Right place at the right time. I am finding the right people, the right team, the right people for the right job, the right place at the right time.

In January, William J. Hobson, President and CEO of Adventist HealthCare, announced a unit from Dhabi Healthcare, a facility under Dubai Healthcare, would be donated to KAHU in Pakistan. They had sent a team and had donated five ventilators and a few other pieces of equipment. This would be a big step in helping the KAHU in Pakistan.

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OCTOBER 2008

The town of Bladensburg, Md., recently recognized Pastor Brenda Billingy for community service done during her nearly four years as pastor of the Bladensburg church. Billingy, now senior pastor at the Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md., received the award on the day she was installed at her new church.

Bladensburg Councilman Walter Ficklin presented the award on behalf of the mayor. The plaque specifically recognized the Bladensburg church for: serving hot lunches and having monthly birthday parties at the nearby senior citizens’ residence every month; establishing English as a Second Language courses for the Hispanic residents in the community; and partnering with the city in their annual coat drive for the homeless.

“The tribute humbles me because it says what God can do with willing hands,” Billingy said, adding that the award was unexpected.

She believes the English as a Second Language course was the program she felt had the biggest impact in the community. The program was instituted for one semester during the fall of 2007 with teachers Carol and Ray Cantu, Winnie Hylton, Rosa Daniels, and Monica Lindo. Some 30 families attended the twice weekly classes. Nita Minifield, the first elder at Bladensburg, said the church will continue offering the classes.

“This wasn’t done just to bring people into the church,” Minifield said, “but to provide a service that the community needed.”

Billingy said that mindset reflects the core of Bladensburg. “We were not focused just on baptisms and giving Bible studies, but on being kind and loving and letting people know we care about them,” she said.

Town Recognizes Pastor for Community Service

Capitol Hill Celebrates 10th Appreciation Day

In the past 10 years, good food and the “good news” have become an annual tradition in the nation’s capital. The Capitol Hill church recently celebrated its 10th annual Community Appreciation Day, which is also termed “church in the streets” by its founder Rosalie Johnson. She said that years ago the Bible inspired her to combine a cookout and a sermon in Washington, D.C.’s 13th Street Northeast neighborhood. “God said, ‘go into all the world and preach the truth of the gospel,’” she said. In addition to food, the program includes a complete church service. Over the years the event has drawn up to 400 people, including neighbors who sit out on their lawn chairs, city officials, Capitol Hill members, and participants from the community.

George E. Peters School Housed in Church

After sustaining tornado damage last spring, the George E. Peters school in Hyattsville, Md., was left without adequate shelter. The school’s 83 students and seven teachers started the 2008-09 school year in the nearby Metropolitan church. “We want to extend our deepest appreciation to Metro church for opening its doors to us,” said principal Evelyn Savory. “We are committed to putting trust in God and seeing Him work miracles at our school.”

Savory said construction on the school should be completed early next spring. She said even though students are not in a traditional school building, the high level of learning remains the same. They acquired 25 laptops and several SMART Boards and visualizers.
It’s Beginning To Rain!

There is clearly a mighty move of God that is descending over our world. Everything, and I mean everything, is being aligned in heaven to usher in the last, great outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Any casual observer of the times can detect that something is about to happen. God is moving—and it cannot be denied and it cannot be ignored. And what is this movement? Two things: Even as God’s Spirit is being slowly removed from the Earth, at the same time, He is baptizing His people—who are passionate to see Him—with the Holy Spirit.

Men Detox at Annual Retreat

When most people think of the word “detox,” they picture a health diet designed to cleanse all unhealthy foods from the body. However, for the approximately 70 men who recently gathered at the annual Frank Loris Peterson Society (FLPS) of Adventist Men Retreat, detoxification meant reconnecting with the Lord and recharging their spiritual batteries.

The retreat is held each year on the campus of Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. With the theme “The Toxic Man,” this year’s retreat covered such topics as “The Toxic Man in a Toxic World,” “Detoxing the Toxic Man,” and “Christ is not the Best Answer to the Toxicity of Man—He’s the Only Answer.” At one seminar FLPS president Donald Cantrell Sr. explained, “Sometimes God does put difficult people in our lives so that we can minister to their needs and serve as godly role models—whether they appreciate it or not.”

The society was founded in December 1987 during a meeting of about seven male members of the Ephesus church in Columbus. The organization was named in honor of Frank Loris Peterson, the first African-American vice president of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church and a former president of Oakwood University (Ala.). Peterson also pastored major churches in Los Angeles and Boston. Frank W. Hale Jr., PhD, former Oakwood University president and former vice provost for minority affairs at Ohio State University, assembled the group and became its sponsor. The group was concerned primarily with providing an opportunity for the men of the church to achieve a more balanced role and take a more active part in church and community affairs.

This year’s keynote speaker was Kwame R. Vanderhorst, outreach director and personal growth consultant for Prepare Our Youth, a ministry based in Washington, D.C. Other presenters included Perry Jennings, Corey Rowe, Frank Hale Jr., Tony Thomas, Donald Vanderpool, and former AWG president James Lewis.
City of Hamilton Honors Shiloh Member

A recent Prison Ministries celebration hosted at the Mt. Olive church in Hamilton, Ohio, honored Fred Coleman, a member of the Cincinnati-based Shiloh church. He made a dramatic change in his life after becoming an inmate.

Adventist while in prison, Coleman, who spent approximately 18 years in prison, started his work for Christ while incarcerated, leading to the baptism of several inmates. After leaving prison, Coleman made it his goal to improve his community by helping others.

When he was released from prison, Coleman’s family set up a small apartment for him, paid three months’ rent, and bought him a bicycle for transportation. He soon found a job and his hard work and dedication caused him to excel in that position. He continued to give Bible studies and he even rewrote some of the lessons to adjust to the level of each student’s ability and personality. Several have accepted Christ and now hold offices in the church.

Everywhere he went Coleman shared his testimony of his incarceration and how he learned to play the guitar—which he has since used for God’s service. He then gave the bicycle to someone else who needed transportation.

Coleman uses the car to visit sick and shut-in members, and to drive senior citizens to the store once a week. He has been married to Linda for three years and also assists in her nursing home ministry.

What Would Jesus Do?

