Weekly news from around the Columbia Union Conference.

July 10, 2013

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“This year camp meeting was specifically geared toward evangelism and growing the Word of God in a long-lasting way,” said Jacqueline Sanchez-Ventouris, assistant to the director for Hispanic Ministries. “Our preparation began long before camp meeting. We held 10 evangelism series in the Richmond area to generate a curiosity and thirst in the community. We hoped this would draw people to our camp meeting and, ultimately, they would have the desire to be part of something long term.” Pictured is Homero Salazar, pastor of the Washington Spanish church in Silver Spring, Md., baptizing a new member.—Story by Taashi Rowe and Tiffany Doss; Photo by Ancient City Photography

READ MORE
Los campestres se enfocan en el evangelismo

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**Potomac**

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Potomac recibe a doce nuevos grupos hispanos al redil. El grupo más nuevo (en la foto), con base en Chesterfield, Va., en las afueras de Richmond, se formó solo dos meses antes del campestre.

Haga [clic aquí para leer mas y ver mas fotos de otros campamentos Hispanos de la Unión de Columbia](#).

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**New General Manager Named at WGTS**

Late last week, the board of [Washington Adventist University](https://www.wau.edu)'s [WGTS 91.9 FM](https://wgts919.com) named Kevin Krueger, a Christian radio veteran with 30 years of experience, as their new vice president and general manager. Krueger comes to the Takoma Park, Md., station from Washington state where he served as general manager for KGTS 91.3 and Positive Life Radio.
Network (KGTS/PLR) at Walla Walla University.

“It’s an honor to be invited to guide the team at an industry-leading station and ministry. KGTS/PLR and WGTS have a long, rich ‘sister station’ history that I plan to continue. I anticipate many wonderful opportunities to serve the people in our nation’s capital, just as we have served those in the inland Northwest. Whatever the scale or location, it really boils down to service—one person serving another,” says Krueger.

Krueger’s appointment comes after John Konrad, longtime WGTS general manager, died unexpectedly in January. Douglas Walker currently serves as interim general manager.—Story by Grace Virtue

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Columbia Union Treasurer Ordained

Last weekend Seth Bardu, Columbia Union Conference treasurer, was ordained at Allegheny East Conference’s (AEC) camp meeting. Bardu, who holds a bachelor’s in accounting from Oakwood University...
(Ala.) and a Masters of Business Administration from Andrews University (Mich.), has been the union treasurer since 2006. He previously served four years as treasurer for the Northeastern Conference in New York. Bardu, whose membership is in Allegheny East, has also led several evangelism meetings at home and abroad and has pledged to do whatever he can to help the church accomplish its mission.

"We ordained Seth because he has demonstrated that he is gifted in ministry not just in finances," said Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president. "Ordination to the gospel ministry is about winning lost people and that is what Seth is all about." Henry Fordham (standing), AEC president, is pictured anointing Bardu.

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**Union Selects NAD Ministry Reps**

Columbia Union Conference administrators recently selected five local conference departmental directors to represent the union at North American Division (NAD) departmental advisories. Also called union coordinators, they are:
Potomac Hispanics Baptize 14, Inaugurate Church Plant at Camp Meeting

- Youth/Young Adult Ministries—Joel Johnson—Allegheny West Conference
- Health Ministries—Leah Scott (pictured)—Allegheny East Conference
- ACS/Disaster Response—Minnie McNeil—Allegheny East Conference
- Children’s Ministries—Samantha Young—Chesapeake Conference
- Women’s Ministries—Shirley Benton—Allegheny West Conference

“Whereas the Columbia Union does not have the traditional departmental ministries, our union coordinators interface with NAD personnel and their counterparts from other unions in planning divisionwide initiatives,” says Frank Bondurant, the union’s vice president for Ministries Development. “Our union coordinators serve a vital role as conduits of communication between the local conferences and the NAD.”

Chestertown Dedicates Newly Renovated Church

More than a year after an early morning fire gutted Chesapeake Conference’s Chestertown (Md.) church building, members and supporters recently gathered to dedicate the renovated facility to the Lord.

Following a special worship service and potluck luncheon, an afternoon program featured a concert and special recognition of the many local fire companies...
that responded to the fire. The event culminated with an outdoor, ribbon-cutting ceremony.

In his opening remarks, conference president Rick Remmers said, “One of the blessings of the insurance coverage is that not only is there restoration of what was burned, but there were also code upgrades to the building.” The new building codes brought the facility into Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, making it possible for the church to obtain city approval to operate a school. “Before we knew there was a need, the Lord understood,” added Remmers. Pictured is Kevin McDaniel, Chestertown pastor, introducing Helena Cress to the congregation. Cress is the first to be baptized in the new sanctuary.—Story by Samantha Young

**Spotted: The Church WNY Children Built**

With the $1,500 that the children of New Jersey Conference’s West New York (WNY) church raised, Maranatha Volunteers International was able build this one-day church in India. “This church will become a spiritual home to a congregation that has not had a permanent place to worship,” Birdie Galbraith of Maranatha wrote in an email thanking the children. “Through [their] involvement, we can help support the growth of the Adventist Church around the world.”

