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Lamoreaux tapped to serve as Adventist world church’s first CIO
Nancy Lamoreaux was appointed by the General Conference Administrative Committee on Tuesday to serve in the new post, in which she’ll oversee a global technology strategy among regional Church entities and institutions, as well as protect online security.

Lamoreaux has served as ITS director in North America since 1998. She previously served for 13 years as director of Management Information Services for the Church’s Maryland-based Columbia Union Conference.

“She comes with a wealth of experience and qualifications, and I’m confident she’ll do an excellent job,” said Adventist Church Treasurer Robert E. Lemon, who supervises the position. Lemon said Lamoreaux was chosen after the committee worked for several months reviewing a list of 20 candidates from around the world.

Lamoreaux holds a bachelor’s degree in information systems, a master’s degree in organizational management and an executive certificate in leadership and management. She is also a certified Netware Engineer, Netware Administrator and IBM LAN Server Engineer.

Though Lamoreaux will report to the Adventist Church’s treasurer, her CIO post is also an officer position at the world headquarters, Lemon said.

The CIO position was created by the Church’s Executive Committee last year.

Lemon emphasized that while the CIO works at the denomination’s headquarters, the position is one to serve the entire world church. Lamoreaux said she will coordinate a think tank with global representation to develop a common technology strategy among the Church’s 13 world divisions, attached fields and General Conference institutions.

She also said one of her top priorities was to protect online security. “I’ll review the technology functions being done throughout the General Conference territory and see how they might be improved. As we all know, online security is becoming one of the biggest issues out there.”

Lamoreaux said she comes to the position with a strong group of technologists already in place throughout the world church.

“The Church is blessed with a global high caliber of IT people,” she said. “They take their job as seriously as any other Church employee, and they are also missionaries. Like many others, they
could be making much more financially working outside the Church but have a strong desire to serve where the Lord has called.”

Lamoreaux will begin her new position September 2.

Wilson: No room for evolution in Adventist schools

At opening of Bible and science conference, Adventist Church President emphasizes literal one-week Creation

August 18, 2014 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | Andrew McChesney, Adventist Review

Seventh-day Adventist world church President Ted N. C. Wilson forcefully asserted that life has existed on the Earth for only a few thousand years, not millions of years, as he opened an educators conference in Utah on Friday, and he said teachers who believe otherwise should not call themselves Seventh-day Adventists or work in Church-operated schools.

Wilson spoke to a crowd of mainly teachers at the start of a 10-day international conference on the Bible and science in Las Vegas, Nevada, during the opening session of the conference, prior to traveling to St. George, Utah. The location was chosen for its easy access to three geological sites that the 350 participants will explore between conference sessions on archaeology, geology, paleontology and biology.

“As teachers on the campuses of Seventh-day Adventist academies, colleges and universities, and leaders in God's church … hold firmly to a literal recent creation and absolutely reject theistic and general evolutionary theory,” Wilson said in his keynote speech. “I call on you to be champions of creation based on the Biblical account and reinforced so explicitly by the Spirit of Prophecy,” he said referring to the writings of Adventist Church co-founder Ellen G. White.

He pointed to Bible passages such as Genesis 1, 2 and Psalm 33:6, 9 and the writings of White to reject a popular teaching that each day in the biblical creation week might have lasted millions of years, thereby making the world much older than the 6,000-odd years that Creationists believe have passed since the Earth was formed.

The popular teaching, which mixes the biblical story with Darwin’s theory of evolution, has crept into some Adventist schools in recent years and prompted, in part, a decision by the Adventist Church to start organizing Bible and science conferences in 2002.
In his speech, Wilson quoted from White’s book Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers: “When the Lord declares that He made the world in six days and rested on the seventh day, He means the day of 24 hours, which He has marked off by the rising and setting of the sun.”

“How much plainer could it get?” Wilson asked.

He said that the very name “Seventh-day Adventist” pointed to a literal six-day creation because it would make little sense to commemorate a seventh-day Sabbath if the original Sabbath had lasted for years instead of 24 hours.

“If one does not accept the recent six-day creation understanding, then that person is actually not a ‘Seventh-day’ Adventist since the seventh-day Sabbath would become absolutely meaningless historically and theologically and most of our Biblically based doctrines centered in Christ and His authoritative voice would become meaningless as well,” Wilson said.

He cautioned against associating with scientists, humanists and “some who claim to be Seventh-day Adventists” who have embraced an evolution-based creation theory.

