Weekly News From Around the Columbia Union Conference

February 5, 2014

Kettering College Selects Seventh President

Kettering College’s board of directors named Nate Brandstater, PhD, as the college’s seventh president. Brandstater comes to Kettering College in Kettering, Ohio, from La Sierra University (LSU) in California, where he served as associate professor of chemistry and accreditation liaison officer. He was also an adjunct associate professor in the Department of Radiation Medicine at Loma Linda University, also in California. He joined LSU in 2000 as director for the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and associate professor of chemistry. He held several other positions at LSU, including director of computer information services, assistant vice president for academic administration and associate dean for the College of Arts and Sciences.

Brandstater replaces Alex Bryan, who will leave Kettering College at the end of the
Spencerville Senior Pastor Accepts Chesapeake Post

At its January 28 meeting, the Chesapeake Conference Executive Committee elected Jerry Lutz, MDiv, to the position of conference executive secretary. He replaces Kleyton Feitosa who accepted a call to serve as president of the Egypt-Sudan Field.

“We’re delighted to have Pastor Lutz join our staff. His many years of capable and effective leadership in various congregations have prepared him well to be a strong support to our churches and schools,” says Rick Remmers, conference president. “We look forward to working more closely with him.”

After accepting the call, Lutz said, “I love the Chesapeake Conference, believe in its mission and vision, and, with the Lord’s help, will do my very best to aid and assist the advancement of the work in our part of the Columbia Union. The Lord is coming soon, and we have much to do to get people ready.”—Story by Samantha Young

Potomac Plant Will be Evangelistic Center,
Church

A new, media-saturated church plant, which will act as a model and resource for small, healthy churches, will soon become part of the Potomac Conference. Though construction has yet to begin, Mark (pictured) and Teenie Finley and Bob Banks, the leaders of this soon-to-be site, held a small event January 19 to share their vision and make their future services known to the community. They purchased land for the Dominion Square plant, located in Haymarket, Va., earlier that month.

The Warrenton church will unite with the Dominion Square congregation once the building is complete. “We are thrilled to be a part of this,” said Tommie Thomas, Warrenton’s head elder. “We believe God is doing something special in Northern Virginia, and we are totally committed to being part of this evangelistic outreach.”—Story by Tiffany Doss

READ MORE ON POTOMAC’S WEBSITE

Sharon Temple School Participates in MLK Celebration
Students at the Sharon Temple Adventist School recently participated in two of the most prestigious Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebrations in Wilmington, Del.

Students in kindergarten to grade 7 performed for an audience of more than 700 at the 30th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast, sponsored by the Organization for Minority Women, held at the Chase Center on the Riverfront. They paid tribute to King and Nelson Mandela by singing a freedom medley comprised of “Oh Freedom”, “We Shall Overcome” and the South African National Anthem “Nkosi Sikelel’i.” Teachers report that the students were very diligent in preparing themselves for this event, truly evidenced by the audience’s response when they played one of Dr. King’s favorite songs, “If I Could Help Somebody,” on their violins. One program participant remarked, “That song brought back a flood of emotions—thank you for playing it.”—Story by Robin Jackson

Allegheny East Members Remember MLK Jr.
Members of Allegheny East Conference’s Berea Temple in Baltimore recently hosted a service to honor the life and legacy of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., an iconic figure in the crusade for civil rights. The program, which attracted guests from area churches, included a slideshow of King’s life, various musical performances and the recitation of the “I Have a Dream” speech by Michael Jones, the church’s elder.

The program closed with everyone in the sanctuary standing to sing the “Negro National Anthem.” Florence Rogers-Smith, a Berea Temple member, said of the program, “There’s no other place I’d rather be than in God’s house, celebrating a wonderful leader.” Pictured is Raymond Green playing “Precious Memories” on the trumpet.—Story by Ashley Oliver

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**Book Release: C.D. The Man Behind the Message**
For 60 years, C.D. Brooks has inspired and drawn people to Jesus. His trailblazing ministry reached people at tent revivals, on the radio, television and now on the Internet. Harold Lee and Benjamin Baker say their new book, C.D. The Man Behind the Message, is yet another way that Brooks will inspire people to improve their relationship with God and the people around them.

Baker, who attends Potomac Conference's Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., says he, like many in his generation, are cynical and distrustful of leadership, but, in researching the book, he found that Brooks "is the real deal."

"Whenever I think of him, I want to live a life one hundred percent for Christ. I want to remain focused on what I am on Earth to do—tell others the good news. In this age of questioning, doubting and discarding truth, I want to hold the standard high for all to see," says Baker.—Interview by V. Michelle Bernard

CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL INTERVIEW AND AN EXERPT FROM THE BOOK

Chesapeake Member to Head NAD Department
Dan Weber, a member of Chesapeake Conference’s Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., was recently appointed communication director for the North American Division (NAD). Weber, formerly the associate director, has worked in Adventist Mission as a video producer for eight years and as senior producer at Hope Channel. His journalism assignments have taken him to more than 115 countries, covering stories on humanitarian and missionary outreach. Before his work for the church in 2002, he worked in corporate communications, marketing and also operated his own commercial photography studio for seven years. In all, Weber has more than 25 years of experience in various communication fields, both inside and outside the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

He replaces George Johnson Jr., director since 2010, who has gone to Oakwood University (Ala.) to fill the position of director of integrated marketing and public relations.—Story courtesy of NAD ViewPoints

Students Take Cheer to D.C. Hospitals
Students from two Adventist schools took the Christmas spirit to patients at Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH) in Takoma Park, Md. Students from George E. Peters Adventist School in Hyattsville, Md., and Sligo Adventist School in Takoma Park, Md., donated unique, heartfelt handmade Christmas cards to the hospital to be given to patients who were receiving care there on the holiday. Because of their efforts, every patient in the hospital received one of the special cards on Christmas Eve, brightening the night.

