

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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Name *The Educational Shift*

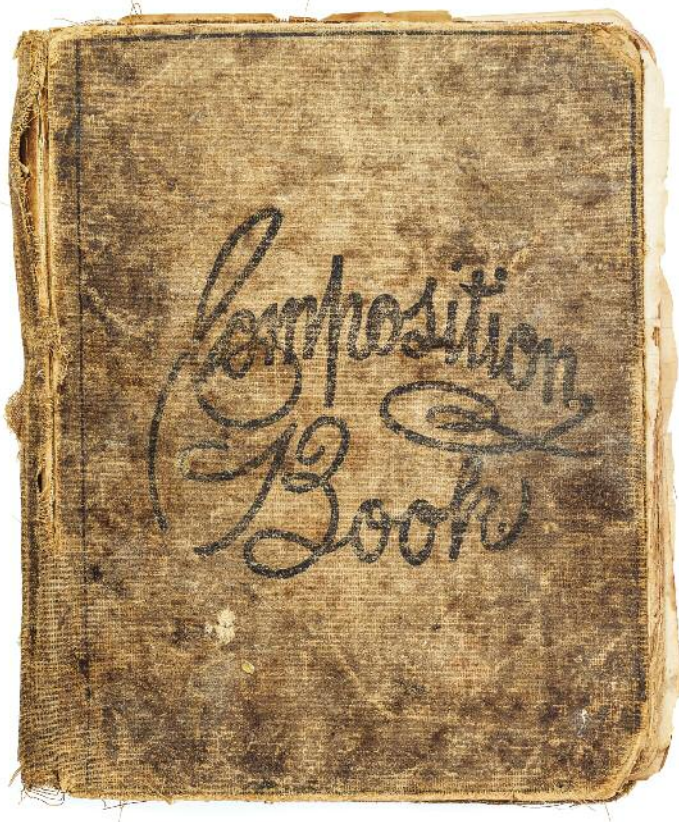
Subject *Looking Back to*

Improve the Future

Grade *Pre-K to 12th*

*Plus: Why Fasting
Isn't Just
About Food*

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The Educational Shift

Alita Byrd

As the Seventh-day Adventist educational system faces challenges, leaders look to the past to determine a best path forward.

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About the Cover: Mass production of the classic composition notebook started in Europe and the Americas during the late 1870s or early 1880s. Ledgers seem to have been one of the first uses of the new format.

ON THE WEB

FASTING + PRAYERS

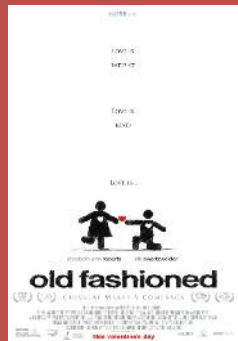
What happens when you add fasting to your prayers? Does it make you eligible for bonus blessings? Watch a special *Visitor* video report at columbiaunionvisitor.com/fastingvideo to hear from church members who share what they experienced when they tried this ancient discipline.

40-DAY FASTING GUIDE

Pastor David Franklin and his leadership team at Allegheny East Conference's Miracle Temple in Baltimore recently published *40 Days in the Gospels*, a devotional "designed to help submerge the reader into the life and teachings of Jesus." Read our interview with Franklin at columbiaunionvisitor.com/fastingguide.

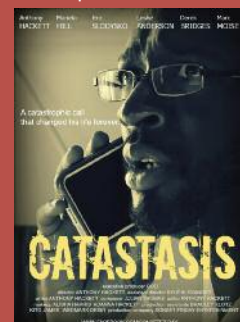
OLD FASHIONED BREAKS THRU SHADES OF GREY

Old Fashioned, a movie about God-honoring love, written, produced and directed by Washington Adventist University alumna Rik Swartzwelder, is bringing back the lost art of chivalry. To find out more about the movie, visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/oldfashioned.



CATASTASIS COMING

March 7, Anthony Hackett, who attends Chesapeake Conference's New Hope church in Fulton, Md., will premiere his first feature film, *Catastasis*, at Spencerville Adventist Academy in Spencerville, Md. This self-rated film will keep adult audiences on the edge of their seats. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/catastasis to watch the trailer and read how Hackett plans to witness through the project.



GET IN-BETWEEN NEWS

Get breaking news and stories from the Columbia Union and around the Adventist world straight to your email inbox each week. Subscribe to the *Visitor News Bulletin* at columbiaunion.org/newsletter. And, visit our Facebook page for extra tidbits, Throwback Thursday photos, devotional thoughts, polls and more.

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Volume 120 ■ Issue 3

Laying a Strong Foundation

During my years as a classroom teacher, my favorite time of the day was when I read or recounted cherished Bible stories to my students. Moses' mother, Jochebed, placing him in a basket while his older sister Miriam watched the scene never failed to captivate the children's attention. Often they would ask, "How could Moses' mother put her baby in a basket and watch it float away?" Even young children understand how critical is the bond between a mother and her child.



I always answered that question very cautiously, saying, "God led Jochebed to place her infant son in the river because He had a special plan for Moses' life." We all know how the story progresses. God heard the humble prayers of a Hebrew woman and rewarded her faith by allowing her son to return to her until he turned 12. During those precious years, she committed to educating her child for God. Since she knew her time was short, she was diligent in her instruction. Moses' entire life, especially the great mission he fulfilled as the leader of Israel, testifies to the importance of the foundational training of his early childhood years.



PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

The early years are extremely important because new experiences impact the building blocks of the developing brain. Christian education provides such learning opportunities at each stage, from infancy to adulthood. When we as parents and educators ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their fullest potential, the next generation will pay that investment back through a lifetime of productivity and trustworthy citizenship. Healthy child development is critical to the establishment of our education system, which is the bedrock of a successful nation.

Ellen G. White, in *The Adventist Home*, states, "Children are the heritage of the Lord, and we are answerable to Him for our management of His property..." (p. 159). The love and dedication required to care for our children is both a blessing and a major responsibility. The influence of the mother and father in a child's life will impact them well into their adult years. God has committed His precious jewels to our care, to train and educate for His kingdom. We must pray earnestly each day and act in accordance with our prayers for God's guidance in raising our children in harmony with His plans.

Providing our children with a stimulating environment, with plenty of opportunities to explore and discover, while interacting positively with other Christian families is also significant for their future learning. Effective learning experiences foster optimal development and give children the tools they need to succeed. In view of the responsibility we have to train our children to live productive lives and prepare them for God's kingdom, let us partner together to aid our children in developing well-balanced minds and characters that will reflect the semblance of God.

Evelyn Sullivan is associate director for Early Childhood Education and Care for the Columbia Union Conference.

Newsline

CHURCH CALLS FOR 100 DAYS OF PRAYER

Seventh-day Adventist believers worldwide are invited to join in 100 Days of Prayer, March 25-July 11. During that time, members are encouraged to seek God's will for the 60th General Conference Session, to be held July 2-11 in San Antonio, and for the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to be fully manifested in all members.

"We are praying that these vital meetings will be a time when God breaks through in the hearts of individuals and, as in the book of Acts, ignites the passion for saving His children," says Jerry Page,

General Conference Ministerial Association secretary.

For more information and to register, go to 100daysofprayer.org.
—*Jackie Ordelleheide Smith*

VISITOR HOSTS CHAT ABOUT SESSION VOTE

Should the Seventh-day Adventist world church allow divisions to choose whether or not women should be ordained in their



territories? The Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee publicly voiced

support at their November meeting. Join our *Visitor* Facebook chat, March 25, at noon, with Tara VinCross, director of the REACH Columbia Union School of Evangelism in Philadelphia, and other church leaders across the North American Division to discuss what a "yes" vote means for our church.

MVA SET TO CLOSE

Since falling immeasurably short of the first financial deadline set by the Ohio Conference Executive Committee in January, Mount Vernon Academy in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, will cease operations at the end of the 2014-15 school year.

"We had the monumental task of raising \$3 million in a short time. Despite the earnest efforts of many students, families, alumni and supporters, I'm sorry to report that we did not receive enough funds to meet the February 10 benchmark. In fact, we only received \$17,069," says Ron Halvorsen Jr., Ohio Conference president. Read more on page 27.



—*Heidi Shoemaker*

WHAT DID YOU LEARN AT THE FIRST PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST-AID TRAINING?

The Washington Metro Adventist Community Services (WMACS) Federation—in partnership with Adventist Community Services (ACS) of the North American Division and Allegheny East Conference (AEC), and the Columbia Union Conference office of Ministries Development—recently sponsored a premier crisis care training course. Participants learned how to help after a disaster or critical incident using psychological first-aid. Two attendees respond:



Psychological first-aid is the foundation for anyone providing care for another person. Without understanding how to approach someone who's hurting or how to talk to someone in crisis, even with our best intentions, we end up breaking hearts and damaging spirits. 'Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom; and with all thy getting get understanding' (Prov. 4:7).—*Carlton Jones, communication coordinator, WMACS Federation*



The course was very instrumental in preparing me to understand the role disaster mental health plays. Our responsibilities as responders to disasters and critical events were clearly outlined. Helping individuals retain a sense of wholeness and stability is a practical application of the gift of presence, an attribute of the Holy Spirit.—*Deborah Jeffries, ACS director at AEC's First church in Washington, D.C.*

“ Many people think traditional evangelism is irrelevant in today's post-modern society, but research has found that people are interested in prophecy. People need the assurance that only prophecy can give them.”

—*Evangelist Mark Finley speaking at the pastoral training event in Columbia, Md., for the upcoming Columbia Union "Living With Hope" evangelism initiative (columbiaunionvisitor.com/livingwithhope)*

10 SCHOOLS RANK HIGH ON REVIEW LIST

Niche, a company that provides school reviews for potential students, recently ranked 10 schools across the Columbia Union among the top 200 best private schools, nine of them in the top 100. For the list, it ranks 3,880 high schools based on student statistics and more than 120,000 opinions from 16,000 students and parents.

Niche measures academics, which account for 60 percent of the ranking; student culture and diversity, accounting for 30 percent; and survey responses at 10 percent. High Niche rankings generally indicate that students are happy with all aspects of school life, including academics, teachers, health, safety, resources, facilities, sports and fitness. Here is how each school ranked in their state:

Maryland

- 55. Highland View Academy
- 62. Spencerville Adventist Academy
- 70. Takoma Academy

Ohio

- 62. Spring Valley Academy
- 66. Mount Vernon Academy

Pennsylvania

- 76. Blue Mountain Academy
- 197. Pine Forge Academy

Virginia

- 10. Richmond Academy
- 60. Shenandoah Valley Academy

West Virginia

- 4. Highland Adventist School

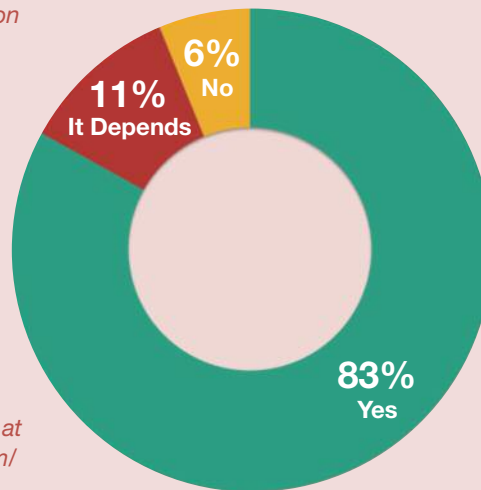
“The overall academic and programmatic quality of our academies holds up very well when compared to other faith-based and private schools that operate within similar budgetary range—and has for many years,” says Hamlet Canosa, Columbia Union Conference vice president for education. “It is gratifying to know that organizations outside the church are quick to recognize those qualities found in our Columbia Union secondary schools.”

Facebook Poll: Education

We asked Columbia Union members to answer the following question:

Is it important for our children to go to an Adventist school?

Here is how the 65 respondents answered:



Read specific answers and join the conversation at columbiaunionvisitor.com/educationchat.

\$3.53 Million

Total donations given so far (2010-2014) to Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., to support a new Health Professions, Science and Wellness building and other campus improvements. Read more on page 37.



PHOTO BY SHARON ELLIS

EBENEZER MEMBERS ASSIST 50 CONGOLESE REFUGEES

When Allegheny East Conference’s Ebenezer church received a call for help from the Nationalities Service Center, they responded with open arms to 50 Congolese refugees who recently settled in Philadelphia. Ebenezer members are providing for the spiritual needs of the refugees and their children, as well as clothing and home goods. They will soon offer ESL classes. Read more on page 16.

Noticias

MVA ESTÁ POR CERRAR

Debido a que Mount Vernon Academy en Mt. Vernon, Ohio, no satisfizo con la primera fecha límite financiera que el Comité Ejecutivo de Ohio Conference impuso en enero, ésta cesará sus operaciones al finalizar el año escolar 2014-15.

“Tuvimos la gran tarea de recaudar \$3 millones en un corto período. A pesar de los grandes esfuerzos de muchos estudiantes, familias, egresados, y afiliados, lamento informar que no obtuvimos los suficientes fondos para satisfacer el objetivo fijado para el 10 de febrero. De hecho, solo recibimos \$17,069”, dice Ron Halvorsen Jr., presidente de Ohio Conference. Lea más en la página 27.—*Heidi Shoemaker*

VISITOR OFRECE CHAT SOBRE EL VOTO DE LA SESIÓN

¿Debería la iglesia mundial Adventista del Séptimo Día permitir a las divisiones elegir si las mujeres deben ordenarse en sus territorios? En su reunión de noviembre, el

Comité Ejecutivo de Columbia Union Conference aprobó que “sí”. Únase al chat de *Visitor* en Facebook, el 25 de marzo, a las 12 p.m., con Tara VinCross, directora de REACH Columbia Union School of Evangelism [escuela de evangelismo REACH de Columbia Union] en Philadelphia, y otros líderes de la iglesia en la División Norteamericana, para conocer lo que significa para nuestra iglesia el voto afirmativo.

