Ohio Conference’s Clinic Moves, Expands Services

Fifteen years ago, Marianne Cruz volunteered at the Good Neighbor House (GNH) in Dayton, Ohio, as a dental assistant. When she left the area, she never imagined returning as an unemployed and uninsured dental patient in need of emergency care. Was the GNH still around? Receiving unemployment benefits and caring for an extended family of seven, Cruz stepped out in faith and called the facility to see if they could help her husband with a serious, painful molar infection. Within 24 hours, a GNH dentist assisted her husband.

The Ohio Conference oversees the operation of the facility. In December 2011, the GNH launched a $1.9 million capital campaign to expand. They met their goal, purchased and renovated a new facility (pictured) in downtown Dayton and opened for services February 1.

—Story by Heidi Shoemaker; Photos by Dave Hutman

Chesapeake Members Impact Nicaraguan Town

“We're just a mission-minded church. And when it comes to doing something mission [oriented], I think we go all out,”
Ohio Conference’s Good Neighbor House Moves, Expands Services

Paul Possinger, a member of Chesapeake Conference’s Triadelphia church in Clarksville, Md. “We didn’t want them to have just a church; we wanted them to have something that really represented Christ for this area.”

Possinger (pictured with his wife, Cynthia) was among a group of volunteers from the Triadelphia church who recently took their mission project to a whole new level. The church group visited the small town of Tola, Nicaragua, and not only built a church, but also put all their efforts and resources into going above and beyond what is expected on a typical mission trip.

The Triadelphia group teamed up with Maranatha Volunteers International to build a One-Day Church for the Tola congregation during the Christmas/New Year season. They also raised all the funds needed to finish the church walls and floor, as well as purchase medical supplies for daily clinics. In addition the group ministered to children and conducted evangelistic campaigns at three different sites, simultaneously. —Story by Carrie Purkeypile; Photo by Dick Duerksen

READ MORE

Community Pumps Up Potomac Church's Health Ministry

As 95-year-old Ruth Waxter (pictured) and 27 other participants do an exercise regimen that would make Jack LaLanne proud, Larry Norman, topped with a chef hat, prepares the cuisine for the evening. This is a typical Monday evening at Potomac Conference’s Smith Mountain Lake church in Moneta, Va. Starting January 7, members have been hosting “8 Weeks to Better Health: Fit and Lean in 2013,” an inreach/outreach health seminar.

The evenings typically include a brief welcome from Danny Poff, pastor, a lecture and discussion, fitness feature, games, contests and ends with a tasting.
These seminars have helped spread awareness of the little church in Moneta. “Barbara Scott is someone we met six years ago through these programs,” shared Rhonda Poff, a major contributor to the program. “She and her husband have faithfully attended the health meetings each year. She is not a member of our church, however, she tells everyone about us. ... I just let her do all the witnessing. Through the years, Barbara has brought many of her community friends to our seminars.”—Story by Tiffany Doss

READ MORE AT THE POTOMAC CONFERENCE WEBSITE

Two New Members Named to WAU Board

Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Md., recently announced two new appointees to their board of trustees. E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, (pictured left) who serves as vice president for medical affairs at the University of Maryland, will serve on the board’s academic affairs subcommittee. “With his distinguished record of academic achievement, career experience, and leadership, Reece is expected to add tremendous value to the work of the board,” shares Weymouth Spence, the university’s president. Reece is a member of Chesapeake’s Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. Henry Fordham III (right), who was recently elected president of the Allegheny East Conference, will serve on the board’s advancement subcommittee.

Adventist HealthCare Launches New Blog

Adventist HealthCare, based in Rockville, Md., recently launched Adventist HealthCare & You an online companion to their community magazine of the same name. The blog includes weekly health tips, expanded patient stories and the
latest in community health news to help inform and benefit readers.

Previous stories include expert insight on Redskins quarterback RGIII’s injury, as well as Kate Middleton’s hospitalization for morning sickness; renewing New Year’s resolutions; and a feature on Shady Grove Adventist and Washington Adventist hospitals’ first babies born in the new year. Visit the blog at blog.adventisthealthcare.com.

