

CONNECTING | IMPACTING | CELEBRATING

# VISITOR

2020-2021 COLUMBIA UNION 10TH ISSUE

Hallelujah!



21 Ways God Worked in the Columbia Union This Year



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Kermit Netteburg

Do you look for signs of Christ’s return in disasters? Do you find comfort in saying that Jesus’ return must be near because so many bad things are happening? Do you want to warn your neighbors that the end is near because the situation is so bad? Read our year-end devotional and discover some more important signs of the times.

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**columbiaunion.org**

Putting My Treasure Where My Heart Is

**B**y all indications, the state of our Seventh-day Adventist educational system is troubling. A cursory look might suggest that the negatives exceed the positives. Overall enrollment continues to decline while costs continue to rise. Teachers are marginalized, yet overextended. Facilities are aging and in need of repair or renovation. Subsidies are being reduced. Adventist schools are being assailed from all angles, and educators are retreating under calls for accountability, retrenchment, consolidation, and even closure.



Due to this and more, many members no longer support the Adventist philosophy on education, and some even denigrate our schools. Many parents are no longer prepared to sacrifice for Christian education and view it as a line item expense rather than an investment in their child’s future.

These are some of the thoughts that flooded our minds as my wife and I discussed the education of our young children. Because I’m a longtime Adventist educator, some might deem attendance at “our” schools inevitable. But that did not diminish our desire to provide the very best for our sons. So we considered all the arguments and weighed our options prayerfully.

In the end, it was easy. We made the decision to place our 5-year-old son, SeanLee (left)—our most precious responsibility—in a small, multigrade, three-teacher, Seventh-day Adventist school, with an enrollment of 35 students. In time his brother will follow.



WHY INVEST?

Ellen White said: “In the highest sense, the work of education and the work of redemption are one” (*Education*, p. 20). We have no intention of relinquishing our responsibility or partnering with others who hold a different philosophy in this important task.

Like many of you, we want our child to be in an environment that is decidedly spiritual, where educators partner with us as parents for his redemption. We want him to be in the care of teachers who daily model the “fruits of the Spirit.” We want well-qualified, certified teachers who will provide him with a strong, educational foundation. We want him to be around Christians who are possessed by the Holy Spirit and biblically grounded.

We want him to develop friendships and relationships with students who share the same faith and values we teach at home. We want him to be actively involved in outreach and soul-winning efforts, and to openly share Scripture and prayer in school, not just at church.

No doubt, there are imperfections and obstacles that will arise to make us question our investment, but already we are reaping dividends. Not only is SeanLee excelling in academics, he’s grasping spiritual themes. We love when he sings hymns and songs he has learned or speaks to us on spiritual matters addressed in the classroom.

Now, more than ever, we’re thankful Adventists have invested so much in building a strong educational system that can be found worldwide and is the second-largest of its kind. We’re thankful for the sacrificial contributions of the teachers who care for our children and go above and beyond the call of duty. The impact on students like SeanLee will be manifested in two ways—in his earthly success and his eternal future.

*Ian Kelly (ikelly@columbiaunion.net) serves as associate director of education for the Columbia Union Conference. Educated at Columbia Union College (Md.), Andrews University (Mich.), and Newbold College (England), he recently completed a Doctor of Ministry in Religious Education from Howard University (Wash., D.C.).*

## Former Columbia Union President Passes Away

Wallace O. Coe, president of the Columbia Union



Conference from 1978-85, recently passed away at the age of 85. His 43-year

ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church included pastoral and administrative leadership in the Georgia-Cumberland, Alabama-Mississippi, Carolina, and Florida conferences. He also served as president of the Northern and Central unions; and as general vice president of the worldwide Adventist Church. After retiring to Florida, Coe served eight years as vice president of Spiritual Ministries for Adventist Health System.

His work in the Columbia Union, where he led in building the union's current office, was marked by "membership growth and other significant contributions" noted Dave Weigley, current union president. Even to the end, Weigley said, Coe was "still passionate about soul winning and advancing God's kingdom."

Coe is survived by his wife of 63 years, Hazel Warrell Coe; son, Mike Coe, pastor of the Mount Dora (Fla.) church; daughter, Janet Page, Prayer and Women's Ministries coordinator for the Central California Conference; six grandchildren, four great grandchildren; and sister, Alberta Ciccarelli. —Shenaly Page

## Chesapeake Conference Names New Treasurer

The Chesapeake Conference Executive Committee recently elected **Eduardo Muñoz** conference treasurer. He replaces A. Ramon Chow who accepted a call to serve as executive secretary and treasurer of Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries, the ministry-focused association of Seventh-day Adventist business owners.

Muñoz came to Chesapeake to serve as associate treasurer in 2000 from the Texas Conference, where he functioned in a similar role. He holds an MBA from Southwestern Adventist University (Texas).

"The confidence in Eduardo expressed by the executive committee was gratifying," says president Rob Vandeman.



"He has a servant's heart and will carry on the tradition of capable, qualified financial leadership in this conference." Read more about Muñoz in the *Chesapeake Challenge* newsletter on page 29.—Samantha Young

## Washington Adventist Hospital Hosts Spirituality Forum

Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH), based in Takoma Park, Md., recently hosted its second Spirituality in Medicine symposium, exploring the connection between spirituality and healing. The symposium, which drew 150 medical professionals, featured Mitchell W. Krucoff, MD, a professor of

Medicine/Cardiology at Duke University Medical Center; and Harold G. Koenig, MD, co-director of Duke's Center for Spirituality, Theology, and Health. They shared research that supports the value of treating the whole person—mind, body, and spirit.



"There are some people who say that spirituality doesn't play a role in the healing process," says **Ismael Gama** (above, right), associate vice president of Mission Integration and Spiritual Care for WAH's parent company, Adventist HealthCare. "However, medical research says differently, and it is nice to see science catch up with something that the Seventh-day Adventist Church has long believed." —Jennifer Gilroy

## From the Pulpit

"The currency of today's culture is image. The church is the only organization still trying to communicate with words. The church is using 'Gutenberg' methods in a 'Google' world." —Leonard Sweet, PhD, professor of Evangelism



at Drew Theological School, speaking at Ohio Conference's Innovation Conference

## Men Transformed at Faith Retreat

A series of transformations recently took place at the Mt. Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md., during the third annual Maryland Men of Faith (MMOF) Conference. The one-day retreat not only revealed to Christian men the key elements to priesthood, but also challenged them to reprioritize and focus on obtaining a Godly atmosphere in their homes and communities.

Sponsored by the Personal Ministries departments of Chesapeake Conference's



Baltimore First and Atholton churches—located in Ellicott City and Columbia, Md., respectively—this year's event consisted of six seminars and two presentations. More than 100 men—aged 14 to 90—came from 25 churches within the Chesapeake, Potomac, Allegheny East, Allegheny West, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Northeastern conferences.

The theme "Choose You This Day" came from the burdens on the heart of MMOF co-founder Tony Williams (pictured right, center) of Baltimore First. "So many of us are choosing other things. We need to be serious

about the Lord today and make Him our choice," he says.

Keynote speaker Pastor Damien Johnson (below) of Potomac Conference's Pennsylvania Avenue church in Capitol Heights, Md., presented



messages that opened many eyes and helped the brethren rethink their motives and objectives. "My goal is for you to go home with a new desire to be a better husband, father, and minister," Johnson explained.

### INSPIRED BEGINNING

Inspired by the Michigan Men of Faith Conference in 1998, Atholton church's Arnold Moore (below, left) became determined to not only enhance his own relationship with God, but also consider the reformation of all



men who struggle with life's battles. After eight years of being refined and purified, Moore received a word from the Lord to



create a Maryland chapter, which he did in 2006.

Accompanied by Williams and Bobby Smith (below, right), another Atholton member, these leaders firmly believed in the positive domino effect generated from this type of ministry. Marriages, prayer life, and mentoring are just a few areas they sought to revitalize. Later that year, the trio put together and executed the first MMOF Conference. A retreat filled with one-day's worth of instruction and relief became an annual protocol.

Today the MMOF Conference (mmof.org) continues to recharge men emotionally and spiritually. Organizers envision a chapter in every state and would like to expand overseas. In the meantime, they're growing the program locally and serving the needs of men like Geoff Greaves from the Pikesville (Md.) International church. A conference participant for the past two years, he says he was deeply impacted by this year's retreat. "We were reminded that we are not alone in the common challenges and situations that men face," he says. "We found not only practical solutions but also solid support, good resources, and powerful tools." —R.H. Stewart



## Ninth Handbell Fest Draws 120

**Y**ou might not expect an event that attracts 120 students from 13 Seventh-day Adventist academies across the Columbia Union and beyond to have something to do with handbells. But this year, that's how many gathered at Ohio Conference's Toledo First church for the ninth annual Ring Fest—not to mention the accompanying parents and teachers and those who flocked to watch the final performance.

With attending schools traveling from Michigan, Illinois, and as far as Georgia, six represented the Columbia Union: Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) in Hamburg, Pa.; C.F. Richards Junior Academy in Staunton, Va.; Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) in Mt. Vernon, Ohio; Shenandoah Valley

Academy (SVA) in New Market, Va.; Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) in Silver Spring, Md.; and Toledo Junior Academy (TJA) in Ohio.

C.F. Richards' Blue Ridge Bells (below) almost didn't make it. After convincing their school board of the trip's value, the group had only one month to prepare. "We worked hard—a lot of fundraising—to get



here," said Mandy Wightman, the school's new music teacher.

"The goal of Ring Fest was to further the art of handbell ringing within the Adventist school system, provide an inexpensive, yet high-quality workshop for both students and directors, and to forge bonds between all participants that erase the lines of school and conference boundaries," says Janell Ashley (below, right), a Toledo First church member, who, along with her husband, William (below, left), launched



*Demonstrating the various instruments and ages (fourth- through 12th-grade) involved in Ring Fest are Columbia Union's own (left to right) Anna Abraham, a Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) freshman; Sam Bagley, a seventh-grader at C.F. Richards Junior Academy; Lance Downing, an MVA senior; Nikki Cantwell, a Toledo Junior Academy sixth-grader; and Emily Taylor, a senior at Shenandoah Valley Academy.*

the event in 2000. Ring Fest is now the only student-level handbell event in the world.

With the fest originally highlighting level 2 musicianship—the highest level being 6—the festival now spotlights level 4 players and above, and attracts



*The Spencerville Adventist Academy Ringers, directed by music teacher Jane Lanning (center), has attended Ring Fest for six years.*

nationally recognized clinicians—members of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers. "The youth are the future of handbell ringing," said this year's co-clinician and composer Michael Joy, a bell choir director for 30 years. "These students came so well prepared."

Ring Fest has also inspired "ringers" like Lance Downing, a senior at MVA and fourth year fest participant, to push beyond performing. He has composed bell choir pieces, one of which was performed at Ring Fest two years ago. Playing since fourth grade, Downing says, "Seeing God work through me has just been wonderful."

Through a goodwill offering during the festival concert and a follow-up student fundraiser, this event will also benefit the local branch of the National Kidney Foundation.

## The Choice is Yours

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A member of Adventist Health System, Huguley Memorial Medical Center is a 213-bed hospital located in Fort Worth, Texas. On our campus, you'll find an outpatient surgery and imaging center, one level of labor and delivery, 24-hour emergency, a dedicated women's and infants' center.

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- blog

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**Columbia Union Conference  
of Seventh-day Adventists**



## What's New?

### Sabbath Evangelism Calendar > Beauty and Truth

This evangelism tool was created by Ronald Myung Soo Cho, PhD (below), special



assistant to the president for the Allegheny East Conference. With a passion to tell the world about Jesus, Cho believes this calendar will help spread the critical last-day message of the Lord's Sabbath.

Adorned with beautiful photography, the unique symbols that appear every Saturday are the calendar's real draw. They direct viewers to rear pages that carefully explain the Lord's fourth commandment. "This is an effective way to impact the world because people all over use calendars," explains Cho.



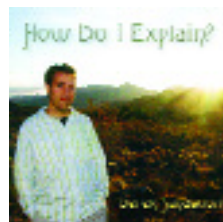
It's already available in eight languages, but Cho plans to publish more. Order your sharing copies at [sabbathcalendar.org](http://sabbathcalendar.org) or call (240) 997-0445.

### CD > How Do I Explain? Derek Sandstrom

This seasoned contemporary Christian artist started making music early. "I began by figuring out hymns and commercial jingles on a little toy organ that my grandparents gave me," recalls Derek Sandstrom, a father of two and member of Pennsylvania Conference's York church.

Over the years he added saxophone, piano, and singing to his repertoire, then majored in music during college.

The full-time musician hopes this junior release of self-penned songs will remind listeners "that we have a loving God who has



our best in mind." His wife, Sheri, is a guest vocalist on the project and enjoys

traveling and ministering with him. To learn more, order a copy, and invite them to your church, visit [dereksandstrom.com](http://dereksandstrom.com).

## WholeHealth

### Are You a Holiday Stress Eater?

Holiday weight gain is a "gift" most of us don't appreci-

ate. Yet, the average person gains a pound between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day that is *not* lost during the following months.

Certainly the seemingly endless invitations to social events and the overabundance of holiday foods provide more opportunities to indulge in extra calories.

However, a more significant factor for holiday weight gain is emotional eating as a way to cope with seasonal pressures: social obligations, decorating, shopping, cooking, gift giving, family gatherings, and travel. According to a survey by the American Psychological Association, 41 percent of women and 25 percent of men eat for comfort during the holidays. That said, 44 percent of women and 31 percent of men report increased stress during the holiday season.

One of the biggest holiday mistakes is letting go of the daily self-care rituals that help us manage our stress. This holiday season intentionally include the activities you need to feel and be your best. Pause frequently to ask, "Am I *really* hungry right now?" Feed yourself well in these other areas, and you will be much less likely to use food to cope with holiday stress.—Lilly Tryon, MSN, RN, Adventist WholeHealth Wellness Center



## Spotlight on > 2009 Devotionals

### Teens > 24.7.365: One Year in the Word Dwain Neilson Esmond

Now teens can read the entire Bible in a way that won't seem boring. Day by day they'll meet people who struggled with the same challenges.

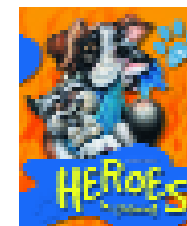
"This devotional will help teens realize that the Bible has absolute relevance to what's happening in their lives,"

says author Dwain Neilson Esmond, *Insight* magazine editor and member of Allegheny East Conference's Germantown church in Philadelphia. Price: \$14.99

### Primary > Heroes in Training Vicki Redden

In this re-released devotional for 2009, kids will be inspired by history's young heroes *and* all sorts of

animals—even a pig named Priscilla. Author Vicki Redden of Chesapeake Conference's Williamsport (Md.) church shares 12 things that will make kids special



agents for God. "You don't have to be president or save someone's life. Just live your life as a good person and have a relationship with God, and you can be a hero too." Price: \$13.99

### Preschool > Love Letters From Jesus RosAnne C. Tetz

Through the 180 interactive devotional readings in this re-release, preschoolers will get a basic education on the 28 fundamental beliefs of the Adventist Church. Author RosAnne Tetz, a former teacher and mother of two from Chesapeake's Spencerville church

in Silver Spring, Md., will have young believers using all of their senses to put our beliefs into practice. Price: \$13.99

### Women > Grace Notes

"You will meet so many women who have learned to accept [God's] grace, and who are deeply in love with the Giver of this grace," writes Ardis Dick Stenbakken, editor for the popular annual women's devotional.

