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Sent: Wednesday, May 01, 2013 11:11 PM
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The official eNewsletter for Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries

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ASI



Informing and connecting ASI members and supporters around the world

Mercy in Misery



*A special message from
ASI president Frank
Fournier:*

Sandy Hook Elementary—
20 little children look past
the barrel of an assault rifle

into the eyes of a cold-blooded animal ... then die. The community is stunned. The nation gasps in uniform disbelief, and the children's parents ... I can't describe what they experience. In Boston, 180 runners and bystanders, innocent people, have their day and much in their lives blown away by a senseless act of random violence. The inhumanity of man toward man is an incomprehensible insanity.

A day or two later, a fertilizer plant explodes in West, Texas, shattering relatively normal lives irreparably. Pain, so much pain, so much unexplainable madness. We can almost see demons parading as men, stalking the world, spreading horror through violence and mayhem. Would world governments stop the bloodletting if they could? I assume

May 1, 2013

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Announcements

ASI Connections highlights ASI member activities around the world, fostering connections among ASI members and supporters. In each issue:

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

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News & Notes



Arizona business owners Daryl and Mary Jo Oft are leaving this week for Kaswanga, Kenya, to visit with orphaned children who are served by their ministry [Living](#)

[Waters International](#). The Ofts established Living Waters in April 2006, after their very first mission trip. This will be Daryl's 28th trip to Kenya since that first trip in 2006. Mary Jo generally accompanies him at least once a year, but plans to go twice this year. "We look forward to being with our kids there, assisting the dedicated team of caregivers at the center and experienc[ing] living in the local communities," the Ofts shared with ministry supporters. "We ask for your prayers as we again step into the calling that God has given us in caring for His children." [Read more....](#)



The first two students to complete their bachelors degree and pre-med requirements at [Weimar College](#) have been

accepted to the Loma Linda University School of Medicine. Weimar College will graduate its first baccalaureate class since it restarted almost four years ago. The "new" Weimar College opened with a fresh focus on pre-professional degrees, including prerequisites for medical school. "Things have been buzzing at Weimar Institute," says Dr. George Jackson, chair of the Health Sciences Department. According to Jackson, the endeavor was experimental, as the fruits of the new program would only be evident as

your browser.

2013 Convention



Date: Aug. 7–10, 2013

Location: [Rosen Shingle Creek Convention Center](#), Orlando, Fla. [Online registration](#) available. Visit the [Convention](#) page for more information or to volunteer!

Meetings & Events: [Book a space](#) for your group or organization's [special meeting or event](#) as early as possible!

Bulletin Board

The ASI website [Bulletin Board](#) includes announcements about job and volunteer openings, events, offers, training, and more. [Let us know](#) if your posted need has been filled so we can remove your announcement. If you find this service valuable, [please consider donating](#) to support the ASI special offering projects.

2013 Chapter Meetings

ASI Chapter spring conferences will continue through May. Visit the ASI website [Chapters](#) page for information!

Keep Us Informed

If you notice a union or conference publication news story featuring an ASI member or ministry, please

students approached the end of the four-year program. [Read more...](#)



Mollie Steenson, [3ABN's](#) vice president and general manager, has been diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer in the bones and lungs. "Although modern medicine currently offers no cure, we are highly encouraged

that this condition can be contained through systemic treatment," shared 3ABN leaders in an online prayer request. "Mollie is focusing on living well with cancer, rather than dying with cancer. She looks forward to returning to work and serving the Lord for many years to come." [Read more...](#)



[Better Living Ministry](#)

president Wayne Atwood spent two months earlier this year at [Vida Internacional](#), an OCI-

supported medical missionary ministry in Honduras. That visit inspired Atwood to launch a one-year media missionary internship at Better Life studio in Quebec, Canada. Interns will learn how to produce Christian television programs as well as how to work with other forms of media. Specifically, they'll learn how to operate a video camera, work with green screen and virtual sets, edit video, create graphics, create scripts and story boards, record live-to-disk, author DVD and Blu-ray, and deliver web-based content. [Read more...](#)

[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!



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Project Report

Water For Life International



[Water for Life International](#), a 2012 ASI special offering project, has finished its first phase of work in Guatemala this year. From January 4 until March 26, WFLI focused primarily on drilling wells in various villages, with accompanying evangelism efforts. The second phase will consist of additional evangelism



[ASI Southern Union](#)

held its spring conference April 11–13, 2013, at the Northwest Georgia Trade & Convention Center in

Dalton, Georgia. The event was designed to renew faith and inspire a sense of responsibility in the face of an increasing global crisis. "While we live on a planet in rebellion, God's people must look deep in our own spiritual mirror and be challenged to obedience in every aspect of our lives," said Calvin Thrash, president of the ASI Southern Union chapter. "For such a time—we are living to serve God. This was the message echoed by each speaker at this weekend's [conference]." More than 500 members and guests attended. Nearly \$60,000 was raised for designated offering projects, with more pledges expected to be filled throughout the coming year. [Read more...](#)

work done in partnership with Amazing Facts. This work will take place from May through July. WFLI drilled 11 wells this winter. "This is the most that we have been able to drill in a single season," says Tim Rasmussen, WFLI chairman and president.