We are urged repeatedly in the Gospels and elsewhere to pray in the name of Jesus. And wonderful results are promised as a result of doing so. Of course, any thoughtful person knows this means far more than just tacking on a rote formula to the end of our prayers. But what exactly does it mean? It means that we are to pray in full assurance of the great work Christ accomplished—in His life, by His death, through His resurrection, and by means of His intercessory ministry in heaven on our behalf. And we are to pray in accord with the way and nature of Christ. It means we are making the kinds of intercessions He would make if He were among us in the flesh.

But how do we pray in conformity to His nature? We do this through acquaintance. When prayer is talking with God as a friend (Steps to Christ, p. 93), then we are describing conversations that flow out of an ongoing relationship. We spend time with Him. We become accustomed to His face. We distinguish His voice. When we have been around Him long enough, we can smell the gospel. So we ask and do as we know He would ask and do. How do we “know” what Jesus would ask and do? Well, how does a couple who has been married many years know what each other thinks, wants, and feels? We know even as we are known.

Thy Kingdom Come! Mission Conference Planned

Plan to attend the one-day Thy Kingdom Come! Mission Conference, October 11. The featured speakers are Anthony Kent (left), associate secretary for the Ministerial Association of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and George Rice, educator, scholar, and pastor. The event, to be held at Eastern Shore Junior Academy on 407 Dudley Cornwell Road in Sudlersville, Md., includes inspiring music, practical seminars, and children’s programs, as well as a potluck lunch. For more information, check your church bulletin or call the Chesapeake Conference at (410) 955-1910.
Prayer Emphasis Weekend Slated for November

Themed “Our God is Alive,” the conference’s upcoming prayer weekend features Jerry Page, president of the Central California Conference, and his wife, Janet. The event takes place November 7 and 8 at the Columbia Union Conference office in Columbia, Md. The Pages will share their experiences and give strategies for jump-starting a spiritual journey and making the Scriptures come alive. Registration is required, and space is limited. The $15 registration fee covers seminars and lunch on Sabbath. For more information, contact Samantha Young at (410) 995-1910 or syoung@ccosda.org.

Members Visit Mission Sites in Africa and Korea

International mission was on the minds of Chesapeake members this year as three separate groups recently left the conference to visit three African countries and South Korea. Traveling recently to South Africa as part of a larger group with North American Division’s Hope for Humanity, Chesapeake members visited sites at Nhlangelo. The facility, managed by Paul and Martha Mawela, provides a hot meal five days a week to nearly 800 orphans whose parents have died from AIDS. The group also traveled to the Maluti Adventist Hospital in the country of Lesotho, where hundreds of people each month receive treatment ranging from broken bones to eye surgery, maternity to HIV and AIDS, and tuberculosis. Spencerville church members have raised more than $34,000 to provide the hospital with a heating system in their pediatric and maternity wards. “The need is very great,” says Spencerville member Dick McClure. “We visited ‘child-headed households,’ homes where the parents have died from AIDS and children as young as 11 or 12 are taking responsibility for their younger siblings.”

Schools throughout North America are planning to raise funds for a new school building for Maluti Hospital staff and the Lesotho community in the next 12 months. “Right now the seventh-grade class uses the back of a box truck as their classroom,” explains Mark Walker, principal of Rocky Knoll Adventist School in Martinsburg, W.Va. Walker plans to organize a pen pal program to connect his students and the children in Lesotho as part of the fundraising effort.

A group of 39 members from the New Hope (Fulton, Md.) and Williamsport (Md.) churches spent two weeks in Mozambique working at a Maranatha Volunteers International mission site. The crew helped construct a 400-student-capacity school in the area of Mahotas, assisted with the drilling of four water wells, and conducted a Vacation Bible School program. The medical professionals on their team went to remote villages where they treated more than 900 people in eight working days.

Pastor Doo Pyo Hong of the Washington-Spencerville Korean church accompanied 11 young adults to Korea to teach classes in English conversation to locals as part of the evangelism efforts of the Adventist Han Kook Saehm Yook Middle School. “Through this event we gave them a good impression about the Adventist academy, as well as Christian education,” says Hong. “Also, through this experience, missionaries gained confidence about the international mission trips.”

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Students Welcomed With Opening Convocation

Columbia Union College (CUC) welcomed students back to campus with a special chapel service at the nearby Sligo church. CUC president Weymouth Spence gave the opening address titled “Gateway to Service.” He reminded students of the importance of living a life dedicated to the Lord, serving others, and volunteering their efforts to build community.

Gina Brown, dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies, shared the Scripture reading with those in the audience about God’s abounding grace described in 2 Corinthians 9:8, “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work” (NKJV).

Provost Susan C. Scharffenberg (left, at podium) formally introduced herself to the students and encouraged them to strive for academic excellence during the new school year. Student Association president Berry Jacques, a senior majoring in both history and political studies, revealed his plans for the new year. “I want to see a more active student body who will take pride in their college and participate in activities on campus,” said Jacques.

Columbia Union Conference executive secretary Neville Harcombe gave the prayer of dedication. Audrey Moise (above), a senior music and English major, followed with a rendition of “The Lord’s Prayer.”

Nursing Department Offers “Faith in Community” Program

CUC’s Edyth T. James Department of Nursing is partnering with Adventist HealthCare to offer nurses an opportunity to create an effective parish nurse practice through an 11-day program. The program began in September and continues through November. Participants in the program will earn continued education credits and receive preparation for their practice. The program is targeted to nurses who want to use principles of faith to grow the wholistic health of a community.

Students will learn about spiritual care, wholistic health promotions and maintenance, and the functions of a faith community nurse.

For more information on the program, contact Barbara Walker at (301) 891-4546 or bwalker@cuc.edu.
Freshmen Class Prepares for Success

Students in the First Year Experience (FYE) program introduced to what CUC had to offer through a five-day event called Gateway ‘08.

“From the ceremonial walk through the campus’ gateway, to the uplifting worship service at Sligo church, followed by their bonding experience while exploring Washington, D.C., and their participation in a ropes course, the freshman had a great introduction to CUC life,” said FYE director Tami Shipowitz Hoyt.

For many first-year students, the highlight of the program was the opportunity to build relationships with people they wouldn’t ordinarily meet.

