2012 Youth For Jesus to remain in Texas

The 2012 Youth For Jesus program will remain in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, despite the site change for the 2012 ASI International Convention from Dallas to Cincinnati, Ohio. YFJ is staying in Texas due, in large part, to the warm welcome and support given by both the Southwestern Union and the Texas Conference. Each entity has pledged $40,000 toward this year’s YFJ program, which will run from July 8 through August 6, 2012.

YFJ is a youth-led summer evangelism program sponsored by ASI and run by the Lay Institute for Evangelism (LIFE), which is based in Lady Lake, Fla. Anywhere from 30 to 50 youth participate each year, primarily from the United States but also from other countries. Participants complete Bible and evangelism training, do door-to-door outreach, give Bible studies, and present evangelistic series in local host churches, usually in and around the same city the annual ASI convention is held. Logistical issues prompted a change in venue for the 2012 convention, but YFJ leaders decided to press forward in Texas where evangelism already receives strong local, conference and union support.

Read More

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2012 ASI International Convention

**Venue:** The 2012 ASI International Convention site has been changed from Dallas, Texas, to the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. The convention dates are August 8–11, 2012. Read full story...

**Music:** Convention music performance applications are still being accepted. The deadline has been extended to March 15, 2012. Applicants will be notified on or before March 31, 2012. Use the online Music Performance Application to apply.

**Registration:** Check the Convention page on the ASI website regularly for convention information updates. Registration information will be posted the first week of March.

Chapter spring meetings

A full line-up of ASI chapter spring meetings is planned. Visit the ASI website Chapters page on the ASI website for meeting dates and chapter website links.

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

**VitaSalus offering more onsite programs**

VitaSalus, an OCI health ministry, is offering an increasing number of programs and services at its facilities in Penela, Portugal, as it continues its construction and remodeling program. Read more ▶

**GC forms ASI Coordinating Committee**

An ASI Coordinating Committee was formed at the 2011 General Conference Annual Council to provide division presidents with guidance in working with local supporting ministries. Read more ▶

**Myanmar Frontier Missions holds revival meetings**

MFM conducted revival meetings at 85 church members' homes in nine villages and two towns. Read more ▶

**Project Report: Saving Las Vegas**

Read this exciting progress report on Revelation Today, the culminating event in the 18-month-long Project Report: Saving Las Vegas.
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Jon Holland, YFJ’s new field supervisor, is in charge of onsite planning and preparation efforts for the 2012 program. Holland is a 2009 graduate of ARISE, an evangelism training school that now operates in conjunction with Light Bearers Ministry in Jasper, Ore. Holland previously served as a Bible worker for the Sonora (Calif.) Seventh-day Adventist Church. He and his wife, Melinda, recently relocated to the Dallas-Fort Worth area where he works as an independent canvasser for the Review & Herald Publishing Association. When the call came from YFJ and LIFE director Scott Moore, Holland was already perfectly situated to lead the YFJ program in Texas.

Holland is excited about his new role with YFJ. He has been busy for two months selecting local evangelism sites, hiring Bible workers as site coordinators, and arranging for a temporary program headquarters.

"Within a 70-mile radius of the DFW area are 6.5 million people," he says. "The harvest is great, and we're excited that a laboring team will be here to help reach that population."

Several years ago, YFJ met in the North Dallas area. This year, the program will focus its efforts on the neighboring Fort Worth Metroplex. Fort Worth Junior Academy
will serve as the headquarters and dorm facilities for participants. The Fort Worth First, Fort Worth Northwest, and Crowley churches will each host a YFJ evangelism series. Holland hopes to arrange for a series in a local Spanish-speaking church as well. NAPS, a volunteer relief organization from Oakwood University, will hold a sister series at Fort Worth’s Grace Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church, for a total of five YFJ evangelism sites.

This year’s program will follow a similar format to that of past years, with a few added elements. In addition to morning Bible study classes, students will hear a stimulating line-up of speakers on practical topics such as relationships, media, and dealing with the challenges of daily life. Scheduled speakers include Ivor Myers, Dwayne Lemon, and the Little Light Studios team.

"This year we want to break things up a little," says Holland. "We want to address the things young people are dealing with and how we can prepare them for whatever the devil is going to throw their way. We want to meet them at a practical level and help them see the dangers they're facing."

Holland says he also hopes to incorporate a prison ministry program that has already been put in place by one of the host churches. He’s not yet certain to what extent the young people will be able to participate, but feels prison ministry would provide excellent training and experience, even if the young people are only allowed to grade Bible lessons submitted by prisoners.

Another new element is a Training Center Churches discipleship training program that will be held in each of the host churches. This service is designed to provide local church members with training that will prepare them for the evangelistic series and beyond.

"The biggest component of the program is obviously when the youth come in July," Holland says. "But we want to train and equip the church members to continue discipling the newly baptized members after we're gone."

