Young Philadelphia Church Serves the Community, Baptizes 24

Allegheny East Conference’s young Bethel church and community services team in Philadelphia recently hosted a community youth and family service celebration, where nearly 200 guests witnessed 24 new believers publicly declare their
Ohio Conference Welcomes New Treasurer

After conducting an extensive search for more than a year, the Ohio Conference leadership team introduced new Ohio Conference treasurer, Karen L. Senecal. Senecal recently arrived from the Oklahoma Conference where she served as treasurer for three years, including one year as executive secretary/treasurer. She also worked as an assistant professor at several colleges and universities.—Heidi Shoemaker

Shenandoah Valley Academy: We Say Farewell to an Alumna, Employee and Friend
As our school year draws to a close, we as a staff naturally reminisce over the times we have shared these past many months. And, like the many years before it, this school year was filled with incredible moments that reinforce our belief in Shenandoah Valley Academy’s (SVA) mission.

For one of our beloved staff members, the end of this school year signifies more than yet one more successful academic year—it signifies the cap of a 30-year career of providing excellence to our youth. Sarah Smith, assistant director of food services, and a beloved staple on this campus for three decades, is retiring.—Dale Twomley

Editorial: Is Evangelism a Gift or Duty?
On various occasions, I have heard members of the church say, “I don’t have the gift of evangelism.” To that I generally reply, “That may be true, not everyone is cut out to manage great campaigns or do television and radio presentations, but all of us as disciples have a responsibility.” Then I hasten to add that we all need to remember that evangelism itself is not so much a gift as it is a duty. It is a universal obligation, and it is the most fundamental reason why the church exists.—José H. Cortés

Read the entire May Visitor online here!

More Adventist News

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Wait, Why is Ben Carson a Vegetarian?
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Young Philly Church Serves the Community, Baptizes 24

Michelle Bernard

Young Philly Church Serves the Community, Baptizes 24

Story by Dawn Robinson

Allegheny East Conference’s young Bethel church and Community Services team in Philadelphia recently hosted a community youth and family service celebration, where nearly 200 guests witnessed 24 new believers publicly declare their commitment to the Lord through baptism.

Family members gathered around the large portable pool to witness the power of God changing the lives of their loved ones. Former drug addicts, alcoholics, talented young teens and young adults, white, black and Latino were among those who went down into the watery grave and sprang forth to new life.

The Bethel congregation inspires youth and families in their neighborhoods through praise, worship and creative arts, breaking the chains of oppression and depression that bind so many in the inner city. Bruce Patterson, lay pastor, believes that the only way to truly win souls to the kingdom is to do exactly what Jesus did, “nothing more, nothing less.” He adds, “Love them, serve them, teach them and love them some more.”

Patterson and his wife, Anita, started the Bethel church as a mission group in mid-2013 with a simple desire to help those in need and a faith in God. Members say the recent baptisms were a reward for the Pattersons’ passion, perseverance and willingness to continue to give to those in need.

There are an additional 21 new believers waiting to join this ministry-focused church by profession of faith. Patterson says they are growing by leaps and bounds as they serve the community each day.
Ohio Conference Welcomes New Treasurer

Michelle Bernard

After conducting an extensive search for more than a year, the Ohio Conference leadership team introduced new Ohio Conference treasurer Karen L. Senecal.

Story by Heidi Shoemaker

Senecal arrived last month from the Oklahoma Conference where she served as treasurer for three years, including one year as executive secretary/treasurer. She also worked as an assistant professor at several colleges and universities.

“I’m very excited to work for the Lord in Ohio. I believe I’ll be joining a dedicated, self-sacrificing, enthusiastic team. And, I can’t wait to experience the wonderful ways that the Lord will lead,” says Senecal.

When not traveling on weekends for conference-related commitments, Senecal enjoys being active in her local church. For more than 20 years, in several different churches, she taught Beginners’ Sabbath School. “I love making friends with the little ones and teaching them about Jesus,” she shares.

Senecal also trains and participates in half-marathons, travels and enjoys southern gospel music. She replaces interim treasurer Lyle Litzenberger.
Shenandoah Valley Academy Says Farewell to an Alumna, Employee and Friend

Michelle Bernard

We Say Farewell to an Alumna, Employee and Friend

Story by Dale Twomley

As our school year draws to a close, we as a staff naturally reminisce over the times we have shared these past many months. And, like the many years before it, this school year was filled with incredible moments that reinforce our belief in Shenandoah Valley Academy’s (SVA) mission: “We exist to provide a distinctly Seventh-day Adventist college preparatory program through experiences to produce disciples of Jesus who are compassionate citizens prepared for college and careers.”

For one of our beloved staff members, the end of this school year signifies more than yet one more successful academic year—it signifies the cap of a 30-year career of providing excellence to our youth. Sarah Smith, assistant director of food services, and a beloved staple on this campus for three decades, is retiring.

