Weekly News From Around the Columbia Union Conference

December 18, 2013

Columbia Union Members Bid Farewell to Two Adventist Book Stores

At the end of this year, Seventh-day Adventists in the Pennsylvania and Ohio conferences will see two Adventist Book Centers (ABC) close—one in Mount Vernon, Ohio (pictured)—the other in Hamburg, Pa. The closures come as a result of the Idaho-based Pacific Press Publishing Association’s (PPPA) decision early this fall to end a management agreement of some 17 ABCs across the North American Division.

PPPA, which purchased the ABCs from local conferences starting as early as 1996, sent letters to conference leaders sharing that they found operating the ABCs “…unsustainable in light of technology trends and changing patterns of members accessing information.”

Both conferences are encouraging members to find devotional and other reading resources at adventistbookcenter.com, adventistebooks.com or order them via (800) 765-6955.—Story by Tamyra Horst and Heidi Shoemaker
Reporter’s Inquiry: How do You Feel About the ABCs Closing?

Readers, we at the Visitor are working on a more in-depth article about the Adventist Book Centers closing. How does their closing impact you and your family? Where are you now getting books, veggie meat and other Adventist materials? Share your thoughts with us on Facebook or at visitor@columbiaunion.net.

Washington Adventist Hospital and FDA Expand Collaboration

The Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) and Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH), which has plans to relocate to White Oak, Md., near the FDA campus, announced last week that they have entered into an agreement to collaborate on drug evaluation and research.

“This continuing partnership is beneficial to the mission of both organizations ... We look forward to exploring the new opportunities that result from this collaboration,” said John Whyte, MD, MPH, CDER’s director of professional affairs and stakeholder engagement.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the hospital and the CDER is the second such agreement between the organizations. In January 2009, an overarching MOU was signed to support medical and scientific progress affecting human health and medicine.

Pictured is Joyce Newmyer (center, left), WAH president, shaking hands with Melanie Keller, executive officer and director of the FDA’s Office of Management.

—Story by Lydia Parris

HVCA Students Exceed Goal to Help Children Around the World

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Despite the fact that they didn’t quite reach their goal of packing 300 boxes for Operation Christmas Child in 2012 (they packed 286), this year students of Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy (HVCA) in Huntingdon Valley, Pa., decided to pack 500 boxes.

For the past 10 years, HVCA students have packed shoeboxes full of items a child would enjoy or need to send to children around the world. After several years of going to a packing center, HVCA students and teachers decided to pack the boxes in the school gym. When the dust had settled and every item was packed, students had exceeded their high goal! They packed 612 gifts of love to share with children they’ll never meet but care about. “It’s more than just a gift,” said Rick Bianco, HVCA principal. “It’s a way of sharing Jesus.”

Keren and Carolino are pictured showing the contents of a box they packed that will delight a needy child.—Story by Tamyra Horst

Waldorf Members Witness Through Live Nativity
This past weekend, members of Chesapeake Conference's Waldorf church continued a 40-year tradition and held a live nativity. However, this time, they held it at the local fairgrounds as part of the first Kris Kringle Christmas Market of Charles County, Maryland.

Because the church's nativity is a community tradition, families returned to see it year after year. However Volodymyr Grinchenko, church pastor, says that when organizers approached him to ask the church to bring the nativity to the market, he saw an opportunity to “put Christ back in Christmas.” Church members rallied to help with the event, and several volunteered for the roles of Mary, Joseph, wise men and shepherds.

Pictured are Waldorf members Hope Butler and Ernest and Maria Hernandez.

Meadow View Junior Academy Presents Christmas Program
Friday, December 13, was a day of celebration for the students, teachers and staff of New Jersey Conference’s Meadow View Junior Academy in Chesterfield. It was time to celebrate the birth of the King of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus Christ.