“Do not believe them nor participate in this manipulation of biblical truth regarding creation and the visible commemoration of creation—the Sabbath,” he told conference participants. “In essence, evolution is not a science.”

He said educators should support creationism from the heart or do “the honorable thing” and resign.

“It is that important to God’s ultimate mission,” he said.

Ed Zinke, an Adventist theologian, businessman and co-organizer of the conference, explained in an interview that the implications of misinterpreting the Bible could run deep and seriously harm a person’s relationship with God.

“A scriptural understanding of God makes it possible for us to have a closer relationship with Him than if we have a false concept of God,” Zinke said.

His remarks mirrored White’s writings about Cain and Abel, the first offspring in the Bible. White said that Cain and Abel both thought they were worshiping the same God with their sacrifices, but God rejected Cain’s sacrifice because Cain did not worship the true God.

While the Utah conference is rooted in the Bible, it is also about science and will include presentations with fossils, rock formations, and recent archaeological findings that King David’s name was carved on the entrance to city gates, offering scientific evidence that the Israelite king is more than a Bible story.

“It seemed impossible to prove even 50 years ago, but now they are finding that the Bible can be relied upon to guide you in archaeology,” Zinke said.

Conference participants, who include representatives of Adventist schools around the world as well as church leaders, scientists and a few doctoral students, will go on three field trips for a close-up look at evidence supporting the belief that the Earth is a relatively young 6,000 years old: to Virgin River Gorge, a long canyon located between St. George, Utah, and Littlefield, Arizona;
the Grand Canyon in Arizona; and Utah’s Zion National Park, which has a 15-mile canyon plunging up to half a mile deep at some points.

Arthur V. Chadwick, a geologist and professor at Southwestern Adventist University, said scientists have to rely on faith no matter whether they support creation or evolution.

“As we evaluate the data, we see things that are problems for creationists and we see things that are problems for evolutionists,” he said by phone ahead of the conference. “No one can claim that they believe one more than the other because it is not transparent, it leaves the possibility of choice.”

Chadwick has devoted his entire career to finding scientific evidence that supports creationism and has published more than 50 research articles in mainstream journals. He was to present some of his latest findings at the conference.

Zinke, the co-organizer, said he hoped that educators would take the latest scientific research supporting the young Earth viewpoint from the conference and use it to strengthen their own faith and that of their students.

“We’re hoping to enrich teachers so that they’ll be well informed in the classroom and that they’ll understand the importance of portraying a biblical worldview to their students, helping them understand how that impacts various disciplines, including science, and how it impacts their personal lives and their commitment to God,” he said.

—Read President Ted Wilson’s entire speech HERE.

Adventist Church’s anti-abuse initiative set for August 23

Church leaders urge all congregations to participate; resources available

August 15, 2014 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | Ansel Oliver/ANN

Seventh-day Adventist world church leaders are calling on all Adventist congregations to designate a portion of their August 23 church service to mark the EndItNow Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day.

The Adventist Church’s annual day of emphasis brings awareness to the issues of domestic violence, sexual abuse and other forms of mistreatment. Church leaders are also urging members and others in the community to sign an online petition for world leaders to endorse EndItNow as global campaign.

A resource packet is being made available for this year’s theme, “Freedom in Relationships.” The resources were written by Family Ministries co-directors Elaine and Willie and Oliver, who are calling for more Adventist congregations to join the international initiative.
"We urge every local church to observe this EndItNow day," said Willie Oliver. "Abuse in families, even in the church, is a sad reality we must confront with compassion, awareness and education."

Women’s Ministries director Heather-Dawn Small also reinforced the need for local churches to feature the initiative.

“There are so many people suffering silently and they think the church doesn’t care. But the church does care, and that’s why this initiative is on our denomination’s world calendar,” she said.

Small also said she encounters women whose abusers justify their behavior biblically.

“That is a wrong use of the word of God, and we need to get that straighten out,” Small said.

The EndItNow initiative is jointly sponsored by nine Adventist world church departments and entities: Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, Adventist Review, Children’s Ministries, Education, Family Ministries, Health Ministries, the Ministerial Association, Women’s Ministries and Youth Ministries.

The Adventist Church has held the Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day the fourth Saturday of August since 2001.

Some regions of the world church have turned the initiative into massive community demonstrations, while other regions hold an additional campaign during another time of the year.

