In Egypt, mob burns Adventist Church in Assiut
Attackers not part of wider, organized political movement, church leaders say

African Religious Liberty Congress promotes peaceful coexistence
In Cameroon, 750 experts support freedom of conscience

Adventist Web series depicting ‘The Great Controversy’ wins ‘Geekie Award’
Upcoming Steampunk film, ‘The Record Keeper,’ recognized for ‘Best Trailer’

Players level up spiritual life with new Adventist game app
“Heroes” reconnects players to champions of the Bible

In Egypt, mob burns Adventist Church in Assiut
Aug 15, 2013
Cairo, Egypt
ANN staff

The burning of a Seventh-day Adventist Church in the city of Assiut during rioting last night was not part of a wider, organized political movement, local church officials said.
The Assiut Adventist Church, located approximately 220 miles south of Cairo, was attacked by a mob and heavily damaged after it was set on fire. The pastor and his wife hid in their upstairs apartment and were not found by the attackers, who set the building on fire. The pastor and his wife were rescued from the burning building by Muslim neighbors.

“This was a small group of people bent on doing harm. This event was not representative of Egypt or the people of Egypt,” said Llewellyn R. Edwards, president the Adventist Church’s Egypt-Sudan Field, based in Heliopolis.

“As Adventists we want our relationships to be strong with Egyptians of all faiths in the country,” Edwards said.

Muslim neighbors rescuing the Adventist couple shows “the true picture of most people in Egypt,” Edwards said.

Edwards said the government has announced it will pay for the rebuilding of all churches destroyed last night during rioting in several cities.

Several other Christian churches were also attacked in Assuit, as well as the shop of the Egypt Bible Society, Edwards said.

The Adventist Church operates two schools in Egypt – Nile Union Academy northeast of Cairo, and Zeitoun Adventist School. Both institutions have positive relationships with their communities, Edwards said.
African Religious Liberty Congress promotes peaceful coexistence

Aug 15, 2013
Yaoundé, Cameroon
ANN staff

Cameroonian Prime Minister Philémon Yang said a religious liberty congress held here last week was an important way to promote freedom of worship and peace in the region.

Speaking to reporters at the Warda Multi-purpose Sports Complex on August 7, Yang said, “This congress is very important as we live in a country where religious liberty is respected. It is a principle included in the Constitution. We are pleased and happy to welcome in our country all people who want to worship God in their way without discrimination.”

Approximately 750 legal experts, lawyers, scholars and other religious freedom proponents attended the Third Pan-African Religious Liberty Congress from August 7 to 10. Some 5,000 participants attended Saturday for a corresponding festival, which included a march through city streets to raise awareness of the congress and its goal.

“It is very important to underline the fact that religious freedom is a basic human right and should be respected even if there are many challenges,” said John Graz, secretary-general of the International Religious Liberty Association, which was a key sponsor of the event. “Everyone has the right to have religion or not to choose a religion, to decide according to conscience,” he said.

Graz also commended the congress managers. “It was impressive the way this meeting was organized, by the timing and the quality of lectures given by the guest speakers.”

Sheikh Oumarou Mallam Djibring, leader of the Cameroon Council of Imams and Muslim Dignitaries, said he welcomed the initiative.
“We must banish all barriers and religious divisions and sit down to talk to live in peace and harmony here on the earth and in heaven,” Djibring said. “Churches, chapels and mosques should be places where tolerance, dialogue and especially the respect for human dignity are taught. Our members must accept differences and cultivate tolerance.”

Previous African Religious Freedom congresses have been held in Kenya and Ghana. This year’s theme was, “Religious tolerance and peaceful coexistence for a sustainable development of Africa.”

Gilbert Wari, IRLA regional leader for West-Central Africa, said, “Religious tolerance is what we want to promote in Africa and the world because Africa must rise and grow and respond to the appointment of giving and receiving.

Several delegations from Kenya and South Africa were unable to attend due to a fire at Nairobi’s Jomo Kenyatta International Airport on August 7.

The next Pan-African Congress on Religious Liberty will be held in 2018.

Adventist Web series depicting ‘The Great Controversy’ wins ‘Geekie Award’

The trailer for “The Record Keeper” shows the angel Raina (Lindsay Frame) reacting as rebellion spreads to Earth. The Adventist Web series based on “The Great Controversy” is scheduled for release in October.

