

CONNECTING | IMPACTING | CELEBRATING

VISITOR

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Inspire Invention



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News – Stay connected to your church family between issues of the *Visitor*. Stop by regularly to find news, videos, podcasts, photo blogs, links to all our organizations, and more.

columbiaunion.org

Have You Heard About Pathways?

Our school system has always been very committed to keeping the unique Seventh-day Adventist philosophy integrated into all aspects of the curriculum. We have published Bible, science, and reading books to assure that this takes place. But it has been more than 25 years since a new reading program has been introduced in our schools. Parents, and even some grandparents, of our current students would recognize the *Life Reading Series* that is being phased out. While it has been effective, research has given many new insights on how the brain learns.



The new North American Division language arts program, *Pathways: A Journey to Excellence Through Literacy*, is here to incorporate the new research and methods into our curriculum. We now know that developing brains search for patterns and connections as a “pathway” to learning and applying what has been learned. *Pathways* integrates reading, English, spelling, and handwriting, which help the brain make those desired connections. The program's nine monthly themes allow the strategies learned to be applied to other disciplines: Bible, science, social studies, art, and music.

Presently *Pathways* is being implemented in grades 1 to 4 throughout the Columbia Union. Grades 5 and 6 will be ready next school year, and grades 7 and 8 the following year. Teacher in-services for implementing *Pathways* have also been held in every conference of the Columbia Union.

READING IS FUN

As I visit classrooms that are using *Pathways*, I see students and teachers engrossed in the month's theme. Decorations, artwork, writing assignments, library books, and artifact displays are everywhere. Students are eager to share what they have learned. No longer are students just reading a story and filling in blanks in a workbook. They are using higher level thinking skills to learn about issues through research, writing, and independent reading. And they are excited about this new approach. Once a reluctant reader, one student recently informed me, “I like reading now. It's fun!”

During another visit, a second-grade class that had been reading *Will We Miss Them?*, a book on endangered animals, had just finished reading about Galapagos tortoises. While discussing what they had learned, some students marveled at the tortoises' long lifespan (200-plus years), how much they can weigh (600 pounds), and what sound they make (a bellowing trumpet blast). One little girl raised her hand and excitedly said that she couldn't wait to go home and tell her daddy: “I don't think he knows about Galapagos tortoises. I'm sure he'll want to hear this!”



While some teachers think easing into the new program might be best, one teacher relayed her

experience. She had planned to use just the themes and a few of the activities outlined in *Pathways*. On Monday the class started reading the fourth-grade *Heroes* theme book *The Story of George Washington Carver*. They became so interested in this hero and the many things he had accomplished that, by Wednesday, the teacher rewrote her lesson plans to integrate all of the related language arts projects. The children's enthusiasm convinced her that they—and she—were ready to make the change.

It has been exciting to see God lead in the development and production of *Pathways*. He has provided people with the right skills just as they were needed. Spiritual connections that lead students to recognize God's leading in their lives, and the lives of others, are part of each theme. While developing lifelong readers is important, restoring the image of God within each student, in preparation for His kingdom, is the ultimate goal of this uniquely Adventist literacy program.

LaVona Gillham serves as associate director for the Columbia Union Conference's Office of Education.

Newsline

BETH MICHAELS

Kettering Adventist HealthCare Names Top Executives

Following the recent promotion of **Fred Manchur**, former



president of Kettering Medical Center (KMC) in Dayton, Ohio, to

president of Kettering Adventist HealthCare, two additional top executives have been named.

The six-hospital, 8,000-employee network is making changes at the top to ensure continued positive growth.



Roy G. Chew, PhD, succeeds Manchur as KMC's sixth president, while



Richard Haas has been appointed to replace Chew as president

of Grandview and Southview medical centers, both in Dayton. Haas has served as senior executive officer for the Sycamore Medical Center since 2000. His replacement there will be named soon. Read more about the executives on page 24.—*Kevin Lavoie*

Voice of Prophecy Introduces New Broadcast Formats

This year *Voice of Prophecy* (VOP) broadcasts are featuring new formats and a new on-air team of speakers. **Fred Kinsey** (bottom, right), speaker/director,

focuses on his favorite Bible texts on the magazine-style weekend broadcast, while he and co-host **Connie Vandeman Jeffery** (top, right) dialogue on spiritual applications of current events and interview interesting authors, mission workers, and others.

Joining the broadcast with occasional segments is Willa Sandmeyer, an Emmy award-winning reporter, who will bring inspirational stories of people whose faith is making a difference in the world as they reach out and touch lives for Jesus.

The daily VOP (vop.com) broadcast is also all new, featuring **Pastor Mike Tucker** (bottom, left), speaker/director of Faith for Today, and **Elizabeth Talbot** (top, left), an Adventist pastor in Southern California. They join in great conversations about the Bible, bringing listeners a fresh approach to Bible study through their high-energy discussions.



“While the voices on the broadcasts have changed, the mission is still to tell a hurting world the story of Jesus through radio, Bible courses, and the Internet,” says Kinsey, who is also assistant to the president for communication for the North American Division and a member of Chesapeake Conference’s Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md.—*Eldyn Karr*

From the Pulpit

We are born with a desire for evil, but a possibility for good. Jesus was born with a desire for good, but a possibility for evil. Hence, our constant strivings to be like

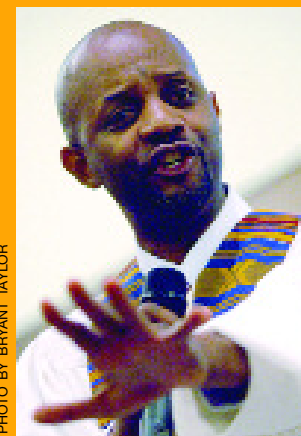


PHOTO BY BRYANT TAYLOR

Jesus are futile and unwarranted. We cannot be like Jesus. He never asked us to because He understands that sin is in our DNA ... What about our efforts? All of them are as filthy rags. The question should be, What about His efforts and my submission? This is true freedom.—*Pastor Calvin Roberson preaching a sermon titled I Used to be Perfect to his congregation, Allegheny West Conference's Bethel church in Akron, Ohio*

CAN YOU MEASURE THE EFFECT OF COMMUNITY SERVICE?

MOUNTAIN VIEW CONFERENCE CAN

THEY MEASURE IT THROUGH THE 21,588 SQUARE FEET OF OUTREACH AND SERVICE SPACE OF THEIR DAY CARE AND COMMUNITY CENTER IN SUMMERHILL, W. VA.

God used the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF), not once but three times during the past 25 years to help the Spencerville church expand its community outreach efforts. Today, the church operates Family House Child Development Center and Community Health Education Center (CHEC) located by hundreds of community children and adults each week—in a town with only 3,000 residents.

Children gather at Family House for early childhood education as well as after-school and summer programming. Adults from across the county show up at CHEC for CLEO (nutrition, exercise, and health education) and other related medical and personal support. The building's day care center

like it has done for so many other churches, schools, conferences, and other entities around the Columbia Union for the past 40 years. CURF provides the resources of the revolving fund to help churches, schools, and other entities in the region reach their neighbors and demonstrate Christ's love. CURF makes such ministry possible.



MAKING MINISTRY POSSIBLE

COLUMBIA UNION
18 VICTIMS LINDS
(866) 721-CURF

News From the Office of Education

Best Practices Commission to Commence

The Best Practices Commission—voted into existence by both the Columbia Union Conference Board of Education and Executive Committee—will begin its work in earnest this spring. Hamlet Canosa, EdD, vice president for the Office of Education, will co-chair the commission with a yet-to-be-named layperson. The group will consist of eight members, all selected through a criteria-driven process, who will be asked to identify and develop “best practices” guidelines and policy proposals in such areas as administration, curriculum, board governance, etc. Look for the commission’s impact to be felt, in a significant way, beginning in the 2009-10 school year.

Distance Education Initiative Implemented

Griggs International Academy (GIA), through coordination with the Columbia Union Office of Education (CUOE), will now be offering 150 instructional units per year of distance education courses designed to expand and enhance course offerings at various school sites. The GIA/CUOE pilot agreement comes after the signing of a two-year, \$40,000 contract to initiate distance education options for junior academies throughout the Columbia Union. The agreement may become the basis for

a broader application of distance education coursework across the North American Division (NAD). Instructional units become available in July.

Early Childhood Education Coordinator Named

Evelyn Sullivan, newly appointed, part-time Early Childhood



Education Care (ECEC) coordinator, is now overseeing school-based early child-

hood education/day care centers across the Columbia Union. She has been familiarizing herself with applicable state and federal health and safety regulations and guidelines, curriculum, personnel, and ECEC programming, and will soon initiate her first round of visitations across the union. Read more about the ECEC office on page 18.

Shenandoah to Host First Union Robotics Competition

This spring Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) in New Market, Va., will host the first Columbia Union Adventist Robotics League (ARL) competition for elementary and academy students. Using the model employed by the NAD in the division-wide competition, SVA is responsible for expanding the union’s involvement to include academy students. Read more about the ARL on page 16.

Vice President Joins CUSAC

Wally Carson, Esq., vice president and general counsel for the



Columbia Union Conference, was voted to serve on the Columbia Union

School Administrators Council (CUSAC). During the past year, Carson has provided “legal eagle” presentations to CUSAC members, dealing with education-related law issues, including reviews of actual cases. His presence will provide superintendents and principals the opportunity to pose questions and concerns regarding legal issues in such areas as personnel, contracts, CODE and handbook policies.

Spring Valley Recovers From Fire

Spring Valley Academy students, faculty, and staff have high hopes to host this year’s graduation exercises in their home gym in Centerville, Ohio, reports principal **Jeff Bovee**.

Following an electrical fire earlier this school year that caused in excess of \$4 million in damages, the day academy has been operating their K-12 program at a former Christian school campus near Springboro, about 15 minutes south. They also look forward to being back “home” during 2009-10.



Search for Potomac VP Continues

Bill Miller, president of the Potomac Conference, continues

to lead the search committee as it aims to fill the position of vice president for edu-



cation. As the search continues, **Violet Weiss, EdD**, is serving as an interim associate superintendent,



working alongside **Rob Smith**, associate superintendent, to address all

K-12 matters in Potomac. Contact them at (540) 886-0771.

Tidewater Reverts Academy Status

Tidewater Adventist Academy (TAA) in Chesapeake, Va., will revert to junior academy status at the end of the current academic year. Undertaking a major restructuring in several key areas, the hope of the TAA board is that restructuring will, in several years, reposition the school to, once again, seek full academy status.

Union Hosts First Joint Registrars Workshop

Earlier this month, all academy registrars of the Atlantic and Columbia unions converged in Columbia, Md., for two days of meetings hosted by the Office of Education. The purpose of the first-time collaboration was to analyze and respond, in a coordinated way, to common

problems and challenges. Ian Kelly, DMin, associate director of education, and Christine Greene, registrar, planned and coordinated the meetings. It is also hoped that a future joint education council might occur to further common interests.

Associate Director Nominated for Award

Ian Kelly, DMin, associate director of education, has been

nominated to receive the General Conference Award of Excellence.



This is the second highest award conferred by the Office of Education of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church and has been awarded 146 times since 1974. His nomination is in

the review process, and the Office of Education looks forward to the decision being announced. Congratulations to Kelly for this important nomination.

Spencerville Teacher Wins Excellence Award

Carrie Hess, who teaches English at Spencerville Adventist Academy in Silver Spring, Md., is the Alumni Awards

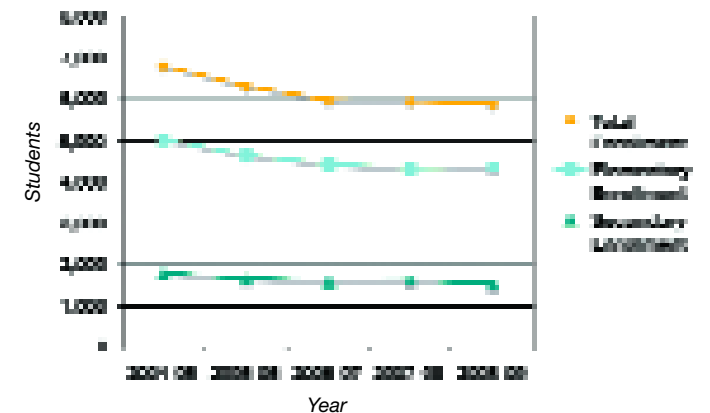
Foundation 2009 Teacher of Excellence award winner for the Columbia Union. The foundation will issue the award later this spring during a local ceremony. Congratulations to Hess for using her God-given gifts in a way that truly makes a difference in the lives of her students.



5-Year Enrollment Trends Shared

As a consequence of the poor national economy, all educational systems face challenges, and predicting total opening enrollment at all levels for the next school year is particularly challenging. Below is a graph showing elementary, secondary, and total K-12 opening enrollment during the past five years:

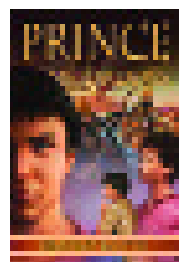
Elementary and Secondary Enrollment Data



What's New?

Book >
Prince of Dreams
Bradley Booth

Seasoned author Bradley Booth, principal of Ohio Conference's Worthington Adventist Academy, takes readers on an engrossing journey to ancient Babylon. The book follows the lives of Daniel—before



It doesn't take courage to do the wrong thing. It takes courage to do the right. —Daniel says to his friends in Prince of Dreams

he becomes famous as Nebuchadnezzar's dream decoder—and three friends as they become prisoners of war. While settling into a new land, far from family and traditions, they are faced with strange food and styles of worship that clash with God's commandments. Booth's mission is to help young people experience Jesus fully and learn that they can never go wrong when they stand up for God and keep His laws. Booth

dedicates the book to his students and hopes "they will have the courage to follow Daniel's example in the way they live, pray, and witness." Pick up a copy at your local Adventist Book Center or at adventistbookcenter.com.—*Taashi Rowe*

e-ZINE >
Visionary for Kids
Ellen G. White Estate

"We want to get kids, aged 9-14, more interested in Mrs. White's writings and Seventh-day Adventist heritage," says Ellen G.

White Estate director and editor Cindy Tutsch, DMin. This free, online, downloadable magazine—*Ve.Z*



for short—features stories, games, interviews, and more! Columbia Union kids can even earn some cash for their published stories and photos.

Tutsch also interacts with kids through the site (whiteestate.org/vez) as well as her new podcast and blog, touching on issues like making friends. Visit today, print out the latest edition, and have fun learning.

Sermon >
Pedestrian Safety

Erwin Mack, a member of Potomac Conference's Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., has earned a positive reputation among city, county, and Maryland state agency officials who share his concern for pedestrian safety. Through his organization, the Multijurisdictional Pedestrian Safety Committee (MPSC), Mack has opened avenues for addressing community concerns.

During a recent MPSC meeting, Mack invited Ted Wilson, vice president for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church and a member of the Chesapeake Conference Triadelphia church in Clarksville, Md., to address the multid denominational crowd about keeping pedestrians safe. It was so well received, that they want to share the message with



others. Get a copy by contacting Mack at (301) 445-7910 or taklangcda@aol.com.

Television Channel >
SonBeam

The Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) has launched the first Adventist children's television channel for ages 12 and under. The channel's 24-hour programming will include original short segments like *Letters From You* with Brenda Walsh; *Fast Snacks* with Jill Morikone; and *Is It Odd, Or Is It God?* where facts about some of God's funniest creatures are shared. Other segments, like *Krafty Kids*, are coming soon.



"We're very excited about the opportunities the SonBeam Channel are opening up," says 3ABN president Jim Gilley. "The greatest way to reach the whole family is through the kids."

The channel will initially be offered via the Internet through the MOPCWeb site (mopcweb.com) and also by MOIPTV, a set top box that uses high-speed Internet to provide

Web Watch

whiteestate.com/godsmessengers

The Ellen G. White Estate offers 38 fully developed lessons that address 10 topics Adventist school students face daily. "God's Messengers" assist teachers who want to enhance their students' spiritual walk with Jesus.

a high-quality picture. Read more at sonbeamchannel.com.

WholeHealth

Use Online Health Information Wisely

You can find information on any health topic by searching the Internet. In fact, according to the Pew Internet and American Life Project, at least 75 percent of all Internet users seek health information. The problem many encounter, however, is that the health news, medical research, and health-oriented sites and blogs provide conflicting health information. How do you decide what is accurate?

