Good news from the Amazon

With so many large-scale catastrophes dominating the news in recent months, it has been hard for good news to trickle through the fray. One good report comes from Amazon Lifesavers Ministry. After a full year of medical mission work on the Copea River, the very first baptism of a new Seventh-day Adventist Christian occurred in that river in March. It was a landmark event for the volunteer-based ministry, which seeks to reach people of the Amazon with the gospel by first meeting their physical needs through free medical and dental care.

The new district pastor eagerly traveled several hours by boat to join the Amazon Lifesavers team of excited volunteers. Eighteen more people gave their lives to Christ that day in the community of Camarão, which is primarily Catholic.

"When our mission boat pulled alongside the banks of Camarão nearly one year ago," reported Amazon Lifesavers program coordinator Brad Mills, "several teenagers ran off to put their clothes on. Due to the poverty in this village, the people tend to keep their one change of clothing stored for an event or the arrival of someone to the village."

The mission team broke the ice with the villagers by providing much needed medical and dental care, and decided to return to the community on a monthly basis to continue building bridges for the message of the gospel.

Read More ➤

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

Registration links and information are being updated daily on the ASI website Convention Registration page. We look forward to seeing you in August at the Sacramento Convention Center, where ASI members will gather from around the world for this inspiring annual event.

Upcoming events

The ASI chapter spring meeting season is nearly over. This month, ASI Atlantic Union and ASI Quebec will hold their meetings. Plan to attend or keep those groups in prayer as they convene for spiritual nourishment and inspiration. Visit the ASI website for more information about upcoming ASI events.

ASI membership & information

Visit the ASI website for:

- For Membership Information or to download a Membership Application
- To watch Convention Media and other Media programming
- To visit the Bulletin Board for member needs, events and announcements
- To read recent issues of the ASI Update e-newsletter and Inside ASI magazine
- For ASI News & Events or to read about Projects
- To register for the 2011 ASI International Convention in Sacramento, California

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

News & Notes

Quiet Hour supports 53rd mission service airplane
Quiet Hour Ministries held a special dedication service to launch a new Kodiak aircraft for mission service in Papua, New Guinea. Read more

ASI Northwest holds spring meeting, elects new officers
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The mission team broke the ice with the villagers by providing much needed medical and dental care, and then decided to return to the community on a monthly basis to continue building bridges for the message of the gospel.

"The small village of Camarão was a typical Catholic community, [with] many people claiming to follow a religion and not even opening a Bible," shared Mills.

A full-time local Bible worker was placed in the community to begin Bible studies, and people were excited to hear the Bible's beautiful teachings for the first time. Plans are underway to build a small church in the village for the new believers.

Meanwhile, Amazon Lifesavers also hosted a group of 18 young people from Madison Academy in Nashville, Tennessee. Arriving late in March, the group traveled nearly 20 hours through the jungle on the ministry's boat, the Salva-Vidas (Lifesaver) 3, to the village of Coatá. That village had a small church already in place that was infested with tarantulas and bats, and its rotted wooden walls were falling apart. The young people survived their first church service among the monstrous spiders, and then began laying the foundation for a new church designed for humans rather than arachnids.

Amazon Lifesavers has also hosted groups from Southern Adventist University's School of Nursing, ADRA, and Loma Linda University. Altogether, it has been a miraculous year for the ministry. Mills himself faced nearly insurmountable challenges when he was struck by an illness that nearly took his life. His recovery itself was a recognizable miracle.

"I am experiencing a complete recovery from my illness," he reports. "Praise God for health and energy to continue His work. Thank you all very much who prayed for my health."

Visit the Amazon Lifesavers Ministry website.

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Quiet Hour Ministries supports 53rd mission service airplane

Posted on May 06, 2011

The very first Kodiak airplane destined for Adventist mission service was dedicated on April 19, 2011. In the next several weeks, this aircraft will be flown to Papua, the Indonesian half of the island of New Guinea, where it will be operated by Adventist Aviation Indonesia (AAI). This is a milestone for Adventist mission aviation and for Quiet Hour Ministries, an Adventist supporting ministry based in Redlands, California. The Kodiak is the 53rd mission airplane that Quiet Hour has helped to send into mission aviation service in the ministry’s 74-year history.

