Looking ahead: Andi Hunsaker, MD

In the coming months, ASI leaders will meet to prayerfully consider ASI’s mission and focus. They’ll also select the theme for the next two conventions. Four new leaders joined (or rejoined) the team this year as a result of last month’s elections in Orlando. We’ll meet the new or returning leaders in the next few issues of ASI Connections.

Andi Hunsaker, a physician from Sudbury, Massachusetts, practices full-time at a major teaching hospital in Boston. She has served most recently as president of ASI Atlantic Union, working to galvanize connection and fellowship among ASI members and supporters in that region. She also participated in the panel discussion on end-time events that took place during the 2013 ASI International Convention in Orlando. She is the new general vice president for ASI.

"Sometimes there’s a disconnect between 'doing and doing' and having a real experience with the Lord and the gospel," Hunsaker says. "So my thought and vision [for ASI] is to really move in the direction of having a deep spiritual connection with the Lord, particularly focusing on Christ our righteousness. People say 'preach the gospel' but sometimes we don't really know what that is. There's nothing behind it that looks like Christ. [We need] sincerity of heart and a burden for souls—not just going and doing, but really having, and not missing what was in the heart of Jesus. It's not just another meeting; it's a thing of beauty—not hype, but a spiritual feast. That's what we all want.”
New Beginnings training materials with Mark Finley, inspirational sermons by leading evangelists, and links to other helpful ministry apps.

Download the official ASI Ministries app for access to convention media, online donation links, and other ASI website info.

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It's Been Said

The Same God

"I have to confess that I am now experiencing what I have heard about from others, that no one can really understand what it means to lose that other half of yourself, the reality and finality of death, but I also know that I am not really alone. The same God who provided for us, who protected us from many real dangers, and who charted the path that we took is still with me."

-Alcyon Fleck, co-founder of International Children's Care (on the April 24, 2008, death of her husband and ministry partner Ken Fleck)

I Am the One

"I'm writing it as a reminder to myself (and yes, to you) that my most joyful and memorable experiences in life have come from giving to others. Giving my time, emotions, advice, resources, experience, trust, or sharing my God. Whenever I've given any of these, I am the one who has been

News & Notes

It turns out that an inaccurate statement was inadvertently made at the 2013 ASI International Convention in Orlando—specifically, that there has only been an Adventist presence in Mongolia for about 20 years. In reality, efforts by Adventists to enter and evangelize Outer Mongolia started almost 100 years ago when missionaries by the last name of Christensen, who were working in Inner Mongolia, tried to reach Ulaan Bataaar, the capital of Outer Mongolia. They never made it because of attacks by warlords, but a group of Russians who worked with them may have succeeded in reaching the capital, although their fate after leaving the Christensens is unknown. You can read all about the struggles to take the gospel to the Mongolian people in the book Mission Mongolia: The Untold Story (R&H, 1974). Read more...

Patience Ndebele and Angela Parvu—two attendees at the WIN! Wellness training program presented in May by Drs. John and Millie Youngberg in Dublin, Ireland—have started health clubs to reach out to neighbors and fellow church members. Win! Wellness incorporates family, relationship, physical, emotional, and spiritual health principles. The Youngbergs' visit—their first to

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blessed, gladdened, elated, and deeply satisfied."

-Rick Claridge, Board Chair for Project PATCH

Good We're Together

"It's personally satisfying to see God work in people's lives. And, of course, the Lord is working in my own life as well. We each have an idea about what we think we're supposed to do or want to learn, but as we grow closer to Him, He opens opportunities to serve in ways we can't imagine. I think He's getting us all ready for heaven. It is an individual work in a lot of ways, but He's doing it as a church and as a group. It's good that we're together so that we can learn from each other."

-Calvin Thrash, president of Uchee Pines Institute

La Vida Missions, Inc., which operates a boarding school and clinic for the Navajo 50 miles south of Farmington, New Mexico, is expanding its outreach 30 minutes farther south to the town of Crownpoint. Mary Newlon of the Aztec Seventh-day Adventist Church donated a used house trailer that will be used in Crownpoint as a Bible study and fellowship center, as well as a Bible worker headquarters. The trailer came with furniture and funds needing for moving and repair. The trailer will be "a lighthouse, a beacon of hope and love," says Dorie Panganiban, La Vida's outreach coordinator.

