Don't Forget the Roots

When you see a healthy tree, the tendency is to appreciate the beauty that you see. That's not a bad thing. Whether it has a tall smooth trunk, perfectly shaped leaves, or colorful flowers, we praise what we see. In describing a beautiful tree, you wouldn't gush over the roots.

The roots grow deep into the ground providing support, water and nutrients to the tree.

Read full article

God's Soldier
As a cage fighter, movie star and drug user, Nico the Dragon didn't think he needed God in his life. He was in the fast lane on his way to oblivion when God started whispering to him words of healing and hope! God saved Nicholas Hill from a life of self destruction and ruin. Out of his struggles Nico's form of poetry called "Spoken Word" is touching many hearts. Nico is available to speak in various youth, young adult, and adult ministry settings. Contact Nico through his website above.

Watch video

inSpired to Create

On April 26-28, a convergence of songwriters, artists, photographers and creative-types of various stripes took place in Berkeley, Calif., to celebrate the arts and share how creativity can be used to glorify God and enrich our lives.

Sponsored by Pacific Union Conference Church Support Services, the idea of an event for creatives was to foster a greater awareness of the importance of creative expression in our daily lives, and specifically as it relates to our mission as a church.

Read more

Cruise With a Mission

Are you a young adult looking for a service opportunity close to home? If so, Cruise with a Mission may be just the right opportunity for you! It's a mission trip, a cruise, and a spiritual retreat, all wrapped up in one meaningful adventure; a vacation with purpose! Cruise with a Mission offers an opportunity to release the tensions of life in the context of Christian community. Join other young adults as we explore Alaska in 2013.

More details here

Intercer Celebrates Milestone

In early June 2013, Intercer celebrates 16 years of activity! Intercer started as the first created Romanian Adventist website, and today Intercer has a network of biblical websites continuing to be the most popular Romanian Adventist website, with a monthly average of 60,000 unique visitors.

Learn how God is using this powerful web ministry.

Read full article

If We Could See Inside
Monte Sahlin recently shared this video that is worth your time. It presents a profound look at life as people in a hospital go about their daily lives. Produced by the Cleveland Clinic, we get a peek as to what their story entails—worry, sadness, joy, bad news, good news, anxiety, and fear.

To be able to view others as God sees them would truly transform our perspective.

**Watch video**

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**Songwriting Contest**

The Center for Youth Evangelism is searching for a song! And it may be yours!

Are you a songwriter? Would you like to write a song that will be sung by literally thousands of kids? The “Forever Faithful International Camporee” is looking to the public to help find a theme song for the International Camporee in 2014! So pull out your guitar, or sit down at the keyboard and have at it!

[Contest rules and deadline](#)

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**Video Stories**

**ChurchApplied**: Everyone has a story and each one is worth hearing. The Pacific Union is engaged in a video project that produces and displays videos of individual members and/or churches involved in ministry within the Pacific Union territory. Currently videos can be viewed here: [Stories of Faith](#)

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**Resources You Can Use**

ChurchApplied or the Pacific Union Conference does not receive payment in exchange for listing resources. The products, resources, and entities below are simply listed to make you aware of what's available.

**Adventist Artist Database** - If you are an Adventist member who is an artist, musician, photographer, poet, songwriter, videographer or writer, inSpire wants to connect with you. inSpire represents an intentional effort by the Seventh-day Adventist church to stimulate dialog and engagement in mission among Adventist creatives. As a church, we need to celebrate the old and capture the new.

**Bridges: Bay Area for Jesus** - The formal kick-off for this initiative takes place on Sabbath, June 22, with two rallies. At 9:20 a.m., services will be held at the San Francisco Central church. Then at the Grand Advent church in Oakland, a prayer session will take place at 4 p.m., followed by the rally at 5 p.m.

**The ADVENTISTS 2** is a new documentary film that tells the dramatic story of Seventh-day Adventists and their commitment to medical missions around the world. The ADVENTISTS 2 was filmed in Haiti, the Amazon/Brazil, Malawi, Africa, China, Peru and the Dominican Republic. It explores how Seventh-day Adventists are addressing important health issues around the world and doing it out of a century-old tradition of medical missions. It is the sequel to the highly successful film - The ADVENTISTS - currently airing on Public Television stations.

