Weekly News From Around the Columbia Union Conference

December 11, 2013

**Chesapeake Secretary Accepts Call to the Egypt-Sudan Field**

Kleyton Feitosa, executive secretary for the Chesapeake Conference, recently accepted a call to serve as president of the Egypt-Sudan Field. He has served on the Chesapeake ministry team for nine years, serving first as pastor of the Waldorf (Md.) church and then at the conference office as Ministries Development director. In 2011, he was elected executive secretary. “Elder Feitosa, his wife Delma, and their sons Derek and Malton will be greatly missed,” said Rick Remmers, conference president. “Please join the conference staff in prayer for many blessings and safety as they continue their ministry in another part of the world mission field.”
Ohio Youth “G.O.” and Serve

This past Sunday, youth from every corner of the Ohio Conference blanketed their neighborhoods with love. Young adults, youth, Pathfinders and Adventurers distributed homemade Christmas trees at nursing homes (pictured), sang carols, volunteered at a Ronald McDonald House, played board games with shut-ins and distributed hats, cookies and smoke-detector batteries in the community.

Young people involved in the Project G.O. initiative, whose first initials means "serve God by loving Others" were encouraged to find a way to be a blessing to their communities. "Everything Christ gives us is meant to be passed on to others — forgiveness, grace, resources and especially LOVE! There is always great temptation to become hoarders of what we're given. The more we practice giving away what Christ has given us, the healthier Christians we will become," explains Steve Carlson, conference Youth Ministries director. Click here to see more pictures from the day.

WAU Students Bring Church, Food to the Streets
One of Bithja Racine’s favorite Bible texts comes from 1 Corinthians 10:31, and it says, “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (NIV). So instead of rolling over to catch a few more winks of sleep, this text drove her to a kitchen at Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Md., at 3 a.m. on a Thursday. She was not alone. The junior counseling psychology major was joined by several of her fellow students. And throughout the day, in between classes, more students would help prepare a veritable feast that included rice and beans, macaroni and cheese, a special Haitian dish, lasagna, salad, steamed vegetables, patties and cakes.

After the students finished preparing the meal, they then packed it all up in vans and cars and took it down to Franklin Park, located at 14th and I streets in northwest Washington, D.C. They were met by scores of homeless people who often don’t have the luxury of a hot, home-cooked meal, a fact that becomes acutely obvious during the holiday season. Students met them with smiles and plates of hot food, but didn’t stop there. They also shared in an outdoor worship service featuring the university’s choir and drama teams and an uplifting word from guest speaker Kevin Sears from Atlantic Union College in Massachusetts.—Story by Taashi Rowe; Photos by Estefany Rivas

New Jersey Member Shares Testimony About Reversing Diabetes
John C. Butler was a practicing attorney in Woodbury, N.J., when type 2 diabetes ended his career and almost ended his life. Because of diabetes, he went blind in his left eye, had heart disease, high blood pressure and a long list of other complications. Butler, a member of New Jersey Conference’s Tranquility church, felt he would suffer the fate of both his parents and succumb to the disease. Fortunately, he discovered the God-given plan that has led him back to health!

He shared his testimony at the Tranquility church’s recent Health Ministries Day. In this powerful testimony, he recounted his trials and ultimate triumph over type 2 diabetes. The video is an hour-long but well worth watching.

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**Missing Woman is An Adventist**

Teleka Patrick, 33, of Kalamazoo, Mich., who hasn’t been seen since last Thursday is reportedly an Adventist. She was reported missing on December 6th when she failed to report for work in Michigan. Her car was found abandoned in Indiana. Patrick is the daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Matthias Patrick, former pastor and English Ministries director in the Greater New York Conference. Her family is asking for as many prayers as possible. They are also asking that if you have
any information about their daughter's whereabouts, to call the family at (347) 622-2571 or call the Kalamazoo Sheriff's Department at (269) 383-8821 (option 6).

