Church Institutions in Egypt Currently Safe

Both Nile Union Academy and Zeitoun Elementary School in Cairo, Egypt, have suspended school this week. About 130 students attend the academy and some 800 attend the elementary school. Tibor Szilvasi, Middle East Union executive secretary, headquartered in Beirut, Lebanon, says there are no reports of any threats to members or church property. "Our members in Egypt, like the general Egyptian population, are somewhat apprehensive and waiting prayerfully to see what will happen," says Szilvasi. Read more from the Adventist News Network HERE.

Hope Channel "Al Waad" Launched in Arabic

Adventist programming is now available to more than 350 million Arabic-speaking people around the world with the launching of the Al Waad Channel on February 1. The Al Waad Media Center for broadcast programming is on the campus of the church’s Middle East University in Beirut, Lebanon. It has adopted a philosophy of respect and understanding toward those who belong to the majority religion of Islam. "It is our intention to build bridges of trust and understanding with our Muslim neighbors," says Basma Muneer, media center content manager. This new outreach is part of the Hope Channel global broadcast network. Read more HERE.

Adventist Medical Institutions Create Policy Association

The Adventist Health Policy Association (AHPA) was formally launched in January to help Adventist hospitals reach their goal of high quality healthcare in the midst of changing federal legislation, policies and regulations. This new collaborative effort includes more than 70 hospitals and 300 affiliated healthcare facilities across 17 states and the District of Columbia. It combines the efforts of Adventist Health, Adventist Health System, Adventist HealthCare, Kettering Adventist Healthcare and the Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center. "Seventh-day Adventist hospitals represent a major sector of the U.S. health system," says Larry Mitchel, Adventist Health director of Government Relations and AHPA representative. "We know that working together on key policy issues is crucial in this era of health reform." Read more HERE.

Looking Ahead

February
10–12: Friendship Tournament at WWU
14: Valentine’s Day
18–20: UCC Christian Men’s Summit
21: President’s Day
24: April Ad/Article Deadline

March
3–5: Walla Walla University Days
24: May Ad/Article Deadline

April
1–3: Wash. Impact Your World Retreat
9: Ore. Ministry Fest South
21: June Ad/Article Deadline
21–24: WWU Homecoming Weekend

GLEANER Blogs

- Cindy’s Garden Blog
- Monthly Archival Photo
- Let’s Talk
- Tip Sheet
In early January, two teams of four Walla Walla University School of Business students participated in the annual tax challenge event at University of Washington. Though the event was not held last year due to budget, the last event saw the WWU team taking first place. This year, one of WWU’s teams placed second. Team members were Brittany Smith, senior international business major; Linda Stecker, senior accounting and business administration major; Donovan West, senior accounting major; and Kaitlyn Fitch, junior accounting major. Read the full story HERE.

Upper Columbia Adopts a New Vision
Jay Wintermeyer, Upper Columbia Conference spokesperson, reports the conference has adopted an official vision statement at the conference executive committee meeting, held Jan. 25, in Spokane, Wash. The statement paints a picture of what the church will be like just prior to Christ’s return. “We intend to use this to guide conference and local church plans and strategies as we seek to reach our region with the news of Christ’s love and His soon return,” says Bob Folkenberg Jr., UCC president. Read the statement HERE.

Religious Liberty Helpline
To address issues dealing with religious liberty rights, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has a helpline. Individuals with a religious liberty problem may call 877-721-3700 toll free. The information will be forwarded to a local religious liberty representative.

Farmers Proving Tithe Works
What happens when a group of farmers try to prove tithe works? See Cindy’s Garden blog this week to find out.
In Egypt, Adventist schools suspended this week, but church operations not affected

Small membership in country under spotlight

31 Jan 2011, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States
Ansel Oliver/ANN

Two Seventh-day Adventist-run schools in Egypt have suspended classes this week due to ongoing national protests. Otherwise, Adventist operations are not affected, according to latest reports from the region.

A day before the Internet was shut down in Egypt on Friday, the president of the small Adventist community there said church operations were not affected by national protests.

"There is no news at all that any of our 12 churches, 700 members and two schools are affected in any way," Llewellyn R. Edwards, president of the denomination's Egypt Field, wrote to ANN in a January 27 e-mail.

