Delegates Re-elect New Jersey Conference Officers

Some 242 New Jersey Conference delegates met on Sunday for their 39th regular constituency session during which they reelected Jim Greene as executive secretary, José H. Cortés as president and Modesto Vazquez as treasurer (pictured).

During the president’s video report, Cortés shared that over the last quinquennium, the conference gained 4,208 new members bringing the total membership to 14,123.

After marveling at how much the Lord has blessed the conference, Cortés said, “Let nobody be confused. Everything that happened in this conference came from the Lord. Nothing came about because of man’s effort alone. It’s not about me. It’s not about you. It’s about Jesus.”

He then proceeded to thank members of the executive committee, conference staff, pastors and their families, teachers, elders and deaconesses and members for their contributions to the work of the church.—Story by Taashi Rowe

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Union Convenes Fall Meetings

“Washington Adventist Hospital will continue to grow where we are while we again seek to obtain approval for a new hospital campus. Though this is a challenge, we choose to embrace possibility,” said William G "Bill" Robertson, Adventist HealthCare (AHC) president, speaking to attendees at the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee who gathered today for their regular fall meeting. In Robertson’s report, he explained that he recently learned that the recommendation of the state healthcare commission was to deny the hospital's application to relocate six miles north of its present location near the Adventist World Headquarters in Silver Spring, Md. AHC, he says, intends to re-file the application shortly.

Weymouth Spence, president of Washington Adventist University (WAU), announced that the Middle States Commission on Higher Education Accreditation Association recently reaffirmed the university for another 10 years and reported that enrollment is the fastest growing among Adventist schools in North America.—Story and photo by Celeste Ryan Blyden

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Union Executive Committee Honors Allegheny East President

This morning at a meeting of the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee, union officers recognized Charles Cheatham, outgoing Allegheny East Conference president. In recognition of his 54 years of service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the officers also presented Cheatham with an obelisk-shaped award. Due to term limits, Cheatham, who served 12 years as
conference president, is ineligible to serve in that capacity when delegates select officers at next month’s constituency session.

As he presented the devotional, Cheatham reminisced about the many changes he has witnessed over decades in the Adventist Church. He quoted Gal. 3:28 and reminded fellow committee members that all are one in Christ. Cheatham does not plan to retire instead, he hopes to continue serving the church in a different area. Pictured are Rob Vandeman, union executive secretary; Cheatham; Dave Weigley, union president; and Seth Bardu, union treasurer.—Story by Taashi Rowe

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Remembrance: Allegheny East Member Helped Develop ADRA

Milton E. Nebblett, a member of Allegheny East Conference’s (AEC) Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md., was a driven force who helped transform local Seventh-day Adventist humanitarian outreach in the early 1980s into a major player on the international development scene.

The former refugee advisor for the U.S. State Department in Vietnam secured the Seventh-day Adventist World Service’s (SAWS) first grant—$10 million from the United States Agency for International Development—based largely on his understanding of government agencies.

Nebblett, who died September 13 at age 88, served as deputy director for SAWS, which then employed 12 people in its home office and 300 people worldwide. After securing the grant, the organization soon afterward became the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), which now employs 85 people in its international office and 6,000 people worldwide.—Story by Ansel Oliver/Adventist News Network

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Chesapeake Korean Churches Host 60-Site Meetings
This week Chesapeake Conference’s Baltimore Korean and Washington-Spencerville Korean churches are hosting a satellite evangelism series. Their Ellicott City and Spencerville, Md., locations respectively, are hosting the series while people watch from some 60 sites across North America. Church leaders report that there have been hundreds of visitors coming to the combined sites. The series is their way of celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first Korean church established in North America. The series runs from September 23 to 29. Speaker Dwight Nelson, senior pastor for the Pioneer Memorial church (Mich.) speaks on the topic “A Future and Friendship You Can Count On.”

