Making a difference in Moldova

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The Republic of Moldova is a hilly, landlocked state in Eastern Europe near the Black Sea, with Romania to the west, and the Ukraine on all other sides. It became an independent democratic republic in 1991 as part of the fall-out from the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Its name is derived from the Moldova River, and it is considered to be the poorest country in Europe. More than 93 percent of Moldova's population belong to either the Moldovan Orthodox Church or the Orthodox Church of Bessarabia. Only 2 percent are Protestant, with the rest non-religious or undeclared.

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Share your ministry news stories and inspirational articles in the bimonthly ASI Update newsletter or Inside ASI magazine. Help other ASI members become familiar with your ministry. Share encouragement and outreach ideas. Submit stories and articles by email to Conna Bond, ASI publications editor, at conna.bond@nad.adventist.org (include "submission for publication" in subject line).

Convention media

Online links to convention General Sessions and Seminars can be accessed via the Convention Media page on the ASI website. If you have questions about convention media or problems with any of the links, please e-mail conna.bond@nad.adventist.org. A transcript of Elder Wilson’s Sabbath sermon has been posted on the General Conference website. Online links include:

- Doug Batchelor (keynote address)
- Frank Fournier (morning devotionals by ASI’s new president)
- David Kulakov
- Matt Parra
- Ted N.C. Wilson
- Ivor Myers
- Lyndi Schwartz
- Chester Clark III
- and 20 seminars!

Useful links and information

Visit the ASI website:

- 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.

Amazon boat launch ministry commemorated

Amazon Lifesavers Ministry joined Brazilian church officials and members to commemorate 80 years of boat launch ministry in the Amazon region. Read more ►

ASI project funds aid geology research in Utah

2011 ASI project funds are helping to support geology researchers in Utah who are looking at rocks and fossils from a biblical perspective. Read more ►
ASI welcomes new vice president for communication
Scott Mayer, co-founder of Little Light Studios, has been elected vice president for communication for ASI.
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Project Report: Real Magazine
An ASI project grant is helping Review & Herald Publishing Association with a new child evangelism project for youth ages 9–15.
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Making a difference in Moldova

Posted on Sept 02, 2011

It doesn't matter what corner of the world you're in. Medical missionary training programs face the same challenges. They must attract students and meet their physical and spiritual needs while keeping their programs afloat financially. They must also support the efforts of their graduate students who head out into the world with dreams of making a difference. Such is the case with the Medical Missionary School, a project of the Center of Health & Preventive Medicine in Sarata Noua, Moldova.

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The Medical Missionary School welcomed 11 students last year—its eighth year in operation. Students included missionaries, colporteurs and other church workers who blessed the group with their knowledge and experience. The program began by helping the students to focus on the plan of salvation and God's will for ministry. They also studied mental health, faithfulness, the sanctuary, health and healing, hydrotherapy, leadership, prophecy, administration, massage and computers.

Former director Biser Iordanov, presently the director of the Health Center in Bulgaria, returned to teach classes such as "True Education" and "Keys to Success," built around 5 Testimonies, p. 158: "Our success does not depend on our talents or learning, but on our living connection with God." Later in the year, students participated in practical medical missionary work and mission work on Sabbaths and Sundays.

"The reason for my commitment to the study program of Medical Missionary School was initially [my] great need to gain more knowledge in this area of ministry for the lost people in the world and spiritual growth in educating and developing Christlike character," shared Andrei Fenciuc from Glodeni. "But with the passage of the first days of education, I noticed some other needs for change in my daily life—discipline, wisdom from above, and more love for other people. I cannot express my gratitude to God for this school."

The Medical Missionary School's "self-supporting department" was recently developed by a new worker named Roman who left the city with his family and eventually joined the program. He introduced a walnut-shelling program that helped pay for the construction of a worker's apartment. The school also bought soybeans and potatoes from the country's northern region and sold them in the south. Currently, the school is renovating its old cellars to start an oyster mushroom business to help support operations.

Last year, five of the school's graduates began an outreach program in the village of Cashunca in the district of Floresti. There was no Adventist church in the area, so the students were thankful when an Orthodox woman offered her parents' empty house as a meeting place. Assisted by an Adventist family living in the area, their initial outreach efforts were simple and direct.

"Jesus living on this earth first of all helped people and only after that spoke to them," they shared. "We decided to follow His example and had [a] nice
"On the second day, we went to the place where women gathered to hang tobacco for drying, and we were singing for about 20-30 minutes praising the Lord among about 50 women there," they reported. "So the news that there were missionaries in the village spread very quickly. Then we started visiting many families. We were singing and discussing from the Word of God."

