Health finds a home in Kentucky

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In 2009, they recognized that God was leading them to break ties with the other ministry. They didn't want to forge ahead on their own, so they began praying for another family to join them who loved people and the health message as much as they did. Read More ➤

SCROLL DOWN to read this issue’s announcements and inspiring news stories. ➤

Convention registration

Watch your mailboxes for the 2011 ASI Convention registration mailer, scheduled to hit the mail next week. The registration form will be made available for download from the Convention Registration page on the ASI website. Visit the website regularly for up-to-date registration information.

Chapter meetings

The first ASI chapter meetings begin this month and will continue through May. Visit the
ASI membership & information

For Membership Information or to download a Membership Application, visit the ASI website. Visit the Multimedia page on the ASI website to listen to or download general sessions and seminars from the 2010 ASI Convention in various formats. Also available for download are two new episodes of ASI Video Magazine, filmed on location in Southern Africa. Visit the Member Events & Announcements page on the ASI website to learn about events, needs, products and services of interest to ASI members. Submit your own ministry announcements to asi@nad.adventist.org.

Contact the ASI office at 301-680-6450 to order copies of ASI's brochure and promotional DVD for sharing with friends and potential members. Each promotional DVD includes The ASI Convention Experience video and several episodes of ASI Video Magazine.

Share the ASI Update with friends and family and encourage them to subscribe to this bimonthly e-newsletter full of ASI news, announcements and inspirational stories. E-mail your own ministry news and stories to asi@nad.adventist.org.

News & Notes

Houston For Christ breaks new ground
Houston For Christ is involving nearly every Adventist church in the Houston area in a historic evangelistic effort that is setting new standards for cooperative effort. Read more

LIGHT teams up with other ASI ministries
Lay Institute For Global Health Training has teamed up with other ASI ministries to carry out health evangelism training projects in various parts of the world. Read more

Better Life programs now streaming online
Better Life Television Network announced in January that its programs are now streaming online via its website. Read more

Ministries join the world of blogging
Lay ministries increasingly find blogging to be a cost effective way to communicate with ministry friends and supporters. Read more
Health finds a home in Kentucky

Posted on Feb 18, 2011

In 1998, Volker Schmidt and his wife, Christa, felt impressed to build a lifestyle center on their farm in Stanton, Kentucky, one hour east of Lexington and close to Natural Bridge State Park. They wanted to share God's health plan with those who needed to hear it most.

The Schmidts launched their lifestyle center in 2001, and for a number of years joined forces with another Christian ministry that was nondenominational. Eventually, however, they experienced frustration at not being allowed to share present day Biblical truths from an Adventist perspective with the lifestyle center’s visitors.

In 2009, they recognized that God was leading them to break ties with the other ministry. They didn't want to forge ahead on their own, so they began praying for another family to join efforts with them who loved people and the health message as much as they did.

Their prayers were answered when Steve and Suzanne Day joined them as directors of Home For Health Ministry & Lifestyle Center. From the start, the Days shared with the Schmidts their conviction that a worldly focus on fiscal gain shouldn't dictate the center's business plan. So the two couples developed the program in accordance with Matthew 10:8: "freely have ye received, freely give."

Their first challenge was how to get the word out about the ministry. The Days began writing letters to different media outlets and calling radio stations, not to advertise, but to inform various producers that their audiences might be interested in what the ministry had to offer. The response was overwhelmingly positive. First, a magazine covering Eastern Kentucky wrote a story on Home For Health. The editor of a local paper with a circulation of about 20,000 also expressed interest in covering the story, but that opportunity fell through because the Days weren't available to interview on Sabbath.

One day Steve received a phone call from a traveling journalist who said the editor of the local paper assigned him the story, and he wanted to do a brief interview. The journalist was so impressed with what he learned about Home For Health that he stayed for more than two hours. As he left, he said, "You know the local paper contacted me to do a story for them, but I think what you are doing is so fabulous I'd like to send it to every paper that I write for."

And he did! In the weeks that followed, the story ended up in over 34 newspapers across the state, with circulations totaling more than a million—and it hadn't cost the ministry a cent.

All the unexpected publicity presented new challenges for the Days. They began receiving invitations to speak and give demonstrations at various churches. On one occasion, they shared with a Baptist congregation what they were doing at the lifestyle center. In response, the congregation told Steve their pulpit would always be open to him, and later they even offered him the position of church pastor. Of course, he had to decline the friendly offer.

Since then the ministry has been featured on television and radio programs and has appeared in more newspapers and magazines. Recently, another traveling journalist called Steve and requested an interview, which resulted in a nice article about Home For Health in Kentucky Living magazine, followed by more positive reader responses.

During the past year, Home for Health has worked with more than 200 individuals from outlying communities. Visitors to the center receive consultations and health testing free of charge. The center's health sessions are full, with guests coming from all over the United States and as far away as the Netherlands.

One visitor was on ten medications for conditions such as asthma and high blood pressure when she arrived. Within three weeks she was medication-free.

