Dayton Korean Members Help Treat, Baptize Maasai in Kenya

Earlier this spring, five church members joined Young Hwa Yoon, pastor of Ohio Conference’s Dayton Korean church in Dayton, Ohio, and his wife, Victoria, on a trip to Kenya. “God did more than expected,” Yoon said of the trip.

During the day, Yoon, his team and the Central Kenyan Conference’s Health Ministries director, helped the Maasai people with basic needs like medicine, vitamins and glasses. Yoon, a former optometrist, and his wife, a nurse, addressed eye conditions caused by excessive smoke in inadequately vented homes. While he administered the eye drops (pictured), he would counsel the Maasai to return to the local pastor for additional treatment, which enabled pastors and residents to establish relationships.

During the evenings, the group evangelized. By the end of the trip, the missionaries had treated more than 1,000 Maasai, baptized 83 locals and converted another 139.—Story by Ohio Conference Staff

READ MORE
Mountain View Young People Pledge to Reach Every Home in Charleston

Can a group of young people knock on every door in Charleston, W.Va., this year? Young people in the Mountain View Conference, who are partnering with Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC), said an exuberant “Yes!” Charleston is not only the state’s capital, but according to the 2010 U.S. Census, it is also home to 51,400 people and 23,453 households.

The first event to reach Charleston, themed “This Soil Also,” began on a rainy Friday evening as GYC representatives, conference administrators, pastors, young people and supportive church members from around the conference, streamed into the Charleston church to hear GYC speaker Valmy Karemera, who encouraged everyone to be witnesses in that very city.

On Sabbath morning, panel members (pictured) answered the question of how best to go about being witnesses in all arenas. In the afternoon, 56 people descended on the city of Charleston, taking surveys and offering Bible studies.

READ MORE

Allegheny East Spanish Youth Share “The Love of Their Lives”

“You can know a lot about God but don’t really know God,” Luis Cesar Caballero, a young pastor from Alabama, told some 300 attendees to Youth Sabbath 2012 at the Dover First church in Dover, Del. He continued, “When we serve a dead God, religion becomes a burden, and we get upset because God doesn’t do what we want. But when we spend intimate time with God, when we walk with God daily,
when we’ve had an encounter with God, our hearts will burn and our hope in Him comes to life.”

Caballero (pictured) shared these words with Spanish-speaking youth and their families from six churches in the Allegheny East Conference Bay Area Ministerium who gathered for a special day of sermons, praise music, fellowship and fun. The youth invited Caballero to speak at this third annual youth day, and he presented two seminars that reflected the theme “The Love of Your Life.”—Story by Taashi Rowe

READ MORE

Jóvenes hispanos de Allegheny East comparten “el amor de sus vidas”

“Puedes saber mucho acerca de Dios pero no conocer realmente a Dios”, le dijo Luis César Caballero, un pastor joven de Alabama, a unos trescientos participantes del Sábado Joven 2012 en la iglesia Dover First, en Dover, Del.

Él continuó diciendo: “Cuando servimos a un Dios muerto, la religión se vuelve una carga, y nos enfadamos porque Dios no hace lo que queremos. Pero cuando dedicamos tiempo a solas con Dios, cuando caminamos con Dios diariamente, cuando hemos tenido un encuentro con Dios, nuestros corazones arderán y nuestra esperanza en Él cobrará vida”.

Caballero compartió estas palabras con los jóvenes hispano-hablantes y sus familias, que vinieron de seis iglesias en Allegheny East Conference Bay Area Ministerium, para reunirse en un día especial de sermones, alabanzas, confraternidad, y diversión. Los jóvenes invitaron a Caballero como orador en este tercer día juvenil anual, y presentó además dos seminarios que reflejaron el tema: “El amor de tu vida”.—Historia por Taashi Rowe

LEA MAS
Washington Adventist University Music Chair Publishes Major Work

Maestro James Bingham, chair of Washington Adventist University’s Department of Music in Takoma Park, Md., recently published *Procession and Carols: A Christmas Suite for Women’s Chorus and Harp*. The work describes the story of the enunciation and birth of Christ through the use of medieval carols, many of which emphasize the perspective of women.