**TechApplied** - Join the Pacific Union Conference’s tech support community on Google+ for free, interactive tech support for ministry application.

**How Becoming a Good Christian Made Me a Bad Person**, by Allison Vesterfelt - I've never been a particularly good Christian, if I'm being honest. I always wanted to be. I watched other people do it and it
seemed to come really naturally to them - giving, serving, offering compassion to those who didn't deserve it, memorizing Bible verses, that sort of thing. Grace and peace and love seemed to fill them up from the inside out and run over the top of them spilling all over those around them. I wanted to be like them but, honestly, felt like it probably wasn't worth the effort. I must not be like them.

**Tornado Assistance** - Adventist Community Services is able to leverage its partnerships and bulk purchasing power to provide goods to disaster survivors for a fraction of retail cost. A financial donation to ACS today will help ACS bring vital supplies and relief to people devastated by the recent tornados. [Donate Now](https://www.adventist.org/care)

**Willow Creek Opens $11 Million Care Center** - The movement for developing a "holistic" focus for ministry is gaining ground in the church today. More leaders are considering the implications of location, development and long-term care when it comes to serving others - looking beyond handouts and check writing to something deeper.

**ROKU CORRECTION** - In our Spring ChurchApplied newsletter, we stated that you can use Roku to obtain 3 ABN, Hope TV and Loma Linda Broadcasting, without any monthly costs. One of our readers corrected us with info that 3 ABN charges around $10 a month if you use the Roku option instead of a dish. According to their websites, Hope TV and LLBN do not have a monthly fee.

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ChurchApplied is published by the Pacific Union Conference.

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Don't Forget the Roots By Vimbai E. Chikomo

When you see a healthy tree, the tendency is to appreciate the beauty that you see. That’s not a bad thing. Whether it has a tall smooth trunk, perfectly shaped leaves, or colorful flowers, we praise what we see. In describing a beautiful tree, you wouldn’t gush over the roots.

The roots grow deep into the ground providing support, water and nutrients to the tree. Their vitality cannot be overstated. You see, a tree can live without its flowers. They serve a purpose, but a tree doesn’t die when it’s not in bloom. Often during winter, many trees lose their leaves. No big deal, they grow new ones in the spring. During a storm, strong winds may break off branches from a tree, but the tree will still survive.

What a tree cannot do without is its roots. Although they are hidden under the ground, invisible to the eye, they are the lifeline of the tree. Roots don’t get showered with compliments. I’ve never heard anyone say, ‘That’s a beautiful tree; those roots are doing a great job!’ Praise is usually given to the climate, the environment, the richness of the soil, or even the one caring for the tree.

Just like the roots, God cannot be visibly seen. He works tirelessly behind the scenes to support and nourish our lives. Although we cannot physically see Him, we see evidence of...
His presence. The problem we have sometimes is that we compliment things and/or people who possess gifts, talents and blessings, without praising the God who has been so instrumental in the ‘beauty’ we see. When someone we know gets a job, we attribute it to the great education they possess, or their impressive resume. When a business is successful, we acknowledge that hard work has finally paid off. Although a good education and hard work are often contributing factors to success, God is the root responsible for bringing out the beauty seen in every life.

______________________________
inSpire

http://www.visitinspire.org/article/190/news/inspired-to-create

June 10, 2013

inSpired to Create By Rich DuBose WESTLAKE VILLAGE – On April 26-28, a convergence of songwriters, artists, photographers and creative-types of various stripes took place in Berkeley, Calif., to celebrate the arts and share how creativity can be used to glorify God and enrich our lives.* One of the opening messages displayed on the big screen throughout the weekend read:

"In the beginning God created..."

“Then God said, ‘Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us’” (Gen. 1:1, 26, NLT).

