Wilson Challenges Adventist Youth

In a one-hour message given Jan. 1 before a crowd of 7,000 at the Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC) convention in Baltimore, Md., Ted N. C. Wilson, world church president, exhorted young adults to lives of faithfulness and Christian service. During the sermon, also streamed live on the Internet and broadcast on cable and satellite channels, Wilson placed special emphasis on practical Christian living, including habits of Bible study, prayer, witnessing and reading of the writings of Ellen G. White. Heather Braman, tenth-grade student from Canby, Ore., says of Wilson's message, "I thought it was awesome; I've never been so blessed before." A key takeaway for her, she said, was that "each person has an influence, [and] if we all work together, it's amazing what can happen." Read the full story from the Adventist News Network HERE.

Northwest Native Completes Marathon at 92

Gladys Burrill, La Center, Wash., native, is not only 92 years old, but she may be the world’s oldest woman to complete an official 26.2-mile marathon. Burrill finished the Dec. 12 Honolulu Marathon, power-walking across the finish line at 9 hours, 53 minutes and 16 seconds. If her time is confirmed by the Guinness World Records company, she would surpass the current record holder who completed the London Marathon at age 90. Burrill, who walked four miles the day after the race and 10 miles two days later, regularly walks 30 to 50 miles a week. Her time this year might have been two minutes less, but she stopped to pray a few hundred feet from the finish line. Read the full story from the Adventist News Network HERE.

UCA Groups Perform at Fox Theater

Upper Columbia Academy band, string and choral groups performed a Christmas concert at the Fox Theater in downtown Spokane, Wash., Dec. 18. It was the fourth year the school has held this special event as a gift to the community and as an opportunity for students to perform in a professional music facility. "Our main purpose originated about eight years ago," says Curtis Anderson, UCA music department chairman. "The idea was to use the music program as an evangelistic tool. Gerald Haeger, our ministerial director at the conference office, suggested we take our Christmas program into the community and use it as an outreach. Not only has it opened the eyes of Spokane about who Seventh-day Adventist are, it has also given us a purpose other than just having a nice concert at school." Read the full
CAA Hand Bell Choir Spreads Christmas Cheer
Check out a video of the Columbia Adventist Academy hand bell choir, under the direction of Nita Yuros, CAA music teacher. They gave back to the community by playing at Taco Bell, A & W, Fred Meyer, Safeway, Albertsons and Goodwill. Watch a sample on the web HERE.

Charitable Giving IRA Rollover Deadline Jan. 31
The new 2010 Tax Relief Act signed into law on Dec. 17, 2010, restored the IRA charitable rollover for 2010 and permits its use in all of 2011. Individuals at least 70½ of age may rollover up to $100,000 from their IRA to a charity of choice without paying federal income taxes on the distribution. Rollovers for 2010 may be made now or until Jan. 31, 2011. For more information and an IRA rollover letter template for your IRA administrator, call your local conference Planned Giving department.

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'No Turning Back' is Wilson's New Year's appeal at GYC event

In Baltimore, church president urges Adventist youth to faithfulness

1 Jan 2011, Baltimore, Maryland, United States
Mark A. Kelner, News Editor, Adventist Review

In a stirring one-hour message to a Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC) convention, Seventh-day Adventist world church President Ted N. C. Wilson exhorted the church’s young adults to lives of faithfulness and Christian service.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the Lord is bidding us as a people to 'go forward' with 'no turning back,'" Wilson said, referring to the theme of the five-day event that drew thousands of Adventist youth to Maryland's largest city. Shortly after the morning meeting, an estimated 5,000 -- including Wilson and his wife, Nancy -- boarded 75 buses and fanned out across metro Baltimore to witness door-to-door and invite people to enroll in Bible studies.

During the sermon, which was streamed live on the Internet and broadcast on cable and satellite channels, Wilson placed special emphasis on practical Christian living, including habits of Bible study, prayer, witnessing and reading of the writings of Ellen G. White, a pioneering co-founder of the Adventist movement.

"Among some of our church members there is a tendency to downplay or even dismiss the counsels of the Spirit of Prophecy," Wilson said, referring to White's collected works.

"We hear today that while the writings of Ellen White may have some devotional value, we should not let her 'limited 19th-century perspective' shape our 21st century understanding of Bible truth," Wilson said. "But I believe, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church firmly and unashamedly upholds, that the Spirit of Prophecy is one of God's greatest gifts to His end-time remnant people. Trust the Word of the Lord, and follow the counsel of His humble messenger, Ellen White. Let no one -- local church leader, pastor, teacher, administrator, or anyone -- turn you from that complete trust in the Spirit of Prophecy, which points to the Bible as God's authoritative Word!"

Wilson repeatedly underlined the importance of personal commitment to the truths of Scripture and the mission of the church throughout his message.

