Weekly News From Around the Columbia Union Conference

Pennsylvania Pastor Chosen to Lead Columbia Union School of Evangelism

Last week the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee extended a call to Tara VinCross, DMin, to head and launch their new school of evangelism. VinCross is senior pastor of Pennsylvania Conference’s Chestnut Hill church in Philadelphia; director of the Pennsylvania Youth Challenge, a youth summer literature evangelism program; and senior pastor for the REACH Philadelphia church plant. VinCross, who will graduate with a Doctor of Ministry in biblical spirituality and discipleship from Andrews University (Mich.) in August, is praying—along with the members of her churches and other community partners in Philadelphia—for God’s leading.

The Columbia Union School of Evangelism is geared toward teaching young adults how to become active disciples of Christ. Union leaders are planning to open the school in September 2015.—Story by Taashi Rowe
Potomac Names New Vice President for Finance

The Potomac Conference administration and executive committees recently selected David VandeVere, former treasurer of the Minnesota Conference and current pastor of the Damascus Grace Fellowship church in Damascus, Md., as the conference’s vice president for finance.

VandeVere has an extensive background in pastoral administration and a heart for ministry. Prior to joining the Potomac Conference, he held the positions of assistant treasurer (1992–1996) and treasurer (1996–2004) for the Minnesota Conference.

"I am excited to once again serve as a conference treasurer with President Bill Miller," said VandeVere. "Under God's blessing, he has assembled a team of administrators, pastors and teachers [who] are completely committed to growing and leading the mission of God's kingdom in the Potomac Conference. I consider it a privilege to work with this group."—Story by Tiffany Doss

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U.S. Congresswoman Addresses Glenridge’s Religious Liberty Forum
U.S. Rep. Donna F. Edwards, who represents Maryland’s 4th District, was the guest speaker for a special religious liberty forum that was recently held at the Glenridge church in District Heights, Md. The Glenridge Voyagers Pathfinders gave her an enthusiastic welcome.

The congresswoman recounted the origin of religious liberty and its current state in the United States and other parts of the world. She also emphasized the need to protect this liberty and lauded the work that the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been doing to promote religious liberty. Her address was followed by a question-and-answer session moderated by Evol Ewan, the church’s religious liberty elder. During that session, the congresswoman answered questions on religious liberty, creationism and evolution, non-traditional marriage, church-state relations and the Affordable Care Act.—Story by Valentine Parillon; Photo by Joanna Samuel

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Two New Jersey Spanish Churches Welcome Eight Members

A weeklong evangelism meeting held at the Perth Amboy Spanish and La Victoria Spanish churches was one of 97 held across the New Jersey Conference. Gabriel Morales, a theology student from the Antillian University in Puerto Rico, led the
meetings he themed “Yo Soy” (“I Am”). At the end of the week, eight people were baptized.

During the last minutes of the baptism, Mario Thorp, pastor of both churches, made three appeals to the congregation. After the third appeal, a man named Juan (pictured with Thorp, left, and Morales, right) stepped forward in tears, ready to give his life to Jesus.

Another of the baptized individuals is a young man named Ezequiel who attended church for a few Sabbaths to make his mother happy. But when he showed up for the final meeting on Sabbath, he felt moved to leave his past behind and give his future to Christ.—Story by Bianca Morales

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Potomac Student Awarded Carson Scholarship

Julius Semple-Dormer, a fourth-grader at Potomac Conference’s Sligo Adventist School in Takoma Park, Md., was recently named a 2014 Carson Scholar. He is among 510 new scholars to receive the honor this year. The Carson Scholars Fund is a national nonprofit organization named for Ben Carson, the famed neurosurgeon and Chesapeake Conference member. The program identifies and awards scholarships to students in grades 4-11 for their high academic achievement and humanitarian activities with the goal of encouraging them to prepare for and attend college. Scholarship recipients must have a GPA of at least 3.75.

Semple-Dormer not only met the required GPA, he also mentors younger students and founded his own nonprofit organization, Zees Robot. This school year, Zees Robot will award one Sligo student a Kindle to encourage higher-level thinking skills and foster a continual love for reading.—Story by Sligo Adventist School Staff

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24 Claim Victory in Cleveland Hispanic Community

The May 3 Sabbath celebration at Ohio Conference’s Cleveland Spanish church was filled with great happiness, loud singing, smiling faces, tears of joy, hugs and cheers of victory. The members were elated because 24 people gave their lives to Christ after attending an evangelistic campaign conducted by Pastor Winston Simpson from the Pennsylvania Conference.

