January 2014

Good wishes for a happy New Year to you! Start the year well with a focus on prayer:
~ Day of Prayer, Sabbath, January 4—Please join Seventh-day Adventist congregations across North America in united prayer for God’s power and leading in ministry in 2014. Download a special sermon by Frederick Russell called “Second Degree Faith” by visiting the North American Division Prayer Ministries webpage at nadprayerministries.org (under Resources tab).
~ The 10 Days of Prayer initiative (formerly called Operation Global Rain) was adopted by the world church in 2010. All around the world, Adventist churches are experiencing the renewal of the Holy Spirit by following the disciples’ example and participating in 10 Days of Prayer. This year, the dates are Wednesday, January 8 through Sabbath, January 18. Small group leader’s guides and daily theme sheets are available online at nadprayerministries.org (under Resources tab).

This month conference president Rick Remmers joins a team from the Calvary Southern Asian church based in Burtonsville, Maryland, to hold a series of evangelistic meetings in Chinnai, India. Please pray that many people there will give their hearts to the Lord as a result of these meetings.

“The Heart of Worship” is the theme for a revival series sponsored by Atholton church beginning Sabbath, January 4, and concluding Sabbath, January 11. Explore biblical concepts, practices, and attitudes of worship for both the corporate service and the private devotional life. Meetings take place on Sabbaths at 11:00 a.m., and nightly Sunday through Friday at 7:00 p.m., at the church located at 6520 Martin Road in Columbia, Maryland. Call (410) 740-5030, or email Atholton.Adventist@gmail.com for more information.

“Loving Through Differences” is the theme for the sixth annual marriage retreat co-sponsored by Triadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church and Linden Linthicum United Methodist Church, located in Clarksville, Maryland. The retreat takes place February 7-9, 2013, at the Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland. Rick and Annette Friesen from Peacemakers Ministries are featured presenters. The $299/couple fee includes lodging for two nights, brunch, dinner and tea on Sabbath, and brunch on Sunday. To learn more, call Mark and Peggy Lee at (301) 317-5428, or Jeff and Sandy Hartz at (443) 864-6328.

Highland View Academy will sponsor a conference-wide Music Festival March 14-15. All students in grades five through eight are invited to participate in the choir and hand bells performances. For an application, contact your music teacher or HVA music director Joseph Choi at jchoi@highlandviewacademy.com, or call (301) 739-8480, ext. 258.

Save the Date! The Gathering, Chesapeake Conference’s annual camp meeting, takes place June 17-21 at Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Maryland. Under the theme “By Grace Alone” featured weekend speaker Karl Haffner—senior pastor of the Kettering, Ohio, church—and weeknight speaker Bill Knott, editor/publisher of Adventist Review and Adventist World magazines, will bring spiritually uplifting messages of hope and truth. Watch future issues of Currents and Visitor magazine, or visit ccosda.org, frequently, for details.

The Executive Committee at its December 2013 meeting took action on the following items and received these reports:
~ Dover First church (Delaware) recently received the building permit to begin construction of a new elementary school with a planned opening for the 2014-2015 school year.
~ Two new Hispanic groups (congregations) have been started. Pastor Roberto Clouzet is leading a group in Martinsburg, West Virginia, and Pastor Francisco Julca leads a group in Cambridge, Maryland.
~ Jim Zeismer transitions from his position as associate pastor of the West Wilmington church in Delaware to teach Bible at Highland View Academy in January.
~ voted, to receive the Church/School audit report. The report was positive and the Conference received a clean opinion.
~ voted, to approve the 2014 Conference Calendar.
~ voted, to appoint Sandro Braun as pastor at the Capital Brazilian church in Highland, Maryland, filling the vacancy left by Jimmy Cardoso.
~ voted, to appoint Jason Dacena as associate pastor at the New Hope Church in Fulton, Maryland, filling the vacancy left when Kuma Dxit accepted a call to British Columbia last summer.
~ to appoint Luis Orjuela as pastor at the Laurel and Washington Spencerville Spanish district in the Baltimore/Washington corridor.
~ voted, to enable the administration to fill the pastoral vacancy at the Frederick/Hagerstown (Maryland) district caused by Pastor Orjuela’s move noted above.
~ voted, to enable the administration to fill the pastoral vacancy (left by Jim Zeismer) at West Wilmington church in Delaware.
~ voted, to appoint Orlando Rosales as interim Multilingual Ministries coordinator.
~ voted, to appoint Charles Griffin as interim executive secretary for the Conference.
Pastor/Pilot needed—Adventist World Aviation and the Alaska Conference seek a pastor/pilot with a unique combination of talents to serve the Bristol Bay region of Alaska. Pastoral leadership is needed for the Dillingham, Alaska, church and school as well as several village mission outposts. Applicant must be a USA certified pilot with commercial and instrument ratings, a current second class medical certificate, and a minimum of 500 flight hours. Mission aircraft and hanger will be provided. For more information and to apply, contact either Ric Swaningson at Adventist World Aviation, (414) 255-5195; or Ken Crawford at Alaska Conference, (907) 346-1004.

Reach children who don't know Jesus through a gift subscription of Real magazine. Published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, Real is an outreach tool with content just for kids. Give a one-year subscription for $12, or 10 subscriptions for just $120. Some things you can't take out of a child's life—a parent in prison, drug abuse, neglect, poverty—but you can relieve some of the pain with stores of joy, comfort and hope. Visit ShareReal.org to donate one or more subscriptions.

Church clerks and treasurers are urged to submit year-end reports to the conference office right away. Conference personnel are closing out 2013 business and finalizing the 2014 operating budget, as well as preparing year-end reports that are due. Thanks very much for making this a priority.

Resources:
~ 2014 Devotional Audio Books are now available for download at AdventistBookCenter.com. Purchase the audio book, download the files, and add them to your iTunes or other MP3/Audio player. Among the titles available are Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus by George Knight, Our Father Cares by Ellen G. White, Breathe (for Women), edited by Ardis Stenbakken, and Portal (for teens) by Mark Witas.
~ Draw Me Healthy App for kids age 4 and up is available on iTunes for $1.99. Published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, the interactive children’s app is formatted for iPad. Kids help Noah feel better by making healthy choices.

Stay connected: Subscribe to Currents at ccosda.org.

January Sunset Calendar and Offering Schedule

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<th>Sunset</th>
<th>Offering</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>January 18</td>
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Note: Sunset times published above are for Baltimore, Maryland. For Delaware and the Eastern Shore, subtract two minutes. For West Virginia and Western Maryland, add three minutes.

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