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Weekly News From Around the Columbia Union Conference

November Feature: Carousels, Concerts and Clubs

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See how our health systems are creatively engaging their communities while remaining true to their mission: to treat the whole patient—mind, body and spirit.

—Taashi Rowe

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November 2014 Feature: Carousels, Concerts and Clubs


November 3, 2014 · by Michelle Bernard · in Adventist HealthCare, Columbia Union News, Health Systems, Kettering Adventist HealthCare, This Month’s Issue

**Our health systems find creative ways to engage their communities, but their mission remains the same: to treat the whole patient—mind, body and spirit**

Story by Taashi Rowe/ Cover Photography by Paul Morigi/AP Images

We don’t treat leukemia in our hospitals,” says Chaplain Larry Kositsin. It’s an odd statement for someone who works at Kettering Adventist HealthCare (KAHC), one of the largest hospital systems in southwest Ohio. Add to that, for the past three years, Thomson Reuters named KAHC one of the nation’s top 10 healthcare systems. Kositsin, who is based at the system’s flagship facility, Kettering Medical Center (KMC) in Kettering, explains, “We treat the person. There are several things we consider when a patient comes to us. One of those things is how is the procedure going to give them back their future? We want to give them hope—immediate hope and ultimate hope.”

Michelle Dawes found hope and comfort during a successful gallbladder surgery at KMC in August. Her grandmother passed away just before Dawes was admitted. “I couldn’t be at the funeral because I was obviously in the hospital,” she recalls. “My boyfriend, Mike, was with me. He knew I was upset that I couldn’t go to the funeral. It was a Friday evening and we were getting settled in a private room when he said, ‘Listen.’ At first there was soft singing that got louder and louder. It was ‘Amazing Grace.’ I said to Mike, ‘This is real, right?’ They played that same song at my grandmother’s funeral that day. And then, Mike looked out the window and saw a rainbow. We were both so deeply touched.”

What Dawes and her boyfriend heard was a group from various local Seventh-day Adventist churches that sing for patients on Friday evenings. “Outside of what I was physically going through, those singers coming through the hallways was such a special thing to me,” Dawes shares.

**Making Positive Impressions**

Staff members across Kettering’s eight hospitals and 90 outpatient facilities hear stories like Dawes’ every day because the healthcare system is intentional about treating the whole patient. “Positive impressions are made by creating patient experiences that give hope and healing when people need it most,” states Fred Manchur, CEO of KAHC. “Our mission to improve the lives of those we serve is sacred work. We can make a difference in our community by making a positive impression.”

It also puts staff at all levels of these Adventist-run facilities in a position where they can work to fulfill the gospel mission in a medical setting. Kettering has an extensive menu of services to heal the whole patient. In addition to making spiritual literature easily available to patients, there are 10 chaplains, an annual Week of Prayer, a prayer phone line and they distribute a prayer booklet to patients at all their facilities. Since the booklets have been so popular, KAHC has taken it one step further and partnered with local Adventist churches to fulfill the hundreds of Bible study requests they’ve received.

For Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union Conference and board chair of both healthcare systems inside the union—KAHC and Adventist HealthCare (AHC) based in Gaithersburg, Md.—the connection between physical and spiritual healing is clear. “We’re very intentional about expressing the Adventist mission of hope and wholeness to people. We are not about just healing the body but … the entire person,” he says. “This mission, as Adventists, makes us uniquely different than other healthcare systems.”
Kettering Adventist HealthCare staff praying
Spreading the Word

Getting the word out about KAHC’s approach to healthcare is a top-down effort that involves the system’s leadership, trickles down to the staff and radiates out into the various communities.

While they have effective marketing and advertising efforts to help with this process, they also utilize community partnerships that generate goodwill. One involves the Mission Warehouse in nearby Moraine, Ohio, where local church members can repurpose medical supplies and equipment for their mission trips. “These items would otherwise be thrown out, but this way we are able to support several ministries. This is definitely a win-win,” explains Jarrod McNaughton, the system’s vice president for missions and development.