She's speaking of the more than 200 intercontinental women who share their testimonies and "profound appreciation for these

sweet, undeserved gifts of mercy." Like the 16 editions before it, sales from the book will grace women with much-needed scholarships. More than 1,300 women in 104 countries have benefited to date, including one from the Columbia Union. Erica (Aranda) Lavandera, a former political studies major at Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md., received \$1,500 last year to help pay college expenses. Submit your story and read more at [wm.gc.adventist.org](http://wm.gc.adventist.org). Price: \$17.99

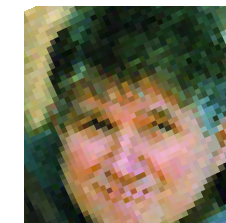
### General > A Down to Earth God: Devotionals for the Nature Lover Garry Genser

This spiritual study guide by Garry Genser, the new senior pastor of Potomac Conference's Vienna church, isn't tied to a calendar year. Pick up a copy any time to read

this nature lover's inspirational stories from the country. Through

true stories, the former Chicago cab driver shares how God spoke to him through life on a small California ranch. Price: \$12.95

Purchase devotionals at your local Adventist Book Center or [adventistbookcenter.com](http://adventistbookcenter.com).



## Did You Know?



entry deadline is December 31.

Kids, you have a chance to help name the new outreach publication from the editors of *Guide* magazine. Submit ideas and find out more at [guidemagazine.org/](http://guidemagazine.org/) friend. Hurry, the

# Looking for Signs of the Times?

## 21 Ways God Worked in the Columbia Union This Year

**I**s 2008 the year Jesus finally decided it's time to return? The question seems crazy, but it also seems to fit with some Adventist thinking about the catastrophes of 2008. The stock market dove into a horse trough. Hurricanes, tornadoes, and wildfires roared through the American landscape. Earthquakes devastated Asia. New atrocities stretched the human capacity for depravity. It got so bad that it *must* be the year Jesus finally decided it *is* time to return.

Do you look for signs of Christ's return in disasters? Do you find comfort in saying that Jesus' return must be near because so many bad things are happening? Do you want to warn your neighbors that the end is near because the situation is so bad? *I hope not.*

The disasters and devastation are stories of what the devil is doing. And Jesus is not waiting for the devil to do more *bad* things; He's waiting for Christians—his disciples—to do more *good* things.

Matthew 24 warns us that these things will happen before Jesus returns, but our faith should not be based on the atrocities. Our faith should be based

on Jesus and His love. Our witness should be Jesus and His goodness. Our praise should be Jesus and His gift at Calvary. We shouldn't need a hurricane to blow through our communities, or our souls, when the gentle breeze of the Holy Spirit could inspire us to share the good news of the First Angel's Message: "Fear God and give glory to Him, because the hour of His judgment has come. Worship Him who made the heavens, the Earth, the sea, and the springs of water" (Rev. 14:7, NIV).

The pages of the *Visitor* give me more reason to hope than the news headlines of the *Washington Post*. *NBC Nightly News* isn't my primary reason for turning to God. Wars, rumors of wars, and stock market crashes don't teach me to learn to trust Him.

### Count Your Blessings

What gives me confidence that Jesus' coming is soon are the stories of God's people and the evidence that He's working among us to finish His work. Here's how God has been working in the Columbia Union this year:

**1.** In Pearisburg, Va., 20 families are involved in Bible

Jesus is not waiting for the devil to do more **bad** things; He's waiting for Christians to do more **good** things.

studies in a church that had only five people attending just one year ago.

**2.** In Martinsville, Va., an entire Pentecostal church—the pastor and 80 members—have asked to join the Adventist denomination.

**3.** In Buena Vista, Va., 75 guests came to an evangelistic series; there hadn't even been 10 guests at the church in years.

**4.** In Mountain View Conference, 80 members participated in evangelism "boot camp," then held evangelistic

meetings. So far their efforts have yielded nearly 60 baptisms.

**5.** One year after Potomac Conference pastor Fismed Omar, his wife, Junieth, and two others embarked on a mission to plant churches in southwest Virginia, more than 100 people have been baptized and three churches have been planted.

**6.** Members of Ohio Conference's Chillicothe and Jackson churches placed DVDs of Adventist preachers in newspaper-like boxes. As a result of this creative outreach, five families have been baptized.

**7.** Every Sabbath after church, members of Allegheny East Conference's Mt. Sinai church in Trenton, N.J.,

walk through the city, pray for the people, share tracts, and offer Bible studies. Last summer they received 800 requests for Bible studies; so far 78 people have been baptized.

**8.** After 10 years of planting seeds among inmates at two Maryland prisons, Allegheny East Conference has reaped a harvest of 45 new believers who worship in two prison church plants.

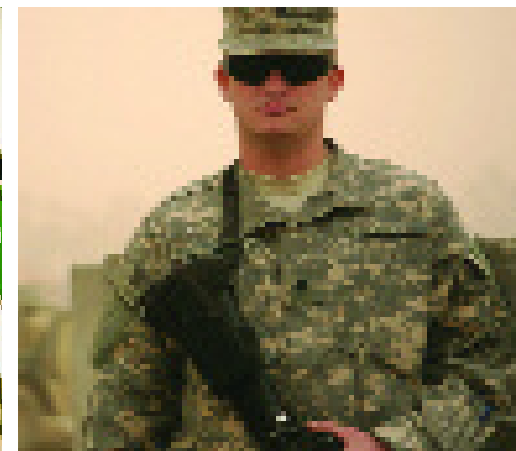
**9.** Several Pennsylvania Conference churches have had visitors who said they were convicted of the Sabbath truth after watching Adventist-owned satellite television.

**10.** Pennsylvania Conference leaders recently organized Pocono

Grace, the third church plant from the Stroudsburg, Pa., congregation. Worship services for this bilingual, lay-led church attract 60 attendees each week.

**11.** Following a mass mailing, members of Chesapeake Conference's Blythedale and Rising Sun (Md.) churches were inundated with hundreds of requests for Bible studies. Pastor David Byrkit has conducted training classes and nearly 30 people are involved in follow-up studies.

**12.** After a local festival, Berkeley Springs (W.Va.) church members received numerous requests for literature to help people understand and cope with the issues facing the world today.





**13.** The Newport News (Va.) church's mentoring program is providing spiritual guidance for 20 inner city young men, many of whom are not Adventist. At meetings and outings, they are shown love and acceptance and taught valuable life skills.

**14.** At the height of the gas hike, the Waynesboro (Va.) church distributed gas cards to their neighbors. One man was so moved by their unexpected outreach that he promised to visit the church. The next Sabbath he did. The church's generosity also garnered lots of media coverage.

**15.** Lauryn Daniels, a first-grader at Mount Vernon Adventist Elementary School (Ohio), recently started raising money and collecting items to donate to a nearby community center. The response has been overwhelming as people have donated shoes, crayons, stuffed animals, Christian literature for kids, and well over \$100.

**16.** RiLinda Fetherolf, a new member of the Allentown (Pa.) church, already understands her call to discipleship. She recently went on a mission trip to Kenya where she shared the gospel with thousands of people.

**17.** Excited about their newfound faith, two members of the Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, are already engaged in ministry. They videotape Sabbath sermons and share them with friends.

**18.** Pat Ridpath, a Buchannon (W.Va.) church member, recently

promoted *Steps to Christ* in her weekly newspaper column, *Pat's Chat*. The effort yielded several requests for Bible studies.

**19.** During a weeklong evangelism series, six youth from the Reading (Pa.) Spanish church shared the gospel with their peers. As a result, 16 youth made decisions for Christ.

**20.** Academy and college students from around Pennsylvania served as literature evangelists this summer and knocked on 75,000 doors, prayed with 10,000 people, shared \$60,000 worth of books, and got more than 100 requests for Bible studies.

**21.** Since the Emmanuel and Maranatha churches in Cincinnati joined the Allegheny West Conference basketball league, 10 players have been baptized. "Some don't see basketball as a ministry," says player Gary Ward. "But everybody has a different [spiritual] gift, a different way to minister."

That's just a *few* of the ways God is working, and these stories are replicated all around the Columbia Union and throughout the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Jesus said one thing had to happen before His return: The gospel had to be preached in all the world (see Matt. 24:14). That includes exotic places like Toledo, Ohio; Cape May, N.J.; and Roanoke, Va.

I want to make sure the gospel is heard in my community because that's the part of the world God has entrusted to my church family and me. We're going to tell our neighbors about

**Jesus said the gospel had to be preached in all the world. That includes exotic places like Toledo, Ohio; Cape May, N.J.; and Roanoke, Va.**

God's love and grace, not the devil's handiwork. We're going to share hope with people who are confused and scared in these perilous times. We're going to share the good news about Jesus' soon return with those who are wondering about the future.

Our finances may be in chaos, people devastated by natural disasters may be trying to rebuild eroded homes and fortunes, and ADRA may be busier than ever trying to relieve insurmountable suffering. As prophecy warns, disasters may march like the mighty army of the foe. But I'm thankful that "my hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness."

I'm pretty certain that Jesus wanted to return in AD 32 or 33, or at least in 1845 or 1846, but He's too wise to come back before the work is done. So this holiday season, and in the coming "Year of Evangelism," I'm going to be busy doing God's work, and leave the worrying to the media, the bloggers, and the politicians.

Kermit Netteburg, PhD, is senior pastor of the Beltsville (Md.) church.



WALK THROUGH BETHLEHEM PRESENTS A SPECIAL WEEKEND  
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## The Angels Sang

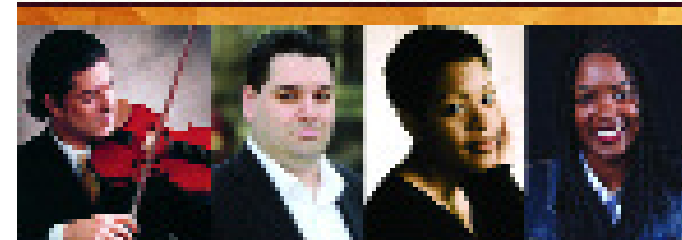
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## Conversion Story

KARA WATKINS

FROM

PUNK

TO

PASTOR

### A FELON FINDS FORGIVENESS AND FAVOR FROM GOD

his parents, Roger and Gayle Voigt, members of Chesapeake Conference's Baltimore-White Marsh church.

#### HEADED FOR TROUBLE

As a smart and generally well-behaved kid, Voigt had liked church and Pathfinders. When he arrived in junior high school, innocent experimentation progressed to drug dealing, alcoholism, and gang violence. Through it all, he maintained a facade of integrity, but, as he dove deeper into his double life, an uneasy tension developed between Voigt and his parents.

Though unaware of the dangerous extent of their son's activities, the Voigts sensed they had lost him. Research into solutions led them to MMS, known for its success with troubled children and teens. In October of Voigt's junior year, they were still weighing options when Gayle dreamt her son would kill her unless she sent him to MMS. The next day, they drove Voigt to West Virginia. It was the right decision; he *had* planned to kill his mother *that afternoon!* "She was my conscience," he explains.

During the first month at MMS, Voigt was on his best behavior; he wanted to go home for Christmas. However, when the holidays arrived, the staff decided Voigt was not ready to leave. Anger and bitterness fueled his flight from campus and into that life-altering Philadelphia night.

A week later and back from Philadelphia, Voigt and his two classmates faced felony criminal charges and decades in prison. Instead of turning them over to the authorities, MMS staff negotiated a deal with law enforcement that allowed the teens to return to school uncharged. In exchange, they had to obey all rules and perform manual labor to pay back stolen money. They were also placed in solitary confinement for several months, with only a thin mattress and a Bible to comfort them.

Voigt read the Bible from cover to cover, and within its pages rediscovered the Adventist doctrines *and* a relationship with Jesus Christ.

#### GOD'S PLAN

Voigt is convinced that hitting rock bottom was part of God's plan. The experience allowed him to face his demons, leave his past behind, and look to a hopeful, God-led future. Just as the apostle Paul describes in 2 Corinthians 5:17, Voigt claimed God's forgiveness and became a "new creature" in Christ.

"Josh had chosen a destructive way of relating to the damaging experiences in his life," explains Gayle Clark, who founded MMS with her husband, Bill. "He had the potential to make positive choices, but it took some time to bring that out. When he got it, he ran with it."

Voigt finished 18 months at MMS, grew stronger in Christ, and developed the tools he needed to work through his problems and build healthy relationships with his family. Others noticed the change too. "Josh became a leader on campus and began exerting a positive influence on his peers," remembers Aaron Weber, a new staff member at the time and now the school's director.

After a summer of working as a literature evangelist, Voigt enrolled as a theology major at Southern Adventist University (Tenn.). There he met and married his wife, Celeste. With a degree in hand, he was soon hired by the Chesapeake Conference and sent to seminary at Andrews University (Mich.). Today he helps pastor two congregations—the Reisterstown (Md.) church and the South Carroll company in Sykesville (Md.)—and mentors students at the Crest Lane School in Westminster, Md.

With God now in control of his life, Voigt looks ever forward. "I want to be an example, to help prevent kids from doing what I did. Although I've been there," notes the 26-year-old, "I can't identify with that life anymore. I'm not even the same person! I am *truly* a new creature in Christ."

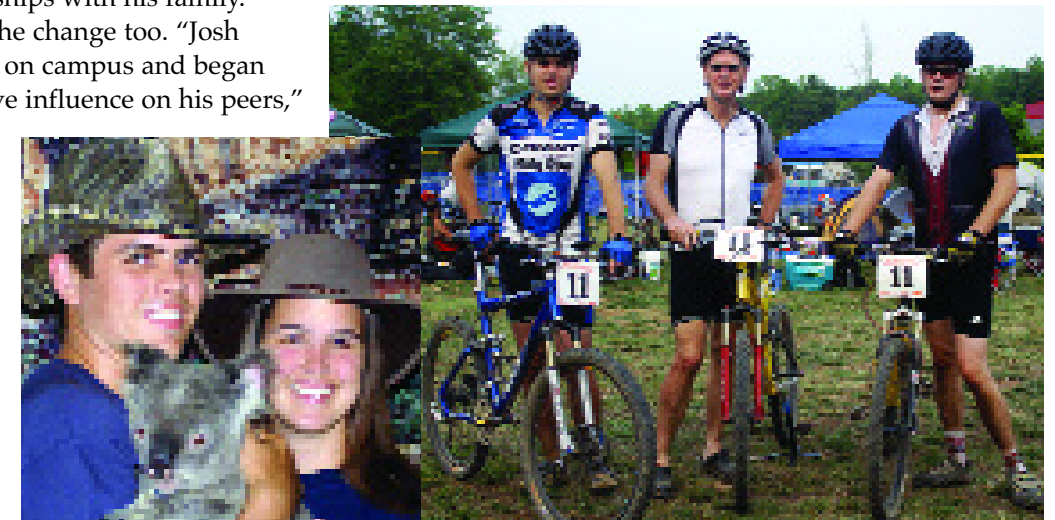
Kara Watkins writes from Columbia, Md.

"DAD? IT'S ME, JOSH. I NEED YOUR HELP."

**H**ours before making this call, a scared and shivering 16-year-old Josh Voigt huddled in a drafty corner of a dilapidated crack house in one of Philadelphia's most unsavory neighborhoods. A week earlier Voigt and two classmates had fled from Miracle Meadows School (MMS), an alternative Seventh-day Adventist institution in Salem, W.Va., in a stolen car, embarking on a crime spree that would stretch across the Eastern seaboard. Now, on a snowy Christmas Eve, the teens found themselves fugitives hunted by police and the FBI.

As police helicopters hovered overhead, their searchlights streamed through hole-ridden walls, revealing discarded syringes, rotting trash, and buckets of human waste. *What am I doing here?* Voigt wondered, remembering another Christmas Eve not so long ago. As a boy nestled in his mother's lap, he had listened intently as she read the story of Jesus' birth in *My Bible Friends*.

Spurred by the childhood memory, Voigt offered a simple prayer: "Lord, I've messed up; I'm ready to follow where You lead." Filled with a sense of peace, he found a pay phone and called



Josh Voigt and his wife, Celeste—a farm girl from upstate New York—cuddle a koala during a trip to Australia.

With a shared love of cycling, Roger Voigt celebrates finishing a 12-hour road race with his sons, Josh (left), and Sam.

Meet the Voigts: (back row) brother-in-law Brent Hamstra; Voigt and wife, Celeste; younger brothers Sam and Alex; (front row) sister Emily Hamstra; mother, Gayle; and father, Roger.