Pictured are students from Sligo Adventist School with Catina Brooks, administrative services manager of volunteers at WAH.— Story by Adventist HealthCare Staff

The Entire NAD Family is Praying for Us!

The North American Division (NAD) has a prayer calendar, where members from all around the division are encouraged to pray for specific conferences during special dates. From February 2 to March 22, the entire NAD family will be praying for the Columbia Union. They will pray for the Allegheny East Conference February 2 to 8, the Allegheny East Conference February 9 to 15, the Allegheny West Conference February 16 to 22, the Chesapeake and Mountain View conferences February 2 to March 1, the New Jersey Conference March 2 to 8, the Ohio Conference March 9 to 15, and the Pennsylvania and Potomac conferences March 16 to 22.

Remembrance: First Female Professor at Seminary
Leona Running (pictured), the first woman-professor at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (Mich.), died January 22 at the age of 97. She was professor of biblical languages from 1955 until her retirement in 1981, and continued to teach various language classes for the Old Testament Department after retiring.

“Dr. Running holds a special place in the hearts of her Old Testament and Seminary colleagues and former students, who greatly appreciated her mentoring during their seminary years,” said Jiří Moskala, dean of the theology school. “She was ... indeed a woman of remarkable skills and influence.”—Story by Patricia Spangler/Andrews University/ANN

READ MORE

February Visitor: Is Our Evangelism Breaking Through the Noise?

Today the competition for people’s attention is even fiercer than when we used brochures filled with scary beasts, announcing an upcoming prophecy seminar. Never before have so many had so much to sell, and they know how to do it
effectively. Why should they respond to our voice when a new SUV or new Oprah Book Club selection will salve the soul for a few moments? Why attend our event with a myriad of fabulous activities taking place?

One thing is for sure: Jesus doesn’t give us permission to fall silent, to sit in our pews and wait for someone to show up. We have to find a way to break through the noise. So, how are conscientious congregations drawing people to the Seventh-day Adventist message today?—Story by Loren Seibold

READ MORE

Meet the Pattersons

Florence and Russell Patterson met when she was 14 years old and he was 17. More than 60 years later, they remain very much in love. Featured in this month's Visitor calendar, the couple shares what keeps their relationship strong:

“You can’t stay angry at someone if they make you laugh,” says Florence.

The Pattersons, members of Allegheny East Conference’s Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C., say that being sensitive to the needs of other people and going the extra mile will help in all relationships. For free, extra copies of the calendar, email bweigley@columbiaunion.net—Story by V. Michelle Bernard

CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO

Retweet and Get a Discount!
Take the Visitor’s February social media challenge by retweeting our “Words of Wisdom” from the Pattersons and you’ll get a discount coupon from TEACH Services, Inc.

RT this month’s words of wisdom & you’ll get a discount coupon from @TEACHServices! Yes, it is that easy! pic.twitter.com/b9z598TuFe.

The Review and Herald Needs Your Help in Developing an App

The Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., needs your help in developing a new app. Just answer four, easy questions and become
eligible to win a set of My Bible Friends books!

The app is based on the My Bible Friends story "When God Washed the World." Click here to fill out the survey.

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**Columbia Union Members in the News**

- The College Mill in Takoma Park once made ironing boards, chairs, bookcases and more
- Adventist Motorcycle Ministries looking for new members
- Recycling Dates

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MARYLAND**

- **February 1-22:** Each Sabbath in February Miracle Temple in Baltimore will share a sermon series on “Breaking the Chains of Slavery.” This Sabbath the sermon will be titled “Contented Slaves: The Slavery Mindset,” February 15: the title will be “Who’s Your Massa” with speaker Ronnie Vanderhorst and on February 22 the title will be “The Underground Railroad.” The church is located at 100 South Rock Glen Road in Baltimore. For more information, visit miracletemple.net.

- **February 9:** Spencerville Academy elementary and middle school students present “Anne of Green Gables” at 5 p.m. in the school auditorium. Front row tickets are $20; all others are $10. SAA student tickets are $7. The academy is located at 2502 Spencerville Road, Spencerville, Md. Questions? Call (240) 883-3538, or email Jane Lanning at jlanning@spencerville.org.

- **February 12-16:** The Global Adventist Internet Network (GAiN) Conference invites all interested in communication, evangelism and technology to a conference focused on finding new ways to fulfill the Gospel Commission. Information on the conference can be found at http://gain.adventist.org.

- **February 15:** Chesapeake Adventist Single Adult Ministries is planning a Valentine’s Day potluck and party at 6:30 p.m. at the Chesapeake Conference office, 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, Md. Bring food to share. For more information, contact Fred Thomas by email at fthomas1950@yahoo.com, or by phone at (410) 992-9731.
February 15: The Middletown Valley Church invites you to our special visitors’ day. The theme for the day is “Wholly Loved” with a focus on the relationship among the Trinity and their relationship with us. A fellowship meal will follow the worship service. There will also be a free Southern gospel concert with a local quartet, The Heavners, at 6 p.m. The church is located at 1811 Arnold Road in Jefferson, Md.

NEW JERSEY

February 16: The Wayne church is hosting a blood drive from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The church is located at 218 Ratzer Road in Wayne, N.J.

March 1: The Waldwick school is hosting its annual international festival at 7 p.m. This event is always a fun celebration of all the cultures represented in the school and local churches. The school is located at 70 Wycoff Avenue.