The work is approximately 30 minutes long and, therefore, regarded as a major work. It will be included in the list of new major works and distributed to national and international music retail establishments.

Bingham, who holds a doctoral degree in Education from Andrews University (Mich.), has been at WAU since 1994. He began his musical training in Australia. He also directs the university’s Columbia Collegiate Chorale and elite choir, Pro Musica.

Committee Members Share Views on Ordination Without Regard to Gender

On May 17, the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee voted to call a special constituency session to authorize ordinations without regard to gender. We asked several executive committee members their views on the action and will share two responses. Deborah A. Hill, a member of Allegheny West Conference’s Southeast Church in Cleveland, said, “It’s painful to know that we are still discussing in 2012 that destiny is determined by gender. I think the committee was courageous in moving forward in faith and prayer. I’m confident that this is the right decision. I’ve been praying about this for a long time. It’s time. It’s time to move forward.”

Scott Shafer, who pastors Mountain View Conference’s Cumberland and Frostburg churches in Maryland, felt differently. “I still have reservations about it,” he said. “My biggest concern is not about women’s ordination per se. I think we have put ourselves in a position to be in opposition to the world
church, and that’s not a good place to be. I think ladies have such a higher calling than men, and to make this about being equal to men is demeaning and insensitive.” What do you think? Go to our website! and comment!—Story by Taashi Rowe

Mount Vernon Academy Welcomes New Principal

Pastor Daniel Kittle recently accepted the position of principal of Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon, Ohio. “We welcome Principal Kittle to our Ohio Conference team of educators! Kittle’s passion to create a professional, spiritual, learning community comes from a heart determined to see all students and staff experience success,” said E. Jay Colburn, Ohio Conference superintendent of Education.

An ordained pastor, Kittle has served as teacher, youth director and K-12 administrator. He served as principal of the Fresno Adventist Academy in California, for eight years. He holds a Master of Divinity and will arrive in Mount Vernon by July 1.

“I believe that the greatest power for educational transformation is the Holy Spirit, who daily is wooing the hearts of all humanity to consider a growing relationship with God,” said Kittle. “I am committed to building an abundant learning community.”—Story by Heidi Shoemaker and Raj Attiken

100 Attend Pennsylvania Conference’s Princess Tea

More than 100 girls, their moms and grandmothers recently attended the second Pennsylvania Conference Princess Tea at the Hamburg (Pa.) church. The fireside room was transformed into a princess party complete with castles, pink and purple balloons and tiny “carriage” treat boxes. The princesses moved about the room during the “Princess Ball,” enjoying seven different stops—each one
featuring a story that told a bit about what it meant to be a princess and an activity to go along with the story. They decorated tiaras and took pictures against a castle backdrop. They also learned that God’s princesses tell other girls that they, too, are God’s princesses.

Before the day was over, princesses were talking about next year. “Thank you so much for planning this event!” shared one mom. “My daughter is already talking about coming back next year!” It was a sentiment heard numerous times as people said goodbye.

READ MORE

Shenandoah Valley Academy Alumnus Gets Diploma After 47 Years

Howard Powell graduated from Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) in New Market, Va., in 1965 but never received his diploma. Soon after graduation, Powell reports that he and his brother, Walter, got jobs in Maryland and neglected to give the school a forwarding address. But thanks to Walter, Howard—a Vietnam veteran currently living in Parkersburg, W.Va.—received the diploma in time for his 66th birthday.

“I found out three weeks before his birthday that he never got his diploma,” explains Walter. “I called SVA and they found it in a file. They sent it by Priority Mail, along with a copy of his senior portrait (pictured).”

