After the Earthquake
Members Build a Better Future in Haiti

Plus: Why We Should Pay Down Debt
About the Cover: Taashi Rowe photographed students in Petite Riviere de L’Artibonite, Haiti.

ON THE WEB

VIRTUAL CAMP MEETING
Sad that you’ll miss your local camp meeting this year? Don’t be. The North American Division is compiling a list of all camp meeting live stream links so you can listen in. For all participating conferences, dates and details, visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/campmeeting.

GUIDE Turns 60
Guide is celebrating a milestone with 60 Years of Guide Anniversary Story Collection. It contains 30 stories from the past six decades. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/guideanniversary to read our interview with editor Lori Peckham, and read one of our favorite inclusions, “Fakebite” by Randy Fishell, a member of Chesapeake Conference’s Willow Brook church in Boonsboro, Md.

TALKING ABOUT NOAH
Allegheny West Conference’s Glenville church in Cleveland recently invited the community to a private screening of the blockbuster movie Noah. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/noah (or go to page 18) to see how they used this controversial film to start a biblical discussion with more than 370 attendees. Plus, tell us what you think about the film.

SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ
Need some help getting your organization’s social media accounts buzzing? Go to columbiaunionvisitor.com/socialmedia and get tips that helped Adventist HealthCare grow their Twitter account to nearly 25,000 followers, advice from church leaders effectively using Facebook, plus a few of our own tips that have helped us connect with members across the union.

POKING FUN
Know anyone who rushes to get all their chores done right before Friday sundown? Have you ever worried that a church member might catch you eating a hamburger?
Anthony Hackett, who regularly attends Chesapeake Conference’s New Hope church in Fulton, Md., has a new series of YouTube videos to help poke good-humored fun at the Adventist culture we love. Check them out at columbiaunionvisitor.com/sunsetfriday.
Father Knows Best

As a young pastor, I was a little amazed when a visiting evangelist suggested we take his motorcycle to visit individuals who were attending the evangelistic meetings. I told him I didn’t consider it safe to ride around in the city on a motorcycle. He replied, “Don’t worry. There are only two types of motorcyclists: those who have never gone down and those who have,” or those who have been in an accident and those who haven’t.

Interestingly, the Christian life is a bit like that, for there are only two kinds of Christians: those who have never experienced a major trial or crisis and those who have. However, if we live long enough, somewhere along the way we are going to experience a challenge that tests our faith.

LESSONS FROM THE JOURNEY

God’s Word has a lot to say about trials. In it we learn that Moses struggled with how to lead the people of God. David and Peter realized the nemesis of their own humanity by denying Christ. Through Solomon and David, the Spirit of God shares: “My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor detest His correction; for whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights” (Prov. 3:11-12, NKJV). And, “It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I might learn Your statutes” (Ps. 119:71, NKJV).

Somewhere, in God’s inscrutable will, He determines that only through trials can He teach us important lessons about Him and/or life. How we respond is our choice, but the best course for enduring each one is surrendering ourselves to His will with a seeking heart to understand the intended lesson.

There is a story I have learned to appreciate the longer I walk with the Lord, which has given me some insight into why trials happen. It depicts a man attempting to teach a songbird a certain tune. Over and over again, he whistles the tune to the bird, but many distractions in the room keep it from concentrating. The teacher gets the idea to cover the bird’s cage with an opaque cloth, then tries again. It is only in the midst of darkness, without “worldly distractions,” that the songbird understands the distinct voice of the master and learns the lesson he desires to teach.

Ellen White applies the analogy to our life, “He has a song to teach us, and when we have learned it amid the shadows of affliction we can sing it ever afterward” (Ministry of Healing, p. 472).

I sum up life with this axiom, “Life isn’t fair; we only have a fair God.” And, that fair and loving Father-God knows best, especially in the midst of a trial.

Dave Weigley (dweigley@columbiaunion.net) is president of the Columbia Union Conference.

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COMMUNITY LEADERS FETE HEALTHCARE CEO

Numerous Maryland politicians and community leaders joined Adventist HealthCare (AHC) executives and employees this spring to honor William G. “Bill” Robertson, AHC’s former president and chief executive officer. Robertson ended his 14-year tenure at the helm of AHC to take a similar role with a health system in Washington state.

“I’ve known a lot of healthcare leaders, but there aren’t any that can hold a candle to you,” said Peter Franchot, comptroller for the state of Maryland, during a proclamation ceremony at AHC’s corporate offices in Gaithersburg, Md. “Thank you for your innovation, leadership and stamina.”

Several more community leaders, along with fellow Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee members, feted Robertson at a farewell reception and dinner in Rockville, Md. Those in attendance included Thomas Perez, U.S. Secretary of Labor.

“Bill is leaving Adventist HealthCare with a legacy of strong, responsible leadership,” said Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president and AHC board chair, at the event. “Bill’s a legend, not just for the length of time he served, but also because he was so passionate about leading the organization to intentionally embrace the Adventist Church’s mission. I will miss him as a friend and leader.” Read more at columbiaunionvisitor.com/robertsonfarewell.
DID YOU FOLLOW THE WORLD CHURCH CONFERENCE ON SEXUALITY?

The General Conference recently convened a conference in South Africa to discuss “alternative sexualities” with 350 invited church workers, scholars and leaders of several supporting ministries from around the world. Read more in the July Visitor and at columbiaunionvisitor.com/sexuality. Below Columbia Union pastors react to the meeting:

This is a much needed and overdue conversation in the Adventist Church. I just hope we keep striving toward keeping ourselves on the front end when dealing with social issues and not wait until we are forced to react to social issues. This is an issue where Adventists can be relevant and effectively minister for God’s children. … I hope as a result of this conference there will be quick tips, how-tos and simple training steps to equip me to be a better and relevant friend/pastor.—Mark Sigue, youth pastor of Chesapeake Conference’s Frederick (Md.) church

I am sad to say that I did not follow the conference. However, we are long overdue for conversations on how to love people where they are and help them through their struggles. Growing up with a sister who is gay makes this topic very near and dear to my heart. … No Christian walked with her through her struggle except family and friends. … I saw my sister through three suicide attempts because she could not stop being who she was. There is no easy answer to this topic—the only answer is Jesus and … how He loved [people].—Lori Farr, pastor of Ohio Conference’s Wooster, Canton and Carrollton churches

This is a topic that needed to be discussed by the church so that society and other communities of faith will know where we stand on this controversial issue. … When it comes to homosexuality, the Bible’s stance is very clear that God is against such practices. I do agree that those who choose to live a homosexual lifestyle should not be discriminated against, whether it is social, political or economic. Churches, especially the Adventist Church, should welcome every sinner with open arms.—Cory R. Rowe, pastor of Allegheny West Conference’s Hillcrest church in Dayton, Ohio

MOUNTAIN VIEW TO GET 13TH SABBATH OFFERING

The Mountain View Conference is one of three conferences in the North American Division that will receive a 13th Sabbath offering in 2015. Mountain View leaders have decided to funnel those monies into their “Harvest Time in Appalachia” project.

The project, started last year in conjunction with the Voice of Prophecy, involves mailing Bible study request cards to every home in their territory. So far they have received 7,000 of the cards and anticipate 10,000 total responses. Victor Zill, the conference’s secretary/treasurer, says they plan to wrap up their outreach with evangelism meetings in spring 2015.
Campestres hispanos de Columbia Union

ALLEGHENY EAST CONFERENCE
Tema: “Nuestra herencia histórica como Adventistas del Séptimo Día”
Fecha: 13 de septiembre
Lugar: 7676 Douglass Dr., Boyertown, Pa.
Orador: Samuel Pagán, exevangelista de la Asociación Puertorriqueña
Para más información, llame al (410) 662-7295 durante la mañana.

ALLEGHENY WEST CONFERENCE
Tema: “Más que vencedores”
Fecha: 23-25 de mayo
Lugar: Camp Edena, 6510 Oakthorpe Road Northeast, Thornville, Ohio
Orador principal: Manny Cruz, director asociado del Ministerio Juvenil en la División Norteamericana
Orador juvenil: Carlos Camacho, coordinador del Ministerio Hispano en la Asociación Nevada-Utah
Presentador de seminarios: Carlos Rando
Músicos principales: Sarah Capeles y Lisbeth Melgar

El pastor Manny Cruz nació en Tijuana, México, y a la edad de 8 años, su familia se mudó a Los Ángeles, donde vivió hasta los 17. Fue allí que él y su familia comenzaron a asistir a una iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día. A los 17 años se bautizó, y hoy testifica de cómo Dios lo sacó de una vida de alcoholismo, pandillas y grafitti a una vida en la que ayuda a adolescentes y jóvenes. Obtuvo su licenciatura en teología en la Universidad Adventista de Montemorelos, en México. El pastor Manny se ha involucrado en el ministerio juvenil por más de 15 años.

CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE
Tema: “Jesús, nuestra identidad”
Fecha: 13-15 de junio
Lugar: Highland View Academy, 10100 Academy Drive, Hagerstown, Md.
Oradores principales: Abner De Los Santos, vicepresidente en la División Interamericana; R. Ernest Castillo, vicepresidente del Ministerio Multilingüe en la División Norteamericana; Ricardo Norton, DMin, profesor asociado de crecimiento de iglesias en la Universidad de Andrews (Mich.); Rubén Ramos, vicepresidente del Ministerio Multilingüe en Columbia Union Conference
Músico principal: pastor Bienvenido Javier

R. Ernest Castillo nació en Colorado pero asistió a Arloma Academy y Fresno Academy, ambas en California, antes de graduarse en Pacific Union College con una licenciatura de artes en teología. Obtuvo su maestría en teología de la Universidad de Andrews. En 1990, Castillo fue elegido como secretario ejecutivo de Pacific Union Conference. Durante la reunión de fin de año del 2005 de la División Norteamericana, Castillo fue elegido como uno de los vicepresidentes.


MOUNTAIN VIEW CONFERENCE
Tema: “Pronto Vendrá”
Fecha: Junio 27-28, 2014
Lugar: Valley Vista Adventist Center, Route 1 Box 37-A, Huttonsville, W.Va.
Mas información: walter@mtviewconf.com

NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE
Tema: “Impacto 2014”
Fecha: 27 y 28 de junio
Lugar: Tranquil Valley Retreat Center, Tranquility, N.J.
Tema juvenil: “Permaneced Firmes”
Orador juvenil: Leandro Robinson

Los oradores de este evento serán Omar y Nessy Grieve, oradores y directores de La Voz de la Esperanza. Ellos tienen un gran amor por las personas. Su mayor anhelo es ver a Jesús cara a cara para agradecerle por el privilegio de trabajar en su ministerio.

