Taking ASI to local churches

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Ellen Butler, ASI Northwest's then vice president for recruitment, coordinated the rallies held at the Linnwood Seventh-day Adventist Church in Spokane, Washington, and the Yakima Seventh-day Adventist Church, also in Washington. Weeks of intense planning resulted in events that combined both the inspiration of a mini-ASI convention with the personal touch of a local church ministry event.

"It was such a blessing," says Butler, "to partner with the local pastors and conference personnel, who graciously were involved and publicly expressed their support for ASI, but allowed laymen to be in the forefront, sharing their enthusiasm for mission and ministry."

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

Convention announcements

Registration links and information are updated weekly on the ASI website Convention Registration page. Please note the following:

Members in Action: Submit attention-grabbing stories from the North American Division with
esther@3angelsdeafministries.org or Ramon Chow at ramon.chow@nad.adventist.org.

**Business Session:** The biannual ASI Business Session will be held immediately prior to the convention, along with meetings of the ASI Board and ASI Missions Inc. See the official *Meeting Notice* on the ASI website.

**Exhibitor Information:** The *Exhibitor Materials* link is now live on the ASI website *Convention Registration* page. A *List of Exhibitors* is also posted and will be updated regularly.

**Convention Orchestra:** Join the Fountainview Academy-ASI Convention Orchestra this year. Visit [www.fountainofmusic.com](http://www.fountainofmusic.com) for more information and to fill out an application.

**ASI-themed Adventist Review content needed**

Each year, ASI and the *Adventist Review* join forces to create a special ASI-themed edition of the *Review* that is distributed during the ASI convention. Your help is needed in gathering content. Please submit the following:

- **Letters to the Editor**—Personal perspective or experience with ASI (submit directly to letters@adventistreview.org).
- **Give & Take**—ASI-related anecdotes, favorite memories, interesting photographs or other short tidbits (submit to ASI@nad.adventist.org).
- **Ministry News**—Inspirational or groundbreaking news stories relating to an ASI member, ministry or event (submit to ASI@nad.adventist.org).

Please type "ASI-Adventist Review Content" on the subject line of each e-mail submission.

**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**

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A bowl of soup and lives changed for Jesus

Wildwood Health Retreat has expanded its program offerings and is benefiting from the volunteer contributions of former students.

Read more ➤

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Taking ASI to local churches

Posted on Jun 03, 2011

The ASI motto, "Sharing Christ in the Marketplace," has found expression for many years through stories told at national and regional chapter conventions. This year, ASI Northwest took those stories to local churches by holding two mission and ministry rallies.

Ellen Butler, ASI Northwest's then vice president for recruitment, coordinated the rallies held at the Linnwood Seventh-day Adventist Church in Spokane, Washington, and the Yakima Seventh-day Adventist Church, also in Washington. Weeks of intense planning resulted in events that combined both the inspiration of a mini-ASI convention with the personal touch of a local church ministry event.

“It was such a blessing,” says Butler, “to partner with the local pastors and conference personnel, including Bob Folkemberg III, president of the Upper Columbia Conference, who graciously were involved and publicly expressed their support for ASI, but allowed laymen to be in the forefront, sharing their enthusiasm for mission and ministry.”

The host churches allowed ASI members to plan the entire day's programming, including Sabbath school and church. Local church members provided potluck lunches for all who lingered for more fellowship.

During the rally meetings, ASI Northwest leaders and members shared personal stories of workplace outreach and mission trips, while young people from Walla Walla University, Andrews University and Weimar College provided musical concerts. Representatives from local and regional ASI member ministries, such as Young Disciples, Water For Life, Laymen Ministries and Maranatha Volunteers International, gave inspiring ministry updates and provided outreach tools and resources to those attending.

ASI National leaders joined the Yakima rally, with vice president for logistics Mark Black giving the keynote sermon during the 11:00 a.m. service. Past ASI president Donna McNeilus told about her daughter's experiences in Ethiopia for the children's story.

Overall, the local rallies gave Northwest church members a glimpse into ASI's purpose and mission, inviting both participation and local support. A number of people who went to the rallies also later attended the ASI Northwest Spring Convention in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

"In the inspired writings, we are urged to take action for Christ individually according to the talents he has lent us," says Nathanel Martin, ASI Northwest's newly elected communication director. "As each of us is individually inspired to action, we believe these local rallies are an effective means of spreading the word and excitement of working for the Lord to others in our church communities. From a single member sharing with another to thousands attending national conventions each year, may our actions together swell into the loud cry, 'Behold the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet Him.'"

Visit the ASI Northwest website.

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ARISE and Light Bearers to merge ministries

Posted on Jun 03, 2011

ARISE and Light Bearers have announced official plans to merge the two ministries. The agreement was made May 12, 2011, following unanimous votes by both the Light Bearers board and ARISE team.

"We're trying to see what God sees and create what He dreams and desires. And right now we are immovably confident that God's dream for us is a dream together," the teams shared in a general announcement posted on both ministry websites.

ARISE was cofounded in 2003 by David Asscherick and Nathan Renner, both new church members with remarkable conversion stories, while serving as pastors for the Michigan Conference. It began with 28 students as a four-month training program in Bible doctrines, hermeneutics, apologetics, evangelism and church leadership. Six years and 600 students later, ARISE moved to Sonora, California, to work closely with the Central California Conference. There it established its popular three-week, summer CROSStraining program that appeals to students unable to complete the entire four-month program. Most recently, ARISE has worked in partnership with the Sonora Seventh-day Adventist Church, where Nathan Renner is senior pastor.

