Weekly News From Around the Columbia Union Conference

February 26, 2014

Columbia Union President to Serve as Guest Chaplain in U.S. Senate

Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union, will offer the opening prayer for the U.S. Senate next Tuesday, March 4. Barry Black, a Seventh-day Adventist minister who has served as Senate chaplain since June 2003, invited Weigley to serve as guest chaplain. He will be the first Adventist guest clergy to do so.

The session start time will be announced in the evening on March 3. Check on Columbia Union Visitor's Facebook page after 9 p.m., March 3 to see the exact time the event will be broadcast. Click here to see the live stream.—Story by Visitor Staff

http://e2.ma/message/m6yse/6diogi[3/2/2014 7:02:34 PM]
Adventist HealthCare President to Leave After 14 Years of Service

After serving as president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare for 14 years, William G. “Bill” Robertson announced Monday he will be leaving the Gaithersburg, Md.-based, organization April 4. Robertson will become the president and CEO of MultiCare Health System, a not-for-profit based in Washington state.

“It has been an honor to work with the executives, employees and physicians across Adventist HealthCare who each day demonstrate our mission with their compassionate and high-quality care,” Robertson said. “The organization has a very bright future and is well-positioned to be a leader in the state as more of an emphasis is placed on preventive health and wellness.”

Robertson, 54, was named president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare in April 2000. During his tenure, Adventist HealthCare grew to become the largest provider of healthcare in Montgomery County and one of the largest private employers in the state, with more than 6,200 employees.—Story by Tom Grant

“The Dream Is Over,” King’s Daughter Announces at Allegheny East Church

To Advertise

Contact Sandra Jones by email sjones@columbiaunion.net, or call toll free (888) 484-7486 or locally (410) 997-3414, ext. 571
"The dream is over, it is time to awake. The dream ended and now it is time to activate." These words poured from the lips of the Rev. Bernice King, daughter of Martin Luther King, Jr., the civil rights leader who originally delivered his now famous "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963 at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Bernice King referenced her father’s speech to a packed house at a recent celebration recognizing her father’s contributions at Allegheny East Conference’s Calvary church in Newport News, Va. Present at the celebration, themed “Dream Alive 2014, Remembering and Living the Dream,” were state representatives and clergy from different denominations.

But King had even more to say. In order to activate, she suggests strategic movement in the body of Christ to fight against the atrocities of the failing education system, going outside of the church walls and being an example to others.—Story by Ayesha Shakoor and Makeba Garrison; Photo by Comfort Bell

READ MORE

Chesapeake Member Witnesses About King of Kings With Help From the King of Rock
Kevin Booth was five years old when he first heard Elvis Presley singing on the radio. There was just something about music from the “king of rock ‘n’ roll” that captivated this kid growing up in a small town outside of Baltimore and turned him into a lifelong fan. In an interview, Booth, now a member of Chesapeake Conference’s Hagerstown (Md.) church, told Taashi Rowe, Visitor reporter, that after he became a Seventh-day Adventist, he pursued country music fame. His country music career never really took off, but his Elvis shows were a hit.

Rowe: This must have made you very happy.

Booth: From the outside looking in you would think so. I had a wonderful wife and little girl and success. I should have been happy but I really wasn’t. One morning, about a year and a half ago, after my wife left for work, I just broke. I fell down on my knees and opened my Bible to Psalm 51. I cried out to the Lord. I knew in my heart that I left God. He didn’t leave me.

In Herndon, Hispanic Members Help Reach Southern Asians
Willie Benzaquen remembered that Sabbath morning clearly. As he preached at Potomac Conference’s Herndon Spanish church in Herndon, Va., he noticed a new face. When he went to greet him, “He didn’t speak Spanish but said he liked the music,” recalled Benzaquen, who at that time served as the church’s pastor. The man said he was from Southern Asia and had moved to the area for work.

The man was not alone. Several years ago, while driving into the Herndon area, Bill Miller, Potomac’s president, noticed new developments within the community. “I learned there was a high population of people from Southern Asia—India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Burma and the surrounding nations,” said Miller.

Benzaquen felt torn by a new found reality. “Here I was pastoring a Hispanic church but we were surrounded by people of other cultures,” Benzaquen said. “Yet, I knew that we had the responsibility to preach to whoever is around us.”—Story by Dan Jensen and Taashi Rowe

Los miembros de Potomac Spanish ayudan a fundar una iglesia hindú
Recientemente, los miembros de la iglesia Herndon Spanish de Potomac Conference en Herndon, Va., llevaron a cabo una feria de salud e invitaron a los vecinos, muchos de los cuales son de Asia del sur. Los miembros de Herndon se interesaron en evangelizar esta comunidad cuando un señor hindú comenzó a asistir a los servicios sabáticos. Los miembros de Herndon Spanish trabajaron mano a mano con los miembros de la iglesia Southern Asian en Silver Spring, Md., para ministrar este grupo.

Sus vecinos de Asia del sur disfrutaron relacionarse con los miembros de Herndon Spanish y el probar comidas hispanas. “Era un panorama un poco raro”, dijo Willy Benzaquen, el que era pastor de esta iglesia. “Los dos grupos no se entendían entre sí, pero en este caso, la comida fue su lenguaje”.

A causa del interés que mostraron los miembros de Herndon Spanish, la iglesia Southern Asian en Silver Spring ha fundado una iglesia en Herndon con alrededor de 180 asistentes.—Historia por Taashi Rowe

Columbia Union Launches Designated News Website
The Visitor News Website, columbiaunionvisitor.com, provides the latest news coverage from around the Columbia Union Conference and on issues important to Seventh-day Adventist members in the Mid-Atlantic United States and beyond. “We developed the site to quench the growing thirst for news and information in real time,” says Celeste Ryan Blyden, union communication director and Visitor editor and publisher, who says that 40,000 people viewed union news online since January 2013. “A designated news website means our members can find out what’s happening anytime and all the time online.”—Story by Visitor Staff

Ohio Members Witness During Bike Show

Five members of the Ohio chapter of the Adventist Motorcycle Ministry saw God's handiwork during a two-day bike show in Columbus, Ohio. After being blessed with free tables, group members witnessed to everyone, including vendors, staff and other bikers. “We gave out over 500 books and witnessed to thousands of people,” shared Tom Hughes, group president and pastor of Ohio Conference’s Newark Community church. “It was challenging and fun to witness for Jesus. He was our favorite subject, and the books we gave, The Ride of Your Life and The Skull and the Cross are roadmaps that lead straight to Him!”
Wrongly Jailed Pastor, Now Free, Reflects on His Detainment

Seventh-day Adventist minister Antonio Monteiro dos Anjos was arrested, charged and imprisoned at the Civil Prison in Lome, Togo, on March 15, 2012. After 22 months, the Cape Verde native was found innocent of all charges brought against him by the Togo Appeals Court and released earlier this year.

