In Sandy’s Aftermath, Adventist Community Services Leaders Offer Help

On a teleconference Tuesday night, Adventist Community Services and Disaster Response (ACS DR) leaders reported that although there has been severe flooding in some communities, downed wires and mile-high sand pushed onto roads, there has been no significant damage to Seventh-day Adventist churches, schools, ministries or the homes of members. So far there have been no reports of members harmed or killed.

There is no doubt that New Jersey and New York were the hardest hit by super storm Sandy, which devastated parts of the East Coast leaving at least 48 people dead and 8 million without power. For that reason, Frank Bondurant, Columbia Union Conference vice president for Ministries Development, says ACS volunteers stand ready to help. “They are working together to do assessments and determine the needs and how to respond,” he said. Before and since the storm, ACS volunteers throughout the Columbia and Atlantic union conferences that specialize in warehouse management have been in touch with state and federal agencies to offer assistance.—Story by Visitor Staff

How You and Your Church or Group Can Help
How can you help? Click [here](#) to visit the Adventist Community Services website. There you can learn how to be prepared for a disaster, how to help others affected and even make a donation.

Churches and small groups such as youth groups, Bible study groups, Sabbath School classes and others, can also help by making personal care kits to distribute to people who are not able to use their homes due to flooding or wind and tree damage. There are 11 types of care kits that can help people who are displaced from their homes and schools. Go [HERE](#) for the list and contents of each. For updates, check the [Disaster Response page on Facebook](#).

—Story by North American Division Staff

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**Westney Award Conferred at Religious Liberty Festival**

During the Columbia Union’s first Religious Liberty Festival held in Columbia, Md., Walter Carson, union vice president and general counsel, conferred the first Adrian T. Westney Religious Liberty Award on Sen. Roger P. Manno. The senator supported a religious accommodation bill pending in the Maryland General Assembly that would have helped Seventh-day Adventists find religious accommodation in the workplace.

Although the bill did not pass, Carson (pictured far right) expressed his appreciation for Manno’s support.

Touched by the recognition, Manno (pictured center) stated, “I didn’t know Dr. Westney, but I now know that he was a man of faith and a man who dedicated his life to love and to helping people [know] God, and I suppose that’s what we all should be doing more of in the world. So, it is a great honor.”

The award was given in memory of Adrian T. Westney, who spent many years educating members on the importance of religious liberty issues.—*Story and photos by Beth Michaels*
New Joy Member Organizes a Christian Storytelling Café

Phyllis Washington (pictured) drew from her 40 years of Children’s Ministries experience to address storytellers at the Christian Storytelling Café’s soiree in Hagerstown, Md., earlier this month. The Children’s Ministries director for the North American Division engaged representatives of five faith groups and local business owners in the various ways of putting pizzazz into Bible stories for children, including making balloon characters, face painting and paper cutting.

Faith Crumbly, café owner and a member of Allegheny East Conference’s New Joy Fellowship church in Hagerstown, organized and facilitated this event for an adult audience in the social hall at the John Wesley United Methodist Church. She established the café in January as a friendship evangelism project, and the Hagerstown Area Religious Council has promoted the café.

Many attendees were drawn to the event by Crumbly’s announcements that 80 percent of Americans do not know basic Bible stories. She facilitates the café’s monthly storytelling sessions held in a local art gallery and in other venues around Hagerstown.—Story by New Joy Fellowship Staff

Eastern Shore Students Get Tangled Up in Reading Via the Web

The pre-K and kindergarten class at Chesapeake Conference’s Eastern Shore Junior Academy in Sudlersville, Md., (pictured) uses Skype, a free Web-based video-conferencing service, to enhance
their reading program and make friends across the globe, says their teacher Jennifer Miller.