More than 70 children from grades 1 through 9 sang, played their instruments and dramatized the Christmas story for parents and friends. Audience members laughed and cried with the students as they shared a fun and spiritual “Bible Bee.”—Story by Cristina Macena

Olney Prep Students Visit the White House
On a cold morning, when the weather forecast called for 100 percent rain, nothing could dampen the spirits of the second-, third- and fourth-graders at Potomac Conference’s Olney Adventist Preparatory School in Olney, Md. The students were among the first to visit the White House, which was all decked out for the holidays.

The students, teachers and chaperones stood eagerly in the rain, waiting for their security check. Finally, after being properly identified, the Obama family dogs—Bo, the shiny, black Portuguese Water Spaniel with white feet, and his new little sister, Sunny—greeted the group at the east visitor entrance.

After being enveloped in the wonderful Christmas scent of lush, green garlands and gleaming gold vines on the pillars, Olney Prep students saw was a tribute to military families. It was a Christmas tree decorated in red, white and blue ornaments. Along the wide hallways and floor-to-ceiling windows, were portraits of the Obamas and celebrations of Christmases past.—Story by Michelle O’Reilly

READ MORE ON THE POTOMAC CONFERENCE WEBSITE

Allegheny West Students Serve Pancakes to Pastors
Students at Allegheny West Conference schools—Columbus Adventist Academy (CAA) in Columbus, Ohio, and Ramah Junior Academy in Cleveland—recently decided to do something neither had done before. They sent invitations, some of them handwritten, to their area pastors asking for their attendance at an appreciation brunch hosted by their schools.

Students literally rolled out red carpets to celebrate their pastors and showered them with praises, singing and applause. Pastors from all across each city and from various denominations say they were delighted to see where the children of their churches attend school, and also enjoyed the opportunity to fellowship with their colleagues.

"This was a moving moment in ministry, receiving the appreciation of my school-aged children," expressed Harry Britt, pastor of the Present Truth church in Cleveland. Pictured is Jeremy Anderson, who pastors a nondenominational church in Columbus, greeting two of his students who attend CAA.—Story by Bryant Taylor

WAU Leaders Break Ground for New Athletic Field
A recent groundbreaking for a new athletic field at Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Md., made way for a long overdue extreme makeover. The new field will host men’s and women’s soccer, intramural activities and community group activities. “On this new field, we will not only build muscles, but also character and good sportsmanship,” said Patrick Crarey, WAU athletic director.

Those present at the groundbreaking included Weymouth Spence, president; Dave Weigley, chair of the WAU board; Jarrett Smith, City of Takoma Park council member; and Terrill North, candidate for the Montgomery County Council. The field will be completed in April.

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**Spring Valley Students Welcome Pastor Rojas**
They say imitation is the highest form of flattery and that seemed to be the case when students at Spring Valley Academy in Centerville, Ohio, recently donned "mustaches" to greet Pastor José Rojas. The former director of the North American Division's Office of Volunteer Ministries, well-known for his thick mustache, recently served as the school's guest speaker during chapel.

In his more than 30 years of service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Rojas has visited more than 600 Adventist schools across the NAD. "Our children were captivated by his charisma and the powerful testimonials he shared from his own life experiences!" said Brook Wong, SVA chaplain.—Story by Vicki Swetnam

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5K Baptized Due to NY13, World Church Membership Passes 18M

As a result of NY13, the yearlong evangelism effort to reach people living in the New York metropolitan area, some 4,901 persons were baptized this year, announced Don King, president of the Atlantic Union Conference and chair of the NY13 committee. Over the course of this year, more than 2,000 Bible workers and 1,500 medical missionaries were trained. There were 400 meetings, which included some 30 sites in New Jersey. Some 100 evangelists came to New York to lead out in evangelistic meetings, and more than 5,000 intercessors prayed throughout the entire time the meetings were held.