Walter had the picture framed and presented it, along with the diploma, to Howard at the annual convention of the West Virginia Marble Club, of which Howard is president. There wasn’t a dry eye in the building, says Walter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Click here for a complete listing of upcoming events around the Columbia Union Conference.

MARYLAND

July 6-7: Adventist Yell Out (AYO) presents “Go Faith Go” at Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md. Selah, an award-winning Christian recording music group, will perform in concert on Friday, July 6, 7-9:30 p.m. Along with Selah, the concert will also feature singer Karla Rivera Bucklew. Bucklew has toured throughout the world as a soprano soloist with the New England Youth Ensemble, Pro Musica and Columbia Collegiate Chorale, all of Washington Adventist University. Tickets are now on sale at ayoconnect.com. For more information, contact Jeff or ShaVonne LaDonis at (202) 487-7867. Sligo
NEW JERSEY
July 25-29: The Allegheny East and New Jersey conferences will be sponsoring the Alliance of Prison Ministry Organizations and Affiliates (APMOA) 22nd annual convention in East Rutherford, N.J. Themed “Compassion in Action: Building Bridges of Hope,” there will be more than 25 Prison Ministries and community services workshops. Speakers will include C.D. Brooks, former speaker/director for the Breath of Life broadcast; José H. Cortés, New Jersey Conference president; J. Alfred Johnson II, director of Adult Ministries for the North American Division; and Charles Cheatham, Allegheny East Conference president. For more information or to register, click here or call (201) 896-0500.

OHIO
June 8-10: The Rev It Up! Revival Motorcycle Camp Meeting welcomes people of all faiths. Bring your motorcycle if you can. There will be biker games and a 100-mile ride into the Amish countryside surrounding Mount Vernon, Ohio. For more information, click here, or call Tom Hughes at (740) 739-0750 or email TomHughes@BibleBiker.com.

PENNSYLVANIA
June 16: The Rehoboth church’s 20th Anniversary/Grand Opening Sabbath celebration will be at 1502 Snyder Street in Reading, Pa. The all-day event starts at 9:30 a.m. with Sabbath School and ends with a gospel tribute concert, which starts at 6:30 p.m. The theme will be “Through it All … We’re Still Standing,” and the colors for the day will be purple, black and white. For more information, contact Elta Jackson-Henry, communication director, at (484) 636-8654 or Pastor E. Earl Blackwell at (610) 864-1791.

WASHINGTON, D.C.
June 30: The Gospel Theater Improv Group invites you and your congregation to … The Nut House. Anthony Hackett, a local Seventh-day Adventist, wrote and directed this stage play to share a message on the importance of loving the patrons in your church. The play has a cast of young Adventists who all desire to use their gifts and talents for God. The play will be performed on June 30 at 8:30 p.m. at the Duke Ellington Theatre, which is located at 3500 R Street, NW, in Washington, D.C. Tickets are available at GospelTheaterImprov.com.

WEST VIRGINIA
August 19-September 2: Mountain View Conference’s fourth annual Wellness Camp will take place at the Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va. For an earlybird rate of $695, payments are due by July 2. Earlybird spouses pay $550 and earlybird Wellness Camp alumni only pay $500.
Those who meet the regular deadline of July 16 will pay $795 plus $650 for spouses. Wellness Camp alumni who meet the regular deadline will pay $600. For more information, call the conference office at (304) 422-4581 or click here.

Having trouble viewing this email? Click here to read it online. For more news and up-to-date information from the Columbia Union Conference, visit columbiaunion.org

Forward to a Friend, Subscribe or Send Us Stories

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.

To send us a news story, email us at visitor@columbiaunion.net. The deadline for all submissions is 10 a.m. each Tuesday.

Stay Connected:

Taashi Rowe, Visitor News Bulletin Editor
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.