“I began working here in the summer of 1984,” Smith recalls. “My husband’s job had recently transferred him to nearby Harrisonburg, and I wanted my children to be in our Adventist schools.”

Smith, an SVA Class of 1968 alumna, is also a product of Seventh-day Adventist education. “My parents had a big influence on me and my deep-rooted belief in our system,” she says. “Many years ago, they proudly watched five out of six children receive their diplomas from SVA. And, that is why I support it to this day.”

She adds, “I have many fond memories here, both as a student and as an employee. It’s been very interesting working with the students—it’s never dull! I will miss that the most. …The students; watching them grow up. The staff. All of the friends I have made here.”

Though Smith is moving on, she will stay connected. Her retirement plans include “volunteering much more and joining a quilting group.”

Smith is a prime example of the caliber of staff member SVA strives to employ. Her steadfast and Christian spirit is a wonderful example to the students. SVA has been incredibly blessed to have had Smith as a student, an employee, a leader and, most importantly, a friend.

Dale Twomley,
Principal
Smith, from SVA's Class of 1968, poses for her senior picture.
Editorial: Is Evangelism a Gift or Duty?

Michelle Bernard

On various occasions, I have heard members of the church say, “I don’t have the gift of evangelism.” To that I generally reply, “That may be true, not everyone is cut out to manage great campaigns or do television and radio presentations, but all of us as disciples have a responsibility.” Then I hasten to add that we all need to remember that evangelism itself is not so much a gift as it is a duty. It is a universal obligation, and it is the most fundamental reason why the church exists.

Editorial by José H. Cortés, president of the New Jersey Conference

Evangelism has so many different facets and approaches. All of us may do something meaningful in our community. As Jesus said; “I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day; the night cometh, when no man can work” (John 9:4).

People are waiting for somebody who can bring hope, love and compassion. You will find that even difficult, sophisticated and secular people have needs and will open to the touch of a compassionate hand. This is also real evangelism.

Let us seek to discover our talents and then work harmoniously within the body of believers. We are to become part of Jesus’ team. In the final analysis, we will come to recognize that all of our gifts, talents and resources were bestowed for the purpose of finishing the great commission of bringing sinners to the feet of Jesus so they will be ready for His second coming. The more time we waste on mere religious myths, human excuses and secondary matters, the longer it will take for us to enter the pearly gates of the New Jerusalem.
The graduation bell at Mount Vernon Academy rang for the last time on Sunday. Class historian Lamaya Hughes represents the final MVA senior class, the Class of 2015. Request this photo
MOUNT VERNON — Joy tinged with sadness marked the 121st commencement exercises at Mount Vernon Academy Sunday as the Class of 2015 received diplomas, the last class to do so because the academy, established in 1893, is closing.

The overall mood was upbeat as the 18 seniors marched to the stage to the traditional strains of “Pomp and Circumstance” and to the applause and cheers of family and friends.

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5-26-15 NAD Mourns Passing of Adventist Media Innovator

5-26-15 NAD Mourns Passing of Adventist Media Innovator

by Julio Muñoz

Warren Judd Passes Away

It is with deep sorrow that the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists announces the passing of Warren Judd earlier today. Judd, a visionary media professional who led the Adventist Media Center in California, died surrounded by his family. In addition to running the denominationally owned media center, Judd was responsible for the audiovisual operations of the last five General Conference Sessions including San Antonio 2015, for which planning has been several years in the making.

“We offer our deepest condolences to the Judd family in this time of such great sorrow,” said Daniel R. Jackson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. “Warren was an accomplished media authority and talented musician. But most importantly, he was a devoted husband, father and a committed Christian. Warren helped significantly advance the use of audiovisual technology in the Adventist Church. He will be missed.”

Memorial information:

Celebration of Life service for Warren will be held at Loma Linda University Church on Monday, June 8, at 6:30 p.m. PST. If unable to join the actual service in Loma Linda, you can join live at: http://www.lluc.org/article/40/media/worship-live

For those who have been asking where to send cards, you may send them to the following address:

Loma Linda University Church
Attn: Judd Family
11125 Campus St
Loma Linda, CA 92354

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that instead send a donation in honor of Warren to Loma Linda University-Media. If you would like to send your donation via check, make check payable to LLUC and be sure to put "Media" in the memo section of the check. Checks may then be mailed to the following address:

Loma Linda University Church
Attn: Media Dept
11125 Campus St
Loma Linda, CA 92354

If you would prefer to donate via credit card, you may do so by going to http://www.lluc.org/article/5/giving. Again, be
We would like to share the following post written today by Warren Judd’s daughter-in-law, Andrea:

"Our friend [Warren] has fallen asleep" (John 11:11)
By Andrea Judd

"Dad went so peacefully at about 9:45 a.m. this morning, at home, family by his side. He must have been waiting for a clean shave, which precious Yonni was in the midst of doing when she noticed a sudden color change and a change in breathing. Mum & Marc were each holding a hand of his as he breathed his last breath. We cried and we thanked God for His mercy in allowing Dad to breathe his last so peacefully. We praised God that Dad's breath is with Him. Only Dad's earthly body has died, and with that, the cancer is defeated & forever destroyed! Praise God!!

