May 23: Adventist's Respond in Oklahoma

This Week: Adventist's Respond in Oklahoma; Mission Institute Becomes SOULS Northwest; and more!

Adventist's Respond in Oklahoma

In the wake of this week’s catastrophic storm damage in Oklahoma, Adventist Community Services (ACS) personnel are working with local and state agencies to access and meet the needs of the affected communities. ACS is currently operating a distribution center at the Hope Adventist Fellowship in Moore, Okla., as well as collection centers around Oklahoma City. “Please remember to pray for the many victims of this tragedy, and for all of our faithful ACS and rescue and relief workers and volunteers,” said Sung Kwon, North American Division ACS executive director. The Oklahoma Conference has prepared a video highlighting the aftermath. In addition to prayers, financial donations are always appreciated and are the most flexible. You can make your donations online. Read more about the work happening at NADAventist.org.

Mission Institute Becomes SOULS Northwest

The Northwest Mission Institute is expanding its original six-month training program to two years and has changed its name to SOULS Northwest. This North Pacific Union Conference institute will be affiliated with the successful SOULS West training center, operated by the Pacific Union Conference. Extending the training program makes it possible for SOULS Northwest to train students who will work with the literature ministries departments of the local conferences within the NPUC as leaders for their Youth Rush summer literature evangelism programs. The existing six-month program will still be offered for adults past college age with experience in the workforce, as well as Walla Walla University degree-seeking students. Two certificates will continue to be offered to students: Outreach Leadership and Literature Ministries Leadership.
Washington Evangelism Offerings Exceed Goal

Washington Conference financial leaders announced this week that gifts to the annual evangelism offering fund surpassed the goal set last year at Washington Adventist Camp Meeting. Last June, the camp meeting audience gave or pledged $485,039 toward a goal of $500,000. This amount includes $204,816 contributed at camp meeting and a $100,000 matching challenge. From June 2012 to April 2013, the pledges have been more than fulfilled with contributions totaling nearly $202,497. The total evangelism gifts in an 11-month period are $506,314, more than 104 percent of the goal. A new annual goal will be targeted at the 2013 conference camp meeting held June 20–29 in Auburn, Wash.

PLR Receives Humanitarian Award from Cambodia

Positive Life Radio (PLR), based at Walla Walla University in College Place, Wash., has received the Cambodian government’s third highest humanitarian award. The award, in recognition of PLR’s 14-year involvement in the Rice for Cambodia Campaign, was accepted in person by Ernest Beck, PLR program director, during a May 7 presentation in Phnom Penh. “We are most grateful for your assistance over the years and with this medal of honor would like to acknowledge your work on behalf of the Cambodian people. There is great need, and we appreciate the substantial aid provided by nongovernmental organizations, including yours,” said Ith Sam Heng, Cambodian Ministry of Social Affairs minister. “This award actually is a recognition of the people in our community,” says Kevin Krueger, PLR general manager. “They’re the ones whose generous spirit of giving has reached across the miles to help feed literally hundreds of thousands of people in a country that’s been marked by war, poverty and hunger.”

Adventist Communications and Technology Professionals Gather for Conference

More than 230 technology and communication professionals from around the world gathered last week in Dubai, UAE for the Global Adventist Internet Network conference (GAiN). The purpose of the conference was to discuss and share creative uses of technology in the work of the church around the world and to network on unified efforts to share the gospel. During the meeting, Garrett Caldwell, associate communication director for the world church, unveiled the beginning of a comprehensive project to overhaul world church websites. The goal of the project, which they plan to launch in October with Adventist.org, is to create a design framework that will provide for a consistent brand experience across Adventist websites worldwide. Brent Hardinge, North Pacific Union Conference digital media coordinator (pictured), was a presenter at the conference. Read more about the GAiN conference and the plans for...
UCC Health Ministries Director Still Missing

Over one week ago, Dr. Jay Sloop, Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) health ministries director disappeared on a morning walk while in the Ukraine doing health training. The search has continued to center around Zamkova Gora, a city park near downtown Kiev. City surveillance cameras recorded Sloop entering the park in the early morning hours Tuesday, May 14, but no images of him leaving the park have been found. Searchers, including church members, students, police, military police, and U.S. Marines from the U.S. Embassy, have scoured the rugged park, but still turned up nothing. "Every day groups of people from area churches and police are involved in the search," says Viktor Alekseenko, Ukraine Adventist Union president. "We are doing everything we can to provide all possible help and assistance in the search for Dr. Sloop."

Read nightly updates at the family's blog.

Looking Ahead

June
11–15: Idaho Camp Meeting
12–15: Montana Camp Meeting
14–15: Better Life Broadcasting Camp Meeting
19–22: Upper Columbia Camp Meeting
20–29: Washington Camp Meeting

July
2–7: AHA Cowboy Camp Meeting
11–13: Oregon Hispanic Camp Meeting
16–20: Oregon Gladstone Camp Meeting
23–27: Alaska Camp Meeting

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!
On Monday, May 20, the second consecutive day of tornadoes in Oklahoma, an EF5 tornado with peak winds of 190 mph, tore through part of the state, touching down on the town of New Castle, Moore and other Oklahoma City suburbs. The tornado spent 40 minutes traveling 17 miles on the ground and devastated an estimated 30 square miles that included neighborhoods and two elementary schools. The latest count reveals that 24 people are confirmed dead, at least seven of them children. Authorities are continuing to search the rubble.

