October 6, 2011

Maryland Men Challenged to be Authentic Christians

This past Sabbath, 165 men, plus some of their sons, attended the annual Maryland Men of Faith (MMOF) conference. “This was the highest attendance we’ve had in our six years,” said organizer and founder Tony Williams, a member of Chesapeake Conference’s Baltimore First church in Ellicott City, Md. Attendees came from 34 churches and four conferences around the union to the Mount Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md. Themed “Who Shall I Send?” the men attended seminars throughout the day, which included topics on parenting, marriage, ethics and the Spirit of Prophecy. Fredrick Russell, president of the Allegheny West Conference, was the main speaker and he challenged the men to live as passionate, fully-engaged, authentic Christians.

This was also the first time that the conference included a segment specifically for boys 14-19 years old. “We really wanted to reach out to the youth,” said Williams who brought his own son. “They are the future and we need to mentor them and show them a good example of how to grow into Christian men.” Each year the men make donations to an MMOF project. This year they raised $1,600 to provide Bibles and sandals to men in prison in Kenya.—Story by Taashi Rowe, Photo by Marlon King
Washington Adventist University Sees Record Enrollment

Washington Adventist University (WAU) is celebrating record enrollment numbers with a total of 1,411 students registered for the new academic year. This year’s numbers represent a 9.5 percent increase or 124 more students over last year.

Duane Reid, director of Admissions, says a significant section of overall enrollment comes from freshmen and transfer students. “The enrollment team’s diligent efforts, coupled with the support of the entire campus, has resulted in 391 new students here on the campus of Washington Adventist University,” he said. “There are 180 new freshmen with us this year. This number is 43 percent higher than the 126 freshmen who joined WAU last year. Our transfer population has increased by 36 percent from the previous year with a total of 211 new transfer students.”—Story by Andre Weston, Photo by Ralph Vieux

Union President Preaches at Summersville Church

Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union Conference, is in the middle of a weeklong prophecy series at Mountain View Conference’s Summersville (W.Va.) church. The series is titled “Prophecy Countdown,” and is focused on how Bible prophecy is revealing last day events happening around us now. One attendee, @puddles872, has already tweeted her appreciation: "Have been enjoying hearing Elder Dave Weigley. ... Awesome presentations!"

Passionate about being personally engaged in mission work as the union’s motto “Experience the Mission” encourages, Weigley did a similar series at the Robbinsville (N.J.) church in April. This event starts each evening at 7 and will end with Sabbath services. Stop by if you are in the area.
Ohio Conference Churches Engage Communities, Baptize Four

Members of Ohio Conference’s Brooklyn church in Cleveland and Westlake church in Westlake were overjoyed to add five people to the district through baptism. The churches engage the community through a variety of ways. The Brooklyn church has a radio show called “The Blessed Hope,” which airs each Wednesday on the local WHKW-AM 1220 radio station. Pastor Laszlo Hangyas (pictured, right) presents a continued study of the gospel of John, while Brooklyn elder Michael Rebich (left) serves as the announcer.

The Westlake church held a Vacation Bible School, plus hosted about 250 Seventh-day Adventists for their annual Hungarian Bible Conference. They also minister to Hungarian Americans through a radio program on WJCU-FM 88.7 every second Sunday at 3 p.m., and a television program on Scola Cable every Thursday at 7 p.m.—Story by Pamela Crandall and Barbara Zickuhr

RESTORATION PRAISE CENTER HOSTS ONLINE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

Join Sabbath School council members of Potomac Conference’s Restoration Praise Center every Tuesday at 7 p.m. for JumpStart, an online summary of the Sabbath School lesson. More importantly, encourage friends and family who aren’t currently attending church to participate and get to know their Savior, Jesus Christ. Terrence Walton (pictured), current Sabbath School JumpStart director for the Lanham, Md.-based church, reports that the 30-minute presentations, which started last October, are
also interactive: moderators tweet answers to questions that viewers post during the live session. Tune in at PraizeVision.com.—Story by Beth Michaels

Spring Valley Academy Fall Festival Raises $10K

Despite the local forecast of thunder showers, Spring Valley Academy in Center held their annual fall festival on Sunday, September 25, on a beautiful sunny fall day! Classrooms, school clubs and vendors set up their booths on the front circular drive lending a “street fair” atmosphere to this year’s “Apple Fest” theme. Some highlights included the bouncy house, jousting bounce booth, kiddie train ride, and the ever popular hayride on the school’s back 40-plus acres in addition to all the fun carnival games! Food items ranged from vegetarian spare ribs, corn roast, walking tacos, pizza and corn dogs, to popcorn balls, cotton candy, ice cream, pumpkin treats and deep fried Oreo cookies to name a few. The home and school association sponsors this annual fall fundraising event and netted a grand total of $10,899.38!—Story by Vicki Swetnam

