Upper Columbia Conference is Moving

With pavement going down, the Upper Columbia Conference is days away from moving into their new office. Currently in a temporary location, they plan to move into the new office complex on Grove Road in Spokane, Wash., the week of May 23. During the move, phone and email service will continue to function. The ABC will be closed May 25–30. It will reopen with expanded inventory in a brand-new retail space on May 31. The move follows a two-year reconstruction project to replace offices that burned in December of 2008. Read more on the UCC website HERE.

Education Leadership Transitions for Washington Conference

Washington Conference Office of Education is gearing up for a summer of transitions. Kelly Bock (pictured here) will serve as the new vice president for education, replacing Lon Gruesbeck who will continue at the conference as the third trust officer. Bock, who comes to the Northwest from the Pacific Union Conference, has a doctorate in educational administration. He is also an Auburn Adventist Academy graduate. Denise White, associate superintendent, has accepted a position at Union College in Lincoln, Neb., as Department of Human Development chairperson. Read more on the Washington Conference website HERE.

Batchelor Challenges May 21 Prediction

Doug Batchelor, Adventist pastor and Amazing Facts president, is challenging a well-known Christian broadcaster to hand over the deed to the Family Radio network. Harold Camping, Family Radio president, has boldly predicted the end of the world in an Armageddon-type event on Saturday, May 21. "Does Camping's prediction match what the Bible really tells us about Christ's return? I don't believe it does," says Batchelor. "But if Camping is right, he deserves the money to spread the message; if he's wrong, he should not own a radio network." Media awareness of this prediction gives Adventists an opportunity to point friends and neighbors to the Amazing Facts website or other viable Adventist resources such as www.Bibleinfo.com.

Looking Ahead

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GLEANER Blogs

- Cheri Corder
- Cindy's Garden Blog
- Let’s Talk
- Mike Jones
- Monthly Archival Photo
- Tip Sheet

Adventist News Network App
Adventist News Network content is now available as an app for the iPhone and Android operating systems. The newly released apps include news, photos and opinion commentaries as they are published. "Regular communication can help keep members and leaders worldwide better connected with each other as well as enhance the church’s corporate transparency to its members and the public," says Ansel Oliver, the Adventist Church’s communication assistant director for news. The app was produced by Simple Updates, a Michigan-based developer, and is available in the iPhone App Store and the Android Market. Read more on the ANN website HERE.

WWU Honors Alumni
During the Walla Walla University Alumni Homecoming Banquet held April 21, four individuals were recognized as 2011 Honored Alumni: Rhona Kwiram ('91) a partner at Clark Nuber, a consulting firm in Bellevue, Wash.; Nancy Cross ('66) who served as a professor and chair of the WWU English department; Lori Ciccarelli ('81), a hospital communication professional; and Darold Bigger ('66, pictured here), current WWU professor of religion and social work.

Church Properties Reassessed for Insurance Coverage
Adventist Risk Management has initiated work with local conferences throughout North America to ensure church-owned church and school facilities’ insurance values reflect the actual cost of replacing damaged property. These efforts follow a multiyear effort to address a similar issue in the world church’s East-Central Africa, West-Central Africa, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean and Southern Asia divisions. ARM has assessed some 300 North American properties in the past six months. The process involves a close inspection using an established property-insurance standard; taking photos of the building; then entering the data into a commercial property estimator, which provides replacement costs based on zip code. ARM has already conducted more than 25 risk-management and insurance-coverage training seminars during 2011 to help church administrators better understand their insurance coverage and learn how to report losses on a timely basis when an accident occurs. Read more from the Adventist News Network HERE.

A Note from Adventist Community Services
Adventist Community Services is seeking your support. Many Personal Care Kits and/or Personal Activity and Learning Kits (school supplies) are needed for the survivors of the tornadoes in the southern states. The bulletin inserts and description lists linked above let you know how to make the kits and list locations with mailing addresses for where to send them. The local conference ACS volunteers will distribute the items to the affected areas. Please continue to pray for those affected by the numerous disasters throughout our nation. To learn more about ACS, click HERE.
We're Moving!

by Jay Wintermeyer

With pavement going down, Upper Columbia Conference is days away from moving to our new office. We will be moving from our temporary office in Spokane Valley, back to our newly rebuilt office complex on Grove Road in Spokane the week of May 23, 2011.

During the move, phone and email service will continue to function. The only difference is our offices will be spread between two buildings for a few days. Also, the ABC will be closed May 25-30. It will reopen with expanded inventory in a brand-new retail space on May 31.

The move follows a two-year reconstruction project to replace offices that burned in December of 2008.
Washington Conference Office of Education is gearing up for a summer of transitions.

Denise White, associate superintendent, after a year-long process accepted a position at Union College in Lincoln, Neb., as Department of Human Development chairperson.

“We appreciated her innovative leadership with teacher development and mentoring,” says Doug Bing, Washington Conference vice president for administration.

Lon Gruesbeck, vice president for education, announced this spring that he would step down after 13 years of leading the department. He will now serve as a third trust officer for Washington Conference.

Gruesbeck focused much of his efforts on developing quality school leaders to “grow great schools.” “We appreciate his ministry for the young people in Washington Conference,” says Bing.

Introducing a New Leader

Washington Conference recently invited Kelly Bock, from Pacific Union Conference, to serve as vice president for education.

“We’re pleased to have Kelly Bock join our team,” says Bing. “He has a rich history of service in education as boys’ dean, principal and education superintendent on conference, union and division levels.”