Sponsored by Pacific Union Conference Church Support Services, the idea of an event for creatives was to foster a greater awareness of the importance of creative expression in our daily lives, and specifically as it relates to our mission as a church. Because we live in a media-driven age, we must use media creatively if we want anyone to notice. We can no longer depend upon bland music, stodgy graphics or Twentieth Century media models to attract audiences. We need auditory and visual stimuli that captures people's hearts with God's compelling story; music and art that enchants people's imaginations with heaven's possibilities and promise!

inSpire seeks to be a community of Adventist creatives who believe they have been gifted to tell God's story, compellingly. Forms of expression that were highlighted included, songwriting, visual art (digital design, graphics, painting), metal art, poetry and videography.

inSpire 2013 featured guest presenters and musicians, as well as times for participants to share some of their creations. The weekend included presentations and/or performances by Dorothy Stiegler (blacksmith artist), David A. Dean (poet and songwriter), Jael Amador, Curtis Castro, Greg Evans, and Dennis Hunt, (singer/songwriters), Nico Hill (former Cage Fighter and poet), Dick Duerksen (Maranatha storyteller and speaker), Milbert Mariano (artist and Chair of Pacific Union College Visual Arts), Rajeev Sigamoney (Director of Pacific Union College Film School), Brittnie Sigamoney (Coordinator for the Communication Department at Pacific Union College), and Chip Dizard (with Web VideoChefs).
Many who attended inSpire 2013 expressed a desire to see it happen again and felt that Berkeley was the perfect spot because the community is so focused on the arts. The local Adventist church was very supportive and played a significant role in making the weekend a success. Ron Pickell, pastor of the Berkeley SDA Church said, "In the mornings I walk my dogs along the East Bay coastline at Point Issabella park and there I am greeted by bright colors, nature sounds, sunshine and the fresh air rolling in from San Francisco Bay. It is also where I walk and talk with God. InSpire was like my morning walks – bright colors, new sounds, conversations with God and a fresh air of creative life blowing into the church. My senses were aroused and the inspiration was flowing. I am looking forward hopefully and expectantly to InSpire 2014 and will do all I can to create more of this same atmosphere in our church from week to week."

This year InSpire featured two contests--one for songwriters and one for visual artists. The winning entries for 2013 are as follows:

**inSpire 2013 Contests Results**

**Songwriting**  **Visual Arts**
Jael Amador
1st place (iPad)
Song – Let Me Love You
Play
Update Required To play the media you will need to either update your browser to a recent version or update your Flash plugin.

Jesse Aguilera
1st place (iPad)
Art – Escrito Esta

John Millea
2nd place ($200)
Song – Leaning On a Cane
Play
Update Required To play the media you will need to either update your browser to a recent version or update your Flash plugin.

Alexander Wickland
2nd place ($200)
Art – But How Will it End?

Shearin Matute
3rd place ($100)
Song – All That I Need
Play
Update Required To play the media you will need to either update your browser to a recent version or update your Flash plugin.

Richard Hawkins
3rd place ($100)
Art – A Turn in Life’s Journey
Romanian–English Intercer Adventist Global Ministry Celebrates 16 Years of Activity!


Lucian Mihailescu

Article by: Lucian Mihailescu

Intercer History

In early June 2013 Intercer celebrated 16 years of activity! Intercer started as the first created Romanian Adventist website, and today Intercer has a network of biblical websites continuing to be the most popular Romanian Adventist website, with a monthly average of 60,000 unique visitors.

Intercer activity started from zero in 1997. In 1996 I was my local church host for Net’96 satellite seminar and I found out about the “It Is Written” Adventist website (iiw.org). Then I was able to visit it for the first time in 1997, after an internet connection was introduced at our work. Then I managed to access the Internet from friends and later from home. At that time, dial-up was quite expensive for an individual user. By the way, my wife Rozalia was baptised in 1996 after Net’96 series.

In the summer of 1997 we began the creation of the first Romanian Adventist website at the time. This was the website for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in my home town of Slobozia, Ialomita, Romania. The idea of creating an Adventist website came when I read the article “Internet & the Gospel” by Octavian Lupu. Then we continued our activity through our newly created Intercer Non-Profit Organization, known also as Intercer. “Intercer” is a short for "Internet to Heaven".

