Weekly News From Around the Columbia Union Conference

June 19, 2014

Church Overhauls Publishing Operations

At joint constituency meetings this week at the church world headquarters in Silver Spring, Md., the Review and Herald and the Pacific Press publishing houses voted 153-66 (Review) and 42-1 (Pacific Press) in favor of the biggest restructuring in Seventh-day Adventist publishing’s 153-year history.

As a result, the Review will unwind operations at its facility in Hagerstown, Md., during the next several months, and will transfer some employees and assets to the Pacific Press facility in Nampa, Idaho. Pacific Press will become a North American Division (NAD) institution.—Story by Adventist Review staff and Beth Michaels

READ MORE
Kenneth Flemmer Takes Helm at Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington

Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington (ACSGW), located in Silver Spring, Md., recently announced their new executive director, Kenneth Flemmer.

Most recently Flemmer served as the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Vice President for Programs. During a 30-year career at ADRA, he worked around the world and held various management positions, including Asia regional director.

"On behalf of the board, we are excited that Ken’s caliber, depth of experience, vision, and compassion for the needy, match our requirements. The board unanimously found Ken most qualified to lead ACSGW in the performance of its core mission and to expand its service offerings," says Allan Manuel, ACSGW Board chair and general counsel.—Story by ACSGW staff

READ MORE

Dustin Hoffman Donates Kitchen Equipment to Pennsylvania Church
Actor Dustin Hoffman recently donated three large pieces of commercial kitchen equipment from his Central Park, New York City, condo to the Pennsylvania Conference’s Pocono Grace church in East Stroudsburg.

Hoffman donated the equipment because of his family’s warm relationship with Lucy Ascencio, a Pocono Grace church member, who works for him as a housekeeper and cook, said Don Baker (pictured), the church’s head elder, according to an *Adventist Review* article.—*Adventist Review* staff and Beth Michaels

READ MORE

---

**Metropolitan Adventurers First to Complete Listening Honor**

The Metropolitan church's Adventurer club is the first to complete the new
“Listening Honor.”

The honor was created by Metropolitan member Marva Shand-McIntosh, creator of "I Love to Listen Day," a global initiative aimed to increase awareness of the importance of listening.

"I want them [children] to start the habit of listening early," says Shand-McIntosh. "Learning to listen to others will subsequently help them learn to listen to God."—Story by Visitor Staff

11 Baptized After Caravan of Hope Stops at Maranatha French Church

The New Jersey Conference’s Caravan of Hope series stopped at Maranatha French church in Newark this week, resulting in 11 baptisms. The Caravan of Hope is a continuing evangelism outreach initiative across the state.

Columbia Union Conference president Dave Weigley preached at the service and shared the miracle of how his brother accepted Christ after wanting nothing to do with religion for 20 years. At the end of the night, Weigley made an appeal and 11 people were baptized.—Story by New Jersey Conference and Visitor Staff

Perspectivas: Cómo un miembro de Ohio regresó al hogar
Linda Sánchez se bautizó recientemente en la iglesia East Cleveland Spanish de Ohio Conference. A continuación su testimonio:

“Crecí en la iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día y asistí a la escuela primaria Adventista. Sin embargo, cuando tenía unos quince años, no quise ir más a la iglesia. Quería salir con mis amigos. Pensé que el mundo era más emocionante. Crecí y tuve tres hijos—todos fuera del matrimonio. Era madre soltera y los crié como mejor pude. Aún en mis años de obstinación, sabía que Dios siempre me amaba y nunca me había abandonado.

LEA MAS

Music Festival Sets Faith on Fire

More than 120 fifth- through eighth-graders from Seventh-day Adventist schools across Ohio recently attended the 2014 Ohio Conference Elementary Musical Festival themed “Faith on Fire.”

The event was held on the campus of Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon
and offered activities to help students grow musically, and in their faith.

Click [here](https://t.e2ma.net/message/2q5bf/6diogi[6/25/2014 11:19:14 AM]) to read more about how this event ignited students to share their faith, even after the festival ended.—Story by Alison Jobson

---

Who is the Man With the Reversible Foot?

![The Man With the Reversible Foot Book Cover](image)

You may know Dick Stenbakken from his portrayals of biblical characters. In *The Man With the Reversible Foot, the Dick Stenbakken Story*, you will get to know him better.

Author Susan Phelps Harvey has known Stenbakken for at least 20 years, but discovered a whole new side of him while doing research for the book. Harvey, a member of the Chesapeake Conference’s Willow Brook church in Boonsboro, Md., shares more about the book [here](#).

