Why We Gather Together

It isn't often that more than 150 ministry leaders from 21 countries have the opportunity to fellowship together in one place at the same time. Outpost Centers International holds an annual Leadership Retreat that facilitates such a gathering for leaders of its member ministries.

Last month, many members and friends of the OCI family enjoyed a week of meetings and seminars at Georgia's Cohutta Springs Youth Camp. This year's theme, "With All My Heart," focused on personal spiritual growth, inspiring attendees to "serve God with all their heart, mind, and soul." Seminars were also presented on topics such as accountability, planning, and fundraising. Small groups gathered for additional discussion, seeking to foster growth and improvement in their ministries. Read more...
April was a big month for ASI spring chapter meetings. **ASI Mid-America, ASI Lake Union,** and **ASI Atlantic Union** all met April 20 to 22, and **ASI Pacific Union** and **ASI North Pacific Union** gathered April 26 to 29. Both ASI Mid-America and ASI Atlantic Union gathered project offerings that topped $50,000. Photos from the ASI Mid-America event are posted on the Rocky Mountain Conference Facebook page. All of the meetings featured presentations from local ASI members and project ministries, as well as inspirational presentations by well-known speakers like Shawn Boonstra, John Bradshaw, Ty Gibson, and David Asscherick. Visit the chapter websites for more information about the chapter meetings and local chapter participation.

**Eden Valley Institute** is a cluster of ministries that includes a training school for the **Tarahumara Indians in Nicaragua, Mexico.** Over the past year, the school has preached the gospel, held two health expos, and hosted professionals who provided eye, foot, dental, and general medical care to more than 1,200 local residents. A lay evangelism school is preparing students to reach their fellow community members. "Our prayer is that soon they may have a church to worship in," says director David Cruz.

**Laymen Ministries** began a six-month **Women's Ministries Course in Mungpoo, India,** last October. It was completed April 8, 2012, followed by a month-long **Bible Educator Course.** The program is costly, LM ministry leaders report, but "these

**Youth:** All youth registrations must accompany an adult registration. Once an adult registration is completed online, youth registration options will appear. Family registrations may also be completed using the downloadable paper registration form. Visit the **Rates & Registration** page for more information.

**Attractions:** The **Creation Museum near Cincinnati** has extended a special promotional offer to all convention attendees from Aug. 6-13. The rate is better than the museum's normal group rate. Visit the ASI website to download the **Discount Coupon.** You don't want to miss taking your family to this local Cincinnati attraction. Visit the **Creation Museum website** for more info.

**Wanted: Your Photos!**

Please e-mail a high-quality photo and caption (where, when, and who) that best represents what your ASI member ministry is all about or has accomplished in the past year to Conna Bond for inclusion in a future ASI publication!

**2013 Funding Application**

The 2012 special offering projects have already been selected, and the **2013 Funding Application** has been posted on the ASI website. Apply early this year!

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young ladies are well worth the cost, as this is a life-changing experience for many of them. They will return to their villages as missionaries for Christ. When compared to the big, concentrated evangelistic effort that comes and then goes...this outreach is not only more cost effective, but more sustainable in the lives of those who participate."

ASI is partnering with Philanthropic Service for Institutions (PSI), a department of the North American Division, and The Fund Raising School at Indiana University to provide a special pre-convention opportunity for ASI ministries to learn the basics of fundraising. This customized and accredited course entitled "Principles & Techniques of Fundraising" will be taught by handpicked instructors who are intimately aware of the unique challenges and opportunities facing small Adventist ministries. If taken at Indiana University, the cost of the course would be $1,400. But through the combined efforts of ASI and PSI, the course will be offered to ASI convention attendees at just a little more than one-third the normal cost. The course will be taught in Cincinnati, just prior to the 2012 ASI International Convention, from Sunday, Aug. 5, through Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2012. Each participant must be present at all sessions to qualify for a course completion certificate. For further information about the course, visit The Fundraising School website. Participants are responsible for their own travel and lodging. To register, e-mail Lorena Hernandez.

Life+Health Network has exclusively been broadcasting Adventist health programming for almost a year on the Roku digital video player. "As the
first Adventist ministry to air on Roku, it's exciting to see more and more church ministries signing up," says network representative Alvin Trace. "More than 20,000 viewers have selected the Life+Health channel as a favorite on Roku, and we're told that number will continue to increase." Life+Health Network provides a unique opportunity to provide health programming to home groups, using the health message as an "entering wedge," as Ellen White suggested. Visit the Life+Health Network website for more information or visit the Roku website for more information about Roku digital video players.

The Privilege

We have the privilege of looking back and seeing the multitude of ways that God has answered prayers. It bolsters our faith, and gives us a reason to go on when all indicators look bleak.

Kyle Fiess, Vice President
Maranatha Volunteers Int'l

Success

Success in life requires a firm foundation, allowing God to be at the forefront of every choice made.

Grace Yost, Volunteer
3ABN
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Alexey Ostapenco attended the retreat from Our Home Lifestyle Center and Medical-Missionary School in Novi Obihody, Vinnitsa, Ukraine. Our Home depends on 50 plus workers to keep its ministry going. Ostapenco cites "lack of dedicated people" as its primary ministry challenge. The ministry responds to that challenge by seeking to produce such dedication in its program graduates. "We do much training to equip lay people to dedicate themselves to medical-missionary or other kind of ministries to God and people," says Ostapenco, who also says that attending the annual retreat provides the inspiration needed to "go forward and expand the ministry."

"Fellowship with other ministries from all over the world who face similar challenges and experiences" is what Jaime Espinal especially values about the retreat. He is the director of Centro Misionero de Salud in Galeana, Mexico. He and his workers face increasing unrest and violence in Mexico, requiring them to daily depend on God to sustain and protect them as they carry out their work. He enjoys the inspirational meetings, the practical seminars, fellowship with other leaders, meeting
new people, and the fact that the ministries come together and help each other through encouragement and exchange of ideas.

Janet Fournier, who runs Eden Valley Foster Care Mission in Tanzania, Africa, agrees. She values the information that ministry leaders share with each other at each retreat. She especially enjoys hearing stories of how young people are participating in the work around the world and taking on positions of responsibility. It gives her hope for the future of her own ministry.

Mission reports from various OCI-member ministries providing an exciting and inspiring glimpse into what is happening in North America, Africa, Asia, Europe, and South and Central America. While much is being accomplished, many leaders expressed a common, urgent need for volunteers and workers. With so many different types of ministries, a wide variety of skill sets are needed, but eagerness and dedication seem to be in especially short supply.

The OCI team is already looking forward to next year’s retreat, which will be held at Riverside Farm Institute, an OCI member ministry in Zambia. The upcoming 2012 ASI International Convention has many things in common with the OCI retreat, but on a much larger scale. Both events are designed to foster mutual support and positive interaction among lay workers from around the world. Those who attend such events recognize how important it is for like-minded people to gather together and encourage one another from time to time.

Visit the Outpost Centers International website.

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