The program is being televised on the Hope Channel every night from 7:30 to 9 p.m. and at 11 a.m. this Sabbath. “It is a privilege and blessing to be the host of this special event in our church. God is working in a great way in the Korean ministries of North America,” commented David Su, pastor of the Baltimore Korean church.—Story by Ray Valenzuela

Allegheny West, Ohio Conferences to Co-Host Dayton Meetings

Some 200 people in Dayton, Ohio, have already signed up to attend the “Revelation Today” evangelism meetings slated to run from September 28 to October 26. The meetings will feature John Bradshaw (pictured), speaker/director of It Is Written ministries. “This is the first major meeting in Dayton in 25 years,” says Raj Attiken, president of the Ohio Conference.

Over the last 18 months, schools and churches from the Ohio and the Alleghany West conferences, the Ohio Conference, Kettering Adventist Healthcare and the Columbia Union have worked together to bring the message to Dayton residents. One of those efforts included mailing out copies of *Steps to Christ* after which nearly 1,000 people requested Bible studies. The meetings will be held Sundays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at the Dayton Masonic Center and will start at 7:15 p.m. On Sundays the meetings will be held at 6 and 7:15 p.m. The series will also be streamed live at revelationtoday.com.
Miembros hispanos de Allegheny East celebran múltiples logros

Durante el día anual de la hermandad del concilio de iglesias hispanas de Allegheny East Conference (AEC, por sus siglas en inglés), llevado a cabo el sábado pasado en las oficinas centrales de la Asociación en Pine Forge, Pa., los asistentes tenían mucho que celebrar. Además de disfrutar de un día de adoración, talleres y camaradería, los miembros hispanos de la Asociación celebraron su primera graduación de la Escuela de Discipulado, una promoción de los Guías Mayores, dieciocho bautismos, el reconocimiento a cinco pastores con certificados de ministerio y dieron la bienvenida al redil a cinco iglesias nuevas.

Reconociendo lo valioso que es educar a los laicos para la dirección de ministerios, el año pasado Allegheny East empezó su propia Escuela de Discipulado, uniéndose de esta manera a otras más en Columbia Union. Unas treinta personas se reúnen un domingo al mes durante un año para completar la primera fase del programa.—Historia por Taashi Rowe

VEA MAS

Pennsylvania Young Adult Leads Evangelism Series

Rachel Goodling, a member of the Milton (Pa.) church was one of 10 people who traveled to the Dominican Republic this past summer, as part of the Pennsylvania Conference youth and young adult mission team. Like each member of the team, Goodling preached 19 evangelistic sermons for the ShareHim prophecy series at a local Dominican church. As a result of the trip, some 122 people baptized.

Upon returning to the states, Goodling began making plans to preach an evangelistic series in her home church. With the support of her local church, Rachel began preaching on September 21. “I am so blessed with an amazing and supportive church family,” she said.
When asked about Goodling’s preaching, one church member said, “We are blessed to have such a brave and awesome young lady to take on this series of meetings! She is doing an excellent job, and I am thankful for her willingness to do the things she has done and continues to do!”—Story by Tim Madding

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**Potomac Church Hosts Fifth Annual Hometown Heroes Dinner**

**Potomac Conference’s** Olney (Md.) church recently expressed their gratitude to local firefighters, paramedics and police officers during their fifth annual “Hometown Heroes Dinner” at a local restaurant. Church members are invited to sponsor one or more hometown heroes for the dinner and to come and spend time with them at the event and listen to their stories of courage and service.