"If the Seventh-day Adventist Church is ever going to meet the Lord's ideal of being His end-time remnant, not just 'we' as a denomination, not just 'GYC' as a supporting organization, not just 'the youth' as a particular demographic, but you as an individual must get to work for Christ in service for others," Wilson said. He urged the church's young adults to serve in their local churches, teaching Sabbath school classes, making home visits to encourage members and participating in church business meetings.

"Commit yourself to personal effort, individual involvement that will help your church family finish the work that God has entrusted to it," Wilson said. "As members of GYC, ... continue to work closely with your local church, your local pastor, your local youth organization, church administrators, and your conference, union, and division youth department directors."

He added, "Never allow anyone to accuse GYC of not working with the established church organization. Become so much a part of the outreach of this Advent movement that you are understood to be part and parcel of your local church and conference. Support and nurture other youth initiatives of your local church and conference that are Bible and Spirit of Prophecy-based."

Wilson emphasized the spiritual fruits of such cooperation: "When we each allow the Holy Spirit to change us into the likeness of Jesus, we will automatically begin doing the work that Jesus has commanded of us. In this way the character of Christ will be seen in what we do, not merely in what we don't do."

Wilson, who is the father of three young adult daughters, appealed to the crowd of an estimated 7,000 to make solid moral choices in daily living: "While society bombards you with the idea that youth is a time for reckless self-indulgence, God's Word declares otherwise," Wilson said. "It is my prayer that the greatest examples of our faith and lifestyle shown to the world will be the youth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church."

As he invited young Adventists to come to the front of the convention center and commit to greater service for the church, Wilson shared a personal motive for wanting the Second Coming of Christ to occur soon. The recent death of Neal C. Wilson, his father and a past president of the Adventist world church, he said, has intensified his desire to see the church complete its mission.

"I long for Jesus to come even more than I ever have," Wilson said. "Two and half weeks ago, I lost my precious, 90-year-old father. He went to sleep in Jesus, awaiting His soon return. As a pastor and church leader, my father believed in the young people of this church -- and so do I! This church was started by young people, and by God's grace, young people will play a pivotal role in fulfilling its mission."

Wilson's charge drew an enthusiastic response from many in attendance. Chevone Simmonds, a college graduate student from Milledgeville, Georgia, said it was "great to have the new president [of the world church] talk and reaffirm us. The Holy Spirit is indeed here, and has challenged me to go back and do things better."

Ashley Kanomata, a high school senior from Lewisberg, Ohio, said Wilson's message was "very inspirational. Youth need to take a more active part in the work of the church."

And tenth-grader Heather Braman from Canby, Oregon, said of Wilson's message, "I thought it was awesome; I've never been so blessed before." A key takeaway for her, she said, was that "each person has..."
an influence, [and] if we all work together, it's amazing what can happen."
To read Wilson's message, click here.

ANN World News Bulletin is a review of news issued by the Communication department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church World Headquarters and released as part of the service of Adventist News Network. For reproduction requirements, click here. The opinions expressed by Commentary authors and sources in ANN news stories do not necessarily reflect those of Adventist News Network© and/or the Seventh-day Adventist© Church.

28 Comments

I heartily praise the Lord for Eld.Ted Wilson's vision and dedication to fulfill His great Commission! May the Church experience the latter rain of baptism for personal sanctification and the completion of global mission! We pray for Andrew who is attending GYC in Baltimore at this time, be inspired, encouraged, and dedicated in His cause along with his friends from Weimar College, CA. --Parents from Japan.

Keith Watanabe | January 2, 2011 3:25 AM | Reply

Bold and brave message from elder Wilson. May God richly bless him and his leadership team to continue to boldly proclaim this last day message to the world and inspire the church at large to do our part diligently to finish the work. May the spirit of revival and reformation be rekindled, may God pour out His Spirit upon His people and prepare them to finish the work. No turning back! 

Nick | January 2, 2011 9:46 AM | Reply

How can the late N. C. Wilson "await" anything--much less a resurrection--when he is now supposedly nonexistent or "gone,gone" as SDA apologists insist? Truly, not even God can resurrect someone who doesn't exist.

Dennis Fischer | January 2, 2011 1:49 PM | Reply

Praise the Lord!
The alarm clock is ringing and it's time to get up and get to work. Thank you pastor Wilson for that message. You can just smell the returning of Jesus in the air and what a wonderful feeling it is. Praise the Lord God for He heard our cry.