PENNSYLVANIA

February 9: Allegheny East Conference's ministries training for the Bay and Delaware Valley Ministerium takes place this Sunday at the conference center in Pine Forge, Pa. The training takes place from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Click here to register and download your training packet.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

February 8: Leroy “Boots” Battle, an original Tuskegee airman, will be the guest for the Capitol Hill church's for AYS Black History program. The annual AYS presentation of “Our Words, Our Music, Our History” will so be shared. The program begins at 4 p.m.

TENNESSEE

February 4-March 7: Submissions for the 2014 SONscreen Film Festival, which will take place on the campus of Southern Adventist University in Tennessee will be accepted starting February 4. The regular submission deadline is March 1 and the late fee deadline is March 7. Click here to register your SONscreen 2014 entry.

OHIO

February 21-23: During the GODEncounters weekend in Oregonia, Sam Leonor, chaplain at La Sierra University in California, will speak. Attendees will focus on prayer, music, fellowship and small group discussions. Click here to get more details and check out pictures!

Taashi Rowe, Visitor News Bulletin Editor
5427 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045
Visitor News Bulletin is an electronic newsletter published by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Columbia Union Conference. You are free to reprint any portion of the bulletin, however, please identify Visitor News Bulletin as the source.

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Seventh President Named to the Helm of Kettering College

February 3, 2014 · by Taashi Rowe · in Education, Kettering Adventist HealthCare, Kettering College, Ohio Conference

Story by Elizabeth Long

Kettering College’s Board of Directors has named Nate Brandstater, PhD, as the college’s seventh president, effective February 3. Brandstater comes to Kettering College in Kettering, Ohio, from La Sierra University in California, where he served as associate professor of chemistry and accreditation liaison officer. He also was an adjunct associate professor in the Department of Radiation Medicine at Loma Linda University also in California.

He joined La Sierra University in 2000 as director for the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and associate professor of chemistry. He held several other positions at La Sierra, including director of Computer Information Services, assistant vice president for Academic Administration and associate dean for the College of Arts and Sciences.

“We are pleased to welcome Nate Brandstater to Kettering College,” says Roy Chew, chair of Kettering College’s board of directors and president of Kettering Medical Center. “Under Nate’s leadership, Kettering College will continue to develop outstanding curriculum and programs to help our graduates meet the needs of today’s health care environment. Nate understands and embraces the Kettering tradition of innovation. This is the beginning of an exciting era in the history of Kettering College.”

A native of rural Ontario, Canada, Brandstater received his undergraduate degree in chemistry from Occidental College in Los Angeles. He earned his PhD in physical chemistry from the University of California Los Angeles and a master’s in financial management from La Sierra University.

His wife, Ronda, is a registered nurse who most recently served as director of patient care at Loma Linda University Medical Center in California, and interim director of the Loma Linda International Heart Institute.

Brandstater replaces Alex Bryan, who will leave Kettering College at the end of the 2013-14 school year to become senior pastor of the Walla Walla University church in Walla Walla, Wash.
Spencerville’s Senior Pastor Accepts Chesapeake’s Executive Secretary Post

January 30, 2014 · by Taashi Rowe · in Chesapeake Conference , Uncategorized

Story by Samantha Young

At its January 28 meeting, the Chesapeake Conference Committee elected Jerry Lutz, MDiv, to the position of conference executive secretary. He replaces Kleyton Feitosa who accepted a call to serve as president of the Egypt-Sudan Field.

“We’re delighted to have Pastor Lutz joining our staff at the Chesapeake Conference. His many years of capable and effective leadership in various congregations have prepared him well to be a strong support to our churches and schools,” said Rick Remmers, conference president. “We look forward to working more closely with him.”

After accepting the call, Lutz said, “I love the Chesapeake Conference, believe in its mission and vision, and with the Lord’s help will do my very best to aid and assist the advancement of the work in our part of the Columbia Union. The Lord is coming soon and we have much to do to get people ready.”

Lutz, an ordained minister, has been senior pastor of the nearly 1,800-member Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md.—Chesapeake Conference’s largest church—since 1996. Prior to moving to Maryland, Lutz was the senior pastor of several churches in central California. He has served on the Chesapeake Conference Executive Committee and on various North American Division and General Conference boards and committees. Until recently, he also taught church leadership and administration classes as part of the graduate program at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md. He has authored articles published in Adventist Review and other Seventh-day Adventist publications, and has designed and taught a Bible-marking course to help church members share the Good News. He hosts and moderates the weekly, national broadcast television program, The American Religious Town Hall Meeting, on which expert panelists of various faiths and religions discuss and debate current events as they relate to matters of religious liberty.

Lutz and his wife, Janet, met while attending graduate school at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. Janet Lutz is the director of Institutional Advancement and Philanthropy at the University of Maryland Rehabilitation & Orthopaedic Institute in Baltimore, Md. The couple has one son, Jarrod, a teacher of English and history at Spencerville Adventist Academy in Spencerville, Md.

He will assume the duties of his new position on April 1.
A new, media saturated church plant, which will act as a model and resource for small, healthy churches, will soon become part of the Potomac Conference. Land for the Dominion Square plant, located in Haymarket, Va., was purchased in January 2012. Though construction has yet to begin, Mark and Teenie Finley and Bob Banks, the leaders of this soon-to-be site, held a small event on Jan. 19 to share their vision and make their future services known to the community.

“Media will be at the heart of our evangelistic outreach,” said Bob Banks, Warrenton and Dominion Square pastor. “We are establishing a local church-based media ministry to generate interest for Christ and lead interested seekers into small group Bible studies and church-based comprehensive health seminars.”
The Warrenton Church will unite with the Dominion Square congregation once the building is complete. “We are thrilled to be a part of this,” said Tommie Thomas, Warrenton’s head elder. “We believe God is doing something special in Northern Virginia and we are totally committed to being part of this evangelistic outreach.”