Quest Aircraft Company, makers of the Kodiak, hosted the dedication at their headquarters in Sandpoint, Idaho. More than 100 people attended, including area church members, honored guests, and Quest employees.

Speakers included Michael Porter, Quiet Hour Ministries CEO, Bob Folkenberg, Jr., Upper Columbia Conference president, and Hartley Sakul, a pilot for AAI. Other attendees included Ralph Lombonaung, a mechanic for AAI. Both Sakul and Lombonaung hail from Indonesia. Not in attendance was Bob Roberts, who heads up the AAI program. He will ferry the Kodiak to Papua.

During the service, Sakul described the tremendous capability of the Kodiak airplane. Across Papua are hundreds of mountain villages accessible only by aircraft operating in and out of landing strips, some of which are extremely short and located at high altitudes. Flying an airplane specifically designed for such demanding conditions will open many new doors for AAI’s outreach.

Folkenberg told the audience how excited the Upper Columbia Conference is to be neighbors with Quest Aircraft and to have such a close connection to worldwide mission aviation.

“This Kodiak is the first of what we trust will be several Adventist Kodiaks,” said Porter. “Today we’re here to rejoice in this marvelous tool designed and built to help reach some of the 800 million people who can only be reached with the gospel by airplane.”

At the conclusion of the program, attendees encircled the plane for a prayer of dedication. “It is our prayer today that God will use this airplane to carry His marvelous saving grace to lost people,” Porter prayed as everyone laid their hands upon the Kodiak.

The Kodiak will join AAI’s fleet, based in Sentani, Papua. AAI was founded in 1972 with a single Cessna 180. Today AAI transports missionaries, medical patients and vital mission supplies to remote villages across Papua.

Quiet Hour Ministries was founded in 1937 and has reached more than 135 countries. QHM has been active in mission aviation since 1965, when the organization sent its first aircraft to Papua New Guinea. The ministry also sends thousands of lay volunteers on evangelistic mission trips around the world each year. Quiet Hour supports other mission projects, as well, including Bible worker training and humanitarian assistance.

Visit the Quiet Hour Ministries website.
Reported by Michael Porter, Quiet Hour Ministries CEO.

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ASI Northwest holds spring meeting, elects new leaders

Posted on May 06, 2011

ASI Northwest held its spring meeting April 28 through May 1 on the beautiful shores of Coeur d’Alene Lake. Members were blessed by presentations from keynote speakers Duane McKey and Steve Wohlberg. New chapter officers were also elected, including Rod Bartholomew, Barbara Black, Irvin Rogers, Carolyn McHan, Ron Oliver, Janet Evert, and Nathaneal Martin (picted at left). McHan will serve as chapter president.

Both McHan and her husband, Jim, are past presidents of the North Pacific Union chapter. They also serve on the Walla Walla College Board of Trustees. McHan and the other newly elected officers share an earnest desire to inspire members to reach out to their neighbors and associates with the love of Christ.

“It can be all too easy, with our hectic schedules, to let days slip by without this happening,” says McHan. “The mission of ASI is ‘Sharing Christ in the Marketplace.’ To accomplish this mission, ASI conventions are planned to revive and reinforce this desire to reach out to others. It is the goal of ASI Northwest to inspire and equip our members—through conventions, area meetings, Facebook, and written communications—to keep the mission of ASI alive in our region.”

The relevance of ASI’s mission was well demonstrated throughout the weekend. Local ASI members shared Members in Action stories about their personal outreach efforts in a variety of settings, from health clubs to mission aircraft construction and repair businesses. Each exhibited enthusiasm about the urgency of Christ’s soon coming.