Meet the Descalzo Family

Angel and Klu Descalzo were recently baptized into Chesapeake Conference’s Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. The baptism, however, was conducted by Chandradass Ephraim, a member of Potomac Conference’s Takoma Park (Md.) church. The couple became interested in the Adventist church after Ephraim invited Klu to worship at the Takoma Park church and the Calvary church in Burtonsville, Md. Her husband, who was living in London at the time, found Amazing Facts Bible studies online and also became interested in the Adventist church. Klu then began attending the Spencerville church while her husband attended the River Way church in London. When Angel joined his wife in the United States in 2011, they made immediate plans to get baptized together. The couple is pictured with Ephraim (left), Jerry Lutz, Spencerville’s senior pastor, and their daughter, Bianca.
Retired Ohio Conference Employee Dies

After battling cancer for several years, Bette Toscano, a former employee at the Ohio Conference, passed away at 70. Toscano and her husband, Lou, joined the conference staff in 1996. Lou provided leadership to the Ohio Conference Association and served as director of planned giving. Bette served as administrative assistant to the conference president and conference secretary, and as editor of Mission Ohio, which appears each month in the Visitor magazine. She was also responsible for producing the many brochures, advertising material, posters, etc., for the Ohio Conference's communication efforts. The couple retired in July 2007 after devoting more than 30 years of service to the denomination.

All who knew Bette agree she was a special lady and will be missed immensely. “Until the very last, Bette exhibited a firm trust in Jesus as her Redeemer and Lord, and the certainty of the resurrection. Her passing gives us yet another reason to look forward to the return of Jesus,” said Raj Attiken, conference president.—Story by Heidi Shoemaker

Click here for Bette's full obituary

Visitor February Highlight

Online news sources predict that this year, Americans will be willing to get chased by zombies, dress in a wild assortment of costumes or slog through mud obstacle courses as they seek more interesting ways to get exercise. It’s also expected that they’ll spend upwards of $10 million on fitness apps. When it comes to diet, Americans are becoming more interested in how diet and nature affects their health—enter bee venom therapy and mainstream veganism. Despite all their efforts, however, Americans remain in a health crisis, fighting the country's highest rates of obesity and numerous diet-related issues and diseases. So the question is, where do Americans turn for help when they want to make a change? Check out your February

Visitor to learn more.—Story by Beth Michaels
Artículo especial de Visitor: Llegando al corazón del asunto

Las tendencias actuales indican que los americanos están deseosos y dispuestos a ser más saludables. Un programa que los adventistas ofrecen es CHIP, del inglés Complete Health Improvement Program [programa completo de mejoras en la salud] comenzó hace veinticinco años por Hans Diehl. Hasta la fecha, más de cincuenta mil personas en Norteamérica, el Reino Unido, Australia, y Nueva Zelanda, se han graduado y su salud mejorado grandemente—algunas han sido salvas—por el programa CHIP.

La librería bíblica adventista y centro de salud (ABC) en Silver Spring, Md., está aprovechando el éxito y simplicidad del galardonado programa CHIP. Abrieron dentro de la tienda un centro de estilo de vida y salón de clases en donde podrán influir hasta cincuenta personas a la vez. El gerente de la tienda espera que la localidad atraiga la participación de los doscientos visitantes que llegan a la tienda diariamente.—Historia por Beth Michaels

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

February 9: Praizevision is sponsoring a concert featuring an evening with Tamela Mann and Jason Nelson at the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md. Other feature musical guests include Laos in Harmony, Melissa Dawn and the Restoration Praise Choir. Tickets can be purchased at the Washington Adventist University bookstore, or online at www.fullcirclestore.com. The church is located at 7700 Carroll Avenue. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

February 9: A Valentine Potluck/Party, sponsored by Chesapeake Adventist Single Adult Ministries, is planned for February 9, at 6 p.m., at the Chesapeake Conference office, which is located at 6600 Martin Road in Columbia, Md. Bring food to share. Dessert and beverages will be provided. For more information, contact Fred Thomas by email at fthomas1950@yahoo.com, or by phone at (410) 992-9731.

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 11: The Washington Adventist University Women’s Basketball Team invites all to cheer them on as they honor breast cancer survivors with a special basketball game dedicated to raising breast cancer awareness. Their “Shoots for a Cure” game will be against Wesley College at 6 p.m. in "the pitt." All breast cancer survivors or family members of breast cancer survivors who express interest in attending the game will be given complimentary admission and two guest tickets, and will be recognized during half-time of the women’s game. To attend, contact Annittra Cole at (301) 891-4554 or by email at acole@wau.edu, or contact Krista Byrd at (301) 891-4473 or email kbyrd@wau.edu.

