GYC Annual Convention Wraps up in Seattle

More than 2,500 young missionaries boarded 50 buses on Dec. 30 and blanketed Seattle, one of the most secular cities in North America, with more than 25,000 flyers. This outreach activity was part of the grassroots gathering of the annual Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC) convention which drew thousands to Seattle, Dec. 28, 2012 to Jan. 1, 2013. This conference, characterized by its leaders as the largest youth-led movement within Adventism, took the theme of Revolution to encourage Christ-filled believers to define culture rather than letting it define them — hence the large scale community outreach effort on Dec. 30. The youth were encouraged to take the same spirit home with them to their communities throughout North America and around the world. Read more at the GYC website or on their Facebook page.

Staddon will be New Montana VP

Sharon Staddon will join the Montana Conference office at the end of January as vice president for finance. She replaces Ray Jimenez who

Looking Ahead

January

9-19: Ten Days of Prayer
recently moved east to work with the General Conference. Staddon and her husband, Theron (pictured here) are moving from the Alaska Conference where she has held a similar position since 2007. She brings a wealth of experience to Montana, including owning her own CPA company, serving as a financial officer for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency and working as a General Conference auditor.

**World Church Budget Announced**

The Adventist world church $174 million budget for 2013 will continue to spur mission and administrative support beyond North America. It covers headquarters operations, inter-divisional employees, and appropriations to world divisions and General Conference institutions and programs. It does not involve income or expenses for the 13 worldwide divisions or related conferences. The announced budget does include operational costs for the world church headquarters in Silver Spring, Md., the cost of which is capped at no more than 2 percent of the $44 million in world tithe projected for 2013. Read more about the budget and request a complete copy of the world church budget at Adventist News Network.

**A Christmas Meeting**

A chance meeting before Christmas brought Upper Columbia Conference personnel and the Idaho Governor Butch Otter together at the Coeur d’Alene Resort.
It seems the annual Governor’s Ball was taking place across the hall from a far more modest gathering of UCC staff for the office Christmas dinner. Donna Montgomery, North Pacific Union Conference executive committee member and Hayden Church member, introduced the governor to Camp MiVoden’s Bruce Christiansen. Montgomery is former president and chair of several political organizations in Idaho. Pictured from left here are Christiansen, Otter and Montgomery.

Northwest ASI Chapter Convention Set for Seaside

The Adventist-laymen’s Services & Industries (ASI) Northwest Chapter convention has been scheduled for May 2–5, 2013 in Seaside, Ore. The keynote speaker will be Randy Maxwell, well-known author and current Kuna (Idaho) Church pastor.

Sent to ahe@andrews.edu — why did I get this? unsubscribe from this list | update subscription preferences
North Pacific Union Conference · 5709 N. 20th Street · Ridgefield, WA 98642

Spam
Not spam
Forget previous vote
GYC Seattle: Last Day

January 1st, 2013 | Author: GYC

The whole day had a very mission-minded accent—that last full day of GYC in 2012—from Wes Peppers’ morning devotional to David Shin’s evening emphasis on the sacrifice required for any revolution. But in the opinion of the author, the day peaked around 12:45 pm in the main meeting hall. The afternoon plenary was just finishing, and Sam Bonello—after sharing powerful stories of his own experiences with Muslims—made a very specific appeal: *Who will commit three to seven years of their life to overseas missionary work?*

To be honest, I’m not quite sure how many responded. At the appeal’s conclusion, about 70 were gathered at the front to pray—but by then, several others joined the circle to support or take down names for follow-up. What I *am* sure of is that one of those 70 was me. There, in Seattle, Washington on the last day of 2012, I myself promised to be an overseas missionary for at least three years of my life.

Later that afternoon, a friend and I went around asking attendees two questions: 1) What was meaningful to you about this GYC? and 2) What are you going to do differently when you go home?

Rodger said that this GYC—his seventh—meant *rejuvenation.* He went on to remark, “I’ve seen the need for consistent spirituality in my life, but I hadn’t considered the affect it could have on others.” A 24-year-old science teacher at an Adventist Academy, Rodger plans to support some of his students in starting an after-school Bible study upon his return.

