A Solemn Appeal for Prayer
World Assembly, June 24-July 11, 2012

The delegates to the Constitutional Convention had come to a roadblock. For ten bitter weeks they had struggled over the question of representation. The small states wanted equal representation in the senate. The large states asserted that representation should be based on the population of each state. Each side voiced its arguments. Each side dug in its heels.

The Constitutional Convention was at a standstill. Frustration mounted. Delegates threatened to abandon the convention. The future of the United States of America teetered on the precipice of uncertainty. Finally, an old man near the back of the room cleared his throat. Benjamin Franklin, the oldest delegate at the Convention, had something to say.

"In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understandings? In the beginning of the contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger we had daily prayer in this room for the divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a Superintending providence in our favor. To that kind providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful friend? Or do we imagine that we no longer need his assistance? I have lived, Sir, a very long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth—that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings, that 'except the Lord build the House they labour in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel." –Our Country’s Founders, pp. 257-258.

These words ring true for us today as well. At this moment, a little over one hundred delegates (the Ethiopian delegates have not been able to get their visas approved by the South African government and are the...
only group unable to attend) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Reform Movement, are meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa. Six days each week, their meetings typically begin at 7:00 a.m. and last until about 9:00 p.m., with breaks for meals. Many must work even after the meetings are over for the day. Delegates are blessed by daily worship services and group prayer times, when small groups of delegates (only four or five per group) pray together to seek God’s wisdom and blessing. They understand their need of prayer. There are many weighty issues to decide in these meetings, and the enemy of truth is relentless.

In Exodus 17:8-16, the story is told of Israel’s fight with the Amalekites. Moses assured Joshua that, while he fought in the valley below, Moses would stand on top of a hill and hold the rod of God in his hand. This Moses did, and Joshua and his men made progress in their struggle with the enemy. However, after some time passed, Moses’ arms grew heavy, and he put them down to rest. Suddenly, the Amalekites surged forward with a vengeance. Quickly, Moses lifted his hands again, and Joshua regained his advantage. The muscles in Moses’ arms ached from the exertion required to extend that rod for such a long period of time. He longed for rest. Down came his arms again. At that moment the Amalekites attacked more furiously than before, and Joshua’s army was pushed back. Once more Moses’ arms went up, and Joshua’s army prevailed.

Aaron and Hur, who had accompanied Moses to the crest of the hill, grew alarmed. To win the battle, Joshua needed the blessing of God through Moses, but Moses was getting weaker and could no longer keep his arms extended for the length of time Joshua needed. Aaron and Hur stepped in. Dragging a stone to where Moses stood, they directed him to sit upon it. With tender strength, they grasped his weakened arms and
kept them lifted up to God. For the duration of the battle, until Joshua emerged victorious, the silhouette of these three men could be seen as they stood faithful to their task; one was the leader, the other two were the faithful volunteers who stepped up to lend their strength to Moses’ leadership.

Are you willing to strengthen the hands of the delegates in session? Would you be willing to take some time each day to pray diligently for these leaders? The days are long; and the subject matter, heavy. Their sincerest desire is to know the will of God for each decision and to follow it. But they cannot and should not do it alone. Let us come together in fervent prayer for these dedicated men and women of God. Let us lift our voices toward Heaven and plead for God’s spirit to be poured out upon the delegates in session, that His will will be done. Can they count on you?

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If you would like to follow along with the activities of the World Assembly meetings, information is updated semi-regularly to the General Conference website (http://www.imssda.org). Thank you for your prayerful support.

“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”
James 5:16

Serve, Part II
Southeastern Field Children’s Conference Report, April 5-7, 2012
Margie Seely, Cedartown, GA

As reported in last month’s AUNL, the Southeastern Field Children’s Conference was an opportunity for many children to learn through practical experience the importance of and blessings found in serving others.

The conference came to a close on Sunday morning with a very blessed event—the baptism of one young person and the rebaptism of a young couple who had wandered away but, like the prodigal son, returned to the love they had known with their Heavenly Father.

Pastors Idel Suárez, Jr., and Tzvetan Petkov officiated at the baptisms. Pastor Suárez baptized his niece Andriana Seely (see testimony below), and Pastor Petkov baptized Israel and Nancy, while their two young sons looked on.

Following the baptism, Pastor Suárez gave an altar call. Approximately thirty children and young people responded. There, on the beach, Pastor Suárez knelt with and prayed for them.

The youth are a treasure of the church. We must make the time to instruct and protect their tender minds and hearts.
Andriana’s Testimony
Andriana Seely, Cedartown, GA

Like many typical teens, I was rebellious and didn’t like to be told what to do. I did what I wanted to do—when I wanted to do it. I still wanted to give my life to God, but that was always “someday.” I knew what my parents expected of me. I knew their rules. But I always stepped across those rules to see how far I could go.

It got to the point that anything they asked of me, I did the opposite. I didn’t care. I told them I hated them and wanted to leave. At age fourteen, I almost left home. But I couldn’t shake feeling insecure about whether or not I could make it on my own. I tried to make myself happy, but the outcome was that I was never truly happy.

In 2010, I attended a Western Field conference and listened to Sharon Eaton share her testimony. She talked about how she went so far from Christ that when she tried to come back, she actually felt that physical chains bound her wrists and she lost her health. When she finally, with God’s help, broke free, she felt the peace, joy, and love of Jesus surrounding her.

There it was!! That was what I wanted! I knew I needed to stop what I was doing. I needed to give my life to Christ. There was no “later”! It needed to be NOW! I struggled for months. I started to take Bible studies, with my grandmother Evelyn Holmstroem. When my family and I moved to Georgia in 2011, I continued taking Bible studies with Pastor Larry Watts.

It has been a long process, but God has guided me and changed me. I now know the peace and joy to be found in Jesus Christ.

Do YOU have an item of interest for the AUNL?
Let us know at: americanunionnewsletter@yahoo.com

2012 Calendar

June 24-July 11: World Assembly of Delegates, Johannesburg, South Africa
July 11-15: General Conference Public Session, Johannesburg, South Africa
July 15-22: World Youth Conference, Johannesburg, South Africa
August 22-26: Western Field Conference, Camp Alta, Alta, California