The One Project in Seattle

More than 700 young adults and church leaders gathered in Seattle, Wash., Feb. 13–14, for The One Project, celebrating the supremacy of Jesus. Young leaders with fresh perspectives chose examples from the early history of the church to equate where the church is today in terms of making Jesus the core of His people. Following each presentation, ample time was given for participants to converse about Jesus as related to the topic. Special Northwest presenters included Alex Bryan, Walla Walla University Church senior pastor, and Mark Witas, North Cascade (Wash.) Church senior pastor. Read more from gleaneronline.org HERE.

Adventists Join National Contraceptive Debate

What principles should guide the Adventist Church's response to the current national debate about government-mandated health insurance coverage for contraception? The General Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) department, along with the office of general counsel, provides a summary of long-standing values that help chart Adventist perspectives. Read the PARL summary statement and link to the world church consensus statement on birth control HERE.

Kelso-Longview Student is a Top Volunteer

Skyler Lee, Kelso-Longview (Wash.) Adventist School sixth-grader, has been named one of Washington's top two youth volunteers for 2012. The recognition was issued by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program honoring young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism. Lee has collected and donated 1,500 coats for her local Salvation Army Christmas Center during the past five years to help needy families in her area get through the cool winter months. Her coat drives are now an annual event, yielding 250–350 coats a year distributed during the Christmas season. "Everyone who comes into the store is able to pick out a coat for themselves and family members at no charge," says Lee. "There are so many people who need some type of help."

Portland Hospital Receives National Recognition

Looking Ahead

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Adventist Medical Center (AMC), in Portland, Ore., is in the top 10 percent of hospitals nationwide for consistently beating national guidelines in several important measures including: Overall Acute Myocardial Infarction performance, Overall Defect Free Care, ST elevation Myocardial Infarction performance, and Door to Balloon Time, for the treatment of patients experiencing a heart attack. AMC has received the American College of Cardiology Foundation’s GWTG Gold Performance Achievement Award for 2011. AMC is one of only four hospitals in Oregon to receive this national recognition. Read more online HERE.

Account Clerk Position is Open at NPUC
Résumés for North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) account clerk are being accepted until March 1. This half-time, hourly position issues receipts and checks, does general ledger data entry, prepares bank deposits, posts transactions and provides general filing support. Required skills include: keyboard and ten-key data entry, and a working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel for spreadsheets, and Access. Knowledge of accounting is recommended, but not required. Work schedule of 20 hours per week is flexible but must be conducted at the NPUC office in Ridgefield, Wash., and fit within the regularly scheduled office hours. For more information, contact Robert Sundin, NPUC undertreasurer, at 360-857-7014, or robert.sundin@nw.npuc.org.

Looking for an Elusive GLEANER Article?
Looking for the GLEANER article featuring your Aunt Martha somewhere back in the 40s or 50s, but have no idea where to look? GLEANER issues from 2001 until the present, are available for online searching and reading at the GLEANER website HERE. But if you need to search further back — even back to the very first issue in 1906, go to the General Conference online GLEANER archives HERE.

Make Plans Now for Northwest ASI
Adventist business owners and ministry leaders will converge on Boise, Idaho, this spring for the 2012 Adventist-Laymen’s Services and Industries (ASI)-Northwest Chapter Convention, April 26–29, at the Boise-Riverside Hotel. Jim Gilley, Three Angels Broadcasting president, and Kevin Wiffley, 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. ASI is also currently offering special membership rates for new members. Contact the national office at 301-680-6450 for more information.
Spam
Not spam
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The One Project Draws 700+ to Seattle

More than 700 young adults and church leaders gathered in Seattle, February 13-14, to celebrate the supremacy of Jesus.

The One Project, attended by an enthusiastic group, exploded from just five friends who met in 2010 with a passion to make Jesus number one in their lives. Young leaders, with fresh perspectives, chose examples from the early history of the church to equate where the church is today in terms of making Jesus the core of who we are. Following each presentation, ample time was given for participants for conversations about Jesus as related to the topic.

Lisa Clark Diller, Southern Adventist University history professor, confessed, “I was born into a Seventh-day Adventist home, an environment where we knew Adventists were ‘right’. Since then, I’ve learned the wisdom of having Jesus and being right. We don’t have to choose.” She continued, “William Miller wanted nothing more than to meet his Savior. Good ideas mattered to him but they were born out of a desire to know Jesus. The truth isn’t a ‘what’. It’s a ‘who’.”