They use the technology to connect with friends and relatives who live far away and discover why reading is an integral part of their lives. Each Wednesday at a designated time, the students and the reader tune in for story time. The reader introduces her/himself and shares a favorite children’s book. The kids eagerly introduce themselves and can ask the reader questions following the story. So far, the class has heard from readers in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Texas and Australia. To be a volunteer reader, contact Jennifer Miller at (410) 505-4074.—Story by Samantha Young

Potomac Church Delivers Good News to Neighbors

“That was good, Pastor. When are we going to do it again?” asked an elderly member as she and her partner in ministry returned to Potomac Conference’s Sligo church atrium following an hour of pounding the streets of Takoma Park, Md. More than 100 eager members and guests walked the neighborhood after the 11:15 worship service on Sabbath, October 22, distributing copies of Steps to Christ in the town that housed the headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for several decades.

The attractive bag presented to homeowners surrounding the church, included a copy of Steps to Christ in English or Spanish, an invitation to tune into Sligo’s radio program, Simple Truths at 8:30 each Sabbath morning on WGTS 91.9 FM and a mailer outlining how the church is prepared to serve the community.—Story by Don McFarlane; Photo by Michael G. McKennis

Vibrant Life Magazine Wins Top Award From
Adventist Peers

\[Image\]

Vibrant Life, the Adventist church’s health magazine won eight awards from the Society of Adventist Communicators at their convention in Albuquerque, N.M., this October. Heather Quintana, editor and a member of Chesapeake’s Frederick (Md.) church, received an overall Award of Excellence for the magazine. “We are excited about Heather’s work on Vibrant Life,” says Dwain Esmond, Review and Herald vice president of editorial services. “The publishing house has made some bold investments in improving and enlarging the magazine, and I’m glad that investment is attracting notice.”

The magazine received a total of four awards for design. Two feature articles were also saluted: “Overcoming Fear, Worry, and Anxiety,” by Jennifer Jill Schwirzer, a member of Pennsylvania Conference’s Chestnut Hill church, and “In the Lyme Light,” in which Quintana tells of her battle with chronic Lyme disease. Both articles are posted at www.vibrantlife.com.—Story by Kim Peckham

November Visitor Highlight

\[Image\]

In the November Visitor cover story, Carl Rodriguez, Chesapeake Conference’s Youth Ministries director, shares how he took lessons learned from the mean streets of New York to create an effective youth ministry. He was only three weeks away from completing his college courses for an engineering degree when God called him to work with children. Now he offers kids the same patience and tough love that transformed him, and expects the 72 volunteers who lead the 14 ministries he’s developed during his 16 years at Chesapeake to do the same. Click here to read the full story online.
Articulo especial de Visitor: Amor firme

Carl Rodríguez estaba a solo tres semanas de terminar sus cursos universitarios de especialización en ingeniería eléctrica en DeVry University, New York, cuando el Señor lo llamó de manera clara a predicar.

Su camino al ministerio lo condujo de enseñar, al seminario para terminar su maestría en teología, luego a un trabajo pastoral en Florida y finalmente a ministerios juveniles como director en New Jersey Conference. Durante los últimos dieciséis años, ha servido como director de ministerios juveniles en Chesapeake Conference. Al dedicar tantos años al ministerio de jóvenes, ha aprendido que: “A los muchachos no les importa la crítica cuando saben que es porque alguien se preocupa por ellos”. La historia completa estará en línea el Lunes, Noviembre 5 en columbiaunion.org/carlrodriguez.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

MARYLAND

November 3: All Chesapeake Conference members who live in the Baltimore area are invited to attend an evangelism rally from 3-5 p.m. at the Northeast church located at 6200 Loch Raven Boulevard in Baltimore. Come and be blessed and motivated for outreach. An afternoon of inspiring messages from Gary Gibbs, conference evangelism director, and Anibal
Hansell, conference pastor and evangelist, interspersed with music by talented artists is planned. Questions? Call Pastor Sedley Johnson at (410) 679-7249, or email sedeuljon@yahoo.com.

**November 3:** The first meeting of Potomac Conference’s bilingual church, ARISE, will take place at Centro de Evangelismo y Discipulado Adventista (or “CEDA” as it is known in the Hispanic community). The address is 5203 Manchester Drive in Temple Hills, Md. At ARISE church members strive to provide Hispanic Americans and their friends a place of worship where they can feel comfortable to worship, regardless of language or culture. People of all cultures are invited to attend. For more information, visit arisesda.com.