Visitornews mailing list
To unsubscribe send your request to trowe@columbiaunion.net

This message was sent to ahc@andrews.edu from Columbia Union, 5427 Twin Knolls Road., Columbia, MD 21045.
Edit profile / unsubscribe - Forward to a friend

Spam
Not spam
Forget previous vote
Earlier this spring, five church members joined Young Hwa Yoon, pastor of the Dayton Korean church in Dayton, Ohio, and his wife, Victoria, on a trip to Kenya. The group met other Korean-American missionaries there to help the region’s Maasai people. “God did more than expected,” Yoon said of the trip.

During the day, Yoon, his team and the director of Health for the Central Kenyan Conference, helped the Maasai with basic needs like medicine, vitamins and glasses. Yoon, a former optometrist, and his wife, a nurse, addressed eye conditions caused by excessive smoke in inadequately vented homes. While he administered the eye drops, he would counsel the Maasai to return to the local pastor for additional treatment, which enabled pastors and residents to establish relationships.

During the evenings, the group evangelized. Simultaneous evening meetings took place at 10 sites within central Kenya. According to Yoon, these meetings helped empower local lay leaders, encouraging them to “make a bridge between the community and the church … and obtain contacts for local pastors to follow up.” By the end of the trip, the missionaries had treated more than 1,000 Maasai, baptized 83 locals and converted another 139.

While there, Yoon also met 45 pastors within the Central and South Kenyan conferences, only seven of whom are financially supported by the church. The rest are voluntary lay pastors. Seeing an opportunity to assist, he united them for a pastoral meeting. For the first time, all area pastors had contact information for each other and could encourage each other.

There is still much to be done. Yoon and his congregation share his global mission vision, outlined best by Ellen White: “When the members of the church of God do their appointed work in the needy fields at home and abroad…the whole world will soon be warned and the Lord Jesus will return to this Earth with power and great glory” (Acts of the Apostles, p. 111).
Pastor Young Hwa Yoon and his missionary team from the Dayton Korea church mingle with some of the Maasai they helped.

Members of the missionary team host an evangelistic meeting.

COMMENTS POLICY: The Columbia Union Conference Visitor encourages quality conversation and welcomes your thoughtful comments. All comments are subject to approval. Please limit your comments to 500 words or less.

Join in the discussion:

There are no comments.

Anonymous

Name: 

Email: 
Young People Pledge to Reach Every Home in Charleston

Story by Mountain View Conference Staff
Published 6/6/12

Can a group of young people knock on every door in Charleston, W.Va., this year? Young people in the Mountain View Conference, who are partnering with Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC), said an exuberant "Yes!"

Charleston is not only the state's capital, but according to the 2010 US Census it is also home to 51,400 people and 23,453 households.

The first event to reach "This Soil Also," began on a rainy Friday evening as GYC representatives, conference administrators, pastors, young people and supportive church members from around the conference, streamed into the Charleston church to hear keynote speaker, Valmy Karemera, who encouraged everyone to be witnesses in that very city.

On Sabbath morning, a panel of six young people discussed how to be witnesses for God in all arenas, be it secular work, in a school setting or maybe in a church leadership position.

In the afternoon, 56 people descended on the city of Charleston taking surveys and offering Bible studies. Jesica Cheever, from the Webster Springs (W.Va.) company, noted, "We went out two-by-two reaching out to souls for Christ."

Cheever shared the story of Noah, who willingly took part in the survey and when asked if he had a prayer request, spoke of a burden on his heart that needed prayer. Expressing appreciation that these two young people would say a prayer for his special concern, Noah signed up for Bible studies.

Cheever and her partner also connected with an elderly gentleman. He, too, gladly responded to the survey questions and with tears streaming down his face, asked them to pray that, "I may be a witness to everyone I meet and wherever I go."

In just two hours, the young people knocked on almost 900 doors and received more than 100 requests for Bible studies. They also distributed more than 600 tracts and prayed with more than 125 people.