“At the dinner, I prayed for our first responders’ blessing and safety as they serve,” says Nathan Krause, pastor of the Olney church. “It is a privilege to have the opportunity to pray in a public place. I get the attention of those dining in the restaurant and tell them that our church is honoring our hometown heroes and ask for a round of applause for them. It’s wonderful to hear the whole place erupt with applause for the men and women they appreciate. And our heroes truly appreciate the recognition.” Pictured is George Brown (left), chief of the Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department and Pastor Krause.—Story by Meena Dayak

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**WAU Music Major Directs Orchestra**

Michael Patterson, a senior music major at Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Md., recently returned to WAU following a tour of South Africa and a performance at Loma Linda University (Calif.). After performing as principal oboe and piano soloist with the New England Youth Ensemble in more than 25 concerts in South Africa, the aspiring composer and
orchestral conductor returned to his home in central California. He then immediately began organizing a concert for his 73-piece ensemble, the PianoForte Symphony Orchestra, which he started at age 18.

In true fashion of composers of old, Patterson organized all aspects of the concert, which was televised worldwide and received a three-minute standing ovation from a packed house. “He shows such fine promise in pretty much any musical field to which he applies himself,” said Preston Hawes, WAU’s assistant professor of music and Patterson’s conducting coach. “I predict a very bright future for him!”

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**End Quote: There’s Much More to be Done in the Cities**

“I am absolutely amazed that so many divisions have caught the vision of reaching the millions in the cities and are making very serious plans. This just thrills my heart because it’s a fulfillment of what God has intended for a long time. Much work has been done in the cities and yet there’s so much more to be done. The Lord says when we do it according to His plan, there will be a mighty movement in these huge metropolitan areas.”—Ted N.C. Wilson, General Conference president, speaking this past weekend at the prayer rally for “New York 13,” which will kickoff the church’s outreach to 650 cities worldwide

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

**MARYLAND**

September 29: The Triadelphia Church invites all area church members to participate in the TeamWord Bible Bowl program. The program will cover 1 and 2 Thessalonians. Families are especially encouraged to participate as a team. For more information, contact Sharon at (301) 219-1028, email TriadelphiaTeamWord@gmail.com or visit teamword.org.
September 30: Join Shady Grove Adventist and Washington Adventist Hospitals for “Pink Fling,” a breast cancer awareness event taking place at Westfield Montgomery Mall in Bethesda, Md. The beneficial, informative and free event, which runs from 1 to 4 p.m., will educate local women, friends and families about breast cancer and kick off Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The event will also feature breast cancer risk assessments, a breast cancer survivor fashion show, exercise and cooking demonstrations, etc. For more information, visit AdventistHealthCare.com/PinkFling.

October 1: John Glenn Clark, MD, will give a weeklong series of health and natural remedies presentations beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Berkeley Springs (W.Va.) church. Clark heads Northern Lights Health Education in Maine. Starting October 2, the lectures will move to the Best Western Motel in Berkeley Springs, again at 6:30 p.m. Free materials on health topics such as diabetes, high blood pressure and weight loss will be available, along with corresponding DVDs. For more information, contact Lisa Shingleton in the evenings at (304) 258-2739. The church is located at 3606 Valley Road.

October 2-November 27: The Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashville, Md., is hosting a Women’s Empowerment/Self Defense Series. The class is held every Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Included are special featured sessions for teens (October 9th) and elementary-aged girls (November 13th). For more information, contact the Women’s Ministries leader and parish nurse at (301) 672-9257.

October 6: “Thou Art the Man” is the theme for the 2012 Maryland Men of Faith Conference at Mount Aetna Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md. Justin Kim, director of Public Campus Ministries for the Michigan Conference, will explore the topics of accountability and responsibility through the study of 2 Samuel 12:7. Seminars on addiction, end time events, spiritual health and a Christian home, and programming for youth (ages 14-19) round out the day. Get full details and register online at mmof.org.

