Prest Considers Idaho Conference Presidency

In a vote taken Sunday, March 27, the Idaho Conference executive committee elected David Prest Jr. for the position of conference president. Prest currently directs the Montana Conference church ministries, ministerial and trust service departments. He plans to travel to Boise with his family for a visit with Idaho Conference personnel this weekend and hopes to announce a decision soon after. Keep the Prest family in your prayers as they ponder this new opportunity for service.

Investigation Affirms Adventist Medical Center’s Emergency Response

Adventist Medical Center in Portland, Ore., was found in full compliance with the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which discovered no deficiencies. U.S. Representative Earl Blumenauer called for the federal investigation following questions about the hospital’s emergency response to a Feb. 10 incident originating in an AMC parking structure. “The CMS findings reflect the facts that we have known all along: that our care givers responded immediately to try and save this victim upon report of the accident, despite the unfortunate outcome,” says Thomas Russell (pictured here), AMC president and chief executive officer. Read more HERE.

Adventists Continue Involvement in VegFest

Each year, thousands of people who follow a vegetarian or vegan lifestyle or who are curious about vegetarian food attend VegFest in Seattle, Wash. Vegetarians of Washington, one of the largest vegetarian organizations in the United States, produces the annual food festival and involves more than 1,000 volunteers who serve hundreds of vegetarian food samples. Volunteers staff an Adventist lifestyle booth at VegFest and share literature and food samples with people who are curious about physical and spiritual health. Read more on the Washington Conference website HERE.

Crisis Webinar Coming April 1

Being physically ready for a crisis is one thing, but are you ready to meet the needs of your community in the event of a crisis? All pastors and lay
ministers are invited to participate in a series of free webinars hosted by the Crisis Care Ministry of Adventist Community Services. The information and tools provided will help you identify and assist with the emotional and spiritual needs of those affected by a critical incident like the one in Japan. The webinar will be held Friday, April 1, from 1 to 2 p.m. EST. To join go to: ACS Teleconference and call 866-822-1298, use code 3016608. Participation in the first webinar is not required to join future webinars.

SONscreen Film Festival Invites Visitors and Volunteers
The 2011 SONscreen Film Festival IX will take place April 7–9 at the Adventist Media Center of AMP Studios in Simi Valley, Calif. SONscreen is the official film festival of the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and since its debut in October 2002, has become the destination for Christian filmmakers to share creative work, gain exposure, and network with other media and film professionals. Volunteers are needed for a variety of roles to help promote and produce this year’s festival. Volunteers receive free admission to the festival, free merchandise and a special gift. For more information about volunteering, go to www.sonscreen.com, then choose Contact Us, then click Volunteer and complete the online signup sheet.

Meeting Planner Services Available Through AdventSource
AdventSource is pleased to announce that Lindsay Peterson has accepted the position of meeting planner for Adventist Meetings. As meeting planner, Peterson will assist clients with site selection, contract negotiation, complete event identity/advertising packages and more. Meeting planning services are available to the North American Division, unions, conferences, educational institutions and church training events. For the last five years, Lindsay has provided technical support and on-site training for Adventist Church Connect and Adventist School Connect. To learn how Lindsay can help you plan your next event, email lindsay@adventsource.org, visit www.adventistmeetings.com, or call 402-486-8821.

10+ The Power of Ten
What happens when one member decides he wants to pay God back for his blessings and God answers back “by tens”? See the new blog at Cindy’s Garden Blog.
3/30/2011 - Portland Adventist Medical Center's Emergency Response Declared in Compliance

Adventist Medical Center (AMC) has been found in compliance with the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which found no deficiencies at the hospital.

CMS surveyed AMC, a nonprofit 302-bed acute-care faith-based hospital in southeast Portland, Ore., six weeks ago because of concerns raised that the hospital could have provided more appropriate care surrounding the death of a patient in its parking garage.

"After questions were raised about the response to the incident on February 10, I asked for an investigation by the appropriate federal agencies. I am pleased that CMS has completed its investigation and found that Adventist was in full compliance with federal laws and regulations. I am also pleased that the senior executive team at Adventist took this event seriously and has worked with hospital staff to reinforce their policies and procedures," said U.S. Representative Earl Blumenauer, who initially called for the federal investigation.

"The CMS findings reflect the facts that we have known all along: that our care givers responded immediately to try and save this victim upon report of the accident, despite the unfortunate outcome," said Thomas Russell, president and chief executive officer of AMC. "We will continue to meet the medical needs of our community in every way possible as we work together with the Portland Police Bureau, Portland Fire Department and Emergency Medical Technicians."

Representatives from the Oregon Department of Health conducted a four-day survey at the request of CMS, reviewing AMC's policies and procedures, interviewing staff and reviewing Emergency Department medical records and charts. The EMTALA compliance reinforces AMC's commitment to providing compassionate, quality care for all its patients.

About Adventist Medical Center-Portland

Adventist Medical Center (AMC), located in southeast Portland, is a nonprofit, 302-bed acute care facility, offering a full range of inpatient, outpatient and emergency services throughout the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area. AMC is a member of Adventist Health, headquartered in Roseville, Calif. The organization represents regional delivery networks spanning California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington.

