Living Proof
Sports, Education, Evangelism: Members Prove Ability Can Trump Disability

Plus: How to Start Disability Ministries at Your Church
Are You Disabled?

Whether we realize it or not, we are all disabled. Some of our disabilities are more visible; some are easily hidden. Some are minor, some major. However, about 10 percent of the world’s population lives with a condition that inhibits them from performing common daily tasks. They are the world’s largest minority.

Still, only 45 countries have antidiscrimination and other disability laws. In the United States, a survey found that only 35 percent of working age persons with disabilities are in fact working, compared to 78 percent of those without disabilities. On the positive side, companies report that employees with disabilities have better retention rates, reducing the high cost of turnover.

LIVING BY CHRIST’S EXAMPLE

The Seventh-day Adventist Church recognizes that we should include men, women, and children with disabilities in our activities and outreach programs. We need to pattern our activities to the examples given by Jesus. The story of the invalid waiting for a cure by the pool of Bethesda is one example. Jesus picks out someone with a long-term disability. He then asks this man, who for 38 years has been yearning for healing, “Do you want to get well?” Those seemingly rhetorical words had deeper meaning than merely asking, “Do you want to be cured?” His remedy for healing is to focus on a “wholeness of life.” Wholeness, however, doesn’t always equate with a cure. We may look to medicine to alleviate what ails us, but we may look to our beliefs, our relationships with others, for wholeness.

Cures for many people with physical disabilities may never be found, but as a church, we can provide an environment where they may enjoy that wholeness of life.

Even in our current society, people with disabilities know what it means to be excluded, treated differently, and unable to participate in many activities. God’s value system of acceptance and respect has always been different from that of the world, and we should emulate His example. Once upon a time, a church social committee had planned a baby shower for two expectant mothers. One was a happily married lady whose husband was a well-respected officer of the church. The other was a single, unmarried, 17-year-old who had made a mistake in her private life. Handicapped socially, bearing the stigma of religious immorality, the teenager nevertheless had ruled against an abortion. Her pregnancy was an issue of concern by several members in the congregation. It finally became an item on the church board agenda: to be included in the baby shower or not. This was a case of the “disabled” deciding an action that would allow or prevent another “disabled” person to enjoy fullness of life in a church environment. The ultimate answer comes from the Head of the church; the only perfect One without any handicap or disability. We should ask ourselves, “What would Jesus do?”

We are all disabled in some way by sin, but God looks beyond our disabilities to the person inside and loves us anyway.

Neville Harcombe (nharcombe@columbiaunion.net) serves as executive secretary for the Columbia Union Conference.
Missions Abroad Update: Blessings in Africa

With the goal to share God's blessings with members in the Columbia Union's eight-state region, as well as overseas, the union's top three officers recently visited with fellow believers in Liberia, South Africa, and Zambia.

EVANGELIZING IN LIBERIA

Late last year, union treasurer Seth Barud (below, left with translator) traveled to his homeland of Liberia in Western Africa. At the invitation of James Golay, president of the Liberia Mission, Barud and a U.S. team of nine pastors, elders, and singing evangelists led a three-week evangelism series themed “Keys to the Kingdom.” stationed at seven meeting sites just outside the nation's capital of Monrovia, team members trained pastors and Bible workers during the day. At night they preached the Word. “During the last Sabbath, some 340 people were baptized,” said Barud. “One young man even became a witness for his family. When they noticed the change in him, they also asked to be baptized.

“We were so inspired by church members who were willing to come, sacrifice their time, and share what little resources they had,” he added. Barud believes that it is this devotion to the Word that has caused the church in Liberia to grow from 2,000 members in the early 1990s, to some 26,000 today, despite a civil war.

SUPPORTING SCHOOLS IN THE SOUTH

Earlier this year, union president Dave Weigley and executive secretary Neville Harcombe joined Barud in a visit to two African schools. Their first visit was the Grahamstown Adventist School in Grahamstown, South Africa. A few years ago, former Columbia Union executive secretary Ed Motschledler, along with former union president Harold Lee, visited what was then a tiny, 50-student school behind the church. Inspired by the church's mission to make education accessible to all children, the two administrators worked with church members to raise the funds needed to build the new school.

“Today the school has over 500 students and a waiting list,” reports Weigley. “The school's principal, students, and Francis Low, president of the Southern Africa Union Conference, shared with us how the Columbia Union was able to make a difference in their lives.”

The leaders' next stop was the fledgling Zambia Adventist University in Monze. Columbia Union officers provided leadership training to the pastors, secretaries, treasurers, and presidents who lead the rapidly growing 600,000-plus flock.

“The rapid growth in Zambia hinges on lay people who get involved in experiencing mission,” explains Weigley, who is amazed at the 10-fold growth the Adventist Church in Zambia has seen in less than 20 years.

The union is now looking to help the university with its quest to raise buildings, such as dormitories and cafeterias, to house its students.

“Our dollars go a long way there, and many hundreds and thousands of people are blessed by it,” adds Weigley. He gives all thanks to the Columbia Union's two healthcare systems for funding these overseas missions.

“During the last few years that we’ve been involved in these projects, the Lord has really blessed us, and we must be willing to share the blessings with others,” Weigley adds.
Disabilities Ministries News

Columbia Union Members Join the MOB
Pennsylvania Conference’s Reading Hampden Heights member Michael Surak is one of more than 125 Adventists in the Columbia Union—and 328 in the United States—who are working with the MOB. The Missionaries Of the Blind (MOB) is a Personal Ministries program started by Christian Record Services for the Blind (CRSB), based in Lincoln, Neb.

Through the MOB, CRSB offers local members the opportunity to spend one or two hours a month visiting and praying with blind people, building friendships, and inviting them to church.

“Most blind people are easy to visit. They have been receiving books and tapes from us, so when visitors identify themselves as volunteers with Christian Record, they are welcomed with open arms,” states David Klinedinst, CRSB Personal Ministries director and MOB leader.

“It not only helps the blind, but it’s also uplifting to me,” comments Surak, who has been a participant for two years. “David and I are actually close friends now. It is just a blessing to be a part of the mission that God has given us.”

To learn more, call (240) 864-6018, or email arhdevelopment@aum.com.

For more information, visit mob.christianrecord.org, or email mob.christianrecord.org.

Shiloh Starts Interdenominational Ministry
The Disabilities Ministries team (below) of Allegheny East Conference’s Shiloh church in Richmond, Va., has opened their meetings to an interdenominational group of local advocates. Following the Holy Spirit’s prod- dings, they contacted Deborah Whitfield, initiated the monthly meetings last October.

Since then the Seventh-day Adventists, Baptists, Muslims, and Hindus have increased their gath- erings to twice a month to discuss their beliefs, disabilities, rights, hopes, and aspirations. Whitfield also arranges for area profession- als to address the group.

“We hope to start going into local schools to encourage stu- dents with disabilities to believe in themselves,” reports Whitfield. “Ultimately, we desire to serve in whatever capacity we can.”

For more information or to get involved, contact Whitfield at dwthifief@aol.com.

Deaf Ministries Unites Division Leaders
Following the first nationwide leadership training event for Deaf Ministries held last August, sponsored by the North American Division, ministry leaders and par- ticipants (above) are gearing up for more inspiration this summer.

Three members of Potomac Conference’s Deaf Evangelistic Adventist Fellowship (DEAF) congregation in Silver Spring, Md., represented the Columbia Union last fall: Cathy Ingram and David and Francisca Trexler. Under the theme of unity, par- ticipants shared their needs and ideas for Deaf Ministries, and prayed for each other.

“It brought a blessing of unity to the workers from all over the country,” said David, former DEAF pastor and speaker/director for Adventist Deaf Ministries. “We got to know each other better and to understand the difficulties we face in the ministry.”

For more details on the upcom- ing division-wide meeting, visit deafadventist.org.

Deaf Church to Host Ninth Fall Retreat
This fall, October 22-26, Potomac Conference’s Deaf Evangelistic Adventist Fellowship congregation of Silver Spring, Md., will host its ninth annual Deaf

For more information, contact Doss at esther@deafadventist.org.

Educators Attend 46th Disabilities Conference
Three Columbia Union educa-

tors attended the 46th annual Learning Disabilities Conference held in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Tracy Dawes Daniels, learning specialist at Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) in Hamburg, Pa., and her assistant Lauren Anderson, along with Jen Song, learning specialist at Shenandoah Adventist Academy in New Market, Va., learned about the changes in the world of education that can bene- fit students. Some of the topics addressed related to students with disabilities and how they transition from high school to college.

“We also learned about new research in the field of neuropsy- chology as it relates to various dis- abilities such as ADHD, dyslexia, and emotional and behavioral disorders,” reported Daniels.

Daniel Foley (left), one of 60 Deaf Eastern Autumn Revival Camp Meeting attendees in 2000, was blessed when former Pastor David Trexler of Deaf Evangelistic Adventist Fellowship baptized him.

Eastern Autumn Revival (DEAR) Camp Meeting, Held at Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va., the DEAR retreat will once again offer fun and adventure as well as training in health, safety, and relationships. There are also special programs for teens and young adults.

Further updates will be announced later this summer at deafadventist.org/dear.
Carl Rittenhouse, Adam Drumheller, and Tanisha Greenidge

**What’s New?**

**Book > Images of God Thaddeus S. Moore**

Although he never intended to write a book, Thaddeus S. Moore, a member of Allegheny East Conference’s Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C., said the Holy Spirit encouraged him to do otherwise. His inspiration came years ago after witnessing “three distinguishable images” through an unexpected source, a vision that changed his Christian experience.

“I want readers to know that we should, indeed, be preparing for the second coming of Christ,” says the retired D.C. public school teacher. “All of us should be looking, and hoping, and praying to be ready when He comes.”

**CD > Bella Voce**

This self-titled debut of the Chesapeake Conference-based trio is full of the songs that have made them popular in Maryland, throughout the United States, and beyond.