In the future, this site will be the center for church growth seminars that will focus on topics like personal evangelism, health ministry’s outreach, natural lifestyle cooking, the art of biblical preaching, ways to nurture new converts and other hospitality and evangelism ministries.
“We see a huge potential for church growth and evangelism in this area,” said President Bill Miller. “We are confident that the Dominion Valley Church and Evangelistic Center will make a major difference for the kingdom of God.” Ground for the plant is expected to be broken this Spring.

-Tiffany Doss
For 60 years, C.D. Brooks has inspired and drawn people to Jesus. His trailblazing ministry reached people at tent revivals, on the radio, television and now on the Internet. Harold Lee and Benjamin Baker say their new book, *C.D. The Man Behind the Message*, is yet another way that Brooks will inspire people to improve their relationship with God and the people around them.

Benjamin Baker, PhD, who attends Potomac Conference’s Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., says he, like many in his generation, are cynical and distrustful of leadership, but, in researching the book, he found that Brooks “is the real deal.”

“Whenever I think of him I want to live a life one hundred percent for Christ. I want to remain focused on what I am on Earth to do—tell others the good news. In this age of questioning, doubting and discarding truth, I want to hold the standard high for all to see,” says Baker.

Q. How did Brooks’ wife, Walterene, impact his ministry and mission?

A. Walterene is everything to him. Theirs is the greatest love story I have encountered outside of a movie or novel. Sister Brooks told me that she has been with “Honey” over 60 years, and has never had to open the car door once when she has driven with him. Not once. Their love has not abated at all over the decades—only strengthened.

Walterene was by his side his whole ministry, strengthening and fortifying him. But she also took a leading role in the churches he pastored, all while distinguishing herself in the educational field.

Q. How did C.D. and Walterene help break down racial barriers?

A. Interestingly, neither of the Brookses was consumed with race as many were in the 1950s, 60s and 70s. This is not to say that they didn’t experience it. On the contrary, when the newlyweds attempted to get a room on the night of their wedding, they were refused by hotel after hotel. [They] finally parked in a secluded area and the two slept in the car.

All he ever wanted to do was preach, but the Lord always stretched him further. When former Columbia Union and [then] General Conference (GC) President Neil Wilson asked Brooks to be a field secretary for the union and then the GC, he initially said no to both. But when Wilson persisted, Brooks recognized that God wanted him to accept the positions. From there, Wilson adroitly used Brooks’ powerful presence and preaching to chip at the wall of prejudice. When Brooks was denied a hearing because of his color, Wilson said, “There isn’t a corner of our union that C. D. Brooks is not welcome in. Make your peace with that.” From there the gospel that Brooks preached melted the hearts made cold by hate.

Walterene Brooks was a trailblazer in integrating Sligo Adventist School as it is now known and the public school system in Prince George’s County, Maryland. She wasn’t afraid to go places where people of her color hadn’t gone before. She won numerous awards over her lengthy career that acknowledged the role she played in bringing about the ethnic diversity in Prince George’s County schools today.

Q. What is next for Brooks?

A. Brooks is currently the chaplain in residence for the North American Division, and he continues to preach. You can find his sermons all over the Web, most notably on YouTube, which has dozens of them with tens of thousands of views. He will live on indefinitely.

Click here to read an excerpt from *C.D.: The Man Behind the Message*.

*Interview by V. Michelle Bernard*
Remembrance: Running was First Female Professor at Adventist Seminary

columbiaunionvisitor.com/remembrance-running-was-first-female-professor-at-adventist-seminary/

February 5, 2014 · by Michelle Bernard · in Education

Leona Running, who was the first female professor at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, where she served for nearly six decades, and was an expert in biblical languages, died on January 22. She was 97.

Story by Patricia Spangler/Andrews University/ANN

Leona Running, who was the first female professor at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, where she served for nearly six decades, and was an expert in biblical languages, died on January 22. She was 97.

Colleague William Shea said he estimated that Running assisted more students in writing doctoral dissertations than any other faculty member. “She has probably touched the educational lives of more Seventh-day Adventist ministers than any other woman except [Adventist Church co-founder] Ellen White,” he said.

Running began working for the seminary at its location in Takoma Park, Maryland, in 1955, teaching Greek and Hebrew. At the time, the president of the seminary was skeptical about a woman’s ability to teach male students, and male students’ willingness to be taught by a woman. She began teaching on a trial basis, but in 1956 she was granted regular status and, shortly after, full tenure.

Running was the first Adventist woman to earn a doctorate in Ancient Near Eastern Studies, earning the degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1964. Throughout her career she taught nearly 10 languages, including Syriac, Egyptian, Akkadian, Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. In 1981 she was appointed as the first female president of the Chicago Society of Biblical Research, a post she held for a year.

“Dr. Running holds a special place in the hearts of her Old Testament and Seminary colleagues and former students, who greatly appreciated her mentoring during their Seminary years,” said Jiří Moskala, dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, which is now located at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Leona Rachel Glidden was born in 1916 in Flint, Michigan, and graduated from Adelphian Academy in Holly, Michigan. She then attended what is now Andrews University—then Emmanuel Missionary College—and graduated as valedictorian in 1937 with a bachelor’s degree in modern languages.

In 1942 she married her husband Leif “Bud” Running. He died four years later at the age of 37 while undergoing his third lung operation.

“She overcame the grief of losing her husband early in life and built her exemplary academic and professional calling,” said Niels-Erik Andreasen, president of Andrews University. “Dr. Running broke new ground in the University and in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.”

During her early professional years, Running served the Adventist Church from 1944 to 1948 in the Foreign Language Division of the Voice of Prophecy radio program, translating programs and typing scripts in German, Spanish and Portuguese. In 1950 she moved to Washington, D.C. to become the copy editor for Ministry magazine.