Consider the *source*. As a rule, websites maintained by a reputable health organization can be trusted. Also, look for the author's credentials and whether a study is published in a peer-reviewed journal.

Check out any potential *bias*. Be aware that sites promoting product and research sponsored by corporations may have other interests than providing accurate information.

Note the *dates* associated with the study or data. Since research studies are published frequently, often revealing new findings, you'll want to look for up-to-date information.

Finally, *clarify* confusing information with your healthcare providers. They can help you sort through the details, especially as it relates to your specific situation.

The Internet is a vast, bewildering world, but if you search wisely, you *can* find accurate sources of information.—*Lilly Tryon, RN, MSN, Adventist WholeHealth Wellness Center*

In the Spotlight > Musician and Youth Advocate Terrell Hunt

Terrell Hunt is a young, multitalented member of Allegheny East Conference's Bladensburg (Md.) church, who is expanding his growing music ministry into the field of outreach. The vibrant praise and worship style performer recently received a New Artist of the Year nomination during the 24th annual Stellar Awards, and a Washington Music Association nomination for Gospel Inspirational Vocalist of the Year for his debut recording *Awesome*. Hunt is using these rich experiences to encourage, educate, and train inner-city teens and young adults to achieve their performing arts goals.

Hunt's passion for empowering and preserving budding young artists can be seen in his two newly formed nonprofit organizations. Through Talented Young People Moving On (TYMPO), the focus is on the advancement of at-risk youth seeking career opportunities in the performing arts. As TYMPO's co-founder and artistic director, Hunt seeks to provide proactive solutions for those who are disadvantaged socially and economically.

Hunt also founded Generation Alive Inc., a wellness and development foundation. Here, programs are set up for young individuals that desire to capture performing arts dreams, academic success, and a healthy lifestyle. Participants are given motivational resources and positive alternatives to negative attitudes. Both entities serve the greater Washington, D.C., area.

Hunt prays for his current outreach efforts to be duplicated abroad, with hopes of reconditioning and boosting the self-esteem of those whom have had a difficult start in life. The slogan "Changing the face of this generation ... reclaiming our youth" has become Hunt's vision and new song of praise. Learn more by visiting terrellhunt.com.—*Rob Stewart*



Columbia Union Schools Earn High Praise

Schools, students, and alumni from across the Columbia Union Conference are performing topnotch feats, from celebrating significant milestones to earning presidential awards. Whether big or small, these schools prove there are many ways to stand out in the crowd:

TWO NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS CELEBRATE SEMICENTENNIALS

For two New Jersey Conference schools, 2009 is a time to celebrate 50 years of Seventh-day Adventist education. For Cohansey Christian School in Bridgeton, this is a time to celebrate 50 years of academic excellence and Christian service. When it opened its doors, it answered the need for a centrally located Adventist school in southern New Jersey. Since its beginnings, the K-8 school has instilled the importance of its students.

"It is the things we can do for God in our community that make a difference," says current principal Catherine Tomlinson. She offers one reason why the school has and will continue to thrive: "Cohansey is a family. We learn together, serve together, play together, and pray together."



Cohansey Christian School's 2008-09 students are it's 50th student body.

All alumni and friends are invited to participate in Cohansey's 50th anniversary celebration and graduation on June 7. For more details, call (856) 451-3437.

The Lake Nelson school (LNS) in Piscataway (below) was started by members of three Adventist churches in central New Jersey who strongly believed in Christian education. After breaking ground in March 1958, these church members donated their

time to build a school that would provide a Christ-centered education to their children and others in neighboring communities. Since its opening, one year later, the same goals and burning desire to minister to children and their families still drive Lake Nelson. The faculty and staff partner with parents to provide a safe haven where children are nurtured far beyond academics and religious education.

All LNS alumni and friends are invited to join in the anniversary celebration during the weekend of May 16. For more information, visit lakenelsons-daschool.org or call (732) 981-0626.—*Stacy Stocks and John Hakizimana*

CUC MUSIC PROFESSOR HONORED AT CARNEGIE HALL

Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse (below), director of Columbia Union College's (CUC) New England Youth Ensemble, based in Takoma Park, Md., was honored for her commitment to music performance.



PHOTO BY GREEN PHOTOGRAPHY

Well-known choral composer and conductor John Rutter paid tribute to Rittenhouse before an audience of more than 2,000 at Carnegie Hall.

For the past two decades, Rittenhouse has conducted stirring musical performances and choruses in New York for MidAmerican Productions, an independent producer of classical concerts. Rutter praised Rittenhouse for making the lives of students better and her consistent faith in God. Rittenhouse has taught music performance and theory courses for CUC students since 1994.—*Tanisha Greenidge*

CENTERVILLE MEMBER NAMED KETTERING COLLEGE ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Kettering College of Medical Arts in Dayton, Ohio, recently honored Merle Peterson, a 1971 radiologic technology program graduate, as the 2008 Alumnus of the Year, the school's highest alumni honor. The Ohio Conference Centerville church member returned to his alma mater after 24 groundbreaking years as administrative director of radiology at Florida Hospital.

Known as a pacesetter in his field, Peterson



Kettering College of Medical Arts president Charles Scriven, PhD (right), presents Ohio Conference's Centerville church member Merle Peterson with the 2008 Alumnus of the Year award.

became director of medical imaging for Kettering Medical Center and its partner facilities in December 2006.

Since his return to Kettering, Peterson has forged a partnership with GE Healthcare-Ultrasound, which led to the school's acquisition of four state-of-the-art ultrasound systems.—*Mindy Claggett*

DUPONT PARK STUDENTS WIN TICKETS TO INAUGURAL PARADE

Three Dupont Park school students were declared among the 100 winners of a citywide essay contest for Washington, D.C., middle and high school students. Winners included sixth-grader Nina Danley and eighth-graders Nora Smith and Gary Hill (below, left to right), who were chosen by the Presidential Inauguration Committee. Their 500-word essays addressed the question, "How can I contribute to my neighborhood through community service?"



PHOTO BY STEPHEN RICHARDSON

Winners got to sit in front of the White House, next to the presidential reviewing stand, during the inaugural parade of President Obama and Vice President Joseph Biden. Dupont Park principal Lafese Quinnonez credits English teacher Francis Foote for encouraging her students to enter the contest.

SMALL PIQUA SCHOOL BURNS BIG MORTGAGE

With the help of a Columbia Union Revolving Fund loan, the Piqua (Ohio) church and



school family built and paid off—within seven years—a million-dollar loan for its new school and multipurpose building (below). During a recent mortgage-burning ceremony, city officials and Ohio Conference staff joined church, school, and community members in the celebration.

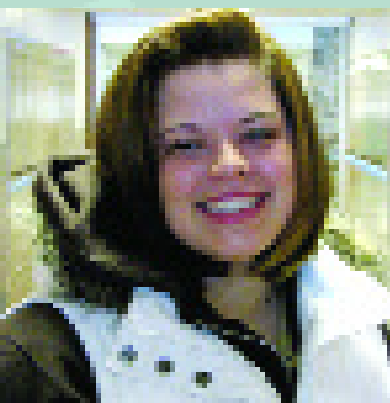
“The enormity of this accomplishment would be impressive for a large congregation, but it is even more so for a church of only 40 members,” says church member Mark Mirek, who also serves as the school’s principal. “Our primary focus now is to get our school on solid ground and serve our community through Christian education.”—*Gerry Wagoner*



BLUE MOUNTAIN SENIOR WINS COUNTY ESSAY CONTEST

Senior Emily Ferguson of Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa., won first place in the Essay on Giving writing contest for area students, sponsored by the Berks Chapter Association of Fundraising Professionals. Students were asked to write compelling essays about people who give and what it means to give back.

Ferguson surpassed 17 entrants to receive a monetary award and was asked to read her essay at the Berks County Awards Breakfast in front of representatives from area nonprofits and major Berks County donors. For Ferguson, the contest brought its own reward. “As I started writing about giving back to people, I became intrigued with the subject,” she recalls. “I formed an opinion on a subject that affects my life every day.”



CUC CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF STUDENT MISSIONS

For half a century, Columbia Union College has provided its students with opportunities to serve as volunteer missionaries around the world through its Student Missions program. Former president William “Bill” Loveless remains firm that

Andrea Martinez ('07) is one of many students to serve as a student missionary through Columbia Union College's 50-year-old Student Missions program.



CUC developed the first Student Missions program, sending its first missionary to Mexico in 1959.

The college continues to send students to the Netherlands, Africa, South America, Korea, and other countries. CUC’s Student Missions program cultivates leaders who succeed and reach their full potential in Christ under the school’s motto, “The Gateway to Service.”—*Tanisha Greenidge*



CUC president William Loveless (right) shakes the hand of the school's first volunteer student missionary, Marline Mathiesen, in 1959.

MOUNT VERNON STUDENT CREATES POVERTY INITIATIVE

Push Against Poverty, an outreach program started by Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) senior Daniel Graves, encourages academy students to make a difference in their community. Graves’ vision for the organization solidified when he met with city officials and local nonprofits



to gain advice on how best to help the Mount Vernon, Ohio, community.

The holidays provided an ideal opportunity to serve, as area members conducted a canned food and toy drive. MVA students collected cans, clothing, and other household and toiletry items, to create and deliver customized gift baskets.

“I hope to empower struggling people, uplift the city, and spread a new light,” notes Graves, who plans to appoint another student to take over the program upon his graduation this May.—*Amy Soper*

DESMOND T. DOSS STUDENTS LAY WREATH FOR UNKNOWN SOLDIER

Desmond T. Doss Junior Academy principal Stephen Doss and three students recently got a rare opportunity to participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Arlington National Cemetery in Alexandria, Va.



“It was a great honor to take part in this ceremony,” said Doss of the Potomac Conference school in Lynchburg, Va., named after the Adventist Congressional Medal of Honor winner.”

Statement of Policy—Nondiscrimination in Adventist Schools

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in all of its church-operated schools, admits students of any race to all privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools and makes no discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, handicap, ethnic background, or national origin in the administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs, and extracurricular programs.

The governing body of the Church has ruled officially, and in practice abides by, the following policies:

1. Equal employment opportunities shall be afforded, with no discrimination in recruitment or hiring against any employee or application because of race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, age or sex except where age or sex is a bona fide occupational qualification.
2. Preferential hiring shall be practiced only on the basis of freely chosen adherence to Adventist tenets essential to the operation of an Adventist institution.
3. Compensation and benefits will be administered without regard to race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, creed, age, or sex except where age or sex is a bona fide occupational qualification.
4. Decisions for the promotion of employees will be based upon the qualifications of an individual as related to the requirements of the position for which he or she is being considered.
5. Inasmuch as the personal life and professional identity of an individual are inseparable, all employees are expected to conform to the standards of conduct that are in harmony with Seventh-day Adventist practices.

Allegheny East—Baltimore Jr. Academy, Calvary Seventh-day Adventist School, Delaware County Adventist School, DuPont Park Junior Academy, Ephesus Adventist School, George E. Peters Adventist School, Hillside Adventist School, Jessie R. Wagner Adventist School, Mount Olivet Adventist School, Pine Forge Academy, Sharon Temple Adventist School, Trinity Temple Adventist School, Wilbert F. Mays Adventist School

Allegheny West—Columbus Adventist Academy, Ramah Adventist Junior Academy

Chesapeake—Atholton Adventist Academy, Baltimore White Marsh Adventist School, Crest Lane Seventh-day Adventist School, Crossroads Adventist School, Eastern Shore Junior Academy, Frederick Adventist School, Friendship Adventist School, Highland View Academy, Martin Barr Seventh-day Adventist School, Mount Aetna Seventh-day Adventist School, Rocky Knoll Seventh-day Adventist School, Spencerville Adventist Academy, Susquehanna Seventh-day Adventist School, Wilmington Junior Academy

Mountain View—Brushy Fork Christian School, Greenbrier Valley Academy, Highland Adventist School, Mountaintop Adventist School,

Parkersburg Academy, Summersville Adventist School, Valley View Adventist School

New Jersey—Cohansey Adventist School, Collingwood Park Adventist School, Delaware Valley Jr. Academy, Lake Nelson Adventist School, Meadow View Jr. Academy, Parkway South Seventh-day Adventist Christian School, Tranquility Adventist School, Vineland Regional Adventist School, Waldwick Adventist School

Ohio—Cincinnati Junior Academy, Clarksfield Seventh-day Adventist School, Eastwood Seventh-day Adventist Junior Academy, Elyria Christian Academy, Lancaster Seventh-day Adventist School, Lima Seventh-day Adventist School, Mansfield Seventh-day Adventist School, Mayfair Christian School, Mount Vernon Academy, Mount Vernon Seventh-day Adventist School, Newark Seventh-day Adventist School, Piqua Seventh-day Adventist School, Spring Valley Academy, Toledo Junior Academy, Twin Oaks Seventh-day Adventist School, Worthington Adventist Academy, Zanesville Seventh-day Adventist School

Pennsylvania—Blue Mountain Academy, Blue Mountain Elementary School, Fairview Village Adventist School, Gettysburg Seventh-day Adventist School, Harrisburg Seventh-day Adventist School, Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy, Irvin Comstock Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, Lake Erie Seventh-day Adventist School, Lancaster Seventh-day Adventist School, Lehigh Valley Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, Reading Seventh-day Adventist Junior Academy, Stroudsburg Seventh-day Adventist School, Wyoming Valley Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, York Seventh-day Adventist School

Potomac—Appomattox Seventh-day Adventist School, B&P Young Seventh-day Adventist Church School, Beltsville Adventist School, C. F. Richards Junior Academy, Desmond T. Doss Seventh-day Adventist Jr. Academy, J. N. Andrews School, Manassas Adventist Preparatory School, Olney Adventist Preparatory School, Powell Valley Christian School, Richmond Academy, Roanoke Adventist Preparatory School, Robert A. Lewis Christian School, Shenandoah Valley Academy, Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary School, Sligo Adventist School, Stanley Seventh-day Adventist School, Takoma Academy, Tappahannock Junior Academy, Tidewater Adventist Academy, Tree of Life Christian Preparatory School, Vienna Adventist Academy, Yale Elementary School

The Journey Continues

Hamlet Canosa, EdD

Yogi Berra, the loveable baseball commentator and Hall of Fame catcher for the New York Yankees, is perhaps better known for his “Berraisms” than his exploits on the baseball diamond.

Some of his sayings are classics: “A nickel ain’t worth a dime anymore;” “If the world were perfect, it wouldn’t be;” and, speaking of baseball, “Ninety percent of the game is half mental.” However, my favorite is, “When you come to a fork in the road, take it.”

Berra’s words imply that when one travels, it’s good to have a destination in mind, particularly if one comes to an unexpected fork along the way. Absent a desired destination, any journey can easily make true the words of author Lewis Carroll, “When you don’t know where you are going, any road will get you there.”

THE ROAD TO EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS

CognitiveGenesis is the landmark, division-wide study designed to assess Seventh-day Adventist academics at the elementary and secondary school levels. It is now in the third of a four-year journey—one that will, in the end, provide data-driven answers to three major questions: 1. How are students in Adventist schools performing academically? 2. How does the academic performance of students in Adventist schools compare to that of their counterparts in public and other private schools? 3. What factors—related to students, parents, teachers, and schools—are associated with student achievement and abilities?

CognitiveGenesis researchers recently released the 2007-08 (Year Two) annual report. The study involved nearly 30,000 students (grades 3-9 and 11)

from Adventist schools in Bermuda, Canada, and the United States. The data was pulled from standardized tests (Iowa Tests of Basic Skills for grades 3-8, Iowa Tests of Education Development for grades 9 and 11, and Cognitive Abilities Tests across all targeted grade levels for purposes of control) and from surveys of students, parents, teachers, and school administrators that determine what factors might correlate to student achievement. Preliminary results, at the midpoint of this journey, are very encouraging:

- Students across the North American Division scored about half a grade level above what one would predict on average.
- Students at all ability levels, on average, show higher achievement scores than predicted.
- Overall achievement (composite) was above the national norm in *all* grades (3-9 and 11).
- Achievement scores were above average by nearly one-fourth of a standard deviation.
- Achievement was above average for *all* subject areas (reading, language arts, math, social studies, and sources of information).
- Overall achievement was at the 59th percentile. Achievement in different subject areas ranged between 52 and 61 percentile ranks.
- Actual achievement scores were above predicted achievement based on ability for *all* grades (3-9 and 11).

