Four Women Pastors Ordained in Ohio

“Today we gather to recognize the call of God on four of our own: Linda Farley, Lori Farr, Sandra Pappenfus and Carmen Seibold,” said Raj Attiken, Ohio Conference president. After 20 years of advocating for the ordination of women, Ohio Conference leaders officiated their first ordination celebration for women last Sabbath at the Worthington church. The action came as a result of overwhelming support from delegates at last year’s Columbia Union constituency session.

None of the women sought their call; rather they followed God’s sacred call to gospel ministry. “I’m not a pastor because I chose it; I’m a pastor because He chose it,” said Farr, pastor of the Wooster district. “I fought Him and He won.”—
Story by Heidi Shoemaker; Photo by Mar de Oliveira

Click [here](http://e2.ma/message/qxmod/6diogi) to view a video of the service.

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**WGTS Practices a Different Kind of Friendship Evangelism**

It's a Sabbath afternoon and several Seventh-day Adventists can be found enjoying electric guitars, flashing strobe lights, praise and prayer along with 3,300 other people from disparate backgrounds and churches in Fairfax, Va. They are among the thousands attending DC Fest, a contemporary Christian concert featuring artists such as Jamie Grace, Matthew West, David Crowder, Audio Adrenaline and the Newsboys.

Several heard about the concert while listening to their favorite Christian radio stations such as [WGTS 91.9 FM](http://e2.ma/message/qxmod/6diogi), which is owned by [Washington Adventist University](http://e2.ma/message/qxmod/6diogi) in Takoma Park, Md. WGTS, which has an audience of 600,000, and about 41 percent of them are not connected to any religious organizations.

“Our listeners love the music. They love Jesus but have been hurt by their church,” shared Terry Johnsson, DMin, the station’s senior chaplain. “So we have to think of creative ways to connect with these people. One of the natural ways we do that is by extending what we like to call friendship evangelism, where we meet them where they are.”—Story and photo by Taashi Rowe

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Leesburg Member Makes a Surprise Proposal

When Jennifer Anderson bought tickets to DC Fest in Fairfax, Va., as a birthday gift for her boyfriend, Brian Ducharme, she had no idea that the day would turn out to be so special. But she should have had an inkling. It was at this same concert four years ago, that she recommitted her heart to Jesus.

Anderson who attends Potomac Conference’s Leesburg (Va.) church with Ducharme, was delighted and surprised when her favorite band, the Newsboys, and her favorite radio station, WGTS 91.9 FM, helped Ducharme with a marriage proposal.

“The Newsboys are the reason why I started my journey as a Christian,” she said. “For them to [help with the proposal], I was floored. I couldn't believe it!”

Even though the two met in high school and have known each other for 17 years, they only started dating 1.5 years ago. “We were kind of at the same place with our faith when we both started going to church,” Ducharme said. “It’s really amazing how God has blessed us and brought us together.”—Story and photo by Taashi Rowe

CLICK HERE TO SEE THE VIDEO!

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Potomac Church Builds Youth Faith “From the Ground Up”

Most evangelism series have an end date in mind. But that is not the case with a youth evangelism series held at Potomac Conference’s Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md. “From the Ground Up—Hope Amidst Chaos,” the original series, focused on the great controversy raging on Earth and the hope Jesus brings. More than 200 attended making it clear that the series addressed a need for many. Thirty-nine people recommitted to Jesus, 31 requested Bible studies, 17 requested to get involved with ministry and 10 people decided to become members of Sligo.

“We had planned to end the series in July,” said Pranitha Fielder, the church’s associate pastor, “but I felt impressed to turn it into a weekly service for youth and young adults. I asked God to give me a sign if this was the direction to go.” A week into the series, Charles Tapp, senior pastor, approached her with the idea of implementing such a worship service.—Story by U Lun

READ MORE
Twelve campers walked away from Mountain View Conference’s Wellness Camp last week with the tools to totally transform their health. During the 10-day camp at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va, volunteers led cardio exercise sessions, lectured on biblical health principles, served delicious vegan meals and provided support to help the campers continue these healthy habits.

The campers took advantage of those tools and lost an average of more than 6 pounds and dropped their blood sugar and cholesterol levels, says Pastor Daniel Morikone, camp director and director of the conference’s Health Ministries Department.