Adventist Medical Center is part of Adventist Health, a not-for-profit, faith-based health care system operating in California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington. Founded on the
Seventh-day Adventist heritage of Christian health care, Adventist Health is comprised of 17 hospitals with more than 2,600 beds, approximately 18,600 employees, numerous clinics and outpatient facilities, the largest system of rural health clinics in California with additional sites in Oregon and Washington, 14 home care agencies and four joint-venture retirement centers. For more information, visit www.adventisthealthnw.com or www.adventisthealth.org.

# # #
Adventists Continue Involvement in VegFest

Each year, thousands of people who follow a vegetarian or vegan lifestyle or who are curious about vegetarian food attend VegFest in Seattle, Wash.

Vegetarians of Washington, one of the largest vegetarian organizations in the United States, produces the annual food festival and involves more than 1,000 volunteers who serve hundreds of vegetarian food samples. Each of the six nutrition and health lecturers at VegFest this year is an Adventist doctor practicing in western Washington.

"Many people recognize the health and other benefits of vegetarian food choices, but they are not sure what to eat, what to buy and how to cook it," say VegFest organizers. "This festival provides all the support that people need, and it's fun too."

The Seventh-day Adventist booth provides people with a vegetarian food pyramid handout, upcoming health events, health and religious literature and food samples from the Adventist Book Center.

"VegFest focuses on the physical, spiritual and environmental benefits of vegetarian food, so it is a good fit for the Seventh-day Adventist Church to be involved and represented particularly from the physical and spiritual perspective," says Nessy Pittau, Washington Conference health ministries director.

VegFest, now in its 10th year, is offered every March at Seattle Center Exhibition Hall, and attracts about 15,000 people from western Washington and beyond.
The Power of Ten

Our son, Dakari, has cerebral palsy due to a lack of oxygen during childbirth. Although he is three, he communicates mainly by pointing and babbling. The only way for him to learn to walk and talk is by constant therapy. He regularly travels to Children’s Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, for checkups and treatments and augmentative communication specialists concluded he needed a special communication device. While we were trying to figure out how to care for Dakari’s need, I accidentally submitted double online banking tithes over two separate occasions.

“I need to talk with the treasurer about getting this money back,” I said to my wife Annesa. “We really need it.”

But Annesa calmly suggested we leave it in the bank as a way of showing our appreciation to the Lord for blessing us so much.

“Are you sure?” I asked, becoming uneasy and not believing my ears. But Annesa was convinced and we let it stay.

Then about two weeks later, Annesa asked how I felt about doubling what we were currently giving to the Lord. I couldn’t believe it. “We need the money for all the stuff we have to get for Dakari,” I said.

“I know, but the Lord is still blessing us,” she persisted.

Less reluctantly I agreed this time: “Okay. We’ll do it. As you say, the Lord has done a lot for us, so why not?”

My wife is a wise and virtuous woman. I (almost) hate to admit this but at least 90 percent of the time when I have gone against something she says, we end up losing money or worse. I am glad this was one of the times I went along with her because God literally threw open the floodgates of heaven and poured out so much blessing we did not have room enough for it.

Almost immediately after our decision to double our tithe, I was compelled to check on a poor investment account. I was stunned to see it was ten times our double tithe.

The following day, two colleagues pledged to help get Dakari’s device. One baked goodies, began selling them and opened “Dakari’s Fund.” Meanwhile the investment account grew further. We withdrew the money and paid our largest tithe — ever. The same week, our church minister of music informed us his department was hosting a concert with the proceeds going toward Dakari’s device.

On the Thursday of that same week, we fasted and thanked the Lord for His blessings. Amazingly, that same day my boss approached me and shared that his boss was proposing to do something more significant for our son. “How much more, Lord?” I wondered. “Are you trying to teach us something?”

The following day, my colleagues presented us with a check for our son’s device. Some very special coworkers solicited support on his behalf. The check itself was a big deal — but not the biggest.

My head, heart, my entire body started to hurt and my emotions went on a roller coaster when I realized the amount of the check I received from my colleagues was ten times the tithe we paid from the investment account! Tears wouldn’t stop flowing. I drove home asking the Lord why. “Are you for real, God? Why are you doing this amazing thing for my family? I certainly do not deserve this. Why?” I was so confused! I couldn’t believe what transpired in less than two weeks. When my wife got home and I shared with her, she, too, was overcome with emotions. We tried to make sense of it all.

We are so thankful for the assistance and support we have received in providing our son with an opportunity to experience what so many of us take for granted — the ability to communicate. God’s blessings toward us are innumerable. Daily, moment by moment, we receive physical and spiritual blessings. Count your blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what God has done. And then be a part of that 10 percent who thank God for all the mercies and kindness He has shown.
Story written Pete Saunders, Bermuda Conference associate communication director, shortened and edited by Cindy R. Chamberlin.


This entry was posted on Thursday, March 31st, 2011 at 11:52 am and is filed under Cindy's Garden Blog. 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.

Leave a Reply

Name (required)

Mail (will not be published) (required)

Website

Submit Comment

GleanerOnline Blogs is proudly powered by WordPress
Entries (RSS) and Comments (RSS).