Although only halfway through the year, the children are already set to beat last year’s fundraising record. According to Alberto Portanova, the church’s Children’s Ministries director, they’ve already collected $700 for Christian Record Services and $600 for to help children in Paraguay for ADRA.

[READ MORE ABOUT THE CHILDREN OF WEST NEW YORK](#)

**HVA Alumna to Intern at Harvard**

http://us5.campaign-archive1.com/?u=fe12b9595dd2970ceea6479d5&id=4277de837a[7/15/2013 12:41:28 PM]
Kylynda Bauer (pictured), who graduated in 2009 from Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md., was accepted as a summer research intern at the FAS Center for Systems Biology at the Harvard Medical School in Boston. During the 10-week program, Bauer will work in the Peter Turnbaugh project characterizing microbial flora within the human digestive track using flow cytometry, which measures levels of fluorescence. “I am very excited for the opportunity to become more involved in microbial research,” says Bauer.

Former Ohio Conference Treasurer Passes

After battling cancer for several years, Russell Lucht, a former Ohio Conference treasurer, recently passed away at home. He was 80. He was a pastor for 15 years, serving in Wisconsin, North Dakota, Minnesota and Ohio. He joined the Ohio Conference Treasury
Department in 1969. After several years in treasury, he was elected as secretary/treasurer for nearly three years (1981-1983), and treasurer for nearly 10 years (1983-1993). He retired from conference work in February 1996 after devoting more than 40 years of service to the denomination.

“Russ was very conscientious about his role working for the [Seventh-day Adventist] Church,” noted Deena Stockberger, administrative assistant for Russell during part of his tenure as treasurer. “Spreading the gospel was a consistent passion of his.”

Retirement did not slow Lucht down. Until recently, he served as treasurer for the Mount Vernon Hill church in Mount Vernon where he and Dorothy "Dottie," his wife of 60 years, were long-time members. His funeral took place last Wednesday.—Story by Heidi Shoemaker

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

MARYLAND

**July 14:** The Northeast church in Baltimore is hosting a health expo from 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, contact Pastor Sedley Johnson by email at sedeuljon@yahoo.com, or call (443) 799-2400. The church is located at 1201 Taylor Avenue in Parkville, Md.

**July 14:** Do you sing, play an instrument, recite poetry, perform comedy acts, do interpretive dance, rap or some other creative art? If so, the Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md., is invites you to share it at their 40th anniversary
Potomac Hispanics Baptize 14, Inaugurate Church Plant at Camp Meeting

July 15-20: The Frederick (Md.) church is hosting a Vacation Bible School with the theme “Mission 1 to Eternity.” The program lasts from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. Sign up now at Fredericksdachurch.org or call (301) 662-5254 6437.

July 20: There will be a Review and Herald Homecoming in Hagerstown, Md. Join current and former employees for a Sabbath-day event celebrating 30 years since the move to Hagerstown. Services begin on the campus at 10 a.m. followed by an afternoon program of praise for God’s leading. Ted Wilson, General Conference (GC) president; Delbert Baker; GC vice president; and Jim Nix, director of the White Estate, are guests. Lunch is provided. RSVP to 30@rhpa.org or call (301) 393-4015. All are welcome. For details, visit ReviewandHerald.com/30.

WEST VIRGINIA
July 14: The Martinsburg church is sponsoring a youth rally starting at 5 p.m. This free event takes place at Musselman High School, which is located at 126 Excellence Way in Inwood, W.Va. Featured presenters include Christian comedian Nazareth, and a science show by Ben Roy. For more details, contact Pastor Steve Finney by phone at (304) 261-4629 or email youthpastorsteve@yahoo.com.

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Taashi Rowe, Visitor News Bulletin Editor
5427 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045
Potomac Hispanics Baptize 14, Inaugurate Church Plant at Camp Meeting
Potomac Hispanic Members Welcome New Plant to Camp Meeting

Story by Taashi Rowe and Tiffany Doss Published 7/10/13

Homero Salazar, pastor of the Washington Spanish church in Silver Spring, Md., baptizes a new member of the Potomac Conference. Photo by Ancient City Photography

Two months ago, the Chesterfield (Va.) Spanish group did not exist. But at Potomac Conference’s Spanish Camp Meeting, last weekend, the newly established group with some 50 members, were warmly welcomed, along with 11 others, into the sisterhood of churches. Held this year at the Richmond Convention Center in Richmond, Va., 2,000 attendees of the camp meeting were the embodiment of evangelism in action.