“It was interesting coming to the campus as a freshman in the program. It gave me a chance to meet new people, get familiar with campus, and transfer from high school to college life,” said Martha Harris.

Another highlight of FYE is the ropes course. Students are challenged to face their fears and place their trust in group members. They participated in a team obstacle course, climbed a 20-foot pole, and shot down a giant zip line across a river.

“It was an amazing experience coming into college through this program and getting to know people this way,” said Jonathan Bautista.

Gateway ’08 culminated when students met Mike Tidwell, the author of their summer reading book Bayou Farewell. He challenged the students to think about how policy and actions affect the environment.

FYE instructors say they hope that these experiences will shape the Class of 2012 and guide them in determining their purpose.

Duane Reid, an FYE instructor, said, “We are definitely engaging the students to see the environment as a moral issue.

English professor Richard Grant greeted FYE students as they walked under CUC’s Gateway to Service during the Gateway ‘08 ceremony.

Students (above and right) demonstrate their appreciation for some of the upgrades to the girls’ dormitory.

“Students who lived in the dormitory last year were especially excited to see the changes and upgrades. Immensely. Rooms are well cooled and heated with new systems, everything has been freshly painted inside and out, new energy-efficient windows have been installed, and bathrooms have been upgraded, both structurally and aesthetically.

Students who lived in the dormitory last year were especially excited to see the changes and upgrades.

God is up to it Even When We are Not

Forgive me for indulging in a grandparent moment. I recently attended my grandson, Nate’s first birthday party. Nate is very healthy and up, to his birthday, hadn’t been sick at all. However, this day he woke up with a bad cold. Normally he is delightfully expressive and happy about everything, but the cold had zapped his interest in just about everything, including his cake. So his parents and three sets of grandparents waited with cameras poised hoping he would begin feeling better so we could snap those oh-so-memorable first cake pictures.

Eventually his determination won out over the cold, he perked up and began exploring the cake tentatively. Within a few minutes he had discovered a new taste, new ways of getting food into his mouth, new ways to make people laugh and clap, and was covered in icing from head to toe.

God is so awesome. Even when we don’t always feel quite up to it (or maybe quite receptive to it), He is always waiting to make our day (our week, our year … our life) a positive experience. He has so many things in store for us to explore, experience, and get excited about if we grab the opportunities He gives us. At the beginning of the new school year, we spent some time together as a faculty to dream and pray about all the good things we expect this year. We know there will be some not-so-great moments scattered throughout, but we are determined to grab all the opportunities that God gives us to impact our students in great and wonderful ways!

Dormitory Projects Completed

As reported in the August issue of the Highlander, the school undertook several renovation projects over the summer. All of the “phase one” projects have been completed and the students are enjoying them immensely. Rooms are well cooled and heated with new systems, everything has been freshly painted inside and out, new energy-efficient windows have been installed, and bathrooms have been upgraded, both structurally and aesthetically.

It is a whole lot better. The new windows make the building look much newer, the painting gives the dorm a fresh look, and the bathrooms look incredible.

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Sheri Tydings, Principal
Students and Faculty Enjoy Commitment Weekend

For the past several years, HVA has dedicated the first weekend of the school year to bringing the faculty and students together for a time of spiritual focus. The intent of the weekend is to help the students make a commitment to spiritual growth and involvement during the school year. The weekend began with a special vesper service for prayer. During the service students spent time in individual prayer, for others and also prayed in groups at various sites on campus and for various aspects of the school program.

On Sabbath morning, the faculty and students went to nearby Mt. Aetna Camp and Retreat Center for an outdoor service (pictured). Students demonstrated creativity through their original skits to portray different aspects of the story of the talents found in the Book of Luke. After a lunch of haystacks, a large group of students and faculty hiked to Black Rock.

The weekend events concluded with the annual scavenger hunt on Saturday evening. Though all classes made a great showing and demonstrated excellent class spirit, the Class of 2009 triumphed and took the first-place prize.

Staff Welcomes 126 Students

Some 126 students are currently enrolled at HVA for the 2008-09 school year. Of these students there are 31 freshmen, 31 sophomores, 34 juniors, and 30 seniors. Community students number 79, and there are 48 in the dormitories.

“Each year you have a sense of what the student body, as a group, is like. I think this group of students is energetic and enthusiastic, and I believe they are going to make this school year a great one,” says principal Sheri Tydings.

At the annual handshake activities, Jacob Boring, Student Association (SA) pastor, shared a devotional, before students and faculty got a chance to meet each other during the traditional handshake line (below). SA officers also led the students in several getting-acquainted games. Freshman Karen Tejada said, “I didn’t know what to expect since this is my first year at HVA, but I had a lot of fun and got to know a lot of new friends on the first day.”

The Grand Work of Women

In the book Evangelism, Ellen White speaks of a grand work awaiting the woman who consecrates herself to service for God. She writes, “The refining, softening influence of Christian women is needed in the grand work of preaching the truth” (p. 472). White says a woman “can come close to the hearts of those whom men cannot reach.” Is it because a woman’s strengths lie in her nurturing abilities, in her patience to listen, or in her sensitivity to discern? Yes, those, and more. As a woman and director of Women’s Ministries for several years, it has been my privilege to observe the interaction of Mountain View women engaged in heart-to-heart conversations, earnest prayer sessions, in-depth study of God’s Word, and in extending helping hands to one another. Mountain View women join women around the world who have grown spiritually by introducing Jesus to a thirsty soul, by ministering to the needs of a new mother; by mentoring a new Christian; and by using their gifts of discernment, caring, and nurture in a host of other ways. Remember that Mrs. White wrote: “Each person has his own lamp to keep burning ... Teach this my sister. You have many ways opened before you” (p. 473).

Brian Jones, “Spiritual Giant,” Dies

Brian Jones, who most recently pastored the Weerton and Wheeling (W.Va.) churches, and served as conference communication director, has passed away.

“The world church has lost a spiritual giant and a warrior for God,” said Larry Boggess, conference president. “Brian was a very loving and caring pastor who brought healing to individuals and congregations.”

Elizabeth, Brian’s wife of 19 years, recalls: “He preceded to one Sabbath because he was too sick to leave the house. Afterward he went back into the bedroom and I sat beside him as, one by one he invited members to visit. I listened to him pour out his love for each person. He was so genuine—it really touched my heart.”