Regina Reid Clairmont

# Safe Haven

## Adventist Senior Facilities Provide Opportunity for Business and Ministry

Today's seniors are becoming increasingly independent as they age, living on their own—and living actively—far longer than in decades past. According to *Maturing of America*, the number of Americans over the age of 65 is expected to reach 71.5 million by 2030—twice the number in 2000. The vast majority want to age in their own homes and communities for as long as possible, making the senior housing market explode.

To meet this need, Seventh-day Adventist organizations in the Columbia Union are opening and operating senior living facilities that provide seniors with a safe haven, affordable housing, a spiritual connection, and much more:

### ALLEGHENY EAST CONFERENCE Dupont Park Adventist Apartments

In 1997 Danny Davis, director of Trust Services and Senior Housing for Allegheny East Conference (AEC), initiated the construction of the conference's first senior living apartments at the request of former conference president Alvin Kibble. Davis says that seniors appreciate the safe, attractive, affordable housing, and the Christian management. "Several have joined the Adventist Church," he notes.

AEC's second venture, Dupont Park Adventist Apartments, has been a part of its southeast Washington, D.C., community since April 2004. Sylvia Saunders (below with resident Johnny Whitaker) supervises its 44 residents, and manages the typical waiting list of over 30 people.



"There has never been a time when we haven't been full," says Saunders. "If we had another building we could fill it; the demand is that great."

Members of the nearby Dupont Park church continue to be involved in the activities of the apartments that bear the church's name. "Various church organizations have put on special programs at Christmas," recounts Saunders, a church elder and apartment manager practically since it opened. One volunteer visits the tenants weekly to conduct armchair exercises. Another has donated exercise equipment.

Saunders has also supported a number of ministry efforts proposed by the church. "We televised the *NET 2004* broadcast on a big screen in our community room, and one resident joined the church as a result," she relates.

Twice named manager of the year by the building's management company, Saunders understands what draws residents and would-be tenants to her facility. "A lot of our residents come from buildings that are drug-infested or located in heavy crime areas," she says. "Our building is off the beaten path, and we have 24-hour security. There have been no incidents in our building," she proudly reports.

Johnny Whitaker, 70, is one tenant who agrees that his quality of life has improved since moving into the Dupont Park apartments last March. He used to enjoy a five-minute stroll to church through

his old neighborhood. "I love to walk," said the member of Capitol Hill church in Northeast Washington. "That was one of the reasons I stayed."

But when he became scared to walk to prayer meeting because of the neighborhood's declining conditions, he decided to move. For him, the security of the building is its most important attribute.

### ALLEGHENY WEST CONFERENCE Shiloh Adventist Gardens Apartments

Open since February 2001, Shiloh Adventist Gardens Apartments in Cincinnati is currently the only senior living apartment building in the Allegheny West Conference. Manager Darryl Foster (below with resident Dolores Jarvis), however, hopes that will change.

"Other groups before us tried to open a senior living facility," Foster recounts. While not part of those initial efforts, he was among a group from Shiloh church that later formed Shiloh Senior Housing, Inc., and applied for a federal building grant. It took two years to get approval, and although the application received high marks, they still had to prove their worthiness to the government.

"Finally, we got a \$4.5 million grant from HUD [the Department of Housing and Urban Development] in 1999," Foster said. He was elected president of the owner board and oversaw the project from conception to construction. He also went on to work for the management company to make certain Shiloh's vision was realized in the building's operation.

Opportunities for spiritual refreshment and exposure are offered through Friday night musical programs, Bible studies, and worship services led by Shiloh church's head elder Russell Blair. "I look at it as being an extension of the church's



ministry," Foster said of the 65-unit apartment building. "Others often ask, 'How much money can the church make from something like this?' The answer is 'none.'"

Financial profit aside, Shiloh fills a great need in the community and serves a mixed racial and denominational clientele. A few of the Adventist residents run a Tuesday evening Bible study that has grown to include other denominational believers. They use the Sabbath School quarterly as their study guide.

### NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE Hackettstown Senior Housing

The 80-unit Hackettstown Senior Housing, better known as Heritage House, has been home to self-sufficient seniors of various nationalities and faiths for almost 25 years.

Heritage House's administrative manager, Isabell DeSouza (below with resident Helen McGreevey), a member of the Hackettstown church in Tranquility, N.J., has worked at the building since 2001. Her job involves making



sure the facility complies with HUD policies and passes strict annual inspections, which is all necessary to ensure a safe, secure home for residents.

To help meet their spiritual needs, Heritage House has held a Tuesday evening Bible study since February 2007, led by Hackettstown pastor Ramon Crousett.

"There was nothing when I first started," DeSouza says of spiritual activities at Heritage House, "but then one of the elders eventually started a weekly service." Eight to 10 residents now attend the study along with three members of the Hackettstown church.



ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE SENIOR LIVING SERVICES  
Springbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

For Maryland seniors who need some assistance with daily living, Springbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation Center combines the comforts of home with the support of nursing staff and personal care assistants. Located in Silver Spring, Springbrook was built in 1967 and became part of Adventist Senior Living Services (ASLS) in 1991. John Holly, a veteran of healthcare management, has been Springbrook’s administrator since 2005. “Our staff provides loving care for our residents and their families,” he says. “We



have an open sharing of God’s love.” This year an average of 80 residents called Springbrook home. While the nursing and rehabilitation services are the core of the facility, the exercise classes, afternoon socials, and beauty / barber shop create the comfortable feeling of community. Residents can feel secure knowing their medical needs, as well as their meals and laundry, are provided. Springbrook is also active in its outreach, conducting an annual community flu clinic. “The mission of Adventist HealthCare is to demonstrate God’s care by improving the health of people and communities through a ministry of physical, mental, and spiritual healing,” says George Child, ASLS president. “One of the ways Adventist Senior Living Services supports this mission is by providing a supportive and caring environment for the aging in which God’s love and compassion can be experienced and felt by all.”

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE  
Sycamore Glen Retirement Community

A complex of four unique areas makes up the Sycamore Glen Retirement Community in



Miamisburg, Ohio. Located on the campus of Sycamore Hospital, Sycamore Glen also shares grounds with the primary care center, health center, and pharmacy. The 22-year-old community boasts 261 units, including high-rise apartments, cottages, and villas, with new construction currently underway. As the style of homes vary among the Plaza, Maples, Pines, and Village, so does the level of support offered. Tenants can choose independent living, assisted living, or skilled care accomodations based on their need. “Most of our outreach is to the residents in our retirement community,” says Gary Van

Nostrand, executive director since September 2007. “Our number-one focus is to do whatever we can to make sure our residents are satisfied with the services we offer, and we are constantly searching for ways to meet new needs.” Residents Al and Marilyn Dunn (left) feel they owe Marilyn’s life to their decision to live at Sycamore Glen. Even after a blackout while driving caused Marilyn to collide with a truck, the heart attack that caused it went undiagnosed at a central Ohio hospital. Later that night she was rushed to Sycamore Hospital after passing out at the dinner table, and was in the emergency room within 10 minutes of Al calling for help. “I don’t think another retirement community around here can offer a fully-staffed hospital so close by,” says Marilyn. “How many seniors have thought about that?” Al asks. “If they had some serious problem where death could result, just how close is your hospital?” Regina Reid Clermont is a communication professional living in Laurel, Md.

Adventist Senior Living Facilities

Allegheny East Conference

CHILLUM OAKS  
ADVENTIST APARTMENTS  
Hyattsville, Md.  
Tel: (301) 853-2755

DUPONT PARK  
ADVENTIST APARTMENTS  
Washington, D.C.  
Tel: (202) 562-1363

FORT WASHINGTON  
ADVENTIST APARTMENTS  
Ft. Washington, Md.  
Tel: (301) 203-7726

Allegheny West Conference

SHILOH ADVENTIST  
GARDENS APARTMENTS  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
Tel: (513) 542-2108

New Jersey Conference

HACKETTSTOWN  
SENIOR HOUSING  
Hackettstown, Md.  
Tel: (908) 852-8089

Adventist HealthCare

ADVENTIST SENIOR  
LIVING SERVICES:  
adventisthealthcare.com/  
ASLS/facilities

BRADFORD OAKS  
NURSING AND  
REHABILITATION CENTER  
Clinton, Md.  
Tel: (301) 856-1660

FAIRLAND NURSING  
AND REHAB. CENTER  
Silver Spring, Md.  
Tel: (301) 384-6161

GLADE VALLEY NURSING  
AND REHAB. CENTER  
Walkersville, Md.  
Tel: (301) 898-4300

KINGSHIRE MANOR  
ASSISTED LIVING  
Rockville, Md.  
Tel: (301) 315-1923

SHADY GROVE NURSING  
AND REHAB. CENTER  
Rockville, Md.  
Tel: (301) 315-1900

SLIGO CREEK NURSING  
AND REHAB. CENTER  
Takoma Park, Md.  
Tel: (301) 270-4200

SPRINGBROOK NURSING  
AND REHAB. CENTER  
Silver Spring, Md.  
Tel: (301) 622-4600

Kettering Adventist HealthCare

SYCAMORE GLEN  
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY:  
THE PLAZA/THE MAPLES/  
THE PINES/THE VILLAGE  
Miamisburg, Ohio  
Tel: (937) 866-2984  
sycamoreglenretirement.org

Other Adventist-Owned Facilities

BROOKE GROVE  
RETIREMENT VILLAGE  
Sandy Spring, Md.  
Tel: (301) 924-2811  
bgf.org

ELTERNHAUS  
Clarksville, Md.  
Tel: (410) 707-7071  
elternhausassistedliving.com

EVANS RETIREMENT  
HOME, INC.  
Fleetwood, Pa.  
Tel: (610) 944-7257

FULMER’S PERSONAL  
CARE HOME  
Lock Haven, Pa.  
Tel: (570) 748-1829

GREEN HILL MANOR  
ASSISTED LIVING  
Reading, Pa.  
Tel: (610) 775-1451  
greenhillsmanor.net

MICHAUX MANOR  
ASSISTED LIVING  
Fayetteville, Pa.  
Tel: (717) 749-5000

ROMYN’S COUNTRY  
HOME, INC.  
Birdsboro, Pa.  
Tel: (610) 582-3242

SHENANDOAH PLACE  
New Market, Va.  
Tel: (540) 740-4300  
shenandoahplace.com

REST ASSURED  
RESIDENTIAL LIVING  
Meyersdale, Pa.  
Tel: (814) 634-0567  
bgf.org

ROYAL CARE  
SENIOR LIVING  
Staunton, Va.  
Tel: (540) 885-0065

VICTORIAN VILLA  
ASSISTED LIVING  
Dallastown, Pa.  
Tel: (717) 244-9722

WILLIAMSPORT  
RETIREMENT VILLAGE  
Williamsport, Md.  
Tel: (301) 223-7971  
bgf.org

WINDY HILL VILLAGE  
ASSISTED LIVING  
Kingwood, W.Va.  
Tel: (304) 329-2741

For more assisted and senior living properties, or to view the list above online, visit [columbiaunion.org](http://columbiaunion.org) and click on the “Find A ...” link.







## Happy 35<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Adventist Home Health!

In 1973 a group of administrators and physicians from Washington Adventist Hospital and United Memorial Hospital negotiated a developing trend: patients were being discharged more quickly from hospitals. Most of these patients were recovering, but some were making fine last progress on their own. They needed a little more help, so we took a leap.

These leaders knew that Medicare offered benefits that extended care in the home for certain patients and diagnoses. What these patients needed was a way to get the needed care. So, together with Columbia Union Conference, they founded Adventist Home Health Services (AHH) to provide high-quality home health services within the framework of volunteerism.

Looking back at it now, the first office seems pretty small. The agency's first address was 1414 Wesley, could not make it as they walked in the door. There were three visiting nurses, two physical therapists, and a home health aide. Before long they added a social worker. An administrative secretary assigned cases according to territory. The territory was divided into large and small portions of Prince George's and Montgomery counties.

Everyone got off at noon on Fridays. Weekend duties rotated between the three visiting nurses, who would check the "phonebook" given by service across every few hours—the last not technology.

The service was a success. AHH grew and expanded and changed with the times. People joined the team to find a mission, to make financial sta-

ble, and to work with other agencies. Paid staff, more equipment, deeper training, and therapists were added, and a strategic plan was developed. The offices moved to a larger location in Silver Spring, Maryland.

In 1983, Adventist Home Health was franchised to provide part-time duty home care to assist patients with daily activities of living, such as housekeeping, bathing, meal preparation. The visiting nurses might accompany their clients to appointments or provide medication reminders. These support services allow a patient to maintain their optimal level of independence.

In the 1990s, AHH expanded its service area to include the entire Maryland counties and the District of Columbia. As services and support were increased, more space was needed, and in January 2006 the central office moved into new space in Silver Spring, near the General Conference Headquarters and the site of the new Washington Adventist Hospital.

Today Adventist Home Health is still continuing to work closely with physicians, developing home treatment plans for patients on a case-by-case basis. Currently, the agency serves approximately 5,000 patients per year in the service area. Community health care is improved as demonstrated by increase in the need for care due to the new health care. According to a 2007 study by the American Hospital Association and the First Consulting Group, six out of every 10 baby boomers will be managing more than one chronic condition by 2011.

### The Benefits of Home Care

What makes home care so special



Barry Bell has been with AHH for 10 years. As an LPA, he finds his work to be filled with excitement. "I meet new people all the time, and most of them are very appreciative," he says. "I think I get paid for this!" he laughs. "The whole day, of course, I am doing my work, but it seems more like playing with old friends."

"Sometimes, an adult who is older is very fragile, and they are very grateful that you are spending time with them, paying attention to them. It is so important."

"There are three sides to this work: physical, mental, and spiritual. And for many of the patients, the spiritual is such a lifeline. It boosts their spirits and helps them want to get better."



Lene Burt has been a home health aide with AHH for 22 years. "We know because people feel good about themselves. 'I help with their bath or shower. I change their hair,'" she explains. "Sometimes, just their hair, just to make them look good."

"Each person has different needs. I might help them exercise or put on clean clothes. Usually they're happy to see me. And some people are so happy. Sometimes they have different things they are stressed about. We have families."

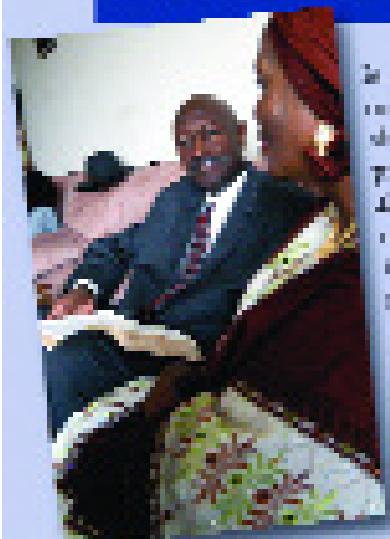
"I have the freedom in this job to meet them where they are and talk to them about their life. For some, that's a real blessing. We're always very pleased to have me pray with them."



Maria Peltier has been a field nurse with AHH for about 2 years, and she loves the variety in her work. "Although our goal is always recovering, getting better," she says, "there are a lot of times when we just have to be there."

"One patient, a Buddhist, had a wound that wasn't healing. One day they were saying it was around to change her look. She said she'd even gone to the Catholic church and prayed for the wound, but the wound wasn't healing. I asked if I could pray with her and put her on the prayer list of my church, and she agreed. One month later, the wound was completely healed."

"The service is a blessing. We help our patients see that all three work together."



In the end, our relationship shows that the patients are able to cope with their illness and their plans. For nurses, for families, for society, for the world. It is truly a blessing. Patients and their families get the convenience and comfort of being cared for in the home. And the visiting staff members receive satisfaction from watching their patients progress—it is tremendously rewarding for them to see how they have achieved in bringing healing and hope to patients.

The families in our setting can

make whole persons can more accept. Mrs. Patients often feel more at ease when visiting spiritual needs in addition to physical challenges. Many request prayer daily when their needs are also met. It doesn't take us long to pray. And when staff members see a situation in which a chaplain might help, they contact the AHH chaplain, James Clements, Jr. (james.clements@ahh.org). He says he spends a lot of time just listening.

