Announcing the 2015 Adventist Peace and Justice Wall Calendar

“The APF is pleased to announce publication of our first wall calendar featuring Adventist pioneers whose lives continue to challenge and provoke as champions of nonviolence, peacemaking, social justice, environmentalism, freedom of conscience, and human rights. The 12”x12” calendar includes major U.S. holidays and days of significance to socially conscious persons of all faiths or none. Days of particular importance to peacemakers in the Adventist tradition are highlighted in red.” (link)

Hundreds of Students at Andrews University March for Racial Justice (by Shenika McDonald)

“On Saturday, December 6, approximately 250 Andrews University students, faculty, staff, and Berrien Springs community members participated in a justice march to the Berrien Springs Police Department. It was the first public protest in the school’s history. For many students this was a chance to lend their voice to a worthy cause. The march was held in memory of Eric Garner and Michael Brown, Jr. - two Black, unarmed men killed by the police.” (link)

Northeastern Conference President Calls for Racial Justice
“Dr. Daniel Honoré, president of the Northeastern Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, read a statement at the worship service this past Sabbath (Dec. 6, 2014) at the Ephesus SDA Church in Harlem, NY.”  (link)

Oakwood University Students and Adventists in Ohio Participate in Protests

“Students at Oakwood University and Adventists in Ohio participated in demonstrations calling for racial justice.”  (link)
The APF is pleased to announce publication of our first wall calendar featuring Adventist pioneers whose lives continue to challenge and provoke as champions of nonviolence, peacemaking, social justice, environmentalism, freedom of conscience, and human rights. The 12"x12" calendar includes major U.S. holidays and days of significance to socially conscious persons of all faiths or none. Days of particular importance to peacemakers in the Adventist tradition are highlighted in red.

The APF 2015 wall calendar will be mailed to pastors, teachers, and others in the APF network, and sent as a thank-you to individuals who make an online donation of at least $25 to the APF before the end of January. Donations will help support the ongoing work of the APF and creation of an Adventist peace and justice curriculum for use in school and church settings.

Among the individuals whose stories are told throughout the year on the calendar are prominent poet and novelist of the Harlem Renaissance, Arna Bontemps (February); champion of gender equality, Sojourner Truth (March); Soviet
era prisoner of conscience Vladimir Shelkov (August); and revolutionary missionaries to Peru, Fernando and Ana Stahl (September). The calendar also announces the first annual Adventist Peace Education Week (January 12-19), and first annual Adventist Peace Fellowship Sabbath (May 23).

A high resolution sample from the calendar (featuring A. T. Jones for the month of January) can be downloaded as a PDF file.

For more information about the calendar, see the interview with its creator, APF director Ronald Osborn, by Jared Wright at Spectrum Magazine online.

About these ads
An original report by Shenika McDonald

On Saturday, December 6, approximately 250 Andrews University students, faculty, staff, and Berrien Springs community members participated in a justice march to the Berrien Springs Police Department. It was the first public protest in the school's history. For many students this was a chance to lend their voice to a worthy cause. The march was held in memory of Eric Garner and Michael Brown, Jr. – two Black, unarmed men killed by the police. Shastri Lloyd, a senior theology major and coordinator of the posters used in the event, said that “the march helped to engage Oronoko County Police in real conversation about them being proactive about race issues, and how they affect their approach to law enforcement.”

Aside from starting a conversation, the protesters chanted several phrases such as “black lives matters,” “hands up, don’t shoot,” “I can’t breathe,” and “no justice, no peace.” Once at the police department the protesters walked around the building following the model of Joshua marching around the walls of Jericho. They prayed for both the protection of officers who put their lives on the line for the safety of Oronoko County, and for individuals in the future to never feel oppressed by the officers’ power. There was a moment of silence that lasted 4.5 minutes to represent the 4.5 hours Michael Brown Jr.’s dead body was left in the street before he was finally attended to.

The protest was led by Andrews students, including, Tanya Loveday, Ndubuisi Nwade, Jameel Daniels, Karyle Barnes, Dwayne Wescom, Nephtali Eugene, Shastri Lloyd, and Persephanie Chiddick, as well as Chaplain Michael Polite. The event was covered by South Bend news station WSBT22 and made their website’s top news for the day. (WSBT’s coverage can be found at: http://www.wsbtv.com/news/local/hundreds-rally-for-justice-inberrien-springs/30100712)

The movement does not end here. Students have many plans for the future, including projects in Benton Harbor and boycotts. This peaceful protest in the small town of Berrien Springs is part of a massive national movement, and the students of Andrews University are doing their part help the oppressed and share justice as is commanded by God. More information, photos, and videos of the march can be found on Facebook using the hashtag: #breakthewalls
Dr. Daniel Honoré, president of the Northeastern Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, read the following statement at the worship service this past Sabbath (Dec. 6, 2014) at the Ephesus SDA Church in Harlem, NY:

A STATEMENT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE:

The Bible teaches us that “righteousness exalveth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people”.
Proverbs 14:34

For millions of New Yorkers this was an anxious week. Many patiently awaited the results of a grand jury inquiry into the death of Staten Island resident, Eric Garner. The failure to indict the police officer, who is clearly seen on video applying the banned chokehold procedure on the victim, as he pleaded for his life, is a tremendous disappointment to millions of law-abiding citizens. There is a sense that justice has eluded us and that certain lives are valued less than others.

