The Holy Spirit Moves at Union City Spanish Church

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The baptismal tank was full. However, there were no people to be baptized. The elders prayed. The choir sang. Pastor Labrador started preaching, and the Holy Spirit started to move. By the end of the sermon, Cindy, a 10-year-old Pathfinder, stood and went to the front to be baptized. Cindy began attending the church a few months earlier because her best friend, Giggi, invited her to visit. After Cindy (pictured with her mom) took a stand for Christ, her mom soon followed and gave her life to the Lord. The day ended with a total of 13 baptisms!—Story by Claudia Garcia del Puerto
El Espíritu Santo se mueve en la iglesia Union City Spanish

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El pastor Julio Cesar comienza a predicar y el Espíritu Santo comienza a actuar. Al final de la predicación, Cindy, una conquistadora de 10 años que comenzó a asistir a la iglesia hacía algunos meses atrás invitada por su mejor amiguita Giggi, se pudo de pie y paso al frente para ser bautizada. Luego, la mamá de Cindy también se paró y dedicó su vida a Salvador.—Historia por Claudia García del Puerto

LEA MAS

Seminar Highlights Value of Potomac’s Small Schools

“If we are asking parents to entrust their children in the care and education of our church schools, then we better secure our promises and live up to them,” stated Nancy Melashenko, associate superintendent of schools for the Potomac Conference, at the opening of a weeklong course for teachers in small schools. 

The June 4-8 academic course, which offered three graduate credits from Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., was for teachers of one- and two-classroom schools. Designed to equip these educators with the planning tools necessary to optimally manage their curriculum and to develop an interactive, professional, learning community, the course re-introduced and enforced the goals and standards for private education.
“Coming together for this course has allowed teachers in similar situations to get to know one another, plan curriculum ideas and field trips together and share experiences,” said Star Schwinn (pictured), newly hired K-2 teacher for the R.A. Lewis Christian School in Petersburg, Va.—Story by Tiffany Doss

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Great Hope Distribution Begins at Chesapeake Camp Meeting

A nationwide effort to distribute millions of copies of The Great Hope, a condensed, easy-to-read version of The Great Controversy, began last week in Hagerstown, Md., during the Chesapeake Conference Camp Meeting.

The first copies of the 96-page book had just come off the presses of the nearby Review and Herald Publishing Association when Gary Gibbs, the conference’s director of ministries development, organized several teams of camp meeting attendees to hit the streets around the Hagerstown church. In 90 minutes, they knocked on hundreds of doors and delivered about 530 copies of the book.

Team members prayed with the people they met and answered questions about upcoming church events. “These are seeds sown. I know that the Lord will certainly bless,” said Chris Holland, pastor of the Hagerstown church. Jennifer Calhoun from the Williamsport (Md.) church is pictured talking to a man about an upcoming Vacation Bible School program after giving him a copy of The Great Hope.—Story by Kim Peckham

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Pennsylvania Campers Participate in “SuperFit”
Race

As part of Pennsylvania Conference’s camp meeting, more than 70 runners took to the hills surrounding Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) in Hamburg, Pa., Sunday morning. They were participating in Adventist WholeHealth Network’s SuperFit Family 5K/10K. This year’s event included the newly added 10K, as well as a pancake breakfast.

While most runners were from the Berks County area, many were camp meeting attendees, who finished well. Brothers Lee Stahl, principal at Reading Junior Academy, and Kerry Stahl, lay pastor of the Milton church, were the sixth and seventh runners to cross the finish line.

There were other families that ran together. Jeff Johnson (pictured pushing his son in a running stroller) placed third for men aged 30-39, just behind lay pastor Brandon Yorty, while Johnson’s wife, Sonya, a BMA graduate, placed first for women aged 30-39 in the 10K. For more information and pictures of the race, go to the conference’s Facebook page.—Story by Tamyra Horst

Allegheny West Member Named a Top U.S. Physician

For his leadership in the community, Edward Demond Scott, MD, a member of Allegheny West Conference’s Temple Emmanuel church in Youngstown, Ohio, recently received an award and was inducted into Kaleidoscope Magazine’s Forty-Forty Club 2012, a select group of African-American professionals, age 40 and under, who are making significant contributions in northeast Ohio. The magazine’s staff named Scott among the best doctors in America in 2012.