October 6: Protecting Marriage: What is the Christian’s Role? The Spencerville (Md.) church will host a special Sabbath series dedicated to exploring the biblical, social and religious liberty issues around the attempt to change the definition of marriage in Maryland. The event will be held in the Spencerville sanctuary. Special speakers will include Adventist Review editor and Spencerville member, Bill Knott; Roy Gane, a professor of Old Testament from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University; and Nicholas Miller, an attorney as well as professor of church history, also from the Seminary. Gane and Miller co-edited the recently released book, Homosexuality, Marriage, and the Church, which explores the question of how the Christian should relate to issues of sexuality, marriage and the law. Presentations will be given on these and related topics during the divine worship hour, and in the afternoon at a panel discussion beginning at 2 p.m. Claudio Consuegra, director of the North American Division Family Ministries Department, will also join the afternoon discussion panel. For more information, contact the Spencerville church office at (301) 384-2920.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 5: In November, Marylanders could vote to legalize same sex marriages. How should we handle it in the church? Come out for a thought-provoking, interactive discussion of this “taboo topic.” Guest panelists include Nicolas Miller, lead editor of the book Homosexuality, Marriage and the Church, Pastor Paul Graham and Kesslyn Brade-Stennis, PhD, MSW, MDiv. Hear personal testimonies and share your thoughts! Praise and worship begins at 7:45 p.m. and discussion begins at 8 p.m. at the Capital Memorial church in Washington, D.C. Click here for more information.
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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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**Taashi Rowe, Visitor News Bulletin Editor**
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New Jersey Conference Delegates Reelect Officers at Constituency Session

Story by Taashi Rowe
Published 9/24/12

Some 242 New Jersey Conference delegates met yesterday for their 39th regular constituency session during which they reelected their top three officers. Delegates, who met at the Robbinsville (N.J.) church—the conference’s largest—returned José H. Cortés as president, Jim Greene as executive secretary and Modesto Vazquez as treasurer.

Delegates also heard reports from the president, treasurer, secretary and other conference departments. During the president’s video report, Cortés shared that over the last quinquennium, the conference held 529 evangelism meetings and gained 4,208 new members bringing the total membership to 14,123. During that same period, the church also gained eight churches bringing the total churches in the conference to 86. The conference also added four companies and 14 Mission Caleb groups, the latter being the conference’s church planting effort.

Vazquez shared that tithe has increased by 16 percent bringing the total tithe to $53.1 million for the quinquennium. The conference’s required working capital also increased from 51.69 percent in 2006 to 134.04 percent as of December 31, 2011. Vazquez noted that even during the nation’s financial downturn, members continued to support the church’s work in New Jersey. “We praise the Lord because He gave us the blessing of dedicated brothers and sisters who sustain the work of the Lord through their resources,” he said.

After marveling at how much the Lord has blessed the conference, Cortés said, “Let nobody be confused. Everything that happened in this conference came from the Lord. Nothing came about because of man’s effort alone. It’s not about me. It’s not about you. It’s about Jesus.”
He then proceeded to ask members of the executive committee, conference staff, pastors and their families, teachers, elders and deaconesses and members to stand. After he called each group’s name, he thanked them for allowing the Lord to use them to contribute to the church’s growth.

Delegates also heard and voted on several recommended changes to the conference’s constitution and bylaws. One particular area, which generated much discussion, was a proposal to reduce the number of delegates sent to each constituency session from one representative for every 50 members to one representative for every 125. The proposal was made in an effort to head off increasing costs and limited space to host what will most likely be a larger delegation at the next constituency session.

Michael Martin, a member of the Luzo-Brazilian church Newark worried more what he called a “dilution of the vote,” and said, “There is no doubt there will be funds for all delegates to come here and vote.” He was also confident that there would be a sufficient place to hold the meeting.

A majority of the delegates agreed with Martin and at 4:26 p.m. they roundly defeated the measure. “This was the most important thing we voted on today,” said Roy McDonald, a member of the First Bilingual church of Somerset.

At the end of the day, Cortés set a goal to add 20 new churches to the conference in the next quinquennium and increase the membership to at least 18,000. He also unveiled the conference’s new website newjerseyconference.org.

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There are no comments.

Anonymous

Name:

Email:
Committee members meet in breakout groups to discuss the union's priorities.