Church leaders overseeing the EndItNow initiative have rotated through several themes over the years to underscore the need for recognizing varying forms of abuse. In May, the leaders at the denomination’s headquarters and North American Division held a weekend workshop to train first responders in local congregations. Their goal is to have a trained responder in each Adventist congregation worldwide.

For more information, visit adventistwomensministries.org or enditnow.org. The online petition is available by clicking HERE.

LLU alumni deliver health care at Ebola stricken region

**Cooper Adventist Hospital in Liberia remaining open during epidemic**

*August 15, 2014 | Loma Linda, California, United States | LLU staff*

Graduates of Loma Linda University School of Medicine are helping to deliver health care to patients in the midst of the deadly Ebola outbreak in West Africa.
Dr. Gillian Seton, a 2008 graduate of Loma Linda, has served since February at Cooper Adventist Hospital in Liberia as a participant in the university’s Deferred Mission Appointment program. The program, developed by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, provides financial support to medical and dental students committed to overseas mission service.

Another physician, Dr. James Appel, a 2000 Loma Linda graduate, is expected to arrive this week in Liberia to provide medical care alongside Seton at Cooper Adventist Hospital. Appel has spent the last decade as a family medicine physician in the north-central African country of Chad.

The General Conference, in collaboration with Adventist Health International based in Loma Linda, has decided to keep Cooper Adventist Hospital open in Liberia in spite of the virus outbreak. The 45-bed hospital and its associated Eye Hospital, is located in the heart of Monrovia, the capital where nearly a third of the country’s 4 million people live. The Republic of Liberia was founded by freed American and Carribean slaves, and declared its independence in 1847.

Many public hospitals in the West African nation and adjacent areas have shut down or are refusing to take on new patients, but the staff and faculty at Cooper made the decision to remain open for treatment of non-Ebola related illnesses. They are continuing to screen patients prior to entering the hospital grounds in order to remain free of the Ebola virus as near as possible, so that they will be a source of help and safety to their patients and staff.

Working as a general surgeon at the hospital, Seton said she believes the need for medical treatment outweighs the dangers involved in staying.

“The most dangerous place to be right now is in a hospital, but what are you to do when you have a patient with an OB emergency? Appendicitis? Severe Malaria with almost un-survivable anemia?” she asked.

Seton said they have not closed the hospital because they’ve seen how desperate people are to get help after they have been turned away from four or five hospitals due to staff-enforced closures.

Dr. Richard H. Hart, president of Adventist Health International and president of Loma Linda University Health, said the agency is continuing to support Cooper’s operations by subsidizing costs and providing supplies for the hospital. He said additional professional staff may be sent to Liberia, and only staff who volunteer to stay are reporting to work.

"I am proud of our staff at Cooper, particularly Gillian and James, who have chosen duty over safety and have chosen to continue providing medical care," Hart said. He said a special infectious disease unit has now been established at another hospital to care for suspected Ebola patients, providing a critical referral option for Cooper Hospital.

Another Adventist Health International hospital, Waterloo Adventist Hospital in Sierra Leone, is also facing the Ebola crisis. Both Cooper and Waterloo are in need of outside help to pay for additional supplies, equipment, and medical staff.

For more information about the humanitarian response to the crisis, visit ahiglobal.org.
Chinese Adventist media team wins bronze award in gospel short film competition

11-minute film 'My Father' was shot on location in remote village

August 15, 2014 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | Ansel Oliver/ANN

An Adventist media team in China won third place in a Christian short film competition with an 11-minute movie that tells about a father's ultimate love for his wayward son.

The Adventist media team won a bronze eagle award for their film “My Father” at the Chinese Gospel Short Film Competition in Taipei, Taiwan, on August 8. The competition drew 65 films and was sponsored by the Christian Tribune Foundation.

Producer Li Ming said he was happy for the team to receive the award as recognition of their work.

“This award is an encouragement to our team. Our young people need a boost like this to stimulate their creativity,” Li said.

“My Father” was created by a staff of eight people working on a budget of $1,500. Filming took 15 days, with postproduction taking another 20 days. The film was shot in a small village in China’s Northeast Liaoning Province.

The team has conducted Internet evangelism outreach for six years. They began making short films two years ago. The group received positive feedback from viewers who emailed their thanks, which motivated them to participate in the film competition, said “My Father” director Shi Tou.

“The purpose of our participation was not to win the prize, but to attract and encourage more young people to participate in Internet evangelism ministry,” Shi said.

