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21 Mar 2011, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States
ANN staff

The Seventh-day Adventist Church continues to rally support in the wake of the 9.0-magnitude earthquake that struck northeastern Japan March 11, spawning a tsunami and widespread devastation.
The Adventist Church's Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) voted last week to send $50,000 to the church in Japan for emergency relief, and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency is expanding its response by supporting an evacuation center in Miyagi Prefecture, one of the hardest-hit regions.

The pledge is part of what church leaders in NSD called their "long-term support" as Japan recovers from its worst natural disaster in recorded history.

"When we think of the suffering and damage Japan is going through ... [all] we can do is to humbly ask God to stretch out his healing hands," said Jairyong Lee, Adventist Church president for NSD. "There is an urgent need for the prayers of the world church for our members in Japan."

Lee visited the country yesterday to better assess damage to Adventist-owned churches and institutions. Early reports indicated that 13 churches, 10 schools and five other church institutions were located in earthquake-affected areas.

Meanwhile, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency sent a two-ton truck loaded with food and emergency supplies to assist the approximately 1,300 displaced persons currently housed in an area evacuation center.

ADRA has previously provided hot meals for those staying at evacuation centers.

"I was so happy to have [traditional Japanese] miso soup today because it was the first hot meal we had since the earthquake," one young girl at a center told ADRA last week.

Cold weather, snow, empty grocery stores and the fear of nuclear radiation are complicating many survivors' efforts to return to their homes and begin cleanup, an ADRA press release said.

Last week, Adventist world church President Ted N.C. Wilson issued a statement in response to the earthquake, noting the church's initial relief efforts in the region and urging Adventist worldwide to pray for Japan "during this time of intense need."

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**Remembrance: McFarland helped millions quit smoking with five-day plan**

*Smoking cessation program swept nation in 1960s*

18 Mar 2011, Loma Linda, California, United States
Ansel Oliver/ANN

Dr. J. Wayne McFarland, a Seventh-day Adventist health advocate who co-authored the Five Day Plan to Stop Smoking, which drew millions to seminars in the 1960s, died March 14 at a retirement facility in Loma Linda, California. He was 97.
McFarland and co-author Elman J. Folkenberg released the smoking cessation program at a time when smoking was prescribed for breathing problems.

The duo offered their first smoking cessation seminar in Taunton, Massachusetts in 1960, later releasing the 1962 book Five Day Plan to Stop Smoking for pastors and health experts to offer the program in communities across the United States.

McFarland, a physician, and Folkenberg, a pastor, would encourage seminar participants to repeat the phrase in unison and throughout the day, "I choose not to smoke," Time magazine reported in 1963.

The Time article also noted the seminar included a strong spiritual component, similar to support methods of Alcoholics Anonymous. Participants were also given specific dietary instructions to accompany the plan and matched with a buddy to monitor each other's progress.

"The five-day plan was enormously successful, it met a real felt need," said Dr. Allan Handysides, Health Ministries director for the Adventist Church.

J. Wayne McFarland was born in Brawley, California on August 11, 1913 and graduated from Madison College, in Nashville, Tennessee. He earned a medical degree from Loma Linda University in 1939 before serving a fellowship in physical medicine and rehabilitation at the Mayo Clinic, in Rochester, Minnesota.

He practiced and taught in Philadelphia, first at Temple University Hospital and later at Jefferson University Hospital. He worked for the Adventist Church's headquarters in the 1940s and 50s, editing Life and Health magazine, and helped to establish what is now Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries, a lay supporting organization of the denomination.

Later, while serving as an associate director for the Adventist Church Health Ministries department from 1970 to 1980, McFarland would team up with Adventist evangelists to offer a practical health message to accompany a series' spiritual outreach, something he did in six continents over his career.
After retirement he continued traveling the world, offering smoking cessation support in Russia and serving as a special consultant on health education to the Shenyang Municipality of China.

McFarland received numerous awards from municipalities and universities, including a medallion of merit from the World Health Organization in 1988.

McFarland’s seminar partner Folkenberg died in 1986. His nephew, Robert Folkenberg would later serve as the denomination’s president, from 1990 to 1999.

