This Week: California Youth Camp Evacuated, Fire Danger Still Looms; Scott Accepts New Texas Role; and more!

California Youth Camp Evacuated, Fire Danger Still Looms

Summer camp was in full swing at Pine Springs Ranch (PSR) this week when 179 campers and staff were given less than 60 minutes to evacuate from the path of a looming wild fire on Monday afternoon. The youth camp, run by the Southeastern California Conference (SECC), is located in Mountain Center, Calif., and in the middle of the growing Wildland Fire in the San Jacinto Mountains. All the campers and staff were safely evacuated to the Hemet Adventist Church where they were met by parents. While no one was hurt, some homes and the sewer plant on the ranch were completely destroyed and there was damage to some of the out buildings. View pictures from the fire, read the official statement from the SECC and watch an interview with Carmen Ibanez, PSR camp director.

Scott Accepts New Texas Role

Jennifer Scott, currently pastor of the Washington Conference church in Shelton, Wash., has accepted the invitation to become senior pastor at the Keene Adventist Church in Keene, Texas. The Keene Church serves not only the surrounding community but also Southwestern Adventist University. Scott previously served at the Green Lake Church in Seattle and the Loma Linda University Church in Loma Linda, Calif. While in Shelton, she has been instrumental in the development of the Shelton Valley Christian School and Child Development Center, which in recent years has seen enrollment blossom to more than 250 children. According to the Keene Church, Scott hopes to make a full transition to Texas with her family in September. Read more about Scott from the Keene Star.

Volunteer Painters Needed at UCA
Cafeteria
Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) is in the process of building a new dining commons and is in need of volunteer painters. The project is a much needed addition to the campus, replacing the existing aging cafeteria. Ted Lutts, work coordinator for the project, is in need of 8–10 volunteers each week beginning in August. Visit UCAA.org for more information.

Washington Youth Spending Summer Knocking on Doors
Twenty-one young people from around the Northwest are spending 10 weeks of their summer canvassing around Washington state. The youth are part of Washington Conference’s Youth Rush, a summer literature ministries program that will take them to over 100,000 doors from Chehalis to Burlington. In addition to selling books and DVDs on health, spiritual growth and moral values for children, the students are inviting community members to sign-up for Bible studies with local churches. John Miller, Washington Conference literature ministries coordinator, expects the students to hand out nearly 14,000 books and 100,000 GLOW tracts. Not only do students gain valuable experience and grow in their spiritual walk, each student will take home around $3,000 for their schooling. This summer, the participants are posting new videos each week which can be viewed on the Youth Rush Facebook page.

Oregon Camp Meeting Online
The Oregon Conference camp meeting is going strong this week at Gladstone campgrounds with daily devotionals, workshops and evening presentations. While not all can attend the meetings in person, many of the meetings will be streamed, including John McVay and John Bradshaw at the 7 p.m. evening meetings, and the Sabbath morning worship service with G. Alexander Bryant. Find the program online and watch the live stream at the Oregon Conference website.

Adventist Pastor Still Jailed in Togo
Adventist church leaders have declared Sabbath, July 27, as a worldwide “500 Days of Injustice” day of prayer for António Monteiro, Adventist pastor in Togo, and fellow church member Bruno Amah. Monteiro was arrested on March 15, 2012 on false charges brought by a convicted criminal who Monteiro had befriended. Adventist lawyers, foreign diplomats and human rights activists have repeatedly called for his release, yet to date, he has not even been brought to trial. Adventist News Network has begun a series of four articles on the story surrounding this case and you can find the first two online. Please keep Pastor Monteiro in prayer and invite others to join you as well.

