Alaska Holds Arctic Camp Meetings
Adventist believers in Dillingham and Togiak, Alaska, met last weekend, March 16–18, for a series of meetings. The greater Bristol Bay area is considered the seedbed of the Adventist work in western Alaska. Ken Crawford, Alaska Conference president, Steve and Judy Evenson, Juneau pastoral team, and Steve Vistaunet, GLEANER editor, met with members at meetings in both Dillingham and Togiak. A similar series will be held this coming weekend for members in Nome and St. Lawrence Island, with special guests, Monte Church, North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) native ministries director and Mark Remboldt, NPUC vice president for finance.

Speaking of Alaska …
Dillingham Adventist School is searching for a lower grade teacher (grades 1–5) who desires an adventure and a unique experience working in a small (20–30 students) school in rural Alaska. Applicants need to be mission minded, culturally sensitive, and preferably have musical talents with piano or guitar. The school is also searching for a volunteer to work as a day care and preschool teacher. Applicants must have experience working with young children ages 3–5. Room and board will be provided. Interested applicants may contact Tom Maher, Alaska Conference education director, at 907-346-1004 or email Rod Rau, Dillingham Adventist School principal/teacher, at rbtuxedo@gmail.com.

Just Claim It Prayer Conference Draws Thousands
More than 2,500 youth and adult ministry leaders and young people from across North America gathered March 7–11 in Greensboro, N.C., for the third Just Claim It Prayer Conference (JC13). Led by the North American Division youth and young adult ministries department, this event included the annual Youth Leadership Summit and Ignition and Young Adult Ministry Training. Plans for the JC14 event are already in progress. See event photos online at Flickr HERE.

Looking Ahead
March
22: May Ad/Article Deadline
24–25: Vegfest 2012
30–April 1: Ore. Conference Prayer Retreat

April
13–15: NW Prison Ministry Retreat
14: OAMC Spring Festival
19: June Ad/Article Deadline
26–29: ASI NW Convention

May
9–13: SAGE Creation Retreat
17: July Ad/Article Deadline
17–20: NPUC Regional Convocation
18–20: Tillamook (Ore.) Adv. School Alumni Weekend

June
9–16: Alaska Camp Meeting
12–16: Idaho Camp Meeting
13–16: Mont. Camp Meeting
13–16: UCC Camp Meeting
14–23: Wash. Camp Meeting

July
17–21: Ore. Camp Meeting

New Russian Bible Translation Planned for 2015

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Mikhail Kulakov, Bible Translation Institute director and editor-in-chief (pictured here), based at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., says a new Russian Bible translation will be published in 2015. The current Russian translation of the Bible, authorized by the Russian Orthodox Church, was published in 1875. For most Russians today, it is practically unreadable. The Institute is leading in the translation of the Bible into contemporary Russian language. The New Testament, the Psalms and the Pentateuch are already complete and published. Read more from the Columbia Union Visitor HERE.

Atheists Gain on Christians in England
Christianity is waning in England and could be outnumbered by nonbelievers within 20 years, according to a new study. The study conducted by the British Parliament showed there were 41 million Christians in Britain, down nearly eight percent since 2004. Meanwhile, the number of nonbelievers stood at 13.4 million, up 49 percent over the same period. Researchers at the House of Commons Library concluded that Christianity had declined to 69 percent of the population while those with no religion has increased to 22 percent. "If these populations continue to shrink and grow by the same number of people each year," the study noted, "the number of people with no religion will overtake the number of Christians in Great Britain in 20 years." Read more from the Religious News Service HERE.

New School Planned for Florence
According to Suislaw News, in Florence, Ore., church members expect to open a new eight-grade Adventist school this coming September. The current plans are for one classroom, with one instructor, teaching grades one through eight. The idea harkens to a simpler time, but according to Sonshine Christian School organizers, students will receive a rigorous, top-rate education. "We felt there was a gap in this community that we would be able to fulfill — Christian education," says Scott Steward, Sonshine spokesman. Organizers are holding an open house and information session this evening, March 22, at 6:30 p.m., in the church at 4445 Highway 101 in Florence.

Cindy's Garden Blog
This story of 'Grape-fullness' proves God had the grapes first. See Cindy's Garden Blog to read about this week's famous tithe entrepreneur and see what beverage he served.
Mikhail Kulakov, DPhil, is director and editor-in-chief of the Bible Translation Institute, which is based at Washington Adventist University.

Washington Adventist University Leads Russian Bible Translation Project
Story by Visitor Staff
Published 3/7/2012

In 2010 Mikhail Kulakov, DPhil, became director and editor-in-chief of the Bible Translation Institute, which is based at Washington Adventist University. While Kulakov is based at the Takoma Park, Md.-campus, he is partnering with the Zaosky Adventist Seminary and Institute in Russia. Recently, the entire Sabbath service at Potomac Conference’s Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., was devoted to raising awareness of the project. Kulakov preached for both worship services and Elena Rudoy, a Russian soloist, sang at a fundraising concert that evening. Kulakov shares his thoughts on this work below:

Q: Isn’t there already a Russian translation of the Bible?
A: The most recent translation of the complete Bible authorized by the Russian Orthodox Church, the Synodal translation, was published in 1875. For most Russians today, it is practically unreadable. The WAU institute is leading in the translation of the Bible into contemporary Russian language.