Pastor Leandro Robinson, director del Ministerio Juvenil en Pennsylvania Conference, es parte de un equipo el cual está activamente discipulando a jóvenes y sus líderes para alcanzar a otros para el reino de Cristo. El Señor le ha dado
artículo especial de visitor
Después del terremoto

cuatro años después que un gran terremoto sacudió la ya desgastada Haití, miembros de Columbia Union están financiando proyectos pequeños que están haciendo un impacto duradero. En un viaje reciente a la isla, Taashi Rowe, redactora de noticias para la revista Visitor, describe los dos proyectos que visitó:

El viaje a la aldea de Guinadee (Jean-Rabel) implica el uso de un vehículo utilitario deportivo (SUV por sus siglas en inglés) al fiordo de varios arroyos, y luego dando jalones intentando subir un camino de montaña estrecho, sinuoso, escarpado, oscuro, y sin pavimentar. La jornada parece sin esfuerzo para grupos de tres, cuatro y a veces cinco, viajando en el asiento trasero de las pequeñas motocicletas o „tap-taps”.

Aunque se encuentran como a seis horas de la tremenda superpoblada capital de Haití, la ciudad de Port-au-Prince, la situación de los residentes de Guinadee, quienes viven en pequeñas chozas, es similar a los que viven en la capital, porque ellos también viven en penosa pobreza. Hace cuatro años, un terremoto mortal de 7.0 grados de magnitud, devastó la costa capital y atrajo la atención y ayuda del mundo a la isla. A pesar de que el terremoto no afectó Guinadee, es evidente que se necesita ayuda”. Para leer más en inglés, visite la pág. 10.
In April National Public Radio reported on its Morning Edition news program that college debt is the number-one concern for nearly two-thirds of the Millennial generation. With the economy sputtering in the slow lane, CNN Money reported in 2013 that more than 36 percent of recent college graduates work in jobs that do not require a college degree while they leave school with more than $35,000 in debt. But, Millennials aren’t the only ones who worry about financial obligations. The American debt picture is grim. According to the New York Times, Americans owe $863 billion in auto loans. The Associated Press reported in February that we owe credit card companies more than $854 billion. Mortgage debt stands at $7.9 trillion, student loans have topped $1 trillion and total consumer indebtedness has reached a whopping $11.5 trillion in the fourth quarter of 2013, stated the Federal Reserve in its quarterly report this past February. What seems to be raising even more concerns is the direction of the trends.

The Federal Reserve report shows that consumer debt has grown 36 percent in the last 10 years, a rise of about $3 trillion since 2004. Credit.com reports that about 14 percent of the average consumer’s family income goes toward debt payment. USA Today recently found that, while fewer Americans now have debt—69 percent in 2011 compared to 74 percent in 2000—those with debt carry 40 percent more of it! Meanwhile, according to a recent Bankrate.com survey, the number of people who can afford to pay their obligations continues to drop.

Here is the bad news: the picture is not so different for Seventh-day Adventist Christians.

**A LOOK IN THE MIRROR**

Roland J. Hill, DMin, senior pastor of Allegheny East Conference’s (AEC) First church in Washington, D.C., is the author of Wealth: It’s in Your Worship Not Your Works and several other books. He believes that Adventists carry the same debt burden as the general population. “From my years of doing ‘How to Get Out of Debt’ presentations around the world, the statistics among Seventh-day Adventists mirror what’s in the general society,” says Pastor Hill.

G. Edward Reid, JD, agrees. He is former director of stewardship for the North American Division (NAD) and has studied considerably the subjects of money management and eschatology. Reid is the author of several books, including Adventist Book Center bestsellers It’s Your Money, Isn’t It?, Even at the Door and Ready or Not.

While Reid believes that Adventists are “generally more affluent because of the emphasis in the church on education,” he admits that, unfortunately, we have also fallen into the trap of accumulating mountains of debt. “I do not have any hard statistical data, but having conducted hundreds of financial seminars and counseled with many people, the evidence points to a considerable amount of debt held by our church members.”
DEBT’S IMPACT

There are several reasons why Adventists should avoid debt. First, it makes financial sense. “Whenever I get into debt, it really is spending money I don’t have on things that have drawn my power and my eyesight—and it just takes you down to the road to materialism,” says John Matthews, NAD’s current director of stewardship.

Reid believes that the way people manage their finances reflects on their stress level, quality of family life, stability in marriage and career success. “Debt limits how we can spend our leisure time, what kind of life we live and what kind of retirement we will have,” he says. “Debt and its resulting bankruptcy have drastically changed the American financial picture. When families learn to live within their income, they will have a much more satisfying life.”

There are also other corollaries. “If a person is in debt, it does have a spiritual impact because you have this financial stress that affects your spiritual and emotional well-being. To be debt-free is to live free,” says Leonel Pottinger, director of stewardship for the New Jersey Conference.

Norman K. Miles, PhD, agrees. He is the pastor of AEC’s Trinity Temple in Newark, N.J., and former president of the Lake Region Conference. Pastor Miles has burned the mortgages of three churches over the course of his career. “I think that if people have too much debt and are not able to carry [it], they become worried and they can’t focus on spiritual things,” he says.

Debt impacts people’s ability to be good stewards. “By not controlling your debt, your stewardship is sloppy. You cannot be a good steward if you go with uncontrolled debt,” states Matthews.

Pastor Hill adds, “The Bible encourages us to serve only one master. When one is in debt, he’s suddenly enslaved to the lender; that’s what the Scripture says. So, if we’re going to be true followers of Christ, we need to ask God to free us from the slave master of debt.”

5 WAYS TO PAY DOWN DEBT

According to the church’s financial experts, there are five steps members can take to pay down debt:

1 Recognize the problem then commit to solving it.

“Recognize that debt is a problem that needs attention. Debt is a major factor in depression, suicides and family breakups,” says Reid.

Miles concurs. “The first thing you have to do is ask the Lord to show you the issue; pray about it and ask Him to give you some direction.”

Matthews adds, “The biggest tip I can give to a person who wants to get out of debt is they’ve got to make a decision to do so. … If they don’t commit to live within their income, they never will.”

2 Make a budget. A budget is an itemized summary of income and expenses over a given period. It is a simple, yet powerful tool, and is critical for managing one’s finances. Pottinger suggests “a proper budgeting system that has one’s incomes and expenses connected, and to spend less than their income.” He believes the decision to be debt-free should include “every responsible member of the family, including children.”

3 Do an inventory of all obligations. Know the dollar amount you need to tackle. Reid recommends “listing all of your debts in descending order, from the largest (on the top of the list) to the smallest.”

4 Take austerity measures.

“If you’re trying to pay off a debt, you cannot go on living business as usual,” advises Pastor Miles. “You need to start an austerity program; you have to cut back on some things.”

5 Create a payment plan and stick to it. Reid suggests making the minimum payment on all debts while committing the highest amount possible to the smallest debt. “Take any funds that you can spare or that come to you beyond your basic needs to pay on the debt on the bottom of your list,” he says. “Once the bottom debt is paid off, take that debt’s ‘minimum payment’ and add it to the payment next higher.” Repeat the process until all debts are paid.

Debt-Free Congregations

By this past April, Roland J. Hill had served as senior pastor of AEC’s First church in Washington, D.C., for only about 16 weeks. Upon his arrival, he noted that the church needed major renovations. He soon learned that the church had been aware of that need for decades but never had the funds to complete them. He didn’t let that deter him. He boldly declared that the church would be renovated in 125 days!

“It was very tough for the [members] to hear that,” Pastor Hill recalls. “How can this preacher come in and do in 125 days that which hasn’t been done in 25 years?” he says, quoting some of them. But, Pastor Hill plans to deliver on that promise by May 17—plus an aggressive plan to pay back the Columbia Union Revolving Fund loan in a timely manner!

Why? Because he and many other Seventh-day Adventist financial experts believe that it is just as important for institutions to pay down debt as individuals. “The goal is to get out of debt so we can provide more resources to the active work of the church, the ministries of the church,” says Norman K. Miles, pastor of AEC’s Trinity Temple in Newark, N.J. Pastor Miles has led major financial campaigns to raise money for church renovations in excess of $220,000—paying for them in cash!

Go to cOLUMbIAunIONVIsitor.com and read the five steps these two pastors propose institutions take to burn their church mortgages and stay debt-free.
STORY & PHOTOS BY TAASHI ROWE

It’s been four years since the ground quaked in Port-au-Prince. Members continue to fund small projects that are making a lasting impact in Haiti.
The journey to the village of Guinadee (Jean-Rabel) involves using a sport utility vehicle to ford several streams and then enduring a herky-jerky climb up a narrow, winding, craggy, unlit and unpaved mountain pathway. The journey seems effortless for groups of three, four and sometimes five, traveling on the backs of small motorbikes or “tap-taps.”

Although they are about six hours away from Haiti’s crushingly crowded capital city of Port-au-Prince, the plight of Guinadee’s residents—many of whom live in tiny, one-room shacks—is similar to those in the capital, as they, too, live in heartbreaking poverty. Some four years ago, a deadly, 7.0-magnitude earthquake devastated the seaside capital and brought the world’s gaze and aid to the island. Even though the earthquake did not impact Guinadee, it is clear that help is needed.

Haiti has had its share of natural, manmade and economic disasters. The most recent, the 2010 earthquake, killed an estimated 230,000 people while an ensuing cholera outbreak, introduced by United Nations’ peacekeeping troops, took another 8,000 and infected 635,000 more. As the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere with 10.4 million residents, the economic and development needs are great—reliable electricity, clean water and an affordable, basic education are not guaranteed.

SUPPORTING A BETTER TOMORROW

Although they don’t have much of a budget, Yveniel St. Luc and Joseph Valcin want to help. The former is a pastor of three churches in the Allegheny East Conference (AEC), and the latter a member of the Atlantic Union Conference. In the immediate wake of the earthquake, billions were pledged for relief and development efforts, but the two men do not have access to such extravagant funds. So far, they have relied upon members of several Haitian Seventh-day Adventist churches in North America and some of the 20 Haitian churches in the Columbia Union to fund their tiny project.

“We can’t help everybody, but we try to help who we can,” explains St. Luc, who started making the annual trip to Guinadee in 2008 when drought caused a famine in the community. When he brought food with him, he noticed that the church located next door to his childhood home was in bad shape. Some 300 Adventists worshiped there every Sabbath, and some 100-plus children used it as a school during the week.

The building has cracks along several walls and the roof is vulnerable to collapse. Valcin, a civil engineer, estimates that it will cost $58,000 to rebuild the church. This is no small feat considering that Pastor Auguste Maxonnes says his members sometimes don’t have money for basics.