Scott, a family physician in Akron, Ohio, recently led the opening of an innovative health center that offers community-based preventative educational services as well as family medical care. He is also the executive director for Health Equity at Summa Health System. “I am grateful for this recognition and thank God for the opportunity to work to improve the health of our community,” comments Dr. Scott.—Story by Allegheny West Conference Staff

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Tournament Proceeds to Benefit Pine Forge Students

Six churches in the Allegheny East Conference recently participated in the second annual David Kelly Scholarship Basketball Tournament. Proceeds from the tournament will help young people receive an education at Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa.

By participating in the tournament, the players, whose ages ranged from 11-13, helped bring in a total of $2,900—$400 more than the first tournament, reported Andrew McNeil, founder of the scholarship fund. McNeil, who attends the Capitol Hill church in Washington D.C., says the fund honors his late friend and Pine Forge classmate, David Kelly. “[He] was class president, carried a great GPA and [was] an avid basketball player,” shared McNeil. The championship medal went to the First Coatesville church in Pennsylvania.—Story by Samantha Blake; photo by Gerald Evans

Spencerville Children’s Chorus Wins Competition

The Adventist Children’s Chorus from Spencerville Adventist Academy in Spencerville, Md., recently participated in the Music in the Parks festival in Hershey, Pa., where they sang “Panis Angelicus” by Cesar Franck and “Alleluia” by Randall Thompson. The treble choir (pictured), which involves 66 students from grades 3-8, is dedicated to singing sacred music to the glory of God.

To avoid conflict with the Sabbath, the group chose not to attend the festival’s awards ceremony Friday evening. Instead, Jane Lanning, choir director, approached the ceremony coordinator early in the afternoon to ask for the judges’ results. For the second year, they took home first place for an elementary treble choir and the trophy for best elementary choral group.

“When I see 9 year olds singing in four-part harmony to glorify their God, I know there is exceeding joy in heaven!” exclaims Lanning. The choir, which started two years ago, is also open to home-schooled children.—Story by Heidi Wetmore
Blue Mountain’s Aviation Program Prepares Student Pilots

Students who take advantage of Blue Mountain Academy’s partnership with Adventist World Aviation (AWA) often take their first steps to becoming certified pilots, or may even later venture into the mission field. Jonathan Springer (’13) and Bobby Locke (’15) recently joined the private pilot ground school program, and two students from recent classes, Kelsey Landa (’11) and Christopher Kiessling (’12), are now certified private pilots. Kiessling will spend five weeks this summer with AWA missionaries in Guyana before heading to Walla Walla University (Wash.) to pursue a degree in aviation.

“It is exciting that BMA students can take advantage of this partnership we have with AWA, and learn the role that aviation can serve in spreading the gospel,” says Eric Engen, BMA’s ground school instructor. Pictured is Steve Saint (third from left), a missionary pilot, speaker and author, meeting with BMA’s recent aviation team. Watch a recent video about the program by visiting tinyurl.com/awapa.—Story by Mel Wade

Kettering Adventist HealthCare Creates App

Need an emergency room? Now there’s an app for that. The Kettering Adventist HealthCare’s (KAHC) Kettering Health iPhone app can locate the nearest network ER. The even includes the best route to one of KAHC’s seven hospitals in the Dayton, Ohio-area and a button to dial 911. It also includes a find-a-physician tool.

KAHC is the first hospital system in the Greater Dayton area to offer a mobile application. The options are short and concise, and easy for users to understand. This free app allows patients to connect in many ways. All of KAHC’s locations are listed, not just the hospitals and emergency rooms. Selecting a location or a specific physician links the user to an address and phone number. For more information, visit Facebook page or click here to download the app.
Elizabeth English Elder, Deacons Ordained

Three deacons and one elder from the Elizabeth English church were recently ordained at the New Jersey Conference Elders, Deacons and Deaconesses retreat. “These are all faithful men who love the Lord,” said Pastor Andre Ascalon (pictured far right). Pictured from left to right is elder Nwaji Ebere and deacons Marlon Dixon and Omar Mullings. Hector Sharwane, who was ordained a deacon, is not pictured.

Mountain View Member Featured in Local Paper

An article in the Charleston Daily Mail, titled “Church’s garden is a labor of love,” features Cindy Andre, a member of Mountain View Conference’s Charleston (W.Va.) church. Andre spends countless hours planting, weeding, pruning and adding to the gardens that surround the church. She does it because she enjoys the inviting appearance created by her labor of love.

