Adventist health leader commends WHO for first suicide report
UN agency offers stats, prevention methods for governments, NGOs

Adventist Church receives radio license in Spain
Milestone is first authorization for non-Catholic religious station

Remembrance: Loveless, 86, helped launch Adventist student missions
Sent first college student missionary to Mexico in 1959

Adventist Church's Loma Linda University tops schools for graduates finding meaning in their work
PayScale ranking puts LLU ahead of Ivy League schools
UN agency offers stats, prevention methods for governments, NGOs

September 19, 2014 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | Ansel Oliver/ANN

The Seventh-day Adventist Church’s top health official commended the World Health Organization for its first ever report on suicide, which offers statistics and action steps for promoting suicide prevention as a higher priority on the global public health agenda.

Dr. Peter Landless, Health Ministries director for the Adventist Church, said the stigma of suicide could be reduced with more awareness in society and in religious organizations, which would allow people to seek help more readily.

“We need to talk about it, we need to be available for people to see the Church as a safe haven, so if they feel hopeless they can come find hope in Jesus Christ and renewed purpose,” Landless said. “That’s what we as a Church are all about.”

Landless said church members and leaders can support the effort by recognizing depression, setting an example by living a balanced lifestyle, and urging people to refrain from consuming recreational substances, including alcohol, in order to maintain mental health and emotional well-being.

Landless led an Adventist delegation of five that attended the release ceremony at the WHO headquarters in Geneva earlier this month. These included Valerie DuFour, Health Ministries director for the Adventist Church’s Inter-European Division, Dr. Bernard Davy, medical director of the LaLingniere clinic in Switzerland, Dr. Carlos Fayard, professor of psychiatry at Loma Linda University and Beverly Buckles, dean of Behavioral Health Sciences at Loma Linda.

The WHO report, titled “Preventing suicide: a global imperative,” says it provides “a global knowledge base on suicide and suicide attempts to guide governments, policy-makers and relevant stakeholders,” as well as evidence-based action steps countries can take based on their own context and amount of resources.

“With timely and effective evidence-based interventions, treatment and support, both suicides and suicide attempts can be prevented,” WHO Director-General Margaret Chan said in a statement.

The report offers five key message points:

—Suicides take a high toll. Over 800,000 people die due to suicide every year and it is the second leading cause of death in 15-29-year-olds. There are indications that for each adult who died of suicide there may have been more than 20 others attempting suicide.

—Suicides are preventable. For national responses to be effective, a comprehensive multisectoral suicide prevention strategy is needed.
—Restricting access to the means for suicide works. An effective strategy for preventing suicides and suicide attempts is to restrict access to the most common means, including pesticides, firearms and certain medications.

—Health-care services need to incorporate suicide prevention as a core component. Mental disorders and harmful use of alcohol contribute to many suicides around the world. Early identification and effective management are key to ensuring that people receive the care they need.

—Communities play a critical role in suicide prevention. They can provide social support to vulnerable individuals and engage in follow-up care, fight stigma and support those bereaved by suicide.

For more information about the report, visit the WHO website by clicking HERE.

Adventist Church receives radio license in Spain

Milestone is first authorization for non-Catholic religious station

September 23, 2014 | Madrid, Spain | ANN staff

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Spain recently received a license to officially broadcast the nation’s first non-Catholic religious station, marking what Church leaders say is a significant step for religious liberty in the country.

The Association of Adventist Radio in Spain received a license for an FM station from the Council for Audiovisuals in Catalonia on September 3.

“This is a historical milestone for the Adventist Church’s history in Spain,” said Pedro Torres, Communication director for the denomination’s Spanish Union of Churches. “This also opens the door for other Christian radio stations here in this country.”

Torres said 15 news agencies reported the milestone.

The Adventist Church’s Radio Adventista began operating its first station in 1990 but has failed to receive a license for a religious and non-profit radio station.

Torres said unregistered non-profit stations in Spain aren’t necessarily illegal, and they operate until the government asks them to close. Until then, they are considered “alegal,” or “non regulated,” Torres said. During the application process, officials typically ask how long the station has operated, with a long-established station more likely to receive a license.
Today, the Adventist Church operates 21 radio stations throughout the country.

“We are very thankful to God for His providence and guidance through many years, which has afforded us to reach this point,” Torres said.

Remembrance: Loveless, 86, helped launch Adventist student missions

Sent first college student missionary to Mexico in 1959

September 17, 2014 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | ANN staff

William A. Loveless, who urged the Seventh-day Adventist Church to accept college students as short-term missionaries and served as pastor of two of the largest Adventist churches in the United States, died September 15 at the age of 86.

As associate pastor of the Sligo Adventist Church in Maryland, Loveless partnered in 1959 with Winton Beaven, dean of Washington Missionary College (now Washington Adventist University) to send a student for a three-month summer stint to Mexico. Though it went against the denomination’s policy at the time, the one-year mission program for college students is now widespread throughout the North American Division and continues to grow in other parts of the world church.

When promoted to senior pastor, Loveless organized the Urban Service Corps, in which Adventist youth and college students tutored inner city kids struggling in school.

Loveless graduated from Walla Walla University in 1949, earned a master’s degree from Andrews University in 1953 and earned a doctorate from the University of Maryland in 1964.

He also served as president of the Pennsylvania Conference in the late 1970s and as president of Washington Adventist University from 1978 to 1990.

Loveless also pastored the Loma Linda University Church in California from 1970 to 1976 and from 1990 to 2000. He also served as a professor at the university and taught at nearby La Sierra University and University of California at Riverside.

A funeral service is scheduled for 2 p.m., September 28 at the Loma Linda University Church.
Adventist Church’s Loma Linda University tops schools for graduates finding meaning in their work

PayScale ranking puts LLU ahead of Ivy League schools

September 16, 2014 | Loma Linda, California, United States | Loma Linda staff

Loma Linda University topped all other colleges and universities in the nation for graduates who find meaning in their work, based on a survey of 1.4 million college and university alumni, according to PayScale.com.

Each year, PayScale, an organization that provides salary, benefits and compensation information, surveys alumni from more than 1,000 U.S. colleges and universities.

In addition to collecting data on income, the company also asks, “Does your work make the world a better place?” This year, Loma Linda ranked in the Number 1 spot. PayScale reported that 91 percent of Loma Linda graduates said working in their jobs helped to “make the world a better place.”

In the same survey, Loma Linda was also ranked among the top for the highest starting salary.

The PayScale survey was reported in The Atlantic and The Washington Post.

“I’m delighted by this ranking,” said Dr. Richard H. Hart, president of Loma Linda University Health. “As our alumni are living out our mission every day, bringing wholeness to all the ends of the earth, this recognition makes me proud of the heritage of our university, the spirit and dedication of our faculty and staff, and all of our medical professionals who train our students for lives of real service—locally, nationally and globally.”

The ranking elevates Loma Linda far ahead of Ivy League schools such as Harvard, Yale and Princeton, often ranked in the top three spots on some college surveys. In the PayScale alumni survey on meaningful jobs, only about 65 percent of the three Ivies’ alumni answered yes to the question.

The next two institutions were University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas (88 percent) and Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (86 percent).