The three members—Karla Rivera, Javier Gonzalez, and German Rodriguez—mix their dynamic voices with piano in a sacred blend of favorites like “You’ll Never Walk Alone.”

Although Bella Voce officially formed in 2006, the three have been singing classical music together for more than 10 years. These Spencerville church members, based in Silver Spring, Md., got their start as members of the Columbia Collegiate Chorale and ProMusica at Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md. Their mission: “to spread joy and God’s love through the beauty of music.”

Find out more and order the CD at bellavoce trio.com.

**Potluck BETH MICHAELS**

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**Book > Images of God Thaddeus S. Moore**

“This book results from both a strong personal desire and a compulsion to share what I have received [from] God’s amazing grace and love.”—Thaddeus S. Moore

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**What You Bring to the Table**

When members of Pennsylvania Conference’s Berwick church realized that an elderly member needed help maintaining a blueberry patch on his farm, they quickly gathered to offer year-round assistance. That was a few years ago. Today those same church members have turned blueberries into a more extensive outreach effort through the Blueberry Patch Ministry.

“We’ve appreciated them. If they did not help, we wouldn’t have the blueberries,” said 93-year-old Agnes Erol (right). She and her younger brother, Mark (left), 91, have shared the family farm in Weatherly, Pa., for decades.

The Pennsylvanian members now assist the elderly, disabled individuals, single mothers, or anyone else in need. Group members include Berwick Pastor John Peters, member Adam Drumheller, first elder Carl Rittenhouse, and other young families.

They work as a group or individually to offer transportation to medical appointments and the grocery store, move furniture, repair household items, or tackle farm chores. For Drumheller, interacting with the people is time well spent: “I see this ministry as a barrier breaker to reach others beyond the church walls.”

Drumheller hopes to one day turn the Blueberry Patch Ministry into a nonprofit organization complete with a truck that will aid in their efforts. Group members share his vision and want to show Jesus’ love through acts of kindness to people in the church and community.

“We are just trying to meet people’s needs and, hopefully, as we get all of this work completed, the Lord will just bless us with more things to do,” concluded Rittenhouse.—Tanisha Greeneidge

**WholeHealth**

**A Perspective on Well-Being**

Recent economic changes have had a negative impact on how people view their overall personal lives and their hope for the future. For instance, in January 2008, 49 percent of Americans rated themselves as thriving, 47 percent struggling, and 4 percent suffering. However, by December those percentages had changed to 38 percent thriving, 58 percent struggling, and 4 percent suffering. These figures represent a portion of the data collected in the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index (well-being index.com), which daily surveys 1,000 adults nationwide. The index gives a daily measure of people’s well-being based on the World Health Organization definition of health as “not only the absence of infirmity and disease but also a state of physical, mental, and social well-being.”

However, research has found that our well-being is largely controlled by our belief about a situation, rather than the situation itself. When life overwhelms us with its difficulties, a Christian sees God’s hand and engages the situation as an opportunity for growth and trust in Him. Subsequently, we make a positive impact on the well-being of others by sharing our Christian perspective and extending hope to those struggling around us.”—Lilly Tryon, MSN, RN, Adventist WholeHealth Wellness Center
Gina Wahlen

OPENING THE EYES OF THE BLIND, UNSTOPPING THE EARS OF THE DEAF, HELPING THE LAME TO WALK—while Jesus was on Earth, He devoted much of His ministry to helping people with disabilities. In fact, 25 of the 35 recorded miracles of Jesus involve His ministry to helping people with disabilities. In IN THE BEGINNING

The Seventh-day Adventist Church first demonstrated its commitment to minister to all—including those with disabilities—when in 1899 a legally blind woman named Austin Wilson (left) established the Christian Record Braille Foundation (now known as Christian Record Services). Wilson started producing a Braille magazine he titled Christian Record.

By 1911 the magazine's circulation had grown to 2,300. Since then, Christian Record Services (CRS) has grown to include eight other periodicals, over 1,700 recorded “talking books,” National Camps for Blind Children, and continues to minister to those who are visually impaired or blind.

GROWING AWARENESS

By the late 20th century, there was a growing awareness, both within the Adventist Church and throughout North America, of being more inclusive of people with a variety of disabilities. In 1978 Warren Banfield, director of the North American Division's (NAD) Office of Human Relations (OHR), had a strong desire for the church to be the lead example concerning appropriate accommodations for people with disabilities. The ministry continues to grow and benefit from the seven major disability categories: mobility, visual, hearing, developmental or cognitive, speech, mental, and hidden (e.g., epilepsy and lupus).

Comprised of at least 51 percent disabled members, the commission fashioned the concept of a Disabilities Awareness Sabbath—a special emphasis day to educate Adventist members concerning the evangelism and inclusion of people with disabilities within the local church. These programs are now conducted across North America. Another major goal the commission achieved was setting up a strong organizational structure, with representatives at the union and conference levels, with the objective of establishing a Disabilities Ministries coordinator in every church.

Hodges collaborated with Banks in developing a recommendation for the worldwide Adventist Church to establish Disabilities Ministries as an official department. The ministry has inspired the church to incorporate many accommodations in making the building “disability friendly,” he also sees the ministry helping people be more aware of others’ needs. “You look around,” he says, “and become aware that someone might need a hand. It’s about helping one another.”

AN IMPROVED FUTURE

While much progress has been made, Charlotte Thoms, current NAD Disabilities Ministries coordinator, believes that the most important aspect of this ministry is “the development of character that reflects the character of Jesus and leads to the same behavior—viewing all people as worthy of inclusion in the wonderful world the gospel provides those who accept Jesus as their personal Savior.”

In 2009 ministry leaders hope to find individuals with expertise in the seven major disability groups to develop resources. “We must use every method of mass media available and solicit spokespersons to bring hope to the countless invisibles,” she counsels.
According to research, there are nearly 4 million people under the age of 18 living with a disability. That is nearly 6 percent of youth in the United States! There are 14 categories of learning, physical, and emotional disabilities listed under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. So, what are Columbia Union schools doing to integrate these children into regular classrooms, instead of setting them apart?

Several union leaders recently commented on the need for technological and other resources in our schools to meet the requirements of special needs children, and they all echoed the feeling that the level of awareness is proceeding at a slow pace. They also mentioned a need to develop occupational and physical therapy facilities on various campuses. Students with Asperger syndrome or emotional disabilities are being placed elsewhere because some schools are not equipped to service them. There are several reasons for this, but one prevalent factor is that budgets are tight.

LEADING THE PACK

One model school is Potomac Conference’s Olney Adventist Preparatory School in Olney, Md., as a school with an individualized approach to learning.

But, despite a recognized need to improve in some areas, there are many who are raising awareness and making significant progress.

One model school is Potomac Conference’s Olney Adventist Preparatory School in Olney, Md. In 1997, principal Kimberlie Hogan, formerly a public school educator and the parent of a disabled son, partnered with several other visionaries to open the school with an individualized program. Their primary focus was to look at gifted students. “When you get students who are gifted, you get students with disabilities,” explains Hogan.

In an effort to meet every child’s need, Olney Prep uses a system they call differentiation strategies. Teachers allow no more than three to five identified children with mild learning disabilities (e.g., dyslexia or attention deficit disorder) in a classroom. “Our primary goal is to protect the spirit and faith of our children,” explains Hogan, “but without a focus on their individual needs, we could break their spirits, and then we fail them on many levels.”

In addition to three trained Para-educators who work with special needs children, the school also utilizes audible books and a microphone device for teachers with soft voices. For students with visual impairments, teachers use magnifying lamps and overlays in class, and use copiers to enlarge reading materials. They also use kinesthetic presentation—kids moving during instruction.

Other schools like Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) in Hamburg, Pa.; Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary (SVAE) School in New Market, Va.; and Ramah Adventist Junior Academy in Cleveland offer accommodations and modifications for students with learning disabilities or with visual or hearing impairment.

Five years ago, BMA embarked upon a plan to serve students who were at risk of failing classes. The academy hired Tracy Dawes Daniels as a learning specialist to work with the students. She created the Learning Support and Testing Center to provide tutoring services for students, as well as curriculum modifications for disabled students. Students can also get their own psychological testing and individualized education plan. With the help of two grants from the Commonwealth Foundation last year, BMA expanded its center to include a remedial math and English class, specifically for students with disabilities.

Davenen Williams (below), a special education teacher at SVAE, is developing unique strategies for keeping her special needs students on a positive learning track. For instance, she recognized that her greatest challenge with some was to keep them focused during lessons. As a result, she awards a checkmark to those who pay attention. Once they earn enough checks—whether it takes them a day or a week—their parents reward them with a tangible prize. The successful strategy has helped Williams gain control of her most difficult students.

Making Strides

Dave Morgan, Pennsylvania Conference’s vice president for education, reports that many of their schools are utilizing the learning services their county’s intermediate unit provides. Services include diagnostic testing, therapy, counseling, as well as a monthly visit with a psychologist to discuss staff’s specific needs and to strategize about how to better prepare and work with such students.

Potomac Conference has a special education office led by Loida Doukmetzian. Together with the schools, her office staff writes educational plans based on testing and employment and individualized accommodation—plans that will build success in students with challenges.

The new REACH (Reaching to Educate All Children for Heaven) Resource Manual (nadeducation.org) is raising awareness about educating disabled children. Debra Fryson, associate director for the NAD Office of Education; LaVona Gillham, Columbia Union Conference’s associate director for the Office of Education; and Karohn Young, principal of Crossroads Adventist School in Ellicott City, Md.—research/inclusion members of the manual committee—are some of those commended for developing such an insightful resource.

Disabilities Ministries is an inclusive ministry, supported by the motto “including all; omitting none.” “Led by the REACH mission, we are training teachers how to accommodate students of varying abilities in the regular classroom,” explains Gillham. “This includes both the academically challenged as well as the accelerated learner. Treating each student ‘fairly,’ not equally, means giving each student what he or she needs.”

