Allegheny East Members Distribute 7,000 Messages Magazine During Inauguration

“We have to pray about this one because we don't know exactly the best way to get to the most people,” exclaimed Robert Moses, Allegheny East Conference’s associate Publishing Ministries director, as departmental staff picked up a second team from Maryland.

The team they were picking up was one of several determined to spread Christ's love and hope to thousands of people in Washington, D.C., during the second inauguration of President Barack Obama, January 21. Some 21 Allegheny East Conference members came from Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland, braved the cold and joined Moses and Rodney Grissom, another of the conference’s associate publishing directors, to witness to attendees.
Determined, they went in faith knowing that God would make a way. When they got to the National Mall the morning of the inauguration, God truly made their pathways straight. They found themselves just a few blocks away from where the crowds gathered to hear the swearing-in ceremony. At the end, in less than two hours, the team distributed close to 7,000 copies of Message, a sharing magazine.

“People came just to hear the inauguration, but they left receiving the message of hope, love and the soon coming of Jesus Christ,” Grissom told the team after their work was finished.

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**Christian Motorcyclists Ride for Charity in Ohio**

Imagine pulling up to a local Toys"R"Us to shop only to find nearly 400 leather-clad motorcyclists in the parking lot, or heading down to a small town square and finding dozens of motorcycles and their riders. Such sights are difficult to ignore, and that is precisely what the Rolling Prophets of Newark, Ohio, count on.

Pastor Tom Hughes of Ohio Conference’s Newark church founded the Rolling Prophets, a chapter of the Christian Motorcyclists Association, and is the group’s chaplain. Hughes partners with members from his church and staff from their New Horizons Community Learning Center and Adventist Community Services center to participate in community charity drives.

The largest of these was the eighth annual toy run, where 400 riders helped collect and distribute 3,000 toys to children in the Newark area. The Rolling Prophets, who meet monthly, set up a table and shared hundreds of Steps to Jesus, The Ride of Your Life, a special issue of Ellen White’s Steps to Christ.— Story by Ohio Conference Staff
15 Baptized During Richmond Brazilian Church’s Evangelism Series

Fifteen baptisms and six commitments for future studies stemmed from the January 12 to 19 evangelism series held at Potomac Conference’s Richmond Brazilian church in Richmond, Va.

The preparation for the series, which started December 8, was known as The Phillip Project. “We related the preparation to Phillip and the eunuch, calling it The Phillip Project because church members were called to invite their friends, families and neighbors to study the Bible during the series,” explained Therezinha Barbalho, the church’s pastor. “Special invitation cards, written in Portuguese and English, were made for members to give to their guests and to raise interest in the meetings. With the invitations, we passed out several books, a CD of praise music and a DVD of [evangelist] Luis Goncalves.”

The church was prepared with headsets for translation, but only for English, as all services are spoken in Portuguese. By the second day, the need for Spanish translation was obvious. Soon they were able to set up a transistor that simultaneously translated the message into English and Spanish.—Story by Tiffany Doss; photos by Aaron Cheney

READ MORE AT THE POTOMAC CONFERENCE WEBSITE

HVA Students, Pathfinders Help International Refugees
In early December, the Willow Brook Pathfinder Club from Boonsboro, Md., which includes 12 students from Highland View Academy (HVA) in Hagerstown, Md., became aware of a unique need of their sibling club, the Westvale Warriors, in Syracuse, N.Y. The Warriors needed assistance helping refugee families that immigrated to Syracuse last summer from the Republic of Congo, Myanmar and Burundi. Although the government provided them a place to stay, the newcomers, many of whom are Seventh-day Adventists, still needed help with food and clothing.

The local Adventist community stepped in to help with personal needs, and nearby Parkview Junior Academy agreed to sponsor the education of more than 30 children as well as two free warm meals a day. Adventist families also sponsored the participation of 20 of the children in the Warriors club.

As winter arrived, however, local Adventists could no longer afford to address an additional need: these children did not own winter clothing. At this point, the Willow Brook Pathfinders Club heard of their plight and responded.—Tyler Milam

READ MORE

Church-Owned Company Introduces Vegan
 Products to U.S. Markets

Granovita, one of the three remaining food companies owned by Seventh-day Adventists, recently introduced the Elianni brand of organic, vegan, gluten-free and Kosher products to the United States. Granovita is an institution of the church’s Inter-European Division with management offices in Germany, the United Kingdom and Spain. (Cedar Lake and Vibrant Life also have Adventist owners).

“Granovita has been exploring the possibilities of exporting our products into the United States since the [General Conference] Session in Atlanta 2010,” commented Oscar Bel, Granovita’s general director. “The interest in our products, during that GC Session, was so overwhelming that our supply of product allocated for the complete session was exhausted in three days.”

