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ADRA appoints new executives for finance, programs

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) International Board of Directors announced the appointments of two new executives last week.

Robyn Mordeno was appointed vice president for finance and Ken Flemmer as vice president for programs, according to a February 10 release.

Mordeno replaces Gideon Mutero, who served as vice president for finance since January 2007. Ken Flemmer replaces Mark Webster, who served as vice president for programs since October 2008, a spokesman said.

Also, Executive Vice President Mario Ochoa's title was changed from Executive Vice President to Vice President for Network Relations, agency spokesman Hearly Mayr said in an e-mail.

"The selection of this leadership team underscores ADRA's ongoing global efforts to deliver development assistance and humanitarian aid in a changing environment," said Geoffrey Mbwana, ADRA board chair and a vice president of the Seventh-day Adventist world church.

"Moving forward, this team has an outstanding opportunity to ensure that the agency is prepared to meet the increasing needs of so many underserved communities around the world."

Mordeno, now senior finance director FIELD-Support for the Washington D.C.-based Academy for Educational Development (AED), served in various financial leadership roles since she first joined ADRA in 1994, including posts in the ADRA Asia Regional office in Thailand, as well as Somalia, Albania, Azerbaijan, and Vietnam. Mordeno holds a Master of Science in Administration in International Development from Andrews University and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting and Management from Southern Adventist University.

Since joining ADRA in 1984, Flemmer has held various positions, including director for Safety and Security, bureau chief for Internal Compliance, assistant vice president and ADRA Asia Regional director. In this new role, he will oversee the agency's project planning and new business development efforts, and the monitoring of U.S. government and privately funded development projects worldwide. Flemmer holds a Master in Science in Agriculture Management from California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Andrews University.

Originally from Chile, Ochoa, an attorney, has been a vice president at ADRA International since 1986. He joined the agency in 1981 as assistant to the president, as well as counsel for International Legal Affairs. He previously served as a country director for ADRA Chile and academic dean for the Chilean Adventist University. He is a doctoral candidate in the Leadership Program at Andrews University and holds a law degree from the University of Concepción in Chile.

The release said the appointments "complete the new leadership team led by Dr. Rudi Maier, who was appointed president and executive director of ADRA International in October 2010."

For more information about ADRA, visit www.adra.org.
Just six months after the Seventh-day Adventist world church's largest business meeting, General Conference Session planners are already mapping out the global denomination's 2020 convention.

Planning for the event typically begins 10 years out, meaning the location for Session 2015 was announced in 2006 after a host city selection process, including a search for venues, proposal reviews, bidding cities and site visits.

Adventist Church administration won't vote on the location for Session 2020 until October, but some at world church headquarters are discussing whether a downsized Session is on the church's horizon.

As Adventist Church membership has grown, so have Session venues. Today, a potential host city must boast a covered stadium able to seat the estimated 70,000 who attend peak weekend meetings, said Sheri Clemmer, associate meeting planner for the world church. The site must also offer adjacent convention centers and nearby accommodations for upwards of 6,000 delegates and Session support staff, she said.

Session traffic typically wanes on weekdays. Daily business meetings -- where key decisions are actually made -- are often sparsely attended, except by Session delegates and a few faithful spectators. Instead, guests often crowd the exhibitor's hall or participate in the many activities held alongside Session.

Pardon Mwansa, a world church general vice president who chairs the church's Session Planning Committee, said some church officials are questioning the continued need for "camp meeting-style" Sessions -- as much spiritual retreats as business meetings.

"We don't need a crowd to elect leaders. We don't need a crowd to change policy," Mwansa said.

Others have asked whether a downsized Session might open cities outside of the United States to hosting duties. Of the 59 Sessions since the Adventist Church was established in 1863, only three were held elsewhere, said Mwansa, who serves as a world church general vice president and chairs the church's Session Planning Committee.

The format of the church's largest business meeting can only be reexamined during a vote taken at Session itself. While no such proposal exists, church administrators have "talked informally" about what shape future Sessions might take, said Lowell Cooper, also a world church general vice president.

"As the church grows, the potential for [Session] to become an even more complex and costly event increases, forcing us to consider what it is we need to achieve at Session, and what is optional," Cooper said.

Whether that discussion will lead to more Sessions held outside North America is debatable, church leaders said.

Church administrators who attended the 1995 Session in Utrecht, the Netherlands, remember
Inter-America: Church officially launches its Constant in Prayer spiritual revival program

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February 14, 2011 - Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic....Libna Stevens/IAD

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Inter-America made a special appeal to its more than 3.3 million members to seek a spiritual revival through prayer and the study of the Bible during the official launch of its spiritual revival and reformation program via satellite on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2011.

More than 13,000 Adventist leaders and church members crowded El Palacio de los Deportes in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, to witness the three-hour program. The event was carried live through The Hope Channel, Esperanza TV and 3ABN Latino and dozens of radios stations throughout the Inter-American Division (IAD) territory.

Themed “Constant in Prayer”-Inter-America's comprehensive spiritual initiative following the Adventist World Church's recent appeal for revival, reformation, discipleship and evangelism—will take Adventist leaders and members through a 160-day prayer journey for spiritual revival and joint activities throughout its 21 church regions.

Adventist World Church President Pastor Ted N.C. Wilson was the keynote speaker. He called on the hundreds of church leaders from throughout the Inter-American Division and the thousands of members to seek a committed spiritual revival, proclaim God's truth, and be ready for soon coming of the Lord.

"We have to work together as God's people, to proclaim God's truth in Inter-America," said Pastor Wilson, as he spoke of using the means of communication such as radio stations and television to fill the airways with the message of truth.

"We must call for revival and reformation to all for a humility that will allow us to work through us, for we cannot initiate revival and reformation, we can only place ourselves in God's hands and then the power of the Holy Spirit will take control," he added.

Pastor Wilson thanked the government of the Dominican Republic for its religious liberty and freedom to allow its citizens to express their love for God and asked for the church to continue to pray for leaders in government and for the expansion of the church work in the country.

"The Seventh-day Adventist Church today in the Dominican Republic and in Inter-America exists for one purpose, to proclaim the Three Angels' Messages of God's righteousness, His grace and great love for us," emphasized Wilson as he challenged Adventists everywhere to do good wherever there is need.

"Let Seventh-day Adventists be known as people who practice Christianity. Let your humble lifestyle be shown of your beautiful relation with heaven, and most of all that you always point people to Jesus and His soon coming," added Pastor Wilson.

Pastor Wilson concluded his message by challenging leaders and members to plead for revival and reformation from God and to plead for the Holy Spirit.

It’s the pleading for God's transformation for a revived church that prompted IAD leaders to