LAS IGLESIAS DE CHESAPEAKE MARCAN HITOS

Tres congregaciones latinas de Maryland reconocieron hitos recientemente. La iglesia Baltimore Spanish en Baltimore, pastoreada por el Pastor Orlando Rosales (en la foto), celebró su 30° aniversario, además de marcar el comienzo de la obra hispana en Chesapeake Conference. “Esperamos ver muchas más Iglesias establecidas a medida que hacen del evangelismo una prioridad en las 21 congregaciones de habla hispana”, dice Rick Remmers,

presidente de la asociación.

La compañía Hagerstown Spanish en Hagerstown, Md., ahora pastoreada por el Pastor Roberto Clouzet, pasó a ser iglesia. La congregación de 188 miembros, se formó en el 2001 como una clase de Escuela Sabática hispana en la iglesia Hagerstown English y creció rápidamente. En pocos años compraron su propio templo.

El grupo Pikesville Spanish en Pikesville, Md., también se organizó como compañía.—*Samantha Young*



Artículo principal de *Visitor*: El cambio educativo

La educación Adventista del Séptimo Día está enfrentando grandes desafíos. La matriculación ha bajado en muchas escuelas y los costos han aumentado. El envejecimiento de la feligresía adventista significa que hay menos miembros con hijos en edad escolar para enviar a las escuelas adventistas. Un cambio cultural significa que es menos probable que los padres envíen a sus hijos a un internado. Se cree que tanto estos como otros factores son la razón por la que 170 escuelas adventistas en la División Norteamericana (DNA) se han visto forzadas a cerrar sus puertas en los últimos 10 años.

Larry Blackmer, vicepresidente para la educación en la DNA, resume más enfáticamente el por qué la iglesia necesita prestar más atención. “En mi opinión, las escuelas adventistas, desde kínder hasta el

grado 12, son críticas para la sobrevivencia de la iglesia”, dice él. “Necesitamos evangelismo, pero si se desea una segunda generación más fuerte, con similares o los mismos valores, la educación adventista es la mejor manera de lograrlo”.

Desde esta posición tan difícil, los líderes de la iglesia y escuela, en todos los niveles, están debatiendo el problema y las maneras de resolverlo. Una parte de esta gran discusión es regresar y examinar los principios fundamentales de nuestro sistema de educación, y revisar las razones de su existencia y evolución. Mirar hacia atrás tal vez nos ayude a navegar el futuro más eficazmente.—*Alita Byrd*



Columbia Union Revolving Fund

IN THE LATE 1960s, the Seventh-day Adventist Church inside the Columbia Union territory was growing, but there was little space to house new believers and school their children. Without funding, building and renovating worship and educational facilities would essentially come to a standstill.

Union leaders created a program whereby members could invest in a “revolving fund.” The funds raised from these investments were then loaned to conferences, churches, schools and other Adventist institutions. Members responded, and within a year invested more than \$200,000 in what became known as the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF). CURF, in turn, provided a valuable source of funds to help keep the work of the church growing within the union.

Over the past 45 years, CURF has provided some 1,900 loans to union entities and continues to be their first choice in lending. CURF makes ministry possible.

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Fasting is Regaining Popularity. What are the Best Methods and Benefits for Adventists?

Fasting certainly isn't a new concept. It is practiced in nearly every religion in the world, and the Bible records many instances of it. God ordered the Israelites to fast during the Day of Atonement (see Lev. 16:29); Daniel fasted after he saw a vision (Dan. 10:3); Esther fasted in preparation for her mission (Esther 4:16); and Jesus fasted while in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-11).

Now, however, mainstream culture is catching on. "Fasting is becoming more and more popular," notes Fred Hardinge, DrPH, associate director of nutrition and media for the General Conference Health Ministries Department.

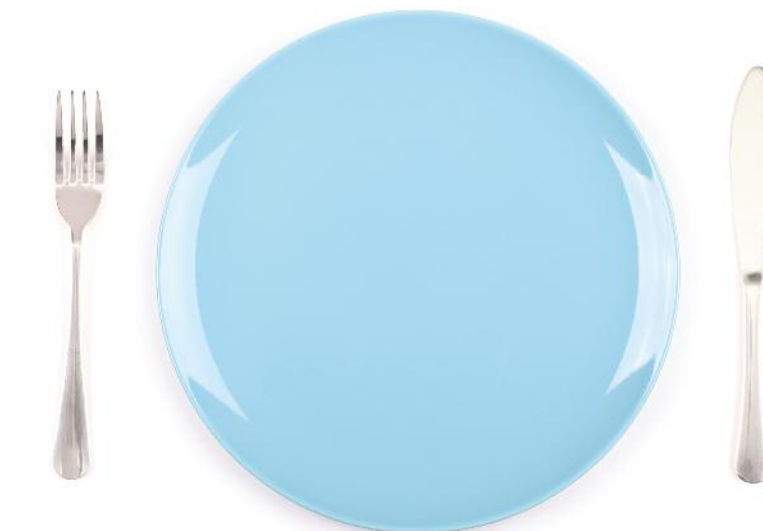
Indeed, at the end of 2014, Google released its list of the top 10 fad diets searched that year. Among them was the Military Diet, which is a form of intermittent fasting—followers eat less than 1,000 calories for three days, followed by four days off, repeating the cycle. The 5:2 Diet—eating five days and fasting two—was among the top diets reviewed for 2015 by the British Dietetic Association and featured on ABC's *Nightline* as the "hot new craze."

For Seventh-day Adventists, fasting is believed to be one of the spiritual disciplines, yet one we might practice less frequently. With so many new suggestions and approaches on how to do it, what are some of the best methods? And, how does the practice benefit us?

APPROACHES TO FASTING

According to Hardinge, food fasts are done three ways:

Total fast, when an individual doesn't eat or drink anything. "This



is not advised," he says. "Most can go a few days without food; but your body needs fluids."

Partial fast, when an individual doesn't eat high caloric, heavy or junk food.

Liquid (or juice) fast, when an individual drinks only water, juice, tea or broth. "This was very popular, particularly 20 years ago. It does provide some calories and nutrients," he notes.

Hardinge says that there are many false claims about fasting, a popular one touting fasting as a weight loss tool. Most medical experts agree, however, that fasting is not a healthy, long-term weight loss option. In fact, going long periods without food can cause metabolic changes in the body, including burning muscle and not fat. And, about the popular European 5:2 Diet, now making its way to the states, he comments that there's no strong

evidence base to support its value.

"Frankly, I'm not a proponent of these types of eating plans," he says. "And, for some, like a diabetic, it can be dangerous."

But, didn't Ellen White fast? According to G.D. Strunk (1979) and W.P. Bradley (1980), who compiled excerpts from her writings on the subject, the Seventh-day Adventist Church co-founder felt very strongly about fasting. As she noted in *Medical Ministry*, "The true fasting, which should be recommended to all, is abstinence from every stimulating kind of food, and the proper use of wholesome simple food..." (p. 283).

Hardinge suggests the best solution to healthy living is to strive daily to eat "simple food, in the amount we need, from healthy sources." But, for those who need redirection, he adds, "Any plan taken should be done with careful thought and planning."

Strunk and Bradley also report that White noted the main benefits of fasting: it fostered heart cleansing

and confession, was beneficial for seeking God's direction in planning and important for requesting God's help in crises, among many other things.

Bogden Scur, associate professor of religion at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., agrees. He adds, "Fasting for me is being desperate for God, more desperate than you are to eat good food. When we fast, we say to God, 'I want you more than I want to eat. I desire Your Spirit and presence in my life more than I desire to eat.' That honors God and He hears those prayers."

IT ISN'T JUST ABOUT FOOD

Christians can gain the same benefits by abstaining from a specific item or activity. "Fasting isn't just about food," says Bryant Taylor, pastor of Allegheny West Conference's Beacon of Hope church in Columbus, Ohio, and conference communication director. "It's about denying self of something out of control in your life."

Taylor began fasting when he pastored the Germantown (Ohio) church. "It started as a novelty," he admits. "We learned, though, how great it can be individually and corporately, especially if you're praying for a specific purpose." Members fasted from TV, fast food, chocolate, and cheese, even naps.

"A member who was a law student was taking four naps a day. He'd nap for 15 minutes, get up and go to class," explains Taylor. "Then he'd sit in class and start thinking about how many minutes until his next nap. He couldn't focus. He said his naps were out of control."

Pastor Taylor, on the other hand, decided to fast from TV. "I enjoyed my first 20 minutes of silence; then I was twiddling my thumbs!" he says. To fill the time, he began reading the Spirit of Prophecy, the Bible, the Sabbath School lesson, *Adventist Review*, anything he could get his hands on—and he enjoyed it. He also reorganized his office, which led him back to photography. "Taking pictures became an opportunity to go outside, meet my

neighbors, walk around the neighborhood and see things I never paid attention to before," he says.

And the napping law student? Pastor Taylor says the student reported feeling more refreshed and alert, once he began to fast.

ARMOR FOR THE BATTLE

"When I think about fasting and why, I think about the story of the man who brought his son to the disciples and they weren't able to heal him of the demon. When they asked Jesus why not, Jesus told them that it could only happen through prayer and fasting," says Tamyra Horst, communication director for the Pennsylvania Conference, author and fasting advocate. "I think there are instances where the situation or the prayer needs fasting. Prayer is really spiritual warfare, and some battles are bigger than others. For the really tough battles, we need to give it all we have, and one way to do that is to commit to fasting. It causes us to really focus on God and learn to trust Him more."

Heidi Davis, a prayer warrior at Ohio Conference's Wilmington church, agrees. She fasts personally and corporately. She recently helped lead her church in a fasting session. In a letter to her fellow members, she shared some ideas of methods that work best for her:

I am by no means an expert at this, but each time I have fasted, I learn more about it. During my fasting times, I do no shopping other than what is absolutely necessary. I fast my time and my eyes. I don't pick up secular magazines or watch TV or go on the Internet. I feast all I can on God's Word and work on memorization. Spare time is used wisely without idleness, looking for ways to give of myself to others.

I eat more whole foods so less time is spent in the kitchen preparing food. I leave out pleasure foods, and I stop before feeling full. I also do not do my fasting during Sabbath potlucks, but I eat

5 Tips for a Successful Fast

Horst and Pastor Taylor offer the following suggestions:

- At the beginning, pray and declare to the Lord what you are doing.
- Share what you're doing with the people closest to you.
- Create a support team, including those who understand what you're doing.
- Share the experience and encourage others.
- Get creative. Occasionally, Horst and her friends give up sweets every day except one, praying and asking God to show His "sweetness" in their lives. On the off evening, they enjoy a dessert together while sharing how God showed His love throughout the week.

wisely. Sabbath is a reminder that we aren't saved by our works but that we rest on Christ's righteousness. On that day, I focus more on God being in control and standing on His promises and answering our prayers. It's a hallelujah day.

Davis reports her church had a wonderful response from their session—from significantly increased attendance at prayer meetings to numerous answered prayers, for member and visitors alike.

Horst clarifies, "Fasting isn't a guarantee that God is going to now answer your prayers exactly as you want. I think what fasting is about, instead, is what it does in us."

Davis agrees. "Fasting changes our thinking and behavior. I can't say enough about it. It's something you must experience to understand. And, the more it is added to your prayer life, the more spiritually enriched you will become."

THE EDUCATIONAL SHIFT

As the Adventist educational system faces challenges, leaders look to the past to determine a best path forward

Alita Byrd

Seventh-day Adventist education in North America is facing some big challenges. In many schools, enrollment is down and costs are up. The aging of Adventist church members means that fewer have school-age children to send to Adventist schools. A cultural shift means that parents are less likely to send their children to boarding academy. These and other factors are believed to be why 170 Adventist schools in the North American Division (NAD) have been forced to close their doors in the past 10 years.

Ohio Conference's Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) in Mount Vernon, which opened in 1893 on the advice of church co-founder Ellen White, is the latest school impacted. At a special constituency in January, the conference gave MVA two benchmarks to meet or it would close its doors at the end of the school year.

Robert E. Lemon, General Conference treasurer, writing January 16, 2014, on the *Adventist Review* website, called the decision "a painful ultimatum that should serve as a wake-up call on the future of these schools in the U.S."

As it turns out, MVA failed to meet the first benchmark. As Ron Halvorsen Jr., Ohio Conference president, noted at the special constituency, "We need to figure out how to make Adventist education viable—now and in the future."

Indeed, despite remaining the second largest Christian school system in the world—with 83 schools (K-12), 727 teachers and 5,670 students in the Columbia Union alone—Adventist schools across North America are fighting to stay relevant, competitive and open. Larry Blackmer, NAD vice president for education, summarizes more pointedly why the church needs to pay close attention. "Adventist K-12 schools are critical to the survival of the church, in my opinion," he says. "We need evangelism, but if you want a strong second generation, with the same or similar values, Adventist education is the best way to do that."

From this difficult position, leaders at all levels are debating the problem and ways to solve it. One part of this larger discussion is to examine the founding principles of our education system, to review the reasons behind its existence and evolution, which can help us understand its uniqueness and importance. Recalling and implementing these broad principles might help revitalize some schools, or possibly make it easier when it is necessary to shutter a beloved institution. Looking back may help us navigate the future more effectively.

THE BLUEPRINT MYTH

Christian education was fundamental for Ellen White and she was integral in the development of the Adventist education system, beginning with the first Adventist school, which opened in Battle Creek, Mich., in 1872. She wrote her first major counsel on Adventist schooling, "Proper Education," specifically for the Battle Creek school. In it, she focused on the need for educating the whole person, as well as the importance for teaching practical skills.