Deborah Whitfield is a North American Division Disabilities Ministries representative and a member of the Shiloh church in Petersburg, Va.

Karohn Young, principal of the Crossroads Adventist School in Ellicott City, Md., works hard to integrate students with special needs into the regular classroom.
Initiating Efforts at Your Church

It is the goal of all conference leaders in the Columbia Union to have a Disabilities Ministries director in place at each church. Whether your church currently has a disabled member or not, being prepared to serve someone with special needs is the greatest gesture of true welcome.

If your church does not have an active ministry, with one in five Americans living with a disability, there are plenty of reasons to start one. Here are three components for initiating a Disabilities Ministries team:

Catherine Burks

1. START A MINISTRY

Starting a ministry for those with special needs requires five actions: pray, learn, discuss, formulate ministry ideas with others who share your passion, make plans together what methods can be used to welcome those with disabilities.

Put your plans into action by launching your church vocal group, the MDs.

2. HOST A DISABILITIES AWARENESS SABBATH

Now that you have established a ministry in your church, it is time to educate and include members in the activities. They, too, need to be sensitive to the needs of those with disabilities. Here are some ways to set apart time from a normal church program to raise awareness:

- Abbreviate Sabbath School and allow a panel of members with various disabilities to share information and answer questions. This increases the sensitivity of church members.
- For a special awareness worship service, select a speaker who is knowledgeable about disability issues and what the Bible says about serving all who are “broken.” It could be the pastor or one of the ministry team members. The service should also include several persons with disabilities, having them participate in Scripture reading, prayer, special music, deacon/ usher duties, etc.

At the Mountain View Conference’s Summerville (W.Va.) church, Matthew Douglas enjoys accompanying the MDs music group when they sing. Douglas is an enthusiastic 19-year-old with moderate cerebral palsy.

- Host an afternoon disabilities awareness work- shop. According to Joan Bova, a Florida-based member of the NAD Commission for People With Disabilities, this may be done in several ways. Present a workshop packet with audience discussion; share excerpts from the Disabilities Ministries Handbook, which lists the seven major disabilities; or present ideas through dramas or skits.

3. GO TELL AND DO LIKEWISE

Jesus’ commission admonishes us to minister in love as we ensure that the gospel is accessible to everyone. The work of Disabilities Ministries volunteers has relieved some of the challenges and barriers those with disabilities face within our churches, but “there is still a lot we need to do,” says Potomac Conference member Kathy Johnson (above, right), from the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md. She says that her church plays an intricate part in her life as a person with cerebral palsy, but there are still many churches that need “to work on being physically accessible and welcoming.” More importantly, she adds, “We need to look at persons with disabilities as people.”

Catherine Burks is Disabilities Ministries director for the Allegheny West Conference, and a member of the Shiloh church in Cincinnati, Ohio.
**Hindered Bodies, Triumphant Lives**

Three Columbia Union Members Share Success Despite Physical Obstacles

Elizabeth Anderson

**Ember** Chavers was visiting her grandmother—one of her first trips without her parents—when they realized that she was deaf. “I was subsequently diagnosed with severe/profound bilateral sensorineural hearing loss at the age of 2-and-a-half,” recalls the 27-year-old member of Allegheny East Conference’s Calvary church in Newport News, Va.

At the age of 4, Chavers’ mother learned and used Cued Speech, a phonetic hand system to read lips, “because she wanted me to enjoy reading as she did,” she says.

Chavers is grateful for schoolteachers and speech pathologists who spent extra time with her. Her unique educational experience ended up paving the way for other deaf and hard of hearing students.

“Transcription for the deaf was used in corporate settings in undergraduate and graduate education, but not for deaf students in my school district, or any school district in the state, including most states on the East Coast,” reports Chavers.

During her seventh-grade year, after praying and researching, Chavers’ parents met with the school superintendent about obtaining a Computer Assisted Notetaking system. She was the first person in the state of Virginia to use one, and later helped others learn to use it.

In high school, Chavers was able to choose a Cued Speech Transliterator, a transcriber who stayed with her all four years. High school wasn’t always easy, and instructors weren’t always supportive, but this motivated her to persevere.

Chavers received a blow in the fall of her sophomore year. The residual hearing deteriorated in her best ear, leaving her profoundly deaf. “I thought my dreams were shattered because I used hearing aids, but this motivated her to persevere.”

Chavers now is the instructor and choreographer for her church’s sign language choir. She also teaches sign language to staff and students at her church’s school.

Katie Wright had a friendless childhood because of what she calls “slowness of speech.” She explains, “If I spoke, I faced the risk of being teased. If I did not speak, I was considered a snob.”

**Katie** Wright was placed in a foster home as a young teen. Her caretakers attended Chesapeake Conference’s Rock Hall (Md.) church, where she still maintains a membership.

She discovered Highland View Academy (HVA) during a summer working in the kitchen at Mount Aetna Camp in Hagerstown, Md. She ventured to the academy one day, had lunch, and met some students. “This was the first time in my life that I felt I belonged, and these students honestly cared and seemed not to notice my speech difficulty,” she recalls.

HVA was where she wanted to be. During her two-and-a-half years at HVA, Wright realized God had plans for her life. “It was at that time that I vowed to always put Christ first in my life,” she states. It is also when she realized the positive effect she had on listeners through song. “I enjoyed the blessing it brought to others.”

These days, she and her husband, Sam, travel the continent with the Country Gospel Music Association. They also enjoy ministering to patients at the Veterans Affairs nursing home in Wilmington, Del. Wright has even performed before two governors. “Singing is a wonder, even to me,” Wright says. She is aware her speech attracts attention during performances. “It is then that I can effectively share the gift of song. My praise to God is that He can use us—no matter who we are—for His praise and glory.”

Elizabeth Anderson is a communication professional living in the greater Washington, D.C., area.

**Work within Your Limits**

Pastor Leighton Palmer of Allegheny West Conference’s Maranatha church in Cleveland spent most of his life without physical challenges. He was an athletic youngster who enjoyed playing soccer and basketball. He also found friendship with Christ as a college student.

Palmer says that friendship was tested when he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) in 2000. Although people mean well when they pray for healing, now his prayer is different. “Do what you want,” he tells God. “When it comes right down to it, I want You to save me.”

Palmer’s form of MS leads to a slow loss of function. Nine years after his diagnosis, he said that physically he’s 60 percent of where he used to be. He now needs a walker or wheelchair for mobility. Mentally, he’s 90 percent. But spiritually, he says he’s 150 percent, and still growing.

The progression of MS hasn’t sapped Palmer’s passion for ministry; it’s only affected how he ministers. Instead of traveling to visit sick parishioners or conduct Bible studies, he picks up the telephone. “It gives me a lot of joy when I call people; lift them up,” he admits.


Resource Guide

TRACI LEMON

Ministering to the Disabled

An inclusive church is a dynamic, Christ-centered church. To help get people with disabilities involved in church life, and for churches to offer services to them, all participants need to be informed. Here are some helpful resources:

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

Columbia Union Conference Disabilities Ministries—Contact local ministry coordinators and learn how to get involved or receive assistance. Visit columbiaunion.org and select the Services link.

North American Division (NAD) Disabilities Ministries Department—They provide a growing amount of helpful information, such as etiquette tips for communicating with people with disabilities. See naddisabilities.org/disability.

Adventist Deaf Ministries—Find a Columbia Union church with a deaf ministry, learn more about deaf culture, and order materials at deafadventist.org. For Bible studies and related materials in print and video formats, go to deafbibleschool.com.

Christian Record Services for the Blind (CRSB)—Get free publications in Braille, large-print, and audio formats; plus access to full-vision books, a lending library, a digital hymnal, gift Bibles and study guides, National Camps for Blind Children, and college scholarships. Visit christianrecord.org.

Missionaries of the Blind (MOB)—A division of CRSB, the MOB creates opportunities for open-hearted church members to reach out to this under-served segment of the population. For more details, stop by mob.christianrecord.org.

PUBLICATIONS

REACH Resource Manual—This Reaching to Educate All Children for Heaven guide helps teachers learn how to assemble a support team of Adventist professionals who can effectively accommodate students in need. Download a free copy at nadevsource.org. Click Resources, then Teacher Resources. For a hard copy, email lorriane@colorpress.com. Price: $10.50 or CD: $3

Handbook for Disabilities Ministries—This NAD resource covers how to start a ministry and plan a Disabilities Awareness Sabbath, and gives practical tips. Order from adventsource.org or (800) 328-0525. Price: $14.95

Can You Hear Us?—This new 22-page booklet by Adventist Deaf Ministries offers amazing tidbits, myth busters, shocking statistics, some how-tos, and heartwarming stories. To order, email adm7@deafadventist.org. Price: $10/10 copies

Connected—This is a contemporary Web magazine by CRSB for young adults, featuring news, blogs, and articles. Connect at connected.christianrecord.org.

CDS/DVDS/VIDEOS

Signs of God’s Love 2—While on a spring walk in the Ozarks, speaker Esther M. Doss points out Bible verses to answer questions on death and the hope of the resurrection. Order through deafadventist.org.

Our World: A Theater in God’s Universe—This DVD gives a basic version of the entire Bible in just two hours through American Sign Language. Order through adventsource.org. Price: $19.95

ShareHim Video Link—Watch an interview with NAD Disabilities Ministries coordinator Charlotte Thoms as she describes the important work of this ministry. Download the video at http://media.sharehim.org/src.html.

Traci Lemon writes from Silver Spring, Md.

As One Who Serves

Through a series of phrases that can be found throughout the scriptures, the character of God is revealed. In various places we learn about who God is by the way he is described.

We learn that God will protect us: “I am thy shield.” “I am with you to save you and deliver you.”

We learn of the divine qualities of God: “I am holy” “I am merciful” “I am one who wipes out your transgressions.”

