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July 15, 2014 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | Andrew McChesney/Adventist Review

If you have a DDS or OD after your name, Lela Lewis wants to meet you.

Lewis, who has an MD and MPH after her name, is co-organizing an event that is expected to make waves next year in San Antonio, Texas: an opportunity for thousands of local residents to receive free medical care.

Hundreds of volunteers, especially dentists (DDS) and optometrists (OD), are needed to care for the 5,000 to 6,000 people who are expected to show up at the AlamoDome stadium over three days.

“We will also need many physician specialists and various medical professionals as well as a host of non-medical volunteers,” said Lewis, who is a medical doctor and master of public health.

“All in all, I would like to have 1,200 to 1,500 volunteers,” she said by e-mail.

Lewis, president of Pathway to Health, as the project is called, has good reason to be concerned about the event, which will be held several weeks before the Adventist Church’s General Conference Session in the same stadium in July 2015.

So many people showed up for a similar project that she organized in California’s Bay area in April 2014 that volunteers had to turn some away. The event, Bridges to Health, attracted significant coverage on local television and was even mentioned in The Wall Street Journal. In the end, nearly 3,000 people received $5.2 million worth of free treatment during the three-day event in Oakland and San Francisco.

The California and Texas events are part of a “Mission to the Cities” effort spearheaded by world church President Ted N.C. Wilson in which Adventists share Jesus in big cities through programs that meet the physical and spiritual needs of residents.

Wilson showcased both events in a sermon that closed a major health conference in Geneva, Switzerland, on July 12, 2014. He showed a five-minute video from the California event and said similar footage had inspired the San Antonio mayor's office to cover the cost of the use of his city’s stadium for the 2015 event.

“This can happen anywhere in the world," Wilson said.

In addition, a Seventh-day Adventist newspaper owner, Paul Cobb of Oakland, and the mayor of Oakland contacted the San Antonio mayor's office to lend their support, and their influence went a long way toward securing the mayor's backing, Lewis said.

San Antonio has asked that medical services be provided to 5,000 to 6,000 patients if possible in exchange for the use of the stadium, Lewis said.
“This will mean that we will need two to three times the number of volunteers that we had in the Bay area,” she said.

She said volunteers could sign up on the project’s website, http://www.bigcitybenevolence.org/.

Lewis is excited to see how the event unfolds. “As we as the people of God seek to fulfill the old phrase ‘disinterested benevolence,’ I believe that we will see God’s miracles abound,” she said.

Loma Linda University Health unveils record $1.2 billion expansion

A $100 million gift kicks off Vision 2020 project

July 21, 2014 | Loma Linda, California, United States | Adventist Review staff

Loma Linda University Health announced a record $1.2 billion expansion last week that will include the construction of two new hospital buildings and other facilities.

The Seventh-day Adventist-operated organization in southern California broke the news about the project, dubbed Vision 2020, at a 10 a.m. ceremony attended by top hospital and university officials and more than 2,000 guests.

"Now is the time to be bold, to look toward what can be, and be daring," said Richard Hart, president of Loma Linda University Health, or LLUH. "So it is with profound excitement that I have the privilege of revealing Vision 2020, a dream of a healthier, more whole world that has been in our hearts and minds for the past few years."

LLUH plans to raise the $1.2 billion through several sources, including $350 million in philanthropic giving, according to local news reports. Officials said at the ceremony that the first $100 million gift would come from Dennis and Carol Troesh, owners of Robertson’s Ready Mix, a major producer of ready-mixed concrete in the western U.S.

"Over the years, God has abundantly blessed our family, and it is our privilege and honor to give back to the community we have called home for most of our lives," said Carol Troesh, who under the name of C.A. Hartnell also has authored four historical fiction books for children.

LLUH called the initiative the largest in its history and the most significant investment in health care in the region. With the $100 million, it has collected a total of $149 million toward its goal of $1.2 billion.

LLUH said in a statement that the following projects were expected to be completed by 2020:
• A new, 100-bed Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital tower, connected via glass walkway with the existing Children’s Hospital, boosting to 359 the total number of licensed beds, including expansion of the Loma Linda University Health Neonatal Intensive Care Units, already one of the largest facilities in the country.
• A new, 276-bed Adult Medical Center, including 96 intensive care beds and 180 medical-surgical beds.
• A new, $60 million Loma Linda University Health Center for Discovery, a unique interdisciplinary hub for research and the Wholeness Institute to improve health outcomes for people in southern California and beyond.

LLUH, known for its groundbreaking research in plant-based diets and its medical advances in cardiology, promised that the expansion plan would help redefine health.

