November 9, 2011

WGTS Honors Radio Host’s 45 Years of Ministry

For decades people throughout the Washington, D.C.-area who turned their radio dials to Washington Adventist University’s WGTS 91.9 FM on Sabbath mornings immediately recognized the voice of Gerry Fuller, DDS. Over the course of 45 years, this WGTS radio host interviewed famous authors, performers, medical experts and countless other public figures.

Friends, family and listeners recently filled the sanctuary of Potomac Conference’s Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., to celebrate and honor Fuller’s service to the station. “I know the Lord has blessed me and kept me at WGTS for so long so that I could be a part of God’s mission at WGTS, a ministry that not only touches the Washington, D.C., area, but is reaching out to the world,” said Fuller, who is pictured receiving a token of appreciation from John Konrad, station manager.—Story and Photo by Vanessa Castillo

READ MORE
Potomac’s Hispanic Retreat Draws 1,000 Women

The 13th annual Women’s Ministries Retreat of Potomac Conference’s Hispanic Ministries recently held October 21-23 in Arlington, Va., drew more than 1,000 women representing more than 60 Hispanic churches.

Women attended from the Allegheny East, Chesapeake, Allegheny West and Mountain View conferences, and one special group even traveled all the way from Milan, Italy. English-speakers also attended and, for them, the sermons were translated into English. Keynote speaker Elizabeth Talbot, associate speaker for the Voice of Prophecy, spoke on the event’s theme “Surprised by Love.”

There was also a special program for the more than 120 teen attendees who enjoyed the messages that Zoraida Velez Delgado shared. She shared the worth that every teen has before Jesus and how to break free from the lies of Satan.— Story by Jacqueline Sanchez; Photos by Tony Ventouris

READ AND SEE MORE PHOTOS

El Retiro de Damas del Ministerios Hispanos de la Potomac Conference atrae a 1,000 mujeres

Con la asistencia de más de 1,000 hermanas representando más de 60 Iglesias Hispanas, se realizó el XIII Congreso del Ministerio de la Mujer de los Ministerios Hispanos de la Potomac Conference el 21-23 de Octubre, 2011 en Arlington, VA.

Hermanas asistieron del Allegheny East, Chesapeake, Mountain View y Allegheny West Conference, y un grupo especial viajo desde Milán, Italia para formar parte de este retiro. Hermanas de habla inglés también asistieron, por lo que los sermones fueron traducidos al Inglés. Carla Baker, la directora del Ministerio de la Mujer para la División Norte Americana, también estaba presente.
La oradora principal, Elizabeth Talbot, Oradora Asociada del ministerio Voice of Prophecy, habla del lema “Sorprendidas por Amor.” Sus mensajes cautivaron a la audiencia llevándolas a confiar en Cristo y su amor permanente por sus hijas.—*Historia por Jacqueline Sanchez; fotos by Tony Ventouris*

LEA MAS Y VEA FOTOS

---

**Berkeley Springs Church Hosts Health Expo at Street Festival**

Each fall, an estimated 5,000-6,000 people attend the annual Apple Butter Festival in Berkeley Springs, W.Va. For the second year in a row, Chesapeake Conference’s Berkeley Springs church took advantage of the crowds attending this street festival and held their health expo during the event. Over the two days, hundreds visited the church’s booths at which they offered free health screenings, activities for kids and healthy snacks.

“The Lord opened this opportunity to serve the Berkeley Springs community. [It was] such a privilege,” Pastor Hal Butman said. “Many of our church members (and some of their friends as well) were involved in this outreach, greeting and serving participants. I couldn’t be prouder!”—*Story by Ruth Wright; photo by Dave Sipes*

READ AND SEE MORE PHOTOS

---

**Potomac Member Gets Fire Deputy Post**

Lt. Col. Neal B. Dennis, a 22-year veteran of the Prince George’s County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department in Maryland, has been appointed deputy director of the department. Dennis, who attends Potomac Conference’s Beltsville (Md.) church, now oversees 90 percent of the Fire/EMS Department’s personnel and resources that respond to emergency and non-
emergency service calls.

“I know it’s going to be challenging, but with God’s help, I’m looking forwarding to serving our citizens and doing the best we can,” Dennis said. A graduate of Sligo Adventist School and Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md., Dennis became a firefighter through the encouragement of his older sister, who was also a firefighter.—Story by Mark E. Brady/PGFD News

Jerusalem French Hosts College Fair

Driven by a commitment to Seventh-day Adventist education, Allegheny East Conference’s Jerusalem French church in Philadelphia recently hosted a college fair that drew multiple Adventist colleges and universities. This October 30 Adventist Choice College Fair also drew some 200 attendees and included representatives from Washington Adventist University, Pacific Union College, Canadian University College, Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences, Oakwood University, La Sierra University, Southwestern Adventist University, Union College, Southern Adventist University and Andrews University. Students were able to attend two financial aid workshops and apply to the institutions on the spot, without paying application fees.

