Adventist Students on a Mission

Portland (Ore.) Adventist Academy (PAA) students are in the middle of a two-week mission trip to the tiny Fijian island of Rabi where there is limited access to health services. The group is working with the Jabez Humanitarian Foundation (JHF) to complete the first stage of a mission headquarters. It will eventually be made up of a medical and dental clinic, large meeting facility with bathrooms and a kitchen, and several cabins to house volunteers. Since water-borne diseases have been a continuing problem on Rabi, JHF and PAA student volunteers are working to improve the quality of the drinking water at each of the island’s schools. Watch a short, dynamic video of the PAA group from the project site HERE.

WWU Mission Project Volunteers Injured

Two members of Walla Walla University’s India Immunizations mission trip group were injured in Meghalaya, India, when a bridge collapsed near the school on March 18. The two India Immunizations team members, a nursing graduate and a current nursing student, were crossing the bridge with local Riverside Adventist Academy students when it collapsed. They were transported to a hospital in Guwahati, the nearest city, for treatment. They are expected to fully recover. India Immunizations is sponsored by Walla Walla University’s School of Nursing in collaboration with the School of Social Work and Sociology. The group, including students, faculty and medical personnel, traveled to India during the university’s spring break. They administered immunizations, taught health classes for the academy and the community, and conducted Vacation Bible School meetings in the evenings. Read more online HERE.

Is Revival on Your Church Board Agenda?

A satellite series of meetings entitled Revive! will bring a unique opportunity for spiritual renewal to Northwest churches June 9–17. Sponsored by the Voice of Prophecy and broadcast live from Anchorage, Alaska, Revive! will feature well-known Adventist speakers such as Dwight Nelson, José Rojas, Elizabeth Talbot, Ron Halvorsen, Karl Haffner and Carlton Byrd. Check with your pastor to see if your church has signed up to be a host site for this upcoming series. If not, churches can register online HERE.

Looking Ahead

March
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

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Guide magazine Issues Review of The Hunger Games Movie
Do you know any teens absorbed with the new blockbuster movie, The Hunger Games? Guide magazine has released a statement about the movie to help readers respond to the countless conversations about the movie happening in their schools. The review, written by columnist Melanie Bockmann, outlines the positive and negative themes in the motion picture. "I did not choose to write about The Hunger Games because I thought it would be great for Guide readers to know about it," explains Bockmann. "I wrote about it because it has swept the scene so powerfully. Rather than ignore it, I decided to enter the conversation and address it with information that will help you make good decisions." Access Bockmann’s full review HERE.

Ministry Magazine Seeks Best Stewardship Sermon
Pastors, your hard work and late nights agonizing over a sermon on stewardship may finally reap a reward. Ministry magazine is inviting all ministers (active and retired) and graduate ministerial students in North America to submit their best stewardship sermons in a special contest. Up to 10 outstanding sermons will be selected and awarded $1,000 each. Suggested topics include, tithe, offerings, the theology of money, tithes and offerings in the Bible, money and eschatology, theology of heart and treasure, and the storehouse. The entry deadline is Aug. 9. For more information on submission guidelines, go online HERE.
Two members of Walla Walla University’s India Immunizations mission trip group were injured in Meghalaya, India, when a bridge collapsed near the school on March 18, 2012. The two India Immunizations team members, a nursing graduate and a current nursing student, were crossing the bridge with local students of India’s Riverside Adventist Academy when it collapsed. They were transported to a hospital in Guwahati, the nearest city, where they are being treated for injuries. They are expected to recover.

The injured students from Riverside Adventist Academy were also taken to hospital. One remains in critical condition with a head injury, and a few others are hospitalized, mostly for fractures.

At the scene of the accident, members of WWU’s India Immunizations team were very helpful in treating and stabilizing the injured, says Ginger Ketting-Weller, vice president for academic administration at Walla Walla University. Additionally, the team has provided support for Riverside students in the wake of the accident. Families of all members of the WWU team have been contacted about the incident. The team expects to stay and continue their work as planned.

India Immunizations is sponsored by Walla Walla University’s School of Nursing in collaboration with the School of Social Work and Sociology. The group, including students, faculty and medical personnel, traveled to India during the university’s spring break to administer immunizations, teach health classes for the academy and the community, and to conduct Vacation Bible School meetings in the evenings.

Riverside Adventist Academy is a boarding school located directly north of Bangladesh and south of Bhutan in the Garo Hills of Meghalaya. It serves seven states of the Northeast India region, and enrolls more than 850 students from preschool to 10th grade.

Ketting-Weller says university officials are working with India Immunizations sponsors to facilitate additional arrangements in the aftermath of the accident. “We are thankful for the medical skills of those on the scene of the accident, and we continue to pray for God’s presence and healing for those who were injured,” she says.

For continuing updates, see link below.

Links:
  Indian Immunizations Facebook

<- Back to: News
This weekend, the long-awaited movie adaptation of Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* book came alive on the big screen, and moviegoers--kids and adults alike--responded by spending more than $155 million on tickets to see it. So what's all the fuss about? Since every kid I know is talking about it (one of them even stood in line for 12 hours to be the first to see it at a midnight showing), and there have been some forum posts about it, I decided to check it out. Last week, I read *The Hunger Games* book and then watched the movie, and here's what I discovered...

