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November 06, 2014 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | ANN staff

Seventh-day Adventist Youth Ministries leaders are asking local youth leaders to reserve March 21, 2015, on their calendar for the community service initiative called **Global Youth Day** (GYD).

Next year’s GYD will be the third annual event that sends hundreds of thousands of Adventist youth and young adults out of church for service projects in neighborhoods and communities worldwide.

The annual event is live streamed, and youth groups participate by sharing their experiences on social media throughout the day.

Youth Ministries Director Gilbert Cangy said the event helps bring unity to Adventist youth around the globe and is a chance to express creativity in service.

“Just imagine young people leading churches that day to go out and be the hands and feet of Jesus,” Cangy said. “There’s nothing better than mission to bring us together as a world church.”

The event asks youth to skip hearing a sermon and instead go out to “Be the sermon.”

“Our ultimate goal is for GYD to be a springboard for service to become a way of life,” Cangy added.

During the first two GYDs, Adventist Youth from Namibia to Norway visited elderly in nursing homes, sang songs of support to prisoners and offered health and nutrition information in city squares. Many offered prayers for passers-by, all of which added up to millions of acts of service worldwide.

Cangy said he was impressed with the creativity and diversity of initiatives over the past two years.

In the United Kingdom, an iconic red Routemaster double-decker bus was transformed and parked in London’s Oxford Street offering free health screenings and prayer.

In Mexico City, youth prepared hundreds of meals for patients and families at hospitals while others in a park invited passers-by to listen to health talks and receive health screenings. In Colombia, youth held prayer stations throughout city streets.

In the Philippines, youth in Manila distributed supplies, prayed with passers-by and demonstrated other acts of compassion before meeting for a “Compassion Walk” from Luneta Park toward Habour Square.
The Adventist world church’s Youth Ministries department is coordinating the initiative through all 13 of the denomination’s world regions.

Promotional resources are available at the initiative’s website gcyoutheunministries.org.

New Zealander awarded $31,000 for Sabbath dismissal

Man had asked for Sabbaths off after returning to church of his childhood

November 04, 2014 | Invercargill, New Zealand | Linden Chuang/South Pacific Adventist Record and Adventist Review staff

A New Zealand company has been ordered to pay lost wages to a Seventh-day Adventist man who was fired for refusing to work on Sabbath.

Mark Meulenbroek was dismissed from his position at Vision Antenna, a company that installs television and audio systems in the city of Invercargill, in September 2012 after he declined to work on Saturdays.

The Human Rights Review Tribunal, part of New Zealand’s Justice Ministry, found that Meulenbroek “was terminated for reason of his religious beliefs,” and awarded him 40,000 New Zealand dollars (US $31,025) for lost wages, legal expenses, and emotional distress.

The finding “represents a victory for all people who seek to actively live out their faith as a loyal employee,” said Damien Rice, president of the denomination’s South New Zealand Conference. “It sets a precedent in New Zealand that will help to protect the liberties of other workers in the future. We are also pleased for Mark for whom this has been a difficult legal struggle.”

Meulenbroek had worked at Vision Antenna since 2004 and was considered a “fantastic” worker by the Invercargill company, the tribunal said.

In 2011, he rejoined the Adventist Church, which he had left at the age of 16, and asked his employers to refrain from scheduling him on Saturdays so he could keep the Sabbath.

Despite accepting this request initially, Vision Antenna director Glen Stapley refused to give Meulenbroek all Saturdays off, saying his reasons for not working were “simply unacceptable.”

The tribunal, however, disagreed, saying that “as outside observers we cannot but note how badly Vision handled the request by Mr. Meulenbroek to not work on the Sabbath.”

It added: "A dedicated, conscientious and ‘fantastic’ worker was reduced to a ‘zombie’ state by Vision’s failure to respect his religious belief," local television station TVNZ reported.

Vision Antenna can appeal the decision.
Government lawyer Robert Kee, who represented Meulenbroek in the case, said the tribunal’s decision would serve as a warning to other small and medium-size businesses that may not be familiar with New Zealand’s Human Rights Act.

**Remembrance: Boothby, 81, was a bulldog lawyer who defended Sabbath**

Church-state litigator was first of his kind in Adventist Church

*November 11, 2014 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | Andrew McChesney/Adventist Review*

Lee Boothby, one of the first Adventist lawyers and a trailblazer in defending Sabbath rights, has died at the age of 81.

