Mountain View Members Gain Valuable Tools at Festival of the Laity

“When we accept Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, we become His ministers. Some have been ordained, but all of us have been called to the ministry,” said Dan Jackson (pictured), president of the North American Division (NAD) at the first of two Festival of the Laity meetings held in the Mountain View Conference. In his devotional talk, Jackson emphasized that the glory of the church lies in declaring God’s praises (see 1 Pet. 2:9). He added that not only are Seventh-day Adventists to be people of the Book but also followers of the Book.

The festival, themed “Being Connected,” was held at the Charleston (W.Va.) church. Larry Boggess, conference president, said the purpose of the daylong meeting was to give attendees tools to share Jesus. Edna Pepper, a member of the Parkersburg (W.Va.) church, said just learning that God can use a multiplicity of individuals with varying interests to reach others was encouraging.—Story by Valerie Morikone

READ MORE
Rumors of Legal Action to Stop Distribution of *The Great Controversy* Unfounded, Church Attorney Says

A major international outreach of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is meeting with success beyond expectations. Called “The Great Controversy Project: Hope Into Every Home,” the goal is to get a copy of either an entire *The Great Controversy*, written by Adventist Church co-founder Ellen G. White, or an abridgement called *The Great Hope* into the hands of millions of people around the world.

However, rumors are circulating that legal actions to stop the book’s distribution have been filed. Karnik Doukmetzian, general counsel for the world church, challenged the truth of these reports and believes them to be unfounded rumors. “The General Conference is unaware of any legal actions or lawsuits having been threatened or filed in any court. Any such claims would be frivolous and baseless. The source of these rumors is unknown,” Doukmetzian said.

For more information about the project, visit [greatcontroversyproject.adventist.org/](http://greatcontroversyproject.adventist.org/). —Story by Mark A. Kellner/Adventist Review

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**Washington Adventist Cardiac and Vascular Intensive Care Unit Nationally Recognized for Excellence**

The Cardiac and Vascular Intensive Care Unit team (pictured) at Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Md., was recently awarded the silver-level Beacon Award for Excellence by the American Association of Critical-Care
Nurses (AACN), making it the only hospital in Montgomery County, and one of only six in Maryland, to receive this prestigious national recognition. This award marks a significant achievement in providing exceptional patient care and a healthy work environment.

It recognizes unit caregivers who successfully improve patient outcomes and align practices with AACN’s six healthy work environment standards. Of the estimated 6,000 intensive care units in the United States, only 315 have been recognized with this award for excellence.

“This is a wonderful achievement that recognizes the commitment of our caregivers for working together to provide exceptional patient care,” said Joyce Newmyer, the hospital’s president.—Story by Diana Troese

New Jersey Leaders Open Mission Caleb Church Plant in Bayonne

The New Jersey Conference recently opened a Mission Caleb church plant in Bayonne, N.J. José H. Cortés, conference president, was present along with Pedro Canales, who is the church pastor for the Jersey City Heights/La Esperanza/West New York Spanish district. Mission Caleb is a conference initiative to plant churches in cities and towns throughout the conference where there is no Adventist church. Once the Bayonne group grows to a membership of more than 30 members, with 20 of them being newly baptized members, then they will be organized into a company within the conference.

Ethnan Temple’s Second Bike Blessing Draws 50

Allegheny West Conference’s Ethnan Temple congregation in Wilkinsburg, Ohio, under the direction of Pastor William E. Joseph Jr., recently
hosted their second annual Blessing of the Bikes service. Spearheaded by members Darlene Meadows and Rozell Burroughs, both avid riders, the event drew upwards of 50 bikers from a local chapter of the Christian Motorcycle Association and other area clubs. Pastor Jack McCrary, another biking enthusiast from the Bethany church in Charlottesville, Va., also joined in the day’s festivities.

At the conclusion of the sermon, Pastor Joseph invited the congregation outside where he and the elders offered prayers for the bikers’ safety during the riding season. Church members also provided each rider with a gift bag filled with a variety of mementos, including a patch that reads, “No day is dark when the Son is present.” Area businesses also donated vests and other prizes, which the church awarded for categories such as “first to arrive” and “best tri-wheeled bike.” Daryl Spivey, an Ethnan Temple elder, is pictured praying with an area biker.—Story by Allegheny West Staff; photos by Takesha Burden

READ MORE

Pennsylvania Conference Elder Turns 103

Although she now spends her days at a nursing home in the Poconos, Margaret “Peg” Kitchen continues to share her love for Jesus and telling others about His soon return. She turned 103 last month, but “her mind is still sharp and she witnesses to everyone,” shares her longtime pal Nettie Martling, 89.