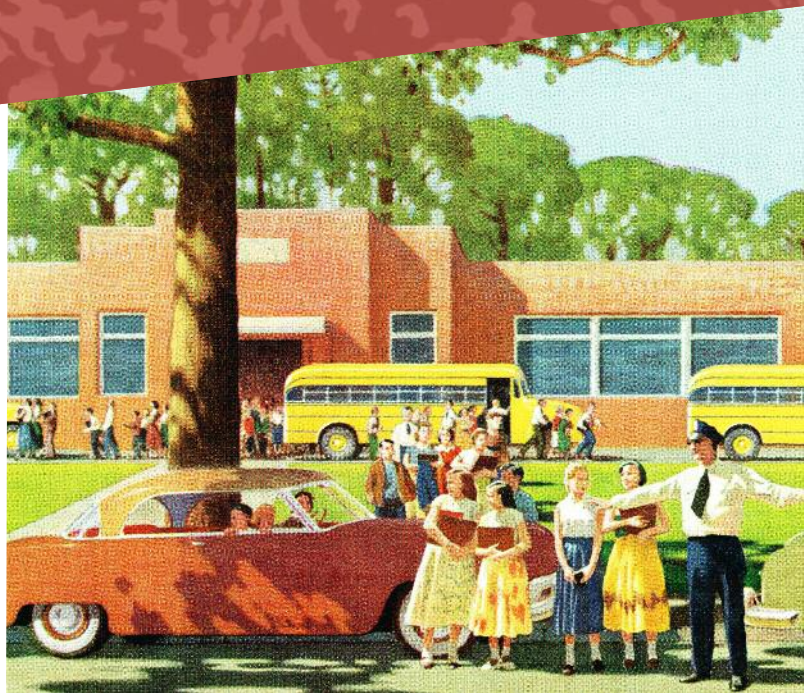


As other Adventist schools opened, White continued to offer advice, publishing pamphlets and letters in the *Testimonies*, and in her 1903 book *Education*, she outlined the broad principles of her philosophy. *Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*, published in 1913, contained advice aimed more specifically at Adventists.

However, despite some claims, White did not pen a detailed “blueprint” for Adventist education—a phrase that is still in use, despite its debunking in *Myths in Adventism*, a book by Adventist historian George Knight. It was also discredited in a pointed April/May 2012 article by Floyd Greenleaf, emeritus professor of history at Southern Adventist University (Tenn.), in the *Journal of Adventist Education*. Instead of detailed directions, they say, White offered general principles upon which to build Adventist schools.

It would also be a mistake to believe that the early Adventist schools all followed White’s advice. Battle Creek College experienced a particularly rough start. In *Myths*, Knight lists a series of failings at Adventist schools during White’s lifetime. In some of the schools, administrators ignored White’s counsel; at other times they went to extremes in their attempts to follow her guidance, rather than taking the commonsense approach that she actually advocated.

“I don’t believe Ellen White envisioned a ‘system’ as we have come to know the meaning of the word, but I do believe she envisioned vibrant schools focused on developing students with Christ-like character; schools that facilitated student spiritual, academic, social, moral and physical growth based on principles and methodologies evident in the life of Christ,” says Hamlet Canosa, vice president of education for the Columbia



Union Conference. “Moreover, Ellen White envisioned schools that prepared young people for faithful service to God and man.”

He continues, “The underlying principles and philosophical core found in the counsel of Ellen White’s writings must never be lost upon Adventist educators. However, education strategies, course offerings and teaching methodologies need to be fluid, reflecting up-to-date approaches more suited to an ever-changing world and workplace.”

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

So, how do we bridge our educational system’s foundation with a successful future? Elissa Kido, director of the Center for Research on Adventist Education at La Sierra University (Calif.), states that *CognitiveGenesis* and *ValueGenesis* studies document the positive academic and spiritual outcomes of an education system when we retain a “deep and active commitment to [White’s] wholistic principle of ‘the harmonious

AMANDA GREENLEAF, a judicial clerk in the Criminal Department at the Montgomery County Circuit Court in Rockville, Md., started her schooling at Mt. Aetna Elementary School in Hagerstown, Md. She then attended Highland View Academy, also in Hagerstown, and graduated from Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Md.



“I believe that my Adventist education has created a strong foundation for academic success and for a career of service,” says Greenleaf. “I learned how to read, write, spell, perform, etc., all under the umbrella of Adventist education. As a result, I contribute my desire to serve others to my educational background. No matter the professor, course or school, every step along the way has gotten me to where I am today.”

SCHOOLING SUCCESS

BEVERLY COBB is the director for graduate medical education for Kettering Adventist HealthCare in Kettering, Ohio. For 26 years, she worked for Kettering College (KC), from nursing program chair to college administrator to dean. Before that, she served with her dentist husband for six years at a mission clinic in Cameroon.



Cobb was educated nearly entirely in Adventist schools, from Spring Valley Academy to KC to Andrews University (Mich.) to Loma Linda University (Calif.). “I feel very positive about my education in Adventist schools,” Cobb says. “I received a quality education from dedicated faculty who were personally engaged with and committed to my learning.”

development of the physical, the mental and the spiritual.”

To accomplish that, many people have created summaries of White’s primary pronouncements regarding Adventist schools, including a useful one called “Objectives of our Educational Institutions” put together by her son, Arthur White. Below, her principles are distilled into four basic categories, and we ponder Adventist schools’ preservation of these principles:

1 The first and most important reason for creating Adventist schools, according to White, was **the work of redemption and conversion of souls**. “In the highest sense, the work of education and the work of redemption are one,” she wrote (*Education*, p. 30).

Canosa says union schools have not strayed from this objective and continue to make it a priority. “Our schools ... are focusing energies on growing young Christians who will love and serve Christ,” he says. The acceptance of Christ makes possible related educational objectives, including character building and further spiritual education while focusing on the Bible. Union schools reach students through Bible classes, weeks of prayer, student-led devotions, weekly vespers and other spiritual programming.



2 Teaching students to become useful members of society and helping them gain a practical skill

was something White talked a lot about. “In preparation for the world of work, every student completing a Christian educational program should have at least one marketable skill,” she wrote (*Education*, p. 218).

In White’s day, the focus was on manual labor, and Adventist schools created industries for their students to work in, including broom and furniture factories, binderies, dairies and bakeries. Today Canosa says the reality is that “governmental regulations, including compliance requirements regarding employing 14- and 15-year-olds, has made it very difficult for academies to find willing industries to assume significant risks for the sake of limited profit margins.”

Administrators, who believe industry opportunities make Adventist schools unique, suggest then that we discover new ways to teach students how to gain a skill they can use to support themselves. Two fairly new efforts are the pharmacy technician training course offered by an alumnus at Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md., and a welding course offered at Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va.

3 Gaining knowledge from books, though not an aim in isolation, was also important, White believed. She urged students to be “thinkers” and always to strive for excellence in whatever field of study they were focused on. “The youth should be taught the importance of cultivating their physical, mental, and moral powers, that they may not only reach the highest attainments in science, but through a knowledge of God, may be educated to glorify Him ...” she wrote (*Testimonies*, Vol. 4, p. 425).

Academics remain a major focus in Adventist schools. Parents, especially, want a competitive education for their children that will help them get good jobs and become contributing members of society. According to Canosa, academic initiatives and contemporary teaching methodologies still based on biblical principles are demonstrating positive results as measured in standardized testing, *CognitiveGenesis* findings, high graduation rates and high percentages of academy graduates that matriculate to higher education.

Some schools in the Columbia Union are also investing in strong STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) programs, a popular focus in mainstream education. The New Jersey Conference recently



hired math, computer and robotics specialist Ferdinand Lagos to develop the STEM program in the conference's five schools. Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md., has made long-time teacher and recent Einstein Fellow Ophelia Barizo its STEM coordinator.

"Highland View Academy aims to prepare our students for college and beyond by offering a STEM program that will educate and inspire students to be technologically literate, innovative, problem-solvers and critical thinkers, so that they may make a difference in this global society, but not losing sight of our main purpose of educating for eternity," Barizo says. "I feel that having a focus on STEM will make us more competitive and attractive to prospective students. ... We need to be up there with the best. Not only will it make us look good, but, more importantly, will be a witness and testimony to the world, and a glory to God."

4 The last principle Ellen White espoused is what Knight calls the "ultimate aim" of Adventist education: **service and mission**. "The object for which you are obtaining an education should not be lost sight of for a moment. It should be to so develop and direct your faculties that you may be more useful, and bless others to the extent of your ability," she wrote (*Testimonies*, Vol. 3, pp. 223-224).

"Our schools at all levels are still focused on preparing young people for service and engaging in practical mission work in local communities, in different parts of America, and in countries across the globe," says Canosa. "Whether providing food to the hungry; visiting assisted living homes; collaborating with locals to build schools, churches or volunteering at health stations in other lands, our young people thoroughly enjoy participating in practical missionary work at all levels."

However, Blackmer believes we can still improve. "We need to reach out to our communities even more

and make community service even stronger in our schools," he suggests.

PARENTAL ROLES

While not considered one of her principles, Ellen White aimed the bulk of her advice at parents. "The teacher's work should supplement that of the parents, but is not to take its place," she wrote (*Education*, p. 283).

Dick Osborn, former NAD vice president of education, who remains in the education field, notes that parents who pay for their children to attend an Adventist school might tend to abdicate the responsibility for their children's spiritual education—something White did not approve of. "I think we need to focus on redefining what Christian education is and be more inclusive," Osborn says. "We have defined it as an Adventist K-12 school, but, more broadly, it starts at home with family worship, prayer and family dinner. It is bolstered by Sabbath School, Vacation Bible School, Pathfinders, service projects and the church."

He adds that parents should "decide proactively how to deal with their child's Christian education in a broad sense. A school can be a key element. But, parents can't relax; they must think about it deliberately, whether their kids are in private or public school."

LOOKING AHEAD

As church leaders continue to commit to educating new generations of Adventist young people, lessons from the past can improve the future. "In part, the genius of Adventist education has been to establish schools and develop policies and patterns of instruction that can be adapted to surrounding conditions while continuing to fulfill original purposes," Greenleaf wrote in the October/November 2006 edition of the *Journal of Adventist Education*. "The absence of formulas and other 'how to' instruction at the beginning ... has forced each successive generation of denominational educators to reinterpret original purposes and principles in order to find applications appropriate to new times and places. This repetitive process has breathed new life into Adventist education. And if the church's education program is to remain alive and fulfill its mission, the process must continue."

Dale Twomley, a long-time educator who has headed numerous Adventist academies, including Shenandoah Valley in New Market, Va., where he is presently serving as principal for a third time, is optimistic about the future of Adventist education and a believer in White's *raison d'être* of saving souls.

"I believe there is a long, straight line in the same direction for our schools. We continue to give our energies and efforts to help our students develop a life-saving relationship with Jesus," Twomley says. "Yes, our methods are different from 100 years ago, but I see teachers every day helping their students to know Jesus—and to love Him."

Alita Byrd, a child of the Columbia Union, writes from Atlanta.

PROFESSION PROJECTION

Students from Adventist schools around the Columbia Union have already put some thought into what careers they might pursue, and how they will use those jobs to be Christ's disciples:



Though I haven't yet made a career choice, I'm considering going into the field of science or medicine. I want to be an instrument in God's hands to relieve suffering and bless others.—Brenda Keppke, junior at Ohio Conference's Spring Valley Academy in Centerville



One job that I plan on having is being a physical therapist and be an example of someone who is close to Christ but isn't a pastor.—Jordan Colbert, senior at Allegheny East Conference's Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa.

I would like to be a musician and reach people for Jesus through gospel music. I like to sing and I like to play the piano.—Samuel Seeders, sixth-grader at Mountain View Conference's Mountaintop Seventh-day Adventist School in Oakland, Md.



One of the things I want to do when I grow up is to be a writer. I could write books about Jesus 'cause I read a lot of books like that and I think they are pretty cool.—Lauren Gantman, seventh-grader at Chesapeake Conference's Atholton Adventist Academy in Columbia, Md.



[As a nurse], I would share the love of Jesus with others by the way I live, work and speak with the patients and their families and my co-workers.—Graciela Gonzales, freshman at New Jersey Conference's Lake Nelson Seventh-day Adventist School in Piscataway



I would like to be a vet so I can help people with their animals, so they can see how beautiful nature can be.—Erica Lopez-Montano, third-grader at Potomac Conference's C.F. Richards Junior Academy in Staunton, Va.



Pine Forge Academy Revitalizes Sparks Magazine

After being out of circulation for many years, Pine Forge Academy (PFA) recently revitalized its newsletter, *Sparks*. The newsletter is now *Sparks Magazine*, an e-newsletter published on pineforgeacademy.com.

To facilitate this new venture, PFA leaders developed a media writing class. When the class started, the students did not have the equipment needed for the project. But, with a prayer, Nina Danley, editor in chief, made a call and secured a donation of 11 MacBooks from the Center for Democracy and Technology in Washington, D.C.

The media writing students still need additional cameras and software, but are excited about the project. “We know God has a plan, and as long as we do our part and have faith, He will handle the rest,” says Danley.

PFA published the first *Sparks* during its first year of operation in 1946. Marquerite (Anderson) Dixon ('47), from Pittsburgh, suggested the name. Staffers sent the newsletter to subscribers with a 3-cent stamp. Sixty-eight years later, Dixon's granddaughter, Taylor Roper ('15), is now a *Sparks* staffer, and its circulation is accomplished by one click on the keyboard.

To download the magazine, visit pineforgeacademy.com and click on the *Sparks* link.



Nina Danley, editor in chief, holds a printed version of Sparks Magazine.

Conference Hosts Second New Year's Eve Webcast

Allegheny East Conference recently hosted its second annual New Year's Eve Live webcast. “The purpose of the yearly webcast is to provide spiritual emphasis and encouragement, as well as share information with constituents as we enter a new year,” explains LaTasha Hewitt, communication director.

Broadcasting from the conference office's library, the seven-hour program featured interviews, school and church greetings, a livestream of worship services at various local churches, a prayer segment, a Pine Forge Academy spotlight and more. The webcast also featured special greetings from Dan

Forge Academy spotlight and more. The webcast also featured special greetings from Dan

Hosts Stephen A.L. Richardson, LaTasha Hewitt and Marquis Johns join Shayla-Rene Little to wrap up the New Year's webcast.



The conference office library is transformed into a production set for the event.



Jackson, North American Division president; Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president; and Barry Black, Senate chaplain. Henry J. Fordham, conference president, ended the webcast with a special New Year's message.

Hewitt; Stephen A.L. Richardson, ministerial director; and Marquis Johns, assistant pastor of the Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md., hosted the event that began at 5 p.m. and ended at midnight. More than 55,000 viewers visited visitaec.org, the conference's website, because of the event.

Community Church Christmas Play Yields 22 Baptisms

Twenty-two people, mostly youth, expressed their desire to be baptized when Pastor Ivor Keizer made an appeal after a Christmas play at the Community church in Englewood, N.J.