As I think of my own sons and the thousands of minority youths whose spiritual home is the Northeastern Conference, I cannot but be compelled to join our voice to those crying out for a more just society. I join those calling on the Federal Government to conduct its own investigation into the death of an unarmed black man. The Word of God urges us “Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause”. (Isaiah 1:17)

I call on our Pastors and lay leaders to speak up respectfully in support of the safety and civil rights of our young men and women. Engage the youth of your church and community in discussion, action and prayer. We encourage your participation in public forums, marches and non-violent events in which Seventh-day Adventists can speak up for peace and justice without compromising our religious convictions.

May the Lord bless you and keep you as you to “do justly, and love mercy, and walk humbly before God”.

Daniel Honoré
President
NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE OF SDA

The original document can be accessed online here.

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Oakwood University Students and Adventists in Ohio Participate in Protests

by APF

We reported earlier that Andrews University students were active in demonstrations calling for racial justice. Also, the president of the Northeastern Conference made a public statement. These were not the only Adventists who joined the national conversation. Students at Oakwood University and Adventists in Ohio also participated, reports Spectrum.

Here are a number of articles that reported on their involvement. Excerpts below:

**Pastors: Prayer trumps protest** (Lori Kurtzman, Columbus Dispatch, 7 Dec 2014)

Church leaders and members gathered outside the Statehouse yesterday to call for prayer in a time of social unrest. “You can’t meet anger with anger,” said John Boston, pastor at Central Seventh-day Adventist Church on the Near East Side. “We want to meet anger with calm, protest with prayer.”

**March on Wynn Drive to University Blvd.** (Oakwood University, 5 Dec 2014)

We understand that some of our Oakwood students along with other students have been involved in the organizing of a demonstration (#ShutItDownHSV) for December 5, at 4:30 p.m. We support the rights of our students to peacefully protest. However, we are deeply concerned about the safety and well-being of our students and anyone else who has planned to participate. We do not support the breaking of traffic laws and ask every Oakwood student, “If you choose to participate, to do so peacefully and lawfully, in accordance with the laws of the city of Huntsville.”

We also invite students who wish to express themselves, but do not wish to march to join us on Sunday, December 7, at 5:00 p.m. in Moran Hall to help assemble an action plan for how Oakwood students can support the mission of creating “One Huntsville.”

**March on Wynn Drive to University Blvd: A message from Oakwood University president** (Oakwood University, 5 Dec 2014)

Tonight I stood among our students as they made their voices heard. I marched with them. I felt their unrest. I could sense that they wanted change and equality. As I looked at their faces, I couldn’t help but think how this experience would change them forever. Being able to protest for change is a beautiful thing. And we are proud of how they conducted themselves in the midst of their pain and anger.

**Students from Oakwood University fill streets with peaceful protest** (WAFF 48, 5 Dec 2014)

The protest started to block off Wynn Drive from Oakwood University all the way to University Drive Friday evening.

**UPDATE: #ShutItDownHSV protest march remains peaceful along University Drive** (Matt Kroschel, WHNT 19, 5 Dec 2014)

Oakwood University students and other local college students angered by high-profile cases in Missouri and New York gathered for a protest march Friday evening. Students used social media and the Twitter hashtag #ShutItDownHSV to get out the word.

**Oakwood University Students are Joined in Protest by the Huntsville Community on a March to Shut Down**
**University Drive** (Jonathan Bratton, Vimeo, Dec 2014)

Oakwood University Students are Joined in Protest by the Huntsville Community on a March to Shut Down University Drive

**Following Ferguson protests, Oakwood University students start seeking solutions; want police body cameras** (Paul Huggins, AL.com, 7 Dec 2014)

Two days after 300 Oakwood University students marched in protest against African American deaths by police, they began working on “tangible solutions,” such as requiring police body cameras, that they intend to deliver to city officials.

**Oakwood students have ‘What’s next’ meeting after protests** (Shevaun Bryan, WHNT 19, 7 Dec 2014)

A quiet Sunday meeting was filled with ideas from the same minds that brought a massive demonstration to the Rocket City.

**FEATURED IMAGE CREDIT:** Leslie Pollard, @LesPollard, “Black Lives Matter–at the Oakwood demonstration for justice in Huntsville!” (6:14 PM – 5 Dec 2014)

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