In 1955 she graduated with a master’s degree in Greek and Hebrew from the Adventist Theological Seminary.

Running also traveled extensively. In 1951, she traveled with Adventist singer Del Delker to the Paris Youth Congress and to seven countries in Europe. She later recounted the trip in the book “36 Days and a Dream.” In 1957, she joined seminary professor Siegfried
Horn’s first guided study tour to Europe and the Middle East. She wrote another travelogue of this trip, published in 1958 as “From Thames to Tigris.” In the 1960s and 70s she traveled throughout Europe, Israel, Iran, Cyprus, and taught a summer session at Newbold College in England.

Running collected articles, journals and books on women in ministry. She donated the collection to the Center for Adventist Research in the James White Library. The most notable of her multiple publications is “William Foxwell Albright: A Twentieth-Century Genius,” published by Morgan Press in 1975, a 436-page biography on the “Dean of Biblical Archaeologists.”

Running retired from teaching at age 65, but for 21 years she continued to teach Egyptian, Akkadian and Syriac in the seminary, finally quitting in May of 2002. Andrews University awarded her an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters at its May 2012 commencement ceremony.
Does this still break through the “noise?”

When I was still a young pastor, I invited a conference evangelist to one of my small churches. I remember working together before the meetings on a mail-out brochure with the headline “Blood on the Moon.” It had hot, florescent colors; pictures of beasts and the requisite whore of Babylon. At the time, I thought it rather garish, but it brought some people to the meetings and a few into the church. (To the evangelist’s credit, his presentations were far more spiritual and sensitive than his brochure depicted.)

Today the competition for people’s attention is even fiercer than just those few decades ago. Never before have so many had so much to sell, and they know how to do it effectively. When we join the advertising fray saying, “Hey! Over here! Look to us for the answers!” we’re part of a massive chorus. Why should they respond to our voice when a new SUV or
new Oprah Book Club selection will salve the soul for a few moments? Why attend our event with a myriad of fabulous activities taking place?

One thing is for sure: Jesus doesn’t give us permission to fall silent, to sit in our pews and wait for someone to show up. We have to find a way to break through the noise. So, how are conscientious congregations drawing people to the Seventh-day Adventist message today?

Finding What Works

With many reports indicating that Americans are losing interest in religion, some churches have tried innovative outreach methods. A few years ago, when the price of fuel was climbing, a congregation I know paid down the price of gas for a day at a local station. I even read about another denomination’s congregation that passed the offering plates full of money for people to take!

More commonly, churches try to attract people with interesting worship services. The biggest and best-attended churches have a massive pipe organ and choir for one service, and a couple more featuring a well-choreographed band of professional musicians. Though Jesus could get away with having nothing about his appearance that attracted people (see Isa. 53:2), the pastors of these churches are extraordinary entertainers.

A brochure sample from SermonView

However, not all churches have such financial or human resources. In Adventist congregations, evangelistic events are still the most popular way to bring people into the church. According to a 2009 survey for the North American Division1#, 23 percent of church members have helped with a Revelation seminar, 27 percent with other kinds of Bible seminars and 29 percent with public evangelistic meetings.

Larry Witzel, once a pastor and now president of the evangelistic resource company SermonView, based in Washington, says his understanding of what draws people has evolved.
“Ten years ago, I was talking about innovation,” he says. “Now my mission statement has to do with finding and propagating effective ways to spread the gospel.”

Based on the fact that SermonView mails a million pieces a year, Witzel believes “the most effective methods for Adventist churches are still based on prophecy and last-day events, but with a modern twist.” He adds, “For event-based outreach, direct mail is still the best tool, and prophecy the most effective message, but it needs to be relevant to the struggles and curiosities of today, communicating with contemporary language and design.”

**Congregational-Based Evangelism**

![Image of William Miller lectures schedule]

Schedule of William Miller lectures

For over a century, public programs dominated early Adventist outreach methods. Early church pioneer William Miller wasn’t a professional speaker, but he taught with urgency and reasoned arguments. When that winning message merged with early American revivalism, the result was tent and camp meetings that won thousands to Christ.

Adventist evangelism reached its apogee in the work of African-American evangelists. Generations of pastors modeled their method and message after pulpit giants like E.E. Cleveland and C.D. Brooks. Pastors of my baby boomer generation participated in professionally choreographed programs that targeted entire metropolitan areas, were held in stadiums and convention centers and featured multimedia programs, and where the church identity was often concealed.
During that time, some pastors returned to simple teaching, using tools like Daniel and Revelation seminars. These were not only less expensive to pull off, but they also brought evangelism back into the local congregation and signaled an end to the era of keeping congregation-building events at arm’s length from the members.

Jennifer Jill Schwirzer at the Chestnut Hill church in Philadelphia

I recently made the acquaintance of some congregational leaders who are shaping Adventist evangelism for a new century. Jennifer Jill Schwirzer, a member of Pennsylvania Conference’s Chestnut Hill church in Philadelphia, is a renaissance woman: counselor, speaker, writer, musician and composer—a set of spiritual gifts perfect for crafting a unique evangelistic event. A few years ago, Schwirzer felt inspired to set the book of Revelation to music, an effort that evolved into a Christmas cantata released this past December titled The Lamb Wins. With the help of her pastor, Tara VinCross, Schwirzer used the same theme for an evangelistic event. Her Revelation teachings, she says, were “classic Adventist.” Her approach wasn’t. “I made a concerted effort to present every teaching in the light of the Lamb,” she explains. “Jesus the Lamb was the central figure, the focal point of the doctrine.”