Kathy Kallinger, Vice President of Adventist Home Care Services, is proud

of his staff and the way they demonstrate the agency's philosophy of care. "Much of the healing that Jesus did was in the home," he points out. "We are following in His footsteps, bringing, visiting, healing, and prayer for our patients in their time of need."

As the people of Adventist Home Health celebrate the past 35 years, they also look forward to continuing Jesus' ministry of healing, bringing life, love, compassion, and hope to their community.

Barry Bell, M.D., Adventist Home Health Services, President and General Manager, Silver Spring, MD; Lene Burt, M.D., Adventist Home Health Services, Vice President, Silver Spring, MD; Maria Peltier, M.D., Adventist Home Health Services, Vice President, Silver Spring, MD.



## Adventist Home Health cumple 35 años de servicio

**E**l año un grupo de administradora y  
directores de marketing visitaron  
Hospital y Universidad de California  
seguir a los pacientes de cáncer de  
los pacientes se encuentran dando de alta  
de los hospitales más rápidamente. Un estudio de  
estas prácticas, el cual es una parte de un estudio  
para el programa de la ley, es el estudio  
Revisando un poco más de la información necesaria  
en este estudio.

[illegible][illegible]

La elección de un hotel y el momento de viajar a la playa de las dos personas que eligen no son random entre las dos informaciones disponibles, que son la presencia de estadísticas y el hecho de "planear más" el viaje cuando se sabe que se va a la playa, y el hecho de la playa misma.

la empresa será más. Allí el trabajo aumentó y creció el nivel de energía. Se usó personal al equipo personal a un nivel más avanzado, aumentando el nivel de calidad de la empresa y reduciendo el costo de los servicios. Se exploraron posibilidades, se acordaron rápidamente y siempre se defendió un plan estratégico. Los miembros de la empresa se unieron al equipo, crearon un futuro. Nueva Maryland.

Dr. van der Stoep's Advice Line Assistant, par. pascu@uconn.edu, please call us at 860-405-6100 or e-mail us at [par. pascu@uconn.edu](mailto:par. pascu@uconn.edu). We are located in the 1st floor, Laboratory Building, room 1000, located on the left of the proposed new entrance. Our website is [www.uconn.edu/adviceline](http://www.uconn.edu/adviceline).

voorías medicina a su tiempo. Eso permite permitir que los clientes mantengan un nivel óptimo de independencia.

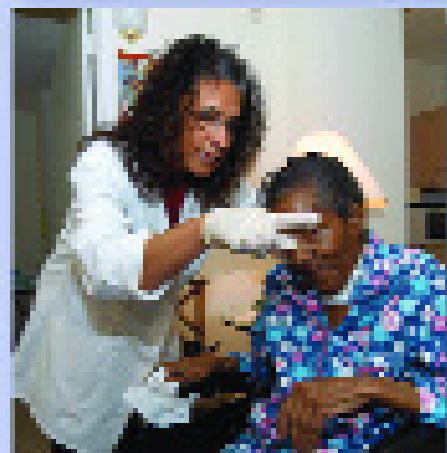
En la foto, una de las empresas M&M expendedoras de servicios para incluir entre otros servicios los transportes y el alquiler de vehículos, también se encuentran otros servicios, por ejemplo, alquiler de un grupo de trabajo, y que ya para enero del 2006 la plataforma comercial mudó a un espacio nuevo en Silver Spring, cerca del aeropuerto de la Universidad George Washington al estar ya en marcha el nuevo Village Center de la zona de Hoya del

El personal de Adentro Home Health continúa trabajando arduo de forma que una docena de enfermeras planteadas inicialmente en el hogar para los pacientes, sean por una necesidad, la agencia acordó aproximadamente a su vez posicionar uno de los miembros del departamento de enfermería en el hogar por una semana adicional durante un período de tiempo, pero la necesidad de apoyo de enfermería. Según un estudio en favor de la American Hospital Association y el American College of Surgeons, más de mil 100 "hospitals home care" han sido de más de un millón de enfermeras para el año 2000.

### Les bénéfices de la pratique

[illegible]

Il est en fait possible d'opérer, par le biais  
récurrent, la détermination de la détermination  
d'un élément de la détermination, en opérant, par le biais

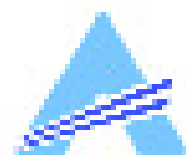


des para habitar de sus necesidades espirituales. A la vez, le fue permitido volver a sus actividades de una a una y a la par, hasta que volvió a su vida normal, después de haber pasado por un largo período de recuperación.

Cuando el personal ve una situación en la cual un capellán puede ser de ayuda, se puede contactar con el capellán de AHA, Laura Clements, la cual puede ayudarle. Clements ofrece un apoyo espiritual como lo ofrece cualquier otro profesional.

«*«Elle a toujours été portée haute de talons», dit Brault, «et j'ai toujours été un peu malade de la même façon, de manière à la limite d'être une machine de la agence. J'étais assise à la machine de la presse et la machine, c'était moi. J'étais assise à la machine de la presse et la machine, c'était moi. J'étais assise à la machine de la presse et la machine, c'était moi.»*

Continuăm să promovăm dezvoltarea unor  
parteneriate cu toate universitățile, instituțiile de  
cercetare și universități de calitate din țară. Încercăm  
să creștem comunicarea noastră cu la comunitate!

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800 815 8830  
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ALLEGHENY EAST

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DECEMBER 2008

Exposé

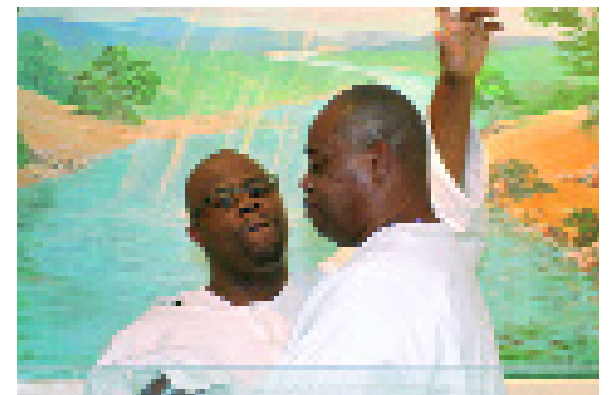
## Bladensburg Pastor Baptizes His Father

Four people were recently baptized at Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C. Among them was Lafayette Washington III, who was baptized by his son, Noah Washington, pastor of the Bladensburg (Md.) church. Members stood in cheering support because they knew that his wife, Renee, had prayed for him for many years.

"I've been praying for my husband since our children, Noah and Autumn, were in pampers," she said, beaming with happiness.

"I was thrilled that my father asked me to baptize him," Pastor Washington said. "It was a surreal moment and a very emotional experience for me. It was the fruition of praying for years, thus proving that God does answer prayer."

"I have known about the Sabbath for 40 or 45 years," Lafayette said. "My grandmother was an Adventist. It's been a long time coming and I am very happy."—*Connie Mitchell*



*Pastor Noah Washington baptizes his father, Lafayette. "It was the fruition of praying for years," he said.*

## West Philadelphia Takes Ministry to the Streets

Over the past few years members of the West Philadelphia church have taken Adventism literally to the streets of their neighborhood. This church, which was never keen on outreach, is now busy preparing lay preachers; visiting nursing homes;

hosting community health fairs, seminars, and music concerts; and distributing free lunches and Christian literature throughout the city.

The church started increasing their outreach some six years ago when 600 new houses were built within a four-block radius of the church. Members welcomed their new neighbors with evergreen saplings and an informational brochure of the neighborhood that includ-



*The West Philadelphia church opened their community health fair with a public prayer circle.*

ed the church's activities. Members who never did street ministry before returned with an enthusiasm for evangelism and became known as members of "the church that gave us the tree."

However, Personal Ministries leader Lance Moncrieffe said 2008 has truly been a banner year of outreach for the church. "I've been a member of this church for 20 years and never before has the church been so unified and effective in outreach," he said. "We have done more in this one year than we have done in the last 12 years."

In addition to the lunch ministry, neighbors seem to really enjoy the church's literature ministry. In the past few months the church has distributed 14,000 pieces of literature throughout the city and nearby suburbs.

On Friday nights some members have concentrated on locations that include the famed South street, West Philadelphia, and Drexel University. “Never do we leave those locations with leftover literature. We have had people who have said “no” to the literature and then come back asking for what they rejected not more than a minute before,” Moncrieffe said.

West Philadelphia members have clearly caught the outreach bug, and, with people joining the church because of this they have no intent of stopping.  
—Donna Riley Brown



## Sharon Temple Wholeheartedly Serves Community

Each week volunteers from Sharon Temple's Community Service Center in Wilmington, Del., reach hundreds of people in the Wilmington, Bear, New Castle, and Claymont areas. They don't just reach people through a sermon, but through meeting as many of the community's needs as possible. The church runs and operates a community center that offers bread, clothing, food, Bible enrichment, HIV/AIDS counseling and awareness, and Karate classes.

One of the center's most appreciated services is its bread ministry. Every Tuesday, without fail, Hubert Sylvester and his sons deliver a truck full of fresh bread and pastries to the center. Then a team of



Volunteers unload fresh bread and pastries at the center each week.

volunteers, which include members from the church and the community, come together to unload the bread. On Wednesdays the staff distributes bread. It reaches some 400 to 600 people monthly.

"When I was a child I remember going to bed hungry, and I thank God for the opportunity to serve in this center," says 72-year-old volunteer and Sharon Temple member Tiesta Cornish.

"Meeting the physical needs of people—the Word in action—motivates me to assist in the community center," says volunteer Paula White.

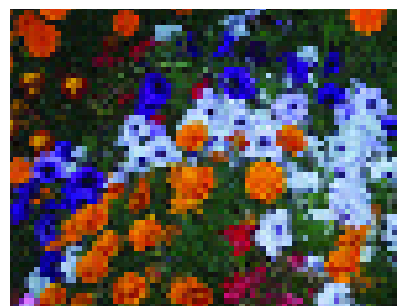
One client, Joan of New Castle, says, "The center has been a



**Volunteers:** (front row) Mable Cephas, Tiesta Cornish, Mildred Blamo, Marilyn Rogers. Back row: Wayne Collins, James Harrison, and Vera Denise Harrison.

God-send for me. It has helped tremendously. I am retired, single, and on a fixed income, so being able to come to the center is wonderful! I also appreciate the kindness of the volunteers."

Because the church runs the center alone, different ministries in the church find ways to help. Last year Women's Ministries gave pocketbooks filled with toiletries to women's shelters throughout Wilmington. During the holiday season the Fifty Plus team partnered with the center to distribute fruit baskets to seniors, and the church distributed baskets filled with all the food needed to prepare



Tiesta Cornish and Marilyn Rogers, two of the center's most faithful volunteers, donate their time and means to plant colorful flowers in the yard.

a delicious Thanksgiving dinner.

The LoveHeals Ministry, directed by Vera Denise and James Harrison, reaches those who may be impacted by HIV or AIDS. This ministry has reached thousands in the community by giving them literature, linking them to other service providers, and providing in-house counseling.

As people come each week, some want to know more about Seventh-day Adventists. So Mildred Blamo is offering Bible classes to anyone who wants to know more about Jesus.

In addition to offering food, clothes, and services, volunteers also distribute religious literature. As a result some clients have requested special prayer, some have visited the church on Sabbath morning, and now some are inquiring about the Bible classes.—Lola Hoxter, Gertrena Hoxter, and José Tross

**Allegheny East Exposé** is published in the *Visitor* by the Allegheny East Conference ■ PO Box 266, Pine Forge, PA 19548 ■ Phone: (610) 326-4610 myallegheenyeast.com ■ President, Charles L. Cheatham ■ Communication Director, Robert Booker ■ Editor, Taashi Rowe

## Conference Leaders Seek God's Presence

Allegheny West Conference's (AWC) executive officers, departmental leaders, and pastors recently gathered for a retreat. Their goal was to seek God's presence in casting a vision for the conference. They left "charged, fired, and burning up to finish the work," observed Jason Ridley, pastor of the Charleston/Huntington, W.Va., district.

First, officers met for several days and prayed for every pastor, pastor's family, and congregation. Later in the week, departmental directors joined them, as they continued to pray over the conference territory, this time praying for each teacher, principal, and school.

The following week the entire pastoral team joined the group for their annual pastors retreat themed "Building A Kingdom Dream Team—Turning Vision Into Action." Before the pastors arrived, AWC president Fredrick Russell, and his leadership team, prayed for the Spirit of God to fill the worker that would sit in each chair.

Each day began and ended with spirit-filled praise and worship. Presenters from around the country came to share, teach, and minister to the AWC team. Pastor Russell taught the pastors how to move their church from "good" to "great," as well as how to lead over the long haul. Ted Huskins, vice president of Coleman Stewardship Services, taught attendees how to fund the vision. Wintley Phipps, CEO of U.S. Dream Academy, Inc., set each heart and soul astir as he sang, then preached a message that uplifted, inspired, and challenged each person present to love one another as we share the love of Jesus. Emil Peeler, DMin, director of Church Growth and Discipleship for the Southeastern California Conference, spoke about making the church evangelism focused.



Elwin St. Rose, pastor of the Central church in Columbus; Kenneth Washington, PhD, AWC Personal Ministries director; and retired pastor Joseph Harris listen intently to a speaker.

## Elders, Deacons, Deaconesses Called to Pray

Elders, deacons, and deaconesses (below) recently gathered at the conference's campgrounds for their 10th annual retreat. This year's event was themed "The Audacity of Prayer." The retreat is held each year to offer inspiration, training, and continued growth for those who provide and oversee the vital care ministries of the church.

The retreat began with an agape feast and communion overseen by the Central church officers from



AWC president Fredrick Russell prays for elders, deacons, and deaconesses.

Columbus, Ohio. Later, several of the elders participated in a segment called "If I had 10 Minutes to Preach," and shared rousing messages from God.

This year's guest speakers and presenters included Sherman Cox, retired chaplain and Alumni Affairs director for Oakwood University; Tecora Rogers, PhD, retired nurse; Lloydston Burton, pastor of the Emmanuel/Maranatha district in Cincinnati, Ohio; and Harcourt King, pastor of the Shiloh church in Cincinnati.

One of the highlights of the event was a panel discussion led by William Cox, DMin, pastor of Ethan Temple in Dayton, Ohio and Kenneth Washington, PhD, personal ministries director of AWC. The session, titled "Who do You Think You Are?" focused on the role and function of the elders, deacons, and deaconesses.

Pastor Fredrick Russell, president of AWC, capped the event with a powerful, prayerful, anointed charge to the attendees. "Everyone left on a high spiritual tone with a greater desire to be more caring and to do more in revealing the love of Christ," said Carl Rogers, executive secretary of AWC and coordinator of the event.

## Glenville Church Celebrates 90 Years of Ministry

The Glenville church in Cleveland recently held a monthlong celebration of its 90 years in ministry. Over the course of the month, several ministers who once pastored the church returned to participate in weekly celebrations.

James Lewis, former president of the AWC, initiated the celebrations with a sermon that inspired the church to keep on moving towards higher ideals. On the second Sabbath, Charles Drake, a son of Glenville who currently serves as vice president for administration for the Mid-America Union Conference, challenged the church to experience a higher spiritual calling in his rousing sermon “Now ... Already!” Bob Mounter, pastor of the Hanson Place church in Brooklyn, N.Y., reminded the congregation

members of the Southeast, Bethel, Temple of Praise, and Maranatha congregations. His sermon, “The Tender Heart of God,” encouraged a tear-filled audience to grasp and experience God’s love and mercy toward His children in spite of affliction.

Throughout the month the celebrations included various musical presentations by longstanding choirs of the church, as well as special performances by guest artists Roland Gresham, a renowned guitarist from Huntsville, Ala., and soprano soloist Gloria Singleton.

As part of this historic occasion, the church established a “Hall of Fame” featuring photos of the church’s former pastors. A book, titled *Where it All Began*, chronicling the thriving ministry of the church, has also been published. The book celebrates the history of Glenville from 1918 to the present. It features the work of early ministers such as J.E. Cox, H.L. Laurence, and others.