KAHC also partners with local churches, both Adventist and other denominations. For instance, just this past summer they hosted Gospel Fest that featured local Christian bands at an outdoor amphitheater in Kettering. For about six hours, some 4,000 people enjoyed the music and the message while staff from the hospitals offered various free health screenings and distributed free health goodies, like sunscreen and hand sanitizer.

How exactly do these efforts bring people to their facilities? “In some cases, during community outreach events or during the screening process, we literally find people who have an immediate need and we have to admit them into our facilities,” McNaughton explains. “In some cases, we are planting seeds with folks.”

Adventist HealthCare Demonstrates God’s Care

Nearly 500 miles East of the KAHC facilities, staff at Adventist HealthCare is working equally as hard to express the Adventist mission at their five hospitals. Although people generally go to one of their facilities because of a specific need or an emergency, “What makes the difference is that we treat them with compassion, respect their needs and we treat their physical, mental and spiritual needs,” says Ismael Gama, AHC’s vice president of mission integration and spiritual care.

Terry Forde, the system’s president and CEO, agrees. “God’s care and love is known through good health. That is precisely the work we are called to do! Our mission is to ‘demonstrate God’s care by improving the health of people and communities through a ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing,’” he says. “When we seek restored and vibrant health for our patients and for all who are touched by our ministry, we are truly demonstrating God’s way.”

One of the ways that AHC does this is by reminding everyone that they are a Seventh-day Adventist facility. And again, this starts at the top. “Once a year we do a mission integration retreat involving all of our senior leaders from all our entities. We go back to our roots,” Gama says. “Many of the guidelines that we use in our organizations are inspired by the guidelines of the Adventist Church. It is very important to keep the link with our church.”

Tom Grant, vice president of public relations and marketing, says AHC is really committed to caring for all of their communities and understands that it takes everyone—including businesses, churches, hospitals and schools—to accomplish that goal. One of their chief strategies is going into the communities that surround their facilities and sharing the gospel of Jesus and good health.
The Health and Retail Connection

The mall is not necessarily the first place many think of bringing up the topic of good health (food courts are certainly not known for having healthy options). However, AHC staff is dedicated to changing that perception. They’ve sponsored a walking club at Montgomery Mall in nearby Bethesda. AHC also dispatches a weekly guest speaker there to address specific health topics.
"Healthcare should not only be connected to a hospital. We also offer screenings throughout the community where we have tables with more information about achieving good health," Grant explains. "We make sure to be part of people’s everyday activities and invite them to stop and take a breathing test, a blood test, a BMI test or even sit down with a counselor."

Continuing with the retail theme, AHC recently sponsored the Lakeside Path to Wellness, a walking path at the RIO Washingtonian, a popular, lakefront development in Gaithersburg with shops and restaurants. At designated areas around the path, there are health tips. However, the cherry on top of AHC’s partnership with RIO is a carousel they sponsored and opened this spring. John Sackett, president of Shady Grove Medical Center in Rockville, Md., spoke about the importance of preventative care at the grand opening. “Our goal is to put ourselves out of business,” he told the crowd.

**Offering Valuable Partnerships and Care**

Arthur Turner, former president of the Coalition of Central Prince George’s County Community Organizations, says AHC has helped address some particular concerns about the health disparities in the African-American community. “When we started working together with Washington Adventist Hospital [in Takoma Park, Md.], they would come to our monthly community meetings and make health presentations,” he recalls. “Early on we saw the value of the partnership. In fact, they did a very important presentation on hypertension followed by a blood pressure screening. There were several people there whose blood pressures were so high they had to go to the hospital because they were threatening a stroke.”

Tina VanDevander can also testify to the value of receiving lifesaving care through AHC. On May 25, 1998, she felt a pea-sized nodule during her routine breast self-exam. She went to see Joseph Haggerty, the medical director of oncology at Shady Grove, who diagnosed her with breast cancer. She was 30 years old.

