36 Ways to Connect People to Christ and the Church

Best Practices in Evangelism
May be it’s me, but it’s becoming increasingly clear that there’s a level of irrationality, fear mongering, distrust, absence of “real” moral values and a dangerous level of crass political maneuverings taking root in our nation, so much so, that I’m actually becoming concerned about the collective sanity of the country. That’s not hyperbole; it’s a realistic view shared by a growing number of Americans of all stripes.

Our sensibilities are assaulted daily by stridency and hatefulness of speech (especially by some talk radio and cable hosts), resulting in the degradation of discourse in the public square, which I’ve written about elsewhere. It actually feels at times that the entire culture is in a rapid race to the bottom.

For example, the other day as I surfed a media website, I was disturbed by the amazing number of sordid stories of marriages breaking up, business people heading to jail, sports icons out of control, frustrations at the government resulting in violent actions, people using “cut throat” methods to keep their jobs in a volatile job market and a litany of other ills. It’s incredible what’s going on.

I wanted to scream: Where are the people of character and integrity? Where are the folk that stand up for what’s right? Where are the marriages that are working? Where are the people who can walk away from provocations without retaliation? Where are the employees who do the right thing at their jobs, simply because it’s the right thing to do? I suppose what I was really asking is where are the Christians—the ones called to impact the culture around them for the sake of the kingdom?

MORE THAN NAME ONLY

It was Jesus who boldly declared that Christians are the light of the world, the salt of the Earth and the ones who let their lights shine before the world so brightly that those around them glorify their Father in heaven (see Matt. 5:13-16).

I’m convinced that there is a great need for Christians—real Christians—who show up in the marketplace every day demonstrating basic, biblical Christianity. They turn the other cheek when provoked, they return good for evil, they refuse to slander their colleagues and they’re willing to go the second mile to help others. They actually love their enemies and even those that curse and undermine them. They are loyal to their marriages and prioritize their families. They share Christ out of the “overflow” of their lives.

I realize that in this day and age, living this way is countercultural. It’s safer to go with the flow. But living the Word of God is not only radical—it’s risky. You stand out when you choose to operate your life from a biblical world view. And the culture doesn’t always tolerate those who stand out for the good. Look at what they did to Jesus. But He lived in contrast to the world anyhow, seeing it as more important to please the Father than the people around Him.

God is searching for believers who take seriously what it means to be salt and light in more than name only. He calls us to a unique way of life, a unique way of thinking and a unique way of being. Those who decide to live this way are truly “people of the way.” It’s like we used to sing when I was a kid: “I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back.”

That’s radical!

Fredrick A. Russell is president of Allegheny West Conference, headquartered in Columbus, Ohio.
Church Leader, Maurice Battle, Dies

Maurice T. Battle, the first African-American to serve as an associate secretary for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church—a position he held from 1978 until his retirement in 2001—died last month at 82.

Born in Oberlin, Ohio, in 1927, Battle earned a degree in theology from Alabama-based Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) in 1948. He began his ministry as a pastor in the South Atlantic Conference. Later he spent a decade furthering the work of the Adventist Church in West Africa, where he served as president of the church in Liberia and Sierra Leone, and provided departmental oversight in Ghana.

In 1970 Battle commenced work as associate director of Lay Ministries for the world church. (This was followed by a three-year assignment in Lebanon.) That same year, he and his wife, Esther, joined Potomac Conference’s Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md. Over the years, he served as a Sabbath School teacher and superintendent, head elder, and on various committees. At the time of his death, he was still very involved in the church, serving as an administrative board member.

“When I think of Elder Maurice Battle, I am reminded of the godly man who is spoken of in Psalms 1,” wrote Sligo senior pastor Charles Tappa in an email. “The psalmist compares this righteous man to a tree that is planted by the streams of waters. And because he is planted by a continual source of water, his leaves never wither, and he is constantly bearing fruit when it is needed. Elder Battle has been that strong, stable, and many times, silent source of strength for Sligo, and his presence will be greatly missed.”

Battle is survived by his wife, their four adult children and six grandchildren.

Disaster Response Training Scheduled

Experienced Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACSDR) coordinators are teaming up to conduct a weekend training event in New Jersey, April 23-25. The training will help conference and church coordinators, as well as interested volunteers, know how to respond to disaster. In addition to reviewing the Disaster Response curriculum, attendees can take a class on crisis care presented by retired Chesapeake Conference pastor Steve Wilks.

According to Claudia Ramirez (above), ACSDR coordinator for the New Jersey Conference and planning committee chair for the event, other presenters include ACSDR leaders Steve Stullworth from the Carolina Conference; Tery Haight from the Georgia/Cumberland Conference; and Kitty Juneau, Mark Hann and Richard Geer, all from Chesapeake.

“The Bible tells us that as the world approaches its end, we will experience more frequent and intense disasters,” says Bob Mitchell (right), Disaster Response coordinator for Potomac Conference and the Columbia Union. “They won’t all occur outside the United States like the recent earthquakes in Haiti, Japan, Taiwan, Turkey and Chile. While we haven’t had a major event since Hurricane Ike in 2008 or Katrina in 2005, the clock is ticking, and we must be prepared at any time.” Mitchell says the upcoming training will also help volunteers learn how to handle floods, blizzards, power outages and other disasters that occur locally. “And hurricane season begins June 1,” he adds. Register at plusline.org.

Pennsylvania and Ohio to Host Church Planting School

For seven days this May, church planting enthusiasts interested in planting churches, starting ministries or venturing into community outreach can enroll in Adventist Fresh Expressions, a comprehensive training initiative coordinated by the Ohio and Pennsylvania conferences. Presenters include Monte Sahlin, director of research and special projects for Ohio; Peter Ronnefeldt (left), a pastor and church planter from Australia; and Andrew Clark (right), who, along with his wife, Maya, leads Greater Pittsburgh Metro Ministry and a church plant called PULSE in the Pittsburgh suburb of Carnegie.

“There are literally tens of thousands of communities in America that don’t have any kind of Adventist presence, and there are millions of people living in those communities who need to be reached,” says Sahlin (left), who started and mentored others in starting more than 100 community-focused ministries. He believes that today’s generations need new church plants. “A church that’s been doing the same thing for 50 years isn’t necessarily going to be successful in reaching today’s young adults,” he posits.

During the weeklong intensive, the trio plans to guide attendees through the process of developing successful ministries to their chosen target audiences. To do so, they will teach the core curricula, share case studies of successful start-ups and lead participants in Bible study, prayer, group discussions, visioning sessions and strategic planning. To register, call (800) 272-4664.

Magazine Targets Unchurched Children

The first two issues of Real magazine were recently mailed to more than 3,000 children, taking Christ-centered content into the homes of unchurched youth across North America. Thousands of additional copies were sent to churches and ministries for use in community outreach. “This has been in the works for two years, and we’ve been dreaming of it for much longer,” says editor Randy Fishell.

Adventist preteens, grandparents, teachers and others wanting to share the gospel with young friends and family members aged 9-15 submitted the names on the subscriber list. “Real provides a nonthreatening way to introduce Bible truth to children at an age when their hearts are especially open to the gospel,” says Fishell (above), who also edits Guide, the church’s magazine for juniors and earlitens.

Published bimonthly, Real contains true stories, puzzles, fun facts, Bible studies and other spiritually uplifting content. To send a subscription to an unchurched child, visit sharereal.org.

Columbia Union president Dave Weigley and several conference presidents—Charles Cheatham (Allegheny East), Bill Miller (Potomac), Fredrick Russell (Allegheny West) and Robert Vandemann (Chesapeake)—to speak. Through their workshops, he hopes to spiritually awaken attendes. Some 200 men have already registered to attend the daylong event, where Walter Pearson (below), speaker/director for Breath of Life Ministries, will serve as the main speaker. “We really want to make men aware that we are in the last days right now,” explains Wilson. “We are trying to restore that spiritual side the way God ordained it to be.” To register, contact Wilson at (267) 237-3244 or email slamere@comcast.net.
Multilingual Ministries News

Numerous small groups across the Columbia Union are planting new congregations. Here are some of their stories:

West Columbus Spanish
Bernardino Cruz and a small group studied the Bible every Friday at Irene Chavez’s house. For about six months they invited people from the community to join them. When Cruz heard about the desire to plant another church in Columbus, Ohio, he spoke to Pastor Orlando Newball who encouraged him to start a congregation in West Columbus.

In March 2009, the group (below) started Sabbath services. One faithful member, Belkis Ramos, felt the need to provide transportation for those interested in attending, and bought and donated a van to the congregation. The group now averages more than 30 attendees every Sabbath, most of whom are visitors. Five people have been baptized and many more are engaged in Bible studies.

El Buen Pastor Spanish
The Allegheny West Conference (AWC) is celebrating the birth of a new Hispanic congregation in the heart of Cincinnati, Ohio. El Buen Pastor (The Good Shepherd) started with 22 members. Pastor Paulo DaSilva reports that a small group from the Central Cincinnati Spanish church started to work in the area last year. After a few months, when they grew from six to 18 participants, they split into small groups. The groups felt called to plant a church. At their recent inauguration service, AWC president Fredrick Russell, DMin, rejoiced with them and encouraged continued growth. —Walter Castro

Lancaster Spanish II
For several years, Nelly and Israel Torres led a group at the home of Anita Pagán in Lancaster, Pa. Every Monday more than 20 people met to pray and study the Bible. When plans to plant a second Hispanic church in Lancaster were presented to the congregation, they accepted the challenge. The fledgling group started holding services on January 2 with an attendance of more than 60. They are currently meeting at a Methodist church in South Lancaster, where many Hispanics reside. —Sam Rosado

Shalom Spanish
Wilfredo and Nilda Fontanez, members of the Reading Spanish (Pa.) church, led a small group of friends and visitors every Sabbath afternoon for about a year. The group grew; people were baptized and they discussed the possibility of planting yet another church in the Reading area. In July 2009, a group started holding services. There have been baptisms, and attendance is growing. Today more than 50 people meet every Sabbath! —Juan Lopez

Dale City Spanish
Miguel and Angélica Alvarez held a small group in their apartment for several years. Although they were members of the Alexandria (Va.) Spanish church, they lived in Woodbridge, Va., making it difficult for them to attend regularly. For a long time they dreamed of planting a church in Dale City, Va., where there are many Hispanic residents. In October 2008, they organized a company

there. To date that congregation has performed 27 baptisms and has a regular attendance of 120.

