NW ASI Convention Planned for April
Adventist business owners and ministry leaders will converge on Boise, Idaho, this spring for the 2012 Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries-Northwest Chapter Convention, April 26–29, at the Boise-Riverside Hotel. Jim Gilley, Three Angels Broadcasting president, and Kevin Wilfley, Upper Columbia Conference pastor, will be the featured speakers. For more information, contact Marella Rudebaugh at the North Pacific Union Conference at 360-857-7037. The national ASI Convention is planned for Aug. 8–11 in Cincinnati, Ohio, with more information available HERE.

Where Does it All Go?
Adventist News Network reveals how the world budget provides allocations for 12 world divisions outside of North America, funds missionaries, and covers operational expenses for the world church headquarters in Maryland. Learn more about the Adventist Church's world budget and how to request a complete copy of the 2012 General Conference budget from the Adventist News Network HERE.

Reclaim Your Faith This Weekend on the Hope Channel
Do you know someone who was once walking with Jesus, but then for some reason stopped attending church? Do you wish there was something you could do to help bring them back to church? Invite them over this weekend to join you in watching Reclaim Your Faith. On Jan. 13–15, Amazing Facts will present this series on the Hope Channel. Four presentations by Doug Batchelor will explore the main reasons people drift from their church families. Series highlight information (including broadcast details) is available HERE.

Klam Memorial Planned this Sabbath
Memorial services for Norm Klam, who died Jan. 1 at the age of 66, are planned this Saturday, Jan. 14, at 3:30 p.m. in the Meadow Glade Adventist Church, 11001 NE 189th St, Battle Ground, WA 98604. A graduate of Walla Walla College, Klam served as treasurer for both the Oregon and North Pacific Union conferences throughout a long career in church finance. He was instrumental in the development of the highly successful

**Most Americans Claim to be Christians**

In a recent report from the Gallup research agency, more than three-fourths of Americans identify themselves as Christians. Of the 82 percent claiming to be Christian, more than 52 percent are Protestants and 27 percent are Catholic. The findings fit the trend of an increasing percentage of Americans who do not embrace a formal religious identity. Gallup found earlier this year that 92 percent of Americans say they believe in God, which suggests that a lack of religious identity is not necessarily linked to atheism. Read more on this topic from the Religious News Service in the Adventist Review [HERE](#).

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**Current Issue**

**January**

What are Adventists in your church doing to make a positive difference in your community? Throughout 2012, every GLEANER issue will feature an example of members who are being “Salt in Our Communities.” The January GLEANER highlights the unique efforts of Walla Walla University.
Quiet Hour names Randy Bates as new CEO

Quiet Hour Ministries, a Seventh-day Adventist supporting ministry, announced the appointment of Randy Bates as its chief executive officer. Bates has served in a number of capacities at Quiet Hour...  More
Better Living airs Christmas concert for French-speaking population

Better Living (Mieux Vivre), a Quebec-based media ministry, reached out the world's French-speaking population this month with a Christmas concert aired online at the Better Living website, as well...

Weimar students make "FaithTrip" to GYC

A group of 11 students and two instructors from Weimar College set out in two vans on Dec. 11, 2011, for a two-week "FaithTrip" from Northern California to Houston, Texas. It was their goal to canv...

Google translate

Convention

Each year, ASI holds an international convention where ASI members, supporters and friends gather to encourage one another and exchange ideas vital to their lay-driven ministry goals. ASI conventions are energetic, inspiring affairs where networks are formed and plans are made that one individual or institution could never accomplish alone. Those who attend ASI conventions return to their home churches inspired spiritually and equipped to start lay outreach efforts in their own workplaces and communities. Best of all, eternal friendships are formed. All are welcome to attend.

The ASI Convention Experience (online video)

2012 Convention

The venue for the 2012 ASI International Convention, Aug. 8–11, 2012, has been changed from Dallas, Texas, to the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. Further information about the convention will be posted as it becomes available. Please check back regularly for updates. Read more about the change...
Convention Music
Youth For Jesus
Projects
Seminars
Meeting & Event Reservations

The 2012 Youth For Jesus program will take place in Dallas as originally planned. Youth For Jesus participants will be transported from Dallas to the convention in Cincinnati. Visit the Youth For Jesus website for more information.

2011 Convention

Despite a volatile economy, record numbers of attendees and exhibitors participated in the 2011 ASI International Convention August 3-6 at the Sacramento Convention Center in Sacramento, California. They also gave approximately $2.1 million—well exceeding the $1.5 million goal—to support 47 carefully selected ministry projects around the world.

Extra chairs had to be set up for the more than 3,300 people who came to
hear Elder Ted N.C. Wilson, Adventist world church president, on Sabbath morning. The exhibit hall had a record-breaking 338 booths representing 221 ministries and organizations from all over the world.

Doug Batchelor's Wednesday evening keynote address focused on the need for courage. On Friday night, Ivor Myers, pastor of the Templeton Hills (Calif.) Seventh-day Adventist Church, packed the entire Great Controversy theme, including all major doctrines and prophecies, into 38 breathtaking minutes that left listeners with a clearer understanding of the significance of the Adventist movement.

ASI officers were elected or re-elected for two-year terms, with Frank Fournier of Eden Valley Institute in Loveland, Colorado, taking the helm as president. "My heart's burden is to bring the focus around to spiritual preparation of God's people to ensure success in our ministries," said Fournier. He presented the morning devotionals during the convention.

**2011 General Sessions**
**2011 Seminars**
**2011 Special Offering Projects**

### 2010 Convention

Over the course of four days, more than 2,000 people attended the 2010 ASI International Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Highlights of the convention included a stirring Sabbath sermon by Pastor Mark Finley urging listeners to examine their own readiness for Christ's second coming in the context of the parable of the ten virgins. In a special video address to ASI members, Elder Ted Wilson, president of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, shared his perspective on the importance of lay evangelism to the church's overall mission and revealed his family's early ties to ASI.