“Praise God!” said an enthusiastic Rachelle Martinez, a member of Jerusalem French who served as the church’s liaison to Adventist Colleges and Universities, which organizes these fairs. “Despite the freakish Nor’easter, we were inundated with visitors from New Jersey (North and South), Delaware and even parts of Maryland, who took to the road early on Sunday to take advantage of this great opportunity.”
Highland View Academy Honors Community Partners

In an effort to highlight their partnerships with the Hagerstown, Md., community, Highland View Academy (HVA) recently invited local church leaders, business leaders and area service members to attend a Community Partnership Day. U.S. Congressman Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, who is a member at the Frederick (Md.) church, spoke of his support for HVA, and then donated a flag that had flown over the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. While HVA students Jeriah Ahlfeld and Victor Maldonado raised the flag, Lexi Wakefield, Miss Pre-Teen Maryland International and a student at the Atholton Adventist Academy in Columbia, Md., sang the national anthem.

“We feel that it’s very important for us to ensure that not only community partners know who we are, but that we’re involved from a community service stand point of view,” Deborah Trevino, HVA principal, told the local press.—Story by Renee Williams

End Quote: Share Christ’s Love During the Holidays and Year-Round

Many churches will deliver food boxes around the upcoming holidays. Yet some of the churches most active in community service will not do so. Why? Because, the poor need food 365 days out of the year, not just around the holidays.

A number of the most active churches in the Ohio Conference will collect food donations around the holidays and give all or most of the food collected to a local community food pantry. This may be a food pantry which they operate through their own Adventist Community Services (ACS) center or one operated by some other community organization. The point is that the donated food will be used for many months.

I would strongly urge your church to consider this point carefully. Maybe at least half of the food you
collect or purchase should go to help stock a community food pantry instead of into holiday food boxes.—
Monte Sahlin, Ohio Conference ACS Director

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**November 11 - 13:** **Potomac Conference Hosts iThirst**, a spiritual retreat for the collegiate and young adult community. The retreat will be held at Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va. The cost is $99 per person. Registration will be limited to 50 participants. The final deadline for registration is Thursday, November 3. **Click here to download the registration form.** For more information, contact the conference’s Department for Youth Ministries at (540) 886-0771 or email youth@pcsda.org. You can also fax the registration form to (540) 886-5734.

**November 11-19:** **Capitol Hill Church’s Fall Week of Spiritual Emphasis** is themed “Bread for Believers.” Guest speakers are Pastor Kenneth Manders, a pastor in Bermuda, and Melvyn Hayden, Jr., pastor of the Liberty church in Baltimore. Special events include the vespers seminar “21st Century Singles” and a dramatic presentation of “Catchin’ Fire” by 4Him Drama Ministries. Guest musicians include Stellar-nominated vocalist Terrell Hunt and saxophonist Todd Ledbetter along with Amanda Standard and Divine Dance Institute. Capitol Hill is located at 914 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington, D.C. For more information, call (202) 543-1344, or email info@chcsda.org.

**November 12:** **Metro Praiz Anniversary Concert** will be held at the Metropolitan church at 6307 Riggs Rd in Hyattsville, Md. The concert starts at 5 p.m. Special guests include Monique Griffiths, Orville the Poet and Chris Robinson.

**December 3:** **Spencerville Adventist Academy’s Fourth Annual Messiah Sing-along** will be held 4 p.m. at the Spencerville church located at 16325 New Hampshire Avenue in Silver Spring, Md. Participants must have their own music. For more details, contact Jane Lanning by email at jlanning@spencerville.org or call (301) 421-9101.

**December 3:** All are invited to enjoy **Highland View Academy’s Annual Christmas Concert.** The select choir, orchestra and bell choir will praise the Lord in song at the Highland View church in Hagerstown, Md., at 4:30 p.m. This year the freewill offering will go toward a trip to Russia for the young musicians to perform in Moscow and Kiev and to visit an orphanage in the Ukraine.
December 4: Sligo Adventist School presents their first Business and Craft Showcase at their Takoma Park, Md., campus. The hours are 11 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information, call (301) 434-1417 or visit www.sligoadventistschool.org/parentresources.

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

Forward to a Friend or Subscribe

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!