Daniel Innocent | January 3, 2011 12:43 AM | Reply

I am the current communications secretary for awendo district,ranen field,east africa union am humbly praying tha you maintain the same spirit and always keep me udpated

Tom owino oyuga | January 3, 2011 1:26 PM | Reply

"But I believe, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church firmly and unashamedly upholds, that the Spirit of Prophecy is one of God's greatest gifts to His end-time remnant people. Trust the Word of the Lord, and follow the counsel of His humble messenger, Ellen White. Let no one -- local church leader, pastor, teacher, administrator, or anyone -- turn you from that complete trust in the Spirit of Prophecy, which points to the Bible as God's authoritative Word!"

Has God's remnant church ever had such a strong-faith leader? ever? May we uplift both of his arms until the victory is won!!

daniel | January 3, 2011 8:16 PM | Reply

Well said brother!

Muriel Lou Sullano | January 3, 2011 10:11 PM | Reply
I would like to watch this sermon. May someone help me to direct to the site, where I can see that. Thank you!

Lena | January 4, 2011 2:11 AM | Reply

Lena, Wilson’s sermon is not available to watch at this time, but you can read a transcript of it -- see the link at the end of the story.

Elizabeth Lechleitner | January 4, 2011 3:23 PM | Reply

Here is the link to the video:


Abdulwadud | January 5, 2011 3:04 AM | Reply

Go to www.3angelstube.com to watch the sermon

Alexey Ostapenco | January 6, 2011 2:34 AM | Reply

This message is an important one, but I often wonder why the church leaders are not addressing the issue of segregation in the SDA Churches. I’m speaking specifically of the GC Conferences in Georgia, however I am positive that there are others throughout the world and the US. Until the SDA Church as a whole is able to get to the place where we have one GC Conference and not two or more, when ALL of our church members are ready to worship as ONE organization instead of remaining segregated by race the Seventh Day Adventist Church will not be able to take the next steps forward in showing the world who we are and what we have to share. A personal commitment is important, yes and it should start with being commitment to becoming one church with one conference.

Newly Adventist | January 6, 2011 4:00 PM | Reply

1. The last poster’s comment has really prompted me to respond and I really praise the Lord for someone else who has confirmed what I posted in a previous post about the same thing- racism in the SDA Church. Remember that we Seventh Day Adventists call ourselves the ‘remnant church’, the ‘only true church’ and other titles. But are we actually living to the principles of God’s word? If racism exists, do we really have any right or claim to any such titles? Far from claiming anything, it shows that we do not know Jesus as Saviour. Remember His words to His disciples: By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. In the true follower of Christ, racism can have no place. I’m sorry, but despite the titles we have, or like to call ourselves, we are wrong, in God’s view.

2 In relation to President Wilson’s sermon, and to the activities associated with the drive for revival and reformation now being promoted in the SDA Church, I’d like to add these cautions: a. Let us make sure that we are following the Lord, and not our views of what we believe the Lord is saying because of all kinds of reasons.

b. Be very very careful with emotionalism and excitement, especially in religious matters. Rather, let us continue to live and preach the gospel not only in word, but by our lives also by God’s grace and for His glory.

c. Be very careful on (as it were, jumping on a bandwagon)’ in religious affairs. I say this respectfully, but many times alot of people are caught up with the popular trend, or what the majority says, as opposed to what God actually says in His word. In recent years within the Adventist church I have been fortunate to see many of these things taking place. There is alot of emotionalism and excitement generated by the ministry and high ranking individuals, which attracts a majority of the congregation- then after some time, the interest wanes and the spirituality declines even further than it was prior to the so called- revival/reformation. Be very careful with this.

I am also a young adult like the President’s children and I ask the Lord to guide me to do His will. There is a real difference between doing the ‘will of God as interpreted by the church and doing the will of God as revealed in Scripture.

I have seen this over and over in the churches.
May the Lord help us to discern His will, as expressed in Scripture and to rely on Him to complete the preaching of the gospel as He himself gave us in the great commission.

‘And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations and then shall the end come. My prayer for us all is that we stay faithful to God’s word and to Him.
Andrew | January 7, 2011 7:54 PM | Reply

God has been known to create someone who didn't exist. I imagine that resurrecting someone who doesn't exist isn't harder than that.

David | January 8, 2011 4:17 PM | Reply

"Be good stewards of your body. Consistently care for yourself according to God's practical and healthy eight natural remedies: a healthy vegetarian diet, consistent exercise, drinking enough water, adequate sunlight, abstaining from alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs, enjoying fresh air, getting appropriate rest, and trust in divine power....." Amen elder! the world needs the health message now more than ever before with an upsurge in lifestyle diseases since there's clearly an inexplicable tie between physical, mental and spiritual health. May God bless us and energize us to work for the kingdom.

Rose Misati-Nyambane | January 9, 2011 1:38 PM | Reply

Praise God for this touching message of our GC President. Please continue to pray for the revival and reformation for mission of the young people here in Central Luzon Conference, Philippines. God bless!

