Adventist Heritage Center

Headlines

The Adventist Church in South Africa responds to xenophobic attacks
Leaders of the Church's Southern Africa-Indian Ocean region express concern over attacks against foreigners

Migrant Boat Disaster In The Mediterranean
Adventist spokesperson expresses condolences

The Adventist Church's Headquarters Dedicates Three New Additions To Its Facility
The gallery, visitor center and library highlight the Bible and Adventist history

3-day Mega Clinic Surpasses Goal
Giving away over $20 million in health care services to 6,192 San Antonio residents

La Sierra University Enactus team places second in nation at U.S. competition
University representatives celebrate the team's accomplishment

3 Adventists sue U.S. baseball team over religious observances
Ushers fired following work policy changes

The Adventist Church in South Africa responds to xenophobic attacks
Leaders of the Church’s Southern Africa-Indian Ocean region express concern over attacks against foreigners

April 20, 2015 | Pretoria, South Africa | Paul Charles

Paul Charles, communication director of the Southern Africa-Indian Division Seventh-day Adventist Church, released the following statement in response to ongoing attacks against foreign nationals living in South Africa:

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean region is outraged by the recent, current xenophobic attacks against foreign nationals in South Africa. There is no justifiable reason to warrant the senseless violence and prejudice bringing shame to a new and free democratic South Africa. To embrace true freedom means to renounce a spirit of domination, abuse or violence against people. Without reservation, our leadership and almost 3.5 million Seventh-day Adventist members in Southern Africa condemn all these senseless and horrendous acts of violence and hatred which has also affected members of our church.

The President of the Southern Africa Union Conference, Tankiso Letseli, issued the following statement: “The Seventh-day Adventist Church in South Africa has mobilised Adventist Development and Relief Agency South Africa and Meals on Wheels Community Service (MOWCS) South Africa as a way of intervening. We have identified persons who have been displaced by xenophobic violence. Currently, MOWCS South Africa, together with MOWCS Kwazulu Natal-Free State Conference (KNFC), Area Office, is on the ground providing food supplies and further aid to no less than 1,500 persons daily in the Durban area. We are currently providing cooked meals in the Chatsworth and Chesterville areas. Pastor C M Nhlapo, President of the Kwazulu Natal-Free State Conference, together with his team, are working with the MOWCS KNFC to make inroads in affected areas for further intervention. The Church’s Trans-Orange Conference leadership, together with Pastor Mpho Rantsoabe, have identified 'hot spots' in the Johannesburg area for the purpose of responding and intervening. We are also trying to mobilise the support of ADRA International, through ADRA Africa Regional Office, so that we can increase our reach.”

An inhumane crisis of this magnitude affects the entire world church and international community. All local Seventh-day Adventist churches are urged to intensify their efforts with ADRA South Africa and MOWCS South Africa, government and other faith-based organisations to alleviate the suffering as a result of these evil acts-of-violence.

We also appeal to all those affected to cooperate with government agencies like the police and the Department of Home Affairs so that those perpetrators of the violence can be brought to justice.

We all, each one, regardless of our nationality, color or creed are made in the image of God (Colossians 1:15) and take the issue of human dignity very seriously. This constrains us to treat one another as brothers and sisters and an injury to one affects us all. The collective fabric of South Africa is diverse and dynamic and must be preserved at all costs without violence or the shedding of blood. Human dignity elevates every person we meet to the status of one with infinite worth, a person to be respected, loved, and honored.
The Bible commands and conditions us how we should treat one another. "If a foreigner lives with you in your land, you are not to mistreat or oppress. Foreigners living among you must be treated like your own people. Love them as you love yourself…” Leviticus 19: 33,34.

May God help us renounce all forms of violence, coercion and violations of people’s consciences and physical and emotional integrity. May He grace us with the strength to embrace peace in all its dimensions. May He give us the determination to uphold every person’s dignity. May He also create in us the will and the passion to work for the freedom of everyone until the One who is coming comes.

Migrant Boat Disaster In The Mediterranean

Adventist spokesperson expresses condolences

April 20, 2015 | Bern, Switzerland | EUD News Staff

As many as 700 migrants were feared dead on Sunday after their boat capsized in the Mediterranean. If the death toll is confirmed, it will bring to 1,500 the total number of people who died this year seeking to reach Europe - a swelling exodus.

Meanwhile Italian and foreign ships and helicopters worked into the night to find possible survivors. So far 28 people have been rescued and 24 bodies recovered, Italian authorities said.

The 20 meter-long vessel sank 70 miles from the Libyan coast, south of the southern Italian island of Lampedusa, as a large merchant ship approached it.

Andreas Mazza, a spokesperson for the Inter-European Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, released the following statement:

"We are deeply moved by this latest tragedy in the mediterranean sea. It is striking to see the pain and suffering wrought by this disaster, that touches some of the world's most vulnerable people. People, who are searching for a better life. People, who are claiming back their dignity as human beings.