One man who was initially critical of their efforts became more friendly and open after they helped him with his corn. More people eventually began showing up for their group Bible studies and meetings.

The young missionaries also started an English language course for young people and began going door to door, taking opinion surveys regarding interest in Bible studies and signing people up for the Bible study correspondence course "Sola Scriptura." They also reached out to people through massage and medical work, holding a health expo attended by the local minister of health. After the minister shared on local television that the young missionaries' health information was "50 years ahead of modern medicine," mayors from four neighboring villages invited them to visit as well.

Always, their efforts promoted "the great object of reform." They sought to show people "that the laws of nature, being the laws of God, are designed for our good; that obedience to them promotes happiness in this life, and aids in the preparation for the life to come" (Reflecting Christ, p. 238).

The students and graduates of the Moldova Medical Missionary School are joined by the efforts of medical missionary graduates from similar programs all over the world. Their dreams of making a difference are coming true.

The Medical Missionary School and Center of Health and Preventive Medicine are ministries of Outpost Centers International.
On July 2, 2011, Amazon Lifesavers Ministry joined officials from the Adventist Church in Brazil to celebrate 80 years of boat ministry along the Amazon River. The Amazon boat ministry officially began on July 4, 1931, when Adventist missionaries Leo and Jessie Halliwell began working in the Amazon on their legendary launch called the *Luzeiro* (Light Bearer).

To commemorate the beginning of the Amazon boat launch ministry, the Union rented a large facility and presented two programs to nearly 7,000 Adventist church members. Church and ALM leaders jointly presented the *Luzeiro* project, and Gilmar Zahn, Union president, personally thanked ALM for supporting the work of the Adventist Church in Brazil.

During the last week of July, all of ALM's boats converged at the *Fazenda Centenario* for camp meeting at the site where the first Adventist church was constructed in the Amazon as a result of the *Luzeiro* ministry. Erton Kohler, president of the South American Division, participated in the program.

"Amazon Lifesavers Ministry is thankful to be able to support our official church body in...continuing the medical missionary work in the interior of the Amazon of Brazil," shared ALM program coordinator Brad Mills with ministry supporters in a recent newsletter. ALM's primary ministry goal is to revive the work of the Halliwell's, and "to relieve the suffering of those that live in the most difficult corners of the Amazon."

Visit the [Amazon Lifesavers Ministry](http://www.asiministries.org/news_entries/396) website.
Several years ago, Drs. Leonard Brand and Art Chadwick began a geology research project in Utah and the surrounding areas. Dr. Brand is chair and professor of biology and paleontology at Loma Linda University's Department of Earth and Biological Sciences. Dr. Chadwick is professor of geology and biology at Southwestern Adventist University. By working in Utah, they planned to expand on their previous work in the fields of geology and paleontology.

Since the 1970s, the two men have engaged in an uncommon approach to geological research. Their ultimate research goal is to look at the rocks and fossils from a biblical perspective and to allow their examination to lead them to better understand "the relationship between the rocks and the Book—the Bible record of a global flood."

"Our prayer is for our eyes to be opened to see what is really there in the rocks," says Dr. Brand. "We can trust our insights if we take God with us. This works! A biblical worldview does open our eyes, and we discover things that others could have found, but didn’t, or at least didn’t take seriously. Perhaps their worldview kept them from asking the right questions."

"Seeing new things" must be followed up by careful, in-depth scientific research, and then by publication in professional journals. They have successfully published in high quality research journals in their fields of study. This peer review process helps assure quality work, and also encourages both their students and those who wonder whether the creationist view of history is credible. It also refutes the claims of some that creationists can’t possibly be effective scientists.

A 2011 ASI project fund grant is supporting the continuation of this research. The funds will be used specifically to seek evidence to aid in understanding just how much of the geological column was formed during the flood proper, how much formed after the flood, and if any of it was formed between creation and the flood in the oceans. In Utah, they are studying limestones and the fossils they contain. They are analyzing each geological layer for evidence of how much time was required for its formation.

The two researchers are also assessing better ways to effectively present their findings to others. Part of their funded research next year will involve helicopter aerial photography, which can reveal both the awesome nature of the rock record and how it can be understood in light of Biblical insights.