- Actual achievement scores were above prediction based on ability in *all* subject areas.
- Achievement was above average and above prediction based on ability for *both* years one and two of the study.
- Achievement was very similar, no matter the size of the school, the number of students per grade, the number of grades per teacher, or the grade range within the classroom.
- *Every* group in *all* of the comparisons scored above prediction.

Upon preliminary examination of student surveys, several variable correlations to achievement are also revealing. For example, when considering 2007 data, it appears that students who get eight or more hours of sleep per night score higher than those students who sleep less. Another example indicates that the more time a child spends interacting with his/her parents, the higher that child achieves.

The information on the slide (right) provides preliminary evidence (based on 2006 data of eighth-graders) that the more years a student remains in an Adventist school, the *higher* his/her score in *both* achievement and ability will be. Moreover, the difference in achievement over ability also *increases* the more years the child spends in an Adventist school.

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

The *CognitiveGenesis* journey takes Adventist educators well beyond the point that education professional Frederick M. Hess describes as “the old stupid”—“leaders who dismissed student achievement data and systematic research as having only limited utility ... to improving schools or school systems” (*Educational Leadership*, Vol. 66, No. 4, pp. 12-17). This research project has moved Adventist education well down the road it was meant to travel—assessing Adventist academics. Yet there is much more to learn as the project continues to move forward. With such a sizeable and diverse data bank and many survey variables to study, spin-off research that

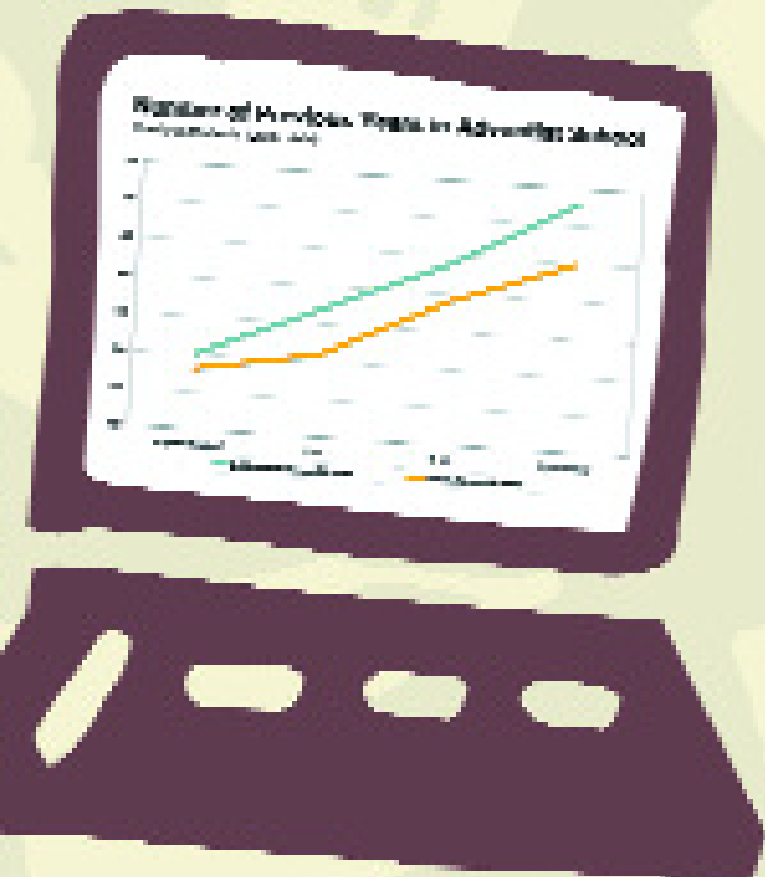
can benefit Adventist education will stretch well into the future.

Hess warns, however, that systems need to avoid what he calls “the *new* stupid”—“the dangers that lie ahead for those who misunderstand what data can and can’t do.” He goes on to write, “... data-driven decision-making does not simply require good data; it also requires good decisions.”

CognitiveGenesis is securing good data. What must be certain is that good data, *along with* good decisions resulting from careful analysis of that data, are used vigorously and wisely to enhance Adventist education. And *CognitiveGenesis* is more than a project that simply affirms the accomplishments of Adventist education. It is, and must continue to be, an ongoing journey that promotes enhanced teaching methodologies, curriculum, and student learning.

So, the journey continues. Perhaps Berra had it right when he said, “It ain’t over till it’s over.”

Hamlet Canosa, EdD, serves as vice president for the Columbia Union Conference’s Office of Education.



Shenandoah's Robo-Students Inspire Invention

Susan Phelps Harvey

Inventor Dean Kamen (remember the Segway?) came up with the idea. He founded FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) in 1992, a robotics competition designed to inspire young people with a new appreciation for science, technology, and engineering.

However, with most of FIRST's competitions taking place on Saturdays, this created an impossible conflict for Seventh-day Adventists. As a result, the Adventist Robotics League (ARL) was born. The ARL (adventistroboticsleague.net) partners with FIRST, but holds its competitions on Sundays, using FIRST's same standards, robot building kits, and challenges.

GIGABOTS ARE BORN

Potomac Conference's Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary School (SVAE) in New Market,



The Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary Gigabots and their leaders pause during the 2008 Adventist Robotics League national championship at Andrews University, where they won second place.

Va., was the Columbia Union's first school to participate in this world-renowned competition. In March 2008, under the direction of their teacher Gordon Miller, a team of seventh- and eighth-graders named the Gigabots competed in the FIRST Lego League at ARL's Southern Regionals in Collegedale, Tenn.

Early in the 2007-08 school year, while obeying FIRST guidelines, the Gigabots researched and solved a real-world problem, then designed and built a battery-powered robot—using LEGOs and other items—to carry out the solution. Next, they programmed the robot to perform a series of 12 autonomous tasks. The scoring was based on points divided among a two-and-a-half minute robot performance, a presentation of the project, and the group's ability to work as a team.

Southern Adventist University's School of Computing (Tenn.) hosted the competition, which attracted 13 teams from Adventist schools across the South. Although the SVAE teammates were first-timers, they finished in the top two—beat by the veteran, winning team by only half a point! Both top teams received the director's award, including an invitation to compete at the national ARL competition, held each May at Andrews University (Mich.).

Building on their first-year success, SVAE's Gigabots are heading to ARL's regional competition again this month. Their team consists of nine boys and girls who meet for two hours after school, once a week.

MEASURABLE BENEFITS

Ask Miller how his students benefit from the program, and you don't get an ordinary response about hands-on learning in physics, mechanics, and programming. "Logic!" he proclaims. "That's



Gigabot members Ben Swanson, Sam Nagy, Graydon Jedamski, Christina Champion, and Ana Copaceanu collaborate on their competitive robot.

what they get—the ability to think a problem through. They learn discipline. This program pushes students in ways that would never happen in an ordinary classroom."

Miller credits engineers Bill Dodge and Kris Hanon, members of the New Market (Va.) church, who volunteer their time to mentor the group. But even they, Miller says, can't tell the kids what or how to do any of it. "We adults just facilitate—stand back and allow the process of discovery to take place," he explains. He adds, "The kids start out scattered and unfocused. They go through a whole gamut of emotions, but then gradually learn to work together. Without a doubt, that's the greatest joy for a teacher!"

Parents can also attest to the program's benefits. Cindy Champion's daughter, Christina, is in her second year on the seventh- and eighth-grade team. "It really challenges her," expresses Champion, "and opens her eyes to new possibilities. Not long ago, Christina said to me, 'Mom, I've always wanted to be a doctor, but maybe I'll be an engineer.'"

ENTHUSIASM SPREADS

This year, for the first time, *two* Shenandoah Valley teams will compete. Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) students started a club this school year—the first, and only, academy-level robotics club in the Columbia Union. The Stiel Robot will compete in ARL's FIRST Tech Challenge for high schoolers, taking place this May at Andrews University.

Math teacher Erik Brown, with assistance from physics teacher Tom McNeilus, leads the academy group during their Wednesday night meetings. Computer programmer Jeremy White, a New Market church member, has been mentoring the team as they design, construct, and test their robot in preparation for this year's challenge tasks.

Brown echoes Miller's enthusiasm for the cooperative learning that takes place. "This competition is about learning problem-solving skills in a real-life situation. It forces the kids to think logically," he says.

Spencer Hannah, SVA principal, also supports the program and hopes "to build on it in the years ahead."

Does SVA's amateur team have a chance at winning? "Yeah!" exclaims Brown. "A good chance!" But, he is already looking beyond this year's competition—dreaming of ways to give his team a stronger start. He would like to see scrimmages take place between area schools to help the students practice. He would also love to see more Columbia Union schools participate and join in the creative fun.

Susan Phelps Harvey is a freelance writer and member of Potomac Conference's Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md.



Shenandoah Valley Academy students prepare their robot for competition in the upcoming ARL championships.

Little Lambs and Bashful Giraffes

Early Childhood Learning Centers Grow Young Christians

Beth Michaels and Mark Young

U.S. Secretary of State Hilary Rodham Clinton coined the idea that “it takes a village” to raise a child. This wasn’t new thinking for Seventh-day Adventists, who have been operating an internal educational system for decades and have supported home schooling for just as long. However, Adventists have never enacted their nurturing spirit more completely than through the establishment of early childhood learning centers.

Today there are dozens of Adventist schools throughout the Columbia Union with thriving day care or preschool centers operating inside their walls, or in nearby facilities. Not only are these centers

introducing children to Christ during their most impressionable years, but they are also becoming feeders for many of our schools.

“A well-run, accredited early childhood center feeds kindergarten, kindergarten

then feeds first grade, and so on,” explains Evelyn Sullivan (above), coordinator for the Columbia Union Office of Education’s new Early Childhood Education Care (ECEC) office.

UNITING OUR CENTERS

Early childhood centers are fairly new operations within Adventist schools. Only a year ago, North American Division president Don Schneider assigned the supervision of these centers to union education departments, an action welcomed by Hamlet Canosa, EdD, Columbia Union’s vice president for education. The action allowed Canosa to present to the union

executive committee—for a second time—the need for an individual to oversee such centers. The union fully agreed, and Sullivan, a former teacher and principal, left her post as Potomac’s associate superintendent for education to join the union team.

Sullivan spent her first months in office becoming familiar with applicable state and federal health and safety regulations and guidelines, curriculum, personnel, and ECEC programming. As coordinator, she will make sure that all early childhood centers across the union’s eight-state region are licensed and meet safety requirements, including staff training in CPR and first aid.

Sullivan plans to visit the directors regionally and assist them in their growth process, all in the hope that a more unified system will develop between the centers. “The purpose of our office is to continue providing loving early childhood centers that are focused on Christ and will be able to nurture each child according to their needs,” she explains. “We are also here to provide a service and share God’s love with our congregations and the community.”

LEADING OTHERS TO CHRIST

Staff at many of the union’s already-established early childhood centers can share stories of leading people to Christ. Renee Fegley (below), director of



the nearly 30-year-old Wilmington Junior Academy Day Care in Delaware, reports that most of their attendees do not come from Adventist homes, yet still continue on to the adjacent K-8 Chesapeake Conference academy. “It’s good community exposure,” she says, “and most of our children learn about us through word-of-mouth. It’s good that our parents feel so highly about us.”

That they do. Two of Wilmington’s past attendees, Donny and Kayla Jennings, not only became academy students, but their entire family joined the nearby West Wilmington church nine years ago. “It’s a place that makes you feel comfortable. They welcome you to come to services, and you never feel pressured,” recalls mother Carole Jennings. “And definitely the love they show your child, you feel it.” Kayla is now an academy seventh-grader.

Cheri Phipps, director of the four-star Little Lamb Child Care Learning Center (above) in Cincinnati, Ohio, says that 50 to 80 percent of their community-based students move on to Ohio Conference’s nearby Cincinnati Junior Academy. In addition to teaching others about Christ, Phipps says, “Being star-rated is great for our prestige and opens up state financial awards, which allow us to do some upgrades.” These are all important aspects of proving they care about their children.

With the ECEC office and Sullivan working to unite and educate the union’s early childhood learning



centers, Elisa Maragoto, director of New Jersey Conference’s 25-year-old Lake Nelson Early Learning Center, echoes the sentiment of all directors, saying, “Having common standards and guidelines will help our early childhood education centers become more efficient and goal oriented. As Adventists, we share a unique mission and vision that should also be incorporated within [these centers].” Lake Nelson’s motto, in particular, says it best: empowering students through Christian education.

Mark Young is an account executive for WUSA 9 TV in Washington, D.C., and a member at the Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va.

Potomac School, Childcare Center Prove Successful Collaboration

There was only one teacher for its 20 students when Potomac Conference’s Desmond T. Doss Junior Academy opened in 1981. Ten years later, the school established the Bashful Giraffe Childcare Center and watched their academy attendance inflate—now boasting 90 students (grades K-10) and six teachers.

Nestled in Lynchburg, Va., the Bashful Giraffe center attracts as many residents as it does Adventist church members. And because “teachers can build relationships with the children and show the spirit of Christ to them,” says academy principal Stephen Doss, the positive impact results in new students for the academy.

“The Bashful Giraffe center proves that having a good reputation in the community can be an asset to Adventist schools,” says Evelyn Sullivan, coordinator for the Columbia Union Office of Education’s new Early Childhood Education Care (ECEC) office.



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YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

MARCH 2009

Eat the Sun!

Clive Wilson

Lately my thoughts have turned to food. Though it's not unusual to have food on the brain during and around the holidays, mine have not been your typical thoughts—typical being, of course, stuffing, mashed potatoes, pecan pie, decadent chocolates, peppermint ice cream, and the rest of the celebratory menu delights. No, my thoughts have turned to sprouts.

Sprouts? “Can they be dipped in chocolate?” you might be wondering (it crossed my mind as well). For Seventh-day Adventists, the practice of sprouting grains, seeds, and legumes is not new, but has historically been the way we have promoted natural foods and healthy vegetarian living. Yet, when I focus on the idea of eating something that has been actively harnessing and responding to sunlight, it gives me a genuine sense of wonder. To think of it! Eating sunlight!

Of course the scientific world has progressed to such heights where micro-cellular activity can be measured and observed. Current studies only validate the power of eating living food and demonstrate the ability of sprouts and raw foods to nourish and heal the human body. The simple truth remains, when you eat something sprouted, you consume a *vital living force*.

REVIVING THE SPIRIT

Being a minister of the gospel, it's impossible not to see this as an analogy to our spiritual diet. As we head into spring, it's a perfect time to consider deeply what we “feed” our spirit. Spring—a time of renewal and change, fresh perspective, and new life—presents us with new opportunity to consume spiritual food that is alive and powerful. Jesus never meant his sacrifice and death to be the end of the story. His resurrection is the vital life force we consume and, in that reality, we live victorious, free, healthy, joyful, dedicated, and inspired! We live because He lives in us, and that is the ultimate food, the quintessence of vital force living!

As chaplain for Kettering College of Medical Arts (KCMA), it's my privilege and charge to keep the message of Christ's healing ministry ever before our students. KCMA is unique; it is an Adventist operation but attracts a number of students to its campus who don't share our faith. This gives us a unique opportunity to express our beliefs and practices in an environment that is all about personal and professional growth. Our commitment to the highest standards of Christian, medical education is directly linked and inspired by the “vital force” message of Jesus Christ. His life demands we live fully, serving others, and dishing up spiritual food that has meaningful impact for eternity.



Clive Wilson is chaplain at Kettering College of Medical Arts in Dayton, Ohio.



Celebrating the Success of Knife-less Surgery

Kevin Lavoie

Without so much as a nick to his scalp, 61-year-old Foy McMaster had major surgery on a cancer tumor lodged deep inside his brain. In the past, brain tumors like these were considered inoperable, and patients often were given a grim prognosis of just six months to live. But times have changed, and the gamma knife—a no-knife surgery that blasts the tumor with hundreds of highly intense radiation beams in a single session—has improved care. Foy's procedure marked Kettering Medical Center's (KMC) 1,000th gamma knife procedure (also called radiosurgery).

After Foy's 20-year battle with cancer, Jamal Taha, MD, medical director of the Gamma Knife Center at KMC, says he feels "hopeful we can give him more quality years with his wife."