NY13 baptisms have helped push membership in the Seventh-day Adventist Church to just over 18 million. As of September 30, 2013, according to the Church's Archives, Statistics and Research department, there were 18,028,796 Seventh-day Adventists worldwide.—Story by Visitor Staff/Mark Kellner

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Remembrance: Vernon Luthas Credited as a Kettering Adventist HealthCare Pioneer

In addition to his family, staff members of Kettering Adventist HealthCare (KAHC)
system based in Kettering, Ohio, are in mourning over the loss of one of their key founders. Vernon Luthas, MD, passed away December 9 at the age of 85.

Luthas, who was one of Kettering Medical Center’s first physicians and founder of Kettering Anesthesia Associates, is credited for sharing his “wisdom and resources” in laying the foundation for Kettering Hospital, Spring Valley Academy in Centerville and churches in the Dayton area and overseas. “He was a missionary wherever he went,” said Fred Manchur, KAHC president. “His love for God and others showed on his face and flowed from his heart to everyone he met. His medical practice, full of unselfish ministry, blessed patient after patient.”

A memorial service honoring his life of service and ministry is planned for January 18, 2014 at 4 p.m. at the Centerville church.—Story by Kettering Adventist HealthCare Staff

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**Professor Works to Make the Bible Accessible to Today’s Russians**

“The passage in Genesis where it says the Lord created the world in six days and He rested, the word the translators used for ‘rested’ currently means ‘passed away,’” explained Mikhail Kulakov, who is currently on Sabbatical from Washington Adventist University.

On the December 23 Talking About Freedom podcast, Kulakov talks with host Walter Carson, Columbia Union general counsel, about his work leading a team that is translating the Bible into contemporary Russian-language. He took on the project first started by his father, who noticed that the most recent translation of the Bible into Russian was done in 1876. Kulakov also describes the improved status of religious liberty and church-state separation in the former the Soviet Union. Click here for more.
Allegheny East to Stream New Year’s Eve Program

On New Year’s Eve, around 5 p.m., members of the Allegheny East Conference (AEC) are invited to log on to visitaec.com to view a live streaming program presented by conference leaders. The program will include greetings from presidents of the General Conference, North American Division, the Columbia Union and AEC, is also an opportunity for leaders to share with members their plans to bring the camp meeting theme “What Shall I Render?” into 2014. AEC President Henry Fordham (pictured) will also share his plans for evangelism, education and stewardship in the conference. AEC churches are also invited to send in their own 30-second-long videos by December 29 to aecmediacenter@gmail.com. Click here to learn more.

2014 Visitor Calendar Features Senior Members
Miguel Hernandez, 91, is one of 16 Columbia Union senior members featured in this year’s Visitor Calendar. In this issue, titled Words of Wisdom, we asked members who are enjoying their golden years to share their favorite Bible verses and some valuable lessons they’ve learned along the way.

Hernandez, a member of Potomac Conference’s Langley Park Spanish church in Takoma Park, Md., believes in staying involved. “There is no age limit for serving in your church,” says Hernandez, who still serves as a deacon. He has always been fascinated by Jesus’ life, and found a lot of meaning in the text, “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

Each month we plan to feature a senior on Facebook page. For extra copies of the calendar, email bweigley@columbiaunion.net.

**Visitor Calendar 2014 con los miembros mayores**
Miguel Hernández, 91, y Juan Sánchez, 93, son algunos de los 16 miembros mayores de Columbia Union que aparecerán en el Visitor Calendar de este año. En esta entrega titulada Words of Wisdom [palabras de sabiduría] pedimos a los miembros que disfrutan de sus años dorados que compartan sus versículos bíblicos favoritos y algunas lecciones valiosas que aprendieron con los años.

Hernández y Sánchez, ambos miembros de la iglesia hispana Langley Park en Takoma Park, Md., Potomac Conference, permanecen activos. Cada mes queremos presentar un miembro mayor en nuestro sitio web y en nuestra página de Facebook: facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor. Si quieres copias adicionales del calendario, contáctate con Becky Weigley en bweigley@columbiaunion.net.

