Union Names Education

This month Ileana Espinosa joins the Columbia Union Conference’s Office of Education as associate director for elementary education. Espinosa hails from the Central California Conference where she served 14 years as associate superintendent. Prior to joining that conference, she taught high school English and Spanish for seven years at Madison Academy (Tenn.). She also taught at the elementary school level. She starts work at the union July 18 and fills the vacancy left when LaVona Gillham retired earlier this year.—Taashi Rowe

Washington Adventist University Names New Provost

Susan G. Hornshaw, PhD, was recently named provost at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md. Hornshaw is a graduate of the University of Manitoba in Canada.
where she completed a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Master of Arts in Anthropology. In 1982 she received her PhD in Anthropology from the University of Toronto.—WAU Staff

Ohio Simple Churches Gather at Camp Meeting

Every Saturday morning for the last year, Jeanette Pelton and her husband, Dan, get ready for church. But instead of getting in the car and driving to the nearest Seventh-day Adventist church in their Mount Vernon, Ohio, town, they simply open their home and invite others to fellowship with them. The Peltons lead one of three Simple Churches in the Ohio Conference, and each week they host between 10-15 attendees. While at the Ohio Conference Camp Meeting last month, the core leaders of the three Ohio groups recently gathered at the Pelton home to share ideas, victories, fellowship and food.

Allegheny East Campers Knock on Doors

Charles Cheatham, Allegheny East Conference president, leads prayer before going door to door in Pottstown, Pa. Last week Cheatham, along with some 50 people, including conference administrators, camp meeting constituents, Walnut Street Community church members, conference and Oakwood University (Ala.) literature evangelists, knocked on doors. They distributed packets of door hangers, which doubled as an advertisement for the local Walnut Street Community church, a felt-needs survey, an
Pennsylvania Team Preaches in Honduras

Ray Hartwell, Pennsylvania Conference president, is in Tegucigapla, Honduras, where he and a group of 14 are preaching in ShareHim evangelism meetings. The meetings started on Friday, July 1 and will end this Sabbath. The capital city of Tegucigalpa has about 1.5–2 million people. “We have 14 meetings simultaneously in this city,” Hartwell reports. “The Pennsylvania Conference young adults [are preaching] and Elder Buddy Goodwin, Philadelphia Boulevard and Phoenixville district pastor, is the onsite coordinator. … [We are] not just providing programming for youth, but empowering youth to be in the ministry themselves.”—Taashi Rowe

Local Paper Features New Joy Teen

When Jazzmin Pride, a member of Allegheny East Conference’s New Joy church in Hagerstown, Md., participated in a purity ceremony, The Herald-Mail was on hand to tell her story. The story highlights the 17-year-old’s pledge not to have sex before marriage. Pride, a student at Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, was the one who approached her parents about having the ceremony. “I simply wanted to publicly make a statement about my stand on purity,” she said.—Marie Gilbert/The Herald-Mail Co.
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July Visitor Highlights

This month, with the help of Pennsylvania-based nutritionist Clara Iuliano, we offer six healthy and tasty alternatives to your Sabbath potluck. She also shares her picks for some of our favorite foods in “Clara’s Best Bets.” Join us July 21, 7-9 p.m., at facebook.com/ColumbiaUnionVisitor for a live chat with her to ask your questions. Plus, members share excerpts of their lives and the Lord’s blessings from the mission field—stateside and overseas—in “Blogs from the Mission Field.”

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Espinosa Joins Union Team as Education Associate

Story by Taashi Rowe

This month Ileana Espinosa joins the Columbia Union Conference’s Office of Education as associate director for elementary education. Espinosa hails from the Central California Conference where she served 14 years as associate superintendent. Prior to joining that conference, she taught high school English and Spanish for seven years at Madison Academy (Tenn.). She also taught on the elementary school level. She starts work at the union July 18 and fills the vacancy left when LaVona Gillham retired earlier this year.

Ham Canosa, EdD, Columbia Union Education director is excited to have the bilingual Espinosa join the union team. “Ileana brings to the associate director’s position an impressive array of skills that, when applied to the needs of the Columbia Union field, will be invaluable to our administrators, teachers, students and governing boards,” he says. “She will add a valuable dimension to the work of the Office of Education.”

A product of Seventh-day Adventist education herself, Espinosa recognizes that “this is a crucial time for the educational ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the North American Division. My only goal is to be of service as we jointly formulate strategies and best practices in order to strengthen our [school] system.

She adds, “It is my firm belief that the young people of the Adventist Church are its most precious asset. Every effort must be made and every resource must be tapped in order to further His kingdom on their behalf.”

She is married to Ernesto and they have three adult children, Oscar Ernesto, Michelle and Pamela. They also have four grandchildren.
RESOURCES

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Gaspar Colón, PhD, chair of the search committee, notes that Hornshaw’s experience and expertise in many facets of higher education uniquely qualify her to assume the helm of academic administration at WAU. He says, as an accomplished educator with an extensive background in education, Hornshaw will add strength to her position on the senior administrative team of the university.

“I am very pleased to start at WAU,” said Hornshaw. “I am looking forward to serving the students and assisting the faculty.”