November 3: The 150-plus voice National Christian Choir will be in concert at the Takoma Park church. The concert, which starts at 5 p.m., will also feature a subset of the choir called 2nd Edition, whose close harmonies and clean blend are definitely worth hearing. No tickets are required. The church is located at 6951 Carroll Avenue in Takoma Park, Md.

**November 4-5:** Highland View Academy’s Open House/Academy Days starts November 4 at 4 p.m. All students from grades seven through 10 are invited to attend. This event is free. Register at www.hva-edu.com, contact Renee Williams at rwilliams@highlandviewacademy.com or call (301) 739-8480.

**VIRGINIA**

**November 3:** The Courthouse Road church’s annual Fall Festival runs from 6 to 10 p.m. in the back lot. This year’s festival will include pumkin chuckin’, piñatas, goodbye bags for children, pumpkin decorating and a bonfire. There will be lots of food and a pumpkin dessert contest. Click here to learn about how to enter your best pumpkin dessert. Admission to the festival is a nonperishable food item for the holiday food drive. The church is located at 530 Courthouse Road in Richmond, Va.
submissions is 10 a.m. each Tuesday.

**Stay Connected:**

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Walter Carson, a Columbia Union Conference vice president and general counsel (far right), poses with Sen. Roger P. Manno (center), following his acceptance of the Adrian T. Westney Religious Liberty Award. Also pictured are members of Westney’s family.

Union Hosts First Religious Liberty Festival

Story and Photos By Beth Michaels
Published 10/31/12

Approximately four dozen members from Columbia Union churches in the greater Baltimore and Washington, D.C., area gathered at the union office in Columbia, Md., October 20 for the Liberty Festival 2012. Sponsored by the union’s Office of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL), the program provided an overview of the role of religious freedom in the development of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and also provided an opportunity for the church to consider religious freedom from the perspective of other faiths.

“This is the first of what we hope will become an annual tradition in the union, to celebrate our first freedom, freedom of religion,” reports Walter Carson, union vice president and general counsel. “It was a banner day for us to invite guests to address religious freedom in this country, especially at this time as we face a national election.”

The event featured guest presenters from several Adventist institutions. Merlin Burt, PhD, director of the White Estate Branch Office at Andrews University (Mich.), presented the traditional Adventist interpretation of Revelation 13 and drew religious liberty implications from it. Doug Morgan, PhD, professor of history at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., provided a historical account of the church’s first entry into the public arena to combat what appeared to be a serious legislative threat to Sabbath keepers. He referred to Ellen White’s suggested reasons for involvement in political issues, especially religious liberty, saying that mostly she felt it appropriate to vote when it would allow our freedoms “to flourish for a time.” More importantly, he added, her writings indicate that “liberty itself is integral to present truth.”

James Londis, PhD, chair of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences for Kettering College in Kettering, Ohio, offered the Sabbath homily titled “Where is Jesus?” He encouraged attendees to avoid getting sidetracked by the when of Jesus’ return. “When the disciples asked Jesus when He was coming back, Jesus told them, ‘You should be more worried about what you can do while I’m gone,’” he reported. He went on to add, “When Jesus is coming back is irrelevant. We need to concentrate on the work at hand.”

There were also two representatives from other denominational organizations who promote religious freedom: K. Hollyn Hollman, General Counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, and Rev. John W. Crossin, executive director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical
and Interreligious Affairs for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“I was particularly interested in Hollyn Hollman’s presentation regarding recent relevant cases at the U.S. Supreme Court,” said Dwayne Leslie, director of Legislative Affairs for the General Conference and a member of Potomac Conference’s Restoration Praise Center in Lanham, Md. “It is very important for our members to understand where the upcoming battles on religious freedom will be fought.”