At the end of the program, the YFJ participants will be bussed to Cincinnati to attend the 2012 ASI International Convention Aug. 8–11. Parents will need to arrange transportation home for their YFJ youth directly from Cincinnati.

Visit the Youth For Jesus website for more information.
The 2012 ASI International Convention site has been moved from Dallas, Texas, to the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. The scheduled dates will remain the same: August 8–11, 2012.

The decision to select a new convention site was made for reasons that reflect the organization's gradual growth and change over time. It became evident to several ASI members who attended another event at the Dallas site earlier this year that the facilities would not adequately accommodate the 2012 ASI Convention. A special committee was appointed by the ASI board to revisit the Dallas site and look into the possibility of selecting a new venue.

According to Ramon Chow, ASI secretary treasurer and member of the special committee, the main issues with the Dallas site were related to access. First, the route between the exhibit hall and the main session auditorium includes a one-escalator bottleneck, which could greatly slow down traffic between the two areas and potentially discourage people from attending meetings or visiting the exhibit hall. Second, the youth meetings would have to be held on an upper floor of a hotel a skywalk away from the main session room and exhibit areas, inconveniencing parents with children. Third, the main exhibit hall is not large enough to accommodate the expected number of exhibitors. Overflow booths would have to be staged in a separate room, out of sight and potentially out of mind for many attendees.

The special committee, which also included Donna McNeilus, ASI general vice president, Stan Smith, ASI vice president for finance, and Harold Lance, president of ASI Missions Inc., explored three potential alternative sites, including San Jose, Calif., Grand Rapids, Mich., and Cincinnati, Ohio. The biggest challenge was to secure a site with enough space to accommodate the convention on such short notice. In a final vote last week, the special committee chose Cincinnati based on ASI's past positive experience there, the availability of space, and the fact that the Cincinnati facilities will not present access issues.

The ASI Convention venue has been changed at least once before. Convention planning generally begins several years in advance, and changes are sometimes necessary to accommodate growth of the organization and the annual convention event. One of those changes includes an increased number of exhibitors.

"Exhibitors are a critical part of the convention and its programming," says Harold Lance. "In the Dallas venue, some of our exhibitors would be relegated to substandard, less accessible exhibit space, resulting in a less-than-favorable convention experience..."
for both them and the convention attendees. The decision to change the venue was carefully and deliberately made to prevent dissatisfaction by any attendees or participants."

"The new venue will be a blessing," Ramon Chow says. "The ASI Convention will begin the same day the NAD Teachers’ Convention ends in Nashville. Cincinnati is at most a four-hour drive from Nashville, making the transition from one convention to the next more attractive, especially for exhibitors."

He added, "The layout of the facilities in Cincinnati is such that the exhibit, general session and dining areas will be located on the same level, making the flow of traffic between the three areas quicker and easier."

Convention information reflecting the venue change will be posted on the ASI website as it becomes available. Visit the Convention page regularly for updates. More information about the new site, including floor plans, is available on the Duke Energy Convention Center website.

The 2012 Youth For Jesus program will take place in Dallas as originally planned. Youth For Jesus participants will be transported from Dallas to the convention in Cincinnati. Visit the Youth For Jesus website for more information.
VitaSalus offering more onsite programs

Posted on Jan 15, 2012

VitaSalus, an OCI health ministry operating a medical outpatient clinic in Lisbon, Portugal, has made great strides in developing a lifestyle center and school of health, as well as pioneering health expos and seminars in Portugal and Western Europe. Construction and remodeling progress has allowed an increasing number of programs and services to be offered at its facilities in Penela.

A dental clinic has been busily operating since June and is the first steady income generator on the property. Drs. Viriato and Marianne Ferreira, directors of VitaSalus, have begun seeing patients in the ministry's new medical consulting rooms, and a few lifestyle guests have completed the NEWSTART program.

In October 2011, VitaSalus welcomed eight young Pioneer students, including three from Germany, one from Belgium, one from Italy, two from Portugal, and one from the United States. The energetic group of students immediately jumped into a program that combines manual labor with community outreach. They immediately began going door-to-door and soon held a one-week series of meetings in the local community. Next came a nutrition seminar, followed by a depression seminar, and a health expo held in Miranda do Corvo, a larger nearby mountain community. The health expo was held on market day and was attended by a rich mix of Portuguese, British, and German residents. Several expressed interest in visiting the VitaSalus property and finding out more about the ministry's services and programs. VitaSalus leaders are thankful for the efforts of the Pioneers, who will work with the program until May 2012.

"They are just humble, friendly kids seeking to be a blessing to some very humble, mostly older folks who live up in these small mountain villages," says Kim Busl, director of the Pioneer Student Program. "It's a joy to watch and be part of the interaction. There isn't much happening for people in these villages, and coming to the health expos, mingling, and learning is a high point in their week."

