Building bridges through technology

In 2005, ASI member John Stevens, Sr., assisted TEACH International in establishing the Wyn Stevens Computer Training Institute in Manipur State, India. The institute was set up in a new building on the campus of Bill Onuska, Jr. English High School and dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Wyn Stevens. It offers a government-recognized two-year diploma in computer hardware and software for students from Manipur, Assam and Nagaland. An average of 60 students train there each year.

The success of the institute surpassed the expectations of TEACH International's leaders. They recently expanded operations, adding an additional floor to the current structure and offering free Internet services to the surrounding community. A special waiting room is reserved for people wishing to use the computer stations, also used by students. The waiting room is outfitted with literature on health and Adventist beliefs. At least five people have accepted Christ as a result of the institute's outreach mission.

Read More

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

Announcements

ASI funding application available online

At each ASI International Convention, ASI collects a special projects offering used to sponsor 40+ preselected ministry projects. Ministries must apply for 2012 sponsorship on or before December 31, 2011. Visit the Projects page on the ASI website for information and application links.
Convention information

Beginning in January, information about the 2012 ASI International Convention will be posted online as it becomes available. Check the ASI website regularly for updates. Links to 2011 convention media 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.

ASI 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 ASI Projects

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

Truth 4 Youth to reach millions in West Central Africa
The West Central Africa Division Children's Ministries Department plans to use the Truth 4 Youth DVD series to reach five million children in West Central Africa by 2015. Read more

New executive director named at Riverside Farm
Meiring Pretorius has been named as the new executive director for Riverside Farm Institute. Former director Ronald Jaudas will return with his family to their homeland, Switzerland. Read more

LIFE baptizes students at Heritage Academy
More than 20 teachers and students from LIFE presented Bible studies to students at Heritage Academy in Monterey, Tenn. Read more

Mieux Vivre introduces new television series
Mieux Vivre (Better Living), a French-language media ministry, recently introduced a new television series called Nés pour servir (Born to Serve). Read more
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During the summer, students from grade 7 and above attend the institute for introductory computer training. It is mandatory for all TEACH schools to send students regularly for computer training. The students pay only for their food and board at a hostel facility. Their computer training is free. Many who have completed the two-year diploma have secured good-paying jobs in the government and private sector.

Since July 2011, Manipur State has experienced political unrest from several factions. Groups have blocked roads and highways used to bring goods and services to Manipur from neighboring states. TEACH International's group homes for poor children are also facing difficulties because of price hikes and food shortages. Often, due to gas rationing, the school is unable to purchase gas for the generators that keep the
computers running. But the institute has managed to remain open for both training and Internet services, in spite of unrest and other man-made difficulties.

"In spite of so many difficulties, our ministry is going forward without much problem as we have the cooperation of the community, which is 100% behind our schools...as we are educating and training their children to be better citizens of India," says Kamnel S.D. Charles, executive director for the institute.

Each school year, TEACH International schools conduct two student youth camps, as well as an evangelism and outreach ministry tour to a village far away from major schools. The outreach ministry usually includes a health clinic with services provided by a physician and nurse, and distribution of medications for prevention and treatment of common diseases. The clinic also distributes copies of the Ten Commandments printed in the local language and conducts a five-day evangelistic series at a local Adventist church. Last year's ministry tour led to the baptism of seven precious souls. TEACH International is thankful for the support it has received from ASI over the years.

Visit the TEACH International website.

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Truth 4 Youth to reach millions in West Central Africa

Posted on Nov 20, 2011

The Children's Ministries Department of the West Central Africa Division plans to reach five million children by 2015 by training church members to use the Young Disciple Ministries Truth 4 Youth DVD series. The 22 countries in the West Central Africa Division are some of the poorest on earth, with millions who have never heard the name of Jesus. The population is largely animist or Muslim, with limited Adventist presence.

Division leaders plan to provide members of 5,000 churches and companies with copies of the DVD series, along with training in how to win children for Christ. The series is available in both English and French, which are the primary languages spoken in most of the targeted countries. The division is also translating the series into Yoruba, a commonly-spoken African language. Translators have committed to supporting the project in other languages as well.

It is hoped that parents will be reached through their children, who are expected to flock to hear the compelling stories and see the beautiful pictures. Young Disciple Ministries is making 5,000 copies of the Truth 4 Youth series available to the division at a reduced price, and has pledged to help with fundraising efforts. Participants kicked off the 2011 Young Disciple Ministries camp program by raising nearly $10,000 of the $200,000 needed to support the project. Young people have continued contributing funds as well as soliciting support from friends and family members.

