Ted N. C. Wilson, president of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, is calling for an international day of prayer and fasting on December 1 to rally support for the release of two Adventists currently imprisoned in the West African country of Togo. Wilson and top church executives who voted the emphasis day at a November 20 morning business meeting said the event will raise awareness of the plight of Antonio dos Anjos Monteiro, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director for the church’s Sahel Union Mission, headquartered in Lome; and Bruno Amah, an Adventist lay member and businessman in Lome.

Adventist lawyers and human rights activists have called for both men’s release since they were detained in March for conspiracy to commit murder. A Togolese man implicated Monteiro and Amah as conspirators in an alleged blood trafficking network, but a police search of Monteiro’s home and local church headquarters did not produce evidence. Since then, local authorities have recognized both men’s innocence. Diplomatic efforts to secure both men’s release are expected to continue.

Church leaders are enlisting the support of Adventists worldwide to raise further awareness through a social media campaign to promote the December 1 day of prayer. Wilson is pictured right with Williams Costa Jr., world church communication director.—Story by Adventist News Network staff; Photo by Ansel Oliver
Fellow Educators Honor Ohio Superintendent

The Columbia Union School Administrators Council (CUSAC) recently recognized E. Jay Colburn (pictured right), Ohio Conference superintendent, for his 17-plus years of service on the council. “Jay has faithfully offered his time and talents to advancing the cause of education throughout his CUSAC tenure; bringing to the council’s work extensive experience, keen strategic insights and consistent, sincere collegiality,” says Ham Canosa, EdD (pictured left), Columbia Union vice president for Education.

Colburn, who also announced plans to retire next June, got a standing ovation from his peers. He said serving in the union has been “a blessed privilege. It was also a very rewarding experience to sit around this table for the last 17 years.”

Colburn holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in teaching from Andrews University (Mich.), and began teaching in 1972. He started at the Ohio Conference in 1995 as an associate superintendent and served as superintendent for 14 years.—Story by Taashi Rowe

Potomac Conference Church Starts FM Station

Because he attended a stop-smoking seminar and aired Voice of Prophecy seminars in his early radio career, local station owner Danny Wadsworth was familiar with Potomac Conference’s Tappahannock (Va.) church and the members’ passion for community outreach. That’s why he called Clinton Adams, Tappahannock’s pastor, to offer him his 300-watt station.

“We were thrilled with the news and realized the divine opportunity God had placed in our path,” recalls Pastor Adams. “We also understood there would be a substantial
World Church President Names December 1 a Day of Prayer, Fasting.

After seeking God’s will, Adams says members started donating. One member gave 80 percent of his coin collection, about $2,000. Another donation came from the conference. Through teamwork, faith and nearly $13,000 later, Tappahannock church members met their series of deadlines—with only 10 hours to spare—and secured the FM station this past summer. Church members later converted an old classroom into a small radio station and installed a 90-foot tower. “The station is now up and running smoothly,” reports Pastor Adams. “We are reaching people with the Good News!” Church members are pictured reviewing the station license.—Story by Tiffany Doss

Southeast Church Enjoys “Supreme” Visitor

Allegheny West Conference’s Southeast congregation in Cleveland was delighted to recently receive a visit from Justice Yvette McGee Brown (pictured). Justice Brown attended one of the church’s recent divine services at the invitation of member Deborah A. Hill, a former councilwoman. Justice Brown is the only black woman to ever serve on the Ohio Supreme Court.

Justice Brown offered her appreciation for the warm welcome, a fine worship service and for the fellowship and prayers conference and church leaders offered on her behalf. While addressing the church body, she stressed that education is the key that can unlock the door to the future and quoted her grandmother who once told her, “You can be anybody you want to be with a good education.”

Although she was on a tight schedule, Justice Brown took time to talk to, hug and encourage members before promising to return soon.—Story by Jerome Hurst

Chesapeake Member Wins Stewardship Sermon
Orlando Rosales, pastor of Chesapeake Conference’s Baltimore Spanish and Dundalk Spanish churches in Maryland, was one of the 12 people who won the North America Division’s (NAD) Stewardship Sermon Contest. The contest was open to active or retired ministers and graduate ministerial students. Some 100 sermons were submitted. Judges selected the 12 winning sermons without knowing the names of the contestants. Rosales’ sermon was titled “God is First” and based on 1 Kings 17:1-16.

Here is an excerpt from the sermon where he talks about the lessons that can be gleaned from the widow who gave her last loaf of bread to the prophet Elijah even though she and her son were in need: “Just as this woman was tested, we also are tested in different or similar circumstances. She reminds us that the center of the conflict is precisely in demonstrating that God is the most important thing in our lives, no matter what He asks from us, even if we understand it or not.”