**Documentary Highlights Adventist Schools**

The Spencerville Adventist Academy in Spencerville, Md., is one of eight Seventh-day Adventist schools featured in *The Blueprint: The Story of Adventist Education*, Martin Doblmeir’s new documentary for public television. Spencerville students score in the 80-90th percentile. *The Blueprint* makes the case that Spencerville is the rule, not the exception. The documentary will broadcast nationwide on PBS stations in early 2014. Pacific Press and Adventist Book Centers are offering a special introductory pricing. [Click here for more information on how to get your copy.](#)

**'Tis the Season to Give**

Whether you have 10 seconds or a week of free time to help someone this Christmas, you can give back. [Click here to see nine of our ideas.](#) Then, share your own ideas and projects on the [Columbia Union Visitor Facebook page](#).
Can a Magazine Impact Religious Liberty?

In this week's Talking About Freedom, Lincoln Steed, editor of LIBERTY magazine, shares how his award-winning and highly subscribed journal brings the cause of religious freedom to the attention of thought leaders in the United States and abroad.

Columbia Union Members in the News

Chance for iPad prize comes with donations in Cambridge
Shady Grove Hospital asks for community donations to pediatric unit
Washington Adventist Hospital eyes move to White Oak from ...

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARYLAND

December 12: The students of Sligo Adventist School in Takoma Park, Md., presents their Christmas program with the theme "O Little Christmas Town." The program starts at 7 p.m., at 8300 Carroll Avenue.

December 13: The students of Takoma Academy's Fine Arts department present "Great Joy," a musical and dramatic celebration of the birth of Christ. The program, under the direction of Lulu Mupfumbu, will feature the drama troupe, band, string ensemble, chorale and camerata. The program starts at 7 p.m. at 8120 Carroll Avenue in Takoma Park, Md.

December 14, 28: For those experiencing a loss through divorce, separation, illness, death, family trauma, job loss or moving to a new location, October through December can be very painful months. The temptation to feel incomplete, discouraged or even depressed can be overwhelming. For this reason, the Divorce Care Ministry at Seabrook is launching its "Surviving the Holidays" event. Both sessions start at 3:30 p.m. For more information or to sign up, send an email to divorceministry@seabrooksd.org.

December 14: The Spencerville Sanctuary Choir, under the direction of Dr. James Bingham, will present a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.
yearly tradition at the Spencerville church starting at 4 p.m. This concert service consists of carols for choir and congregation, interspersed with traditional readings to tell the story of the plan of salvation from the fall of Adam to the coming of Christ to this world to atone for the sins of mankind. Admission is free. The Spencerville church is located at 16325 New Hampshire Avenue in Silver Spring. Questions? Call (301) 384-2920.

December 15: The Sligo Adventist School in Takoma Park hosts their third annual Christmas Craft Fair and Small Business Showcase from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission is $1. Vendors are welcome at $35 a table. Inquire about early bird specials and applications online at sligoadventistschool.org under parent resources. For more information, call Heather Lunsford at (301) 434-1417.

December 15: The Wheaton church’s holiday banquet takes place from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Silver Spring Civic Center, which is located at One Veterans Place in Silver Spring, Md. The cost is $25 for each adult and $10 for kids 8 years and under. All proceeds benefit the Wheaton church’s building fund. For more information, send an email to wheatonsda@hotmail.com or visit wheatonsda.org.

December 15, 22: Grow in Praise, the Capital Brazilian Temple children’s choir, presents a concert this Sunday at 6 p.m., at the Spencerville Adventist Academy auditorium located at 2502 Spencerville Road (MD 198) in Spencerville, Md. The choir consists of 40 children, age 4-12. They have recorded a CD titled Jesus is My Friend featuring songs about the life of Jesus. The choir will sing again on Sunday, December 22, at 2 p.m., at the Potomac Adventist Book Center where their new CD will be released. The Potomac Adventist Book Center is located at 12004 Cherry Hill Road in Silver Spring, Md. For additional details, call Pastor Jimmy Cardoso at (301) 917-5452.