Ron Genebago | January 11, 2011 6:01 PM | Reply

I like your insight, Andrew and I agree with you. We must pray that we do not become exclusive with one another and understand that we all fall short of the glory of God, no matter how long we have been walking with the Lord. Therefore we need to exercise the same love, mercy and compassion God grants each one of us.

Daisy | January 12, 2011 6:43 PM | Reply

Praise God for the GYC and for the encouragement to our youth from our GC president! The call he is giving in all his addresses are for us all, young and old. May God strengthen him in his work.

Dorothy Dunbar | January 13, 2011 7:33 PM | Reply

a powerful message, just pray for me i know what to do in terms of serving the Lord and true Christian living but i have no strength

edmund | January 14, 2011 9:58 AM | Reply

God has spoken through his agent "let each one of us examine our deeds n thoughts then ask God to change us/me to fit His requirements: Amen" Joram

Joram Mwanza | January 14, 2011 10:06 AM | Reply

Thank you for your service Pastor Wilson. In these days of challenge, it is my prayer that God strengthen you to do His good work. May our Lord give you: Strength in leadership, Wisdom in management, Love, Grace and Humility in performing your duties. Might the whole church pray for our leadership, so there will be harmony of Spirit and focus of purpose; as the world darkens, Truth should become a life saving Beacon. May God enter His living tabernacle, and Glorify His Church and the people called by His Name.

Jim | January 15, 2011 11:07 PM | Reply

I thank and praise the Lord for using you to delivery this special mesage to us at the begining of the year, the best time... I also congratulate you for this wonderfull work that you're doing at the worldly Adventists' churches. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to the men, knowing that from the Lord you'll receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord. Eventhough things are wrong or pretty fine, TO GOD BE THE GLORY and BLESSED IS HIS NAME! keep following the jesus' steps daily by staying at the cross foot...
What a Mighty God we serve! He has given to the Church in Elder Ted Wilson an inspirational and Spiritual Leader. Elder Wilson we pray to God that your vision be instilled in the herats of all adventists to take the Three Angels’ Message to all the world. To preach the gospel and signify a global call for every individual to know and accept Jesus. We need to wake up and unite and carry the banner of Christ to the ends of the world, then the end will come.

God cares and He will take care of faithful people we know and understand that the last prophecy of the the is being fulfilled Jesus is coming soon so let us repent for heavenly home.

the call by president is in right direction. especially in africa where majority of the church population is youth, it is right that we put all our efforts in the gospel of our LORD JESUS in these times. we all need to come together in unity as Jesus told the told the disciples and work with a common cause. by this we will achieve the mission.

Jesus is coming soon for sure and the only assurance you and I can have is to live as though today was your/my last day. It can be the last day indeed,who knows. How sure are you of your living to see tomorrow? Stop gambling with your life and give it to Jesus now.

lovely, keep up the good work

Thank you, heavenly Father, for bringing an individual to the leadership who is willing to fearlessly address the issues that we as God’s remnant people face in these waning hours of earth’s history. God’s love to us is beyond our understanding. But I fear that we have slighted God’s love and presumptuously taken upon ourselves to direct our lives according to our ideals and desires. I appreciate the call to reform. I appreciate the recognition of our need to reawaken our “first love” and truly reconnect with our Creator and Savior.

When I read the comments of Ellen White concerning diet and how it affects our relationship with God, I tremble at how I neglect this inspiration that is designed to prepare me for the sealing work of the Holy Spirit. My commitment is to follow the counsel given to us in love. I urge all to humbly and prayerfully read all of her comments concerning diet and health reform. Adam’s fall began with appetite and Jesus’ work for the restoration of humanity began with the victory over appetite. I believe He sets a perfect standard for us to follow.

I want a clear mind and a conscience free from guilt. I want a strong body. God has shown me the way. I praise Him for His path of salvation that leads to eternal life. God bless us all.
Church member Gladys Burrill, 92, set a world record on December 12 as the oldest woman to finish a marathon. Locally known as the "Glady-ator," she power-walked her way through the Honolulu Marathon in Hawaii, United States, in 9 hours, 53 minutes and 16 seconds. [photo courtesy Honolulu Marathon]

Adventist Burrill, 92, likely sets marathon record

Great-grandmother "Glady-ator" is oldest woman to complete 26.2-mile race

22 Dec 2010, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States
Ansel Oliver/ANN

Gladys Burrill says life is like a marathon. She would know -- she's 92 and believed to be the world's oldest woman to have completed an official 26.2-mile race.

Burrill finished the December 12 Honolulu Marathon, power-walking across the finish line at 9 hours, 53 minutes and 16 seconds. If her time is confirmed by the Guinness World Records company, she would surpass current record holder Jenny Wood-Allen, a Scot who completed the London Marathon at age 90, according to the company's website.