The twelve sermons will be published in a book and made available to pastors and church leaders.

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Pastor de Chesapeake gana Concurso de Sermón

Orlando Rosales (en el foto abajo), pastor de las iglesias de Baltimore Spanish y Dundalk Spanish de la Conferencia de Chesapeake en Maryland, fue unos de los ganadores del concurso de Sermones de la División Norte Americana. El concurso era para pastores retirados, activos o estudiando. Unos 100 sermones fueron sometidos. Los jueces eligieron 12 ganadores sin saber los nombres de los concursantes. El sermón de Rosales de titulaba “Dios es Primero” y fue basado en 1 Reyes 17:1-16.

Aquí esta una parte del sermón, donde el habla de las lecciones que se pueden aprender de la viuda quien dio su ultimo pan al profeta Elias, aunque ella y su hijo estaban con necesidad: “al igual que esta mujer fue probada, nosotros también somos probados en maneras iguales o diferentes. Ella nos recuerda que al centro del conflicto, está en demostrando que Dios es lo mas importante en nuestras vidas, no importe que pide de nosotros, aunque los entendamos o no.”
World Church President Names December 1 a Day of Prayer, Fasting

Los doce sermones será publicados en un libro y será dado a los pastores y líderes de iglesia.

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**Prayer Leads Sunday-Keeper to Parkersburg Church**

When Patricia Freeman, 79, moved to Parkersburg, W.Va., to live with her son, the Sabbath/Sunday question began to surface in her mind. She couldn’t get a satisfactory answer as to why the Sabbath was changed to Sunday and so she prayed about it. A few months later, she received a card in the mail with an offer for free Bible studies. Later Daniel Morikone, pastor of Mountain View Conference’s Parkersburg (W.Va.) church, began bringing her weekly Bible lessons that she could study on her own.

As a friendship grew between Freeman and Morikone, they would chat and he would answer her questions about the Bible. Soon Freeman asked the gentleman where he worked. That was when she discovered he was a pastor at a church that was only a few blocks from her home!

Freeman then began asking questions about the Adventist Church, and on June 2 visited the church for the first time. Freeman (pictured with Morikone), was baptized on September 1 and is already reaching out to church members with a card ministry.—*Story by Valerie Morikone*

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**WAU Nursing Students Commit to Serve**

Some 109 students in Washington Adventist University’s Edyth T. James Department of Nursing recently participated in an annual dedication ceremony at nearby Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md. The dedication takes the place of the once traditional capping ceremony for nurses and marks the transition from classroom to clinical work for nursing students. The ceremony also
affirms students’ desire to help others through service.

Emily Mize, PhD, chair of the nursing department, dedicated the class and led the students in the WAU nurses’ affirmation. Lois Peters, keynote speaker and philanthropist, urged the students to be competent and compassionate professionals guided by the example of Christ and the love of God.

“I thought it was very important to have this ceremony put in place in order to instill in the students a sense of pride in the profession,” said Shilpa Prasad, a sophomore. “As nurses, we take on the role of advocates, caretakers, teachers and confidants with our patients. It was a very special reminder of the mindset that we as students should maintain as we go through this academic program.”—WAU Communication Department

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**Spotted: Berkely Springs Members Collecting Food for Struggling Families**

Chesapeake Conference’s Berkeley Springs (W.Va.) church members and friends recently collected hundreds of canned and boxed food to share with needy families this holiday season. The local grocery store supplied paper bags, which were distributed in the neighborhood one week before the collection and then picked up the following Sabbath afternoon. “Thirty families received three sacks of groceries each, plus a bag of fresh produce,” reported Nancy Carol, community services director for the church. “In addition, 32 grocery sacks of food went to local schools to be shared with families with special needs.”—Story by Ruth Wright

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**Liberty’s New Believers Warm Chilly Sabbath School Members**

This past Sabbath, all the attendees at Allegheny East Conference’s Liberty church in Baltimore kept their coats on. The heater was malfunctioning, but members of the 22-member New Believers class warmly surprised the
World Church President Names December 1 a Day of Prayer, Fasting

Joyce Davis, who with her husband, Loren, was recently baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church, is the class chorister. She organized her classmates into a chorale that sang praises to the Lord. The Holy Spirit empowered Bessie Evans, who claims she is shy, to not only sing as part of the chorale, but also render the Mission Story and teach the Sabbath School lesson. Cynthia Minor, class correspondence secretary, read the Scripture and shared the impact it had on her while studying it.