Stafford Spanish
Max Alvarez decided to follow his relatives’ example. Alvarez, his wife, Blanca, and their daughters started working hard to invite Stafford, Va., friends and neighbors to their new small group. For several months, they met in their basement. Today the Stafford Spanish Group meets in a church facility with more than 40 regular attendees.

Woodbridge Spanish II
The Woodbridge Spanish church noticed that their services were overcrowded, so church leaders decided to plant another congregation. They started holding services last December, and their regular attendance is now 90, including 25 visitors from the community. —Olioles Villamizar

Takoma Park Spanish II
Just a few years ago, the Takoma Park Spanish church started with six courageous disciples. As the congregation grew, they bought and remodeled the old Potomac Adventist Book Center. The congregation now has more than 480 members. Church elder Pepe Davila and his wife, Celia, were responsible for overseeing five of the church’s small groups in the Adelphi, Md., area. Soon they felt called to plant a church there. Last February they started meeting at a Methodist church in the heart of a large Hispanic community. While 29 members helped found Takoma Park Spanish II, Sabbath attendance now exceeds 60. —José Barrientos

Ohio Conference
After a year of training at the Worthington church, 60 students graduated with certification as Bible instructors. Students are required to attend classes, read and give weekly Bible studies.

Pennsylvania Conference
Seventy students recently graduated as Bible instructors from training held at the Reading Spanish church.

Chesapeake Conference
The first group of 100 lay leaders (below) from Hispanic churches throughout Chesapeake are meeting at the conference office in Columbia, Md., for certification training as small group leaders. Their first graduation will be held this summer.

Hundres Trained for Lay Evangelism

Potomac Conference
Potomac Hispanic Ministries leaders declared 2010 the year of lay evangelism and ambitiously plan to reach 600 people for Christ by the end of this month. A week of evangelism is being conducted at every “home church” (small group), followed by crusades at each of the conference’s 63 Hispanic churches. The nearly 130 lay people recently trained through the School of Theology for Disciples, based in Temple Hills, Md., are the evangelists for these efforts. —José Esposito

Seventy students recently graduated as Bible instructors from training held at the Reading Spanish church.

Leaders (below) from Hispanic churches throughout Chesapeake are meeting at the conference office in Columbia, Md., for certification training as small group leaders. Their first graduation will be held this summer.

At least 500 people have been trained through the School of Theology for Disciples, based in Temple Hills, Md., and will be used in evangelism crusades at each of the conference’s 63 Hispanic churches. The nearly 130 lay leaders are the evangelists for the week of evangelism being conducted at every “home church” (small group).
Noticias de los Ministerios Multilingües

Muchos grupos pequeños en la Unión de Columbia están plantando nuevas congregaciones. Estas son algunas de sus historias:

West Columbus
Bernardino Cruz y un grupo pequeño estudiaron la Biblia en casa de Irene Chávez. Durante seis meses invitaron a personas de la comunidad a estudiar con ellos. Cuando Cruz supo que se deseaba plantar otra iglesia en Columbus, Ohio, habló con el Pastor Orlando Newball, y este lo animó a establecer una congregación en West Columbus.

El grupo comenzó a realizar servicios en marzo de 2009. Belkis Ramos, un feligrés devoto, vio la necesidad de proveer transporte a las personas interesadas en asistir, compró y donó una van a la congregación. En poco tiempo, asisten 30 personas cada sábado. Cinco personas se han bautizado y muchas más estudian la Biblia.

El Buen Pastor
La Asociación de Allegheny West (AWC) está celebrando el nacimiento de una congregación hispana en el corazón de Cincinnati, Ohio. La congregación comenzó con 22 miembros.

West Columbus
El Pastor Paulo DaSilva informa que un grupo pequeño de la Iglesia Hispana Central de Cincinnati comenzó a trabajar en esta área el año pasado. En unos meses, cuando el grupo creció de seis a 18 participantes, se dividieron en dos grupos. Los grupos sintieron el llamado a plantar una iglesia. En el reciente servicio de inauguración, el presidente de AWC, Frederick Russell, D.Min, se regocijó con ellos y fomentó un crecimiento continuo.—Walter Castro

Lancaster II
Nelly e Israel Torres han dirigido un grupo en el hogar de Anita Pagán en Lancaster, Pa., por varios años. Cada lunes, más de 20 personas se reúnen para orar y estudiar la Biblia.

Shalom
Wilfredo y Nilda Fontanez, miembros de la Iglesia Hispana de Reading (Pa.), dirigieron un grupo de amigos y visitas todos los sábados por la tarde durante un año. El grupo creció, las personas se bautizaron, y se habló de la posibilidad de plantar otra iglesia en el área. El grupo comenzó a celebrar servicios en julio de 2009. Celebraron bautismos, y la asistencia está creciendo. Hoy, más de 50 personas se reúnen cada sábado!—Juan López

West Columbus
El anciano de iglesia Pepe Portilla y un grupo de su iglesia en el área de Adelphi, Md. Pronto sintieron el llamado a plantar otra iglesia en ese lugar. El pasado febrero comenzaron las reuniones en una iglesia metodista en el corazón de una comunidad hispana. Aunque 29 miembros ayudaron a establecer Takoma Hispana II, la asistencia el sábado excede los 60.—José Barrientos

Woodbridge II
Cuando los líderes de la Iglesia Hispana de Woodbridge notaron que sus servicios se atestaban de personas, decidieron plantar otra congregación. Comenzaron a celebrar servicios el pasado diciembre. Hoy asisten 90 regularmente. Esto incluye visitas de la comunidad.—Oliver Villamizar

Takoma Park II
Hace sólo pocos años que la iglesia Takoma Park hispana inició con seis discípulos valientes. Al ir creciendo la congregación, se compró y remodeló la antigua librería Adventista. La congregación tiene ahora más de 400 miembros.

Woodbridge II
La iglesia aceptó el desafío de plantar una segunda iglesia hispana en Lancaster.

El grupo incipiente tuvo su primer servicio el 2 de enero. Asistieron más de 60 personas. Actualmente se reúnen en una iglesia metodista en South Lancaster. Aquí residen muchos hispanos.—Sam Rosado

La Asociación de Allegheny West (AWC) está celebrando servicios en marzo de 2009. Beldian la Biblia. El pasado diciembre, cinco personas se han bautizado.

Toledo
Javier y Elihäuser Fuentes, miembros de la Iglesia Hispana de Toledo, decidieron plantar una iglesia en Woodbridge, Va., a su nuevo grupo pequeño. Por varios meses se reunieron en su estudio. Hoy, el grupo se reúne en el edificio de una iglesia y cuenta con más de 40 asistentes regulares.

El Buen Pastor
La Asociación de Allegheny West (AWC) está celebrando el nacimiento de una congregación hispana en el corazón de Cincinnati, Ohio. La congregación comenzó con 22 miembros.

West Columbus
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Jim Ayer’s “roller coaster life.”

A member of Chesapeake Conference’s Triadelphia church in Clarksville, Md., Ayer says he transitioned from a life of drugs and thievery, to dedicated mission work for his newfound Savior, to a highly successful and publicized real estate business, and back to his knees. “I had become a great Laodicean warming the pew,” admits Ayer, vice president for advancement at Adventist World Radio. Then the Lord gave him “a real wake-up call” and a second chance. Ayer says he hopes readers will gain a deeper understanding of “how loving God is.” Get a copy at adventistbookcenter.com.

Ministering With Millennials

Last fall’s 180° Symposium—hosted by the Center for Youth Evangelism on the campus of Andrews University (Mich.)—gathered 30-plus North American church and youth leaders to discuss solutions for improving young adult ministry. Presenters included Ohio Conference’s Monte Sahlin, director of research and special projects, and Mike Stevenson, Youth Ministries director.

Participants’ 25 papers are the framework of this powerful book full of ministry ideas on topics like the importance of church climate, using short-term mission trips as a connector, creating relational young adult ministries and how to “hand on faith” to the next generation. Order through adventsource.org.

Did You Know?

Amazing Facts is now broadcasting the three angels’ messages on the Discovery Channel cable network. Watch Tuesdays at 7 a.m.

On the Web

Retweets >

AYStweets

Today’s Prayer Activity—Contact a person who is or has been ill and tell them how much you care or miss them.

Adventistnews

Jan Paulsen discusses Adventist beliefs about the second coming.

WAUnews

The new face of Washington Adventist University is revealed! Visit our newly redesigned website at wau.edu!

Facebooked >

Alyssa Truman

Running the Pittsburgh 1/2 Marathon to raise money for the public libraries in my county… —Hagerstown (Md.) church member

Blue Mountain Academy

24th Annual Phonathon Happening Today! Student callers are excited to talk to you! Give generously. Every dollar counts!

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What You Bring to the Table

Teaching and preaching are at the heart of Carolyn Henry Hurst’s life mission. They’re also an integral part of her work as the founder of Going GodWard Ministries (GGM). Through GGM, Hurst shares the extravagant love of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit and disciples others to do the same.

“I speak, teach, preach and write about God to all ages and nationalities,” explains Hurst, who helps her husband, Jerome, pastor Allegheny West Conference’s Southeast church in Cleveland. “The Lord has given me the ability to share the timeless messages of His Word in practical and creative ways. As a result, others get to see God and the things around them in a different, yet beautiful light.”

Going GodWard Ministries has taken Hurst throughout the United States, the Caribbean, Canada and South America to conduct weeks of prayer for adults and children in both Spanish and English. GGM currently sponsors four major evangelistic events in collaboration with local churches. One is the Women of the Word Conference (July 10-13), an annual four-day event that brings women of different faiths together to worship God in spirit and in truth. The others are One Night With the King (July 9), Intimate Moments With God, and Prayers That Soar. Read more at se7day.org/ministries.—Alexis A. Goring

Others get to see God and the things around them in a different, yet beautiful light.
ne way successful industries and organizations, in every field and discipline, regularly improve their performance is to identify best practices that help them establish benchmarks and guidelines. Why should the Seventh-day Adventist Church be any different?

A special committee commissioned by the Columbia Union Conference President’s Council decided it was time to determine some best practices within our own churches. The committee, consisting of frontline ministry practitioners, was united by a passion for reaching lost people for Christ and a drive to discover the best methods to achieve that end. Their singular objective: to identify the best practices in evangelism among Columbia Union churches.

