Dutch Politician Marianne Thieme Continues to Lead the Party for the Animals

The Adventist Review recently ran a story on Marianne Thieme, the Dutch Politician who co-founded the Party for the Animals. Despite criticism, the party has thrived in the Netherlands and has spread to other countries. (link)
Celebrating Religious Freedom in Zimbabwe
Posted 07/27/14
“More than 4,000 Seventh-day Adventist youth marched from Harare city center to join over 30,000 Adventists at Glamis stadium to celebrate religious liberty in Zimbabwe on June 21,” reports the Adventist News Network. (link)

Adventist Peacemaker Noticed by Review Magazine After Flight MH17 Tragedy
Posted 07/23/14
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Posted 07/22/14
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Four Pioneering Adventist Peace Churches
The APF provides a certification program for churches committed to working for peace and social justice as an integral part of their identity and mission so that they can become part of a public Adventist Peace Church network. The following four pioneering churches have passed official motions to become part of the Adventist Peace Church movement: Anaheim SDA Church, Glendale City Church, Advent Hope Church, Hollywood SDA Church. (link)

Adventists Team Up With Panama University to Fight Violence

The Adventist Review reports that “Seventh-day Adventist church in Panama has signed an agreement with the University of Panama in Panama City to develop initiatives to counter growing violence in the Central American country” (IAD Staff, 2 July 2014). (link)

Joanna Darby on the Basis for Creation Care

Joanna Darby recorded a short video on creation care for Brad Rea’s YouTube channel, Seventh-day Adventist Fans of Jesus–Toward an Adventist perspective on Christian Environmental Ethics. (link)

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The Adventist Review recently ran a story on Marianne Thieme, the Dutch Politician who co-founded the Party for the Animals.[1] Despite criticism, the party has thrived in the Netherlands and has spread to other countries. “Thieme said her secret for success has been to live what she teaches, stand by her convictions, and determinedly press ahead despite opposition, remembering that heated emotions can be a catalyst for change.” Thieme shares, “I have experienced that one can be successful by sticking to your ideals and by practicing what you preach.”

Although she is a Seventh-day Adventist, “never expect to see Thieme preaching on the job. The Party of the Animals is secular, and Thieme keeps matters of church and state strictly separate.” A colleague reveals, “She doesn’t believe in ‘Christian politics’; therefore, she started a secular party. She strongly believes in the separation between church and state.”

Naturally, Thieme is a vegetarian, as is her husband, Jaap Korteweg (aka, The Vegetarian Butcher). The Adventist Review article looks into this part of her story:

While studying vegetarianism a decade ago, Thieme learned about Adventists and began to read books by Ellen White. She said she was struck by White’s message of compassion toward animals and her passionate plea for vegetarianism.

“I dare say she was an animal rights activist,” Thieme said.

One passage that particularly impressed her came from a chapter titled “Flesh as Food” in White’s book “Ministry of Health”: “Animals are often transported long distances and subjected to great suffering in reaching a market. Taken from the green pastures, and traveling for weary miles over the hot, dusty roads, or crowded into filthy cars, feverish and exhausted, often for many hours deprived of food and water, the poor creatures are driven to their death, that human beings may feast on the carcasses.”

“Together with my beliefs and my animal advocacy, the Adventist Church appealed to me and I became an Adventist in 2006,” Thieme said.

Her joy was short-lived, however. As she began to talk with other Adventists, she found that some downplayed White’s writings as old-fashioned.

“Old-fashioned? I was so surprised,” she said.

Thieme said she saw nothing 19th century in White’s writings about a healthier life with no animal products, her compassion toward animals, her advice not to smoke cigarettes, and the fact that
Adventists were the first religious group with health programs to stop smoking and provide vegetarian products.

“Right now, at this moment, it’s a most relevant and current message,” she said.

She said Adventists should be more visible in ongoing global discussions about the impact of meat on climate change, obesity, animal welfare and a looming food crisis.