“It was amazing to see the Lord work as the young people began the goal of knocking on every door in Charleston this year,” said Geoff Starr, conference Youth Ministries director. “I was inspired by the powerful speaking and the challenge to not forget about this city. We can all work to turn our world upside down for Christ, and this year the Mountain View Conference and GYC have teamed up to turn Charleston upside down.”

At the end of the Sabbath, many young people committed to continue working in Charleston. The initiative continues once a month during 2012. To stay up-to-date on this project, visit https://facebook.com/This.Soil.Also.WV.

Jesica Cheever, Kathy Pepper and Daniella Pusic contributed to this story.
Daniella Pusic, Mountain View Conference’s assistant director for Young Adult Ministries, addresses the group.

Keynote speaker Valmy Karemera encourages everyone to be witnesses in Charleston, W.Va.

Panel members answer the question of how best to go about being witnesses in all arenas.

COMMENTS POLICY: The Columbia Union Conference Visitor encourages quality conversation and welcomes your thoughtful comments. All comments are subject to approval. Please limit your comments to 500 words or less.
Join in the discussion:

There are no comments.

Anonymous

Name:

Email:

Preview comment

Name:

Email:

Preview comment

Close
Allegheny East Spanish Youth Share “The Love of Their Lives”
Story by Taashi Rowe
Published 6/5/2012

“You can know a lot about God but don’t really know God,” Luis Cesar Caballero, a young pastor from Alabama, told some 300 attendees to Youth Sabbath 2012 at Dover First church in Dover, Del. “You can know all the books of the Bible and who wrote them but still be empty.”

He continued, “Even the disciples who walked with Jesus didn’t know Him! When we serve a dead God, religion becomes a burden, and we get upset because God doesn’t do what we want. But when we spend intimate time with God, when we walk with God daily, when we’ve had an encounter with God, our hearts will burn and our hope in Him comes to life.”

Caballero shared these words with Spanish-speaking youth and their families from six churches in the Allegheny East Conference Bay Area Ministerium who gathered for a special day of sermons, praise music, fellowship and fun. Youth from churches such as the Georgetown Spanish company and El Evangelio Eterno in Georgetown, Del; the Easton Spanish group in Preston, Md.; the Gethsemani Adventist group in Dover; El Remanente in Wilmington, Del.; and the Templeville Spanish church in Marydel, Md., planned and coordinated the daylong service. The youth invited Caballero to speak at this third annual youth day, and he presented two seminars that reflected the theme “The Love of Your Life.” He emphasized the importance of having a personal relationship with Christ.

Javier Scharon Jr., 25, a youth leader for the Gethsemani group, said this special youth day was about “sharing tools for young [Seventh-day Adventists] to become strong in their identities as followers of Christ.”

Javier Scharon Jr., 25, a youth leader for the Gethsemani group, said this special youth day was about “sharing tools for young [Seventh-day Adventists] to become strong in their identities as followers of Christ.”
His father, Pastor Javier Scharon Sr., Bay Area coordinator for the Spanish-speaking churches said, “Some of our youth just come to church because mom and pop tells them to. We are hoping that because of this special day, they found God for themselves.”

Gadiel Scharon, 24, a youth leader from the Easton church said he hoped others came away as blessed as he was. “Sometimes we have people up in the pulpit who don’t know how to relate to what I am facing as a young adult and don’t know how hard it is for me to make it through the week,” he said. “We wanted our fellow youth to hear God’s Word from people their own age.”

When asked what inspired this program, Javier Jr. explained, “As a youth leader I try not to just preach to my youth, because the best sermon is not one that you hear, but one that you see. I give my testimony by showing them that they can live a fun, joyous life in Jesus.”

Only time will tell how Youth Sabbath 2012 impacts the attendees’ lives. Alicia Cruz, an 18-year-old from Easton, Md., who grew up in the Catholic Church, said she came to Youth Sabbath because her boyfriend invited her. She said the sermons have already made her think. “I’m at a point where I’m not really sure what church I want to go to,” she said. “But I really like how everyone here is so close like a family, and I really like what they have to say about God.”