Stay Connected:

Visitor News Bulletin Editor
Taashi Rowe
5427 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045
Email: visitor@columbiaunion.net Website: www.columbiaunion.org

Visitor News Bulletin is an electronic newsletter published by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Columbia Union Conference. You are free to reprint any portion of the bulletin, however, please identify Visitor News Bulletin as the source.
WGTS Honors Radio Host’s 45 Years of Ministry
Story and photos by Vanessa Castillo
Published 11/3/11

For decades people throughout the Washington, D.C., area who turned their radio dials to Washington Adventist University’s WGTS 91.9 FM on Sabbath mornings, have immediately recognized voice of Gerry Fuller, DDS. Over the course of 45 years, this WGTS radio host has interviewed famous authors, performers, medical experts and countless other public figures. He also hosted musical programs and advocated on behalf of Washington’s “Family Safe, Kid-Friendly” radio station.

“I know the Lord has blessed me and kept me at WGTS for so long so that I could be a part of God’s mission at WGTS, a ministry that not only touches the Washington, D.C., area, but is reaching out to the world,” Fuller said last Sabbath evening at a special service that celebrated his 45 years of service to Christian radio. Friends, family and listeners filled the sanctuary of Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., located across from the station, to celebrate and honor Fuller. The WGTS Gateway Fellowship Praise Band and Washington Adventist University students presented a brief musical history of WGTS. The National Christian Choir and Wintley Phipps also provided music.

Friends like author Joe Wheeler (Christmas in My Heart series), William Johnsson (former editor of the Adventist Review), Johnnie Johnson, John Konrad and many others shared the impact Fuller made in their lives. Others like Lonnie Melashenko, Chaplain Barry Black and author Willie Jolley sent video messages to Fuller and his wife, Joy.

In his video message, Dick Duerksen, a storycatcher for Maranatha Volunteers International, said, “I want to thank you for what you’ve done in my life. You gave me reason to smile into a microphone and know that that smile communicated to thousands of people and changed the quality of their day. … By watching Gerry Fuller, I think I do a better job at what I do today.”

John Konrad, the station’s general manager, said, “Gerry has been a constant source of support and inspiration to me since I started working at WGTS in high school. And even then though Gerry has been my boss for years, he’s been more like a brother to me.”

Guest after guest talked about how Fuller’s passion, diligence and faith inspires them. They also shared that despite his accomplishments and position, he is still a true friend to everyone he meets. His belief in the people around him has driven them to major accomplishments in many fields. Fuller himself talked about how the Voice of God has been an important presence in his life.
The evening may have marked Fuller’s retirement but it also marked the beginning of the Gerry Fuller Mission Outreach Fund. This fund will go to helping establish and mentor Christian radio stations throughout the world to more effectively spread the message of hope and encouragement through Christ.
Potomac's Spanish-Speaking Retreat Draws 1,000 Women
Story by Jacqueline Sanchez
Published 11/3/11

The 13th annual Women's Ministries Retreat of the Potomac Conference's Hispanic Ministries recently held October 21-23 in Arlington, Va., drew more than 1,000 women representing more than 60 Hispanic churches.

Women attended from the Allegheny East, Chesapeake, Allegheny West and Mountain View conferences, and one special group even traveled all the way from Milan, Italy, to take part of this retreat. English-speakers also attended and for them, the sermons were translated into English. Carla Baker, Women's Ministries director of the North American Division, was also present.

Keynote speaker Elizabeth Talbot, associate speaker for the Voice of Prophecy ministry, spoke on the event’s theme “Surprised by Love.” Her messages captivated the audience leading them to trust in Christ and His permanent love for his daughters. Each presentation was characterized by an in-depth study of the Bible that led the audience to know even more about this sacred book.

Pastor Talbot expressed her appreciation for having the opportunity to share a special weekend with these women. She said her greatest joy was sharing the great news of salvation through Christ to the more than 200 attendees who were not members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

There was also a special program for the more than 120 teen attendees and they enjoyed the messages that Zoraida Velez Delgado shared. She shared the worth that every teen has before Jesus and how to break free from the lies of Satan.
There were also breakout seminars on health, diet, beauty and how to live a life full in Christ. Additionally, there were more than nine tables laid out for a Fair of Resources where various organizations were invited to share and distribute information from their organization. A few included: Inova Health System & Fairfax County, Adventist Healthcare, Fairfax County WIC Program, Women Working Organization, Prison Ministries, Senior Security Insurance Partners, Total Health Resources, and Loudoun Community Health Center, Takoma Academy and John Nevins Andrews School.