In the meantime, the men wanted to build a school for the children. In this country where 77 percent of the
population lives in poverty, the United States Agency for International Development claims:

Approximately 35 percent of Haitian youth are unable to read and the average Haitian child spends less than four years in school. ... For low-income families, annual school expenses account for about 40 percent of parents’ income and can represent a significant financial burden. In addition, the January 2010 earthquake damaged or destroyed 80 percent of primary and secondary schools in earthquake-affected areas, according to the government of Haiti (usaid.gov/haiti/education).

However, with the country already glutted with aid groups, one has to wonder if sending money to another small group is the solution? “If it is for school, yes. If it is for a soup kitchen, then no,” says Valcin, who believes that an education provides a path forward. “We must help ... people make a living.”

It took three years, but with support from private fundraisers and AEC members at Salem French—St. Luc’s former church in East Orange, N.J.—they were able to build a school in Guinadee. The school has nine teachers, but because the parents often can’t afford to pay the minimal monthly tuition, none of those teachers have been paid in the past three months. The ongoing drought, evidenced by yellowish-brown crops in the fields, doesn’t help as many in the community subsist on farming. Still, the teachers are at the school bright and early every morning.

PAVING THE WAY FOR THE GOSPEL

On the other side of the island, near the Dominican Republic border, another small Adventist group is working to make a difference. The village of Bois Pin in Las Cohobas is some three hours drive from the capital—three and a half if there are political protests resulting in road blockages. Nestled near the top of Mon Cabrit or “goat mountain,” Ronald Magloire and his wife, Marjorie, have worked to build a house and school.

Originally from Haiti, these members of the Southern Union did not plan to become full-time missionaries. But after the earthquake, Marjorie, a nurse, told her husband, “God is calling us to Haiti. Let’s go.”

Their first encounter with mission work resulted in threats against their lives, but the couple didn’t give up. Initially drawn to Haiti to help orphans, they used their own money to purchase land far away from the dangerous situation. They then worked with the Southern Union’s Larry Rahn of Upward Bound Ministries, and Norma Nashed, a Columbia Union member who runs the Restore a Child nonprofit, to continue their mission.

However, the Magloires soon realized there were no orphans in the region. There was also no school or Adventist church in the tiny community of Bois Pin. So Nashed, Rahn and the Magloires raised funds to build the earthquake-resistant Restore a Child Academie. Again, Valcin became the designer and builder, but only
after seeing for himself that the group was not interested in "building another shack."

After six months, the first floor of the school is completed with six classrooms, and classes started in January with 105 students. Again, the parents cannot afford to pay the tuition nor can they afford the uniforms and shoes required to attend school. Even so, Nashed, who speaks French fluently, visited every home in the community and promised each mother the impossible—that her child would have an education despite the costs.

Nashed, who grew up in Jordan as one of nine siblings, says she got involved in this project because “this is what Jesus would do. I’m committed to children—especially orphans—and that will not ever change. Mrs. [Ellen G.] White says they are lent to us. We cannot neglect them,” she says.

But, the Bois Pin school is just the beginning. The team has plans for a high school, vocational school, medical clinic and playground. This vision will end up costing a daunting $1.5 million, and they are a long way off from raising that amount. Even so, the group had reason to celebrate during the school’s recent dedication. The mothers of the community pulled together their meager resources and decorated the tables with flowers and fruit.

“Education is a gift,” Ronald says. “We also want to preach the gospel and do medical work. With this school, we hope to also pave the way for the gospel, not just in words but in action.”

FORGING AHEAD

From the outside, and maybe from the inside, Haiti’s vast challenges may seem insurmountable—long after the earthquake hundreds of thousands of people are still living in camps, many parts of the country remain unsafe, mountains of rubble fill parts of the capital and, despite the numerous heavy duty work trucks rumbling throughout the country, progress seems slow. Still, Haitians are resilient and proud of their history as the first independent, black republic. (They freed themselves from the French in 1804.) And, it is that pride and resilience that pushes Haitians both inside and outside the country to try to make a difference no matter how small.

“I care for my country,” says Ronald. “We are very poor but there’s a lot of potential. I would love to do [mission work] for the rest of my life until Christ comes.”

To learn more about these ministries, visit echoofhaiti.org or restoreachild.org/donate-haiti.

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1 More Than 6% of Haitians Have Had Cholera Since Outbreak Began, New Data Shows, The Henry J. Kaiser Foundation, January 10, 2013.
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WOW! FANTASTIC SAVINGS AT CAMP MEETING 2014

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As officers of the Allegheny East Conference, we invite you to join us June 26 to July 6 in beautiful Pine Forge, Pa., for a great spiritual experience as we deal with the theme “7 Minutes to Midnight.”

Why do Seventh-day Adventists deal so much with the number seven? What does it mean? During this camp meeting, you will hear prophecy explained as never before. We will talk about the seven churches of Revelation, the seven trumpets, the seven seals, the seven women and the seventh day.

All the sevens must be completed by midnight, when the risen Christ shall come to redeem His children. With sermons, seminars and other activities, this will be a mind-blowing and heart-soothing camp meeting. Remember, when God says seven, six won’t do! Come and see—Henry J. Fordham, III, President

7 Minutes to Midnight
Pine Forge Academy, June 26-July 6

Sabbath Speakers

June 28 ■ Randolph P. Stafford, DD, has served as a conference Youth Ministries director, a union Ministerial secretary, a division director of church growth and assistant to the president in charge of public evangelism for the South Central Conference (Tenn.). During his 42 years in ministry, he has pastored more than 30 churches and baptized more than 24,000 people.

Stafford is the founder and director of Directional Relationships, a full service seminar group that takes a wholistic approach to the world of relationships. He has conducted marriage and family counseling sessions and has been the guest speaker at colleges, universities, churches and training conferences worldwide. He also served four years as the speaker and director for the radio program A Closer Walk. Stafford retired in August 2012. He is presently chairman of the start-up company Staff Initiatives. He and his wife, Debrah, have two adult children and two grandchildren. His sermon is titled “When God Says Seven, Six Won’t Do!”

July 5 ■ Barry C. Black, DMin, PhD, was elected chaplain of the U.S. Senate June 27, 2003. Prior to going to Capitol Hill, Black served in the U.S. Navy for more than 27 years, ending his distinguished career as the chief of Navy chaplains. As rear admiral, his personal decorations included the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (two medals), Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medals (two awards) and numerous unit awards, and campaign and service medals.

He is a native of Baltimore and an alumnus of Oakwood University (Ala.) and Andrews University (Mich.). He received additional education at multiple institutions across the country. Chaplain Black has been selected for many outstanding achievements. Of particular note, he was chosen from 127 nominees for the 1995 NAACP Renowned Service Award for his contribution to equal opportunity and civil rights. Chaplain Black and his wife, Brenda, are parents to three sons. His sermon will be titled “The Number 7.”
SEMINARS

ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES (ACS)

“Introduction to Disaster Preparedness” will help you prepare yourself, your family and your church to face disasters large and small. Presented by Minnie McNeil, ACS director, and the disaster response team.

In the “Ministry to the Cities” workshop, Ivan L. Warden, associate director for the Ellen G. White Estate at the General Conference, will discuss the challenges of ministering in the cities. He will share strategies, methods and lessons learned from Scripture for reaching millions with the Good News of hope.

HEALTH MINISTRIES

The Freedom Riders were a courageous band of civil rights activists who, in 1961, challenged segregation in the American South. They fought for full rights as citizens of this nation. In “Freedom Riders—Seven Ways to Freedom,” you’ll learn how we, too, function as health “freedom riders” by challenging our bodies to operate effectively at optimal capacity, achieving full life through lifestyle change, in glory to God. Learn how to care for your awesome body using seven simple steps: trust in God, nutrition, exercise, water, sunshine, temperance and rest. Come and take a ride on the “freedom bus” to Jessie R. Wagner School, June 30 to July 6.

YOUTH

The theme for youth camp meeting will be “Trust and Believe.” There will be full programs from morning until night for children aged 2 to 19. The young adult tent will have programming evenings and weekends. There will also be a special choirfest the first weekend.

SCHEDULE

MORNING POWER HOUR (6:45-8 a.m.)

Friday, June 27, Glenford Baxter, “Reformation and Revival”

Sabbath, June 28, Charles Drake, “The Loud Cry”

Sunday, June 29, Jackson Doggette, “The Confederated Power: Persecution”


Tuesday, July 1, Marcus Harris, “Spiritualism: The Work of Deception”

Wednesday, July 2, Gary Wimbish, “Early and Latter Rain”

Thursday, July 3, Mark McCleary, “The Sealing”

Friday, July 4, Keith Goodman, “The Sharing”

Sabbath, July 5, Marcellus Robinson, “The Midnight Cry”

Sunday, July 6, Henry J. Fordham, III, “When 7 Women Take Hold of One”

EVENING WORSHIP (7:30 p.m.)

Thursday, June 26, Orientation, Charles Cheatham

Friday, June 28, Education, Judy Dent and Pete Palmer

Sabbath, June 29, Concert/Vespers, Ministers’ Wives

Sunday, June 30, C.D. Brooks, “The Seven Seals of Revelation”

Monday, July 1, Walter Pearson, “The Seven Eyes of the Lamb”

Tuesday, July 2, John Trusty, “The 7th Commandment in Revelation”

Wednesday, July 3, Henry Wright, “The 7 Churches of Revelation”

Thursday, July 4, Oscar Lane, “The 7 Angels of Revelation/7 Last Plagues”

Friday, July 5, Ordination

Sabbath, July 6, Concert/Vespers, Literature Evangelists

For more camp meeting information, go to visitaec.com.
We are Family
Allegheny West Campground, June 27-28

Speakers

Adult Pavilion—Henry Wright has received more than 40 awards and recognitions for pastoral leadership, preaching and evangelism. He has worked as a professor of religion and pastoral ministry, as president of the Allegheny West Conference and vice president of the Columbia Union Conference. This month he transfers his 20-year leadership as senior pastor of the Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va., to the Takoma Park (Md.) congregation. Wright also teaches homiletics and church administration at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park.

Young Adult Pavilion—Jaime Kowiessar started as associate pastor at City Temple in Dallas last October. Prior to that, he spent the first six years of his ministry in his native New York City. For four years, he served the Ephesus church in Harlem as the youth and young adult pastor. During that time, he received his ordination. He then accepted the call to pastor the Bethany church in Westbury, N.Y., where God used his dynamic ministry to increase a membership of 27 to more than 300.