“Vision 2020 is a campaign for a whole tomorrow, it is a catalyst that will bring together a vision for the future for the health of our community,” said Rachelle Bussell, senior vice president of advancement at LLUH.

Wilson encourages pastors, doctors and politicians in Thailand

At Bangkok Adventist Hospital, Church president asks for prayers for institution affected by months of civil unrest

July 22, 2014 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | Andrew McChesney/Adventist Review

Seventh-day Adventist world church President Ted N. C. Wilson has offered encouragement to hundreds of Adventist leaders at a historic pastoral convention in Bangkok and asked for prayers for the local Adventist hospital after months of political unrest led to a decline in patients.

Wilson, who visited the Thai capital last week, also prayed with the country’s top politician for religious affairs and visited two Adventist schools that educate the children of some of the most influential people in Thailand.

The July 14-16 pastoral convention, titled “Revival and Reflecting God’s Glory,” gathered more than 1,200 Adventist pastors, church workers, administrators and spouses from across the Southern-Asia Pacific Division for the first meeting of its kind since the territory of the former Far Eastern Division was split into two divisions in 1997.

The kaleidoscope of colorful cultural outfits and the myriad of languages that marked the opening ceremony impressed many first-time attendees.

“I’ve never seen anything [like this] before,” said Dhay Htoo Sien, a pastor and school principal from Yangon City, Myanmar. “It makes me feel I’m a part of the world church family.”
Wilson urged attendees in a keynote speech to pursue a more vibrant relationship with Christ, saying they would see as a result more positive relationships with family members, church members, and the general community.

"Let them know that a walk with Christ is a vibrant, joyful existence," he said.

On the sidelines of the convention, Wilson visited the 200-bed Bangkok Adventist Hospital, which opened in 1937 and is known locally as Mission Hospital. It has lost much business over the past six to seven months because of its near proximity to government buildings buffeted by demonstrations and related road closures, Wilson said by e-mail.

"Unfortunately, it needs our prayers since it is so close to the government buildings where demonstrations take place," said Wilson, who ate lunch at the hospital with his wife, Nancy. "Now everything is quiet and peaceful, and they are regaining their patient load."

In an attempt to return normalcy to the country, the Thai military took over the government on May 22.

Wilson also met with the government director of the religious affairs department, which is part of the Culture Ministry.

"We shared with him about Seventh-day Adventists and our emphasis on following Christ’s ministry — physically, mentally, socially and spiritually," Wilson said. "We shared counsel from the Bible with him and had prayer for him, his colleagues, the King and Queen of Thailand, and the people of Thailand."

Wilson later toured the Ekamai Thai School and the Ekamai International School, which opened in 1946 as a school for Christian missionaries’ children and now teaches kindergarten through 12th grade. Today, both schools are progressive and thriving schools as they reach out to the students of the upper classes of Bangkok, Wilson said.

"We spent most of the day visiting and encouraging people," he said.

—additional reporting by Teresa Costello

Adventist Health named HealthCare’s Most Wired in national survey
Information technology better connects care providers and patients

July 14, 2014 | Roseville, California, United States | Adventist Health Staff

Adventist Health has been named one of the nation’s most wired health systems in a survey conducted by Hospitals & Health Networks magazine and announced today.

Most Wired organizations use information technology to better connect care providers and patients. They must meet a set of rigorous criteria across four operational categories, including infrastructure, business and administrative management, clinical quality and safety, and clinical integration (connecting inpatient and outpatient services, physicians and patients).

Using information technology reduces the likelihood of medical errors and allows clinicians and patients to have the information they need to promote health and make the most informed decisions about treatments, according to Rich Umbdenstock, president and CEO of the American Hospital Association, which helped conduct the survey.

“Enhancing information technology has long been one of Adventist Health’s key strategic priorities,” said Alan Soderblom, vice president and chief information officer at Adventist Health. “In addition to reducing medical errors, it improves patient care and engagement plus increases operational efficiencies. We’re pleased to be recognized as one of the best users of information technology to benefit patients.”

Adventist Health’s recent information technology advancements include achieving Stage 1 of Meaningful Use for electronic health records, standardizing medical staff IT solutions enterprise-wide, implementing telemedicine at several rural sites, and moving revenue cycle data to a single, standardized technology platform.

HealthCare’s Most Wired Survey, conducted between Jan. 15 and March 15, asked hospitals and health systems nationwide to answer questions regarding their IT initiatives. Respondents completed 680 surveys, representing 1,900 hospitals, or more than 30 percent of all U.S. hospitals. More information about the survey can be found in the July issue of Hospitals & Health Networks magazine at www.hhnmag.com or contact mostwired@healthforum.com.
Spam
Not spam
Forget previous vote