Today: Jackson Reelected NAD President; New NW Connections in the GC and more.

**Jackson Reelected NAD President**

World church delegates voted today to reelect Daniel R. Jackson to serve as president of the North American Division (NAD), along with 12 other presidents of the 13 divisions that make up the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church. Jackson will serve another five years as the president of the NAD, a position he has held since 2010. Jackson is a native Canadian and, with the exception of five years of service in the Southern Asia Division, has lived and ministered in the North American Division.

(Photo: Bryant Taylor/NAD Communication)
New NW Connections in the GC

World church elections as of today have included several individuals with a history of Northwest service. Thomas Lemon, who served several years as the Oregon Conference ministerial director, has been elected as a general vice president. Duane McKey, former North Pacific Union Conference director of global mission, is the new personal ministries director. Myron Iseminger, who has pastored in the Upper Columbia Conference and served as treasurer for the Montana Conference, has been re-elected as undersecretary. J. Ray Wahlen II, former treasurer for the Washington and Montana conferences has been promoted to world church undertreasurer.

Adventist Flood San Antonio Streets

Well before daily meetings began Sunday morning, Seventh-day Adventists, 2,500 of them, were up early for a 5K Fun Run through the streets of San Antonio. The “InStep for Life” run gathered church workers and their
families to support physical exercise as a key component of a health lifestyle. One 8-member family from Mexico City all participated, including an 18-month-old child, who was registered by her parents and, with her own racing bib, was pushed in her stroller. Read more from the Adventist Review online.

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**NW Delegate Perspective**

Throughout the session, the *Gleaner* will provide some video glimpses into our Northwest delegates’ perspectives. Enjoy this short clip featuring Andre Wang, North Pacific Union Conference general counsel.
A Fly on a Wall

Ruminations from the Gleaner editor

"Suppose you were a fly on a wall in San Antonio's Alamodome. In my 20 minute walk back through the humid heat upon day's end, I concluded that a fly wouldn’t have learned much from our delegates or church leaders today. Flies, after all, are very close-minded and forgetful. But if I were a young adult layperson or pastor, or a woman from North America, I would have come away with unsettled thoughts and uncertain conclusions." Continue reading on the NPUC Gleaner Facebook page.

Photos from GC Session
Listen to 15-minute daily podcasts from the 60th General Conference Session. The daily podcasts will provide insight into the world church by explaining issues that the church is discussing and describing the votes taken on those issues. It will also discuss activities at the conference including the parade of nations and the 5k health run, as well as reports and music from various continents. Subscribe and listen to the
Are You Watching From Home?

GC Session will be broadcast straight from the Alamodome in San Antonio to your home or church: morning and evening worship, a series on the Adventist heritage by Jim Nix, Sabbath School, divine service, Adventist News Network, In Perspective with Mark Finley, and World of Hope. Watch it all on Hope Channel Church, Hope Channel app or Glorystar 124. The broadcast schedule is online.

Looking Ahead

July

- July 2–11: General Conference Session, San Antonio, TX
- July 15: Restoration International’s NW Family Retreat, Spangle, WA
- July 17: NAARA Annual Retreat, Lillooet, British Columbia, Canada
- July 21–25: UCC Sheridan
Changes are coming to Adventist education in the Northwest — many of them good and all of them challenging. Through it all, educational leaders are committed to continuing the unique mission of Adventist schools. What does the future hold for our students? Read more in the July Gleaner at GleanerNow.com.
2,500 Adventists Run for Their Lives in San Antonio

5K Fun Run is a family affair that underscores the Adventist health message.

Posted July 6, 2015

By Marcos Paseggi, Adventist Review/ANN

A festive mood permeated the predawn air as 2,500 Seventh-day Adventists attending the General Conference session in San Antonio, Texas, traded the comfort of their beds for a 5K Fun Run.

The “InStep for Life” run, which covered a downtown loop close to the Henry B. González Convention Center, where part of the session activities are taking place, gathered church workers and their families to support physical exercise as a key component of a healthy life.

“My reason to be here is very simple: I just want to be healthy,” said Jonathan Kuntaraf, 68, director of the Sabbath School department of the General Conference.

“Presently, exercise is the best indication of a long life,” added Kuntaraf, who plans to retire after the end of the General Conference session on July 11.

John Bradshaw, speaker and director of the It Is Written television ministry, said he could not imagine not being part of the race, and then he quipped with a big smile, “I just wonder how fair it is to let the Kenyans run,” a nod to a country famous for its long-distance runners.

Vicente Sanchez, a San Antonio police officer assigned to assist in road closings near the finishing line, expressed disbelief at the sight.

“If I were not on duty, there is no doubt, I would be sleeping. But to see all these families together, from all over the world . . . it is just impressive!” he said.

The first runner across the finish line was Elpidio Sanchez Rocha, from Mexico, with a time of 18 minutes and 46 seconds. The winning woman runner was Yanory Hernandez of Downers Grove, Illinois, with a time of 20 minutes and 43 seconds.
Runners representing the Norwegian Union Conference celebrate after completing the race. Photo by Tor Tjeransen

AR/ANN

The race, sponsored by the health ministries departments of the General Conference and the North American Division, was very much a family affair. Many parents and their children ran together, and some were seconded by grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins.

Youngsik Ham, a South Korean national who serves as a lay evangelist coordinator in Uganda, ran together with his son, Hyungwoo, 6, and his daughter, Seojin, 9. And Emilio and Ixchel Sobrino, from Mexico City, Mexico, ran as part of a family group of eight, including 18-month-old Eleonor, who was registered by her parents and, with her own racing bib, was pushed in her stroller along the 5,100 meters of the event route.

About 15 minutes before the starting time at 6:00 a.m., runners were led in warm-up exercises by a group of physical trainers. Among the thousands warming up were Paul and Joanne Ratsara, who took part in the run together with a son, a daughter, and a daughter-in-law. Ratsara, president of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division and a regular runner, was very clear about the reason for their presence.

"We feel passionate about the health message," he said. "And we do it in appreciation for God's gift of life."

His wife seconded, saying their goal was to praise God, make a statement, and inspire others to seek better health.

"We want to show others that even when you are over 50, you can keep fit and running," she said. "Everyone needs to see that we do not only talk about health but that we practice what we preach."

A light moment before the run was provided by Lincoln Steed, editor of the Adventist religious liberty magazine Liberty. Steed, who in his youth was a runner but has not run lately, was asked to replace Charles Ecklund, a fellow member of his local church in Maryland who regularly competes in triathlon runs but had to cancel at the last minute.

"I'll run on behalf of him," said Steed, who donned Ecklund's racing bib. "No doubt about it, it will be the worst [race finish] time he'll ever get."

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