Sam Leonor, senior chaplain, La Sierra University, referenced the 1888 Conference in Minneapolis where Jones and Waggoner debated Righteousness by Faith. “Out of that meeting,” stated Leonor, “was born a most precious message to uplift Jesus.” He reminded those present that Jesus was the theme throughout Ellen White’s books.

Alex Bryan, Walla Walla University Church senior pastor, recalled the late 50s when Adventists struggled to identify themselves as a Christian church rather than a cult, as some suggested. Bryan said, “The question has now shifted from identity of self to identity of Jesus. Two days a year, we can come to a safe place to dream, nourish and talk about how Jesus can impact the future of our church. From there we go home with renewed energy to spend 363 days a year with Jesus at the center of church life and community.”

Other speakers were Mark Witas, North Cascade (Wash.) Church senior pastor, who said that when Jesus is central in everything, doctrines will reveal a beautiful picture of Him. Eddie Hypolite, South England Conference associate youth director, said we must do Jesus-centered mission so people will feel the love and hear what we are saying. Dilys Brooks, Loma Linda University associate campus chaplain, challenged leaders to create community that reflects Jesus.

The Westin Hotel lobby, ballroom and even the elevators were a-buzz with friendly chatter. Men and women were discussing with hopeful anticipation what they might do to transform the church. Jose Cortez, Atlantic Union Conference, remarked how refreshing the experience had been for him. “When you hear Adventists talk about Christ as front and center of the church, it gives me a lot of hope.” His friend Milton Marquez from Paradise, Calif., added, “It reiterated for me just how powerful God is when we focus on Jesus.”

David Kim, family practice physician from Atlanta, Ga., said the gathering is long overdue. “I grew up in a legalistic Adventist culture where the three R’s dominated??’rules, regulations, and rituals. Missing was the biggest R of Christianity, a relationship with Jesus.”

In his opening remarks Monday morning, Japhet De Oliveira, Center for Youth Evangelism director, cautioned, “This is not an event, conference or symposium. We’re not teaching anything. Instead it is a gathering that provides space for leaders from all walks of life to pause and enter deep conversations on Jesus.

The next gathering is planned for Chicago in 2013. For more information, see www.the1project.org. Or go to The One Project Facebook site for pictures and
comments about the Seattle gathering.

Article by:

By Bernadine Delafield
Assistant Director
NAD Office of Communication
Birth Control and Religious Liberty: An Adventist Perspective

What principles should guide the Adventist Church's response to the current debate in the United States about government-mandated health insurance coverage for contraception? The Public Affairs and Religious Liberty department, along with the Office of General Counsel, reviews some long-standing values that will help chart our course.

An Adventist Response to the U.S. Health and Human Services Contraception Insurance Regulation

On January 20, 2012, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a final rule mandating that employers including religious employers who provide health insurance to their employees must provide a full range of contraceptive services to women without co-pay, co-insurance or deductible. This will include all Food and Drug Administration approved forms of contraception as well as female sterilization.

Various religious organizations, including the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, have raised concerns about being required to provide services that they find morally objectionable. While the ultimate impact of the new rule is not yet known, a number of religious organizations that do not object to contraception have also raised religious liberty concerns.

For the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its institutions the provision of contraceptive services does not impinge on the denomination's religious liberty. The Adventist Church's principles do not prohibit the use of contraception. See Birth Control: A Seventh-day Adventist Statement of Consensus. Health insurance offered by most if not all U.S. Adventist institutions currently covers contraceptive services.

Consistent with its longstanding practice of defending religious liberty and freedom of conscience for all, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is concerned any time government requires a religious organization to violate its religious beliefs. The General Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department and the Office of General Counsel continue to watch this developing issue closely and will do all that is appropriate to defend and protect religious liberty and freedom of conscience.
Birth Control: A Seventh-day Adventist Statement of Consensus

Scientific technologies today permit greater control of human fertility and reproduction than was formerly possible. These technologies make possible sexual intercourse with the expectation of pregnancy and childbirth greatly reduced. Christian married couples have a potential for fertility control that has created many questions with wide-ranging religious, medical, social, and political implications. Opportunities and benefits exist as a result of the new capabilities, as do challenges and drawbacks. A number of moral issues must be considered. Christians who ultimately must make their own personal choices on these issues must be informed in order to make sound decisions based on biblical principles.