We learn of the way God has locked himself into a relationship with humanity in space and time: “I am the first— I also am the last” “I am God, the God of thy fathers” “I am the Lord. I do not change.”

We learn of the compassionate character of God: “I am the Lord who exercises loving-kindness, justice, and righteousness on the earth.” “I am a God who is near.”

These are statements that help us both to know who God is and that he wants to be made known. Adventist HealthCare is built upon one unique way in which God is known, wonderfully expressed in the Christian tradition in this phrase: “I am among you as one who serves” (Luke 22:27).

From this phrase we take a special calling, expressed throughout our work and mission, and captured in our mission statement: “We demonstrate God’s care by improving the health of people and communities through a ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing.”

This is at the core of all that we do. We believe that to serve is a sacred task to which we have been called. Through providing excellent healthcare in a loving and compassionate way; we make real the character of God.

Our work each day is an expression of God’s character, and an example of God’s care in our world. Because of this, no challenge is too great or task too small to be used by God to demonstrate His care.

Each day—throughout our organization, in a variety of ways, in diverse situations—we seek to live out this mission. Every person contributes to the expression of God’s care that is found in our institutions, and the work that is ours each day carries the opportunity to be the instruments of God’s care, the hands and heart of his providence.

William G. “Bill” Robertson

President CEO

Adventist HealthCare
An Effective Partnership

The Seventh-day Adventist church has always emphasized the importance of healthy living, healing, and wholeness. Since the church and health care share so many goals, it only makes sense for them to work together as partners to achieve them.

Ismael Gama is Vice President for Mission Integration and Spiritual Care at AHC, and it is his mission to foster this partnership. “We are focusing on two programs contributing to a stronger alliance between our healthcare institutions and local congregations,” he states. “Health Ministry Training and Faith Community Nursing.”

“AHC offers free training in how to develop a health ministry in your congregation. Designed for churches with a current health ministries program as well as for those looking to start one, the training offers practical advice on building a foundation for health ministry.”

The first two-day training course took place last September at Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Maryland. Fifty-eight people from 25 different congregations, both SDA and other denominations, learned ways to develop, expand, or revitalize health ministry in their churches. The February 2009 course filled up quickly, and as the attendees of different faiths and cultures shared their experiences and calling, the blessing spread.

“We emphasize that each congregation is different,” explains Sue Heitmuller, who helps coordinate the Health Ministry Team Building Course. “We give them resources and guidance on how they can integrate health and faith. Some are far along that path, and some haven’t even thought about it.”

At first there seems to be one difference between the Health Ministry attendees and those from other denominations. For Adventists, “the health message” is such a part of their existence it seems commonplace and ordinary. But for many of the other attendees, this is exciting and new. They exclaim over the quotes from Ministry of Healing and are amazed that the Bible reports that Jesus healed even more than He preached—that this work is His work. As they realize what it means that Jesus came to make us whole, their enthusiasm leads the entire group into seeing health ministry through new eyes.

The newly trained team members are not sent out to struggle along on their own. AHC provides assistance in helping them develop their health ministry and team. There are monthly support sessions, as well as assistance with outreach projects and specialized ministries. Ongoing support also includes access to health care professionals and community resources for lectures, classes, screenings, fliers, and other programs.

“A partnership with churches can go a long way toward helping AHC fulfill its mission of building healthy communities. ‘We help the health ministry team members mobilize the church so it becomes a center for healing in the community,’ explains Katia Reinert, Health Ministry and Parish Nursing Coordinator at AHC. ‘A partnership between health organizations and local congregations has been shown to be a way to really make a difference in the health of the people.’

Some congregations are fortunate enough to have as their health ministry team leader a faith community nurse. Faith community nursing is a specialty in the nursing profession that utilizes the skills of a registered nurse to develop the health ministry of the congregation. The faith community nurse integrates faith and health, weaving healing into the fabric of congregation so that it’s an integral part of the whole rather than an occasional vegetable cooking class. As the number one resource at church for health issues and health evangelism, the faith community nurse promotes wellness for the congregation and the community.

AHC’s Faith Community Nursing Program offers a 40-hour training course enabling participants to begin a faith community practice. Focusing on the principle that health and healing comes from a whole-body, mind, and spirit, the course facilitates wholistic health across the age span of a congregation. At a special dedication service at the completion of the training, the nurses pledge to serve God as they assist their congregations in experiencing the life that Jesus came to give us more abundantly (John 10:10).

“Faith community nurse” is the new name for “parish nurse.” The term “parish” comes from a root word that means “to walk beside.” Faith community nurses walk beside the members of their congregations in their journey to wholeness, empowering each of them to take ownership of their health and achieve the optimal level.

Adventist HealthCare recognizes that the best partner for community health is the local congregation.

An Effective Partnership

When Betsy Johnson heard about faith community nursing eight years ago, she knew this was her calling. Brinklow Seventh-day Adventist Church, which she attended, has been her calling place, and she promised that she would bring it back to the congregation. At first she was a volunteer, but eventually it became a part-time paid position. She also works part time at Washington Adventist Hospital.

Her programs at Brinklow are multi-faceted. She has set up a bereavement ministry, which helps the family in practical and thoughtful ways. She has developed a multi-level emergency program for the church and its members. Exercise classes meet twice a week, and cooking classes are offered several times a year. Once a month, Betsy sets up a table in the lobby to meet the health concerns of the members by taking their blood pressure or answering questions.

And of course she visits the sick at home and in the hospital, and organizes other members to do the same. Her programs also connect with the community. She lets her congregation know about prevention or wellness screenings at local hospitals, and finds volunteers to help. She organized a Men’s Night Out, which involved (among other things) interactive and vigorous video game workouts. The church assists a transition home for homeless women and unwed mothers, and it is partnering with a local Baptist church to provide an adolescent clinic.

The faith community nursing program at Brinklow is always evolving. “Teach and outreach, that is my focus,” Betsy says. “Bringing the resources from community to congregation and the resources of the congregation to community—including our spirituality.”
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West Philadelphia Members Spend Sabbath in Streets

On a recent Sabbath, members of the West Philadelphia church heard the missionary call and brought the various ministries of the church to the streets. The lower division Sabbath School was the first out the door. These 6- to 10-year-olds were excited to give a concert in a group dealing with the rigors of life in these tough times," said Pastor Carl Hinds. "Some said just as they were about to despair, the church was there."—Donna Riley Brown

Believing in, Moving With His Spirit

Our regular readers will notice that we have changed the name of our conference newsletter from Catch the Vision to Spirit. This name change is not just a casual or simple upgrading of our masthead, but an overt recognition that when it comes to building the kingdom of God, nothing of significance happens that is not first breathed upon by the Holy Spirit. Let me repeat that again: Nothing of significance happens that is not first breathed upon by the Holy Spirit. At some point, at some juncture, it becomes imperative that we all “get” that we need the Holy Spirit. I assure you that this newsletter will not be a nice public relations document. Instead, it will be a place where we “showcase” what God is doing among the Spirit-filled people of the Allegheny West Conference (AWC) in their passion to build the kingdom of God within our territory.

I also want to share with you our theme for this summer’s camp meeting. It will be “Pentecost II. Spirit Led. Spirit Directed, and Spirit Anointed.” We have 100 prayer warriors all around the conference whose only task is to pray mightily for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit for this summer’s camp meeting. God is moving by His Spirit, and He’s moving right now. I conclude with the best news of all. We believe that through God’s grace, 1,000 people will be baptized this year in the Allegheny West Conference. We are also moving right now to raise $500,000 for the specific purpose of evangelism. By the way, the first of over 100 public evangelism meetings to take place in our territory this year have already begun. Praise God!

Melrose Avenue Youth Lead Shut-In Ministry

A year ago, a few of the teens (below) at the Melrose Avenue church in Roanoke, Va., approached head elder Pat Hatch about ministering to the sick and shut-in. After she offered training and advice, the youth chose their leaders and developed their program. Now every second and fourth Sabbath they go out and present their program—patterned after Sabbath services—with different teens leading out in singing, Scripture reading, prayer, testimony, and a mini-sermon. The entire visitation and service lasts no more than 30 minutes. Since then they have visited not only Melrose members, but various nursing homes. The
God’s Unfinished Pictures

Someone once told the famous artist Picasso that they liked his portrait of a well-known woman. “Yes, thank you,” she said. “Though some say that she does not look like it. But that doesn’t make any difference, she will.” It seems crazy that any human artist could suppose that he can picture you not only as you are, but as you are going to be one day. But that is in truth what the Divine Artist does with each of us. He sees us exactly as we are now. He sees every promising potentiality in us, just as He sees every imperfection or every aspect of our incompleteness.

But He also sees us as we shall be in the end, and He continues working with us. He has, and I say this most respectfully, a case of double vision—He sees us as we are and sees us as we can be by His grace. Understand this and post it on your mental bulletin board so you never miss seeing it: You are one of God’s unfinished pictures.

And if God is not yet finished with you, there is a good chance He is not finished with the people around you. That is why the request in the following statement still rings true today, some 35 years after I first heard it: “Please be patient with me, God isn’t finished with me yet.”

Remember the verse “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is” (1 John 3:2).

Rocky Knoll, Mount Aetna, Crest Lane Students Meet NASA Representative

Dynae Fullwood, an aerospace education specialist for NASA’s Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., recently visited three conference schools to instruct students in rocketry. Mark Walker, principal of Rocky Knoll, Mount Aetna and the Crest Lane school in Hagerstown, Md. She demonstrated a rocketry activity teachers can use in the classroom and shared lesson plans for school participation in a NASA study of clouds and atmosphere. NASA provides materials that are intended to be supplemental to the school’s curriculum and help students build math, science, and technology skills.