Current pastor of the church Robert R. Moore Jr. noted that this anniversary was the “most historic occasion in the establishment of Glenville.”

In recent years, Moore and assistant pastor Nathaniel Lyles have led in the installation of an elevator to accommodate the more senior and physically-challenged members; addition of large-screened monitors throughout the sanctuary and in the fellowship hall to facilitate auditory and visual communication of Sabbath activities; and remodeling of Glenville’s interior and exterior.—*Violet Cox and Raymond Poole*



Former members of Glenville came from as far away as Washington, D.C., Alabama, Illinois, and Tennessee to celebrate the church’s 90th anniversary.

of the spiritual gifts of the church in his sermon titled “I Love My Church.” On the fourth Sabbath, Pastor C.D. Brooks, founder of the Breath of Life Ministries, returned to Glenville to join in the celebrations. Brooks recounted his ministry at Glenville in the 1960s. In his sermon, “The Earth Groans,” he challenged each in attendance to recognize the “final days of Earth’s history as Christ’s return draws near.”

The celebrations culminated with the visit of Jack Morris who pastored Glenville from 1990 to 1998. He was received by an enthusiastic crowd that included



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# THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

DECEMBER 2008

## Prayer and the End Time

I think it is significant that immediately following Jesus’ account of His Second Coming in Luke 17 (the parallel to Matthew 24), He talks about watchfulness and prayer. And to make His point, Jesus uses a parable (in chapter 18) about a widow’s persistence with an unrighteous judge.

Through a series of contrasts—principles, persons, and practices—Jesus underlines the reality that when we take seriously this privilege of prayer, God rushes to our aid without delay. This, however does not mean that we always get the answer we want. His response may simply be the reassurance of His presence. Prayer is to bring us to an understanding of the Father’s heart. It is to bring us to the place where an answer is not necessary, because prayer is the language of a loving, trusting relationship. True prayer is believing, trusting, rejoicing, accepting, and appropriating His goodness.

That is why, when Jesus finishes this parable on prayer with a question, it is not “When He comes will He find people praying?” but rather, “When the Son of Man comes will He find faith on the Earth?” Prayer is faith expressed! And Jesus asks if He will find people exercising this blessed privilege when He returns. Will He find them expressing themselves, pouring out everything without halt or hindrance to the Father? Will He find people uttering their resentments as well as the joys, the complaints, and the feelings of the heart in its deepest moods? Prayer like this is the true expression of faith.

Why is it that we are prone to spend more time talking *about* God, than talking *with* Him? As Martin Luther so aptly said, “You who manifest a concern about religion, why don’t you pray?” That begs yet another question: When Jesus returns what will He find us doing?



**Rob Vandeman**  
President

## NEWS

### Conference Elects New Treasurer

The Chesapeake Conference Executive Committee recently elected associate treasurer Eduardo Muñoz (pictured with his wife, Elsy) to serve as conference treasurer.

“The confidence in Eduardo expressed by the executive committee is gratifying,” says president Rob Vandeman. “He has a servant’s heart and will carry on the tradition of capable, qualified financial leadership in this conference.”

Muñoz came to Chesapeake from the Texas Conference in 2000, where he held a similar position. He has also served as an auditor and an academy business manager. He holds an MBA from Southwestern Adventist University in Texas.

Recently he traveled to Cuba at the request of the Cuban Union Conference to assist them in updating their accounting system. Muñoz is passionate about helping in this part of the world, where the needs are unique and modern equipment and resources are scarce.

Muñoz replaces A. Ramon Chow who now serves as executive secretary and treasurer of Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries.



### Pathfinders Attend Conference Camporee

More than 300 Pathfinders—representing 18 clubs—recently assembled at Cape Henlopen State Park in Lewes, Del., for a conference-wide camporee. While at the seaside park, a former World War II military base, the group also enjoyed camaraderie and spiritual growth.



Beau Schonberg and Roxy Sanderson of Waldorf, Md., lead a parade of clubs.

PHOTO BY CHARLIE KOERTING



## Members Motivated at Mission Conferences

Chesapeake members recently enjoyed two of a series of mission conferences to be held throughout Chesapeake in 2008 and 2009. Themed “Thy Kingdom Come,” the gatherings include dynamic speakers, music, and Bible study. One event, held recently at Hagerstown Community College, Hagerstown church, and Highland View Academy (HVA)—all in Hagerstown, Md.—attracted more than 600 members. Ron Halvorsen Sr., retired evangelist, and Gary Krause, director of the Office of Adventist Mission for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, were the featured speakers.

An evening concert by award-winning gospel group Ponder, Harp, and Jennings ended the day on a high note.

Another convocation, held at Eastern Shore Junior Academy in Sudlersville, Md., featured Anthony Kent, associate ministerial secretary at the church’s world headquarters, who spoke on the power of truth and grace to a crowd of 300. Retired pastor and New Testament scholar George

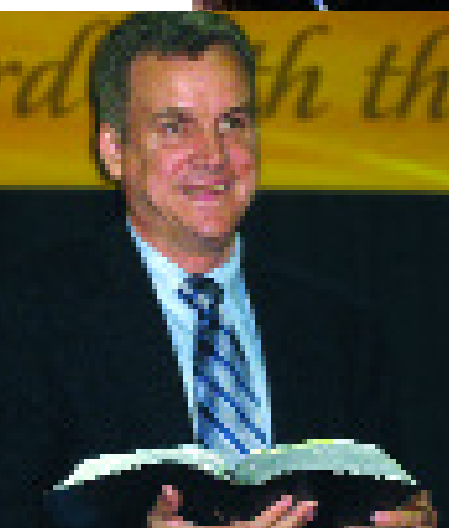
Rice led the group in a study of the Sabbath School lesson. Tenor Javier Gonzalez and pianist Ingrid Forss provided uplifting music throughout the day.

Musical performances by HVA students, practical seminars led by experienced presenters, well-planned programs for young people, and a giant fellowship luncheon enhanced each of the events.

Drew Lacey West, and her pal, Sugar, enjoy a leisurely ride across the Highland View Academy campus. Photo by Samantha Young



The Highland View Academy Chorale (above) and string group, led by conductor Olga Bilan, set the tone for the worship service. Photo by Lowell Litten



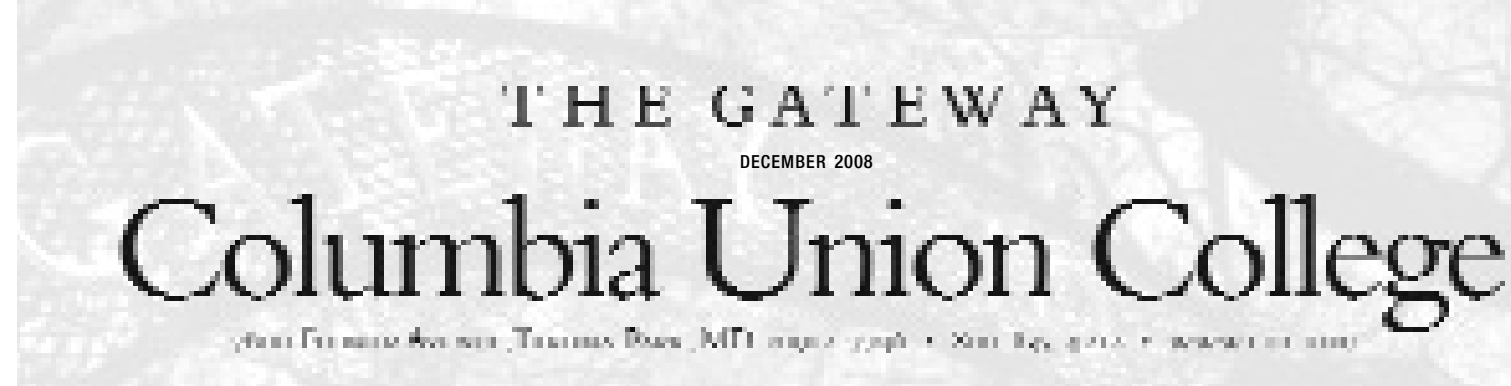
Gary Krause, author of God’s Great Missionaries, a companion guide to the Adult Bible Study Guide, offers his insights during the lesson study at the conference held in the western region. Photo by Samantha Young



## Single Adults Gather for Nature and Nurture

The Chesapeake Adventist Single Adult Ministries (ASAM) annual retreat recently drew more than 50 adults from Maryland and other Mid-Atlantic states for recreation and renewal at Mount Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md. Seminars focused on spiritual growth, personal finances, and improving relationships. Annabelle Randall, Fred Thomas, Jodi Onoffrey, and Sandy Wolcott organized the event. Wolcott, a Potomac Conference member, has established a branch of ASAM in Richmond, Va.

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## Head Chef Showcased at “Taste of EBONY”

Columbia Union College’s (CUC) head chef, Gregory Davis, recently attended the third annual Taste of EBONY, a premiere culinary extravaganza hosted and sponsored by EBONY magazine, in Atlanta. Davis joined 20 food industry experts from across the United States who offered an array of culinary creations for panel review.

After witnessing Davis prepare delicious vegetarian dishes at the Taste of EBONY held in Chicago last year, members of several leading culinary associations and chefs from across the country nominated him to attend this event. Celebrity chefs from TV One, The Food Network, Discovery Home, and Bravo’s Top Chef also participated and offered a wide variety of dishes.

The event showcased African-American culinary talent from all over the country. Davis, who has 15 years of culinary experience, said he felt privileged to be invited back for another showcase.

“It was a great honor,” said Davis, who has worked at CUC since 2005 and was the only chef in attendance from a higher education food structure program. “There is a plethora of African-American talent out there, and this invitation validates what we do here at CUC,” he said.

Davis prepared a portobello mushroom stack with squash and other vegetable samplings. CUC’s food service offers complete, well-balanced, vegetarian meals that are managed by Aladdin Food Services.



## Records Office Director Retires After 42 Years

Anthony G. Futcher, PhD, long-time director of CUC’s Records Office, officially retired in October. Futcher worked at the college for 42 years. As director, he coordinated the registration process and approved transcripts for incoming students. Inside his office, stacks of manila folders filled with student files constantly surrounded him. Despite the look of clutter, colleagues said Futcher ran the Records Office with precision and great attention to detail.



“Academic records are a passion for Dr. Futcher. They are done well, they are done right, and they are done with the student’s best interest in mind,” said assistant registrar Deria Gadsden.

After graduating from CUC in 1962, Futcher attended Loma Linda University (Calif.) where he received his doctorate in biology. He then returned to CUC to teach biology courses.

As a professor his bird watching trips taught students about creation, evolution, and how it applies to the Bible.

Earlier this year, CUC president Weymouth Spence honored Futcher with the Zella Holbert Award for his many years of dedication, vision, and long service to the work of education in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

“I’ve enjoyed working with the various teams that we have had in the Records Office, and that’s what makes working at this institution rewarding,” said Futcher. “There are always those students

that you would despair over, but watching them finally make it to graduation is a rewarding process.”

In retirement Futcher, who is a member of the Audubon Society, hopes to take a long-awaited expedition to Ecuador to study exotic species. In between play dates with his six grandchildren, he plans to rest and spend more time with his wife, Mary Kollmyer.



## Campus Visit Ignites Prospective Students' Thirst for Academics

At its annual *College Days* event, CUC recently welcomed 200 academy students from around the Columbia Union. For many the event helps them decide if they want to attend CUC. During the visit, staff members showcased the campus, its academic programs, and gave prospective students a taste of the college experience.

"This year CUC wanted to focus

on our academic programs and show the strength and value of what we have to offer," said Elaine Oliver, vice president of Enrollment Management. "I thought it was a huge success for what we wanted to accomplish—creating a [spiritual] environment with a strong focus on serious academics."

The event began with registration in the cafeteria, which turned into a welcoming reception held in the cafeteria just as dinner was being served. Over a special dinner, academy sponsors mingled and became acquainted with the college president, provost, and other administrative staff. During this time, CUC staff shared more information about the college, giving sponsors clear points and a deeper understanding of why CUC makes a wonderful choice.

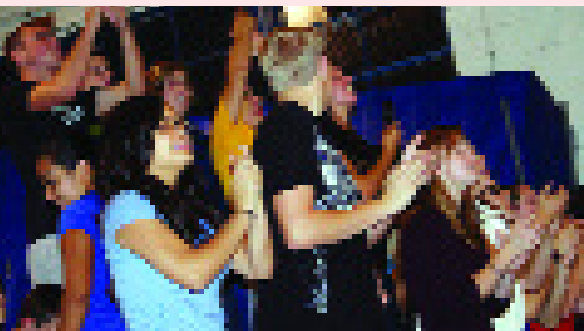
On the final day of the event, students assembled at Sligo, CUC's

campus church, and joined in a praise and worship session followed by a message from Pastor Gary L. Wimbish, vice president of ministry.

"Whether you attend CUC or somewhere else, it is up to you to make the choice that fulfills God's purpose for your life," he said.

Freshman Gaston Granger attended last year's College Days as a student from Tidewater Adventist Academy in Chesapeake, Va., and said talking to faculty and staff during that visit helped her decide to attend CUC. "I came to CUC for the Respiratory Care program and I liked the fact that it is a smaller college. People are nicer," she said.

"We want students who are committed to the excellence of learning, have a thirst for intellectual expansion, and display a passion for service," said Oliver.—*Michael Martell*



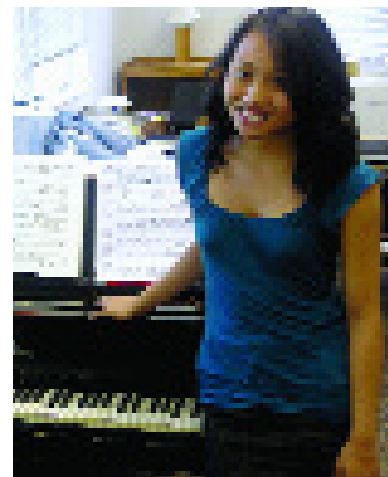
## Why I'm Glad I Chose CUC

My decision to attend Columbia Union College is something I will never regret. Through its Department of Music, I've done things that I never thought I'd ever get to do in my lifetime. What's amazing is that these opportunities aren't exclusive to music majors—they're available to anyone—including Communication majors like myself!

So I could tell you about singing Mozart's *Requiem* at Carnegie Hall, or show you pictures of Iguazu Falls or Rio de Janeiro from our music tour to Argentina and Brazil. I could tell you about how our orchestra performed for the princess of Thailand last December, or how our band climbed Aztec pyramids during their trip to Mexico.

I could even show you an itinerary for this past summer's tour to Greece, Hungary, Bulgaria,

Romania, and Turkey. But why settle for a few paragraphs of prose when you can attend Columbia Union College and discover it for yourself!—*Megan Pagado*



Megan Pagado ('09) plays piano and sings with the Columbia Collegiate Chorale at CUC.

## CALENDAR

### December

- 5 Christmas Concert  
Featuring the New England Youth Ensemble and Collegiate Chorale  
*Sligo Church*
- 7 Gateway to Christmas Banquet
- 8-10 Final Exams
- 11-Jan. 13 Christmas Break

### January

- 12-16 Missions Week
- 13 Classes Begin
- 18-19 SA Ski Excursion
- 26-30 Student Week in Spiritual Emphasis

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President, Weymouth Spence  
Executive Director of Marketing and Communication, Saschane Stephenson  
Editor, Tanisha Greenidge

## When Student Faith Inspires

When we think of a school setting, we typically think of the teachers and faculty inspiring the students. At Highland View Academy (HVA) that is a part of our mission statement, however, there are many times when our students inspire *us*. One of the things that the students at HVA do that inspires me is to have a morning prayer time. It is student organized and student led. Students simply gather outside shortly before classes begin for the day. They share praises and concerns and pray for each other and the school. They don't do it because they are asked—there are no external rewards—they pray simply because they want to. (And I might add that it is because they attend a Christian Adventist school where they are encouraged to pray).