Boothby died on the morning of November 4 in an assisted living facility near his family home in Berrien Springs, Michigan, United States, family and friends said.

He moved to Michigan after suffering a stroke in 2013 in Washington, D.C. where he worked most of his career and maintained a law office until his illness.

Boothby championed the workplace rights of Adventists and other believers in the 1960s and ’70s, fleshing out the legal definition of religious accommodation in the workplace. The issue took the forefront after U.S. Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, a landmark legislation that outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

“On the national level, if there was anyone who developed the concept of religious accommodation in the workplace, it was Lee Boothby,” said a close friend, Robert Nixon, who began working with Boothby as a young lawyer in 1974 and argued with him before the U.S. Supreme Court.

“He was relentless on just what employers must do,” said Nixon, who retired as the General Conference’s general counsel in 2005.

Boothby began taking on cases of religious accommodation in the workplace before the General Conference, the administrative body of the Adventist world church, appointed an associate
general counsel to assist in religious liberty issues. Boothby briefly held that position at the General Conference.

"Lee’s contribution to the church and to litigation was early, at a time when the Adventist Church did not have a lot of lawyers in house and was still putting together its religious liberty team," said Todd McFarland, who oversees religious liberty cases as associate general counsel at the General Conference. "He was a leader."

He added: "The Church and people of all faiths owe a debt to Lee Boothby for his contribution to religious liberty over the decades."

Boothby was as a major proponent of the U.S. First Amendment, which establishes a wall of separation between church and state. No believer was off-limits, and in addition to many Adventists his clients included Christian Scientists, Scientologists, and Hare Krishnas.

In the 1990s, Boothby took his fight to the former Soviet bloc, visiting many countries of Eastern Europe to promote the concept of religious liberty under their new constitutions.

Orva Lee Boothby was born on March 17, 1933, in Bakersfield, California. He was named after a beloved pastor, Orva Lee Ice, but he chose to drop "Orva" when he enrolled in law school at Wayne State University in Detroit.

For a time he lived in the shadow of his father, Robert Loren Boothby, a renowned Adventist evangelist who baptized hundreds of people.

"When I was a younger person, it seemed like every person I met was baptized by my grandfather," said Boothby’s elder daughter, Robin Rene Allen.

But Boothby, who attended Andrews University, had a drive and a determination that caught people’s attention soon after he finished law school in 1957, friends said. Before the Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964, he had already made a name for himself as a leading litigator in cases involving individual rights of conscience and religious opposition to membership in labor unions.

"Lee was the first and for a long time the only and the most influential church-state litigator the Adventist Church has ever produced," said long-time friend Mitchell Tyner, who retired as associate general counsel of the General Conference in 2006.

"He was a bulldog at it," Tyner said. "For many of us who came along decades later, he was the image by which we measured our contributions."

He said Boothby was one of the first lawyers to emerge from the Adventist Church.

Boothby led or worked as general counsel for several organizations, including Americans United for Separation of Church and State, the International Commission of Freedom of Conscience and the International Academy for Freedom of Religion and Belief.

He worried that U.S. politicians were pulling bricks out of the church-state wall to create a new religion of compromise that offended no one.

"What you are tending to see is a new secular state religion," Boothby told Time Magazine in a 2001 cover story on church-state relations. "It’s not really religion."
Boothby wasn’t about to let that happen, and he pursued cases in many top courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals, the Third, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Federal Circuits, and Tax Court, among others.

Tyner described Boothby as “a Lone Ranger type and good at it.”

“It was impossible for him to retire,” he said. “He kept going until he almost fell apart on the job.”

His daughter, Robin Allen, said her father preferred to vacation in warm places like Hawaii or Jamaica, but his work always took priority.

“My dad was an extreme workaholic, and sometimes our vacation would get cut short,” Allen said. “I remember him looking around everywhere for a phone to make a call.”

Even after the stroke, Boothby remained concerned about his clients. They visited him in the hospital in Washington, where he stayed for several months before moving to Michigan.

“He wasn’t just their attorney, he also was their friend,” Allen said.

She said her father had a very personal relationship with God and he never pushed his beliefs on others.

“I believe this was due to his strong conviction that religion is a personal decision, and each individual should be allowed to choose to worship as they wish,” she said.