“We really appreciated having Ms. Fullwood visit our school,” Walker said. “The materials she presented crossed a broad spectrum of ages from pre-K through eighth grade with activities appropriate for each age level. We now look forward to incorporating more of NASA’s resources and activities into our existing classroom programs.”
Members of North East Plant Celebrate New Home

On a chilly Sabbath morning, more than 80 people swelled the capacity of a small chapel tucked in the lower level of the Loch Raven United Methodist Church in Baltimore. The gravity of an event, referred to as the North East group, who came together as a result of a church planting project initiated last June, worshiped together for the first time in their newly acquired rental facility.

The group, led by Pastor Sedley Johnson and trained ministers Nick Riley and Iheanacho Odinma, began meeting in a local library on Saturday afternoons. Now that they have a place to hold worship services on Sabbath mornings, their afternoons are spent knocking on doors in the neighborhood, sharing books, and extending invitations for Bible studies.

Worship leaders (left to right) Pastor Sedley Johnson, conference president Rob Vandeman, conference ministerial director John Appel, and local North East participants Dévonne Thompson, Iheanacho Odinma, and Toolaram Singh prepare to enter the sanctuary.

Middletown Valley Members Consecrate New Sanctuary

A grand opening event held recently to showcase the beautiful, newly finished sanctuary of the Middletown Valley church (below) in rural Jefferson, Md., was a culmination of many members’ dreams. The sanctuary is phase II of a building project that started 10 years ago. The church body moved into their new building (phase I) in 1999, but the building did not include a sanctuary. Pastor Dick Thomas led the building campaign, and members paid off the mortgage in 2005 and immediately began raising funds for the next phase. At a special ceremony a little more than one year ago, they broke ground for the new sanctuary.

Members and visitors filled the church to capacity for the grand opening service that began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and was followed by a divine worship service. Among the special guests were U.S. Congressman Roscoe Bartlett; Columbia Union officers Dave Weigley, president, and Neville Harcombe, executive secretary; and Chesapeake Conference officers Rob Vandeman, president; Charles Griffin, executive secretary; and John Appel, ministerial director. The same afternoon, the Frederick church choir, directed by Francisco de Araujo, treated worshipers to a celebratory performance.—Ron Brauer

Beacon of Light Company Gains Church Status

The Beacon of Light company, a 46-member congregation in Salisbury, Md., was recently promoted to church status. To commemorate the occasion, members held a celebration weekend that began with a Friday evening baptism. “It is fitting that the first official act of the church was to accept new members,” says Pastor Timothy Lee. “The whole point of the church is to help others come to know Jesus.”

Conference president Rob Vandeman urged the new congregation to be a place where those who are homesick for Jesus can come for refreshment. Members endeavor to attract others with warmth and friendliness and a contemporary worship style. They also partner with other local churches in ministry to the homeless in their neighborhood.

Lucireta Micfalai signs the charter, witnessed by husband Marco Micfalai (left) and conference secretary Charles Griffin.

Student Accepts Call to Join Adventist Church

Julie Bernard is working on her second degree from Columbia Union College (CUC) and is amazed at how God brought her to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. “God was telling me that my life needed some change,” said the sophomore nursing major. “I just didn’t know what it was.”

During her time at CUC (1996 to 2000), Bernard attended a local Baptist church with her family but still felt that something was missing from her life. After graduating in 2000 with her bachelor’s in elementary education, she began teaching. She engaged in Bible studies, worship services, and lesson studies with the encouragement of her friends and co-workers in the church. In fall 2008, Bernard returned to CUC to pursue a nursing degree. It was in a World Religions class, taught by Olive Hemmings, PhD, that she was re-introduced to the Adventist faith.

During CUC’s Week In Spiritual Emphasis, a sermon by former adjunct professor Charles Tapp encouraged her, along with other students, to follow the path God placed in their hearts. Between what she learned in religion class and the influence of friends, professors, and nearby Sligo church’s youth program—which her teenage daughter enjoyed—she decided to become a member of Sligo church.

“I am so thankful to be a part of this church,” Bernard said. “I cannot wait to see what service and plan God has for me here.”—Andrè J. Hardy

Professor Renee Winkfield, chair of the Edyth T. James Department of Nursing, recently received her doctorate.

Nursing Chair Receives Doctorate

Renee Winkfield, chair of the Edyth T. James Department of Nursing, recently received her PhD in General Human Services from Capella University in Minneapolis, Minn. Her dissertation, titled “The Relationship Between Spiritual Well-being and Self-esteem among Pre-adolescent Children who attend a Religious School,” examined the effect of a strong belief in a higher power on the confidence level of children.

The study population included 121 students from seven Adventist elementary schools from ages 10 to 12. Through various tests, Winkfield discovered that those who had a high level of spirituality had higher levels of self-esteem. While those with lower levels of spirituality had lower self-esteem.

It was through her work as a pediatric nurse at Children’s Hospital in Washington, D.C., that Winkfield became interested in discovering what role spirituality played in how young patients handled their illness. “The process of attaining this degree has prepared me to understand how students grow in their development and how a belief and personal relationship with God impacts their self-esteem,” said Winkfield.

She received her associate’s degree in nursing from Oakwood University in Alabama, her bachelor’s in nursing from Loma Linda University in California, and her master’s degree in nursing from University of California. Winkfield teaches senior students taking Nursing Capstone Practicum, the final course that prepares students for the nursing board exam.

CUC student Julie Bernard (center) stands with her husband, Robert, and daughter, Danielle.
**Student Profile: Justin Gauthier**

As a transfer student from Wellington, Ala., Justin Gauthier intentionally chose to study at CUC and pursue his three loves: education, playing sports, and serving God. “Gauthier is a man of few words whose enormous talent as a baseball player speaks volumes,” said Michael Ricucci, his baseball coach.

Gauthier plays center field and was recently selected from thousands of applicants to participate in a summer baseball program in Fairbanks, Alaska, sponsored by Athletes in Action, a prestigious Christian organization that prepares players to grow in their faith while playing the sport they love.

He is proud of this extraordinary achievement and is hopeful about his future prospects. “I’m excited about the opportunity to play in the summer league because it will further CUC’s mission and give me a chance to participate in service activities to the Fairbanks community,” said Gauthier, a junior physical therapy major.

**Can We Afford It?**

With the economic challenges facing us as a nation, I would imagine that most of us are re-evaluating how we spend our money. Things that may seem like necessities are quite possibly now finding themselves on our “wants” list rather than our “needs” list.

From a budgetary standpoint, Adventist education would probably be marked as a “want” rather than a “need.” I would urge you, however, to keep Adventist education boldly marked in the needs category. I truly believe that having an Adventist, Christian education makes a lasting difference. If a part of your personal mission—whether as a parent, grandparent, relative, friend, or church member—is for children to learn and appreciate the values and mission of our church, then they need to have the advantage of an Adventist education.

Easier said than done in trying economic times, I know. We realize this, and at Highland View Academy (HVA), we are more committed than ever to do all we can to help provide scholarships and funding so that as many students as possible can attend. It will take hard work on our part, sacrifice on the part of parents, and, frankly, a miracle or two, but we simply must make it a priority throughout our school and church communities to give young people this opportunity.

The employees at HVA will not be getting a salary increase next year, and there will be no tuition increase for the 2009-10 school year. It will not be easy, not as a school and not as families, but we must put every effort into making an Adventist education a reality for all who desire it. We are committed to this mission, and I’m asking that each of you be committed to this mission as well.

Can we easily afford Adventist education? No. Can we afford not to afford it? Emphatically, not.
Alumni Weekend to Commemorate 60th Anniversary

Vice principal Stephen Herr is planning a special alumni weekend for May 1-3, to celebrate HVA’s 60th anniversary. Alumnus Lonnie Melashenko (right) will be the guest speaker for the Sabbath worship service. Melashenko, who served as speaker-director for the Voice of Prophecy from 1983-2008, is currently serving as the vice president of Spiritual Services and Missions for Kettering Adventist HealthCare in Ohio. Other participants will include Bill Jackson, who served as a faculty member in roles of teacher and vice principal from 1978-94; Kathy Goddard, teacher for English and Bible from 1991-2000; and Sheri Tydings who has served as registrar, vice principal, and principal since 1996.

All Sabbath programs this year will be held in the administration building and gymnasium. For more information, contact Herr at (301) 739-8480, ext. 225, or email him at sherr@highlandviewacademy.com.

Why Students Love Their School

Students were recently asked what they liked about HVA. Here is what some of them said:

Freshman Jared Weathers said, “It’s more fun than home! I love being able to interact with people who have the same beliefs as I do. I attended public school in the past, and in my middle school of 3,000, I was one of three Adventists.”

Freshmen Dennis Shult, Marci Corea, Ed Odhiambbo, and Stephanie Cafourn said, “We really like that the teachers treat us as family—they care so much about us as people! It really shows that they try to be much more than just good teachers.”

Senior Amanda Mihm said, “I have only attended HVA this year, but it has been life-changing.”

Senior Kyla Bauer said, “I’ve had a blast being involved in music and sports. I’ve also had lots of opportunities to be in leadership positions.”

Leaders Learn to Lead

Help! I’ve been asked to be an elder (deacon, deaconess, clerk, treasurer, or Sabbath School teacher) and I have no idea what I’m supposed to do! Realizing that this was a common refrain for many new church leaders, Mountain View Conference leaders recently offered the End-times Church Leadership Symposium. The two-day informational seminar was held at the Summersville (W.Va.) church for all church leaders throughout the conference.

On Sabbath afternoon, Jim Cress (above) and Jonas Arrais, both from the Ministerial Association of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, offered special training geared toward pastors and elders. Their presentations gave helpful insights into how to recruit lay leaders, use spiritual gifts as a mobilizing tool in the church, and evaluate the position of elder in each church. More than 80 local pastors and elders and their wives from 24 conference church groups attended this practical three-and-a-half-hour forum.