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.

February 19: The Berkeley Springs church’s free monthly supper club will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the church fellowship hall. The church is located at 3606 Valley Road in Berkeley Springs, W.Va. Vegan/vegetarian Italian foods comprise this month’s supper menu, which will be followed by a presentation on organic gardening. Usually 25-30 community visitors attend, in addition to church members and friends. For more information, contact Lisa Shingleton, Health Ministries director, at (304) 671-1534.

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master’s programs as well as continued education courses that WAU offers. Four students will have the opportunity to win free books for a semester. Refreshments will be served. To RSVP, visit www.wau.edu or call (301) 891-4080.

February 23: The Emmanuel-Brinklow church is hosting their annual Living Legends awards program. This year’s honorees are Juanita Abernathy, Sister Helen Prejean and Sunitha Krishnan. The program begins at 6 p.m. Attendees are asked to wear formal attire. The church is located at 18800 New Hampshire Avenue in Ashton, Md. For more information, visit humansymphonyfoundation.org.

OHIO
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February 16: Lonnie Melashenko, former speaker/director for the Voice of Prophecy, will be speaking at the Vienna (Va.) church located at 344 Courthouse Road SW. He will speak at the 10:40 a.m. service and at 2 p.m. For more information, call (571) 294-4863.

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.

NEW YORK
March 13-17: The North American Division’s 2013 Health Summit especially for the Atlantic, Columbia and Lake unions will be held in Flushing, N.Y. There will be more than 20 seminars on topics from fitness and lifestyle to mental and emotional health. There will also be a special track for pastors and clergy, a track for nurses, seminars for healthcare leaders, all with practical help for outreach. Get some hands-on experience in health evangelism. Enjoy the great keynote speakers. Attend evening health sessions for the community. Click here to register now.
Ohio Conference’s Good Neighbor House Moves, Expands Services

Having trouble viewing this email? Click here to read it online. For more news and up-to-date information from the Columbia Union Conference, visit columbiaunion.org.

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Visitor News Bulletin is an electronic newsletter published by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Columbia Union Conference. You are free to reprint any portion of the bulletin, however, please identify Visitor News Bulletin as the source.

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After a year of raising funds to expand their services, the Good Neighbor House has a new, larger facility in downtown Dayton.

Fifteen years ago, Marianne Cruz volunteered at the Good Neighbor House (GNH) in Dayton, Ohio, as a dental assistant. When she left the area, never did she imagine returning as an unemployed and uninsured dental patient in need of emergency care. Was the GNH still around? Receiving unemployment benefits and caring for an extended family of seven, Cruz stepped out in faith and called the facility to see if they could help her husband with a serious, painful molar infection. Within 24 hours, a GNH dentist assisted her husband.

“No one should have to make the choice between getting the emergency dental care that they need or being able to pay their mortgage and keep a roof over their head. ... Because of the Good Neighbor House, we didn’t have to make that choice,” said Cruz.

According to Tiffany Collie, development director, “Good Neighbor House had modest beginnings, operating out of a ‘house’ in the early years. We were founded in 1994 as the collaborative endeavor of eight Dayton Seventh-day Adventist churches.” The Ohio Conference oversees the operation of the facility.

Since 1996 entity volunteers have provided dental, medical and eye services to the community. As demand for services intensifies, the GNH continues to provide basic services with focused growth efforts in two critical areas: providing greater access to affordable dental care and expanding nutrition services. Nutrition services include a specialized food pantry that provides fresh, healthy foods as a way to eliminate obesity and chronic illness within underserved populations.
In December 2011, the GNH launched a $1.9 million capital campaign to expand. They met their goal, purchased and renovated a new facility in downtown Dayton and opened for services February 1.

“The Good Neighbor House facility will enable increased services and programs to people in need. Kettering Adventist HealthCare is very proud of the work that the quality volunteers provide and are pleased to partner with them to improve the lives of the communities we serve,” says Fred Manchur, Kettering Adventist HealthCare CEO.

Collie anticipates that by 2014, GNH volunteers will be able to better serve and offer more specialized services to more than 13,000 neighbors. She believes the GNH is “a bridge to self sufficiency.” She adds, “The majority of our patients are working, but they are making minimum wage and can’t afford the cost of going to the doctor’s office without insurance.”

A grand opening is scheduled for early summer. Visit www.goodneighborhouse.org to learn more about the new facility.