The day included many miraculous stories. Caleb Caraballo (pictured), son of a prominent Baptist minister in Cleveland, embraced the Seventh-day Adventist faith and message of hope. After departing the church for many years, Linda Sanchez returned to the church and brought along her two sisters and two friends—all four were baptized that day. One of the church’s small groups brought eight people to baptism, including one family of four. There was also a man who learned about the Sabbath truth many years ago by studying on his own and was finally baptized.

—Story by Ohio Conference Staff

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Tarde Victoria
Ambiente de mucha alegría, cantos de júbilo, rostros llenos de emoción donde la sonrisa se mezcla con las lágrimas de felicidad, abrazos, aclamaciones de victoria, en fin un gozo desbordante. Todas estas frases apenas logran describir lo vivido la tarde del sábado 3 de Mayo para la hermandad adventista en Cleveland. Una poderosa campaña evangelística conducida por el pastor Winston Simpson trajo 24 preciosas almas a los pies del Señor. La iglesia celebró con entusiasmo cada alma que se entregaba y el nombre de Dios fue ampliamente glorificado durante toda esta actividad. La celebración fue calificada por todos los participantes como “Tarde de Victoria” pues cada persona que entregó su vida a Jesús en ese día, representaba una lucha y un milagro concedido. Milagros y más milagros vividos en una sola tarde.

LEA MAS

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**Summersville Eighth-Grader’s Art Piece Wins Best of Show**
Out of 170 entries to the Mountain View Conference’s annual education fair, Mathew Iannacone’s wood-carved and framed art project, which featured this year’s “Forever Faithful” International Pathfinder Camporee logo, won best of show. He is an eighth-grader at the Summersville (W.Va.) school. The fair, which was held in Summersville, featured entries for art, Bible, science and social studies from students in grades 1 through 12.

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**Spotted: Chesapeake Church's Pews Find New Home**
Joshua Song enjoys sitting in these pews for the last time. Chesapeake Conference’s Triadelphia church in Clarksville, Md., plans to donate the benches to the Hardeeville Spanish church in Hardeeville, S.C. The donations were a welcomed answer to prayer for the South Carolina members who are rebuilding their church, with help from Marantha Volunteers International, after a fire destroyed it. “It was God-sent timing,” said Jesse Wenzel, Triadelphia head deacon. “Our church is renovating and needed to get rid of these pews. We’re happy that we are going to be able to help them out a bit.”

In Restructure Proposal for Publishing Houses, Review and Herald Would Close

The boards of the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., and Pacific Press Publishing Association (Idaho) recently released a statement sharing the results of their May 12 meetings, where they approved and recommended a proposal to reorganize their operations. Below is an excerpt from the statement:

“… The Review and Herald Publishing Association will cease operations at its current location in Hagerstown, Md., but will continue as a General Conference institution. Its corporate office location will be transferred to the church’s world headquarters in Silver Spring, Md., where the reconstituted organization, without printing and production facilities, will oversee the publishing of various products that are currently produced by the General Conference headquarters, such as the Adventist Review, Adventist World, Ministry, The Journal of Adventist Education, Elder’s Digest, the Mission magazine, children’s and youth Sabbath School materials, the Sabbath School Adult Bible Study Guides, Biblical Research Institute publications and other products.

This restructuring plan does not become official until the constituent bodies of each publishing association approve it. The two constituencies will meet independently of each other June 17, 2014, at the General Conference headquarters.”
Shady Grove Partners With County to Launch Infant Injury Prevention Campaign

Last month Isiah Leggett (left), Montgomery County’s executive, joined John Sackett (second from left), president of Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville, Md., to launch a public education campaign aimed at reminding parents of infants to “Handle With CARE.” Since August 2013, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of serious injuries and deaths in Montgomery County children under the age of 4, with an average of one fatality per month. The county and the hospital are distributing special “onesies” to parents of newborns at Shady Grove with a tag that says “Fragile: Handle With CARE.”

Sackett said the hospital was pleased to support the county in this effort as it is “an extension of our mission to demonstrate God’s care through a ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing.”—Story by Adventist HealthCare Staff

Justices Rule, Towns Can Continue Opening Local Meetings With Prayer
A recent Supreme Court decision (5-4) ruled it permissible to continue opening public town meetings with a prayer from a “chaplain of the month.” Justice Anthony Kennedy said, “Ceremonial prayer is but a recognition that ... many Americans deem that their own existence must be understood by precepts far beyond that authority of government to alter or define.” The case revolved around town meetings in Greece, N.Y., where most of the chaplains were from Christian denominations. The plaintiffs argued that they were forced to listen to sectarian preaching in order to participate in local government.