Award Presentation

During the program, Carson took time to confer the first Adrian T. Westney Religious Liberty Award on Sen. Roger P. Manno, who supported a religious accommodation bill pending in the Maryland General Assembly that would have helped Adventists find religious accommodation in the workplace. Although the bill did not pass, Carson expressed his appreciation for Sen. Manno’s support. Touched by the recognition, Manno stated, “I didn’t know Dr. Westney, but I now know that he was a man of faith and a man who dedicated his life to love and to helping people [know] God, and I suppose that’s what we all should be doing more of in the world. So, it is a great honor, and I thank you so much for this.”

The award was given in memory of Adrian T. Westney, one of Carson’s predecessors at the union who spent many years, even into his retirement, to educate members on the importance of religious liberty issues. The award will be presented annually to persons in the Columbia Union who make special contributions to such freedoms.

Carson expressed appreciation for Westney’s leadership and advocacy for religious freedom and stated that it is fitting and proper for the union to remember his contributions to the cause. Westney’s widow and other family members were on hand to participate in the presentation.

Video and/or audio clips of the various presentations from the day will soon be published on Carson’s blog page of the union’s website, columbiaunion.org.
Phyllis Washington, Children’s Ministries director for the North American Division, shares how to put pizzazz into Bible stories for children at the Christian Storytelling Café’s soiree in Hagerstown, Md., earlier this month.

The Children’s Ministries director for the North American Division engaged representatives of five faith groups and local business owners in the various ways of putting pizzazz into Bible stories for children, including making balloon characters, face painting and paper cutting.

Faith Crumbly, café owner and a member of New Joy Fellowship church in Hagerstown, organized and facilitated this event for an adult audience in the social hall at the John Wesley United Methodist Church.

Many attendees were drawn to the event by Crumbly’s announcements that 80 percent of Americans do not know basic Bible stories as she facilitated the café’s monthly storytelling sessions held in a local art gallery and in other venues around Hagerstown. She established the café in January as a friendship evangelism project, and the Hagerstown Area Religious Council has promoted the café.

Stories for this event were in three groups: life experience, family legacy and basic Bible stories. The cast of six storytellers included two Seventh-day Adventists. Candace DeVore, editor for Kids Ministries Ideas, told a life experience story.

Phyllis Washington, Children’s Ministries director for the North American Division, shares how to put pizzazz into Bible stories for children at the Christian Storytelling Café’s soiree.
Faith Crumbly did a musical telling of Naaman the leper with audience participation. A Presbyterian minister rendered the story of David and Goliath that he titled “God-fellas” and at times assumed the voices of mafia “goodfellas” portrayed in the 1990 Oscar-winning film about organized crime.

Participants lingered after the three-hour event that included time for fellowship and refreshments. Many attendees expressed delight with the menu, which consisted entirely of vegetarian finger foods.

The remaining 2012 Christian Storytelling Café Sunday sessions will be held at 3 p.m. on November 4 and December 2 at the Contemporary School of the Arts and Gallery, located at 4 W. Franklin Street.

The scheduled 2013 Christian Storytelling Café’s Sunday soirees will be held in Hagerstown at 3 p.m. The March 3 session will be at the New Joy Fellowship church. The June 2 soiree will be held at the outdoor cross, a meeting area at St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church with an indoor rain site in the St. John’s social hall. Any congregation in the Hagerstown area who wants to bring the October 6 soiree to their church is invited to send their invitation to Ustoryteller@hotmail.com.

Faith Crumbly, a member of the New Joy Fellowship church, started the Storytelling Café to share Bible stories and storytelling tips.

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

There are no comments.

Anonymous

Name:

Email:
CARL RODRIGUEZ TOOK LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE STREETS OF NEW YORK AND CREATED AN EFFECTIVE YOUTH MINISTRY
His Stint at the Front of a Classroom

His stint at the front of a classroom may have only lasted his first two years out of college—only because that’s exactly how long the Lord told him to stay there—but after 45 minutes with Carl Rodriguez, it is obvious to me that he is an educator. He gives me 14 pages worth of biblical applications for real-life scenarios, along with his mantras for ministry—pausing regularly to see if I’ve connected with his points. I learn that those mantras, shaped by lessons from a challenging childhood, are his curriculum for ministry, and are the very reason he’s found effective service as the Youth Ministries director for the Chesapeake Conference.