“It’s uplifting, a feast for the eyes and a workout for my body,” she said. “I don't go to the gym.” She delved into the project last year with assistance from church member Basil Bennett, who tilled the ground and hauled 40 to 50 bags of soil to get things started. Andre did the planting, as she carefully chose what would grow in the various areas depending upon exposure to sun and shade.—Story by Charlotte Ferrell Smith; photo by Craig Cunningham/Daily Mail

READ MORE at the Daily Mail

UPCOMING EVENTS
Click here for a complete listing of upcoming events around the Columbia Union Conference.
MARYLAND
June 25-July 13: Summer camps around the Chesapeake Conference offer kids and teens (aged 7-16) a safe, active and creative experience in an environment that aims to bring them closer to God. Campers can spend a week at Mount Aetna Camp in Hagerstown, Md.; experience an outpost camp such as waterskiing, horsemanship or basketball; or can participate in a weeklong day camp. FLAG (Fun Learning About God) day camp takes place at the Park church in Salisbury, Md., June 25-29; the Dover First church in Dover, Del., July 2-6; and the West Wilmington church in Wilmington, Del., July 9-13. To get all the details and register, visit www.mtaetnacamp.com/summercamp.aspx, or call (301) 824-2729.

NEW JERSEY
June 23-24: The Ebenezer church’s Sabbath School, Personal Ministries and Health Ministries departments are teaming up to host a health fair in their Elizabeth, N.J., community. The fair is scheduled to be held at Jefferson Park, at 477 Madison Avenue, from 3-7 p.m. each day. More than 20 exhibitors are expected to participate, representing the local hospital, city, college, fire department and a health club. They’ll offer massages, cholesterol screenings, activities for children and speak about the benefits of exercise, relaxation, water and the other health principles. For more information, call (908) 469-1519.

OHIO
June 18-25: The Bucyrus (Ohio) church is hosting a recycling week in their parking lot. If this site is full, take your items to the Crawford County Recycling Center at 5128 Lincoln Highway East. The church is located at 1980 Stetzer Road in Bucyrus, Ohio.

PENNSYLVANIA
June 15-23: Pennsylvania Conference’s Camp Meeting, themed “The Clear Gospel for the Last Days” is taking place at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa. Speakers include Elizabeth Talbot, Stephen Chavez, Bernie Anderson, Tim Roosenberg, Tim Madding and many others. The Haitian Camp Meeting will be Sabbath, June 23, in the chapel. Young adult worship will be Friday-Sabbath, June 22-23. For more information, visit paconference.org and click on the Camp Meeting tab.

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 early bird rate of $695, payments are due by July 2. Early bird spouses pay $550 and early bird 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.
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To send us a news story, email us at visitor@columbiaunion.net. The deadline for all submissions is 10 a.m. each Tuesday.

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A few minutes later, Giggi's mom also stood up and decided to give her life to the Savior. Giggi, a 10-year-old Pathfinder, couldn't believe such a miracle was happening in front of her eyes! She cried because of overwhelming joy. For almost two years, Giggi and her brother, Danny, a 13-year-old Pathfinder, were the only believers in their family, and thanks to their Christian testimony, they were seeing the Hand of the Lord work through them. On that Sabbath their mom, their friend and their friend's mom accepted Jesus as their personal Savior, almost at the same moment.

The miracles didn't end there. Lucinalda, a 13-year-old Pathfinder, also saw her best friend Nilda, who she invited to attend church a few months ago, stand for baptism. Lucinalda was so happy.
she was also crying. Then another person stood up and another and another, including Joshua, the first elder’s son. He was so eager to give his life to the Lord, he went to the front of the church with his eyes filled with tears of joy.

Sebastian, a 10-year-old Adventurer, also decided on baptism, but his dad was not at church at that moment. He was working as a postman. So Sebastian’s mom called her husband. The entire church waited for Sebastian’s dad to come so he could see him being baptized. Wearing his white baptismal gown, Sebastian waited anxiously with Pastor Labrador. Soon, his dad came in through the front doors and Sebastian ran to his dad’s arms. His dad brought him to the baptismal tank where Sebastian was baptized.

These are only a few of the stories of the 13 people who decided to be baptized that day. Union City Spanish church members are still rejoicing and praising the Lord that they got to witness this special day.