Like life, a marathon requires "perseverance, strength, courage ... you just have to keep going," Burrill said in a recent phone interview from her condominium in Honolulu. "It's very important to think positive," she said.

Locally, she's a beloved competitor -- in 2004 the Honolulu Advertiser nicknamed her the "Glady-ator." She completed the city marathon each year from 2004 to 2007. But two consecutive un-finished attempts left some wondering if her marathon days were over.

In 2008, her husband died four days before the race. Burrill said stress and grief caused her to end her attempt just one mile short of the finish line. Last year, stomach cramps put her out at mile 16.

"I felt a lot more at peace this year," said Burrill, who walked four miles the day after the race and 10 miles two days later. She regularly walks 30 to 50 miles a week, usually with a training partner.

Her time this year might have been two minutes less -- she stopped to pray a few hundred feet from the finish line. "I thought my life would change once I crossed that line. I knew some people needed encouragement so I thought that was very important," said Burrill, who is a Seventh-day Adventist.

Burrill's son and grandson walked with her at different points during this year's competition. She has 18 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

Jim Barahal, president of the Honolulu Marathon, said he was astonished by Burrill's feat.

"I think it is absolutely unbelievable," Barahal told KITV News. "It is inspirational and to anyone who has an elderly parent or perhaps has lost someone to realize what she is doing at her age. It is just astonishing. What an inspiration."

Barahal and marathon organizers donated $2,500 on her behalf to the Lokahi Giving Project, which helps needy families with food and basic household necessities.

Burrill said she regularly uses her local notoriety to help such projects. "I know what it's like to go through poverty," she said.

The youngest of six kids of Finnish immigrants, her father died on her second birthday, leaving her mother to work their farm in Washington state. At age 11, she contracted polio but later recovered.

The mother of five, Burrill said she lost her son Kevin in 1985 to a brain tumor.

"I had a lot of obstacles in life, but God was always there with me," she said.

Burrill has been an airplane pilot and a mountain climber. She said she was always athletic -- as a child she ran up the hills above their farm.

Adventure and exercise have helped her deal with stress and grief throughout her life, she said.

"Sometimes I go out [walking] with the weight of the world on my shoulders and come back feeling so strong and renewed."

When asked about fitness tips, she gives simple advice: "Eat healthfully and exercise. So many young people don't realize the importance of exercise. Just put one foot in front of the other."

Burrill said she's never used alcohol or tobacco and eats a healthy diet -- she's mostly vegetarian and skips dessert, she said.

Just as important, she said, is staying mentally well. "It's very important to think positive." Also, "dream about things you want to do in the future, even if they're impossible. It keeps you going."

Burrill would like to one day climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa and travel into space, but is content that neither will likely happen. She said she'll continue to encourage people and compete in charity walks.

Now on her own, Burrill divides her time between her home in Prospect, Oregon, and Honolulu, where she enjoys the weather and the lifestyle.

"People have such a great Aloha spirit here," she said.

The city mayor will honor her in a January 7 ceremony.
Aloha and congratulations, I do wished my mother who is 79 years old will be as strong and healthy as Gladys but my mom now suffers a loss of hearing and her eyes blurred by cataracts. If I am only rich enough to finance her medical needs, I would surely do so but for now I could only afford to provide her needed basics need which is foods, a place to live at, while I have to shoulder the needs of my nieces and nephews that left by brother of mine that dies by saving his friend from a murderous man, whom the local authorities didn’t even bother to put him longer than three days in jail as 3 days is enough already to detained a self-confessed assassin that killed three innocent people just because no one among the victims family has the time to files a case against him, so the police has no choice but to set him free. Anyway with that assassin’s ten children to feed and survives thru buying and selling used soft drinks bottles, plastics, papers and cans that could be sold to recycling company and his wife a laundry woman that only earns a few amount not even enough to buy food for the whole family of 12. I decided not to sue him either, for I don’t want to be responsible to feed his ten children that all depends on him and his wife.

I’d lived for almost a year in Hawaii and I know its climates always a perfect one for me, but I’d regret I didn’t search nor look for SDA church there because I was busy with my catholics friends that provides comfort and shows myself how they live their lives there. I’d met a chinese lady named “Mary” that I’d helped to gathered avocados fruits, though I had to climbed on avocado trees while “Mary” has to catch all the avocados I’d thrown to her and she had to catched it with her shirt or with the plastic bag that broke easy when avocados landed heavily on it and she sold it to Flea market for a fifty cents or for a dollar each depends on its size but because I didn’t want to accept payment for that so in returned for my kindness she would offers myself and my friends that also didn’t know how to drive with her two toddlers daughters, a free rides to Pearl Harbor or to some places she knows very well where to drives though her english accent still very much sound chinese we just laughed to each other if we can’t understand each other no more because she too ran out of english words for the chinese words she want to translates into english.