Personal spiritual growth and youth-led evangelism were prominent themes, with the children and youth divisions participating in a Friday evening program that included a challenge to youth by dynamic speaker Jeffrey Rosario. Each meeting began with inspiring ASI member testimonies about unique evangelism efforts, and the 2010 special projects offering of $1.8 million well exceeded the goal of $1.2 million. Visit the links below to view general session and seminar programs, and to read more about the 2010 special offering projects.

**2010 General Sessions**
**2010 Seminars**
**2010 Special Offering Projects**

### 2009 Convention

More than 2,000 people attended the 2009 ASI International Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, and were blessed by
inspiring testimonies, sermons, musical presentations and fellowship with old and new friends.

During the convention, new ASI Officers were elected, including Norman Reitz as president. He followed in Donna McNeilus's footsteps and brought with him a vision for growth. Convention attendees enjoyed a special update on the phenomenal One-Day Church project, as well as an introduction to the One-Day School.

The special projects offering was greatly blessed, with more than $2 million being pledged toward ASI projects for the coming year.

2009 General Sessions
2009 Seminars

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Convention

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2012 Convention

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The 2012 Youth For Jesus program will take place in Dallas as originally planned. Youth For Jesus participants will be transported from Dallas to the convention in Cincinnati. Visit the Youth For Jesus website for more information.
The 2012 ASI International Convention site has been moved from Dallas, Texas, to the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. The scheduled dates will remain the same: August 8–11, 2012.

The decision to select a new convention site was made for reasons that reflect the organization's gradual growth and change over time. It became evident to several ASI members who attended another event at the Dallas site earlier this year that the facilities would not adequately accommodate the 2012 ASI Convention. A special committee was appointed by the ASI board to revisit the Dallas site and look into the possibility of selecting a new venue.

According to Ramon Chow, ASI secretary treasurer and member of the special committee, the main issues with the Dallas site were related to access. First, the route between the exhibit hall and the main session auditorium includes a one-escalator bottleneck, which could greatly slow down traffic between the two areas and potentially discourage people from attending meetings or visiting the exhibit hall. Second, the youth meetings would have to be held on an upper floor of a hotel a skywalk away from the main session room and exhibit areas, inconveniencing parents with children. Third, the main exhibit hall is not large enough to accommodate the expected number of exhibitors. Overflow booths would have to be staged in a separate room, out of sight and potentially out of mind for many attendees.

The special committee, which also included Donna McNeilus, ASI general vice president, Stan Smith, ASI vice president for finance, and Harold Lance, president of ASI Missions Inc., explored three potential alternative sites, including San Jose, Calif., Grand Rapids, Mich., and Cincinnati, Ohio. The biggest challenge was to secure a site with enough space to accommodate the convention on such short notice. In a final vote last week, the special committee chose Cincinnati based on ASI's past positive experience there, the availability of space, and the fact that the Cincinnati facilities will not present access issues.

The ASI Convention venue has been changed at least once before. Convention planning generally begins several years in advance, and changes are sometimes
necessary to accommodate growth of the organization and the annual convention event. One of those changes includes an increased number of exhibitors.

"Exhibitors are a critical part of the convention and its programming," says Harold Lance. "In the Dallas venue, some of our exhibitors would be relegated to substandard, less accessible exhibit space, resulting in a less-than-favorable convention experience for both them and the convention attendees. The decision to change the venue was carefully and deliberately made to prevent dissatisfaction by any attendees or participants."

"The new venue will be a blessing," Ramon Chow says. "The ASI Convention will begin the same day the NAD Teachers' Convention ends in Nashville. Cincinnati is at most a four-hour drive from Nashville, making the transition from one convention to the next more attractive, especially for exhibitors."

He added, "The layout of the facilities in Cincinnati is such that the exhibit, general session and dining areas will be located on the same level, making the flow of traffic between the three areas quicker and easier."

Convention information reflecting the venue change will be posted on the ASI website as it becomes available. Visit the Convention page regularly for updates. More information about the new site, including floor plans, is available on the Duke Energy Convention Center website.

The 2012 Youth For Jesus program will take place in Dallas as originally planned. Youth For Jesus participants will be transported from Dallas to the convention in Cincinnati. Visit the Youth For Jesus website for more information.
The Adventist Review shares the following world news from Religion News Service as a service to readers. Opinions expressed in these reports do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Review or the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

-- Editors

Poll: Nearly 80 percent of Americans are Christian

BY ADELLE M. BANKS

More than three-quarters of Americans identify themselves as Christian, Gallup reports. Pollsters found that 78 percent of Americans identify with Christianity.

Overall, more than 82 percent of Americans have a religious identity, with this breakdown:

- Protestant/other Christian: 52.5 percent
- Catholic: 23.6 percent
- Mormon: 1.9 percent
- Jewish: 1.6 percent
- Muslim: 0.5 percent
- Other non-Christian religion: 2.4 percent
- None/atheist/agnostic: 15 percent
- No response: 2.5 percent

The findings fit the trend of an increasing percentage of Americans who do not embrace a formal religious identity. In 1951, 1 percent of Americans did not have a religious identity, compared to 24 percent identifying as Catholic and 68 percent claiming a non-Catholic Christian faith.

Gallup found earlier this year that 92 percent of Americans say they believe in God, which suggests that a lack of religious identity is not necessarily linked to atheism.

The results of the religious preference survey are based on 327,244 interviews conducted between January and November 2011. The margin of error for that sample is plus or minus 1 percentage point.