Join the Conversation: Jesus Versus Santa?
It's Christmastime and Santa, a character known for delivering gifts to millions of children around the world in one night, is again attracting attention. Gabrielle Baker, who along with her family attend Mountain View Conference's Braxton (W.Va.) church, has been pondering Santa's similarities to Jesus. Baker says, "Santa is an imposter who imitates Jesus Christ … [and tries to] replace who Jesus is, what Jesus does and what He will do."

Baker notes that both Jesus and Santa live in the "north," sit on a throne, have white hair, travel faster than light and come as a thief in the night. However, according to Baker, that's where the similarities end. While Jesus has ministering angels, Santa has elves; while Jesus keeps the names of the righteous in the Book of Life, Santa keeps names of good and bad people and rewards or punishes them accordingly; and while Jesus wants to find us spiritually awake, Santa only comes when children are asleep.

Interestingly at the concluding program for the yearlong NY13 evangelism outreach, Ted N.C. Wilson, General Conference president, also talked about Santa. "Christmas is not about Santa, it is about a Savior," he said. "Santa may make you laugh but Jesus gives you every lasting joy."

What do you think about the Jesus versus Santa comparison? Join the conversation on Facebook!

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**End Quote: Christmas Unwrapped**
“Boycott Christmas!” I gasped, staring with disbelief at the words on my computer screen. My browsing had led me to a website bidding me to join the ‘Christmas Resistance Movement’ and rebel against the consumerism and materialism of the holidays.

In my heart, I reflected on my own family’s holiday rituals, and I had to admit, for the most part, that we, too, had fallen into the excesses of Christmas consumerism. Except for my daughter, Grace. She had recently broken the ranks by announcing that, in lieu of gifts for herself, she wanted family and friends to make donations so she could participate in a spring break mission trip to the Dominican Republic, where she could serve, give and meet the needs of others. Her example was a powerful reminder to me about the real reason for the season.”—Frank Bondurant, Columbia Union Conference vice president for Ministries Development

READ MORE

There will not be a December 25 Visitor News Bulletin. The next issue comes out January 1, 2014.
UPCOMING EVENTS

MARYLAND

December 19: Sligo Adventist School invites all to attend their annual Christmas concert, which was rescheduled due to inclement weather. The concert will now be held on Thursday, at 7 p.m. in the school's gymnasium at 8300 Carroll Avenue in Takoma Park. For more information, contact the school office at (301) 434-1417.

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.

December 20: The Willow Brook Pathfinder Club's Christmas program, themed "Testify of Christmas," takes place at 7 p.m. at the Willow Brook church. Enjoy a vespers filled with music, unique drama and testimony. Team members come from over a half a dozen Adventist congregations as well as children of other denominations who share in the joy of professing their faith in Christ. The church is located at 8916 Mapleview Road in Boonsboro, Md.

December 21: The Takoma Park (Md.) church presents their Christmas concert themed “A Coming Savior” with music focused on the first advent of Jesus. The choirs will sing music from budding composer, Victor C. Johnson’s cantata, “Bethlehem’s Child” along with Christmas renditions from Andrae Crouch, Pepper Chopin, Rosephanye Powell and other arrangements. These will all be interspersed with narration and carols and accompanied by orchestra, piano, organ and host of others. Admission is free. The program begins at 6 p.m. and will be followed by a free reception. The church is located at 6951 Carroll Avenue in Takoma Park.

December 21: Miracle Temple presents their 19th annual Christmas Cantata with a live symphony Orchestra starting at 11 a.m. All will be welcomed. The church is located at 100 South Rock Glen Road in Baltimore.

December 21-22: The Dover Diamonds Pathfinder Club presents an outdoor nativity at the Dover church in Dover, Del. There will be three showings each evening with the first showing at 6:30 p.m. Highlights include singing, crafts for kids and food for purchase. Proceeds will be used to help Pathfinders attend an international Pathfinder camporee in Wisconsin. The church is located at 647 Wyoming Avenue. For more information, call (302) 358-0520 or (302) 358-0526.