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Please limit your comments to 500 words or less. Only one comment per person will be published.
Paul and Cynthia Possinger play Appalachian dulcimers, and Steve Folsom plays the guitar during one of three simultaneous evangelism events hosted by the Triadelphia group in Nicaragua. The guitar was later donated to the local church.

“We're just a mission-minded church. And when it comes to doing something mission oriented, I think we go all out,” shares Paul Possinger, a member of Chesapeake Conference’s Triadelphia church in Clarksville, Md. “We didn't want them to have just a church; we wanted them to have something that really represented Christ for this area.”

Possinger was among a group of volunteers from the Triadelphia church who recently took their mission project to a whole new level. The church group visited the small town of Tola, Nicaragua, and not only built a church, but put all their efforts and resources into going above and beyond what is expected on a typical mission trip.

The Triadelphia group teamed up with Maranatha Volunteers International to build a One-Day Church for the Tola congregation during the Christmas/New Year season. They also raised all the funds needed to finish the church walls and floor, as well as purchase medical supplies for daily clinics. In addition the group ministered to children and conducted evangelistic campaigns at three different sites, simultaneously.

Jim Ayer, vice president for Adventist World Radio, a Triadelphia member and assistant project leader, visited the building site months before the project and was impressed by one young woman who seemed to be the driving force in the small Tola congregation. At the time, they were meeting under a mango tree each Sabbath.

“You know when I met Arlen, she was the head elder of the local church,” says Ayer.
Arlen Tatiana Gallo is a passionate 26–year–old leader who had a dramatic life change after accepting Christ as a teenager. She and the small Tola congregation prayerfully raised the money to buy property for the church by collecting hundreds of small donations, and contributing to the fund themselves each week.

“She showed us the property and told how they’d come together and it was such a miracle to buy the property,” recalls Ayer. “Then we shared with them [that] we’re not only going to put up a frame of the church and a roof, we were going to build the entire church and pay for it all. And she began crying and we almost cried … And at that moment, Janeen [my wife] and I knew that God was in charge of this.”

The 47–member Triadelphia team also had many participants from other locations, including the Second Hope medical team from Walla Walla, Washington. Local people were fitted with more than 4,000 pairs of vision–correcting glasses as part of the outreach activities. The available experts also presented health information relevant to the area at each nightly meeting.

As the church was dedicated on the last Sabbath of their project, Triadelphia volunteers packed into the brand new building, along with all the local members and their friends and neighbors. Many new faces smiled as babies were dedicated, couples were married, and several were baptized that day in the new church. The impact of their multifaceted approach to sharing Jesus was apparent.

Omar Perez, the local pastor, said, “This has been unbelievable. Beyond my dreams! The radio and TV stations are talking about what is going on there, and the people know now that we care about them.”

Ayer is content. “For me that is what it’s all about. Absolutely impacting the culture for Jesus Christ.”

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Bette Anne Toscano

September 01, 1942 ~ January 29, 2013

From: Howard, Ohio

Visitation: Thursday, January 31, 2013 from 6:00-8:00 P.M. at Flowers-Snyder Funeral Home, Mount Vernon, OH

Funeral: Friday, February 01, 2013 at 11:00 A.M. at Seventh Day Adventist Hill Church

Burial: Mound View Cemetery, Mount Vernon, Ohio

Bette Anne Toscano, age 70, of Howard, died Tuesday January 29, 2013 at her home surrounded by her family.

Bette was born September 1, 1942 in Dover, New Jersey to Robert and Bertha (Guillmette) Matthews. She was educated as a professional secretary and earned her degree as a paralegal at Indiana University.

Bette was a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Hill Church in Mount Vernon.

Surviving are her husband Louis “Lou” Toscano whom she married January 19, 1963; sons Mark (Christine) Toscano of Columbus, Robert (Nicole) Toscano of Powell and Timothy (Cheryl) Toscano of Fort Meade, Maryland; grandchildren Gabrielle, Samantha, Jonathan, Alexandra, Nicholas, Isabella, Vincent, Joshua and Sophia; sisters Doris (Richard) Crater of Chatham, New Jersey and Nancy (Tom) O’Connell of Richfield, Conn.