Some 100 people have reportedly died in nationwide protests calling for President Hosni Mubarak to resign. The unrest follows similar protests in Tunisia and Yemen.

Phone service in Egypt was working again this weekend after most communication was shut down Friday, reports said.

Tibor Szilvasi, executive secretary of the church's Middle East Union, with headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon, has since been in contact with leadership by phone. There are no reports of any threats to members or church property, he said.

Both Nile Union Academy and Zeitoun Elementary school in Cairo have suspended school this week, Szilvasi said.

About 130 students attend the academy and some 800 attend the elementary school.

"Our members in Egypt, like the general Egyptian population, are somewhat apprehensive and waiting prayerfully to see what will happen," he said. "So far all are reported to be OK."

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.
Al Waad Channel Launched

2 February 2011 St Albans, United Kingdom [Miroslav Pujic, tedNEWS] The staff of Al Waad Media Center in Beirut, Lebanon watched intently as they stood together to witness the event that they had been looking forward to for over two years. The first of February 2011 was the day that marked the launching of Al Waad Channel (Hope Channel in Arabic).

For the Seventh-day Adventist Church this is a dream come true. “We have seen the fruit of our labor finally being broadcast to over 350 million Arabic speaking people around the world”, says Amir Ghali, Al Waad Media Center Director. “Needless to say, the staff joined together in offering a prayer of thanks and gratitude to God, who made it possible for Al Waad Channel to be on the air; this is nothing less than a true miracle,” Ghali concludes.

A portfolio with a variety of programmes is presented on Al Waad Channel. The programmes deal with all aspects of life: spiritual, family, health, youth, music, children, cooking, and more. These programmes go in harmony with the Adventist teachings, which are concerned with the well being of humankind.

Al Waad Media Center, which produces programmes for Al Waad Channel, is located on the beautiful campus of Middle East University in Beirut, Lebanon. The center adopts a philosophy of respect and understanding toward those who belong to the majority religion of Islam.

“It is our intention to build bridges of trust and understanding with our Muslim neighbours,” comments Basma Muneer, Content Manager at Al Waad Media Center. “By God’s grace, we aim to be the trusted Arabic Christian TV channel in the Middle East.”

“It is my sincere prayer that Al Waad Channel will be a blessing to millions of people around the world, and that through this ministry many people will accept Jesus as their personal Saviour,” concludes Ghali.

Al Waad Channel is part of the Hope Channel global broadcast network. [tedNEWS]

tedNEWS Staff: Miroslav Pujic, director; Deana Stojkovic, editor
119 St Peter’s Street, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3EY, England
E-mail: tednews@ted-adventist.org
Website: www.ted-adventist.org

tedNEWS is an information bulletin issued by the communication department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Trans-European Division.
You are free to re-print any portion of the bulletin without need for special permission. However, we kindly request that you identify tedNEWS whenever you publish these materials.
New Adventist Health Policy Association to Serve as a United Policy Voice

January 11, 2011 – The newly formed Adventist Health Policy Association (AHPA) will serve as the united policy voice for 72 hospitals and over 300 affiliated health care facilities across 17 states and the District of Columbia.

AHPA was incorporated in September 2010 to help ensure that existing and new federal legislation, policy and regulations allow AHPA members to fulfill their goal of accessible, high-quality health care.

“Seventh-day Adventist hospitals represent a major sector of the U.S. health system,” said Richard E. Morrison, AHPA President. “We know that working together on key policy issues is crucial in this era of health reform. AHPA will help us do this.”

AHPA leadership has been meeting informally for almost a year. The group has submitted comments on key health reform elements, including Accountable Care Organizations, tax-exempt hospital requirements, and readmissions.

AHPA’s founding members operate hospitals, home health agencies, nursing centers, outpatient centers, physician practices and related health care entities. The founding members are:

- **Adventist Health**, headquartered in Roseville, CA. Includes 17 hospitals, 62 outpatient centers, 32 rural health clinics, 14 home health agencies and four joint-venture retirement centers. Locations in California, Oregon, Washington State and Hawaii;
- **Adventist Health System**, headquartered in Winter Park, FL. Includes 42 hospitals, 87 outpatient centers, 11 home health agencies and 18 nursing homes as well as a College of Health Sciences. Locations in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Texas, Illinois, Kansas, Colorado and Wisconsin;
- **Adventist HealthCare**, headquartered in Rockville, MD. Includes seven hospitals and an assisted-living facility. Locations in New Jersey, Maryland and the DC area;
- **Kettering Adventist Healthcare**, headquartered in Dayton, OH. Includes seven hospitals, 60 outpatient centers and the Kettering College of Medical Arts serving 11 counties across the greater Dayton region; and
- **Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center** headquartered in Loma Linda, CA. Includes seven hospitals, seven outpatient facilities, and Loma Linda University Medical School.