Music has always been part of evangelism, but The Lamb Wins didn’t rely on a structured song service and sermon. Woven in with Schwirzer’s presentations were folk, contemporary, traditional and urban sounds, even rhythmic spoken word. “What kept people coming was our multilayered approach, with rich content, creative presentation and relationships,” she surmises.
Woven in with Schwirzer’s presentations at the Chesnut Hill church were folk, contemporary, traditional and urban sounds, even rhythmic spoken word.

Diego Boquer, pastor of Chesapeake Conference’s Glen Burnie and Brooklyn churches in Maryland, has only been in ministry three years, but already he’s learned what congregational-based evangelism can accomplish. In his churches, he makes sure some kind of soul-winning activity is happening every month. He invites literature evangelists to generate interests. Church members do health-based events to serve the community. Boquer’s Bible worker, Tyler Trahan, not only gives Bible studies but also teaches members at both churches how to give them. In the meetings, each message ends with a table conversation, where members and visitors get acquainted.

Pastor Boquer has tried both prophetic and gospel-centered styles of evangelism. He feels that prophecy appeals more to mature people and the baby boomer generation. Witzel agrees. “Though we see people of all ages responding to our advertising, the evangelistic event advertised with big, bold colors and mysterious, provocative imagery tends to draw an older audience.” (Interestingly, Witzel says response rates indicate that advertising cards inviting people to study the Bible and to get to know Jesus work better if they’re not prophecy themed.)

Both Boquer and Schwirzer raised enthusiasm for their events through social media. But, warns Witzel, social media isn’t church. “People get passionate about online Bible studies, but, at the end of the day, the most important thing is connecting with a local congregation. Just learning the message is an incomplete experience,” he says.

**Taking a Different Approach**

Some congregations feel they can provide a full experience without event-based evangelism. “The Stillwater church decided years ago to reach out with the gospel to the community and grow the church through the everyday life and ministry of the church family,” says Dave Hutman, who pastors the Ohio Conference church based in Vandalia. Stillwater designs worship and other church events for unchurched families and heavily invests in community service programs, including six to eight home fix-up projects for needy families each year, the Oasis ministry for those in the sex industry, the Good Neighbor House Adventist Community Services center in downtown Dayton, health events, concerts for community projects and more.
Community service works “if you’re creative and know how to partner with the community,” says Gary Gibbs, director of the Chesapeake Conference’s Ministerial department. But, Gibbs says it’s hard to separate community service and event evangelism. “Community service is the entering wedge, but in my experience, usually the baptisms are coming in through proclamation,” he adds.

**Keeping the Focus on Christ**

Whether drawing people through service or meetings, the key appears to be how much investment people in the pews have in doing Christ’s work. Probably because the Stillwater congregation is so intensely involved with so many people in their local community, its membership growth equals or exceeds that of congregations that do solely evangelistic seminars. “We have never held a public meeting,” says Pastor Hutman. “All of the new members have come through the life of the church, interacting with others.”

Schwirzer’s church in Chestnut Hill is welcoming seven new members, with others continuing to study. Between meetings last year and this year, Pastor Boquer has added more than 20. Both are optimistic about new members remaining in the church, because they designed their events from the church’s foundation—focusing on congregational involvement and friending visitors rather than just imparting knowledge.

“Church members sometimes object to the prophetic approach,” Witzel acknowledges. “They want to win new members by introducing them to Jesus.” As presented by these new evangelists, however, prophecy is more Christocentric than it used to be. Even through the difficult teachings and occasionally alarming prophecies of Revelation, Schwirzer insisted that “the character of Jesus came through every part.” Pastor Boquer designed his own series specifically so that he could make Jesus the center of every prophetic teaching.

Never before have we had so many excellent tools to help congregations break through the culture’s noise and reach people for Christ. Good marketing and clever programming aren’t enough. Prophecy may draw people to an event, but all agree that the goal is to create a relationship with Jesus and His church.

Ellen White seems to agree. “Only through a living faith in Christ as a personal Savior is it possible to make our influence felt in a skeptical world,” she wrote. “The gospel we present for the saving of souls must be the gospel by which our own souls are saved” (Ministry of Healing, pp. 469-470).

*Loren Seibold is a pastor in the Ohio Conference.*

http://www.columbiaunionvisitor.com/are-we-breaking-through-the-noise/
My Bible Friends - Noah and the Flood app

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- $7.99
- $8.99
- $9.99
- Other:

Any additional comments?
Optional Demographic information

What is your age?

What is your gender?
  - male
  - female

Do you have children/grandchildren living at home between the ages of 2-10?
  - yes
  - no

Do they have their own tablet?
  - yes
  - no

If yes, which tablet?
  - Amazon Kindle Fire
  - Android Tablet
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The College Mill in Takoma Park once made ironing boards, chairs, bookcases and more

By John Kelly, Columnist

What can you tell us about a wooden ironing board that was purchased at the Eastern Market flea market more than 10 years ago? It is of an interesting design. A stamp on the back reads “Manufactured by The College Mill, Takoma Park, Washington, D.C.” This was apparently part of Washington Adventist University.

— Delores Bushong

Best news photos of the week

A look at some of our favorite images of the week.

and Gloria Kim, Washington

There’s something fitting about a Christian college having an active woodworking program. After all, wasn’t Joseph a carpenter?

Answer Man should say a once-active woodworking program, for the College Mill no longer turns out ironing boards, which were just one of many items that students built between 1928 and 1960 on the campus on Flower Avenue in Takoma Park.

The university itself dates back to 1904, when it was founded as the Washington Training College, an affiliate of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In 1907, it became the Washington Foreign Mission Seminary, the name reflecting a narrower focus. Seven years later the name was changed again, to the Washington Missionary College. Long-time Washingtonians may know it by the name it had from 1961 to 2009: Columbia Union College. Five years ago the name was changed again, to Washington Adventist University.