Below Delbert Baker, a General Conference vice president, interviews Monteiro about his time in prison and what he plans to do next:

**Baker: In brief, how do you summarize your experience?**

**Monteiro:** I helped a man who came to my office asking for assistance; a man who I had never seen before. Sometime later this same man, when in trouble with the police, blamed me and others for a crime that I knew nothing about nor had anything to do with. … When all this was happening it was if the sky had fallen in on me. The last sermon I preached before I was arrested was on personal revival and walking with God. Little did I know when I preached that sermon how much I would need to believe and follow the very Bible principles I spoke about. My faith was tested, but God sustained me.

[READ MORE AT ADVENTIST NEWS NETWORK](#)
Dwayne Leslie, director of Legislative Affairs for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, recently began writing a blog for The Huffington Post’s religion section. The Huffington Post is a top news aggregator and blog that attracts millions of readers each month.

In Leslie’s latest blog, he discusses “Worrying Trends in the World of Religious Liberty.” Leslie references a report from the Pew Research Center’s Religion and Public Life Project, that states, ‘the share of countries with a high or very high level of social hostilities involving religion reached a six-year peak in 2012.’ Leslie writes, “The Pew study is disheartening, if not altogether surprising. Potentially even more disturbing is that … Europe saw the highest level of increase in restrictions in the last year. ... Supposedly reasonable and tolerant Europe! It begs the question: If religious liberty is vulnerable in a place like Europe, who’s to say that any place in the world is safe from new restrictions?”

[READ MORE AT THE HUFFINGTON POST]

---

**Quiz: Are You A Church Commitment-Phobe?**

Have you been called a serial church hopper? Been asked if you’re a visitor at your home church? Don’t have enough time to help out at potluck? Then you might have a commitment problem when it comes to your church. [Take our quiz to help evaluate your commitment level.](#)

---

**Columbia Union Members in the News**

- [Political analyst: Obama critic Ben Carson has ‘star power’](#)
- [Adventist launches regional entity to improve healthcare delivery](#)
- [Adventist HealthCare CEO William Robertson leaving to run MultiCare Health in Tacoma](#)
UPCOMING EVENTS

MARYLAND

February 27: Make sure that you don’t miss the G.E. Peters annual Black history program on Thursday at the Metropolitan church. The program starts at 6:30 p.m. The address for the church is 6307 Riggs Road in Hyattsville, Md.

March 1: Tennis Anyone? Whether you are pro, a beginner or would just “love” to learn the game of tennis, you are invited to join the Sligo church family for a night of indoor tennis on Saturday evening, March 1, from 7–12 p.m. at the Fairland Sports and Aquatic Complex in Laurel, Md. There is no cost for admission, although food will be sold by the Sligo Pathfinders to help raise money for their upcoming trip to Oskosh, Wis., in August. So bring a racket and a friend.

March 1: Come and enjoy the final concert of the Afternoons@Atholton free concert series starting at 4 p.m. Rose Eide-Altman will be performing with the Encore Singers & Instrumentalists. The Atholton church is located at 6520 Martin Road in Columbia, Md. (across from the Chesapeake Conference office). For more information, call the church at (410) 740-5030 or email anastasia@thelliotts.net.

March 8: Highland View Academy's senior class members invite all to enjoy their performance of Trouble Across the Pond. Tickets will be sold at the door; prices are as followed: Single—$10, Couple—$18, Family of Four—$30 (plus $5 for each additional child). The school is located at 10100 Academy Drive in Hagerstown. For more information, visit hva-edu.com.

NEW JERSEY

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.

March 1: The Wayne church is hosting bone marrow registry drive from 1 to 4 p.m. The process is very simple. All that is required is a willingness to help your fellow human beings and getting a cheek swab. If you are found to be a match, the details of donating will be explained by the professionals at the Community Blood Bank. The church is located at 218 Ratzer Road in Wayne.

OHIO

February 28: Nichole Nordeman, renowned Christian singer/songwriter, will appear in concert at Kettering Adventist church. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m., and doors open at 6:30 p.m. The church is located at 3939 Stonebridge Rd., in Kettering. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome. A freewill offering will be collected.
PENNSYLVANIA

February 28: “Healthy, Happy & Holy Relationships,” will be the theme of the PA Singles Ministry Network Weekend, which runs from Friday, February 28, 7 p.m. to Sunday, March 2, 12 p.m. The Event will take place at the Four Points Sheraton. Guest speaker Brandon Scott will speak about “The Faithful Matchmaker.” Registration ends today. For more information and to register, visit singlesministrynetwork.com.

VIRTUAL

February 17-April 14: Oakwood University is competing again in the “Retool Your School” Contest. With the support of Adventists worldwide, the university won a $50,000 prize that allowed them to construct an outdoor pavilion. Once again, Oakwood is the only Adventist institution in this competition. You can help Oakwood to win again by visiting https://www.retoolyourschool.com/vote-now/ and voting daily and on every computer and device you own. You can vote more than once as long as it is on a different your own computer and device.

March 6: Join the NAD Prayer Ministry team for an all-night prayer teleconference, from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. ET. Call (712) 432-0031; access code is 435650#. Each half hour will have a different leader. Join any time during the call, even if you can participate for only a few minutes. Invite your friends and family. To become a prayer warrior for evangelism and receive weekly prayer requests send an email to nadprayerministries@gmail.com.

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.
William “Bill” G. Robertson, president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare, today announced plans to leave the organization. His last day at Adventist HealthCare will be April 4.

“It has been an honor to work with the executives, employees and physicians across Adventist HealthCare who each day demonstrate our mission with their compassionate and high-quality care,” Robertson said. “The organization has a very bright future and is well-positioned to be a leader in the state as more of an emphasis is placed on preventive health and wellness.”

Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union Conference and chairman of the Adventist HealthCare Board of Trustees, announced Robertson’s decision to the organization today.