“You get out of the program proportionate to what you are willing to invest,” says program director Chris Hasse. “Total transformation? Yes, if you want that. A band-aid? Yes. If you only want that. Tools to change were abundant and powerful.”—Story by V. Michelle Bernard
Pennsylvania Family Takes Mission Trip Vacation

Every other year, instead of taking a traditional vacation of camping, visiting family or theme parks, the Madding family travels abroad to share the love of Jesus Christ with others.

This summer they went to the city of Higuey in the Dominican Republic to preach an evangelistic campaign. Tim Madding, the director of Leadership and Spiritual Growth for the Pennsylvania Conference, preached a weeklong series each evening to some 77 guests plus church members. Andrea Madding, a physical therapist, shared a presentation on health each evening. Ethan Madding, an eight-grader, preached each Sabbath in an area church.

“We wanted missions to be a part of our lives and the lives of our children,” Madding said. “When we were married 19 years ago, we made the commitment to go on a mission trip every other year in order to reinforce that. Next time, Ethan will preach a full series.”

As a result of this vacation, 16 people were baptized.—Story by Tamyra Horst
Allegheny East Church’s Outdoor Health Fair Uplifts Community Amidst Tragedy

A week before Allegheny East Conference’s First Church of Montclair in Montclair, N.J., held their annual health fair in a local park, four young people were shot and one critically wounded. The clergy association called an emergency prayer session and the city council organized an emergency community meeting. Nearly 200 concerned neighbors and friends packed the room waiting to hear from a panel comprised of government officials, police and civic leaders. Paula Olivier, DMin, pastor of the First church, was asked to open the session with prayer and lead a moment of reflection for the victims and their families.

As a result, many from the meeting came to the health fair. One resident even secured a copy of the health fair flyer from the meeting. She made her own copies and stood on the corner Friday afternoon and handed them out. Robert Jackson, the town’s mayor, also attended the fair and committed to partnering with the church in some of their community services. As church members interacted with attendees many expressed gratefulness that there was such a positive event in the midst of crisis.—Story by Paula Olivier

Book Release: Building a Solid Foundation for Intimacy

Although he has been married for 28 years, it wasn’t his own marriage per se that got Jean-Michel Etienne, PhD, interested in writing his first book, Building a Solid Foundation for Intimacy: A Practical Guide to Success in Marriage. Etienne, a pastor of three New Jersey Conference churches, said it was his professors at the Newburgh Theological Seminary in Indiana, who encouraged him to turn his doctoral dissertation into something that could help struggling couples. He shares more about the book below:

Q: What inspired you to write a book about marriage?

A: I became interested in the topic because as a pastor I have been doing a lot of counseling for years. It’s also the part of my ministry that I enjoy the most—sitting down with people who are struggling in their marriages and helping them. I believe the deterioration of our society as a whole is leading to a lot more broken families and our churches are not exempt.—Interview by Taashi Rowe

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Station

Ansel Oliver, a member of Chesapeake Conference’s New Hope church in Fulton, Md., and an Adventist News Network reporter, was interviewed on Chicago’s WBEZ 91.5 FM radio station's “Worldview” feature Wednesday, August 14, where he spoke about the unjust imprisonment of Adventist Pastor Antonio Monteiro. The pastor who is in jail in the West African country of Togo has been arbitrarily held for more than 500 days, with no evidence and no trial. Listen to the archived interview. We invite you to post the subsequent interview link on your social media accounts. Our individual participation as part of a world church could be a key step in gaining more publicity in helping get Monteiro out of prison.—Courtesy of NAD Newspoint

Does Your Church Have Curb Appeal?

How brightly does your church shine in the community? Can your neighbors "put a face" with our church name?

Click here to take our interactive quiz to rate your church or check each statement that applies to your congregation, and identify what areas still need work.

Correction

In last week’s issue of the Visitor News Bulletin, we incorrectly reported that the Maryland Health Care Commission denied Washington Adventist Hospital's initial Certificate of Need application. The hospital, based in Takoma Park, Md., withdrew their certificate of need—it was not denied. We apologize for the error.

UPCOMING EVENTS
MARYLAND

August 24: The United Men's Ministry Movement (UM3) will be hosting a one-day workshop at Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md. All men of the Columbia Union who are 18 and older are invited to attend. This Sabbath workshop, which lasts from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., will include lunch and specific leadership workshops. Visit nehemiahnda.com to learn more and register.