“It was pretty much a roller coaster,” recalls Tina’s husband, Mike. “All I could think about was how would I raise my son if my wife was not there.”

Under Dr. Haggerty’s care, Tina had surgery, then chemotherapy and recovered. Four years later, she was diagnosed with cancer on her left side. Over 14 months, Tina had several surgeries. “The nurses took very good care of me and even offered a support group,” she says. “They were great.”

Haggerty says that Tina is now cancer free. “I’m in a good place now,” Tina says. “I just did everything I could to be there for my son.”

These stories are what inspire leaders at these healthcare systems to continue the century-long Adventist tradition of advocating for whole-person health. “May God continue to grant us the opportunity to demonstrate His care in powerful ways, framed by mercy and blessing,” Forde says.

_Taashi Rowe writes from Takoma Park, Md._
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“Whereas, The unity for which Jesus prayed is vitally important to the witness of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and;

“Whereas, The Seventh-day Adventist Church seeks to engage every member in its worldwide mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ among people from every nation, culture and ethnicity, and;

“Whereas, Various groups appointed by the General Conference and its divisions have carefully studied the Bible and Ellen G. White writings with respect to the ordination of women and have not arrived at consensus as to whether ministerial ordination for women is unilaterally affirmed or denied, and;

“Whereas, The Seventh-day Adventist Church affirms that ‘God has ordained that the representatives of His Church from all parts of the earth, when assembled in a General Conference Session, shall have authority’

“Therefore, The General Conference Executive Committee requests delegates in their sacred responsibility to God at the 2015 General Conference Session to respond to the following question:

“After your prayerful study on ordination from the Bible, the writings of Ellen G. White, and the reports of the study commissions, and;

“After your careful consideration of what is best for the Church and the fulfillment of its mission,

“Is it acceptable for division executive committees, as they may deem it appropriate in their territories, to make provision for the ordination of women to the gospel ministry? Yes or No”[.]
The Church has Moved Toward a Decision on Women’s Ordination. Will it Culminate at the 2015 GC Session?

How Did We Get Here?

That July vote could put an end to, or further prolong, a debate on the issue, which has plagued the church for many years. Minutes and official documents from GC sessions and administrative committees, as posted on the Office of Archives, Statistics and Research website, reveal that the matter of women’s ordination has been studied and discussed in the Adventist Church for more than 130 years.

Some of the greatest impact on the issue has occurred in the past five years, including actions by the North German Union, Columbia Union and Pacific Union to affirm women in ministry in their territories. Although some in the church fear their decisions superseded the unified action of the world church, it did spark a more formal discussion that many members feel is considerably overdue. “Our committee consists of loyal Adventists who respect and are wholly committed to advancing the mission and message of our church,” wrote Columbia Union officers in the special July 2012 Visitor article titled “Why We’re Advocating for Women’s Ordination.” Because the church believes “authority rests in the membership,” they see the issue as a teaching moment for the church.

In most recent months, many agree that the divisive issue has boiled down to the definition of headship. In August faculty of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.) published a seven-page study on this definition. Titled “On the Unique Headship of Christ in the Church,” the document opens by unequivocally declaring that the church’s head, or leader, is no one other than Christ.

It revived strong feelings across the world church. While a group of 25 North American Adventist theologians and pastors appealed to seminary leaders to reconsider, emphasizing that God established the headship of man over woman in the Garden of Eden and says He desires to maintain that hierarchy, the faculty remained steadfast.

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The Church has Moved Toward a Decision on Women’s Ordination. Will it Culminate at the 2015 GC Session?

What Happens Now?

As members around the world await the vote of the 2,600 delegates at the upcoming GC Session in San Antonio, Texas, Columbia Union leaders suggest we follow the charge given by Ted Wilson, world church president, prior to the Annual Council meetings: to earnestly seek what the Bible says about ordaining women in ministry and to pray that church leaders will humbly follow the Holy Spirit’s guidance on the matter. The most recent release on the subject is the book Questions and Answers About Women’s Ordination, which tackles 151 common questions around the issue.