On Sunday morning the crowd swelled to 120 attendees from 25 churches as other lay leaders came to receive training in their specific areas. After a devotional talk given by Pastor Cress, the assembly divided into 11 church officers training breakout groups. The breakout leaders, including Columbia Union Conference officials, gave helpful tips.—Kathy Pepper

Getting Back to the Basics

When it comes to leaders, Jesus was the greatest of them all. As I think of Him training the disciples, I cannot help but be impressed that He used simple, basic experiences to teach them profound truths. “And He began again to teach by the sea side ... and He taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in His doctrine” (Mark 4:1-2).

How often it is said when things do not go like they should, “Get back to the basics.” In the ministry of the church and in church life, revival seems to come when we get back to the basics, when we are feeding on the Word of God, praying for the Holy Spirit, and being anointed as we share our faith with others. Can you envision what would happen in our church if we as members, pastors, and leaders got back to the basics?

That is what happened with our pioneers who led to the “loud cry,” and it will happen again just before Jesus returns. We are told the work of giving the gospel will end in greater power than it began on Pentecost. The question you must answer is this, am I willing to get back to the basics? Am I willing to let the great I Am empower me with the simple gospel so that I can share the power of the gospel that will give hope in a troubled world? Regardless of one’s level of leadership, if we want a meaningful, effective Christian leadership role, we need to model the basics.

### CALENDAR

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### Mountain View

**April 2009**
Harold Wightman Retires From Pastoral Service

Mountain View Conference staff recently bid farewell to Harold Wightman when he retired after 26 years of service in pastoral ministry.

“Little did I know, so many years ago, that I would put aside my then successful general contracting business to become a pastor,” says Wightman.

He began serving in the Mountain View Conference in 1979 as a stipend Bible worker. Then, for two years, he pastored the Spencer (W.Va.) church and was assistant to the conference evangelist. Later Wightman earned his bachelor’s degree in religion from the Tennessee-based Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University). He returned to Mountain View in 1986 to pastor the Bluefield (W.Va.) church for two years. Then he accepted a call from the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference. In 1992 he returned to West Virginia where he served in the Clarksburg/Morgantown/Fairmont district for two years and the Charleston district for eight years. For six years Wightman pastored the Cumberland/ Frostburg (Md.) district until he retired.

In addition to pastoring, Wightman conducted church growth workshops, communication and marriage seminars, cooking schools, and counseling sessions. He was camp caretaker of Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va., and participated in various camp and church building projects.

Although Wightman and his wife, Ruth, have specific plans for how they will spend their retirement in Buckhannon, W.Va., they say they are open to whatever the Lord wants them to do.

Six Join Charleston Congregation

Following a recent evangelistic series, six people dedicated their lives to Christ and made decisions to join the Charleston (W.Va.) church.

Bradley Galambos, ministerial secretary for the conference and pastor of the Beckley (W.Va.) church and the Valley View church in Bluefield, W.Va., conducted the meetings.

“The new members are Paul and Patsy Jones; Jonathan Valdez; Hope Seely and her daughter, Nina Shell; and George Robertson, who was a member of the Charleston church 40 years ago, rejoins the church through baptism.”

Mountain View Events

| April 18 | Youth Rally Valley View Church |
| May 3-8 | Outdoor School Michigan |
| June 1 | Walk 100 Miles Ends |
| 14-19 | Lifeguard Camp Valley Vista Camp |
| 19-27 | Camp Meeting Valley Vista Camp |

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Alumni Weekend Slated for April

MVA has planned an alumni weekend filled with exciting programs and opportunities for renewed friendships. Bill Dull ('59) is traveling from India to present the Sabbath message, and MVA’s music department will be featured throughout the weekend.

No great alumni weekend would be complete without a golf tournament! The greens are magnificent, the company terrific, and the prizes amazing! Register now to attend on Sunday, April 26.

For more information, contact Margaret Sutton, director of Development/Alumni Relations, at (740) 397-5411, ext. 246, email mvadev@ecr.net, or visit the alumni page at mvacademy.org.

Students Minister Through Music

MVA’s choir, the Echoliers, and the Wind Ensemble often travel around Ohio preaching and performing concerts for a variety of churches. The students are not strangers to the routine of waking up early in the morning to load equipment before beginning the journey.

“Although we are performers, we are first ministers, seeking to win souls to Christ and proclaim His soon return,” said music director Lulu Mwangi. “Our purpose isn’t just to share Jesus with our audiences, but to draw closer to Him as a group.”

The MVA music department has adopted two motives: “Excellence shall be our highest form of praise” and “It’s not about us.” These phrases remind everyone that their musical gifts are from God, and only He can work through all who are willing and are called according to His purpose,” said Mwangi.

First-place winners from last year’s golf tournament, Bruce Belkchambers, David Duke, Jeff Morris, and Tim Soper, show off their trophies.

Go and Tell

The Year of Evangelism is going great here in New Jersey, and I am excited as I see what God is doing for His church. Our leaders at the North American Division have challenged us all to reach at least 100,000 people in our division this year with the gospel. Our men and women have been inspired by God to break away from the monotony of doing the same thing every year, only to end up with the same disappointing results. There is a great challenge, but the power of the Holy Spirit is much greater.

I have asked the associate staff from our conference to participate in a spiritual feast, and they have responded with plans to lead evangelistic series in cities throughout New Jersey. From accountants to support staff, everyone is excited to do something. Our pastors have planned two evangelistic series per church. More than 100 newly trained lay preachers have begun taking their ministries to churches, schools, social halls, and other locations. We are also launching a metropolitan evangelistic campaign at the new Bridgeton church building in the spring.

Brothers and sisters, please join the evangelistic forces. This is the only prophecy left to fulfill so that Jesus can come with glory and majesty. “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come,” (Matt. 24:14).

Follow His command in Matthew 28 to go and tell others about Him.

Church Leaders Attend Conference Ministries Training

The low temperatures were no match for the 400-plus members who attended New Jersey Conference’s recent Spanish Ministries Convention at Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Tranquility. The program consisted of a variety of training sessions to equip those taking on leadership roles in the Stewardship, Sabbath School, Personal Ministries, Communication, and other departments.

The attendees ranged from veterans with years of ministry experience to newly baptized members such as Miguel De Los Santos, who joined Paterson Temple in April 2007. “I really liked the ideas I heard for the youth programs, especially how we should do small groups at the houses of the believers,” De Los Santos said. “The youth enjoyed their curriculum, Jesus Loves Jeans. The program is aimed at training young people to become disciples. Former youth department assistant Elaine Nieves recalls, “Youth leaders and teenagers were so excited about the curriculum and felt they could present it to any of their friends.”

Everyone returned home with resources and materials they can use at their home churches.

Calendar of Events

April
13-18 Spring Week of Prayer
18 Gymnastics Home Show
24-26 Alumni Weekend
26-May 1 Junior Boston Trip
29-May 3 Home Leave
May
10 Spring Concert
13-14 Senior Final Exams
14-20 Senior Class Trip
19-20 Final Exams
22-24 Graduation Weekend
24 Commencement

Calendar
April
4 Communication Seminar, North Jersey
4-18 Spanish Evangelism “Sh”
11 Communication Seminar, South Jersey
18 North Worship Music Festival
25 South Worship Music Festival

Pastors Kendall Turcios (left) and José Pagan teach the Jesus Loves Jeans curriculum.

José Cortés
President
E l año del Evangelismo ya está en Marcha... ¡Está siendo un año muy bueno! ¡Yo estoy entusiasmado viendo lo que Dios ya ha empezado a hacer por su Iglesia! Nuestros líderes de la División NorTEAMERICANA nos han desafiado a alcanzar por lo menos a 100 mil con el evangelio. Nuestros hombres y mujeres han sido inspirados por Dios para romper con la monotonía de seguir haciendo lo mismo cada año, para tener los mismos resultados decepcionantes. ¡El desafío es grande! Pero el poder del Espíritu Santo es mucho más grande.

Le he pedido al personal asociado de nuestra conferencia que participen en una fiesta espiritual. Cada uno de los administradores y departamentos dirigirán una serie de reuniones en diferentes ciudades en New Jersey. Desde contadores hasta el personal de apoyo, todos están animados a hacer algo. Nuestros pastores realizarán dos campañas en cada iglesia de nuestro campo. Más de Cien laicos recién entrenados han empezado a llevar su ministerio a iglesias, escuelas, salones sociales, y en otros lugares donde se puedan reunir para escuchar del evangelio. ¡Por favor hermano, únete a las fuerzas evangelizadoras! Esta es la única profecía que falta por cumplirse para que venga Jesús en gloria y majestad. “Y será predicado el Evangelio del Reino por testimonio a todas las naciones, y entonces vendrá el fin”. Mateo 24:14. Sigue su orden en Mateo 28 y diles a tus vecinos: “Ve y diles a todas las naciones que Jesús es el Salvador y que debe escuchar en el programa de los jóvenes, y como ellos deben llevar a sus amigos a escuchar en el programa de los jóvenes. Y cuando vean: ‘Ve a tus vecinos y diles a todas las naciones que Jesús es el Salvador’. Mateo 28:19.
Church News

Lakewood Church Hosts Community Concert, Dinner

More than 100 people attended a concert and dinner for the local community held by the Lakewood church. The concert included choirs from area churches as well as Lakewood’s adult and children’s choirs. Church members also collected blankets, toiletries, and snacks to fill the 83 backpacks they gave away to homeless people in downtown Cleveland and surrounding neighborhoods.

Two Baptized at Coshocton Church

Coshocton pastor Samuel Abraham recently baptized Alice Cox-ZZ and Charnmae Lyn Pettit. Both accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior after attending evangelistic meetings and taking Bible studies.

Historical Notes: Adventism in Ohio—Early 1900s

In 1899 the Ohio Conference was the first to give formal recognition to youth ministry, helping them learn how to be mission focused. We work with churches in a yearlong mentoring program to assist them in laying a foundation for Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

Three Baptized in Unfinished Chillicothe Church

Three people recently started their walk with Jesus with baptism in the unfinished Chillicothe sanctuary. “We inaugurated our new sanctuary in the best possible way—with a baptism,” says Ron Anderson (below), Chillicothe’s newly appointed pastor.