Kitchen started her ministry at Pennsylvania Conference’s Stroudsburg church in 1932, and spent many years leading the church’s community service center and helping with ingathering. “She and a group of people from the church, including myself, would get together at her home and make lint brushes and fried peanuts,” recalls Martling. She says that one time they sold enough to raise $3,000, which helped them buy new carpet for the church. Kitchen also spent her last 20 years at the church as an ordained elder.—Story by Beth Michaels
Allegheny West Member’s First Play Attracts Cleveland Residents

Some 250 Cleveland-area Seventh-day Adventist church members and local residents showed up at the East Cleveland Theater for “Another Intelligent Black Man,” the first play for CrossRoads Production, LLC. Carla Daniels-Valles, who helps her husband, Steve Valles, pastor Allegheny West’s Park Street church in Oberlin, Ohio, started CrossRoads last winter. She hopes to create plays, movies and other forms of entertainment that will remind people of God’s strength in hard times and His power to change lives.

In “Another Intelligent Black Man,” actors, aged 15-73, depicted the journey of Dre Saunders, a young man whose life and faith are challenged by a traumatic incident. The young man struggles to keep his already dysfunctional family and troubled friends from falling apart.

“I was thoroughly pleased because it was a dream realized,” commented Daniels-Valles of the play’s success.—Story by Chelsea Anderson

WAU Student Missionary Returns With Brand New Attitude

Kellie Dehm, Washington Adventist University’s (WAU) first student missionary in six years, is back from Tanzania with a slew of new experiences, new perspectives and a new attitude. Dehm, who left the school’s Takoma Park, Md.-campus last August, determined to answer the call to service, spent the last 10 months at the Havilah Village Orphanage in Arusha. Allegheny East Conference’s
Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., sponsors the orphanage.

For Dehm, it was a huge change of pace from the busy-ness of life near the capital of the United States to the small African village with no Internet service and no hot water. Click here to learn more about her experiences.—Story by Ryan Jackson

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Photos Share Glimpse of Conference Camp Meetings

Did you attend any of the camp meetings across the Columbia Union Conference this summer? For some camp meeting fans, these gatherings often bring great memories of reuniting with friends from across the country or across town, hearing new speakers, learning new ways to minister and spending more time with God. Although all the major camp meetings across the union are finished for the summer, the Visitor staff wants to share snapshots from each camp meeting. Don’t see your camp meeting here? Share your photos on our Facebook page. We hope you have fun reminiscing!—Compiled by Visitor Staff

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Fotos demuestran un poco de los campamentos hispanos

Usted asistió alguno de los campamentos en la Columbia Union durante este verano? Aquí el Visitor tiene fotos de los campamentos. No ve fotos de su campamento? Comparta sus fotos en nuestra pagina de Facebook o ponga un enlace en la sección de comentario.
UPCOMING EVENTS

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

MARYLAND
July 21-August 11: Miracle Temple begins it’s 2012 Prophecy Campaign at 7 p.m. and continues nightly, except Fridays, until August 11 at Brooklyn Park Middle School at 200 Hammonds Lane in Baltimore. Pastor Errol T. Stoddart will present the opening night’s message “2012: Fact or Fiction?” Pastor Wintley Phipps will also share an inspirational concert on July 22, 7 p.m. For more information, visit miracletemple.net.

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 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
August 8–12: The Columbia Union’s Pathfinder Camporee will take place at Camp Mohaven in Danville, Ohio. The camporee, which occurs every five years, will bring together Pathfinders from all eight conferences and will feature drill teams, honors, music, a pinewood derby and other fun activities. For more information, contact your Pathfinder leader or visit columbiaunion.org/camporee2012.

WASHINGTON, D.C.
July 23: Emanuel-Brinklow church members continue to minister at Central Union Mission Homeless Shelter. Vocalist Jasmine Bran and pianist George Stewart will join Pastor Anthony Medley at the shelter, located at 1350 R. Street in Washington, D.C. The service begins at 7 p.m. For more information, visit emmanueladventist.org

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

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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.

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:
Mountain View Members Gain Valuable Tools at Festival of the Laity

Story by Valerie Morikone
Published 7/16/2012

“When we accept Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, we become His ministers. Some have been ordained but all of us have been called to the ministry,” said Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division (NAD) at the first of two Festival of the Laity meetings held in the Mountain View Conference. In his devotional talk, Jackson emphasized that the glory of the church lies in declaring God’s praises (see 1 Pet. 2:9), not in constructing bigger buildings or having the finest health and educational systems. He added that not only are Seventh-day Adventists to be people of the Book but also followers of the Book.