The committee set out to answer questions like, why do some churches grow while others don’t? What contributes to the growth of thriving churches? Must each local church reinvent their outreach “wheel,” or are there universal practices that can be contextualized and proven effective most anywhere?

**Best Practices Defined**

Best practices are the methods, techniques and activities that, through experience and research, are believed to be the most effective at delivering a particular outcome. The committee sought those methods, techniques and activities among Columbia Union churches that repeatedly prove to be effective at connecting people with Christ and the church. They wanted to discover what is actually working in the field when it comes to creating and baptizing interests and developing them into fully devoted disciples. Their research was not intended to be scientific or technical, but rather anecdotal and intuitive. Through a process of surveys, personal interviews and group discussions, the committee accumulated a database of the collective experiences and observations of diverse soul winners from across the union. The data naturally seem to divide into three categories: community outreach, attractional ministries and assimilation strategies.

**Changing the Church’s DNA**

So what did the survey reveal? The following pages outline the three aforementioned categories, identify core beliefs, suggest proven methods of success and share profiles of Columbia Union churches that embody them.
Bridges: Build Deeds (service and compassion). Members need to be equipped—we must be about the work of building bridges to people rather than erecting walls.

"Go ye into all the world" (Mark 16:15), and compared the work and trained to serve the world in the area of their calling and transform society, to build community churches. That means of His disciples to salt (see Matt. 5:13). Christ calls Christians to Commission, it can no longer exist merely for itself. Jesus said, moved by their plight and compelled to minister to their needs.

One of the signs of genuine conversion is a shift in focus from self to community—"feed my sheep" literally and figuratively. For two-plus years, they have provided groceries, life skills training and Bible studies to the community. They greet the 250 people who pour in for each of their two Sabbath services. These unique services begin with a session or training on topics such as CPR or marriage enhancement, followed by a short Bible study. Guests go home with six to eight bags of groceries from the church food pantry. So far congregants have served more than 50,000 individuals and nearly doubled their membership.

"We want to meet their needs and then show them why we care by introducing them to Jesus Christ," explains Luz Miya, ministry director.


drug abuse is on the rise. Under former pastor Fredrick Russell, the church formed Faith Center for Community Wellness and Advancement, a non-profit organization.

"After assessing the needs of the community, we found that a holistic approach was necessary," shared Alvin Clarkson, executive director. In partnership with Johns Hopkins Hospital, the center offers hypertension prevention programs, exercise classes, Bible studies and more. Their most popular initiative, Healthy Heartbeats, provides hypertension prevention and treatment. Their annual health fairs provide blood pressure screenings, HIV and AIDS testing, carotid artery testing, and many other pro bono healthcare services.

This New Jersey Conference church discovered that nearly 60 percent of their Baltimore community lives below poverty levels, and...
Best Practices for Attractional Ministries

In Matthew 22, Jesus tells the parable of a king who planned a wedding feast for his son but whose invited guests did not come. As a result, the king commanded his servants to go into the highways and invite everyone they met to the feast. The servants’ mission could be classified as invitational ministry.

Likewise, the church’s mission today not only involves making a difference in the community but also inviting the community to the church. Inviting people to church is an integral part of community transformation. In other words, as God’s people, we are not only to “go,” but we are also to proclaim, “All come.”

Churches must not only be missional and incarnational, but also attractional. “Attractional ministry” is a church’s attempt to engage the local population primarily through its weekly worship services and local programming. Visitors become the focus to engage the local population primarily through its weekly worship services, and great effort is put forth in making the service “visitor friendly.” Church programming is designed to address identified community needs and the level of assistance they could provide. The church now partners with local organizations and churches, which has opened lines of communication and established professional and personal relationships. Their recent community picnic created excitement for residents and members and sparked productive conversations.

“How It’s Done

- Offer seeker-sensitive worship services
- Have a visitor-friendly facility and signage
- Provide greeter and parking lot ministries
- Present creative sermon series that are relevant to visitors
- Use viral media and marketing (blogs, website, social networking sites, etc.)
- Mail or email a newsletter to visitors, not just members
- Advertise through community media
- Offer dynamic children’s and youth programming
- Host holiday and special services designed for the public
- Have programming designed to address identified community needs

Who’s Doing It

Pocono Grace

Eager to be a “community church” in East Stroudsburg, these Pennsylvania Conference members visited with community leaders to identify specific needs and the level of assistance they could provide. The church now partners with local organizations and churches, which has opened lines of communication and established professional and personal relationships. Their recent community picnic created excitement for residents and members and sparked productive conversations.

“Are we also engaging with other churches to provide food and gifts at events they host,” reports Jose Elvir, church elder. “Church members are really catching the vision, and there is more excitement and desire to start new ministries in the church.” A recent idea is the Green Ministry, which includes creating a community garden where residents can grow and harvest their own produce.

Restoration Praise

A central theme for this Potomac Conference church in Lanham, Md., is inviting people to become part of the body of Christ. Weekly appeals, evangelistic and weekly prayer meetings, and various media outlets, such as Web, Facebook and Twitter, allow members to connect with numerous individuals. They recently concluded an online, interactive week of prayer where the pastors were available to answer questions, leading one New York participant to travel to Maryland to be baptized. They also hold Bible study classes after divine services.

Members just wrapped up a week of prayer at Bowie State University in Bowie, Md. “It’s our desire to reach out to our community, to be inclusive and welcoming,” explains Jewel Wahyn, communication director.

New Hope

This Chesapeake Conference church in Fulton, Md., developed a strategy for better communicating with their congregation and community. One element is their website, lookingforachurch.org. It is designed for visitors, people they believe probably aren’t overly interested in religion or church. It also provides a variety of ways to access information, printable sermons, streaming video and downloadable audio files through iTunes. Staff update the site daily. They also connect interests through Facebook, Twitter and blogs. There are media outlets for prayer ministry, young adults and Sharing Our Strength, the church’s mission arm.

“We also have a YouTube channel—a great venue for showcasing special events, baptisms and snippets of our sermons,” explains Rajkumar Dixit, associate pastor.

Billy Errico is a congressional staffer who writes from Maryland.
Keep Them Reap Them
Best Practices for Assimilation

Core Beliefs
The greatest challenge many churches face is knowing how to turn visitors into members and to retain them once they become members. For many churches, assimilation is their “Achilles heel” in evangelism. Assimilation is the process of integrating new believers into the church family and congregational life. This process doesn’t happen automatically and, unfortunately, in many local churches, doesn’t happen at all.或 it occurs haphazardly at best. Churches that want to make the most of their community outreach and attractional ministries must also be intentional and strategic in their assimilation.

Every church needs a plan for how to take people from their first visit to fully developed members. Visitors cannot be expected to return without any intentional action on our part. Visitors are normally seeking and need specific direction. Likewise, new members need to be nurtured and guided in their faith development. Paul expresses this well in Ephesians 3:17-18: “And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.”

How It’s Done
- Use visitor information cards or bulletin inserts
- Respond to interests and visitors within a week
- Make weekly appeals
- Schedule regular reaping meetings
- Place new members in a small group especially designed for them
- Hold new member classes
- Have an intentional visitation program with new members
- Assign spiritual mentors to all new members
- Give new members spiritual gift training
- Train new members in friendship evangelism
- Plan frequent fellowship and social activities

Read More
You Can Keep Them If You Care
In this 144-page guide, the late James Cress shares practical ways your church can prevent new believers from becoming dropouts. Order it at ministerialassociation.com.

Who’s Doing It

Mountain View
Driven by the principle that every member is a missionary for Jesus, conference leaders decided to partner with ShareHim Ministries (sharehim.org) to transform their churches into training centers. “There were members who wanted to share their faith, but needed to be encouraged to step out in faith and become involved,” explained Larry Boggess, conference president.

Since they started four years ago, conference leaders have held 30 ShareHim boot camps and helped graduate more than 80 individuals. About 75 percent of graduates go on to support the ShareHim meetings as greeters, ushers, technology personnel, etc., and more than half return every year for advanced training. Thirty graduates have even conducted their own ShareHim meetings. The conference’s fourth annual ShareHim Boot Camp takes place this September.

Shiloh
Following an evangelistic crusade last fall, this Allegheny West Conference church in Cincinnati brainstormed ways to retain the 37 “babes in Christ” who chose baptism. As Debbie Howard, lead Bible worker, says:

Emmanuel-Brinklow
To keep new members of this Allegheny East church in Ashton, Md., from slipping away, the church formed a shepherding ministry. Members were divided into groups by their zip codes and encouraged to gather for Sabbath potlucks, Bible studies and social interactions. Now these small groups bond as they share struggles and joys.

LaTasha Betts Hewitt writes from Boyersford, Pa.
CAN YOU MEASURE THE EFFECT OF COMMUNITY SERVICE?

OHIO CONFERENCE SAYS YOU CAN

THEY MEASURE IT THROUGH THE 0.006 SQUARE FEET OF OUTREACH AND SERVICE SPACE AT WALK OF FAITH FELLOWSHIP IN CLEVELAND.

In June 2005, when Walk of Faith members sought a new worship facility, they kept in mind the goal of increasing their community outreach efforts. Upon hearing a presentation building in downtown Cleveland, they turned to the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF) to help them purchase what they knew would be a perfect facility for reaching those in need.

Today Walk of Faith members serve an average of 0.460 pounds of food per month through their food bank, give cooking classes, host a weekly clothing giveaway, open a teen center twice a week, provide weekly Sabbath afternoon Bible studies and meals and invite the homeless in for breakfast on frigid winter mornings, among other outreach initiatives.

By answering the call, CURF was living up to its 42-year goal of promoting the church’s mission. As it has done with hundreds of churches, schools, conferences and other entities across the Columbia Union over the years, CURF provides cost-effective financing to make ministry possible.

You can support the ministry of CURF. Call today!

Life in Layers

Earlier this year my wife and I stopped in at a French bakery near our home and while she was picking out some pastries, I read through the store menu that advertised some of the various cakes they had for sale.

I think you can see in calories just from reading the descriptions of the various layers of sweet goodness that go into these cakes. There was “fluffy light yellow cake,” “luscious lemon cake,” “delicate rice and moist chocolate cake,” and numerous delightful sounding fillings that alternated between the layers of the cakes—things like crumb cake, buttermilk sponge, fluffy meringue, mascarpone cream, buttery caramel, fresh raspberry sauce, cream cheese frosting, strawberries, fresh lemon curd and well, you get the idea. As I read through the various layers and ingredients, I could imagine each and every layer I could just about taste them (not quite, but just about). I began to think that maybe layer cakes are my favorite kind.