"I had a desire in my heart to give everyone an opportunity to end 2014 right with God and begin 2015 with a renewed desire for the kingdom," shares Pastor Keizer.

Upon baptism, the church assigned each of the 22 members a "church parent" to help nurture them in their spiritual journey. "Much like a newborn baby has parents who nurture and provide love to their child, the church parent will provide support and be there for their newly adopted member," explains Keizer.

This marked one of the largest baptisms in Community's recent history.—Yvette McNaught



PHOTOGRAPH BY ROY DANIEL

Twenty-two new members rejoice after their baptisms.

Ebenezer Church Hosts 50 Congolese Refugees

After receiving a call for help from the Nationalities Service Center (NSC), an agency that assists the United States government in resettling refugees, the Ebenezer church in Philadelphia responded by welcoming 50 Congolese refugees. The refugees had requested they be connected to a Seventh-day Adventist church before coming to the United States. The NSC located and contacted the closest Adventist church to their new home in Philadelphia—Ebenezer.

Ebenezer is responsible for providing for the spiritual needs of the Congolese. To accomplish this goal, the church purchased translation equipment, transmitters and earphones to translate the services to Kiswahili, which many of the refugees can understand even though it is not their native tongue. Members also secured the services of a man who speaks Kinyarwanda, the native tongue of the Congolese, and obtained Sabbath School lessons in Kinyarwanda. The church also plans to start English as a Second Language classes for the refugees.

Even with the language challenges, the families are becoming actively involved in various church activities. The Congolese children participate in various Children's Ministries activities and sing with the children's choir.

Crystal Drake, wife of Pastor Charles Drake, is spearheading the efforts, along with the support of her

husband and church members. "The church has rallied around these families. They have given so much in clothing and household goods until we had to ask them to stop," she says. The church also provides school uniforms and holds job training seminars for the group.—Robert Booker



PHOTO BY SHARON ELLIS

Crystal Drake (second from right) invites Congolese refugees to enjoy Ebenezer's "thrift store" where they select free clothing and household items for their families.

Let's Take Ministry Beyond Our Walls

Here are just a few ways God blessed the Allegheny West Conference in 2014:

- We experienced the second highest tithe increase in the last five years
- We baptized nearly 700 people
- Our two schools had the largest enrollment in the last 10 years
- We purchased a new conference office after spending the last 47 years in a house
- We provided more than \$190,000 to our churches to help purchase, remodel or build new facilities

We realize that God gets more praise out of how we live during the week than what we do while in church Sabbath morning. Keeping this in mind, our theme for 2015 is "Ministry Beyond the Walls!" We want to live out this theme by focusing on four things:

Evangelism: Every problem we face is instantaneously solved when Jesus comes—sickness, death, family crisis, housing and financial concerns are all taken care of. Many times we are so distracted by the cares of life that we forget that our trials are temporary. When we focus on evangelism and the soon return of Jesus, we address the real answers to our condition. I am challenging our pastors and members to lead 1,000 people to baptism this year.



First-graders Peyton DuBose and Jaiden Franklin enjoy reading in Ramah Junior Academy's media center.

Stewardship: Most people think of money when they hear this word. However, stewardship is a lifestyle that acknowledges that God owns everything. He owns our time, talents and resources. What would happen in our churches if we, as members, became better stewards? The power of our witness would be greatly multiplied. This singular truth will help engage our young adults who are waiting for the church to become active and relevant to the day-to-day issues we face.

Young Adult Ministries: We want to take ministry outside the walls of the church and begin to actively meet human needs. Mission trips, food pantries, community fairs, block parties, shelters for the homeless and victims of domestic violence are just a few areas that we want to become more intentional about addressing in our service with young adults.

Education: In 2014 we had the highest enrollment in our two schools. All of our teachers were certified, and our students tested higher in many areas than those in public schools. We must look at Adventist Christian education as a ministry and mission for our children and the community.

I believe that 2015 will be one of the greatest years ever as we prepare for Jesus' soon return. Let's get started with "Ministry Beyond the Walls!"



William T. Cox
President



Baptismal candidates at the Temple Emmanuel church in Youngstown, Ohio, await baptism.

Hilltop Community Church Keeps Kids Warm

The Hilltop Community Worship Center, as its name infers, is focused on the community. Pastor Jason Ridley says, “One of the pressing needs we noticed in our community is that many of the children don’t have the basic necessities needed for the winter.”

After noticing the need, church members immediately went into action and raised money to purchase coats, hats, boots and gloves for more than 50 children



Pastor Jason Ridley proudly poses with the wrapped coats, hats and gloves his members gifted to community children in need.



Local children enthusiastically open gifts from the church.

who live in the Columbus neighborhood. They also partnered with the local middle school to identify students in need. The church then invited the children to a special Sabbath service and distributed the winter supplies and more than 400 toys to them. During the service, several community members who church members had been ministering to were baptized, and everyone was invited to stay for a special dinner. “Hilltop is a church with the community at heart,” says Ridley.

Temple of Praise Satisfies Mortgage

The Temple of Praise in Cleveland recently paid off their mortgage. Church members, family, former members, former pastors, friends and community guests celebrated this milestone during a recent weekend of praise and worship themed “We’ve Come This far by Faith.”

On Friday night, participants ushered in the Holy Spirit with prayers, favorite Scripture readings, testimonies and gospel singing. Former church pastor Leighton Palmer delivered an emotional message titled “How Soon is Soon?” He reminded the group that Jesus is coming again.

The Sabbath morning service began with a Sabbath School class. Leaders later burned the mortgage document, signifying God’s grace in allowing the church to retire the mortgage early. Joel Johnson, conference youth director and former Temple of Praise pastor, delivered a message titled “Identity Crisis.” Former church pastors Palmer and Edward Brown, and Collin Parkinson, the current pastor, prayed and shared testimony of how God helped church leaders locate the building. The mayor of Cleveland also sent a

declaration to commemorate the milestone.

The festivities continued throughout the day, including a gospel musical by guest musicians from Cleveland and youth from the church, organized by Elder Clara Light. Pastor Parkinson led another vesper to end the celebration.



Pastors and elders clap in praise as they burn the Temple of Praise church mortgage.

I See Our Mission in Action

It is always fascinating to watch the mission of Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) come alive. I was recently walking toward my office when I saw a group of students gathered in the middle of the hallway. I noticed they were in a circle, holding hands and praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our campus.

As the students finished praying, I noticed one of them was an international student. I was intrigued because, just four weeks earlier, this student had asked her mom to move her to another school that wasn't Christian.

I asked the organizer of the prayer, Eveling Grajales, a senior and Student Council president, how this young lady came to join the prayer. Eveling shared that she had been witnessing to her through conversation, words of encouragement and love. As a result, this young lady is happier to be on our campus and is slowly growing more comfortable participating with her friends and classmates as they openly worship Jesus Christ.



This is just one example of how BMA's environment fosters and nurtures young believers, as well as challenges those who have already developed a deeper relationship with our God and Creator. This is the academy's mission: to provide a Seventh-day Adventist, Christian education that leads students into lives of service for God.



David Morgan
Principal

Students Present Revelation Seminar

When Ever Perez started working at Blue Mountain Academy, the new chaplain, senior Bible class teacher and church pastor knew his priority—to give the students a solid foundation in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

One of his responsibilities includes organizing four FOCUS (Focus on Christ's Ultimate Sacrifice) weeks each year. To kick off the second semester, Perez planned a prophecy seminar about the book of Revelation that focused on Jesus. "I wanted to make sure that, [at] the beginning and the end, the focus is Jesus," he says.

January 12-17 students preached at the evening meetings and Perez spoke on the closing Sabbath. The topics were "The Revelation of Jesus Christ," "The Truth About Prophecy," "The Sea Beast Revealed," "The Land Beast Revealed," "Signs of the Times" and "How to Prepare."

Senior Angelina Shevchenko, an exchange student from Russia, spoke on the first night. "I was worried about my accent," she says about her first time preaching in English. "I prayed, 'If You want me to speak, You have to do this.' When I got on the platform, I felt God was by my side."

The speakers inspired the attentive audience. "It was interesting to learn about Revelation," says sophomore

Brianna Maxwell, who had never attended a prophecy seminar. "Most students are afraid of end times. But, there is no reason to be afraid because God is right beside you."

Registrar Diana Engen became a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church through a prophecy seminar. "I haven't been to a prophecy seminar in years. It was really nice to attend one again. The students did a great job," she says.



Revelation Speakers: (front row) Gianni Zanatta, Angelina Shevchenko, (back row) Vicky Emilaire, Jon Dasilva, Pastor Ever Perez and Edgar Galvez

Music Department Hosts First *Messiah* Sing-Along

This holiday season, Blue Mountain Academy students presented their annual Christmas concert in a new format, a *Messiah* sing-along. Lawrence Galera, music director, recently attended and participated in a *Messiah* sing-along concert and wanted Blue Mountain Academy to host one.

Weekly practice for the Sylvan Singers, the school's large choir; Bel Canto, the touring choir; the orchestra and student soloists began in August.

On the night of the concert, parents, guests and Hamburg (Pa.) community residents packed the

academy's sanctuary, some even carrying personal copies of the *Messiah*. The concert opened with "Ode to Joy" performed by the fifth- through eighth-grade string ensemble from the nearby Blue Mountain Elementary School. Then audience members joined the choir to sing along to the choruses. "Volunteers from all walks of life added to the maturity of the sound," says Galera.



Student Julia Viniczay performs an aria.



Six student soloists performed the arias. "I was terrified!" says first time soloist Julia Viniczay, who has been a member of Bel Canto for three years. She sang "There Were Shepherds" and "Lo, the Angel of the Lord Came Upon Us." Her parents were in the audience. "My dad said he was tearing up and he posted it on Facebook," she shares.

BMA staff and professional musicians volunteered in the orchestra as well. La Sonnette (below), the bell choir, led Sabbath worship the next morning. Student musicians then performed in recitals on Sabbath afternoon and Saturday night.

The next big performance is *The Exodus Story*, an original opera that will be performed in May.

Upcoming Events

The academy has a busy spring schedule. Make sure to mark your calendars for the following events:

- March 6-7 Elementary MusicFest
- March 12-22 Spring Break
- March 23-27 FOCUS Week
- March 29 Robotics Challenge
- April 4 National Honor Society Induction
- April 14 Job Fair
- April 24-25 Alumni Weekend*
- May 1-2 Academy Days

For more information, call (610) 562-2291 or email Karyl Kramer at kkramer@bma.us.

* Honor classes: Philadelphia Academy, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010



More Than Half of Students Hit Honor Roll

At the close of first semester, 53 percent of the student body was on the honor roll: 26 percent had high honors (3.66-4.0 PGA); 13 percent had honors (3.34-3.65 GPA); and 14 percent were on the Principal's List (3.0-3.33 GPA).

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

MARCH 2015

It's Not All Bad News

Have you noticed that much of the news on TV is bad, even bordering on depressing? Heinous crimes, heartless terrorist attacks, sexual victimization—it's enough to inspire even the most ardent news junkie to quit viewing news reports "cold turkey."

But, as terrible as the news usually is, it isn't truly all bad. Why? Because Jesus said, "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near" (Luke 21:28, NKJV). Jesus turns bad news upside down, redirecting our focus to His soon return!

It is this hopeful outlook that makes us Seventh-day Adventists. But, this positive way of life is not to be hoarded. We are called to share the good news that Jesus is coming again. And, in a few weeks, churches across the Chesapeake Conference will do this in a very large and tangible way.

April 11, more than 50 Chesapeake churches will unite with 50 Allegheny East and Potomac conference churches to launch "Living With Hope" evangelistic meetings. Pastors and lay leaders of these churches will present the nightly messages, themed "Prophecies of Hope," as part of the Columbia Union Conference's initiative.

"Prophecies of Hope" will be advertised through a major marketing campaign designed to reach several million people through advertising brochures, radio and newspaper ads, social media posts and word-of-mouth invitations. Many of these people are feeling hopeless because of a personal crisis or from just observing what is happening in our world.

You can help others find a new, brighter future by inviting them to "Prophecies of Hope." Plan to attend and be part of this exciting outreach. And, be sure to bring a friend, share invitations and pray for God's Spirit to be poured out. You can find a "Prophecies of Hope" location near you and learn more by visiting hopeinprophecy.org.



Gary Gibbs
*Evangelism and Ministries
Development Director*

Spencerville Raises \$15,000 for Hospital in Africa

Some 10 years ago, members of the Spencerville Church in Silver Spring, Md., "adopted" the Maluti Adventist Hospital. Sitting in the tiny country of Lesotho and completely wrapped by South Africa, the hospital



provides the usual medical services: prenatal care, surgery, an eye clinic and a school of nursing. The patients are nearly always poor and sometimes walk the mountainous region for hours to receive needed medical help. Still, it stands as a beacon of hope in the community.

Spencerville members recently opened their hearts and wallets again to benefit the hospital, which desperately needed a pediatric incubator, oxygen generator and upgrades to the laundry. While a \$10,000 goal may not seem like a huge amount, members this time gave more than \$15,000. In the past, Spencerville provided a furnace for a ward at the hospital and a new commercial washer, along with smaller gifts.

Hope for Humanity, a ministry of the North American Division, also sponsors the Maluti Adventist Hospital. Maitland Di Pinto, an involved elder at the Spencerville church, directs the ministry.—*Charlotte Pedersen McClure*

A young patient relaxes at the Maluti Adventist Hospital, enjoying one of the 60 handmade pillowcases, five baby blankets and 58 stuffed animals sent by Keep In Stitches, a ministry of the Spencerville church.



THE Gathering

iCONNECT | OPENING OUR HEARTS TO GOD

TWO-DAY CAMP MEETING
JUNE 19-20, 2015 HIGHLAND VIEW
ACADEMY IN HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND.

Reserve your space now for this gathering of the Chesapeake family of believers. Keynote speaker Pavel Goia, pastor of the Lexington Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kentucky, was born and raised in communist Romania. His remarkable life experiences have given him a strong foundation of faith. Join us for worship, music, recreation, exciting programs, and special features for all ages!

REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 1

You can register:

1. online at www.ccosda.org/campmeeting
2. by phone at 410-995-1910
3. by mailing a **check payable to Chesapeake Conference** to Chesapeake Conference Camp Meeting, 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044

ITEM	PRICES	QUANTITY	TOTAL
DORMITORY ROOMS All rooms air-conditioned; windows have blinds			
GIRLS DORM – 1st & 2nd floor, adults only (18 yrs and older) – 3rd floor, families and adults			
1st floor - mens' rest rooms	\$50/2 nights price is for 2 people \$8.00/night each additional person		
2nd floor - ladies' rest rooms			
3rd floor - ladies' rest rooms			
BOYS' DORM -- FAMILIES & ADULTS			
1st floor - ladies' rest rooms	\$50/2 nights price is for 2 people \$8.00/night each additional person		
2nd floor - mens' rest rooms			
3rd floor - ladies' rest rooms			
<i>Fire code prohibits cooking in rooms. Bring your own bedding. Dorm rooms must be rented for the full time. There must be two persons in the room. Third and fourth persons will be \$8.00 per night per person.</i>			
PERSONAL TENTS (With Use of Bath House)			
Space for your own personal tent	\$7.00/night		
Space for your own personal tent w/electricity & water	\$9.00/night		
Folding table	\$2.00 each		
Folding chair	\$1.00 each		
TRAILERS Length of trailer: _____ ft.			
Trailer space w/electricity, water, sewer	\$17.00/night		
Trailer space w/electricity, water	\$14.00/night		
Trailer space without hookups	\$7.00/night		
MEALS AT HVA CAFE Must prepay for Sabbath meals (non-refundable)			
Friday Dinner	\$7 (ages 13+)		
	\$5 (ages 1-12)		
Sabbath Breakfast	\$7 (ages 13+)		
	\$5 (ages 1-12)		
Sabbath Lunch	\$7 (ages 13+)		
	\$5 (ages 1-12)		
Sabbath Dinner	\$7 (ages 13+)		
	\$5 (ages 1-12)		
Sunday Breakfast	\$7 (ages 13+)		
	\$5 (ages 1-12)		
TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED			\$

NAME: _____ HOME CHURCH: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____


TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

CREDIT CARD #: _____ EXP. DATE: _____

ELECTRONIC CHECK: ABA ROUTING #: _____

CHECKING ACCOUNT #: _____

BANK NAME: _____



MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

MARCH 2015

It's Worth it All!

It had been a frantically busy, sometimes frustrating day as the principal of a small, Seventh-day Adventist school. The day was already overbooked with teaching, fundraising, lesson planning, a parent/teacher conference and a board meeting. But, who can plan for the unexpected? The phone rang off the hook. I spent time comforting a fourth-grader, refereeing a student dispute, listening to a discouraged ninth-grader and praying with a parent concerned about her child. I was exhausted and tempted to feel overwhelmed. It was one of those days that can make a teacher wonder, "What am I accomplishing?"

Before you write me off as a complainer, let me explain that I am only describing an average day of an Adventist educator. Fortunately, my fellow teachers and I have the perfect example in Jesus, the master educator. While we work long hours, He almost never stopped teaching. While we may sometimes feel isolated, stressed or misunderstood, we remember that He was despised and rejected by men. When we wonder if our work will have any results, we remember that many didn't respond to Him during His lifetime.

Adventist schools produce many well-rounded, outstanding students who are prepared for successful lives here and in the hereafter. Adventist teachers daily encourage, lead and nurture young lives with a special grace only God can give. Please join me in praying for God's Spirit to be specially poured out on every Adventist educator and in every Adventist classroom. There is no doubt that Adventist education is true evangelism.



Cheryl Jacko
Associate Education Director

Two Members Become Centenarians

Two Mountain View Conference members recently celebrated their 100th birthdays:



Mary Mooring was born in Wayne County, West Virginia, as the youngest of 12 children. She worked at the Kerr Glass Manufacturing Company for 28 years, among other jobs, and joined the Adventist Church when she was 77. She shares that her happy, healthy life is a gift from God. "The Lord has helped me more than anything," she shares. Mooring is a member of the East Pea Ridge church in Huntington, W.Va.



Mary Jane Carr grew up working on a farm and loves to garden. Carr was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church at age 59 and obtained her drivers license in her 60s. For several years, she was an eager participant in the conference's annual Walk 100 Miles in 100 Days program. Carr is a member of the Buckhannon (W.Va.) church.

Members Invited to Attend Wellness Camp

Join the annual Mountain View Conference Wellness Camp at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va., August 9-21. Early bird prices are available. For more information, call (304) 422-4581 or visit mtviewconf.org.

Woman Finds Weirton Church After Searching Scriptures

After years of searching for biblical truth, Dannie Boyd recently joined the Weirton (W.Va.) church. Boyd shares she has always been a churchgoer, attending every Sunday and trying to be the Christian she thought she should be. But, while working in Afghanistan several years ago, she had extra time to



study her Bible. Once she returned home and had some free time, she watched several televangelists try to answer her questions about the end times. “The more I watched, the more I realized what they were saying just wasn’t jiving with what the Bible said,” she adds.

Further searching led her to the *Amazing Facts* television program, where speaker/evangelist Doug Batchelor explains Bible prophecy and end-time situations. “One night I called *Amazing Facts* and asked where the closest church was. They gave me the phone number and address to the Weirton church, and that’s how I found y’all,” she says.

Boyd says she still has so much to learn in her walk with Christ and has experienced shock and disappointment during her journey, but knows God is leading the way. “I never miss an opportunity to talk to someone about what He has done for me, and [I] pray He comes soon,” she adds.

Dannie Boyd (center) appreciates church members Mary Jo Long and Elder Bob Wirgau, who helped answer her questions on difficult subjects.

Highland School Earns Top Ranking

Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va., was ranked fourth on Niche’s 2015 list of the best private high schools in West Virginia. According to Niche’s website, a site that rates schools around the country, a high ranking indicates that the school is an exceptional academic institution with a diverse set of high-achieving students who rate their experience very highly. The rankings are based on academics, student culture and



Highland Adventist School students say they enjoy learning in a Christian environment.



Highland Adventist Academy students perform at West Virginia’s Capitol in Charleston.

diversity, and, in some cases, student reviews.

“We are honored to receive this high ranking by Niche,” states Cheryl Jacko, principal. “While our student body has grown to 61 students—from several [additional] culture groups since Niche’s demographic data was gathered—the basic academic excellence and positive, Christian culture of our school remains the same. We are happy to have this help in getting the word out about our school!”

NEWS NEW JERSEY

MARCH 2015

Are we Focused on Completing Today's Mission?

Have you ever been discussing something important when someone interrupts with a completely unrelated question? In Acts 1:4-8, Jesus shared the promise of the Holy Spirit with His disciples. This gift would enable them to fulfill the important task of preaching the gospel to the whole world. But, they interrupted to ask about the restoration of the kingdom of Israel.

Are we so concerned with the end times that we miss what is important here and now? Having the end in mind is important, but we need to focus on our mission before the end comes. Church members already know about the Second Coming. However, there are millions beyond the church walls that have never heard this good news. Make no mistake, we desperately need to read our Bibles and pray. But, at the same time, we need to actively share the message we are preaching. In the book of Acts, you don't see the Holy Spirit telling them to spend every Saturday afternoon in the synagogue and their houses studying their Bibles. Instead, they traveled all around the cities and villages teaching the message of salvation to everyone they encountered.

How sad it is that we are focusing inside when we should be working outside. Is the mission of a doctor fulfilled if he spends his life studying but never enters the hospital to heal the sick? Do we really need another Bible study for ourselves? We need to go out and allow the Holy Spirit to use us to complete the mission of the church.



Paulo Macena

*Communication and Youth
Ministries Director*

Ministry Leaders Retool for 2015

Conference leaders kicked off 2015 with training sessions and classes for local church leaders and department coordinators. "The purpose of the trainings is to motivate and give the tools to the leaders to do the mission of Jesus in their local churches," says Jorge Agüero, Personal Ministries director.

Under the theme "Proclaiming Hope in Jesus," more than 200 Personal Ministries leaders and their pastors filled the conference auditorium in Lawrenceville to learn new evangelism strategies and how to bring unbelievers to Jesus. Leaders were challenged to find five friends to pray for and say they left the meeting motivated to serve.

New youth coordinators also met to plan and organize for the year. Event planners encouraged coordinators to work with the



Youth Ministries coordinators record a video about this year's theme, "Faith in Action."

Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs, Master Guides, Ambassadors, Adventist Youth members, teens and young adults. They also recorded a video announcing the 2015 youth theme, "Faith in Action," and discussed how they will help the youth implement the theme.

The Family Ministries Department held training for their local coordinators. Every coordinator received *Building Family Memories*, a plan book that includes sermons and seminars for Family Christian Home Week, February 7-14. They also received helpful resources.



Zulay Tamayo and Ed Rivera-Toscano, from the Lighthouse church in Cliffside Park, show part of the Family Ministries materials.

Phillipsburg Baptisms Prompt Bible Studies

Members of the Phillipsburg church kicked off the year celebrating two baptisms that inspired members and prompted seven others to begin Bible studies in preparation for baptism.

Jennifer Bachman came to the church through the influence of Mavie Brown, a friend from high school. Bachman's husband, Timothy, also played a significant role in her choosing to make Phillipsburg her home church. He suggested the Phillipsburg church because he knew they studied the Bible there, he says. Timothy, their daughter, Alana; and son, Timothy, Jr., joined Bachman on her special day.

"The fascinating part was that, although they were drawn in by the study, it was the feeling of being amongst family which kept them coming back. Both Timothy Jr. and Alana began their preparation for baptism and are excited to be a part of the family of Christ," shares Pastor Jorge Coxaj.

Tammy Miller first came to the church for a candlelight memorial service for the families of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting victims. Miller attended with a deep feeling of compassion and pain for the suffering families. She shares that the people in the church immediately made her feel she was part of the family, and she felt refreshed by their genuine transparency. She said it



Jennifer Bachman and Tammy Miller celebrate with their families and friends.

was "refreshing because what's in the world tends to be so superficial and negative."

Miller is already volunteering in her new church. She is working with Harold Brown, the elder who planned the Sandy Hook memorial service, to start Phillipsburg's first Pathfinder club.

New Pastor Joins West New York District



In 1988 Anthony Baffi was born in Treviglio, Italy, to an Italian father and Dominican mother. Even before getting baptized, he served in his church's sports ministry and taught Sabbath School. He shares that his faith and knowledge about God were strengthened during this experience, and he felt called by God to serve anywhere he was needed.

Baffi went on to work as a missionary volunteer in other cities, planting churches while studying industrial design. But, God had other plans. He eventually changed career paths and moved to Puerto Rico to study theology. He graduated in 2013, worked as a literature evangelist in several places, then moved to New Jersey. In October 2014 he married Yayris Javier, his best friend and helping hand. In 2015 he became the assistant pastor in the West New York district and pastor for the Bayonne Mission Caleb in Bayonne.

"The New Jersey Conference officers and staff welcome Pastor Baffi and his wife, Yayris," says José Cortés, conference president.

MVA Financial Benchmark Not Reached

Dear Ohio Conference Family and Friends,

It has been a hard journey for us as a conference and school family these last months. We had the monumental task of raising \$3 million in a short time. Unfortunately, despite the earnest efforts of many students, families, alumni and supporters of Mount Vernon Academy (MVA), I'm sorry to report that we did not receive enough funds to meet the first benchmark. In fact, as of 5 p.m. February 10, we only received \$17,069.

A Brief History

Last month's *Mission Ohio* details the research and process leading us to this point. Since we fell immeasurably short of the first financial deadline, MVA will have to cease operations at the end of this school year.

Since arriving in Ohio almost a year ago, I have learned a great deal about our history as a conference and academy. During the last months,



I have discovered that MVA has traveled this difficult road repeatedly for more than 30 years and even had a special constituency meeting about their future in 1984. I believed we had time to work out a solution; this was not the case. The situation worsened so severely during the last few years, that, in August our academy could not make their first payroll. Upon learning this, the

conference immediately took out a \$700,000 line of credit to help the academy remain open while we explored options. Friends, we have no other credit available to us at this time, and our own conference finances cannot continue to support MVA beyond this school year, even if MVA tried to restructure itself at this late date.



What Now?

We are committed to seeing this school year through and hope you will join us in supporting the MVA family during Alumni Weekend April 24-26 and graduation May 22-24. Dan Kittle, principal, assures me that all activities associated with a positive end of school year experience will continue. We will focus on celebrating the life, history and value of Mount Vernon Academy.

Monies raised to date and future monies will be used to help constituent students who desire to continue their Adventist secondary education in the years to come. Secondary education will continue to be a part of the big picture for ministry in Ohio, but we will have to do it differently. Join me in asking God to help us come up with the best way to get our young people the education they need.

This is an evolving and ongoing process. Please visit ohioadventist.org for the complete series of updates and further information.

Yours in Christ,



Ron Halvorsen Jr.
President

Camp Meeting Changes Announced

The Ohio Conference Camp Meeting scheduled for June 2015 will not take place. Since many of the Ohio constituents and their families will attend the General Conference Session in San Antonio this summer, and in consideration of a leaner operating budget, conference leaders opted to suspend camp meeting preparations for 2015. Leaders will soon make plans for the 2016 lineup.

Winter Workshop Teaches Women About Inspired Intimacy

Last month women from across Ohio braved an unexpected winter storm to attend an Inspired Intimacy workshop facilitated by Celeste Holbrook, a sexual health educator who attends the Worthington church. Holbrook created a safe environment for women of all ages, and addressed everything from the physical to the emotional, social and relational aspects of sex. Nothing was off limits, and she answered questions professionally and sensitively.

The Ohio Conference Women's Ministries Department sponsored the six-hour workshop held at the Worthington church. "Keeping score is never going to work. ... It's about showing up and trying to help be a part of your spouse's life," said Holbrook, who encouraged ladies to communicate openly about sex with their partner.

Empowering women and their sexuality is a mission for Holbrook, who has helped countless individuals and couples regain this important connection with their spouse after surviving cancer, encountering menopause or having children. She reminded women that sex was given to us by God, our Creator: "Sex is a creative, artful process ... it was meant to establish a connection with our spouse."

One attendee responded, "Thank you for making this

your mission! You are making a difference!" Several referenced "the freedom to speak openly" in the "safe and open space" about what is often a taboo topic.