Jones was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1975 and became a Bible worker in 1976. He also pastored in the Chesapeake, Nevada-Utah, Upper Columbia, and Washington conferences. He earned a doctorate in Christian counseling, wrote six books, contributed to three Adult Bible Study Guides, and published numerous articles.

“In many of his poems, books, and Bible studies, he attempted to express his deep appreciation for the cross and what it meant to him,” Elizabeth said. “His conversion experience brought him out of the darkness of a drug-addicted, hippie lifestyle to the peace and power of the cross.”

“My heart has a void for this man of God who would counsel with me anytime I would ask his advice on anything,” said Daniel Morikone, the conference Health Ministries director and pastor for Parkersburg, Ripley, and Tollgate churches. “Brian loved Jesus. He cared about God’s church, God’s people, and his lovely family.”

Elizabeth said Brian loved to write poetry, cook ethnic foods, and read the Bible every chance he got—whether he was waiting in line at the grocery store or sitting at a doctor’s office.

Jones is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; his 6-year-old daughter, Rebekah; parents, Bertrand J. and Walborga “Wally” Jones of Oakland, Calif.; and brother, Bertrand B. Jones, of Hedgesville, W.Va.—Taashi Rowe/Valerie Morikone

Calendar

October
1-4  Week of Prayer
4  Ban Party
10-12  Bible Retreat
15  College Fair 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Mt. Aetna Gymnasium
15-19  Home Leave
26  Parent-Teacher Conference 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Administration Building

November
2-3  Academy Days
7-9  Parent Weekend
7  Senior Recognition 7:30 p.m., Highland View Church
7  Talent Show, 7 p.m. Mt. Aetna Gymnasium
25- Dec. 1  Thanksgiving Break

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Principal and Editor, Sheri Tydings

Feryl Harris
Women’s Ministries Director
Marlinton Company Hosts Healthy Cooking School

The Marlinton Company recently hosted a five-night cooking school with church members attending along with nine people from the community. Lindie Moore (left), who helps her family run a bed and breakfast in Marlinton, taught attendees how to make healthy changes and enhance their health. Using DVD’s Moore covered such topics as mad cow disease, meat eating, and the high sugar consumption in our country. She also lectured on the dangers of too much fat in the diet, the effects of caffeine and nicotine on the body, and talked about various diseases. After showing the class how to make plant-based recipes, attendees were given many hood samples to taste. Diagnosed with osteoporosis several years ago, Moore said she has never had to take medication because of changes made in her lifestyle and eating habits. She said the cooking school was a wonderful avenue to share her testimony with others.—Yvonne Michaels

Parkersburg Women Knit Helmet Warmers for Soldiers

Come January, when temperatures in Iraq dip below freezing, several U.S. soldiers will be warm thanks to women from the Parkersburg (W.Va.) church. These women recently knitted five wool helmet warmers for soldiers. The Parkersburg women got involved in the project when Christine Miner came into the NewStart Thrift Mart in Vienna, W.Va., looking for a helmet liner for her grandson. Spec. Adam Haas of the 82nd Airborne Division. She was looking for one of those tight-fitting headsocks that motorcyclists and skiers wear to keep their faces warm, recalled Amy Fullmer, volunteer manager at the store. Miner told Fullmer that while the government does supply these liners they are 100 percent acrylic and the men need 100 percent wool to keep warm. They cost around $30 to purchase and $10 to ship.

“That is tough on a fixed income,” Fullmer said. “When I spoke to her, I thought the women of our church could help.” So Fullmer, along with other women of the Parkersburg church, joined in making the liners at about $9 per piece. They plan to get more churches involved in the project.—The Parkersburg News

Logan’s Strip Mall Evangelism Bears Fruit

In fall 2006, members of the Logan church, along with Pastor/Evangelist David Morgan (Huntington/Pt. Pleasant district), held a series of meetings in a strip mall near the small town of Lyburn, W.Va. Prior to the meetings Bible worker Janelle Morikone trained church members how to go door to door and give Bible studies.

Fast forward to the summer of 2008. A small group is still meeting in the same building. Led by Logan member Carol Roberts, these weekly sessions continue to meet the spiritual needs of those who attend. This group has gone through lessons such as the Daniel Seminar, in the Footsteps of Paul, and is currently involved with a Bible marking program. Roberts also conducts a Friday night meeting in her home where a group watches programs on DVDs and studies the Adult Bible Study Guide. They also meet from time to time for a picnic or cookout. Supported by Logan members who live in the Man, W.Va., area, there are several visitors who participate in these in-home meetings.

New Year Brings New Staff, New Students

As new school year found the MVA campus bustling with activity as new and returning students greeted faculty, completed registration, moved into the dorms, found returning friends, and made new acquaintances.

Among the crowd were several new staff members. Addiel and Rebecca Amador (pictured, top) join the MVA staff after serving at Wisconsin Valley Academy. Addiel is the new business manager, and Rebecca assists in the girls’ dormitory. The Amadors have two children, Jeremy and Sienna. Arnessa Cooke (bottom), a graduate of Mount Vernon Academy, and Amy Woodruff have joined the staff as assistant deans of women. Nathan Shinn (right), another MVA alumnus, returns to campus as the assistant maintenance director and will also help coach the soccer team. Dusty Shuster will assist the business office.
Students, Staff Begin Year With Service

Each new school year brings new challenges and new opportunities. Yet the all-important goal, the most immediate concern for any Seventh-day Adventist school, is that each student will come to know Christ. At Mount Vernon Academy a monthly community service day is one way of helping neighbors and helping students to see Christ more clearly. The year’s first “service day” was spent at the Mount Vernon Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School. The high school students taught and helped rebuild the playground. Working in shifts students encouraged each other and were energized in knowing they were helping their younger counterparts have a better school year.

“Service days at MVA are a vital part of our program. We are intentional in our calendar and budgeting to make these opportunities a reality for our students. Service is not just what we do, it’s who we are,” said principal Daniels.

Many students who would otherwise see no need for Christ in their life are drawn to Him by practicing service for others, says MVA chaplain Tim Soper. “As the students of Mount Vernon Academy learn and serve,” says Chaplain Soper, “please pray with us that they will come to a fuller understanding of who Christ is and what His plans are for them in these closing moments of Earth’s history.”