"I was so excited about this project that I decided to donate! I also got my family interested," said one young woman whose personal donation was accompanied by checks from parents and siblings. Many other young people have given up new outfits, evenings out, electronics and sports equipment to contribute funds to the project.
Omobonike Sessou, director of Children’s Ministries for the West Central Africa Division, reports that the project is already in motion in Africa. She told Young Disciple leaders, "My 14-year-old son, Joela, is using the DVD to hold a small evangelistic series. It is fantastic. It helps my son to grow spiritually and gives him a very useful way to share his faith with other children. The children are also enthusiastic about it and are learning at the feet of Christ. The parents testify that the children are assimilating and understanding the major truths of the Bible."

Young Disciple Ministry hopes to replicate the project in other parts of the world.

Visit the Young Disciple Ministry website.

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More than 20 teachers and students from LIFE (Lay Institute for Evangelism) presented Bible studies Aug. 28 to Sept. 11, 2011, to students at Heritage Academy in Monterey, Tenn. Topics included health, Christian living, and the mark of the beast.

"To be honest, we were all excited just to get out of schoolwork and classes," reported Heritage Academy junior Nathalia Parra. "It was not until the first Bible study from [LIFE director] Pastor Scott Moore that I began to realize what a blessing this would be."

The two-week event occurred at the beginning of the school year and included more than 80 hours of learning from the Word of God. "Little by little, throughout the studies, I became excited to see the truth emerging from the Bible. It was like a light bulb in the dark; it just clicked!" said Parra, who had been an Adventist all of her life without fully knowing or understanding her beliefs.

"I can honestly say that I now know what I believe in and can defend my belief," she said. "The Bible studies taught me how to not take my religion for granted, [how to] dig more deeply into the Bible, and [to] not rely on someone else’s relationship with God rather than my own."

Several students were baptized at the end of the event, including Megan Schultz, Laura Aleman, Jessica Quinones, Levi Beierle and Trystan Ratcliff.

"Before LIFE ever came, I had no desire to get baptized," said Beierle. "When I heard they were coming I was kind of annoyed. After I started paying attention to the Bible studies I was so amazed!... I finally learned what God was really like. He is amazing,
and I want to spend the rest of my life with Him! I guess you could say the reason I got baptized was because I fell in love with Jesus, and He is who I live for now."

LIFE is an ASI-sponsored evangelism school located in Lady Lake, Florida. It typically runs four-month training programs. Heritage Academy is an ASI and OCI member secondary school that exists to encourage young people "to learn, experience, live and share Christ."

Visit the LIFE and Heritage Academy websites.

© Copyright ASI 2011 | hosted on netAdventist
Riverside Farm Institute has named Meiring Pretorius as the organization's new executive director. Pretorius and his wife, Juanita, are both from South Africa. They have been serving at Riverside in different capacities since 2002. He has been vice director since March 2010, and has taken over the helm as of October 13, 2011.

Pretorius’s vision for Riverside is 1) to be faithful in proclaiming God's message for this time, 2) to continue to be a true educational center for Zambia, as well as for other parts of Africa, 3) to continue to expand the organization's evangelism borders and programs, including placing Bible Pioneers, planting churches, and distributing literature, 4) to continue to expand its wellness center’s health and lifestyle programs, and 5) to continue to use the farmland effectively to sustain the daily programs at Riverside.

"I am very pleased with the strong team at Riverside," he said. "Our team consists of [people from] many different cultures—from USA, South Africa, Romania, Moldova and Zambia. With God's guidance and the dedication and hard work of our team, I believe that Riverside will reflect His Glory, that 'they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou has sent Me.'" (quoting John 17:21)

Outgoing executive director Ronald Jaudas will transition back to Switzerland after serving two terms at Riverside and working for four-and-a-half years in Senegal.

"We are looking forward to being closer to our parents and relatives," said Jaudas. "I want to use this opportunity to thank each one of you for your support during my time here. It's been a privilege to work and serve in Zambia. Let's support and pray for Meiring and Juanita as they seek guidance in their work at the head of Riverside."

Visit the Riverside Farm Institute website.
Mieux Vivre (Better Living) introduces new television series

Posted on Nov 23, 2011

Mieux Vivre (Better Living), a media ministry that produces French-language programs from its studios in Victoriaville, Quebec, recently introduced a new television series called Nés pour servir (Born to Serve), hosted by Monique Lemay.

Lemay interviews guests who share how they use their God-given talents to serve and bless others. The series encourages viewers to discover their own talents and use them in service. Nés pour servir can be viewed on the Mieux Vivre French website at www.mieuxvivre.org.

Mieux Vivre is now available on Roku, the #1 selling streaming player for television. The Roku channel includes all of the Mieux Vivre television and radio programs on demand, with live programming planned for the future.

Mieux Vivre uses media to reach the 520 million people in the world who speak French. The ministry shares practical advice on health, personal development and Christian living through multimedia, seminars and publications. Mieux Vivre is an ASI member and supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Visit the Mieux Vivre (Better Living) website.