“In light of the fact that the discussion on women’s ordination has been given to the world church since 1990—and was not left with the unions as a number of experienced GC and union leaders believed it should have been—then it is a good thing that we are deliberating on it again,” states Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president. “It is encouraging and a significant point that the TOSC—which represents all divisions and individuals with variant viewpoints—did support allowing divisions to decide on women’s ordination by a two-thirds majority straw vote.”

He adds, “I am hopeful our members will study and pray, and that the world delegates in 2015 will be sensitive to the fact that we work in a very diverse world, where the mission of the church needs to be expressed effectively in each culture. There is unity in diversity.”
Larry Kositsin, Kettering Adventist HealthCare Chaplain and Ismael Gama, Adventist HealthCare’s vice president of mission integration and spiritual care, suggest ways you can help share the good work their hospitals are doing:

- Join the social media pages of the Adventist hospitals nearest you and retweet or share their stories.
- Forward stories you see in the Visitor about our health systems.
- Help promote health and wellness events in your community, especially fairs hosted by our churches, schools or other entities.
- During your Sabbath worship services, invite administrators, physicians or employees from Adventist hospitals to offer health nuggets or share news and updates from our facilities.
- Show video clips or slideshows about the work our hospitals are doing during announcement time at church or on screens in the lobby.
- At your church or school, distribute promotional materials about local Adventist health facilities to guests.
## Download the November Sunset Calendar

[columbiaunionvisitor.com/download-the-november-sunset-calendar/](columbiaunionvisitor.com/download-the-november-sunset-calendar/)

November 3, 2014 · by Michelle Bernard · in This Month's Issue

Want to know when sunset is in November? Download our calendar.

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Employment

ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY (ADRA) INTERNATIONAL in Silver Spring, Md., is seeking a full-time staff auditor, CPA required. Responsibilities include preparation of reports; evaluate internal control systems, procedures, and best practices, applications of GAAP, GAAS, and donor compliance rules and regulations. For more information, go to adra.org.

ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY (ADRA) INTERNATIONAL in Silver Spring, Md., is seeking a full-time Senior Accountant II. Responsibilities include review reconciliations, wire transfer requests, grant loans/advances, and prepare reports to government agencies. Record questioned cost, review GIK documentation, and compile budgets for cost centers. For more information, go to adra.org.

ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY (ADRA) INTERNATIONAL in Silver Spring, Md., is seeking a full-time senior program finance manager. Responsibilities include providing day-to-day support to implementing field offices on financial management processes, compliance, policies and adherence to donor regulations. Field experience preferred. For more information, go to adra.org.

ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY (ADRA) SUDAN in Sudan, is seeking a full-time finance director. Responsibilities include preparation of all financial reports, process disbursement of funds, review of financial statements, bank and journal vouchers, project budgets, and maintenance of accounting records. For more information, go to adra.org.

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HOPESIDE CHURCH PLANT seeking a dynamic health evangelist, a relationship expert/evangelist and a contemporary music band for leading praise service. All positions are for a once-a-month engagement at an outreach-driven church plant in the Silver Spring, Md., area. Stipend provided. For more details, email astoron99@yahoo.com.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY, Biology Dept., is seeking a qualified applicant (PhD preferred). Primary emphasis in paleontology and zoology; ability to teach introductory geology, microbiology and/or bioinformatics desirable. The successful candidate will be supportive of literal creationism. Send cover letter and CV to schwarz.arthur@swau.edu. Position open until filled.

UNION COLLEGE seeks committed Adventist candidate for tenure-track position in voice/choral music, beginning June 2015. Responsibilities include overseeing the voice program, directing vocal groups, advising, and teaching undergraduate courses and voice lessons. Doctorate or near-doctorate required for tenure-track appointment. Send CV and references to Bruce Forbes, b2forbes@ucollege.edu.