I was reminded of those special Smith Island Cakes from the eastern part of Maryland. Smith Island is Maryland’s only inhabited off shore island in the Chesapeake Bay, and Smith Islanders are famous for their cakes that feature 8-15 very thin layers. In fact, in 2008 Smith Island Cake was designated the official dessert of Maryland. A perfect Smith Island Cake is judged not by the top layer, or the bottom layer, but by the symmetry and perfection of every single layer, making it a visual feast as well as a tasty one.

Every layer matters. Like a good cake, our lives are multi-layered, and in each new layer we can find something delicious, something interesting, something memorable. Happiness, it seems, is not found in just existing as quickly as possible through the layers to the frosting, but it is actually a matter of understanding the symmetry and balance and overall flow of our lives.

For people of faith, this suggests that instead of spending a lifetime looking for divine meaning in the extraordinary, the real opportunity that presents itself is to see (and taste) God’s goodness in the various layers of life each new experience, every relationship, with every moment.

This is why American writer Frederick Buechner calls us to pay attention and enjoy each layer of our many layered lives. “Listen to your life. See it for the breathtaking mystery it is. In the freedom and pain of it, no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way into the holy and heavenly heart of it, because in the last analysis, all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace.”

Makes me hungry for a piece of cake.

William G., “BJJ” Robertson
President & CEO
Adventist HealthCare

Profiles in Caring


Mario Wright stands at the hand-painted mural that welcomes Lucerie Center clients.

MAKING MINISTRY POSSIBLE

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(866) 721-CURF
Lourie Center Celebrates 25 Years and a New Executive Director

Marcel Wright Puts Finale Goal of Leading Organization That Helps Those in Need

by Cloanea Stephen

When H. Marcel Wright was named Executive Director of The Reginald S. Lourie Center for Infants and Young Children in December 2009, the appointment represented his achievement of a lifelong professional goal to one day lead an organization that helps at-risk populations.

Today, Wright is entrusted with continuing the legacy of an organization that has been a beacon of hope for emotionally challenged and developmentally delayed infants and young children and their families in the Washington, D.C. region for more than 25 years.

Wright is a member of the Community Prayer Center in Mossadria, Va., where his father, Henry M. Wright, presides as the pastor. Pastor Wright is a respected member of the Seventh-day Adventist community in the National Capital area, serving on the Adventist Media Center Reorganization Commission and the General Conference Commission on Women’s Ordination.

In April 2009, Marcel Wright was chosen to assume the role of Executive Director of the Lourie Center while a nationwide search was conducted for a permanent candidate. Wright previously served as the Senior Director of Operations for Adventist Behavioral Health Rockville, one of five facilities, including the Lourie Center, in Adventist Healthcare’s behavioral health division.

The Lourie Center, an affiliate of Adventist HealthCare since 1996, is dedicated to understanding and strengthening emotionally healthy parent-child relationships within the community through early prevention, intervention, education, research and training. The organization was founded in 1980 by Dr. Reginald S. Lourie, a pioneer in the fields of pediatric child psychiatry and infant mental health.

"I was very happy to become attached to the Lourie Center’s mission," Wright said. "Many of the children we serve have been neglected or have experienced physical or, sexual abuse. As an amazing feeling to know the therapeutic services we provide are helping so many families in our area live healthier, emotionally stronger lives.

The Lourie Center’s therapeutic programs are informed by the principles of attachment theory, which was developed by psychoanalyst John Bowlby. The theory revealed that children who are emotionally available and responsive to their infant’s needs establish a sense of security for the infant. Infants who feel a sense of "attachment security" with their caregiver have long-term positive outcomes in social, emotional, and cognitive development. In contrast, children who do not have a sense of attachment security with their caregiver are more likely to develop emotional or behavioral challenges in the future.

The Lourie Center’s staff is a multidisciplinary team of psychiatrists, social workers and educators specializing in treating and intervening with infants and children," Wright said. "We are the only organization in the area with this unique combination of therapeutic services and early education for children.

Annually, the Lourie Center serves nearly 4,000 children and their families in the Maryland and D.C. areas. As Executive Director, Wright’s priority is to help the organization broaden access to its programs and services.

"It is heartbreaking to consider the number of children who cooperate with our help, but don’t receive it in time," Wright said. "For these children, their struggle to find safety and security with their parents and establish emotional connection may intensify over time and manifest itself in an anxiety disorder, depression or destructive behavior.

Wright affirms it is refreshing to work for a faith-based organization such as Adventist HealthCare.

"I’ve been a member of the Seventh-day Adventist community all my life and so I feel inspired and encouraged in an environment that is consistent with my own belief system," Wright said. "The longer I work for the organization, the more I appreciate working in an environment where your faith does not have to be left at the door.

For more information about the comprehensive Behavioral Health Services offered by Adventist HealthCare, please visit www.adventistbehavioralhealth.com.

Above, U.S. Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Md.) exchanges questions and answers with children from the Lourie Center during a visit to the facility on November 3, 2008.

Left: Marco Wright in his Rockville, Maryland office.

Left: Giant Dabbs (center), a teacher at the Lourie Center School, presents a map of China while students look on.

Opposite Page: A Lourie Center School student meets a local police officer and his K-9 partner.
Laurie Center Celebra 25 Años y un Nuevo Director Ejecutivo

Marcel Wright Cumplo Su Meta de Dirigir una Organización que Ayuda a Los Necesitados

Por Cassandra Stephen

Cuando H. Marcel Wright fue nombrado Director Ejecutivo de The Roghián S. Laurie Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Young Children de 2000 a 2020, el compromiso de realizar la realización de una larga meta profesional de diez años a pesar del tiempo que sabía que era necesario continuar en el camino. Para Wright, quería hacer un impacto positivo en la comunidad y en las vidas de los niños más pequeños, que sufren de desnutrición crónica.

La organización fue fundada en 1987 por el Dr. Roghán S. Laurie, pionero en los campos de la psicología infantil e infantil salud mental de bebés.

El Laurie Center ha ganado un repertorio en la comunidad por sus experiencias y conocimientos claves en el desarrollo infantil y la familia, y la intervención de familias de niños y familias en riesgo. Incluyen niños con problemas graves del comportamiento e introducciones.

Entre los programas y servicios de la organización figuran su Programa de Servicios para Padres y Niños, la Escuela del Laurie Center, el Programa de Escuela Infantil Terapias, el programa Early Head Start y el Programa para Padres y Madres.

"De desearmos considerar el número máximo de niños que necesitan desesperadamente nuestra ayuda, pero que no los reciben a tiempo", indicó Wright. "Para esos niños, la batalla por encontrar seguridad y protección con sus padres y establecer una red de apoyo emocional, puede intensificarse si el tiempo y manifestarse de una forma que excede de amenaza, depresión o comportamiento destructivo."

Wright también está guareciendo al Laurie Center para que regresen a sus raíces blancas en la investigación. Después de todo, el Laurie Center comenzó como un refugio de un proyecto de investigación clínica de seis años de duración financiado por el Instituto Nacional de Salud Mental. Con su nuevo director en el puesto y objetivos claramente definidos para 2020, el Laurie Center está trabajando para convertirse en un líder nacional en salud mental infantil por medio de la investigación clínica y la práctica en la formación e internación infantil, avances de salud mental y tratamiento.

Años de misiva a la familia de Adventist HealthCare, Wright trabajó para varias empresas, entre ellasی LS Airwave Group, Inc. Y HCE MansoCare. Obtuvo su maestría en administración de negocios de la Escuela de Negocios Robert E. Smith de la Universidad de Maryland, y su Diploma en administración de la Universidad Unión College, ahora Banad. Washington Adventist University.

Wright afirma que es un reto formar para una organización que no es Adventist HealthCare.

"Si sólo miembro de la comunidad Adventist del Sur este año, por cierto, me lo pido. Mi puerta está abierta y estoy dispuesto a usar mi experiencia con el sistema de gobierno, lo que me permita en el tiempo y en la forma de ver un modelo de uniformidad, desigualdad o comportamiento destruido."

Prioritize Your Health

A. Leah Scott, Health Ministries Director

If you desire to live a longer, healthier life, need rejuvenation or just want to shed a few pounds, come to the Fit 4 You retreat. Daily exercise, health and nutrition lectures, cooking demonstrations, water aerobics and gourmet vegan meals are just a few of the highlights. Learn more at fit4youretreat.org or call (610) 326-4610, ext. 260.

NEWS

Capitol Hill Member Chairs White House Board

The United States Senate recently confirmed presidential appointee Orlan Johnson—a member of Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C.—to a key White House committee. Johnson, a law firm partner, will chair the Board of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC), a quasi-governmental agency created to provide oversight of failed brokerage firms.

“It is my privilege to chair the SIPC at this critical time when so many investors have been the victims of immense fraud and need an advocate,” he says. “I’m truly thankful the Lord has blessed me with the opportunity to serve our country, and I just ask for His guidance as I move forward.”

Montclair Pastor Prays Before State Senate

When the New Jersey Senate met recently to discuss relief efforts for Haiti, a Seventh-day Adventist was invited to play a crucial role. Paula Oliver, pastor of the First church of Montclair in N.J., delivered the invocation to open the session. Pastor Oliver did not come alone; she was accompanied by members of a ministry called NJ 4 Haiti. This group, formed after January’s earthquake, is working with the state to coordinate relief and recovery efforts in Haiti.

“Of the hundreds of churches and pastors the state could have called upon, I am amazed how God reserved that moment for an Adventist church,” says Pastor Oliver.

New Joy Members Worship by Phone

While two snowstorms forced Washington, D.C., area churches to shutter their doors, members of New Joy Fellowship in Hagerstown, Md., (including Ron and Jen Pride’s family, below) found a way to worship together. They used the church’s teleconference line, set up by Personal Ministries director Denise Johnson. By 11 a.m. during the first storm, New Joy had nearly 100 percent attendance on line, and homebound guests from other Adventist churches joined their hour-long fellowship. During the second snowstorm, members enjoyed a one-hour Sabbath School program.

“T’ve wondered how we will meet when church doors are closed,” confided one member of the flock pastored by Kenneth Anderson. “God is so creative!”—Faith Crumblly

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Mizpah’s Prayer Answered After 28 Years

Mizpah church is affectionately known as “The Power House” because of the many miracles the Lord has wrought on their behalf. The latest miracle is the recent opening of their new church home in the Frankford community of Philadelphia.