The Schmidts and Days know that Christ is the Chief Physician. "He is the one who does all the healing, but we do feel incredibly blessed to be part of this work," says Steve.

Because they work with many non-Adventist individuals from the local community, the Days have built friendly ties with their neighbors, and Home For Health has been awarded a match grant to further develop the farm and agricultural projects. They hope this will allow them to eventually gain enough income from the farm to support more workers and increase the ministry's sphere of influence.

"There is a lot happening in Eastern Kentucky, and we hope our experience will inspire more zeal and effort in other people's ministries," says Volker. "We ask for your prayers and appreciate your support as we move forward with the health and agriculture work at Home for Health."

Visit the Home For Health website.
Houston For Christ breaks new ground

Posted on Feb 17, 2011

With more than 130 meetings being held, the Houston for Christ evangelistic event is in full swing. Nearly every church in the Houston and surrounding Gulf coast vicinity has participated in this historic evangelistic effort.

Prior to the event, more than 800 lay people participated in ASI's New Beginnings DVD evangelism training program, led by Southwestern Union leaders Eddie Canales, vice president for Hispanic Ministries, and Duane and Kathy McKey, vice president for evangelism and shepherdess coordinator, respectively. Unlike a NET series, where a televised evangelistic crusade is downlinked to hundreds of meeting sites, each Houston area location has been hosting its own series of live meetings using ShareHim presentation materials.

"This is the largest coordinated evangelistic campaign ever attempted in the United States," says McKey. "This has been an amazing cooperative effort between ASI, the Southwestern Union, the Texas Conference, and the Southwest Region Conference, with the help of ShareHim and the support of the North American Division and local church members."

ASI secretary treasurer Ramon Chow preached at the Freeport Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Company in the Gulf area.

"I was amazed at how many people showed up for such a small church," Chow said. "In spite of freezing rain and even the Super Bowl, our attendance started at 30 and continued to grow."

North American Division president Dan Jackson and executive secretary Alex Bryant both preached at local Houston churches. Other participating Adventist leaders included Elder Armando Miranda, GC vice president; Ernie Castillo, NAD vice president; Leighton Holley, Texas Conference president; and Bill Wright, Southwest Region Conference president. These leaders joined evangelists from across the United States and as far away as Nigeria, St. Lucia, Mexico, and Puerto Rico, as well as a host of local pastors and lay members in sharing the Good News with Houston.

Despite severe weather systems, vandalism, electrical problems and other technical issues, the meetings went on and are still in progress.

Large, citywide campaigns are often held in rented stadiums, with well-known evangelists engaged to attract people from far and wide to attend one main event. Such a campaign can cost more than $500,000. In contrast, the promotional cost for the Houston campaign's 130 locations was less than $100,000, indicating this is a cost effective way to reach a large audience.

"When each church takes ownership of its own meeting, there is an energy and excitement that doesn't happen with a large, stadium-sized event," says Max Treviño, president of the Southwestern Union. "We have witnessed churches that haven't been involved in evangelism for more than 20 years get energized and excited about the new visitors in their church, and decisions are being made for baptism."

Although several weeks are left at many of the "Houston for Christ" locations, many attendees have already asked to be baptized, and the momentum remains strong.

Visit the Houston For Christ website.
Better Life programs now streaming online

Posted on Feb 18, 2011

Better Life Broadcasting Network announced in January that its programs are now streaming online via the network’s website and Justin.tv.

iPhone and iPod Touch apps are also available for download, allowing Better Life programs to easily be viewed on the run. Better Life programming essentially can now be viewed anywhere there is Internet access.

Better Life is a viewer-supported, nonprofit television station and 3ABN affiliate. It also produces its own local programming that, until now, has primarily reached Oregon, parts of Northern California, and Washington. Better Life has been an ASI project fund recipient in the past.

Visit the Better Life Broadcasting Network website.

Visit the Better Life Broadcasting Network website.
LIGHT teams up with other ASI ministries

http://www.asiministries.org/news_entries/321
Ministries join the world of blogging

Posted on Feb 18, 2011

Technology is a recurring theme in recent ASI member news stories. Many ministries are delving into the world of Internet streaming and iPhone apps to maintain ties with an audience that is increasingly tech savvy.

Blogging and maintaining Facebook pages are other popular methods ministries are using to connect with people worldwide. Peru Projects, a ministry committed to promoting "spiritual and physical well-being among the Peruvian populations through air support, evangelism, education, health outreach and other charitable, educational and religious activities" is one of the latest to create a blog that allows ministry supporters to keep up-to-date on the ministry's latest needs and activities.

Blogging allows ministries to share up-to-the-minute stories and pictures, as well as to explain ministry goals and projects. Most blog sites are free, making them attractive to ministries with limited communication budgets.

Popular blog sites include Google's Blogger.com and WordPress.com. Most are easy to use, even for those who do not consider themselves technically inclined. A blog can easily be linked to a ministry's website or Facebook page.

Visit the Peru Projects blog.