“The Liberty church is truly blessed to have an exciting spirit in this class,” says Pastor Melvyn Hayden who teaches the class with his wife, Denise. “This class is a miniature model of a working church that is evangelistically focused on winning souls.”—Story by Denise Hayden

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

MARYLAND


December 9: The second annual Sligo Adventist School Craft Show and Small Business Showcase will run from 11-3 p.m. for vendors and shoppers alike. Vendor tables are $35 and shopper admission is $1 (you also receive a raffle ticket for fabulous giveaways!), with those proceeds going to the Worthy Student Fund. This is a fabulous opportunity to promote your craft/small business and to get some Christmas shopping checked off your list! Applications are available online at http://www.sligoadventistschool.org/ under Parent Resources or call (301) 434-1417 for more information.

NEW JERSEY

December 15: A special, Christmas edition of the Family Aid Fund Concert will benefit victims of Superstorm Sandy. The concert, which starts at 7 p.m., will feature soprano Karla...
Rivera Bucklew and pianist Ingrid Forss. It will be held at the Parkway South church, which is located at Roosevelt Boulevard and Route 9 in North Marmora, N.J. For more information, call (609) 675-4124 or visit Facebook.com/FamilyAidConcert. Admission is free but donations toward the Family Aid Fund are appreciated.

WASHINGTON, D.C.
December 15: Capitol Hill church’s Connexus Ministry is hosting a holiday party for singles. It will be held Saturday, December 15 from 7 p.m. until 12 a.m. in the church’s fellowship hall located at 914 Massachusetts Avenue N.E. in Washington, D.C. Please bring a unisex gift ($20 or more) for the gift game. For more information, email connexusministry@yahoo.com.

VIRGINIA
December 1: Potomac Conference will be holding a town hall meeting at the Lynchburg (Va.) church starting at 5:30 p.m. All members are invited. Discussion will include open dialogue, the future of camp meeting, reestablished departmental structure and tithe dollar usage. The church is located at 19 George Street in Lynchburg, Va.

December 1: The Campostella Heights church is hosting a special World AIDS Day service themed “Speak Life” beginning at 4 p.m. Attendees will be educated, inspired and empowered as church leaders have an honest, eye-opening conversation on the church’s role, response and responsibility in addressing the HIV epidemic. The church is located at 1006 Oakwood Street, in Norfolk, Va. For more information, contact Lynnette Moore, MD, at (757) 641-2129 or visit adventistwellnesscenter.com.

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Forward to a Friend, Subscribe or Send Us Stories

To share the Visitor News Bulletin with friends and church members across the Columbia Union, click the “Forward to a Friend” link below so all the photos and copy will appear correctly. Also, encourage them to sign up for the email at www.columbiaunion.org/emailnews.

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

Stay Connected:
Adventist Church President Ted N. C. Wilson, right, calls for a December 1 International Day of Prayer and Fasting for two Adventists imprisoned in the West African country of Togo. Wilson spoke about the situation with church leaders worldwide through a video conference on November 20. At left is Williams Costa Jr., Communication director for the Adventist world church. [photo: Ansel Oliver]

Nov. 20, 2012 Silver Spring, Maryland, United States

ANN staff

Seventh-day Adventist world church President Ted N. C. Wilson today called for an International Day of Prayer and Fasting on December 1 to rally support for the release of two Adventistscurrently imprisoned in the West African country of Togo.

Adventist lawyers and human rights activists have called for both men’s release since they were detained in March for conspiracy to commit murder. A Togolese man implicated Monteiro and Amah as conspirators in an alleged blood trafficking network.

Diplomatic efforts to secure both men’s release are expected to continue. Today church leaders established a working group to oversee efforts led by John Graz, director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the Adventist world church. Since then, local authorities have recognized both men’s innocence.

Wilson and top church executives who voted the emphasis day at a November 20 morning business meeting said the event will raise awareness of the plight of Antonio dos Anjos Monteiro, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director for the church’s Sahel Union Mission, headquartered in Lomé; and Bruno Amah, an Adventist lay member and businessman in Lomé.

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Antonio do Anjos Monteiro, shown here in a file photo, is one of two Adventists currently imprisoned in Togo on what Adventist legal and human rights experts say are unsupported charges. [photo courtesy West-Central Africa Division]

Adventist president calls for December 1 Day of Prayer, Fasting to suppor... http://news.adventist.org/archive/articles/2012/11/20/adventist-president-

December 1,” Wilson said. The world church leader met with both men in prison earlier this month during a tour of West Africa.

“These are falsely accused, innocent church members and we are pleading with the Lord for his intervention so that they can be reunited with their families and continue their work,” he said.

**Day of Prayer resources**

- **Twitter**
  - #Pray4Togo

- **Pledge your Support**

- **Sign the Petition**

**Images**

*Image for distribution on Facebook.*

*Church Bulletin Insert - Color*
Adventist president calls for December 1 Day of Prayer, Fasting to support... http://news.adventist.org/archive/articles/2012/11/20/adventist-president-...
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