"Mum has been a rock through all of this. Certainly not without tears and great heartache, but with a greater faith! On top of it all, today is her 70th birthday. And she said, "I know many might feel differently and not understand, but I'm actually glad he died on my birthday. It makes it a very special and sacred day." God is good.

"Marc read God's Word to us all - the beautiful promises we cling to. I'll simply close by sharing just a few of those. Our love and thanks to all of you for such wonderful love and support!! We truly do not even have the words to express what it has meant and continues to mean to us."

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will awarded to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing." 2 Timothy 4:7-8

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand." John 10:27-28

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." John 11:25-26

"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever." 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: 'For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:35-39

AMEN!
Update No. 33: Union College Gymnast Badly Injured in Fall

Her parents ask again, "Please pray specifically for a breakthrough in any type of communication with Heather."

Posted May 26, 2015

Updates appended

By Union College staff

A member of the Gymnarios, Union College's acrobatic gymnastics team, was seriously injured Wednesday night, Jan. 14, when she fell while setting up an apparatus during the team's regular practice.

Heather Boulais, a member of the Gymnarios, Union College's acrobatic gymnastics team, was injured during practice Wednesday evening.

Heather Boulais, a 23-year-old senior elementary education major from Laguna Niguel, California, was hospitalized in Lincoln, Nebraska, in critical condition.

A family representative said Friday that the medical team has seen small improvements but Boulais remains in critical condition.

Boulais was in a safety harness while attaching her aerial silks to the ceiling of the gymnasium when she fell about 23 feet (7 meters).

"Student safety is our highest priority and we are in the process of reviewing what happened to determine the cause of the fall," said Vinita Sauder, president of Union College. "We will do everything possible to ensure something like this doesn't happen again."

"We are doing everything we can to support Heather’s family, friends and teammates," said Rich Carlson, vice president for spiritual life at Union College. "We have made counselors available for those who need it."

All classes in the gymnasium and the men's and women's Warrior basketball games scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 15, were canceled. The gymnasium reopened at noon Friday, and all
regularly scheduled activities resumed.

Union College administrators are cooperating with the authorities who are investigating the incident.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with Heather's family and friends,” Carlson said. “Please join us in prayer for her recovery.”

“Right now we are surrounding the Boulais family with the support they need during this difficult time,” Sauder said.

More information will be available at ucollege.edu as it is available.

Update No. 1 on Jan. 17 at 5 p.m. EST

Heather Boulais remained in critical condition on Sabbath at a Lincoln hospital. She was surrounded by her family, and they have asked that Lincoln friends and well-wishers not visit over the next few days while friends and family from around the country are in town.

The family also asks that food and flowers not be sent to the hospital at this time.

Cards and letters can be sent to:

Union College
ATTN: Prayers for Heather
3800 S. 48th Street
Lincoln, NE 68506
U.S.A.

Update No. 2 on Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. EST

Heather Boulais' family has asked for a special season of prayer tonight at 11 p.m. CST.

Union College will not hold a formal gathering, but all are invited to join the school at that time in lifting Heather and her family up in prayer.

Update No. 3 on Jan. 18

While people around the world joined together in prayer for Heather Boulais at 11 p.m. on Jan. 17, the Gymnaires acrobatic gymnastic team gathered in the hospital lobby in Lincoln, Nebraska, to pray and Union College paused a student association event in the gymnasium to hold a prayer service.

“We are so overwhelmed by the global outpouring of prayers and support,” Heather’s parents, Terry and Cheryl Boulais, said in a statement. “We thank you all for your prayers last night at 11 p.m.”

Heather Boulais, a member of the Union College Gymnaires team, suffered a traumatic brain injury and skull fracture when she fell 23 feet while hanging her aerial silks on the gymnasium ceiling during practice on Jan. 14.

Her parents said Boulais remains in a medically induced coma with a reduced body temperature.

“She is still in extremely critical condition, but the events of last night have given us our first ray of hope,” they said. “The follow-up CT scans we received last night were the best we could hope for, and the medical staff has begun raising her body temperature back to normal—a process that will take a couple of days.”

Her parents were quick to thank everyone involved in caring for their daughter.

“We’ve seen many miracles, including the quick actions of Heather’s coach and teammates, the immediate...
transportation to the top trauma care unit in the tri-state area, and her surgeons’ excellent care," they said. “We ask for your continued prayers over the next 48 hours. Our God is an awesome God!”

Update No. 4 on Jan. 20

Terry and Cheryl Boulais, parents of injured Union College gymnast Heather Boulais, released the following statement this evening:

“Once again, we must humbly begin with thanking everyone around the world who has been praying for our little Heather. We knew the army of prayer warriors would be there at 11 p.m., but we did not know that Heather’s body would react sooner.