Bock has a bachelor’s in business administration, a master’s in education counseling, a specialty in education and a doctorate in educational administration. Bock is also an Auburn Adventist Academy graduate.

He is the only educator in an otherwise medically-oriented family. His wife Diane and daughter Kimberly are nurses and another daughter Kristen is an x-ray technician. His hobbies include sailing, hiking, swimming and cycling.
ANN releases smartphone apps

News, photos, Commentaries free on iPhone, Android

11 May 2011, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States
ANN staff

Adventist News Network content is now available as an app for the iPhone and Android operating systems.

The newly released apps include news, photos and opinion commentaries as they are published. The apps also offer the ANN Styleguide and Glossary, which explains the rationale behind corporate news for a worldwide Christian denomination.

"Regular communication can help keep members and leaders worldwide better connected with each other as well as enhance the church’s corporate transparency to its members and the public," said Ansel Oliver, the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s assistant Communication director for news.

The app was produced by Simple Updates, a Michigan-based developer, and is available in the iPhone App Store and the Android Market.

Users may also contact the editor or submit photos and story suggestions on the ANN website at news.adventist.org.

6 Comments

Keep up the good work...I take my smartphone everywhere and it is a tool that I use on the go. I have my Bible and many EG White books installed not to mention the Sabbath School lesson and Sabbath Media App. This is an important outreach and I share with other smartphone users. May God bless you in your continued work. Thank you!!!

In Christ’s Service
Stephen Corke

Stephen Corke | May 12, 2011 1:07 PM | Reply

When will we see a Blackberry App?

Shane | May 13, 2011 11:45 AM | Reply

Congratulations! I believe especially in these times, not only do church members want to be kept informed, but others are watching too. It is all about providing hope through community. Your app helps to build community. Praise the Lord!

David Gibbons | May 13, 2011 6:28 PM | Reply
Wonderful news! Praise the Lord for the new technology.

Ruth | May 14, 2011 6:35 PM | Reply

Cuando Desarrollaran aplicaciones para Blackberry? buena iniciativa continuen asi!

Josue | May 17, 2011 4:13 PM | Reply

This is great! Please keep up this great work. But will there be an app for WebOS? It would be great if there was and the PDK for the WebOS platform is easier to work with than iOS or Android...

Dariel Ruiz | May 19, 2011 2:25 PM | Reply

Leave a comment

Please restrict your comments to 500 words or less. For more information, please see the ANN Comments Policy.

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Comments (You may use HTML tags for style)

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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
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Updating Adventist property listings is 'ethical issue,' church risk management field rep says

Outdated building assessments could mean inadequate funds to restore lost, damaged property

17 May 2011, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States
Arin Gencer/ANN

The Seventh-day Adventist Church's risk management and insurance organization is on a mission to ensure church-owned properties throughout North America are valued by current standards.

Adventist Risk Management is working with the denomination's local administrative conferences in the region to update property evaluations so that church and school facilities' insurance values reflect the actual cost of replacing damaged property, said Gideon Dayak, a risk control consultant with the organization. The alternative could mean not having adequate funds to restore a lost building.

"To go out and insure a group of churches and suggest that the possibility exists that if they have a total loss there may not be enough value there to rebuild a church...to me, is an ethical issue," said David Rawson, senior field service representative for Adventist Risk Management (ARM). "There was an ethical mandate to get out and get this done."

Rawson and his fellow field representatives in the region are engaged in "a constant process that we've pushed aggressively" to update files, he said, going into the field to evaluate facilities for the details required for a fresh appraisal. He estimated that ARM has completed about half of the project, which began about seven years ago.

Adventist Risk Management's efforts in the North American region follow a multiyear effort to address a similar issue in the world church's East-Central Africa, West-Central Africa, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean and Southern Asia divisions, Rawson said. A decade ago, property lists for those parts of the world were seriously outdated -- not just in terms of property values but also having an accurate list of existing facilities, including the GPS coordinates for each location, he said.

"We'd have two properties on a piece of land sitting next to each other -- one building was obviously ancient and no longer needed to be insured; a brand new building sitting next to it had absolutely no insurance coverage," Rawson said, describing some of the scenarios encountered. "If you don't list the property on your insurance statement of values, and you have a loss, you have no coverage. So it was really important to get that cleaned up."

Dayak -- who conducts property appraisals and safety/risk control analysis -- said he has assessed some 300 North American properties in the past six months. The process involves a close inspection using an established property-insurance standard, and taking photos of the building. Dayak then enters the building's data into the Marshall & Swift commercial property estimator, which provides replacement costs based on zip code.

"You wouldn't believe the sense of appreciation and relief that they feel to know that they're valued correctly," Rawson said of the conferences he has worked with.

Since January 2011, ARM has conducted over 25 risk-management and insurance-coverage training seminars for church administrators, including those in North America's Southern Union Conference and South Africa's Zimbabwe Union Conference, said Arthur Blinci, ARM vice president for Marketing and Field Assessment.

Such sessions cover an array of topics, Dayak said, including the best way to care for properties; avoiding potential hazards inside buildings; having and following an emergency evacuation plan; and an inspection that identifies the cost of replacing lost property. The seminars help church administrators better understand their insurance coverage and learn how to report losses on a timely basis when an accident occurs, Blinci added.

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.

1 Comment

why the church in patchogue ny hasnt been open yet?  

is been more than 28 years and no occupancy,  

why this case has been overlooked, it seems like the property, has been used for other interest,  

by keeping it vacant