“In 2000, the organization has added Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital of Maryland, Adventist Behavioral Health, the Reginald S. Lourie Center for Infants and Young Children, Adventist Medical Group and the Shady Grove Adventist Aquilino Cancer Center. In addition, it has created a number of programs and partnered with community groups to provide services to those most in need in the community. Adventist HealthCare is the largest provider of charity and uncompensated care in the county.

In 2013, its three largest hospitals, Shady Grove Adventist, Washington Adventist and Hackettstown Regional Medical Center, were named Top Performers on Key Quality Measures® by The Joint Commission.

In addition to his work in healthcare, Robertson has been honored for his community and business work and has served on a wide range of community, county and state organizations including: the Governor’s Workforce Investment Board, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Board and the Strathmore Hall Foundation Board.
“The Dream Is Over,” Announces MLK Jr.’s Daughter at Allegheny East Church

columbiaunionvisitor.com /king/

February 26, 2014 · by Taashi Rowe · in Allegheny East Conference

Martin Luther King Jr.’s daughter challenges church members to “wake up and activate.”

*Story by Ayesha Shakoor and Makeba Garrison; Photos by Comfort Bell*

“The dream is over, it is time to awake. The dream ended and now it is time to activate.” These words poured from the lips of the Rev. Bernice King, daughter of Martin Luther King, Jr., (MLK) the civil rights leader who originally delivered his now famous “I Have a Dream” speech in 1963 at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Bernice King referenced her father’s speech to a packed house at a recent celebration recognizing her father’s contributions at Allegheny East Conference’s Calvary church in Newport News, Va. Present at the celebration, themed “Dream Alive 2014, Remembering and Living the Dream,” were state representatives and clergy from different denominations.

But King had even more to say. In order to activate, she suggests strategic movement in the body of Christ to fight against the atrocities of the failing education system, going outside of the church walls and being the example to others. She challenged the congregation to be like Nehemiah. She pointed out that Nehemiah did not leave his post to answer the ruckus but stood his ground and completed his mission.

“It’s time for the church to stand up and be counted and act out of the power that we have been given,” she said. “No longer can we be tied up and tangled up in our own affairs while hell is breaking out in our midst. It’s time to stop playing church and start being the real church of Jesus Christ that is relevant to the times.”

Her words struck a chord in the hearts of several Calvary members as the church sits on the corner of 17th and Chestnut where violence runs rampant. King shared statistics of dropouts and divorce rates, which spurred many to rethink how the church body can address these issues. Calvary’s young men’s mentor group, Calvary’s Rite of Passage (CROP) gave an oratorical response to the congregation of how as young, black men they plan to make a difference in their community. Their words evoked a standing ovation for what they represent in the community and world at large.

The celebration, which also included the Pathfinders and the Calvary Adventist School choir, “offered us another opportunity … to bring together members of our local community as we rallied around the issues of education, justice and opportunity,” reflected Trevor Kinlock, the church’s pastor, at the end of the program. “It is vitally important that the community sees the church as the mobilizing place for action and empowerment. We are one of the few remaining voices of moral authority in our cities and we must make our prophetic voices heard. If our salt has no savor, we are good for nothing but to be trampled under the foot of men.”
Chesapeake Member Witnesses About King of Kings With Help From the King of Rock

Kevin Booth performs Elvis’ gospel songs at the Hagerstown (Md.) church.


February 25, 2014 · by Taashi Rowe · in Chesapeake Conference

Thirty-nine years after he first heard Elvis Presley singing on the radio, Kevin Booth is using songs by the king of rock ‘n’ roll to point people to the King of Kings.

Interview by Taashi Rowe

Kevin Booth was 5 years old when he first heard Elvis Presley singing on the radio. There was just something about music from the “king of rock ‘n’ roll” that captivated this kid growing up in a small town outside of Baltimore and turned him into a lifelong fan. Booth, now a member of Chesapeake Conference’s Hagerstown (Md.) church, says he’s had a long road back to Jesus and the church, and ‘the king’ is helping him point people to the King of Kings.

Taashi Rowe: What was it about Presley’s music that impressed you so?

Kevin Booth: There was just something about Elvis’ music that clicked for me and I loved him. It wasn’t long after that I saw him perform on TV wearing the American eagle jumpsuit and a cape. He was like a super hero and he was bigger than life to me. My mom and dad started buying me records. I think they thought I’d get over it. I was about 12 years old when I started publicly performing his music.

Rowe: How did you become involved in the Seventh-day Adventist Church?

Booth: I grew up in a semi-Christian home. My parents went to a Baptist church sometimes. But I first came to the Lord and the Adventist Church around 1991. I had gone to a Christian rock concert with some friends and gave my heart to the Lord that night. I then prayed, “Lord, there are hundreds of denominations out there, and I don’t know where to go. Send me to the one that teaches only from the Bible.” Over the next three weeks, I was surrounded by Adventists, including friends I never talked religion with before. It was unbelievable. I then discovered the Linthicum church [near Baltimore]. I took Bible studies with some elders and became baptized.

Rowe: That’s great! How did you balance your faith and your music?

Booth: Things went well for a couple years. Music was always a huge part of my life. I started pursuing country music thinking I could hold on to my relationship with Christ. I did for a while. But after performing in bars, honky tons and traveling all over, I eventually fell away from my relationship with the Lord. I would go to church every now and then, but I knew in my heart our relationship wasn’t where it should be.

Rowe: When did things start changing for you?

Booth: I didn’t realize it at the time, but even though I wasn’t walking with the Lord, He had His eye on me. About eight years ago, I was doing what musicians do in bars—drinking and partying—when I met my wife, Billie Jo. After a year or so of dating, we moved to Martinsburg, W.Va.

Rowe: How was your music career doing at this time?

Booth: Well, my country music career never really took off. But I started doing what I did as a child. My wife and I put together Elvis shows. We just used a computer and a PA system and traveled all over the country. We were especially successful in the Maryland,
Pennsylvania and West Virginia area and stayed busy.

**Rowe:** This must have made you very happy.

**Booth:** From the outside looking in you would think so. I had a wonderful wife and little girl and success. I should have been happy but I really wasn’t. One morning, about a year and a half ago, after my wife left for work, I just broke. I fell down on my knees and opened my Bible to Psalm 51. I cried out to the Lord. I knew in my heart that I left God. He didn’t leave me. Last January I was re-baptized and I recommitted my life to the Lord at the Hagerstown church.

