Union College Hosts Interfaith Iraq Memorial

Three hundred people of different religious backgrounds gathered at Union College for the Interfaith Iraq Peacemaking and Memorial Service, which was dedicated to remembrances of Yazidis who have been killed and enslaved by ISIS, reported the Lincoln Journal Star. (link)

College View Academy Hosts Fundraiser for ISIS Victims

College View Academy students put on a fundraiser for ISIS victims, Megan Conway reports for KLKN TV (ABC 8) in Lincoln, Nebraska. APF has been told the funds are going to Adventist Frontier Mission’s (AFM) refugee ministry in northern Iraq. Also, all funds designated for Yazda are being sent to that nonprofit. Finances are going to AFM because neither ADRA nor the Middle East Union is active in the area, we are told. (link)

New Book: Do Justice

Nathan Brown and Joanna Darby have recently published a collection of essays on just living entitled Do Justice: Our Call to Faithful Living. The book is currently available in Australia, and it will be released in the U.S. in 2015. The One Project plans to distribute the book at their conferences around the world, increasing exposure for the book. Twenty-six authors contributed chapters presenting a range of viewpoints on just living. (link)
14 Soldiers in God’s Army

The *Adventist Review* continues the recent focus on the anniversary of World War I with the story, “14 Soldiers in God’s Army.” The lengthy article addresses how the Adventists were treated in prison and the steps to their eventual release. Special focus is given to their first Sabbath in prison. (link)

Islamic Professor Addresses Peace at Oakwood University

Dr. Mahmoud M. Ayoub, professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary, recently spoke at Oakwood University, a Seventh-day Adventist university in Huntsville, Alabama. Ayoub’s presentation (“Islamic Visions of Peace”) was for the 2014 ‘Ahl al-Kitab Lectureship, which was sponsored by Oakwood’s Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations and the Huntsville Islamic Center. (link)

Adventist Physicians Confront Ebola

Two Adventist doctors—Gillian Seton and James Appel—who have been screening potential Ebola patients at Cooper Hospital in Liberia, are currently in the United States. Dr. Seton plans to return to Liberia, while Appel will be returning to Chad where he has worked for more than a decade. (link)
Today is the International Day of Non-violence. The UN describes three categories of non-violent action:

- protest and persuasion, including marches and vigils;
- non-cooperation; and
- non-violent intervention, such as blockades and occupations. (link)

A meaningful story about an Adventist vigil is the recent memorial service hosted by Union College in Lincoln, NE. The Lincoln Journal Star reports that 300 people of different religious backgrounds gathered for the “Interfaith Iraq Peacemaking and Memorial Service on Sunday, which was dedicated to remembrances of Yazidis who have been killed and enslaved by ISIS” (Chris Heady, 28 Sept 2014).

The article shared the context and motivation for the event:

Lincoln is home to more than 1,000 Yazidis, a group of Kurdish-speaking people who live largely in northern Iraq. Lincoln’s Yazidi community is the nation’s largest, and on Sunday some of them, along with other Lincoln residents of various faiths, tried to send out a message of peace to the world. They urged everyone to look at humans as people, not as their faith or skin color.

Doug Hardt of the Union College Center for Interfaith Studies and Culture conceived of the remembrance ceremony after traveling to Iraq this summer. After seeing one million people without homes and after talking with people who had gone through hell, he said, he wanted to do something to remember those who had died.

The article concludes:

As the group of 300 or so reflected during a moment of silence, phones lit the poem on the back of a program: “Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.” (complete article)

See also the earlier article, “Union College’s Iraqi memorial service aims to begin healing, reconciliation” (Lincoln Journal Star, 26 Sept 2014).