---

Join a Virtual Camp Meeting

Can’t make it to camp meeting this year? Several camp meetings across the country and in the Columbia Union are livestreaming their meetings.

[READ MORE](#)
Church Overhauls Publishing Operations

At joint constituency meetings this week at the world headquarters in Silver Spring, Md., the Review and Herald and the Pacific Press publishing houses voted 153-66 (Review) and 42-1 (Pacific Press) in favor of the biggest restructuring in Seventh-day Adventist publishing’s 153-year history.

As a result, the Review will unwind operations at its facility in Hagerstown, Md., during the next several months, and will transfer some employees and assets to the Pacific Press facility in Nampa, Idaho. Pacific Press will become a North American Division (NAD) institution.

Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president, responded to the closure, saying, “It’s the right thing for the NAD to own their own printing houses as determined in the voting; however, as we go forward with these assets, I hope we continually evaluate which asset is most effective in efficiently supporting the mission.”

Others noted challenges. “For East Coast ABCs, closure of the Review will raise costs due to shipping, create inventory challenges and result in fewer new titles each year,” says Lisa Myaing, general manager at the Potomac Adventist Book & Health Food Store in Silver Spring, Md.

Read more in the Adventist Review/Adventist News Network’s full story here.
Kenneth Flemmer Takes Helm at Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington

June 19, 2014 · by Michelle Bernard · in Potomac Conference

Kenneth Flemmer Takes Helm at Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington

Story by ACSGW staff

Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington (ACSWG), located in Silver Spring, Md., recently announced their new executive director, Kenneth Flemmer.

Most recently Flemmer served as the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Vice President for Programs. During a 30-year career at ADRA, he worked around the world and held various management positions, including Asia regional director.

"On behalf of the board, we are excited that Ken's caliber, depth of experience, vision, and compassion for the needy, match our requirements. The board unanimously found Ken most qualified to lead ACSGW in the performance of its core mission and to expand its service offerings," says Allan Manuel, ACSGW Board chair and general counsel.

Sheila Schlisner Hendricks, the previous executive director, stepped down after bringing stability to ACSGW programs and systems, leading the development and implementation of a more effective database to track clients and successfully negotiating with Montgomery County for the necessary financial support to operate Piney Branch pool, which is part of the ACSGW health and wellness program, among other accomplishments.

Hendricks says she is leaving the organization in "very capable hands with Ken as director; and the stage is now set for a highly successful future."

ACSWG was founded in 1983 under the auspices of Potomac Conference's Sligo, Silver Spring and Takoma Park churches and offers a plethora of services ranging from emergency assistance, education, workforce development, medical services and dental services. Burnt Mills, Hyattsville, Triadelphia, and Beltsville serve as member churches while the presidents of the Columbia Union, Chesapeake, Allegheny East and Potomac conferences serve on the governing board.
Dustin Hoffman Donates Kitchen Equipment to Pennsylvania Church

Actor Dustin Hoffman recently gave the Pocono Grace Church a gift worth more than $10,000. What was it? Read more to find out.

Actor Dustin Hoffman recently donated three large pieces of commercial kitchen equipment from his Central Park, New York City, condo to the Pennsylvania Conference’s Pocono Grace church in East Stroudsburg.

Hoffman donated the equipment because of his family’s warm relationship with Lucy Ascencio, a Pocono Grace church member who works for him as a housekeeper and cook, said Don Baker, the church’s head elder, according to an Adventist Review article.

The Hoffmans were gutting the entire kitchen and donated their refrigerator and freezer, as well as their range, he said. The church members only needed to arrange for a truck and crew to pick up the items.

"Needless to say, we were very excited about the opportunity to have such a valuable gift for our kitchen," Baker said in that same article.

At used equipment prices, the gift was worth more than $12,000. The church only had to rent a truck and drive into New York to pick up the items. The total cost for truck rental, tolls and gas: $300.
The Metropolitan church's Adventurer club is the first to complete the new “Listening Honor.”

The honor was created by Metropolitan member Marva Shand-McIntosh, creator of ‘I Love to Listen Day,” a global initiative aimed to increase awareness of the importance of listening.

“I want them [children] to start the habit of listening early,” says Shand-McIntosh. “Learning to listen to others will subsequently help them learn to listen to God.”

Brenda Billingy, senior pastor of the Allegheny East church located in Hyattsville, Md. adds “The listening honor will improve each Adventurer’s understanding of the value of this communication skill and ultimately our understanding of God’s listening promises and His willingness to listen to us.”
**Perspectivas: Cómo un miembro de Ohio regresó al hogar**

Linda Sánchez retratada a la izquierda alisándose para su bautismo.

