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Remembrance: Jensen, 102, was Adventist pioneer on Okinawa
Missionary built first Adventist church, hospital on island ravaged by WWII

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In Colombia, university students urged to serve in mission field
Mission congress challenges students to work beyond national borders

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September 08, 2014 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | ADRA staff

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency is partnering with other Adventist organizations to provide needed medical supplies in West Africa as the region grapples with an ongoing Ebola outbreak.

In a release today, ADRA announced it is partnering with GlobalMedic to airlift $50,000 worth of supplies to Waterloo Adventist Hospital located in Freetown, Sierra Leone. ADRA is also partnering with Loma Linda University, Adventist Health International and Adventist Health Ministries to provide $92,000 worth of equipment and supplies to Cooper Adventist Hospital in Monrovia, Liberia.

More supplies will also be offered to the Liberian Ministry of Health, the release stated.

The supplies include personal protective equipment such as vinyl gloves, facemasks, isolation gowns and isolation shelter systems.

“As we continue to respond to the Ebola outbreak, our goal is to fight the spread of the disease,” said Jonathan Duffy, president of ADRA International. “We want to protect the workers, improve the care they can provide, and educate the community. It’s critical for us to support our facilities in West Africa.”

Several weeks ago, ADRA implemented an initial $22,000 response that provided protective gear including gloves, goggles, and gowns. ADRA also purchased and delivered disinfectants such as alcohol, chlorine, bleach and other sanitizers for use by the hospital staff.

In Sierra Leone, ADRA is providing psychological counseling and support to victims and families, training to capacitate staff and volunteers, and spreading community awareness and sensitization messages in public markets, churches and bus stations.

The outbreak across five West African countries has killed more than 2,100 people this year, according to the World Health Organization. The WHO last month declared the outbreak Public Health Emergency of International Concern. The affected countries are Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Nigeria and Senegal.

Remembrance: Jensen, 102, was Adventist pioneer on Okinawa
Ejler Jensen was the first Seventh-day Adventist missionary to the Japanese island of Okinawa, where he planted a vibrant church community, including a school and hospital, in the 1950s.

Jensen, who died at age 102 on August 27, set about building an Adventist church big enough for 200 people on Okinawa when there was 600,000 people and not one single Adventist on the island, which was devastated after World War II. Building materials consisted of war remnants and military supplies. The church opened in 1951.

He later opened a school in the southern part of the island, and then a church attached to the school. As church membership increased, Jensen began designing a 15-bed hospital that is regarded today as the leading private hospital on the island.

Thirty-nine patients showed up on opening day of the clinic, which was located up a steep hillside. “Within a year, the lone doctor was seeing over 200 patients a day,” his daughter Linda said. The facility, the Adobenchisuto (Adventist) Medical Center, moved to a new location with more than 100 beds a few years ago.

“Adventist members in Okinawa and the Japan Union Conference will never forget Elder Jensen, who built the foundation of the Okinawa Mission,” said Masumi Shimada, president of the denomination’s Japan Union Conference. “We appreciate his efforts and love for Okinawa and remember his service to the Lord.”

Ejler E. Jensen was born in 1912 to Danish immigrants in Alberta, Canada. The Lutheran family converted to the Adventist Church through an Adventist bookseller.

As a young child, Jensen became fascinated with mission stories told at campmeetings at Canadian Junior College (now Canadian Union College).

The family moved to Modesto, California, United States, in 1918 to grow table grapes, but a combination of drought, gophers, and a weak economy devastated them. Financially ruined, they moved back to Canada.

Attempts to farm wheat proved successful until the Dust Bowl and Great Depression hit in 1929 and 1930. The howling winds blew crops and soil away. The family lost everything and had to walk away, destitute and in debt.
At age 20, Jensen became a literature evangelist to raise money for college. He was given an old bicycle with wooden wheels and a territory of hundreds of miles. He later described this time as the most lonely of his life, going from house to house in the country, seeing strange faces every day and asking for a bed to sleep on.

Jensen attended Canadian Junior College from 1936 to 1939 and then transferred to California-based Pacific Union College, where he graduated in 1942 with a double major in Bible and history. At PUC, he met Iona Clark, and the couple married in 1942.

After serving as a pastor for two years in the U.S. states of Nevada and Utah, Jensen accepted a call in 1944 to work as head of the Alaska Mission, a territory that would later become a U.S. state.

At times it took days to reach remote parts of the territory, with Jensen catching rides on fishing boats, Coast Guard lifeboats and with bush pilots delivering supplies and mail with amphibious aircraft.

One night, while flying with a bush pilot, a storm forced a landing on a small, isolated inlet. Ice developed on the wings and propeller and the plane began to sink.

Jensen and the pilot jumped out and waded to shore. Disoriented, wet, and freezing, Jensen began to pray fervently. Then, out of the blowing snow, an old Eskimo appeared, dressed in white, and waved at the lost pair to follow him. He led them through the storm to a small settlement, where villagers gave them shelter until the storm passed.

When Jensen asked the villagers for the rescuer’s name in order to thank him, the villagers replied that no such person lived in the area.

“Dad was certain that his guardian angel had appeared to save him that day,” Linda said.

While in Alaska, Jensen accepted an invitation to serve as a missionary in Indonesia. Seventeen days into the voyage across the Pacific Ocean aboard a freighter he received a cable asking him to go to Japan instead.