NW Youth Begin Service Project
Following World Youth Conference
This past weekend, the World Youth Conference wrapped up in Pretoria, South Africa, with speeches from Ben Carson, renowned Adventist surgeon (pictured here) and Ted N.C. Wilson, Adventist church president. Sabbath morning more than 18,000 attendees and community members gathered at the Lucas Masterpieces Moripe Stadium in Pretoria for the worship service. During his morning sermon, Wilson told attendees: "Impact your city. Impact your country. My brothers and sisters, impact the world for Jesus Christ!" With the official youth conference over, 22 Northwest delegates headed to Botswana for a community service project. The participants are volunteering at orphanages with health outreach programs and construction projects. Read more about the youth conference from Adventist News Network.

Looking Ahead

July
16–20: Oregon Gladstone Camp Meeting
23–27: Alaska Camp Meeting
23–27: Northeast Washington Camp Meeting
24–28: Montana Youth Conference
31–Aug. 3: Walla Walla Camp Meeting

More Events

Copyright © 2013 North Pacific Union Conference, All rights reserved.
unsubscribe from this list  update subscription preferences
July 18: California Youth Camp Evacuated, Fire Danger Still Looms
Dear Friends:

Thank you for your continued prayers for the ministry of Pine Springs Ranch, the summer camp staff and those who work at the camp and call it home.

Pastor Carmen, the Wuttke family and David Machado were able to move back on site over the weekend, but not without challenges of limited electricity, water that has to be boiled and fires flaring up from time to time. Carmen is in her home, but the others are in temporary housing. They are working hard to get the minimal comforts of daily living up and running. Pine Springs Ranch is their home and getting them settled is our first priority.

You may have noticed Pine Springs Ranch has received national as well as local news coverage and the picture of the ashes of the Wuttke home with the fireplace still standing has become the most used photo for this fire event. The fire is expected to be contained by Friday and we are grateful no more damage to structures has taken place.

SUMMER CAMP:

The summer camp leadership team was able to join the resident staff and retrieve the campers' luggage from the cabins on Friday. Saturday night and Sunday parents came to the conference office and picked up their children's belongings. I met several parents Saturday night at the office who expressed much gratitude to the camp staff for the safety and care of their children. One little girl announced to me that when she was old enough, she was going to be a counselor at Pine Springs Ranch.

The spiritual impact the staff had on these children in the short time they were at PSR before the fire is evident. It deeply saddens us that due to the fire damage at the camp we will not be able to continue to operate for this summer camp season. The conference will take care of our commitment to the summer camp staff, who depend on this summer job and the matching funds they are to receive from their universities. We will also intentionally keep reaching out to the campers who lost out on the camp experience. We know there are many disappointed children.

GROUPS:

Many have asked when the camp will be fully operational again. We do not yet know. The insurance adjuster visited the camp for the first time with Tim Rawson today and we will work closely with them to figure out our options for becoming operational again. The loss of the sewer plant is devastating for public use of the facility, but we are exploring all alternatives. If you have a church group that has booked the camp in the next few months, the camp staff will be contacting you and will keep you updated on what we realistically can expect for the time you are booked. We do expect to be out of full operation until the end of 2013.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

Many of you have called and e-mailed asking what you can do. The camp is well insured and the Wuttke family and the camp in general will be covered for the long haul. Here are some ideas of how we might all help shower those who serve us with love and care in the next few days and weeks:

1. Notes and cards of encouragement to the camp staff letting them know how you are praying for them. They can be sent in care of the Youth Department at the conference office, PO Box 79990, Riverside, CA 92513.
2. Gift cards to grocery stores and restaurants for all staff.
3. Gift cards for Corey and Colton, the two Wuttke teenage boys, so they can shop a bit for themselves. We suggest Best Buy and REI as great options for them.
4. For the Wuttke family, gift cards to Bed, Bath and Beyond; JC Penney’s; Sears and Target, so they can begin to buy basics such as towels and bedding, would be helpful.
5. You can send checks to the conference office. Verlon has set up an account for donations at the office for anyone who would like to donate money directly to the Wuttke family or to the camp in general. Just be certain to identify the checks as for the “Wuttke Fund” or “PSR Fire Recovery Fund” in the memo section at the bottom of your check.
There will come a time after the insurance assessment has been completed that we will need the physical help of many hands at the camp and we will notify churches and schools as soon as this labor is needed.