June 5, 2014 · by Taashi Rowe · in Noticias, Ohio Conference, Perspectives

Linda Sánchez se bautizó recientemente en la iglesia East Cleveland Spanish de Ohio Conference. A continuación su testimonio:

“Crecí en la iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día y asistí a la escuela primaria Adventista. Sin embargo, cuando tenía unos quince años, no quise ir más a la iglesia. Quería salir con mis amigos. Pensé que el mundo era más emocionante. Crecí y tuve tres hijos—todos fuera del matrimonio. Era madre soltera y los crié como mejor pude. Aún en mis años de obstinación, sabía que Dios siempre me amaba y nunca me había abandonado.

Durante esos años, me fui y volví, entraba y salía de la iglesia, tratando de llenar el vacío que tenía en mi corazón. En muchas ocasiones el Señor puso gente en mi camino pero nunca escuché; nunca quise obedecer. Aunque en lo profundo de mi corazón sabía que la respuesta a mis problemas era Dios, por una que otra razón, siempre corrí en dirección opuesta. En el 2013, mi vida fue a un lugar muy oscuro cuando perdí a mis dos hijos en el mundo de maneras que nunca hubiera imaginado. Estando en este punto más bajo de mi vida, sufriendo por mis hijos a causa de sus pecados, mi madre me llamó.

Me dijo que había salido a cenar con una señora que yo conocía de la iglesia adventista. Le pedí a mi madre que averiguara si los días y los horarios eran tal como los recordaba, y me dijo que sí. El próximo miércoles, me vestí y fui a la iglesia. Con gran tristeza en mi corazón y completamente destruida por las consecuencias de mis pecados, le entregué mi corazón al Señor.

Le agradezco a Dios por colocarme en una hermosa y acogedora familia de iglesia. También agradezco a Carmen Espinosa. Ella es mi mentora. Me ha tomado bajo su cuidado y me enseña y guía en los caminos de Dios. Carmen es una verdadera discípula de Dios y el Señor la ha usado de muchas maneras en mi vida. También estoy inmensamente agradecida por nuestro maravilloso pastor Peter Simpson, quien junto con Carmen, me guía en los hermosos pasos del Señor.

Cuando regresé a la iglesia, se me enseño cómo ser una discípula del Señor y compartir la Palabra con otros. He crecido amando al Señor más y más y utilizando las herramientas que poseía para difundir su palabra. Me emociona hablarle a otros acerca de cuán real ha sido la transformación de mi vida. Quería que otros conocieran al Señor y lo amaran al igual que yo.

A finales de abril, tuvimos una campaña evangelística en nuestra iglesia. Invité a 16 personas para que asistieran y oré fervientemente por las que yo había invitado y por los que habían sido invitados por otros. Oré que si pudiese trabajar para el Señor y ver aunque fuese una persona entregar su vida a Dios, estaría feliz. El resultado final fue que de las 16 personas que invité, cinco asistieron. Al final de la hermosa semana llena de la presencia de Dios, fui bautizada juntamente con dos de mis hermanas y dos amigas queridas de mi familia. Realmente fue el mejor momento de mi vida y la mejor decisión que jamás he tomado. Sólo beber y fumar y siempre salir en busca de diversión. Pero Dios me transformó; me alejó de todo eso. Finalmente tengo la paz y el amor en mi corazón que necesitaba. El vacío que había sentido por tanto tiempo al fin se llenó"
More than 120 fifth- through eighth-graders from Seventh-day Adventist schools across Ohio recently attended the 2014 Ohio Conference Elementary Musical Festival themed “Faith on Fire.”

Story by Alison Jobson

More than 120 fifth- through eighth-graders from Seventh-day Adventist schools across Ohio recently attended the 2014 Ohio Conference Elementary Musical Festival themed “Faith on Fire.”

The event was held on the campus of Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon and offered activities to help students grow musically, and in their faith.

Kimberly Bulgin, choir director from Spring Valley Academy in Centerville, led the mass choir that powerfully performed five songs. Her brother Jason Bulgin, music teacher and athletic director from Ramah Jr. Academy, an Allegheny West Conference school in Cleveland, was the featured speaker. The siblings shared their innate ability to connect with their students and audiences in an authentic and Christ-centered way.

A highlight of the weekend was when more than 25 typically quiet and shy students volunteered to share their faith through skits, piano and vocal performances during the Friday open mic night.