**Rowe:** What drew you to the Hagerstown church?

**Booth:** I knew that once I recommitted my life to the Lord how important it was to be among fellow believers and get back into active relationship with the Lord. So I looked for an active, community driven church and was extremely drawn to the fellowship there.

**Rowe:** How did your return to the fold impact your blossoming music career?

**Booth:** Throughout 2013 I stopped doing Elvis shows because I felt like God was calling me away from that to devote 100 percent of my time to Christian music. Sometimes we assume that we know what God is calling us to. I turned to doing gospel shows but I wasn’t as busy as I used to be, and I wasn’t bringing in any money.

**Rowe:** But you stood firm in your faith? That must have been very difficult.

**Booth:** It was very challenging. But then a couple months ago, I got a call from Elder Gary Gibbs, [Chesapeake Conference’s Ministries Development director]. I told him I had an idea about doing a gospel concert based on the gospel music of Elvis Pressley. I thought it was a great way to reach people who normally wouldn’t come through our doors for a church service. He agreed. We did our first concert at the Dover (Del.) church. Then we had two more at the Grasonville and Rock Hall churches in Maryland. The most well-attended one was at my home church. We drew approximately 180 people and three-quarters of the attendees were not Adventists! It was absolutely thrilling!

**Rowe:** I didn’t realize that Elvis recorded gospel music.

**Booth:** Elvis recorded tons of gospel music. He was the biggest star the world has ever known and he found peace in singing gospel music. He even won three Grammys for gospel music. I would occasionally sing some of his songs at my other Elvis shows and people would come up to me afterward, tell me their hearts were touched and ask for prayer. The Elvis Gospel Show opened up a whole new world for me. I spent all of last year trying to figure out what to do and it was dangling in front of me the whole time.

**Rowe:** What’s the Elvis Gospel Show like?

**Booth:** I share my testimony and share that the one thing that brings true happiness is a relationship with God. There are two audience favorites that I always end with—“He Touched Me” and “How Great Thou Art.” People tear up with those songs.

**Rowe:** So, you’ve come full circle?

**Booth:** The Lord put the idea for the show in my heart. I was hoping that non-Adventists would come out to these programs, and praise God that’s what’s happening so far. It’s a beautiful thing. It’s our job to reach the unreached and go wherever God sends us. I believe that’s what I’m doing.

To learn more about Booth’s ministry, visit kevinboothmusic.com.
In Herndon, Hispanic Members Help Reach Southern Asians

columbiaunionvisitor.com /in-herndon-hispanic-members-help-reach-southern-asians/

February 26, 2014 · by Taashi Rowe · in Potomac Conference , Uncategorized

*Pastor Willie Benzaquen knows, “We have the responsibility to preach to whoever is around us.” But how do you serve a community you don’t know?*

*Story by Dan Jensen and Taashi Rowe*

Willie Benzaquen remembered that Sabbath morning clearly. As he preached at Potomac Conference’s Herndon Spanish church in Herndon, Va., he noticed a new face. When he went to greet him, “He didn’t speak Spanish but said he liked the music,” recalled Benzaquen, who at that time served as the church’s pastor. The man said he was from Southern Asia and had moved to the area for work.

The man was not alone. Several years ago, while driving into the Herndon area, Bill Miller, Potomac’s president, noticed new developments growing up within the community. “I learned there was a high population of people from Southern Asia—India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Burma and the surrounding nations,” said Miller.

Benzaquen felt torn by a new found reality. “Here I was pastoring a Hispanic church but we were surrounded by people of other cultures,” Benzaquen said. “Yet I knew that we had the responsibility to preach to whoever is around us.”

He also wanted to adequately serve the needs of a community he did not know. That was when Miller and Benzaquen approached Franklin David, who pastors the Southern Asian church in Silver Spring, Md. They then made plans to hold several seminars at the Herndon Spanish church, starting with a marriage seminar and a Vacation Bible School for the children. Several months later, they held health and wellness seminars to draw attention to the health message. One event even featured samples of Latin American dishes. “It was kind of a strange sight,” said Benzaquen. “The two groups didn’t understand each other’s languages, but in this case, food was the language.”

The health meetings were well attended, and it was evident that another Adventist church would be a welcomed asset to this community. So, a Southern Asian church plant was formed under the supervision of John Daniel, assistant pastor at the Silver Spring church.

*Bible Studies With Friends and Family*

At the conclusion of the meetings, Daniel received a call from one of the attendees, Anmol Wadhwa. Wadwha asked Daniel if he would consider coming to his home to give his family and friends Bible studies. Daniel immediately agreed and made arrangements to meet with them. Wadwha was shocked by this response and felt this was a clear answer to his prayer.

Three days later, Pastor Daniel rang the doorbell of Wadwha’s home, fully expecting to meet with a small group of people. To his surprise, 42 people were waiting. “I realized immediately this was a God–given opportunity,” said Daniel. “Sitting before me was an answer to many prayers by the Southern Asian congregation—I was in awe of the scene before me, and I praise God for the gift He has given us.”

The group was comprised of eight families, all of whom are still attending regular Bible studies. Cornelius Kamei, the new Bible worker assigned to this territory, will be taking on the day-to-day responsibilities...
from Pastor Daniel. All are eager to see what God has in store for the Herndon church plant.
Monteiro’s reflections on his detention in prison

Antonio Monteiro was greeted by a crowd of supporters at the airport in Cape Verde last month following his release from prison in Togo. His detainment had been the focus of several campaigns of the Adventist world church calling for his release. [photo courtesy Monteiro family]

The Adventist pastor’s first interview since his release

February 07, 2014 | Dakar, Senegal | Delbert Baker

Seventh-day Adventist minister Antonio Monteiro dos Anjos was arrested, charged and imprisoned at the Civil Prison in Lome, Togo on March 15, 2012. After 22 months, the Cape Verde native was found innocent of all charges against him by the Togo Appeals Court and released on January 13, 2014. Thousands of Seventh-day Adventists, persons of various faiths, and human rights advocates around the world who had prayed and worked for the freedom of the minister were grateful at the news of his release. Still, others, including Adventist Church member Bruno Amah, remain in prison on charges related to the case.

Monteiro and his family spent the first Sabbath of his freedom in Dakar, Senegal on their way home to Cape Verde. Delbert Baker, a Seventh-day Adventist world church vice president and representative of the world headquarters, met the Monteiros and accompanied them back to Cape Verde. Monteiro received a warm and jubilant welcome from more than a thousand supporters and friends at the Nelson Mandela International Airport in the capitol city of Praia. Baker interviewed Monteiro in Senegal, where he discussed his time in prison, how he felt about his time there, and what he plans to do next.