Although the Seventh-day Adventist Church did not participate in this case, Walter Carson, general counsel for the Columbia Union, noted that organizations the church often aligns with opposed the town’s prayer practices. “Personally, while interesting, I don’t believe the decision will have any direct impact on most Adventists,” he concluded.

Columbia Union Members in the Media

Possible restructuring could result in closure of Review & Herald Publishing Association

Washington Co. elementary students perform with Maryland Symphony Orchestra

Behind the career: Terry Forde VIDEO: W.C. Atkinson Building “A Haven for the Homeless”

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARYLAND

May 16-18: The Middletown Valley church is hosting “A Real Marriage, Real Talk!” seminar, which will be facilitated by Chaplain and Nisa Darroux. The Friday night session (7-9 p.m.) will cover “How Personality Types Influence Marriage.” The Sabbath sermon, which starts at 10:50 a.m., will be titled “A
Dream Realized Despite Dysfunction." The evening session (3-6 p.m.) will cover "How Family of Origin Stuff Affects Marriage," and "Emotional and Spiritual Health Impacts Marriage" and include a question-and-answer session. Sunday's session (9 a.m.-12 p.m.) will be titled “Enhancing Communication and Managing Conflicts." To register, contact Lynne Williams at (301) 371-6887. The church is located at 1811 Arnold Road in Jefferson, Md. There is a $20 fee per couple, which covers materials and Friday's light supper.”

May 16-17: All former students, graduates, or attendees of Spencerville Junior Academy and Spencerville Adventist Academy are invited to Alumni homecoming beginning with vespers on Friday, May 16, at 7 p.m. at the academy. On Sabbath, May 17, a special 11 a.m. worship service at Spencerville church will feature an alumni choir. Following the service, there will be lunch and tours at the academy. On Saturday evening, join fellow alumni at 8 p.m. for basketball and volleyball in the SAA gym. The Spencerville church is located at 16325 New Hampshire Avenue in Silver Spring. Spencerville Adventist Academy is located at 2502 Spencerville Road, Spencerville, Maryland. For more information, visit spaac.net or call (301) 421-9101.

June 4: Joyce Newmyer, president and CEO of Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Md., will sing at 'Washington Adventist Hospital Night at the Nationals' baseball game. Some proceeds will go to hospital’s foundation. Newmyer starts singing at 7:05 p.m.

June 8: Discover which wild plants are edible by participating in a one-day class on Sunday, June 8, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., at the Mount Aetna Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md. The $48 fee includes two meals (made with edible wild plants gathered during class time), guided identification hikes, lectures, textbook and color plant identification packets. Must register to participate. To register, call (301) 824-6045, or email mtaetnacamp@myactv.net.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 18: The Capital Memorial church (CMC) will host their 22nd annual International Vegetarian Food Fair from 1-4 p.m. CMC members, from more than 40 countries, will present an unlimited “sampling” of authentic international vegetarian cuisines; vegan items (and there are many) will be noted. Hundreds of people from the community attend each year to discover the many delicious ways to eat more healthfully. Free for children age 10 and under, $15 per person, $10 for age 60 or older (with ID). Credit cards will be accepted. The church is located at 3150 Chesapeake Street, NW, in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit capitalmemorial.org.

VIRTUAL

April 9-May 15: Adventist photographers from across the North American Division are invited to participate in inSpire's 2014 Facebook Photo Contest. Both amateur and professional photographers may enter. The idea is to spotlight God's creative power and to provide opportunities for His people to share their gifts. Prizes range from $100 to an iPad Mini. Winners will be selected based on a combination of how many people like the photos on Facebook, and the rankings that will be given by inSpire's photography judges. The contest ends at midnight on May 15. MORE

Taashi Rowe, Visitor News Bulletin Editor
Potomac Names New Vice President for Finance

May 12, 2014 · by Taashi Rowe · in Potomac Conference

“When I heard Dave was interested in returning to the treasury role, I told Bill Miller that his search was over. In my opinion, he was the man Potomac needed,” says Tom Evans, North American Division treasurer, of David VandeVere, Potomac's new vice president of finance.

Story by Tiffany Doss

The Potomac Conference administration and executive committee recently selected David VandeVere, former treasurer of the Minnesota Conference and pastor of the Damascus Grace Fellowship church in Damascus, Md., as the conference’s vice president for finance.

Having served as senior pastor at Damascus Grace since 2004, VandeVere has an extensive background in pastoral administration and a heart for ministry. Prior to joining the Potomac Conference, he held the positions of assistant treasurer (1992 – 1996) and treasurer (1996 – 2004) for the Minnesota Conference.