Mark Mirek, head teacher of the Piqua Elementary School in Piqua, says his students enjoyed being part of the large group and are more involved in their local church because of events like this. “Seeing that they are part of something bigger makes them want to participate in worship activities back at home,” he says. “You take something home with you.”
You may know Dick Stenbakken from his portrayals of biblical characters. In *The Man With the Reversible Foot*, the *Dick Stenbakken Story*, you will get to know him better as a man.

*Story by V. Michelle Bernard*

You may know Dick Stenbakken from his portrayals of biblical characters. In *The Man With the Reversible Foot*, the *Dick Stenbakken Story*, you will get to know him better as a man.

Author Susan Phelps Harvey has known Stenbakken for at least 20 years, but discovered a whole new side of him while doing research for the book. Harvey, a member of the Chesapeake Conference’s Willow Brook Church in Boonsboro, Md., shares more about the book below:

**Q: What surprised you most about Stenbakken when writing this book?**

**A:** The more I delved into his story, the more sense it made that he was so successful. He used his military training and experience in so many ways when he worked for the church. I think his military training gave him insights into how people work—Something that lots of people don’t necessarily have. He also has a tremendous respect for people of other religions. When he was just starting out in ministry he became a member of the local [ecumenical?] ministerium in Wyoming and ended up as president. He had no prejudice against people in other religions.

**Q: How did he use humor?**

**A:** He is one of the funniest people I’ve ever known and uses his sense of humor to disarm people. The reversible foot, that he would often trick people with, is kind a metaphor for the quirky personality he has. He thinks outside the box and isn’t your typical [Seventh-day] Adventist minister. He loves practical jokes.

I shared a story in the book about one extra snowy winter in Alaska when there was a lot of salt on the road. Stenbakken walked past a Catholic church where a moose was down on its knees licking salt off the road. He had to say something to the priest about how he could get the moose down on their knees!

**Q: What made Stenbakken stand out in his career?**

**A:** I think probably his flexibility. He has done many things, and each time the Lord presented him with an opportunity, he just went for it. When he was in the seminary, most people weren’t getting master’s or doctorate degrees. He got both. He wanted to prepare himself in the best possible way.

He had no intention of becoming a chaplain, but when the church had an opportunity to name someone to the chaplaincy they needed someone with two years in the seminary. He was one of the few people who was qualified.

He felt like the Lord led him. I like the way he goes for things. He isn’t a person who hesitates. He just forges ahead...
and gets the job done.

Q: Why did you write this book?
A: I’ve worked in Adventist publishing almost all of my working life, and there has always been a concern among Adventist publishers that we only publish non-fiction. Many times we’ve done that, but it’s been dull. I wanted to use all the techniques of a good fiction writer to make an interesting book.

Q: What do you want readers to most take away from this book?
I think a lot of people get a sort of stereotype of what Adventists are like. I want people to take away that you can live a life that is fun, exciting, thrilling and rewarding and still live a life that is totally committed to the Lord and to your beliefs. I think that is what Dick exemplifies.

Q: What will people like best about the book?
A: Dick is adopted and the theme of being chosen runs throughout the book. He was chosen by his adopted parents, God chose him and he chose to follow God.
He always felt very special because his parents told him they had picked him out. I think that gave him a lot of confidence early on.


Read and share these June 2014 Visitor stories, too!

- June 2014 Feature: The Reel Deal Are Adventists Ready to Take on Film?
- Columbia Union Filmmakers to Watch
- Movies we Want to See
- What Happened to the Record Keeper?
- Underscore: How do we Continue to Engage Members That Need to Worship at Home?
- 4 Practices of an Inclusive Church
- What She Can Do
- Editorial: Acts of Encouragement
- Book Release: The Man With the Reversible Foot
- Bulletin Board
Attend a Virtual Camp Meeting

Columbia Union Camp Meeting Livestreams

Chesapeake Conference: Watch the evening meetings at 6:45 and Sabbath services at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. from June 17-21 at www.ccosda.org/campmeetinglive. (See uploaded videos of the meetings here: http://new.livestream.com/accounts/8375248/events/3087679.)

Mountain View Conference: June 13-21 at http://valleysta.caster.fm/. (Click here for a schedule of meetings.)

Pennsylvania Conference: Watch the 7 p.m. meetings June 13-21 and Church on June 21 at 11 a.m. at http://paconference.churchonline.org/.

Potomac Conference: June 24-June 28 at http://www.pcsda.org/. (Click here for a schedule of meetings.)

To get all the details, visit http://www.nadadventist.org/article/583/calendar/2014-camp-meeting-schedule, and see the 2014 North American Division Camp Meeting Schedule.

Get details on the 2014 camp meetings in the Columbia Union in the May 2014 Visitor!