"Along the way, we find things that bring into question the assumed long ages of time in the geological record," Brand says. "We believe that God has a time table for new discoveries, each at the right time, to encourage his people. We find that it is difficult to see where all those millions of years could be put in the sequence of rocks. There is abundant reason to trust the Bible."

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Scott Mayer, co-founder of Little Light Ministries, has been elected ASI vice president for communication for a two-year term, replacing Danny Houghton, who served in that capacity for the past four years. New ASI officers were elected or re-elected at the 2011 ASI International Convention in Sacramento, with most continuing in their former positions. Houghton did not seek re-election, and the communication position, which calls for both communication and technology skills, still had not been filled when the convention ended. Mayer was elected to the position later in August and began serving on September 1.

"It's a pleasure to know that Scott Mayer will be taking on the responsibilities for our communication portfolio," said Houghton. "Not only is he a consummate professional, but his heart for ministry is evident in the choice he's made to start Little Light Ministries, educating our young people about the types of media they put into their minds. I know he will be a blessing to our ASI family."

Houghton is turning his focus toward a new business venture called One Degree Organic Foods, a company that will distribute purely organic and veganic products that have no animal byproducts, hormones or antibiotics present in any of the ingredients. Initial products will include bread, cereals and dry ingredients such as sprouted flours, flax and chia. Houghton will also continue volunteering his services with Hart Research Center and its family of ministries.

"ASI has always been like a family to me," Houghton shares. "I haven't missed a national convention since I was 7 years old, and I'm looking forward to continuing my streak in Dallas!"

Mayer brings to ASI a strong background in media and technology, as well as a personal vision for ministry. "I believe ASI is a wonderful organization that can inspire, promote, and cultivate new and creative ways for all of us to get involved," he says. "As technology advances and new ways of spreading information arise, I would like to see ASI expand the world's awareness of the ministries that make up this great organization. I would also like to explore new networking opportunities and maximize the unity between the ministries."

Little Light Ministries is a collaboration between Mayer, his brother Thom, and his best friend Brandon Mascarenas. The three grew up together in Paradise, California, and each was initially drawn by Hollywood and dreams of fame, fortune, and excitement. Their personal testimonies powerfully motivate their ministry.

"With media becoming a crescendoing part of many people's lives," Mayer says, "we believe there is a huge opportunity for spreading the gospel in new and creative ways. With the advancement of cameras and computers, the level of creativity that is achievable is astounding. We want to harness the young talented minds coming out of our colleges by developing a creative design studio that is cutting edge and that focuses solely on Christ-centered messages. We are concentrating on material aimed at youth, created by youth, for the youth."

Visit the Little Light Ministries website.
In December 2010, ASI provided the first half of $5,000 grant to be used toward the start-up costs of a new outreach publication called *Real*, an evangelistic magazine for unchurched children ages 9–15 in North America. Launched in January 2010, *Real* is published bimonthly and includes true character-building stories, puzzles, fun facts, and a Bible study. Each issue also contains a bilingual (English/Spanish) story. *Real* magazine is published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit religious organization.

There are approximately 27 million unchurched children in the United States. According to Christian researcher George Barna, children are more likely than adults to make a commitment to accept Christ as their personal Savior, creating a tremendous opportunity for child evangelism. *Real* magazine was created to share Christ-centered message with this critical demographic.

The primary purpose of *Real* magazine is to encourage children to begin a saving friendship with Jesus and to challenge them to live for Him. Request for the magazine began as early as 2008. Currently, the magazine is reaching more than 7,000 children every two months, including children of more than 200 prisoners. Free copies of *Real* are provided to outreach ministries such as Vacation Bible School, Seminars Unlimited, and Adventist Community Services. More than 55,000 copies of *Real* have been distributed during various community outreach events. R&H is posting Internet ads and collaborating with the Voice of Prophecy to distribute *Real*.

Additional project accomplishments have included redeveloping the www.ShareReal.org website, purchasing GiftWorks donor software, creating a fundraising and gift development plan, and hiring a fundraising intern with additional help from the Philanthropic Service for Institutions at the North American Division.

*Real* is distributed through free subscriptions, bulk distribution, and ministry collaborations. ASI funds were applied to the initial start-up and general operating costs of the magazine so that 100 percent of donor funds went toward putting *Real* directly into the hands of children. *Real* is focused on supporting and expanding the child evangelism efforts of the Adventist Church.
Visit the *Real* magazine website.

*Adapted from an ASI project report by Marci Scott, development and communications associate for Real magazine.*

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