Spencerville Members Celebrate 20th Anniversary of Gift

Frank and Dolly DeHaan, members of the Willow Brook church in Boonsboro, Md., recently attended an organ recital at Chesapeake Conference’s Spencerville church that celebrated the 20th anniversary of the installation of the pipe organ. The DeHaans donated this instrument to the Silver Spring, Md., church with the request that it be used not just for worship, but as a witness to the community. Its inaugural concert was on September 21, 1991.

In the 20 years since, this organ has been played in church services, supported choirs, accompanied
orchestras, given joy at weddings and hope at funerals, as well as attracted community members to recitals. The Evensong Concert Series, one of Spencerville’s outreach ministries, frequently features concerts that include the organ.—Story and photo by Merle Poirier

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Meet Ivy Zhu, New Member of Jersey City Church

Ivy Zhu (pictured with Pastor Bruce Banner and his wife, Lilliam) is a student from China who is pursuing a math degree at Kean University in Union, N.J. Her academic pursuits took her to Australia and now to the United States where she is scheduled to graduate next year with very high honors.

Earlier in the year while pursuing her desire to know more about a relationship with Jesus and becoming a Christian, she shared with members of the international student community: “I want to become a Christian. Do you know of a church I can attend?” She soon found fellowship with New Jersey Conference’s Jersey City Heights church family, and Pastor Banner happily baptized her. She is now an active member of the church and its ministries. Zhu’s story demonstrates the declaration Jesus made in John 10:16 that God is leading His people in preparation of His soon return.—Story by Bruce Banner

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Local Newspaper Highlights Late Willow Brook Member’s Life

In addition to running an obituary on Bill Spangler who was a member of Chesapeake Conference’s Willow Brook church, the Herald-Mail, a Hagerstown, Md., newspaper, also highlighted Spangler’s life in their weekly series “A Life Remembered.” The article looks back on Spangler’s life through the eyes of family and friends who say “he was a model of love for God and family, respect and commitment in marriage and care for others especially through his prison
ministry.” Spangler is pictured kissing his wife, Elsie, at their 70th wedding anniversary celebration in 2007. Read the story on the newspaper’s website.

October Visitor Highlights

Do you enjoy a particular activity such as reading, knitting, bike riding or playing sports? Then check out your October issue of the Visitor. It highlights members who have turned fun activities into soul-winning opportunities. Click here to read their stories in our new flipbook format.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 7: Christian recording artist Shawn McDonald will perform at the Kettering church (3939 Stonebridge Rd., Kettering) at 7:30 p.m. McDonald also will perform at Kettering College’s monthly Spiritual Emphasis session earlier that day at 9:30 a.m. at the Kettering church. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome. A freewill offering will be collected. To find out more details about the concert, contact the Kettering church at (937) 298-2167 or go to ketsda.org.

October 7-9: The Chesapeake Conference’s Adventist Singles Retreat will be held at the Mount Aetna Retreat and Conference Center in Hagerstown, Md. Kim Logan-Nowlin and Arthur Nowlin will be the main speakers. Learn more at ccosda.org or call (410) 992-9731.
October 7-9: The first Youth Health Explosion will be held at the Campostella Heights church in Norfolk, Va. Youth attending the weekend’s events will enjoy healthy meals, films, karaoke, health screenings, exercise competitions, seminars and more. For more information or to preregister, contact Lynette Moore, MD, at (757) 641-2129 or email drlamoore@aol.com.

October 11: Shady Grove Adventist Hospital’s Pink Fling is directed at survivors, community members and those touched by breast cancer. It will be an evening of celebration, pampering and educational awareness. The evening’s main event, “Survivor Soiree,” will begin with hors d’oeuvres from 6-7 p.m., followed by an award ceremony for community organizations, donors and individuals who have significantly contributed to Shady Grove’s cancer program. Pink Fling will take place at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville, Md. The event is free. Click here for more information.

October 16: Highland View Academy’s First 5K Run/Walk will benefit the school’s athletic program. Runners and walkers of all ages are encouraged to get out and move and enjoy a day of fun. Area churches will also provide a vegetarian buffet for attendees, complete with recipes. Register at hva-edu.com. Applications will be accepted up to the event date. For more information, contact John Henline at jhenline@highlandviewacademy.com or (301) 331-1016.