Conference leaders are considering expanding this workshop to include couples, teens and young adults, and a Spanish language version. For more information about this workshop or Holbrook, visit the Women's Ministries page at ohioadventist.org.



Celeste Holbrook leads an Inspired Intimacy workshop.

Conference Welcomes New Youth Ministries Director

The Ohio Conference has selected Edward Marton as the new Youth Ministries director. Marton has been a pastor in Ohio for 14 years, the past six at the Mansfield church.



"Edward grew up in the Westlake church in the Cleveland area, which he later pastored. The folks in his home church wanted him as their pastor. He has led the youth work at camp meeting for many years and has been a part of the Pathfinder and camp ministries in Ohio as well," says Ron Halvorsen Jr, president. "Those who know Pastor Edward best have the highest regard for him and are excited about having him as our youth director."

A parent of two small children, Marton has a passion for young people of all ages. "The hope and vision for the youth of Ohio is to mentor and disciple young people in learning to walk with Jesus, grow in a deeper relationship with Him and to be the hands and feet of Jesus through service in the communities," he shares.

This summer Marton graduates with a doctorate in ministry from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton with an emphasis in Mentoring and Discipling Through Missional Small Groups. His wife, Mariya, is a chaplain resident at Kettering Adventist HealthCare in Kettering. They have two children, Levi (9) and Leyla (7).

Marton replaces Steve Carlson, who resigned from the position December 31 to be chaplain for Kettering College in Kettering.

Pennsylvania *Pen*

MARCH 2015

Let's Get the Message Out About Adventist Education

Seventh-day Adventist education has undergone serious challenges in the past few decades. Many of them are due to misinformation, lack of understanding or, more fearfully, the lack of a committed spirit to foundational institutions that will bear “good fruit” in the future. Adventist educators regularly hear phrases like “Adventist schools don’t offer enough” or “it costs too much.”

The fact is, Adventist schools make a difference in our local and global communities. They participate in outreach, such as Operation Christmas Child, community park cleanups; support food banks; Compassion International sponsorships; support the elderly; participate in local and international mission trips and more. They run music ministries that reach the community with touring groups, like vocal choirs, bell choirs and orchestral teams. Studies show that students who attend Adventist schools score higher on average than public school students and are definitely prepared for the rigors of college. Students build the foundation for their relationship with Jesus Christ in an environment that is nurturing, caring and stimulating. Our schools are dynamic. Therefore, let us unite in getting out the message that Adventist education is incredibly valuable.



Richard A. Bianco
*Principal, Huntingdon Valley
Christian Academy*

Harrisburg Members Secretly Reach Out to Students

Harrisburg church members often looked at their school, wishing for better ways to connect with students. Tissiana Kelley, principal of the Harrisburg Adventist School, says she found herself also dreaming of an environment that promoted meaningful relationships between students and church members. After numerous prayers, conversations and brainstorming sessions together, the school and church began the Secret Scholar Program.

The general concept behind the program is simple: a church member and student are matched in a “secret

Santa” type of structure. The pair gets to know each other through monthly letters and by praying and encouraging one another throughout the year. A spring Secret Scholar Reveal Party then gives everyone a chance to meet.

On the surface, the program checks off a lot from the initial wish list: connect the school and church, give students an opportunity to develop real-life writing experience, provide an inside look at what is going on in the school, and open doors for visiting families to get better acquainted with church families. There was an air of hope the day the last sponsor signed up and the students’ introduction letters were distributed, say church members.

“God has taken these human goals and made them so much more,” shares Kelley. “In just six weeks, I have seen students develop patience and show unselfish excitement for others. Enthusiasm and anticipation emanates from those involved. Students who struggle to write a complete sentence are motivated to compose lengthy, well written letters. Prayer requests are being shared back and forth. Letters are carried everywhere. Conversations frequently include the phrase ‘my secret scholar/sponsor.’ The sense of belonging that these letters have given our children, and the ownership it has provided our church members, has truly touched my heart,” she adds. “It is with eager anticipation that I wait to see the blessings God has planned for our Secret Scholar Program.”



Harrisburg Adventist School students share the latest letters from their secret scholar sponsors.



Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists
 720 Museum Road, Reading, PA 19611-1492
 Phone 610-374-8331 ext 200
June 12-20, 2015 Camp Meeting Reservation Application
Applications only accepted with payment included

Office use only: A - - - - -

Date _____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone (Cell Phone if possible) _____

Total # in your party _____. Provide information below for children.

Children	Age	Gender

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 wheel chairs 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 kennels 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.)

Full Time Rates/Location –June 12,20-15	Amount	Total
Dorm room with 2 single beds <input type="checkbox"/> need handicap accessible <input type="checkbox"/> Request dorm with Bathroom	\$265.00 \$300.00	
Tent with 20 amp electricity & floor <input type="checkbox"/> 1 double cot –or– <input type="checkbox"/> 2 single cots <input type="checkbox"/> Request for _____ extra single mattress	\$120.00	
Small personal tent or trailer space up to 20ft. long, with 20 amp electricity (Located on field by Boys' Dorm)	\$60.00 Tent \$120.00 RV	
Keystone Cabin - (8 bunk beds) NOTE: a deposit of \$50.00	\$200.00	
Keystone Trailer space, with electricity Trailer size: _____ ft. 20 amp	\$120.00	
Grove City Trailer space, with 30 amp electricity usage Trailer size: _____ ft.	\$135.00	

Signature _____
 Print Name _____
 Date _____

Per Day Rates/Location	Amount	Total
Dorm room with 2 single beds <input type="checkbox"/> need handicap accessible <input type="checkbox"/> Request for _____ extra single mattress Dates Requested _____	\$35.00	
Tent with 20 amp electricity & floor <input type="checkbox"/> 1 double cot –or– <input type="checkbox"/> 2 single cots <input type="checkbox"/> Request for _____ extra single mattress Dates Requested _____	25.00	
Small personal tent or trailer space up to 20ft. long, with 20 amp electricity (Located on field by Boys' Dorm) Dates Requested _____	Tent \$15.00 RV \$20.00	
Keystone Trailer space, with electricity Trailer size: _____ ft. Dates Requested _____	25.00	
Grove City Trailer space, with 30 amp electricity usage Trailer size: _____ ft. Dates Requested _____	30.00	

Office use only:

Paid by check # _____ Paid in full
 Paid by cash Confirmation sent
 On-line payment Checked in by _____
 M/C -- or -- Visa
 Exp: _____ Code: _____ Date: _____

Total Charges \$ _____

Full Payment Enclosed:

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

Exp: _____ Code: _____
 Signature: _____

Potomac People

MARCH 2015

Conference Ordains First Indian-American Woman

In the Takoma Academy chapel, I gave my life to the Lord,” said Pranitha Fielder at her ordination ceremony. “I felt like I finally belonged and, in that moment, I felt for the rest of my life like I needed to help other people feel like they belonged. It was at 14 that I knew that this is what I would be doing for the rest of my life.”



At the beginning of the year, Fielder transitioned from youth and children’s pastor to associate pastor of discipleship and congregation care at the Sligo church in Takoma, Park, Md.

Pranitha Fielder stands with her husband, Kelan, a pastor in the Allegheny East Conference.

Sligo has a history of ordaining women, including the first ordination of a female elder, Josephine Benton, in 1973, who was in attendance for Fielder’s ordination. In 2012 Benton, now 89, received emeritus ordained minister credentials during a special constituency session in which the Columbia Union voted to ordain without regard to gender.

“The greatest responsibility that a church has is to recognize the calling of someone to ministry,” says Bill Miller (pictured, right), conference president, during Fielder’s ordination. “So, here we are today to celebrate what only God can do. It’s His responsibility to call; it’s our responsibility to affirm. God has called you, Pranitha, and the church celebrates.”

Fielder was born in India to Jaya and Jasmine Pilli and is the first ordained Indian-American woman in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination.



Farmville Church Spreads Random Acts of Kindness

Random Acts of Kindness” has been an ongoing theme at the Farmville (Va.) church. Using a practical, yet creative approach to evangelism, members are increasing the church’s visibility in the community and building goodwill by distributing gift cards, event flyers and literature to customers at local businesses.

One group of church members sought out students of nearby Longwood University and Hampden Sydney College, explains Dan Daniels, communication secretary for the church. “We were so pleased with the enthusiasm of the young people we talked with. They were very receptive to the presentation of our literature, and many were reading it as they ate. By giving out something people readily recognize and use, like gift certificates, we could more easily hold and draw attention.”

In the following weeks, church members reached out to community members at Main Street Bowling, Subway and Kenny’s Health Food Emporium. “Each site brought a blessing,” says Daniels. “The on-site manager of Main Street Bowling expressed a sincere desire to become a part of our church family. ... Another recipient said they would share the information with those they visit at the veterans hospital.”

Church members are planning more events and hope to connect with even more people. “We pray God will prevail upon the ones we come in contact with to search their soul and receive Jesus, our Lord, as their Savior,” adds Daniels.



Farmville members Dan Daniels, Bill Gibson Sr. and Myrna Gibson are ready for duty at a local Subway.

Potomac People

Takoma Park Church Teaches Truth to Oromo People

Leading people from darkness to light, from error to truth, and enabling them to connect to God is the main purpose of the church," says Edjigu Tolessa, pastor of the Takoma Park Oromo church in Takoma Park, Md., one of the largest Ethiopian churches in the Washington D.C., area.

With this philosophy in mind, his church set out to fulfill the imperative of Jesus in Matthew 28:15-20. "We are determined to make disciples of every people group, as Jesus enjoined the disciples," says Pastor Tolessa. He feels there is a vast mission field for sewing the good news.

Church leaders first started an outreach ministry and established small prayer groups and organized Bible studies. "These were instruments to encourage people to know the love of God and to introduce the Sabbath truth to them," shares Tolessa. "The evangelistic effort was uplifting to the visitors and regular members. It was a blessing of a great revival." The efforts influenced three individuals to get baptized and become members of the church, while other families committed to prepare for baptism and take Bible studies.

One visitor, Asnakech Negassa, has been attending since 2009. Negassa and her 13-year-old daughter, Taliile, recently started taking Bible studies. Negassa made a commitment to get baptized, but her husband, who practices idol worship, did not want his family to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church and break up the practice and rituals he followed. He especially wanted his daughter to follow in his footsteps. He was very angry with his wife, who encouraged their daughter to attend church every Sabbath.

During the evangelistic series, Negassa took a final stand and told her husband, "Take everything I have, my car, my house and even the money in the bank, but you cannot deny me the right of making



Asnakech Negassa, Beka Edao and Taliile Negassa make their baptismal vow public with Pastor Edjigu Tolessa.

the right choice and leading my child down the right path. I will continue to worship the true God, not your idols anymore.

It was a critical time for Negassa to leave everything behind and make a decision for baptism with her daughter, says Pastor Tolessa. "Through God's help, they both made it. Asnakech and Taliile are praying that the Lord will speak to the heart of their loved one, that he may know the truth and join them soon."

On the closing day, more than 200 people attended the service. "It was a blessing having so many people worshipping with us," Tolessa says. "We hope very soon some more baptisms will take place, and [we] will continue spreading the good news."



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Phone: (540) 886-0771 ■ pcsda.org ■ President, Bill Miller ■ Communication Assistant, Tiffany Doss

Spotlight

on Spencerville

MARCH 2015

Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

Why Our Trip to Disney Was Magical

Even though our trip started with a six-hour delay because of a broken bus key, Spencerville Adventist Academy choir's trip to Disney World was truly magical. On our first evening in Florida, we participated in the Candlelight Concert at Epcot Center with the Voices of Liberty, an internationally known a cappella group. The sacred songs filled the hearts of the audience with joy and elevated our spirits as we told the story of Jesus' birth. The endless rain did not deter us from having fun in the parks. Thankfully, it paused in time for the New Year's Eve festivities in the Magic Kingdom.

But, we didn't experience true magic at Disney. On Sabbath we sang during the divine service at the Hendersonville (N.C.) church. To our surprise, Elder Ted Wilson, General Conference president, preached that morning. We all chuckled when he said it was interesting that he had to come all the way to North Carolina to



Chelsea Kent, Haley Butler, Mark Jenkins, Andrew Moses, Sarah Wu, Georgia Kent and Matthew Rajarathinam enjoy Disney World after a performance.



Residents at Fletcher Park Inn enjoy singing hymns and carols with the choir.

hear a performance from his neighbors. But, my favorite part of the trip was not even on the agenda. Sabbath afternoon we made an impromptu visit to the Fletcher Park Inn, an assisted living center in Hendersonville. We sang Christmas carols and hymns for some of the residents, and many of them sang along. To top it off, we visited a man battling cancer and sang hymns to him and his wife. They got married at the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., many years ago, so it clearly meant a lot for us to sing for them. It was definitely a great way to spend Sabbath afternoon!

This year's tour gave each of us so many opportunities to have fun and build friendships, but, most importantly, to minister to hundreds of people through song. —Matthew Rajarathinam ('15)

Acro-Squad Performs Wizards Halftime Show

Spencerville Adventist Academy's (SAA) Acro-Squad recently performed the halftime show for a Washington Wizards basketball game in Washington, D.C. The team of 40 athletes and coaches huddled up and knelt on the VIP commons area by the court entrance to pray before and after their performance.

"We were glad to be given this opportunity and were intentional about always giving God the praise and also representing our school values," says Richie Silié, head coach. "Our host was very impressed, and I'd like to believe we were a good witness to him and all the bystanders. We are proud to say that we love to learn, live to serve—all for Christ."



The Daily 5 Enhances Classroom Learning

This school year, the kindergarten through second-grade teachers at Spencerville Adventist Academy implemented The Daily 5, a method for accelerating literacy and learning, created by teachers Gail Boushey and Joan Moser. And, classrooms are being transformed because of it, say administrators.

Typical scenes from a reading or writing class using The Daily 5 might include a group of students listening to a funny story via headphones in one corner of the classroom, another group writing an exciting story about a protagonist, students at their desks sorting word cards according to their spelling patterns, several students scattered on the floor reading a book, and pairs of students quietly reading and discussing a book.