The couple enrolled in a language school and spent the next year and a half becoming fluent in Japanese. In 1949, local Adventist leaders decided to open mission work on Okinawa, and the Jensens agreed to move there.

In 1960, after a decade on Okinawa, Jensen was appointed as the head of the Tokyo Sanitarium and Hospital (now Tokyo Adventist Hospital) and the pastor of a church on the same property. Six years later he moved to Malaysia, where he worked as business manager of the Penang Sanitarium (now Penang Adventist Hospital) as well as the pastor of the English-speaking church with a membership of 200.

With both daughters in college, he and his wife decided to return to the U.S. in 1969.

He worked for four years as an assistant credit manager at St. Helena Hospital in Deer Park, California, and then pastored a church in Miranda, California.

The couple retired in 1975 in California’s Napa Valley. Iona preceded him in death in 2005.
Today, Okinawa has 16 Adventist churches with a membership of nearly 2,100, according to the Adventist Yearbook.

**World Adventist stewardship advisory to offer education on management of resources**

*Online conference set for September 19 to 21*

*September 04, 2014 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | ANN staff*

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is holding a global *stewardship advisory* later this month to offer Church leaders and members education on biblical principles of planning and managing resources.

The World Stewardship Online Conference is set for September 19 to 21 and will be offered in four languages—English, French, Portuguese and Spanish—as well as closed captioning in English.

Stewardship Ministries director Erika Puni said the conference is an opportunity to integrate Christian stewardship into the education process of discipleship.

"As the Church continues to grow, stewardship education is part of the nurturing of our people," Puni said.

A major focus of Stewardship Ministries is management of personal finance and tithing. Puni said of members who don’t tithe: more typically forget than don’t believe in the concept.

The world conference will offer numerous seminars on a range of stewardship subjects, including budgeting, property and Christian ethics.

The conference, set to be streamed live from the denomination’s world headquarters, is jointly sponsored by the Adventist world church’s Stewardship Ministries department and the Inter-American Division.

Speakers include Adventist Church President Ted N. C. Wilson, Vice Presidents Pardon Mwansa and Ben Schoun, Inter-American Division President Israel Leito, and Andrews Seminary professor JoAnn Davidson. The conference will feature training workshops, panel discussions, question-and-answer sessions, and worship and musical presentations.

The conference will be the first global advisory held online from the denomination’s headquarters. Church leaders said recent technology upgrades to the Church’s website would enable greater collaboration in the future.
“We are excited to begin hosting events on our new Adventist.org platform and to partner with other departments,” said Andrew King, assistant Communication director for the Web. “We’re wanting people to realize the benefits of making their events available to a much wider audience through the Internet.”

Puni said the weekend’s schedule will include the following themes (times are U.S. Eastern—GMT-4):

Friday afternoon: Foundations of stewardship  
Saturday morning: Stewardship and worship  
Saturday afternoon: Financial stewardship and one’s obedience to God  

For more information and to register for the World Steward Online Conference, visit adventiststewardship.com.

In Colombia, university students urged to serve in mission field

Mission congress challenges students to work beyond national borders

September 04, 2014 | Medellin, Colombia  
UNAC/UCN/Inter-American Division staff

Nearly 2,000 young people, students and professionals from throughout Colombia, Peru and Argentina took part in an Adventist Missions International Congress coined as “I will go too.”

The congress sought to motivate professionals and university students to serve in the mission field. Organized by Colombia Adventist University in Medellin, July 13 to August 2, the initiative is the third such event to promote mission work around the world.

Holding the event on campus was key to confirming the commission God has given to His church to spread the gospel in every tongue, tribe and nation, said Abraham Acosta, president of Colombia Adventist University and main organizer of the event. It is the first such event ever organized in Colombia, organizers said.

“We wanted to inspire our young people who study different careers just as they grow academically, they can grow with a commitment and growing passion for the mission of the church,” Acosta said. “Our goal and challenge after this congress is to work with the global mission of training and motivating our young people to go beyond the borders of Colombia.”

Speakers from the Institute of World Missions and Global Mission at the General Conference and Andrews University, Adventist-Muslim Relations at the North American Division, Middle East
Union and North Africa among others lectured the hundreds of participants on the importance of serving outside of their countries to spread the gospel.

“Our great challenge is reaching persons who are not Christians,” said Cheryl Doss, director of the Institute of World Missions at the General Conference. “To reach them we must be willing to change our current methodology of evangelism as the challenge goes much faster than the growth of the Adventist Church.”

One of the most basic aspects of serving in the mission field is to be willing to learn and adapt, said Wagner Kuhn associate director of the Global Mission Institute at Andrews University. “Look to understanding the native tongue to be able to speak to the hearts of the people, be servants and look to others with empathy,” Kuhn said.

More than 100 signed up for the school of missions at the university. Among the signees Jenny Paola Muñoz, who studies accounting. “I think God is touching the hearts of students thanks to this congress, because many of us are really motivated to preach the gospel to finish the work on earth,” Muñoz said.

Nathalia Andrea Lopez, a fourth-year preschool student, was also excited to participate in the congress because “there are so many places still out there to serve the Lord around the world.”

Already, the university has embarked on an initiative where 18 municipal districts in Medellin have been targeted as areas to be evangelized. Students are participating with church leaders to establish centers of influence there. In addition, students are involved in community outreach activities in hospitals and nursing homes.

For more information about the congress, visit unac.edu.co.