“We praise God for His indispensable presence in this event through the Divine Spirit and for the hundreds of women that will give their lives to Jesus through baptism in their churches,” said Carmen Esposito, Hispanic Women’s Ministries director.
El Retiro de Damas del Ministerios Hispanos de la Potomac Conference atrae a 1,000 mujeres

Historia por Jacqueline Sanchez; fotos por Tony Ventouris/Ancient City Photography

Publicado 11/9/11

Con la asistencia de más de 1,000 hermanas representando más de 60 Iglesias Hispanas, se realizó el XIII Congreso del Ministerio de la Mujer de los Ministerios Hispanos de la Potomac Conference el 21-23 de Octubre, 2011 en el Hyatt Regency Crystal City de Arlington, VA.

Hermanas asistieron del Allegheny East, Chesapeake, Mountain View y Allegheny West Conference, y un grupo especial viajó desde Milán, Italia para formar parte de este retiro. Hermanas de habla inglés también asistieron, por lo que los sermones fueron traducidos al Inglés. Carla Baker, la directora del Ministerio de la Mujer para la División Norte Americana, también estaba presente.

La oradora principal, Elizabeth Talbot, Oradora Asociada del ministerio Voice of Prophecy, habló acerca del lema “Sorprendidas por Amor.” Sus mensajes cautivaron a la audiencia llevándolas a confiar en Cristo y su amor permanente por sus hijas. Cada presentación se caracterizó por un estudio profundo de la Biblia lo que llevó a la audiencia a conocer más el libro sagrado. Ella dijo que su mayor gozo fue haber podido transmitir el mensaje de salvación en Cristo a las más de 200 no-Adventistas que asistieron.

También hubo una programación especial para las más de 120 adolescentes que asistieron y disfrutaron de los mensajes de la presentadora, Zoraida Vélez-Delgado. Se destacó el valor de cada adolescente delante de Jesús y como librarse de los engaños de Satanás.
También se realizaron varios seminarios sobre salud, alimentación, belleza de la mujer y cómo vivir una vida plena en Jesús. También fueron invitados promotores de salud y instituciones de educación como: Amerigroup, Inova Health System & Fairfax County, Adventist Healthcare, Fairfax County WIC Program, Women Working Organization, Prison Ministries, Senior Security Insurance Partners, Total Health Resources, Loudoun Community Health Center from Leesburg, VA, Takoma Academy, y la escuela de John Nevins Andrews.

"Alabamos al Señor por su indispensable presencia en este evento por medio del Divino Espíritu y por las decenas de hermanas que entregaran sus vidas a Jesús por medio del bautismo en sus Iglesías," dijo Carmen Esposito, directora del Ministerio de la Mujer de los Ministerios Hispanos.
Each fall, an estimated 5,000-6,000 people attend the annual Apple Butter Festival in Berkeley Springs, W.Va. For the second year in a row, the Chesapeake Conference's Berkeley Springs church took advantage of the crowds attending this street festival and held their health expo during the event. Over the two days, more than 400 adults and children visited the church's booth on a side street at which they offered free health screenings and gave away healthy snacks. Many more visited the church’s booth on the many street, with one person estimating that they gave out 1,000 pieces of literature.

Adults had the opportunity to check their blood sugar, blood pressure, air capacity, body mass index, resting and exercise heart rate and have an anti-stress chair massage, while children enjoyed their own activities at NEWSTART visual art stations. They blew bubbles, did chalk art, played with water toys, arranged a food pyramid on a ladder, and tossed beanbags.

Church members distributed bottled drinking water and healthy snacks—homemade granola bars, apples, hummus with carrot and celery sticks, trail mix and popcorn balls. "Can't believe you're doing all this for free!" many visitors commented, then asked "Who sponsors this?"

At the last station, retired pastor Al Cyr and his wife, Darlene, offered lifestyle counseling. Several people who talked with them accepted the offer of free Bible studies.

The church also set up a double booth on the main street where children got balloons and could design their own free sun visors. A special drawing for a free set of Bible Stories drew the attention of passersby. Adult and youth volunteers gave away hundreds of pieces of spiritual literature, including Real magazine for juniors. Two young ladies with children in strollers were excited to discover free Bibles and a book about Jesus, The Desire of Ages. "This is just what we've been praying for!" said one.

When giving away copies of Vibrant Life magazine, church members also invited community members to view the film Forks Over Knives at a Seventh-day Adventist church in Hagerstown. At least four families who got the flyers attended the showing.

"The Lord opened this opportunity to serve the Berkeley Springs community. [It was] such a privilege," Pastor Hal Butman said. "Many of our church members (and some of their friends as
well) were involved in this outreach, greeting and serving participants. I couldn't be prouder!"