That’s why it surprises me when Rodriguez offers this admission halfway through our interview: “I hated kids before!” he says, chuckling at his bold honesty. “[This was] when I first joined the church, before I was baptized—because I like order. And kids talking in church, I wanted to say, ‘Shut up!’ After reveling in my reaction, he adds, “But something happened.”

He makes sure I’m familiar with Acts 2:38-39, then explains that the act of baptism prompts the Holy Spirit to reveal to us our gifts for ministry. He shares that he was 17 years old when the Spirit revealed his. “Before I got baptized, the pastor says, ‘Carl, I can’t explain it, but I want to share this with you. The Lord has shown me that you’re to work with young people.’ I laughed so hard! I said, ‘Are you kidding me?’” he chuckles at the memory. “But, after I got baptized, it’s funny, something inside me changed. … Everything changed about grace and patience. I realized what God wanted me to do.”

A Lesson in Caring

The 2011 junior sharing book the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., released titled In the Shadow of the Mob is partly what prompted me to discover more about Rodriguez. As the title indicates, the book shares how life as the son of an Italian mobster (despite the fact that his family is Puerto Rican) forced him to make difficult decisions at an early age. One circumstance is especially telling: an analytical, preteen Rodriguez risks severing the already fragile relationship he shares with his father to help guarantee his mother and younger brother’s safety from the dangers of organized crime. Against his heart’s desire, he convinces his father to permanently leave home.

I also learned that his life is marked with a number of amazing godly interventions. At age 12, two stately male figures appear in time to save him from a neighborhood bully ready to stab Rodriguez for confronting him about a stolen bat (he was an avid baseball player). At 16, a heavenly voice instructed him to look at a sliver of light sneaking in under the door of a darkened room where a priestess and spirit leaders hoped to initiate him into the spirit world. Soon afterward, the Lord responded to his pleas and released him from an evil being who wrestled with him in his bed.

But, those really aren’t the stories Rodriguez wants you to recall when you meet him. In fact, when I set up the interview, he seemed slightly embarrassed that a book’s been written about him. He later explains that he rarely shares such details with the young people he mentors for fear that life “out there” might sound intriguing. On the contrary, he hopes the life lessons he’s turned into the Seven Points of Youth Ministry (see the sidebar) will help other youth leaders—even parents—better point kids to Christ and ministry. Although Rodriguez spends a great deal of time outlining the seven steps, the one refrain that supersedes everything is “tough love.” He’s convinced that tough love gives kids structure and lets them know that someone cares, something he once yearned for.

“Kids don’t mind criticism when they know its because you care for them,” Rodriguez summarizes. He got to first put this philosophy into practice during his brief teaching stint at Greater New York Academy (GNYA).

An Early Call

Rodriguez tells me he was just three weeks shy of finishing his final college courses in the electronic engineering track at DeVry University in Queens when the Lord clearly called him to teach. He was already following the Lord’s direction to mentor young people by leading Pathfinder and Adventurer groups at the local church and tutoring students at GNYA. When the school lost a math teacher, they asked 20-year-old Rodriguez to step in. “When I went to pray [about it] … I saw me in a classroom teaching; it was like a vision, out of nowhere … I saw the faces and I saw [the principal] and I saw him calling me to take the teaching job … All of a sudden, he calls. … I said, ‘I’ll call you right back,’ and I hung up and went back on my knees and started crying.”
Rodriguez says he immediately requested that his college instructors let him take his final exams early so he could fill the position. They agreed but couldn’t understand why he would give up the prestigious job they knew he had lined up at Bell Laboratories in Long Island. “My mom was upset. My friends said, ‘You’re throwing your career away; you’re throwing your life away,’ cause they just didn’t understand,” he shares, again pausing, this time for me to grasp the weight of his decision.

It’s obvious that Rodriguez is still amazed by his early success as he recounts those two years: “I was tough on those kids. Sometimes I would fail them so they could come after and show me how to do a math problem on the board, and then I would give them the points because I really wanted them to succeed,” he explains. It was only during his last two weeks there that he noticed his room, unlike other teachers, was always filled with students eating, talking and asking for his help. “This is what I learned: kids respect you when your religion is real. And so they would come, even though I was tough, because they knew I loved them,” he adds.