REVOLUTIONARY BENEFITS

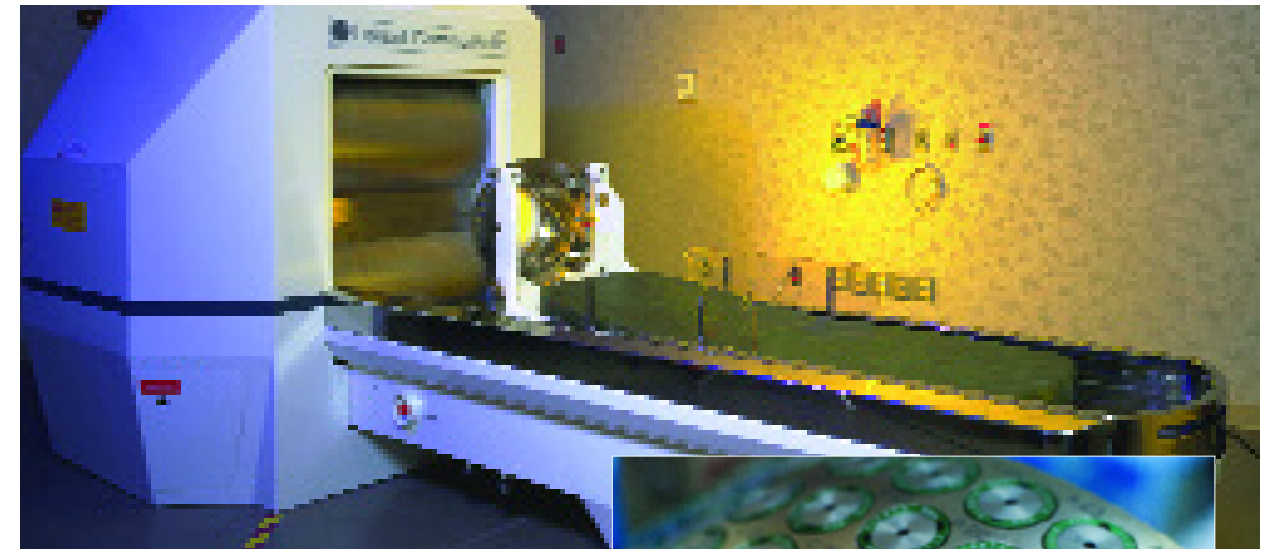
The noninvasive gamma knife procedure has been used at KMC to treat a variety of conditions, including metastatic tumors that have spread to the brain from other parts of the body; benign brain tumors; trigeminal neuralgia (facial pain); arteriovenous malformations (AVMs), and tumors in inaccessible and deep areas of the brain.

The numerous benefits of this revolutionary procedure include:

- No incisions or hair shaving
- Lower risk of postoperative complications
- No general anesthesia
- Patients typically return home the same day
- No postoperative convalescence
- Minimal patient discomfort
- Increased accuracy, safety, and reliability



A Kettering Medical Center nurse adjusts the gamma knife helmet, which directs beams to a precise point in the brain.



The helmet directs intense radiation beams past nontumor brain areas to precisely treat only the tumor.

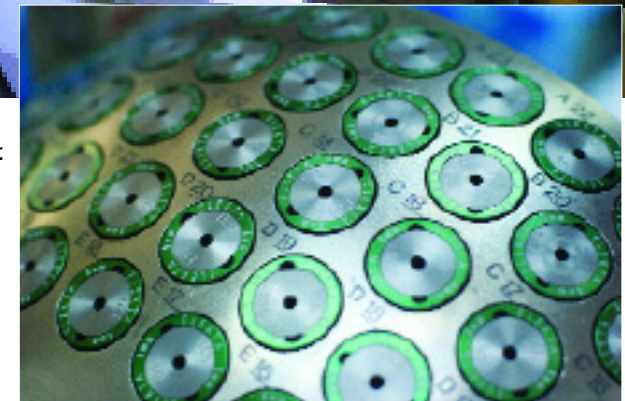
- Improved outcomes and quality of life enhanced
- More cost-effective
- Effective treatment for "inoperable" abnormalities

KMC will now be taking its exacting gamma knife procedures to a greater level of excellence through the purchase of the new Perfxion (left)



from Leksell Gamma Knife this month, only the 20th one in the nation. It will be the second such device available in Ohio, offering groundbreaking innovations that provide full cranial reach. The system delivers outstanding patient and staff comfort and the most precise accuracy.

"The impact on our patients is immense," says Walter Sackett, KMC's vice president of operations and a member of the Kettering church. "The goal is always to reduce patient distress and increase effectiveness. The Perfxion offers both. Jean Ruppert, MS, RN, our director of neuroscience, will be promoting the use of this machine to a wide variety of patients and service lines, but its primary use is for



the treatment of multiple metastatic brain tumors."

The gamma knife is also used to treat chronic facial pain, benign brain and neck tumors, and abnormalities that are deep in the brain. Sackett adds, "Kettering is expanding its commitment to patient care by providing this cutting edge treatment to our community. It will have a broad impact in the Ohio region and neighboring states."

To find out more about the gamma knife procedure, visit wkni.org/gamma_knife.cfm.

Kevin Lavoie is public relations and media specialist for Kettering Adventist HealthCare.



Top Executives Announced

Roy G. Chew, PhD, has been appointed the sixth president of Kettering Medical Center (KMC), replacing Fred Manchur, who was recently promoted to president of Kettering Adventist HealthCare. Richard Haas replaces Chew as president of Grandview and Southview medical centers.



Artist renderings demonstrate how Kettering Medical Center's new Benjamin and Marian Schuster Heart Hospital (above) and Grandview Medical Center's new West Wing addition (below) will look when they are completed in the next year or two. Stay tuned for updates.



During the past 10 years, Chew has led the Grandview and Southview centers to extraordinary achievements. Under his leadership, these institutions have gained more national awards for quality and safety than all others in Ohio; they have experienced significant increases, in both patient and staff satisfaction; and their financials have improved dramatically. In addition, Chew is one of the most respected community leaders in the Dayton area.

As the senior executive officer for Sycamore Medical Center since 2000, Haas directed the significant growth of that campus, improving the facilities, patient satisfaction, clinical quality, employee satisfaction, as well as relationships with both the medical staff and the surrounding communities. He accomplished these improvements while sustaining profitable performance. Haas' replacement will be named soon.

Adventists: Called to Heal Film Project Begins

Award winner Martin Doblmeier (journeyfilms.com), who has filmed and produced more than 40 documentaries on the subject of religion, has turned his attention to the health message of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. His interest was peaked during a visit to Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC) in California nine years ago, where the idea of creating

a film about the Adventist health ministry was born. Doblmeier developed a view that Adventists have impacted health-care around the world in a distinctly positive way. "It's unique to find a religious teaching so committed to end-time events and yet driving forward into education and healthcare solutions."

With the support of Frank Perez, Kettering Adventist HealthCare CEO, and leaders from both the Florida Adventist Health System and LLUMC, the film will now become a reality. It will trace the history of the Adventist health message to Ellen White and Battle Creek and travel across the United States demonstrating the wide range of healthcare services provided through our system. Completion is expected this fall. Watch for updates on this exciting project!

KMC Awarded Recognition, Grant

Kettering Medical Center (KMC) received recognition for the second year as a United Health Premium Surgical Spine Specialty Center. This designation states that the hospital meets or exceeds nationally recognized standards of care for spine surgery. Recognition is due to the multidisciplinary teamwork of the Neurosurgical (Spine Implant) Practice and Products Committee team members, who promote quality care and evaluate cost reduction opportunities.



KMC's Cardiac Outreach Department, in partnership with the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women program, has also been recognized with a \$4,000 grant from the Levin Foundation. The funds will be used to educate and screen underinsured women.

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New Life "Prayer Explosion" Yields 70 Members

Weeks before the New Life church held its evangelism meetings, Bible workers visited homes throughout Salisbury, Md., befriended people, and offered them Bible studies. Weeks later members saw a return on their efforts when many in the community attended their meetings themed "Prayer Explosion."

Attendees enjoyed the rousing services, nightly quizzes to reinforce Bible lessons from the night before, and prizes to stimulate attendance. Singer/songwriter Anthony Whigham from California provided special music, and evangelist C.B. Gentry electrified a packed meeting hall with messages of hope and the good news of salvation.

More than 100 people completed Bible studies and were present at the meetings on graduation night. At the end of the four weeks, so many people wanted to be baptized that they had to be scheduled for three different dates. Even after the meetings, nine more people were baptized, bringing the number who joined the church from that effort to nearly 70.

"We believe there is still more to come as we continue to share the love of Christ with a dying world," said New Life pastor Paul Bryant.

In addition to feeding souls, New Life members also used the opportunity to feed the physical hunger of those in the community. They teamed up with Feed the Children to distribute approximately 400 boxes of food to residents and meeting attendees.—Catherine Bratten



A visitor receives an electronic Bible for bringing 10 guests to the meetings.

Metropolitan Member Sews Inaugural Drapery

Although they wouldn't know Myrtle Nora if they passed her on the street, millions of people all over the world have seen her work. She made all of the brilliant red, white, and blue bunting that adorned the U.S.

Capitol for President Barack Obama's inauguration. Nora is the community service coordinator at Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md., where she has been a member for 30 years.

While Nora says working on this historic inauguration was her proudest career accomplishment, it was not her first. This textile specialist in the Rayburn Building on the campus of the U.S. Capitol, made similar patriotic drapery for the 2005 inauguration of President George W. Bush. In 2004 this Trinidad and Tobago native received an award from the Chief Office of Administration in the House of Representatives. She was singled out for her diligence in sewing the black velvet covering for the catafalque that supported the caskets of presidents Ronald Reagan in 2004 and Gerald Ford in 2006.

The Sabbath before the inauguration, Metropolitan pastor Brenda Billings recognized Nora's contribution to the inauguration: "It is truly an honor to be able to share Myrtle's talents with the world, and she did that in an exquisite fashion for the president's inauguration."—Marva Shand McIntosh



Myrtle Nora, a longtime member of the Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md., works on the bunting for the recent presidential inauguration.

NEWS NOTES

Fire Destroys Baltimore-based Cherry Hill Church

Cherry Hill church members in Baltimore are recovering from a fire that destroyed their 20-year-old



sanctuary (above). Police are still investigating the cause of the fire.

"We will continue to hold on to our faith in God, and He will see us through this rough situation," said Pastor T. Duwayne Privette.

Members are making plans to rebuild. In the meantime, this 170-member congregation is meeting at a nearby church. For updates, visit the church's website preparingforglory.org.

Pine Forge's Young Alumni Return Home

In hopes of giving back to their alma mater, approximately 40 college students recently returned to Pine Forge Academy (PFA) in Pine



Nisha Murray and Vincent Murray, recent Pine Forge Academy alumni, returned to the school to help prepare students for life after academy. One of the topics covered during Young Alumni Weekend was guarding spirituality.

Forge, Pa., for the second Young Alumni Weekend.

"We realize that because we are still in school we can't give money, but we can give of ourselves and our time," explained Oakwood University freshman Alexandra E. Arnold ('08).

With the support of PFA's alumni association, the group—with attendees representing classes as far back as 2004—spent the weekend encouraging the current student body to pursue further academic, social, and spiritual growth through a series of skits, workshops, testimonies, and a youth-led vespers and Sabbath service.

First Church Partners With Bakery to Help Others

The First church of Montclair, N.J., recently expanded its menu of community service offerings through a partnership with Panera Bread Bakery-Café. The award-winning company serves fresh bread and other baked goods. Gilmar Oliveira, general manger of



Lisa Hamilton, First church's soup kitchen coordinator, poses with Gilmar Oliveira, general manager for Panera Bread Bakery-Café. Oliveira has agreed to donate the café's unsold surplus to the church's soup kitchen.

the Montclair location, has agreed to donate the café's unsold surplus to the church each week. First church's soup kitchen coordinator Lisa Hamilton estimates that over the course of a year, the church will have received, free of charge, a minimum of \$4,800 worth of baked goods.

"Building relationships with community organizations expands the church's capacity to serve others and increases our visibility," said Senior Pastor Paula Olivier. "We are also offering the overflow to multiple agencies in Essex County."

Better Halfs Club Celebrates 40 Years Together

For decades members of the Better Halfs Club have met in each other's homes on the first Sunday of every month to organize family



Better Halfs club members sing their theme song "I Need You to Survive" at their 40th anniversary celebration.

activities, social functions, charitable outreach, and to provide spiritual support to its Allegheny East Conference members. Recently more than 100 people celebrated the club's 40th anniversary at the Columbia Union Conference's headquarters in Columbia, Md.

Themed "Together Through The Years," the celebration reflected the perspectives of children and husbands, the "other halves" of the club.

"The way they shared memories of their time in the club was so funny and heartwarming," said Gerri Davis, who has been a member for 15 years.

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

Job Corps Dorm Named for Slain Hillcrest Member

Hillcrest church members recently joined students, faculty, and family members at the Pittsburgh Job Corps Center's (PJCC) dedication ceremony, which named a dormitory after one of their own. Evans Hall was named after 20-year-old job corps participant Christopher James "CJ" Evans, who was slain in October 2007. Evans was a Dallas native who attended the Hillcrest church while living in Pittsburgh.

A target for armed robbery, Evans was fatally shot after departing a public bus in the Homewood section of Pittsburgh. He was returning to PJCC after a study session at a community college where he pursued a degree in graphic design. Evans' parents, William and Pansy Evans, and sister, Christina, came from Dallas for the bittersweet occasion and to attend the opening trial of Lester Jackson, the 16-year-old accused of the crime. Participants in the ceremony made note of Evans' positive spirit and gentle contributions.

Mark Douglas, PJCC director, never met Evans, but noted " ...the power of CJ's influence is evident in this dedication ceremony. Many high generals and staff have had buildings dedicated in their honor, but of the 122 job corp centers in the United States that have an academic building, none have been named after a student." Evans was the first student to be killed while attending PJCC.

Affixed to the entrance wall of the dorm is a plaque with Evans' mantra, "I'm going to take advantage of this free education."

PJCC has also planted a tree and founded a scholarship in commemoration of Evans' life.—Abena Baskins



Hillcrest members in Pittsburgh remember slain Dallas native Christopher James "CJ" Evans, an Adventist who attended the church while he was living in Pittsburgh.

EDUCATION NEWS

Columbus Academy Grows

Columbus Adventist Academy in Columbus, Ohio, defied current school growth trends by experiencing a 30 percent increase in student enrollment for the 2008-09 school year.



The school has reached an enrollment of 79 students compared to 59 at the close of the previous school year. To handle the growing student population, the school administration hired Brenda Arthurs (left), from the Georgia-Cumberland Conference headquartered in Calhoun, Ga., to become the school's first full-time principal. Arthurs, a keen team player, is already focused on taking the school to the next level.

Ramah Celebrates Anniversary, Adds a Grade

This year marks the 82nd anniversary of Ramah Junior Academy in Cleveland. Early in the school year, at a function held in the school's honor, a group of Ramah's alumni and students presented the school with \$3,000.

Previously a K-8 school, this year Ramah added the ninth grade to its program. This is the first step in the realization of principal Mary Conwell's (below) dream of making Ramah a K-10 school once again. Teachers Harry S. Jenkins and Shelia Anthony have teamed up to ensure that Ramah has a bonafide ninth-grade program. It has also diversified its extracurricular activities with the addition of soccer.

—Collin Parkinson



Temple Emmanuel Invests in World Missions

The Sabbath School classes at Temple Emmanuel in Youngstown, Ohio, recently wrapped up a friendly competition to see which class could raise the most money for World Missions.

"Each month during Investment Spotlight, we cheered on their progress. Some even came forward to share how God had blessed them in their individual investment projects," explains investment leader Tammie Riddle. "We also kept two charts: one to keep track of class advances for that particular month, and the other to display individual contributions."

By the end of the year, the church raised more than \$1,300 for missions. The class that raised the most funds of \$383 was The Incredibles, led by teacher Maggie Adams. Tedro Lambert's class, The Wonderfals, placed second raising \$270. And Lavonne Johnson's class, The Superbs, came in third with \$262.

The classes raised funds by making a personal commitment to donate each week, collecting Worthington and Loma Linda UPC labels, and accepting donations from others.

"God is truly blessing His mission department right here in Youngstown," said Riddle. "It is true that when you consecrate your projects to God for His Glory, He truly will bring it to flourish!"



As part of an annual project, Maggie Adams' Sabbath School class at Temple Emmanuel in Youngstown, Ohio, raised \$383 for World Missions.

Melrose Avenue Couples Reaffirm Wedding Vows

It was on a beautiful Sabbath day that eight couples from the Melrose Avenue church in Roanoke, Va., reaffirmed their wedding vows. The length of the marriages ranged from 16 months to 41 years for a combined 177 years of marriage.