In addition to seminars, each church showed their creativity by interpreting a sacred song through drama. At the end of the dramas, the groups received trophies for their participation. The day ended with a game night, which allowed members of the different churches and their guests to relax and have fun.

For Prudencio Solares, 25, a member of the Templeville church and coordinator for the Allegheny East Conference Bay Area Spanish youth, the day was also an opportunity for outreach. “We had so many people who are new members in the church and they brought their friends who are not Adventists,” he said. “I was so happy to see all these new faces.”

**COMMENTS POLICY:** The Columbia Union Conference Visitor encourages quality conversation and welcomes your thoughtful comments. All comments are subject to approval. Please limit your comments to 500 words or less.

Join in the discussion:

There are no comments.

Anonymous
Rebekah Liu y Nieves Yang son pastores en Shanghai.

Jóvenes hispanos de Allegheny East comparten “el amor de sus vidas”

Historia por Taashi Rowe

Publicado 6/5/12

“Puedes saber mucho acerca de Dios pero no conocer realmente a Dios”, le dijo Luis César Caballero, un pastor joven de Alabama, a unos trescientos participantes del Sábado Joven 2012 en la iglesia Dover First, en Dover, Del. “Puedes saberte todos los libros de la Biblia y quien los escribió, y aún estar vacío”.

Él continuó diciendo: “¿Aún los discípulos que caminaron con Jesús no lo conocían? Cuando servimos a un Dios muerto, la religión se vuelve una carga, y nos enfadamos porque Dios no hace lo que queremos. Pero cuando dedicamos tiempo a solas con Dios, cuando caminamos con Dios diariamente, cuando hemos tenido un encuentro con Dios, nuestros corazones arderán y nuestra esperanza en Él cobrará vida”.

Caballero compartió estas palabras con los jóvenes hispano-hablantes y sus familias, que vinieron de seis iglesias en Allegheny East Conference Bay Area Ministerium, para reunirse en un día especial de sermones, alabanzas, confraternidad, y diversión. Los jóvenes de la compañía Georgetown Spanish y Evangelio Eterno en Georgetown, Del; el grupo Easton Spanish en Preston, Md.; el grupo Gethsemani Adventist en Dover; El Remanente en Wilmington, Del.; y la iglesia Templeville en Marydel, Md., planificaron y coordinaron un servicio de un día de duración. Los jóvenes invitaron a Caballero como orador en este tercer día juvenil anual, y presentó además dos seminarios que reflejaron el tema: “El amor de tu vida”. Caballero enfatizó la importancia de tener una relación personal con Cristo.

Javier Scharon, Jr., de veinticinco años, un líder del grupo Gethsemani, comentó que este día especial juvenil fue para “compartir herramientas que ayuden a los jóvenes [adventistas del séptimo día] a ser fuertes en sus identidades como seguidores de Cristo”.

Le invitamos a enviarnos sus historias y noticias en inglés y español a Visitor@columbiaunion.net.
Su padre, el pastor Javier Scharon, coordinador de las iglesias hispanas en Bay Area, dijo: “Algunos de nuestros jóvenes únicamente vienen a la iglesia porque su mamá o papá les dijeron que vinieran. Esperamos que por este día especial, ellos hayan encontrado a Dios por sí mismos.”

Gadiel Scharon, de veinticuatro años, un líder de la iglesia en Easton, dijo que espera que los demás hayan salido tan bendecidos como él. “A veces tenemos a las personas en el púlpito que no saben cómo relacionarse con lo que yo estoy enfrentando como un adulto joven, y no saben lo difícil que es para mí sobrevivir la semana”, dijo él. “Queríamos que nuestro compañeros jóvenes pudieran escuchar la Palabra de Dios por medio de personas de nuestra misma edad”.