Hawaii is clean, progressive, well-organized, how I’d wished Philippines would be manages and preserves like it is in Hawaii but with 60% of filipino population didn’t know how to respect and care for mother nature, Philippines residents has successfully ruins the former paradise on earth that used to be home for tropical fruits, birds, trees, fish and other animals that could only be found in Philippines.

Gladys is blessed with such healthy and active physical, mental and spiritual being. She is absolutely a good role model for everyone. From now on I would try to follow her technique for having a healthy long live but still God has to provides it for us, because with out God’s blessing we would not live that long.

This is truly good news and refreshing ones, First lady Michelle Obama should attend the ceremony so she can first hand witness the event that a 92 young SDA lady has broke the Guiness World record too bad though there was no representatives from Guiness to acknowledge the said event.

Praise the Lord for giving us hope to live a long healthy life thru Gladys as role model for us all.

Nancy Sieber | December 22, 2010 7:47 PM | Reply

Seventh-day Adventist teaches health reform and this is another reason why it’s important we keep the original vegetarian diet God intended for us in Genesis. Gen 1:29

Bernadette Davis | December 23, 2010 12:44 AM | Reply

Gladys you are wonderful. I am a marathon runner, I am 63 years old and I know how hard is to train for 26 miles marathon. I am Seventh Day Adventist and a vegetarian. Gladys you are my inspiration. We have one life to live and should take care of our body. Healthy food and exercise is the key to success. God bless and keep it up

Jose Luis Rodriguez | December 24, 2010 4:57 AM | Reply

Gladys’ victory warms and inspires my heart! Praise God, dear sister! Your victory over hardships inspires me even more. To press on with a winning heart in the every day gruel of life is a greater victory over the enemy who would steal our joy! In your years, you have had to have lost many
loved ones and friends, seen poverty and hard work, watched loved ones make sad choices, and yet you encourage others in confessing that you may well head out for a walk with the weight of the world on your shoulders but that changes--praise God :)

I, too, am a Seventhday Adventist. I have been such for about 40 years and most of that time I have been a vegetarian. I affirm Nancy in her comment "with out God’s blessing we would not live that long." Vegetarianism is the way to go, I believe, but it is not the golden pill for long life. Many vegetarians have died young. So often we SDA's use someone like Gladys to say, "See!...

My grandmother lived a strong and healthy life up to about 102. At that time she needed some assistance and the last couple years found her mentally confused, but still of great stamina. While living with my brother, she smiled and said, "I don’t who I am living with, but they take real good care of me!" She was always in good spirits. She was not an SDA, worked hard all her life, ate whatever was put in front of her or whatever she was priviledged to have (lots of meat), and ,oh yes--in her later years walked A LOT! :). She died at 105 having spent a couple months, at most, in a nursing home!

My concern--that we lift up God first, vegetarianism somewhere after that :) and, Gladys---keep making a difference by being who God made you and doing what He has given you the inspiration and ability to do! Come to think of it--by God's grace, that's pretty good advice for all of us!

Love,
Sylvia

---

**Sylvia Verrill | December 27, 2010 6:40 AM | Reply**

A very well-written article. Kudos to the author. These days, it is not uncommon to see grammatical and spelling errors in even the most prestigious news outlets, not to mention third-rate composition. I am always proud when I see quality journalism in SDA publications.

And of course highest praise goes to Gladys, who is a real inspiration to me personally to keep up my own exercise program, however unremarkable.

She is also a great example of the power we each have to choose our attitude in life, even when our path grows dark and difficult.

I especially loved the line in the article about how she paused near the end to pray, so that others might know the true Source of her strength.

Praise God for her witness in so many ways. God bless you, Gladys. I would love to meet you one day.

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**Janine Goffar | January 3, 2011 6:53 AM | Reply**

Congrats sister Gladys! Praise the Lord! I am thankful for his mighty power demonstrated in your life that, with God all things are posisble! I want to wish you God's continued blessing in your life and your family. I will share your story with my mom who is 84yrs. and is having some problems with walking...I also am a vegetarian and I am blessed by the diet as well. I am 50plus and am in excellent health. I am sadden when I hear some pastors make negative remarks from the pulpit about vegetarian diet not saving anyone, it needs to be noted that meat eating of dead animals will not save anyone as well. We are save by the blood of Jesus Christ. Most vegetarians already knows this to be so. The vegetarian diet, is the diet chosen for us by our Creator so that we can enjoy better health. Sister Gladys your life is living proof of this, it is true that all the other health laws also should be included for one to have optimum health. Some will not enjoy this great health as you do, due to unfortunate circumstances such as: accidents etc. But one day with the Lords blessing we will run and not be weary, we will walk and not faint! Hold fast, Jesus is coming!