“Earlier in the evening, we were by Heather’s side when her body began to react to the warming, and these signs continue to give us hope. The medical team is still closely monitoring for infections. This is one small baby step in this long marathon we must endure.

“This evening before 7 p.m., the doctors will be taking another critical step in monitoring her progress. We ask once again for prayers beginning before 7 p.m. Pray specifically that this step goes as expected and that there continues to be no signs of infection. Thank you for your continued prayers.”

Update No. 5 on Jan. 21

Terry and Cheryl Boulais, parents of injured Union College gymnast Heather Boulais, released the following statement this afternoon:

“We want to let all of you know the procedure this morning went very well. Now they are able to do an MRI. This will be at 2 p.m. today and we once again ask for prayers at that time. We specifically ask you to pray that nothing new appears on the MRI that we do not already know. Thank you for your continued prayers.”

Update No. 6 on Jan. 28

Terry and Cheryl Boulais, parents of injured Union College gymnast Heather Boulais, released the following statement:

"Thank you all for your continued prayers! Heather’s temperature is still elevated but no signs of infection so far. A machine is cooling her body to battle the fever. Pray that her temperature regulates so she no longer needs the machine. We praise God, because tonight will be her first night off of the ventilation system. Pray that she has a restful, healing night.

"We also want to take a moment to thank everyone involved in Heather’s care. From the moment of the accident to present day, she has received the very best attention and care! Thank you Gymnairs coaching staff, teammates, Lincoln Fire and Rescue squad, Bryan West Emergency and Critical Care medical team, Union College staff members, and friends who have been a part of this process. Additionally, thank you to everyone who continues to support and aid our family during this process. Your thoughtful willingness to help us in anyway possible has been overwhelming and we are so very grateful!

"Our God is an awesome God!"

The statement was published on a new page that the parents have set up on the CaringBridge.org site to share information and updates about their daughter. First-time users need to create a free login to access Heather’s page, but the login also allow users to receive notifications when a new update is posted and leave notes for Heather's family.

Update No. 7 on Jan. 29

Adventist Review Online | Update No. 33: Union College Gymnast Badl... http://www.adventistreview.org/church-news/story2212-union-college-...
Vinita Sauder, president of Union College, said an unspecified outside organization has been hired to investigate the circumstances around the gymnast Heather Boulais' fall.

“The college hired an outside organization to gather all the facts, determine what happened, and make recommendations,” Sauder said. “We cannot put an exact time frame on how long this process will take, but we will be thorough while moving as quickly as possible to make the needed determinations and recommendations.”

Meanwhile, the college said that its Gymnaires gymnast team returned to practice last week with a modified training program, pending results of the review.

Update No. 8 on Jan. 30

From Terry and Cheryl Boulais:

"Praise God! Heather has successfully remained off the ventilator! Her temp was 99.3 most of Thursday and 99.8 in the evening. While she is not yet awake, nor aware of her surroundings, she continues to show progress. We are so thankful!

"As the sun sets this evening and another Sabbath begins, we ask that you begin praying continuously for a smooth ‘waking up’ process and that she feels God's presence and comfort as her brain begins to awaken and heal. Pray that she is at peace and not fearful or anxious during this process.

"Our God is an awesome God!

"Thank you for your continued prayers!"

Update No. 9 on Feb. 4

From Terry and Cheryl Boulais:

"Thank you all for your continued prayers! Saturday was a big setback and Heather is still very critical. We ask that you continue to pray for no infections, no more fever, and that Heather continues to heal and show progress once again.

"We have a powerful, loving God!"

Update No. 10 on Feb. 4

From Terry and Cheryl Boulais:

"Thank you all for your continued prayers! Heather is having a CT tomorrow morning, between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m., as a follow up to the surgery last Saturday. Please pray specifically that she has a good night and for this CT to show good results! Continue also to pray for no infection and for her temperature to come back down to normal.

"We have a powerful, loving God!"

Update No. 11 on Feb. 5

From Terry and Cheryl Boulais:

"Praise God, He is watching over our precious Heather! Her CT showed nothing that needed to be addressed again with surgery and she had a restful night. Please continue to pray for her temperature to return to normal. Pray also for no infections and continued healing as she is still in critical condition.

"We have a powerful, loving God!"
Update No. 12 on Feb. 7

From Terry and Cheryl Boulais:

"Thank you all for your continued prayers and for the tremendous outpouring of support for our family in California and in Lincoln during this very difficult time! We have been blessed with delicious home cooked meals, transportation, and a multitude of prayers. We are very grateful and overwhelmed!

"Heather is beginning to show positive progress once again and we are encouraged. This has been a very tough week, but we have had some rays of hope! Please pray that she has a restful, healing weekend, for protection against infection, and for her temperature to regulate.

"We have a powerful, loving God!"