**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:**

Sebastian
Reply
about 18 hours ago

It was all the Lord's will that I be baptised that day and it was the happiest day of my life.
-Sébastian

Anonymous
El Espíritu Santo se mueve en la iglesia Union City

Historia por Claudia Garcia del Puerto

Publicado 6/20/12

El 9 de junio, la feligresía de la iglesia Union City Spanish de New Jersey dio su adiós a su pastor, Julio Cesar Labrador y familia, quienes se trasladan a otro distrito. Pronto ese día se convirtió en uno que recordarían pues la feligresía presenció al Espíritu Santo moverse. El bautisteo estaba listo pero no había candidatos a bautizarse. Los ancianos oraron. El coro cantaba. El pastor Julio Cesar comenzó a predicar y el Espíritu Santo comenzó a actuar. Al final de la predicación, Cindy, una conquistadora de 10 años que comenzó a asistir a la iglesia hacía algunos meses atrás invitada por su mejor amiguita Giggi, se puso de pie y pasó al frente para ser bautizada. Luego, la mama de Cindy también se puso de pie y se entregó al Señor. Minutos después la mama de Giggi también se puso de pie y se entregó al Señor. Giggi, una conquistadora de 10 años, no cabía en su gozo de ver este milagro aconteciendo frente a sus ojos! Ella lloraba de gozo y alegría. Giggi y su hermano Danny, un conquistador de 13 años, eran los únicos creyentes de su hogar desde hacía unos 2 años y gracias a su gran testimonio cristiano, vieron la mano del Señor trabajando a través de ellos en su mama, su amiguita y la mama de su amiguita, aceptando a Jesús como su salvador personal, todos juntos, en el mismo momento.
El milagro no terminó allí sino que Lucinalda, una jovencita de conquistadora de 13 años, vio con gozo que su mejor amiga Nilda, a quien había invitado a asistir a la iglesia hacia unos meses atrás, también se ponía de pie para ser bautizada. Lucinalda estaba tan feliz! Lloraba de alegría. Y más, otra persona se puso de pie, y otra, y otra más—un total de 13 personas que decidieron bautizarse, incluyendo a Joshua, el hijo del primer anciano. El estaba tan deseoso de dar su vida a Cristo que pasó al frente en sus ojos llenos de lágrimas de emoción y gozo.

Y también fue Sebastian, un aventurero de 10 años. El también decidió ser bautizado, pero su papa no estaba en la iglesia en ese momento, estaba trabajando en su trabajo de cartero. Entonces la mamá de Sebastian llamó a su esposo por teléfono. Y toda la iglesia esperaba por el papa de Sebastian llegara para que pudiera verlo bautizarse. Sebastian estaba con su túnica blanca de bautismo y esperaba ansiosamente a su papa, lo mismo que el pastor Labrador. Pronto el papa llegó y las puertas del frente de la iglesia se abrieron y Sebastain corrió a los brazos de sus papa, quien lo trajo al bautisterio. Y Sebastain fue bautizado. Alabado sea nuestro Dios todopoderoso!

Hay más historias especiales relacionadas a esos nuevos creyentes que decidieron bautizarse ayer. Pero tan solo es Conte estas pocas. Estuvimos tan felices!! He incluido algunas fotografías para que Uds. también puedan ser testigos de este evento tan bendecido.

NORMAS Y POLÍTICA PARA LOS COMENTARIOS: Colombia Union Visitor fomenta la conversación de calidad e invita sus comentarios. Todos los comentarios están sujetos a aprobación. Por favor limite sus comentarios a quinientas palabras o menos.

Únase al diálogo:

There are no comments.

Anonymous

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Email:
Weeklong Seminar Highlights Value of Potomac’s Small Schools
Story by Tiffany Doss/Potomac Conference
Published 6/19/12

“If we are asking parents to entrust their children in the care and education of our church schools, then we better secure our promises and live up to them,” stated Nancy Melashenko, associate superintendent of schools for the Potomac Conference at the opening of a weeklong course for teachers in small schools.

The June 4-8 academic course, which offered three graduate credits from Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., was held for teachers of one- and two-classroom schools. Designed to equip these educators with the planning tools necessary to optimally manage their curriculum and to develop an interactive professional learning community, the course worked to re-introduce and enforce the goals and standards for private education.

“This course has been fantastic,” said Star Schwinn, newly hired K-2 teacher for R.A. Lewis Christian School in Petersburg, Va. “Because there’s often only one or two teachers in small schools, it can feel isolating. Coming together for this course has allowed teachers in similar situations to get to know one another, plan curriculum ideas and field trips together and share experiences. It’s been a great networking and learning experience.”

Hailing from Arizona, Schwinn has seven years of teaching experience and says she has never come across an opportunity so focused on excelling teacher’s resources and abilities through a supportive network. “The Potomac Conference clearly is demanding teacher excellence to ensure student excellence [and] … are very active in giving us what we need to achieve this. Also, being able to communicate with teachers in similar situations gives us confidence and affirmation that we are already doing things right.”