The church formed in 1980 after a great crusade resulting in 77 baptisms. The fledgling flock then waited patiently for God to bless them with a church building. “In 1981 a lot of people had a vision and worked toward the dream of having a new church; but out of that original group, only nine or 10 people are left to actually see it manifested,” says Isaac Powell, church elder.

Patrick O’O’Mara, who also pastored the Frankford church, united the two congregations who now worship at 4355 Paul Street.

In thankfulness for their new home, Pastor O’Mara recently led the united congregation in a weeklong celebration. “Prayers that took 28 years to be answered remind us of Mark 10:27, where it says: ‘And Jesus looking upon them saith, with men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible,’” he quoted.—Cheryl Lynn Brown

Ephesus Member to Lead Minority Affairs at Ohio State

She’s won two of The Ohio State University’s most prestigious awards, chaired two departments and taught for many years. So it came as no surprise that Valerie Lee, PhD, was recently appointed interim vice provost for Minority Affairs at the university.

“I am deeply appreciative of having Valerie in this leadership position,” says Joe Alutto, executive vice president and provost for the university. “I look forward to working with her in her new role as we move forward with the important work of diversity at The Ohio State University.”

Lee, a member of the Ephesus church in Columbus, has been at the university since 1991 and was promoted to full professor in 1998. She was recently elected chair of the Department of Women’s Studies from 2000-02, then elected chair of the Department of English in 2002, where she served until this past October. In addition, she chaired the university’s diversity council for several years, chaired the university senate’s faculty compensation and benefits committee and served on the senate’s diversity committee as well as more than 50 other committees. She also is a past president of the National Association of Departments of English. All of her service earned her the Faculty Award for Distinguished University Service in 2006. A widely published author, Lee has taught all levels of undergraduate and graduate courses and won the Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1993.

Southeast Women Project Love at Shelter

With the theme “Project Love Boat” and an imaginary cruise ship as their setting, the Women’s Ministries team from Cleveland’s Southeast church recently set out to show love to residents of the New Life Community shelter. Their purpose was to get the women ready for dinner at the “captain’s table.” To assist each resident in looking their best for dinner, the team provided haircuts, manicures, facials and chair massages.

The massage room even had a video of the ocean along with calming music. “This was an awesome experience and a great opportunity to share and show God’s love,” said Gladys Bankston, Women’s Ministries leader. “I believe that a Christian woman should have a genuine and strong love for everyone. Having this love for others will revive your heart, restore your faith and renew your spirit.”

The group, which has adopted the shelter as part of their outreach ministry, has already started another ministry there: Project Storeroom. The women will organize the shelter’s clothing donations by style and size and then place them on racks so residents can feel as if they are shopping for clothes from a store.
Northern Ohio Churches Screen The Adventists
Members of several churches in the Northern Ohio area invited their neighbors to a screening of The Adventists, a documentary that looks into the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s commitment to health ministry. The Northern Ohio Ministerial Association sponsored the event, which took place at the Southeast Church in Cleveland. Filmmaker Martin Dobmeier, who attended the screening, says, “Through the film we have the chance to explore pioneering healthcare facilities, state-of-the-art medical technology and cutting-edge science. But what matters most is we have the privilege to encounter people whose lives are completely changed and that is always the heart of the story.” Attendees gave the film a standing ovation. Barb Clint, a community health leader invited by an Adventist colleague, said, “I was amazed to learn of [the church’s] commitment to community health.”

Bethel Church Visits Seniors
Nursing home residents enjoy a special presentation by the Sabbath School department of Bethel church in Cleveland. The group brought them songs, words of encouragement and gifts.

Local Paper Features Berean Pathfinders
The Sequoia Pathfinder Club of the Berea church in Uniontown, Pa., was recently featured in a full-page article in the Herald-Standard, the local paper. The article detailed the group’s purpose, activities—including a visit to the Courage to Stand International Camporee—and connection to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.—Patience Barnes

NEW CONFERENCE STAFF
Bethel Pastoral Couple to Head Family Life
Calvin Roberson, pastor of the Bethel church in Akron, Ohio, and his wife, Wendy, recently accepted the call to head Allegheny West Conference’s Family Life department. In this new position they will focus on providing resources for blended and traditional families as well as coordinating events for singles and married couples.

“Where there is a happy family, there is a happy church,” is the couple’s motto, which is reflected in the Marriage Vows (marriagevows.com) ministry they founded to change the negative statistics and ensure success and happiness in marriage.

New Health and Wellness Director Named
Kim Lee, president/CEO of the African-American Alzheimer’s and Wellness Association based in Columbus, was recently named AWC’s Health and Wellness director. Lee’s goal is to provide a healthy conference by using holistic approaches to target hypertension, diabetes, cancer and dementia. Lee will also conduct a thorough survey to better ascertain members’ needs. She desires to have a wellness center in each church for in-reach and outreach.

Building Barns, Postponing Life
Why is it that there is such a wide and tragic gap between our answers to the questions, “What is important to you?” and “How do you spend your time”? And why is it that words like “tomorrow” or “soon” and phrases like “this won’t last forever” and “some day” and “I promise” punctuate our conversations? Some day soon, I will stay in closer touch with my friends. Some day soon, I will follow a more disciplined devotional routine. Some day soon I’ll give my family the time they deserve. Some day soon, I will give myself to a project that will better my community. You know what I am talking about. As soon as the barns are built (see Luke 12), as soon as the bills are paid, as soon as this project is complete, as soon as the work is done, as soon as things slow down, as soon as … well, as soon as things are different.

It is one of the crowning ironies of life that those things that are most important to us are also the most easily postponed. It seems to us that we cannot long postpone building the barn, doing the laundry, running the errands or paying the bills. All those things together do not add up to much of a life. However, developing a deeper relationship with one another, taking time for a person in need, spending time growing our relationship with God, giving ourselves more fully to the cause of Christ—all of these things can be easily postponed. And yet it is precisely these things that make for a full and fulfilling life. We know that they are important. We may even plan to make room for them tomorrow. And so the future becomes the repository of our noblest impulses. Nearly everyone does noble and important things through anticipation and resolve, but it is only the God-led people who actually do those things today.

Pathfinders Earn Honors, Make Friends at Annual Classoree
Some 300 Pathfinders representing 18 clubs came together on a recent weekend to participate in the Winter Classoree held at Mount Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md.

The Challenge
Chesapeake Conference Newsletter
April 2010

By Rob Vandeman

Pathfinders Earn Honors, Make Friends at Annual Classoree

Some 300 Pathfinders representing 18 clubs came together on a recent weekend to participate in the Winter Classoree held at Mount Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md.

The annual occasion offers Pathfinders—in levels Friend to Guide—a selection of intensive honors classes in 31 categories, and provides spiritual enrichment and recreation. Keynote speaker Shawn Paris, youth pastor for the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., used stories to illustrate the weekend’s “Love Without Limits” theme.—Ann Reynolds and Charles Koerding
**Spencerville Ministry Causes “Global Warming”**

Twenty-one quilts and 18 crocheted blankets for India; 40 baby blankets crafted with love and sent to the Maluti Adventist Hospital in Lesotho; mittens and hats for Native American children in North Dakota—these are just a few of the projects completed by the Keep in Stitches group at the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md.

“We started by making afghans for the shut-ins and baby blankets for the newborns in the congregation,” says Vania Baioni, leader of this dedicated small group ministry. “Soon we expanded to scarves and hats for day laborers and blankets for the local women’s shelter.” The group crafts handmade items that provide physical warmth and also shares the warmth of God’s love in the community. They recently made 71 hats and scarves and delivered them, along with copies of Steps to Christ, to homeless persons in Washington, D.C.

Keep in Stitches has about a dozen core members—most of them women aged 8 to 94—but attracts a lot of sporadic participants as well. The ministry helps members connect not only with the local mission of the Spencerville church, but also with the global mission of reaching everyone for Christ. Lilia Salazar is a home-bound member who is very active in the group. According to Baioni she makes many of the baby blankets and has made more than 15 scarves for homeless people.

Sabbath School classes and school-aged children also get involved, helping to knit and raise funds for supplies. For example, third-graders at Spencerville Adventist Academy (pictured with their teacher, Kathy Young and Keep in Stitches ministry leader Vania Baioni) helped make fleece blankets for 114 orphan children in Zambia. To cover the cost of 10 blankets, they held a pizza lunch sale, which yielded $200.

**Hagerstown Church, Community Helps Teen**

Cathy Recuenco (right) celebrated her 13th birthday in the hospital. She became ill in September and was admitted to Johns Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore. Tests confirmed a diagnosis of Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia. She needed a bone marrow transplant, and the Hagerstown (Md.) church, where her family attends, immediately scheduled a blood drive to help locate a donor match. Cathy’s mom, Pilar, turned out to be the best match.

Cathy’s illness and the distance to the hospital took a toll on the family. In an effort to ease the family’s financial strain, the Hagerstown church took up special offerings, and Mount Aetna Adventist Elementary School, where Cathy is a student, planned a massive indoor yard sale. On sale day, 50 people lined up outside the school gym in the bitter cold to be the first to get in when the doors opened. Pilar reports that the sale yielded $4,500. Cathy was recently released from the hospital, and her family is optimistic. “We believe that the Lord makes miracles,” says Pilar.

**Students, Staff Remember Janel Kay DeHaan**

Students, faculty and guests recently gathered in the girls’ dormitory chapel to honor and remember the dormitory’s namesake—Janel Kay DeHaan. Sheri Tydings, Highland View Academy (HVA) principal, opened the service with a welcome and prayer. As a tribute to the DeHaan family, two DeHaan Hall residents gave musical performances. Sophomore Karen Tejeda played “Amazing Grace” on the trumpet, and junior Monrize Sobrinho played the piano and sang “Thank You” by Ray Boltz.

Born to Frank and Dolly DeHaan, Janel Kay died just a few months shy of her 8th birthday from a brain tumor. December 16, 2009, would have been her 60th birthday. A generous donation from the DeHaans funded the construction of DeHaan Hall in 1966. Over the years, it has been home to hundreds of HVA students.

During the program, Frank spoke tearfully as he briefly recounted the story of losing his daughter so many years ago. But he also gave thanks to God for the hope they have in knowing “we will be with Janel Kay again one day and have the joy of raising her in heaven.” Current DeHaan Hall residents presented the couple with flowers and cards. After the service participants enjoyed refreshments in the dormitory lobby, and the girls had a chance to meet and talk with the DeHaans.