Kid’s Kingdom
Wilderness Escape

Kids attending Allegheny West Conference (AWC) camp meeting will get to engage in the Bible by learning from a well-known Bible hero—“Moses.” They will also discover what it was like to live in the Israelite camp, getting a chance to join one of the tribes for games, crafts and manna.

At the youth tent, the guest speaker will be John T. Boston, a new pastor at the Central church in Columbus, Ohio. Boston started his ministry in the South Atlantic Conference, and most recently served as a district pastor in Dublin, Ga. He was also responsible for planting a new congregation in Georgetown, S.C.
Conference Purchases New Office Complex

The Allegheny West Conference Executive Committee voted recently to purchase a new conference headquarters. The new complex, a three-story, 21,600-square-foot facility, is located at 1080 Kingsmill Parkway in Columbus, Ohio. It sits on 1.2 acres of land north of downtown, is easily accessible from all major highways and has 77 parking spaces.

“We’re thankful for the blessing of acquiring this building—well below market value—because it will provide much-needed space for offices, meeting rooms, an auditorium, a media center and more,” says William T. Cox, president.

The conference leads and supports the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ohio, West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania and Western Virginia. It has 12,000 members who worship in 62 churches and operates two schools and numerous community-based outreach programs. Since 1967, a year after it was established, its headquarters have been located in a house at 1339 East Broad Street in Columbus. The leadership team believes that securing this larger complex will facilitate its mission and vision to grow in the areas of evangelism, stewardship and education and enable the organization to enhance and expand its ministry to the diverse populations in its territory.

“We want to impact the larger community with a knowledge of Christ by providing practical education and training programs, sharing our lifestyle through wellness programs and assisting in their personal growth and development. All our ministries will be positively impacted by this development, and every gift and talent is needed to fulfill our potential,” Cox adds.

Leaders expect that the acquisition of this building will open doors, enhance community relationships, provide new sources of funding and inspire the AWC family to finish the work of preparing people for Christ’s soon return.

Plans are underway to prepare the building for occupation later this year. Updates will be shared on the conference website (awconf.org), through the Allegheny West Spirit newsletter, at upcoming town hall meetings and at this year’s camp meeting.

Glenville Pastors Invite Community for Movie Review

The Glenville church in Cleveland recently took a very nontraditional approach to evangelism. On a Sunday afternoon, they invited unchurched family and friends to join them in watching the controversial movie Noah. More than 370 people lined up outside one of the largest theaters at the Severence Center and shared their contact information before watching the film.

Afterward the moviegoers participated in an after-action review with Glenville pastors MyRon Edmonds and John Coaxum (above). With the assistance of a handout, Edmonds and Coaxum presented the truth about the Bible story. Glenville members also distributed a compilation of Ellen G. White writings on the story of Noah and refrigerator magnets with the church’s contact information.

Why use such an unconventional approach? “As a church, Christ has asked us to go! We have operated so long with a ‘come’ mentality that we have forgotten that we’ve been told to go!” said Pastor Edmonds. Coaxum added, “Glenville’s theme for this year is ‘The Church Has Left the Building.’ We are on a mission to literally meet people where they are and bring them the truth.”—Marna Borieux
Welcome

Grace! What a simple, yet comprehensive gift from God. We all need it and have no hope without it. “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,” (Eph. 2:8, NKJV).

This theme takes us to the heart of God and reveals how much He wants to touch our lives. “Divine grace is needed at the beginning, divine grace at every step of advance, and divine grace alone can complete the work. ... We may have had a measure of the Spirit of God, but by prayer and faith we are continually to seek more of the Spirit” (Prayer, p. 119).

Together we will seek a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit and look for Him to fully accomplish His will among us. Join us at camp meeting where all ages can pursue a closer walk with Jesus. —Rick Remmers, President

For more camp meeting information, scan this code.

THE Gathering
BY GRACE ALONE

Highland View Academy, June 17-21

Speakers

Karl Haffner, keynote speaker Friday evening and Sabbath, is the senior pastor of Ohio Conference’s Kettering church and a mission strategist for the nearby Kettering Adventist HealthCare. He is an award-winning author of several books, including No Greater Love, Destiny, Soul Matters, Pilgrim’s Problems and Diaper University. Haffner is crazy about his wife, Cherie’, and daughters Lindsey and Claire. He is amazed daily by God’s acceptance, and is committed to communicating Jesus to others.

Bill Knott, editor and executive publisher of the Adventist Review and Adventist World magazines, is the featured speaker Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Before going to the Adventist Review, Knott pastored both small and large congregations for 18 years. He is an elder and Sabbath School teacher in his Spencerville congregation in Silver Spring, Md., and a frequent speaker at a variety of meetings worldwide. He and his wife, Debby, a human resources specialist, have two young adult sons, Evan and Brady.

Ann Roda, pastor for families at New Hope church in Fulton, Md., presents during the daily family worship. She says the stories in the Bible are exciting and vibrant and she likes to tell them the same way—so everyone may enjoy. Roda spent 15 years as a corporate executive before answering God’s call to pastoral ministry. She loves to hang out with her husband, José Hernandez, a chaplain and counselor, go biking, study history and eat Thai food.

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In his seminars, “The Interpretation of Ellen White,” “The Authority of Ellen White,” and “Daniel 11 and Islam,” Gerhard Pfandl, retired associate director of the Biblical Research Institute, shares solid principles for making sense of these issues.

In her seminars, Heather Quintana, editor of Vibrant Life magazine, offers practical strategies for how to enjoy life to its fullest: “The Power of Positivity,” “How to Create a God-Inspired Bucket List” and “Discover Your True Identity.” Using the Bible and fun, self-assessment quizzes and activities, you will identify and create a list of the dreams God has placed on your heart.

In their workshops “Why Do Young Adults Leave or Stay in the Church?”, “Creating a Young Adult Friendly Congregation” and “Reaching Young Adults in Your Community,” veteran church planters Steve and Melissa Leddy reveal what can be done to stop the exodus of young adults from church. Steve is the founder of the Church Planting and Adventist Leadership School. He and Melissa are laying the groundwork for a church plant in Laurel, Md.

Learn “Simple Remedies You Can Use,” such as charcoal and hydrotherapies—and enjoy a chair massage—in a seminar taught by Daniel and Nerida McKibben. Daniel directs the Living Well program at the Potomac Adventist Book Center in Silver Spring, Md., and Nerida is a medical doctor and host of Hope Channel's daily show Go Healthy … for Good. They will also teach a hands-on course titled “How to Use the Health Message Evangelistically.”

20-MINUTE EVENING SEMINARS:
- “Three Keys to a Healthy Church” by Steve and Melissa Leddy
- “Go Healthy … for Good” by Daniel and Nerida McKibben
- “Chesapeake for Christ—Fulfilling the Mission” by Gary Gibbs

For more information and schedules, visit Chesapeake Conference’s website ccosda.org.

Through a warm, tight blend of harmony vocals, heartfelt solos and personal testimonies, Message of Mercy endeavor to draw listeners into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
Welcome

Welcome to 2014 Mountain View Conference Camp Meeting! The theme of this year’s camp meeting is “Commitment and Discipleship.”

The messages of camp meeting will explore what the commitment of a real disciple of Jesus looks like in everyday life. Please bring your Bibles and a thirst for the Word of God, and spend one of your best weeks in one of the most beautiful spots in the mountains of Appalachia called Valley Vista Adventist Center. You will go home blessed and refreshed, and by God’s grace, we wish you a renewed walk with Jesus.

Commitment and Discipleship

Valley Vista Adventist Center, June 13–21

Worship Speakers

Steve Wohlb erg, speaker/director of White Horse Media (whitehorsemedia.com) and the host of His Voice Today radio and television broadcasts, will speak for the closing weekend. He is the author of over 30 books, has been a guest on over 500 radio and television shows, and has spoken by special invitation inside the Pentagon and U.S. Senate. His passion is to exalt his Savior, be a faithful husband and father and prepare others for Jesus Christ's soon return.

Jerry Page, and his wife, Janet, will speak the opening weekend. Jerry is the ministerial secretary for the General Conference, and Janet is ministerial associate for prayer, pastoral spouses and families. They are passionate about knowing Jesus, prayer and reaching people for Him. They have shared their experiences on various TV programs and at gatherings globally.

Concerts

The Johnson-Greene Family Quartet, comprised of Del and Andee Johnson and Harold and Christine Greene, will sing Saturday, June 14, at 4 p.m. The two families joined talents in 1997 to sing with a sunshine band for a nursing home in Westminster, Md. They are all active members of the Westminster church.

Mary Grace, who was born without her right forearm and with one leg eight inches shorter than the other, will perform Saturday, June 21, at 4 p.m. You’ll be inspired by her awesome music and testimony as she shares the unconditional love and acceptance she found in the Lord.
Saturday–Saturday, 6:30–7:30 a.m.  ■ "Don’t Hold Your Breath!"  ■ Michael Roland

Michael Roland became a Seventh-day Adventist while serving on board a nuclear submarine in the U.S. Navy, and later attended Southern Adventist University (Tenn.). He is a member of the Southern California Conference Prayer, Spirituality and Renewal Team. His prayer is that all of us may discover together the joy of having an intimate relationship with God through prayer, “the breath of the soul.”

Monday–Friday, 9:30–10:45 a.m.  ■ “Divine Design 101—The Biblical Plan for Educating and Redeeming Our Children”  ■ L. Roo McKenzie, EdD, vice president for advancement and university relations at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., is a former education evangelist for the Southeastern California Conference. He is passionate about helping prepare young people for eternal life with Jesus, their Friend, and helping every Seventh-day Adventist youth to receive their education according to God’s plan at home, church and in school.

Monday–Friday, 11 a.m.–12:15 p.m.  ■ “Commitment to …”  ■ Throughout the week, Pastor Dan Jarrad will speak about discipleship. Jarrad became an Adventist minister after serving 18 years in the Pentecostal Church. He then went on to serve for more than 30 years as an ordained Seventh-day Adventist minister.

Sunday–Thursday, 4–5:15 p.m.  ■ “Remodeling Your Life—God’s Transforming Power”  ■ Jim Ayer is an international speaker whose greatest passion is introducing people to a lifesaving friendship with his best friend, Jesus Christ. He has authored a number of books and recently released the 12-week Transformation Study Guide and a 12 episode TV/DVD series called Remodeling Your Life—God’s Transforming Power. He is also the producer and host of the popular television series Making Waves, which airs on 18 Christian networks around the world.

Sunday, June 15  ■ Blood draw in the lodge  ■ 7–9 a.m.  ■ Once again, Davis Memorial Hospital is making available several blood tests at health fair prices.