The Portuguese to English translation was provided by Pastor Monteiro's daughter, Andreia.

REFLECTIONS

Delbert Baker: In brief, how do you summarize your experience of being falsely accused, arrested, and imprisoned for almost two years for a crime you did not commit?

Antonio Monteiro: I helped a man who came to my office asking for assistance; a man who I had never seen before. Sometime later this same man, when in trouble with the police, blamed me and others for a crime that I knew nothing about nor had anything to do with. As a result of these false accusations I was arrested and held unjustly in prison.

When all this was happening it was if the sky had fallen in on me. The last sermon I preached before I was arrested was on personal revival and walking with God. Little did I know when I preached that sermon how much I would need to believe and follow the very Bible principles I spoke about. My faith was tested, but God sustained me.

Baker: The Togo courts recently found you innocent of all charges. What were your emotions when you heard the verdict?

Monteiro: I was thankful, relieved and glad. I remember when the judge was reading the declarations with all the legal terms and laws, the two guards who stood by me quietly turned to me and said, “Pastor, you are free!” It was an emotional and joyful moment. My first thought after hearing the verdict was I would be so happy to be with my wife and family!

Baker: What were the factors that led to your eventual acquittal and freedom?

Monteiro: First, it was the direct intervention of God. He moved through people. I could have been overlooked or forgotten in prison, but
my wife and family, local Adventist church leaders and colleagues on all levels of the church did not forget me. Then God worked through the Cape Verde government and the attorneys for my defense. God's power was magnificent.

TRIALS

Baker: As you look back, do you have any idea why God may have allowed this experience to happen?

Monteiro: I really can't explain why this happened. It seems God may have been accomplishing a bigger purpose. I realize I don't have to have the answers to all the things that happen in life. Some things you just have to live through. My biggest concern was for my family. If something befell them because of what happened to me—that would have been the worst thing.

Baker: Did the accusations and time in prison ever make you angry or bitter?

Monteiro: No. I was not angry or bitter. I knew there were no basis for the charges against me and that I was being treated unjustly. At first I would always ask, “Why was this happening to me?” Then I began to ask, “What did God want me to learn from this situation?”

That was a much better way to approach my predicament. I decided not to spend time being negative but to use it as a learning, growing experience. I saw so many other prisoners who were angry, mad, and upset all the time. I saw what anger and bitterness did to break them down and poison their relationships. I didn’t want to be like that.

Baker: What about the others who were accused with you and not freed?

Monteiro: Someone said to me, and I believe it: I was on a mission in prison. I would not leave that prison before my mission was done. It was true with me and it is true with the others as well. We have a mission to do and God will be with us when we remain to do it or when He wants us to leave.

When departing from prison I said to Brother [Bruno] Amah, who I respect and believe to be innocent, and to the believers, that they must continue the work we started. I still to pray that the same God that worked with us in the past will continue to be with them. I remain concerned and supportive.

ACQUITTAL

Baker: What if your verdict had been different? What if you hadn’t been freed?

Monteiro: That's a good question that I'm happy I don't have to deal with (laughter). When I was in prison I really believed that God would free me. He impressed me with that thought. Yet I knew that I could not say too much about that conviction. But even though I believed that God would free me, I was prepared to remain in prison or to make any sacrifice that might be called for.

Baker: You did the work of a Christian by helping a person in need. Then the one you helped falsely accused you. Does this experience cause you to re-think about helping others?

Monteiro: No. What happened doesn’t influence me against helping others. The fact that undesired things may happen when we do good shouldn’t stop us from doing good. Jesus did good and look how He was treated on the cross. In prison I was able to help more people than ever before. However, when helping others we should always be wise and thoughtful and take safe and sensible precautions.

Baker: Do you feel your previous spiritual experience prepared you for this test?

Monteiro: God will not allow any experience or temptation to come to us that we cannot handle. I do believe that God prepares us for what we will face. Yes, my previous experience with God helped prepare me to cope and progress in this situation. It is not that one event will prepare you.

Like Jesus I said, “Lord if it be possible, let this cup pass from me.” But then I would add “not my will but Thy will be done.” These are thoughts that don’t come only once, but come back from time to time. Each time you must face and dismiss them in faith and move on believing.

MINISTRY

Baker: Describe a typical day in prison.

Monteiro: I lived in a prison that was built to hold 500 inmates, but there were almost 2,000 crammed into it. My particular facility had
25-28 men in it, very tight quarters, with no windows or air conditioner. We got up early. I would take time for personal prayer and Bible reading and then move out into the yard. Many prisoners considered the food to be not food at all. Of course we were denied the basic freedoms.

At 5:30 p.m. every evening the guards would lock all of us in the room and you couldn't go out nor would they come in until the next morning at 6 a.m. We had no beds, just mats on the hard floor. There was a big pail in the middle of the floor that everyone used as a toilet. There was no privacy. Let me just say the living conditions were not desirable. Due to the environment there was sickness and the potential of fights. However, I was blessed for the way the other prisoners respected and treated me and the fact that I never once got sick.

**Baker:** Many people visited you in prison from around the world. What impact did these visits have on you and your time in prison?

**Monteiro:** Yes the visits were most encouraging. I better understand what the Bible means when it says that we should visit those in prison. Each visit was a witness and demonstrated love and support.

The highpoint of my day was when my wife visited. She was allowed to bring me food and she did so every day. Often my children would come as well. Then I received visits from Adventist Union and Mission leaders, pastors and members; visits from representatives of the Division and General Conference, and my country, Cape Verde.

One of the most special visits was from Pastor Ted, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Everyone—prisoners, guards, prison officials, members and community people—was impressed that the president took time to come and visit.

**LESSONS**

**Baker:** What are some lessons you’ve gained from your prison experience?

**Monteiro:** There are many lessons that I learned while in prison. Here are a few. I learned that there is great power in:

First, forgiveness without resentment. There was a temptation to be bitter and mad about how I was treated. But I remembered that Jesus was also mistreated and wrongly accused, even by His own followers. So my plan was to forgive and hold no resentment. That’s why I was able to relate kindly to the man who falsely accused me; a man who was later confined in the same prison where I was held. That gave me spiritual fire and staying power.