As members of the Willowbrook church in Hagerstown, Md., the DeHaans have been strong supporters of HVA for many decades. “Frank has faithfully served on the HVA Board of Trustees and Finance committees for many years and provided a tremendous amount of wisdom, direction and continuity,” says Principal Tydings.

In addition to their generous donations for various projects, the DeHaans provided employment opportunities for HVA students at their local businesses for 29 years.
HVA’s Environmental Science Program has captured the attention of Pearson Publishing, a major textbook publishing company. Representatives from the company contacted Ophelia Barizo, Science Department chair, about the special mycology research HVA students have been engaged in throughout the 2009-10 school year. One of the goals of this new 2011 textbook, Pearson Environmental Science: Your World Your Turn, authored by Jay Withgott, is to conclude with a chapter devoted to highlighting five Toyota Tapesstry award-winning projects. The chapter is to include a highlight of HVA students’ study of saprophytic and mycowthic mushrooms and the role that fungi play in the ecosystem. “This has been a wonderful learning opportunity for our students and it has become a real honor,” Barizo notes. The students have also been featured in Mycophile, a national publication of the North American Mycological Association. Principal Shere Tydings has enjoyed watching the project grow. “It has been an awesome experience for the students to not only learn through this project but [also] to realize that their research is being recognized at both local and national levels,” she says. Read more at sites.google.com/site/hvamycology.

Textbook Publisher to Highlight Mushroom Studies

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Spanish Work Grows Through Home Churches

For the past two years, Mountain View Conference leaders have made efforts to reach the Hispanic community in Moorefield and Morgantown, W.Va. Since then there have been 10 baptisms in Moorefield and two in Morgantown. In addition, there are 20 ongoing Bible studies. “During the week, we meet in four different homes for Hogar Iglesia (Home Church), and many of our visitors are asking us to go and worship in their homes as well,” explains Walter Cardinas, Hispanic Ministries coordinator for the conference and pastor of the two churches. “Because so many families are requesting Hogar Iglesia, we are now planning to have two meetings daily from Monday to Friday.”

All the recently baptized members are eager to bring others to Christ. “The Lord is using this group of new believers to lead the work. They are now preaching, teaching Sabbath School classes, leading song service, giving Bible studies and much more.”

Grafton Members Make Donuts for Haiti Relief

Eleven adults and one teenager from the Grafton (W.Va.) church spent a recent Saturday night making 84 dozen donuts. The sale of the donuts and additional donations yielded $600 for victims of the Haitian earthquake. They sent the monies to ADRA’s Haiti Earthquake Response Fund.

The church donated more than $200 for the ingredients, allowing the entire sum from the sales to help the people of that devastated area,” says Diane Gregg. The 12 workers who turned out the tasty, glazed donuts included Dennis (right) and Janet Collins; Frank (right, top) and Barbara Dadisman; Diane, Butch and Hannah Gregg; Sonny and Leona Jenkins; Randy and Marty Murphy and Kim Shafterman (above).
Summer Camp Registration Opens

Young people aged 7 and above are invited to attend a variety of summer camps at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va. The weeklong programs include horsemanship, ropes course, archery, gymnastics, ceramics and other activities. This year’s theme, “One Way,” will remind youth that Christ is truly the one way to salvation.

Wellness Camp to Teach Healthy Lifestyle Changes

Mountain View Conference members seeking to make healthy changes in their lives are invited to attend the conference’s third Wellness Camp July 21-August 4. Attendees from past years reported a reduction in cholesterol, blood pressure and weight. Attendees meet new friends, gain support and put away unhealthy habits. They will also enjoy a total plant-based cuisine and walks around the Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va. For more information, or to make reservations, call (304) 422-4581 or email wellnesscamp_mvc@yahoo.com.

Striving Toward the Promised Land

I listened as her story came out in a torrent of frustration and regret. She wanted to know why her father abandoned her and her mother 18 years ago. How does one answer a question like that? Young people today are looking for normalcy in the form of an increasingly elusive ideal. Who is going to stand in the breach of our young people’s lives and lead them when so many adults in their lives have abdicated their responsibility?

The fact is that as soon as we establish this world as the “norm,” we miss the point. We have to realize that our lives here on this Earth are an aberration; there is an eternity waiting for us if we are just willing to look up and choose to wake up from this nightmare. Sitting here looking out of my office window taking in the misery of the Ohio winter, I have to remind myself that it is summer somewhere. The slush, salt and cold are not universal, and if I head south, I can escape winter all together.

Who is going to tell our students about a better place and a better life if they are not in our schools? Attending church once a week will not get the message to them. Many of us cling to church services that have lost their relevance to most of our youth. We have to fight to save our children—one school, one conference at a time. We have to hang on to each soul and show them that there is a way out—not a norm but a new reality—so they will be able to make the choice between staying out in the cold or heading for the promised land.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 8—Acronics Homeshow
On May 8, at 9 p.m., Mount Vernon Academy’s (MVA) Acronics gymnastics team (below), will present a home show in the school’s gymnasium. Parents, friends and alumni are welcome to attend as team members present a combination of acrobatics and cheer pyramids.

MAY 9—Spring Concert
The annual spring concert, with music director David Nino (right), will take place May 9. MVA’s choir, Echoliers, Cascabel and band will present DREAMS, which will feature musical selections from around the world, including Russia, Africa, Brazil and America.

MAY 28-30—Graduation Weekend
The Class of 2010’s graduation weekend will be held May 28-30. Tim Soper (right), MVA chaplain, will give the Commencement address. Confession, Friday, May 28, 8 p.m. with speaker Pam Castillo Baccalaureate, Sabbath, May 29, 11 a.m. with Herb Montgomery Class Night, Saturday, May 29, 9:15 p.m. Commencement, Sunday, May 30, 10 a.m.
Students Serve in the Amazon

Sixteen Mount Vernon Academy students recently returned from a 10-day mission trip to Iquitos, Peru. While there, they primarily focused on making improvements to Poppy’s House, a crisis foster care facility, founded and managed by MVA alumus Paul Opp (’76). He is also the founder of People of Peru, an organization that sponsors the education of children from elementary school through university.

Despite the intense equatorial heat, the students worked through the day with high-energy and enthusiasm. Within three days, they finished the countryside to a home made from wooden poles, rotton boards and a thatched roof. The students raised the floor level of the structure a few feet and created a retaining wall around the home. They also drilled a well and constructed trusses for a missionary home being built nearby.

Each evening students participated in Vacation Bible School in the riverside village of Union, and thanks to some fun songs, stories and activities (and a little candy), more than 80 children learned about Jesus.

After a productive week, the group took a daylong trip up the Amazon River, stopping by a tribal village to trade and barter for souvenirs. They spent the night in the jungle battling mosquitoes, catching a small alligator and listening to the sounds of a different ecosystem.—Tim Soper

Who Belongs to the Priesthood? 

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light” (1 Pet. 2:9, NIV).

At some time in the life of the church, some people began to believe and claim that ministry is only a prerogative of pastors. According to the New Testament, all believers belong to the priesthood, including the laity! To limit ministry to clergy was a strange concept for the New Testament church, because all God’s people have personal access to Him and the spiritual right to minister.

According to Ellen White, “Sometimes ministers do too much; they seek to embrace the whole work in their arms. It absorbs and dwarfs them; yet they continue to grasp it all. They seem to think they alone are to work in the cause of God, while the members of the church stand idle. This is not God’s order at all” (Evangelism, p.113).

Ministry should be every church member’s great privilege and responsibility. It is impossible to be a Christian and not be involved in ministry! In my personal experience, my ministry began to be more fruitful when I trained church members to be small group leaders and lay evangelists. Then I had the blessing of seeing my churches grow, and I started to baptize hundreds of people every year. During our New Jersey Ministries Convention, this concept was presented and readily accepted by our pastors and lay leaders. You, too, are a member of a royal priesthood so start ministering in your community today!

Robbinsville Partners With Community to Help Haiti

A few weeks after meeting with the mayor of Robbinsville and offering the church’s facilities for community events, Art Randall, Robbinsville church pastor, made good on that offer. The mayor wondered if they could use the church’s fellowship room to hold a fundraiser to help with relief efforts for Haiti. The Robbinsville church quickly agreed to use the facilities to serve as a collection center for water, tents and other supplies. In addition, a group of community leaders offered to organize a dinner with the proceeds going to the Red Cross.

All the Robbinsville church had to do was open their doors, and the civic leaders did all the work of organizing donors and volunteers from the community and high school. More than 100 people came to the church to enjoy the dinner and participate in other fundraising activities.

Students from Robbinsville High School volunteered to serve as waiters, sold pies (above) and made bracelets to sell. The effort raised $2,500 and donors gave a truckload of supplies and clothing for Haiti.

Robbinsville member Susan Stoica (left) stands with community volunteers Agnima, Manishi, Ravi and Rituik Aghriho. For the past two years, the Aghriho children attended Vacation Bible School with Stoica.
Nearly 600 Attend Ministries Conventions

Nearly 600 local church leaders from around the New Jersey Conference attended the annual Ministries Leadership Training Conventions at Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Tranquility. Under the theme “Discovering the Secrets of Growth,” Spanish- and English-speaking leaders attended the meetings on separate weekends. Breakout training sessions provided leaders with valuable material and training. Below are highlights from the weekend:

April

- 2-4: English Women’s Spring Retreat, Cape May
- 7-10: Stewardship Emphasis Weekend, Local Churches
- 11: Children’s Ministries Training Day, Wayne and Lake Nelson Churches
- 10: Music Festival for Northern Jersey
- 16-18: Single Ministries Retreat, Tranquil Valley Retreat Center (TVRC)
- 17: Spanish Couples Retreat, Woodcliff
- 23-25: Adventist Community Services Disaster Response Training, TVRC
- English Couples Retreat, Edison

May

- 5-8: Stewardship Emphasis Weekend, Local Churches
- 15: New Jersey Conference Worship Training Day, Laumontwood Church
- 23: Children’s Ministries Training Day, Wayne and Lake Nelson Churches

June

- 2-6: Stewardship Emphasis Weekend, Local Churches
- 4-6: Adventure Family Timeout, TVRC
- 12: Combined English and Spanish Camp Meeting, TVRC

Ohio Ministry University

Now in its fourth year, Ohio Ministry University continues to be a popular draw for local church leaders who are passionate about growing in Christ and looking for fresh ideas to positively impact their communities.