Thanks again for your commitment to and interest in your camp. Pine Springs Ranch belongs to you and we know God has a plan for the ministry there to thrive again!

Sandra Roberts
Executive Secretary

July 17, 2013

Many of you have heard by now a wildfire swept through Apple Canyon on Monday, July 15, 2013, and Pine Springs Ranch was evacuated. Summer camp was in session with 120 campers plus summer camp staff. All campers and staff were safely taken to Hemet church and reunited with parents. We had a great team effort led by summer camp director, Carmen Ibanez, and her assistant, Jeremy Cruz, as well as all resident and summer camp staff. We are grateful to the Hemet church for their support by opening the church to a couple hundred instant guests. They did a phenomenal job with the evacuation and keeping the children safe.

We attempted to get updates on the condition of the camp structures last night but were told it would be this morning before the fire department could get in and assess damages. Due to the fast moving fire and the immediate need to evacuate, the horses, the animals at the nature center and personal belongings had all been left behind. We only had time to evacuate people in the vehicles.
Tuesday, July 16, 2013, Tim Rawson and I joined the resident staff at the fire command center in Mountain Center and were able to get Tim and Carmen on a truck into the site to help look at damage with firefighters. The major buildings are still standing, but we have complete loss of the following: sewer plant, store, maintenance facilities, and the Wuttke home. There is some damage to other staff housing, Town Hall and other random spots. It will most likely be Friday before we can get in again to do a more complete assessment of the property. The animals are fine and animal control has taken over their care and feeding until we can remove them from the property.

We are grateful for the standing structures and saddened at the losses. Please keep Fritz and Melody Wuttke in your prayers as they lost everything when their house burned to the ground.

The camp is not out of further danger. Apple Canyon continues to be an active fire site.

Thankful to God for a wonderful camp staff...thankful to God the campers are all safe...and thankful even though the camp was in the direct path of the fire we did not have more damage. We are grateful for the fire fighters and responders who have worked so hard to save the property and been so compassionate to us.

We will update this page as we continue to make decisions on summer camp and facility use during this unfolding fire disaster.

Keep praying with us – God has been very good!

Sandra Roberts
Executive Secretary
Southeastern California Conference

For more information refer to the following links:
North American Division PSR Article
Press Enterprise Blog• Carmen Ibanez Interview
NBC Video
Photos by Tim Rawson

Photos by Gerry Chudleigh
Support Pine Springs Ranch:
PSR Fundly
Jennifer Scott accepts invitation to be senior pastor at Keene Adventist Church

Jennifer Scott (Courtesy Photo)

Pastor Jennifer Scott has accepted the position as senior pastor at the Keene Adventist Church, according to Texas Adventist Conference Executive Secretary Gary Brady, who announced Scott's decision from the pulpit Saturday morning at the church.

Scott was offered the position July 17 by Texas Adventist Conference president Carlos Craig after the conference personnel committee supported a recommendation by the 25-member Keene Church Senior Pastor Search Committee to offer the position to Scott.

“We’re excited about coming to Keene,” Scott told the Keene Star. “People are warm and welcoming and the opportunity is great for ministry. I am eager to get started.”

Scott, currently the senior pastor at the Shelton, Wash., Adventist Church, interviewed for the position July 11 and spoke July 13 at both services at the Keene Adventist Church.

A come-and-go reception held for her later that afternoon attracted a large crowd to the Keene Senior Center.

The search committee met the evening of July 16 in the board room at Southwestern Adventist University and decided it wanted to offer Scott the job. Her final sermon in Shelton will be Aug. 3, Scott said.

“Praise the Lord,” Search Committee Chair Steve Stafford said. “She will do a good job. She's ready to get to work and to get to know everyone.”