There are issues of prevention we cannot walk away from. We cannot ignore the huge humanitarian crisis in northern Africa.

The Bible says that we are all of one spirit, and that "if one part suffers, every part suffers with it”. That is the reason why we suffer and mourn all together, today.

May the Lord bless all relatives and friends of the victims with comfort and peace."

The Adventist Church’s Headquarters Dedicates Three New
Additions To Its Facility

The gallery, visitor center and library highlight the Bible and Adventist history

April 16, 2015 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | ANN Staff

Executive officers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church on Sunday dedicated three physical additions to the Church’s headquarters during a grand opening ceremony.

The program on April 12 marked the opening of the Eden to Eden Art Gallery, Ellen G. White Estate Visitor Center and the Biblical Research Institute Library.

The Eden to Eden art exhibit is a permanent display that illustrates salvation’s story from creation to the restoration of the new earth after the second coming of Christ. Eden to Eden transforms the headquarters’ main lobby into an art gallery that contains more than 70 pieces of art with Biblical stories. Seventh-day Adventist artists, including Nathan Greene, and Lars Justinen, created all of the artwork showcased in the gallery.

Plans for the gallery began shortly after Ted Wilson was elected president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 2010. Elder Wilson wanted the Church’s headquarters to give an immediate impression of an institution that believes in the Bible and is centered in Jesus.

“What I’m hoping people will take away from here is the incredible love of God, and his willingness to enter into our lives and be able to guide us towards his eternal purposes for each of us,” Wilson said. “And as they view what God has done in the past, and the way he’s leading now, they will see that God has truly led in their own life. And when they leave here I hope they’ll be inspired to keep their hand in God’s hand.”

Church leaders also had the opportunity to get a sneak peak of the Ellen G. White Estate Visitor Center, which is also located in the headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The newly renovated Estate was designed to give a 21st century take on the life and ministry of Ellen G. White, the co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The various interactive exhibits feature many aspects of her life, including her humble beginnings, her acceptance of her prophetic gift and her writings.

Jim Nix, director of the Ellen G. White Estate, had a passion to create an experience for visitors that would prompt them to get to know the woman behind the prophetic call.

“It’s been a dream for a long time. I’ve dedicated my life to try to bring Adventist history to life, for our members, for our young people, and the visitor center in a sense is a culmination of that,” Nix said. “I really wanted a place where parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, families on vacation; they could come here with their young people; pastors can bring new members here, and they can see a bit about Ellen White’s life and her ministry.”

The newly renovated library of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s Biblical Research Institute was
also dedicated on Sunday.

During the program, Artur Stele, general vice president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and Chair of the Biblical Research Institute, presented an award of recognition to Gerhard Pfrandi, part-time associate director of the Biblical Research Institute. Pfrandi was honored for his instrumental role in the renovation of the library and for his long-standing commitment to the institution.

The institute promotes the study and practice of Seventh-day Adventist theology. The library will support the institute’s mission by providing Church leaders, employees and researchers the ability to explore scholarly and theological materials.

While the Eden to Eden gallery is currently open to the public, the Ellen G. White Estate Visitor Center is undergoing further touchups and adjustments before its permanent opening to the public in June.

3-day Mega Clinic Surpasses Goal

Giving away over $20 million in health care services to 6,192 San Antonio residents

April 15, 2015 | San Antonio, Texas, United States | Costin Jordache

More than 1,700 healthcare professionals and volunteers operated a no-cost mega medical and dental clinic in San Antonio, Texas on April 8-10, 2015. Organizers announced yesterday that $20,124,000 in free health-related services were offered to noninsured and underinsured residents of San Antonio at the Alamodome. 6,192 residents were treated at the clinic, including 360 who were given surgical services, at no cost. Organizers had originally estimated $10 million in services to 6,000.

The event was organized by Your Best Pathway to Health, a service of Adventist-Laymen’s Services & Industries (ASI), in partnership with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Adventist Health System and other entities. Your Best Pathway to Health was co-sponsored by the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, working closely with the Office of Mayor Ivy R. Taylor.

Free on-site services included primary care visits, women’s health services including pap smears, consultation by medical specialists including heart evaluation, as well as gastroenterology, neurology, pulmonology, rheumatology, infectious disease, general and orthopedic surgery, pediatrics, podiatry services, immunizations, root canals, crowns, fillings, extractions, dental cleaning, pharmacy, eyeglass fittings and examinations, STD screenings, medical massage, physical therapy, x-rays, laboratory services, haircuts, chaplaincy services and a free meal.

No insurance and no identification were required. No appointment was necessary, other than surgical procedures, which required free of charge pre-surgery visits.