But about that mill: Peruse copies of the college yearbook, Golden Memories, and you will come across numerous references to this interesting industrial operation. A little poem in the 1929 yearbook proclaimed: “Three grown men and thirty-seven boys/ All making ironing boards, and a terrible lot of noise.”

In that year alone, more than 40,000 ironing boards were made at the College Mill. And nifty ironing boards they were, too, with legs that folded neatly into the base. A patent on the design was issued in 1934 to Robert Van Seyle, Leslie Leroy Smith and Edward Judge Barnes, who assigned it to the college.

The ironing board was sometimes referred to as the Plymouth, with labels proclaiming, “Solid as a rock. Opens and closes with one motion.”

Other items of furniture made at the mill included ladders; bookcases; a low-slung, canvas-covered rocker called the Takoma Chair (Patent No. 1986381); and an Adirondack-style design called the lawn chair.

In 1942, 35,000 chairs rolled off the assembly line. In 1949, you could buy a four-shelf corner bookcase for $11.95 — assembly required. In 1955, 20,000 stepladders were churned out.

That year, the College Mill introduced a pricier product: a 14-foot, $525 mahogany boat suitable for an outboard motor. “It is practically impossible to upset it,” read a description. “Some idea of the amount of labor needed to turn out the runabout may be gained from the fact that some 1,400 brass screws are used to hold it together.”
One might wonder why a college would have a shop that built ironing boards, ladders and boats. Answer Man supposes that there are a few reasons. First, it provided income for the school. In 1929 the school reported a profit from the mill of $10,000.

“In 1930s dollars, that was some money,” said Lee Marie Wisel, director of the Weis Library at Washington Adventist and a graduate of the university.

Student wages were plowed back into tuition. But surely just as important was the notion that work is ennobling. Does not the Bible sing the praises of honest toil? As the Washington Adventist yearbook noted, “judicious labor is a healthful tonic for the human race.”

For many years, the Seventh-day Adventist Church had an even bigger connection to furniture. In 1951 the couple that owned Oregon-based Harris Pine Mills, one of the country’s largest manufacturers of unfinished furniture, bequeathed the company to the church. Students who attended Adventist boarding schools on the East and West coasts often worked at Harris Pine factories. (Harris Pine declared bankruptcy in 1987, a decision that rankled some church members.)

The College Mill ceased operations in 1960. The space it once occupied is now home to facilities services, IT, campus security and WGTS, the university’s contemporary Christian radio station.

Today, College Mill ironing boards routinely show up on eBay. There’s one in the university’s collection, too. “I know its provenance,” librarian Lee told Answer Man. “My mother purchased it in 1947 or ’48. She used it for 20 or 30 years.”

Then she gave it to Lee. “I ironed a lot of shirts on that board,” she said.

Twitter: @johnkelly

Have a question about the Washington area? Compose an e-mail and send it to answerman@washpost.com.

For previous columns, visit washingtonpost.com.
Adventist Motorcycle Ministries looking for new members

Written by Anna Jeffries Advocate Reporter
Jan. 25, 2014 | newarkadvocate.com

Want to go?

The Ohio chapter of Adventist Motorcycle Ministries meets at 6 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month at the New Horizons Community Learning Center, 21 Easy St., Newark. For more information, call 740-739-0750 or email tomhughes@BibleBiker.com.

NEWARK — Jay Estep was initially attracted to Adventist Motorcycle Ministries because of his love of Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

But he soon realized the group was about much more than that.

“The motorcycles are on the back burner now,” he said. “It’s about the church, it’s the Lord, it’s Jesus Christ. The motorcycles are just a plus.”

Estep is now vice president of the group, which is dedicated to helping motorcyclists find faith.

“We all watch each other’s back and we have the same goal, to lead people to Christ,” Estep said.

An international group, Adventist Motorcycle Ministries, known as AMM, recently started an Ohio chapter based in Licking County. The group is hoping to increase its membership, said President Tom Hughes.

The pastor at Seventh-day Adventist Community Church in Newark, Hughes has been doing motorcycle ministry for more than 15 years.

The author of several books on the topic, he helped start the Rolling Prophets, a chapter of the Christian Motorcycle Association. About two years ago, he decided to start an Ohio chapter of AMM to give local riders another option.

“It’s a group that wants to help bikers find Christ as their personal savior. Every ride is a mission,” he said. “The most important thing to us is not what you wear or what patches you have on your vest. The most important thing to us is that you get to know Jesus.”

Members of the group meet monthly and organize rides when the weather is good, Hughes said. They travel to local motorcycle events and distribute information and literature.

They are willing to visit any church or organization to talk about motorcycle safety, riding as a group and how Christianity has enriched their lives, Hughes said.

“We don’t necessarily preach a lot. It’s about fellowship,” he said. “We are happy to ride with people from any church group.”

Estep said he appreciates the group because it delivers a positive message but doesn’t force it on
anyone.

“If someone is not interested, you move on to the next,” he said. “But we talk the talk and walk the walk. It’s a real thing, not a scam.”

Joining AMM helped him get through a difficult time in his life. A stroke had robbed him of his career as a chef and he was struggling.

Through the group he made friends and found a system of beliefs that worked for him.

“As soon as I got into the church I felt better,” he said. “I’m honestly a happy man.”

He’s hoping to get younger bikers involved in the group and spread the word as much as possible.