■ Lay Advisory Council in the Caffee Pavilion  ■ 8:30–10 a.m.  ■ If you are a delegate, or just have an interest in the workings of Lay Advisory, be sure to attend this meeting led by Elfie Edwards, chairperson.

■ Adventist Book Center big sale in the Caffee Pavilion  ■ 10:30 a.m.  ■ Christian materials will be offered at the ABC camp meeting sale. Grab a seat, hold on and be ready to stock up on some great deals.
Dave Weigley is one of eight children raised by Seventh-day Adventist dairy farmers in Enders, Pa., (near Harrisburg). Because of their strong commitment, his parents sacrificed to send all their children to Christian schools (seven of the eight to Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa).

Weigley attended Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., but graduated from Southern Adventist University (Tenn.), where he completed a Bachelor of Arts in Theology. He also holds a Master of Business Administration in managerial leadership. He is currently a candidate for a Doctor of Philosophy at Andrews University (Mich.). He has served as a conference pastor, evangelist, communication director, ministerial director, stewardship director, executive secretary and president.

Weigley and his wife, Becky, have two adult children—Christy and Jon—and four grandchildren. He has been serving as president of the Columbia Union Conference since 2006.
English Youth Camp Meeting

Stand Firm!

With the theme “Stand Firm!” the Youth Ministries department has the goal of motivating youth to stand firm when facing trials and pressures in their daily lives. The New Jersey youth are being encouraged and inspired to be like Daniel and stand firm to what they believe.

All youth are invited to attend and bring their friends to camp meeting. The weekend is going to be packed with activities, interactive classes, amazing speakers, spiritual moments, uplifting testimonies and great fellowship. Stand firm and be there!

Mission Trip in New Jersey

The Youth Department is promoting a special program this year for youth 14 years and older. Youth in Service will be a weeklong mission trip to Newark and surrounding areas July 4 to July 12. This will be a great program for all those who are willing to use their vacation time serving the unprivileged community of Newark and nearby. Lodging and meals will be offered at the Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Tranquility. To register by June 16, visit youthinservice.eventbrite.com.

Speaker

Stefan Burton-Schnüll, the speaker for the English youth camp meeting, was born in Germany but moved to England in his early 20s. He studied a variety of subjects, such as English as a foreign language, human biology and neuroscience. Eventually he followed the Lord’s call and went to the seminary at Newbold College in England to become a pastor. He started his pastorate in the South England Conference in 2000, but eight years ago, he moved to Bermuda and worked there as a pastor until joining the New Jersey Conference in the summer of 2013. He is married to Barbara and they have two children, Micah and Michael. Stefan’s interests include reading, music, traveling and history.

Mission Trip in New Jersey

A weeklong mission trip to Newark and area — ages 14+
July 4-12, 2014
 Lodging @TVRC
$220/person [Deadline to register is June 16, 2014]
Incl. Lodging, Meals & Transportation
More info: nyouthnews.org
Youth Ministries Department
800-322-9573 — Cristina Macneal

English Children’s Camp Meeting

With the theme “Stand Firm!” the New Jersey Conference Children’s Ministries team will focus on the story of Daniel and his friends and how they stood firm in their beliefs, even when they were facing dangerous situations in their lives. Sabbath School will be divided by ages, and Children’s Church is designed for children aged 5 and up. In the afternoon, children will have a special program starting at 3 p.m.
Jesus: The End
Mount Vernon Academy, June 8-14

Special Speakers

Friday Night and Sabbath School—
In China, Daniel Jiao’s parents were arrested and forced into hard labor camps for their belief in the Sabbath and Jesus. Jiao, Seventh-day Adventist communication and ministerial director from the Chinese Union Mission, has faced his own trials with the Sabbath. Their faith inspired and shaped his, and he hopes to inspire and shape others.

Sabbath Service—Enjoy breaking bread with Ron Halvorsen Jr., new Ohio Conference president. His presentation is titled “Patmos and the Pioneers.”

Presenters/Seminars

Dig into your Bibles after breakfast with Patrick Mazani, Bowling Green district pastor, and his class “Reading Daniel in the Dirt,” a study of the book of Daniel in light of archaeology. Learn to think, feel and act more like Jesus with Jeba Moses, pastor of the Clifton church in Cincinnati, and his class “Renewing the Mind.” Or discover “Missed Messages” in Galatians and Revelation 14 with a class by Tom Hughes, pastor of the Newark district. Also returning this year are classes on health, wellness and cooking, as well as one on inductive Bible studies.

New this year will be preaching-centered meetings each evening after inter-generational worship. These meetings feature Ohio Conference pastors from across the state. Yuliyan Filipov, Worthington pastor; Edward Marton, Mansfield pastor; Clifford Wright, Mount Vernon City district pastor; and Dave Hutman, Stillwater district pastor, will each speak on an end-time topic.
Additional Information

Lodging: To make MVA dorm room or RV/tent reservations, contact Dean Rico Woolcock at campmeeting@mvacademy.org or call (740) 485-5427. Leave a voicemail. All requests will be addressed within 48 hours.

Weekday Meals: Weekday meals will be available for purchase in the MVA Café Monday through Friday.

“ABC” Specials: New Leaf Market, in collaboration with Clark Distributing, will provide a limited number of denominational books for sale during camp meeting (in the former ABC store). A specialized mailer with products will be delivered to most Ohio Conference member homes, which will be available during camp meeting.

Additional details and a full schedule is available at ohioadventist.org.

Rev It Up! Revival Christian Biker Camp Meeting

Mount Vernon Academy, June 6-8

Ride your motorcycle, come in an RV or thumb a ride to motorcycle camp meeting. Join biker enthusiasts for fellowship, gospel music and the Good News at this unique, weekend camp meeting organized by Tom Hughes (pictured with his wife, Debbie), pastor of the Newark district, author of The Skull and the Crossbones and founder of Bible Biker Ministries.

Ride your bike in Amish country, participate in games while riding your bike and enjoy a Saturday night concert. Featured speakers include Paul Collins of Leave a Mark Church; Debbonaire Kovac, author; Herb Orellana, evangelist/singer; and Pastor Hughes.

Sabbath lunch and Sunday breakfast are provided. Register at ohioadventist.org or call (740) 397-4665, ext. 111. For lodging at MVA, contact Dean Rico Woolcock at (740) 485-5427 and leave a voicemail, or email campmeeting@mvacademy.org.

Download a color brochure and the complete weekend schedule at ohioadventist.org.
Going Deeper
Blue Mountain Academy, June 13-21

Speakers

This year will feature Sabbath speakers Frank Gonzalez (pictured), senior pastor of the Walker Memorial church in Florida, and Mike Tucker, speaker/director for the Faith for Today telecast. Gonzalez will focus on going deeper through the Sabbath, the Ten Commandments and the cross of Christ, while Tucker will emphasize going deeper through prayer, worship and trusting.

Speakers throughout the week include Charles Tapp, pastor of the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md.; Claudio Consuegra, DMin, and Pamela Consuegra, PhD, directors of Family Ministries for the North American Division; Karen Lewis, a Bible worker; John Goley, DrPH, a former professor in lifestyle intervention; Bryan Laue, pastor of the Gettysburg and Hanover churches; Randy Nims, pastor of the Shenango Valley, New Castle and Meridian Road churches; Jennifer Jill Schweitzer, a licensed counselor; and Becky Curtis, who runs Take Courage Coaching.

Register online today at paconference.org.

Hispanic Camp Meeting

June 6-8
Blue Mountain Academy

El Pr. Ruber Álvarez Alfonso nació en la provincia Granma en el oriente de Cuba.

Ha ejercido el ministerio por 21 años y se ha desempeñado como pastor distrital y Departamental de Asociación. Actualmente es el Director de Jóvenes y del Ministerio Personal de la Unión Cubana. Ha conducido campañas evangelísticas en las tres Américas, Sudáfrica e Italia.

Contrajo matrimonio hace 20 años con Mileydis Matos y tienen dos hijos, Ruber Raúl de 18 años y Leydis Mercedes de 17 años.

Haitian Camp Meeting

June 21
Invitation à la communauté haïtienne

La vibrante et grandissante communauté Haïtienne de la Fédération de Pennsylvania veut rappeler à toute la communauté que la tradition du camp meeting spirituel est maintenue et sera rééditée avec ampleur cette année. Merci de faire vœux le rendez vous du 21 juin prochain en participant à nos séminaires et au culte d’adoration.—Damel Marlus, Pasteur de Shekinah, Lebanon et Mont Pocono

Elie Henry, né en Haïti, détient un doctorat en théologie, il est l’actuel secrétaire exécutif de la division interaméricaine, Il sera l’orateur du camp meeting.
**Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists**  
720 Museum Road, Reading, PA 19611-1492  
Phone 610-374-8331

**June 13-21, 2014 Camp Meeting Reservation Application**  
Applications only accepted with payment in full

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City/State/Zip</th>
<th>Phone (Cell Phone if possible)</th>
<th>Total # in your party</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Age</th>
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**NOTES:**

1. A completed application with payment in full is required for all reservations. Partial payments will be returned to sender. Checks should be made payable to Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Applications will be processed in the order in which they are received.

2. We regret that we are unable to provide wheelchairs and other equipment for the disabled.

3. All those who plan to stay in the Dorms and have children ages 10 and over, will be asked to stay in the respective dormitories — i.e., girls in Girls' Dorm and boys in Boys’ Dorm.

4. Children under 18 years of age are not permitted to stay overnight at any of the camp meeting facilities unless accompanied by an adult.

5. **ABSOLUTELY NO PETS** are allowed in the campgrounds or in the camping areas! Names of local kernels will be provided in your confirmation packet.

6. Use of microwaves, air conditioners, and other electrical appliances are **PROHIBITED** due to the lack of adequate electricity. **THIS INCLUDES ALL RECREATIONAL VEHICLES PARKED IN KEYSTONE WITH 20 AMP SERVICE.** (Exception — Grove City trailer sites, as they all have 30amp service.)

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**Full Time Rates/Location ~June 13-21-14**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dorm room with 2 single beds</td>
<td>$265.00</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tent with 20 amp electricity &amp; floor 1 double cot &amp; 2 single cots</td>
<td>$120.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small personal tent or trailer space up to 20ft.</td>
<td>$60.00 Tent $120.00 RV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keystone Cabin (8 bunk beds) Price for Camp-meeting only.</td>
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<td>Keystone Trailer space, with electricity Trail size: _______ ft. 20 amp</td>
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<td>Grove City Trailer space, with 30 amp electricity usage Trail size: _______ ft.</td>
<td>$135.00</td>
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**Per Day Rates/Location**

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<td>Small personal tent or trailer space up to 20ft.</td>
<td>RV $20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keystone Trailer space, with electricity Trail size: _______ ft.</td>
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<td>Grove City Trailer space, with 30 amp electricity usage Trail size: _______ ft.</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
<td>$</td>
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**Total Charges** $_______

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**Full Payment Enclosed:**

- [ ] Check #
- [ ] Money Order
- [ ] Cash (do not send cash in mail)
- [ ] Credit Card
- [ ] M/C -- or -- [ ] Visa

Exp: _______ Code: _______  
Signature:________

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**Welcome**

This year’s theme is from the Bible text, “… Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb” (Rev. 19:9, NIV). This scripture raises three obvious questions: Who is the host? Who is invited to this feast? And, what will you do with the invitation?