Elianni products, such as organic vegan patés, organic veggie rolls and veggie cutlets are now available at local Adventist Book Centers and other retailers. Lisa Myaing, general manager at the Potomac Adventist Book and Health Food Store in Silver Spring, Md., reports that after doing several demonstrations in the store, the Elianni products are moving fairly steadily. “The demos were received well,” she said. “Customers comment that the flavor is great as well as the price.”—Story by Hilario Chine

Allegheny West
Opens First Korean Church in Cleveland

After sending up many prayers heavenward, the Lord recently blessed
the Allegheny West Conference by helping them plant the first Korean church in the city of Cleveland, and only the third Korean Adventist church in the state of Ohio. Chong Lee, pastor of the Korean Central church of Columbus, helped lead the church-planting effort.

To locate a shepherd for the quickly growing congregation, simply named the Korean Adventist church, conference leaders expanded their pastoral search to Korea, where they found Pastor Chang Moonho. Moonho recently immigrated to the United States with his family to support and lead in the new endeavor. Walter Castro, the conference’s Multicultural Ministries director, is pictured right with the Moonho clan.—Story by Allegheny West Conference staff

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Eight Potomac ABC LivingWell Graduates Lose Weight, Feel Great

Eight people recently graduated from the LivingWell Lifestyle Program, the new 12-week lifestyle intervention program offered at the Potomac Adventist Health and Book Store in Silver Spring, Md. Using the popular Complete Health Improvement Project (CHIP) program as its core, the program creates a platform for health evangelism, bridging the gap between a population in need and churches wishing to get involved in Health Ministries.

The first graduates saw tremendous results, which included lowered cholesterol, normalized blood pressure, weight loss and more. Barbara Davis, who is not a Seventh-day Adventist, shared that prior to the program, she was considering moving to a one-level house; however, the lifestyle changes she learned at LivingWell reversed her joint pain. Needless to say, she decided not to sell her home! Another result is that two of the participants in the program are
now participating in Bible studies. For more about the program, visit  

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**Spotted: Former Redskin Dexter Manley Visiting Washington Adventist Hospital Patients**

Recently some lucky patients at Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Md., had quite the surprise when former Washington Redskins player Dexter Manley paid them an unexpected visit. Manley graciously spent time with patients and their family members, as well as some hospital staff.—*Story by Laura Cook*
Former Chesapeake, Mountain View President Passes Away

J. Wayne Coulter, former Chesapeake Conference president (1985-1995), died on Wednesday, January 23, following a yearlong battle with cancer. He was 76.

“He made a real mark in advancing the development of the Mount Aetna Camp and Retreat Center,” said Rick Remmers, Chesapeake Conference president. “It was during his leadership that the lodge and nature center were built, as well as a church on the campus of Highland View Academy. Our hearts and prayers go out to Sharon, Christy, Todd and their families during this difficult time.”

Coulter was passionate about church growth. He began his ministry in the Florida Conference as a pastor and evangelist, then accepted a call to be the Ministerial director for the Minnesota Conference. He went on to serve as evangelist for the Mid-America Union. From there he went to the Mountain View Conference, where he was Ministerial director then president before coming to the Chesapeake Conference in 1985. Ten years later, Coulter accepted a call to be president of the Illinois Conference. In 2002 he retired and moved with his wife, Sharon, to Tennessee, where he pastored the Decatur church.

A memorial service is planned for Sabbath, February 2, at 4 p.m., at the Decatur church located on HWY 58 South, Decatur, TN 37322.—Story by Samantha Young

End Quote: The Ubuntu Spirit
What is the “Ubuntu spirit?” To illustrate, I’ll share the story of a game proposed by an anthropologist to a group of children in one of Africa’s tribes. The anthropologist put a basket of fruit near a tree and explained to the children that the first person to reach the fruit basket would win all the fruit. When he ordered them to run, the children took each other’s hands, ran together, won the fruit basket as a team and enjoyed the fruits with one another. When asked why they ran together instead of competing against each other, they said: “I am because we are.”

Ubuntu is a lifestyle that demonstrates true community and fellowship. It transcends race, gender, religion, class and culture. A person with the Ubuntu spirit is open and available to others, who affirms and respects others. … It takes love to allow the Ubuntu spirit to flow among us. As we journey further into 2013, let’s not forget that God is moved when a community demonstrates unity. When God moves, He moves to heal, comfort and restore our brokenness, but most especially, to let His blessings flow upon His people.—Judith Mufuh, Shady Grove Adventist Hospital chaplain; Reprinted from the January 25 PRISM newsletter

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**Share Your Announcements in the Visitor Magazine**

Do you have an upcoming event to share with the 55,000 households in the Columbia Union family who receive the Visitor each month? In our classified section, we not only share job announcements, legal notices and real estate sales, we share obituaries and event announcements. Obituaries of former Columbia Union Conference members are free. For a flat fee of $25, you can run an announcement of 50 words or less in one issue. Contact Sandra
UPCOMING EVENTS

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

MARYLAND

February 1-2: The Potomac Conference's second youthfest, themed “Larger Than Life,” takes place at Takoma Academy, which is located at 8120 Carroll Avenue in Takoma Park, Md. The guest speaker will be Ryan Bell, senior pastor of Hollywood (Calif.) church.