“I look forward to this every year,” stated one participant. “This was my first time,” said another. “It was great.” The event was “enlightening, uplifting and inspirational,” added a third attendee.

Ryan Bell, senior pastor of the Hollywood Adventist Church in Los Angeles, reported on projects that his congregation has undertaken to provide affordable housing, extend healthcare to those who have no insurance or benefits and involve young adults in the arts.

Milton Adams (above) reported on the Simple Church Project in Orlando, Fla., which grew out of a house church that he and his wife started in the summer of 2008. Adams will coordinate the Ohio Simple Church network and is available by telephone and over the Internet to provide information, training and encouragement.

For more information, visit simplechurchathome.com. For copies of materials from the event, contact Monte Sahlin at montessahlin@gmail.com or the Ohio Conference at information@ohioadventist.org or (740) 397-4665, ext. 165.

New Jersey News is published in the Visitor by the New Jersey Conference 2160 Brunswick Ave., Trenton NJ 08648 Phone: (609) 392-7317 x njcsda.org
President, Joaquin Cortes, Editor, Jim Greene

Pastor Ramon Canals, Hispanic Ministries director for the North Pacific Union Conference, served as the guest speaker for the Spanish training weekend.

Communication leaders study the Visitor during a training session led by editor Celeste Ryan Biyden.

Presenter Horace Delissie, MD, clarifies a point for Judy Fleming, a health seminar attendee.

Visitor

275 Local Church Leaders Meet for Training

More than 275 local church leaders and pastors from across the state recently headed to Columbus for the Hispanic Small Groups Convention, the Small Groups Conference for English speakers and Ohio Ministry University.

Hispanic Small Groups Convention

The annual Small Groups Convention is an important part of the ongoing leadership training that Ohio Hispanic congregations have been involved with for the past several years. Featured speaker Leonardo Figueroa is pastor of the Tulsa Hispanic church (Okla.). His church grew from two families in 1995 to its current size of 370 members in two congregations. More than 100 attendees listened as Figueroa shared how his church has benefited and grown through small groups.

Small Groups Conference

“I feel challenged and stretched in my thinking, and I’m excited to see what God has in store,” said one of the 65 who participated in the small groups ministry workshops. The speakers were Milton Adams, director of the Simple Church Project, affiliated with the North American Division; and Ron Rockey, PhD, and his wife, Nancy Rockey, PhD, (above), specialists in marriage and family therapy and clinical pastoral counseling. Adams presented his “Growth Groups” seminar on how to conduct relational Bible studies that are suitable for unchurched people. The Rockeys’ presentations included segments from The Journey, a series of study guides they developed for small groups that are designed to help people shed the negative impact of their past and realize lasting happiness and spiritual health.

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Presenter Horace Delissie, MD, clarifies a point for Judy Fleming, a health seminar attendee.
Reynoldsburg and Westerville Compete in “Souper Bible Bowl”

What started as an annual food drive for a local charitable organization has become a friendly competition between the Reynoldsburg and Westerville churches. Rotating yearly, each church collects either peanut butter or vegetable soup. A volunteer from each church creates artwork under which the food piles up. The churches then face off in a Bible competition. Each church earns points for the amount of soup or peanut butter they collect and the number of correct answers they submit regarding the biblical book chosen. Points are totaled, and the winning church savors their victory until they square off again the following year. Last year the competition was so close that the value of peanut butter versus soup had to be negotiated!

Recently the two churches went helmet to helmet to reveal which knew the most about the book of Judges and finished only two points apart (189-187) out of a possible 200 points total. Westerville barely edged out Reynoldsburg. Westerville also collected more peanut butter than Reynoldsburg did soup, making them the undisputed champs for 2010.

Both congregations enjoy unselfish giving and learning about a specific book of the Bible. Contestants also enjoy each other’s company during dinner together after the competition. However, as Westerville member Phil Wilson stated, “the real winners are the hungry people getting the soup and peanut butter!”

Next year’s competition will be on the book of Acts.—Mike Barnett

A Skater Meets Jesus

I have a blast traveling around our conference visiting our youth groups. I recently went to Easton to visit Legit Worshippers (LW), which meets in Javier and Mirabel Mendez’s home. After snacks and mixer games, we sat down for a Bible study. I was sitting next to Kevin. It was Kevin’s first time at LW. Prior to starting our study, Bibles were handed out to each young person. After several comments, Javier asked the youth to turn to a specific place in their Bibles. I could immediately tell that Kevin was uncomfortable. I asked him if he needed help. He said, “I’ve never used one of these things before.” I told him that I could give him the page numbers as we continued to look up additional passages. That night was a special night. It was the first time Kevin, a skater from the block, first opened Jesus’ message. I wonder what kind of emotions Jesus experienced as Kevin finally opened the gift of the Bible for the first time. Several weeks later, Javier called to tell me that Kevin gave a testimony in front of the whole group about Jesus.

Sometimes evangelism comes in the form of a large campaign held at the church. Other times it comes in the form of committed people like Javier and Mirabel inviting the skater from up the street to open Jesus’ love letter. In whatever form it comes, Pennsylvania Conference churches are committed to reaching their communities with this distinctive message that changes lives.

A Pennsylvania Conference Core Value

Evangelism: We are passionate for the lost and thus committed to purpose-driven innovation and relational ministry. We will teach and preach our distinctive message in a way that is meaningful to the people we are trying to reach. We will build the kingdom through creative and innovative ways that will cause truth to stand out clearly and distinctively. We will constantly evaluate our forms and methods, seeking cultural relevance and maximum ministry effectiveness for Jesus Christ. (See 1 Chron. 12:32; Luke 19:10.)

Toledo First Offers Soup for the Soul

Seeking a remedy for the dismal attendance at Toledo First church’s midweek service, leaders turned to the tonic that many do when illness strikes: soup. That’s how Soup for You was born. Attendees at Toledo First church’s weekly Soup for You gathering enjoy a nourishing meal of soup and bread before delving into Bible study.

The love of the book of Judges had been much like the love of a special blessing for the leadership team at the El Camino church in Easton.

El Camino Officially Becomes a Church

Members of the El Camino Mission Group in Easton recently signed the charter to become official members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Approximately 50 people attend Sabbath services at this mission-minded church. Ray Hartwell, conference president; Ron Christman, treasurer; and Juan Lopez, Hispanic Ministries coordinator, were all on hand for this special service. Members are eager to reach the Hispanic community in Easton. “Kingdom growth is what sparks our group,” shares Cesar Mercado, group leader.

Originally members of the Lehighton Spanish church in Allentown, El Camino members now meet in a Lutheran church and work with members of that church in a food pantry ministry. They also work with the Lehighton church to provide the Entre Amigos (“Between Friends”) radio program. In addition, they offer English as a Second Language and knitting classes to community members.

“God is working in amazing ways,” Hartwell reports. “During the organization service, a non-member came forward to join the church in the near future. Over lunch another man, who was visiting for the first time with his son, indicated that he would like to consider joining this Adventist church.”

Mission Ohio is published in the Walter by the Ohio Conference P.O. Box 1230, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050 or Phone: (740) 397-4665 ohioadventist.org A President, Ray Attinelli, Editor, Nancy Barnett

Ray Hartwell, Pennsylvania Conference president, says a special blessing for the leadership team at the El Camino church in Easton.
Conference Welcomes Assistant Youth Director

Jason Foster (right), the new assistant director for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, will lead the summer camp ministries program at Laurel Lake Camp in Rossteller and build ministries designed to reclaim young adults. With Foster taking on some of the responsibilities, director Kris Eckenroth will help local churches develop youth groups, provide youth leader training events, plan events and rallies for young people, work with Cool Camp and youth mission trips, as well as oversee workers for summer camp, Pathfinders and Adventurers. “There is a huge drain of young adults not active in the Adventist Church across North America,” says Ray Hartwell, conference president. “I am glad that God has provided resources we would not have had here on our own to invite Jason to join us in this movement of putting Youth and Young Adult Ministries on the front page of our priorities as a conference.”

Foster graduated from Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) with a degree in theology. He has a passion for sharing Christ with young people and helping them grow in their personal relationship with God while growing a sense of mission in their lives. He presently serves as the dean of men and a Bible teacher at Rio Lindo Adventist Academy (Calif.). He previously served as the associate dean of men and a Bible teacher at Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va. Major funding for this position has been provided from outside sources.

York Member Honored for Service to the Blind

Christian Record Services (CRS) recently honored Richard Klinedinst for 35 years of service as a representative in eastern Pennsylvania. Over the years, he made approximately 12,000 visits to blind people and introduced them to the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s inspirational materials offered through CRS. He was the first person in the history of the Adventist movement to raise $2 million for the blind through CRS. “Everything that I’ve accomplished, especially in the area of fundraising, has been a miracle every day, and that’s only through prayer and surrender to God’s will,” Klinedinst says.

Ted N.C. Wilson, a worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church vice president and CRS board chairman, along with Larry Pitcher, president of CRS, presented Klinedinst with a plaque during a service at the York church where Klinedinst is a member and elder. Tom Evans, North American Division treasurer, also made a presentation to Klinedinst while Frank Bondurant, vice president for Ministries Development at the Columbia Union Conference, and Barry Tryon, Pennsylvania Conference executive secretary, took part in the service.

Klinedinst’s son, David, Personal Ministries director for CRS, shared his father’s story and how God used him. “By God’s grace, Dad became the most successful worker to ever serve with CRS—all with no marketing or sales training and with barely a high school education,” David shared.

Being the Church

What’s the most important thing to you? Is it sports, politics, philosophy, family, time or religion? Now what do you think is most important to the Trinity about those of us here on Earth? Quite simply it is His children—His church. The sacrifice of heaven proves His compelling drive of love for His children. “See what love the Father has given us that we should be called the children of God. And so we are . . . Beloved we are God’s children now . . . ” (1 John 3:1-2, RSV).

When God’s children work and come together for worship, it is called church. There is nothing as important in God’s eyes as the local church. In the words of author Bridget Willard, “Church isn’t where you meet. Church isn’t a building. Church is what you do. Church is who you are. Church is the human outworking of the person of Jesus Christ. Let’s not go to church, let’s be the church.”

Church isn’t where you meet . . . Church is who you are.