Elder McKey shared how young people’s lives have been changed by sharing the gospel with others on winter mission trips. He challenged all those present to devote their lives more fully to Jesus Christ.

McHan believes such devotion is essential to success in ministry. "As we commit ourselves to service for others," she says, "we will be better equipped to serve our local churches and spread the good news of Christ's soon return. We are living in unprecedented times when people are seeking answers in a fast-changing, calamity-filled world. Never has the mission of ASI been more pertinent."

Other speakers included Mark Black and Henry Martin, with music provided by Nicole & Joel Haywood, Harold Dixon, Hannah and Christian Evert, and Robby Folkenberg. Upper Columbia Academy provided an inspiring sacred concert on Sabbath afternoon.

The weekend closed with a prayer breakfast on Sunday morning. During that final meeting, Mark Black challenged members to heed inspired counsel and remain true to the plans the Lord has for the Adventist Church—to truly follow His divine will in all they that say and do.

ASI Northwest plans to reach out to church members throughout the North Pacific Union, inviting them to participate in regional conventions and other ASI events. The next ASI Northwest convention will be held April 26–29, 2012, in Boise, Idaho. Audio recordings of the majority of this year's meetings are available. Contact the North Pacific Union Conference office at 360-857-7000 for more information.

Visit the ASI Northwest website.
Reported by Nathaneal Martin, communication director for ASI Northwest.

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The Hope of Survivors expands global reach

Posted on May 06, 2011

The Hope of Survivors, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Illinois that is dedicated to assisting victims of clergy sexual abuse around the world, is expanding its global reach by developing websites in other languages. Willing and eager volunteer translators have helped to make much-needed information available in Romanian, Russian, Turkish, German, French, Italian, and Polish. A Mandarin Chinese site is also in the works.

"We praise God for what He's doing and for the generosity of these many volunteers who are using the skills God has given them to reach others," says THOS co-founder Samantha Nelson. "Some of these volunteers are not even Christian, but they believe something has to be done to help victims and to educate church leadership about this ever-increasing plague in our churches."

Clergy sexual abuse has become a pandemic problem, says Nelson. "Given that time is short, and people, including spiritual leaders, are becoming more debase, it it any wonder that God would provide an avenue for people to find truth, hope, and healing?" she observes.

THOS assists victims of clergy abuse in all denominations, teaching pastors and church administrators how to detect and prevent such abuse. The organization has satellite offices in Australia, Romania, and Canada. A Texas-based Latino division called La Esperanza de los Sobrevivientes serves the global Spanish-speaking population.

Visit The Hope of Survivors website.

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Canvasback receives $30,000 textbook donation

Posted on May 06, 2011

On the islands of Chuuk, there isn't enough money to buy books for school children or to make copies of lessons. So Canvasback Missions, Inc. welcomed the four pallets of books worth more than $30,000 that were donated recently by Franklin Middle School in Vallejo, California.

Volunteer contractor Sam Robinson offered to ship the books for free by sea freight in his container from Oregon to Chuuk. The pallets included cases of math, reading, and science textbooks, as well as workbooks and teacher's editions. Most of the books were brand new, but were originally slated to be destroyed. They will be put to good use by the Chuuk school children.

Canvasback is a nonprofit organization founded in 1981 by Jamie and Jacque Spence to serve remote Pacific islands by providing much needed health care and health education. It grew out of the Spence's experience sailing the Pacific for seven years during the 1970s in search of adventure. Instead, they discovered a great deal of misery and suffering on the tiny, isolated islands where people knew the pain of disease but lacked knowledge of prevention or hope of treatment.

The Spences returned to the United States and built a 71-foot aluminum-hulled catamaran called Canvasback. It was one of the world's largest sailing catamarans and was constructed by volunteers with funds donated by businesses. "The Canvasback was uniquely designed to deliver free medical, dental, and eye care to remote islands accessible only by sea," according to the Canvasback Missions website. The organization has expanded extensively over the years and continues to serve the needs of people living on the Pacific islands.

Visit the Canvasback Missions, Inc. website.

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