VIRGINIA

August 24: Potomac Conference's EQUIP is an event designed to empower people to lead in their local church more effectively. The event offers more than 20 seminars that cover various topics, such as how to give effective Bible studies, build healthy relationships and be an effective church administrator. The seminar will be held at the New Market (Va.) church from 3-7:45 p.m. Click here to register. Deadline: Aug. 23

September 14-15: Potomac Conference's Women's Retreat, will focus on God's grace to us, how we show grace to others and how to move gracefully as women of God. Come for a weekend of spiritual, mental and physical refreshment in a wooded setting, amid tranquil paths with accommodations at the Westfield Marriott in Chantilly, Va. Click here to register. Deadline: September 4

WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 25: The Takoma Park Church is hosting their fifth annual Community Fun Day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This outreach project is absolutely FREE and open to the public. Live Christian music will fill the air as children, family, friends and community members participate in wholesome activities for the entire family; such as, moon bounce, games, face-painting, and a free neck and back massage. They will also serve grilled veggie dogs and popcorn. The church is located at 6810 Eastern Avenue Northwest in Washington, D.C.

ONLINE

September 11-14: The North American Division's Adult Ministries is hosting a virtual Festival of the Laity to equip church members for ministries for Sabbath School, Personal Ministries and Prison Ministries. Registration is free. To find out more information about this event, visit the Festival of Laity website and then register online.
“Today we gather to recognize the call of God on four of our own: Linda Farley, Lori Farr, Sandra Pappenfus and Carmen Seibold,” said Raj Attiken, Ohio Conference president. After 20 years of advocating for the ordination of women, Ohio Conference leaders officiated their first ordination celebration for women last Sabbath at the Worthington church. The action came as a result of overwhelming support from delegates at last year’s Columbia Union constituency session.

“These women took the road less traveled before it was mapped,” shared Daniel Kittle, principal at Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon. “They followed an inner call when the church body proclaimed that God did not have women in His gospel call book.”

In fact, none of the women sought their call; rather they followed God’s sacred call to gospel ministry. “I’m not a pastor because I chose it; I’m a pastor because He chose it,” said Farr, pastor of the Wooster district. “I fought Him and He won.”

Each of the women shared their individual stories of God affirming their call. Pappenfus, a hospital chaplain, shared her journey from a career in nursing to stay-at-home wife and mother to her reluctant entrance into pastoral ministry. “I told God I would go back to school if He would open up the door. Within two weeks I was in seminary,” said Pappenfus. “God has chosen me. He equips the called.”

Farley and Seibold are both hospital chaplains.

Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president, said, “I am regretful that it has taken the church so many years to acknowledge this. It is a historical moment today, and I’m privileged to be part of it.” He then quoted union secretary, Rob Vandeman who had previously said, “Shame on us that we have taken this long.”

The day offered hope to the next generation of young adults, some who may “officially” enter the ministry and some who may not. Joanna Moses, an 18-year-old sophomore at Andrews University (Mich.) is optimistic. “I’m blessed to call the Ohio Conference mine and those in it my friends. Unity and equality in Christ. How blessed we are!”

In reflecting the thoughts of many others that day, Attiken said, “We thank these humble, dedicated, courageous individuals who have shown our church that everyone has a voice.”
Click here to view a video of the service.

Leaders lay hands on Ohio Conference’s first group of ordained women ministers. Photo by Joanna Moses

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Please limit your comments to 500 words or less. Only one comment per person will be published.
WGTS Practices a Different Kind of Friendship Evangelism

Story and photos by Taashi Rowe Published 8/21/13

Milton and Margo Chappell, members of Sligo church, comfort a crying little girl at the prayer tent.

It’s a Sabbath afternoon and several Seventh-day Adventists can be found enjoying electric guitars, flashing strobe lights, praise and prayer along with 3,300 other people from disparate backgrounds and churches in Fairfax, Va. They are among the thousands attending DC Fest, a contemporary Christian concert featuring artists such as Jamie Grace, Matthew West, David Crowder, Audio Adrenaline and the Newsboys.

Several heard about the concert while listening to their favorite Christian radio stations such as WGTS 91.9 FM, which is owned by Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md. WGTS, which has an audience of 600,000, and about 41 percent of them are not connected to any religious organizations. “Our listeners love the music. They love Jesus but have been hurt by their church,” shared Terry Johnsson, DMin, the station’s senior chaplain. “So we have to think of creative ways to connect with these people. One of the natural ways we do that is by extending what we like to call friendship evangelism, where we meet them where they are.”