Next, acceptance without giving up. I didn’t know what my future would be but accepted my state in prison. I believed I would be freed at some point though I didn’t know where and how it would happen. Therefore I didn’t tell people what or how I would react if not released. Why? Because I didn’t want them to misunderstand me and think I was doubting and unsure. I would not give up on believing in and working for justice against the false accusations.

Third, compassion and generosity. In prison there is always a need for helping people. Love and kindness were very important in that prison. We had many inmates in a small place. In this difficult situation there is a real need to show the love of Christ.

When people were hungry, needed money, discouraged, having home problems, I would step up and help whenever possible. Then when prisoners would get mad and fight, I sought to bring peace and reconciliation. Most of all when people were open, I shared the gospel.

There is a Portuguese word, “morabeza,” which summarizes what I sought to demonstrate. It is a powerful word that means hospitality, kindness and love.

Fourth, persistent trust in God. I kept believing that God was in prison with me. I would not give up. I thought of other Bible characters who spent time in prison—Joseph, Jeremiah, Paul, and others—and it gave me encouragement. Like Paul, I was not a prisoner of Togo, but of Jesus Christ.

Finally, spending time wisely. I had time on my hands. I could waste it or I could use it to grow mentally and spiritually. I read the Bible, books. I would pray, journal and develop devotionals. I could preach, teach and counsel others. I tried to use my time in constructive ways.

**EXAMPLE**

**Baker:** You talked about forgiving those who falsely accused you. How were you able to exercise the ministry of forgiveness?

**Monteiro:** I just forgave. In light of my decision not to be angry or bitter, I resolved to forgive just like God forgave me. Revenge doesn’t pay, it costs.
People saw me treat my accuser kindly and decently and they wanted to know how I could do that. This living demonstration of forgiveness opened many doors to witness and it began to make a difference. The prison became a more peaceful place. The people would say, “We can't fight like we used to with Pastor Monteiro around (laughter).” The example of forgiveness is powerful and contagious.

**Baker:** You did widespread evangelism and witnessing. There are pictures of you conducting communion services and baptisms. Tell us about your outreach activities.

**Monteiro:** The prison was an evangelistic territory and the inmates were persons to help and, if possible, win to Christ. The prison experiences of Paul and Daniel and Joseph and their witnessing habits were good examples. Paul witnessed and won souls for Christ while in chains. Daniel was thrown into prison for a time and witnessed to the king. Joseph was in prison unjustly and yet witnessed to and treated other prisoners kindly.

When I arrived at prison they introduced me as a Seventh-day Adventist pastor. They wanted me to preach to them and so I did. I would regularly preach and give Bible studies. Then I also gave away truth-filled literature that the church brought to the prison. We used and gave away the “Conflict of the Ages” series; hundreds of Bible studies, the “Connected with Jesus” series, books such as “The Adventist Home,” “Steps to Christ” and more than 2,000 copies of “The Great Controversy.”

Then we organized prayer and Bible study groups. We also organized a “Pray for Togo Day.” For the first time Muslims, Catholics, Protestants and other religions came together to fellowship and pray for the country and leaders of Togo. These activities created unity in the prison.

**Baker:** The typical model of prison ministry is people minister from the “outside to the inside.” In your case it was from the “inside to the inside.” Did you find it difficult to do prison ministry as a prisoner?

**Monteiro:** At times it was difficult ministering in prison but there was also joy, especially when you saw prayers answered and lives changed. I didn't go into prison with a developed or established outreach plan (laughter). The plan developed as opportunity presented itself.

I preached on Tuesdays and Thursdays and gave Bible studies all through the week. I also had time to translate Bible and Spirit of Prophecy literature into Portuguese. Then there were the baptismal and communion services that were so meaningful. In one baptismal service nine inmates were baptized and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

**FUTURE**

**Baker:** What do you think is the spiritual legacy of your time in prison?

**Monteiro:** I'm not sure that I would call it a legacy, but I would like to think I accomplished the mission that Jesus wanted me to do. I went there accused of something I didn't do. While there I discovered that great needs existed. I had something special to offer, a special work to do and I did it.

**Baker:** Your ministry will undoubtedly continue. What are some future possibilities that you see?

**Monteiro:** My desire is to minister to and help people. I will see what God has in the future. I have a pastorate in the Cape Verde Conference. Further, I have a great interest in ministry in prisons and to those who are there. I think I can use my experience to minister in this area and make things better. This is the ministry that Christ encourages and there is much that can be done in this important area. Then I am willing to share my testimony with whoever wants to hear it.

**THANKFUL**

**Baker:** What message would you like to share with Adventists and other people around the world who prayed for you and are happy for your freedom?

**Monteiro:** I have a message, a message of thanks. Tell the whole world church thank you, thank you, thank you. I am grateful for the love, support and prayers during the whole time I was in prison. The love of my wife and family—yes, praise the Lord, the love of our whole church will stay with me.

I’m thankful for the support of the Adventist Church that was a strong witness to the government and people of Togo. It was also a powerful picture to my own country that Adventists are unified and supporters.
I am thankful to Pastor Ted Wilson for his prison visit and ongoing support. Then I am thankful to Pastor Wari and the West-Central Africa Division staff, Pastor Guy Roger (and his team), Pastor Solomon Assienin of the then Sahel Union. Special thanks to Dr. John Graz, Dr. Ganoune Diop and you of the GC and Religious Liberty Department who helped me, my family and gave leadership to the global movement to free me. Then I have deep appreciation for the defense attorneys and to Todd McFarland of the GC [Office of General Counsel] for their good legal advice and defense work. I have thanks to the GC, Dr. Baker for you coming to greet and accompany us to Cape Verde after my release from prison.

So I’m thankful for everyone who supported me in every way. Words can never fully express my gratitude. I have so much to be thankful for.
Worrying Trends in the World of Religious Liberty

The new report released Tuesday by the Pew Research Center's Religion and Public Life Project highlights a number of troubling trends that should concern anyone -- whether private citizen or public official -- about the state of religious freedom around the world as of 2012.

That "the share of countries with a high or very high level of social hostilities involving religion reached a six-year peak in 2012," according to the Pew study is disheartening, if not altogether surprising. The report found that a full third of the nearly 200 countries and territories surveyed "had high religious hostilities in 2012." This continues the disturbing trajectory seen in recent years (just under 30 percent in 2011 and an even 20 percent in 2007). It is alarming to see the more than 10 percent increase that took place just in the 12 months between 2011 and 2012.