[Read more...](#)

It's Been Said

Heavenly Mindset

"As we each endeavor to cooperate with Christ in the fulfillment of the Gospel Commission, it is essential that we maintain the heavenly mindset. From that perspective, difficulties are seen as opportunities and defeat is turned into victory."

*Steven Grabiner
President, OCI*

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Mercy in Misery

http://www.asiministries.org/news_entries/476

May 2, 2013

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Mercy in Misery

A special message from Frank Fournier, president of ASI

Sandy Hook Elementary—20 little children look past the barrel of an assault rifle into the eyes of a cold-blooded animal . . . then die. The community is stunned. The nation gasps in uniform disbelief, and the children’s parents . . . I can’t describe what they experience.

In Boston, 180 runners and bystanders, innocent people, have their day and much in their lives blown away by a senseless act of random violence. The inhumanity of man toward man is an incomprehensible insanity.

A day or two later, a fertilizer plant explodes in West, Texas, shattering relatively normal lives irreparably. Pain, so much pain, so much unexplainable madness.

We can almost see demons parading as men, stalking the world, spreading horror through violence and mayhem. Would world governments stop the bloodletting if they could? I assume so. So would our police departments and clergy, but they cannot. Inevitably, terror will increase in intensity until security will be found for none but those who know God.

“Men’s hearts fail them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth.” Luke 21:26. According to this Scripture passage, a few, not many, will learn to “look up [to] lift up their heads” (Luke 21:28). They shift their focus from this vast lazar house of suffering to something infinitely more secure.

“Thou wilt keep them in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because they trust in thee” (Isaiah 26:3).

True Christians, connected Christians, Christians who are totally dependent on God, do not see what other men see. They live by faith and not by sight. They focus heavenward and not earthward. They discern eternal realities where others see only the surface of things. Christians see “gain in the loss of all things.” They see, “mercy in misery.” Looking unto Jesus they discern “privileges in all hardship, order in confusion, the success and wisdom of God in that which has seemed to be failure” (*Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 7, 271:3). When they look above, behind, and all around the carnage, they see an all-seeing, all-knowing, all-powerful Creator God . . . they are at peace.

When to all appearances, the world is convulsing, and men’s hearts are failing them for fear, will you know that “nothing (not cold-blooded animals, nor demons disguised as men) shall by any means hurt you?” (Luke 10:19) It’s true, if you love and trust Him.

Listen to [Mercy in Misery—The Offense of the Cross](#), by Frank Fournier, Mar. 30, 2013, Franktown Seventh-day Adventist Church, Franktown, Colorado.



Living Waters International founder makes 28th trip to Kenya

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Arizona business owners Daryl and Mary Jo Oft are leaving this week for Kaswanga, Kenya, to spend time with orphaned children that are served by their ministry, Living Waters International, in Kaswanga, Kenya. The Ofts established Living Waters in April 2006, after their very first mission trip. This will be Daryl's 28th trip to Kenya since that first mission trip. Mary Jo generally accompanies him at least once a year, but plans to go twice this year.



"We look forward to being with our kids there, assisting the dedicated team of caregivers at the center and experienc[ing] living in the local communities," the Ofts recently shared with ministry supporters. "We ask for your prayers as we again step into the calling that God has given us in caring for His children."

In addition to getting to know the children better at the Living Waters feeding center, the Ofts will spend time updating documentation, providing services in the newly completed medical clinic, and putting finishing touches on the guest house.

Living Waters was granted 501(c)(3) nonprofit status in April 2012. Prior to that, it operated as a ministry of the Arizona Conference. Approximately 150 orphans depend on the ministry for ongoing support that includes food, clothing, blankets, and medical care that ensures both their comfort and survival.

Living Waters provides humanitarian support with no salaries paid to any of its officers. The ministry employs seven full-time locals at the Living Waters center in Kenya and invites volunteers to visit, serve, and be changed forever.

Visit the [Living Waters International](#) website.

Weimar students accepted to LLU medical school

http://www.asiministries.org/news_entries/479

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Weimar students accepted to LLU medical school

The first two students to complete their bachelors degree and pre-med requirements at Weimar College have been accepted to the Loma Linda School of Medicine. Weimar College will graduate its first baccalaureate class since closed and subsequently restarted almost four years ago. The "new" Weimar College opened with a fresh focus on pre-professional degrees, including prerequisites for medical school.