Friends may call Thursday from 6pm to 8pm at the Flowers-Snyder Funeral Home, 619 East High Street, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050, and Friday from 10am to 11am at the Seventh Day Adventist Hill Church

535 Wooster Road, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050 where a service giving glory to God and celebrating the life of Bette A. Toscano will follow at 11am with Elder Raj Attikin and Elder Fred Shoemaker officiating. Burial will follow at Mound View Cemetery in Mount Vernon.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Knox County, 17700 Coshocton Road, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050.

To send a private online condolence to the family, visit www.snyderfuneralhomes.com

The Flowers-Snyder Funeral Home in Mount Vernon is honored to serve the family of Bette A. Toscano.
Local Florists:
- The Flower Basket: 740-392-8606
- Flowers for You: 740-393-2485
- Paul's Flowers: 740-397-7117
- Williams Flower Shop: 740-392-2076

Directions From Your Location To:
- Flowers-Snyder Funeral Home
- Seventh Day Adventist Hill Church
- Mound View Cemetery

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Upcoming Events Around the Columbia Union

MARYLAND
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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February 23: Emmanuel-Brinklow church is hosting their annual, Living Legends awards program. This year’s honorees are Juanita Abernathy, Sister Helen Prejean and Sunitha Krishnan. The program begins at 6 p.m. Attendees are asked to wear formal attire. The church is located at 18800 New Hampshire Avenue in Ashton, Md. for more information visit humansymphonyfoundation.org

February 24: The Crossroads Adventist Preparatory School Annual Science and Health Fair will be on Sunday, 12-4 p.m. Attendees will enjoy a day of student presentations, scientific exhibits and fellowship. Nominal fees will be charged for food, refreshments and seated massages. Crossroads Adventist Preparatory School is located at 3291 Saint Johns Lane in Ellicott City, Md. For more information, call (410) 465-6867.

February 24: Highland View Academy is having its annual International Fair from 2-6 p.m. There will be presentations on several nations, and cuisine from all over the world will be sold at each booth. Come and enjoy the many cultures of our world! The school is located at 10100 Academy Drive in Hagerstown, Md.

NATIONAL
September 1: Enter the 2014 Forever Faithful International Camporee theme songwriting contest. Click here http://www.cye.org/events/camporee/what-to-expect/nighttime/theme-song.html to enter the contest. If your submission is chosen, you could win two free tickets to the camporee and the honor of having your music become the 2014 Forever Faithful International Camporee official theme song. For more information, contact Justin Yang or Stacy-Ann Thomas.
20 seminars on topics from fitness and lifestyle to mental and emotional health. There will be a special track for pastors and clergy, a track for nurses, seminars for healthcare leaders, all with practical help for outreach. Get some hands-on experience in health evangelism. Enjoy the great keynotes speakers. Attend evening health sessions for the community. Click here to register now.

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ONLINE
February 22: The Center on Health Disparities at Adventist HealthCare is offering a free, online health education class for African immigrants Friday, February 22, from noon to 1 p.m. The class aims to empower African immigrants to live healthier lives by providing education on infectious disease management. The curriculum will be delivered via webinar to encourage participation while also protecting anonymity. All participants must register by Friday, February 15. A gift-card valued incentive is available to qualified participants. For more information, contact Emeobong “Eme” Martin, project manager, at (301) 315-3184 or EMartin2@adventisthealthcare.com.

VIRGINIA
February 16: Lonnie Melashenko, former speaker/director for the Voice of Prophecy, will be speaking at the Vienna church located at 344 Courthouse Road SW in Vienna, Va. He will speak at the 10:40 a.m. service and at 2 p.m. For more information, call (571) 294-4863.

February 23: Lonnie Melashenko, former speaker/director for the Voice of Prophecy, will be speaking at the Lynchburg (Va.) church located at 19 George Street. He will speak at the 11 a.m. service. For more information, call (434) 239-8466.

WASHINGTON, DC
February 16: The Capitol Hill church is hosting a talk called “God’s Hand in Emancipation: A 150th Anniversary Retrospective.” Did Lincoln really free the slaves on January 1, 1863? What motivated the president’s actions? How did he see God’s purposes for the nation in the Civil War? Why was an Adventist minister chosen to address Washington, D.C.’s 40th anniversary celebration of the Emancipation Proclamation? Does emancipation figure into God’s purpose for the church at the final stage of history? These questions and more will be explored in this provocative presentation led by Doug Morgan, PhD, a history professor at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md. The program begins at 4 p.m. at the church, which is located at 914 Massachusetts Ave, NE in Washington, D.C.

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