Young New Jersey Members Find Evangelistic Opportunities at Winter Games

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Conference staff created the winter games as a way for church youth to create stronger bonds with their unchurched friends. Consequently, one of the rules was for each team to have at least three members from the community. Cesar Gonzales (pictured, far left, with his three friends), a Passaic I church member, noted, "Sometimes it is hard to invite my friends to come to the church, but to participate in the games my church was promoting was actually very easy. We have the passion for sports in common. All my friends [came] and had a great time!"—Story by New Jersey Conference Staff

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Pastor de jóvenes de New Jersey en los juegos de inviernos

En enero, el departamento de jóvenes de New Jersey Conference presentó su primer juego de invierno con equipos organizados de las iglesias para jugar vólibol, baloncesto, y fútbol en tres lugares. Los juegos se tuvieron cada fin de semana de enero, y las finales durante la convención de liderazgo juvenil en Tranquil Valley Retreat Center en Tranquility. Más de cuarenta equipos se inscribieron y jugaron con entusiasmo para ganar los trofeos.

El personal de la Asociación creó los juegos de invierno como una manera para que los jóvenes crearan lazos más fuertes con sus amigos no adventistas. Es más, una de las reglas de cada equipo fue tener por lo menos tres miembros de la comunidad. Esto le dio a los jóvenes oportunidades para el evangelismo—invitar a sus amigos a una actividad amigable de la iglesia sin las presiones de estar en un santuario. Los líderes dieron una meditación y oración antes de iniciar los juegos. En la foto están Estefanny Llanto, de Paterson Temple en Paterson, junto a cinco amigos que invitó a participar en los juegos de invierno.—Historia por el personal de la asociación de New Jersey

Dozens of Kids Attend Adventist WholeHealth’s Health Fair

More than 75 children recently attended Adventist WholeHealth Network’s (AWHN) free health fair held at the Olivet Boys and Girls Club in Reading, Pa. Alysha Hollingshead, AWHN parish nurse, organized the event with support from Ben Parish, AWHN community health educator. “The goal of the health fair was to get the children to start thinking about their health: eating healthy foods, oral hygiene, proper hand washing, abstaining from harmful substances, being kind to one another.
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and engaging in physical activity while sharing God's love," Hollingshead says.

The evening featured many seminars and fun activities, such as a healthy cooking class for teens (pictured). One 9-year-old girl excitedly showed Cheryl Goff, AWHN administrator, a pamphlet on smoking cessation and said, "I am taking this home so my mommy can quit smoking. I'm tired of breathing her smoke."—Story by Tamyra Horst

READ MORE

Washington Adventist Cancer Program Earns Prestigious Re-Accreditation

The American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC) recently awarded a three-year accreditation with commendation to Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Md., for its role as a community hospital cancer program. “This accreditation indicates that the quality of cancer care services offered at Washington Adventist Hospital is in line with some of our nation’s top cancer treatment centers,” noted Shailendra Kumar, MD, Cancer Committee chairman.

“One of the strengths of Washington Adventist Hospital’s program is a strong focus on the lower income demographic of patients served, their disparities and their barriers to care,” said Claro L. Pio Roda, MD, FACS, the hospital’s CoC surveyor. During the hospital’s 2009 survey, the cancer program received commendation on five of the eight CoC commendation standards. “We were able to increase that to six out of eight standards, and I couldn’t be more thrilled with our progress!” said Jane Peck, executive director of Cancer Care Services for Adventist HealthCare, the hospital’s parent company, which is based in Rockville, Md.—Story by Adventist HealthCare Staff

Church of the Oranges Members Write Book on Family Life

The Education Ministry of the Church of the Oranges in New Jersey recently published Guide to a Happy Family Life: From a Christian Perspective, which highlights some of the important principles that every family must embrace to live a happy life. The book is divided into three parts: relationships within the family, the relationship of the family with God and the
relationship of the family with the community.

The book shares contributions from 26 authors from this Allegheny East Conference church. “As a contributing writer, it is a joy to share and minister to each reader. I received a wonderful blessing after reading the valuable insights from the other authors. It is my prayer that the blessings contained in this book will continue to flow out to others to the honor and glory of God,” said Charles H. Washington.