Where unchurched people—who happen to love Christian music—are at Christian concerts and community events, that’s where WGTS staffers often are too. (WGTS staffers were also at an ecumenical Christian women’s conference that weekend too.)

While at the concert, I ran into Jerry Woods, a member of Chesapeake Conference’s New Hope church in Fulton, Md., and a member of WGTS’ morning show who acts as the station’s promotions director. When I asked him why he found it important to be at a Christian concert on a Sabbath afternoon, he responded, “I love my church and I love being a Seventh-day Adventist, but it’s not the first thing I introduce people to. People need to know who Jesus is first, especially when they are addicted to crack or alcohol or whatever. At events like these, we have the opportunity to share some of our message, but it starts with who Jesus is. And, every band that takes the stage tonight is going to re-emphasize that.”

Prayer Lays the Foundation

But, WGTS staffers and volunteers, don’t just show up at events, they offer something else that people are hungry for: prayer. The station started their virtual Prayer Works ministry four years ago and invited listeners to send in requests over the Internet. Each Wednesday the station’s prayer volunteers gather to pray over 500 or so requests. It’s only natural that they would have a prayer tent at the concert, where they not only offered prayer, but also gave away Christian books.

I went by the tent twice and each time I witnessed, the prayer volunteers warmly and happily welcoming a different person. During my second stop, a young mother brought along her elementary-aged, auburn-haired daughter who was in tears. “We need prayer,” the mother said. Milton and Margo Chappell, members of the Sligo church, welcomed the two, offered tissues and prayed with them.

But they did more than pray. As I sat and watched the clock, the Chappells had a very long conversation with mom and daughter. I later realized that this was common for the prayer team.

“I really enjoy praying and fellowshipping with people,” said Colin Jeffers, a New Hope member who has served in the prayer tent for a couple of years. “It’s mostly about listening to people’s stories. There are a lot of sad stories, but also praises. It’s awesome to offer hope and prayer. That’s where the blessing is.”

Prithy David, a member of the New Hope church and prayer director at the station’s Gateway Fellowship service, said, “Some of the people who come to us are going through some really difficult times. If they are really having serious problems, we’ll have either Jerry or Chaplain Pete [Garza] talk to them. Last year I prayed and talked to a lady from Korea. She loves listening to [WGTS]. This year she came back and gave me a card to show her appreciation. … Prayer is an avenue to reach God. We also let [people] know that prayer is an important foundation of having a relationship with God.”
Johnsson reports that after Saturday’s concert, some 2,600 prayer requests have come in to the station. “These events really serve as boosters to remind people that not only are we there for the music, but we are also there to pray with them when they go through difficulties,” he says.

David says participating in events like this is something she wished more Adventist churches did. “This would be a great opportunity to have a booth here showcasing our university, magazine, etc. We have to think outside the box,” she said. “When Jesus was on Earth, He was going where people were. … Outreach means going to people and not just have them coming to our events.”

**Bridging the Gap**

WGTS staffers and volunteers take time to patiently build relationships with their listeners and when they see an opening, they invite them not to any of the traditional Adventist church services around the D.C. metro region, but to Gateway Fellowship. The contemporary service starts at 5 p.m. and is held each Sabbath at Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md.

“If they enjoy the service, we then invite them to attend two classes that we teach,” Johnsson said. “One is called ‘About Him,’ where we teach people about Jesus, how to pray and read the Bible. The second class, ‘About Us,’ is an in-depth study of Adventist beliefs. When we get to the part about Sabbath, many are excited and want to experience that, and so we’ll introduce them to one of our partner churches.”

Johnsson said that because of WGTS, 22 families joined various Adventist churches in the region last year.

**An Unexpected Proposal**

While she is not yet a Seventh-day Adventist, WGTS plays a large role in Jennifer Anderson’s faith walk. When I met her on Saturday, she shared that she recommitted her heart to Jesus at the first DC Fest concert about four years ago. It was around the same time that she started looking for a family-friendly radio station for her kids. “We would listen to my iPod because everything on the radio is terrible,” she said. “WGTS was the first family-friendly station found. I know there’s others but I love Jerry and Blanca [Vega], and the music is so uplifting.”

Anderson told me her story while linking arms with Brian Ducharme. They both wore neon green leis and huge grins because Ducharme had just proposed to a very surprised Anderson (see video) with the help of Woods at WGTS and the Newsboys. Anderson said “yes.”