Scott, her husband, Robert “Bob,” daughter Camryn, 13, and son, Caeden, 10, will travel to Keene in mid-August to search for housing and get assignments at Keene Adventist Elementary School, she said. The family will return to Washington to wrap up last-minute details and will arrive in Keene to stay about mid September, she said.

The search committee had been meeting since April to find a successor to Mic Thurber, who left after 10 years as senior pastor of the 3,000-member church to become ministerial director for the Mid America Union

Pastor Jennifer Scott, left, visits with Cleo and Shirley Johnson July 13 during a reception for Scott and her family at the Keene Senior Center. Scott has accepted an invitation to be senior pastor at the Keene Adventist Church. (Paul Gnadt)

in Lincoln, Neb.

In addition to Stafford, members of the search committee are Craig and Grady from the conference office; Keene Adventist Church pastoral staff members Geraldo Alonso, Heather Crews, Phil Robertson, Jerrod Songy and Jim Teel; and Keene church members Eric Anderson, Gwen Beeson, Leticia Cortes, Marjorie Frakes, Mickey Johnson, Kenny Jones, Diane Ketchum, Karl Konrad, Russ Laughlin, Linc Liberto, Lillianne Lopez, Sipho Ndebele, Mary Ortiz, Marie Redwine, Robert Smith, Chris Tharp and Dean Turk.

“I did a lot of listening during my visit to Keene and I'll continue to do that,” Scott said. “I'm a team player.”

The Shelton Adventist Church is part of the Shelton Valley Christian Campus, a 25-acre site about 50 miles southwest of Seattle. The campus includes the Shelton Valley Christian School and Shelton Valley Christian Child Development Center that has exploded to an enrollment of 256 children in the last four years.

Scott's name was at the top of a list of about 50 potential candidates who were asked to submit resumes, Stafford said.

“Some did, some didn't,” he said.

Scott is a 1991 graduate of Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) with two degrees, and earned a master's degree in theology from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., in 1997.

She has served as an associate pastor at Loma Linda University Church in Loma Linda, Calif., and Green Lake, Wash. She has a website at www.jenniferscott.net.Scott grew up in Maryland where her mother's side of the family were members of the Adventist Church.

“Pray for us during this transition,” Scott said.
FIRST IN A SERIES: Monteiro says judge told him he was innocent

Jul 18, 2013 Silver Spring, Maryland, United States
ANN staff

Pastor António Monteiro has remained in prison for more than a year now, accused of a crime his church officials say he didn’t commit.

Monteiro, the Family Ministries director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s Sahel Union Mission, based in Lomé, Togo, was in his office one day when a man came to ask for a job and money. That man, Kpatcha Simliya, would later accuse Monteiro of being the mastermind behind a blood trafficking network to gather blood for use in religious ceremonies. More than a dozen young women had recently been found dead in the suburbs. The public wanted justice.

Pastor António Monteiro has remained in prison for nearly 500 days without a trial. He is being held at the Lomé Civil Prison in Togo. [photos courtesy Monteiro family]

Despite no evidence of his involvement, Monteiro was imprisoned on March 15, 2012, and to date has not received a trial. Five attempted appeals by his lawyer, the Adventist world church and several foreign diplomats have failed to see him released. Government officials have made promises to church leaders and lawyers, but have not brought him freedom.

The president of Togo Faure Gnassingbé last year declined to receive Adventist Church President Ted N. C. Wilson when he made a pastoral visit to the country.

For church leaders and other following Monteiro’s case, many feel there must be more to the story. Did someone need a scapegoat? Do judges in Lomé really have final say, or are they ordered by the government to make decisions?

Indeed, in a written statement obtained by ANN, Monteiro says that on the day he was arraigned, the judge repeatedly told him in front of his attorney, “Pastor, I know that you are innocent. Your file is empty. But I can’t release you, since this doesn’t depend on me.”

Monteiro wondered to himself, “So on whom does this depend?”