February 3: The Metropolitan church will be showing the Super Bowl in their activity center. The game will be aired on a 10-ft screen in high definition. Admission is free (feel free to bring comfy chairs). The festivities start at 5 p.m. They'll be giving away a $25 gas card. Email your first and last name to superbowl@metrosda.org for your chance to win (you must be present to win!). Please bring your friends. For more information, visit metrosda.org. The church is located at 6307 Riggs Road in Hyattsville, Md.

February 3: Chaplain Barry Black will be at Potomac Adventist Book Store from 2 to 4 p.m. to autograph copies of both of his books From the Hood to the Hill and The Blessing of Adversity. The store is located at 12004 Cherry Hill Road in Silver Spring, Md.

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February 10: Chanel Sales, a member of the Breath of Life church in Fort Washington, Md., recently released the book Shower Talk, a devotional/poetry book. She will be at the Potomac
Adventist Book Store from 3 to 5 p.m. to autograph copies for customers. C. Angela, a member of the Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., also just released a new book, *Zimri Among Us: A Call to Purity Within the Body of Christ*. She will be signing her book at the Potomac store, February 10, from 2 to 4 p.m.

February 16: The Potomac Conference is inviting members to their regional town hall meeting at the Southern Asia church. They plan to discuss the mission and vision of the church with attendees. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. and the church is located at 2001 East Randolph Road in Silver Spring, Md.

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WEST VIRGINIA

February 15 – 17: The Mountain View Conference is hosting their annual Family Ski Weekend at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va. Attendees may stay for a day or the entire weekend. Cost: $70 for the weekend (includes lift ticket and rentals) or $30 for the day of skiing (includes lift ticket and rentals). To register, call (304) 422-4581.

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submissions is 10 a.m. each Tuesday.

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Taashi Rowe, Visitor News Bulletin Editor
5427 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045
Email: visitor@columbiaunion.net  Website: www.columbiaunion.org

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however, please identify Visitor News Bulletin as the source.
Christian Motorcyclists Ride for Charity in Ohio

Story by Ohio Conference Staff
Published 1/29/13

About 400 motorcycles line up to begin the Rolling Prophets’ eighth annual Toy Run.

Imagine pulling up to a local Toys”R”Us to shop only to find nearly 400 leather-clad motorcyclists in the parking lot, or heading down to a small town square and finding dozens of motorcycles and their riders. Such sights are difficult to ignore, and that is precisely what the Rolling Prophets of Newark, Ohio, count on.

Pastor Tom Hughes of Ohio Conference’s Newark church founded the Rolling Prophets, a chapter of the Christian Motorcyclists Association (CMA), and is the group’s chaplain. Hughes partners with members from his church and staff from their New Horizons Community Learning Center (NHCLC) and Adventist Community Services (ACS) Center to participate in community charity drives. He also launches his own initiatives.

The largest of these was the eighth annual Toy Run, where 400 riders helped collect and distribute 3,000 toys to children in the Newark area. The Rolling Prophets, who meet monthly, set up a table and shared hundreds of Steps to Jesus, The Ride of Your Life, a special issue of Ellen White’s Steps to Christ. Twelve Newark members helped staff the table, where they collected names of interested people and answered questions of passersby.

“I believe in working within the Christian biker community to lead the unchurched to Christ,” said Hughes, who regularly witnesses to bikers as part of his Bible biker ministry and for the CMA.
A new project late last year was Newark’s first Run for the Hungry followed by their inaugural Fair on the Square and Motorcycle Show. Despite brutally cold temperatures, wind and rain, they raised $6,000. All proceeds went toward the purchase of 12 new computers for the NHCLC and their community classes, and to help stock the ACS’s food bank, where approximately 400 people each month get food and clothing. “As the new director of our Adventist Community Services center, I was thrilled to see everyone work together so successfully!” said Donna Goodell.

The group’s continued efforts have paid off. According to Pastor Hughes, “Neil Reese was the first biker to accept Jesus through the Rolling Prophets ministry in Newark. He now serves Jesus joyfully and is the vice president of the group.” Reese asked Hughes to baptize him sometime this spring.

