Six months away, Youth Ministries planning now for world service day
March 16 set for local community outreach; ‘skip church, be the sermon’

In U.S., Florida Adventist college becomes newest denominational university
New, upcoming programs warrant name change; distance learning growth

Man’s best friend teaches tithing to next generation
Jack the golden doodle is new mascot for stewardship in North America

In Philippines, Adventist hospital team wins nurse quiz competition
Manila Adventist Medical Center named Grand Winner of Rachell Allen Nurse Quiz

Six months away, Youth Ministries planning now for world service day
Gilbert Cangy is urging Seventh-day Adventist youth to hear one less sermon next year.

The Adventist world church’s Youth Ministries director is setting aside one Sabbath for Global Youth Day, an international community service day, Saturday, March 16, 2013. Cangy, in consultation with Youth Ministry directors of the denomination’s 13 world divisions, is promoting the event now by urging local youth leaders to reserve the date, the first day of next year’s Week of Prayer.

Cangy said he hopes youth that day will forgo hearing a sermon and instead “be the sermon” by serving in the community.

“What if our young people exited the church that day and went out to be the hands and feet of Jesus?” Cangy said. “There’s nothing better than mission to bring us together as a world church.”

He said the idea comes from the Good Samaritan parable of Jesus. “Two religious people, maybe on their way to church, didn’t stop to help someone who was beaten up and in need. The heart of religion and Christianity is to reach out and meet the needs of the beaten-up people of this world,” Cangy said.

Leaders estimate there are potentially eight million church members under the age of 30. Cangy said he plans to make the event a springboard for future initiatives to help further connect youth to the world church.

The Youth Ministries website will soon offer suggestions for service projects for the March 16 event. Cangy said he expects local church leaders and young people to contextualize the ideas and improve them.

One project he hopes catches on is blood donation. Cangy donated blood last year and learned of the significant need in many communities. “Jesus gave his blood for us. We want to give blood and save lives,” he said.

On the day of the event, the website will offer an interactive map highlighting projects live as the day progresses through all 24 time zones.
Armando Miranda, a world church vice president, called the initiative “historic” for going even beyond mass service projects of thousands of participants attending a youth congress.

“This will be the gospel in action, the first time we'll do this kind of thing worldwide simultaneously,” Miranda said.

Local youth leaders said they welcomed the idea, both for its local impact and to help unite Adventist youth worldwide.

“I think it’s about time we had something as engaging as this,” said James Black, Youth Ministries director for the North American Division, based in the United States.

“The uniqueness of this is that it unites us as a world church in service,” Black said. “The spiritual impact on the lives of such a diverse community will leave an indelible impression on many who don’t know Christ.”

In the East-Central Africa Division, based in Kenya, Youth Ministries Director Magulilo Mwakalonge said he anticipates youth participating in service projects similar to previous outreach, including taking food to hospitals, visiting the elderly, and visiting orphanages to have fun and pray with kids. He said some senior youth would likely visit prisons to preach.

“Our young people are excited about that and they’re looking forward to that day of joining the world church and impacting their community,” Mwakalonge said.

The division is advertising through announcements in seminars and messages on Facebook. Later, posters advertising the March 16 service day will be sent to local churches throughout the division.

“I think it's a fantastic idea to think globally and act locally,” said Paul Tompkins, Youth Ministries director for the Trans-European Division, based in England. “I think this will catch on all around the world and particularly in our division.”

For more information, visit gcyouthministries.org

In U.S., Florida Adventist college becomes newest denominational university
A rapidly growing Seventh-day Adventist college in the state of Florida is the country’s latest church institution of higher learning to become a university, reflecting its increasing number of graduate program offerings.

The Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences, whose graduates largely serve as staff for Florida Hospital in Orlando, became the Adventist University of Health Sciences earlier this month.

The school goes by the abbreviation “ADU.” The abbreviation of “AUHS” was already taken by another institution.

Established in 1992, much of its growth in recent years stems from increased distance learning options, which Education leaders for the church in North America have lauded as an example for other schools. About half of current students study on campus.

The University now has about 2,700 enrolled students, up from about 1,800 in 2006.

ADU had a 55 percent enrollment growth between 2006 and 2010, which made it the fastest growing Adventist institution of higher learning in the United States during that time period, according to records from the most recent Adventist world church statistical report. Both Southern Adventist University in Tennessee and Kettering College of Medical Arts in Ohio experienced a roughly 28 percent increase during the same period.

ADU’s name change follows similar moves by other Adventist campuses in the U.S. In 2009, Columbia Union College in Maryland became Washington Adventist University, and in 2007, Walla Walla College in Washington state became Walla Walla University.

Education leaders say the name change to “university” reflects an institution’s growing graduate degree options. ADU officials recently added a second graduate degree and anticipate developing four more over the next few years.
The school offered its first graduate degree, in nurse anesthesia, in 2008. It began a master’s of occupational therapy last year. Next year, the university will launch a master’s degree in healthcare administration, followed by a doctorate of nurse anesthesia practice in 2014.

A university executive said officials are also developing a doctorate in physical therapy and a physician assistant master’s degree. Later, the school will likely add a doctorate in pharmacy.

University officials said they also added the word “Adventist” to enhance the school’s reputation as one with a Christian mission.

“We’re known here in Florida and in the Adventist Church, but as we grow it helps to make our spiritual mission better known to the community that we are a faith-based institution,” said Don Williams, vice president for academic administration.

Florida Hospital, a network of eight hospitals in Orlando and 13 across the state, is the largest healthcare provider in the state of Florida. It was prominently featured for its use of new technology and holistic care in the 2010 film “The Adventists,” an independent documentary about Adventist healthcare in the U.S.