Guttenberg Spanish Member Wins Multiple Scholarships

When 19-year-old Samuel A. Cruz was younger, he made a promise to God that he would always tithe 20 percent of whatever money he received. Looking back, Cruz says he never missed that money because God has always taken care of all his needs. He says he is even more committed today because God has always taken care of all his needs. "As the students of Mount Vernon Academy learn and serve," says Chaplain Soper, "please pray with us that they will come to a fuller understanding of who Christ is and what His plans are for them in these closing moments of Earth’s history.”

A group of sophomore ladies help clean the gymnasmium. Seniors Alex Ruth and Josh Burt repair playground equipment.

service to God and to their fellow men. Here Christ has presented to the world a higher conception of life than they had ever known. By living to minister for others, man is brought into connection with Christ. The law of service becomes the connecting link, which binds us to God and to our fellow men." As the students of Mount Vernon Academy learn and serve," says Chaplain Soper, “please pray with us that they will come to a fuller understanding of who Christ is and what His plans are for them in these closing moments of Earth’s history.”

When 19-year-old Samuel A. Cruz was younger, he made a promise to God that he would always tithe 20 percent of whatever money he received. Looking back, Cruz says he never missed that money because God has always taken care of all his needs. He says he is even more committed today because recently God took care of his college education when he received four scholarships totaling $177,000. The largest scholarship, $100,000, comes from the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Another $10,000 came from Nordstrom, and $5,000 came from the American Chemical Society. Cruz, a member of the Guttenberg Spanish church, is slow to take credit for his academic success. Instead, he points to prayer. “We prayed about paying for college because my mom is a single mother and we couldn’t afford it. So we prayed at home and we prayed at church,” He said. “Even though I couldn’t study on Sabbath, it always seemed as if He gave me extra time on Sundays to study, and do homework and projects.”

A young immigrant from Colombia, Cruz struggled to learn English and received his education through English as a Second Language courses. After years of hard work and dedication, Cruz was placed in the same classroom as his native English-speaking counterparts by his first year at Union Hill high school. Many of his courses included honors classes.

In addition to his academic achievements, Cruz served as a clerk for the Union City Municipal Court and mayor’s office. He also served as a church deacon and secretary for his youth group. The latter he said not only helped him grow spiritually but “helped to prepare, because colleges want to see that you are involved in your community.”

His pastor, Julio Labrador, was very proud of Cruz’s accomplishments. He said, “Samuel is very smart and very spiritual.”

Cruz recently started his freshman year at Ramapo College in Mahwah where he plans to study genetics. Needless to say, his mother Isabel, and his sister, Cindy, are also very proud of him.
Youth Take on one of Costa Rica’s Worst Neighborhoods

Eight months ago Pastor Laffit Cortés, director of Youth Ministries, visited Costa Rica to speak at an evangelism meeting with Mario Thorp, pastor of the Spanish Edison, Lakewood, and Collingwood Park churches. He noticed that one church rented a bus and came to the meetings every night. When he visited their church, a one-room house in one of the poorest communities in San Jose, he promised the pastor that he would bring back some New Jersey young people to help. Recently 18 people from the New Jersey Conference fulfilled that promise when they spent two weeks in Leon XIII helping and ministering to the community.

“The place is so dangerous that even the pastor got mugged in front of the church,” Cortés said. “Everywhere we went, people looked at us like we were crazy for working in Leon XIII. But that didn’t stop us. We told the kids that we were not going to let fear paralyze us when God was so needed in that community.”

While there, the young people were involved in a whirlwind of activities from a temperance parade and evangelism, to visiting a nursing home and an orphanage, to teaching an English class and remodeling the church.

“Half of those young people didn’t even speak Spanish,” Cortés said. “But it was so encouraging to see what can be accomplished when you give a task to a young person and you just step back and let the Holy Spirit take over.”

MaryLou Corranga, one of the young people on the trip, said, “Being on this trip has influenced the way I view and relate to the world around me. As a leader and, more importantly, as a co-worker with Jesus Christ, I have learned that the best way to influence others is to touch their hearts. Looking back I realize the heart that was truly touched was my own.”

The group left the church money to raise the roof and build a second floor. They are planning to revisit the country every year for three years.

Former Worthington Foods President Honored

Alan Buller, former president of Worthington Foods, was recently honored for serving on the Ohio Conference Association board for 36 continuous years. He will be 91 years old in December.

Born in Canada, Buller moved with his family to South Dakota, then to Michigan, where he graduated from Andrews University in 1941. After one term of military service, Buller settled in Ohio in 1945 and began a 54-year-long career with Worthington Foods. He became interested in health and food production at age 18 while working with John Harvey Kellogg at the “Miami Battle Creek” in Florida, where he ran the projector during the health lectures each Sunday night. He started as an assistant manager at Worthington Foods in 1945 and was named president of the company in 1982. While at Worthington, Buller earned a Masters in Business Administration from Ohio State University, witnessed the acquisition and merger of Battle Creek Food Company in 1960, and was present at the opening of a second plant in Zanesville. After retiring in 1986, he continued to serve on the board, and served as chairman of the board from 1990 to 1999.

In addition to his work at Worthington Foods, Buller has been deeply committed to serving the Lord. For 25 years he served the Worthington church as head elder, and served on the Ohio Conference and Columbia Union Conference executive committees for 23 years. Buller said he found work with conference committees very inspiring. He retired from all his responsibilities in December 2007. He now resides in Dublin, Ohio, with his wife, Mildred.

Camp SonPower Shines on Communities

Portsmouth was one of 10 churches across Ohio that recently hosted weeklong camps for children in their communities with SonPower high school and college students. Portsmouth offered one camp at the church from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and then did something different—they offered a second camp in the evenings at a low-income housing development. Attendance during the day averaged 30 children, while the evening camp drew an average of 60 children. On the final day, they bused all the children to the church where they had a fun day of activities with more than 100 children participating. There was also an evening program for the parents.

“The Holy Spirit poured oil on it and, at the end, it was obvious that the puny little efforts we made gave the Holy Spirit an opportunity to work,” said Mike Stevenson, Youth Ministries director for the conference. “Most of the community parents came to the closing event, and the church was more full than I’ve ever seen it.”