“I am excited to once again serve as a conference treasurer with President Bill Miller,” said VandeVere. “Under God’s blessing, he has assembled a team of administrators, pastors and teachers [who] are completely committed to growing and leading the mission of God’s kingdom in the Potomac Conference. I consider it a privilege to work with this group.”

VandeVere graduated from what is now called Southern Adventist University (Tenn.), in 1987, with his bachelor’s in accounting and was licensed as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in 1989. He started his career at a major accounting firm in the Carolinas and served as a public accountant from 1987–1992.

“While at the Mid-America Union, Dave always kept me on my toes with his questions and ideas,” said Tom Evans, treasurer for the North American Division. “I’ve known him for quite some time and was there when he moved from assistant treasurer to treasurer. Dave is well qualified as an auditor, CPA, accountant and manager. When I heard Dave was interested in returning to the treasury role, I told Bill Miller that his search was over. In my opinion, he was the man Potomac needed.”

Miller agreed, “Dave’s commitment to Jesus, understanding of mission, financial background and understanding of conference functions are great assets to the Potomac Conference Team.”

Joining VandeVere will be his wife, Cindy, and two sons, Steven and Ryan. Steven is a freshman at Southern Adventist University and Ryan is completing his junior year at Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va.
U.S. Congresswoman Addresses Glenridge’s Religious Liberty Forum

May 14, 2014 · by Taashi Rowe · in Allegheny East Conference, Uncategorized

Story by Valentine Parillon; Photos by Joanna Samuel

Donna F. Edwards, the congressional representative of Maryland’s 4th District, was the guest speaker for a special religious liberty forum that was recently held at the Glenridge church in District Heights, Md. The Glenridge Voyagers Pathfinders gave her an enthusiastic welcome.

“We firmly believe that if we as a church, are to fulfill our prophetic mandate to proclaim the everlasting gospel to all the world, we need to be alert and well-informed. We organized the religious liberty forum to advance this belief,” explained Leroy Rowe, the church’s Religious Liberty leader. They chose to focus on the Workplace Religious Freedom Act, a bill that would require employers to make reasonable accommodation in the areas of religious clothing, grooming and scheduling of religious holidays.

The congregants listened with rapt attention when the congresswoman took to the podium and gave a brief presentation on the topic at hand. She recounted the origin of religious liberty and its current state in our nation, and other parts of the world. She also emphasized the need to protect this liberty and lauded the work that the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been doing to promote religious liberty. Her address was followed by a question-and-answer session moderated by Evol Ewan, the church’s Religious Liberty elder. During that session, the congresswoman answered questions on religious liberty, creationism and evolution, non-traditional marriage, church-state relations and the Affordable Care Act.

The session was followed by refreshments and music from the church choir and from James John, a member of the Metropolitan church, who played the steel pan.

“Many were informed, blessed, and uplifted by the event,” shared Vernon T. Waters, the church’s pastor. “We pray that Congresswoman Edwards experience God’s grace and mercy as she carries out her duties.”
Two New Jersey Spanish Churches Welcome Eight New Members

May 7, 2014 · by Taashi Rowe · in New Jersey Conference, Uncategorized

Story by Bianca Morales

“Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance” (Luke 15:10).

A weeklong evangelism meeting held at the Perth Amboy Spanish and La Victoria Spanish churches was one of 97 held across the New Jersey Conference. Gabriel Morales, a theology student from the Antillian University in Puerto Rico, led the meetings, which were themed “Yo Soy” (“I Am”). At the end of the week, eight people were baptized.

Morales spoke about the “I am” statements that Jesus communicates in the gospel of John. The simple yet powerful message could be summed up as thus: Jesus calls those living in a dark and painful life where they are constantly reminded of their mistakes and their shortcomings to a life filled with light, joy and peace.

“The Great I Am not only promises us life, but He also promises to keep us there,” Morales explained. “The greatest thing that I saw during this week was the way the young people aligned their efforts with God’s in making this week of spiritual emphasis a reality not just for them but also the community of Perth Amboy.”

During the last minutes of the baptism, Mario Thorp, pastor of both churches, made three appeals to the congregation. After the third appeal, a man named Juan stepped forward in tears, ready to give his life to Jesus.

Another of the baptized individuals is a young man named Ezequiel who visited church for a few Sabbaths to make her happy. But when he showed up for the final meeting on Sabbath, he moved to leave his past and give his future to Christ. As he stood up for the altar call, his mother embraced him as they both began to cry.

