Enrollment strong at church's Montemorelos University months after shooting death of student

Three months after the shooting death of a Montemorelos University student, the new school year at the Adventist-owned institution has begun with tightened security and a full student body of nearly 1,900.

Medical students pray August 30 at the beginning of a new school year at Adventist-owned Montemorelos University in Mexico. University enrollment remains strong three months after the shooting death of a student.
With only 34 fewer students enrolled this year compared to last, university leaders are thankful to have full classrooms and dormitories once again.

Each semester's new enrollment is "a testimony of the reality of God's promises and the faith of students, parents and teachers," said university President Ismael Castillo.

The Adventist community in Montemorelos was shocked when university student Yoselin Perez Ramirez was the victim of an apparent attempted kidnapping last May in Montemorelos. Her death is still under investigation.

"Our campus has been designed and organized so that the students whose parents live far from the university can have the safety, attention and education that they need," academic vice president of Montemorelos University Raquel Korniejczuk said in a statement.

Since the incident and in light of growing insecurity in Mexico, the university has taken additional security measures to "reduce the possibility of exposure to dangerous situations," Korniejczuk said.

These include reducing evening activities so students and staff can return to their homes before dark, and restricting access to the 49-acre campus.

In addition, students, faculty and staff have undergone security orientation and education. A hotline is now available for students to dial in case of emergencies and trips outside of campus have been reduced or eliminated. Additional videos and precautionary measures are available on the university's website.

New student Jediael Hernandez said passing the admission exam for the School of Medicine at Montemorelos is a dream come true. Hernandez is part of a record-high group of 102 students who began their career in medicine this school year.

"This has been a miraculous registration and it will be a year of miracles," said Ekel Collins, vice president for student affairs.

Montemorelos University is an Adventist institution accredited by the Adventist Accrediting Association and the second of three Adventist universities worldwide that grant degrees in medicine. Located in Montemorelos, Nuevo Leon, Mexico and established in 1942, Montemorelos University offers dozens of undergraduate and graduate degrees.

-- Ana Elisa Mena contributed to this report

Adventist supporting ministry's health program geared to meet global needs

Wilson attends launch of Weimar's NEWSTART Global health program

20 Sep 2011, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States
ANN staff
A California supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is relaunching its health program to better address health issues worldwide.

Adventist Church President Ted N. C. Wilson addresses attendees of Weimar's Dinner With The Presidents last month at the Weimar Center of Health & Education in Weimar, California. [photo courtesy Weimar]

The Weimar Center of Health & Education recently launched NEWSTART Global, an international version of the health program NEWSTART. The program is an 18-day live-in lifestyle regimen that addresses obesity, hypertension and diabetes. The new version offers the NEWSTART principles specifically for local churches worldwide to conduct health evangelism.

"Now everyone can be a health evangelist in their communities," said Dean Dennis, director of marketing for Weimar.

Launched in 1978, NEWSTART is an acronym for nutrition, exercise, water, sunlight, temperance, air, rest, and trust in God.

The center has assisted more than 11,000 guests in regaining wellness through natural means, according to its website.

Weimar officials announced the launch last month at a dinner attended by guests from the Adventist Church headquarters, including President Ted N. C. Wilson, Assistant to the President for Evangelism Mark Finley and Ministerial Association Secretary Jerry Page.

"Helping local churches to become centers of influence and health centers for the Lord, this is what our church needs," Wilson told meeting attendees.

Weimar President Dr. Neil Nedley said, "Jesus is coming soon and he has told us that medical ministry will be one of the final avenues for reaching people. God needs us to equip His people to do that work."

Denominational health leaders said the updated version of NEWSTART will better meet health needs from those who are outside of North America.

"The modern world presents many new health challenges that are better addressed in the updated portion," Dr. Allan Handysides, Health Ministries director for the Adventist world church, said later in an interview.

"I am confident that NEWSTART Global will help those seeking to serve beyond North American borders," Handysides said. "Those using NEWSTART Global will need to meet people where they are and demonstrate flexibility as they work with cultures different from the North American mentality."

Handysides said the updated program would also better enable church health leaders the addressing of modern
health issues such as HIV/AIDS and substance abuse.

Katia Reinert, Health Ministries director for the Adventist Church in North America, said NEWSTART has been "instrumental" in promoting health principles among Adventists and community members.

"I believe anyone interested in health evangelism will find NEWSTART to be a wonderful tool to introduce the message of whole health and restoration to those in need of physical, mental and spiritual healing," Reinert said.

Weimar recently ended a three-year partnership with the Amazing Facts supporting ministry, based in nearby Roseville. Amidst financial challenges, the partnership helped "resurrect" Weimar's ministry, Nedley said in a statement.

"Though our ministries are now separate at the board level, we remain united in the mission of reaching a lost world with the three angels' messages," Nedley said.

For more information, visit Newstartglobal.com or Weimar.org.

---

**In Solomon Islands, more than 500 join church during public evangelism series**

*Many newly baptized Adventists set to worship in new church this Sabbath*

20 Sep 2011, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States
Phil Ward/ANN staff

In the largest Seventh-day Adventist baptism in Solomon Islands history, hundreds of people joined the church there during a public outreach series this month by evangelist John Carter.

Adventist pastors baptize new church members in the Lunga River near Honiara, Solomon Islands, on September 17 while onlookers watch from shore. More than 500 people chose to join the church during a public evangelism series in the South Pacific this month. [photos courtesy SPD]

More than 500 people were baptized in the Lunga River near Honiara on September 17 while men with poles stood nearby to push away any crocodiles that swam into the area. Some 10,000 people stood on the riverbank and a nearby bridge to witness the ceremony.

Most of the people baptized had come forward during two altar calls at Carter's meetings, which began September 9 at a soccer stadium in Honiara. Carter spoke about the latest discoveries in astronomy and scientific evidence for the existence of a Creator.
At Sunday night's final meeting, attendance peaked at 32,000 -- one-third of the city's population. About two-thirds of those attending were not Adventist church members, church leaders in the South Pacific said.

The meetings took the city by storm, said Solomon Islands Prime Minister Danny Philip, who spoke at the final meeting.

"The church in the Solomons has been praying for revival and it is a joy to see first hand God's spirit sweeping across this nation," said Wayne Boehm, president of the Adventist Church in the islands.

"I continue to hear of miraculous stories of people attending these meetings, some of whom have been keeping the Sabbath on their own ... now coming to these meetings to have their faith affirmed," he said.

Some 32,000 Honiara residents attended the final night of evangelist John Carter's outreach series in the Solomon Islands this month.

One newly baptized member is Peter Aboufa, the now former president of the South Seas Evangelical Church, the Solomon Islands' third-largest Protestant denomination. Aboufa shared his testimony just before his baptism.

"We praise God for the large and enthusiastic attendance at the evangelistic meetings," Adventist world church President Ted N. C. Wilson said later in an interview. "It's obvious that many are being drawn to ... the Bible and its answers for today's many problems. Truly, Jesus is the only answer to the challenges we face in today's highly unsettled world," he added.

Many of the newly baptized members are expected to attend a new church this Sabbath at Adventist-owned Maranatha Centre in the Solomon Islands, said Boehm.

The church in the Solomon Islands plans to establish a radio network so every person in the region can continue to hear the church's message.