December 16: The Atholton Adventist Academy Christmas program originally scheduled for Thursday evening, Dec. 12, has been rescheduled to Monday, December 16, at 6:45 p.m. The school is located at 6520 Martin Road in Columbia, Md.

December 19: The Crossroads Adventist Preparatory School invites you to join them as they take a musical trip through time to discover the true gift of Christmas. Through a variety of time periods, audience members learn that the greatest commandment is to love God with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves. The program begins at 7 p.m., and the school is located at 3291 Saint Johns Lane in Ellicott City, Md.

TV

December 22, 29: The WORLD, public television’s signature non-fiction documentary, science and news network will broadcast both The ADVENTISTS and The ADVENTISTS 2 film in December, a month dedicated to programming focused on religion and spirituality. Click on the names of each of the following documentaries for more information: The ADVENTISTS will air Sunday December 22 at 9 p.m. (EST) and The ADVENTISTS 2 will air Sunday December 29 at 9 p.m. (EST).

The 2013 Christmas Special, "Miracle at Gate 213," is this year’s Adventist media entry to seasonal network television. The plot finds travelers stranded at an airport on Christmas Eve and shares the personal journey of each
unfolding through miracles at Gate 213. Adventist messages will air in commercial spots within the program. Contact your local NBC station and encourage them to air “Miracle at Gate 213” during the Christmas holidays. This full-hour program is FREE to NBC stations nationwide this year. The film features well-known actors Louis Gossett Jr., Shirley Jones and Della Reese. Watch the 30-second promo on the Miracle at Gate 213 and visit the Facebook page for information about the film.

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WAU Students Bring Church, Food to the Streets

Story by Taashi Rowe; Photos by Estefany Rivas Published 12/11/13

A homeless woman joins WAU students for the praise segment of their outreach.

One of Bithja Racine’s favorite Bible texts comes from 1 Corinthians 10:31, and it says, “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (NIV). So instead of rolling over to catch a few more winks of sleep, this text drove her to a kitchen at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., at 3 a.m. on a Thursday morning. She was not alone. The junior counseling psychology major was joined by several of her fellow students. And throughout the day, in between classes, more students would help prepare a veritable feast that included rice and beans, macaroni and cheese, a special Haitian dish, lasagna, salad, steamed vegetables, potatoes and cakes. After the students finished preparing the meal, they then packed it all up in vans and cars and took it down to Franklin Park, located at 14th and I streets in northwest Washington, D.C. They were met by scores of homeless people who often don’t have the luxury of a hot, home-cooked meal, a fact that becomes acutely obvious during the holiday season. Students met them with smiles and plates of hot food, but didn’t stop there. They also shared in an outdoor worship service featuring the university’s choir and drama teams and an uplifting word from guest speaker Kevin Sears from Atlantic Union College in Massachusetts. Why did the students do all this? It would have been more cost-effective and less time-consuming for the students to just distribute sandwiches. They had classes, some have jobs and around 90 percent of them rely on Pell Grants to help with their tuition. We wanted to “help those who have no place to sleep, no food to eat and to help those who need clothing especially when it is cold,” Racine explained. Carl Bienvenu, senior theology major, added, “It’s simple! I believe that bringing ‘the church’ to people is something we as people of God need to do more. Just as Christ practiced an incarnate ministry and brought the message to the streets, we have the opportunity and blessing of doing the same.” Kaneil Williams, a campus chaplain, observed, “Our students have big hearts. They even raised an additional $300 to supplement the cost of the food.” Cheryl Kisunzu, provost, saw the event as “a portrait of integration of faith and learning. Students’ love for Christ and commitment to the highest standards of professionalism were demonstrated in acts of worship and esteem, which fed both body and soul.” The students received support from staff members at the university, nearby Sligo church and Community Bridges, a volunteer community organization. The students already reach out to the homeless in the community on a monthly basis, but this—which they call “Praise N the Park,” was definitely on a larger scale—one they plan to replicate at least once a semester. Aaliyah Payton, a freshman education major, who was one of the 110 students who participated, said after this experience her life will never be the same. “My favorite moment was when the homeless lady went up front and joined the praise team,” she recalled. “Students encouraged her and gave her a microphone. How students made her feel will probably be something she will never forget. It showed me that my selection in Washington Adventist University was truly God-driven. Where else would you see something like this?”