In a prelude to the ceremony, Pastor Harry Britt told the congregation that marriage is much like having a relationship with Jesus; as the couples stand to renew themselves to Him, they also stand to renew themselves to their marriage vows.

Carl Rogers, executive secretary of the Allegheny West Conference, officiated the ceremony. He and his wife, Tecora, took time out from celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary to be part of the ceremony.

Rogers told the couples that very few of them were completely united when their first marriage ceremony was performed. He said the real test of the union came in the years that followed the wedding. He reminded them they made a commitment to be faithful to each other as God made a commitment that He would be faithful to them.

"You were joined together by God, and it is His desire that you never part, for joining together and becoming one is symbolic of the unity that exists between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit," said Rogers.

He concluded the ceremony with prayer and said a blessing for each couple. Special music was provided by soloist Angela Logan and the group Anointed Voices.



Eight couples from the Melrose Avenue church in Roanoke, Va., recently renewed their wedding vows.

Calendar

March

- 15 Community Service Federation Central/Southern Ohio
- 19 Music and Worship Conference
- 29 Community Service Federation VAWWA

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Circle This

In times of great trial and threat, the phrase "circle the wagons" is often used. This phrase comes from the defensive strategy the pioneers used when their wagon train was threatened. Pulling the wagons into a circle afforded a significant amount of safety and strength to the traveling party.

A circle is the symbol of perfection. Being part of a circle allows us to all be included. Subjects in a circle are at the same level and the same distance apart. A circle has no beginning and no end. There are songs about circles. Advertising campaigns are designed around the symbolism of the strength, unity, and acceptance that being part of a circle signifies.

Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) has a "power circle" on campus. This circle seeks no attention; it doesn't self-promote. It is not flashy or strategically placed, yet it is very visible. The circle includes students of various races, ages, and walks of life on our campus. It is an all-inclusive circle that adds strength and safety to each of its members.

This circle is a group of students who have decided that dedicating a small part of their day to gathering in their Father's name is a worthwhile activity. It is not a clever design by our Campus Ministries department to bring prayer into more of a focal point on our campus. It is not something that is listed as an activity in our school bulletin. It is not a club that requires a certain GPA or citizenship grade in order to join. This prayer circle is a group of young people who love God and are so convicted of their love for Him that they choose to take an important part of their free time to meet as a group and lift up their burdens, praises, and requests.

The influence of this circle may not be completely known for years, but the safety and strength that it provides is a reality on our campus.



Rob Gettys
Principal

NEWS

Volunteers Continue Phase I Renovations

Volunteers logged more than 600 hours on Phase I of BMA's bathroom renovation project. Professional volunteers included plumbers Herb Dennison and Herbie Dennison, along with their wives, and Robbie Abshire; masons Kenneth Snedden and helper Welsley Smith, DDS; and electrician Jim Sanderson and helpers Dave Snedden and Don Wilkins. Because of their efforts, BMA passed two rough-in inspections.

Students are thrilled to see how many people are



Jim Sanderson replaces the current electrical boxes. He also worked on wiring the bathrooms.



Herbie Dennison brought his family and worked on the rough plumbing over the holidays.

working to make these renovations a reality. Some are surprised that so many are donating their time and money for this project.

Students Minister at Lebanon Church

BMA's annual Inreach Program continues to bless congregations around the Pennsylvania Conference with student ministry. The Lebanon congregation was one of the churches students ministered to this year.



On a recent visit to the Lebanon church, Rebecca Ducharme ('10) told the children's story, Diana Cordero ('10) gave the sermon, and Abby Taylor ('10) sang a song she wrote.

Blood Donors Set Record High

A record 63 students, staff, and community members registered to donate blood and platelets at Blue Mountain Academy's recent annual drive. Fifty units of blood were collected, potentially saving 150 lives! Senior Christel Koerting (right) was just one of the many students thrilled at the chance to make a difference.

The Miller-Keystone Blood Center, which serves Eastern Pennsylvania, sent an extra technician and added an hour to the drive in order to accommodate the large number of donors. This was also the first time they brought the automation machine that enables platelet donation. At a recent assembly, a Miller-Keystone representative explained to students the donation process and the importance of maintaining an adequate and healthy blood supply.



Student Speakers FOCUS on Christ

During BMA's annual student week of prayer called Focusing on Christ's Ultimate Sacrifice (FOCUS), Student Association members each presented a sermon to their peers. On Tuesday Cory Burnett ('12) explained that everyone is worthy of God's rewards. "No one should ever feel that they are not good enough," he said. On Wednesday Paige Burnett ('11) reminded students that even when things get bad, God is there. And on Thursday, Deana Mitchell ('10) shared that when seeking a relationship with God, it is important to hold His hand. At Friday vespers, Ricky Morgan ('09) shared that God is seeking His lost people and will find them. On Sabbath morning, Diana Cordero ('09) challenged all to have faith and trust that God is there for His children.

Paige shared how preparing her sermon impacted her: "The idea of standing in front of one's peers is daunting and causes many people's knees to tremble. It wasn't just that I had to speak on stage; I had been appointed to deliver the Word of God to my fellow students," she said. "I pleaded with God to help me say things that would give the message in a way they had never heard before."

"I read my Bible and *The Desire of Ages* over and over to find something that could impact my fellow students. I then wrote my sermon, memorized it, and prepared myself for Wednesday evening's meeting," she continued. "Then I trusted God to help me to deliver the words adequately and to His glory. I figured that no matter how I stumbled or how I fell, He would do with me as He saw fit. God blessed, and I delivered the message."

Want to get BMA News Fast?

We can email the *Communique* to you as soon as it is printed. Send your name and email address to Kathleen Sutton at kathys@bma.us. Also check our website for up-to-the-minute information, news, and happenings at bma.us.

Coming EVENTS

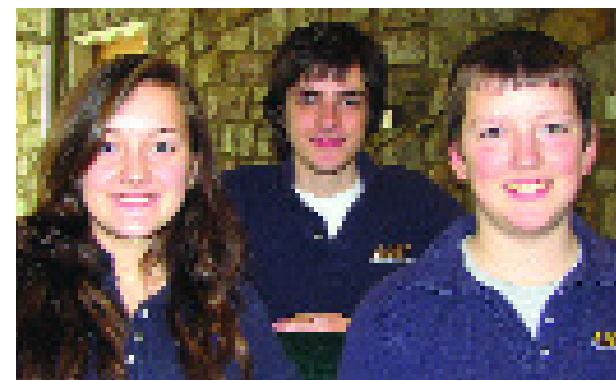
March
6-7 Elementary Music Festival

April
24-25 Alumni Weekend

May
3-4 Academy Days

For a more detailed schedule, see the online calendar at bma.us.

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FOCUS week speakers included (left to right) Paige Burnett ('11), Ricky Morgan ('09), and Cory Burnett ('12).

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

MARCH 2009

The Great Omission

It has been said many times that "Christ's last command is our first concern." And while agreeing with this reference to the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20), I can't help but wonder if, in all of our emphasis upon mission, we have not left out the very key element—disciples making disciples—in what Jesus was commanding?

The word *disciple* occurs 269 times in the New Testament (the term Christian is found three times). That draws me to the conclusion that the New Testament is a book *about* disciples, *by* disciples, and *for* disciples of Jesus. But the point is not about semantics. What is important is the kind of life we see in the people of the early church. While we might not follow Jesus literally in the way His first disciples could, our attitudes, priorities, and intentions can be the same. In the heart of a disciple, there is a settled intent to follow Jesus, to become like Him, and to make more disciples with the same settled intent. The failure to see that dynamic cycle develop is the Great Omission within the Great Commission.

In 1937 Dietrich Bonhoeffer gave the world his book *The Cost of Discipleship*. It was an attack on "easy Christianity" and "cheap grace." And while that emphasis may still be needed in some circles, Dallas Willard speaks of the cost of non-discipleship in his book *The Great Omission*: "Nondiscipleship costs abiding peace; a life permeated by love; faith that sees everything in light of God's providential leading; hopefulness that stands firm in the most discouraging circumstances; power to do what is right and withstand the forces of evil. In short, nondiscipleship costs you exactly that abundance of life Jesus said He came to bring us" (see John 10:10).

From my perspective, one of our greatest challenges today is to rise above our traditional understanding and embrace the true meaning of discipleship—an active, concrete, 24/7 life with Jesus.



Rob Vandeman
President

Friendship School Goes Green

Sesame Street's Kermit the Frog sings, "It's Not Easy Being Green," but this year students at Friendship Adventist School in Linthicum, Md., have embraced a simple way to be environmentally friendly and generate revenue for the school. The school has signed up for the Abitibi Paper Retriever Program, which promotes recycling by placing distinctive green and yellow bins in highly visible areas at schools, churches, and other nonprofit organizations. The program even pays these organizations for the paper collected. Anyone can deposit newspapers, magazines, catalogs, and other paper in the bin. When the bin is emptied, the contents are weighed, and the school receives a check based on the amount of paper collected. The paper is then de-inked and milled into 100 percent recycled content newsprint.

When teacher Mary Brown recently asked her class what it means to be "green," hands shot up. The children demonstrated a clear understanding of how their recycling efforts impact the community, and are enthusiastic about helping their school.



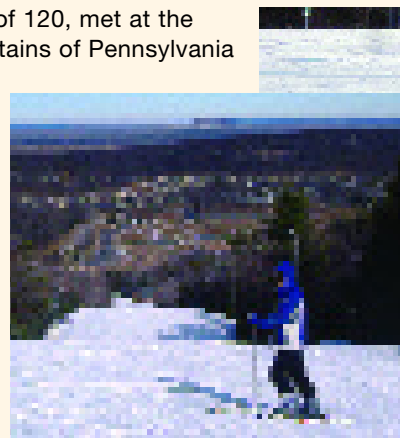
Students at Friendship Adventist School in Linthicum, Md., crowd around the paper retriever bin set at the edge of the school parking lot. The 28-student, K-8 school shares property with the Linthicum church and houses a preschool and daycare center. Photo by Samantha Young

Young and Young-at-Heart Hit the Slopes

Kids, teens, and adults, numbering upwards of 120, met at the Big Boulder Ski Resort in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania on a recent winter Sunday for a day of powdery sport. This was one of two ski events that the Chesapeake Conference's Youth Ministries department sponsors each winter. Director Carl Rodriguez reports the turnout on this day was more than double that of the past year's events.

"One of the main goals of these trips is to encourage members to invite friends," says Rodriguez. "The results are amazing—we have more returning members, and they bring friends and neighbors who get a glimpse of what our faith is all about."

Guilherme Martinelli, a group leader from the Capital Brazilian Temple in Highland, Md., adds, "It was fun, and at a great price, too."



Atholton church member Joseph Beil surveys the trail before plunging down the mountain.



Jameeka Williams of the Atholton church in Columbia, Md., practices her new skills.

PHOTOS BY DOUG BELL

Pasadena Member Gives "Gift of Life" to Head Elder

To God be the glory," says Russell Wright over and over again. He just can't seem to say it enough since recently receiving a desperately-needed kidney from a fellow member of the Pasadena (Md.) church.

Wright's story began about 10 years ago when he was diagnosed with uncontrollable high blood pressure. His condition worsened over the years, and a kidney specialist told him he needed a new kidney and would soon have to begin dialysis treatments.

When they learned Wright's health was failing and that he needed a kidney transplant, the 84-member

Pasadena congregation was quick to respond. Many volunteered to be tested, but none were found to be a match. Wright was not worried. When Pastor David Glass and his wife, Debbie, placed their hands on him during an anointing service, Wright says that was when he knew that the Lord was really moving in his life. His spirits were high and he had faith that God would take care of his needs.

After spending time in prayer, another member quietly went through the testing process and proved to be an excellent candidate. She offered to give one of her healthy kidneys to Wright. The two have been acquainted for a dozen years, but were not close friends, says Wright. "It was her relationship with God that led her to pursue the idea of giving me a kidney, not her relationship with me," he says. The donor, who asked for anonymity, says, "God is awesome! I just want Him to be the primary focus."

There were tense moments, even up to the day before the surgery, as more tests were performed to ensure the compatibility of Wright and the donor. The surgeries went well for both, and Wright's body readily accepted the new kidney. When a doctor commented that Wright was a lucky man, Wright responded, "I am not lucky. I am blessed."



Russell Wright, who received a kidney from a fellow believer, credits his wife, Pamela, for being his advocate and coordinating many of the details of his medical care.

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PHOTO BY SAMANTHA YOUNG

Columbia Union College

1000 Furman Avenue, Columbia, MD 21044 • Phone: (410) 995-1910 • Fax: (410) 995-1911

Teaching the Spirit of Healing

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people" (Matt. 9:35-36, NKJV).

After reading the above Scripture, we should not be surprised that Jesus is referred to as the Great Physician and Wonderful Counselor. Ellen White describes Jesus as the "Healer of Souls" and the "Physician of Souls." People sought Jesus because "from Him flowed a stream of healing power and in body, mind, and soul men were made whole," (*Ministry of Healing*, p.17).

We understand from Scripture that sickness results when we are out of harmony with God's laws. When Jesus healed the sick, they were made to feel whole again. From the Christian perspective, the deepest healing occurs at the spiritual level. Subsequently, only the Great Physician can heal and renew the human heart.

Our approach at Columbia Union College (CUC) is to introduce a wholistic, Christian approach to preparing students studying counseling in the Department of Psychology, and to those enrolled in the new master's program of Professional Counseling Psychology. The Bible supplies us with close to 30 specific promises for healing. With these in mind, we encourage our trainees to care for people with kindness and sympathy, regardless of their cultural background or religious persuasion.



Grant Leitma
Chair, Department
of Psychology

NEWS

Students Travel to Germany for Reformation Tour

CUC's Department of Religion recently embarked on the Luther and the History of Protestant Christianity tour. Professor Zdravko "Zack" Plantak, PhD, CUC's religion chair, and Don Schneider, president of the North American Division, paired up to lead the trip to Germany. The goal was to visit significant sites of the

Reformation period, otherwise known as the "cradle of Protestant Christianity."

In Wittenberg, students visited the town church where Martin Luther pastored, and examined Castle Church, the site where Luther nailed his 95 Theses. Along the way, the group observed several magnificent sites and noteworthy Eastern European art and architecture.

Included was a tour of the Pergamon Museum in Berlin where participants saw the Ishtar Gate, one of the eight gates to the inner city of Babylon. Students were also privileged to walk along the edges of the actual tiles that Daniel tread on when he entered Babylon as a slave.—*Michael Martell*



CUC students visited significant sites of the Reformation during a recent trip to Germany.

College to Host Midterm Constituency Session

Columbia Union College will host its first Midterm Constituency meeting at the campus' Sligo church on Sunday, May 17. Invited delegates from around the Columbia Union will assemble on the college campus to hear reports and updates from college administrators, as well as members of the board of trustees. On November 17, 2006, attendees to the quinquennial constituency session voted to meet once at midterm and raised the quorum requirement to 50 percent of the body.

Keough Lectureship Series Presents Biblical Scholars

The Department of Religion will host the annual G. Arthur Keough Lectures in H.M.S. Richards Hall Chapel on April 3 and 4. Named after a former CUC religion professor, the lectureship invites speakers from around the world to discuss issues regarding Christian faith in today's 21st century culture.

The two-day lectureship will feature noted husband-and-wife authors Brian J. Walsh, PhD, and Sylvia Keesmaat, DPhil, from Canada. Walsh is an adjunct professor of theology culture at Wycliffe University and chaplain at the Christian Reformed Campus Ministries at the University of Toronto. He will speak on Friday, April 3, at 7 p.m. Sylvia C. Keesmaat is an adjunct professor of biblical studies and hermeneutics at the Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto and will speak on Sabbath, April 4, at 3:30 p.m.

Both are noted theologians and biblical scholars. The couple has been published numerous times together and separately. Their work includes a commentary on Colossians titled *Colossians Remixed: Subverting the Empire*, and a forthcoming commentary on the book of Romans.

Several distinguished guests representing various faiths will be on hand to respond to the lecturers.—PR Staff



Student Profile: Emily Crocker

Emily Crocker a sophomore political studies major, values Christian education and believes attending a Seventh-day Adventist institution has been a pivotal force in her development as a young adult. As a student at Auburn Adventist Academy in Auburn, Wash., Crocker realized how much she enjoyed learning and growing

with people who shared her beliefs and faith in God.