Portsmouth members plan to keep in contact with the kids by returning to the neighborhood each month to do a Sabbath School program. A little girl participates in a craft at Camp SonPower.

Conference president Raj Attklein (left) and Harry Straub, Trust Services director present Allan Buller (center) with a plaque of recognition.
Chillicothe, Jackson Pastor Retires

After 13 years pastoring the Chillicothe and Jackson churches, Frank Steyn has retired from full-time pastoral work. Originally from South Africa, Steyn has done pastoral and evangelistic work, and served eight years in youth departments in South Africa and Zimbabwe. After completing his Clinical Pastoral Education at Kettering Medical Center in 1987, he worked as chaplain at an Adventist psychiatric hospital (Vista Clinic) in South Africa. During that time he also completed his doctorate. He and his wife, Jennifer, have relocated to the Dayton area, where he will be doing part-time chaplaincy work at Kettering Medical Center and serving as bi-vocational pastor of the Piqua church, as well as working on some writing projects.

Frank Steyn (shown here with his wife, Jennifer, and their grandchildren) has retired from full-time pastoral work.

Youth Fix-Up Elderly Woman’s Home

While getting her daily lunch at the local senior center in Mount Vernon, Ruth Jockisch, 86, was asked if she’d be okay with a group of young people doing some house and yard work for her. “Of course,” she replied, not really knowing what lay ahead.

When asked to lead the youth program for the 2008 Ohio Camp Meeting, the group from Kettering College of Medical Arts, led by Victor Brown along with Ben Moushon, Brandon Kennison, and Mike Unterseher knew they wanted to plan something unique. Through the Adventist organization Caring through Sharing, and the mayor of Mount Vernon, Frank Steyn, Sheriff Wayne Noggle started calling in favors to have something dramatic. The three-day project turned into five days, but the youth gladly gave up their activity days at Camp Mohaven in Mount Vernon to finish the project.

“Most of all, it was about meeting the need of a mission,” Kennison said. “It’s a good feeling when you do something and know you are making a difference.”

“I have a lot of respect for the youth and their understanding of how important it is to serve the Lord,” Jockisch said. “This was the best camp meeting I’ve ever been to,” one youth said. “As long as we do this next year, I’ll be back and will bring all my friends.” An inspired Sheriff Noggle is already looking for another house to repaint. Lowes, a home improvement store, donated all the paint, and Wal-Mart donated other materials.

As the week went by, Jockisch’s neighbor, local sheriff Wayne Noggle, started calling in favors to have a new stove and all the landscaping materials donated as well. The three-day project turned into five days, but the youth gladly gave up their activity days at Camp Mohaven.

Bonnie Brown arranged to perform an “Extreme Makeover” to Jockisch’s home similar to the TV show. “These young people come from all over Ohio, and this year, we wanted to do something special that was productive and helpful,” Brown said. Kennison added, “When we first saw the house the week before camp meeting, we were a little disappointed. We had hoped for something more dramatic.”

However, after walking around, they quickly realized there was plenty to do. They started by tearing out old, overgrown landscaping and scraping the house to repaint. Lowes, a home improvement store, donated new shutters and a back door to replace the one that had not opened for many years. Sherwin Williams donated all the paint, and Wal-Mart donated other materials.

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“This was the best camp meeting I’ve ever been to,” one youth said. “As long as we do this next year, I’ll be back and will bring all my friends.” An inspired Sheriff Noggle is already looking for another house for the Fraternal Order of Police to help with next year—Ben Moushon

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Does Your Community Love Your Church?

What would you think if:

- 30-35 community children enjoyed time at your church facility?
- 20-25 non-Adventist families appreciated your church because it showed love to their child?
- 20-25 new families knew and liked numerous church members and your church’s pastor?
- Nearly all of these people were asking for programs that your church offers and wanted to understand what you believe?
- 20-25 new families knew and liked numerous church members and your church’s pastor?
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- 20-25 new families knew and liked numerous church members and your church’s pastor?
- 30-35 community children enjoyed time at your church facility?

That’s what happened this summer in three locations across Pennsylvania when a team of 11 senior youth and young adults joined the staff of the mission endeavor Cool Camp, a summer day camp started three years ago. As the teams partnered with pastors and their members, the results were awesome.

This summer Cool Camp spent two weeks at the Kenhorst Boulevard church in Reading, and one week each at the Reading Spanish church and the Shamokin Three Angels’ Outreach Mission Group.

God blessed tremendously at all three locations, but allow me to tell you about Shamokin. The 12 members of this church plant saw Cool Camp as evangelism and took it very seriously. Four times the church knocked on doors and handed out flyers in their community. They spent a day praying and fasting for God to reach their community. They put ads in the newspaper and on the radio. God answered. Shamokin children filled the camp to capacity every day. This small group reached a community and will continue to build the relationships begun with the children and families as a result.

Wasn’t the program that made the difference. It was a church and a staff of Pennsylvania youth that took to heart God’s recipe for the accomplishment of His mission, “Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts” (Zech. 4:6, NKJV). It’s awesome to see how the Spirit works when we pray and give it all to God.

Young Adult Receives Adventist Musicians Guild Award

Soon after graduating from Penn State University with a chemical engineering degree, Erich Mace, a young adult from Pennsylvania, served in the Greater Pittsburgh area at the Adventist Community Services center under the direction of Pastor Andrew Clark. While in Pittsburgh, Mace, a devoted follower of Jesus, began to seriously pursue his music and soon produced his first album, Arise. This year he was recognized by the Adventist Musicians Guild with the Minister of Music Award at a ceremony at the Seventh-day Adventist Church headquarters in Silver Spring, Md. He said, “Although I felt completely out of place among organ PhD’s, violin solos, and band conductors, I was pleasantly surprised to find that I won the category of Minister of Music. The moment was quite gratifying. I’m thankful that the church recognizes my commitment to Jesus and my commitment to bring hope and empowerment to human beings through music.”—Kris Eckenroth

Kris Eckenroth
Youth and Young Adult Ministries Director
LEGIT Worshippers Grow and Serve

A
fter attending Equipping University last January, Javier Mendez, youth leader for the Easton church, claimed his neighborhood as his mission territory—this included a bus stop with about 50 high school students. Mendez invited the kids to come to his house for a Friday night meeting. Thirteen young people came–nine were not members of the Adventist Church. As they answered questions they had chosen for discussion, the young people opened up about some of their struggles. Several asked if they could go to church with Mendez and were at his door, ready for church the next day. This marked the beginning of LEGIT (Loving Encouraging Giving Inspiring Teens) Worshippers.