Anderson, a fan of the Newsboys, purchased the concert tickets as a birthday gift for Ducharme, who is a Matthew West fan. “The Newsboys are the reason why I started my journey as a Christian,” she said. “For them to [help with the proposal], I was floored. I couldn’t believe it!”
Ducharme added, “It’s really amazing how God has blessed us and brought us together.”

Even though the two met in high school and have known each other for 17 years, they only started dating 1.5 years ago. “We were kind of at the same place with our faith when we both started going to church,” Ducharme said. “We’d go on Saturday to an Adventist church and Sunday to hers. God smoothed the way for her to accept the Adventist message. We are both becoming active in the church now.”

Ducharme, who grew up in the Adventist church, had been away and is now back and serving as the Men’s Ministries leader at Potomac’s Leesburg (Va.) church.

“The church is new to me,” said Anderson, who is involved in several ministries. “I’ve only been going for a year, but I will definitely get baptized as soon as I finish my Bible studies. I’ve been to churches before, but this is the first church where I’ve felt at home. This is what I’ve been waiting for my whole life.”

She added, “This is the first relationship that I’ve had where we’ve put God first, and it really shows in our lives.”

The pair said they find WGTS’ ministry a critical support to their faith. “We have been to some of the free concerts, and we are monthly supporters,” Brian said. “We feel like part of the family!”

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Potomac Church Builds Youth Faith “From the Ground Up”

Story by U Lun and Taashi Rowe Published 8/21/13

Two teens get ready for baptism at Sligo Church in Takoma Park, Md.

Most evangelism series have an end date in mind. But that is not the case with a youth evangelism series held at Potomac Conference’s Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md. “From the Ground Up—Hope Amidst Chaos,” the original series, focused on the great controversy raging on Earth and the hope Jesus brings. More than 200 attended making it clear that the series addressed a need for many. Thirty-nine people recommitted to Jesus, 31 requested Bible studies, 17 requested to get involved with ministry and 10 people decided to become members of Sligo.

“We had planned to end the series in July,” said Pranitha Fielder, the church’s associate pastor, “but I felt impressed to turn it into a weekly service for youth and young adults. I asked God to give me a sign if this was the direction to go.” A week into the series, Charles Tapp, senior pastor, approached her with the idea of implementing such a worship service. Determined to replicate the energy and enthusiasm of the series, Sligo pastors have now tripled the frequency of their youth and young adult church services. Instead of hosting a youth church once a month, a separate church is held at the same time as the main worship service.

Growing With Others

However, the evangelism series has not only impacted the young people but also called for the participation of several Sligo members who are further along in their spiritual walk.

“One of the young people in our group came to me and told me that she was really struggling to overcome some issues in her life,” Fielder said. “We prayed together but we both realized that wasn’t enough. That’s when we decided to set her up with a spiritual mentor. We are social creatures and God designed us to grow with other people.”

Elizabeth Wear, a retired professor who worked at nearby Washington Adventist University and member of Sligo church since 1980, accepted the call to mentorship. Wear and her mentee call each other every day at 6 a.m. and talk for about 15 minutes. “We try to keep each other accountable,” she says. “I don’t feel like I’m supposed to know more than she does. I’m just a conduit to get her to the right Mentor. I just like pointing people to God as the instructor and to the Bible as point of reference.”

Fielder, Debbie Eisele, the congregational pastor, and Erwin Mack, the head elder, are in the process of pairing up 18 young people with mentors. Fielder already sees the benefits of this program. She mentioned that one newly baptized teenager could have easily slipped through the cracks. As the only Christian in her family she had no support at home and none at school. But she now has someone who connects with her regularly and spends time getting to know her and her family.

“This is a very organic thing,” Fielder said. “It’s not a program we’re initiating but there are just people who had a need. … We are looking for deeply spiritual people who can love these kids and communicate grace to them not judge them.”

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Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

12 Get Healthy at Mountain View’s Wellness Camp

Story by V. Michelle Bernard Published 8/21/13

Pastor Daniel Morikone gives James Ray Strawderman a graduation certificate. Strawderman lost 8 pounds during the camp.

Twelve campers walked away from the Mountain View Conference’s Wellness Camp last week with the tools to totally transform their health.

During the 10-day camp at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va, volunteers led cardio exercise sessions, lectured on biblical health principles, served delicious vegan meals and provided support to help the campers continue these healthy habits.