Aug 19, 2013
Hollywood, California, United States
ANN staff

The trailer for a Steampunk Web series produced by the Seventh-day Adventist Church made headlines last night at the 1st Annual Geekie Awards in Hollywood, California, United States.

“The Record Keeper,” which dramatizes the epic struggle between good and evil, won the award in the “Best One-Shot” category for “Best Trailer.” The “One-Shot” category recognizes episodes still in the final stages of post-production.

Director Jason Satterlund and Executive Producer Garrett Caldwell accepted the award, accompanied by cast members Aris Juson and Jelynn Sophia. The award show was live-streamed from the Avalon, a historic landmark in Hollywood.

“I feel so honored to be here,” Satterlund said. “We are excited to receive this response on a series that isn’t even out yet.”
Advanced screenings of “The Record Keeper” are expected to begin in October, producers said.

“We can’t wait to show you the rest of the series,” Caldwell said, acknowledging the role of co-creator Rajeev Sigamoney and the two other executive producers, Ben Schoun and Delbert Baker, both general vice presidents for the Adventist world church.

“The Record Keeper” follows the story of Cadan (JuneSoo Ham) and Larus (Dennis Hill), two angels who struggle to maintain their friendship after universal civil war breaks out. Meanwhile, another angel, Raina (Lindsay Frame), pursues an accurate record of events while trying to make sense of the chaos.

The web series echoes major themes from “The Great Controversy,” a touchstone book by Adventist Church co-founder Ellen G. White that chronicles God’s guidance throughout history.

Church leaders said “The Record Keeper” will resonate with people who may not otherwise come into contact with “The Great Controversy” or even the Bible.

“The inspired insights that Ellen White provides in 'The Great Controversy' make the compelling narratives of scripture even more relevant,” Caldwell said. “So many people are expressing interest in [White] as an individual and in her writings as a result of 'The Record Keeper' project. We simply must consider continuing to tell these stories in this manner.”

“The Record Keeper” is set in a Steampunk universe. A sub-genre of science fiction, Steampunk features steam-powered machinery, often in an alternate world or fantasy setting.

The 1st Annual Geenkie Awards is the first live-streamed geek-genre award show recognizing the best indie comic books, graphic novels, short films, web series and more.

Watch the winning trailer for “The Record Keeper” HERE.

Players level up spiritual life with new Adventist game app

Aug 15, 2013
Silver Spring, Maryland, United States
ANN staff
The first Seventh-day Adventist game for iPhone and iPad was downloaded 3,000 times in the first 48 hours of its release, tripling the benchmark analysts say a mobile app should meet in its first week to be considered successful.

"Heroes" is a comic book style trivia game based on the lives of Abraham, David, Esther and other prominent biblical characters. Players can learn their stories and test their Bible knowledge by answering as many questions as possible within sixty seconds. Correct answers earn players “manna,” which they can trade for game helps, or “effects” as they level up.

App creator Sam Neves says the game is designed to enrich the lives of players by reintroducing them to the heroic characters of the Bible.

“I realized that to bring a sense of identity to a new generation, we need to remind them of who their heroes are,” Neves says. “And what better way, than to use a medium they are very familiar with?”

Neves, pastor of the Wimbledon International Seventh-day Adventist Church in South London, says he has observed a growing disconnect between young people and the Bible. “Heroes,” he says, addresses that trend by forcing players to turn to the Scriptures to score higher.

Neil Ah-Wan, chief designer for "Heroes," says the game will find audiences outside of churches as well.

“It’s exactly the sort of thing that will connect with someone who isn’t interested in the Bible or even Christianity as such,” he says.

Neves says he hopes that engaging with biblical heroes will ultimately change players’ lives. “We want people to eventually know what it’s like to become disciples of the ultimate hero, Jesus Christ.”

“Heroes” was developed by Movinpixel, a small software development company based in the United Kingdom that specializes in mobile applications. Movinpixel previously developed the "Advent Hymnal" app and "iWorship."

The free app “Heroes” is available in the iTunes App Store. For details, visit movinpixel.com/heroesthegame.
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