Now, more than 16 months later, new details are emerging about the case, which has left lawyers, diplomats and church officials confounded over how to secure Monteiro’s release from a government that is violating its own constitution by detaining him without a legal basis.

According to police reports, his accuser, Simliya, previously confessed to murdering young women for the use of their blood and luring young women into the woods on unlikely promises. Simliya also served time in prison after a rape conviction and has a documented history of mental instability.

Meanwhile, a police search of Monteiro’s home and office turned up no evidence.

When Monteiro was put in prison, newspapers proclaimed that the right criminal was caught. Some published his photo alongside pictures of vials of blood.

“Pastor Monteiro is innocent, period,” said John Graz, director of the Adventist world church’s department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty. “The outrageous accusation against Monteiro is that he, as an Adventist pastor, conspired to have these women killed so that various body parts could be used in conjunction with a religious ceremony. It’s an absolutely unbelievable and bizarre charge.”

“This is a complete travesty of justice and one which would not be tolerated in any law-abiding society,” Graz said.

Church officials have continued to work both publically and behind the scenes to get their employee out of prison. The Adventist world church has held international prayer vigils for Monteiro, sponsored letter-writing campaigns to government officials and diplomats, and led a signature drive for a petition calling for his release.

But Monteiro still remains in prison.

July 27 will mark 500 days since his arrest.

This series of four articles is based on interviews with sources involved in the situation, a statement by Monteiro, emails, letters, newspaper reports, police records and court documents.

A spokesman for Togo’s Ministry of Justice declined to comment for this series. Simliya is in prison on various charges, including attempt to commit homicide, and unavailable to comment.

Monteiro’s mission

One day in early 2011, Monteiro received a receptionist’s call that would cause his life to later take a turn. He was in his office at the Sahel Union Mission headquarters, a three-story building in Togo’s capital city of Lomé.

Monteiro had worked there since 2009 after receiving an email from Guy Roger, the union’s president, asking him to come serve as the union’s director of Sabbath School and Personal Ministries department.

At the time, Monteiro was the pastor for 25 churches and companies on Fogo Island in Cape Verde. The Portuguese-speaking country is a 10-island nation located 350 miles off the coast of West Africa. He was born there in 1955.
António and Madalena married in 1984, the year after he was ordained a Seventh-day Adventist minister in Cape Verde.

After high school, Monteiro left home to attend an Adventist seminary in Cameroon. He returned to his home country in 1983 to begin work as a pastor. He married Madalena dos Anjos in 1984, and the couple moved every few years as church administrators gave him bigger responsibilities and larger districts to shepherd. Four children were born to the pastoral couple over the years.

During his ministry, Monteiro would participate in three evangelism campaigns in Boston, Massachusetts, United States, and others in the West African countries of Guinea Bissau and Benin.

The email from Roger in 2009 posed a fork in the road: either stay in the familiarity and comfort of home or go into an unknown place to serve as a missionary.

Monteiro decided to accept the request, honored to have the chance to support the spiritual development of citizens of Togo and in the 10 other countries in the denomination’s Sahel Union. It would be a challenge, he knew, the region being home to many religious practices, including one of the world’s largest bases of Voodoo.

António and Madalena are the parents of four children.

Concerns aside, he was eager to more widely share Christianity, a religion he felt teaches of a loving God. His own Adventist faith and community – now comprised of 17 million members worldwide – had instilled in him the importance of healthful living and education, not only for members but also for people in the community interested in improving their own lives.

Monteiro came to Togo and served at Sahel Union’s request. In 2011, he was also assigned as director of the union’s Adventist Mission ministry and Family Ministries department.

That day in early 2011, a receptionist asked if he could receive someone wanting to talk to a pastor. Monteiro requested the man come into his office. He then offered a seat to Simliya, the man who went by several names and months later would accuse him of crimes that would lead to his imprisonment.

António Monteiro with his youngest son Alessandro in a bumper car ride at a carnival in Lomé circa 2010.