Potentially even more disturbing is that "while the share of countries with a high or very high level of government restrictions on religion stayed roughly the same," Europe saw the highest level of increase in restrictions in the last year. Not the Middle East, or certain traditionally anti-religious countries in Asia, not Africa... but supposedly reasonable and tolerant Europe! It begs the question: If religious liberty is vulnerable in a place like Europe, who's to say that any place in the world is safe from new restrictions? And here's another frightening statistic: More than three-quarters of the world's population now resides in an area marked by religious restrictions, be they government-imposed or the product of social hostilities.

Pew also gauges the status of religious liberty worldwide by measuring levels of harassment or intimidation of minority religious groups. Here too, the results show deterioration. The current study found a six-year high in the number of countries in which two key faith groups -- Muslims and Jews -- were harassed by individuals, governments or other groups in society.

And it's not just people and groups that are overtly and consistently hostile to religion that are the problem. Hostilities among religious groups are a significant factor, as well. For example, Pew's study specifically cites the well-publicized attack by monks in Sri Lanka on Muslim and Christian places of worship. During the attack, they used force to seize control of a Seventh-day Adventist church in Deniyaya, turning it into a Buddhist temple in the process. But that's just one disheartening example of thousands that could be cited as, overall, the Pew Report documents that "religion-related terrorist violence" occurred in about a fifth of countries worldwide, up from nine percent in 2007.

Truth be told, there is little good news at all in Pew's latest research, despite the fact that overall, government restrictions on religion worldwide increased only slightly from 2011. But even within that arena, there was an increase in use of government force against religious groups, to 48 percent of countries in 2012 (compared to 41 percent in 2011).

I would encourage anyone interested in religious liberty to read Pew's full report here.

If there is a true silver lining in this research, perhaps it is that 29 percent of countries actually saw a decrease in the level of restrictions on religious liberty between 2011 and 2012. Yes, that is more than offset by the 61 percent of countries that experience increased restrictions during the same time period. However, it shows that motivated governments, seriously focused on ensuring the rights of their citizenry, can make a difference.

And reducing the assault on religious freedoms is something every government leader and elected official around the world should be intently focused on as we enter this New Year.
Are We Commitment-Phobes?

A Protestant pastor and a congregational researcher recently tackled what many have referred to as “the 20/80 problem,” which they define as “20 percent of the members doing 80 percent of the work, while most of the rest do nothing. Is this a problem in the Seventh-day Adventist church?

Article by Beth Michaels

A Protestant pastor and a congregational researcher recently tackled what many have referred to as “the 20/80 problem,” which they define as “20 percent of the members doing 80 percent of the work, while most of the rest do nothing.” In their 2011 book The Other 80 Percent: Turning Your Church’s Spectators Into Active Participants, the authors use national research, field studies and hundreds of interviews with members of various denominations—some of the most extensive data available to date—to determine a diversity of approaches to the issue.

Think you might be a commitment-phobe? Take our quiz

The authors determine that some of the main reasons members lack commitment is that they are affected by individualism and consumerism popular in American culture, they have experienced disappointment with their church and lack a willingness to give back, they lack an understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus or their church simply lacks organization and good leadership.

Is this also true in the Seventh-day Adventist Church? Read on to see!
While a Christian political science professor agrees Dr. Ben Carson would bring a "fresh face" to the 2016 presidential sweepstakes, he also believes the mild-mannered critic of Barack Obama has a critical liability: no political experience.

Recently the National Draft Ben Carson for President Committee announced that it has raised more than $2.5 million for its efforts to get the famed brain surgeon to run in 2016. And in a recent poll of conservative activists, Carson received 77-percent approval, trailing only Senators Ted Cruz and Rand Paul.

But the chairman emeritus of the Johns Hopkins Department of Pediatric Neurosurgery has stated publicly that he won't run unless called to do so by the American people.

Dr. Charles W. Dunn, professor emeritus at Clemson University, spoke with OneNewsNow about Dr. Carson.

"Who has star power? Who offers the freshest face? The name there is Dr. Ben Carson," says Dunn, answering his own questions. "He's the big buzz factor now. He has a strong following among religious conservatives – in particular, evangelicals – who will play an important role in the nomination process."

But according to Dunn, Carson has a big disadvantage.

"He doesn't have political experience – and that's a big danger in nominating someone without political experience," says the political analyst. "All we have to do is look at Barack Obama. There's always the danger that the fresh face wouldn't have the necessary experience to govern properly."

But Dunn emphasizes he isn't suggesting that Carson would be like Barack Obama.

Evangelicals polled about their biblical views on immigration policy

An immigration reduction advocacy organization says a new poll shows an overwhelming number of evangelical voters oppose the argument that the Bible supports giving amnesty to illegal immigrants.
Adventist launches regional entity to improve health care delivery

by Kevin James Shay Staff writer

29,059 Marylanders enrolled as of Feb. 1 through state’s health care exchange

by Kevin James Shay Staff writer

The federal health care reform law — known as the Affordable Care Act — is sparking a vast array of changes across Maryland and the nation.

More providers are joining together to better compete with larger hospital networks and cut costs, while more people are at least trying to obtain coverage through exchange networks that have gotten off to a rocky start since rolling out in October.

Last month, Gaithersburg-based Adventist HealthCare started operating the Mid-Atlantic Primary Care Accountable Care Organization, an entity designed to improve the coordination of medical services and reduce costs. It is one of more than 100 nationally approved by the federal agency Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services to participate in a shared-savings program.

Adventist has long been working on ways to reduce medical costs and serve patients better, said Patrick Garrett, chief administrator of the ACO and senior vice president for physician integration and population-based care with Adventist. In that regard, the federal law is not a driver in developing the organization.

"Many trends in medicine preceded the [Affordable Care Act]," Garrett said. “For many years, we have been taking on more responsibility to obtain better outcomes.”

The physician-led partnership includes more than 1,000 providers, ranging from individual physicians to larger physician groups such as MedPeds in Laurel and Comprehensive Women’s Health in Silver Spring. Adventist’s facilities include Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville, Shady Grove Adventist Emergency Center in Germantown and Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park.

There are more than 100 primary care physicians and 14,000 patients in the region within Adventist’s ACO, mostly in Maryland. While providers in the organization do not share facilities and resources, they can reduce costs through, for example, avoiding duplication of lab tests and services, Garrett said.