"I wanted the same experience I had in high school, but needed to be certain that I could gain experience in my field while still obtaining the most from my college experience, and at CUC I received both!" said Crocker. "Through the guidance and mentorship of my advisors, I was given the resources to seek an internship that allowed me to develop my skills in my area of study. She served as a legislative intern last summer in her home state of Washington.

Crocker chose Columbia Union College because of the political studies program and its successful mock trial team. She recently tried out for the team and earned a spot to represent the college at national competitions. As a sophomore, Crocker is enjoying her college experience and is actively involved with the Student Association and Campus Ministries.—Michael Martell



CALENDAR

March

2-5 Midterm Exams

6-15 Spring Break

27-29 Mother/Daughter Weekend

April

3-4 Keough Lectureship

3-5 Alumni Weekend

5 Tastes of Takoma

15 Student Recognition/ Convocation

20 Psi Chi Induction Ceremony

25 Student Association Prayer Breakfast

27-29 Final Exams

The Gateway is published in the Visitor by the Columbia Union College 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 Phone: (800) 835-4212 • cuc.edu President, Weymouth Spence Executive Director of Marketing and Communication, Saschane Stephenson Editor, Tanisha Greenidge

Adventist Education Adds Value

What value is added to an Adventist education? I think it's a fair question to ask. A brief Internet search reveals that the "value-added" concept is currently very popular. Value-added has been described as the value or enhancement added to a product or service. Has value been added to the service we provide in the Seventh-day Adventist schools of Mountain View Conference?

A parent expects to find certain things in any good school: a safe campus, a serviceable school building, trained teachers, and a good curriculum. You'll find all these things in Mountain View schools. However, there is so much more value added! Some of these are:

- Every day our students receive the kind of personal attention and academic instruction that many parents pay dearly for at after-school tutoring centers.
- At a time when many schools are eliminating art, music, and physical education, our schools offer these essential courses to every student each year.
- Mountain View teachers and students freely pray and discuss their spiritual beliefs and values, not just in Bible class, but throughout the day in many different classes and settings.
- Our students put those beliefs into practice by leading out in church worship services, helping with church and community service projects, and planning youth witnessing activities.
- Our curriculum and materials are based on biblical and Spirit of Prophecy principles.

There's a lot more value I could tell you about. Your local Adventist school principal would be very happy to talk with you in more detail. Please call your nearest Mountain View Conference school and find out what a value-added Adventist education can do for your family.



Cheryl Jacko
Acting Superintendent

Highland Students Make Renaissance "Faire" a Learning Experience

Students in grades 5-8 at Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va., recently entertained the entire student body at their first Renaissance "Faire." Following a study of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, the



James Cosner, a fifth-grader, portrays a knight at Highland Adventist School's renaissance fair.

students each created a character that portrayed a career from the time period. Students demonstrated the vocations of candle making, needlework, weaving, stained glass, calligraphy, gem work, dressmaking, and blacksmithing. They also portrayed a knight and a pickpocket. Students from other classes came to the "faire" to try out crafts, ask questions about the time period, and enjoy refreshments.

Our middle school students did an outstanding job of providing a hands-on learning opportunity for our entire student body," said principal Cheryl Jacko. "They did a lot of research and work to authentically portray a medieval renaissance fair. We are glad to see our students getting excited about history."

Highland Adventist School offers innovative, Adventist education for students in grades K-12. For more information about the school, call (304) 636-4274, or visit highlandadventistschool.org.



Highland Adventist School students model medieval clothing at their renaissance faire.

Greenbrier Valley Students Visit Myrtle Beach

It took nine hours for the seven students from Greenbrier Valley Academy in Lewisburg, W.Va., their parents, and their teacher Suzan Wilson, to reach their field trip destination of Myrtle Beach, S.C.

As with in-state field trips, this particular trip focused on hands-on learning. Despite the beautiful vacation atmosphere, the students spent mornings in the classroom, which prepared them for outings in the afternoons.

Some of the highlights of the trip included visits to Waccatee Zoo, where the children were able to feed some of the animals; a drive to the beach, which allowed one student to see the ocean for the first time; and a trip to Ripley's Aquarium. While at the aquarium, students had a close encounter with sea creatures, which they viewed through 3-D glasses at the IMAX Discovery Theater. Greenbrier students also toured Middleton Place in Charleston, a plantation owned by Arthur Middleton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Between these academic activities were quick dips in the pool and other fun activities.—Kathy Pepper

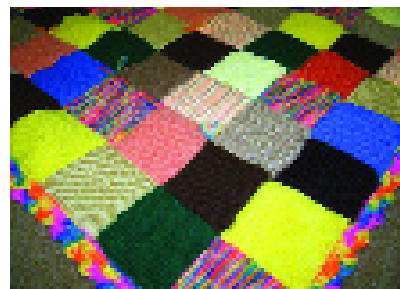


Greenbrier Valley Academy students don their 3-D glasses to watch a film on aquatic life during their field trip to Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Valley View Teachers, Students "Knit Together in Love"

Eighty dollars? Gladly," said the customer as she reached for a colorful, beautifully coordinated, hand-knitted blanket (right). This sale brought the number of blankets sold to help others to eight.

About a year ago, homeroom teacher Alice Cronje started encouraging students in grades 5 to 8, and other teachers from the Valley View School in Bluefield, W.Va., to knit blankets. While knitting is a useful skill, students are also helping to relieve the plight of the poor. Part of the funds earned from the blankets goes to Family Providers International, an organization that brings hope and sustenance to nearly 400 orphans and

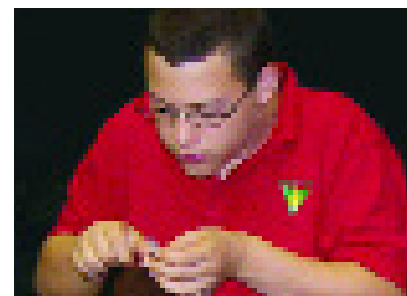


senior citizens grouped into caring family units at the Shiloh farm in Chiredzi, Zimbabwe.

After finishing tests, or during read aloud time, boys and girls reach quietly for their needles and contribute one more square to the thousand or more needed to make one blanket. The latest is available from principal Rosalie Stockil. Another two are in progress.

The apostle Paul expressed the yearning of his heart that God's children be "knit together in love" (Col. 2:2)—and for students at Valley View school this takes on a literal meaning with this special knitting project.

"In a multi-grade classroom, putting needles and yarn into 10 pairs of equally inexperienced hands was a great leveler—and proved to be a lot of fun," said Cronje.—Rosalie Stockil



Alex Foy is one of 10 Valley View students who use their free time to knit colorful blankets to help orphans and the elderly in Zimbabwe.

Mountain View EVENTS

March

- 2 Curriculum Committee
Buckhannon, 9 a.m.
Teachers In-Service
Buckhannon, 10 a.m.
- 3 Ministers Meeting
Ripley, 10 a.m.
- 16 Conference Executive
Committee Meeting and
Annual Financial Review
- 28 Outreach Leadership Rally
SW Huntington

April

- 3-5 Singles Retreat, *Valley Vista*
- 18 Conference-wide Youth Rally
Valley View
- 19 Education Fair, *Summersville*
- 26 Board of Education Meets
10 a.m.

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MARCH 2009

Spiritual Stimulus for a Shaky Economy

In these uncertain days, when the news makes us nervous, when many workers are losing their jobs, and when the economy of our country and the entire world is in trouble, please do not look to human beings for the solution to these problems! Instead, I recommend that, now more than ever, as responsible people of faith, we look to God. This is the time when we should take the following steps to strengthen our spiritual lives:

- Let us double our prayer lives. Every morning at 5:30, I intercede for my brothers and my church. Please join me in praying for our brethren, our country, and our leaders.
- Let us study the Bible. It is the only way to maintain a strong faith.
- Let's do the work of evangelism. In times like these, people out there need to know God.
- Let us care for our families. Remember, love is much more than a word. Let us be sure that our families all have food and shelter.
- Let's be faithful stewards and remember that everything we have belongs to God. So let us also care for our family in Christ, giving to those who have less or nothing. Our Lord will open the windows of heaven until they abound.

Following this spiritual stimulus plan will help reinforce our relationship with the Almighty God. It will also attract God's blessings in the midst of the crisis we all face.



José Cortés
President

NEWS

Union City Church Blessed by Evangelistic Meetings

Eight people recently joined Union City Spanish church after its pastor, members, and visiting evangelist Fernando Toala from Venezuela, worked together during the weeklong evangelism meetings. Some visitors heard about the meetings while they utilized the church's food bank. Julio Cesar Labrador, the church's



Pastor Julio Cesar Labrador presents a Bible to a visitor who attended every evening of the meetings.

pastor, presented Christian literature to all the visitors. To visitors who came every evening, and to those who brought at least five guests, he also presented large illustrated leather Bibles.

The pastors also spoke with visitors in their homes. Through the working of the Holy Spirit and the inspirational messages of Pastor Toala, three adults and five children were baptized. Still others have expressed their desire to continue receiving Bible studies, with baptism in the near future.—Claudia García del Puerto

State Commends Adventist Community Services

Adventist Community Services (ACS) recently received a letter of commendation from New Jersey's Office of Emergency Management for helping the state with a training exercise. New Jersey recently conducted one of the largest training exercises ever held in that state at the state police academy in Sea Girt. Claudia Ramirez and Norman Talley, conference coordinators for disaster response, along with Catherine Schofield, assistant coordinator for the southern area, and Bill Schofield, a disaster response volunteer, helped to train 1,000 volunteers.

The letter from the state read: "Without their participation, it is doubtful that the event would have been successful. Their performance and work ethic reflect great credit upon themselves and the New Jersey Conference of Seventh-day Adventists."

ACS will hold disaster response training at the Vineland Spanish church in June and another at the Toms River church in November.



Adventist Community Services leaders help train 1,000 people in disaster preparedness.

Estimulo Espiritual para una Economía Inestable

En estos días de incertidumbre, cuando las noticias nos pone nervioso, cuando muchos trabajadores están perdiendo sus trabajos, y cuando la economía de nuestro país y el mundo entero esta en problema, por favor no mire al ser humano para la solución a estos problemas! En vez, yo recomiendo ahora mas que nunca, como personas responsables de fe, miremos hacia Dios. Este es el tiempo cuando deberíamos tomar los siguientes pasos para enriquecer nuestra vida espiritual:

- Redoblemos nuestra vida de oración. Cada mañana a las 5:30, yo intercede por mis hermanos y mi iglesia. Únase conmigo para orar por nuestros hermanos, nuestro país, y nuestros lideres.
- Estudiemos la Biblia. Es la única manera de mantener una fe fuerte.
- Hagamos el trabajo de evangelismo. En momentos como estos las personas afuera necesitan conocer de Dios.
- Cuidemos de nuestras familias. Recuerda, amor es mucho mas que palabras. Estemos seguros que nuestras familias tengan comida y refugio.
- Seamos fieles mayordomos y recordemos que todo lo que tenemos pertenece a Dios. Por lo tanto cuidemos a nuestra familia en Cristo dando a aquellos que tienen menos o nada. Nuestro Señor abrirá las ventanas del cielo hasta que sobreabunda.

Siguiendo este plan de estimulo espiritual ayudara a reforzar nuestra relación con nuestro gran Dios. Sin embargo, también atraerá las bendiciones de Dios en el medio de la crisis que todos enfrentamos.



José Cortés
Presidente

NEWS

Iglesia de Union City Bendecida por Reuniones Evangelísticas

Ocho personas recientemente se unieron a la iglesia hispana de Union City después de que su pastor, miembros, y evangelista visitante Fernando Tóala de Venezuela, trabajaron juntos durante reuniones evange-



El Pastor Julio Cesar Labrador presenta una Biblia a una visita que asistió todas las noches a las reuniones.

listicas de una semana. Algunas visitas escucharon de las reuniones mientras utilizaban el banco de comida de la iglesia. Julio Cesar Labrador, el pastor de la iglesia, presentó literatura Cristiana a todas sus visitas. A las visitas que llegaron cada noche y aquellos que trajeron por lo menos cinco visitas, el también les presentó un Biblia grande de cuero ilustrada. Los dos pastores también hablaron con las visitas en sus hogares. Por medio del trabajo del Espíritu Santo y los mensajes inspiradores del Pastor Tóala, tres adultos y cinco niños fueron bautizados. Aun otros expresaron su deseo de continuar tomando estudios Bíblicos con el plan de bautismo muy pronto.—*Claudia García del Puerto*

El Estado Reconoce al Servicio de la Comunidad Adventista

El Servicio a la Comunidad Adventista recientemente recibió una carta de reconocimiento de la oficina de Manejo de Emergencia de New Jersey por ayudar al estado con un ejercicio de entrenamiento. Recientemente New Jersey condujo uno de los entrenamientos mas grandes en la Academia de Policía del estado de New Jersey en Sea Girt, NJ. Claudia Ramirez Y Norman Talley, los coordinadores de la conferencia para ayuda en desastres junto con Catherine Schofield, coordinadora asistente para el área del sur; y Bill Schofield, un voluntario de ayuda en desastres, ayudo a entrenar 1,000 voluntarios.

La carta del estado leyó: "Sin su participación, se duda que el acontecimiento habría tenido éxito. Su desempeño y la ética del trabajo reflejan gran crédito sobre sí mismos y sobre la Conferencia de Nueva Jersey de los Adventistas del Séptimo-Día".

En Junio ACS tendrá instrucción de ayuda en desastres en la iglesia hispana de Vineland y otro en la iglesia de Toms River en Noviembre.



Lideres del Servicio a la Comunidad Adventista ayudo a entrenar 1,000 personas en preparación de desastres.

Kettering Hosts Heart Health Program



The Kettering church recently culminated an express version of the Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) program with a graduation dinner (left) for 45. The program was successful in helping the attendees incorporate a healthier lifestyle. Evidence of the changes that took place were demonstrated in the 210 total pounds lost, the 2,417 miles walked, and the blood sugars, blood pressures, cholesterol, and triglycerides that were dramatically reduced. Some also saw a reduction in the amount of insulin needed.

Monthly alumni meetings for all CHIP attendees continue to offer support and motivation.



Terry and Luette Cowell help lead Kettering's CHIP Express class.

Columbus Eastwood Hosts Concert Series

Over the past year, the Columbus Eastwood church has hosted a concert series featuring singers from the Gaither Group. The concerts have been held in the school gymnasium and have been well-received by the community with an average attendance of 125.

One particularly memorable concert featured Ivan Parker. The concert took place on an evening when a severe windstorm swept through Ohio. All the power went out in the Eastwood school and church, but the concert went on. Parker powered the audio system and lights using the generator in his tour bus. People came from as far away as Dayton and West Virginia and were not disappointed. The difficulties from the storm fostered a special camaraderie among the concertgoers, resulting in a very memorable evening of praise and worship.

The Eastwood church is also in the process of building a new sanctuary and Sabbath School wing. Church leaders estimate that construction will be completed in May.

Millersburg Members Make Mission Trip a Family Affair

Millersburg church members Barbara Arnold, Keri Arnold, and Keri's children, Caden and Malazia, recently participated in a Quiet Hour mission trip to La Ceiba, Honduras. The mission trip included building a church, evangelistic meetings, Vacation Bible School (VBS), and medical, dental, and eye clinics. Barbara helped with the VBS, and Keri used her nursing skills in the medical clinic. They praise God for the opportunity to give their time and strength to this Christ-centered mission.



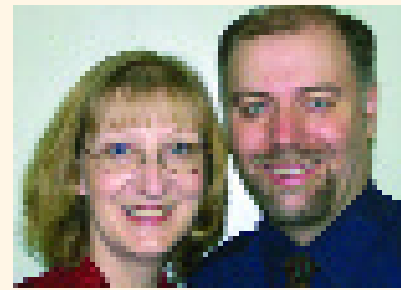
Millersburg members (clockwise) Barbara, Keri, Malazia, and Caden Arnold recently returned from a mission trip to Honduras.

“Mr. Bible” Pastors Fredericktown

Ron Vozar was recently named as the bi-vocational pastor for the Fredericktown church. Ron and his wife, JoAnn, are high school sweethearts originally from McKeesport, Pa. In 1977 they were baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Vozar worked as an assistant manager for Adventist Book Centers in Indiana and Ohio for several years. He then transitioned from denominational employment to work as a Bible salesman to Christian bookstores, earning the nickname “Mr. Bible” to his customers in Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, and Western New York.