When asked about Ezequiel’s decision, Morales says, “That was the beginning of Ezequiel’s new life. He made his decision to leave a dark world behind and make Jesus his friend. His friends will pressure him to come back to the lifestyle he lived on the streets, but Ezequiel holds onto the promise that Jesus gives us of keeping us in His light.”
Potomac Student Awarded Carson Scholarship

columbiaunionvisitor.com/potomac-student-awarded-carson-scholarship/

May 12, 2014 · by Taashi Rowe · in Education, Potomac Conference

A student at Sligo Adventist School, Julius Semple-Dormer was recognized for meeting the minimum GPA of 3.75 and founding his own nonprofit, Zees Robot.

Story by Sligo Adventist School Staff

Julius Semple-Dormer, a fourth grader at Potomac Conference's Sligo Adventist School in Takoma Park, Md., was recently named a 2014 Carson Scholar. He is among 510 new scholars to receive the honor this year. The Carson Scholars Fund is a national nonprofit organization named for Ben Carson, the famed neurosurgeon and Chesapeake Conference member. The program identifies and awards scholarships to students in grades 4-11 for their high academic achievement and humanitarian activities with the goal of encouraging them to prepare for and attend college. Scholarship recipients must have a GPA of at least 3.75.

Semple-Dormer not only met the required GPA, he also mentors younger students and founded his own nonprofit organization, Zees Robot. This school year, Zees Robot will award one Sligo student a Kindle to encourage higher-level thinking skills and foster a continual love for reading. Semple-Dormer aspires to become a robotic engineer and use his talents to help people in their daily life and to grow closer to God.

Last month Semple-Dormer; his parents Anton Dormer, MD, and Yonnette Dormer, OT; and Renee Humphreys, his principal, attended the fund’s 18th annual awards banquet held in Baltimore. The young scholar was presented with a trophy and a $1,000 check to be used toward his college education.

“We commend Julius on receiving this prestigious award and look forward to seeing how God will continue to bless and use him in the future,” said Humphreys.
24 Claim Victory in Cleveland Hispanic Community

May 14, 2014 · by Taashi Rowe · in Ohio Conference, Uncategorized

Members of the Cleveland Hispanic community enjoyed a Sabbath afternoon of rejoicing as 24 people, many with miraculous stories, gave their lives to Christ.

Story by Ohio Conference Staff

The May 3 Sabbath celebration at Ohio Conference’s Cleveland Spanish church was filled with great happiness, loud singing, smiling faces, tears of joy, hugs, and cheers of victory. The members were filled with elation because 24 people had given their lives to Christ after attending an evangelistic campaign conducted by Pastor Winston Simpson from the Pennsylvania Conference. Church members described the afternoon as one of great victory because each of those who gave his or her life to Jesus was really a miracle granted by God.

The miraculous stories to tell were many. Caleb Caraballo, son of a prominent Baptist minister in Cleveland, reconsidered his beliefs and embraced the Seventh-day Adventist faith and message of hope. After departing the church for many years, Linda Sanchez returned to the church and brought along her two sisters and two friends—all four were baptized on that same day. One of the church’s small groups brought eight people to baptism, including one family of four. There was also a man who who learned about the Sabbath truth by studying on his own many years ago and finally made the decision to become baptized.

About four months ago members of the Cleveland Hispanic district lead by Pastor Peter Simpson, began their missionary work with an aggressive program called “Vision 2014.” Each of the four congregations in the district promised to bring 14 new souls to Christ in 2014. Each church elder held a three-day series of meetings in preparation for the great evangelistic campaign. It was hard work, but the word of God was fulfilled—“He that goes forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing bringing his sheaves with him” (Ps. 126: 6).

Several other church leaders joined in the celebration, including Ron Halvorsen, new president of the Ohio Conference along with his wife, Buffy; Rubén Ramos; Columbian Union vice president for Multicultural Ministries; Oswaldo Magaña, Ohio Conference’s Hispanic Ministries coordinator and his wife, Herlinda.