**The Hunger Games**

*The Hunger Games* is set in a post-apocalyptic, futuristic place called Panem, which is made up of 12 districts and a capitol. There used to be 13 districts, but the people in the 13th district rebelled against the harsh treatment of their totalitarian government, and the government completely annihilated them. As a painful reminder to the remaining 12 districts that rebelling is a bad idea, each year, the capitol requires each district to surrender two "tributes," a boy and a girl, who must go to the capitol to compete in a fight to the death in an arena. The competition, called the "Hunger Games," is televised all over Panem as a reality show. If you lose the game, you die. If you win the game, you and your family will have enough to eat for the rest of your life.

The main character, Katniss Everdeen, whose father died in a mine explosion and who now lives with her mother and her little sister, Primrose, does her best to make sure that her family has enough food to eat. Every day, she goes hunting and gathering with her friend, Gale. On the day of the "reaping," when the tributes from her district are chosen, she is horrified when her little sister's name is drawn as the female tribute. In desperation to save her sister, Katniss volunteers as tribute, and takes her sister's place in the Hunger Games. Against her will, she and Peeta, the boy selected from her district, are placed in an arena where there is only one rule for all the kids: kill or be killed. In the end, two of the kids find a way to rebel against the gamemaker and the capitol and defy the premise of the Hunger Games.

**The Positives:**

To be fair, the book and the movie contain some positive themes throughout. Katniss is a strong female lead character who demonstrates utter selflessness when she takes her sister's place as tribute - in essence she trades her own life for her sister's. She and most of the other tributes hate the violence and the killing, and do their best to honor the value of human life, even as they are thrust into a horrible circumstance that is directly opposed to their own values. There are numerous examples of teamwork, unselfishness, resourcefulness, kindness, respect and honor.

Whenever I read or watch a piece of fiction, I'm looking for some truth about human nature that the author is trying to depict, and in *The Hunger Games*, those truths are easily apparent. For example, the "upper crust" of Panem depicts a society largely consumed with turning people's lives into a spectator sport, wearing the latest (and most ridiculous) fashions, ignoring the pain and poverty around them while they spend time and money improving their own looks through plastic surgery to achieve their picture of beauty, and looking down on people who don't see things the way they do or have what they have. It's not hard to connect the dots and see the parallels the author was drawing between the Panem society and our own society, which is often consumed with reality television, trying to look young forever, and gorging on an array of food options while the world around us suffers. I appreciated the characters' quest to do the right thing as far as they possibly could.

**The Negatives:**

Let's start with the obvious: it's a violent story resulting in a lot of deaths. The movie is not as violent as the book - some of the violence described in the book is implied rather than depicted in the movie; however, the movie still contains some disturbing images of violence and death, ranging from hand-to-hand combat and "natural" disasters to poisonous food and dangerous animals. The most disturbing thing is most of the violence is committed by kids on other kids. If you were looking for reasons to not see the movie, violence should be on the top of your list. While the violence is presented as a bad thing, not a good thing, it does exist...and when you put those images in your head, it's almost impossible to get rid of them.

Other negative elements include alcohol (the tributes' mentor, Haymitch, is drunk and shown consuming alcohol throughout the first portion of the movie), some mild language, and some kissing/physical contact between characters.

**Summary:**

In case you (or your parents) are wondering, I did not choose to write about *The Hunger Games* because I thought it would be great for Guide readers to know about; I wrote about it because it has swept the scene so powerfully (move over, *Twilight*) that most kids I know already know about it. Rather than ignore it, I decided to enter the conversation and address it with information that will (I hope) help you make good decisions about whether or not to read the books or watch the movie.

So now it's your turn. What do you think? Have you read the books or watched the movie? Have you decided to bypass *The Hunger Games* trend? What about your friends? Tell me about it.
Comments

#7 Super4Jesus  2012-03-31 19:53
this is 4 adults only

#6 MamaMia  2012-03-31 19:29
I read the first book and I was amazed about how many things are so true in the book. For example, the whole "Hunger Games" is a part of life. If you don't try to win you won't win. You have to want to live and strive to do your best in everything. The Hunger Games may not be true, but there is definitely a good application (while not necessarily spiritual) that we can and should apply to our lives. The Hunger Games aren't noble and right and pure and lovely. Katniss and Peeta try to change the Hunger Games and make it better because they know its wrong but they have no choice. Katniss and Peeta try to make everything better for others. If I had a chance to watch "The Hunger Games" I would definitely watch it.

#5 FriendofGod123  2012-03-31 18:55
Yeah, I think the same.

#4 Dezi97  2012-03-30 21:45
Any movie that comes from a good novel is a good movie. It still gives you the feeling of actually reading a book.

#3 SkepticDude14  2012-03-28 03:02
Melanie, I'd like to thank you for giving your input on the movie and the book. I agree with most of the things you said. I'd normally argue with what you said, but I think you really hit the nail on the head with this, so thank you!

#2 piggil3t  2012-03-27 00:54
I'm not gonna read or watch the hunger games

#1 happygirl11234  2012-03-26 01:24
saw it last night...though it was ok. the film leaves out some important stuff, and the handheld camera scenes were absolutely horrific, but other than that...good film. out of all 3 books, the hunger games is the best, since the other two kind of disintegrate into peeta vs. gale and rebellion agains the capitol.

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