Each candidate shared something with the congregation prior to the baptism to illustrate why this act of baptism was so important to them. Goldie Six joined the church eight years ago on profession of faith, intending to be baptized with her late husband. Now a widow, she decided it was time to fulfill the dream. Six shared a gospel song as testimony of her love for her Savior.

Eric Anderson (above, right), the pastor’s son, has been considering baptism for some time and decided it was time to commit his life to Christ. Eric, along with his father, led the congregation in repeating God’s love story for his life found in John 3:16.

Mike McDaniel began attending church about a year ago with his wife, Cathy. His simple statement, “God changed my life,” was the most powerful testimony on why baptism meant so much to him.

The Chillicothe church hopes to occupy their new sanctuary this spring.—Trish Tickle

Our Mission Must Include Youth Leadership Training

The Youth and Young Adult Ministries department’s mission is to empower local church leadership to do youth evangelism. We have found that many of our churches have been holding off on this type of ministry due to a lack of trained leadership to head such a ministry. That is where the Pennsylvania Conference’s Youth Ministries department comes in. We work with churches in a yearlong mentoring program to assist them in laying a foundation for Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

This is a critical mission simply because over 50 percent of our young people are leaving the Adventist Church. These ministries are not solely developed for those already in the church. We make outreach part of the DNA of the youth program by encouraging an inside-out program where youth are encouraged to invite their friends to each and every program or outing.

We also desire to fulfill our mission by organizing monthly training events available to all such as youth spiritual retreats each February, youth and young adult departments at camp meeting, a young adult retreat, a youth leader spiritual retreat, and Cool Camps. We also partner with local pastors to run Youth Challenge, our youth literature evangelism program.

All in all, I love working with our youth. It’s a great job! If we can ever be of service to you and your young people, call our office or visit paconference.org, click on “Ministries,” and then “Youth and Young Adult Ministries.”—Kris Eckenroth

Youth Accept Jesus at “Outcast” Retreat

Approximately 400 attended Pennsylvania Conference’s fourth annual youth spiritual retreat on the campus of Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg. Many of the young people attending brought friends from their schools or their neighborhood. Themed “Outcast: The Heart of a King,” this special weekend focused on how King Jesus became Lord and Savior. It was our mission to show that a high number of youth make a decision for Jesus at a youth rally and/or week of prayer. It was our prayer that several hundred of our youth would accept Jesus as their personal Savior.

At the end of the event, 17 people decided to commit their life to Christ. Of these, 14 were our young people, and this event provided an environment where these young people could make a clear decision for Christ.

Blue Mountain Academy students (left to right) Elezer Rocha (‘11), David Tryon (‘10), Connor Lamabee (‘10), Michelle Musser (‘11), and Melissa Morgan (‘11) commemorate the recent Outcast youth retreat.
Pastor Needs Your Help

Pastor Andrew Clark and his staff at Greater Pittsburgh Metropolitan Ministries have a great problem. They have too many Bible study interests to address! This four-person team is attempting to follow up with more than 70 people who want to study the Bible. They are looking for short-term Bible workers who have a desire and the ability to work with people who want to know more, but are for the most part, unchurched and unknowledgeable about God, the Bible, and the gospel. If you make friends easily and enjoy building relationships and studying the Bible with others, contact Pastor Clark at adventistcommunityservices@gmail.com.

Laurel Lake Reaches Mission Field in Many Ways

The staff at Laurel Lake Camp and Retreat Center in Rossiter uses multiple tactics to fulfill its mission of reaching people for Christ in the Pennsylvania mission field. For the summer camp groups, they help design programs with mission-oriented themes. This year’s theme “One World, One Cross, One Mission” is designed to help campers realize that they live in a world where the cross is the antidote for sin and that they have the opportunity to bring the Word to a lost world. The camp will not only be advertised in Adventist homes across Pennsylvania, but also in local communities as a day camp—with transportation provided to and from Rossiter and Punxsutawney.

Camp staff is also reaching out to other groups in the community with a service attitude that is making an impact on the lives of those who come to the camp. Besides summer camp and conference and church events, the center offers a Valentine’s retreat, singles retreat, Christian concerts, health seminars, year-end for camp alumni. The local high school recently held a youth retreat at the camp. During the winter, the camp invites the community to enjoy their sledding and tubing hill—complete with tow machine. When the ground isn’t covered in snow, they offer mountain boarding. Another way the camp staff reaches out is through a weekly Bible study with members of Laurel Lake church. Together they are working to meet the needs of Indiana University of Pennsylvania students with homemade food and spiritual food from God’s Word. “We believe that God is here, represented in the staff and through our beautiful natural setting in nature,” says camp director Gary Moran. Seeing God in nature is also the foundation of Outdoor School. Held each spring, it reaches out to public and church school youth in the area.

Finally, Laurel Lake Camp ministers to the staff who work and volunteer during the summer and at events throughout the year. “We strive to meet their need to experience the love and restoring power of Jesus,” shares Moran. He also invites everyone to visit. “If you want to be pampered and also connect with Jesus in a unique way, come to Laurel Lake Camp to be blessed and de-stressed,” he says.

For more information on Laurel Lake Camp, call (814) 938-9300 or visit laurellakecamp.com.

What’s happening

April

3-5 Youth Leader Spiritual Retreat, Poconos
11 Youth Leader Training, Blue Mountain Academy
12 Hispanic School of Theology
Blue Mountain Academy
18 Pathfinder NA & Bible Achievement
20-23 Outdoor School
Laurel Lake Camp
24-26 Alumni Weekend
Blue Mountain Academy
24-26 Adventure Family Retreat
Laurel Lake Camp
27-30 Outdoor School
Laurel Lake Camp

Laurel Lake Camp director Gary Moran and Food Services and Housing director Lisa Fisher minister to groups at the camp during the summer and to the communities of Rossiter and Punxsutawney.

Conference Welcomes New Communication Director

Dan Jensen has accepted the call to serve as the new assistant to the president for Communication for Potomac Conference. Jensen, who joined the staff in January, is a seasoned professional with experience in communication, marketing, and public relations. He and his wife, Donita, have three children: Ashley, Andrew, and Alex.

It’s a tremendous honor to be a member of the communication team, and I look forward to telling the story of what Christ is doing throughout the Potomac Conference,” said Jensen.

Please pray for his family as they transition to the area from Minnesota.

The Sin Disability

So long as you can sweeten another’s pain, life is not in vain,” wrote Helen Keller. Keller certainly understood emotional pain. At the age of 19 months, an illness left her totally blind and deaf. But a compassionate teacher taught her to read and write in Braille and, later, to speak.

Keller’s teacher, Ann Sullivan, knew only too well the frustration of fighting a physical disability. She herself was nearly blind. But Sullivan patiently devised a way to communicate with her by spelling out letters on Keller’s hand. Inspired by the empathy of her teacher, Keller decided to dedicate her own life to helping the blind and the deaf.

Having overcome her own disability at great effort, she felt for those who were in similar circumstances. You and I have a disability. Sin is our disability. According to the apostle Paul, “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). But “God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him,” (1 John 4:9). Ellen White writes, “The followers of Christ have been redeemed for service…” By living to minister for others, man is brought into connection with Christ.” (Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 326). God has designed it so that we grow out of our disability by serving others. White continues, “The work to which as Christians we are called is to co-operate with Christ for the salvation of souls.”

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Pastor Donald J. Miller, President

Bill Miller
President

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Hispanic Members Receive the Holy Spirit

Nearly 2,000 lay people attended the 12th annual Hispanic Evangelism and Disciple Festival held at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City, Md. Organized by the Potomac Conference’s Hispanic Ministries, the yearly event is designed to gather all lay people and prepare them to start the new year gaining believers for Jesus. The four-day event, titled “You Will Receive Power,” was centered on receiving the Holy Spirit. Speakers included pastors Andres Portes, Ranieri Sales, and Ruben Ramos, Columbia Union vice president for Multilingual Ministries. Conference president Bill Miller, Henry Tavera Bueno, and Henry Barrios led the seminars. Evelyn Omaha and Pastor Josant Barriondos led the children’s program. Ivor Myers led the youth in a separate program.

During the event, 24 people were baptized and 500 people promised to establish home churches. The latter picked up a banner that said “We Pray and Read the Bible Here” to hang on the doorways of their homes. The event ended with a ceremony where each person held a lit candle. Jose D. Esposito, director of the Hispanic Lay Training Center in Temple Hills, Md., made an appeal for each person holding a candle to bring a new believer to Christ. As the room lights dimmed, hundreds of candles burned in the dark, representing Potomac’s goal to bring, ever closer, the soon return of Jesus Christ.

Adventist Community Services Manages Local Pool

Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington (ACSGW) can now add pool management to the list of things it does to help the community. Unable to find a group willing to take on the task of managing the Piney Branch Elementary School pool in Takoma Park, Md., officials planned to have it drained. However, those plans were halted when a public-private partnership was established between ACSGW and Montgomery County Council, the county’s board of education, and the City of Takoma Park. Through this partnership, ACSGW agreed to manage the Olympic-sized, indoor pool, and a grand reopening followed.

“I thank the community for their faith and confidence in us,” said Ron Wylie, ACSGW director. “I know people think that community services is just about food and clothes, but we do a lot in the community, and plan to do more. ’I think this has already been a tremendous opportunity to witness,’ he added. One opportunity came fairly early in the process when Wylie made it clear that they would not operate the pool during Sabbath hours.

“It was a natural fit for ACSGW to manage the pool since they strive to help community members meet basic needs,” said Terry Seamens, a councilmember for the City of Takoma Park who worked with citizens, the county, and ACS to re-open the pool.

ACSGW is supported by Sligo, Takoma Park, Silver Spring, Beltville, Burnt Mills, and Hyattsville churches in Maryland. For more information, visit acsgw.org.

