UCC IMPACT Weekend Focuses on Community Outreach

This past weekend, Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) hosted IMPACT 2013, an all-day event focused on showing the gospel in our communities. The weekend's main speaker, Sung Kwon, North American Division's Adventist Community Services director, shared a concept of the Great Commission requiring the church to go into the world. "If we are not involved in the community, then when we say ‘follow me’ the people will say ‘who are you?’” Despite the full schedule, with over 23 presentations, those who attend were inspired by the ideas presented and the stories of others reaching their communities through service. Read more about IMPACT 2013 from UCCSDA.org.
Washington Pastor Moves to PUC Church

Mark Witas, senior pastor at the North Cascade Church in Burlington, Wash., announced he has accepted a call from the Northern California Conference to become Pacific Union College (PUC) Church's senior pastor. Witas, along with his wife Wendy and their son Cole, have been working in Washington state for the past 12 years, beginning in the Wenatchee area for eight years as principal and pastor, and the past four years in the Washington Conference. In addition to being a teacher and pastor, he is a published author of two books, *Born Chosen*, an autobiography, and *Live Out Loud*, a teen devotional. Witas will begin his new position at PUC Church in June.

Adventists Respond to Texas Explosion

Following the fertilizer plant explosion in West, Texas, the Texas Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS DR) team was on the scene to assist Hill County Emergency Management. The team helped run a receiving center for disaster supplies and distributed clothing, personal care kits and blankets to assist the survivors and families affected by the explosion. The explosion, which happened on April 17 when a fire broke out at a fertilizer plant, left 15 people dead and 200 injured. Additionally, 150 buildings were either damaged or destroyed in the blast, including a 50-unit apartment building. The regular ACS DR staff were joined by students from Southwestern Adventist University who volunteered to assist. Read more about the response at NADAdventist.org.

Walla Walla Students Participate in Spring Break Missions

Nearly 30 Walla Walla University (WWU) students, along with faculty and staff spent their time on medical and building projects in Belize and Peru. In Peru, volunteers worked in medical and dental clinics assisting medical staff treating patients. In Belize, a larger group helped with the construction of a new orphanage. Jobs included painting, tiling, landscaping and installation of a roof. The building will house nearly 80 orphans when it is completed. Read more about the work the students did at WallaWalla.edu.
**Portland Physician Honored for Lifetime of Missions Work**

Dr. Richard Westermeyer, an anesthesiologist who practices at Adventist Medical Center in Portland, Ore., has been awarded the inaugural international service honoree in the Mission:MD MedicalMissions.org Physician of the Year awards by LocumTenens.com. Westermeyer, who was selected from 115 entries, has spent the past 30 years volunteering in medical mission and humanitarian work. From working with Ethiopian refugees to working in Haiti after the earthquake, his dedication to helping others is clear. The award of $10,000 will go to Africa Orphan Care, a non-profit founded by Westermeyer's family and friends that supports several orphanages in Zimbabwe. Read more about Dr. Westermeyer at AdventistHealthNW.com.

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**The King's Heralds Heading to the Smithsonian**

After 87 years of singing, the Adventist gospel quartet The King's Heralds will be featured in an exhibit in the Smithsonian. The museum contacted the Heralds to request permission to included a recording of their song "Dry Bones" in an exhibit they are developing about the human body and narrated by talk show host Conan O'Brien. The Kings Heralds are the oldest active Gospel music group. Read the full story at SingingNews.com and watch a recording of "Dry Bones" on YouTube.
Looking Ahead

April

26–28: WWU Homecoming Weekend

May

2–5: ASI Northwest Convention
4: PAA Alumni Weekend
16–19: 37th Annual NPUC Regional Convocation

More Events

May

Twenty years ago, a small group of people started dreaming and praying about a way to reach their Grants Pass, Ore., neighbors through TV. Today that small dream has grown to a TV network that reaches nearly 80% of Oregon homes, broadcasts into parts of California and Washington, and has plans to expand in the near future. Read more about it in the May GLEANER!

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A "New Concept" in Evangelism

by Jon Dalrymple

Sung Kwon, Executive Director of North American Division’s Adventist Community Services (ACS), speaks at IMPACT 2013. “If we are not involved in the community, then when we say ‘follow me’ the people will say ‘who are you?’”

During the lunch hour at IMPACT 2013, the ministry “fair-booths” allowed attendees to meet people from the various ministries, ask questions, view some ministries’ handiwork and see photos of many ministry volunteers in action.