"Please remember to pray for the many victims of this tragedy, and for all of our faithful ACS and rescue and relief workers and volunteers," said Sung Kwon, NAD ACS executive director.

Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS DR) coordinators from across the United States will join in a teleconference tonight to coordinate response efforts. They will discuss plans for a collaborative response so people can be directed when and where they are most needed so their help and skills will be most effective. The actual needs of survivors will also be discussed. More information about how to volunteer or what items may be needed will be shared when it becomes available.
ACS DR is a member of National Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) along with about 55 other nonprofit members. Each response organization has their own specialty and work together in a disaster area, cooperating seamlessly with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) other state VOADs in an orderly, well-trained manner within their own area of expertise. ACS DR specializes in handling donated goods and distributing relief supplies. This means that they collect, sort, warehouse and distribute goods. Much-needed relief supplies are distributed to survivors and responders using fixed sites which often are Adventist churches and schools, and also using mobile distribution units.

ACS is currently operating a distribution center from the Hope Adventist Fellowship in Moore. Collection centers are being operated at the Midwest City Adventist Church, Oklahoma City Central Spanish Adventist Church, Tulsa Adventist Fellowship, and Tulsa Adventist Academy.

ADRA International has committed $50,000 to the relief efforts, and will work with ACS to assist with the disaster response.

How You and Your Church or Group Can Help

- With so much trouble and so many disasters surrounding us, or even far away, what can you do to help? ACS gives advice on how to be prepared for a disaster and to help others when affected here.

ACS is able to leverage its partnerships and bulk purchasing power to provide goods to disaster survivors for a fraction of retail cost. A financial donation to ACS today will help your church bring vital supplies and relief to people devastated by the Moore, Okla. tornado. More information will be available soon regarding specific needs.
A flyer and/or bulletin insert are available for downloading on the Adventist Community Services website.

For an example of how your financial donations and ACS volunteerism are multiplied, read this report from the Georgia-Cumberland Conference ACS Director Terry Haight, who tallied up the value of the volunteers, the donated goods and help during one disaster aftermath in 2011.

Volunteering and donating:

PLEASE do not self-deploy to the disaster area. Individuals who do not deploy with a disaster response agency in coordination with emergency management often create a second disaster. Contact your local conference Disaster Response Coordinator if you would like to volunteer.

If you would like to make a donation, the most effective and efficient way to help your church help others is to make a financial donation to Adventist Community Services Disaster Response. Each disaster results in different needs and needs will change as the recovery continues. Your financial donation will allow ACS to respond to these changing needs.

To donate:

- Visit www.communityservices.org
- Call 1–800–381–7171
- Mail a check to ACS, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD or
- Place a donation in your church offering plate marked “ACS disaster response”

For updates, "Like" the North American Division Facebook page and the NAD Adventist Community Services Disaster Response Facebook page.
Northwest Mission Institute is now SOULS Northwest

http://missioninstitute.org/northwest-mission-institute-is-now-souls-northwest/

May 24, 2013

Jason W

SOULS Northwest
a SOULS West affiliate school

Northwest Mission Institute is expanding its training program to two years, up from its original six month program, and has changed its name to SOULS Northwest. The new two-year program will include certificates in Literature Ministries Leadership and Outreach Evangelism Leadership. Currently, SOULS Northwest is a partner with Walla Walla University, and offers several classes that are accredited through the university. This expansion will maintain that partnership.

Extending the training program makes it possible for SOULS Northwest to train students who will work with the Literature Ministries departments of the North Pacific Union conferences as leaders for their Youth Rush summer literature evangelism programs. The expansion will also bolster SOULS Northwest’s ability to recruit younger students—specifically high school graduates—and train them to be proficient in outreach evangelism leadership.

Although SOULS Northwest is extending its training to two years, its shorter, six-month program will still be offered for adults who are past college age and have experience in the workforce, as well as for Walla Walla University degree seeking students.

The basic structure of the two year training program was approved by the school’s board and the North Pacific Union executive committee in their May meeting this year. The committee voted to follow the SOULS West training model, a school operated by the Pacific Union Conference which has been successfully training young people since 2001. SOULS West has indicated that they are happy to accept SOULS Northwest as an affiliate school. Michael Tuazon, the director of SOULS West, has offered his assistance to make SOULS Northwest’s transition to an expanded program as smooth as possible.

Please pray for this vital training program in the North Pacific Union: for a smooth expansion, for people who are willing to receive this training, and for many thousands of people who will be reached for God’s kingdom as a result of their work.

During this transition, you can contact SOULS Northwest here:
May 20, 2013 Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Libna Stevens/IAD/ANN

The redesign of the Seventh-day Adventist world church’s website, adventist.org – scheduled for launch in October – will offer major enhancements in style and information architecture, say church Communication leaders.