Simliya told Monteiro he didn’t have a job, money for transportation and sometimes not enough food.

“Are you Adventist?” Monteiro asked.

Simliya said he was, and that he was baptized by Pastor Eric Mensanvi. Roger, the union president, would later confirm that Simliya was baptized in prison while serving time for a 2006 rape conviction.

Monteiro didn’t know the man’s history. He invited Simliya to a church meeting and introduced him to elders of the congregation and went home.

Several weeks later, Simliya came to the union headquarters again to say hello. Monteiro asked him, “So how are you doing?”

Simliya offered him the same story of not having a job, money or food.

“It’s true, life can be difficult,” Monteiro told him, “but God will provide.”

[Image by Amber Sarno]

In the coming weeks, Simliya would drop by in the same manner several more times, one day informing Monteiro that he had been in prison.

“I didn’t try to find out what had happened,” Monteiro later recalled. “I counseled him, ‘Now that you are free, focus and work to start a new life. What do you do for work?’”

“I’m a taxi-driver,” Simliya said.

“Do you have your driver’s license?”

“Yes.”

“May I see it?”

“No, I don’t have it with me. I will bring it next time,” Simliya said.
Next time, which was a few days later, Simliya said his taxi license had been stolen.

“Look for the copy,” Monteiro told him.

Simliya brought up a new subject. He said Bruno Amah, an Adventist Church member, had offered to help him purchase a car for approximately 800,000 CFA francs (about US$1,600), Monteiro recalled.

“He [Simliya] asked me to talk to this brother to help him. I didn’t know [Amah] personally, but I had talked to him on the phone about assistance” requested by a theology student.

There in the office, Simliya called Amah on this cell phone and handed it over to Monteiro. Over the phone, Amah confirmed that he knew Simliya. Monteiro told him of the request. Amah responded, “If I can, I’ll help him,” Monteiro recalled.

Weeks later, Simliya called Monteiro asking if there was news from Amah. There was none.

Months went by, from August to March of 2012, before Monteiro heard from Simliya again. On Tuesday, March 13, 2012, Simliya came to the union headquarters, but Monteiro told the receptionist, “No, I’m very busy.” Still, he briefly talked over the phone to Simliya, who stood in the lobby using the receptionist’s phone. Monteiro thanked him for coming by, but informed him that he was busy that day.

**Detainment begins**

Two days later, on March 15, police burst into Monteiro’s home around 8:30 p.m. and arrested him in front of his family. Police told him he was involved in a crime.

“This is a mistake,” Monteiro said.

An officer replied, “Aren’t you Mr. Monteiro?”

“Yes,” he replied, “but involved in a crime? No,” he said.

They took him to the police station where he met Simliya. Monteiro was asked if he knew the man. He replied that he did and told police the brief history.

Three days later, Monteiro was told by an officer, “You entrusted him [Simliya] with a mission.”

Monteiro asked, “What mission? I have one mission that I’ve been fulfilling for 40 years. I’m a pastor and my mission is to preach the gospel.”

A police commander said, “You ordered human blood.”

Police kept Monteiro detained at an anti-gang facility in a police station for 14 days in a 6- by 4-meter holding cell without a window. He was stripped of his clothing most of that time.

On March 28, he was brought into court. Investigations of his home, office and church had turned up no evidence. His lawyer asked for the case to be dismissed. The judge denied the request. Bail was denied.

He’s been in prison ever since.

“It’s hard to know what’s really going on behind all this,” said Graz, the denomination’s public affairs director.

—click HERE to see the second article in this series.

**West-Central Africa**

A membership of about 865,000 in a population of about 350 million.

**Countries**

World youth conference closes with worship in stadium, evening celebration

Jul 13, 2013 Atteridgeville, Gauteng, South Africa

Ansel Oliver/ANN

Renowned brain surgeon Dr. Ben Carson this weekend implored Seventh-day Adventist youth to exercise their willpower and remain committed to God in a series of three speeches to the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s world youth conference.