Kindergarten students Abigail Mullikin and Julia Rivera practice their writing skills in shaving cream.

Students become self-monitors as they go through the five components of The Daily 5: read to self, read to someone, work on writing, work on words and listen to reading. Once students become self-sufficient in these areas, teachers can devote more time teaching students at their instructional levels. “The program allows me to teach specific reading strategies as a whole group and work with students in small groups based on their needs as a result of our assessments,” says Michelle Kittleson, first-grade teacher.

First- and second-graders also use Words Their Way, a developmental spelling program in which students work with level-appropriate word sorts to improve their understanding of the written language. Christina Ramirez, the parent of a second-grader and resource teacher at SAA, says, “I like Words Their Way because it is individualized for a student; if they are ready for acceleration, the program naturally does that.”

Kittleson adds, “Gone are the days of only sitting in their seats during reading class. Students move around



Jasmine Rivas, a first-grader, does some word work.

the classroom from one component to another. They self-monitor and make good choices during their activities.” Teachers, who stay busy teaching small groups at tables or on the floor, and students both enjoy the program. “I love The Daily 5 because I love to read and learn the meanings of different words,” says Sunaina Edward, a second-grader.



First-grader Aiden Zinke finds a comfortable spot to read to himself.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY

HAPPENINGS



MARCH 2015

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

Elementary Students Receive Academy Scholarships

Five Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary (SVAE) students are the first recipients of Shenandoah Valley Academy's (SVA) Zirkle Merit Scholarship program for the 2015-16 school year. SVAE eighth-graders Sierra Anderson, Brendan Genus, Katie Kemmerer, Daniel Palacios and Julia River received Zirkle Merit scholarships, valued at up to \$20,000 if they choose to live in the dorm.

These high achievers received the scholarships because they scored at or above the 90th percentile on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills national exam. The full amount of their scholarship will depend on their semester GPAs during their four years at SVA.

"These students are very gifted academically and are equally spiritual," says Tim LaPierre, SVAE principal. "As members of this graduating Class of 2015, these students and their classmates will be remembered for their outstanding achievements."

Dale Twomley, SVA principal, presented the scholarships to the students. "SVA is fortunate to have these bright students planning to join our growing



Dale Twomley and Tim LaPierre flank new SVA scholarship recipients Sierra Anderson, Julia Rivera, Katie Kemmerer, Brendan Genus and Daniel Palacios.

family of gifted students next school year," he said. "We anticipate many others of the best and brightest students from the Columbia Union becoming recipients of the same Zirkle Merit Scholarship program."

Students Act Out Faith at Youth Fest

More than 100 Shenandoah Valley Academy students joined hundreds of other young adults at the recent Potomac Conference Youth Fest at Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md. Each year the event, sponsored by the conference Youth Department, draws Seventh-day Adventist students from public and private



Shenandoah Valley Academy students distribute personal care items to homeless people.

schools. This year's theme, "SHARE," was based on Hebrews 13:16: "Do good and share what you have, for such offerings are pleasing to God."

The event kicked off Friday night with music and Christian drama. Sabbath morning Jeremiah Greene, pastor of the Seabrook church in Lanham, Md., led a time of spiritual fellowship and worship. Then multiple groups went throughout the greater Washington, D.C., area to share their faith through service. Osei Daniels, a pastor at the Takoma Park church, took a group to visit shut-ins in a nursing home. Sonia Perez, a pastor from the Beltsville (Md.) church, led a group that conducted community surveys. More than 225 students, led by Pastor Greene, distributed literature on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. SVA's Campus Ministries Department led a group of 70 to take warm food, clothing and personal care items to the homeless in downtown Washington, D.C.

"In a day and age when far too many youth give excuses to not take an active role in the Great Commission, it's comforting and refreshing to see God at work in these students," says Tim Harley, SVA chaplain.

NewsHour Features Junior's Fire Demonstration

Rarely does anyone get a chance to be spotlighted on PBS's *NewsHour*, one of the nation's most prestigious news programs. Rarer still is being featured in a positive light. Takoma Academy (TA) junior Erin Stewartson recently achieved both feats.

Last semester Stewartson participated in a University of Maryland Department of Fire Protection Engineering after-school program that was featured on the show. In class Isaac Leventon, a University of Maryland doctoral candidate, uses Christmas tree burns to teach high school students about fire safety and the relevance of science and math. In the class, the sophomores and juniors gathered data from each burn and compared the heat release rates to determine which fire is more powerful. The program works toward the goal of using fire to generate and grow interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

A recent fire, started by an Annapolis family's Christmas tree igniting, killed six people and highlighted the importance of the topic studied in the class. *NewsHour* featured the important topic and the class's finale, a controlled burn of three Christmas trees. During the final segment of the story,

Erin Stewartson, vice president of the Student Government Association, makes an announcement in chapel about an upcoming event.



Stewartson explained fire tornadoes: "A fire tornado is basically a normal fire plume, which is just something lit on fire, and then, when an enclosure goes over it, which is like a rectangular enclosure, it creates an angular momentum, which makes the fire spin into a tornado in the form of a whirl. And, they actually do exactly what tornadoes do. They pick up people and take trees out of place," she shared. Other students were featured in the broadcast, but the film crew mainly focused on Stewartson's demonstrations and comments.

Being able to see and create a fire tornado was one of the reasons Stewartson found the program exciting and worth the extra time, on top of her rigorous schedule at TA. Stewartson faithfully attended the after-school program for several weeks and found it extremely beneficial for intellectual and practical growth. "To do this for free ... even if you don't get [academic] credit, it's still very good knowledge you can use," she adds.

Stewartson shows the same type of enthusiasm in her day-to-day schoolwork. "Erin is a highly motivated student and does not hesitate to ask questions if she needs help," says David Hooker, physics teacher. "She is constantly working to expand her skills to enter her chosen profession of engineering. She participated last summer in a program held in Baltimore called Future Engineers in Dynamics System, and that program motivated her to take physics her junior year in high school instead of waiting until her senior year. The future bodes very bright for Erin Stewartson."



Erin Stewartson explores the wonders of science in the Takoma Academy chemistry lab.

PHOTO BY ROSS AVERY GORDON

This is the Place

Washington Adventist University (WAU) is a learning community that prepares our students for the world. This cosmopolitan institution challenges students to seize opportunities for learning in the nation's capital in order to become moral leaders in communities throughout the world. We prepare our students for the challenges of the 21st century and to demonstrate the spirit of Christian service to humanity.

Students are saying that "WAU is the right place for me." They are seeking a place to have a one-on-one relationship with their professors, who do their best to engage students and help them obtain their career goals. Through transformational learning experiences, the blending of faith and learning, and the availability of internships related to our students' selected majors, graduates are saying, "I became a whole new person upon graduation." This is the place where we welcome students from all over the world, and through fellowship, shared experiences and the dedication of our faculty, we inspire students to seek knowledge and demonstrate love to humanity.

This is Washington Adventist University!



Weymouth Spence
President

Million Dollar Gift Supports New Wellness Center

Bruce Boyer, a healthcare executive and member of the WAU Board of Trustees, recently donated \$1 million to advance WAU's new Health Professions, Science and Wellness Center, expected to break ground in late spring 2016. The new center will be built as a \$10.3 million renovation and addition to the existing Health Professions building on campus (they have collected \$3.53 million to date.)

"This generous gift will go a long way toward making the vision for a new Health Professions, Science and Wellness Center a reality," says Weymouth Spence, president. "The center will offer exciting and endless

possibilities for this university as we find new ways to enhance the education of our students in the health and science professions, promote healthy living and improve community wellness."

When completed, the 50,000 square-foot center will accommodate WAU's health professions and science programs, as well as community programs to enhance wellness. It will provide opportunities for the university to partner with the city and county in offering healthy cooking and exercise classes, among other wellness activities.

Boyer is president and chairman of Sloan Management, Inc., and Premier HealthCare, Inc., both in Frederick, Md., and has a unique perspective on Washington Adventist University. He spent time on the campus as a child in the 1950s, when his parents attended the university; in the 1960s, when he was a psychology major at the school; and in the 1970s, when he joined the university's board of trustees.

In addition to Boyer's recent gift, the new center will be funded through the university's annual Visionaries Gala, along with support from the state of Maryland through a \$4 million matching grant from the governor's office. The grant application is being completed and funding approval is expected this year.

To contribute to the new facility, email alumni@wau.edu, call (301) 891-4151 or visit wau.edu/alumni/give-to-wau.



NEWS

Community Counseling Center Offers Affordable Services

The Washington Adventist University Community Counseling Center offers affordable counseling services to WAU staff and students and the community. WAU is also one of two schools in Maryland that offers a master's degree program for drug abuse counseling.

Licensed drug and alcohol counselors and graduate students in the Department of Psychology and Counseling staff offer private individual and group counseling sessions. The center specializes in drug and alcohol addictions, behavioral addictions and mental health issues. Clients are charged on a sliding fee scale based on what they can afford. The center also accepts health insurance.

"Our counselors have considerable expertise in addiction issues, and we provide affordable services to a diverse community with a wide variety of needs, including individuals who have been charged with driving under the influence," says Grant Leitma (pictured), chair, Department of Psychology.



"There's no shame in seeking help," says Judith Upshaw, clinical director of the Community Counseling Center. "Individuals who have addiction and mental health issues can learn to better manage

those issues in order to live healthier, happier lives."

The center is open year-round and is located on the fourth floor of Wilkinson Hall. For more information or to make an appointment, call (301) 576-0131 or email jupshaw@wau.edu.

Sabbath Offering Supports Christian Education

The Columbia Union Conference designated January 31 as WAU Sabbath. That morning churches across the union highlighted the advantages of a Christian education and WAU's many accomplishments. In addition, offerings from that day helped support the university and its 1,100 students.

Calendar Set for Alumni Weekend

Alumni weekend is April 9-12, and this year honor classes will be 2005, 1995, 1990, 1985, 1975, 1965, 1960, 1955 and 1950. Daniel Honore, a member of the Class of 1985, is the keynote speaker for the weekend. His theme is "Passing the Mantle of Service." Since 2012 he has been president of the Northeastern Conference.

Other activities during alumni weekend include the School of Graduate and Professional Studies 30th anniversary, the Honors Program 10th anniversary, the Alumni Awards Banquet, department open houses, a 5K fun run and the Acro-Airs home show (below).

For more information, contact alumni@wau.edu or call (301) 891-4133.



The Community Counseling Center is located on the fourth floor of Wilkinson Hall, located at 7600 Flower Avenue in Takoma Park.



PHOTO BY RANDOLPH ROBIN

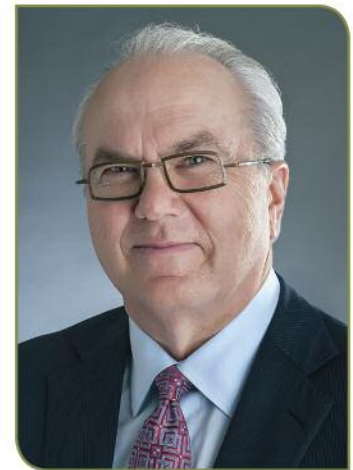


Celebrating Our Calling

Serving as Kettering Adventist HealthCare's Chief Executive Officer during our fiftieth anniversary celebration was a privilege unlike any other.

A year's worth of celebrations and reflections gave us the chance to express gratitude for the past, relish the present, and anticipate our future. More than once I paused to consider the moment when Eugene and Virginia Kettering conceived the idea that it could only be Seventh-day Adventists who could build and operate a hospital as a fitting tribute to their father. A small group of Adventists from across the country converged on Kettering, Ohio to bring the idea to life. Led by President George Nelson, the founders of Kettering Memorial Hospital immediately gained the confidence of the Ketterings and the community. A partnership built on a sacred trust was born. Throughout the past fifty years, our leaders, employees and physicians have strengthened that trust.

As we acknowledged our fiftieth anniversary, it became apparent to me that we were not simply celebrating as an organization. At every event our community embraced the partnership that the Ketterings and the founders began fifty years ago. The celebrations may be over, but the daily work of caring for our community continues as we provide patients a place to experience God's love and healing touch.



Fred Manchur

Kettering Medical Center
President 2001 – 2009

Kettering Adventist HealthCare
CEO 2011 – Present

"A year's worth of celebrations and reflections gave us the chance to express gratitude for the past, relish the present, and anticipate our future."



your healing MINISTRY

The Growth of Our Flagship

By Judi Neff

In 2014, Kettering Medical Center celebrated its 50th Anniversary as the flagship hospital of Kettering Adventist HealthCare. The original group of five employees that first President George Nelson assembled in 1960 has grown to include 12,000 individuals across the network, which has become a nationally-recognized healthcare system serving southwest Ohio.

Under the leadership of Fred Manchur, Kettering Adventist HealthCare now includes eight hospitals, a college offering graduate and undergraduate medical degrees, retirement communities, nursing homes, and more than 75 outpatient facilities in the Greater-Dayton and northern Cincinnati regions. In 2014, construction began on two freestanding Emergency Departments and will be completed in 2015. Four of Kettering Adventist HealthCare's hospitals have maternity centers with

comprehensive modern care that include access, when necessary, to the Level IIIB Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Kettering Medical Center. With its state-of-the-art facilities for mother/baby care, cancer, heart, and joint care, as well as emergency centers and variety of programs for senior living, the network provides services for every stage of life.

As CEO, Manchur leads the expanding network with a particular philosophy: "There are many facilities that are part of Kettering Adventist HealthCare, yet we are not just a system of buildings and programs, but a network of talent, a network of health, and most importantly, a network of caring. As a network, we will meet our highest potential as we break down barriers, share excellence and collaborate until we lift each other to the highest possible standards for our patients."



Groundbreakings held for freestanding Emergency Centers in Springboro/Franklin and Preble County.



Clockwise: Bill Knott, Tim Parton, Allison Speer, Jarrod McNaughton, Guy Penrod, Martina McBride, and members of the Kettering family

Celebrating 50 Years

Kettering Adventist HealthCare spent the past year celebrating the journey that Eugene and Virginia Kettering embarked on 50 years ago. The celebrations included a patriotic community extravaganza which attracted more than 75,000 people, multiple gospel concerts, community health symposiums and health fairs celebrating 50 years of wellness and whole person care.