Update No. 13, Feb. 8

From Terry and Cheryl Boulais:

"Once again we ask for your prayers! Heather will be going into surgery this afternoon to address a complication that has arisen. Please pray for the doctors and that this surgery will address her current issue.

"We have a powerful, loving God!"

Update No. 14, Feb. 9

From Terry and Cheryl Boulais:

"Once again we thank you for your prayers! Even though yesterday's surgery went well, complications can still arise. It was not a setback like last week, but it was a complication that was addressed with this surgery. Heather is still in critical ICU and we still have a very long road ahead.

"Please pray for no more complications and forward progress.

"We have a powerful, loving God!"

Update No. 15, Feb. 12

From Terry and Cheryl Boulais:

"We want to thank you for your faithful prayers! Sunday's surgery has helped Heather make positive progress toward stabilizing. She has been off the ventilator again for a couple of days. We ask that you pray for Heather to remain stable enough to move out of the intensive care unit and into a rehabilitation center. Her temperature has been regulating better as well. Please continue to pray for no infections and her temperature to remain stable.

"We have a powerful, loving God!"

Update No. 16, Feb. 13

From Terry and Cheryl Boulais:

"God continues to bless us with answered prayers! Today was a big day for Heather. She was moved from Intensive Care into a rehabilitation facility to continue her recovery. We ask you to pray for a good first night in her new home and that she continues with forward progress on her journey to recovery. Continue to pray for no infections and for her temperature to remain stable.
"Our family is so very grateful for the outpouring of prayer and support. We ask that you pray also for the family of Madison Baird as they cope with the loss of their precious daughter, who was attending Walla Walla University. Our hearts ache for what they are enduring. We are so grateful for the promise of salvation and that great reunion with our loved ones! Our thoughts and prayers are with Madison's family."

Update No. 17, Feb. 14

From Terry and Cheryl Boulais:

"As Sabbath is upon us, we reflect on a week of emotional ups and downs. We continue to lift Madison Baird's family and loved ones in prayer.

"We are probably at our peak exhaustion, and we pray for a peaceful weekend. Many have asked if Heather is awake. She is not in a drug-induced coma, however, the "waking up" is a gradual process. She has shown responsive signs, but is not awake. Every patient recovers at a different pace. We ask that you pray for Heather's medical team — that they have guidance and wisdom in reaching out to Heather. Pray that Heather responds and progresses with her therapy. As always pray for no infection or complications.

"We have created a Facebook group page called #PrayersforHeather so we can have one location for updates and support. We will be sharing this with Heather. This is for anyone to share encouraging words, support, Bible verses, songs, or any other thoughts of support for Heather.

"We have a powerful, loving God!

"Thank you for your prayers!"

Update No. 18, Feb. 21

From Terry and Cheryl Boulais:

"We are thankful for Sabbath and Heather has completed her first week at the rehabilitation center. She receives four 30 minute therapy sessions per day. She occasionally sleeps through a few, so we are working hard at giving her the rest she needs during the night and between therapy sessions.

"Many want to know how she is but this is difficult to answer. A sign of progress for us may be subtle, such as movement of her thumb. We are grateful for the slightest hint of positive progress! While it is impossible to predict precisely how a person will recover, the rehabilitation center uses the Rancho Scale (Rancho Los Amigos Scale of Cognitive Recovery) to describe the general phases of recovery. This scale describes ten levels or phases of recovery. Not every person will experience all characteristics of each level and some may not go through each stage. At this point, Heather is at the Level II: Generalized Response.

"Additionally, many of you may be wondering what other injuries she may have suffered. The most serious injury is a skull fracture, resulting in her severe traumatic brain injury. Other than that, she only fractured one right rib resulting in a partially collapsed lung, both of which are healed at this point. There were no other injuries or bruises found on her body, inside or out!

"We ask specifically that you pray for Heather's progress to increase more and more rapidly, giving her a better chance at a more complete recovery down the road. Pray also for no additional complications and as always, for no infections. Thank you for your continued prayers!

"To God be the Glory!"

Update No. 19, Feb. 27

Adventist Review Online | Update No. 33: Union College Gymnast Badl
From Terry and Cheryl Boulais:

"We look forward to Sabbath and the weekend each week. It seems to be the time that Heather's muscles are most relaxed. Last Sunday we received a beautiful blessing from Heather. We saw her smile for the first time since her accident! She smiled repeatedly throughout the day at her dad's silliness. She has smiled occasionally during her therapy sessions this week. She responds to stimuli by moving her feet, arm or finger when touched. She does not move her head, eyes, feet, hands, or arms, when asked. Heather is not following commands consistently or definitively enough to move into the next level of the Rancho scale. Following commands is an important part of her therapy.

"Heather's sister, Rachel, has battled the flu this last week and we want to praise God that she is recovering and that no one else in the family caught it.

"We ask that you pray specifically for definitive, purposeful movements to commands. Heather will have another CT this Monday at 1:30 p.m. Please pray the results show continued healing and no complications. Continue to pray for no infections. We praise and thank our loving, powerful God for the smiles and miracles!