Moeketsi Toka, a resident of Pretoria, South Africa, watches a Sabbath worship service at Lucas Masterpieces Moripe Stadium on Saturday, July 13. The large-scale service was held on the final day of Impact South Africa, the Adventist Church's world youth congress. [photo: Ansel Oliver]

Carson served for more than two and a half decades as chief of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, United States, and was a key presenter at Impact South Africa. The event has drawn more than 3,100 Adventist youth and young adults from around the globe for two weeks of community service, workshops and worship.

“God has given each one of us something that is extraordinarily special. It's called willpower. You don’t have to give in,” Carson said of things than can divert young people from realizing their full potential.

During this morning’s Sabbath worship service, Carson also recounted his experiences in becoming a neurosurgeon, as told in his book “Gifted Hands.” He credited God for allowing him to make an impact through his career, despite it turning out differently than his childhood ambition of becoming a missionary doctor.

“Never get too big for God, never deny God, no matter where he takes you, no matter what roles you’re in,” Carson said. “If you put him first in your life, you will be extraordinarily successful.”

In the audience, Argentinian Ezequiel Durán, 26, said Carson's speeches were some of the conference’s highlights for him. “He is a good leader and example for young people. He dedicated his whole life to God. I like that.”

Seventh-day Adventist Church member Dr. Ben Carson speaks at Impact South Africa, the Adventist Church's world youth conference in Pretoria on Friday, July 12. He invoked Romans 8:31 -- "If God is for us, who can be against us." [photo by Daryl Gungadoo]

Carson and other presenters today spoke to an audience of more than 18,000 – youth conference attendees and community members – at Lucas Masterpieces Moripe Stadium in this suburb of the national capital of Pretoria.

In a sermon, Adventist Church President Ted N. C. Wilson similarly affirmed youth and urged them to continue carrying out the Adventist Church’s mission.

“We love you and we’re counting on you for the future,” Wilson said. “Impact your city. Impact your country. My brothers and sisters, impact the world for Jesus Christ!”

Indeed, Shereen Rodney, 24, from the United Kingdom, said she came to the conference for the community service work that some 1,000 attendees gave during the conference’s first week. In a stadium seat, she said, “We’re looking to replicate some of these things when we go back home. It’s going to be like a chain reaction.”

Gilbert Cangy, director of the Adventist Church’s Youth Ministries and organizer of the conference, said the event successfully integrated youth from around the world as a family of faith.

“We truly embraced diversity at this event,” Cangy said. “There was a place at this conference for everyone – from every country, from every culture.”

Celina Sunder Singh, 20, from India, said the conference offered her the chance to meet new people in a supportive environment. “It’s nice to know so many people having the same faith as you, and learning a few words in every language was fun,” she said. “My favorite was Spanish.”


This evening, back at the conference’s base at the Saint George Hotel & Convention Centre, a report was given from the final of the denomination’s 13 world divisions. Each regional administration presented throughout the week, with colorful national garb and video reports.

Cangy also thanked his team of organizers, who helped coordinate everything from service projects and workshops to producing evening worship services that featured music and preaching by evangelist David Asscherick.

“By God’s grace we’re finishing well,” Cangy said. “We give God all the glory and we’re grateful for His gracious spirit.”
Youth

The church’s Youth Ministries department seeks to motivate young people to take an active role in Adventist ministry, service and outreach. Through clubs such as Adventurers and Pathfinders, Adventist young people have opportunities to learn practical skills, impact their communities and build relationships for eternity.

Timeline:

- 1890: Young Adventists help raise money to send the missionary boat SS Pitcairn to the South Pacific
- 1909: Junior Missionary Volunteer Society is established, later called Pathfinder Club
- 1953: The first issue of Guide magazine is published
- 1969: First world youth congress held in Switzerland
- 1999: Adventist youth establish a new world record for Bible writing from memory

Recent Photos