“This year camp meeting was specifically geared toward evangelism and growing the Word of God in a long-lasting way,” said Jacqueline Sanchez-Ventouris, assistant to the director for Hispanic Ministries. “Our preparation began long before camp meeting. We held 10 evangelism series in the Richmond area to generate a curiosity and thirst in the community. We hoped this would draw people to our camp meeting and ultimately they would have the desire to be part of something long term.”

Hispanic Ministries leaders chose the Richmond area for evangelism because of its dense population. Data from the 2010 U.S. Census says there are 316,256 people that live in the county of Chesterfield and no Seventh-day Adventist Church in that area. Out of that number, link2lead.com states that there are 33,940 Hispanics in Chesterfield County. The Hispanic Ministries leaders felt the responsibility to fulfill the mission of the conference: to go into each community of 20,000 or more and plant a new church group.

Members from the Spanish-speaking Richmond Evangelistic Center, the mother church for the Chesterfield church, have committed to growing the group. Among them is Nazira Cabrera who walked away from the church for 22 years and was baptized two years ago. She and her family are now committed to evangelism. “A lot of people knew me when I used to drink and smoke and that’s a good thing for my ministry,” she says. “They can see that if Jesus can change me, then He can do anything.” The Chesterfield church has 20 visitors every Sabbath and out of the 14 people who were baptized on Sabbath, five belong to Chesterfield. Only recently the fledgling group were in a small house, but due to God’s leading, they were able to find two Methodist churches willing to rent their facilities either for free or at a very reduced cost. “We decided to go with the church that is charging us $200 a month for rent,” explained Carlo Duran, the church’s Bible worker who serves as pastor under the leadership of Obed Rosette, the district pastor. “That is a pittance! The upside is that the church has a free clinic that will give us an opportunity to share Christ with more people.” The goal is to have five Spanish-speaking churches in the Richmond area. With three already established, they are more than halfway there. After the Sabbath services, hundreds of camp meeting attendees donned green shirts and walked the streets of Richmond witnessing and distributing 4,000 copies of Steps to Christ in English and Spanish. Mario Quinteros, a member of the Springfield (Va.) church said participating in this kind of witnessing was extremely important to him. “I met Jesus a year ago and now I see that there is no other way to live,” he said. “God saved me. I was doing a lot of wrong things, but He found me and showed me that He has a purpose for my life. That’s why I’m committed to showing other people how much Jesus loves us.” The Sabbath program also included a ceremony celebrating 134 new graduates from the conference’s School of Discipleship. With newly minted certificates in the following courses: assistant to the pastor, evangelist, Bible instructor and small group leaders, the new graduates are committed to expanding the evangelism ministry across Potomac starting with camp meeting and beyond.

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.
Bienvenido a la presencia de la Unión de Columbia de los Adventistas del Séptimo Día en el internet. Desde nuestra sede en Columbia, Md., trabajamos para avanzar y ejecutar la misión de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día en el centro de los Estados Unidos--preparar a un pueblo para el pronto regreso de Cristo.

En esta página compartimos historias emocionantes de cómo Dios está obrando en las iglesias hispano hablantes. ¡Necesitamos su ayuda en mantener actualizada esta página! Le invitamos a enviarnos sus historias y noticias en inglés y español a Visitor@columbiaunion.net.

Mirando retrospectivamente al campestre por medio de fotos

Historia personal del Visitor Publicado 7/10/13

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Chesapeake

Uno de los aspectos más notables del campestre hispano de Chesapeake Conference fue que ochenta y cinco se graduaron de la escuela de discipulado. Los graduados completaron dos especialidades: asistente de pastor e instrucción bíblica.

Raúl Rivero, pastor de las iglesias Washington Spencerville y Laurel Spanish, le entrega un certificado a la graduada.

El evangelista Alejandro Bullón habla a los participantes sobre el tema: “Gozosos al compartir a Jesús”.

New Jersey

Múltiples bautismos fueron los momentos culminantes del fin de semana del campestre en Tranquility, N.J. Fotos por Jim Greene
El coro de New Jersey Conference canta alabanzas al Señor. Fotos por Jim Greene

Yarleth Paola Gómez, una estudiante de Andrews University (Mich.) y miembro de Trenton Spanish church, dibuja un cuadro de Jesús durante el programa musical de la tarde. Fotos por Jim Greene

Pennsylvania

Los participantes del campestre hispano de Pennsylvania Conference, celebrado en Blue Mountain Academy en Hamburg, se enfocaron en sembrar semillas del mensaje de Dios. Lo más destacado fue el desfile de las naciones.

Los miembros de iglesia colombianos visten su traje típico.
Este grupo representa felizmente su país de origen—Nicaragua.