Among the issues to be considered is the question of the appropriateness of human intervention in the natural biological processes of human reproduction. If any intervention is appropriate, then additional questions regarding what, when, and how must be addressed. Other related concerns include:

- likelihood of increased sexual immorality which the availability and use of birth control methods may promote;
- gender dominance issues related to the sexual privileges and prerogatives of both women and men;
- social issues, including the right of a society to encroach upon personal freedom in the interest of the society at large and the burden of economic and educational support for the disadvantaged; and
- stewardship issues related to population growth and the use of natural resources.

A statement of moral considerations regarding birth control must be set in the broader context of biblical teachings about sexuality, marriage, parenthood, and the value of children—and an understanding of the interconnectedness between these issues. With an awareness of the diversity of opinion within the Church, the following biblically based principles are set forth to educate and to guide in decision making.

1. Responsible stewardship. God created human beings in His own image, male and female, with capacities to think and to make decisions (Isa 1:18; Josh 24:15; Deut 30:15-20). God gave human beings dominion over the earth (Gen 1:26, 28). This dominion requires overseeing and caring for nature. Christian stewardship also requires taking responsibility for human procreation. Sexuality, as one of the aspects of human nature over which the individual has stewardship, is to be expressed in harmony with God's will (Exod 20:14; Gen 39:9; Lev 20:10-21; 1 Cor 6:12-20).

2. Procreative purpose. The perpetuation of the human family is one of God's purposes for human sexuality (Gen 1:28). Though it may be inferred that marriages are generally intended to yield offspring, Scripture never presents procreation as an obligation of every couple in order to please God. However, divine revelation places a high value on children and expresses the joy to be found in parenting (Matt 19:14; Ps 127:3). Bearing and rearing children help parents to understand God and to develop compassion, caring, humility, and unselfishness (Ps 103:13; Luke 11:13).

3. Unifying purpose. Sexuality serves a unifying purpose in marriage that is God-ordained and distinguishable from the procreative purpose (Gen 2:24). Sexuality in marriage is intended to include joy, pleasure, and delight (Eccl 9:9; Prov 5:16, 19; Song of Sol 4:16-5:1). God intends that couples may have ongoing sexual communion apart from procreation (1 Cor 7:3-5), a communion that forges strong bonds and protects a marriage partner from an inappropriate relationship with someone other than his or her spouse (Prov 5:15-20; Song of Sol 8:6, 7). In God's design, sexual intimacy is not only for the purpose of conception. Scripture does not prohibit married couples from enjoying the delights of conjugal relations while taking measures to prevent pregnancy.

4. Freedom to choose. In creation—and again through the redemption of Christ—God has given human beings freedom of choice, and He asks them to use their freedom responsibly (Gal 5:1, 13). In the divine plan, husband and wife constitute a distinct family unit, having both the freedom and the responsibility to share in making determinations about their family (Gen 2:24). Married partners should be considerate of each other in making decisions about birth control, being willing to consider the needs of the other as well as one's own (Phil 2:4). For those who choose to bear children, the procreative choice is not without limits. Several factors must inform their choice, including the ability to provide for the needs of children (1 Tim 5:8); the physical, emotional, and spiritual health of the mother and other care givers (3 John 2; 1 Cor 6:19; Phil 2:4; Eph 5:25); the social and political circumstances into which children will be born (Matt 24:19); and the...
quality of life and the global resources available. We are stewards of God's creation and therefore must look beyond our own happiness and desires to consider the needs of others (Phil 2:4).

5. Appropriate methods of birth control. Moral decision making about the choice and use of the various birth control agents must stem from an understanding of their probable effects on physical and emotional health, the manner in which the various agents operate, and the financial expenditure involved. A variety of methods of birth control—including barrier methods, spermicides, and sterilization—prevent conception and are morally acceptable. Some other birth-control methods¹ may prevent the release of the egg (ovulation), may prevent the union of egg and sperm (fertilization), or may prevent attachment of the already fertilized egg (implantation). Because of uncertainty about how they will function in any given instance, they may be morally suspect for people who believe that protectable human life begins at fertilization. However, since the majority of fertilized ova naturally fail to implant or are lost after implantation, even when birth control methods are not being used, hormonal methods of birth control and IUDs, which represent a similar process, may be viewed as morally acceptable. Abortion, the intentional termination of an established pregnancy, is not morally acceptable for purposes of birth control.