“It helps us create more efficient and coordinated care,” he said. “It does take a lot of coordination. … But we think this is a big part of the future of health care, working with our community physicians.”

Another way Adventist is working to improve care is by establishing more preventive care clinics. Along with Community Clinic Inc., the company recently opened a new clinic at its Takoma Park hospital that focuses on uninsured and underinsured patients.

Federal researchers project that spending by Medicare will slow in the coming decade, breaking a trend in past decades of that spending being significantly higher than the rate of growth of the economy.

State: Many glitches in exchange fixed

Maryland’s health care exchange, through which some people have obtained insurance, is still plagued with inefficiencies to the point that U.S. Rep. John Delaney (D-Dist. 6) of Potomac and others continue to ask that the state switch to the federal health insurance exchange while Maryland’s system is being fixed.

State health officials said in a report last week that many of the technical glitches “most frustrating to consumers have been fixed, and we continue to work to address others that continue to cause difficulties for some Maryland consumers.”

The state system had signed up 29,059 Maryland residents in private health plans, as of Feb. 1. More than 140,000 residents had been enrolled in Medicaid, either automatically or through the site.

Maryland is one of 16 states, along with Washington, D.C., operating their own exchanges. Others like Virginia have residents use the
federal government’s system.

U.S. Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin (D) of Pikesville, who recently toured the Bethesda headquarters of Wellness Corporate Solutions, which provides corporate wellness programs for public and private clients, said he was not happy with the start of Maryland’s exchange system. But he was told that moving to the federal system even temporarily would cause transitional issues such as problems with people in the middle of their application process.

“The state has considered multiple changes, including moving to the federal exchange on a temporary basis,” Cardin said. “They are interested in getting health care coverage to as many people as possible. But they say that moving right now to the federal exchange would be counterproductive.”

Wellness Corporate Solutions provides a good model to help employers bring down medical costs by working on the prevention side in helping employees stay healthy through exercise and better nutrition, Cardin said. He has promoted wellness programs within the federal government and also serves on the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee.

“It’s a very impressive company,” Cardin said. “Everyone seems happy and wants to get to work. And it’s growing fast.”

Wellness Corporate Solutions moved to its Bethesda location last fall from a smaller space in Cabin John. The company has more than 80 employees and last year made Inc. magazine’s annual list of the 500 fastest-growing private businesses nationally. The business ranked 355th with a revenue growth rate of 1,237 percent between 2009 and 2012, to $9.3 million.

While employers investing in wellness programs reap financial benefits over time, it’s sometimes a struggle to demonstrate a clear return on investment, said Fiona Gathright, president and CEO of Wellness Corporate Solutions. It takes several years to collect the necessary data and foster a true culture of health in a workplace that promotes lasting results, she said.

“But we’ve found that even at the outset, employers reap a number of benefits from wellness programs,” Gathright said. “Employee morale improves markedly, and as employees become healthier, absenteeism rates decline and levels of productivity increase.”

kshay@gazette.net
Adventist HealthCare CEO William Robertson leaving to run MultiCare Health in Tacoma

By Catherine Ho,

William G. “Bill” Robertson plans to leave his post as president and chief executive of Gaithersburg-based health system Adventist HealthCare in April to lead MultiCare Health System, a not-for-profit organization based in Washington state.

Robertson has led Adventist — one of the largest private employers in Maryland, with more than 6,200 employees — since 2000. His last day will be April 4, Adventist HealthCare Board of Trustees Chairman David E. Weigley announced Monday.

Five retail trends to watch in 2014

Abha Bhattarai

From outlet malls to same-day delivery, a look at what’s to come.

National’s Terminal A gets an upgrade to first class

Abha Bhattarai and Kathy Orton

Carla Hall is one of several local chefs, mixologists behind the line-up of four new restaurants.

Robertson is slated to become the president and chief executive at MultiCare Health on May 1.

MultiCare is based in Tacoma and has about 10,000 employees and five hospitals.

Under Robertson’s watch, Adventist became the largest provider of health care in Montgomery County and added several new facilities including Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital of Maryland, Adventist Behavioral Health, the Reginald S. Lourie Center for Infants and Young Children, Adventist Medical Group and the Shady Grove Adventist Hospital Aquilino Center.

Expansion efforts ran into trouble in 2011, when Adventist failed to win approval for plans to build a comprehensive medical campus and hospital in Clarksburg.

The system has since agreed to sell the 47-acre site to a developer who proposes a retail outlet center.

“The organization has a very bright future and is well-positioned to be a leader in the state as more of an emphasis is placed on preventive health and wellness,” Robertson said in a statement.

Adventist has yet to select a replacement, Weigley said in the statement. The health system plans to release details of the succession process in the new few weeks, an Adventist spokesman said.

“I take great comfort in knowing that Bill built an excellent team of executives and leaders who will help me with the selection process for a new president and CEO,” Weigley said.
Kettering College has announced it will offer its first doctoral level degree.

The school is developing an Occupational Therapy Doctorate program, and has submitted a candidacy application to the Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education. It must also submit applications to several other accrediting bodies including the Higher Learning Commission, the Ohio Board of Regents, and the Adventist Accrediting Association.

Once these approvals have been secured, the school says it will begin the admissions process for the program. The school says it could see its first cohort of these students as soon as fall 2014.

The school has also hired Terrance Anderson as founding director for the program. He has background in administration and occupational therapy, among other specialties.

“Kettering College has attempted to develop new programs which meet the personnel needs of Kettering Health Network, as well as those of the broader health care community,” said Nelson. “We are aware of the need for additional qualified rehabilitation medicine professionals, and we believe that our proposed occupational therapy doctoral program will help address this shortage.”

The proposed program will be a 32-month, 8-semester program requiring a bachelor’s degree and other to-be-determined prerequisites.

As a part of the process, the college says it is also hiring full- and part-time faculty to teach the program.

Kettering College is a private Kettering-based school of 880 students affiliated with Kettering Health Network.

Industries:

Education, Health Care

Trending

Most Popular

- Most popular
- Slideshows
- Mobile
- Download the free iPhone app
- Download the free Android app
Rick Puckett, chief financial officer of Synder’s-Lance Inc., made a deal with his company that put a quick $250,000 in his pocket.

Puckett’s previous employment agreement with Lance had allowed the University of Kentucky MBA to leave the company and collect a big severance package. He could elect to leave if the