The 22-member team is based in Southern China, where they conduct Internet evangelism training and produce video and audio programs for online distribution, said Daniel Jiao, executive secretary of the Adventist Church’s Chinese Union Mission.

Jiao said the Chairman of the Christian Tribune Foundation, Dr. Simon Hung, had words of support for filmmakers when he awarded the bronze statue: “Jesus told Peter to go to the deep water for a catch, and nowadays the deep water is cell phones and movie theaters. …If we do not use them, the world is going to use them. Christians should use audio and video to spread the gospel quickly.”

See the film “My Father” by clicking HERE.
2014 Adventist Pathfinder Camporee off to an energetic start, if a bit of a wet one

More than 46,000 people arriving in U.S. state of Wisconsin for massive Camporee; several clubs bike the 830 mile-trip

August 12, 2014 | Oshkosh, Wisconsin, United States | Ansel Oliver/ANN

Kids are excited about meeting people from other countries. Teens are eager to climb walls and clean parks. And their chaperones are glad most smartphones will be off for a week.

The massive Seventh-day Adventist Pathfinder Camporee has begun here in the U.S. state of Wisconsin, which plays host to an event bringing 44,000 people from across the United States, Canada and Bermuda, and an additional 2,000 people from more than 50 other countries.

The event—the North American Division Pathfinder Camporee hosted by the Center for Youth Evangelism—is held every five years. Organizer Ron Whitehead says it takes four years to plan.

“I’ve never been so physically exhausted, but I’ve never been happier to be this tired,” Whitehead said. “We really care and value our young people.”

This year’s Camporee—with the theme “Forever Faithful”—is being held at the Experimental Aircraft Association’s AirVenture Campgrounds. This is the fourth time organizers have held the event here, and the gathering increases the city of Oshkosh’s population by approximately 70 percent.

From now until Saturday, tens of thousands of Seventh-day Adventist youth and their friends will participate in community service projects, attend nightly spiritual programs and earn “honor” patches for their service and learning activities.

Some Pathfinders might as well receive an honor for just getting here. Today, 11 members of clubs from the denomination’s Carolina Conference arrived after biking the 830-mile trip. Other clubs have spent years fundraising with car washes and bake sales to earn their entrance fee, travel funds and supplies.

Now that most clubs are here, the walking has begun, and some of it is through mud. The event is being held at a 500-acre campground, where dirt roads turned muddy last night after wind and rain.

Still, most attendees are maintaining a positive attitude through the weather, which is predicted to improve for rest of the week and offer a good environment for the huge gathering.

“It’s been kind of challenging. Our kitchen tent flew away,” said 15-year-old Terell Rhooms from the Frontiers Pathfinder Club at Hope Adventist Church in Toronto, Canada. They’ve since tied it
down, he said while waiting for the exhibits in the airfield’s hangars to open. Rhooms said he’s heard there is basketball, zip lining and an obstacle course to anticipate during the Camporee.

“I came because I heard it was fun,” Rhooms said. “Everyone said it was a good experience, good memories, and you draw closer to God.”

Tiffany Fronda, 27, deputy director of the Challengers Pathfinder Club at the Hinsdale, Illinois Filipino-American Adventist Church, said the weather “wasn’t good, but “not bad” either. “We’ve [previously] had tornadoes, we’ve had frigid temperatures, we’ve had super hot heat stroke weather. Now we get the rain. All seasons.”

“But the Lord always comes through,” Fronda said, before adding: “At least we don’t have to worry about a sandstorm,” which occurred at the 1994 Camporee in the state of Colorado.

Twelve-year-old Abigail Oré Calderon from Lima, Peru, who enjoys camping and “adventures,” said, “Even though it was raining, I’m happy to be here.” She and her group from the Orion Pathfinder Club at Villa Union Adventist Church are being hosted by a club from the U.S.

That group, the Mentone Adventist Church in Mentone, California, went online before the Camporee to choose an international group to host. Member David Guajardo, 13, said he came because he enjoys camping, and his parents encouraged him. “They said it would be a once in a lifetime experience,” he said.

Several club leaders said the best part of experiencing the event is for Pathfinders to simply interact with each other. Some are even making a rule that cameras are the only electronics allowed. At the Milwaukee airport last night, Pathfinder leader Lester Lorenson from Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada, let his Pathfinders play games on their phones while waiting for a van, but his plan was for mobile devices to be shut off for the rest of the week.

“I want them to be a team,” Lorenson said. “When they’re playing games they’re not talking to each other, experiencing things, exercising, teasing each other—things kids do.”