“What joy was had!” exclaimed Pastor Peter Simpson. “Hallelujah! Praise and glory be to the name of the Lord!”
Lea este artículo en español.
TARDE DE VICTORIA

columbiaunionvisitor.com/tarde-de-victoria/

May 14, 2014 · by Taashi Rowe · in Ohio Conference, Uncategorized

Historia por personal de Ohio Conference

Ambiente de mucha alegría, cantos de júbilo, rostros llenos de emoción donde la sonrisa se mezcla con las lágrimas de felicidad, abrazos, aclamaciones de victoria, en fin un gozo desbordante. Todas estas frases apenas logran describir lo vivido la tarde del sábado 3 de Mayo para la hermandad adventista en Cleveland. Una poderosa campaña evangelística conducida por el pastor Winston Simpson trajo 24 preciosas almas a los pies del Señor. La iglesia celebró con entusiasmo cada alma que se entregaba y el nombre de Dios fue ampliamente glorificado durante toda esta actividad. La celebración fue calificada por todos los participantes como “Tarde de Victoria” pues cada persona que entregó su vida a Jesús en ese día, representaba una lucha y un milagro concedido. Las historias son muchas que contar: Una dama que regresa a la iglesia después de apartarse por años, decide regresar, pero antes de su bautismo ella inicia a evangelizar y junto a ella se bautizan sus dos hermanas y dos amigas más; un Grupo Pequeño trae 8 personas al bautismo, entre ellos una familia de cuatro personas, un hermano que recibió la invitación hace años, ahora se decide. Milagros y más milagros vividos en una sola tarde.

Todo esto inició tres meses atrás, cuando la hermandad del Distrito Hispano de Cleveland inició su trabajo misionero a través de los Grupos Pequeños, llevando visitas a sus reuniones y dando estudios bíblicos. Cada anciano de iglesia realizó una mini campaña de tres días en un Grupo Pequeño y finalmente se realizó la Gran Campaña Evangelística. Fue un trabajo arduo, pero la palabra de Dios se cumplió: “Irá andando y llorando el que lleva la preciosa semilla; mas volverá a venir con regocijo, trayendo sus gavillas.” Como si esto fuera poco, Fuimos bendecidos con la presencia de nuestros máximos líderes: El Pastor Ron Halvorsen, nuevo presidente de la Ohio Conference y su amada esposa Buffy, El Pastor Rubén Ramos, Vice presidente de la Columbia Union, el Pr Oswaldo Magaña, Coordinador de la Obra Hispana en la Ohio Conference y su querida esposa Herlinda ¡Que regocijo tuvimos! todos llenos de un gozo sin igual glorificando a nuestro Dios por sus grandes misericordias. No podemos más que decir: ¡Aleluya! ¡Alabado y glorificado sea el nombre de Dios!

READ THIS ARTICLE IN ENGLISH

On May 12, 2014 the Boards of the Review and Herald Publishing Association and the Pacific Press Publishing Association, meeting respectively in Hagerstown, Md. and by telephone conference in Silver Spring, Md., approved and recommended to their respective constituencies a proposal to reorganize their operations. The restructuring plan was jointly proposed to the publishing house boards by the executive committees of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and its North American Division in meetings held on May 8, 2014.

The General Conference and the North American Division have spent considerable time assessing optimal publishing house arrangements for the future that would meet the needs of both the General Conference and its North American Division. Publishing plays an integral part in the mission of the Church, and its close linkage with other church programs is of vital importance. Changes in the publishing industry and the church’s publishing ministries have caused financial challenges to operations, particularly at the Review and Herald, and have made this evaluation and proposed reorganization more urgent.

Under the restructuring plan the Pacific Press Publishing Association, located in Nampa, Idaho, will become an institution of the North American Division. It will serve as the base for the North American Division’s publishing program and also provide printing, production and fulfillment services for the General Conference.

The Review and Herald Publishing Association will cease operations at its current location in Hagerstown, Md. but will continue as a General Conference institution. Its corporate office location will be transferred to the church’s world headquarters in Silver Spring, Md. where the reconstituted organization, without printing and production facilities, will oversee the publishing of various products that are currently produced by the General Conference headquarters, such as the Adventist Review, Adventist World, Ministry, The Journal of Adventist Education, Elder’s Digest, the Mission magazines, children’s and youth Sabbath School materials, the Sabbath School Adult Bible Study Guides, Biblical Research Institute publications and other products. The Review and Herald Publishing Association will also serve as publisher of other products as determined by the General Conference to meet the needs of the world field. This reorganized publisher will require minimal staffing since the editors of the present products are already employees of the world church headquarters.

“The General Conference recognizes the tremendous significance of the publishing work, not only to past evangelistic blessings in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but also to our current and future heaven-entrusted mission of the proclamation of the Three Angels’ Messages of Revelation 14 and the fourth angel of Revelation 18,” said world church president Ted Wilson. “We want to follow the inspired counsel of the Spirit of Prophecy regarding the publishing ministries work and our goal is to see these institutions are best positioned to aid in finishing the work of preparing the world for Christ’s soon return through the power of the Holy Spirit. We greatly appreciate the dedication and commitment of the employees in the publishing houses and in every aspect of publishing ministries. God is blessing the publishing ministries worldwide and the North American Division will reach its full potential in utilizing an unprecedented expansion of publishing ministries outreach in fulfillment of its mission goals for its territory.”