"To God be the glory!"

Update No. 20, March 5

From Terry and Cheryl Boulais:

"Heather had a CT scan earlier this week — thank you for your prayers. The results were good and she is stable enough to have surgery on Thursday. This is an important follow up surgery to her initial injury. Her surgery will be at 2 p.m. We ask that you pray during this time for the medical team, Heather and a successful surgery.

"To God be the Glory!"

Update No. 21, March 5

From Terry and Cheryl Boulais:

Heather's surgery went well today. Thank you for your prayers!

We have an awesome God!

Update No. 22, March 7

From Terry and Cheryl Boulais:

"Heather went back into surgery today to fix a complication. The surgery went well, and she is now resting. Pray for good results and continued progress from this surgery. Thank you for your prayers.

"To God be the glory!"

Update No. 23, March 14

From Terry and Cheryl Boulais:

"Last week Heather was faced with back-to-back surgeries. It was a long and exhausting weekend. She has moved back to the rehabilitation facility.

"The anesthesia has slowed her progress down a bit this week, but we can see that it is slowly working out of her system. She is showing signs in both Rancho Los Amigos Scale levels II and III, but has not fully progressed into
level III. We are praying that she reaches level III and progresses into level IV soon.

"As we enter this Sabbath, she is resting peacefully after a day full of therapy. With the planned surgery behind us, we are anticipating and praying for a steady road to recovery from this point. She has had a tracheostomy in place, and we are hoping it will be removed this next week. This will be a positive step toward forward progress.

"Please pray specifically that Heather will soon reach Rancho level IV. Pray that the tracheostomy can be successfully removed. As always continue to pray for no infections or complications.

"To God be the glory!"

Update No. 24, March 17

Join the Union College Nursing Club for a spaghetti dinner to benefit Heather Boulais. The event will be held this Sunday, March 22, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Heartland Hall in the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Enjoy spaghetti with choice of red or white sauce, salad, Texas toast and dessert. Donations for Heather will be accepted at the door.

The church is located on the corner of 48th and Prescott on the campus of Union College.

Thanks for keeping Heather in your prayers.

Update No. 25, March 20

From Terry and Cheryl Boulais:

"As the sun sets and Sabbath begins, we are grateful for quiet moments to reflect on another week with Heather. This has been an encouraging week. We have seen many smiles and an increase in movement and responses. Her tracheostomy was removed, her CT looks good, and all of her stitches have been removed. With no more planned surgeries, we are praying for and looking forward to continuous positive progress towards recovery. We humbly thank you for your faithful prayers and support.

"We ask that you continue to pray for Heather to fully reach Rancho Level III and quickly move into Level IV. As always, continue to pray for no infections or complications.

"To God be the Glory!"

Update No. 26, March 30

From Terry and Cheryl Boulais:

Heather has moved to acute rehab which means she will gradually receive more therapy time. She had some good days last week and some not so good days. She had a CT on Friday, and the doctor is keeping an eye on a small change. A followup CT will be completed Monday or Tuesday.

We ask that you pray for a good CT, for continued progress into level III and IV during her therapy sessions.

To God be the glory!

Update No. 27, April 6

From Terry and Cheryl Boulais:

We entered the Sabbath with mixed emotions. This weekend was the Gymnaries Homeshow and what would have
been Heather's final Homeshow before graduating from college. We experienced her excitement throughout this year as she knew her entire family would be here to watch this year's Homeshow. She was beaming with pride and enthusiasm over her new silks and the routine she was putting together for the Homeshow.

The heaviness in our hearts is almost unbearable at times. Yet we were so proud to support the Gymnaires as they prepared for their Homeshow performance on Saturday night. Heather's teammates and coaches have become our family. They share Heather's passion and dreams. She would be incredibly proud of each and every one. They have worked hard, prayed hard, and supported Heather, our family, and each other through unspeakable circumstances. We are healing together with Heather and her team as we attend their practices and join in their prayer circle.

Heather wrote the girls' routine, choosing the music, along with moves and pyramids that include every single girl. It is always important to her to make sure every person is included and has an important role in the routine. At Christmas, everything in our living room was rearranged, except the Christmas tree, to allow room to practice the routine with her youngest sister, Summer. Heather meticulously worked out the timing of every move to the music. Our hearts are heavy but full of love and pride for Heather, her teammates, and her passion.

Heather's follow up CT last Monday showed improvement from the previous Friday. Her therapy sessions last week included some hopeful progress and signs of moving toward Rancho Levels III and IV. Heather had an X-ray of her hip on April 3 to determine if a condition known as heteroptic ossification is occurring. The X-ray looks good now; however, they will continue to monitor her hip and retest if necessary. Please pray specifically that this condition does not occur anywhere in her body. It is a common occurrence in traumatic brain injuries.

We specifically ask that you continue to pray for Heather's complete recovery and that heterotopic ossification does not occur.