The answers also come from Scripture: Who invited us? “… He who loves us and freed us from our sins by His blood” (Rev 1:5, NIV). Who is invited? All are invited who have “… washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (Rev 7:14, NIV)—that is, those who have accepted Jesus as their Savior.

We all get invitations, and at the end is an RSVP request, meaning “please respond.” When you consider your answer to any invitation, you probably first check your calendar for conflicts, then ask your family if they want to accept, or maybe you simply decide you don’t want to go. Some of us respond immediately, others wait until the last minute, and some simply forget.

Jesus has extended an invitation, an eternal invitation. Will you accept?

From a fellow disciple on the journey ...

—William K. Miller, President

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**His Invitation**

Shenandoah Valley Academy, June 24–28

**Main Speakers**

**Alex Bryan**—Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Evening, Sabbath Service—Bryan is senior pastor of the Walla Walla University church in College Place, Wash. He has also served for several years in a variety of capacities on Christian college campuses, as administrator, teacher and pastor, including this past school year as president of Kettering College in Kettering, Ohio. Bryan earned bachelor’s degrees at Southern Adventist University (Tenn.), a Master of Divinity at Andrews University (Mich.) and a Doctor of Ministry from George Fox University ( Ore.). He is the author of *The Green Cord Dream*, which explores a fresh vision for Seventh-day Adventist Christianity in the 21st century.

**Jon Paulien**—Plenary Bible Study, Wednesday-Sabbath Morning—Paulien is professor of religion and dean of the School of Religion at Loma Linda University (Calif.). He is the author of more than 25 books and more than 200 articles, scholarly papers and other publications. He is a specialist in the study of the Johannine literature in the New Testament (the Gospel of John and book of Revelation) and the intersection of faith with contemporary culture. He also takes special delight in seminars and presentations to non-specialists who can make practical use of the material in the real world.

**Karl Haffner**—Friday, Saturday Evening—Haffner is senior pastor of the Kettering (Ohio) church and mission strategist for Kettering Adventist HealthCare, also based in Kettering. He has bachelor’s degrees in theology and business, an MBA and earned a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy. He is the author of 13 books and has written hundreds of articles. He also hosts the television program *Living Lessons* aired on the Loma Linda Broadcasting Network.
**Seminars**

“*When All You Can Do is Pray*” facilitated by Charles Tapp, senior pastor of the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md.

“*Journey With Jesus*” facilitated by Travis Walker, pastor of the New River Valley church in Christiansburg, Va., and Mountain View company in Floyd, Va.

“*Cultivating a Mary Heart in a Martha World*” facilitated by Byron Greenberg, a clinical psychologist and assistant professor at Virginia State University.

“*Parenting*” facilitated by John Swafford, director of Georgia Cumberland Conference’s Children/ Junior Youth Ministries office.

“*Gems From the Book of Zechariah*” facilitated by Bob Banks, pastor of the Warrenton (Va.) church, and Bill Shea, retired associate director for the Biblical Research Institute in Silver Spring, Md.

“*Active*” facilitated by Peter Casillas, Potomac’s associate director for evangelism and church planting.

“*How-to Skills for Bible Study Workshop*” facilitated by Maria Ovando-Gibson, formerly a director for the Stewardship Department at the General Conference.

“*Nurturing Family Relationships*”—Special interactive packets will be available to spend quality time together.

“*Sabbath School Lesson, Discussion and Interaction*” facilitated by Jim Hiner, pastor of the Patterson Avenue church in Richmond, Va.

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**Special Features**

**Women’s Prayer Breakfasts—Friday and Sabbath Mornings**—Themed “What Women are Really Saying When They Talk About Their Work,” ladies will discuss the deceptive barrier that exists in our culture that attempts to divide the sacred from the secular. This split compromises homes, churches and jobs. Learn how women can create a spiritual movement by recognizing and embracing one unique, God-given invitation. **Karen Cress**, assistant to the president for strategic initiatives, will be the presenter.

**Concert: Triumphant Quartet—June 28, 3 p.m.—**

Formed in 2002, the then-named Integrity Quartet began their ministry at the Louise Mandrell Theater in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. In December 2004, after a nationwide contest to submit entries, they changed their name to the Triumphant Quartet.

In 2007 the group received the Christian Music Presenters Artist Endorsement, was awarded certification as American Gospel Music artists and received an invitation to perform in Carnegie Hall. Two years later, Triumphant received a GRAMMY nomination for Best Southern, Country or Bluegrass Gospel Album for their release *Everyday*. In 2011 *SingingNews* magazine named the quartet’s song “Love Came Calling” Favorite Song of the Year, as well as Favorite Album of the Year.

With all of the accolades, numerous top-10 radio singles and continued success, the men of Triumphant keep their work in perspective. They are truly humbled and grateful for the support their fans have shown for their music and ministry. Their main focus is to keep God first in everything they do.

For full schedules, special events, biographies and seminar descriptions, go to pcsda.org/campmeeting.
Anatomy Students Witness 3D Robotic Surgery

Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) seniors enrolled in the Human Anatomy and Physiology course recently went on a field trip to the Whitaker Center in Harrisburg, Pa., for a dramatic, one-of-a-kind experience. While watching a live surgery, they witnessed cutting-edge techniques with a new 3D robotic instrument called the da Vinci Surgical System and a harmonic scalpel that cuts and seals with heat from vibrations.

“We watched a hysterectomy and appendectomy,” says Rose Bechtel, biology and science teacher. “A gynecologist joined us to answer questions and explain what was happening.”

During the surgery, the surgeon talked to the students, explaining each procedure while describing the patient’s internal organs as students watched on a monitor.

“It was a really good experience,” says Joon Young Chang of the trip. “I always wanted to see a live surgery. The tools [they] used were cool.”

Markia Warren reports, “I learned a lot of things, like how careful they [need to be] so they don’t mess up.”

The center also has numerous, permanent, hands-on science displays, which the students enjoyed. The field trip was made possible by a $700 grant from Target.

About BMA’s course, Bechtel reports, “Students earn eight college credits for two semesters of Human Anatomy and Physiology. A professor from Washington Adventist University [in Takoma Park, Md.] visits to review the curriculum and certify compliance.”

School Musicians Enjoy MusicFest 2014

More than 130 students from 11 Adventist elementary schools came with instruments and voices to join the BMA orchestra and choir for MusicFest 2014. The weekend event started Friday afternoon with practice, practice and more practice. For Friday night vespers, the BMA orchestra, La Sonnette Ensemble (handbell choir) and Bel Canto (touring choir) shared their music. The combined orchestra and choir performed for the church service and presented a secular concert Saturday night.

“MusicFest provides students with an experience in a larger ensemble. It builds relationships. I like to meet the up-and-coming musicians and look forward to working with them as BMA students,” says Lawrence Galera, director of Bel Canto, the school choir and orchestra. He also teaches instruments and voice.

Sabbath afternoon each school presented music to an enthusiastic audience. John and Rosie Redding from Gettysburg, Pa., came with their fifth-grade daughter.

“We loved the afternoon showcase when each visiting school performed. We want our daughter to be familiar with BMA and to know the other students when she comes to academy,” they said.

Charles Rutt, principal of the Lehigh Valley Elementary School in Whitehall, Pa., brought 12 students for the Ten-year-old Carlos Torress (far right) from the Lake Nelson Seventh-day Elementary School in Lake Nelson, N.J., plays the cello with BMA orchestra members.

choir. “When all the schools come together, the students get a feeling of being part of a larger world,” Rutt says.

Eighth-grader Matthew Dayton from the Wyoming Valley Seventh-day Elementary School in Mountain Top, Pa., said, “I like the singing and meeting new friends.”
Student Pastors Lead FOCUS Week

Each year Blue Mountain Academy student pastors are elected for classes, clubs and the Student Association (SA). One of the responsibilities of each pastor is to preach during FOCUS (Focus on Christ’s Ultimate Sacrifice) Week.

“I have students preach because students respond better to a peer than to a guest speaker,” says Shawneesee Cargile, chaplain. “It also forces the speakers to evaluate their beliefs before they present up front.”

Senior Diana Montalvo, SA president, helps the speakers prepare their sermons. “We come together and discuss ideas at our weekly pastors meeting. Asking ‘What does the student body need?’ helps create our theme,” she says. “Praise” was this year’s theme.

Each pastor is responsible for planning an evening worship. “They are practicing what a church pastor would do,” says Cargile. He adds that preparing the student body is equally important. “Some are going to have a spiritual high, and some are going to have a hard week,” Cargile explains. Teachers clear the week of tests to support time for rest and reflection.

Freshman Ashley Hunte, Girls Club pastor, titled her sermon “Praise Through the Storm.” She explains, “When life is upside down and it gets hard, we need hope, we need the Bible, we need prayer.” Of the experience, she says, “It helped me to make more time for God and to evaluate my relationship.”

Steven Baksa titled his sermon “Giving Praise to the King—Even Though You are a King.” A pastor of the Guys Club, Baksa says of the title, “David took on a priest’s role when he was dancing before God. He humbled himself and influenced many.” While preparing his material, he says, “I had to evaluate what I believe and why, and determine if it agrees with Scripture.”

Celica Galeano, Arial Aires pastor, learned an essential lesson: “I can’t do this by myself. I really relied on God.” Adrianna Larracuente, SA pastor, had never written a sermon or preached. Now she speaks in churches on tour weekends. “To be honest, I don’t like public speaking. God called me to do this,” she says.

Herbert Goulding and his son, Robert, BMA’s senior class pastor, share the platform Sabbath morning for Focus Week. This was the first time the father/son team had preached together.

School Farm Opens for Business

The new, one-year agriculture program, which houses two greenhouses and three orchards, opened to the public March 30 with cold weather plants for sale. Cool weather crops, flowers and herbs this spring will lead to flowers, veggies and hanging baskets in May. BMA students and local Adventist adults cultivate the farm’s seven acres.