The campers took advantage of those tools and lost an average of more than 6 pounds and dropped their blood sugar and cholesterol levels, says Pastor Daniel Morikone, camp director and director of the conference’s Health Ministries Department.

Morikone says they even had a camper who could only walk 527 feet at the beginning of camp. After the program she walked a full mile without any shortness of breath or pain, he says.

“You get out of the program proportionate to what you are willing to invest,” says program director Chris Hasse. “Total transformation? Yes, if you want that. A Band-Aid? Yes. If you only want that. Tools to change were abundant and powerful.”

Campers make progress on their health goals
- Average weight-loss was more than 6 pounds
- Average blood sugar drop was 14 points, or 12 percent
- Average cholesterol drop was more than 38 percent
- Average hsCRP drop was 29 percent (indicator of inflammation in the heart muscle and arteries)
- Two campers quit smoking

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Just like an after church fellowship lunch, **Potluck** is where members of the Columbia Union Conference can share what they've cooked up in terms of spiritually-based music, literature and arts. Have a book, recording or project to share? Email us at visitor@columbiaunion.net.

**Book Release: Building a Solid Foundation for Intimacy**

**Interview by Taashi Rowe Published 8/21/13**

Although he has been married for 28 years, it wasn’t his own marriage per se that got Jean-Michel Etienne, PhD, interested in writing his first book, *Building a Solid Foundation for Intimacy: A Practical Guide to Success in Marriage*. Etienne, a pastor of three New Jersey Conference churches, said it was his professors at the Newburgh Theological Seminary in Indiana, who encouraged him to turn his doctoral dissertation into something that could help struggling couples. He shares more about the book below:

**Q: What inspired you to write a book about marriage?**

**A:** I became interested in the topic because as a pastor I have been doing a lot of counseling for years. It’s also the part of my ministry that I enjoy the most—sitting down with people who are struggling in their marriages and helping them. I believe the deterioration of our society as a whole is leading to a lot more broken families and our churches are not exempt.

**Q: When you talk about intimacy in the book, what do you mean?**

**A:** I talk about all types of intimacy in the book. Companionship is the first and primary form of God-given intimacy. There is also sexual, intellectual, emotional and experiential intimacy. Sometimes we neglect one or more forms of intimacy but all of these are really necessary for a successful marriage.

**Q: Why do you think so many marriages fail?**

**A:** I believe that a lack of intimacy is one of the core causes. But any one of the following—a lack of communication, explosive anger, lack of boundaries, finances and an inability to properly deal with in laws and step families—can deal a lethal blow to any marriage. That is why I share tips in the book on how to deal with each of these issues.

The book is available in hard copy or as an e-book at Barnes and Noble, Amazon and outskirtspress.com/Etienne.

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How brightly does your church shine in the community? Can your neighbors “put a face” with our church name? Take our interactive quiz below to rate your church or check each statement that applies to your congregation, and identify what areas still need work:  

1. We answer the phone using our full name—“Seventh-day Adventist Church,” not “SDA”—so callers know which denomination they’ve contacted.
2. We use the official church logo on all print and electronic letterhead.
3. Our signage—featuring the newest church logo—is placed in a well-lit, easy-to-see location.
4. We provide brochures and other publications about the Adventist church in the lobby.
5. Our website is seeker-friendly: it’s easy to navigate and shares our mission, program information, directions and contact details.
6. We use social media sites (e.g., Facebook and Twitter) to engage friends and visitors.
7. We know our community officials and public servants and they know us. They’ve been invited to our church or school functions, holiday programs and potlucks.
8. We invite neighbors to community events and support other events with sponsorships or our attendance.
9. We maintain contact with public media and often send them event notifications and story ideas. **How does your church rate? Take our interactive quiz:**

**GET MORE**

**Going Public: 10 Ways to Raise Awareness of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Your Community** - Download it free in English or Spanish at [www.columbiaunion.org/communicationresources](http://www.columbiaunion.org/communicationresources) or watch the corresponding webinar, “Is Your Church Hiding?” at [webinars.adventsource.org](http://webinars.adventsource.org).

**Curb Appeal** — This 24-page booklet, with an accompanying PowerPoint on CD, teaches churches to send warm verbal and nonverbal messages to visitors. Order it, in English or Spanish, at [adventsource.org](http://adventsource.org) and refer to #250070.

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