Funds from ASI and ASAP Ministries donors have been supporting Pearl Health Center programs in Burma's Yangon district. Health training was conducted for 39 lay workers who are working in various regions of Burma to encourage better health habits among the population, leading to long-term physical, mental, and spiritual health. "We will never forget this experience and all we learned about the Lord through the humble service of the young, dedicated medical missionaries," said one attendee. Read more...
It turns out that statements made during the recent ASI convention to the effect that there has only been an Adventist presence in Mongolia for about 20 years are inaccurate. There's a wonderful backstory to Adventist mission work in Mongolia, shared in part by Scott Christiansen, director of Trust Services and Stewardship for the Northern New England Conference and ADRA Founding Director in Mongolia (1994-99) and China (1998-01):

Efforts by Adventists to enter and evangelize Outer Mongolia (as it was once known, and as opposed to Inner Mongolia, a province of China) started almost 100 years ago when missionaries by the last name of Christensen, who were working in Inner Mongolia, tried to reach Ulaan Bataar, the capital of Outer Mongolia. They never made it because of attacks by warlords (yes, warlords), but a group of Russians working with them may have succeeded in reaching the capital (their fate after leaving the Christensens is unknown). You can read all about the struggles to take the gospel to the Mongolian people in the book *Mission Mongolia: The Untold Story*, by Otto H. Christensen (Review & Herald Publishing Assoc., 1974).

What is known for certain is that the first Adventists to live and work in Mongolia were Brad and Cathy Jolly, who started the work there in 1991. Brad and Cathy were able to enter the country very soon after the collapse of communism. They had to work in extreme conditions of bread lines, near-collapse of government and infrastructure, and widespread resentment toward Russians or anyone looking like a Russian. With their blond hair, Brad and Cathy were often mistaken for Russians. Being viewed as Russians, neither Brad nor Cathy were allowed into bread lines, and their health and weight declined precipitously, as any other kind of food was very hard to get and dearly expensive when it could be found.

Brad and Cathy worked tirelessly, despite minimal resources and winter temperatures that were -40 outside and below freezing inside their apartment. After two years, the first fruit of their work, a young woman named Davahoo, was baptized. The president of the Adventist Church at the time, Robert Folkenberg, was invited by the Jollys to baptize Davahoo. While in Mongolia, Elder Folkenberg met with the president and prime minister of Mongolia and suggested that the church assist the country by starting an ADRA office.

The ADRA office—the first “official” presence by the Adventist Church in Mongolia—was founded in August of 1994 when Scott and Dee Christiansen arrived to start a very modest outfit. ADRA started work by distributing garden seeds to every family in that hungry country, and by rebuilding rural health clinics and schools. God blessed ADRA's efforts in Mongolia, just as he has blessed the growth of His church there. Today, ADRA is the largest NGO (development) organization in the country, and is well recognized and appreciated.

Brad Jolly became seriously ill in 1997, and the Jollys were forced to leave the country. Brad soon after died of stomach cancer. Today, Cathy Jolly (now Hartman) leads a self-supporting work among rural Mongolians. Scott and Dee Christiansen worked in Mongolia for five years, building up the work and expanding ADRA's activities. Scott was called to start the ADRA work in China in 1998, and for one year he managed operations in both countries before moving to China in 1999. Scott and Dee now live in Maine, where Scott works for the Northern New England Conference.
In August, ASAP Ministries reported that funds from ASI and other donors supported Pearl Health Center programs in Burma's Yangon district. Health training was conducted for 39 lay workers who are working in various regions of Burma. Team goals include encouraging better health habits among the population, leading to long-term physical, mental, and spiritual health.

One Adventist couple attended because the wife was suffering from diabetes, and the husband was suffering from hypertension, heart problems, and gout. His ankles and toes were so swollen that he could hardly walk. Their health greatly improved during the program due to the natural healing methods they learned and put into practice.

"We will never forget this experience and all we learned about the Lord through the humble service of the young, dedicated medical missionaries," the wife said.

This couple experienced not only physical healing, but also spiritual and emotional healing as well. They had previously stopped attending church and had developed negative attitudes toward church leadership. Their participation in the Pearl Health Center program dissipated their bitterness and anger. They now attend church regularly.

Burma has about 56.6 million people, with 135 national groups speaking more than 100 languages and dialects. Approximately 89.4 percent of the population is Buddhist. Just 3 percent are Christian, with only .03 percent knowing of the three angels messages and other end-time truths. ASAP Ministries prayerfully uses health ministry as a way to reach people in Burma with biblical and spiritual truths.

Visit the ASAP Ministries website.