APF readers who are interested in nonviolent peacemaking in the Middle East may find the following items worth considering:

- CPT – Iraq
- Is There a Nonviolent Response to ISIS? (Flood, Huffington Post, 12 Aug 2014)
- What Can Christians Do About Iraq? (Raushenbush, Huffington Post, 8 Aug 2014)
- Fasting for the Middle East (September 11 to October 20) (Komarnicki, Evangelicals for Social Action, 9 Sept 2014)
• Jim Foley, ISIS, and What I Learned from Being Kidnapped (Gish, Red Letter Christians, 25 Aug 2014)
• ISIS vs the Way of Jesus (Medearis, Red Letter Christians, 11 Sept 2014)
• Acting Like A State: ISIS, the US, and Jesus as Lord (Wilson-Hartgrove, Red Letter Christians, 22 Sept 2014)
• ISIS and the Good Samaritan (Hunt, American Jesus, 22 Sept 2014)
• How Christians Reject Jesus: On Violence and ISIS (Ericksen, Sojourners, 24 Sept 2014)
• War Is Not the Answer (Wallis, Sojourners, 11 Sept 2014)
• more…

“Alternatives to Violence: Various SNVM Members Speak About the War on Da’esh (ISIS)”
SNVM member Rasha al-Qass Yousef:

As a Syrian from a Christian background who has many years of experience with different Syrian opposition groups, I believe military intervention against ISIS will only lead to the creation of more extremism.

Before starting with a military solution, why not explore political, economic, and social solutions? Why did it take the West so long to embargo the oil produced by ISIS? Why did the West turn a blind eye to the flood of jihadists entering Syria through Turkey? Why no real pressure on Gulf countries for their official and unofficial massive support of different nefarious armed groups? Why did the “Friends of Syria” fail to provide Raqqa—the first liberated area in the country—with any support for the local community, the civil society organizations, and the emerging local council, despite all the calls to do so?"

—Rasha Qass Yousef, member of the Syrian Nonviolence Movement and the Syrian Democratic Forum, a co-founder of the Haquna Movement, a civil resistance group in the city of Raqqa that campaigned against both the Assad regime and the armed groups who seized the city, including ISIS

Posted on Facebook by the Syrian Nonviolence Movement
Published online by Dissent Magazine
College View Academy Hosts Fundraiser for ISIS Victims

by Jeff Boyd

College View Academy students put on a fundraiser for ISIS victims, Megan Conway reports for KLKN TV (ABC 8) in Lincoln, Nebraska (link). Recently, Union College also hosted an event focusing on Iraqis affected by the conflict.

KLKN article excerpts:

At the Union College campus tonight, hundreds came out for a benefit concert. The purpose of the concert was giving back to families in the middle of a war zone, thousands of miles away. College View Academy students hosted the benefit concert all in an effort to help the victims of ISIS.

Special guests Mayor Chris Beutler and his wife came to the event. Baked goods were sold and students sang and played instruments.

The volunteers raised just over six and a half thousand dollars. Their hope is to influence other schools and organizations to do the same, stressing that every little bit helps. [complete article]

Update: APF has been told the funds are going to Adventist Frontier Mission’s (AFM) refugee ministry in northern Iraq (link). Also, all funds designated for Yazda are being sent to that nonprofit. Finances are going to AFM because neither ADRA nor the Middle East Union is active in the area, we are told. As of Wednesday night (15 Oct), the total raised has increased to $9,500.

The Good Neighbor Community Center posted two short videos of local media coverage:

- KLKN ABC 8 [article transcription]
- 10 11 Now
Do Justice: Our Call to Faithful Living (Edited by Nathan Brown and Joanna Darby)

by Jeff Boyd

Nathan Brown and Joanna Darby have recently published a collection of essays on just living entitled *Do Justice*. The book is currently available in Australia, and it will be released in the U.S. in 2015. The One Project plans to distribute the book at their conferences around the world, increasing exposure for the book.

ADRA Australia released the first statement about the book, which is fitting because the Forward was written by Jonathan Duffy, former CEO of ADRA Australia and current ADRA International president.