6. Misuse of birth control. Though the increased ability to manage fertility and protect against sexually transmitted disease may be useful to many married couples, birth control can be misused. For example, those who would engage in premarital and extramarital sexual relations may more readily indulge in such behaviors because of the availability of birth control methods. The use of such methods to protect sex outside of marriage may reduce the risks of sexually transmitted diseases and/or pregnancy. Sex outside of marriage, however, is both harmful and immoral, whether or not these risks have been diminished.

7. A redemptive approach. The availability of birth-control methods makes education about sexuality and morality even more imperative. Less effort should be put forth in condemnation and more in education and redemptive approaches that seek to allow each individual to be persuaded by the deep movings of the Holy Spirit.

¹ Some current examples of these methods include intrauterine devices (IUDs), hormone pills (including the "morning-after pill"), injections, or implants. Questions about these methods should be referred to a medical professional.

This statement was voted during the Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee on Wednesday, September 29, 1999 in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Recommendations: Use of Mifepristone (RU486)

1. In the treatment of medical conditions, such as cancer, for which RU486 may provide effective therapy, the drug should be used in keeping with relevant laws and established medical science.

2. RU486 is also used for contraception. When the effect of the drug is to prevent fertilization, its use is ethically permissible. Like other oral contraceptives, however, RU486 may sometimes prevent implantation of a fertilized ovum. This is ethically problematic to those who consider this effect to be abortion.

3. When RU486 is used in legally permissible and medically appropriate ways for the purpose of causing abortion, the previously adopted Seventh-day Adventist Guidelines on Abortion should guide the practice.

This recommendation was voted by the Christian View of Human Life Committee at Pine Springs Ranch, California, April 10-12, 1994, and was voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee (ADCOM), Silver Spring, Maryland, July 26, 1994.
Adventist Medical Center (AMC) is in the top 10% of hospitals nationwide for consistently beating national guidelines in several important measures including; Overall Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI) performance, Overall Defect Free Care, ST elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) performance, and Door to Balloon Time, for the treatment of patients experiencing a heart attack. That’s one of the reasons AMC has received the American College of Cardiology Foundation’s NCDR ACTION Registry–GWTG Gold Performance Achievement Award for 2011.

AMC is one of only four hospitals in Oregon to receive national recognition. The award signifies AMC’s commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of care for heart attack patients, and signifies that AMC has reached an aggressive goal of treating these patients to standard levels of care as outlined by the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association clinical guidelines and recommendations.

Jim Pelch, executive director of Cardiovascular Services at the Northwest Regional Heart Center states that the comprehensive cardiac center, has already reached significant milestones in treating cardiac patients. The hospital consistently beats the national benchmark for the time taken to treat a heart attack patient from arrival to treatment and is one of only two accredited chest pain centers in Oregon.

To receive the ACTION Registry–GWTG Gold Performance Achievement Award, AMC followed the treatment guidelines in ACTION Registry–GWTG for 8 consecutive quarters and met a performance standard of 85% for specific performance measures. Following these treatment guidelines improves adherence to ACC/AHA Clinical Guideline recommendations, monitors drug safety and the overall quality of care provided to ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) and non- ST- elevation myocardial infarction patients (NSTEMI). “The full implementation of acute and secondary prevention guideline-recommended therapy is a critical step in saving lives and improving outcomes of heart attack patients,” says Pelch.

Brad Titus, M.D., vice president of cardiovascular services and interventional cardiologist at Northwest
Regional Heart Center, said the award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff and their commitment to mission excellence. “The full implementation of acute and secondary prevention guideline-recommended therapy is a critical step in saving lives and improving outcomes of heart attack patients,” states Titus.

Throughout the United States we are seeing the incidence and mortality rates of heart diseases improving through advances in medical care and improvement in quality. Despite these improvements, the number of heart attack patients we treat is expected to grow over the next decade due to an aging population stated Pelch. “We’re continually implementing ACTION guidelines to continue to improve the excellent quality of cardiovascular care we provide.”

About Adventist Medical Center (AMC)

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.

Adventist Medical Center is part of Adventist Health, a faith-based, not-for-profit integrated health care delivery system with nearly 20,000 employees serving communities in California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington. Founded on Seventh-day Adventist health values, Adventist Health provides compassionate care in 17 hospitals, more than 130 physician and rural health clinics, 14 home care agencies and four joint-venture retirement centers. We invite you to visit http://www.adventisthealthnw.com for more information.

# # #

Media Contacts

- Judy Leach, Director Marketing & Communications: AHNW@ah.org, 503-251-6162
10123 SE Market St, Portland, OR 97216(503) 257-2500

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