As a faculty we gather each morning for worship as well. Often as we are finishing the students are just gathering. From the hallway you can see them gathered by our flagpole, sometimes shivering from the cold, with heads bowed in prayer. That sight is so very uplifting to me. It reminds me how powerful youth can be when they are in tune with God. It also reminds me that many major church movements were most often led by the young! In fact, 1 Timothy 4:12 says: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity" (NIV).

I don't think we can doubt that things happening around the world every day are cause for concern. Quite possibly the youth we see around us are the ones who will see us through. We all have young people in our lives. Maybe you have your own children, maybe you work in a school, or you have youth in your church or neighborhood. My challenge for you today is to take time to affirm one of them. Tell them you believe in them. Share with them some way that they have inspired you. Above all, remind them how much Jesus loves them and wants to use them to hasten His coming!



Sheri Tydings  
Principal

## NEWS

### Alumni Weekend Planning Already Underway

Alumni Weekend '09 will be held on May 2-3. The weekend will begin with the annual golf tournament on Friday, May 2. The format for Sabbath services will be a bit different this year. Sabbath School, visitation, and refreshments will be in the administration building beginning at 9 a.m. and the worship service will be held in the gymnasium at 11 a.m. This new format is being used to provide a better opportunity for alumni to see the building in which they spent so much time. The



Where are they now? These former HVA students, and many others, are invited to return to campus for alumni weekend, May 2-3, 2009.

weekend will still include the traditional basketball game on Saturday night and the soccer game on Sunday.

For more information about the weekend, contact vice principal Stephen Herr at (301) 739-8480 or at [sherr@highlandviewacademy.com](mailto:sherr@highlandviewacademy.com). You may also log into the HVA alumni group page on Facebook.com, where many alumni have signed up.

### Students Enjoy Two Week-of-Prayer Speakers

This year HVA students enjoyed a double feature for Week of Prayer with two speakers. The first speaker, Lee Forbes, is an alumnus of HVA and the creator of a radio show called *Bible Answers With Lee & Friends*. He shared with attendees important strategies to finding deeper and more personal meaning from the Bible. "He taught us some new ways to memorize verses of the Bible that could be very helpful," said Jennifer Calhoun ('10).

The Week of Prayer concluded with a weekend series by Steve Arrington, a former chief diver of The Cousteau Society who left that profession to minister to youth. He shared insights into how God can use each person in powerful ways and the difference each can make in the world around them.

## Open House Highlights Recent Renovations

Campus renovations were highlighted at Highland View Academy's recent open house. The HVA String Ensemble played as students, faculty, and guests gathered in front of DeHaan Hall for a short ceremony to celebrate the newly improved dormitories and administrative building.



Principal Sheri Tydings, flanked by Charles Griffin and Andrew Choi, helps to cut the ribbon outside of DeHaan Hall.

Some of the improvements included new energy-efficient windows and heating and cooling systems; upgraded bathrooms; and fresh paint.

"If you had asked me just one year ago if we had any large renovation plans in the works, I would have said no. This project—from inception to raising the money and completing the work—was all simply a gift from God," said principal Sheri Tydings. She also thanked all who helped the renovations become reality.

Andrew Choi, business manager, told attendees that \$800,000 in renovations have been completed and within budget. Chesapeake

Conference president Rob Vandeman and executive secretary Charles Griffin were also recognized for partnering with HVA and donors to raise funds. To close the ceremony, Vandeman offered a prayer of thanksgiving and re-dedication of the dormitories, where much of the renovations were done.

Vocalists Lori Williams and Gil Anderson gave two mini-concerts. There was also a huge sale and a barbecue at the HVA Adventist Book Center (ABC).

The ABC, in cooperation with Worthington Foods, served a complimentary meal of vegetarian burgers and veggie dogs with ice cream for dessert.

In addition to providing a convenient place to purchase vegetarian food, books, and music, the store uses profits from sales to provide scholarships for HVA students. To date approximately \$55,000 in scholarships have been raised.



Attendees bow their heads to pray during a re-dedication of the dorms.



The moon bounce was a big hit with younger visitors.

### CALENDAR

#### December

12 Music Department Christmas Concert  
Highland View Church  
7:30 p.m.

17-19 Semester Exams  
19-Jan. 4 Christmas Vacation

#### January

17 Warren Miller Film,  
HVA Gym, 7 p.m.  
25 Art Appreciation Day  
28-Feb. 1 Home Leave

#### February

7 Academic Bowl

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# MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

DECEMBER 2008

## Uncertain Times With a Certain Future

As I pen this article the stock market has been tanking, the Federal Reserve is running their printing presses at full speed, huge bailouts are being passed and debated, and everyone wonders, "what is going to happen next?" While everyone scratches their head, I am repeatedly reminded of events foretold in prophecy and of the only investment that has a guaranteed return. I think of Psalm 125:1-2, which states, "They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever. As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about His people from hence-forth even for ever." I am also reminded of Matthew 6:20-21, which states, "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Unlike many people, we have the advantage of having read the last page of the Bible and know how the story ends. We may not know or understand everything going on from one day to the next, but we know how the story of this old world ends, and we know that we need to be about our Father's business. The time, talents, and resources we use to preach the gospel and witness to a dying world are the only investments with guaranteed returns. In times like these, we need to refocus and redouble our efforts to reach a distracted and confused world with the good news of salvation, while vigorously defending the loving character of God. We are all blessed to have the opportunity to witness to those around us as many people in the Mountain View Conference have done through ShareHIM meetings.

I challenge you to stand up, gather your courage, and take bold steps to witness for Christ, shining a bright light into the darkness. Now is the time to re-examine our own lives, review our finances, look at our priorities, and see what sacrifices we can make to hasten the coming of Christ.



Victor Zill

Secretary-Treasurer

## Women's Ministries Director Retires at Retreat



Feryl Harris, Women's Ministries director for the conference, recently announced her retirement at the conference's 17th annual women's retreat. Harris served in that position for 11 years. Taking her place will be Valerie Morikone.

The event brought together more than 100 women from across the conference for a weekend of presentations from guest speaker Ginny Allen and a special outreach project focused on Appalachian wellness. Donations were also collected to help purchase a projector and laptop for Jim LeVos, MD, for use in his medical missionary work. The women were also treated to a musical program, a seminar on scrapbooking, and a panel discussion on dealing with loss. They gathered on Saturday evening around a bonfire to sing and share ideas on how to achieve meaningful devotional time with Jesus.



## New Ministerial Secretary Welcomed

**B**radley Galambos (right with wife, Janice) is the new ministerial secretary for the Mountain View Conference. He is also the pastor of the Valley View, Beckley, and Hinton churches in W.Va. Pastor Galambos comes, most recently, from the New Jersey Conference, where he served in the same capacity. The couple has one adult daughter, Connie.

Pastor Galambos and Janice have been in the ministry for more than 37 years, serving in pastoral, evangelistic, and departmental work. They have always worked together as a pastoral and evangelistic team. In addition to New Jersey, they have served in Maryland, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Michigan, Alaska, Indiana, and Texas. He has also conducted evangelistic meetings in Oregon, Washington, and North Dakota.

While Pastor Galambos is looking forward to working with the pastors of the conference in ministerial work, he is also excited to pastor his three churches. "I enjoy preaching the good news of the gospel," Galambos says. "It is what motivates me the most!"



## Toll Gate Pathfinders Earn Bicycling Honor

**W**ith a 10-hour time limit, members of the Toll Gate (W.Va.) Trail Blazers and the Adventurer Club, along with supportive church members and guests, recently set off on a crisp and beautiful fall morning bicycle ride. Their goal was to ride 50 miles to meet the Pathfinder bicycling honor requirements. Pedal-off

time was at 8:25 a.m., with the final cyclist finishing at 6:10 p.m.

Eight Pathfinders and two Adventurers participated in this cycling marathon with both Adventurers completing their honor goal of five miles and two Pathfinders completing the 50-mile bike ride. The remaining Trail Blazers cycled between 15 and 35 miles each. The support crew included Beth Ackman, Adventurer director, who drove a van with a trailer to pick up tired cyclers along with their bikes, and Kristine Knutsen, who drove her vehicle with water and lunches for the participants. At five-mile increments the support crew was there to meet each biker.

The entire bike trip was ridden exclusively on the North Bend Rails Trails, which included several tunnels and dirt and gravel roads. The group began their trip in Pennsboro, W.Va., rode to Eaton and then to Toll Gate. Several young people, who had dropped out, rejoined the five finalists and rode the last five miles with them to the Toll Gate church, arriving for a haystack

supper prepared by Mike and Margaret Ellis and Faith Calhoun.

"I had no problem riding the 50 miles until I only had 10 more miles to go," said Pathfinder bicycling finalist Katie Foster. "Then I had to keep telling myself, 'Come on Katie you can do it.'"

The Toll Gate Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs were organized in the summer of 2007.

## Mountain View EVENTS

### December

- 13 Youth Rally, Clarksburg
- 15 Executive Committee, 10 a.m.

### January

- 16-18 Pathfinder Winter Camp
- 23-25 Youth Winter Festival
- 26 Executive Committee, 10 a.m.

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Art Calhoun, MD; 15-year-old Nathan Webb; 14-year-old Katie Foster; Donald Waldron, Pathfinder director; and Mike Rodriguez from the Buckhannon church, recently completed a 50-mile bike ride.



## When Character Surpasses Scholastic Achievements

**R**ecently a former co-worker called to inform me that a former student had been killed in a tragic car accident. Micah Springer was 23 years old with a promising career. He was studying for an MBA as well as a PhD in Bio-Nano Technology at Stanford University in California. The accolades and awards he had received were impressive, and his destiny for greatness was evident.

Despite his many scholastic accomplishments, throughout the memorial service he was remembered most for his commitment to serve and his love for God. There was a love for Christ instilled in this young man at a very young age by his parents and reinforced by his church and his school community. He would teach Sabbath School to the youth when he came home on breaks, had served as a church elder since he was 18 years old, and had assisted in preaching at evangelistic meetings.

Reflecting on this young man's life reminded me of the proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child." The importance of loving and nurturing young people is often not immediately seen. Although Micah Springer's life was short, he was very productive in his accomplishments for the kingdom of God.

Our church has a clear mission that is still alive and now more important than ever. As we work to share the message of our Savior's eminent return, let us remember that in these times it indeed takes a village to raise God's children. Whether you partner with Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) or another local Adventist school, make a commitment to help a young person develop Christ's character, so they too may impact their community for Him.



**David Daniels**  
Principal

## Soper Named Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year

**T**im Soper, MVA's chaplain, and Bible and Art teacher, was recently recognized as Knox County's 2008 Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year. Each year,

Wal-Mart stores select a Teacher of the Year using nominations from parents, students, and community members.

Soper, who has taught for eight years, six at MVA, says he felt honored, "This was certainly unexpected, and it was special because it was a student-nominated award."

Vimbai Mazani ('10) says, "I appreciate the way Mr. Soper answers my different questions during class, so I can understand the material better."

Senior Allen Nikdoost adds, "Mr. Soper is a wonderful example of what it means to live a life of simplicity, the same lifestyle that every Christian is called to live."

Soper says, "The anticipation of seeing students have an 'ah-ha' moment is very inspiring to me, especially as it pertains to having the light suddenly go on about spiritual things."

"I never felt the call to become a preacher, but I felt very strongly that I needed to be involved in spreading the gospel and ... putting the gospel into a package that teens could understand."

Local winners are eligible to receive a similar award at the state level and possibly even the national level. In addition to the award, Soper received a \$100 gift card, and the school was given a \$1,000 check.



In a special assembly, Tim Soper (third from left) received the Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year award. Also pictured are principal David Daniels, Wal-Mart representative Delores Peterson, and Ohio Conference Education superintendent Jay Colburn.



## Grant Rewards Students for Service

Mount Vernon Academy recently received a special grant that rewards students for service. The Academy Student Service Initiative Stipend/Tuition (ASSIST) grant program, allows students to actively serve others and receive help with their school tuition. ASSIST seeks to help students experience the joy of serving others by pairing academy students with elderly individuals needing special assistance in their homes or at assisted living/nursing home facilities.

There are many blessings for everyone involved. As students spend time helping and socializing with the elderly program participants, friendships are established, and students have the opportunity to be a Christian witness through words and actions.

Sophomore Belinda Cheeseboro appreciates the experience. "I've been able to get to know patients, learn about some of the hardships they are experi-

encing, and brighten their day," she said.

Similarly, junior Chasmine Fulford recalls being questioned about her faith and school. "I got a chance to express God's love, and it made me happy to know someone was interested in learning more about God from a teenager," she said.

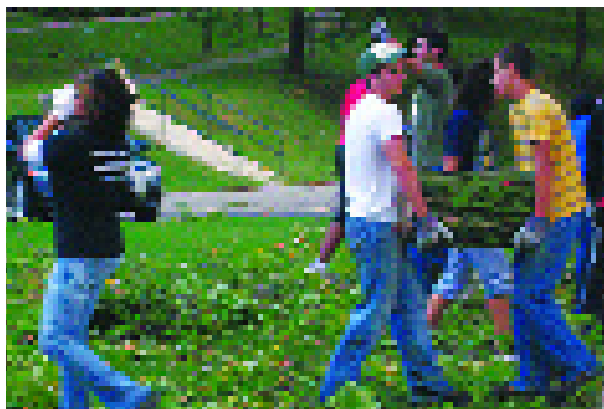
MVA staff members are also excited about the program and the opportunity it provides to help students serve others and reflect the character of Christ. "ASSIST has provided our work program with an opportunity to engage our students in a work environment that allows them to serve and interact with others. Students are able to develop a strong work ethic while serving the elderly," said principal David Daniels.

The grant gives participating schools 80 percent of needed funds, and the school raises the remaining 20 percent.

## Service Day: Students Clean up After Ike



MVA students help residents of Mount Vernon, Ohio, clean up after strong winds from Hurricane Ike left trees littering yards and streets.



Seniors Karina Silva, Alex Ruth, and Will Lyons haul debris.



Senior Jackie Ruiz pauses while raking leaves.

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

### December

- 6 Choir/Bells to Kettering
- 16-18 Semester Exams
- 20-4 Christmas Vacation

### January

- 12-17 Student Week of Prayer

### February

- 4-8 Home Leave

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Phone: (740) 397-5411 ■ [mvacademy.org](http://mvacademy.org) ■ Principal, David Daniels  
Editor, Amy Soper

## How to Conduct a Year-End Spiritual Review

The year 2008 is coming to a close, and this is the time when many of us like to reflect on our accomplishments. It is also the perfect time for us to evaluate how we have used the time and spiritual gifts that God has given us. How close have we been walking with our God during these last 365 days? If everything has gone well, it's time to rejoice and praise the Lord, but if we've been distant then it is time to return, and it is time to confess our sins to our Creator. God has told us, "If you remove your detestable things from My presence, and do not waver, and if you swear, 'As the Lord lives,' in truth, in justice, and in righteousness, then nations shall bless themselves in Him, and in Him shall they glory" (Jer. 4:1-2, ESV).

Let us keep this passage in mind as we begin our individual year-end spiritual analysis:

**Meditate:** How is my prayer life? Have I spent enough time with my Lord this past year to maintain a healthy spiritual life with my Savior?

**Think:** Have I finished reading the Bible during this past year? Or at least, have I been consistent with my daily devotional time? Have I provided the food that my soul needs to be a solid Christian?

**Review:** How many people have I brought to the foot of the cross during this past year? Will there be someone who will live eternally, thanks to my efforts of sharing the gospel?

**Fix your accounts:** Have I been a faithful steward of my time, my talents, and my money? Have I been faithful in my tithes and offerings of love for God and for the church during 2008?

**Crucial:** How have I cared for my family? Have I dedicated the time and love that is required to have a good, stable home?

I invite you now to go on your knees and be thankful for your victories and blessings; also, if there is something that worries you, ask the Almighty, Loving God to guide you to fix your life with Him. I am doing the same right now.