October 21-22: Daniel Shea will present the first part of “Christ in the Heart of Prophecy” at 7:30 p.m. at the Southern Asian church in Silver Spring, Md., on Oct. 21. He will present part two at Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., at 2:30 p.m. For more information on the seminars, contact the Southern Asian church at (301) 879-7222, or the Sligo church at (301) 270-6777.

October 22: ACTS 2011 Adventists in Ohio will come together to honor our past, celebrate the present and learn how to shape the future for the glory of God. This daylong convocation, held at the Roberts Center at the Holiday Inn, Wilmington, will bring together Adventists from across Ohio and neighboring states for a day of worship, study and fellowship. Speakers include Rebekah Liu, a pastor from Southwest China; Ted Wilson (pictured), president of the General Conference; and Ganoune Diop, the Adventist Church’s newly-appointed liaision to the United Nations. A free lunch is available for those who pre-register online at ohioadventist.org. Deadline to register for your lunch is Friday, October 14. Groups need to register with Heidi Shoemaker at the Ohio Conference, (740)-397-4665, ext. 165, or email information@ohioadventist.org.
October 30: The Adventist Choice College Fair and Financial Workshop will be held at the Jerusalem French church in Philadelphia from 1-3:30 p.m. All 14 accredited Adventist colleges and universities in the United States will be represented. Students can attend a college financial planning workshop to learn how a Christian education is affordable, apply for free to the colleges (at the event only) and meet with admissions counselors. More details are available at www.AdventistColleges.org. Questions? Contact Rachelle Martinez, fair coordinator, at (215) 510-3361, or email rmrachellemartinez@gmail.com.

For more news and up-to-date information from the Columbia Union Conference, visit columbiaunion.org

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To share the Visitor News Bulletin with friends and church members across the Columbia Union, click the “Forward to a Friend” link below so all the photos and copy will appear correctly. Also, encourage them to sign up for the email at www.columbiaunion.org/emailnews. Thank you!

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Spam
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The Brooklyn and Westlake district churches have been busily engaged in the Lord’s work, and, as a result, were overjoyed to add five people to the district through baptism: Eva and Evi Petrik, Niki Brankov and Pearlin and Martin Charles.

Brooklyn members also started a Discover Bible School, which has a continually growing number of students, and recently operated a booth at the Cuyahoga County Fair. At the fair, members offered visitors Discover Bible School cards and other literature, like copies of Steps to Christ and The Great Controversy. The church didn’t leave out community youth and also hosted its annual Vacation Bible School under the theme “Heaven and Beyond.”

The Brooklyn church has been busy with their new radio show, The Blessed Hope, which airs on WHKW-AM 1220. Each Wednesday evening, 8:30-9 p.m., Pastor Laszlo Hangyas (pictured, right) presents a continued study of the blessed hope in the Gospel of John, while Brooklyn elder Michael Rebich (left) serves as the announcer.

The Westlake church also held a Vacation Bible School, plus hosted about 250 Adventists for their annual Hungarian Bible Conference. Keeping to the event theme, “In My Father’s House,” Pastor Janos Kovacs-Biro, a guest speaker from the Trans-European Division Ministerial Department, focused on heaven. The Westlake church also continues to minister to Hungarian Americans through their media ministries efforts: a radio program on WJCU-FM 88.7 every second Sunday at 3 p.m., and a television program on Scola Cable every Thursday at 7 p.m.
Pastoral couple Laszlo and Marta Hangyas of the Brooklyn and Westlake district flank newly baptized Pearlin Charles and her brother, Martin.

William Rodriguez, a Hispanic district pastor, prepares Nikki Brankov for baptism.
William M. 'Bill' Spangler Sr.

By JANET HEIM

E-mail: janeth@herald-mail.com

3:34 PM EDT, September 24, 2011

Editor's note: Each Sunday, The Herald-Mail runs "A Life Remembered." Each story in this continuing series takes a look back — through the eyes of family, friends, co-workers and others — at a member of the community who died recently. Today's "A Life Remembered" is about William M. Spangler Sr., who died Sept. 18 at the age of 94. His obituary was published in the Sept. 20 edition of The Herald-Mail.

William M. 'Bill' Spangler Sr.'s life spanned more than nine decades. During those years, his family says, he was a model of love for God and family, respect and commitment in marriage and care for others, especially through his prison ministry.

Bill married Elsie Duffey after only three dates. His mother worked with Elsie — both were seamstresses at a dress factory in Greencastle, Pa. — and thought she would be a good match for her son. Her instinct was right, and it was love at first sight after they saw each other's photographs.