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Fifteen baptisms and six commitments for future studies stemmed from an evangelism series held at the Richmond Brazilian Community Church (Richmond, Va.), Jan. 12 – 19. The preparation for the series, which started Dec. 8, was known as The Philip Project. “We related the preparation to Phillip and the Eunuch, calling it The Philip Project because church members were called to invite their friends, families and neighbors to study the Bible during the series,” explained Therezinha Barbalho, pastor of Richmond Brazilian Community.
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The church was prepared with head sets for translation, but only for English, as all services are spoken in Portuguese. By the second day, the need for Spanish translation was obvious. Soon they were able to set up a transistor that simultaneously translated the message into English and Spanish.

This one week evangelism series touched on the love of Jesus Christ, the Bible, personal testimonies, doctrines and the importance of baptism. Each night, baptismal appeals took place. As the meetings came to a close on the 19th, a total of 15 baptisms had occurred and six more people had made the decision to get baptized soon. Pastor Barbalho is already planning a second series for February, hoping those six will make the final decision for Christ.
“Although January is a cold period to hold series and we had heavy snow fall most nights, our attendance continued to grow throughout the week,” said Barbalho. “The first Saturday we had about 160 attend and the last Saturday we had 216 and had to provide a screen in the fellowship hall for overflow seating.”

More than 35 volunteers kept the series running smoothly, aiding in prayer, audio/visual needs, baptisms, assisting the speakers and cleaning of the church every night.

“We are excited for what the Lord is doing in our community,” said Barbalho. “And we can’t wait to see what He’ll do next.”
Article by Tiffany Doss

Photos by Aaron Cheney

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HVA Students, Willow Brook Pathfinders Help International Refugees

Story by Tyler Milam; Photos by Glen Milam
Published 1/24/13

A young tribal leader and refugee from the Congo holds a pair of shoes donated by Adventists in the Hagerstown, Md., area.

In early December, the Willow Brook Pathfinder Club from Boonsboro, Md., which includes 12 students from nearby Highland View Academy (HVA), became aware of a unique need of
their sibling club at the Westvale church in Syracuse, N.Y. The New York troop needed assistance helping refugee families who immigrated to Syracuse last summer from the Republic of Congo, Myanmar and Burundi. The refugees, many of who are Seventh-day Adventists, had been subjected to religious and tribal persecution and therefore qualified for political asylum in the United States. Although the government provided them a place to stay, the newcomers still needed help with food and clothing.

Language barriers made it difficult for the refugees to communicate with their new American neighbors, so they started flooding the local Adventist churches, including Westvale, and many of the children voiced their desire to enroll in the local Adventist school despite their parents’ inability to pay for their attendance. However, Parkview Junior Academy agreed to sponsor the education of more than 30 children and to provide them with two free, warm meals a day.

About 20 of these same children asked to join Westvale’s Pathfinder club. Once again the local Adventist community agreed to sponsor the children. As winter arrived, however, a new problem became evident that the local Adventist community could no longer afford to address: these children did not have winter clothing. Many had only shower shoes or sandals to shod their feet, and many of the families took turns using a single blanket or winter coat.

It was at this point that the Willow Brook Pathfinders heard of their plight and felt moved to help. The Pathfinders started calling local churches and schools to donate clothing, bedding and small furniture to the cause. Over the next few weeks, their club bus filled with donations. Finally on January 6, four HVA students, Ethan Fishell, Zach Westfahl, Faith Wootton and Tyler Milam; Willow Brook Pathfinder directors, Glen and Darlene Milam; and two staff members, Ray Hickman and Tom Wootton; made their way to Syracuse with more than 100 pairs of shoes and well over 2,000 items of clothing and bedding.

Upon their arrival, the Willow Brook team members joined the Westvale club in unloading the bus and then sorting its precious cargo. “As we finished sorting the clothing, they gave us a tour of the school and showed all of the things they are doing to accommodate the new students,” says Wootton. He adds, “Because of the significant increase in students, they have classes meeting in the lobby. They are also learning how to grow gardens in the winter so that they can provide enough food for all of the students. They are also making plans for an addition to be built as soon as the funds can be raised.”

The Willow Brook club plans to continue fundraising so they can purchase new waterproof snow boots for the children.
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February 8-10, 2013: A Lifetime of LOVE Marriage Retreat is the fifth annual community marriage retreat weekend. It will be held at Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, Md. Joan and Rich Liversidge will present the sessions, which run from Friday evening to Sunday morning. For more information, email MarriageEnrichment@comcast.net or contact Mark and Peggy Lee at (301) 801-2344, or Jeff and Sandy Hartz at (443) 864-6328. The early bird discount ends December 17.

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PENNSYLVANIA

January 14-31: A six-night Vegetarian Cooking School will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays in the fellowship hall of the Waynesboro church (1 State Hill Road in Waynesboro, Pa.). The cost is $20, or $30 per couple, and includes one cookbook. Attendees must register by 2 p.m. Jan. 13 by calling (717) 765-0441 or (717) 597-1728. There will be tasting and samples of what is demonstrated each evening.

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