During this time, Jo Ann was running the family business, Bible Games Company, which started with eight products and grew so rapidly that Ron joined her full time in 1994. In recent years they have downsized to focus on local church ministry. Jo Ann currently serves as the leader of the primary/junior class and assistant head deaconess at the Fredericktown church. The couple has two adult daughters.



Jo Ann and Ron Vozar have joined the Fredericktown church as the new pastoral couple.

Historical Notes: Ohio Adventism—1880s to Early 1900s



In 1884 literature evangelists in the Ohio Conference sold an experimental volume called *Bible-Reading Gazette*. It later became *Bible Readings for the Home*, the most widely circulated set of Bible studies in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist movement.

In 1885 H.W. Cottrell opened one of the first city missions in Cleveland. He went on to play a key role in moving the General Conference headquar-

ters to Washington, D.C., represented the world church in Europe, and eventually became president of the Atlantic Union, Pacific Union, and North Pacific Union conferences.

Anna Knight (above) joined the Adventist church in Ohio in 1892. She graduated from Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon and went on to nursing school in Battle Creek, Mich. She was the first African-American to go overseas as an Adventist missionary, leaving for India in 1901.



In 1896 a black school teacher in Columbus named Lottie Blake (below) joined the Adventist church and was encouraged to go to Battle Creek and become a medical doctor. She directed a sanitarium in Nashville, Tenn., and by 1904 was the only black female physician practicing in Birmingham, Ala. She came back to Columbus and practiced medicine in Ohio until 1957.

The first union paper actually started in 1896 as an Ohio Conference publication. In 1907, the *Visitor* became the official journal of the newly-organized Columbia Union Conference.—Monte Sahlin

Calendar

March

- 13-14** Elementary Music Festival
Mount Vernon Academy
- 20-22** Growth Groups Workshop
Sawmill Creek Hotel, Huron

April

- 7** Toledo Town Hall Meeting, *Toledo Church, 7 p.m.*
- 9** Akron Town Hall Meeting, *Akron Church, 7 p.m.*
- 14** Cleveland Town Hall Meeting, *Lakewood Church 7 p.m.*
- 16** Dayton Town Hall Meeting, *Kettering Church 7 p.m.*

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Education That Teaches Service

It was once said that Seventh-day Adventist schools existed to teach children about God. The truth is that our schools in Pennsylvania exist for a greater purpose. Our mission is to provide an Adventist education that leads our children into lives of service for God.



Dave Morgan, vice president for education, chats with several elementary students. He oversees the work of 12 elementary schools, two junior academies, and a boarding academy.

What does that look like? Memory verses? Bible skits? Coloring pictures of Daniel in the lions den? Sadly, this is the only perspective that some have of Adventist education. The truth is that our schools are places where students develop math skills, writing skills, thinking and reasoning skills, social skills, an understanding of the love of God for them, and, yes, even *discipline* is part of our curriculum.

So how is this being mission-oriented? We encourage our students to excel in their studies so that they can go on to higher learning, and choose from a variety of careers to impact people for Jesus Christ.

Can a mechanic impact lives for Jesus? Doctor? Salesman? Beautician? Teacher? Videographer? Artist? Yes! Adventist education seeks to guide your child toward a life of service for God, regardless of the field. To learn more, visit for-his-kids.com.—Dave Morgan

BMA Students Earn College Credits

In 1999 Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) started offering Advanced Placement classes. Upon completing the class and passing the College Board exam with an acceptable score for their chosen college students taking these classes were able to earn college credits. For students this was a hit-or-miss opportunity since each college or university has its own required score and number of credits that can be earned.

The curriculum for the courses are, by definition, college-level material, so BMA recently partnered with Reading Area Community College (RACC) to create a dual-enrollment program. Through this program, students obtain guaranteed college credit as long as they complete the course with a grade of C or higher. Students register with RACC and pay tuition to the college at a rate that is much cheaper than they would typically spend on these same courses at the college they will attend.

“These classes provide a great opportunity for our students to get a head start on college at a significant savings to their family,” shares principal Rob Gettys.

Students may choose to take the classes either as

Advanced Placement, or as Dual Credit. BMA offers Dual Credit or Advanced Placement classes in English composition, English literature, and history.—Karyl Kramer



BMA teacher Karyl Kramer teaches classes that allow students to earn college credits while still in high school.

School News

Huntingdon Valley Collects Gifts for Others

Students at Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy were busy serving others over the holiday season. Two groups of upper-grade students delivered Thanksgiving meals to the residents of two homeless shelters. Others assisted lower-grade teachers in their classrooms and then helped to decorate, serve, and clean up for the annual Thanksgiving feast for the lower grades. Just before Thanksgiving break, Michael Goetz pastor of the Bucks County church and students prayed over 300 shoeboxes (below) filled with school sup-



plies for Operation Christmas Child, dedicating them to God. They also prayed for the children who would receive them. Fifth- and sixth-grade students participated in Holiday Mail for Heroes, a program where holiday greeting cards are sent to soldiers who are in hospitals recovering from injuries sustained while in service for our country. They hoped that the notes of comfort would bring cheer to those who have sacrificed for our freedom.—Gary Davis

Lancaster Students Help Veterans, Immigrant Family

Students at Lancaster school recently made and sent cards to more than 30 veterans, many of whom have served in foreign wars. One of those veterans was so impressed with the card that he asked to meet the student who sent it to him. He was in the area on a vacation from Florida when he visited the class. The third-grade girl who made the card for him was very excited and they



exchanged a warm hug.

Students and teacher Ann Trout (above) attended a Lancaster church member's naturalization ceremony at the Lancaster Courthouse. The Ethiopian native had been separated from his family for five years. Students collected many household items for his family. Several weeks later, he was reunited with his wife and seven children.—Ann Trout

Blue Mountain Elementary Students Tumble, Grow

Blue Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School kicked

off the new year with a three-week gymnastics class. Melissa Morgan, a senior at Blue Mountain Academy, taught the classes, which culminated in a gymnastics show (below).

The school received several new computers thanks to parent Anthony Knarr and the Penske trucking company, grandparent John Trubilla, and former parents Bruce and Barb Johns. BMA senior Ricky Morgan is also working with the school to create a promotional video.—Frank Stahl



Pennsylvania Schools

Elementary Schools:

Blue Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, *Hamburg*
Fairview Village Adventist School, *Fairview Village*
Gettysburg Seventh-day Adventist School, *Gettysburg*
Harrisburg Seventh-day Adventist School, *Harrisburg*
Irvin Comstock Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, *Wellsboro*
Lake Erie Seventh-day Adventist School, *Erie*
Lancaster Seventh-day Adventist School, *Lancaster*
Lehigh Valley Seventh-day Adventist School, *Whitehall*
Mountain View Christian School, *Williamsport*
Stroudsburg Seventh-day Adventist School, *Stroudsburg*
Wyoming Valley Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, *Mountain Top*
York Seventh-day Adventist School, *York*

Junior Academies:

Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy, *Huntingdon Valley*
Reading Junior Academy, *Reading*

Boarding Academy:

Blue Mountain Academy, *Hamburg*

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paconference.org ■ President, Ray Hartwell ■ Editor, Tamyra Horst

Potomac People

MARCH 2009

A Teacher's Impact

In elementary school, my two favorite classes were recess and lunch. Tragically, I didn't receive a grade for my two areas of excellence. Along with my favorites, I loved physical education and Bible classes but struggled with others. Many of you had the same experience.

I was with a group of individuals the other day and asked if they could remember all of their elementary school teachers, and there was 100 percent remembrance! What did they remember? Not the classes that they took, but the significant moments each teacher had carved out to forge vision, character, spirituality, and focus in their lives.

I believe that one of the greatest assets the church has in fulfilling its mission is Seventh-day Adventist education. Inspiration tells us that the Lord has called us out from the world that we may be witnesses for His truth (back in the world); and all through our ranks, young men and women should be *trained for* positions of *usefulness and influence*. They are privileged to become missionaries for God; but they cannot be *mere novices* in education (why we need academic excellence) and in the *knowledge of the Word of God* (spirituality), and do justice to the sacred work to which they are appointed, (see *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 202).

One of the benchmarks for Adventist education is our young people being trained to be missionaries in whatever occupation they are called. At times, being really good at recess and lunch did not make me a very promising prospect for the future. However, there were several Christian teachers who saw more in me, and for me they cast a vision, then molded, trained, and prayed for me. To them I say, "Thank you."



Bill Miller
President

20 Years of Prayer Leads to Baptism at Elkton

For David Mowbray the Sabbath of his baptism at the Elkton (Va.) church sealed his commitment to God and his church. The baptism came with one condition: that he be baptized in a river just like Jesus. He was, indeed, baptized in the Shenandoah River.

Mowbray came to the church through his friendship with Elkton member Jerry Gildner. The two met in 1955



The day of David Mowbray's "rebirth" included special music, a special church service, baptism by Pastor Roger Mace (right) in the Shenandoah River, and a fellowship dinner.

while playing football as young teenagers on an all-star team in Harrisonburg, Va.

They kept in touch when Mowbray became a videographer and later moved to Washington, D.C., where he went to work for WUSA Channel 9. They remained friends when he returned to Harrisonburg, and went to work for WVPT PBS, from which he retired.

"About 20 years ago, I began praying for David," Gildner shared. "And about 15 years ago he expressed an interest in growing closer to Jesus. At that time I shared *Steps To Christ* with him, and he soon wore out three copies of the book."

In time Mowbray came to Gildner asking for Bible studies and they went through several sets of studies. When the Gildners moved to the Elkton church, he started attending with them. The whole church welcomed him with open arms, and it didn't take long for him to realize that he had found a new family and home. Mowbray is the only Adventist in his family.

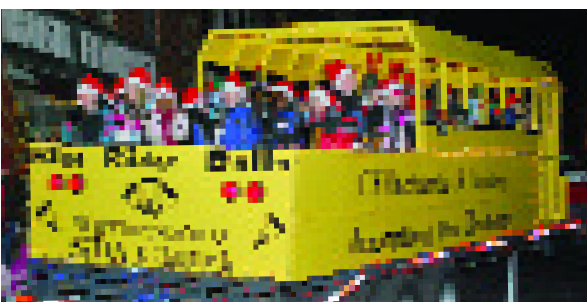
"If there is a lesson to be learned, it is this: be patient and be a friend," Gildner advises. "Don't hide who you are, but also don't beat people over the head with the Bible. If you are open and loving with them, and there for them, they will come to accept your beliefs."—Linda S. Gildner

School News

Waynesboro Church Enters School in Two Local Parades

The Family Life committee at the Waynesboro (Va.) church recently entered a float in both the Waynesboro and Staunton holiday parades. The goal was to heighten the community's awareness of the outstanding educational opportunities available at C.F. Richards Jr. Academy.

What better way to spark their interest and attention than a big yellow school bus outlined and enhanced with sparkling, clear



Students from C.F. Richards Jr. Academy in Waynesboro, Va., entered a float in two local parades.

Christmas lights? Drawn to scale from a matchbox school bus and then built to plans and specifications, the 28-foot school bus was eye-catching. The school's name was displayed in large black letters down the sides of the bus. Below it was their motto "Accepting the Challenge of Excellence." More than 50 church members helped build the float.

Blue Ridge Bells, the school's bell choir, sat on the back of the bus and kept the crowds smiling as they played holiday songs throughout the parade. The Waynesboro Mountaineers Pathfinder Club marched behind the float in full uniform with banner and flag. The float made the front page of both town papers.

Members say the effort fulfilled the church's mission statement "Living the Love of Jesus."—Betty Garey-Bullion

Sligo School Lends a Helping Hand for the Holidays

It was a cold, windy morning when more than 60 fifth- to eighth-grade students from Sligo Adventist School in Takoma Park, Md., bundled up and started walking through the streets of the community in search of food.

The students had distributed more than 500 grocery bags the previous Friday to collect food for area families in need. Each bag had a scripture decorated by students, a calendar of Christmas programs at nearby Sligo church, and a brief note explaining how the food would be collected and used. The students and staff walked through the neighborhoods in small groups distributing bags and talking with neighbors.

Sligo students first started collecting food for local families during the 2007 Thanksgiving holiday and the community response was overwhelming. The school received several phone calls from neighbors who shared their appreciation. There were even some families who missed the collection times and contacted the school to arrange alternate drop-off times for their donated items.



Seventh-grader Daniel Rosetti offers his classmate Kendall Hucks a helping hand while carrying his heavy bag.

This year students collected almost 200 bags. Students in kindergarten through second grade also brought canned food from home. All of the food was given to the Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington for their Emergency Assistance program.—Kerrian McLean

R.A. Lewis' Apron Brigade Learn Real-World Skills

The Apron Brigade is a pilot program at the Seventh-day Adventist Church-affiliate R.A. Lewis Christian School in Petersburg, Va. Launched and directed by Joan Dice with the cooperation of the school's principal, teachers, and parents, the class meets occasionally to teach students cooking skills. During the



In addition to learning how to cook, students at R.A. Lewis Christian School learn a plethora of transferable skills.

class, students don small aprons and chef hats at the Petersburg church kitchen/fellowship hall for tasty and creative activities with foods. One project involved decorating edible ginger-bread houses with Fruit Loops cereal, gummies, candy canes, and pretzels.

Amidst the delicious excitement and hands-on fun, students are incidentally learning and practicing a myriad of transferable skills such as following verbal and written directions within a freely creative and artistic framework. At the same time, concepts of fractions, geometry, units of measure, and volume, as well as basic cooking, baking, and culinary arts terms and skills are introduced. In the future, Dice hopes to share these treats with others in the community.

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Spotlight on Spencerville

MARCH 2009

Keeping New Year's Resolutions

We often talk about New Year's resolutions in January, but how often are we talking about them in March? We are now more than two months into 2009. How is it going for you? This year I chose to write down my goals and post them above the desk in my home study. This allows me to track them on a daily basis with a system of check marks. This all sounds very obsessive compulsive, but if you knew me very well, you would understand that I am much more of a free spirit. By the time this article makes it to print, many of my resolutions will have either become habit or will have fallen by the wayside. However, we cannot let such failures discourage us. As Paul reminds us in Philippians 3:13-14 "...but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead. I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (NKJV). If you have failed on some of your commitments, don't give up, press forward, and don't look back. Get your strength in Christ and remember the text "I can do all things through Him..." (Phil. 4:13, NKJV).



Brian Kittleson
Principal

Students Travel to California for Youth Conference

Six Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) students, along with their Bible teacher Kameron DeVasher were among the more than 3,000 young people from all 50 states and 24 foreign countries who attended the annual Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC) conference in San Jose, Calif. This small group was the first from



Ashley Breetzke ('12), Emily and Kameron DeVasher, Jasmine Jaio ('11), Karl Dela Cruz ('11), Brady Knott ('10), Aron Crews ('11), and Meredith Starr ('11), represented SAA at a youth conference in San Jose, Calif.

SAA to attend a GYC conference, and it was an experience like none they had had before.

The conference, themed "For This Purpose," set a tone of serious spiritual commitment with worships starting at 7 a.m., a business dress code, and primarily vegan meals. Each day there were several plenary sessions and 17 seminar options for deeper study of a variety of topics including music and worship, the prophetic ministry of Ellen G. White, the three angels' messages, and the importance of being a Christian of integrity. The conference included a Sabbath afternoon outreach event that involved 50 school buses carrying young people to surrounding communities to offer door-to-door Bible studies. As a result of knocking on more than 23,000 doors, approximately 1,300 people accepted Bible studies.

Reflecting on his time at GYC, Spencerville sophomore Aron Crews said, "The whole experience was spiritually rejuvenating." Junior Brady Knott was most excited by the Sabbath outreach. He enjoyed getting to meet new people and was excited to have people ask for Bible studies because of his efforts.

Next year's GYC will be held in Louisville, Ky., and will be themed "Unashamed."

For more information about GYC, visit gycweb.org.—Kameron DeVasher

Spencerville Church Hosts *Messiah* Sing-a-long

The SAA choir and strings, under the direction of Robert A. Martinez, teamed up with Evonne Baasch's violin studio to perform a *Messiah* sing-a-long at the Spencerville church. A full congregation of church members and visitors dusted off old *Messiah* scores and sang along with the choir. Students rehearsed the *Messiah* all semester long. Audience members sang to favorites such as "And the Glory," "For Unto Us a Child is Born," and the famous



"Halleluiah Chorus." One couple stated that they came because they saw the performance advertised on the marquee outside the church. Audience members were treated to arias performed by soprano Karla Rivera, mezzo soprano Regina Andrade, tenor Javier Gonzalez, and baritone German Rodriguez. The performance was so well received by the community that an annual *Messiah* sing-a-long will be held every first week of December.