1. **Give kids tough love.** God loves us and says come as you are (tattoos, rock music, piercings, heavy make-up and all), but He never says stay as you are. If you want to see changes in people, you gotta encourage them to go all the way, to give their lives to God so He can change them.

2. **Help mold their character.** That’s the point that we don’t usually have patience for, but we have to hold them accountable. For example, if two kids get in a fight, take it as an opportunity to point out issues (e.g., temper or cursing) that they need to take to the Lord.

3. **Train them.** A lot of times, young people don’t get involved because they’ve never been taught how to get involved. Give them opportunities to learn and teach them to lead.

4. **Let them serve.** This is the hardest part. A lot of times we give young people responsibilities but never the ability to make decisions. For example, at Mt. Aetna summer camp in Hagerstown, Md., I put young people in positions and give them the authority that goes with it.

5. **Embrace our church heritage.** Young people need to know why the Adventist Church exists; that we have a purpose and God wants us to follow that purpose. Ellen White instructed, if we don’t teach people the past, they’re often to repeat the mistakes of the past.

6. **Help them choose positive entertainment.** As Ellen White said, not all entertainment is bad. We need to help kids learn to discern what’s good for their lives and what things are going to lower their standards.

7. **Train leaders how to work with kids,** because not everybody knows how. Every church board that I ever had, I wouldn’t pick anyone until every Children’s and Youth ministries position was filled, and then I trained them. We can’t give our kids the scraps.
A Higher Purpose

Rodriguez could have pursued a career in engineering, aviation or mathematics, but by heeding God’s unmistakable leading, he is living the Great Commission. He is bringing others to Christ. His path to ministry led him from GNYA to the seminary for his master’s in theology, a pastoral job in Florida, and then back to Youth Ministries as the director for the New Jersey Conference.

It seems easy to summarize what formula God used to create a path for Rodriguez, to put him where he could best be used for a higher purpose. It was God’s unconditional love, plus a few Adventist mentors early in his search for truth who held him accountable for his rough exterior and bad habits, plus direction given by Ellen White through “those red books” (as he jokingly refers to her writings).

Rodriguez says it’s also a matter of learning from our experiences and not making excuses for our past. He remembers when adults judged him, “like this little ghetto city punk, and nobody wanted to give me a shot.” He also recalls the days as a new, rigid Adventist who readily threw kids out of the church. “But, when I realized what I was doing by reading Scripture, I said, ’No. God was merciful. Why am I acting this way? God was patient with me,’” he shares.

Now Rodriguez offers kids the same patience and tough love that transformed him, and expects the 72 volunteers who lead the 14 ministries he’s developed during his 16 years at Chesapeake to do the same. Kids should be able to come as they are, but then be held accountable for their shortcomings, he says. “Once they know it’s a safe environment… and see the benefits [of getting involved], they see there are things beyond them, that there’s a God that exists.” That, he says, is what gets them interested in taking part in a ministry, then eventually leading the team and possibly starting another ministry. And he convinces me that this is what grows the church, tough love and all.

God loves us and says come as you are, but he never says stay as you are.
Upcoming Events Around the Columbia Union

MARYLAND
October 13-November 17: The Middletown Valley church is hosting a Revelation Series with George Rice during six Sabbath worship services starting on October 13. Rice will share a study from the book of Revelation each Sabbath to conclude on November 17. The church is located at 1811 Arnold Road in Jefferson, Md. For more information, call 240-415-8268 or email mvsdaevents@gmail.com.

October 27-November 3: The Metropolitan church is hosting, Rooted, a nightly series based on Colossians 2:7-8. The meetings will run nightly from October 27 through November 3 on Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday and Friday nights at 7:30 p.m., and on Saturday morning at 11:00 a.m. The speaker is Pastor Marquis D. Johns, the church's associate pastor. There will be uplifting praise and worship sessions, special musical guests, question and answer periods and free giveaways, including a new iPad. Light refreshments will be served during the week starting at 7 p.m. Visit www.metrosda.org/rooted for all the details.