AHPA member hospitals will remain active in current membership organizations such as the American Hospital Association and Premier, Inc., noted Morrison. “These organizations are invaluable resources for all health care providers throughout the nation.

“AHPA will add another voice to the national health reform dialogue – a formal voice that will leverage the strength of our network and our shared goals,” Morrison continued. “It will allow us to have strong input into the policy issues important to our nation’s ever-changing health care system.”

The Association has received 501(3)6, or non-profit trade association, status. Initial staff support is provided by Adventist Health System, headquartered in Winter Park, FL.
Tax Team Takes Second Place

WWU well-represented at UW challenge

In early January, two teams of four Walla Walla University School of Business students participated in the annual tax challenge event at University of Washington. Though the event was not held last year due to budget, the last event saw the WWU team taking first place. This year, one of WWU’s teams placed second.

“The tax teams did a great job again this year,” says JoAnn Wiggins, dean of the School of Business at WWU. “Though they expressed disappointment at ‘only’ getting second place, their professors and I were certainly not disappointed. I know I would have been rattled by some of the questions they were asked. They did very well.”

This year’s team was made up of Brittany Smith, senior international business major; Linda Stecker, senior accounting and business administration major; Donovan West, senior accounting major; and Kaitlyn Fitch, junior accounting major.

The event was only announced in early December, leaving participating students to do the bulk of their challenge preparation over Christmas break.

“It is difficult to get motivated to do a tremendous amount of studying over the holidays,” says Norman Anderson, faculty sponsor of the WWU tax team, “but the students were dedicated and made us proud.”

At the event, teams of three or four students work for four hours on a tax problem, using only their tax books for reference. They are expected to address all tax issues and calculate the proper income tax for the hypothetical taxpayers in the problem. The problems are graded and the top three teams make it to the finals to be held the following day. Finalists are given additional facts and another four hours to prepare oral and PowerPoint presentations for the ‘clients’ and the judges.

This tax challenge is open to all junior and senior business majors and students volunteer to be members of a team. The other six competing teams represented University of Washington, Oregon State University and Southern Oregon University.

“We had two great teams at the competition this year, and could have easily walked off with both first and second place,” says Anderson. “I am extremely proud of each student who participated in the competition.”
Home . News . UCC Adopts Vision Statement

UCC Adopts Vision Statement

by Jay Wintermeyer

The members of the Upper Columbia Executive Committee discuss the significance of a vision statement and what it means for members.


The statement paints a picture of what the church will be like just prior to Christ’s return.

Bob Folkenberg Jr., UCC president, says “We intend to use this to guide conference and local church plans and strategies as we seek to reach our region with the news of Christ’s love and His soon return.”

The vision statement reads as follows: “In visions of the night, representations passed before me of a great reformatory movement among God’s people. Many were praising God. The sick were healed, and other miracles were wrought. A spirit of intercession was seen, even as was manifested before the great Day of Pentecost. Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families and opening before them the word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest. On every side doors were thrown open to the proclamation of the truth. The world seemed to be lightened with the heavenly influence. Great blessings were received by the true and humble people of God.” (9T 126)
Here is a great story I found. (See source below.)

“While many experiences exist of individuals testing tithing as a tool for expanding their abundance, there was a very objective test that was conducted by a group of people in Michigan around 1940. They conducted their experiment in a public manner and kept careful records. In their experiment they started with one cubic inch of wheat containing 360 kernels. They blessed the wheat and made the commitment to tithe ten percent of the harvest to their church. They then planted the wheat in a little plot behind the church.

“From the first year’s growth they harvested fifty cubic inches and tithed five cubic inches to the church which they fixed for the minister’s breakfast. They planted the remaining nine-tenths which was forty-five cubic inches.