James and Phil said that this GYC provided “substance, spiritual substance.” They were moved by the same appeal that moved me that afternoon, and though they can’t quite get away themselves, they plan to be more intentional about praying for and giving financially to overseas missionaries. (I’d like to mention here that Phil is the great-great-great-great grandson of John Wesley.)

Johanna told me that during outreach, she and her friends were explaining to an interested homeless man the importance of having a personal relationship with Christ. She said that in the middle of the conversation, her troupe realized that they were really speaking to themselves—it was *they* who needed to work on their personal relationship with Christ; that will be their focus after the conference. Heidi said similarly that upon return, “I am going to—by God’s grace—find more time to spend in God’s Word.” Michael said, “I have to get back to reading.” Kathryn, “I want to get to my Bible and pray more.”

Stevy, a 15-year-old touched by outreach, said *that’s* what she’s going to do when she goes back. She wants to knock on doors and tell people about Jesus. (She also wants desperately to join a canvassing program, but none will let her in because she’s too young. To that I will take another brief detour to say,*let no one despise your youth…*)

And my favorite: David, all the way from Europe, said that when he goes home, he’s going to “win back the youth in Austria.” Wow. *I’m going to reclaim my whole country for Christ.*

I was thinking about these things when a question was asked to the Executive Committee during the Q & A session this
morning: Is GYC settling? It reminded me of another poignant question during Sam Bonello’s appeal. “What are the signs of a church that needs to revive its missionary culture?” he asked. In answer, he cited two bits of history. In early Adventism, when a call was made for missionary service, 100 came forward, and 100 went. At GYC 2004, a call was made for missionary service, and 200 came forward; one went. In light of numbers like that, Are we settling? certainly seems a legitimate question.

In answer, I must turn the question back on the asker and on all those reading this now. Are you settling? Because you see, GYC is no longer just an annual conference—if it ever was. No, GYC is the movement that exists amongst the attendees between the conferences. That spirit that insatiably craves a deep relationship with Christ, that spirit that hankers to spread the gospel so that Jesus might come sooner—that is GYC. That is Adventism. That is Christianity.

Are we settling? I think about Rodger, and James and Phil, and Johanna, Heidi, Michael and Kathryn. I think of Stevy and David, and it leads me to a resounding no. No, we are not settling, we have not settled, nor will we settle until we settle down next to Jesus under the tree of life in Heaven. We will wear out the pages of our Bibles, we will preach the gospel, and we will see Jesus come in our lifetime. May we only be faithful.

Livvy

Executive Secretary, GYC

7 Responses to GYC Seattle: Last Day

Good questions!

Jess Aguilera
(@thelastjess)
January 3, 2013, 12:51 am
Reply
AMEN Lucy and I intend not to settle until next to Jesus.

Testimony

My First GYC was 2009 Unashamed and I went for the Appeal for missionary service in the absence of knowing how, where, or even when. My heart was torn(pricked) by Paul Howe's sermon/testimony. When Dr. Pipm gave the appeal for missionary work I went. God has provided the fulfillment of that each year in oversees missionary work both foreign and domestic.

When it was preached night after night not to be ashamed of a crucified Christ, a coming Christ, a “etc” Christ from the scripture of Romans 1:16. Each day hitting some area for us not to be ashamed, BUT WHEN Pastor Asscerick boldly proclaimed in the Sermon from Hebrews 11:16 where it says, God is not ashamed to call us Brethren. My Heart was again torn. For I was focusing on me being unashamed day to day at GYC to then have a new perspective that hit me like a ton of bricks. Not that I was not aware of this, I guess I was casting on the me not being ashamed and the day's shift in focus truly was like a dagger within me. When it was done I had the strongest desire to praise and worship GOD. I fled for the piano in the Gaft hotel and began to prayerfully with all my heart sing the praises of God. One became two then three, then musicians, pianists, violinists, altos, tenors, blacks, whites, asians, Latinos, Everyone ON ACCORD IN PRAISE TO GOD. Thus began the GYC Worship and Praise with Hymns to bring in the New Year with Glimpses of Heaven and melody with the Angelic Choir above.

The Beginning-GYC 2009

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UOXo85Sl35Q

All the way to GYC 2012 Fill Me

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCHcU3jI8t0

There will be no settling for We Are The Revolution and GYC has lifted up Jesus and a massive army of thousands of Adventist youth and young of heart have been drawn unto him. I was unable to finance GYC this year, but I brought in the new year at my Local Church singing the Hymns of Zion with all My Heart. There is no Settling.