The lifestyle center's first long-term patient arrived barely able to walk or eat. She had undergone surgery to remove cancer and had contracted a debilitating infection.

"After a week of daily treatments, a good diet, and exercise as she had strength, she went back for her second ultrasound," Busl shares. "When the doctor saw the difference, he could hardly believe it. By the end of the second week, she was working in the gardens several hours each day, had a strong, happy appetite, and was feeling better than ever. Returning for the third ultrasound, the infection was totally gone and she's well. A most wonderful outcome for our first long term patient. Praise the Lord!"
VitaSalus is a member of Outpost Centers International.

Visit the VitaSalus website.

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Myanmar Frontier Missions holds revival meetings in Pyapon-Bogalay Circle

Posted on Feb 13, 2012

Myanmar Frontier Missions conducted revival meetings Jan. 22–Feb. 2, 2012, in Pyapon-Bogalay Circle. Meetings were held at 85 church members' homes in nine villages and two towns.

MFM director Saw Thein was joined by pioneers Saya U Z Naung San Aung from Meiktila and Thara Eh Taw from Dagu-ne-taing to hold meetings in the territories where worldwide missionary Pastor Thara Saw Silas's church members live.

Local mission workers hosted the meetings, and also went house-to-house, "encouraging our members to be ready and waiting for the coming Jesus Christ," said Thein. "We appeal [to] them to know the importance of waiting [for] our Lord through conducting morning and evening devotions. This is our aim and task to accomplish [in giving] the warning message throughout our Myanmar Union Mission until Jesus Christ comes."

Thein was happy to meet up with old friends throughout the territories and to find many faithful members "with their precious spiritual blessings." He reported seeing an active church member named Eh Ni from the PyaPon Church who now serves as a worldwide missionary. She became an Adventist before Saw Thein served as a literature evangelist in the same area twenty years ago.

"We encourage them to offer themselves as a living sacrifice to God and dedicate their lives and services [to please] God because we know the Lord is coming, even at the door," Thein said.

MFM works specifically in Meiktila in Middle Myanmar. The ministry has 14 projects between the towns of Yamethin and Shwe Bo. It operates 10 nursery schools and uses a variety of approaches in evangelism to reach people throughout the region, with a special work to reach the Burmans. MFM is in its 13th year of service and has an office in the city of Yangon. A board of trustees oversees donations and manages progress.

Contact Saw Thein at sawthein2009@gmail.com for more information about Myanmar Frontier Missions.
At the 2011 General Conference Annual Council, an ASI Coordinating Committee was formed to provide division presidents with guidance in working with supporting ministries within their territories. This measure was taken in recognition of the success ASI has had in North American and around the world in coordinating the efforts of lay and church workers and resources.

Committee invitee and past ASI president Debbie Young says, "Our having been present in many divisions doing training and highlighting awareness of ASI's impact and positive outcomes has brought recognition and a general desire to formalize those relationships [between lay and church workers] for more efficiency and better impact."

Chaired by GC general vice president Michael L. Ryan and vice-chaired by ASI past president Denzil McNeilus, the new committee also includes John Thomas, G. Alexander Bryant, G. Thomas Evans, Myron Iseminger, Alberto Gulfan, and Candace Renk. In addition to Young, invitees include John Beckett, Ty Gibson, Dan Houghton, Harold Lance, and Don Noble.

The committee met for the first time on Nov. 28, 2011. It began by reviewing its terms of reference, which state that the committee will serve primarily as an advisory group to the divisions. The minutes state that the "committee will provide a forum during Annual Council for the division leadership to discuss changes and global issues concerning healthy, active ASI organizations ministering around the world."

The committee voted to request that each division appoint two ASI representatives, including one church employee and one layperson who is self-employed or from a supporting ministry. The committee also appointed three working groups. The first was assigned the task of developing "a model constitution and bylaws, mission statement, values and function of a division ASI organization." That group will be headed by Harold Lance, past ASI president and president of ASI Missions Inc., which oversees ASI funding of numerous lay-led projects around the world. The second group was appointed to "develop operational guidelines and codes of conduct for ASI organizations and to develop model guidelines for host divisions receiving supporting ministries in their territory." The third group will develop a website to host links to the various division ASI websites. Decisions have yet to be made concerning how and to what extent the ASI name and brand will be used in the various divisions.

This is not the first time ASI has worked in conjunction with the General Conference. ASI was originally formed in 1947 through the coordinated efforts of General
Conference leaders and lay leaders of self supporting institutions. ASI then stood for "Adventist Self-Supporting Institutions," which was later changed to "Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries" to reflect a broadening membership base that included evangelism-minded professionals and business owners. ASI continued to work directly with the General Conference for more than 30 years.