“We understand that this is an emotional time for so many dedicated workers at both publishing ministries,” said Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division. “We will move forward only after prayerful consideration and consultation. As ministry models change, one thing remains constant: our commitment to utilizing publishing as a means of reaching people with the hope of Jesus and its serving as a conduit to spreading the message of His soon
A Memorandum of Understanding between the General Conference and the North American Division will outline additional details of the transition and future operations. The North American Division will establish a transition team to determine how the physical assets of the Review and Herald Publishing Association and the Pacific Press Publishing will be used going forward.

The transition team will also determine which personnel currently employed by the Review and Herald Publishing Association will be needed at the Pacific Press Publishing Association location. Every effort will be made to accommodate as many as possible of the current Review and Herald staff and incorporate them into the Pacific Press operations. However, a major restructuring will involve loss of jobs from the cessation of operations in Hagerstown, Md.

This restructuring plan does not become official until the constituent bodies of each publishing association approve it. The two constituencies will meet independently of each other on June 17, 2014, at the General Conference headquarters. The proposed plan, would take effect on July 1 if those constituencies give their approval.
The Review & Herald Publishing Association recently announced it was eliminating 26 positions, but the Seventh-day Adventist Church issued a news release stating it is considering restructuring its publishing houses in Maryland and Idaho, which might result in printing and production operations being closed at one of the facilities.

“A proposal under development is to maintain two publishing entities, one attached to the General Conference and the other attached to the North American Division,” the release said.

“The unit attached to the General Conference would not operate printing and production facilities. Instead, the printing and production needs of this house would be entrusted to the North American Division,” it said.

The release, titled “Publishing Houses Re-structure Under Consideration,” said that the church’s General Conference and North American Division administrations on April 24 asked the boards of the Review and Herald and Pacific Press Publishing Association, in Nampa, Idaho, to “indicate their readiness to receive a formal proposal for the re-structuring of publishing in the North American Division.”

Which publishing house might lose printing and production operations was not indicated in the release.

Seventh-day Adventist Church officials will begin holding a series of meetings between Thursday and June 17 to consider restructuring of publishing operations, said Ansel Oliver, the assistant director of the Adventist News Network.

Any restructuring plan approved by church officials will be determined over the course of the meetings, Oliver said on Wednesday.


Both meetings are to be convened at the General Conference headquarters in Silver Spring, Md., the notices said.

The announcements for both meetings state that they are “to receive and respond to a proposal for restructuring of the corporation; including a change in membership; to approve an action to provide for the reconstitution of the board of directors” and other matters.

The Review and Herald on West Oak Ridge Drive south of Hagerstown previously announced it was cutting 26 jobs in response to $943,000 in losses for 2013 and a weak first quarter in 2014, according to a
The company’s board of directors met in early April and voted to approve the cuts and other changes, including streamlining production processes; reducing the number of book titles to be released in 2015; and trimming the editorial and production staff of some journals.

About half of the reduction of 26 positions was “achieved through collaborative retirement agreements with eligible employees. The savings to the publishing house from the workforce reductions are anticipated to reach $1 million in 2014, and more than $1.5 million in 2015,” that statement said.

The company also will be attempting to lease up to 60,000 square feet of its building space “to decrease the operational footprint of the publishing house and achieve needed rental income,” according to the statement.

The company had 139 employees, according to the 2014 Business & Industry Directory compiled by the Washington County Department of Business Development.

The Herald Review’s publications include the Adventist Review, Adventist World, Liberty and Vibrant Life magazines, as well as children’s Bible study guides, Oliver said.

Pacific Press publishes the Signs of the Times magazine, as well as textbooks and other Christian teaching materials, he said.
Area elementary school students from the fourth- through sixth-grade performed Wednesday with the Maryland Symphony Orchestra at The Maryland Theatre in the Annual Citi Youth Concert.

With performances that included Beethoven’s “Fifth Symphony,” Jacques Offenbach’s “Orpheus in the Underworld Can-Can” and Tchaikovsky’s “Waltz of the Flowers” from “The Nutcracker,” the MSO and Music Director Elizabeth Schulze interacted with the students in the audience, who sang and played recorders at different times.

The concert will also take place again Thursday and Friday with students from other schools across the four-state region.

“I liked the dancing and the singing and playing the recorder,” said Nicole Burton, 13, a sixth grader at Rocky Knoll School. “I like singing.”