Union Convenes Fall Meetings

Story by Celeste Ryan Blyden
Published 9/26/12

“Washington Adventist Hospital will continue to grow where we are while we again seek to obtain approval for a new hospital campus. Though this is a challenge, we choose to embrace possibility,” said William G “Bill” Robertson, Adventist HealthCare (AHC) president, speaking to attendees at the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee who gathered today for their regular fall meeting. In Robertson’s report, he explained that he recently learned that the recommendation of the state healthcare commission was to deny the hospital’s application to relocate six miles north of its present location near the Adventist World Headquarters in Silver Spring, Md. AHC, he says, intends to re-file the application shortly.

Weymouth Spence, president of Washington Adventist University (WAU), announced that the Middle States Commission on Higher Education Accreditation Association recently reaffirmed the university for another 10 years and reported that enrollment is the fastest growing among Adventist schools in North America.

“That’s a good report,” said union president Dave Weigley afterward. “We’ve been and we’re going to keep bringing you a lot of good reports from our university.” He also noted that he’s attended two ribbon-cuttings at WAU this year—the music building and the newly renovated dining hall.”

Rob Vandeman, union executive secretary, reported that as of June 30, union membership topped 136,000. Celeste Ryan Blyden, Visitor editor, shared the results of a reader survey completed in July by Barna Group. Some 77 percent of those surveyed say they prefer to get their Visitor printed and mailed rather than sent electronically.

Union officers also recognized Charles Cheatham, outgoing Allegheny East Conference president. In recognition of his 54 years of service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the officers also presented Cheatham with an obelisk. Due to term limits, Cheatham, who served 12 years as conference president, is ineligible to serve in that capacity when delegates select officers at next month’s constituency session.

The committee approved the ordinations of 15 female pastors, including Josephine Benton, who as the first female pastor in the union, led the Rockville (Md.) church from 1979 to 1982. They also voted to send a statement to General Conference leaders in response to several statements they released following the union’s July 29 vote to ordain pastors without regard to gender. The statement will be printed in the October Visitor.
The committee also met in breakout groups (pictured) to discuss the union's priorities and what's currently working in their local churches and conferences. The conversation will continue at the committee's next meeting, scheduled for November 15.

Left to right: Rob Vandeman, union executive secretary; Charles Cheatham, outgoing Allegheny East Conference president; Dave Weigley, union president; and Seth Bardu, union treasurer

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Columbia Union Columbia MD: September 26, 2012--Union Convenes ... http://www.columbiaunion.org/article/1136/news/2012-news-archives/se...
Milton E. Nebblett, a member of Allegheny East Conference’s Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md., and an ADRA pioneer, died September 13.

Remembrance: Allegheny East Member Helped Develop ADRA, Secured Early Grants

Story by Ansel Oliver/Adventist News Network
Published 9/24/12

Milton E. Nebblett, a member of Allegheny East Conference’s Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md., was a driven force who helped transform local Seventh-day Adventist humanitarian outreach in the early 1980s into a major player on the international development scene.

The former refugee advisor for the U.S. State Department in Vietnam secured the Seventh-day Adventist World Service’s (SAWS) first grant—$10 million from the United States Agency for International Development—based largely on his understanding of government agencies.

Nebblett, who died September 13 at age 88, served as deputy director for SAWS, which then employed 12 people in its home office and 300 people worldwide. After securing the grant, the organization soon afterward became the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), which now employs 85 people in its international office and 6,000 people worldwide.

Nebblett worked non-stop on multiple projects and traveled extensively throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America to assess humanitarian needs with government leaders. Colleagues said he constantly pushed the agency to expand its operations. It’s estimated that he helped to secure roughly $100 million in grants for ADRA’s projects.