The festival, themed “Being Connected,” was held at the Charleston (W.Va.) church. Larry Boggess, Mountain View Conference president, said the purpose of the daylong meeting was to give attendees tools to share Jesus.

One of those integral tools was prayer. Ruthie Jacobsen, NAD’s Prayer coordinator, reminded attendees, “God can do more in five minutes than we can do in 50 years.” She also encouraged attendees to ask God, each day, to use them to place somebody’s hand in the hand of God. After sharing prayer stories that uplifted the power of God, Jacobsen challenged the audience to saturate all conference churches and all ministries in prayer. We must “be known and seen as people who care and love … [who] do things with no strings attached,” she said.

So attendees could experience the joy of prayer, Jacobsen divided the audience into groups of twos and threes and took everyone through a sample prayer time using Scripture as the basis. The groups scattered throughout the church sanctuary, humbled themselves before God in prayer as they praised Him for who He was; asked for obedient hearts; gave God permission to do anything according to His will; confessed to God and asked for His forgiveness.

Joyce Helman, a Moorefield (W.Va.) church member, said that this prayer activity brought tears to her eyes. “It gave me an awesome feeling when I heard the murmurings of the prayers while we were in our groups; it felt powerful,” Helman said. “All I could think was [that] this would have to be a small glimpse of the upper room when the apostles received the Holy Spirit—it was truly an awesome [and] wonderful feeling and sound!”
After lunch, Frank Bondurant, vice president for Ministries Development for the Columbia Union Conference, showed attendees how to develop their own ministries using friendship evangelism. He shared ideas that ranged from holding an exercise class, book club or quilting class, to opening up the church gym as a recreation center. “Evangelism has to be personal. If it is not personal it will not be effective,” Bondurant said.

Boggess closed the program with the challenge to "make ourselves available to God, then make your passion your ministry."

Edna Pepper, a member of the Parkersburg (W.Va.) church, said just learning that God can use a multiplicity of individuals with varying interests to reach others was encouraging. "When we truly care for others [the Holy Spirit] is able to surprise us," Pepper said. "Every person, no matter how different they may feel, with Jesus is able to reach someone that no one else could."

**COMMENTS POLICY:** The Columbia Union Conference Visitor encourages quality conversation and welcomes your thoughtful comments. All comments are subject to approval and will not be edited. Please limit your comments to 500 words or less.

**Join in the discussion:**

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The Cardiac and Vascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU) team at Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Md., was recently awarded the silver-level Beacon Award for Excellence by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN), making it the only hospital in Montgomery County, and one of only six in Maryland, to receive this prestigious national recognition. This award marks a significant achievement in providing exceptional patient care and a healthy work environment.

It recognizes unit caregivers who successfully improve patient outcomes and align practices with AACN’s six healthy work environment standards. Of the estimated 6,000 intensive care units in the United States, only 315 have been recognized with this award for excellence.

“This is a wonderful achievement that recognizes the commitment of our caregivers for working together to provide exceptional patient care,” said Joyce Newmyer, the hospital’s president. “This national recognition helps continue our hospital’s legacy of providing the type of high-quality cardiac care our community has come to trust.”

The silver-level Beacon Award for Excellence signifies continuous learning and effective systems to achieve optimal patient care. Washington Adventist Hospital’s CVICU earned its silver award by meeting the following evidence-based Beacon Award for Excellence criteria:

- Leadership Structures and Systems
- Appropriate Staffing and Staff Engagement
- Effective Communication, Knowledge Management, Learning and Development, Best Practices
- Evidence-Based Practice and Processes
- Patient Outcomes

“We’re very proud of this recognition,” said Maria Jurlano, director of the CVICU. “This is a true validation of the work and dedication of the CVICU team in doing the right thing for our patients and their families.”
The Beacon Award for Excellence recognizes caregivers in stellar units whose consistent and systematic approach to evidence-based care optimizes patient outcomes. Units that receive this national recognition serve as role models to others on their journey to excellent patient and family care,” said AACN president Mary Stahl, RN, MSN.

Since Washington Adventist Hospital performed the area’s first heart surgery in 1962, it has been continually recognized for the comprehensive, quality heart care provided to residents, and other regional firsts.

Joyce Newmyer, hospital president; Tom Sweeney, chief nursing officer; and Randall Wagner, Chief Medical Officer, stop by Unit 1500, CVICU, to congratulate the staff and physicians for their hard work and dedication.

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Daryl Spivey, an Ethnan Temple elder, prays with an area biker.