"He said he fell in love with her picture and stayed that way his whole life," said third child Beverly 'Bev' Grenci.

Bill wanted two children, while Elsie wanted eight. She adored two of her grandmothers — one had 13 children, the other with 15 — and wanted a large family as a result.

"They add with happiness," Elsie said of children.

Bill and Elsie's love affair lasted 74 years and produced eight children, 30 grandchildren, 68 great-grandchildren and 23 great-great-grandchildren.

"They compromised. He said, 'Yes dear,'" daughter and fourth child Lois Burnett said with a laugh in reference to their large family.

The Spangler children were born from 1938 to 1959, and there were children in the house for 42 years, in
addition to foster children.

Bill and Elsie both were the first children in their families, and had to quit school in eighth grade to help care for their families. He learned to drive on a Model T Ford that had to be cranked to start.

"We got along so well, I didn't fuss him. I wanted him. I didn't want to lose him," Elsie said of the early days.

When they first were married and before their first child was born, the couple's combined wages were $9 per week and bread was 5 cents a loaf.

The Spanglers had good times and rough times, but stuck together through faith and commitment.

"He wanted to let others know that marriage can last and that God was the glue that held them together," Lois said. "He was so upset about the current divorce rate."

"He didn't believe in giving your word and breaking it," Bev said.

"That alone is unprecedented these days. I know it's been an influence on my relationship," said youngest child and son Kim Spangler of Florida, who has been married 31 years.

Bill showed his respect and love for Elsie by holding her hand, sneaking a kiss whenever he could, and telling her regularly that he loved her and how much he appreciated what she did for him.

"He lived for her," Bev said. "He'd tell us all the time, 'I love your mother.'"

"He called her Mother to show what we should do," Lois said. "That just stuck."

Bill's middle name was McGeary, which Elsie didn't like. Instead of calling him Bill like everyone else did, Elsie shortened his middle name and called her husband Gary throughout the years.

Lois said her father, who trained as a medic during World War II but was not sent overseas, worked hard as a farmer and welder to provide for his large family. He rented farms in Greensburg, on Alternate U.S. 40.

Bill took pride in counting 167 immediate members in five generations of his family, spread all over the country. Family traveled from states such as Florida, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, Tennessee and Texas for the funeral.

"If you asked Dad what was life about, he'd say, 'Mother and his quiver of children,'" Lois said. "His first priority was the Lord and his prison witness of 38 years."

It was after the death of their oldest child, who passed away in his 30s, that Bill began leading Bible studies in the state prisons south of Hagerstown. Even when in a wheelchair, he insisted on going and just glowed in response to the ministry, his children said.

"To some of those inmates, he was the only father they had," Bev said. "One of them called him an angel behind bars."

She said sometimes they would get upset with Bill when he would leave a family gathering to go to the
prison, although they understood that he had a heart for the men without families.

"Men have changed their lives, become teachers or in the medical profession because of him," Lois said.

The Spanglers were members of Willow Brook Seventh-day Adventist Church, and followed a vegetarian diet for the past 50 years.

"It's what kept us going all these years," Elsie said.

Despite a healthy lifestyle, Bill had more than his share of medical issues. He survived a fall, but had broken ribs and a punctured lung. The family was told to prepare for his imminent death and had him anointed, but within days, he was up and around.

"He was a walking miracle," said sixth child Ramona Bibi of Michigan.

Another time, Bill's appendix burst and he didn't realize it. He also survived three bouts of cancer, had ulcers and had surgery for an aortic aneurysm and gallbladder.

"We'd tell him he was using up his nine lives," Bev said.

Bev and her husband, who live in Mount Aetna, helped take care of her parents for three years, before Lois moved in with her parents at their South Pointe home about a year ago.

"She took care of him and he got his wish to die at home. He died peacefully at home with Mother by his side," said Lois, who added that hospice care was a blessing.

As Bill's health failed, Elsie would spend the day by his side, holding his hand. His began losing his vision and wasn't very alert the last two weeks, but the sound of Elsie's voice would cause him to perk up.

It wasn't until Bill had spoken with all of his children and Lois assured her father that she would take care of Elsie that Bill was able to let go.

"He was very strong and strong-willed," Lois said. "He was concerned about Mother."

The family has lost its "prayer warrior," who wouldn't let anyone leave the house without a prayer, but have learned from him.

"We've been blessed to have him so long. We'll miss him, but we've been blessed."

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