December 22: Grow in Praise, the Capital Brazilian Temple children's choir, will sing at 2 p.m., at the Potomac Adventist Book and Health Food Store where their new CD will be released. The choir consists of 40 children, aged 4-12. They have recorded a CD titled Jesus is My Friend featuring songs about the life of Jesus. 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 22: C.D. Brooks will sign copies of his new book, *C.D.: The Man Behind The Message*, at the Potomac Adventist Book and Health Food Store in Silver Spring, Md., from 2 to 4 p.m. The store is located at 12004 Cherry Hill Road.

December 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 in Lanham, Md. at 3:30 p.m. For more information or to sign up, send an email to divorceministry@seabrooksda.org.

**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.

**OVERSEAS**

February 13-19: Young adults invited to participate in the North American Division's Ignition Mission Trip to Haiti. The trip will take young people to a Restore a Child orphanage. Young adults can also continue on to the Ignition Convention in Miami that starts on February 19. For more information on joining the trip, contact Gael Murray at Gael.Murray@nad.adventist.org.
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Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Columbia Union Members Bid Farewell to Two Adventist Book Stores

Story by Tamyra Horst and Heidi Shoemaker Published 12/17/2013

The Ohio Conference Adventist Book Center will close on December 31, 2013.

At the end of this year, Seventh-day Adventists in the Pennsylvania and Ohio conferences will see two Adventist Book Centers (ABC) close—one in Mount Vernon, Ohio—the other in Hamburg, Pa. The closures come as a result of the Idaho-based Pacific Press Publishing Association’s (PPPA) decision early this fall to end a management agreement of some 17 ABCs across the North American Division. PPPA, which purchased the ABCs from local conferences starting as early as 1996, sent letters to conference leaders sharing that they found operating the ABCs “…unsustainable in light of technology trends and changing patterns of members accessing information.” They also offered the conferences an opportunity to repurchase the stores. In a letter to Pennsylvania Conference members, Ray Hartwell, conference president, wrote, “A study of the financial reports for the ABC found that they had been operating in the red for several years. Our executive committee fully considered stepping in and resuming operation of the ABC in its current context. After much discussion and prayer, the committee decided that a different model for giving members access to Adventist materials was needed along with a ministry that offered a missional approach to reach the lost.” Conference leaders are still discussing ways to best meet this need. Both conferences are encouraging members to find devotional and other reading resources at adventistbookcenter.com, adventistebooks.com or order them via (800) 765-6955.

“We have appreciated the wide range of services that the PPPA has provided our membership through the ABC,” observed Raj Attiken, Ohio Conference president.

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.
Joyce Newmyer, WAH president, shakes hands with Melanie Keller, MBA, executive officer and director of the FDA's Office of Management. Both are flanked by representatives from WAH and the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

The Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) and Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH), which has plans to relocate to White Oak, Md., near the FDA campus, announced last week that they have entered into an agreement to collaborate on drug evaluation and research.

“This agreement builds on the existing relationship between the FDA and Washington Adventist Hospital by allowing additional collaboration with the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research,” said John Whyte, MD, MPH, CDER’s director, professional affairs and stakeholder engagement. “This continuing partnership is beneficial to the mission of both organizations, particularly CDER’s responsibility to protect patients by assuring the safety, effectiveness and security of human drugs. We look forward to exploring the new opportunities that result from this collaboration.”

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the hospital and the CDER is the second such agreement between the organizations. In January 2009, an overarching MOU was signed to support medical and scientific progress affecting human health and medicine. The organizations are working together now and expect areas of cooperation will be expanded over time when the hospital relocation to White Oak is complete.