Read the entire story here. Note the additional resources at the end of that article, as well as these three:

- Marianne Thieme — Party for the Animals (Adventist Activism, 3 May 2013)
- Sabbath at the Spectrum Café: Marianne Thieme (Spectrum, 1 May 2013)
- A Platform of Compassion (Spectrum, 18 February 2008)


NOTE: See other APF articles about Thieme here.
by Jeff Boyd

“More than 4,000 Seventh-day Adventist youth marched from Harare city center to join over 30,000 Adventists at Glamis stadium to celebrate religious liberty in Zimbabwe on June 21,” reports the Adventist News Network (ANN, 23 July 2014, link). “The Zimbabwe prisons band played for the Pathfinders who carried banners reading ‘Celebrating Religious Liberty in Zimbabwe.’”

Excerpts:

The Guest of Honor, Minister of State in The President’s office Harare Province, Cde Miriam Chikukwa, spoke on government’s commitment to protect the constitution that guarantees religious liberty.

Paul Charles, Communication director for the denomination’s Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division, told the gathering that the purpose of the function was for the Seventh-day Adventists to express their profound appreciation to the government of Zimbabwe for the religious freedom the church was enjoying. He urged the Adventists to respect those from other religions and denominations.

“The reason why we love each other, even though we do not know each other is that in you I see the image of God and in me you see the image of God,” Charles said.

View the entire article here.

About these ads
Adventist Peacemaker Noticed by Review Magazine After Flight MH17 Tragedy [UPDATED]

by Jeff Boyd

The Adventist Review reports that “Frieda Souhuwat-Tomasoa, had booked a seat on Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 from Amsterdam to the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, on July 17.”[1] However, because “she wanted to arrive at her destination earlier, she at the last minute changed to a flight a day earlier on Emirates.” The flight was shot down while passing through eastern Ukrainian airspace.

Her purpose for traveling:

Souhuwat-Tomasoa, a member of the Executive Committee of the Netherlands Union Conference and an elder at her local Adventist church, Rotterdam-North, was traveling to Ambon, Indonesia, to assist in a United Nations mandate to reconcile people in an area buffeted by sectarian conflict a decade ago.

She frequently travels to Ambon, located on Maluku Islands, just to the east of the island of Sulawesi, as an active participant in the UN program, Altink said.

Read the original AR story here.

UPDATE: On July 25 the Adventist Review posted a follow-up story describing Souhuwat-Tomasoa's peacebuilding efforts in Indonesia.[2] She was making an “emergency visit to Ambon, Indonesia, where a major conference that she was organizing was on the brink of collapse.” Souhuwat-Tomasoa works for “UNPO, a Hague-based organization that seeks to find nonviolent solutions to conflicts that affect indigenous peoples, minorities, and unrecognized or occupied territories.”

The article reports:

Souhuwat-Tomasoa, a member of the Netherlands Union Conference’s Executive Committee and an elder at her local Rotterdam-North church, retired from a career in Dutch government service but remains active with UNPO, which she joined in 1991.

She serves as a representative of the people of the Maluku Islands, where a conflict erupted between Christians and Muslims in the regional capital, Ambon, in 1999. The sectarian violence, which saw entire villages burned down, raged until 2003 and killed an estimated 10,000 people.

Souhuwat-Tomasoa was present in Ambon during the violence and used her position with UNPO to steer shiploads of food and clothing from ADRA, the Adventist relief agency, to those who needed assistance.

She also helped facilitate a peace agreement that ended the fighting and has engaged in efforts to
rebuild the shattered region, again working with the Netherlands branch of ADRA. She said the four years of fighting left many orphans and people with post-traumatic stress disorder.

When a multiyear study found that the Maluku Islands are the second poorest of Indonesia’s 33 provinces and its inhabitants are among the least educated in the country, UNPO decided to organize a major conference to create understanding and insight into local problems and to help shape the province’s policy. Souhuwat-Tomasoa set to work organizing the conference with Ambon’s three largest universities.

The entire article with more details is accessible here.

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About these ads
Adventist Pilot Gary Roberts Supports Conservation Efforts in Chad

by Jeff Boyd

*Spectrum* reports that Gary Roberts was included in a Smithsonian article on elephant conservation—“*Christians and Conservation*” (Sterling Spence, 21 July 2014). Roberts “flew to the aid of local conservationists to investigate reports of a mass killing and attempted to save the life of a single 9-month old calf.”

