Adventist president calls for December 1 Day of Prayer, Fasting to support falsely accused members
Antonio Monteiro, Bruno Amah imprisoned in Togo since March

Adventist Frontier Missions worker John Lello killed in accident
Was felling trees at remote mission station in Papua New Guinea

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Adventist Church President Ted N. C. Wilson, right, calls for a December 1 International Day of Prayer and Fasting for two Adventists imprisoned in the West African country of Togo. Wilson spoke about the situation with church leaders worldwide through a video conference on November 20. At left is Williams Costa Jr., Communication director for the Adventist world church. [photo: Ansel Oliver]

Antonio do Anjos Monteiro, shown here in a file photo, is one of two Adventists currently imprisoned in Togo on what Adventist legal and human rights experts say are unsupported charges. [photo courtesy West-Central Africa Division]
Image for distribution on Facebook.

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ANN staff

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT
Seventh-day Adventist world church President
Ted N. C. Wilson today called for an International
Day of Prayer and Fasting on December 1 to
rally support for the release of two Adventists
currently imprisoned in the West African country
of Togo.

Wilson and top church executives who voted the
emphasis day at a November 20 morning
business meeting said the event will raise
awareness of the plight of Antonio dos Anjos
Monteiro, Sabbath School and Personal
Ministries director for the church’s Sahel Union
Mission, headquartered in Lome; and Bruno
Amah, an Adventist lay member and
businessman in Lome.

Adventist lawyers and human rights activists
have called for both men’s release since they
were detained in March for conspiracy to commit murder. A Togolese man implicated Monteiro and
Amah as conspirators in an alleged blood trafficking network, but a police search of Monteiro’s home
and local church headquarters did not produce evidence. Since then, local authorities have
recognized both men’s innocence.

Diplomatic efforts to secure both men’s release are expected to continue. Today church leaders
established a working group to oversee efforts led by John Graz, director of Public Affairs and
Religious Liberty for the Adventist world church. Church leaders are enlisting the support of members
worldwide to raise further awareness through a social media campaign to promote the December 1
Day of Prayer.

“We are asking the entire world Seventh-day Adventist Church to join in prayer and fasting on
December 1,” Wilson said. The world church leader met with both men in prison earlier this month
during a tour of West Africa.

“These are falsely accused, innocent church members and we are pleading with the Lord for his
intervention so that they can be reunited with their families and continue their work,” he said.

DAY OF PRAYER RESOURCES
TWITTER
#Pray4Togo

PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT
Sign the Petition

IMAGES
Adventist Frontier Missions worker John Lello killed in accident

Nov. 27, 2012
Silver Spring, Maryland, United States
ANN staff

An accident has claimed the life of John Lello, a Seventh-day Adventist missionary who was serving in Papua New Guinea through Adventist Frontier Missions.

Lello died while felling trees near a remote project site in the South Pacific island nation’s East Sepik Province, a press release from the Adventist supporting ministry said. He was 46.

“We are greatly saddened to announce the tragic death of John Lello,” the release said. “Please join us in surrounding his family in prayer.”

Lello’s wife, Pam, and the couple’s two daughters, Alissa and Abby, have since been flown to Port Moresby, where they were joined by Stephen and Laurie Erickson, another family working in PNG through AFM. AFM Associate Director Dale Goodson, who spent 12 years in PNG with the Dowa tribe, and his wife are currently en route to lend additional support, said James Arkusinski, Communication director for the ministry.

The Lello family had worked with Adventist Frontier Missions since 2009. They finished fundraising and launched to PNG in March. There, they ministered to the animist Ama people in the country’s northwest. The Ama live along a small tributary of the Upper Sepik River accessible only by plane or dugout canoe, Arkusinski said.

In an article for Adventist Frontiers, the magazine published by AFM, Lello was confident that God was leading his family to PNG, adding that “one thing is certain – He is calling you to give your all.”

Lello was born in Cape Town, South Africa. He earned a bachelor’s degree in physics from church-run Walla Walla University in Walla Walla, Washington, United States, in 1985. Later, he graduated from the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland, United States, with a master’s degree in Science Education.

Before accepting a post with AFM, Lello taught math and physics at church-run Glendale Adventist Academy and Spring Valley Academy.

Adventist Frontier Missions is a Seventh-day Adventist lay ministry dedicated to establishing church-planting movements among people groups with no Adventist presence. AFM currently has 30 long-
term missionary families or single missionaries serving worldwide.

Lello is the first AFM missionary to die in the field over the ministry’s 27-year history.

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.

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