Families and friends are already gathering around the world to celebrate hope in this season of giving and receiving. Tonight in North America, little groups will bask in a sense of peaceful togetherness. For many, however, the next 24 hours will be a stark reminder of isolation or distance between them and their families as they serve away from home in mission posts around the world.

Let this be a time of prayer and remembrance tonight and tomorrow for those making that sacrifice so that we may all soon gather together in heaven. As that day grows nearer, let us be thankful for those who have made it their life work to put the needs and salvation of others above their own comforts or desires. And may we listen and respond joyfully as that calling is put upon our own hearts.

Have a blessed Christmas,

The ASI Team

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ASI Connections - Our Calling, Our Gift - Dec. 24, 2012

**Our Calling, Our Gift**

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**Announcements**

ASI Connections highlights ASI member activities around the world and fosters interconnectedness among ASI members and supporters. In each issue:

- **Feature**
- **News & Notes**
- **Announcements**
- **Project Report**
- **It's Been Said**

**Convention Musicians**

The deadline for submitting an application to perform music at the 2013 ASI International Convention in Orlando, Florida, is March 15, 2013. An online application is provided. Email inquiries to: music4asi@gmail.com.

**2013 Project Funding**

All 2013 ASI Project Funding Applications must be received in the ASI office no later than December 31, 2012. If you have trouble downloading the application, try a different browser.
Republic this year. She kept telling him, "I can't thank you enough for what ICC did for me!" She plans to help others as she has been helped, and to serve in ICC's Las Palmas Children's Village after she finishes her residency. She hopes to specialize in pediatrics or cardiology. She gives glory to God for His faithfulness and love to her.

Gospel Outreach has launched an Adopt-a-Worker program to provide support for indigenous Bible workers in the 10/40 Window. That vast region stretches from North Africa, across the Middle East, India and China, and over to the Philippines. Of the estimated 2.84 billion people in the world who haven't heard the gospel, 97 percent live in the 10/40 Window. Languages, cultures, and more than 8,000 miles separate Gospel Outreach worker J. Kishor from the person who sponsors his work in a village in India. But Kishor and his sponsor are united in purpose: to win souls for the Lord and hasten His return. More than 700 people have decided to follow Jesus and be baptized as a result of Kishor's work. The Adopt-a-Worker program provides the opportunity for anyone anywhere to participate in the Great Commission.

Adventist World Aviation has carried out more than 2,000 medical evacuation flights, and its pilots have flown more than 8 million miles. In addition, more than 35 major epidemics have been stopped as a result of aviation missionaries helping in remote areas. AWA helps missionaries reach unreachable places in the world—villages in PNG, jungle villages in Guyana, high mountainous regions in the Philippines, and icy villages in Alaska where hunger, illness, and death are the norm. Many living in these regions have never heard about Christmas or Christ's death for their sins. Many have never felt the compassion of a helping hand. They live in constant fear and superstitious darkness. Hundreds have been baptized because AWA has flown missionaries and Bible workers into remote jungle villages. The missionaries no longer have to hike for days in all kinds of weather through rugged terrain to reach remote villages. Through the help of AWA, the efforts of local missionaries are greatly multiplied. View the 2012 AWA Christmas Video Card on the AWA website.

Share Happiness Books
It's not too late to share Happiness Books (The Great Controversy, The Desire of Ages, Christ's Object Lessons, Ministry of Healing, etc.) with clients, customers, employees, and neighbors this holiday season for less than the price of most greeting cards. Shipping by the case is free in the US. Visit the ABC website for details.

Convention Media
2012 ASI International Convention programs are available online for viewing or download. Please let us know if you have trouble with any of the file links.

Keep Us Informed
If you notice a union or conference publication news story featuring an ASI member or ministry, please e-mail us so we can mention it in ASI Connections! Identify the issue, story title, and ASI member name in your e-mail.

Also, please add us to your email or mailing list so we can highlight your ministry and outreach activities!

Youth For Jesus—Czech Republic & Slovakia
Following motivational meetings in September 2011, mission teams were sent out in both Slovakia and the Czech Republic to prepare for the summer evangelistic campaign and Youth For Jesus program. Speakers were trained during June 2012, and a health club was formed.
recently held a teacher's retreat at Springs of Joy Bible Seminary. This annual seminar event is a big blessing to Living Springs teachers and leaders. It boosts their skills and increases their motivation. Guest speakers included Barbara and Cornel Groessl from Austria. They shared valuable information on effective team leadership, goal setting, teamwork, result-oriented management, project management, and the latest research in teaching techniques. Biblical principles were at the center of all the classes, especially with regard to principles of true Christian education. Many of the teachers said it was the best and most spiritual retreat they had ever attended.

Libby Lee served for nearly a year at Reach International's Gakoni Orphanage in Rwanda. She had recently retired from working as a nurse, and wanted to "still be of use in the world." She was fascinated to see the people walking beside the road and the beautiful hills covered with banana trees, corn, and beans. She also enjoyed the view of Lake Muhazi. But she especially enjoyed serving at the orphanage clinic, a small room with a table, some counters, and a few drawers and cupboards. She organized the clinic during her time there and was able to get medical files started on all the children. She gave vitamins, treated cuts and scrapes, and even had to deal with broken arms, malaria, and a child who needed open heart surgery. She had to leave before the year was up because of the accidental death of her husband and was sad to say goodbye. She continues to pray for the staff and children. "Volunteers are needed at Gakoni," Libby says. "Retired persons in reasonable health would be a great asset as would young people with enthusiasm and energy." Retired persons serving as volunteers are great assets to mission posts around the world. Their sacrifices are greatly appreciated.

Church members distributed leaflets during June and July. Sixty young people participated in the summer Youth For Jesus campaign. Additionally, two public seminars were held on creation vs. evolution, two concerts were presented, and Bible exhibitions reached approximately 500 people.

**It's Been Said**

**Buck the Trend**

Uchee Pines Institute reports that the average Christmas dinner contains more than 1,400 calories —70 percent of the total daily calorie intake for an adult woman and more than half the daily calorie intake needed for an adult man. To counteract the trend, have a good breakfast, avoid snacking during the day, eat raw instead of salted nuts, take a walk instead of a nap after dinner, and fix a simple, healthy meal. "The day isn't about food; it's about what heaven gave for our redemption."

"Please consider being a volunteer for at least a year. You will be a great blessing... and you will be greatly blessed. You can never out-give God." -Libby Lee, Volunteer/Retired Nurse