November 3: The 150-plus voice National Christian Choir will be in concert at the Takoma Park church. The concert, which starts at 5 p.m., will also feature a subset of the choir called 2nd Edition, whose close harmonies and clean blend are definitely worth hearing. No tickets are required. The church is located at 6951 Carroll Avenue in Takoma Park, Md.

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November 4-10: “We Would See Jesus!” is the theme of the Focusing on the Families revival series being held at the Liberty church. The program starts nightly at 7 p.m. except on Thursday when there is no meeting and on Sabbath, November 10 when programs will be held at 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Jeremiah Davis will be the guest speaker and will be accompanied by Messengers of Light Ministry. The church is located at 3301 Milford Mill Road in Baltimore. For more information, visit libertysda.org, email libertyconnect@gmail.com or call 410-922-0050.

November 10: Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Md., is participating in the American Heart Association’s 2012 Greater Washington Region Heart Walk. Those who sign up to walk with Washington Adventist Hospital and raise $50, can get free Washington Adventist Hospital sweatshirt. Grab your co-workers, friends and family and join a team or create one of
your own. Registration is free. The gates open at 8:30 a.m. and the walk starts at 9:30 a.m. at the Nationals Park in Washington, D.C. Click here to register.

November 11-18: The Glen Burnie church is hosting the Nature’s Remedies Health Training program. John Glenn Clark, MD, a Loma Linda University School of Medicine (Calif.) graduate will give presentations on timely subjects such as weight control, cancer, cholesterol and diabetes. As an orthopedic surgeon, he has seen the results of ignoring good health practices, and his presentations are clear, simple and Bible-based. The programs will be held each night starting at 7 p.m. at the church, which is located at 508 Aquahart Road, Glen Burnie, Md. The presentations are free, however voluntary donations will be accepted. For more information, call (240) 793-5401 or (443) 867-6658 or visit http://glenburnie.netadvent.org/GBClark.pdf.

November 17: Restoration Praise Center presents the theatrical dramatization titled, “Calvary: Am I My Brother’s Keeper?” This performance portrays the timeless message of the unparalleled sacrifice and suffering of our Savior. The performance is masterfully interwoven with modern-day questions such as “Have I gone too far for God to reach me?”, “Does God Even Care about someone like me?” and “Is it possible that He will forgive even me?” Other presenters will include Virtue, gospel recording artists, Eric Thomas, a national motivational speaker, and Paul Graham, senior pastor at Restoration Praise Center. The program will be held at the Northwestern High School in Adelphi, Md., and runs from 7-9 p.m. Click here to purchase tickets. For more information, contact, torch@rpcsda.org.

NEW JERSEY

October 14-27: The Trinity Temple church presents “Fireproof,” a Bible series on the book of Daniel. Evangelist Troy Levy will lead the service, which starts at 7 p.m. The series will also feature the Rutgers University Liberated Gospel Choir, praise and worship, powerful sermons and free giveaways. The church is located at 35-37 Hillside Avenue in Newark.

PENNSYLVANIA

October 26: You are invited to join 200 women in jeans for worship and praise at the West Philadelphia church. Themed “Empowered for Change,” this Friday evening service will include praise, worship, networking and empowerment. The service starts at 6 p.m. The church is located at 46th and Haverford Avenue in Philadelphia. For more information, contact Pastor Evon DeLee at (215) 326-9823 or at deleee00@gmail.com or Donna Riley at (267) 258-4748.

VIRGINIA

November 3: The Courthouse Road Church’s Festival runs from 6 to 10 p.m. in the back lot. This year's festival will include pumpkin chuckin’, piñatas, goodie bags for children, pumpkin decorating and a bon-fire. There will be lots of food and a pumpkin dessert contest. Click here to learn about how to enter your best pumpkin dessert. Admission to the festival is a nonperishable food item for the holiday food drive. The church is located at 530 Courthouse Road in Richmond, Va.