We did not get any salary for the first 12 years of our activity. We received donations, but these were not enough to support the ministry expenses. So we also personally contributed to cover all ministry expenses, including paying third-party providers and so on. Since 2009 we try to build a self-supporting system to allow us to continue to maintain and develop new features for our websites. But it’s not easy through these tough times, and we only got a partial salary since 2009. If it wasn’t for our continuing volunteering, the ministry would have stopped long time ago.
Read how you can support Intercer ministry or go to Intercer Donations page. Read our appeal: “Please pray for our Intercer Ministry to not close down”.

We want to thank God for His help all these years. Also we want to say “Thank you!” to our co-workers, sponsors, collaborators and website visitors!


Intercer Interview – 15 Yrs Anniversary

Read the Intercer 15 Years Anniversary Interview & Transcript.

About Intercer

Intercer Romania is a Non-Profit Association composed of Seventh-day Adventist Church members in Romania and abroad. Intercer Canada (International Christian Education & Relief Society) is our similar Non-Profit Organization in Canada. The two organizations work together to support the objectives underlined below.

Intercer Ministry Objectives: The purpose of Intercer Ministry is to promote a system of information and materials based on the Christian & humanitarian principles, contributing to programs of interest for children, youth and adults and fighting for a culture of health, morality and good understanding in society. These materials are promoted through all media: Internet, printed materials, video, audio, radio and TV. Intercer runs voluntary activities, providing many Internet services, and social activities.

Intercer Ministry Provides: Cornilescu Romanian Bible (text and audio), the Bible for mobile phone (biblephone.net), various studies and biblical materials, E.G. WHITE writings in Romanian, current Adventist news from Romania & around the world, email newsletters sent both to Adventists and non-Adventists, children and youth materials and magazines, Christian music, audio–video, radio and TV, interactive bible quizzes, a prayer request page, photos, PHP & MySQL free courses, forum, chat, guest book, classifieds, a mobile app, advertising services and more. Intercer hosts and / or supports the internet presence of many Romanian Adventist websites.

Watch a short presentation with “Lessons from Intercer Adventist Ministry 15 Year’s of Activity”

Read the “Lessons from Intercer SDA Ministry 15 Year’s Anniversary Transcript”

Intercer Stats: Intercer has now a network of biblical websites and continues to be the most
popular Romanian Seventh-day Adventist website, with a monthly average of 60,000 unique visitors. Our most visited section is Intercer TV, which provides every week various Adventist Church audio-video programs, from Romania and diaspora. Intercer TV continues to be the most visited section of our website. The Romanian MP3 Audio Bible also is among the most downloaded materials on our website. Intercer helps promoting various programs and events for the Adventist Church and other social activities.

We are glad that our Bible & spiritual material presentations are downloaded often and we were able to contact a large number of people. Intercer managed to integrate young people in Gospel related online activities. Intercer mediated hundreds of social and health cases, resulting in resolving or improving these people’s situation. We receive positive messages from our website visitors. They appreciate the richness of biblical resources and audio-video sermons made available for free. We have a 56% overall returning visitors rate and 30% returning visitors on our English website.

![Intercer visitor stats for December 2011 – December 2012](image)

**Intercer Projects**

Intercer pioneered many web activities for the Adventist Church, being among the first Romanian Christian websites at the time. Intercer is a role-model in presenting different Christian materials and ideas on the internet. We work in good collaboration with various local church organizations and ministries from Romania & other European countries, US (Simpleupdates, Plusline, AdventSource, TagNet, Amazing Facts, It is Written) & Canada (BC Conference).

Watch a short 5 min presentation about “How to start a pioneering ministry”

You can read some of the articles from this period published in the North-American Seventh-day Adventist websites, including ANN News of August 4th, 1998 about the “Romanian Bible on the Internet”: [http://en.intercer.net/about-us/articles-about-intercer.html](http://en.intercer.net/about-us/articles-about-intercer.html)
Here are some of our project time landmarks:

* First Romanian Seventh-day Adventist website, started in 1997
* Romanian Bible on the Internet, July 1998
* Email newsletters, started September 1998
* ANN news translated in Romanian, 1998–2000
* Represented the Seventh-day Adventist Romanian Union on the internet before their website was ready, 1998–1999
* Chat bible studies, 1999 (we volunteered for Net New York seminar chat)
* Intercer Server donated by some of our friends in Chicago, December 1999
* First Romanian Adventist online shop, with music & biblical resources cd/dvd, December 2001 (Lucian Web Service)
* First Adventist Classifieds website, AdServ.ro, August 2001
* Intercer TV, started in February 2004
* MP3 Romanian Audio Bible (Gaius Maximus Romania, lecture by Alexandru Sorin FARC), December 2006
* Mobile Adventist Hymns, March 2007 (Gaius Maximus Romania; Octavian Lupu)
* Mobile Bible in 70+ languages & over 100 editions, in 2007 (Octavian Lupu, biblephone.net)
* Social media integration (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, later G+, Pinterest, Instagram), since 2008
* More fundraising activities, advertising and event promotions, started August 2009
* SMS donations, 2009
* Romanian Translated Bible Study Blog, a collaboration with Amazing Facts, 2009
* “Steps to Christ”, text and audio book, 2010
* E.G WHITE Audio Books, in collaboration with Gaius Maximus, 2010
* General Conference session Romanian website, Toronto 2000, St.Louis 2005, Atlanta 2010
* Directory of Romanian Adventist website links (link.intercer.net), 2010
* Intercer Extended News, including current Christian & Tech news (noutati.intercer.net), 2010
* Intercer Video Clips, including Adventist YouTube & Vimeo videos (tv.intercer.net/clip/), 2010
* Intercer Mobile Website (intercer.mobi), 2010
* Intercer & Media Seven Live programs (mediaseven.intercer.net), 2010
* New design and functionality for the Intercer website, using WordPress, 2011
* We relaunched Intercer English website (en.intercer.net) under the new name “Intercer Adventist News”.

Intercer Adventist News provides selected news & media feeds. If you have an RSS feed with your church website news, let us know and we will promote it on our website!

* Intercer Mobile app, includes Intercer News, Intercer TV, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other items, 2012
* We worked to involve more churches and secular organizations to post news and audio–video programs
* We promoted social, school & academic cases and made contacts with other organizations who may help
* Intercer TV updates, including viewing for smartphones & tablets, 2012
* The launch of a new friendship website, open for all ages, end of 2012
* ... More in 2013 and beyond!

**Support Intercer activities**

Intercer work is supported by donations and sponsorship’s from individuals and various organizations.

Visit Intercer Ministry donations page at: [http://intercer.ca/donations](http://intercer.ca/donations) (English language) or [http://intercer.net/donatii](http://intercer.net/donatii) (Romanian language).

We provide a non tax–deductible receipt for all donations received in Canada, and a sponsorship contract or a receipt for all donations received in Romania.

A tax–deductible receipt is available for our US donors, if you donate for Intercer project through our US partner organization – Symposia Community Bookstore INC.

Thank you for your support!

You can contact us at info@intercer.net . Visit Intercer Adventist News at [http://en.intercer.net](http://en.intercer.net) . Read more or view photos from the Intercer activity history at [http://intercer.net/istoric](http://intercer.net/istoric) . (Romanian version, with Google translation)

Lucian is a member of the Westminster Seventh–day Adventist Church, BC, Canada and he lives with his family in Maple Ridge, BC. Lucian has a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from the University of Bucharest and a background in High School Computer Science Education. He is also a Computer Programmer with 20+ years of experience. Lucian worked as a subcontractor for the developing of the Adventist Church / School Connect project and presented ACC/ASC seminars in various locations throughout BC. Currently Lucian works as an Affiliate & Social Media Manager for his company LucianWebService.com and provides web hosting for both church and business companies
• Lessons from Intercer SDA Ministry 15 Year’s Anniversary Transcript

• Intercer 15 Years Anniversary Interview & Transcript

• Romanian–English Intercer 15 Years Anniversary 3 min Interview

• Intercer Ministry article in “Canadian Adventist Messenger”, May 2013

• Please pray for our Romanian–English Intercer Adventist Global Ministry to not close down!

Lucian Mihailescu
President of Intercer Romania & Canada