Our faith-based values were showcased during a mission conference featuring keynote speaker Bill Knott along with musical artists from the Gaither Homecoming, Tim Parton and Allison Speer, and GRAMMY® and GMA DOVE Award-winning recording artist Guy Penrod. Former patients and current employees shared stories of hope and healing which have helped form our vibrant legacy of spreading God's love.

Approximately 4,000 concert goers celebrated the history of Kettering Medical Center with an outdoor Gospel Fest highlighting the music of 10 local Christian bands and featuring Christian rock band Sanctus Real as the headliner. The community loved the music, fellowship, and worship so much that another Gospel Fest is in the works for this summer.

Festivities culminated with the 26th Annual Heart to Heart Gala, with a featured performance by recording artist Martina McBride. The crowd of more than 1,700 included community leaders, employees, members of the Kettering family, and hundreds of devoted physicians. The Gala raised more than 6.5 million dollars to support the care provided to Kettering Cardiovascular Institute patients.

Sacred Work

IN THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY

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Russ Churchwell, DO, and Brent Bamberger, DO, during a hand surgery in Guatemala.



Steven Schmidt, MD, performs a check-up on a boy in Honduras.



Patients in Peru wait in line to be seen by Mark Pinkerton, MD, and his medical team.

Each year Kettering Health Network employees, physicians, and other affiliates volunteer to travel across the globe to bring physical and spiritual healing. Our teams perform surgeries, dental care, eye care, and personal health education to villages that do not have access to health care. Providing assistance to various hospitals around the world is part of our calling.

MISSION TRIPS 2015

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO Kettering College's Service Learning Honors Program is taking a trip to provide medical education and health fair experience. Additional volunteers (clinical and non-clinical) are needed with a special emphasis for a sonographer and eye doctor.

PARAGUAY Steven Schmidt, MD, plastic surgeon from Kettering and Sycamore Medical Center, is once again heading out on a mission trip through Legacy of Healing. They are looking for many different healthcare providers, specifically those with experience in internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics, anesthesia, and hand and plastic surgery. Nurses and surgical technicians are also needed.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA Robert Arrom, MD, OB/GYN from Fort Hamilton Hospital is putting together a team to work at Kudjip Nazarene Hospital in Papua New Guinea. They are in need of healthcare providers, including nurses, respiratory therapists, and physicians.

2015 Mission Trips

Trinidad and Tobago May 3-12

Paraguay May 15-27

Papua New Guinea June 9-23

Belize July 20-29

Albania July 29-August 13

Honduras August 15-22

Kenya September 2-14

India November 18-December 2

BELIZE Kettering College's Health Science Division will take a mission trip to Belize. Anyone is welcome to join them, though there is a specific need for family practice and pediatric healthcare providers.

ALBANIA Allegheny West Conference is hosting a medical mission trip to Albania. They are in great need of nurses and nurse assistants.

HONDURAS Ben and Phoebe Carpenter, Kettering Health Network employees, are organizing a trip to Adventist Health International/Hospital Adventista Valle de Angeles, which is located in the mountains 30 minutes outside the capital, Tegucigalpa. They are looking for both non-clinical and clinical volunteers to help conduct medical clinics at various villages.

KENYA Jarrod McNaughton, VP of Missions and Development, is leading a team to Kenya, Africa in September. They are looking for both clinical and non-clinical volunteers to help conduct medical clinics in various villages.

INDIA Allegheny West Conference is hosting this medical mission trip to India. They are in need of physicians, nurses and other clinical help.

If you've ever felt that calling to go, now is the time!



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Shenandoah Valley Academy



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EMPLOYMENT

RN LIVE-IN POSITION:

Elternhaus, a Seventh-day Adventist assisted living facility near Columbia, Md., seeks qualified RN to live in 2-4 days per week as house mother. Qualities sought: Mature, patient, nurturing individual with experience in Hospital Med Surg, nursing home or assisted living care assessment. Responsibilities include: 8 hours of patient care, 8 hours delegation/teaching caregivers, 8 hours sleeping on-call. Meet the spiritual and emotional needs through quality time spent with residents providing social interaction, including Bible study and worship services. Call Diane at (410) 707-7071.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY Education and Psychology Department seeks full-time, qualified psychology professor, beginning July 1. Doctorate degree is required. Please submit CV and cover letter to Dr. Marcel Sargeant, sargeant@swau.edu. Position is open until filled.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks full-time physical education professor to begin July 1. Master's degree required, doctoral degree preferred. Submit curriculum vitae and cover letter to Human Resources office. Must have some teaching experience. Contact Mr. Vesa Naukkarinen at (817) 202-6684 or vnaukkar@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY, Communication Department, seeks full-time professor in advertising/public relations or radio/TV to begin July 1. Master's degree required, doctoral degree desired. Must have teaching experience. Send cover

letter and CV to Michael Agee at magee@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time nurse educator to serve as nursing department chair beginning fall 2015. Doctoral degree and three years of university/college teaching experience required. Must have an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send cover letter and current CV to Dr. Amy Rosenthal at arosenal@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S Business Department seeks faculty to begin fall 2015. Master's degree required, PhD preferred, with emphasis in finance, marketing and accounting. Position includes instruction in multiple areas, undergraduate and graduate courses, and provides service to the university and community. Send cover letter and CV to Dr. Aaron Moses at mosesa@swau.edu.

RADIO STATION MANAGER NEEDED: A new, full-power, commercial, Adventist radio station is in need of a station manager. Submit your resume and wage requirements to: MCBC, 1134 No. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401 or call (970) 856-4948.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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ADVENTIST RODDERS CLUB GC MEET-N-GREET: Members and those interested in joining/starting a local chapter, join us for refreshments and car talk, Sunday, July 5, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at Roosevelt Park, 331 Roosevelt Ave, San Antonio. For more information, email nomadder55@gmail.com. Bring your specialty car.

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MARYLAND ADVENTIST DENTIST, David Lee, DDS, FAGD, AFAAID, has practices located in Silver Spring and Ellicott City, Md. He is extensively trained in implant, cosmetic, TMD/TMJ, sedation and laser dentistry. Dr. Lee is an Associate Fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, as

well as having many other certifications. For appointments, call (410) 461-6655 in Ellicott City, or (301) 649-5001 in Silver Spring. Mention this ad and receive a 10% discount on all services, excluding third-party payers. We welcome new patients!

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TRAVEL

ADVENTIST TOURS TO ISRAEL AND THAILAND EACH SUMMER! Israel: June 21-30, with authors Andy Nash and William Johnsson, longtime *Adventist Review* editor. Thailand: July 19-31, with Andy Nash and Thai guides. Affordable and family friendly. Contact: andynash5@gmail.com or facebook.com/tabghatours.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BROADVIEW ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND: April 24-25, at the N. Aurora church, Aurora, Ill. All alumni are encouraged to attend. Honor classes: 1945, 1955, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2005. Friday night vespers, Sabbath School and church. For communication purposes, we need your email addresses! Send to: Ed Gutierrez, edjulie1@att.net, or call (630) 232-9034. More information to come. Don't miss it!

"YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY REUNION will take place June 5-7 for alumni and classmates of 1965 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA), Cedar Lake, Mich. Honor classes: 1935, 1945, 1955 and 1965. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. For further information, you may contact GLAA Alumni Office at (989) 427-5181 or visit glaa.net.

2015 SONSCREEN FILM FESTIVAL, April 2-4, to be held at La Sierra University Campus, Riverside, Calif. Everything you need to know about the festival is on the website, sonscreen.com, including information on submitting a film, registering for the festival and even booking your hotel. Register now!

OBITUARIES

CULLUM, Gerald L., born June 25, 1926, in Portsmouth, Ohio;

	Mar 6	Mar 13	Mar 20	Mar 27	Apr 3
Baltimore	6:03	7:10	7:17	7:24	7:31
Cincinnati	6:35	7:42	7:49	7:56	8:03
Cleveland	6:22	7:30	7:38	7:45	7:53
Columbus	6:28	7:35	7:43	7:50	7:57
Jersey City	5:52	7:00	7:07	7:15	7:22
Norfolk	6:03	7:09	7:16	7:22	7:28
Parkersburg	6:23	7:30	7:37	7:44	7:51
Philadelphia	5:57	7:04	7:11	7:19	7:26
Pittsburgh	6:16	7:23	7:31	7:38	7:45
Reading	6:00	7:07	7:15	7:22	7:29
Richmond	6:07	7:14	7:21	7:27	7:33
Roanoke	6:17	7:24	7:31	7:37	7:43
Toledo	6:29	7:37	7:45	7:53	8:01
Trenton	5:55	7:02	7:10	7:17	7:24
Wash., D.C.	6:05	7:12	7:19	7:26	7:33

died August 28, 2104, in Dayton, Md. He was a member of the Triadelphia church in Clarksville, Md. After growing up around Norfolk, Va., he graduated from Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va., then in 1953 from Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md. He married Helen Kollar in 1945. In 1965 he accepted a call to be secretary/treasurer of the Southeast African Union in Malawi, where the family lived until 1972. They then returned to the United States, where he served for two years in the New York Conference, and then moved back to Maryland to work for the Columbia Union, where he retired in 1991. He and Helen moved to Berkeley Springs, W.Va., where they stayed active in the local church and school. He will be remembered for all the activities he loved, including gardening, woodworking and building, model trains, ham radio, giving Bible studies and preaching an occasional sermon. Above all else, he loved to serve the Lord. He is survived by his two children, Cindy (Jim) Swanson of Laurel, Md., and Greg (Patty) Cullum of Huntingtown, Md.; his grandchildren, Maggie and Jake Swanson and Christopher, Kimberly and

Ken Cullum; along with many nieces and nephews.

RUSSELL, Elsie M., born December 29, 1929, in Boulder, Colo.; died August 1, 2014, in Laurel, Md. She was a member of the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. Her mission in life was serving youth—Pathfinders especially. She was employed for many years in the General Conference Youth Department and helped write the *Adventurer* manual. A graduate of Southern Adventist University (Tenn.), she began her career as a secretary at the North Dakota Conference. She is survived by her husband, Don Russell, of Laurel, Md.—married nearly 59 years; her daughter, Kathy Comeau of Beltsville, Md.; her sons, Rick Russell of Charlotte, N.C., Jerry Russell of Bonney Lake, Wash., and Don Russell, Jr., of Naperville, Ill., their spouses and 10 grandchildren.

SHIRES, Norma D'Sena, born October 28, 1932, in Ajmer, Rajasthan, India; died September 7, 2014, at her home in Silver Spring, Md. She graduated from Spicer College and then received her RN at Gifford Memorial Hospital in South India. It was at Spicer College that she

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met Reginald Shires, then preparing for the ministry in South Indian English churches. After their marriage in 1957, they served Adventist churches in Madras, Vishakhapatnam and Hubli. In 1959 they were called to join the staff at Raymond Memorial Higher Secondary School at Falakata, south of Bhutan. Norma served as nurse and taught home science and physiology, and cared for village people near the school. *The Leopard's Call: An Anglo-Indian Love Story* is a book that tells the story of her life in this beautiful area, within reach of the jungle. In 1965 the Shires were called to the Pennsylvania Conference to work at the Lewistown and Mifflintown churches. They also led the Reading Hampden Boulevard and Allentown churches, and helped start the State College church. Their next call was to Potomac Conference's Sligo church in Takoma Park. In all this work, Norma gave fully of her time and talent, singing at all the evangelistic meetings and teaching Sabbath School classes. She was also often invited to speak at churches of other denominations. Norma is survived by her husband and four children: Juanita, Michael, Donn and Robert.

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Statement of Policy—Nondiscrimination in Adventist Schools

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

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

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

Allegheny East—Baltimore Junior Academy, Calvary Adventist School, DuPont Park Adventist School, Ephesus Adventist School, George E. Peters Adventist School, Hillside Adventist School, Jessie R. Wagner Adventist Elementary, Pine Forge Academy, Sharon Temple Adventist School, Trinity Temple Academy, Wilbert F. Mays Adventist School

Allegheny West—Columbus Adventist Academy, Ramah Junior Academy

Chesapeake—Athalton Adventist Academy, Baltimore White Marsh School, Chester River Adventist School, Crest Lane SDA School, Crossroads Adventist Preparatory School, Dover First Christian School, Frederick Adventist School, Friendship Adventist School, Highland View Academy, Mount Aetna Adventist School, Rocky Knoll SDA School, Spencerville Adventist Academy, Wilmington Junior Academy

Mountain View—Boulevard Adventist Academy, Brushy Fork Christian School, Greenbrier Valley Academy, Highland Adventist School, Mountaintop SDA School, Parkersburg Academy, Summersville Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, Valley View SDA School

New Jersey—Lake Nelson SDA School, Meadow View Jr. Academy, Tranquility Adventist School, Vine Haven Adventist School, Waldwick Adventist School

Ohio—Cincinnati Junior Academy, Clarksfield SDA School, Eastwood SDA Junior Academy, Elyria Christian Academy, Mansfield SDA School, Mayfair Christian School, Mount Vernon Academy, Mount Vernon SDA Elementary School, Piqua Seventh-day Adventist Christian School, Spring Valley Academy, Toledo Junior Academy, Worthington Adventist Academy, Zanesville Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School

Pennsylvania—Blue Mountain Academy, Blue Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Elementary, Fairview Village Adventist School, Gettysburg Seventh-day Adventist Church School, Harrisburg Adventist School, Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy, Lehigh Valley SDA Elementary School, Mountain View Christian School, Northern Tier Christian School, Pocono Adventist Christian School, Reading SDA Junior Academy, Wyoming Valley Adventist School, York Adventist Christian School

Potomac—Beltsville Adventist School, C.F. Richards Junior Academy, Desmond T. Doss Christian Academy, John Nevins Andrews School, Manassas Adventist Preparatory School, Olney Adventist Preparatory School, Powell Valley Christian School, Richmond Academy, Roanoke Adventist Preparatory School, Robert A. Lewis Christian School, Shenandoah Valley Academy, Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary School, Sligo Adventist School, Stanley Adventist School, Takoma Academy, Tappahannock Junior Academy, Tidewater Adventist Academy, TLC Prep School, Vienna Adventist Academy



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