The Camporee is scheduled to run through August 16. More photos of the event may be seen in the Flickr albums from ANN and the North American Division, as well as on the ANN Facebook page.

At Pathfinder Camporee, Daniel reenactments deliver big lessons from big stage
Strong acting highlights event’s ‘Forever Faithful’ theme; Nebuchadnezzar’s wig slips

August 15, 2014 | Oshkosh, Wisconsin, United States | Ansel Oliver/ANN

A funny thing happened on the way to the throne the other night. King Nebuchadnezzar’s wig flew off while he ranted at the front of his giant chair.

It was an unplanned physical gag that fate handed to actor Brian Robak on Wednesday night as he sat on a 100-foot-wide stage. He was part of a cast playing to 46,000 people sitting in camping chairs on a field in the middle of Wisconsin. While the mishap didn’t cause Robak to miss a beat—nor his fellow actors, save for a few brief smirks—it got one of the night’s biggest laughs, both from the audience and a few doubled-over actors backstage.

The incident, however, was quickly forgiven. For many attendees of the 2014 North American Division Pathfinder Camporee, the evening play is a top highlight of the six-day event.

The weeklong continuing drama presents lessons from the biblical book of Daniel and is the second-to-last part of the nightly program. The script is sprinkled with humor throughout—the planned kind—but actors hope the tens of thousands of Adventist youth learn the theme of Daniel’s success. Like the “Forever Faithful” slogan of the Camporee, Daniel’s notable life of rising in Babylon’s government and surviving the lions’ den is attributed to his trust in God.

For Robak, a 26-year-old Oregon native who now works in film and theater in Las Vegas, the role of Babylon's leader can be a dark one, but he said he enjoys getting into character for a larger purpose.

“You can’t have good without evil,” Robak said in a backstage interview on Friday. “It’s my part to go into the darkness so that people can see the light.”

Many kids in attendance said they take the play seriously because of the quality of acting, costumes and production.

“It’s funny, and it’s really authentic, I think,” said Julia Fisher, 13, from the Fayetteville Falcons Pathfinder Club in North Carolina. “That’s how I would imagine it would be in the Bible.”

“In Hong Kong I’ve never seen a drama like this,” said Trevor Ko, 15, from the Tai Wo Pathfinder Club in Hong Kong, China. “The costumes, the props, the tall statue, they’re all very cool.”

Aside from the massive stage and five large-screen monitors it takes to present the evening program, the Camporee itself is its own spectacle. More than 44,000 people have come from the denomination’s North American Division and an additional 2,000 people from other countries.

The event is held every five years, and it increases the city of Oshkosh’s population by more than 70 percent during the week. Campsites sprawl across 500 acres at the Experimental Aircraft
Association’s AirVenture Campgrounds. It’s a week of activities, reunions, pin trading, community service and picnicking.

Like Robak’s wig mishap, sometimes attendees have to just keep on despite the occasional hitch. Lines can swell in front of the shower trailers and rows of blue outhouses. It was too chilly on Thursday for several groups each planning a tubing and waterpark excursion. Monday night it rained, turning roads in half the site to mud.

But on most days the weather has been pleasant, providing what attendees say is a great environment for worship, games, parades and earning educational “honors”—everything from space, geology and rivers to electricity, currencies and crafts.

In the late afternoon, worn-out kids return to their campsites to worn-out chaperones, some of whom cook all day for their club or a group of clubs.

Many clubs huddle under tarps for dinner, table games and laughs; some just sit and watch the roads as people walk or one of the 700 golf carts drive by.

After dinner, clubs make the trek to the outdoor amphitheater. The arriving crowds file down the roads, arriving over several hours to a festive site of flying Frisbees and beach balls, pounding sounds of an impromptu drum corps, and international flag bearers sprinting the aisles.

The program features a daily video summary, ventriloquist act, talent performances, worship song service, the Daniel play, and a 10-minute talk by Sam Leonor, the chaplain for La Sierra University in Riverside, California. Many attendees say his devotionals are also a highlight.

“It’s short, but it’s right to the point. It’s deep,” said Irma Tabarez, 16, from the Hermiston Spanish Adventist Church in Oregon.

Leonor summarizes the play’s lesson and adds a personal anecdote before urging kids to accept Christ—the entire goal of the Camporee.

“Jesus is forever faithful,” Leonor told the crowd Thursday night.

—additional reporting by James Bokovoy
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