"Neither group envisioned the present scope and extent of areas of cooperation involving the church and ASI lay industries and ministries," says Lance.

In 1981, ASI's working connection to the church was shifted from the General Conference to the North American Division. Elder Kenneth Livesay was the first full-time ASI North American Division secretary-treasurer, a post now filled by Ramon Chow. Previously, that role was filled by an associate secretary of the General Conference, who worked part-time with ASI while fulfilling other General Conference assignments, including church representative to the United Nations.

"Time has brought the General Conference and ASI full circle," Lance says. He cites four factors that led to the GC's decision to develop guidelines for expanding ASI to the divisions of the world church. First, ASI has been a commendable example of lay ministries and enterprises working responsibly and cooperatively with the church. Second, there has been widespread expansion of North America-based ministries into other areas of the world. Third, a comfortable working relationship of trust has formed between the church and ASI lay ministries. Finally, ASI members and ministries, including the New Beginnings DVD evangelism training project, the One-Day Church and School, Maranatha Volunteers International, Light Bearers, the Africa Roof Project, LIGHT (Lay Institute for Global Health Training), Outpost Centers International, and countless others have worked tirelessly to make significant contributions to the mission of the church.

"These efforts have demonstrated that when the laity and Church leaders work together, God's cause is blessed," says Lance.

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A project report on the progress of the Revelation Today evangelistic series being presented in Las Vegas by It Is Written speaker/director John Bradshaw. Revelation Today is the culminating event in Saving Las Vegas, an 18-month-long 2010 ASI special offering project:

Few things are more exciting than anticipation, and Adventists are no strangers to that feeling as we look forward to Christ’s soon return. When it comes to an evangelistic series, not much can match the anticipation prior to opening night, and the ongoing Revelation Today series in Las Vegas has been no exception.

On Jan. 20, It Is Written speaker/director John Bradshaw welcomed the audience in Las Vegas—and those around the world—to the month-long prophecy series. This major event is the culmination of more than a year of preparation involving It Is Written, the Nevada-Utah Conference, ASI and other supporting organizations.

This Bible study series is being held twice daily (11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Pacific time) to accommodate the busy schedules of people who live in this city that never sleeps.

“In a city where lights shine so brightly, it is my hope that the light of God’s Word will shine even brighter in the hearts of men and women here and around the world,” said Pastor Bradshaw.

The devil is always hard at work on the opening weekend of any series, and the team braced for whatever challenges would present themselves. Among them, a bridal expo being held next door filled many of the event parking spaces surrounding the venue. Even more serious, a relentless windstorm overtook Las Vegas—ripping down signs, and causing people to fight the wind on their way to the meeting hall.

As the doors opened for the first sessions, the ministry team and volunteers were thrilled to see the crowd arriving in spite of the elements. In fact, some bridal expo attendees came to Revelation Today after receiving a handbill in front of the building!

“They came expecting to see some bridal stuff but instead were introduced to the Bridegroom!” said It Is Written Evangelism Coordinator Yves Monnier.

All said, nearly 2,000 people attended on opening weekend, and 425 signed up for continuing Bible studies, with more expected in the coming weeks.
People across a broad spectrum of ages, religious backgrounds and walks of life are attending. One person found a handbill on the sidewalk. Some received it on their windshields. Still others found out about the series on the telecast or via billboards around the city. Many attended events such as It Is Written’s Babylon Rising series, Tony Moore’s archeology seminar, Neil Nedley’s “Optimize Your Brain” lecture, and Karen Houghton’s cooking school.

One attendee commented, “I’m having great troubles in my life, so I was praying to God for help and guidance. That same day I received this handbill about Revelation Today. It was an answer to prayer.”

Although they each took a different path to get to the meeting, the attendees ended up in the same place—sitting in the Las Vegas Cashman Center, hearing messages directly from the Word of God.

But the message isn’t just reaching Las Vegas. Tens of thousands of people are watching the series around the world via host locations, the Revelation Today website, 3ABN, Hope and Hope Church. The messages are also reaching the Spanish-speaking world—live at the Cashman Center as well as through the event website—thanks to translation by Pastor Antonio Romero.

International responses have come from England, Canada, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Costa Rica, Fiji, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, Jamaica, Lesotho, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, the Isle of Man, Romania, Argentina, Nigeria, the Philippines and Vanuatu, among others.

“We have already seen the Lord work powerfully through these meetings and we would like to extend a big ‘thank you’ to all the members of ASI for supporting this massive evangelistic outreach,” said Pastor Bradshaw. “Please continue to keep it in your prayers.”

The meetings will continue through Feb. 18—every day except Mondays and Thursdays. To view new programs and to find a link to the archives, visit www.revelationtoday.com.

Reported by Michele Stotz for It Is Written.

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