Onward and Upward Through Christ!!!

Galatians 5:1

PS By God's Grace I look forward to seeing you all at GYC Orlando.

Maranathah!!!

I pray that God leads Stevy to a carousing group! About 10 years ago I was 16 and the oldest of a fairly large group that split in two to work areas of Vermont and New Hampshire. The youngest ones (12, 13, 14) were well received by many in the communities and God did a great work through them, just as with the older youths and as He will with anyone who give of themselves to His work. We had wonderful leaders who watched us carefully, and angels by our sides!

When we all realize that GYC is not a conference, but a movement, and that the Spirit of GYC permeates our lives 365 days a year, then we would take all commitments (made at GYC and privately) seriously, and then when 100 commit to something, 100 will go! Let's remember and keep our vows unto The Lord.

Amen!

Blessed. Inspired.

Amen.
2013 Adventist world budget: mission, administrative support

Dec. 27, 2012 Silver Spring, Maryland, United States

Ansel Oliver/ANN

The 2013 budget of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s world headquarters funds mission work and administrative support outside of North America, as well as the operation of the headquarters building.

The Adventist Church’s nearly US$174 million world budget this year allocates nearly $42.4 million in appropriations to the fields outside of North America. An additional $28.5 million appropriations funds missionaries and employees serving in other divisions.

Operating costs for the denomination’s headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, United States, is limited to 2 percent of world tithe, which for 2013 is set for roughly $44 million. Church finance officers said they again expect headquarters to operate substantially below that cap.

For decades, the headquarters has operated significantly under the operating cap, making more resources available for world fields, said Juan R. Prestol, underrtreasurer for the Adventist world church.

Prestol underscored that the world budget only includes items relating to the denomination’s world headquarters and does not include the reported incomes or budgets for its 13 divisions or respective local administrative units and congregations. The world budget includes headquarters operations, Inter-Divisional Employees, and appropriations to world divisions and General Conference institutions and programs.

Prestol highlighted the steady planning of church officials and finance officers. “Some organizations fluctuate more in the way they budget things. The church is not like that. We attempt to forge ahead. Once we enter an area we want to continue until the work is established and self-sufficient. It takes years to do that, though.”

This year’s world budget includes the newly-created Middle East North Africa Union, which is attached directly to the Adventist Church headquarters.

Receiving divisions other than North America are allocated appropriations between $1.3 million and $4.8 million. The 2013 world budget also includes a 2 percent increase over 2012 appropriations levels.

Prestol said world budgets since the 2008 economic downturn have “been planned to provide stability and strategic support for growth in needed areas.”

“The church is very purposeful, very deliberate, very persistent, and we’re continuing to move towards the objectives and the goals to enter every country and people group possible,” he said.

Prestol said about 65 percent of the denomination’s funding is received in the U.S. dollar, Brazilian real, euro, Canadian dollar, Australian dollar, Mexican peso, Korean won and the Philippine peso.

The United States remains the largest giver of mission offerings of any country. In 2011, the denomination’s North American Division gave $23.4 million in mission offerings, or about 30 percent of the total of about $80 million in mission offerings.
Prestol also highlighted the change in modern times of the denomination’s missionaries funded by the world budget. The $28.5 million for missionaries (Inter-Divisional Employees) in decades past often funded frontline workers. Now, he said, they more commonly fund missionaries who provide steady administrative support and mentor frontline workers from the local people group.

Other major appropriations identified in the 2013 General Conference world budget include:

- $8.3 million for Loma Linda University
- $5.5 million for Adventist World magazine
- $4.9 million for Andrews University
- $4.7 million for Hope Channel
- $2.4 million for Ellen G. White Estate
- $2.3 million for Adventist World Radio
- $1.4 million for the 2015 General Conference Session
- $1.2 million for Oakwood University
- $1.1 million for Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies
- $1.1 million for the Geoscience Research Institute
- $1 million for the Adventist University of Africa

To see a complete copy of the 2013 General Conference world budget as an Excel spreadsheet, please send a request to the ANN editor at adventistnews@gc.adventist.org.