**Potomac**

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Juanes, Laura, y Josh Santos asistieron a la iglesia comunitaria brasileira en Richmond, y estuvieron entre los treinta o más asistentes de habla portuguesa en el servicio de la mañana.
Los que asistieron al campestre se dispersaron por Richmond el sábado de tarde para distribuir copias de El camino a Cristo.

**NORMAS Y POLÍTICA PARA LOS COMENTARIOS:** Columbia Union Visitor fomenta la conversación de calidad e invita sus comentarios. Todos los comentarios están sujetos a aprobación.

**Por favor limite sus comentarios a quinientas palabras o menos.**

Únase al diálogo:
Kevin Krueger, WGTS 91.9 FM’s new general manager, comes to the station with more than 30 years of Christian radio experience.

Late last week, the board of Washington Adventist University’s WGTS 91.9 FM named Kevin Krueger, a Christian radio veteran, as their new vice president and general manager. Krueger comes to the Takoma Park, Md., station from Washington state where he served as general manager for KGTS 91.3 and Positive Life Radio Network (KGTS/PLR) at Walla Walla University.

“It’s an honor to be invited to guide the team at an industry-leading station and ministry. KGTS/PLR and WGTS have a long, rich ‘sister station’ history that I plan to continue. I anticipate many wonderful opportunities to serve the people in our nation’s capital just as we have served those in the Inland Northwest. Whatever the scale or location, it really boils down to service—one person serving another,” says Krueger.

Krueger’s appointment comes after John Konrad, longtime WGTS general manager, died unexpectedly in January. Douglas Walker currently serves as interim general manager.

Krueger began working as a student announcer at Walla Walla University’s radio station in 1982. After graduating from there in 1987 with a degree in communications, he became program director and general manager a year later. Under his leadership, the station grew from a single local station into a regional Christian radio network with 120,000 listeners. Stations in the Positive Life Radio network are based in 15 cities in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

“I’m humbled by what lies ahead. The opportunities to serve others and share Christ are huge. I feel fortunate to be joining a team of professionals and student interns that know their craft,” he says.

WGTS, which was founded in 1957, serves the Washington, D.C., area, by broadcasting contemporary Christian music to more than 600,000 listeners. It ranks among the top 10 in the Washington, D.C., market.

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Because she wanted the kids in India to have a church like the one at West New York, Abigail Doria donated all $186 from her piggy to build a church in India.

Some of the youngest members of New Jersey Conference’s West New York Spanish church in West New York, N.J., know Matthew 25:36 well. They not only know the verse, which says, “I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me,” they also live it. Over the past 10 months, the children have raised nearly $10,000 to help others at home and abroad.

The children’s mission-mindset can be traced back to around two years ago. This was when “we received a letter from the Dominican Republic,” recalls Alberto Portanova Jr., the church’s Children’s Ministries director. “It was around Christmas, and they were asking for help with toys for children. We asked the kids to help and they brought 100 new toys.”

This simple act of giving to others in need planted a seed in the hearts of the children of West New York Spanish church. From then on, they eagerly started giving what they had to others who needed it more. When they set out to raise $1,500 to build a church in India via Maranatha Volunteers International, Abigail Doria so wanted the kids in India to have a church like the one at West New York, that she donated the contents of her piggy bank as a gesture of love. It had $186, which she had been saving since birth. Over the past 10 months, the kids have donated money to build churches overseas, provide reading materials to blind kids, sent Bibles to Rwanda and food to Ghana. They have even collected personal items to drop off at a local women’s shelter.

Pedro Canales, the church’s pastor, says the children’s participation in fundraising, makes him hopeful. “Our kids are on fire,” he says. “They are seeing that they can help others and that’s great. With church, school and home working together we can have a better future for our children.”

Canales and Portonova have also seen how the children are inspiring their parents. The church has 125 members, many of whom are working class. “This is a special church. Our church is prosperous not because we have money but because we have big hearts,” Canales says.

When pressed further to ask what is inspiring the children to work so hard to give their own money or to actively raise funds, Portonova explains, “Our kids want to be like Jesus. That is why they are willing to give up things like McDonalds so they can give money to missionary projects. We do not entertain children but teach them that at a young age they can be missionaries like the children in the Bible.”

The children are now working with ADRA to help feed a grandmother in Kyrgyzstan.

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Upcoming Events Around the Columbia Union

columbiaunion.org/article/984/news/visitor-news-bulletin-archives/2012-visitor-news-bulletins/upcoming-events

MARYLAND
June 30: Stop by the “Eat Like a ‘Super’ Kid” Healthy Cooking Fair at the Middletown Valley church Sunday, June 30, from 3-5 p.m., and join fun activities designed to give families healthy options for eating and living. Dinner is provided. To register—by June 23—email msvdaevents@gmail.com, or call (240) 415-8268. This is a free event, but donations are welcome. The church is located at 1811 Arnold Road in Jefferson, Md.

NATIONAL
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-Arn Thomas.