"Things have been buzzing at Weimar Institute," says Dr. George Jackson, chair of the Health Sciences Department. According to Jackson, the endeavor was experimental, as the fruits of the new program would only be evident as students approached the end of the four-year program.

Dr. Neil Nedley, president of Weimar Center of Health & Education, had the original vision to create a pre-med program that would incorporate practical lifestyle medicine, the necessary rigorous sciences, and evangelism into one program. A team of professional scientists and medical and health professionals was assembled, and students studying the hard sciences were given opportunities to put theory into practice in community outreach, overseas mission trips, the on-campus NEWSTART® Lifestyle Center, and in the Depression Recovery program led by Dr. Neil Nedley.

"Many of our students have received valuable hands-on experience, which normally is only available later in medical school clinical times," explains Jackson. "Rather than just learning about AIDS in biology and genetics classes, students experienced firsthand the stark reality of living and dying with AIDS as they took time during a mission trip to shadow doctors in a regional hospital in Zimbabwe."

A former Weimar student is currently studying physical therapy at Andrews University, while two first-year medical and dental students have also been accepted to Loma Linda.

Weimar Institute is a center of higher learning located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevadas in Northern California. Weimar Institute grants four-year bachelor degrees in Natural Sciences (pre-med), Theology, Pastoral Studies, and Christian Education, with a focus on health, evangelism, manual labor, and a commitment to excellent academics. Weimar Institute is also the home of Weimar Academy, NEWSTART® Global, and the world famous NEWSTART® Lifestyle Program.

Visit the [Weimar Center of Health & Education](#) website.

Prayers requested for 3ABN's Mollie Steenson

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Mollie Steenson, 3ABN's vice president and general manager, has been diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer in the bones and lungs.

"Although modern medicine currently offers no cure, we are highly encouraged that this condition can be contained through systemic treatment," shared 3ABN leaders in an online prayer request. "Mollie is focusing on living well with cancer, rather than dying with cancer. She looks forward to returning to work and serving the Lord for many years to come."

According to 3ABN president and CEO Jim Gilley, there has been tremendous outpouring of love and prayers for Mollie from the 3ABN worldwide audience. 3ABN leadership and staff joined Gilley in a day of prayer and fasting on her behalf.

"Although the doctors have said there is no cure, they do believe there is containment," Gilley says, "and as far as we're concerned, containment until the Lord comes is a cure! Please continue to pray for Mollie. We miss her and look forward to her return, soon!"

Reported by [3ABN News](#).



Better Living launches media missionary internship in Quebec

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Better Living launches media missionary internship in Quebec

Better Living Ministry president Wayne Atwood spent two months earlier this year at **Vida Internacional**, an OCI-supported medical missionary ministry in Honduras. That visit inspired Atwood to launch a one-year media missionary internship at Better Life studio in Quebec, Canada.

Interns will learn how to produce Christian television programs as well as how to work with other forms of media. Specifically, they'll learn how to operate a video camera, work with green screen and virtual sets, edit video, create graphics, create scripts and story boards, record live-to-disk, author DVD and Blu-ray, and deliver web-based content.

There is no tuition cost for the internship, but students will be responsible for their own room and board. Because most of Better Living programs are produced in French, priority will be given to French-speaking students. Those who do not speak French will take French classes during the internship.

"We are looking for spiritually minded young people between the ages of 18-25—young people who are passionate about serving God and who have a keen interest in media ministry," says Atwood. "Prior experience in media or technology is also a plus."

Visit the [Better Living Ministry](#) website.



ASI Southern Union conference inspires faith, urges responsibility

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ASI Southern Union conference inspires faith, urges responsibility

ASI Southern Union held its spring conference April 11–13, 2013, at the Northwest Georgia Trade & Convention Center in Dalton, Georgia. The event was designed to renew faith and inspire a sense of responsibility in the face of an increasing global crisis.

"While we live on a planet in rebellion, God's people must look deep in our own spiritual mirror and be challenged to obedience in every aspect of our lives," said Calvin Thrash, president of the ASI Southern Union chapter. "For such a time—we are living to serve God. This was the message echoed by each speaker at this weekend's [conference]."

More than 500 members and guests attended the conference. Nearly \$60,000 was raised for designated offering projects, with more pledges expected to be filled throughout the coming year. Seminars by eight different presenters covered a range of topics including health, prophecy, and evangelism.

Speakers Randy Skeete, Alistair Huong, ASI president Frank Fournier, and others challenged those in attendance to consider what their lives offer to the cause of the kingdom, and how they might submit more fully each day to obeying God's will. Similar challenges came in the form of member testimonies.

"The theme chosen for the Southern Union [event] is in harmony with our national theme. In order to be about our Father's business, we must submit to His will and timing," Fournier reflected. "The weekend blessings included a balance of deep, spiritual truths and meaningful, lasting fellowship."