A new disaster response trailer was on display at IMPACT. This emergency trailer, will soon be equipped with an electrical generator and emergency supplies, such as personal items, blankets, water food and clothing, so that can be ready to be quickly transported to centers of a natural disaster when necessary.

Spokane Valley, Wash., April 20, 2013 – A new concept in evangelism was presented recently at the Spokane Valley church during an event called IMPACT. The “new concept” is that the Great Commission requires the church to go INTO all the world. This was the overall message of the Upper Columbia Conference event conducted by the Ministerial, Personal Ministries and Adventist Community Services departments on
Sabbath, April 20, 2013.

“Far too many churches are waiting for people to come to them – their ministries are attractional, not missional or incarnational – but the Great Commission commands that we go to the people,” said Sung Kwon, Executive Director of North American Division’s Adventist Community Services (ACS) department, who was the keynote speaker for the event. “If we are not involved in the community, then when we say ‘follow me’ the people will say ‘who are you?’”

“I’ve never met a person who is more enthusiastic about community services as a means to reaching people for Christ,” said Patty Marsh, ACS Coordinator for Upper Columbia Conference. “Sung Kwon is very big on building bridges with the community.”

IMPACT was an all-day event that included the Sabbath morning worship service, ministry “fair-booths” at lunch time, a series of short reports (by video and in person) about successful ministries around the conference, as well as presentations about outreach ideas and concepts that churches are experimenting with in their communities to reach people for Jesus.

Over 50 ACS centers and 30 or more local church outreach teams and other ministries across the conference have everyday encounters with people that are leading them to know Jesus better and see the Adventist church as a caring group of Christians.

Some presentations were simply stories of things happening at churches. These included thrift store ministries, diaper banks, a pastor’s ride across America, and how God used a horse to launch a ministry.

Other presentations were how-to topics such as, How to Follow God into Ministry (rather than asking him to join you in yours), Using the Power of Prayer to Influence a Spouse, and Discovering Keys to a Friendlier Church.

During the lunch hour, the ministry “fair-booths” allowed attendees to meet people from the various ministries, ask questions, view some ministries’ handiwork and see photos of many ministry volunteers in action.

With a total of 23 different presentations in all, organizers of the event were concerned that attendees would get tired and loose interest in the topics toward the end of the day. However, with the mix of video and live presentations (rich in content but short in length) the day proved to be a powerful and motivating series of presentations for all.

“One couple, whom I have not seen in church for perhaps two years, stayed for the whole
thing,” said Marsh. “And near the end of the day, I went to the back of the church where they were sitting so I could say hello to them. Their first comment was, "This is what we need to be about. I want to be a part of this. Who do I talk to?"

While the presentations at IMPACT shared some exciting things people are doing for the Lord, there is a deeper message that organizers don’t want members to miss. According to Sung Kwon, it is not the things we DO to share the gospel, but rather the way we LIVE the gospel wherever God has placed us and at whatever capacity he has placed us in.

"Our charge is to both proclaim and embody the gospel so that others can see, hear, and feel God's love in tangible ways," said Kwon. “We must become involved in people's lives, work to build relationships, walk with them through their sorrows and their joys, live with generosity toward them, love and care for them unconditionally and stand up for their defenselessness."
4-22-13 ACS DR Response to West, Tex. Fertilizer Plant Explosion

Operations include receiving center and Mobile Distribution Unit

Texas Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS DR) deployed following the West, Tex. Fertilizer Plant Explosion. At the Hillsboro Outlet Mall ACS DR, in cooperation with Hill County Emergency Management, operated a receiving center for disaster relief supplies. The Mobile Distribution Unit, a semi filled with pre-packaged outfits of clothing, personal care kits, and blankets, was deployed to West, Tex., to serve the survivors of the Fertilizer Plant Explosion. Other agencies were also at the same location, offering various services. As the goods from the ACS DR truck were shared with them, some told of their miraculous experiences surviving the blast. Friends would see each other for the first time since the explosion, would hug each other, share experiences, talk about those who lost their lives, and inquire about friends and relatives.

A mother and her young son brought some items for the survivors, including a Toy Story sleeping bag. When asked if he had outgrown it, she replied that it was one of his favorite things, but he wanted to share with a child who had lost everything in the explosion.

The Mobile Distribution Unit, a semi filled with pre-packaged outfits of clothing, personal care kits, and blankets, was deployed to West, Tex., to serve the survivors of the Fertilizer Plant Explosion. Other agencies were also at the same location, offering various services. As the goods from the ACS DR truck were shared with them, some told of their miraculous experiences surviving the blast. Friends would see each other for the first time since the explosion, would hug each other, share experiences, talk about those who lost their lives, and inquire about friends and relatives.