Ethnan Temple's Second Biker Blessing Draws 50
Story by Allegheny West Staff Photos by Takesha Burden

The Ethnan Temple congregation in Wilkinsburg, Ohio, under the direction of Pastor William E. Joseph Jr., recently hosted their second annual Blessing of the Bikes service. Spearheaded by members Darlene Meadows and Rozell Burroughs, both avid riders, the event drew upwards of 50 bikers from a local chapter of the Christian Motorcycle Association and other area clubs.

Pastor Jack McCrary, another biking enthusiast from the Bethany church in Charlottesville, Va., also joined in the day’s festivities.

At the conclusion of the sermon, Pastor Joseph invited the congregation outside where he and the elders offered prayers for the bikers’ safety during the riding season. Church members also provided each rider with a gift bag filled with a variety of mementos, including a patch that read, “No day is dark when the Son is present.” Area businesses also donated vests and other prizes, which the church awarded for categories such as “first to arrive” and “best tri-wheeled bikes.”

“Our purpose is to make a connection with a group of individuals who are not traditionally looked on as church goers and to make a bridge between the church and the bikers,” says Pastor Joseph.
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Kellie Dehm, a nursing major, spent 10 months caring for orphans in Tanzania.

WAU Student Missionary Returns With Brand New Attitude

Story by Ryan Jackson
Published 7/16/12

Kellie Dehm, Washington Adventist University’s (WAU) first student missionary in six years, is back from Tanzania with a slew of new experiences, new perspectives and a new attitude.

Dehm, who left the school’s Takoma Park, Md.-campus last August, determined to answer the call to service, spent the last 10 months at the Havilah Village Orphanage in Arusha. The Allegheny East Conference’s Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., sponsors the orphanage.

For Dehm it was a huge change of pace from the busyness of life near the capital of the United States to the small African village with no Internet service and no hot water.

“I want to step out in faith and do what I felt God was impressing on me to do,” Dehm said then of her decision to make the dramatic lifestyle change, albeit a temporary one. “I want to be God’s vessel so He can touch lives through me. I want to grow with the people of Arusha.”

With the experience now behind her, Dehm is sanguine about the lessons learned. “I… went to Africa and became a mother,” says the 20-year-old nursing major, describing her days taking care of a house of 10 children. “I spent the first few months wanting to come home, and now that I’m home, I want to go back, to my kids.”

A typical day started at 6 a.m., with Dehm cooking breakfast and seeing some of her children off to school. Once the school-aged children left, it was time to feed the younger ones and perform her “motherly” chores—tidying up the house, doing the laundry, making lunch and taking the kids to the playground. Her day ended around 8:30 p.m., after dinner and worship and all the kids were put to bed.

Despite what may seem like a tedious experience to some, Dehm says she has few regrets. In fact, she is already making plans to go back to visit her Tanzania family. Asked what she would change about her experience, she says: “Just the first five months because I made it about myself and not about the kids.”

Dehm is hoping that many others will answer the call to service in places as far-flung as her tiny African village. Her advice to those who wish to do the same is simply to be open and ready, and willing for anything to happen. “Bad things are always going to happen, and things won’t always go the way you want,” she says. “You have to find the good in every situation.”

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Did You Attend Camp Meeting This Year?

Photos Share Glimpse of Conference Camp Meetings

Compiled by Visitor Staff
Published 7/17/2012

Did you attend any of the camp meetings across the Columbia Union Conference this summer? For some camp meeting fans these gatherings often bring great memories of reuniting with friends from across the country or across town, hearing new speakers, learning new ways to minister and spending more time with God. Although all the major camp meetings across the union are finished for this summer, the Visitor staff members wanted to share snapshots from each camp meeting. Don’t see your camp meeting here? Share your photos on our Facebook page or place a link below in the comment section. We hope you have fun reminiscing!

Allegheny East

The Allegheny East Conference set aside a special day for family fun during the June 28-July 8 camp meeting in Pine Forge, Pa. Children and parents shared laughter and got involved with activities like hula hooping, volleyball, relay races and basketball. Here, one group is pictured playing in musical chairs.
Allegheny West
Despite the severe storm that knocked out power in parts of Ohio, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia, about 2,000 people within the Allegheny West Conference still attended camp meeting in Thornville, Ohio, on the weekend of June 28. The storm affected restroom operation at the camp meeting, but leaders were able to bring in generators that allowed the well to pump water and get camp meeting to run as smoothly as possible.