Mark Webster, the current ADRA Australia CEO, writes that the editors have pulled “together the wisdom of a diverse group of 26 people for whom justice is a passion, harnessing their thoughts, experiences and advice into a cohesive whole.” Webster continues,

Authors such as Kendra Haloviak Valentine and Ty Gibson explore that foundational nature of justice to our faith and indeed our existence. Dwight Nelson and Lowell C Cooper, among others, explore the nexus of faith and justice in the context of the church and its beliefs. Lisa Clark Diller and Zivayi Nengomasha join their voices with those of others seeking to make justice an intentional part of their lives. And another group, including Tim Gillespie, Ella Smith Simmons and Mindi Wiygul, share guidance from their own experiences of justice in practice.

The entire review can be read [here](http://www.adventistpeace.wordpress.com/2014/10/29/do-justice-our-call-to-faithful-living-edited-by-nathan-brown-and-joanna-darby/).
AR: 14 Soldiers in God’s Army

by Jeff Boyd

The *Adventist Review* continues the recent focus on the anniversary of World War I with the story, “14 Soldiers in God’s Army” (Victor Hulbert, 28 Oct 2014).

The article begins with a brief description of the abuse the Adventists experienced:

> Fourteen Adventist soldiers laid down their tools at 4:00 p.m. on Friday to prepare for Sabbath. But the sergeants were ready, armed with sticks, revolvers, and boots. Severe beatings followed. The bruised British conscripts then were roughly thrust into prison cells, irons tightly clamped on their wrists, digging into their flesh, their hands behind their backs.

After relating the staggering statistics relating to WWI, Hulbert shares,

> Adventist soldiers found a different kind of horror. Determined to keep the Sabbath and not carry weapons, they were beaten, starved, forced to clean toilets to a shine without equipment, and punished with the dreaded “crucifixion,” which saw soldiers shackled in irons and painfully strapped to a gun wheel or some other object for hours in the hot sun.

Hulbert describes the difference between the ways leaders in Great Britain and Germany responded to the war. Adventists in Germany predominantly supported fighting for the nation, though some did resist, which led to the Reform Movement.

> Adventists in Britain took a different stance. They followed the Adventist example of noncombatance adopted during the American Civil War in 1861 to 1865. This was not an easy choice, and British Adventists were widely scorned as belonging to an odd, working-class church exported from the U.S.

Things went smoothly, more-or-less, for the first 18 months for the Adventists who were conscripted.

> But a new young officer took charge in November 1917, and he declared that Sabbath duty was mandatory. When the Adventists refused to work, they were placed under court martial and sentenced to six months of hard labor at Military Prison No. 3 in Le Havre.

The lengthy article addresses how the Adventists were treated in prison and the steps to their eventual release. Special focus is given to their first Sabbath in prison.
The complete article can be read here.
Islamic Professor Addresses Peace at Oakwood University

by Jeff Boyd

“Dr. Mahmoud M. Ayoub, professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut and emeritus professor of Islamic Studies and Comparative Religions at Temple University,” recently spoke at Oakwood University, a historically black Seventh-day Adventist university in Huntsville, Alabama. Ayoub’s presentation (“Islamic Visions of Peace”) was for the 2014 ‘Ahl al-Kitab Lectureship, which was sponsored by Oakwood’s Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations and the Huntsville Islamic Center, according to Kay Campbell of AL.com.

Ayoub shared that “‘Salaam’ as the Qu’ran describes it, is more than the absence of war.” Rather, it “is doing something positive–building up the Earth to make it a holy, safe place to make it the abode of God.”

Ayoub also spoke about jihad and helping people.

The only armed struggle, or “jihad,” authorized by the Qu’ran, said Ayoub…is an armed struggle on behalf of the oppressed.

“This is the ethics of war, according to the Qu’ran,” said Ayoub, who is blind and speaks in a still, quiet voice. “War is always a last choice – and if the enemy inclines toward peace, then you should, too.”

“Muhammad taught the middle way,” Ayoub said. “The goal is to help people who are in need. The world will never be perfect, but it can be a great deal better than it is today. What is the problem? Human greed, and people making idols of a nation or of wealth or even a religion.”