The book can be purchased from Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble or directly from the Church of the Oranges, which is located at 270 Reynolds Terrace. For more information, call the church at (973) 678-1951.—Story by Arulraj Johnrose

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Potomac Conference Implements Changes at Camp Blue Ridge

Camp Blue Ridge, Potomac Conference’s youth and retreat center in Montebello, Va., is undergoing some changes this year, one of which includes bringing on Jerrod Gabel as the new director of Camp Ministries. He comes from Camp Wawona in the Central California Conference with over a decade of camp
Young New Jersey Members Find Evangelistic Opportunities at Winter Games

experience. “I’m really excited to be on board. There’s a huge amount of potential on this property, and I can already see signs of God’s leading,” Gabel said.

They will also be remodeling some of the cabins, adding a new outdoor education curriculum this fall and developing a master plan for the property. The camp has a new website, which will highlight some of the changes already happening at the camp. Check it out at campblueridge.org.—Story by Jennifer Gabel

Spencerville Second-Graders Help Sick Children

As part of Spencerville Adventist Academy’s efforts to get all of their students involved in outreach, Bev Waln’s second-grade class (pictured) chose to raise donations for the St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. The hospital is a facility internationally recognized for its pioneering efforts in treating children with cancer. When the children at the Silver Spring, Md., school raised more than $250 for this project, Waln and
Tracy Belliveau, a parent assistant and head room mother, offered to double the amount. Waln shared, “Jesus’ love is being shown to those who are less fortunate and in pain. The children have given to these young children who are hurting.”—Story by Heidi Wetmore

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**Learn How You Can Stop Child Abuse**

The Seven Campaign is a grassroots campaign that aims to raise awareness and mobilize church members and supporters to take a stand on the issue of child abuse. Launched by Adventist Risk Management and a group of Seventh-day Adventist denominational partners, the campaign seeks to equip individuals and churches with the tools to make a difference in their sphere of influence. The tools can be found in a free, digital kit, available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French.

The kit can be used in local churches or schools, or to reach out to the community. Visitors to the campaign website are encouraged to (digitally) sign a promise to take action. The promise says:

- Tell seven people how to stop abuse now, by sharing the resources
- Speak out against abuse—don’t remain indifferent
- Advocate for change with my voice and vote
- Mobilize my peers
- Lead by example
- Express my support creatively through the Virtual Gallery
- Share the Seven Campaign with seven people

Visit the website at thesevencampaign.com.—Story by Adventist Risk Management Staff

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**Like the Great Controversy Project on Facebook**
Are you involved in or interested in the General Conference's Great Controversy Project? Then visit the Great Controversy Project Facebook page at [facebook.com/GreatControversyProject](http://facebook.com/GreatControversyProject) and click on the "like" button. Check the page for frequent updates about the project.

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**End Quote: When God's Call Comes to the Heart**

"Whether pastor or prophet, when God's call comes to the heart, the true believer or disciple answers as in the words of Samuel, ‘Here am I.’ For the gospel minister, it is a statement of commitment to go forth and be God’s spokesperson to God’s people with God’s message. That message of grace and mercy is free to all because of what Jesus Christ did at Calvary, and is a message of anticipation of Christ’s soon return. Today we acknowledge, recognize that God-given call to you, Pastor Josephine Benton, and we applaud you for your many years of service and for your patience for this day.”—Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union Conference, presenting Benton, the first ordained female church elder and pastor, with emeritus ministerial credentials at Potomac Conference’s Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., last Sabbath

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

[Click here for a complete listing of upcoming events around the Columbia Union Conference.](#)
MARYLAND
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.

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 to 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.

February 24: If you need help getting your taxes done, the Metropolitan church in Hyattsville will be providing FREE tax preparation assistance from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Click here to register and reserve your spot. Don’t forget to tell a friend. For more information, email info@metrosda.org.

OHIO
March 15: Committed, an Adventist a cappella singing group, will perform a free concert at the Kettering church. The group of six young men were the season 2 champions on NBC’s hit singing competition The Sing Off. The concert starts at 7:30 p.m. The church is located at 3939 Stonebridge Road in Kettering. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome. A freewill offering will be collected.

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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.

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.

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 and 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.

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September 1: Enter the 2014 "Forever Faithful" International Camporee theme songwriting contest by September 1. Click here 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.

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Columbia Union Columbia MD: February 19, 2013—Young New Jersey Members Find Evangelistic Opportunities at Winter Games


February 21, 2013

Story by New Jersey Conference Staff
Published 2/19/13

Estefanny Llanto (far left), who attends the Paterson Temple church in Paterson, invited five of her high school classmates to pay on her volleyball team for the Winter Games.