Florida Hospital is part of the Winter Park, Florida-based Adventist Health System, the largest Protestant healthcare provider in the nation.

About 65 percent of ADU faculty is Adventist Church members, and about 35 percent of on-campus students are church members, Williams said.

He said he views the institution as a “mission-school” model.

“We work not only with the Adventist community but bring in the community and see if we can have a positive influence on their lives,” Williams said.

He added that the president interviews every new hire for “mission fit,” from faculty and administration to housekeeping staff.

Much of the university’s enrollment growth came from the school’s increase in distance learning capabilities, including a site at Porter Adventist Hospital in the state of Colorado.

An Adventist Education official called the ADU one of the church’s “premium online distributors.”

“It’s been innovative in finding ways to use technology to deliver education to academies and other places outside of their local community,” said Larry Blackmer, vice president for Education in the church’s North American Division. “I value the technology that they showcase and mentor to the rest of the Adventist educational system.”

Blackmer also affirmed school officials for adding the word “Adventist,” noting the church’s long commitment to healthful living and preventive care.

“They have a quality program and they’ve tied that quality program back to the Adventist name,” he said.

For more information see the school’s website at adu.edu.
Man’s best friend teaches tithing to next generation

Sep. 05, 2012
Silver Spring, Maryland, United States
Ansel Oliver/ANN

John Mathews is using his dog to help educate young people about a topic that he says can often seem boring: tithing.

“Stewardship Jack,” his five-year-old Golden Doodle – half Golden Retriever and half Poodle – is the star of a new children’s book that teaches tithing principles through the eyes of a canine. The book, “Jack Gives Back,” was a top seller on this year’s campmeeting circuit.

Jack offers such musings as, “God's tithe is one out of 10; your offering shows your thanks to Him.” On several pages he points to 10 dog bone treats.

Mathews, Stewardship Ministries director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, is enlisting the help of Jack to get new generations excited about supporting the mission of the church.

The book, authored by his wife Janice, is the first in a series of books based on the life of “Stewardship Jack” and was published in June by Review and Herald. The series is geared to children ages 3 to 7, but Mathews admits his target audience is wider.

“I’m really interested in helping their parents, who are the Millennial generation – kids of baby boomers,” Mathews said in an interview.

Currently, about 90 percent of donations to religious charities are from Baby Boomers, he said, describing those born within about 10 years after World War II.

“We’ve got to get the Millennials to financially support the mission of the church through tithes and offerings,” he said.

Tithe for the Adventist Church in North America has mostly mirrored the economy. A steadily increasing annual rate of giving topped out in 2007 at $897 million before dipping in 2008 and bottoming out in 2009 at $878 million. Giving rates have since grown, and a record was set in 2011 with more than $923 million in tithe returned, though the year had one extra Sabbath.
Church finance officials anticipate a similar giving rate for 2012.

“Tithing is a spiritual matter that has to do with your relationship with the Lord,” said Tom Evans, treasurer for the North American Division. “Teaching this to young kids is a good thing, and we need to keep teaching this to our older members, too.

Debra Brill, a division vice president, said she first met Jack when Mathews brought him to a finance meeting to propose the book. She admits the introduction helped move the project.

“We were enamored with him,” Brill said. “It’s exciting to give the opportunity for parents of new generations to learn tithing principles with their children.”

Plans are in the works to have the book translated into other languages. The “Stewardship Jack” series continues, with the latest book, published last month, “Jack and the 10 Rules,” a book about the 10 commandments.

For more information, see stewardshipjack.com.

In Philippines, Adventist hospital team wins nurse quiz competition

Sep. 07, 2012
Manila, Philippines
Gay Deles/ANN

The Manila Adventist Medical Center (MAMC) was named Grand Winner of the 2nd Rachell Allen Nurse Quiz Show 2012, an invitational event sponsored by the nursing test review company.

Registered nurses Jamill Prieto, Weanne Estrada and Cherianne Cosejo bested other teams to win the competition at the University of the Philippines Film Institute in Quezon City on August 24.

The invitational event tests medical institution representatives in a variety of nursing specializations. In addition to the grand winner trophy in the registered nurse category, the contestants earned scholarships to the Rachell Allen Nursing Review Center, a cash prize and products from sponsors.

The Manila Adventist Medical Center and Colleges, formerly Manila Sanitarium and Hospital, is a tertiary level IV academic medical center located in Pasay City, Metro Manila. The hospital is the primary teaching affiliate for Manila Adventist College.

MAMC has also served as a training hospital for specialist physicians in surgery, anesthesia, internal
medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology.

Rachell Allen Reviewers, USA is an international review center designed to assist nurses in their preparation for licensing exams such as the Commission on Graduates in Foreign Nursing Schools and the National Council Licensure Examination.

The **ANN news bulletin** is a weekly recap of news and information from the Communication department of the Seventh-day Adventist world church headquarters and is distributed by Adventist News Network.

**Reproduction requirements:** ANN encourages the republication of its news stories and accompanying editorial photos. Stories may be reproduced in full, in shortened form, or as one of several sources used to construct a news story. Please note that ANN's material is copyrighted. When reproducing ANN stories, the words "Adventist News Network" must appear either under the headline or immediately following the article. When reproducing photos that appear on ANN, please credit the photographer and ANN.

**ANN staff:** Williams Costa Jr., director; Ansel Oliver, assistant director; Elizabeth Lechleitner, editorial coordinator. Portuguese translations by Azenilto Brito, Spanish translations by Marcos Paseggi and French translations by Wenda Ozone-Mourandee.