This report is based on two articles by Kay Campbell at AL.com:

- What is the Islamic vision of peace? Internationally respected Islamic scholar to lecture in Huntsville (23 Oct 2014)
- Muhammad taught ‘middle way,’ peace is theme of Quran, says Islamic prof at Oakwood University (23 Oct 2014)
Adventist Physicians Confront Ebola

by Jeff Boyd

Two Adventist doctors—Gillian Seton and James Appel (a member on the APF Advisory Board)—who have been screening potential Ebola patients at Cooper Hospital in Liberia, are currently in the United States. Dr. Seton plans to return to Liberia, while Appel will be returning to Chad where he has worked for more than a decade. We feature Appel’s book, *Nasara*, on the APF resource page.

Here is a non-exhaustive round-up of the considerable media coverage they have received:

**LLU Alumni Deliver Health Care at Ebola Stricken Region**

(ANN, 15 Aug 2014)

Dr. Gillian Seton, a 2008 graduate of Loma Linda, has served since February at Cooper Adventist Hospital in Liberia as a participant in the university’s Deferred Mission Appointment program. The program, developed by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, provides financial support to medical and dental students committed to overseas mission service.

Another physician, Dr. James Appel, a 2000 Loma Linda graduate, is expected to arrive this week in Liberia to provide medical care alongside Seton at Cooper Adventist Hospital. Appel has spent the last decade as a family medicine physician in the north-central African country of Chad. (article link)

**Back from Africa, Loma Linda University Med School Grads Discuss Ebola**

(Steinberg, The Sun, 28 Oct 2014)

Seton and Dr. James Appel were in Loma Linda recently to attend the Global Healthcare Conference at Loma Linda University and speak to community members.

Lack of protective gear, few sinks for handwashing and little training in infectious disease control combine to make hospital work in West Africa dangerous, as this year’s outbreak Ebola takes its toll, according to Loma Linda University medical school graduates back from the continent.

“I am very disappointed by the American public’s reaction (to the Ebola threat),” said Seton, 33. “It makes me very angry.”

Seton and Appel bristle at the notion that Ebola can spread like a wildfire.

“The only way to get Ebola is if someone vomits on you, defecates on you, urinates on you or bleeds on you,” Seton said in an interview. (article link)

**James Appel Documents Journey to Liberia**

(Appel, Adventist Health International)

**Loma Linda University grads staying in Ebola-plagued region**

(Steinberg, The Sun, 17 Aug 2014)

**In Face of Ebola, California-Trained Doctor Treats Patients in Liberia**

(Aliferis, State of Health, 21 Aug 2014)
Colorado doctor helping the sick in Ebola-stricken Africa (Illescas, Denver Post, 24 Aug 2014)

Dispatches from Ebola-Hit Liberia (Appel, Spectrum, 8 Sept 2014)


6 QUESTIONS: Missionary doctor returns from epicenter of Ebola outbreak (Kleckner, KULR 8, 30 Oct 2014)

Adventist Videos on Ebola

NAD Social Media Campaign – The Ebola Crisis in West Africa (NAD). “The North American Division is starting a social media based funding campaign to support the fight against Ebola in West Africa. Adventist Health International manages two hospitals in Sierra Leone and Liberia. They are working to provide much needed health care for the people of this region. Please support the dedicated medical professionals and staff who are putting their own lives on the line to provide relief to those suffering in West Africa.”


Adventism, Ebola, and You (3ABN). “Due to soaring interest in our 3ABN Today Live program, “Adventism, Ebola, and You,” we have just posted this two-hour program on YouTube. Viewers can watch this fascinating interview with Dr. Peter Landless, director of Health Ministries for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, as well as Dr. James Appel, and Dr. Gillian Seton, who have just returned from caring for patients at the Cooper Adventist Hospital in Monrovia, Liberia.”

Part 1 (YouTube)

Part 2 (YouTube)