“Milton was someone who I would try to emulate and replicate his passion in my work,” said Mario H. Ochoa, ADRA’s vice president for network relations, who worked with Nebblett. “He was a dynamic, vibrant, exuberant guy. He did a lot of mentoring for me and others in the office in those days.”
Nebblett's wife, Ivy, said he visited 150 countries, and the couple lived in 42 different houses during his ministry.

Nebblett was the son of a custom tailor in Honduras. Like his father, he made clothes for himself throughout his life and was known as a dapper dresser. His wife said sewing was the only activity on which he would focus all his attention at one time.

He graduated from what was then Oakwood College (Ala.) and in 1953 earned a master's degree in divinity from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, then located in Washington, D.C. He was known as the "love" pastor because he usually preached on the fourth chapter of the Gospel of John, Ivy said.

He pastored in the Caribbean in the 1950s and 1960s, at one point pastoring 12 churches simultaneously. He also served as president of the denomination's Guyana Mission. The U.S. Food for Peace Program selected Nebblett to head a Guyanese food distribution during civil unrest.

Later, while pastoring in California, the U.S. government asked him in 1969 to serve as an advisor to the South Vietnamese government during the Vietnam War. He coordinated and built refugee camps for millions of displaced persons fleeing from the bombing in their villages.

He returned to the United States in 1974, and pastored AEC's Metropolitan church in Maryland and Willow Grove and Norristown churches in Pennsylvania before accepting a call in 1980 to the Adventist Church's world headquarters to serve as a deputy director of SAWS.

He left ADRA in 1985 to pastor AEC's Fourth Street church in Washington, D.C. He also formed an independent humanitarian organization for a few years before Alzheimer's disease set in, which he lived with the final decade of his life.

He is survived by his wife, four children and 10 grandchildren. A funeral service is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Saturday, September 29, at the Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md.

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Anonymous

Name:

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En esta página compartimos historias emocionantes de cómo Dios está obrando en las iglesias hispan hablantes. ¡Necesitamos su ayuda en mantener actualizada esta página! Le invitamos a enviarnos sus historias y noticias en inglés y español a Visitor@columbiaunion.net.

Miembros hispanos de Allegheny East celebran múltiples logros
Historia por Taashi Rowe
Publicada el 9/24/2012

El grupo Milford (Del.) Spanish fue una de las cinco nuevas congregaciones en formar parte de la Asociación en lo que va del año.

At Durante el día anual de la hermandad del concilio de iglesias hispanas de Allegheny East Conference (AEC, por sus siglas en inglés), llevado a cabo el sábado pasado en las oficinas centrales de la Asociación en Pine Forge, Pa., los asistentes tenían mucho que celebrar. Además de disfrutar de un día de adoración, talleres y camaradería, los miembros hispanos de la Asociación celebraron su primera graduación de la Escuela de Discipulado, una promoción de los Guías Mayores, dieciocho bautismos, el reconocimiento a cinco pastores con certificados de ministerio y dieron la bienvenida al redil a cinco iglesias nuevas.

Treinta se gradúan de la Escuela de Discipulado

Reconociendo lo valioso que es educar a los laicos para la dirección de ministerios, el año pasado Allegheny East empezó su propia Escuela de Discipulado, uniéndose de esta manera a otras más en Columbia Union. Unas treinta personas se reúnen un domingo al mes durante un año para completar la primera fase del programa. Fernando Sánchez, miembro de la iglesia Harrisburg (Pa.) Spanish, el primer adventista del séptimo día en su familia, fue uno de los graduandos. Animado por lo que aprendió en las clases, le dio estudios bíblicos a su hermana y a su madre. Muy orgulloso, un sábado llevó a su hermana para ser bautizada. "Siento que Dios me ha llamado", dijo. "Cada día puedo ver con mis propios ojos que Dios continúa bendiciéndome en medio de mis tribulaciones". Una vez que termine los cuatro años del programa, él planea conducir reuniones evangelísticas en la República Dominicana, su país de origen.