Business hours at the produce store are 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Sunday through Friday. Community residents are invited through newspaper advertisements and via signs near the academy. Several local businesses in Hamburg and Leesport are also selling BMA’s plants, reports Aaron Weber, director. He adds, “We have banners at each location advertising Blue Mountain Academy’s farm.”

Senior Jared Eckert and Aaron Weber, program director, pause from working in one of two greenhouses that are part of the school’s new agriculture program.
Broadcast Journalism Students Attend Film Festival

Four Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) broadcast journalism students recently attended SONscreen, the annual Seventh-day Adventist film festival held this year at Southern Adventist University in Chattanooga, Tenn. While there, the students attended the screening of The Blueprint, the much-anticipated documentary about Adventist education directed and produced by Martin Doblmeier. Doblmeier also created the award-winning documentary The Adventists.

“This was of special interest to the students since two of last year’s broadcast journalism students, Michael “CJ” Gibbons and recent graduate Caleb Uzcategui, were asked by Nathan DeWild, Doblmeier’s director of photography, to contribute footage to the film,” reports Robert Martinez, class instructor.

Festival attendees also learned skills from filmmaking workshops about lighting and documentary film directing. “Everyone has a different way of doing lighting. With the skills I learned, I know that I can discover ways in which to do lighting to help my class’ filmmaking,” says junior Nathaniel Stone, reflecting on a lighting seminar he attended.

This year’s class is producing their second original film called The Tiger’s Table. “I guess I came back [from SONscreen] with more passion to finish the film,” remarks junior Kayenda Twesigye, producer for the film. The Tiger’s Table will premiere May 10 in SAA’s auditorium at 8 p.m. View the movie trailer at spaac.net.

Senior Earns National Merit Scholarship

The National Merit Scholarship Program has named Spencerville senior Matthew Fennell a finalist. High school students enter the National Merit program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test during their junior year. As one of 1.5 million entrants each year, Fennell was one of 15,000 who advanced to finalist standing, and is one of 8,000 finalists selected to receive a Merit Scholarship award.

A member of the National Honor Society, Fennell excels in academics and is an individual with many interests and leadership qualities. He has served as class president all four years in high school, participated in music and drama, and enjoyed being on the golf and volleyball teams. Fennell has also volunteered in his church community and participated in two mission trips.

“His actions and conduct reflect his commitment to Christ, which he embraces as a Christian,” notes Brian Kittleson, principal.

“This was a cool experience for me,” says Fennell. “I have worked really hard throughout high school, and it’s nice to see that it’s all paid off. I’m glad for all the things I’ve learned at Spencerville. I feel prepared for college and for life!”
School Body Shows Appreciation to Pastor

When Jerry Lutz announced he was leaving the Spencerville church as senior pastor and going to serve as the executive secretary for the Chesapeake Conference, the staff and school board knew they wanted to show their appreciation. Pastor Lutz greatly helped make the dream of a new school building a reality. Before his last school board meeting in March, students, staff and school board members gathered to surprise Lutz with special thanks through cards, speeches and a beautiful cake with a picture of the new academy building on it. Principal Brian Kittleson presented an appreciation plaque to Lutz that will hang in the school as a reminder of his leadership. Scott McClure, school board chair, also presented Lutz with an engraved award to keep at home.

“SAA has been so blessed by Pastor Lutz’s leadership, not only in his spearheading of the building program for our new school, but also in the guidance and counsel he has provided on an ongoing basis. He has been a true friend to our board, faculty, staff and students,” says McClure.

Prospective Students Participate in Academy Day

SAA recently gave a warm welcome to 53 students when they visited for Academy Day hoping to discover what the high school program could offer them. Following registration and refreshments, the morning moved quickly as students broke into small groups, did an activity led by the officers of the Student Association and began making new friends. Visiting students also got involved in a scavenger hunt, chapel service, music performances, icebreaker activities and an acro show.

The visitors got to meet with many of SAA’s teachers. They also took tests to qualify for departmental scholarships in English, history, math, Bible, science, choir, art, band, orchestra, bells and acro. By the end of the day, SAA awarded more than $16,000.

Following a slideshow of the day’s activities, students received goodie bags as they bid farewell. “We want to encourage anyone who wants to learn more about SAA to call and schedule an educational consult,” says Brian Kittleson, principal.

**CALENDAR**

**May**

17  Alumni Sabbath  
18  Constituency Meeting  
20  Academic Awards Banquet  
23, 27, 28  High School Exams

**June**

1  Commencement
We did Great Things for Christ in the Amazon Rainforest

After months of preparation and raising the necessary funds, our reward finally arrived. A group of 54 people headed for Brazil on a Far Out Missions trip led by Denny Grady, Potomac Conference youth director, and Tim Harley, Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) chaplain.

Traveling first by plane then bus, we finally loaded onto a three-story boat (pictured) that would be our home for the next 12 days. Everything was hectic as we struggled to organize our stuff and settle into our hammocks. That first night was beautiful as the boat made its way north into the Amazon rainforest.

The next morning, our group, consisting mostly of SVA students, was briefed about how the mission trip was going to work and what we were to expect. Our first task was to form a line and throw bricks up a hill so we could build a dormitory and meeting pavilion for the Amazonian people.

The students and staff worked hard throughout the week to reach the local communities of Nova Esperança and Terra Preta. Many people got involved in the various work groups, rotating in and out of projects wherever the need was greatest and their talents of most benefit.

During our 12 days in Brazil, a medical team visited different communities and helped in any way they could. Besides working on the two buildings, construction teams also painted, put on a roof and added a ceiling to the Seventh-day Adventist church. Still, other teams dug septic systems for some local residents or led a Vacation Bible School program for the local children.

We worked from 6 a.m. until lunch, and then put in another two or three hours before heading out for a swim. Our days ended with supper and an inspirational talk or alligator hunting with some Brazilian natives.

Brazil’s scenery is beautiful and was a blessing to wake up to every morning. The children were extremely accepting and loving. On our last Sabbath with the community, nearly every SVA student had a local child attached to their arm or hip. Also that day, 10 people gave their lives to Christ and were baptized, including an entire family. At first, the father didn’t plan to get baptized, but when he saw his family come up out of the water and the pastor asked if anyone else would give their life to Christ, he rushed forward, giving his life to God.

This trip brought many people together to do great things for Christ. I hope it continues to do so for many years to come.—Rachelle Pichot (‘14)
Basketball Teams Achieve Hoop Dreams

Earlier this year, the Takoma Academy (TA) Tigers made history at Southwestern Adventist University (Texas) when the varsity and junior varsity ladies teams and men's varsity team won the 19th annual Hoops Classic basketball tournament. They helped make up the 40 teams from around the nation that participated in the athletic event.

The Lady Tigers varsity team brought back the trophy to TA for a second time with the help of "most valuable player" Avery Seymour and teammates Ashley Seymour, Kristin Hall, Nia Dennis and Lorena Perez. They received assistance from new teammates Diamond Rankine, Chynna Smith, Cheyanne Anderson and Alexis Taylor, and got direction from Rike Akande and Donald Thrower, associate head coaches. Additionally, this was TA's first year sending a junior varsity ladies team to the competition, which also made them the only school with an all freshman squad.

According to principal Carla Thrower, last year many at the tournament asked why TA's varsity boys team didn't compete. Could it be that they were afraid to compete at that level? The boys team—with seniors Charles Vines, Kendall Hucks, Byron McMillan and Joel Bullard—answered with a resounding feat of athleticism that helped propel the team to victory in its first visit to the competition. In fact, for the first time in Southwestern's history, the school gave scholarships to all winning senior varsity young men to the tune of $48,000. Jerry McFarland, head coach, and Chris McFarland, assistant coach, were responsible for leading the boys to victory.

A proud Keith Beckett, TA's athletic director, states that TA's three teams represented the characteristics of true champions. Quoting Jerry Lynch, a sports psychologist, he said, "A champion views competitors as partners who provide challenge and a chance to improve." He says that with each team they faced, TA students enhanced their basketball skills and demonstrated that the games weren't necessarily about winning but about enjoying the sport.

After setting the standard for high school basketball on the national level, the Lady Tigers varsity team went on to focus their efforts on the local level. They made history again by winning the Maryland Independent School League Championship Basketball title for the fourth consecutive year by defeating another Columbia Union powerhouse, Spencerville Adventist Academy from Spencerville, Md. According to Thrower, even more impressive than the win was the warm, collegial atmosphere between the two teams after the game.
The Small School Advantage

A March 2014 report by the Council of Independent Colleges states that science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) expertise is necessary to sustain American competitiveness in the global economy. This report also mentioned that, contrary to public assumptions about the importance of scale, many small and midsize independent colleges are preparing postsecondary students for a career and/or graduate study in STEM fields, and they are doing so in a more efficient way than larger institutions. Report findings suggest that, as a sector, small and midsize private institutions perform better than public institutions in students’ persistence and undergraduate degree completion rates in STEM fields and in shorter time.

At Washington Adventist University (WAU), our success can be attributed to the blending of faith and learning, our faculty’s emphasis on teaching, small class size, opportunities for students to fulfill internship requirements locally, individualized instruction and the use of technology in content delivery. Through continued development and refinement of policies, systems, processes, planning and application of resources, WAU is in pursuit of excellence. We will emphasize institutional integrity by embracing the life and teachings of Jesus; offering diversity and affordability; setting high performance standards; assessing academic effectiveness; and systematically improving to achieve high-quality access, responsiveness and accountability.

This is Washington Adventist University.

Sports Teams Record Winning Seasons

This was a winning and record-breaking year for the WAU sports teams. For the first time in school history, the Shock men’s basketball team won the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) Men’s Basketball Division I National Championship. The team beat the Tennessee Temple Crusaders at the championship tournament on March 8 in Uniontown, Pa., with a score of 61 to 38.

“This was the third time in four years that our team was able to participate in the United States Collegiate Athletic Association National Championships,” said WAU coach Patrick Carey II. “I am proud of the players, and proud that they were able to win the championship title this year, despite injuries.”

Competitive sports teams are part of the vision of excellence that Weymouth Spence, EdD, WAU president, has for the university. This year the men's soccer team earned the number seven seed in the USCAA National Championships in Charleston, W.Va. The women's basketball team recorded the most wins in 20 years by finishing the 2013-14 season with an overall record of 9-18, and the cross country team had one of its strongest years in recent history.

The Department of Athletics applied to become a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, which was recently approved to take effect August 1. The move will enhance support for the athletics program.