A group of students from Southwestern Adventist University (SWU) enthusiastically volunteered to assist at the receiving area in Hillsboro, as well as help with the mobile distribution unit in West.

The motto for Adventist Community Services is "Serving Communities in Christ's Name."

Donate to ACS

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Sherry Watts
Texas ACS DR
Assistant Director

NewsPoints Newsletter
Signup for NewsPoints

Calendar of Events

Prayer Call - May 2, Thu 10:00 PM - Join Prayer Call...
GAIN - "It's Possible" - May 15, Wed - GAIN is a community of Seventh-day Adventist technologists and...
Elder Mark Finley hosts NY13 Sabbath Convocation - May 25, Sat - Elder Mark Finley will preach and conduct a Sabbath afternoon...
Prayer Call - Jun 6, Thu 10:00 PM - Join Prayer Call anytime between 10 p.m. Eastern Time, June...
Revelation of Hope Series - Jun 7, Fri - Revelation of Hope Evangelistic Series, by Pastor Ted...
Nonprofit Leadership Certification Program-I - Jun 17, Mon - Nonprofit Leadership Certification Program (NLCP) is...
Math Clinic - Jun 24, Mon - The Office of Education for NY13 events will have a Math...
Art, Spoken Word Clinic - Jun 24, Mon - The Office of Education for NY13 events will have a Art,...
Prayer Call - Jul 11, Thu 10:00 PM - Join Prayer Call anytime between 10 p.m. Eastern Time, July...
Prayer Call - Aug 1, Thu 10:00 PM - Join Prayer Call anytime between 10 p.m. Eastern Time,...
PSI Executive Leadership Institute - Aug 6, Tue 1:00 PM - PSI invites senior fundraising professionals and executives to...
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PSI Development Planning Workshop</strong></td>
<td>Aug 7, Wed - A hands-on, one day event geared to address the needs of sole...</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2013 ASI International Convention</strong></td>
<td>Aug 7, Wed - Annual Convention of Adventist-laymen's Services and...</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prayer Call</strong></td>
<td>Sep 5, Thu - Join Prayer Call anytime between 10 p.m. Eastern Time,...</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Virtual Festival of the Laity</strong></td>
<td>Sep 11, Wed - A Festival Of The Laity is coming to your church and your...</td>
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**More Calendar**

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Spring Break Mission Trips

Students, Faculty, and Staff Volunteer in Peru and Belize

By: Hilary Nieland

Volunteers pose in the new orphanage building.

As winter quarter finals came to a close in March, several students were packing their bags for short-term mission trips. Two international mission trips took place during spring break in Peru and Belize where students helped orphans, provided medical care, and distributed medical supplies.

Seven students participated in the Peru trip. Volunteers flew to Pucallpa, a city northeast of Lima, where they worked in medical and dental clinics. They also distributed medications in conjunction with Blessings International, a company that makes medications for the purpose of mission work.

Locals were seen individually by a doctor, Guillermo Gow–Lee, who enlisted the help of student volunteers. Steven Haddad, a junior pre–med student, spent his time shadowing the doctor and helping him diagnose patients. One experience that stands out in his mind was making friends with a small boy in the clinic who was crying because his brother was getting shots. After conversing for several minutes in Spanish, he calmed the boy down and reassured him that the shots were for his brother’s own good.

Another group of WWU faculty, staff, and students traveled to Belize to help with the construction of a new orphanage. Twenty volunteers spent the week just outside Belmopan, where they painted, tiled, landscaped, and installed a roof. Currently, almost 80 orphans are housed in a 4,800-square–foot building. The new building will be approximately four times larger. After working on the construction site in the morning, students were driven to the current orphanage where they spent one–on–one time with the children.
Leoni Herrera-Gillham directs the orphanage and is affectionately called “Mama Leoni” or “Mom” by the children in the home. During her time at King’s Children’s home, “Mama Leoni” has raised more than 650 children. In addition to those who volunteered for the week, there are two long-term WWU student missionaries, Rachel Coon and Carly Fredrickson, currently serving at the orphanage. Kelsey Wheeler, a WWU student also served at the children’s home but has recently returned for spring quarter classes.