WAU students worship with locals who have no homes of their own.

Folks wait in line for a home-cooked meal prepared by WAU students.

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.
You can change the world a little—or a lot. Here are some ways you can use your time to impact others this holiday season:

If you have 1 Minute: Surprise your waitress/waiter with a note to thank them for their great service.

If you have 5 Minutes: Pay for the person behind you in a drive-thru line. Log on to WGTS 91.9 and click on “Drive-Thru Difference” for their details. Get more ideas here: http://tinyurl.com/p2gz5g2

Bertha Tshungu and Linda Granato like this.

Columbia Union Visitor How are you giving back this holiday season?

December 11 at 1:33pm
CAMBRIDGE — The Cambridge Adventist Church, in collaboration with Cambridge Main Street and local businesses, is accepting donations of food and other items for those in need through 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20.

Donations are being collected at participating stores in downtown Cambridge, with one raffle ticket for the chance to win an iPad for every three items donated. Needed items include baby products, non-perishable food items, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bath soap and deodorant.

Drawing for the iPad will be held at the 11 a.m service of Cambridge Adventist Church Saturday, Dec. 21. You do not have to be present to win. For more information, visit the website cambridgesdachurch.org.
**Shady Grove Hospital asks for community donations to pediatric unit**


Thursday, December 5, 2013 - Metro News by Rahat Husain


Photo: Children receive gifts in a hospital (AP)

Rahat Husain

**Ask me a question.**

**WASHINGTON**, December 5, 2013 — Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville, Md. is asking community members to donate gifts directly to young patients of the hospital through an Amazon.com wish list. The list includes items such as diapers, onesies, clothes, toys, stuffed animals, and more.

“You can just purchase from our Amazon Pediatric Wishlist ([http://www.PediatricWishes.com](http://www.PediatricWishes.com)) and the items will be delivered straight to the Shady Grove Pediatrics Department!”

The hospital says that the wish list is not merely for the holiday season, and is maintained throughout the year. Items from the wish list are as low as 2 dollars for some items, and are shipped directly to the hospital, which then distributes the received donations to patients and their families.

Dr. Neha Gajjar, the hospital’s Pediatric Medical Director, says the wish list is critical for patients and their parents. The hospital has created a promotional video for the project, which can be viewed on [YouTube](http://www.youtube.com).

In an effort to promote anonymity of donors who wish it, Shady Grove Adventist has instituted a series of policies to help and protect individuals giving donations. The hospital has established “The Donors Bill of Rights”, which says the following:
“Philanthropy is based on voluntary action for the common good. It is a tradition of giving and sharing that is primary to the quality of life. To ensure that philanthropy merits the respect and trust of the general public, and that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in the nonprofit organizations and causes they are asked to support, we declare that all donors have these rights:

1. To be informed of the organization’s mission, of the way the organization intends to use donated resources, and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes.

2. To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization’s governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgment in its stewardship responsibilities.

3. To have access to the organization’s most recent financial statements.

4. To be assured their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given.

5. To receive appropriate acknowledgement and recognition.

6. To be assured that information about their donation is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law.

7. To expect that all relationships with individuals representing organizations of interest to the donor will be professional in nature.

8. To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organization or hired solicitors.

9. To have the opportunity for their names to be deleted from mailing lists that an organization may intend to share.

10. To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful and forthright answers.”

The hospital also maintains a similar “E-Donor Bill Of Rights,” derived from the above list.