The mega clinic will be held next in Spokane, Washington on August 3-4, 2015.
La Sierra University Enactus team places second in nation at U.S. competition

University representatives celebrate the team's accomplishment

April 20, 2015 | Riverside, California, United States | La Sierra News Staff

La Sierra University’s Enactus team finished second in the nation April 16 at the Enactus organization’s United States National Exposition, held in St. Louis, Mo., April 13-16.

La Sierra’s Enactus team reached the final four round after successfully completing three preliminary rounds of competition. Nearly 200 colleges and universities sent Enactus teams to this year’s national competition. Brigham Young University-Hawaii was named the 2015 Enactus U.S. champion followed by La Sierra in second place, John Brown University in third, and Belmont University in fourth.

“It’s a tremendous honor to be compared in this way to the best business students from across the United States,” said John Thomas, dean of the Tom and Vi Zapara School of Business. “Finishing as the number two Enactus team in the nation is an incredible accomplishment for our students, who have worked so hard to do important things both in the Riverside community and internationally. They are truly showing the rest of the world how business can be a tool for making the world a better place.”

“This outstanding finish is due in part to the efforts of John Razzouk, our Sam Walton Faculty Fellow,” Thomas added. “John worked many hours with our students to put together an outstanding Enactus team and series of projects this year.”

“Our students represented La Sierra University in an incredible way,” said Randal Wisbey, university president. “Through their efforts, our Enactus team beautifully demonstrated all that we as a university have learned about service, and our campus’ determination to see the world transformed.”

Thirteen Enactus team members represented La Sierra University in St. Louis, including a five-member presentation team. La Sierra’s Enactus team’s report focused on the projects that the team has developed to use business practices to enhance communities. The projects included:

Mobile Fresh: Enactus students partnered with Riverside’s Family Service Association to launch “Mobile Fresh,” a refurbished bus that now serves as a mobile grocery store. The bus makes regular visits to underserved areas of Riverside, making fresh, healthy produce and other foods available to lower income area residents. Serving more than 1,000 customers per month, the project has also lowered those customer’s food costs by 30 percent.

Cow Bank: As part of a strong focus on sustainable projects, La Sierra Enactus has been operating a field station in Denkanikottai, India. Women in that region typically make $2 per day,
barely enough for food. La Sierra Enactus has established a cow bank, which loans cows to women in four villages, and has developed agreements with local milk wholesalers to purchase all the milk the women bring for sale. Every woman who has participated in the program has seen her income at least double, and no one has defaulted on her loan during the two years of the project.

La Sierra University’s Enactus efforts also won a number of special recognition awards during the St. Louis competition. Enactus team member Andrew Ranzinger, a junior accounting and Spanish major, received three scholarship awards at the national completion. They are:

- The Enactus Service Leadership Award—Ranzinger is one of five students receive a $1,000 scholarship.
- The RILA/Unilever Retail Scholarship—“Sponsored by Unilever and the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA), the purpose of this scholarship is to encourage students to consider career opportunities in the retail industry and recognize one outstanding Enactus student who is planning to pursue a career within the industry.” Ranzinger received a $5,000 scholarship and also will be recognized at a RILA event this coming winter. Also, the La Sierra University Enactus team gets a $1,000 award.
- The Julie and Gwen Knapp Scholarship—Ranzinger received a $2,500 scholarship award.

La Sierra’s Enactus team received two top national prizes from Unilever Enhancing Livelihoods competition and the Bright Future Project Partnership. The team will be bringing home two trophies and a total of $14,500 in prizes. Both awards were for the Mobile Fresh initiative.

La Sierra University has a history of excellence in Enactus/SIFE competition. Along with the six previous U.S. titles, La Sierra won the organization’s World Cup in 2002 and 2007. They are the only university to ever win the national title four consecutive years, putting together a string of successful appearances from 1994 to 1997.

3 Adventists sue U.S. baseball team over religious observances

Ushers fired following work policy changes

April 19, 2015 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | ANN staff

Three Seventh-day Adventists have filed a lawsuit in U.S. federal court against the Washington Nationals, a professional baseball team in Washington D.C.

The lawsuit accuses the baseball club of firing Tony Green, Lloyd Cobey and Ralph Jones due to their refusal to work on Sabbath, which lasts from Friday sundown to Saturday sundown.

The former ushers, all retired federal employees, claim that while the baseball club made accommodation for them up to the team’s 2013 season, the Nationals changed their policies for the 2014 season. The new policies forced all employees to work at least 80 percent of the home games. The men, however, could not work the amount of games required because of their
Sabbath observance. As a result, the men were fired.

The suit against the Nationals claims, “All three plaintiffs performed their jobs well, and regularly received praise from their supervisors regarding the services they provided to the spectators at National Park.”

The men are asking to be allowed to return to work and for the Nationals to provide reasonable accommodation for their religious beliefs, along with back pay and damages.