Our God is a loving God! To God be the glory!

Update No. 28, April 11:

From Terry and Cheryl Boulais:

Sabbath arrived quickly after a fast-paced week. Exhaustion has hit us hard. Our family is once again in two different parts of the country. Cheryl and Rachel remain in Lincoln, Nebraska, with Heather, and Terry accompanied Summer back to California at the end of her spring break. A large focus of recent therapy has been to establish a means of communication with Heather.

We ask that you pray specifically for a breakthrough in communication with Heather. As always, continue to pray for forward progress and no complications.

Our God is a loving God! To God be the glory!

Update No. 29, April 18:

From Terry and Cheryl Boulais:

We welcome the Sabbath a little more rested and upbeat. Heather receives six to eight therapies a day (up to four hours each time). Therapy consists of speech: working on swallowing, chewing, finding her voice, and establishing a means of communication; physical therapy: working on muscle coordination and toning, weight bearing, following commands; occupational therapy: working on daily activities like using her hands and arms for brushing teeth or hair and eating and retraining various muscles for activities of daily living. These are just a few examples of each therapy, and each one has a very long road ahead.

Heather receives a new cast, known as "serial casting," on her left ankle every Monday and Thursday to keep her foot and toes from pointing. She did not break it, but due to her traumatic brain injury her toes point and stiffen her
Unfortunately, on that same leg, her knee is now starting to draw upward and out and does not ever relax. She also underwent a vestibular evaluation and we found she has a complex form of BPPV (benign paroxysmal positional vertigo). This can make you feel like you are on a spinning ride.

It has been a busy week but also a week of encouraging signs. Although a means of communication has not been established, we feel she is close. She appears to recognize or respond to familiar faces. One event that happened this week gave us such encouragement. Rachel was saying the alphabet in Spanish to Heather, lost her place for a second, and forgot the next letter. Heather immediately smiled when that happened and had the look on her face like "come on Rachel you know it" and she continued to smile until Rachel remembered the next letter. Every day has its challenges, but every day we see God's work in Heather's healing process. Even though there is still a long road ahead, we continue to see forward progress.

Please pray specifically that we establish a means of communication soon, that her treatment for the BPPV is successful, that her serial casting is successful, for her left leg to relax allowing her to bear weight on it and that she enters Rancho Level IV soon.

Thank you so much for your continuous prayers! To God be the glory!

Update No. 30: May 2:

From Terry and Cheryl Boulais:

It is hard to believe that Sabbath is already here. This last week has been a blur. We thought we had reached our peak stress and exhaustion level by last Friday afternoon. Heather was alert and looking at us and by all appearances, it was just another day. That all changed very quickly when Heather had her first seizure. Fortunately, Rachel and I were with her when it happened. Medical personnel quickly responded and had her transported to the hospital where she had a CT and underwent shunt revision surgery.

Heather has remained alert since the surgery, however, we continue to battle insurance issues, and quite frankly, each day gets harder and harder to face. Discouragement is weighing us down, and battling insurance feels like a dark, lonely tunnel with no light at the end.

We sincerely thank each and every one of you for your constant prayers and support. We thank those who have provided monetary funds, food, caregiving relief, laundry needs, transportation and many other things.

Our specific prayer needs are overwhelming and I don't know where to begin … please continue to pray for Heather's continued recovery, a breakthrough in communication, moving up the Rancho Scale, and insurance cooperation.

Thank you so much for your continuous prayers! To God be the glory!

Update No. 31, May 9:

This Sabbath is a special one and a very emotional weekend for us. We are extremely proud of Heather! Her academic ambition and dedication has paid off. She is graduating this weekend with:

- Bachelor of science, personalized degree in educational studies
- Bachelor of arts in second-language studies, with an emphasis in Spanish, summa cum laude
- Upon completion of a semester of student teaching, she will receive her bachelor of science in elementary education, summa cum laude

Commencement is Sunday, May 10, 11 a.m. CT. Heather will not be able to be there, but you can watch it live here.
Heather showed positive progress in therapy this week. Please pray specifically for increased positive progress. Pray also for a breakthrough in communication.

Heather, we are so very proud of you! We love you!

Thank you so much for your continued prayers! To God be the glory!

**Update 32, May 16:**

*From Terry and Cheryl Boulais:*

We are once again thankful that the Sabbath hours are upon us. We look forward to this time to reflect on the blessings of family and the many miracles along this journey with Heather.

We are grateful that Heather rests well after a full day of therapy. Heather worked hard in therapy this week. We are grateful that she continues forward progress. We are also very thankful for Heather's dedicated therapists, doctors, nurses, and aides, who show compassion for Heather and our family. They also share excitement when they receive a priceless smile from Heather. We are beginning to see Heather's precious smile more and more and we cherish every single one.

Please continue to pray specifically for a breakthrough in any type of communication with Heather. Pray also for a breakthrough with her voice. It has been four months since we have heard her precious voice and laughter. We miss it dearly and long for the day when we can hear her voice again. Pray also for increased strength and mobility on her right side.