In his address to the 1917 Council of the Russian Orthodox Church, I. Yevseyev, chairman of the Russian Bible Commission, said this translation, “does not follow consistently the original text. A much more serious problem is its literary backwardness. The language of the translation is heavy, outdated …”

Q: What is the Bible being translated from to what?
A: The current project involves the translation of the entire Bible into the Russian language. The Old Testament is being translated from the ancient Hebrew and the New Testament from the biblical Greek.

Q: Who are the participants in this project?
A: The WAU Bible Translation Institute is an exciting initiative in international and inter-denominational scholarly collaboration. Together with the team of biblical scholars from various universities across Russia, the WAU institute is leading in the project of the translation of the Bible into contemporary Russian language.

We value the privilege to enlist the help of many distinguished scholars in Russia and the assistance of the United Bible Societies with the preparation of the electronic text. We are enjoying a very close and profitable collaboration with the leading philologists and Biblical scholars in Russia.

Q: When will this new translation be ready?
A: The New Testament, the Psalms and the Pentateuch have already been completed and published and the institute plans to publish the new translation of the entire Bible by 2015.
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BY AL WEBB

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Atheists Likely to Outnumber Christians in England in 20 Years

BY AL WEBB

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Researchers at the House of Commons Library concluded that Christianity had declined to 69 percent of the population while those with no religion increased to 22 percent.

"If these populations continue to shrink and grow by the same number of people each year," the study said, "the number of people with no religion will overtake the number of Christians in Great Britain in 20 years."

The research was based on the government Office for National Statistics' annual labor force survey, considered authoritative because it examines a sample size of 50,000 people.

The "Religion in Great Britain" survey also found that from 2004-2010, the number of Muslims in Britain grew by 37 percent, to 2.6 million.

England's Hindu population rose by 43 percent, to 790,000, and Buddhists by 74 percent, to 340,000. The numbers of Jews and Sikhs were reported down slightly, at 270,000 and 340,000, respectively.
“His pastor had been urging him to pursue it, but when he watched a friend sink back into a drunkard’s life after tasting wine in the communion service, Dr. Thomas B. Welch was finally motivated to develop a non-alcoholic wine.” 2
(Dave Harness Sr., pastor)

Thomas Welch (1825-1903) was a 19th-century Methodist minister, physician, and dentist who thought it hypocritical that his church opposed consumption of alcohol, but served wine in its communion services. To rectify this problem, Welch used the process pioneered by Louis Pasteur — he filtered and bottled grape juice in his kitchen, and then boiled the bottles, which had the effect of killing any naturally-occurring yeast, thereby preserving the juice while preventing fermentation. In 1869 Welch began taking his “Dr. Welch’s Unfermented Wine” to other churches, but few clergymen expressed any interest, and he was often told that the notion of serving”unfermented sacramental wine” was tantamount to heresy.
Neutralizing Syrup and Dr. Welch’s Dental Alloys, and publishing his long-running Items of Interest (later re-named Welch’s Monthly), a leading dental journal of the time. Welch was deeply involved in the temperance movement, and was sworn as a policeman in Philadelphia, where he worked to apprehend illegal sellers of liquor. Until the Civil War was won he had been involved in the Underground Railroad, helping escaped slaves find their way to freedom in the North.

**Demand Grew**

The early 1890s, when his son Charles became active in the juice company and started advertising Welch’s, demand grew rapidly, and Dr. Welch devoted himself full-time to the juice business. After a splashy showcasing of the juice at the Chicago World’s Fair of 1893, the business boomed and the Welch Grape Juice Company was incorporated in 1897. Welch died in 1903, but his name remains synonymous with grape juice. In 1930, as a Christmas present, at the height of the Depression, Welch’s grandsons distributed 10 percent of the company’s common stock among its 300 employees [the four Welch brothers made the gift from their personal holdings in memory of their father, Dr. Charles Edgar Welch...]

In 1952, the company loaned $28M to the farmers that supplied it with grapes, to finance the farmers’ purchase of the company. Since then Welch has been owned by the National Grape Cooperative Association, an agricultural group comprising more than a thousand American fruit farmers.1

**Editor’s Postscript:**

Early Welch’s marketing focused largely on temperance themes rather than financial gains. Catchy slogans like, “Lips that don’t touch Welch’s grape juice won’t touch mine,” were common.

The founder of Welch’s grape juice was a known tithe payer2 and the company continues to be blessed today. The most current website boasts, the American family-farmer-owned business exists as an American icon and despite the economic downturn, Welch is — thriving. It’s Concord and Niagara grapes are still grown in U.S. vineyards in Pennsylvania, Michigan, New York, Ohio, and Washington. And you’ll find Welch’s products on store shelves across the U.S. and additionally in 50 countries around the world. According to their annual report, net income rose by $10 million (+56%) following a $21 million increase in 2009.3 The 100% Grape Juice slogan, a hallmark of its founder, still proudly rests on labels today as a testament to its Christian founder.

**Sources:**

This entry was posted on Thursday, March 22nd, 2012 at 11:24 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.

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