Students from Rocky Knoll, Fountain Rock Elementary and Hickory Elementary schools in Hagerstown were among the schools at the concert, which also included singers and dancers on stage.

Clayton Wilcox, superintendent of Washington County Public Schools, and Brendon Fitzsimmons of RBC Wealth Management emceed the event.

Throughout the show they talked about what music means, saying:

“Music can make us kick up our heels.”

“Or music can flow like water.”

“Music can inspire dramatic gestures.”

“Music can make us all move together.”

Three students from Barbara Ingram School for the Arts in Hagerstown took part in the concert by singing, while members of the North Hagerstown High School Brazilian Ensemble marched down the aisles at one point playing percussion instruments.

Rocky Knoll sixth-grader Leilani Lee, 11, said she enjoyed the choreography in the concert.

“Everyone was doing it together, and it was really fun,” she said.

The students played their recorders with the MSO to the “Blue Danube Waltz” by Johann Strauss II and “Nocturne.” They sang and did choreography with three other pieces.

Christa Stevens, a music teacher at Hickory and Fountain Rock, said they had been working on the pieces
since last fall.

“In the winter months through December through now, we’ve really been making it our core focus in our music classes,” she said. “Not only do we get to practice our singing skills but also developing our instrumental skills as well.”

Stevens described it as a “privilege and an honor” for the students to be able to perform with the MSO.

“They knew that this was leading up to this field trip, to be a part of the Maryland Symphony Orchestra,” she said.

For the second year, the show was structured by Carnegie Hall’s Link Up Program, MSO Executive Director Michael Jonnes said.

Jonnes said the concert helps students understand what classical music is.

“It’s just one of those things where it expands basic understanding of the culture of the United States and the world,” he said. “Here is an opportunity where kids are learning how to play a musical instrument.”

There are two concerts scheduled Thursday at 9:30 a.m. and noon, Jonnes said.
Terry Forde

Position: President and chief executive of Adventist HealthCare, a Gaithersburg-based health-care services provider.

Terry Forde grew up helping his father run a family gas station in Minnesota. It was an experience he says taught him the importance of hard work and treating people with respect. After an internship at a hospital, Forde realized he wanted to enter the health-care industry. He started out working in the accounting department of a small hospital, and very quickly rose to be a director and then chief financial officer. From 2003 to 2011, he went from chief financial officer to becoming president of a hospital, where he helped spearhead campus expansions. He went on to serve as chief operating officer at Adventist HealthCare, an organization tied to Forde’s roots in faith, and is now set to take the helm.

How have you grown most as a leader?

Valuing and appreciating others. As a leader, you can’t do it all. You have to rely on really good people to help you accomplish your goals and vision as an organization. You have to help develop talented people around you that help you see the vision through.

I also learned to listen to feedback and input from people who have good ideas and suggestions. Health care is full of committed employees who care a lot about patients. Whether a physician or nurse or housekeeper, they all usually know what’s best for the patient. Listening to them and creating an opportunity for them to give input has really helped me over the years.

What are the challenges at Adventist HealthCare? How are you navigating them?

When I was chief operating officer, we had to work hard to focus our services on preventative health care and wellness to keep patients from having to be admitted into the hospital. I basically aligned with physicians and created community partnerships with other organizations that could help in that endeavor. I helped the organization focus on developing outpatient services that are less focused on inpatient campuses.

How has your faith shaped your career?

I grew up Seventh Day Adventist. Our church has had a long commitment to health. There’s a strong connection between health and well-being and our mission statement at Adventist, which focuses on spiritual, physical and mental health. We’re committed to providing hope and health care to anyone who walks through the doors. The older I get, the more I see the connection to good health in my own life. I grew up with a medical condition, so I had frequent trips to the physician when I was around six years old. I had a severe form of pediatric arthritis in my right leg which impacted the whole right side of my body. It affected my eyesight. We lived in a rural area, so I had to travel two, three hours to get the help I needed. Having that condition and realizing the powerful impact that medical professionals can have on a young person’s life influenced me to make sure we continue to have services that are valuable.

How has your faith shaped you as a leader?

Being faith-based, we begin meetings with prayer and devotion. My faith keeps me grounded. It makes sure I’m a humble leader. It keeps me focused around mission. There’s great diversity in the people and communities we serve. Being able to understand all different faiths creates a better understanding in my own thinking.
What books are you reading?

I'm in between books. I read a lot of devotional books including Guidepost books. I read a lot of Stephen Covey books early in my career.

— Interview with Vanessa Small