Up-to-date information about WAU athletics is available at wauathletics.com.
Religious Studies Professor Authors Four Articles

In the past academic year, WAU’s own Zack Plantak, PhD, a professor of religious studies, has had four of his articles published. His most recent article, “Occupy Till I Come: Relevance of the Belief of the Coming of God,” was published in the Winter 2014 issue of *Adventist Today* (pp. 22-27). The piece explores Christian beliefs, perspectives and actions between the first and second coming of Christ.

Plantak also authored “Creation Care in a Careless World” in the April-June 2013 issue of *Dynamic Steward*; “A Call to Restore God’s Justice” in the Summer 2013 issue of *The Journal of Adventist Education*; and an article on the meaning of life, “To Live is to Love,” which appeared in the Summer 2013 issue of *Adventist Today*.

Long-Awaited Permit Signals Green Light for Ball Field

WAU officials recently celebrated permit approval for the university’s new $1.8 million ball field on campus. The approval, which was granted by Montgomery County March 11, culminated a yearlong process of plan and permit reviews. The long-awaited approval signaled the green light for construction to finally begin.

“We are anxiously anticipating the completion of this ball field because it will support our students in their intellectual, spiritual and physical development,” said Weymouth Spence, president. “It also improves our physical campus, which helps us move closer to our goal of becoming one of the premier universities in the mid-Atlantic region.”

The new artificial turf will provide a safe and aesthetically pleasing year-round space for baseball and soccer games, along with a variety of activities for students, staff and members of the local community. The project includes new lights, bleachers and a scoreboard.

“This is a continuation of our campus master plan,” said Patrick Farley, vice president of finance. “In the last five years, we have made more than $16 million in investments in the physical campus, and the results are noticeable.”

KCI is the architect for the ball field project and Skanska USA Building is providing the construction services. The project is expected to be completed this summer.

Save the Date

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From Africa to Kettering

My first visit to Kettering was in the fall of 1968. I had just completed a six-week mission trip to 10 hospitals and 60 dispensaries that comprised the medical work the church sponsored in Central and Southern Africa. While attending a church conference in Montreal on behalf of the Trans Africa Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Harley Rice, the administrative representative of the Medical Department of the world church, asked me to visit Kettering Medical Center immediately after the conference. I agreed, and spent a pleasant few days at Kettering.

Before my trip I had just told the leaders of the church in Central and Southern Africa that I needed to return to the United States to further the education of my children. I was considering going back into private medical practice. Instead the church asked me to go to Kettering and replace George Nelson who was retiring for health reasons. I was surprised and honored at the request, and felt I should continue to serve as the church requested.

So it was in early January 1969 I arrived at Kettering. The winter was quite a change from Central Africa with no time to wrap up and just stay warm. Mr. Nelson had a plan in place to expand the hospital, give additional facilities to the College, and build a parking garage. Later we added a new wing to the hospital and built Sycamore Hospital bringing our total capacity from 395 beds to almost 600.

My family and I were blessed to be a part of the growth of Kettering Medical Center and during our time we met some great people. The list would have to start with the Kettering family and George Nelson. It would also include Dr. Sandborn, head of the College; his successor, Dr. Winton Beaven; Gladys Duran, director of nurses; Robert Willett, my vice-president; and of course Paul Reichard and Nemie Velasco from the Treasury department. They, along with many others, made it possible for Kettering Medical Center to prosper, grow, and serve the community.

Marlowe Schaffner, MD is a member of Loma Linda University Church.
Extraordinary Decade of Growth

By Christina Keresoma

1969-1979

Many people may think that once a building has finished construction and opens its doors for business, it will no longer grow. But the healthcare world is ever changing and Eugene and Virginia Kettering had big plans for the town of Kettering.

George Nelson, Kettering Medical Center’s first president, was proud of the progress that Kettering Medical Center had made since its opening in March 1964, but knew he could not go any further due to health reasons. So Dr. Mariowe Schaffner was brought in to continue expanding Eugene and Virginia’s dreams. A press conference was held announcing a $14 million expansion program at Kettering Medical Center. The plan included an upgrade to the hospital clinics and emergency room facilities, adding college classrooms and laboratories, providing a 250-car parking garage, expanding the hospital’s capacity with an additional 100 beds, and adding 200 employees to the staff.

Dr. Schaffner worked with Kettering College of Medical Art’s first dean, William C. Sandborn, PhD, who led the organizing efforts of the first Ohio junior college that specialized in paramedical curriculums. On August 29, 1969, the very first graduation ceremonies were held and diplomas were given to 67 graduates, including 61 nurses, four respiratory therapists, and two radiologic technologists. However, a couple months later, Dr. Sandborn died of a sudden heart attack and Dr. Beaven was brought in to become the second dean of Kettering College.

The surrounding communities were growing and Dr. Schaffner, along with the administrative team, developed a proposal for a satellite facility in the south Dayton-Miamisburg area. The first proposal looked at opening emergency and surgical services on an outpatient basis, but the community leaders encouraged a full-service hospital. So a second proposal was developed and due to the outpouring of support from the community, the board approved the plan. It was not an easy journey getting government approval for a new hospital facility, but the team worked diligently.
On April 24, 1977, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new hospital. This was no ordinary ceremony. Most groundbreaking ceremonies use shovels to clear the dirt where the construction will begin, but exploding dynamite was strategically placed around the area. The dynamite symbolized the hospital had become a reality after all the hard work that took place to get government approvals. The $14 million, 120-bed hospital near Miamisburg was named Sycamore Hospital and would open in the fall of 1978. The vice president at Kettering Medical Center, Elliot Fortner, was responsible for the development and construction of the new facility. Once completed, Fortner was named Sycamore Hospital’s first administrator.
Fort Hamilton Opens New Emergency Department

Employees and community members came together recently to celebrate and tour the upgraded emergency department of Fort Hamilton Hospital.

“The emergency department has new state-of-the-art technology in tele-robotics, so every stroke patient has an expert at their bedside, allowing Fort Hamilton Hospital to break new boundaries in healthcare models,” says Dr. Marcus Romanello, Fort Hamilton Emergency Department medical director.

The new emergency department features greater comfort for patients and visitors and better work flow for staff. Private rooms, on-site imaging, and a private area for behavioral health patients are just a few things that raise the bar on the level of care Fort Hamilton is now able to provide to patients who have a medical emergency.

Week of Prayer

Kettering Adventist HealthCare implemented another week of spiritual renewal. This year's theme, “Experiencing God’s Healing in the Everyday,” took participants through practices of the Great Physician. A booklet was handed out and daily videos were sent out to all employees.

Last year’s booklets, which were given to every emergency department discharged patient, were replaced with the 2014 booklet. A tear out page in the back of the book allows individuals to request Bible Studies from local Dayton, Ohio Seventh-day Adventist churches. This is the third consecutive year these booklets have been given to the public and there were over 280 studies requested in 2013 alone.

What is an Adventist?

Many new employees and patients have asked “what is an Adventist?” With that in mind, Kettering Health Network has created a booklet that highlights our faith. The booklets are a resource that the Missions and Development department and Spiritual Services department can hand out to individuals inquiring about the Adventist faith and health practices.

“As a faith-based health system, we often get questions from the community about our church sponsor and wanted a special brochure that speaks about our Adventist healthcare heritage and mission,” says Jarrod McNaughton, vice president of Missions and Development.
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**EMPLOYMENT**

**BETTER LIFE TELEVISION** is seeking a broadcast engineer to maintain 20 TV stations and our Grants Pass, Ore., headquarters. Requires knowledge of HF broadcast engineering, FCC regulations. Must be a Seventh-day Adventist in good standing. Travel, evenings and weekends as needed. Send résumé to Better Life Broadcasting: ContactBetterLife@yahoo.com.

**MAJOR GIFTS OFFICER** needed in Los Angeles area. Requires proven track record of securing $20,000-plus gifts; expected to cold call, solicit, qualify, cultivate, lead to closure and steward these very important donors. Must be a Seventh-day Adventist in good standing. Travel, evenings and weekends as needed. Send résumé to Better Life Broadcasting: ContactBetterLife@yahoo.com.

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**WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks nursing program administrator. The department is looking for a quality, team-oriented person who will positively impact and revitalize our program. The department is committed to excellence in teaching, continuing professional development and involving students in hands-on experience. Experience in academic leadership and higher education accreditation, specifically with external nursing accrediting agencies. Available 7/1/14. Apply: waau.edu/work-at-waau.

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**WANTED:** The White Estate is looking for original photographs, personal items or other artifacts relating to Ellen White for display in its new visitor center scheduled to open in 2015. To discuss your item(s), please contact James Nix at (301) 680-6557 or JimNix@WhiteEstate.org. All messages about your items will be answered.

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TRAVEL/VACATION


ANNCOUNCEMENTS

MADISON COLLEGE ALUMNI HOMECOMING will be held June 27-29. All former staff and those who attended Madison College or Madison College Academy or the anesthesiology school are invited. Honor classes this year are 1943, 1949, 1954, 1959 and 1964. Activities and meals will begin Friday at 6 p.m. through Sunday morning at the Madison Academy campus. This year commemorates 110 years since the founding in 1904 and the last graduating class in 1964. For more information, contact Dr. Harry Mayden, (240) 645-2305, or Jim Culpepper, (815) 415-1925.

OAK PARK ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND will be held September 12 and 13. All alumni and former faculty and staff are invited to this special reunion weekend. The 2014 honor classes are 1939, 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974 and 1979. Location: Gates Hall, 825 15th St., Nevada, Iowa. Please make plans to attend. For more information, contact Mary Dassenko Schwantes, (636) 527-0955, or email maryschwantes@sbcglobal.net.

OBITUARIES

DEMYEN, Ruby C., born November 3, 1913, in Watauga County, N.C.; died February 14, 2014, in Richmond County, Va. She was a member of the Carter Memorial church in Warsaw, Va. She is survived by her daughter, Barbara (Bob) Muller of Bisbee, Ariz.; her daughter-in-law, Jan Ohrmundt-Demyen of Coles Point, Va.; and nieces and nephews.

RENNARD, Joseph E., born November 19, 1914, in Middletown, Mass; died March 3, 2014, in New Market, Va. He was a member of the New Market church. He is survived by his son, Charles Rennard of Tiron, Ga.; his daughters, Chris Jetter of Huntsville, Ala.; his nine grandchildren, Ardie (Cheryl) Jetter of Mt. Jackson, Va.; Josh (Lissy) Jetter of Richardson, Texas, Jenny (Josh) Broussard of Stafford, Va., Nick Buchholz of Lomax, Calif., and Tricia (Jon) Barfield of New Market, Va.; and nieces and nephews.

COMING TO THE DELAWARE OR MARYLAND BEACHES THIS SUMMER? Visit our Web page at sligochurch.org/sligobythesea.

Sunset Calendar

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