Published April 16, 2013

<- Back to: News
Dr. Richard Westermeyer, an anesthesiologist with the Oregon Anesthesiology Group, who practices at Adventist Medical Center in Portland, Oregon, has been selected from more than 115 physician national entries as the inaugural international honoree in the Mission:MD MedicalMissions.org Physician of the Year Awards by LocumTenens.com, a full-service locum tenens staffing agency and leading industry job board. The awards program honors physicians who donate their time to help underserved patients in the United States and abroad gain access to critically-needed healthcare services.

Dr. Westermeyer, has devoted thousands of hours of time over the past 30 years to medical missions work and charity care, including as a team leader doing disaster relief work during humanitarian disasters such as a cholera outbreak among Ethiopian refugees in 1984 and in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake. He is part of the disaster response pool with Portland–based Medical Teams International, responding to major international disasters and refugee crises on a regular basis. He has lectured on disaster response to the Oregon Health Science University global health course for the past three years. He served on the board of Christian Family adoption for 12 years and his family has frequently cared for foster babies awaiting adoption. The Westermeyer family served four times as medical host families for children being brought to U.S. from overseas for advanced surgical procedures by Healing the Children. In addition to the disaster response work, he has volunteered in free clinics or mission hospitals in Africa, Asia and South America.

For Dr. Westermeyer, medical missions work is a family affair. He met his wife, Ann, a nurse, in medical school, and the two of them immediately began doing mission work together after marriage. Ann was raised by medical missionary parents in New Guinea who subsequently served in Zimbabwe, Africa. There, they established an orphanage for children orphaned by the AIDS pandemic. Both of the Westermeyer’s daughters are nurses who regularly do long-term mission work in underserved countries. The $10,000 award will go to Africa Orphan Care. Founded in 2011 by family and like–minded friends such as board president Ron Benfield, the non–profit organization will support several orphanages in Zimbabwe, including the one founded by Dr. Westermeyer’s in–laws.

“Dr. Rick Westermeyer is the perfect example of a physician using his training and skills to serve patients who otherwise would have little access to care,” said R. Shane Jackson, president of LocumTenens.com. “Dr. Westermeyer’s work has touched the lives of
thousands. We are proud to help him and his family and friends provide care by supporting Africa Orphan Care.”

“Dr. Westermeyer is a person who sees a need and does something about it. His purpose in life is to make a positive difference for others, and this drives his day-to-day agenda,” said Ron Benfield, board president of Africa Orphan Cares and chief operating officer of Adventist Medical Center. “It’s hard to picture any one more deserving of this honor.”

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. It is home to Adventist Health–Portland, which includes more than 30 primary care and specialty clinics in the metro area. Adventist Health–Portland is part of Adventist Health, a faith-based, not-for-profit integrated health care delivery system serving communities in California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington. Our workforce of 28,900 includes more than 21,200 employees; 4,500 medical staff physicians; and 3,200 volunteers. Founded on Seventh-day Adventist health values, Adventist Health provides compassionate care in 19 hospitals, more than 170 clinics (hospital-based, rural health and physician clinics), 14 home care agencies, six hospice agencies and four joint-venture retirement centers. We invite you to visit www.adventisthealthnw.com for more information.

About MedicalMissions.org

MedicalMissions.org is a 501(c)(3) organization that connects medical volunteers and other volunteers with organizations sponsoring medical missions all over the world. Our services are 100 percent free for both medical volunteers who register and mission organizations posting their opportunities. The goal of MedicalMissions.org is to connect motivated healthcare providers with organizations sponsoring medical missions by offering a free, searchable database of health-related volunteer opportunities and medical mission trips. These include short and long-term medical volunteer opportunities, both domestic and international.

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King's Heralds Make It To Smithsonian

Portland, TN (April 16, 2013) – After 87 years of full time Gospel ministry, The King's Heralds have finally made it into the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C.

"It all happened quite unexpectedly", said Don Scroggs, the group's first tenor for the past 30 years. Continuing, Scroggs stated "We were in the middle of a tour when a gentleman called our office and said he was from The Smithsonian Institute. He went on to explain that they were putting together a new exhibit on how the body is wonderfully put together and that it would be narrated by talk show host, Conan O'Brian."

Russell Hospedales, Baritone for the group, added "He said that he had run on to a clip of The King's Heralds singing a song that we have sung for years called "Dry Bones" on YouTube, and asked for permission for them to use our song in the exhibit. Of course, we thought about that for a couple seconds and then said yes, we would be honored."

At 87 years and still going, the King's Heralds are the oldest active Gospel group performing today. "I'm the newest member of the group, but I don't feel old enough to be put in the Smithsonian" chimed in Bass extraordinaire Jeff Pearles.