Along with discussing the dynamics required for a student-focused classroom environment, these teachers began the task of planning a fine arts clinic for their students. Melashenko and Schwinn expressed how this clinic will give students the opportunity to work with various media that they usually wouldn’t have the chance to interact with, like oil paints, charcoals and photography.

Melashenko and other Potomac educators want to create opportunities for small schools to enjoy enriching benefits just like large schools. “We want to see an effort for our small schools and maintain an identity that embraces the idea that they are designed to be small and the benefits that can come out of that,” explained Melashenko. “We want to strengthen the small school model, make sure all of our teachers are benefitting together and create a strong, unified hub that support and ideas can flow from.”

With the success of this initiative and the process of rebranding the identity of one to two classroom schools, Melashenko hopes parents will understand the integrity and benefits of a small school program.
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*Story by Kim Peckham*
*Published 6/19/12*

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Team members prayed with the people they met and answered questions about upcoming church events. “These are seeds sown. I know that the Lord will certainly bless,” said Chris Holland, Hagerstown church pastor. The Hagerstown church ordered 38,000 copies of *The Great Hope*—enough to put one in every home in the city. Sharing the book will be a special emphasis in the North American Division during 2012 and 2013.

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Temple Emmanuel Member Named a Top U.S. Physician
Story by Allegheny West Conference Staff
Published 6/18/12

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“I am grateful for this recognition and thank God for the opportunity to work to improve the health of our community,” comments Dr. Scott.

His wife, Rosanna Dean-Scott, MD, says, “I am so proud of his work to heighten awareness and educate regarding health and healthcare disparities in our community. His preventative focus is in line with God’s plan for us all. These awards honor his commitment to his calling.”

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Church’s garden is a labor of love

by Charlotte Ferrell Smith
Daily Mail staff

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Love blooms in the gardens of the Charleston Seventh-day Adventist Church on Kanawha Boulevard.

Parishioner Cindy Andre spends countless hours planting, weeding, pruning and adding to the gardens that surround the church. She does it because she enjoys the inviting appearance created by her labor of love.

"It’s uplifting, a feast for the eyes and a workout for my body," she said. "I don't go to the gym."

She delved into the project last year with assistance from church member Basil Bennett, who tilled the ground and hauled 40 to 50 bags of soil to get things started. Andre did the planting as she carefully chose what would grow in the various areas depending upon exposure to sun and shade.

The results are breathtaking, with more than 100 varieties of flowers and plants surrounding the church. "When you look at the face of a flower, it is so intricate and so spectacular," she said.

Andre can name each plant and flower.

"This is a climbing hydrangea," she said. "It has an exquisite fragrance that is a mix of jasmine, honeysuckle and gardenia. It's a smell sensation."

Aside from hypnotic scents, the gardens offer a sight sensation with a bright bouquet of colors and greenery. There are Coral Bells, Impatiens, Peonies, Astilbe, Callas, Ajuga, Hollyhocks, Coneflowers, Weeping Cherry Trees, Monarda, Stella Daylilies, Gerbera Daisies, Salvia, Pansies, Phlox, Dahlias, and more.

Whether the weather is sunny or dreary, Andre spends hours tending the gardens. "I just work on one area at a time," she said. "It's ongoing. It's a hobby."

It's also a ministry of sorts.

She believes the outside of the house of worship should appear inviting to reflect the warmth within.

She tends more flowers at her church home than the Charleston house she shares with her husband, Richard.

While most of the plants were planted last year and this, a few have been there for decades, such as the rose bush planted so long ago by the late mother of parishioner Delmar Davis.

Andre acquired her love for gardening as a child as she observed her grandmother working in her flowerbeds. Through the years she continued to hone gardening skills on her own.

The results of her expertise can be enjoyed by anyone who passes the church at 622 Kanawha Blvd. W. It has a contemporary design complemented by the colorful flowers.

Construction began in 1963 on the facility, which would have a seating capacity of 450, classrooms, offices, parlor and mechanical room. The former building at 1534 Washington St. E. was sold to the Virginia Conference of Pentecostal Holiness Churches.

The new church was designed by architect Irving Bowman and Associates. When the church was completed, the first pastor was the Rev. Norman Meager and head elder was Orel G. Ferrell.

Current pastor is the Rev. Stewart Pepper, whose wife, Kathy, will teach at the church school this fall.

Andre has her eye on the walkway between the church and the school where she will eventually add benches, plants and flowers for a "meditation nook."

Contact writer Charlotte Ferrell Smith at charlo...@dailymail.com or 304-348-1246.