“It’s just a fun ministry. It’s not sitting in front of preacher, it’s bringing people in, it’s leading people to the Lord,” he said. “That’s something everyone doesn’t get to do.”

ajeffries@newarkadvocate.com
BUCYRUS — Recycling drop-off sites for the use of Crawford County residents in February are listed as follows with the groups in charge in parentheses:

Feb. 1: 8 a.m. to noon, New Washington Town Hall (Buckeye Central Softball).
Feb. 1: 8 a.m. to noon, Colonel Crawford High School parking lot (Girl Scout Troop 1537).
Feb. 4: 4 to 8 p.m., Lykens Township Firehouse parking lot (Lykens Champions 4-H).
Feb. 5: 4 to 8 p.m., Chatfield Township Firehouse parking lot (Chatfield Blue Ribbons 4-H).
Feb. 8: 9 a.m. to noon, Lowe-Volk Park parking lot (Friends of the Park District).
Feb. 10-17: Bucyrus Timken Company parking lot.
Feb. 11: 4 to 7 p.m., Wynford High School parking lot (Wynford Athletic Boosters).
Feb. 13: 4 to 7 p.m., Galion School parking lot (Galion Elementary School PTL).
Feb. 15: 8 a.m. to noon, New Washington Town Hall (Buckeye Central Cross County).
Feb. 15: 9 a.m. to noon, Woodlawn United Methodist Church parking lot (Woodlawn United Methodist Church).
Feb. 15: 8 a.m. to noon, Liberty Township Firehouse parking lot, Sulphur Springs (Sulphur Springs Star Farmers 4-H).
Feb. 17: Bucyrus Seventh Day Adventist Church parking lot (Seventh Day Adventist Church).
Feb. 18: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m, Wayside Christian School parking lot (Wayside Christian School).
Feb. 22: 8 a.m. to noon, Wynford High School parking lot (Wynford Science Club).
Feb. 26: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Bucyrus Precision Tech parking lot (Bucyrus Precision Tech).
Feb. 27: 4 to 7 p.m., Galion School parking lot (Galion Elementary School PTL).

Recycling trailers are open 24 hours every day for Crawford County residents are at Bucyrus City Hall/Police Station, Kroger parking lot, Camp Michael (west of Bucyrus); East Park in Galion; Geyer’s Fresh Foods in Crestline; and Tod Township Hall in Oceola.

If these sites are full, do not leave your items on the ground. Take them to the Crawford County Recycling Center, 5128 Lincoln Highway East.
LANHAM, Md. (CBSDC) — At least two D.C. private schools that teach Creationist ideas receive federal funding in the form of scholarships for low income students.

The D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program awards need-based annual scholarships to eligible District children to attend participating private schools of their parent’s choice.

Two participating schools, the Calvary Christian Academy in Northeast and Dupont Park Adventist School in Southeast, teach Creationist themes as part of their curriculums.

The program has been operating since 2004. Congress voted to extend the program for five additional years beginning in the 2011-12 school year.

Calvary Christian Academy’s website says it uses Abeka, a publisher that “provides curriculum and textbooks that concentrate on instilling Christian values and education to Christian Schools.”

The site also says that “each child, grades K-8, is assigned a homeroom where they study and learn about the wonders of God’s living and non-living world.”

Dupont Park Adventist, meanwhile, says science classes “explore and interpret evidences for the Genesis Flood and the Ice Age” and health classes “describe God’s plan for sexual relationships.”

Officials from Calvary Christian Academy and Dupont Park Adventist School say students currently enrolled at the schools are scholarship recipients.
The D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program’s website says 1,638 District students had received scholarships for the current school year as of Oct. 30, 2013.

Out of 52 participating schools, 46 are currently teaching students who have scholarships from the program.

This story was first reported by Slate.com.
Atlantic Health System has agreed to purchase Hackettstown Regional Medical Center, a 111-bed acute care hospital in northwest New Jersey, from Adventist Health Care for $54 million.

Boards of directors from Atlantic and Adventist agreed to the transfer of ownership, which is subject to regulatory review from the state Department of Health and the Attorney General's office.

Executives said in a conference call Wednesday that completion of the deal could take up to a year, during which no changes will occur at Hackettstown.

The Warren County hospital expects to add services after the deal is finalized by tapping into Atlantic's network in northern and central New Jersey. Executives also expect improved efficiency resulting from shared services and geographic proximity. No job cuts are currently planned at Hackettstown, which employs nearly 900.

"As it stands now, there are no plans to reduce or eliminate any programs or services," Atlantic Health System CEO Joseph Trunifio said. "In fact, we hope we will be able to use this year for expansion of programs and services."

HRMC President Jason Coe said the hospital is familiar with Atlantic's system. The deal will provide Hackettstown with access to more specialists and services, including cardiovascular, neonatal, oncology and neuroscience. "This is a just natural fit," he said.

The deal follows a wave of acquisitions and consolidations in the health care industry as providers seek to improve efficiency and comply with mandates under the Affordable Care Act. The Wednesday announcement follows completion of a Jan. 1 merger between Atlantic Health System and Chilton Hospital.

The Hackettstown center had been the only New Jersey facility owned by Adventist, a faith-based health organization based in Gaithersburg, Md., which operates mostly in the Washington, D.C., area. HRMC will
remain a nonprofit hospital after the transaction.

Cue said elective abortions are not performed at Hackettstown, partly due to Adventist's religious roots. He said it is too early to speculate as to whether that will change under Atlantic's ownership.

Atlantic Health said the Hackettstown facility will gain the following benefits by becoming part of Atlantic's system:

- Expanded outpatient and preventive medicine services available within the region;
- Broader patient access to pediatric and other specialty care; clinical trials; and advanced protocols for emergent care, including complex stroke care, the latest cardiac diagnostic and treatment interventions, and advanced neonatal care;
- Cost savings through shared services and more efficient use of resources.

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