Spence concludes, “As followers of Christ, we have a responsibility to look at the world through the lens of the gospel. What conversations do you think the community should have when addressed with issues of conservation, consumption, and climate change?”

*Spectrum Article*

*Smithsonian Article*

*About these ads*
The APF provides a certification program for churches committed to working for peace and social justice as an integral part of their identity and mission so that they can become part of a public Adventist Peace Church network. The following four pioneering churches have passed official motions to become part of the Adventist Peace Church movement:

Anaheim SDA Church 900 Sunkist St. Anaheim, CA 92806 [www.anaheimadventist.org](http://www.anaheimadventist.org)

Glendale City Church 610 E. California Ave. Glendale, CA 91206-3701 [www.glendalecitychurch.org](http://www.glendalecitychurch.org)

Advent Hope Church 111 E. 87th St. (between Park and Lexington) New York, NY 10128 [www.adventhope.org](http://www.adventhope.org)


The certification process to become an Adventist Peace Church takes approximately one year to complete and includes the following steps (also posted on the APF website):

1) Churches must become registered applicants for Adventist Peace Church certification by notifying the APF by email of their desire to join the Adventist Peace Church network.

2) Church boards must pass a motion—such as the APF model resolution for churches—affirming basic principles of
Christian peace witness and concern for matters of social justice as integral to their identity and mission, as well as expressing a desire to be publicly identified as an Adventist Peace Church.

3) Churches must identify one or more of the following core campaigns to emphasize in their work with a long-term commitment to building relationships and developing action strategies appropriate to their local contexts: care for creation, economic justice, peacemaking and reconciliation, racial and gender justice, health and human rights.

4) Over a one year period, church congregations must engage in three concrete actions or conscious-raising events in their local communities in partnership with non-members to address peace and justice concerns.

5) Over a one year period, churches must include at least three worship services that emphasize peace and justice themes.

6) On a designated weekend (such as Fourth of July or Memorial Day weekend), all Adventist Peace Churches will hold services that with sensitivity and respect for all members recall the Adventist heritage of peacemaking and conscientious objection in times of war, mourn the victims of violence (both civilians and combatants), and focus attention on the work of individuals around the world whose commitment to peacemaking places them in danger and hardship.

7) Upon completion of these steps, churches will be officially designated by the APF as Adventist Peace Churches. They should notify their Union and Division papers of the steps they have taken and wherever appropriate encourage their sister churches to join the Peace Church network.

8) In order to remain an active Adventist Peace Church, congregations must continue to follow steps 4-6 or other processes or actions voted by the Adventist Peace Church network as a whole on an annual basis (with accountability to other Peace churches).
The Adventist Review reports that “Seventh-day Adventist church in Panama has signed an agreement with the University of Panama in Panama City to develop initiatives to counter growing violence in the Central American country” (IAD Staff, 2 July 2014, link). The article continues, “Under the agreement, the church and the state university will conduct joint research about young people, carry out early detection and prevention of domestic violence, and promote family unity with special programs and activities.”

The complete article can be read here.
Joanna Darby recorded a short video on creation care for Brad Rea's YouTube channel, Seventh-day Adventist Fans of Jesus–Toward an Adventist perspective on Christian Environmental Ethics. Brad asked Joanna to share her thoughts on camera because she often preaches about a Christian approach to sustainable living and because he values her belief that Christians should be Environmental activists in their own way.

Here is the video's YouTube description:

**Published on Jan 31, 2014**

“Creation Care” – An Adventist's perspective on Christian Environmental ethics, and the need to look after God’s natural creation – the world around us.

Popular SDA speaker Joanna Darby talks about a Christian environmental ethic in light of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Joanna Darby (Jo Darby) is a popular Seventh-day Adventist speaker at youth rallies, church services, SDA Summer Camps, The One Project, and church retreats. Joanna is also a writer and artist.

Visit Joanna Darby's website at – [http://www.joannadarby.com](http://www.joannadarby.com)

Video title: Toward an Adventist perspective on Christian Environmental ethics – Joanna Darby

“Creation Care” Music by Mark Robinson.