José H. Cortés  
President

## Laurelwood Member Shares Testimony at Festival of Laity

It was the changes that his father made in his own life after joining the Adventist church that first brought Jason Holzer to Laurelwood church. Holzer recently shared his story with 80 others at the Festival of the Laity for South/Central English-speaking churches. The festival, sponsored by the conference's Evangelism

Department, brings together members to share successful evangelism stories.

"At first I refused to go to church, but when I finally did, I absolutely loved it," said Holzer. The 19-year-old's story captivated everyone at the Robbinsville church as he shared how he came to know Christ. He told how he continued visiting the Laurelwood church in Deptford, joined their praise team as the bass player, and eventually decided to give his life to Christ through baptism. "I have to say that Jesus has truly become my very best friend forever," Holzer said.

The Festival of the Laity was a follow-up to the Fishing 101 meeting, where conference president, José H. Cortés, PsyD, challenged the members to become "fishers of men."

After his father, Ron Holzer, became a member of the Laurelwood church, Jason started attending too. He eventually joined the church's praise team and became a baptized member.



## Princeton Prepares Community for a Meaningful Christmas

For the third year in a row, Pastor J. Wayne Hancock, EdD, is inviting members of the community to join Adventists in making this the Christmas they've always longed for. Each Saturday, from November 29 through Christmas, the Princeton English church will have a special program called, "The Christmas You've Always Longed For." The program includes worship and a personal devotional journal filled

with daily scriptures, prayers, inspirational readings, practical suggestions, and how-to ideas for putting good intentions into practice during the Advent season.

"Last year was a delightful time, helping people evaluate, make choices, and carry through on a plan to make this Christmas the best ever—a Christmas that satisfies the true longings for the season. Those longings will never be

met through excessive materialism or busyness, but through a realization that Christmas is a gift of life from God himself, and He is worthy of our thanks and praise," says Hancock, senior pastor for the Toms River church. The program will conclude with a traditional Christmas service on Saturday, December 27 at 10:50 a.m. The program was previously held at the Toms River church.—*Nicasio Alteros Sr.*

## First Person: Trenton Youth Group Unites for Ministry

This year the Trenton Korean youth group in Bordentown learned how to become a family. Before this we had no structure, no direction, and no cooperation. We were blind to God's direction and deaf to each other. But God works in ways unfathomable to the human mind, and through special

individuals like our new youth leaders, Ronald Hepburn and Ruben Sigarroa. Through them, God led us to each other's hearts and ultimately to Him.

Ron and Ruben were God's answers to our prayers and served as proof to the promise that God never forgets any in His herd. They radiated a genuine godliness and encouraged us to reach out to each other. Through encouraging words and actions, Ron and Ruben modeled what it meant to be a Christian youth group growing together. They also set up an array of activities designed to help strengthen our bonds and learn the meaning of teamwork.

We shared many moments of frustration, laughter, and hopelessness, and what seemed impossible to do, we accomplished together. Some of the activities that brought us together were camping, white-water rafting, and

paintballing. A pivotal point was during our camping trip when we sat together around the campfire to pour our hearts out to one another. For the first time, we as a youth group bled out all the emotions we bottled up inside. With our barriers down, we finally had room to reach out to one another and call each other a family. God gave us that blessed experience together to show us how to become a unique group devoted to the purpose of His kingdom.

My experiences with the Trenton Youth Group have taught me that the way God loves us is the way that God wants us to love our Christian brothers and sisters. Today we are a close group of friends and we are a family. We still have our challenges, but the difference between the past and present is clear; we have a desire to follow God's plan for us, and we see it working wonders in our lives.—*Roy Hwang*



With the help of youth leaders, Ronald Hepburn and Ruben Sigarroa, the Trenton Korean church's youth group has grown closer in their ministry.

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## Manchester Mayor Declares Annual Community Center Day

The mayor of Manchester, Cornelia Dettmer, recently established an annual appreciation day for the local, Adventist-run Community Care Center. The first celebration was held recently and included live broadcasts by the local radio station, food by the Life Ambulance crew, and live concerts from several music groups. Booths were set up by various agencies offering information and activities such as face-painting, bake sales, and a petting zoo.

"Six years ago when the center started, we weren't sure where this was going to go, but now we know that we can't get by without you," Mayor Dettmer told founder Pastor Ken Ferguson.

The Community Care Center of Manchester was born in 2002 out of a dream Ferguson had to do something to make the community a better place. Manchester is a village of 2,500 located in southern Ohio, an area economically depressed with few available jobs. The local Adventist church has about 25 members, most of whom are over 55. Pastor Ferguson walked the streets of Manchester looking for ideas and praying about what God would have them do. After running into skepticism from every side—store owners who weren't encouraging and church members who said they were too old and too few, with no money or facilities—he contacted the mayor of the village. She and the city council encouraged the church to develop a food pantry. The village offered the use of the old municipal jail, and after much cleaning and fixing, the



Volunteers at the Adventist-run Community Care Center in Manchester smile for the camera.

church members began serving clients two days a week for four hours.

From the beginning, the need was apparent as they served about 40 families per month. The center has now grown into the largest food bank in Adams County, serving an average of 320 families per month. The church members who were the most skeptical have become the center's strongest supporters and its most committed volunteers. Many other service agencies such as the Lions Club and Veterans Club have become involved in the center donating food, clothing, and household items by the truckload.

In addition to meeting physical needs, the center is a place where people feel valued and cared for. It is a place where ministry happens every day, and where people ask for prayer and are held up in prayer. One client was so impressed with the center that she asked to become a volunteer, and that involvement led to her baptism into the Adventist Church.

As with any enterprise of this nature, there have been many challenges and tests of faith along the way. The center needs a new location because of structural problems in the jail. As of press time, several options are being discussed, and the group is trusting God to provide the right place. Once this hurdle has been crossed, plans for the future include partnering with the Red Cross for disaster relief and expanding services to offer classes in literacy and health.



A reporter from the local radio station, C103, interviews Pastor Ken Ferguson (left) during Community Care Center Day.



## Marion Church Hosts Picnic for Neighbors

The Marion church recently hosted a picnic and family day in partnership with the Bellefontaine Area Neighborhood Association. The church and the association wanted to bring neighbors together and let them know that they were there to serve the residents. Residents enjoyed free pony rides, inflatables, face painting, live music, and food. The fire department, police K-9 unit, and the mayor of Marion were on hand to provide support and education.

This all started a year ago when the president of the association contacted Marion pastor Marcellus de Oliveira. He lived across the street from the church and requested to use the church building for the association's monthly meetings. This request was a direct answer to prayer, as Pastor de Oliveira had been praying

about what God would have them do in their community. Through the neighborhood association God has given the church a springboard to working in their immediate neighborhood to help improve safety, enforce zoning codes, reduce nuisance issues, and promote unity through neighborhood

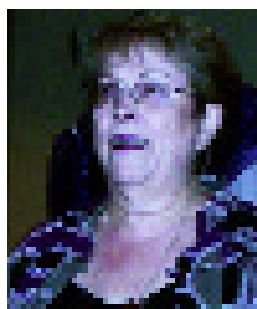


Jennie Shaffer, a community volunteer, paints a little girl's face at the church picnic and family day.

## 200 Attend Retreat

More than 200 women recently gathered for the conference's annual women's retreat at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. The ladies shared much laughter and experienced deep spiritual connections with the Lord and each other.

Speakers included Kay Rizzo (below), who reminded attendees that each was beautiful in God's eyes and is deeply loved by Him; Cindy Ferguson, MEd, who spoke about multiple intelligences; and nurse practitioner and naturopath Carolen Koleszar, who presented a wholistic approach to health and wellness.



Saturday evening was time to enjoy a "fun festival" where, with much laughter, participants had a chance to win prizes by testing their skills at several tossing games.

Attendees were also able to shop the Adventist Book Center's display and interact with Rizzo while she autographed books.



A well-attended picnic and family day at the Marion church was the result of prayer and working with the neighborhood association.


activities. The church also provides a monthly health seminar in partnership with the Marion General Hospital, featuring speakers from the medical field.


"Prior to the church's involvement in the neighborhood association, some people from the neighborhood had been under the impression that the church was about to close. Now they have a much closer connection with the church, and they know the church is there for them and will be in the future," Pastor de Oliveira said.

January 24-25, 2009  
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# Pennsylvania Pen

DECEMBER 2008

## Conference Celebrates Pocono Grace, First Bilingual Church

The first thing you should know about the Pocono Grace church in Stroudsburg is that it's not a Spanish-speaking-only church, nor is it an English speaking-only church. The church's members are proud to say they are a fully bilingual church that welcomes everyone.

Recently Pocono Grace members celebrated becoming a formal church with Ray Hartwell, conference president and Bill Peterson, assistant to the president for missions. The highlight of the day was the baptism of Elizabeth Espino who had left the church and has now returned.

"We are extending grace and everybody is included," said first elder Jorge Salazar. He explains that having bilingual children was one of the reasons members consciously decided to be a bilingual church. "We



Ray Hartwell, Pennsylvania conference president, baptizes Elizabeth Espino.



Pocono Grace elders pose with conference leaders.

Grace Lutheran Church in East Stroudsburg. On the books there are 40 members, but each Sabbath finds anywhere from 50 to 60 people worshipping at Pocono Grace. The church is completely bilingual with two pulpits and each week the main speaker alternates between English and Spanish.

Pocono Grace is also dedicated to helping their community. They are working on a five-year community service plan.—José Elvir and Rosie Baker

have the second and third generations who speak English but they still love our culture and our rice and beans. We also saw that there were Americans who loved our style of worship and wanted to improve their Spanish. So we've been bilingual for two years."

Members recall that the church first began as a Spanish Sabbath School class in the library of the Stroudsburg church. While there they started an afternoon church service with 20 members. With the help of Peterson and their coach, Othaniel Acosta, they soon became a mission group with the name Mision Adventista de los Poconos. As more members joined, they decided to rent a church for Sabbath morning worship. Also about this time, the group decided that their goal would be to become a fully bilingual, Spanish/English congregation. So they rented the



Attendees sign the charter that formally makes Pocono Grace an official church.



## Sayre Church Adopts Local Park

The Sayre church's Social Action Leadership Team (SALT) are an answer to prayer. In their search for a viable community service project they repeatedly called the local community leader, but to no avail. Sensing God's leading they persisted. When the team finally reached the community leader, he told them that he had just asked his secretary to pray for someone who would be willing to adopt a local park in need of some attention.

After adopting the Joseph DiSisti Memorial Park, the team advertised and invited neighbors to the park for a community day. One prominent woman from the community called church member Marie Wood and thanked her and the team for coming and doing this work for them. She told them about a family with a handicapped child who hadn't been able to find a place where her child could safely play. The Sayre team is now looking into adding handicap accessible playground equipment to the park. At the community day, friends, neighbors, and church members went to work cleaning up the park. One man commented, "This is the most fun I've had in a long time."



Sayre members pose for a photo after cleaning up their adopted park.

## Marriage Highlights "Nifty Fifties"

During the weekend of January 30 through February 1, couples will have a blast in the past at the conference's "Nifty Fifties" marriage retreat. The event will be held at the York Holiday Inn and Conference

Center with speakers Gaspar and May-Ellen Colón (right). The weekend will include two nights lodging, deluxe continental breakfast, boxed Sabbath lunch, a 1950s buffet station extravaganza with program on Saturday night, seminar, materials, and other surprises. Prizes will be given on Saturday night for the most romantic, most creative, and most authentic costumes. The registration deadline is December 23—or until spaces fill up. For more information and to register, call Jeanne Hartwell at (610) 374-8331, ext. 218 or email [jeanhartwell@gmail.com](mailto:jeanhartwell@gmail.com). —Jeanne Hartwell



## Youth Retreat Themed "Outcast"

Young people in high school and college are invited to the conference's February 13-15 youth spiritual retreat themed "Outcast." The event will be held at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg. Those attending will enjoy "The Jesus Painter,"

"Equipping Academy," a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, powerful praise, worship, and more. The early bird registration fee is \$25. To register call Daisy Lopez at (610) 374-8331, ext. 212 or download a form at [paconference.org](http://paconference.org). —Kris Eckenroth

## What's happening

### December

- 12 BMA Messiah Concert, Hamburg
- 13 BMA Keyboard Concert, La Sonnette & Band Concert, Hamburg

### January

- 9-11 Pathfinder Executive Council
- 23-25 Pathfinder Winter Retreat, Laurel Lake Camp
- 30-Feb. 1 Marriage Retreat York

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# Potomac People

DECEMBER 2008

## The Gift of the Lost Sheep Found

Have you ever lost something particularly valuable? At least one of us has lost a wallet, keys, a credit card, glasses, a watch, shoes, jacket, or a day planner. Do you remember the frustration that you had toward yourself, or one of "the kids," or someone else you were just certain might have "borrowed it," or "used it"? Do you remember the joy, the relief, the happiness you felt when you found it? The Bible says: "If a shepherd has one hundred sheep, and one wanders away and is lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others and go out into the hills to search for the lost one? And if he finds it, he will surely rejoice over it more than over the ninety-nine that didn't wander away! In the same way, it is not My Heavenly Father's will that even one of these little ones should perish" (Matt. 18:12-14, NLT).

Many of us get more upset over a lost key or wallet than a "lost sheep." What about our neighbor, our friend, or that family member who does not have a personal relationship with Jesus? During the first year of Christ's life, men from the East came bearing gifts to Jesus. During this holiday season the best gift we can give is that of ourselves to Jesus. Let us commit to Him that we will pray for at least one person. Ask Him to show us how we can be led by His Spirit to make a difference. What a great gift to give to Jesus this season! Remember there is no greater joy than finding a lost sheep. This is the true joy of the season.



Bill Miller  
President

## NEWS

### Spanish-Language Website Wins Award of Excellence

William Armendaris, Carolina Villamizar, Josant Barrientos, Eliasib Fajardo, and several other volunteers were recently recognized with an award of excellence



William Armendaris and 19 other volunteers were recently recognized for their work on the Spanish-language website [pcjovenes.com](http://pcjovenes.com).

for their digital ministry through the online Christian community—[pcjovenes.com](http://pcjovenes.com). Each year the Society of Adventist Communicators recognizes outstanding communication professionals and their projects. The award was presented at their annual convention, held this year in Denver. Armendaris, the webmaster for the site and a member of the Washington Spanish church in Silver Spring, Md., accepted the award.

"Winning this award is really emotional, because we have seen how many lives this website has touched," Armendaris said. "We have heard testimonies from people who tell us how they have started going to church and found Christ because of the site."

The website, created in 1999, is a Spanish-language mixing bowl of Christian resources, including Bible

studies and a social networking component. It attracts some 163,000 visitors from around the Spanish-speaking world each month.

### Pentecostal Church Accepts Adventist Message

Several weeks after one Martinsville (Va.) church member spoke to her brother—a Pentecostal pastor—about the Sabbath, he and his congregation are now worshipping on the Sabbath. Sonia Dominga arranged for her pastor, Fismed Omar of the Martinsville Adventist church; José Esposito of the Hispanic Evangelism Center in Temple Hills, Md.; and her brother, Pastor Tony Lopez to meet. They met with Pastor Tony for nearly two hours and he immediately accepted the Sabbath. On the following Sunday, Pastor Lopez announced to his congregation that it would be their last Sunday worship. He also told them that Pastor Esposito would be preaching Monday night. After Pastor Esposito spoke that Monday, every member (80 total) stood up clapping their hands. Esposito also led a week of evangelistic meetings at the Pentecostal church where he taught members about Ellen White, the Sanctuary, and other Adventist beliefs.

Lopez has already shared the truth about the Sabbath with a Baptist minister and another Pentecostal pastor in Martinsville. He and his four elders are taking a three-month theology discipleship class on Sundays with Pastor Esposito.

## Petersburg Church's New Library Open to Members, Community

The Petersburg (Va.) church recently celebrated the grand opening of a library that will serve the public as well as church members. The library boasts some 2,000 books with titles for all reading levels, ages, and faiths.