Chesapeake
The Chesapeake Conference Camp Meeting themed “Walk with God! Share His Grace!” held in Hagerstown, Md., focused on prayer and challenged worshippers to reach out to others in Christian love regardless of race, religion or social status. Here, Dick Stenbakken draws the congregation into the dramatic story of the leper who was made whole by Jesus Christ.
Mountain View

With Father’s Day falling on the first Sunday of Mountain View Conference’s Camp Meeting in Huttonsville, W.Va., Alaina Zill presents her father, Victor, with a very special handmade paper shirt to honor the occasion.

New Jersey

On Sabbath afternoon of the New Jersey Conference English Camp Meeting, held in Tranquility, only one person was supposed to be baptized. However, after that person was baptized, Pastor Jean-Michel Etienne made an appeal for others to be baptized. Four additional individuals who had been studying, but had not yet been baptized came forward and responded to the call. Pictured from left to right is José H. Cortés, conference president; Stephanie Lawrence, Pastor Etienne, Alex Czereuta, Ken Smith, Randy Randazzo, Pastor Jorge Coxaj, Dennis Blake and Pastor Leonel Pottinger in upper background.
Ohio
Attendees to the Ohio Conference's pastor-led camp meeting enjoyed Mohaven Day in Danville, Ohio. This is a day where Camp Mohaven can “show off” the best they have to offer such as horseback riding, canoeing, ropes course and the zip lining. It’s a free afternoon activity for all ages. It was a hit in the past, but then fell to the side. This was the first time in years it has returned to camp meeting.

Pennsylvania
Lois Shores enjoys spending time with the children of the Bucks County church, where she has worshipped for many years. You can find her every year at the Pennsylvania Conference Camp Meeting in Harrisburg, Pa., under the children’s craft tent. There paints, colors, cuts and pastes crafts along with the kids. Having no grandchildren of her own, Shores shares that she loves all the children she volunteers to help during camp meeting and considers them all her grandchildren.
Potomac

During the Potomac Conference’s June 19-23 camp meeting in New Market, Va., attendees were challenged to focus their lives on making disciples for Jesus. Here, one woman places a signature on a copy of Harry Anderson’s painting, “Christ Ordaining the Twelve.” Nearly 300 people signed the painting signifying an individual commitments to bring one new soul to Christ this year.

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Asistió al campamento este año?
Fotos demuestran un poco de los campamentos hispanos
Compilado por el personal del Visitor
Publicado 7/17/2012

Usted asistió alguno de los campamentos en la Columbia Union durante este verano? Aquí el Visitor tiene fotos de los campamentos. No ve fotos de su campamento? Comparta sus fotos en nuestra página de Facebook o ponga un enlace en la sección de comentario. Esperamos que se divierta acordando de su campamento.

Allegheny West

Por tercer año consecutivo Allegheny West Conference (AWC) celebró su reunión campestre hispana con una asistencia de más de cuatrocientos participantes. Rubén Ramos, asistente del presidente para Ministerios Multilingües de la Columbia Union Conference, se entregó una placa a setenta líderes pioneros, de parte de los administradores, en reconocimiento de su obra evangelística con los latinos de la Asociación.

Chesapeake

En vez de llevar a cabo una reunión campestre tradicional, los pastores hispanos de Chesapeake Conference organizaron sesiones de entrenamiento en Hagerstown, Md., para quince ministerios de iglesias locales, tales como: salud, comunicaciones, damas, infantiles, y jóvenes. Con la adición de setenta nuevos miembros a la Asociación, los líderes sabían que algunos eran nuevos en sus puestos. Aproximadamente seiscientos fueron entrenados, sobrepasando las expectativas. En la foto esta Yolanda de los Rios de la Florida Conference, entrenando a las
Cuando iban a comenzar el campamento hispano de Mountain View Conference, la tormenta grande (derecho) de Junio 29, llegó al área de Valley Vista Academy en Jutonsville, W.Va., y perdieron la electricidad. Los líderes se preguntaron si deberían cancelar el campamento y decirles a todos que se regresaran a sus casas por la mañana. Pero todos se congregaron en la cafetería y cantaron alabanzas a Dios. Con solo las luces de emergencia funcionando, el Pastor Williams Ovalle de Columbus, OH dio el tema. Cely Martínez (izquierda) y Guadalupe Castro se saludaron con un abrazo.

Aproximadamente 2,000 personas asistieron el campamento hispano de la Pennsylvania Conference Junio 29 a Julio 1, en Hamburg, Pa. Rene Quispe y Carlos Patrick tuvieron el tema “Levantate Respandece.” En la foto esta el Pastor Saud Elias presentando los miembros de las nuevas iglesias y compartiendo sus historia y crecimiento.
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