Garrett Caldwell, associate Communication director for the Adventist world church, shows a preview of the new Adventist Church homepage, set for release in October. The site features a cleaner style, and its framework design allows for the integration of denominational design worldwide. [photos by Daryl Gungadoo]

The overhaul of the site will also include an improved design framework, creating an opportunity for better integration of the hundreds of websites throughout the world church. Church leaders say the move will deliver stronger and more consistent branding across the denomination, which has a decentralized structure throughout the world.

“This will allow the church to define its brand, to clarify its voice and move from a place of multiple different sites to becoming a network of sites,” said Garrett Caldwell, associate Communication director for public relations at the Adventist world church headquarters.

Caldwell and other Communication department leaders from the Adventist Church headquarters announced the website revamp last week at the Global Adventist Internet Network summit, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The conference brought together 230 participants – top church administrators and technology and communication professionals – to network on unified efforts in sharing the gospel in a clearer way around the world via the Internet.

The new website will be offered in four languages – English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. The site is a key starting point for journalists, researchers and those seeking a spiritual community, Caldwell said.
Andrew King, assistant Communication director for Web at the Adventist Church's headquarters, shares with GAIN attendees the need for global identity standards. The redesigned adventist.org – set for launch in October – has been developed in consultation with Adventist web professionals worldwide.

"We want to invite each online visitor to join Seventh-day Adventists on a journey as we pursue a life of spirituality, vitality and service," he said.

The new homepage will have a simple, clear design that will complement its content database and interactive technical features, said Andrew King, the Communication department’s Web manager.

“We’re not just creating a new website, but a design framework for mobile, desktop and television,” King said.

Communication directors from across the church’s division offices agreed that unity and diversity are crucial to achieve successful website integration.

Church leaders from regions such as East Asia, Latin America and Africa are eager to integrate their websites with the new platform. Others, many of whom recently revamped their sites, will work toward adapting to the integration.

South Pacific Division’s Communication Director James Standish is open to seeing what the new website will offer for his territory. “I’m interested in universal excellence while allowing for customized design options,” Standish said.

Williams Costa Jr., left, Communication director for the Adventist world church, interviews Henry Stober, the maker of "Creation: The Earth Is a Witness," a film that Adventists worldwide can show in churches and other venues to underscore the biblical account of the earth's origins.

Williams Costa Jr., the Adventist Church’s Communication director and organizer of the GAIN conference, stressed the importance of a unified digital presence.

“We understand the diversity around the world, the different tastes, colors, cultures and the
need to have something that binds us, but people need to see us as a family and with clear content and visibility,” Costa said.

Offering greater unity of content and design was a need that prompted Corrado Cozzi, Communication director for the Inter-European Division, based in Berne, Switzerland, to attempt to integrate diverse and multi-language territory websites for branding more than a year ago. Cozzi and a team led by Klaus Popa of the Adventist Media Center in Germany have coordinated efforts with the Adventist world church’s new website project in the integration of microsites.

Following the launch of the new adventist.org in October, Communication leaders will hold a series of meetings to discuss options for integration.

In addition, the netAdventist platform for church websites will also be integrated into the new look and framework of the new website, said John Beckett, who oversees the platform as director of the church’s Office of Global Software and Internet.

Ted N. C. Wilson, president of the Adventist world church, delivers the Sabbath sermon at the Ras Al Khaimah Adventist Church near Dubai on May 18. He urged technology professionals to continue finding innovative ways of sharing the gospel through the Web.

In a Sabbath sermon, Adventist world church President Ted N. C. Wilson addressed meeting participants and local church members at the Ras Al Khaimah Seventh-day Adventist Church, urging them to continue using all means possible to spread the gospel.

“Share God’s love, share the Three Angels' Messages as to how God is preparing people for His soon coming,” Wilson said.

Wilson challenged technologists to explore ways to use in a comprehensive integrated media approach to reach the hearts of people through various outreach initiatives.
Participants were also shown the new "Creation: The Earth Is a Witness" film project, which will be completed and distributed worldwide later this year. Wilson appealed to conference participants to collaborate in innovative ways to showcase the film in churches and other venues in every community possible.

Several netAwards were given during the conference. The recipients were:

- Carlos Magalhães, for pioneering Internet ministries in South America.
- Rajmund Dabrowski, for overseeing the creation and adoption of the Adventist Church logo while serving as Communication director from 1994 to 2010.
- Andrew Oey Kuntaraf, for technology leadership and empowering the Adventist Treasury department worldwide. Kuntaraf passed away last month in a traffic accident. World church Treasurer Robert E. Lemon accepted the award on his behalf.
- Luke Pannekoek, for outstanding leadership in Information Technology ministry in the South Pacific Division.
- Delwin Finch, for visionary Web ministry leadership in North America and for the world church.

Videos of presentations from this year's GAIN meeting will be available in June on the forum's website at gain.adventist.org.

GAIN’s 2014 meeting is scheduled to be held in India. The forum is held in different world regions each year to motivate and inspire local participants to understand the challenges and opportunities of fulfilling the mission of the Adventist Church in different cultures and regions.