ASI Southern Union continues its commitment to online ministry with plans to hold an online fall conference November 8 and 9, 2013, which will allow participation by an international audience. The 36-hour broadcast will stream live in partnership with Network 7 Media Center and Three Angels Tube, both ASI Southern Union members.

Visit the [ASI Southern Union](#) website.



PROJECT REPORT: Water For Life International

http://www.asiministries.org/news_entries/481

May 2, 2013

PROJECT REPORT: Water For Life International

Water for Life International, a 2012 ASI special offering project, has finished its first phase of work in Guatemala this year. From January 4, when the first volunteer arrived, until March 26, when the last volunteer left, WFL focused primarily on drilling wells in various villages, with accompanying evangelism efforts. The second phase will consist of additional evangelism work done in partnership with **Amazing Facts**. This work will take place from May through July.

WFL drilled 11 wells this winter beginning with Ixbobo, followed by Santa Isabel, Cain, Moldeja, El Arroyon, La Caridade, San Benito central, La Laguna, Lilly's well, San Juan, and finally Santa Maria.

"This is the most that we have been able to drill in a single season," says Tim Rasmussen, WFL chairman and president. "Ten of the wells were productive. We realize [that] four major components allowed us to drill [so many] wells: the Lord's blessings, some wells being very shallow and thus quickly drilled, all our engines [being] diesel except for the welders, and our experienced volunteers who are so willing and capable."

The unproductive well in La Laguna was well over 400 feet deep, but was "as dry as the Sahara all the way down."

"Next year, that village will be a priority, and we will drill at another site there," Rasmussen says. "We learn again that the prospects from the surface are not a reliable indication of what is underground. Just like judging people by outward appearances, only God knows what is under the surface."

Three of the wells were in the San Benito/Santa Elena area, where extensive evangelistic work will be done as a result of WFL's developing partnership with the Amazing Facts College of Evangelism. Amazing Facts provides funds to support church building projects and to employ Bible workers in support of evangelistic teams that will be sent early this summer. WFL provides support for the building projects, vehicles, and coordination efforts, in addition to drilling a well for use by communities near the churches. Government officials are more supportive of WFL's efforts in some areas than others. Water for Life now serves



about 35 villages in rural northeast Guatemala.

"Although it is impossible to be sure, we believe that about 20,000 people are drinking clean water in their villages as a direct result of the Lord's leading and enabling in this work," says Rasmussen. "Villagers are wonderfully grateful for what has been done for them, and their hearts are opening to the Gospel."

WFL's church building efforts are continuing as well. This past year, WFL board members individually donated money to buy land and to build a church in the village of Barriall, a small village near the Belize border that was the site of a well drilled by WFL two years ago. A Bible worker was hired to work in this area and was able to develop sufficient interest to warrant the purchase of land and construction of a little church. Meetings continue there, and a number of people are ready for baptism as a result of the well and church.



WFL also provides vehicles, equipment, and support for the mission outreach church building efforts of the Upper Columbia Conference. The conference has built at least seven churches in the area over as many years. Conference groups travel to Guatemala and complete most of the construction as mission outreach projects. This year, about 60 people participated in the conference sponsored trip. The WFL evangelistic teams worked in four villages for one week and another set of four villages another week, with baptisms resulting.

WFL's support of the local government hospital continues to win WFL favor with the Peten area Ministry of Health. WFL's yearly donated supplies make a huge difference in improving local public health. Deaconess Hospital in Spokane, Washington, donated used linens, medical supplies, and medical equipment, including a birthing bed, examination tables, and stretchers.

WFL volunteers Lin Avendano and Wendy Pomponi provided medical services for one month in villages near the WFL base in northeast Guatemala, helping hundreds who would otherwise be unable to afford or obtain medical care. Lin set up a clinic wherever he could—under a porch roof, under a tree, or in a school or church room. Minutes later, people would line up and wait patiently for basic care, medical advice, and antibiotics.

Altogether, Water for Life has been supported by the efforts of approximately 35 volunteers this year. They've come from all across the United States and from all walks of life. They represent many faiths or none at all, but all have shared a heart for helping people. This

year's volunteers included Pat and Marilee Clark, Gary and Angie Bartholomew, Bob Perry, Ben James, Mike Davis, Jonathon Nolt, Joshua Martin, Laurinda Toewes, Lin Avendano, Greg and Wendy Pomponi, Bucky Mowrey, Speedy Gonzales, Scott Mowrey, Dave Morrill, Bob Wesner, Alex Nischuk, Kim and Daniel Love, Donna Robins, Rhonda Beyreis, Dave Rutledge, George and Ron Robinson, Jon and Erica Hansen, Rod Bartholomew, Dominic Parmentier, Bob Cole, and Erik, Brenda, Marcilino and Celestina Nieves.

Visit the [Water for Life International](#) website.