UNION COLLEGE seeks a professor specializing in an area of non-European history, to teach general and upper division courses, effective fall 2015. Doctorate or near-doctorate required for tenure-track appointment. Send CV and
references to Michelle Velazquez Mesnard, Humanities Division Chair, mimesnard@ucollege.edu.

Miscellaneous

LIFESTYLE MANAGEMENT for diabetes reversal, weight control, stress reduction and overcoming depression.
Butler Creek Health Education Center, Iron City, Tenn., October 19-31. Prevention and recovery from lifestyle disease amidst the beauty of God’s creation. Cost: $975. For more information, call (931) 213-1329, or visit butlercreek.us.

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Services

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MARYLAND ADVENTIST DENTIST, David Lee, DDS, FAGD, AFAAID, has practices located in Silver Spring and Ellicott City, Md. He is extensively trained in implant, cosmetic, TMD/TMJ, sedation and laser dentistry. Dr. Lee is an Associate Fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, as well as having many other certifications. For appointments, call (410) 461-6655 in Ellicott City, or (301) 649-5001 in Silver Spring. Mention this ad and receive a 10% discount on all services, excluding third-party payers. We welcome new patients!

SINGLE AND OVER 40? The only interracial group exclusively for Adventist singles over 40. Stay home and meet new friends in the USA, with a pen pal monthly newsletter of members and album. For information, send a large, self-addressed, stamped envelope to ASO 40, 2747 Nonpareil, Sutherlin, OR 97479.

ARE YOU MOVING SOON? Before you rent a U-Haul and do it yourself, check our price and save yourself the hassle. Plan ahead now and reserve a time. Fast, direct and economical. Contact Gary Erhard, Erhard Moving and Storage, 610 S. Mechanic, Berrien Springs, MI 49103. Call from 8-11 p.m. EDT, (269) 471-7366 or cell, (248)
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MARYLAND ADVENTIST PODIATRIST: Dr. Scott Nutter, highly trained, experienced and board certified, is available in several locations to help your foot/ankle problems, including arthritis, heel pain, spurs, diabetes, callouses, ingrown nails, sprains, fractures, warts, bunions, etc. Surgery, if it is needed, at Adventist hospitals. Laurel: (301) 317-6800, Greenbelt: (301) 345-5200, or Columbia: (410) 531-6350.

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Travel/Vacation

2015 GREAT CONTROVERSY TOUR, July 17-30, with

Dr. Gerard Damsteegt of Andrews University. See prophecies of Daniel and Revelation come alive! Visit Rome, Italy and Reformation sites in the Waldensian Valleys, Switzerland, Germany, France. A most exciting experience! Call (269) 815-8624, or email gctours@mac.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Legal Notice

FIRST TRIENNIAL CONSTITUENCY SESSION OF RAMAH JUNIOR ACADEMY

Notice is hereby given that the Ramah Junior Academy Constituency will convene at 10 a.m., Sunday, November 9, 2014, at the Bethel Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1443 Addison Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44103. The purpose of this meeting is to transact business that may properly come before the session at that time. The six constituent churches are representatives to this session.

William T. Cox, President

Marvin C. Brown, III, Exec. Secretary
Special Constituency Meeting of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

A special constituency meeting of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 10 a.m., Sunday, January 11, 2015, at the Worthington Seventh-day Adventist Church, 385 East Dublin-Granville Road, Worthington, Ohio.

This meeting is called to present reports, findings, and consider plans pertaining to the serious financial condition of Mount Vernon Academy; and based upon the consideration of such information, take all necessary and proper action regarding the future of this Academy. Delegates to this session are those who served as delegates to the 41st regular constituency session of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists held on May 18, 2014.

Should severe weather prohibit this meeting, an alternate date of January 25, 2015, has been chosen at the same time and location. Delegates will be notified of any postponement.

Ron Halvorsen, Jr, President

Oswaldo Magaña, Exec. Secretary