WAH President Speaks to City Council
Joyce Newmyer, WAH president, shared information on the hospital’s proposed relocation plan with the Takoma Park City Council and community members at a public hearing on December 9. “The new facility will be located off major connecting roads with enhanced public transportation options, dramatically improving access for the communities we serve,” she explained. “In addition to not being a cost-effective solution, rebuilding on our current campus will cause great disruption to our patients, staff and community because of nighttime demolition.”
comment per person will be published.
On a cold morning, the forecast for 100% rain, nothing could dampen the spirits of Olney Adventist Preparatory School’s second, third, and fourth graders as they prepared to visit the White House, all decked out for the holidays. This would put them among the first visitors for the holiday season, right after Mrs. Obama welcomed the military families.

The students, teachers and chaperones stood eagerly in the rain, waiting for their security check. Finally, after being properly identified, they were greeted at the East Visitor Entrance by Bo, the shiny, black Portuguese Water Spaniel with white feet, and his new little sister, Sunny—the Obama family dogs.

After being enveloped in the wonderful Christmas scent of the lush, green garland and gleaming gold vines on the pillars, the first tree
Olney Prep students saw was a tribute to military families. It was decked out in red, white and blue ornaments. Along the wide hallways and floor to ceiling windows, were portraits of the Obamas and celebrations of Christmases past. Next, they saw two life-sized replicas of the Portuguese water dogs, made out of black satin ribbon. The dogs were even wagging their tails and waving hello!

From there, Olney Prep entered the East Room! What a sight! There were ornate gold and crystal chandeliers hanging from the ceiling and four Christmas trees strategically placed around a grand wooden table.

The Red and Green Rooms were beautiful, but the official White House Christmas Tree prominently took center stage in the Blue Room. It was strewn with decorations, pictures, and letters honoring our military families as it reached up and touched the ceiling.

The highlight of the State Dining Room was a gingerbread replica of the White House, complete with miniatures Sunny and Bo, centrally displayed on the fireplace mantle. After a few more pictures with some of the White House staff members whose students either previously or currently attend Olney Prep, it was time to leave. Once again, without worry for the rain that met them as they left, Olney Prep students said goodbye. They had a wonderful time that will be etched in their memories and hearts forever.

By Michelle O’Reilly, teacher
"Boycott Christmas!" I gasped, staring with disbelief at the words on my computer screen. My browsing had led me to a website bidding me to join the “Christmas Resistance Movement” and rebel against the consumerism and materialism of the holidays. In my heart, I reflected on my own family’s holiday rituals, and I had to admit, for the most part, that we, too, had fallen into the excesses of Christmas consumerism. Except for my daughter, Grace. She had recently broken the ranks by announcing that, in lieu of gifts for herself, she wanted family and friends to make donations so she could participate in a spring break mission trip to the Dominican Republic, where she could serve, give and meet the needs of others. Her example was a powerful reminder to me about the real reason for the season. The Blessing of Giving

Acts 20:35 says: “I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (NKJV).

This year amidst the steady, pounding drum beat of holiday consumerism and materialism, a different spirit vies for our attention—the spirit of giving. Recent scientific research has drawn a strong link between giving and happiness. Giving makes us feel happier and can actually improve our health. When we give, whether it be donations of money, random acts of kindness or service, we are happier, healthier and enjoy a greater sense of well-being. Many people will give during the holidays, and they will be happier because of it. Will you be one of them? When we give to others, our own hearts become “unscrooged.”

I’m not ready to boycott Christmas, but I hope above the din of the holidays, I will hear and respond to God’s call for me to be a giver. He desires that I answer it, not only during the season of giving, but long after the tree and lights come down. May this holiday be a starting
point to a life of year-round giving, resulting in a truly happy new year.

Frank Bondurant serves as vice president for Ministries Development for the Columbia Union Conference.

More articles from the December Visitor:
It is More Blessed to Give: Maddings on a Mission
Are Childfree Couples Accepted in our Church?--coming soon!
Articulo Especial de Visitior: Mejor es dar

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