During every weekend in January, the New Jersey Conference Youth Department hosted the conference's first Winter Games with church-organized teams playing volleyball, basketball and soccer. Congregations across New Jersey, divided by conference zones, participated, with the games taking place at three church institutions. The finals took place during the Youth Leadership Convention held at the Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Tranquility. More than 40 teams registered and enthusiastically played for the trophies.

Conference staff created the Winter Games as a way for church youth to create stronger bonds with their unchurched friends. Consequently, one of the rules was for each team to have at least three members from the community. This gave the youth evangelistic opportunities—to invite their friends to a friendly church activity without the pressure of being in the sanctuary. Leaders offered a devotional and prayer before the games started.

Many youth invited friends and say they had a great time introducing them to church members and sharing Jesus in a very sociable and welcoming environment. Cesar Gonzales, a Passaic I church member, invited three friends to be part of his team. “Sometimes it is hard to invite my friends to come to the church, but to participate in the games my church was promoting was actually very easy,” he noted. “We have the passion for sports in common. All my friends [came] and had a great time!”

Noel Emus (pictured, second from left), from the Maranatha Spanish, invited the friends who have been studying the Bible with him. He says he invited them to the games hoping to strengthen their friendship with other members of his church.
Ruben Arias, invited by an Adventist friend he has known for five years, had never visited an Adventist church. “I love playing soccer, and I love having fun with my friends, so this is a great place to know people. It is like I have known them for a long time,” he said.

New Jersey youth say they look forward to the Summer Games, which will take place in July. More information is coming.

Noel Emus (pictured, second from left)

Cesar Gonzales (pictured, far left)

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Please limit your comments to 500 words or less. Only one comment per person will be published.
Columbia Union Columbia MD : February 20, 2013--Dozens of Kids Attend Adventist WholeHealth’s Health Fair


February 21, 2013

Story by Tamyra Horst
Published 2/20/13

Kids learn how to care for their teeth.

More than 75 kids recently attended Adventist WholeHealth Network’s (AWHN) free health fair held at the Olivet Boys and Girls Club in Reading, Pa. Many community organizations, including Latinos for Healthy Communities, the Council on Chemical Abuse, AmeriHealth Mercy, Saint Joseph Medical Center and the Visiting Nurse Service of Berks County participated in the event.

Alysha Hollingshead, AWHN parish nurse, organized the event with support from Ben Parish, AWHN community health educator. “The goal of the health fair was to get the children to start thinking about their health: eating healthy foods, oral hygiene, proper hand washing, abstaining from harmful substances, being kind to one another and engaging in physical activity while sharing God’s love,” Hollingshead says.

The evening featured many seminars and fun activities. Elmer Cupino, MD, a child psychiatrist and member of Pennsylvania Conference’s Hamburg church, conducted a 20-minute session on bullying for children 12 and up. Dentist Brian Nase, a member of the Walnurport church, donated toothbrushes and toothpaste, while two dental hygienist students taught the children how to brush their teeth properly. Teens learned easy recipes from local chef Guirlene Marc while the Pennsylvania Health Department demonstrated the differences in healthy and non–healthy lungs with inflatable pig lungs. One nine–year–old girl excitedly showed Cheryl Goff, AWHN administrator, a pamphlet on quitting smoking and said, “I am taking this home so my mommy can quit smoking. I’m tired of breathing her smoke.”

AWHN and the Olivet Boys and Girls Club of Reading and Berks County sponsored the event. The director of the boys and girls club has already asked AWHN to plan another event for
their community.

Ben Parish, Adventist WholeHealth Network’s community health educator, takes a little boy’s blood pressure during a kids health fair.

Guirlene Marc shows teens some easy and healthy recipes.

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March 5-6: Do you need more energy in your life? Plan to attend Health Quest at 7:15, p.m. at the General Conference Auditorium (12501 Old Columbia Pike in Silver Spring) for two evenings of life-changing presentations on your physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health. Admission is FREE, but tickets are required. To register and obtain tickets, call 1-800-957-7171.

March 10: Nancy Link, a member of the Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C., will be at the Potomac Adventist Book Store from 2-4 p.m. to sign copies of her new book Aunt Nancy’s Road Called Faith: A Poetic Biography. The store is located at 12004 Cherry Hill Rd in Silver Spring, Md.

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February 16: The Toledo First church is hosting a free Valentine’s concert starting at 7 p.m. This year, the intermission love offering will benefit Haven of Hope Toledo, Inc., a nonprofit organization determined to makeover the homes and often the lives of the neediest “least of these” in Northwest Ohio. The musical guest will be singer Scott Michael Bennett. The church is located at 4909 West Sylvania Avenue in Toledo, Ohio.

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