Individuals wishing to donate can visit the Amazon gift wish list by going to www.PediatricWishes.com

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Rahat Husain has been working as a columnist since 2013 when he joined the Communities. With an interest in America and Islam, Rahat is a prolific writer on contemporary and international issues.

In addition to writing for the Communities, Rahat Husain is an Attorney based in the Washington DC Metropolitan area. He is the Director of Legal and Policy Affairs at UMAA Advocacy. For the past six years, Mr. Husain has worked with Congressmen, Senators, federal agencies, think tanks, NGOs, policy institutes, and academic experts to advocate on behalf of Shia Muslim issues, both political and humanitarian. UMAA hosts one of the largest gatherings of Shia Ithna Asheri Muslims in North America at its annual convention.

Contact Rahat Husain
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Washington Adventist Hospital eyes move to White Oak from Takoma Park

by Sarah Scully Staff writer

Takoma Park residents concerned about having emergency services

by Sarah Scully Staff writer

Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park is making its second bid since 2006 to move to a larger campus in White Oak in Silver Spring.

The hospital would move most services to White Oak, maintaining some, but not emergency services, in Takoma Park. President Joyce Newmyer says the hospital’s operations are unsustainable in its current location, which is too small and outdated.

The hospital opened in 1907 as Montgomery County’s first hospital, spokeswoman Diana Troese wrote in the current Takoma Park Newsletter. Over the years, it has grown to a 252-bed hospital on 13 acres. It is owned by Adventist Healthcare of Gaithersburg, which also owns Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville and other medical facilities in the county.

“It is simply too expensive and impractical to renovate in place,” Newmyer said. Only 9 of the 13 acres are suitable for building, and all are in use. Rebuilding on the Takoma Park site would require a complete shutdown of the hospital, she said.

The project would cost $373 million, including $33 million in renovations to the existing Takoma Park campus. The new White Oak facility would have 201 beds on a 49-acre site, and would open in late 2018, pending local and state approval. It would have fewer beds, but the hospital wants to expand outpatient services.

The hospital has 1,300 employees and would hire more to staff the new facility.

Adventist withdrew its first application for a Certificate of Need from the state when the reviewing commissioner recommended that the Maryland Health Care Commission, which has the final say, deny it.

On Monday, Newmyer presented plans to the Takoma Park City Council, which expects to issue a resolution in the coming months with a position on the plans. The revised plan offers more details and calls for fewer beds at slightly less cost than the 2006 application.

Residents also listened to the presentation and offered feedback to hospital administrators and the council. Residents’ primary concern was that emergency services would be moved to the new location.

Services remaining in Takoma Park would include behavioral health, the women’s center, an inpatient rehabilitation unit, physician offices, a new federally qualified health care center, and several other clinics and outpatient services. Patients still could receive walk-in primary care.

About 55,000 of the 126,000 square feet would be leased to Washington Adventist University for about $1.5 million annually. The size of facilities across both locations would increase to 428,000 square feet, more than three times the size of the current hospital.

Newmyer said that due to Montgomery County’s moratorium on new free-standing emergency care facilities, it is impossible to keep emergency services in Takoma Park if the new hospital is built. The moratorium expires in 2015, but representatives from the Health Care Commission have told her not to include emergency services in the plan for Takoma Park because it will be denied.

Although the two campuses will be considered one hospital, she still was told the plan would not be accepted.

Still, residents urged the hospital and city staff to look into options to keep emergency services available, saying that in a life-threatening situation, patients might not survive a longer ambulance ride to White Oak.

The new site is about 6.7 miles northeast of the current hospital — about a 16-minute drive by Google maps’ estimate, though faster in an...
ambulance.

“They’ve probably save my life, twice, probably because they were close,” resident Barbara Muhlbacher said of Washington Adventist.

More information is available on the city’s website, and comments can be submitted to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov or sent to Clerk at 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912.

sscully@gazette.net