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**Cherry | January 3, 2011 2:40 PM | Reply**

What a powerful inspiration. I want to be just like you if the Lord delay's His coming.

Praise God.

Sheila

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**Sheila | January 5, 2011 9:47 AM | Reply**

Inspiring story that finds its application in everyone's daily encounters towards realizing set goal. I'm encouraged to persevere, to be courageous, to embrace positive thinking, to keep on dreaming ... to keep on going ... to size my calling in this life, my higher calling.
Robert Onsare | January 5, 2011 12:40 PM | Reply

this news is worth spreading. Its very difficult to find some one in africa compared to her age as strong as she is now. I believe god has preserved her life for his mission. lets trust in the lord and obey him for he is able to deliver us. amen

Bismark Armah Tandoh | January 7, 2011 5:18 PM | Reply

Thank you Sister Gladys. After reading this news I shed tears of joy. This story gives me inspiration and reminds me how a positive outlook in life can make the difference. With this news, I am inspired to think about my own life, my health, and my impact to the community I am living today. It makes me proud too, being an Adventist.

Kudos to you once again.

Ruby T. Campos, Leyte, Philippines | January 7, 2011 7:05 PM | Reply
UCA Fox Concert Creates Memorable Opportunities

by Jon Dalrymple

Joseph Ausmus, UCA Senior, sings a solo of Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas, accompanied by the UCA Band.

Troy Patzer, Principal of Upper Columbia Academy welcomes the audience to the UCA Christmas concert at the beginning of the evening.

The UCA Choraliers perform "The Coventry Carol" in which some of the members sing and perform with hand-bells.
After intermission the UCA Band and Choir came on stage wearing Santa Claus hats to perform the less serious musical numbers in the second half of the concert.

The Fox is a performing arts theater in Spokane where performances take place each week by world renown musicians and performers. It is also the home of the Spokane Symphony. The 1930s era theater was restored 4 years ago at a cost of $31 million dollars. UCA was the first group to perform at the Fox after the Spokane Symphony's opening performance following the restoration.

Jenna Comeau, a Junior UCA student from Vermont, transposes music for her oboe part shortly before the concert begins at the Fox.
Dean Kravig, UCA Band director, rehearses with the string ensemble before the concert.

SPOKANE, Wash. - Upper Columbia Academy band, string and choral groups performed a Christmas music concert at the Fox Theater in downtown Spokane, December 18, 2010. It was the fourth year the school has held this special event as a gift to the community and as an opportunity for students to perform in a professional music facility.

“This was by far the best academy performance I have ever heard. I absolutely loved it,” said Chelsea English, a youth pastor who attended the concert for the first time this year. “Academy bands don't usually do it for me, but this was different. During the first song, I was literally bouncing out of my seat.”

“I was incredibly proud of how sensitively and professionally the students performed,” said Dean Kravig, UCA Band Director, “After the concert I had a college level music teacher tell me she was impressed by how highly polished they sounded. She said it was hard to believe she was listening to a high school band. That says a lot about how hard the students worked.”

The Fox theater is a well known performing arts venue in the Spokane community and is the home of the Spokane symphony. UCA's performances at the 1930s era theater, which was restored 4 years ago at a cost of $31 million dollars, has had a number of positive effects both for the school and for the church.

“Our main purpose, and the original idea came about eight years ago,” says Curtis Anderson, UCA Music Department Chairman. “The idea was to use the music program as an evangelistic tool. Gerald Haeger, our ministerial director at the conference office, suggested we take our Christmas program, which we were performing in the gym, into the community and use it as an outreach. Not only has has it opened the eyes of Spokane about who Seventh-day Adventist are, but it has also given us a purpose other than just having a nice concert at school.”

“I meet people all over town that know us because of the Fox concert,” says Kravig. “When I'm wearing my UCA music department shirt people just start talking to me about the Fox concert. The day after the concert this year I was at the Costco optical department and I talked to a lady who said she was just driving by the Fox and saw it advertised on the sign so she decided to come.”

“I invite a Sunday church choir to come to the concert each year, and they think our students are amazing,” says Anderson, “and the staff at the Fox are continually impressed with our group. Most of the staff are volunteers because they love music and being a part of the music community, and I think doing this concert each year plants seeds in these people's hearts that will have an effect in the end time.”

“We also get some very positive comments from the parents of the students,” says Anderson. “They appreciate that their kids have an opportunity to perform in an acoustically professional facility. It puts their performance in the best possible environment rather than in a gym were it is very hard to hear.”

“Gymnasiums aren't made for concerts any more than concert halls are made for basketball games,” says Kravig. “Performing at the Fox lets our student's know what it is like to perform in a great auditorium. It tells them that their
music is worth something. It inspires them. When you feel good about what you are doing it just helps you play better.”