The youth group continues to grow, with about 16 young people attending; five are Adventist. They’re growing not just in numbers, but personally. One young person said, “I’m like most teens; I have made mistakes and gotten into trouble. But I think that this group has changed me and made me a better person.” Mendez is teaching the teens how to become closer to God—and how to serve. Recently one of the group members and his mom were moving into a new home, but they had no one to help them. Several members of LEGIT Worshippers showed up and helped. One young person said, “These are the kinds of things that make you realize that God is looking down at you and telling you how amazing you are and that you are doing a wonderful thing!”

Another young person sums up his experience with the group: “I never truly understood how important God was. Now I can honestly say that I know my place with God. LEGIT Worshippers has made me into a better person.”

Students Knock on 75,000 Doors

F
ifteen academy and college students hit the front lines of mission in Pennsylvania this summer. They were invited to work in the Fairview Village and Pottstown church district with Pastor Eden Henriquez for 10 weeks as literature evangelists.

These students knocked on approximately 75,000 doors, prayed with about 10,000 people, shared nearly $60,000 worth of books, and signed up more than 150 people for personal and correspondence Bible studies.

One day Pastor Henriquez and Raquel Hernandez, a Huntingdon Valley Academy student, were assigned the lower-income area of Pottstown. The two prayed and asked God to lead them to at least one person who was longing for guidance and searching for truth. For the first hour, no one was receptive, but when they knocked on Juanita’s door, she gladly welcomed them in and purchased their entire collection of nine books. “It was amazing to see God answer our prayers in such an amazing way and in such a short period of time,” Hernandez said. “We prayed with Juanita, and I asked her if I could come and study the Bible with her. She was so excited and said she would love to study the Bible and was looking forward to reading all the books.”

Members of the Fairview Village and Pottstown churches are now following up on over 100 requests for Bible study.

Retired Pastor Receives International Chaplain’s Award

A
n ordained Adventist minister for 36 years, Chaplain Jim Cox recently received an award from the International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC). Cox, former pastor for the Wytheville church district (Va.) and chaplain for the Wytheville Sheriff’s Department, received the “Diplomate Credential”—the second highest award that the organization offers.

The award represents achievements in tenure, education, training, and service to ICPC. Those who are awarded the Diplomate Credential are recognized for their tremendous accomplishments and service. The award was presented at ICPC’s Annual Training Seminar awards banquet in Mobile, Ala., and was attended by chaplains from many other countries. ICPC is a training membership organization fielding 2,500 chaplains in 20 countries. Cox was one of six to receive the award.

However, this is not the first time Cox has been honored. While in the U.S. Air Force he received the Good Conduct Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Presidential Outstanding Unit Award for his unit’s role in the Cuban Crisis in 1962.

Cox retired from pastoring the Wytheville district in January but has been a Law Enforcement Chaplain for the last 17 years. He became the chaplain for the Wythe County Sheriff’s Office in 2006 and is also a reserve Deputy Sheriff. He is married to the former Carol Hudson. They have two children, Jimmy, deceased, and Mike a criminal investigator for the Sheriff’s Department in Hamilton County, Tennessee. They have one grandchild, Morgan Elisabeth Cox.

Conference Hosts Second Annual Treasury Seminar

S
everal members of the conference’s Treasury staff recently hosted a daylong seminar for church treasurers in Southwestern Virginia. The day consisted of tutorials and discussions to help church treasurers be more comfortable and efficient in this very important area of church ministry.

The seminar took place at the Radford church with six church local church treasurers attending. “One of the first sessions covered the use of Jewel Accounting—a software that was developed by the Florida Conference to meet the needs of all churches, large and small. Associate treasurer Rebecca Witz led the session. “We’re really excited to have this training here at the Radford church because it is really difficult for some of our people to get up to some of the bigger sessions,” said Pastor Vince Malagasias, pastor of the Galax District in Virginia. “So by having the training sessions my members are able to come from the area and get trained for whatever we need to know.”

Radford church treasurer Cammie Dritto raises a point during a seminar discussion.
Potomac People

We Lift Christ Up

Two years ago, Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) was going through a bit of a crisis with the lowest enrollment in many years. But then the SVA staff and Board of Trustees decided to make spirituality our number-one objective, nothing else was of greater or equal importance. We committed to providing a spiritual environment where our students want to develop a saving and lifelong relationship with Jesus.

We have learned firsthand that when Christ is lifted up, people will indeed be drawn to Him (John 12:32). Last year SVA’s enrollment increased by 30 percent and included 110 new students. Nearly half of those came from schools that were not Adventist. We rejoiced that Christ had led in bringing so many new students to SVA where spirituality is our number one objective. This year we’ve also seen incredible growth and we now have 114 new students attending SVA, and 55 percent of them were not enrolled in Adventist schools last year! Praise God! The freshmen, sophomore, and junior classes all have 59 to 61 students in each, and there are 47 seniors. Eighty-one guys live in Phanstiel Hall and 101 girls in Hadley Hall; 45 students live in the community. We also have students from 12 states and 12 countries! Many students, parents, alumni, and friends have told their families and friends about SVA and what is being attempted here for Christ. While many of our staff has worked hard to accomplish this increase in enrollment, we give all of the credit to Christ. We believe most of our students are here because they are making spiritual things most important in their lives, too.

Attending SVA is a Family Affair

There are 40 students attending SVA this year who have had either a parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, or even a great-great-grandparent graduate from Shenandoah Valley Academy. These students are here carrying on the tradition that started when their family first chose to attend SVA. SVA has 23 second-generation students, 11 third-generation students, five fourth-generation students, and one fifth-generation student.

Scenes From a New School Year

To date there has been only one student who is a fifth-generation graduate—Rebecca Wheatley Wilson, Class of 1997, who joined four generations of SVA women graduates in her family. Matthew White will become SVA’s second, fifth-generation graduate when he graduates with the Class of 2010.