Melissa Brown ('12), Vika Evangelista ('11), and Yumi Shimamura ('12), blend their voices with hundreds of other participants at the Messiah sing-a-long.

Three Seniors Earn Scholar Awards

Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) seniors Ben Herzel, Richardson Chatham, and Steven Blondo have received awards from the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT) National Merit Scholarship Program. All three students were honored recently during a special presentation at chapel.

As one of approximately 16,000 semifinalists, Herzel has an opportunity to continue in the competition that offers 8,200 National Merit Scholarships, worth more than \$35

million that will be offered next spring. To be considered, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition.

Chatham is one of 1,600 black high school seniors who have been designated a semifinalist in the 45th annual Achievement Scholarship competition. He now has an opportunity to continue in the competition that offers 800 scholarships worth more than \$2.6 million.

Recognized for exceptional academic promise, Blondo is one of about 34,000 commended students throughout the nation. Commended

students place among the top 5 percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2009 competition by taking the PSATs.

SAA Presents
The Sound of Music
April 18-26

Tickets \$10

April 18 & 25, 8:30 p.m.

April 19 & 26, 1 p.m. & 5 p.m.

April 21, 1 p.m.

(Senior Citizens \$5)

April 3, 7 p.m.

(301) 421-9101, ext. 125

Calendar

March

2-6 Student Week of Prayer

9 Open House

12 Band Pops Concert

15 National Honor Society Induction

21 Gymnastics Home Show

April

9 Registration

13 Open House

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Surrogate Parents Help Students Feel at Home

For the past several years, there has been no shortage of gifts and packages delivered to the students at Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA). This is due to a program started in 2004 by the ladies of the New Market (Va.) church. Reaching Our Kids (ROK) Ministries helps SVA and other area students feel welcomed and loved.



Kathy Myers, an ROK Ministries leader, presents gifts to Jason Gutierrez ('11), Madeline Gainer ('12), and Natalie Dickerhoff ('10).

ROK Ministries interacts with the students in a variety of ways. One way is by becoming a "secret parent" to students, much like being a secret pal. The secret parents send small gifts to their students, especially around the holidays or for their birthdays, and reveal their identity at the end of the school year. "It is such a joy to watch the students receive their gifts and to see their excitement as they open the packages. I receive more of a blessing from this than if someone gave me a gift," says Kathy Myers, an ROK Ministries coordinator.

Another way church members take part in this ministry is by "adopting" a student. Adoptive parents invite them to their homes for meals and fellowship throughout the school year. "I love going to my adoptive family's house and spending time with them. It's always great to get out of the dorm and into a real home," says sophomore Sophia Rodriguez.

Church members Dennis and Shelva Norris have been a part of this ministry for five years and are secret parents as well as adoptive parents. Shelva says, "I love doing it and know that, if I was living in a dorm, away from my family, I would appreciate knowing that someone was thinking of me."

The ministry also has church members who pray for each student daily throughout the school year.

ROK Ministries also arranges several off-campus activities for the students throughout the year. In the fall, the entire student body goes to a nearby camp to have an outdoor Friday night vespers program with food, a bonfire, and roasted marshmallows. In the spring, they take the students on a hayride and then provide a picnic supper and games for everyone.

The program has helped students and church members develop close friendships that continue past high school. It has made such a big impact on senior Emily Rothery that she plans to come back next year and help with some of the activities.

Alumni Weekend Planned

Alumni weekend will be April 17-19 and all are invited to attend. The events include:

- Friday golf tournament at Bryce Resort
- Friday evening reception in the cafeteria 6-8 p.m.
- Sundown vespers program at 8 p.m. at the church
- Sabbath School at 10 a.m. in the gymnasium
- Worship service at 11 a.m. in the gymnasium with speaker Steve Blackburn ('79)
- Sabbath open house of the dormitories and student center from 3:30-5 p.m.
- Sabbath music program at 7 p.m. at the church
- Alumni basketball in the gym at 8:30 p.m.
- Sunday benefit brunch at 10 a.m. in the cafeteria, with proceeds going to the Worthy Student Fund
- Academy Days are on April 19 and 20. To register or for more information, contact the school at (540) 740-2210.

To register for Alumni Weekend events or for more information, contact Jan Osborne at (540) 740-2202 or email jan.osborne@sva-va.org.

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 Osborne



Three members of the Class of 2009—(left to right) Richardson Chatham, Steven Blondo, and Ben Herzel—received National Merit Scholarship Program awards.

Seeing the Fruits of our Labor

According to educator Robert Maynard Hutchins, "The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives." Scripture also provides some sage advice: "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Prov. 22:6, NIV). The faculty at Takoma Academy (TA) embraces both of these statements. Training young people in a godly manner so that they continue to choose the path of righteousness is why we exist! Three graduates, Jourdan Brooks, a government and politics major at the University of Maryland in College Park; Chelsea Burrows, a theology major at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala., and Melissa Longley, a sociology major at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Md., recently returned to TA. They led the entire student body in worship and shared tips on preparing for college. They also shared how TA prepared them for college and urged students to always do their best so they can achieve their goals for this life and for the life to come. It was as much of a blessing for TA students to hear from their peers as it was for me to hear from former students.



Guidance counselor Kristina Flo poses with Class of 2005 graduates Jourdan Brooks, Melissa Longley, and Chelsea Burrows.



Dunbar Henri
Principal

Students Give to Local Families

For the third consecutive year, TA students shared Christmas cheer with two local families. In cooperation with Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington, TA provided a special program and gave gifts to needy families. Students, who dug deep into their pockets to buy gifts for the children, were rewarded with seeing joy in the children's eyes as they were showered with gifts. Board member Erwin Mack, retired TA Spanish teacher Orlando Mastrapa (right), and retired guidance counselor Selma Chaij Mastrapa added to the spirit of the program.



Welcome to the Family



Joshua Nelson, the newest member of the TA family, clutches a picture frame while proud parents, math teacher Todd Nelson ('80) and his wife, Elle, look on.

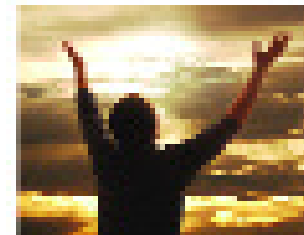
Calendar

March

- 2-6 Student Week of Prayer
- 5 National Honor Society Induction, 7 p.m.
- 7 Youth Rally
- 12-22 Foreign Language Trip to England and Scotland
- 13-22 Spring Break
- 23 School Resumes, Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 26-27 Semester Exams

TA Today is published in the Visitor by Takoma Academy • 8120 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912
 Phone: (301) 434-4700 • ta.edu • Principal, C. Dunbar Henri

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- Dietitian
- EEG Tech 2
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UNION COLLEGE
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LEGAL NOTICES

**QUADRENNIAL SESSION OF
THE ALLEGHENY WEST
CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTISTS**

Notice is hereby given that the Second Quadrennial and 15th Regular Session of the Allegheny West Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9 a.m.

on Sunday May 31, 2009, at the Glenville Seventh-day Adventist Church, 737 East 105th Street, Cleveland, Ohio. This meeting is called for the purpose of electing officers, departmental directors, and committees; to amend the constitution and bylaws; and any other business that may properly come before the session at that time.

**Fredrick Russell, President
Carl R. Rogers, Secretary**

**ALLEGHENY WEST
CONFERENCE
CORPORATION MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the legal meeting of the Allegheny West Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in connection with the Second Quadrennial and 15th Regular Session of the Allegheny West Conference on Sunday, May 31, 2009, at the Glenville Seventh-day Adventist Church, 737 East 105th Street, Cleveland, Ohio. The purpose of this meeting is to elect a Board of Trustees for the ensuing four-year period and to transact any other business that may properly come before the Corporation at that time. The delegates of the Second Quadrennial and 15th Regular Session of the Allegheny West Conference are delegates for this session.

**Fredrick Russell, President
Carl R. Rogers, Secretary**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LAKE NELSON
ADVENTIST SCHOOL**

will celebrate its 50th Anniversary, May 16. Former students, teachers, principals, board members, and former constituent pastors are encouraged to attend and renew old friendships. Your presence will make the weekend a memorable one. Contact Lake Nelson School (732) 981-0626 or leave a message for Elisa Maragoto, principal, at emaragoto@lakenelsonsdaschool.org, or visit our website lakenelsonsdaschool.org.

**THE OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

extends a warm welcome to all graduates and friends of Oakwood for the 2009 Annual Oakwood University Alumni Weekend Homecoming Celebration to be held April 9-12. The event is held annually on the campus of Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala. This year's speakers are: Ron Smith, Divine Worship Service; Jeffery Watson, Youth Worship Service; and Linda Penick for the Friday evening vesper service. For further information visit our website, oakwoodalumni.org or contact Oakwood University Alumni Relations at (256) 726-7039.

	Mar 13	Mar 20	Mar 27	Apr 3	Apr 10
Baltimore	7:12	7:19	7:26	7:33	7:39
Cincinnati	7:43	7:50	7:57	8:04	8:11
Cleveland	7:31	7:39	7:47	7:54	8:02
Columbus	7:37	7:44	7:51	7:59	8:06
Jersey City	7:01	7:09	7:16	7:23	7:31
Norfolk	7:11	7:17	7:23	7:29	7:36
Parkersburg	7:31	7:38	7:45	7:52	7:59
Philadelphia	7:06	7:13	7:20	7:27	7:34
Pittsburgh	7:25	7:32	7:40	7:47	7:54
Reading	7:09	7:16	7:23	7:30	7:38
Richmond	7:15	7:22	7:28	7:35	7:41
Roanoke	7:25	7:32	7:38	7:44	7:51
Toledo	7:39	7:47	7:54	8:02	8:10
Trenton	7:04	7:11	7:19	7:26	7:33
Wash., D.C.	7:13	7:20	7:27	7:34	7:41

SUNSET CALENDAR

**BROADVIEW ACADEMY
ALUMNI WEEKEND—**

April 24-25. All alumni are encouraged to attend. Mark your calendars. Call your classmates and start planning for this weekend now. Honor classes, '49, '59, '69, '79, '84, '89 and '99. All ideas and information welcome. For communication purposes, we need your email addresses. Send to shona@cross.co.za, or call Shona Cross (630) 428-4182. More information to come. Don't miss it!

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Your Mission
Our Priority

Your Health
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Sleepless to Orlando

In his book *The Speed of Trust*, Stephen M.R. Covey writes: “There is one thing that is common to every individual, relationship, team, family, organization, nation, economy, and civilization throughout the world—one thing which, if removed, will destroy the most powerful government, the most successful business, the most thriving economy, the most influential leadership, the greatest friendship, the strongest character, the deepest love. If developed and leveraged, that one thing has the potential to create unparalleled success and prosperity in every dimension of life. Yet, it is the least understood, most neglected, and most underestimated possibility of our time” (p. 10).



A LESSON IN TRUST

His name was Bobby—a “talker” sitting in the aisle seat of my row on a flight to Orlando, Fla. I was exhausted and hoping to catch up on much-needed sleep, but Bobby would have none of it. “How are you, today? I’m Bobby Jones.”

Although the flight attendant interrupted us to remind him to secure his tray table and buckle his seatbelt, Bobby was not to be denied.

“I work for a petro-conglomerate—middle management—and I fly this route all the time,” Bobby continued. I turned to catch his eye; resigned to a sleepless flight filled with what I hoped would be occasional timeouts. Some hopes, however, never materialize. We talked the entire flight. I’m convinced the Lord had, long ago, planned it that way.

I learned a great deal about Bobby. Nothing seemed “off the table.” He spoke of family, finances, work, world events, personal disappointments and challenges, health, and, as it turned out, his journey in spiritual faith. I learned that he was often a victim of broken trust. Fellow businessmen, clients, neighbors, and personal friends had failed to meet commitments or honor their word. I also learned that Bobby was a four-time cancer survivor, and that burn-like scarring along the right side of his face and throat was a consequence of radioactive therapy. His trust in God, once weak, grew ever stronger with each successive cancer battle he endured.

Bobby told me that his great hope was trusting in God to see him through challenges, adding, “I don’t know how one can survive without trusting God.” His words gave me an even deeper appreciation for what trusting in God means to those who encounter disease, hunger, grief, hopelessness, or helplessness.

We cannot live without some measure of trust in others, though broken trust reaps disappointments. To trust God, however, is to know joy, peace, and hope! If you could ask Bobby, he would surely tell you.

Hamlet Canosa, EdD (hcanosa@columbiaunion.net), serves as vice president for Education in the Columbia Union.

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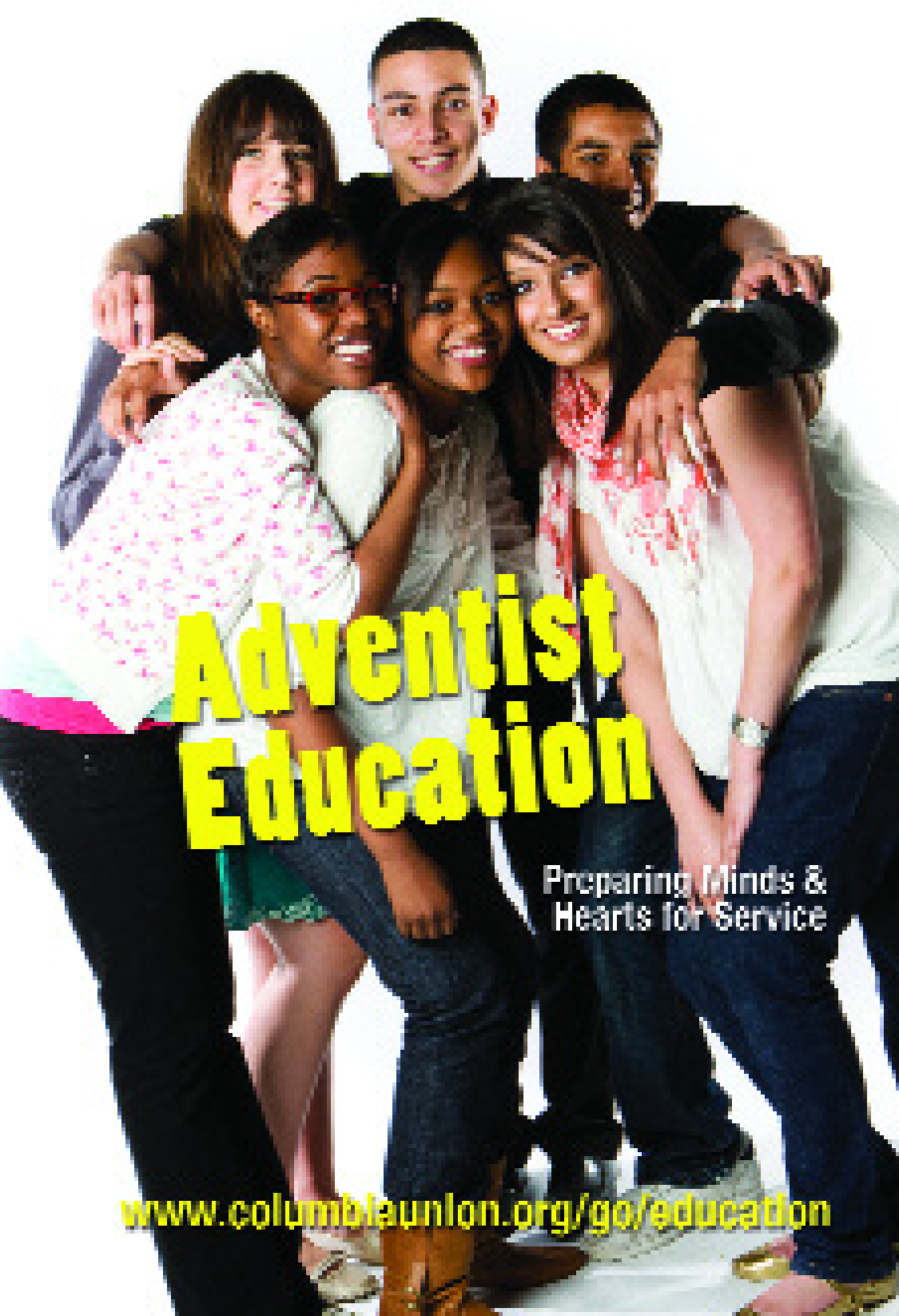
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