Weymouth Spence, EdD, WAU president is thrilled to have Hornshaw on board. “I am confident that Dr. Hornshaw’s commitment to faith-based education and academic excellence, her proven innovative problem-solving and her leadership in urban campus-community engagement will provide a solid foundation for guiding the university in the 21st century,” he said. “I look forward to working with her in building both the academic departments and the university.”

Hornshaw commenced her duties in June.
Ohio Simple Church Groups Gather at Camp Meeting

Story by Visitor Staff

Every Saturday morning for the last year, Jeanette Pelton and her husband, Dan, get ready for church. But instead of getting in the car and driving to the nearest Seventh-day Adventist Church in their Mount Vernon, Ohio, town, they simply open up their home and invite others to have church with them.

The Peltons lead one of three Simple Churches in the Ohio Conference, and each week they host between 10-15 attendees.

The Simple Church structure is a throwback to how the early Christian church started—with meetings in members' homes. When the Ohio Conference voted to incorporate simple churches into its governance structure in September 2009, conference leaders wanted to keep those attending home churches connected to a local conference. So they decided to tap into the Simple Church Network (simplechurchathome.com), which was already endorsed by the North American Division and coordinated by Milton Adams.

While at the Ohio Conference Camp Meeting last month, the core leaders of the three Ohio groups recently gathered at the Pelton home to share ideas, victories, fellowship and food.

Representatives from the three groups shared stories and ideas of how to grow individual groups and planned to meet quarterly. They also inventoried themselves and decided to capitalize on their professional skills, which included carpentry, nursing, therapy and marketing, to strengthen the Ohio Simple Church network and its community outreach.

"God is so good," Jeanette said. "He is leading this work. We are encouraged, and we will go on growing and spreading the gospel house to house and heart to heart until the Lord comes back to take us to His house."

The Peltons and their daughter, Fawn Spencer, started their group last August after meeting with Adams and completing the Simple Church online training course.

Now between 35 to 50 percent of the Mount Vernon Simple church is made up of the unchurched. "Simple Church is where your everyday life is the mission trip. We are frontline missionaries," Jeanette said.

As frontline missionaries, these groups place practical ministry front-and-center. "We were the only church who assisted our local children's services [department] with Christmas for the foster
kids in our county,” Dan said. “We replaced Christmas presents for a family whose [house] had been burglarized. We paid an electric bill for a family. We helped at a domestic violence shelter.”

The Pataskala group provides transportation for people who have none. They are also helping the single mothers who attend their group meetings.

The New Carlisle group members have been giving Bible studies and encouraging friends and family members to host a Simple Church.

Simple Church members have noticed that this kind of ministry has a magnetizing effect and has attracted even more people to their groups. Meeting in homes immediately puts visitors who would not attend a traditional church at ease, Simple Church leaders report. With the growth these churches are seeing, they are hoping to soon double the number of these types of churches in Ohio.

To learn more about this movement, visit SimpleChurchAtHome.org, email miltonadams@adamsonline.org or call (407) 745-1805.
Falling Waters, W.Va., teen wants to be an example

By MARIE GILBERT
marieg@herald-mail.com
3:01 PM EDT, June 24, 2011

It could have been a wedding.

There were flowers, ministers and a room filled with family and friends.

There also was a young woman dressed in white about to take vows.

But instead of saying "I do," she said "I won't."

It was part of a unique event known as a purity ceremony, where young women — tweens and older — pledge not to have sex before marriage.

A growing trend among many young people over the past decade, some ceremonies are elaborate affairs, with formal attire, an exchange of purity rings and sit-down dinners.

Others are more modest with only a simple promise of abstinence.

Jazzmin Pride knows all about the celebrations.

"One of my friends had one last year and she encouraged me to do one, too," the 17-year-old Highland View Academy student said.

The daughter of Ron and Jeri Pride of Falling Waters, W.Va. Jazzmin said she recently approached her parents about having her own purity ceremony, which she thinks took them by surprise.

"They thought it was a great endeavor," she said. "But I'm not sure they thought I would really go through with it."

When she showed her commitment to the event, Jazzmin said her family and friends were very supportive.

"I have five siblings — one older and the rest younger," she said. "And they were really enthusiastic. They
teased me a bit. But they were very encouraging."

One of her sisters took part in the ceremony as a flower girl.

Jazzmin said she has read about purity balls, with tuxedo-clad fathers, women in long gowns and 10-piece orchestras.

"Mine wasn't like that," she said. "I simply wanted to publicly make a statement about my stand on purity."

The event was held in a chandeliered room at the Review and Herald Publishing Association.

A member of New Joy Fellowship Seventh-day Adventist Church, Jazzmin said she was blessed and prayed over by several pastors, as well as her father.

"It was a great experience," she said.

Jazzmin said she invited several of her friends to the ceremony and is hopeful they will follow in her footsteps.

"At first, many of them asked 'why do that?,' she said. "But once they were at the ceremony, they really appreciated what I was doing. They even said the vows with me."

Jazzmin said she could see herself coordinating future ceremonies for interested young women.

"I hope I'm laying the groundwork," she said.

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