奘o promovidos a Guías Mayores

Otra graduación especial se llevó a cabo en ese día. Catorce guías mayores fueron promovidos en una ceremonia de reconocimiento por todo un año de estudio y compromiso en la dirección de clubes de Conquistadores. Los nuevos Guías Mayores, Luis y Sarita Medero, miembros del grupo Getsemani Adventist en Dover, Del., estaban emocionados por este logro. "Después de trabajar tan duro, estoy feliz de que Dios nos haya ayudado hasta aquí", dijo Sarita. "Esto es para
Dios. Queremos enseñarle a todos acerca de Jesús y llevar a más personas a conocerlo”.

A sus veintidós años de edad, Ismar Méndez, miembro de la iglesia Easton (Md.) Mahanaim, era quizás el más joven de los Guías Mayores. Él también ve a los Conquistadores como una oportunidad para el evangelismo. “Quiero llevar a otros a Jesús”, dijo. Él y su directora asociada, Mercedes Gómez, tienen ya un club con ocho Conquistadores.

Cinco líderes reciben certificados pastorales

“Muchos de nuestros pastores están trabajando diariamente para llevar a otros a Cristo”, dijo Ramón Escalante, director de los ministerios hispanos de la Asociación. “Sin embargo, estos no son pastores de tiempo completo y queremos reconocer y honrar su ministerio de manera especial”.

Esa tarde los pastores Martho Luhan, José Rosario, Delores Orellana, Leandro Pérez y Roberto Reyes recibieron los certificados de ministerio que los autoriza a llevar a cabo servicios pastorales en Allegheny East Conference. Orellana sirve como líder del ministerio para la mujer como parte de los ministerios hispanos de la asociación.

“Esto es para hacer público que apreciamos el ministerio que han llevando a cabo, año tras año, sin la certificación”, comentó Charles Cheatham presidente de la AEC, mientras les entregaba los certificados. “Oramos para que Dios continúe bendiciendo el ministerio hispano por todo el oeste de Allegheny”.

Dieciocho se unen a la iglesia por medio del bautismo

De los dieciocho que se bautizaron el sábado, Luis Pacheco no tenía planes de hacerlo. Aunque su esposa, Wendy, era miembro de la iglesia Rehoboth Spanish, en Reading, Pa., él apenas empezaba a asistir cuando Miguel Martínez le ofreció llevarlo. Pacheco pensó que Martínez estaba bromeando y le siguió el juego. Sin embargo, después de que Martínez le llevó empezó a asistir con regularidad. El sábado, Martínez le ofreció ir con él hasta la pila bautismal.

“Al principio dije que no”, explica Pacheco. “Pero algo me dijo que fuera. Estoy orgulloso de este paso. Sé que bautizarme fue la mejor decisión y siempre guardaré este recuerdo”.

Martínez agregó, “Uno nunca sabe cómo trabajará el Espíritu Santo”.

Con los nuevos miembros también vienen nuevas iglesias. Escalante reconoció a las cinco nuevas congregaciones que formaron parte de la Asociación durante este año. Entregó a cada líder de grupo una computadora portátil (laptop) y un libro de registro animándolos a utilizar la computadora para el evangelismo.
Caminando bajo la lluvia del Espíritu Santo

Además de las tantas actividades del día, se les recordó a los asistentes de la función importante del Espíritu Santo. Armando Miranda, uno de los vice presidentes de la Asociación General, predicó durante el culto divino y fue el presentador de los talleres de capacitación de la tarde, enfocándose en el tema: "Caminando bajo la lluvia del Espíritu Santo". En su sermón, compartió múltiples ejemplos de cómo él, durante sus viajes alrededor del mundo, ha visto al Espíritu Santo obrar. "He llegado a la conclusión de que el Espíritu Santo es amor", dijo. "¿De qué otra manera puede uno explicar el maravilloso y extraordinario sacrificio de Cristo?".

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