“The Fox is such a fun place to perform,” said Jessica Demitor, a senior at UCA who has performed at the concert for two years in a row, “It is the highlight of the year for the music students, the fact that it is downtown in such a cool place just makes you want to do better. It’s a bigger deal, because your performing for more than just the people you know at school and you want to make a good impression on the community. I don't think I’ll be doing any big performances after I graduate, I probably won't make a career out of it. But I plan to keep practicing and learning to play better, for me music is a way of relieving stress and it is also part of how I worship God.”

“There is no doubt that more kids sign up for music because of the Fox concert opportunity,’ says Anderson. “The Fox concert is something kids can shoot for. They know there will be 1000 plus people there and that gives them more motivation.”

“We are so blessed to be able to do this for these kids, and the reason music is such a big deal at UCA is largely because of of Jerry Lange who worked for many years to build up the music program here. We are still reaping the results of his efforts and we are thankful for the continued support of the parents and other supporters.”

It is a huge team effort on the part of the school and the conference to pull off the Fox concert each year, but to me it is so worth it. The greatest part for me is to watch the eyes of the kids as they sing and see how excited they are when they sing. I love watching the kids grow and learn.”
Christmas Truce

"'Twas Christmas in the trenches, where the frost so bitter hung. 
The frozen fields of France were still, no Christmas song was sung. — John McCutcheon

While looking for a *Gleaner* story I uncovered a most intriguing news piece. A few more search engines and I unearthed PURE treasure. Historians mark a most unique moment in World War I where enemy soldiers stopped the war to celebrate Christmas together on the frontlines in No Man’s Land, the area between the two battling troops.

I began to find war archives, photos and other treasures. Today it is called the historic Christmas Truce of 1914. “Christmas in the Trenches,” later romanticized in the block-buster movie *Jeux Noel*, lasted the entire Christmas day and on some frontlines up to New Year’s Day wherein British, French and German soldiers stopped killing for a time and in merriment exchanged brandy, letters, pictures from home, sacred rations and chocolate candies with their enemies. In Yuletide, the enemies like giddy-school children played soccer (who won varies on the historian’s country), buried each other’s dead and sang “Stille Nacht.”

“*And in two tongues one song filled up that sky,*” continues McCutcheon.

And with my own eyes I saw photos including British and German officers in full regalia looking one another directly in the eye and conversing respectfully, goodwill trumping all lines. There are other vintage photos displaying soldiers holding holly branches and using makeshift lights and random branches as Christmas trees, while singing carols together.

“The cannons rested silent, the gas clouds rolled no more, 
As Christmas brought us respite from the war,” McCutcheon writes.

Suddenly I was reminded of another truce. In that one, I like to imagine the littlest, most sanguine angel begged: “Please let us go, it will be okay, it’s not like we’re singing on Main Street Bethlehem. We’re just going to sing to a few shepherds – Even if the shepherds tell their story no one is going to believe simple shepherds.”

And I like to think the Father said: “I’m waging a war on sin here. Do you know how putrefying sin is? Remember the sandbox lesson — the little blood-stained innocent sanctuary lamb? Sin has separated our troops. I’ve commenced to trying to save them. But it’s not safe for
angels to go down there. They make slaves of one another. They harm their children, hurt their neighbors, and betray their families. They’re evil day and night.”

And then I imagine the littlest angel begging again, “But … you’re already waging the war on sin — you just sent Him …. Please let us go, we’ll make it short. — It’s just a temporary Christmas truce.” And then Gloria in Excelsis Deo Christmas truce was born – a spiritual trove not of Hollywood stardust or Disney magic, but Heaven and Earth meeting in No-Man’s Land — for just a moment.

**Back to War**

And then I read the saddest line about the war. McCutcheon’s poem puts it this way …

> “Soon daylight stole upon us and France was France once more. With sad farewells we each began to settle back to war.”

Some accounts say one side “waved Merry Christmas” on a flag. The other side waved “thank you.” The rifles taken back up, two shots rang in the air, and historians everywhere mark it — Humanity’s Finest MOMENT.

And also with the Christmas angel truce Heaven was Heaven once more. And Earth went back to being Earth. The shepherds wiped the stardust off their eyes. The angels returned to Heaven and the shepherds went about trying to convince their respective villages they really had been privy to an angel choir. And biblical scholars everywhere mark it — Humanity’s Deciding MOMENT.

But for a moment both sang — “And in two tongues one song filled up that sky.”

And every cell in our fallible, terrible, sinful, bending selves —

Truly loves and re-loves — that moment.

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*Story by Cindy Chamberlin © Christmas 2010*

**Gleaner**

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