Cuando se le preguntó a Javier, hijo, qué le había inspirado del programa, él explicó: “Como un líder juvenil trato no solamente de predicarles a mis jóvenes, porque el mejor sermón no es el que escuchas, sino el que ves. Yo doy mi testimonio al demostrarles que ellos pueden tener una vida divertida y gozosa en Jesús”.

Sólo el tiempo dirá cómo el Sábado Joven 2012 impacta la vida de los participantes. Alicia Cruz, una jovencita de dieciocho años, de Easton, Md., creció en la iglesia católica, y dice que llegó a Sábado Joven porque su novio la invitó. Ella dice que los sermones ya la han hecho pensar. “Estoy en un momento donde no sé realmente a qué iglesia quiero ir”, dijo ella. “Sin embargo, me gustó realmente cómo todos aquí son como una familia, y realmente me gusta lo que dicen acerca de Dios”.

Además de los seminarios, cada iglesia demostró su creatividad al interpretar cantos sacros por medio de las presentaciones dramáticas. Después de ello, los grupos recibieron trofeos por su participación. El día culminó con una noche de juegos que permitió a los participantes de diferentes iglesias y a los invitados, a relajarse y divertirse.

Para Prudencio Solares, de veinticinco años, feligrés de la iglesia en Templeville y coordinador juvenil hispano de Allegheny East Conference Bay Area, el día también fue una oportunidad para el alcance misionero. “Teníamos muchas personas que son nuevos en la iglesia y trajeron a sus amigos no adventistas”, dijo él. “Me alegré mucho al ver estos nuevos rostros”.

Nota: Todas las referencias de la Biblia son de la Versión Reina Valera Contemporánea.
100 Attend Pennsylvania Conference’s Princess Tea
Story by Pennsylvania Conference Staff
Published 5/31/12

More than 100 girls, their moms and grandmothers recently attended the second Pennsylvania Conference Princess Tea at the Hamburg (Pa.) church. The fireside room was transformed into a princess party complete with castles, pink and purple balloons and tiny “carriage” treat boxes. The princesses moved about the room during the “Princess Ball”, enjoying seven different stops—each one featuring a story that told a bit about what it meant to be a princess and an activity to go along with the story. They decorated tiaras and took pictures against a castle backdrop. They also learned that God’s princesses tell other girls that they, too, are God’s princesses. They learned to share this news by decorating two cookies—one for

Pastor Mike McCabe spends time with some of the children who attend the Sabbath afternoon Oakbrook Project.

themselves to eat and one to share with a friend.

Over the weekend, the little girls giggled and created crowns; sat attentively listening to stories of Gigi, God’s Little Princess; played with Hula Hoops and learned that princesses do wear hiking boots. They also enjoyed an afternoon tea complete with butterfly-shaped peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Dominic Long and his daughter, Michelle, took joy in feeding the hungry princesses.

Before the day was over, princesses were talking about next year. “Thank you so much for planning this event!” shared one mom. “My daughter is already talking about coming back next year!” It was a sentiment heard numerous times as people said goodbye.

“I’m surprised at the response to our tea party!” says Tamyra Horst, the conference’s Women’s Ministries director who organized the event for girls under 12. “We have moms and grand moms driving several hours to bring their ‘princesses’ just for the afternoon.”

“We’ve had women’s retreats in our conference for more than 20 years. Then we began offering teen conferences,” she said. “I realized that we had nothing for little girls. My desire is to minister to girls from the time they are little through their adult years, helping them to grow closer to God and realize who they are in Him. The world works hard to teach women, beginning in their teen years and younger, that they are not enough and don’t measure up. I want them to know that in God’s eyes, they are exactly who He created them to be.”
Kathy Cates reads the story, “Do Princesses Really have Best Friends?” to attentive princesses.
Two little princesses work on the princess poster—drawing pictures of the unique princesses they are.