McFarland’s wife Dolly preceded him in death in 2008. He is survived by two daughters, three grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

--additional reporting by Don A. Roth

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**In the U.S., Maranatha to involve Hispanic population in outreach**

*Country's large Spanish-speaking community an opportunity for church growth*

22 Mar 2011, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States

ANN staff

Maranatha Volunteers International hosted its first Hispanic convention February 26 in Winter Park, Florida in an effort to involve more of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Spanish-speaking population in outreach.

The California-based non-profit organization -- a supporting ministry of the Adventist Church -- has operated in 17 Spanish-speaking countries throughout Latin America. Recent efforts include building hundreds of One-Day Churches throughout Ecuador and Mexico.

The convention marked a deliberate move to involve more of the United States' Hispanic community "right here at home" in such outreach, said Kyle Fiess, Maranatha vice president for Marketing and Projects.

"With such a large Hispanic population within [the U.S.], we're realizing an opportunity that will help grow the Adventist Church and provide more houses of worship," Fiess said.

Maranatha's [One-Day Church](#) program, launched in 2008, provides quality, easily-assembled church kits for $3,000 each. A steel frame and roofing materials arrive in the back of a pick-up truck, and members use local resources, such as brick or bamboo, to complete the walls. So far, the program has housed more than 1,600 congregations worldwide, Maranatha officials said.
Maranatha has already operated in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico and Venezuela.

By familiarizing Hispanic Adventists in the U.S. with ways they can impact their Spanish-speaking friends at home and worldwide, Maranatha hopes to inspire a new enthusiasm for mission, Fiess said.

"We find that the long-term support comes from people who have previously been involved as volunteers," he said. "They come back and they're invariably more involved in their own community."

Last month's convention was a joint effort between Maranatha and Adventist Church administration in Florida. Abel Paulin, vice president for the church's Spanish-language ministries in Florida, said the event -- which drew members from nearly 90 local congregations -- sparked a renewed interest in outreach with its focus on "church planting, growth and baptisms."

Mark Finley, special assistant to the Adventist world church president for evangelism, told the 5,000 attendees that Maranatha is "one of the most significant things that is happening within the Seventh-day Adventist Church today."

Adventist evangelist and author Alejandro Bullón, who also spoke at the convention, challenged attendees to get involved. "It doesn't matter how much money you have. All of you have time," he said.

Bullón is expected to contribute to a forthcoming Spanish language television program produced by Maranatha highlighting the organization's mission projects worldwide.

A second Hispanic convention in the U.S. is also on the docket as Maranatha moves forward with its new emphasis on the country's Spanish-speaking community.
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MARCH 13 UPDATE: Seventh-day Adventist Church President Ted N. C. Wilson today issued the following statement:

"Seventh-day Adventists around the world unite today with the people of Japan in mourning the losses caused by the 2011 Sendai earthquake and the resulting tsunami. Our thoughts, our prayers and our sympathies go out to those who have suffered such loss.

"The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is mobilizing to share resources and meet human need in the affected regions. An ADRA representative was in Fukushima on March 12, and more help is coming.

"We remember the Bible’s promise in Psalm 91, verse 1: "He who dwells in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty," and we claim that promise for the people of Japan, and for all areas affected by this tragedy.

"Seventh-day Adventists have worked in Japan since 1889 and continue to serve the people of that great country. We are committed to helping meet human needs and sharing the greatest news of all: that God loves and cares for each of us, and that He is coming again soon! We call for all Seventh-day Adventists and others to pray for the people of Japan during this time of intense need."

MARCH 12 REPORT: A spokesman for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency said an ADRA assessment team today reached Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, one of the hardest-hit regions.

ADRA Japan is coordinating with the Japan National Disaster Office and local non-governmental agencies.

ADRA International has committed US$25,000 to fund an initial response in the country, and is accepting donations for the agency’s Emergency Response Fund.

The magnitude-8.9 earthquake -- the largest in Japan’s history -- struck off country’s northeastern coast Friday, killing hundreds, cutting off electricity to millions of homes, interrupting the region’s mobile phone network and paralyzing Tokyo’s train system, according to media reports.

Masumi Shimada, president of the Adventist Church in Japan, said that four institutional buildings in Japan have sustained minor damage. There are no reports of casualties among church members, he said.

Shimada said there are 17 churches, 10 schools and five other church institutions in the earthquake-affected areas.

In Tokyo, ADRA has set up as a refugee shelter at the Tokyo Central Adventist Church, providing food and free Wi-Fi.

There are about 15,000 Adventists in Japan worshiping in 115 churches.