There are now seven students attending this year who have had both parents graduate from SVA.

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SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY HAPPENINGS

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

Syliva Grove (left), with new Friends president Jamie Stern.

We are a group of people from different walks of life meeting together to learn more about God’s word.

—John
A Season Leading to Rebirth

What comes to mind when you think of the fall season? For me, it is a time of colors changing, flowers dying, leaves falling, frost, layers of clothes, and heaters being turned on. It is a season of “death” and yet, without that death there would be no rebirth. Fall reminds me of the Friday during Passover Week when Jesus gave up His life for us all. If it were not for the gift of His death, we would have no hope of rebirth. Thank you, Jesus, for expressing Your love for all of us in such a tangible way. Hebrews 4:15-16 states: “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need” (NIV).

Students Prepare for Upcoming Events

PSAT, Wednesday, October 15
Every junior takes the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT), which helps students practice for the SAT. Students who do well at the PSAT also qualify to compete for national scholarships. Takoma Academy (TA) has a history of producing several national finalists and semifinalists and this year will be no different, says principal Dunbar Henri. Last year D’Anna Hines and Leon Osbourne were national semifinalists and Julian Oliver received National Achievement Semifinalist awards. In 2006 David Byass, Alex Holness, and Dunbar Henri says he is not surprised that TA students do well on the test: “The academic education that students receive while attending TA is strong and allows them to achieve whatever they desire.”

Semester Exams, Thursday and Friday, October 23 and 24
Being on the block schedule means that semester exams come earlier than usual. The first exams for the school year are on Thursday, October 23 and Friday, 24.

Fall Fest, Sunday, October 26
“Fall Fest at TA is a time to celebrate young people,” says Henri. This year’s event will feature pony rides, carnival-type games, flea market tables, food, and more. Fall Fest also allows classes to sell various food items to raise money for their projects. Community members can rent tables to sell items for their churches or for themselves. Fall Fest will be in the gymnasium and lasts from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information about the festival, or to rent a table, call (301) 434-4700, ext. 712.

Academy Day, October 30
Several students attending local Adventist schools, and other Christian and public schools will visit TA on October 30 to see what the school offers. Student guides assist in all aspects of the day. The day runs from 9:30 a.m. (including worship with the entire school) through lunchtime (lunch is provided). Each group is guided by students and visits various disciplines such as Bible, English, fine arts, physical education, math, and science.
Advertising Guidelines and Rates

The Columbia Union Visitor accepts classified advertising as a service to its members. Announcements for Adventist church-sponsored events, legal notices, and obituaries will be printed without charge on a space-available basis. The Columbia Union Visitor reserves the right to refuse or discontinue advertisements at any time and may cancel ads to comply with editorial policies. The Visitor also does not guarantee the integrity of any product or service advertised.

First-time advertisers who are members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church must submit a signed letter of endorsement from their pastor or church leadership. First-time advertisers who are not members of the Adventist church must submit letters of recommendation from business members of their community or credit bureau.

Payment must accompany all advertisements. We do not bill for advertising. The Columbia Union Visitor does not accept checks. Make checks payable to Columbia Union Visitor, 5427 Telm Knolls Rd., Columbia, MD 21045, and display advertising to Beth Michaels at the same address.

Rates for classified advertising are calculated on a per insertion basis. The Columbia Union Conference, and $50 for all others. Additional words: 60 cents each. A 15 percent discount is given for 12 insertions, a 10 percent discount for six insertions, and a 5 percent discount for three insertions. A column ad (classified ad in a box) is $110 per column inch. Online advertising is $5 per column inch.

First-time advertisers are encouraged to participate in a one-time discount for three insertions. A column ad (classified ad in a box) is $110 per column inch. Online advertising is $5 per column inch.

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Rates for classified advertising are calculated on a per insertion basis in our 12 issues. Minimum charge is $45 for 50 words or less for ads originating within the Columbia Union Conference, and $50 for all others. Additional words: 60 cents each. A 15 percent discount is given for 12 insertions, a 10 percent discount for six insertions, and a 5 percent discount for three insertions. A column ad (classified ad in a box) is $110 per column inch. Online advertising is $5 per column inch.
When Faith Matters Most

Are you sure you want to go there?
It’s such a sinful place,” said a well-meaning family friend upon learning of my first post-college job as a congressional staff member.

After a lifetime in Adventist communities and schools, this was my first real experience in “the world.”

Working with politicians in Washington, D.C., had faith-shaking potential, mostly in the form of low wages, easy booze, and gifts from lobbyists (before campaign finance reform). After all, I was in the “capital of the free world” where power flows down Pennsylvania Avenue and world-altering decisions are made every day. Despite the heady environment, I was careful to preserve my reputation and avoid a lot of socializing with colleagues who were not Adventists.

But, during four years on Capitol Hill, followed by 12 years of graduate school and teaching in secular universities, something happened. As I experienced more of life outside the Adventist cocoon and relied more on the Lord’s leading in my life, my faith grew. He gave me educational and career opportunities that I never expected, including an invitation to return to Washington as an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow. Through that opportunity, I accepted a short-term placement with Sen. John Cornyn and a subsequent offer to become his full-time education policy advisor.

Transcending the Party Line

In a democracy, it is important for people of faith to participate in government. In the senator’s office, I am privileged to work with many faithful Christians who are quick to encourage and pray for one another. Our shared love of Christ gives us the ability to transcend political differences and repair bruised egos. Although it’s easy to forget this when in the heat of a fiercely partisan battle, as sincere Christians we are also challenged to seek forgiveness, reconciliation, and healing.

This ability of my colleagues to be open about their faith is in contrast to my experience as a graduate student and professor at secular universities. I also realized that for much of my early career, I had been so focused on preserving my distinct religious beliefs, that I missed the opportunity to really experience, exemplify, and share the love of Christ with others.

Not any more. Just as God used Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Daniel, Joseph, and many others who walked the hallowed halls of government, my prayer is that at the right time—when it matters most—I, too, will rightly represent Him.

Michelle L. Chin, PhD, legislative assistant for Sen. John Cornyn, attends the Capitol Memorial church in Washington, D.C.
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