“From the second year’s growth they harvested seventy pounds of wheat. Their tithe to the church that year was seven pounds. By this time more and more people were interested in the experiment and over 350 people, including Henry Ford (who was himself a proponent of tithing), came to the dedication ceremony.

“By the third year the public interest had really expanded with over 1,000 people, including the press, attending the event. The fourth year the governor of the state was in attendance, and the results were carried in the newsreels of the day. When they reached the sixth and final year of the experiment they did not have enough land to plant the wheat in.

“They sold the wheat to local farmers who agreed to keep careful records and to give a tenth of the harvest from the wheat to the church of their choice.1”

February Archival Photo

Do you know where this photo was taken and / or when? Add your comment to the discussion below if you think you know something about it.

This entry was posted on Monday, January 31st, 2011 at 2:55 pm and is filed under Monthly Archival Photo. You can follow any responses to this entry through the RSS 2.0 feed. You can skip to the end and leave a response. Pinging is currently not allowed.
I grew up without a gun. In my era, that was a handicap, since the rite of passage for kids in my neighborhood was a daily make-believe battle involving cowboys and outlaws who chased each other from yard to yard.

My parents didn’t like toy guns. So, if I got caught in one of these scrums, I spent my time wisely — running for my life. Life and death was a fantasy then — something contained in play, in stories, in the flexible world of imagination. If you didn’t like how a story turned out, you made up a new one.

The decades since then, however, have brought a rude education about the dark prince of this world and the death he wields. Real people have been ripped unceremoniously from my life. I know now, death is an adversary beyond the realm of “bang-bang-you’re-dead” make-believe.

Adventists believe death is a sleep until Jesus arrives to make everything new. Paul claims Christians do not “grieve as others do” over death. But the apostle does not intend to whitewash the emotions that accompany loss — anger, regret and, in some cases, a crushing sense of responsibility. It’s why the story of Chad and Ryan Arnold is so compelling.

In the prime of life, Chad was diagnosed with a chronic liver disease. A liver transplant was his only hope. His brother, Ryan, was a perfect match for the operation and volunteered to go into surgery to donate two-thirds of his liver to Chad. All went well, but just four days later, while still recuperating, Ryan suddenly, tragically died.

What do you do with a gift when someone has died to give it? Chad started an online blog at cometoofar.com entitled “Come Too Far — When you can’t go back to how it was.”

Early on, sorting through conflicting emotions, Chad realized his response was his decision. In one of his journal entries, he wrote: “Suffering is like a pile of rocks. You can choose to carry the load, throw them at someone, just let it lay there, or you can build an altar.”

Make no mistake — this choice was (and is) not easy. “Faith,” Chad wrote in another blog passage, is “the thing you cling to when you’re taking your last breath in a freezing river whose current is too strong. Well, the current is too strong for me right now, and so I’m clinging.”

The journey of faith is neither a make-believe story or an automatic formula. It’s a winding, uphill road with ruts full of rocks. Like Chad says, it’s what we do with those rocks that counts.

Are you staring at a pile of rocks today? Tired of throwing them back at God or others? Take a step of faith beyond regret. Pick up one of those rocks — and begin to build an altar.
Tip Sheet

Holiday Stories: Timing is Everything

Wednesday, November 18th, 2009

As the holiday season approaches churches, schools and service groups spring into action with a flurry of themed events and activities. We look forward to hearing about your events and activities, and sharing your stories with our readers. As you partake of your Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s events here’s a few things to keep in mind.

The December issue of the GLEANER went to press the first week of November, and the January 2010 issue of the GLEANER is already in production. That means the soonest your stories can appear in the print GLEANER is February 2010. The deadline for that issue is Jan. 4, 2010. In order for your holiday stories to appear within two months of when they happened the must be in by this deadline.

Christmas stories will still be considered for the March 2010 issue of the GLEANER. The deadline for that issue is Jan. 28, 2010. No Christmas stories will appear in print beyond the March issue. Keep in mind, we are always working about two-months in advance at the GLEANER. Timely submission of stories is critical.

Remember, your story can also run on the GLEANER Web site (which can be updated as often as new stories are submitted) and in the weekly GLEANR E-Newsletter.

Posted in Tip Sheet | No Comments »