Attendees to the opening received a signed copy of Ken McFarland's book, *The Called, The Chosen—God Has Always Had a People*. Alice Scarbrough (widow of Hollis Scarbrough, who commissioned the book) and Dr. and Mrs. Richard Bendall provided the books. The afternoon ceremonies also included an inspirational address by Scarbrough, the official ribbon cutting, refreshments, and balloon animals for the children.

Principal library visionary and developer Joan Dice says, "Though it includes plenty of secular interest books to captivate the interest of the unchurched or be helpful to daily work activity, ultimately the library is designed to build one's faith and inspire each user to new heights in their own Christian experience while breaking down barriers and prejudice between the church and community."

The library currently seats about a dozen and is open for a couple of hours after Sabbath services and potluck, at midweek Bible study, prayer services, or board meetings.

"We hope in time to reach out to the community with inspirational programs that will assist the illiterate in our city," said Dice.

Books were largely donated by friends of the library.—Dale Dice



Children were not forgotten in the creation of the Petersburg church library. This Noah's Ark mural and kid-size table and chairs encourage them to read.



Joseph McDaniel makes balloons for children attending the library's opening.

## Sligo Church Performs Puppet Show for Sick Kids



Members of Sligo church's "Our Hands" puppet ministry team pose for a photo in the Children's Hospital atrium.

Children from Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., recently brought their puppet show to sick kids at Children's Hospital in Washington, D.C. The group, called "Our Hands," includes students in grades 6 to 8. For two years the group was directed by Makeeya Hazelton.

"We consider ourselves a street ministry," said Hazelton. "We perform at different community functions and church events. This year we made a concerted effort to seek out more community ministry opportunities."

One of those opportunities included volunteering to perform in the hospital's atrium.

"For us this was a way for us to minister and share Christ in a way that is not threatening, that would put a smile on people's faces, and teach our kids the value of helping other people," said Hazelton.

Hazelton and Sligo's children's pastor Mark Sigue developed ideas for the program. Themed "Making Friends," it included songs, a skit, and facepainting.

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Communication Director, Don Wood

## Students and Staff Clean Up After Ike Victims

Forty student leaders and several staff members from Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) recently traveled to Beaumont, Texas, to assist with the relief effort following the destruction that Hurricane Ike left behind. However, the bus broke down and needed a whole day of repairs. Fortunately the bus broke down right at the entrance to the Alabama Welcome Center where students reflected on what they were being called to do on this short-term mission trip, and gave them time to draw from His strength before entering the battlefield.

After arriving in Texas the group stayed in the gymnasium of a local Baptist church. The students raked



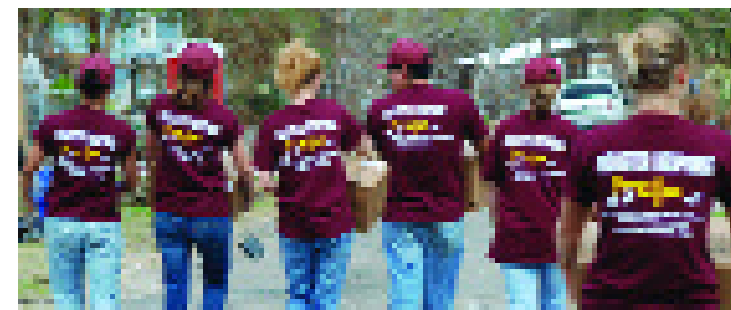
SVA students pray with a Texan mother and baby on Oak Island.



SVA student suit up for a task in Bridge City, Texas.

yards of fallen trees and debris, gutted homes ruined by flood water, and crawled under homes to tear out insulation that had begun to rot and mold. The desire of the students to help was clearly shown through the diligence and speed with which the jobs were completed. Students agreed that helping people and then praying with them was well worth the long drive, sleeping on floors, and the Texas heat.

"Helping the people in Texas was quite an experience, and really made me appreciate my home and the



SVA students march down the devastated streets of Oak Island, Texas, to distribute ready-to-eat meals to the residents.

fact that my family hasn't had to go through what the people there are going through. I got a lot of inspiration from the people we helped," said Katie Busch ('11).

Although there is still so much more to be done to help rebuild the lives of the people who were affected by the hurricane, the students were grateful for the opportunity that they had to witness their love for Jesus and to be of service to those in need.

## Music Department to Present Two Concerts

SVA's music department will present its annual Christmas Candlelight Concert on Friday, December 12, at 7 p.m. at the New Market (Va.) church. This sacred concert will feature the Concert Choir, Shenandoans, Handbell Ensemble, Orchestra, and Concert Band.

This year, instead of a repeat afternoon performance as in years past, the music department ensembles will present a secular Christmas concert on Sabbath, December 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the SVA Auditorium.

Please plan to attend both concerts for a wonderful blessing and holiday fun! We look forward to celebrating the holiday season with you and your family.

**Happenings** is published in the *Visitor* by Shenandoah Valley Academy ■ 234 West Lee Highway, New Market, VA 22844  
Phone: (540) 740-3161 ■ shenandoahvalleyacademy.org  
Principal, Spencer Hannah ■ Editor, Jan Osbourne

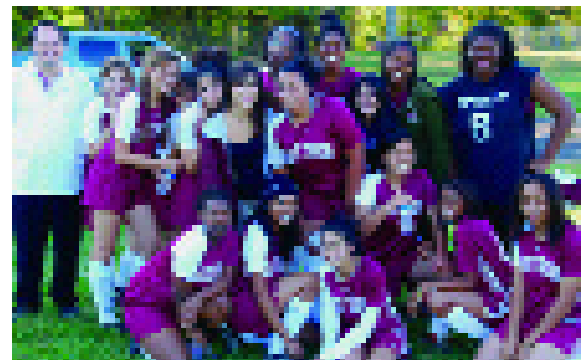
## God's Victory on the Soccer Field

Recently, before our girls' soccer team got ready to face off against the Bell High School (Washington, D.C.), we offered to have a group prayer as was our custom. The coach for the Bell school was pleasantly surprised, and was very willing to pray with us. After the prayer was over, the coach for the Bell school said that it was very nice of the team to offer prayer and he was genuinely touched by the gesture.

The girls played the whole first half and 25 minutes of the second half with a 0-to-0 tie, and one minor let down in the defense resulted in the only goal of the match. We had lost the game. But as so often is the case, what seemed like a loss on the field was a major victory for God. Soon after the game, the opposing coach approached me and said he was so happy we had the opening group prayer. He was very effusive in his compliments and continually spoke of how moved he was by the prayer. He then informed me that he was going to incorporate an opening prayer into all of their future games. He then went on to say how much respect he had for the way our girls played and that he was hoping to play us again next year. This was from a public high school coach! He, and his assistant coach, shook my hand, thanked me, and praised the team.

I can't begin to describe how proud I was of our team at that moment, and, as I was driving home, God reminded me that, what may seem like a loss from our viewpoint, was a major victory for Heaven and to God's glory. Only in Heaven will we truly know the impact of that simple gesture of an opening prayer and what seeds of faith may have been planted. All of Takoma Academy (TA) can be proud of the way the girls served the Lord that day. Even to this day, I am still praising God for the wonderful witness of this special group of girls. I am so blessed and privileged to be their coach. That day we lived out our scripture for the season, which says: "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31, NASB).

—Steven Rupert (pictured above with Girls' Soccer team)



## Students Receive "Outstanding" Recognition on National Test

Two TA juniors, D'Anna Hines and Leon Osbourne scored in the top 4 percentile of students who recently took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. They received "Outstanding Participation" recognition from the National Achievement Scholarship Program. "What an honor that out of 3,100 high-scoring program participants across the United States, Takoma Academy has two student who have been honored," said principal Dunbar Henri.



Top PSAT scorers, Leon Osbourne and D'Anna Hines, pose with TA guidance counselor Kristina Flo.

## TA Events

### December

- 1 Test Review Day, School Closed for Students
- 2 Classes Resume
- 6-7 John Graham Basketball Tournament
- 12 Fine Arts Christmas Program  
*Sligo Church*
- 19 Christmas Break Begins.  
Noon dismissal

### January

- 5 Classes Resume

**TA Today** is published in the *Visitor* by Takoma Academy • 8120 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912  
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**DECEMBER 13**  
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Myra L. Ponder & Patricia C. Jones  
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**December 20**  
Christmas Musical

**December 27**  
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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHRISTMAS HARP CONCERT**  
by Robin Roys and guest musicians on Friday, December 5, 7:30 p.m., at Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church, 16325 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20905. For more information, call (301) 384-2920; or email rroys@erols.com. Free-will offering.

**THE NEW ENGLAND YOUTH ENSEMBLE**  
will be in concert at the Highland View church on Sabbath afternoon, December 6, at 4 p.m. Please join us for an inspiring time of Christmas music performed by this musical group from Columbia Union College. Highland View church is located at 21600 Academy Terrace, Hagerstown, MD 21740. For more information, please call (301) 739-3144.

**LOS ANGELES ADVENTIST ACADEMY**  
85th Anniversary and Celebration, 1923-2008 Alumni Homecoming Weekend, "Rebuilding the Bridge." Attention: All former students, faculty, staff, pastors, and friends. Become a LAAA Alumni Charter member! Contact: Benita R. Knight at (626) 488-3918; email: laaahomecoming@aol.com.

**THE HOT SPRINGS (ARK.) CHURCH**  
will celebrate its 100th anniversary, December 5-7. Former pastors, members, teachers, and students are encouraged to attend and renew old friendships. Your presence will make the weekend a memorable one. Contact the church at (501) 767-3336 or leave a message at hotsprings100@gmail.com.

**CALLING ALL RICHMOND (JR.) ACADEMY ALUMNI:**  
If you attended Richmond (Jr.) Academy in Richmond, Va., please update your address, contact numbers, and family information. Contact the school at (804) 353-0036, ext. 11, or visit rasda.org to submit your information on the alumni page. The centennial celebration is planned for spring 2011.

**LA SIERRA ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND:**  
April 24 Golf Tournament, April 25 Alumni Sabbath. Honor Classes '49, '59, '69, '79, '89, '99, '04; but friends of LSA all are warmly welcome. Keynote speaker: Lewis Walton. Come celebrate friends and memories on the LSA Riverside Campus. Call Alumni Office (951) 351-1445 x 244 or alumni@lsak12.com to update contact information, find missing class members, and share news and class reunion gatherings. We also have a large selection of yearbooks available if you wish to purchase one from the year you attended.

**OBITUARIES**

**FINK, John "Johnny,"**  
born February 16, 1915, in Cleveland, Ohio; died May 19, 2008, at home, in Killbuck, Ohio. He was the son of the late John and Ella Fink. On November 23, 1946, he married Arliss Rice. He worked 46 years at Elwell-Parker Electric Company as a machinist, retiring in January 1981. He was a member of the Millersburg (Ohio) church, where he served as a deacon. Johnny was a veteran of World War II serving in the Army's 751st Tank Battalion. He was a collector of railroad memorabilia and books, and electrical antiques and cameras. Survivors: his wife, Arliss; a nephew, Leonard Fink, Jr. and his wife, Olga, of Parma, Ohio; and a niece, Marie Swan of Willoughby, Ohio. He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Rudolph and Leonard Fink; and a sister, Eleanor Miller.

**FRANKLIN, Joyce E.,**  
born April 13, 1953, in Lancaster, Pa.; died August 21, 2008, in Lancaster. She was a member of the Lancaster (Pa.) church. Although she never held an office, she witnessed mightily all her life. Survivors: her father, K. Elwood Franklin; her mother, Della M. Franklin; a brother, Ricky E. Franklin; her cousin, Geneva Cromwell Davis; her aunt, Margaret F. Franklin; her uncle, Carl Rupp; and many cousins.

**WAYNE, Mary,**  
born September 1, 1909, in Dorfein Kanawha County, W.Va.; died April 26, 2008. She was a member of the Parkersburg (W.Va.) church. Survivors: her son Clayton C. Wayne of Vienna, W.Va.; and her daughter Vallie Duke-Listol of Tennessee.

**WRINKLE, Mark Alan,**  
born January 22, 1956, in Millersville, Ohio; died May 24, 2008, in Glenmont, Ohio. He is the son of the late Paul Wrinkle and Ruth Prahist Wrinkle, who survives. He was a member of the Millersburg (Ohio) church. Mark graduated from West Holmes High School in 1974 and was in the U.S. Navy Sea Bees from 1975-1979. He remained in the reserves until 1994, with an honorable discharge. He graduated from Akron University in 1982, and married Ruth Ann Bayles August 31, 1992. He worked as a custodian at the Shreve Elementary School. His church membership was at the Millersburg (Ohio) church. Mark enjoyed working outdoors, PBR Rodeo, NASCAR, reading his Bible, and watching 3ABN. In addition to his mother, he is survived by his wife, Ruth Ann; his stepchildren: Kaylee C. Witzel and Kyle Witzel, both of Columbus, Ohio; and sisters: Paula Hawkins of Millersburg and Linda Stouffer of Loudonville, Ohio.

	Dec 12	Dec 19	Dec 26	Jan 2	Jan 9
Baltimore	4:44	4:46	4:50	4:55	5:02
Cincinnati	5:16	5:18	5:22	5:27	5:34
Cleveland	4:57	4:59	5:03	5:09	5:16
Columbus	5:07	5:09	5:13	5:19	5:25
Jersey City	4:29	4:31	4:35	4:41	4:47
Norfolk	4:49	4:51	4:55	5:00	5:07
Parkersburg	5:03	5:06	5:10	5:15	5:21
Philadelphia	4:36	4:38	4:32	4:47	4:54
Pittsburgh	4:54	5:56	5:00	5:05	5:12
Reading	4:38	4:40	4:44	4:49	4:56
Richmond	4:52	4:54	4:58	5:03	5:10
Roanoke	5:03	5:05	5:09	5:14	5:20
Toledo	5:04	5:06	5:10	5:16	5:23
Trenton	4:33	4:46	4:40	4:45	4:52
Wash., D.C.	4:46	4:49	4:53	4:58	5:04

SUNSET CALENDAR

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making this month

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## The Carousel Ride

What am I getting for Christmas?"

As a boy, this was my focus during the holiday season. My list of wants was large, usually larger than my parents could afford. When I became a parent, then grandparent, my focus changed to "What can I give for Christmas?" I have found greater joy in giving gifts than receiving them, so for me Christmas has become a time of giving.



One Christmas when it was time for my wife and I to shop for each other, we separated when we got to the mall carousel and agreed to meet there when we finished shopping. I returned to the carousel first and enjoyed watching the little children smile and laugh as they rode their colorful and mighty wooden steeds. At one point, three clamoring voices caught my attention: "Mommy, can we ride the carousel? Please? Please?"


Turning, I noticed a mother and three small children approaching. I watched as she put down her packages and opened her purse. Then a look of disappointment darkened her face. "Mommy used all of her cash when we bought lunch," she said. "I don't have enough money for you to ride." The look of disappointment was now evident on the children's faces.

I was not the only one watching this event unfold. There was a long line of people waiting to buy tickets for their children. One of the mothers in line turned, looked at the faces of the disappointed children, and said to their mother, "I would like to buy tickets for your children, and they can ride with my children. Please let me do this."

After a long pause, the mother consented. "That's so sweet of you," she smiled. "Thanks."

I then watched as the two families of kids rode the carousel together, while their moms visited as if they were lifelong friends. There were smiles all around.

When the children finished their ride, the two moms hugged, wished each other a "Merry Christmas," and parted ways. I felt very blessed to have watched those wonderful moments of selfless giving.



### ONE QUESTION

And then, as I watched them walk away, a question came to my mind. Why hadn't I thought to reach into my wallet and buy the carousel tickets? After all, it was Christmas, the time of giving.

*Edward Motschieder serves the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists as special assistant to the president.*



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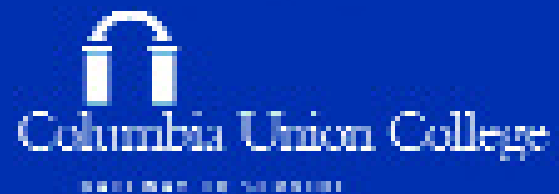
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