To God be the glory!

**Update 33, May 26:**

*From Terry and Cheryl Boulais:*

Last week was full of therapy for Heather and a multitude of things to be accomplished by each of the family members; work, appointments, homework, and another school year drawing to a close.

In one week, Rachel and Cheryl will fly back to California to attend Summer's piano recital and eighth-grade graduation. We are all looking forward to sharing a full week together. We will be missing Heather greatly during this special time. After spending almost every day and night by Heather's side for the last four months, it will be difficult to pull away. At the same time, it is a much needed respite together as a family. We are grateful to the amazing friends who are making this possible and spending time with Heather in our absence.

Heather has had good results from the positional therapy she has received for her vertigo. She no longer seems to suffer from nausea and has gained improvement with balance. She does not have serial casting on her left ankle anymore. She wears a splint at night on each ankle and her right hand to improve some toning issues. The therapists are working to improve range of motion in her neck and improve visual tracking to the right side with her eyes. We are grateful for forward progress.

Please pray specifically for a breakthrough in any type of communication with Heather. Pray she gains the use of her voice, her right arm, and her right leg. Pray for the muscles to relax in her left leg, allowing the return of full range of motion. Pray for her neck muscles to relax allowing her to turn to the right. Pray for her eyes to continue to improve their ability to look to the right.

To God be the glory!
We reserve the right to approve and disapprove comments accordingly and will not be able to respond to inquiries regarding that. Please keep all comments respectful and courteous to authors and fellow readers.
Central Sterile Processing staff is on the front lines of patient safety and protecting patients from hospital-acquired infections. These certified healthcare professionals are tasked with highly sterilizing and disinfecting surgical and other hospital equipment. And they are in high demand.

Story by Danielle Lewald

On May 19 Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital, held an event to celebrate a new grant-funded partnership between the Montgomery Business Development Corporation, an economic development organization, and Adventist HealthCare that is making it possible to provide training and certification in the sterile processing career pathway to meet critical workforce needs in the region.

Known as Rx for Employability, this pilot program is helping to connect students within the Central Sterile Processing Training Course with enhanced knowledge, increased access to resources to further their careers, and the ability to compete for higher-quality jobs. Nine hospital staff members from Washington Adventist Hospital and Shady Grove Medical Center are currently enrolled in the program.

“I praise God for the gift he has blessed me with to coach and mentor others to be successful,” says Rajee Arunan, clinical manager, Central Sterile Processing and course instructor.
Washington Adventist University Earns Place on President’s 2014 Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll

Michelle Bernard

Washington Adventist University (WAU) was recognized and congratulated by President of the United States Barack Obama for “the extraordinary and exemplary community service contributions of its students, faculty and staff in meeting critical community and national needs.” The university has been awarded a place on the President’s 2014 Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

Story by Donna Bigler

“We are extremely pleased to receive this recognition that our programs and activities are making a significant contribution to the community,” says Weymouth Spence, WAU president. “We continuously strive to engage minds and transform lives, and to be acknowledged with a place on the Presidential Community Service Honor Roll is extraordinary.”

Washington Adventist University has long been considered by its faculty, staff and students to be a “gateway to service,” and the university regularly provides community service opportunities, both locally and nationally. The university also sponsors several mission trips abroad each year.

The 2014 Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll presented to WAU is signed by U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service Wendy Spencer.
Wait, why is Ben Carson a vegetarian?

At the risk of going all Get Religion over nothing: it’s a little weird to read articles about Ben Carson’s vegetarianism that fail to mention that the presidential candidate is a member of a church that promotes vegetarianism.

Nathanael Johnson celebrates the optics, while Samantha Rollins wonders about the politics. Jenny Hopkinson cites health concerns as Carson’s main motivation. Arthur Delaney and Ashley Alman note that Carson once stated his hope for a time when “there will no longer be a reason for most people to eat meat.” Only one of these links mentions “his religion,” and none finds space for the term “Seventh-day Adventist.”

Both Delaney and Alman and Hopkinson refer to a 1990 profile of Carson in the Vegetarian Times. That piece credits both Carson’s Adventist faith and his health concerns—which, to be clear, are hardly separate categories. Healthy living and a healthful diet have long been Adventist distinctives, little emphasized by most other Christian denominations but a significant part of Adventist identity.

Carson’s diet may well cause him trouble on the campaign trail, as it has already. I hope the reporting on this acknowledges that people avoid meat for a lot of different reasons, and Carson does it at least partly because his church encourages it. A candidate’s specific denomination isn’t always relevant; we don’t need to be reminded each time that Hillary Clinton or Lindsey Graham tosses off a poll-tested Bible quote that she’s a United Methodist and he’s a Southern Baptist. But sometimes it’s odd to leave it out—especially when it’s a church farther from the American mainstream and a teaching most other churches don’t share.