—Taoshi Rowe

Students Awarded for Good Character

Courage, honesty, initiative, perseverance, purity, respect, responsibility, service, and being their brother’s keeper are all character traits that Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) students strive to embody. Each month students learn about one of these positive character traits during daily prayer time with their faculty family, and discuss those traits during weekly assembly programs.

Students are then asked to nominate the student they feel most accurately represents the character trait being chosen for that month. The student who is chosen is announced during assembly and is given a cash gift by the principal. The recipients are then eligible to receive a year-end award. A cash award and recognition is also given to that student at graduation.

The awards recipients so far this year are Chelsea Glass (’09) for brother’s keeper; Janice Cosme (’10) for courage; and Mackenzie Sweeney (’11) for honesty. For the initiative trait the staff made the decision to honor two students, Katie Busch (’11) and Jessica Mills (‘10), since they both so clearly exhibit this trait in their workplace on campus.

“Jessica works for me as a resident assistant, and she is a true example of someone who knows how to take the initiative and get a job done. I know that if I ask her to do something she will go above and beyond to see that the task is accomplished,” says Donna McDonald, dean of women.

Academy Days Brings Students Closer to Christ

This year’s Academy Days—to be held on Sunday, April 19, and Monday, April 20—is an opportunity for students in grades 8 to 11 to learn more about the benefits of Christian education. It is also a step that can have life-changing impact.

Last year “Jeff” came to Academy Days with-out interest in God or SVA. He came only because a friend asked him. He said that God was just a distant relative about whom he could have cared less. Now six months later, he is a happy and engaged student who prays with his friends.

“Rachel” came to Academy Days because her parents forced her to attend. She loved her public high school and made it clear to her parents that she had no interest in their religion. Over her protests, Rachel’s parents enrolled her at SVA. Now Rachel is first in line for the Washington, D.C., homeless ministry trip. She also frequently visits the prayer room in the girl’s dorm and is eagerly awaiting her first foreign mission trip.

There are countless other stories of how Christ has made dramatic changes in students who attend SVA. Many of these students began this journey by attending Academy Days. Come by this April and see what amazing things could be in store for you. To register, call (540) 740-2210.
Following His Lead

“Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust Him to help you do it and He will” (Psalm 37:5, The Living Bible).

I love that verse because I know God has truly led me while here at Takoma Academy (TA). When I first came to TA in 1986, I had no intentions to “move up” the ladder to administration, and yet I did, serving first as a vice principal. In 1995 a TA board member asked me to really consider becoming principal. I prayed and followed God’s lead. In 2005 I was asked to be principal, and, once again, I prayed for specific direction and received it. Now through much prayer, various events, and specific answers, I must follow God’s lead again and resign as principal effective June 30. God has truly led me in this decision, and the peace that follows is truly amazing.

Wherever God leads me, whether that is to remain at TA and teach Bible, or to leave and minister elsewhere, I must follow His lead. Thank you all for your prayers and support. God will provide the best person to lead at TA—as He always has.

Students Receive Scholarships for Good Grades, Citizenship

Congratulations to the 18 students (below) that TA recently awarded academic scholarships for good grades and good citizenship. The scholarships are awarded four times a year. A total of $7,250 in scholarships were awarded to students who earn GPAs of 3.0 and above, achieve exemplary citizenship, and have exemplary attendance during the semester.

Alumni Weekend to “Tee Off” With Golf

This year’s Alumni Weekend starts on April 24 with TA’s 10th annual golf tournament at the Northwest Golf course in Silver Spring, Md. The registration fee is $125 and includes a golf shirt, greens fees, golf cart, gratuities, unlimited range balls (7-7:45 a.m.), curbside valet, beverages, gifts, light breakfast (6:45-7:30 a.m.), and lunch. Tee off begins at 8 a.m. All proceeds go to the TA Worthy Student Scholarship Fund. Space is limited to 108 players. For registration and sponsorship forms, visit cs.ta.edu/~lmclaughlin. Alumni classes (’99, ’89, ’84, ’79, ’69, ’59, ’49) will meet for fellowship at 7 p.m. Friday night. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Sabbath, and Sabbath School begins at 10 a.m., followed by the divine service. Lunch will be provided and honor class pictures will be taken. For more information, visit ta.edu and click on the Alumni button.

Calendar

April

15  Open House, 6-8 p.m.
17  TA’s Amazing Race
19  Open House, 4-7 p.m.
20  Finance and Board Meeting, 5 and 7 p.m.
24  Golf Tournament
24-25  Alumni Weekend

May

1  Community Service Day
14  Fine Arts Production, 7 p.m.
17  Fine Arts Production, 4 p.m.
18  Board/Staff Appreciation Dinner, 6 p.m.
21  Junior/Senior Banquet
28  Spring Concert
29  Spring Picnic
31  Dedication Service, 7 p.m.
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After nearly 100 years of educational success, it was no surprise when some old buildings at Columbia Union College (CU) campus in Takoma Park, Md., required some attention. Project will enable renovation of the newly constructed Halcyon Hall, CURF, funded by the Columbia Union Renovating Fund (CURF) for financial assistance.

To get the building up to code, the electrical and plumbing systems were completely updated and replaced, or conditioning units and spotters were added. Rooms were given new ceilings, walls, paint, and carpeting; the lobby, reception room, and chapel were also refurbished, and the bathrooms were completely upgraded.

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a faculty member to teach language courses, collaborating with faculty, and mentoring students. A master’s degree in linguistics or education is required. Candidates should submit a curriculum vitae or inquiries to Dr. Michael McCombs, Director of Linguistics, at mmccombs@southern.edu. Send curriculum vitae to: Dr. Richard Halterman, Dean, School of Computing, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315, or email halterm@southern.edu.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks two instructors in the School of Journalism & Communication to teach public relations, public speaking, or other communication courses. Candidates should have demonstrated success in college teaching and/or professional work experience, with a strong commitment to Adventist education. A master’s degree in journalism and/or a doctorate is preferred. Send CV to Dr. Greg Ramsey, ramseyg@southern.edu, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks an instructor in the School of Journalism & Communication. Courses will include photography, video production, and media convergence. Candidates should have demonstrated success in college teaching and/or professional work experience, with a strong commitment to Seventh-day Adventist education. A master’s degree is the field is required, and a doctorate is preferred. Send CV to Dr. Greg Ramsey, ramseyg@southern.edu, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a faculty member in the School of Education and Psychology for a position in educational administration. The position requires that the applicant be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in good and regular standing. Interested individuals should submit a résumé and letter of application to Dr. John Wesley Taylor, Dean, School of Education and Psychology, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. Email jsptaylor@southern.edu or call (423) 236-7165.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks an instructor in the Teacher Education Program. Candidates must possess an earned doctorate in educational administration at the doctorate level preferred and have at least five years of teaching experience in or administration of education. Responsibilities include curriculum development, advising field experiences, and mentoring students. Candidates should send a résumé and letter of application to Dr. John Wesley Taylor, Dean, School of Education and Psychology, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. Email jsptaylor@southern.edu or call (423) 236-7165.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks to fill a full-time faculty position in the Department of Physical Education and Recreation. The successful candidate will have a PhD in physical education or related field and experience teaching or coordinating field experiences. Responsibilities include teaching graduate and undergrad courses and mentoring students. Candidates should send a résumé and letter of application to Dr. J. Richard Halterman, Dean, School of Computing, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. Email halterm@southern.edu or call (423) 236-7165.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE SCHOOL OF ANESTHESIA is seeking a CRNA assistant program administrator. MTSA is a graduate program preparing registered nurses to become nurse anesthetists. CRNA certification and master’s degree required, doctoral degree preferred in education, nursing, or related field. Three to five years in anesthesia practice or education required. Must have effective communication, interpersonal, and administrative skills. Salary and benefits to be determined. Submit CV and cover letter to L. PhD Hunt, phunt@mtsa.edu, or P.O. Box 417, Madison, TN 37116.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a faculty member to teach outdoors to the general public on an annual basis. The position requires that the applicant be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Responsibilities include promoting the school’s mission and collaborating with faculty. Candidates should send a résumé and letter of application to Dr. Dr. Rene Drumm, Chair, Social Work, School of Education and Psychology, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. Email rdrumm@southern.edu or call (423) 236-7165.

MISCELLANEOUS

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**COLUMBIA UNION COLLEGE INCORPORATED MEDIATION CENTER**

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons, directors, and committees; to institutions and organizations; and to any other business that may properly come before the constituency at that time. Fredrick Russell, President Carl R. Rogers, Secretary

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE**

AGendas for the Second Quadrennial and 15th Regular Session of the Columbia Union Conference will convene at 9 a.m. on Sunday, May 31, 2009, at the West Conference Corporation of Columbia University Conference, 6740 Oakridge Rd., Oak Ridge, Tenn. This meeting is called for the purpose of electing directors, departments, and committees; to consider ordination and licensing of pastoral workers; ordination and licensing of pastoral workers; and any other business that may properly come before the constituency at that time. Fredrick Russell, President Carl R. Rogers, Secretary

**SUNSET CALENDAR**

- April 10: Socially Distant Lenten Uniting Service—At Home 
- April 17: 2021 Adventist World Assembly—Annual Session 
- April 24: May 1: May 8: 2021 Adventist World Assembly—Annual Session 

For more information, call (301) 864-3311, or visit www.adventistworldassembly.org.

**ADVENTIST SINGLES ADULT RETREAT**

March 27-April 2, 2021 
那么简单旅馆

- March 27—April 2, 2021

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ADVENTIST COLLEGE ADMISSIONS**

- March 27—April 2, 2021

For more information, contact Fred Thomas: (410) 902-9701. imottos@1959@yahoo.com

**2021 ADVENTIST VISION CONFERENCES**

- April 24—26, 2021

Featured speakers:

- Sharon Chamberlain: “The God of All Comfort”
- Forest Randall: “Loving to Oak Point”

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OBSCURITY

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**OBITUARY SUBMISSION**

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