Manassas Members Aid Haitian Children

A fter visiting Haiti and seeing the hopeless conditions facing many children, Manassas (Va.) church members Charles and Gigi Le-Morzellec founded the Eden Garden Orphanage in 1988. The orphanage, located just outside the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, offers a medical clinic, K-8 schooling for 250 kids, housing for nearly 1,000 people in the community.

Ted N.C. Wilson, a vice president at the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, presents a plaque to Richard Klinedinst in the presence of his wife, Dolores.
Potomac People

Restoration Praise Officially Organized

With 270 charter members, Restoration Praise Center (RPC) officially organized into company status as the newest addition to the Potomac Conference. Conference leaders recognized the

moved Paul Graham, the church’s senior pastor. Shortly after, RPC’s leadership team came forward to sign the document on behalf of the members.—Andre Weston

Sligo’s Pathfinders Lead Worship, Training

Pathfinders from some 10 churches from the Potomac, Chesapeake and Alleghany East conferences attended and partic-

pathfinders Sabbaths at Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md.

Pathfinders is to teach our children to be leaders, so we give them chances to participate,” explains Darrell Milam, church Pathfinder director. “Many of our older Pathfinders are getting out there and teaching honors to kids and adults at the church and at camps- pores.”—Marceline Ndahayo

Making Each Minute Count

Recently I was reacquainted with an educational documentary called 2 Million Minutes. The premise of the pro-

gram was to compare and contrast high school education systems in different countries and ultimately deter-

mine where American education fits into the overall global educational picture. While I don’t agree with everything in the program, it really challenges how education is done. It should provoke many educators to take a strong look at how we are preparing our students for a global economy.

This year at Takoma Academy (TA), we have spent a significant amount of time focusing on curriculum develop-

ment, adding courses and concentrating on providing a rigorous academic program to prepare our students for college. As I watched the video, I felt confident about the progress and direction we are taking for our TA families. Ironically, the academic information the video shared is not what continues to replay in my mind, it is simply the title itself: 2 Million Minutes.

The average student will spend more than 2 million minutes in high school alone! Parents, do you want educating your student and developing their character? Investing in Seventh-day Adventist edu-

cation provides an opportunity to combine excellence in academics and spirituality. The faculty and staff of Takoma Academy are fostering this type of environment and preparing our students for the global changes happening, so they can be assets to society and witnesses for Christ. We have to guard every minute of our young people’s lives and place them in schools that are focused on making sure that those 2 million minutes result in an eternity in the kingdom. We invite you to partner with us as you consider the 2 million minutes that your child spends on their success journey in high school.

Area Eighth-graders Invited to Campus

On Friday, April 16, eighth-graders from local Adventist schools will don athletic gear and head to TA for a day of healthy competition and team-build-

ing activities. This fun field day, called “TA’s Amazing Race,” is based on the popular television show and literally involves students participating in several dif-

ferent types of races. As they meet and form teams with students from the different schools, participants begin learning valuable interpersonal skills. As they compete, they are challenged both mentally and physically. From keyboarding to rock climbing to an obstacle course to sack races, past participants report really enjoying the event.

Students from TA will serve as event staff members, allowing them to practice their leadership skills. Before the day ends, students will have the opportunity to audition for ability scholarships. Students who do not attend an Adventist elementary school are also invited to participate. To register your eighth-grader for TA’s Amazing Race, call (301) 434-4700.

Last year’s race participants (left to right) Elyssa Nascimento (’10), Nicole Callahan (’12), Rachel Rupert (’10), Jade Callahan (’10), Enca Singh (’09) and Whitney Hucks (’10) served as team leaders and guides.
The Spirit is Growing!

Spring is always an exciting time at Washington Adventist University (WAU). The campus emerges from the winter’s feeling of dormancy with a burst of life. As the pink and white blossoms emerge on the trees and the Easter flowers push up through the soil, the feeling of renewal is apparent on the faces of our students. Some are anticipating graduation and the challenges of a new professional life just around the corner, while others are excited about upcoming mission trips and other summer events.

Of course, April is always the month we welcome our alumni back to campus for a memory-filled reunion of friends and mentors. This year the renewal will be especially apparent, as we begin the weekend on April 9 with the groundbreaking for the new Music Center. Then in May in addition to the many traditional events of commencement weekend we are commemorating the transition to a university of excellence with a landmark concert and inaugural celebration on Monday evening, May 3 at the Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda, MD. The Columbia Collegiate Chorale and New England Youth Ensemble will perform their world-renowned repertoire. A number of special guests including WAU alumnus and famed Loma Linda Medical Center heart surgeon, Leonard Bailey, MD, (left), will help us make this an evening to remember.

Yes, my friends, the spirit is growing at your university. Whether it’s the spirit of faith and service lived out in Campus Ministries activities, the spirit of determination and pride that brings down the house at athletic events, or the spirit of achievement and excellence that reflects on the faces of our graduates as they grasp their diplomas and embrace family and friends, the spirit is growing at WAU.

Former Choir Members Wanted for Mass Auditions

To celebrate the groundbreaking of the new WAU Music Building, the Department of Music is inviting all choir alumni and friends from Washington Adventist University, Columbia Union College or Washington Adventist University to sing in the Gala Reunion Concert during Alumni Weekend, April 9-10.

Three past choir directors—Bob Young, Leland Tetz and Jon Gilbertson—will be present to help current director James Bingham conduct the reunion concert on Sabbath, April 10, at 3:30 p.m. in the Sligo church sanctuary.

The New England Youth Ensemble (NEYE) of Washington Adventist University, under the direction of Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse and Preston Hawes, is also inviting its former members to return for this gala weekend. The NEYE will perform for the worship service and accompany the Gala Reunion Concert. The reunion choir and orchestra will rehearse Friday, April 9, at 8:30 p.m. in the Sligo church sanctuary, immediately following alumni vespers.

For more information, contact the Department of Music at (301) 891-4025 or email music@wau.edu.

—James Bingham

Calendar

April

2 End of Third Term
16 TA’s 6th Annual Amazing Race
20 Scholarship Auditions
23 Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament, 8 a.m.
23-24 Alumni Weekend

May

2, 4 Scholarship Auditions
7 Community Service Day
8 Mother’s Day Concert
10 Career Fair
13 Junior/Senior Banquet
13 Spring Picnic
20 Fine Arts’ Spring Production 7 p.m.
23 Fine Arts’ Spring Production 4 p.m.
24 Board of Trustees Dinner/Meeting, 6 p.m.
27 Spring Concert
31 Memorial Day—School Closed

June

3 Last Day of School
4-6 Graduation Weekend

Former TA students will return to campus April 23-24 for Alumni Weekend. This homecoming event held the fourth weekend of each April, gives classmates and friends an opportunity to catch up and share memories. This year’s honor class years are 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005.

Highlights for the weekend include the 11th annual Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament Friday, April 23, 8 a.m. This fundraising event is open to the public, and proceeds will benefit TA’s scholarship fund. Sabbath events include a 10 a.m. worship service, class reunion photo session and lunch/meal. While several classes will hold individual reunion parties on Saturday night, the Alumni Association (see taalumni.org) will hold a “roast” honoring long-time science instructor Ken “Uncle Willie” Wilson. This banquet will be held at 7 p.m. on the campus of nearby Washington Adventist University. To purchase banquet tickets, or for more information about the weekend, contact Aaron Belcher at president@taalumni.org or Kathy Hecht at khecht@wau.edu.

On April 8 at 8 p.m., Maryland PBS stations will premiere “The Adventists,” a one-hour documentary about the health ministry of the Adventist Church. This film (journeyfilm.com) features TA alumnus Leonard Bailey, MD (’60), a pediatric heart surgeon. Jean Weymouth Spence, MD (’60), a pediatric heart surgeon.

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The New England Youth Ensemble (NEYE) of Washington Adventist University, under the direction of Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse and Preston Hawes, is also inviting its former members to return for this gala weekend. The NEYE will perform for the worship service and accompany the Gala Reunion Concert. The reunion choir and orchestra will rehearse Friday, April 9, at 3:30 p.m. in the Sligo church sanctuary.
Marcos Galvany (below), who studied composition at WAU and was a "composer in residence" there, will premiere his new operatic work April 10 at Carnegie Hall. Oh My Son is based on the life of Jesus—His passion, resurrection, mission and work—and focuses on His relationships with His mother, Mary; Mary Magdalene; Pilate; and the apostle John. "As a child, I was inspired by the Bible stories my mother told me about each piece of art pertaining to the passion and nativity," explains the member of Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. He plays John. Soprano Karla Rivera (above), a New Jersey native and 2000 WAU graduate, is also a Spencerville church member and plays Jesus’ mother. Learn more at seeohmyson.com.—Celeste Ryan Blyden

Davenia Lea, PhD (below), associate professor and chair of the Department of Education, has been selected to lead the School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS) as dean, effective July 2010. Lea has been a driving force behind WAU’s undergraduate program for professionals in early childhood education who wish to obtain a bachelor’s degree, a key component of which was obtaining grant funding from the Maryland State Department of Education. WAU is one of the few universities in Maryland that offers programs combining special education with elementary education or early childhood education preparing graduates for certification in both fields simultaneously. A master’s degree in education is also in the planning stages. A graduate of the University of Maryland at College Park, Lea’s extensive experience includes working with the Prince Georges County Public School system to provide services to children with disabilities and their families, promoting responsive teaching practices, building effective relationships within families and fostering effective communication and collaboration strategies. She holds a BS, MEd and PhD, all in Special Education.

Correction: Vesa Naakkarinen’s name was misspelled in a caption on page 50 of the February Gateway. We regret this error.
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SUNSET CALENDAR
Apr 9       Apr 16       Apr 23       Apr 30       May 7
Baltimore         7:38       7:52       7:59       8:06
Cincinnati        8:10       8:16       8:23       8:30
Cleveland         8:01       8:08       8:16       8:23
Columbus          8:04       8:11       8:19       8:26
Dayton            7:29       7:37       7:44       7:51       7:59
Norfolk           7:34       7:41       7:47       7:53       7:59
Parkersburg       7:58       8:05       8:11       8:18       8:25
Philadelphia      7:33       7:40       7:47       7:54       8:01
Pittsburgh        7:53       8:00       8:07       8:14       8:22
Sewanee          7:14       7:29       7:37       7:44       7:51
Trenton           7:32       7:39       7:46       7:53       8:00
Wash, D.C.        7:39       7:46       7:53       8:00

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