Light Bearers began in the 1980s as a similar partnership between Ty Gibson and James Rafferty, who, like Asscherick and Renner, were newly converted Adventist Christians with an intense calling to ministry. They began giving weekly Bible studies in the homes of family and friends, which led to speaking and seminar invitations across the United States and eventually around the world. Their teaching ministry gradually grew into a publishing ministry, starting out with nothing but a Mac computer and a copy machine. Today, Light Bearers is a full-scale publishing house based in Jasper, Oregon. The ministry has provided more than 350 million pieces of printed gospel literature in more than 30 languages to nearly every country in the world. Gibson and Rafferty host a television series and continue to speak around the world.

The ARISE team will move its team and teaching operation to the Light Bearers facility in Jasper, Oregon.

Visit the [ARISE](http://www.asimistraies.org) and [Light Bearers](http://www.lightbearers.org) websites.

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One Day Church built in Kenya maximum security prison

Posted on Jun 03, 2011

Last month, a One Day Church was erected inside a maximum security prison in Kenya, Africa, as part of a 37-church project by Living Waters International and Maranatha Volunteers International.

The prison administration took note of the positive influence the 300 local church members had on the prison population and welcomed the presence of the church inside the prison compound, reported Living Waters International in a May 20 update. Living Waters founder Daryl Oft, his son, Justin, and the Kenyan Living Waters Team have been averaging one or two churches a day, despite travel challenges in the African bush. Local residents, including women and children, have turned out to help by digging, carrying supplies and preparing lunch.

ASI and Maranatha provided materials and funding for the project, which began with 74 new churches, schools and medical clinics being built in Kenya. The additional 37 structures are scheduled to be completed by July 2011, representing 6 percent of the One Day Churches erected worldwide.

Visit the [Living Waters International](http://www.asi.org/news_entries/lwi) and [Maranatha Volunteers International](http://www.mara.org) websites.

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3ABN Latino to launch new radio network

Posted on Jun 02, 2011

3ABN Latino Network has announced plans to launch a new radio network in the fall. The new network will complement the 3ABN Latino television network, which already broadcasts in every Spanish-speaking country in the world by satellite and over 1,000 cable systems, according to general manager John Dinzey.

"Historically we've added a remarkable 100 cable systems each year, but in the first four months of this year, we've already added 180 new systems—many of which serve multiple cities," says Dinzey. "But as we see this tremendous growth in our television ministry, the need has become more urgent for a radio network to reach a different audience, including those who cannot afford cable television."

An anonymous donor provided the $35,000 needed for initial equipment and start-up costs. The need for a Latino radio network was brought to the donor's attention when he called to ask about 3ABN's Spanish-speaking radio network and was told it didn't exist. He was surprised and immediately sent a check.

According to 3ABN Radio broadcast engineer Michael Babb, advances in technology have significantly cut start-up costs for new radio networks. 3ABN Latino Radio will air audio versions of many of its television programs, made easier by the fact that technological advances have drastically reduced program conversion time. The new network will also produce new radio programming with higher audio quality than television program conversion allows.

"We're so grateful for the 3ABN Radio staff," says Dinzey. "With their help, we will be able to launch 3ABN Latino Radio Network faster and more smoothly than we could have imagined."

3ABN Latino Radio Network is scheduled to begin airing in September.

Visit the [3ABN](http://www.3abn.org) website.

*Photo (Nicole Warren): 3ABN Latino general manager John Dinzey (right) interviews Pastor Jay Rosano for 3ABN Radio.*

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A bowl of soup and lives changed for Jesus

Posted on Jun 03, 2011

For 12 years, Wildwood Health Retreat has operated a live-in lifestyle program in Iron City, Tennessee. Although the retreat has focused primarily on weight management and lifestyle related diseases, the ministry has expanded over the years to offer seminars in country living, organic gardening, herb growing, food preservation, marriage, and vegetarian cooking. Programs generally range from one to three weeks, but this year Wildwood began a six-month Mission Fellowship Program to prepare missionaries to share the gospel through Bible teaching, health ministry and practical evangelism.

As part of their training, students are instructed in the principles and skills of self-support. Knowledge of agriculture, construction, bookkeeping, food preservation and other skills are considered essential preparedness for carrying the gospel "into all the world."

It's not unusual for students to return and lend support to the program using unique talents and skills. Jack and Sharon McGrath, who traveled from their home in Maine to attend a Wildwood seminar, returned to work as volunteers in support of the Mission Fellowship Program. Sharon's primary contribution was to help in the kitchen, and she quickly became known for her delicious soup-making skills. Sharon recently sent an e-mail to Wildwood Health Retreat director Lew Keith.

"This will be the last soup Tuesday for this school season," she wrote. "Thanks for all the encouragement you guys gave me. Making 16 quarts of soup every week was a challenge, as tripling or quadrupling a recipe didn't always mean it would taste like what you knew it should taste like making a single recipe.... Jack and I will keep all of you in our prayers as we know how many people are blessed by your programs and that lives are changed for Jesus!"

Visit the Wildwood Health Retreat website.

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