IAD News

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Posted: 10 Mar 2011 09:00 PM PST

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Inter-American Division > Communication Department
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Mar 11, 2011

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March 11, 2011 - Port of Spain, Trinidad...Libna Stevens/IAD

Mobilized by a leadership hungry for spiritual revival and reformation, the Seventh-day Adventist Church throughout Inter-America will launch its youth focus during special programmed activities on Mar. 12, 2011. The activities are designed to promote a personal life of prayer and Bible reading among children and young adults as part of the territory-wide "Constant In Prayer" revival initiative.

Churches across the 21 regions of the Inter-American Division (IAD) will hold special worship services led by children and youth, as well as a series of themed activities aimed at saturating the young and the old on the pews with the urgent need for a closer relationship with Jesus through constant prayer and study of the Bible.

The team of more than 20 IAD administrators and department directors have travelled to each of the major church regions to participate in the day's event and appeal for revival, says Pastor Roberto Herrera, spiritual revival and reformation coordinator for the church in Inter-America.

"This is a special call to the church to nurture and care for the spiritual life of our children and young people," says Herrera. "We want a church that can address their spiritual needs and prepare them for the kingdom of heaven."

"We are happy because the church in Inter-America is involved in a spiritual environment where prayer and the reading of the Bible is a priority," says Pastor Benjamin Carballo, youth ministries director for the church in Inter-America.

Pastor Carballo, who is in Trinidad for the special webcast, says the entire church will be blessed with this spiritual revival emphasizing the children and youth. "In turn each person will benefit, families will benefit, the church will benefit and the community too, because when God's people unite in prayer a spiritual revival takes place."

A special webcast program will be streamed live on the internet, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Atlantic Standard Time (AST), from the University of Southern Caribbean Auditorium in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Pastor Israel Leito, president of the church in Inter-America, will be the main speaker and will challenge the children and youth during the special program. Unions will be able to connect and interact during the webcast from by 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon (AST).

"This is another great opportunity for the leadership of our churches across our Division to build a closer relationship with our children and young people, " says Pastor Leito. "Revival and reformation will bring more awareness to the church to tend to the spiritual growth of our youth and in turn your youth will be aware that the church loves them."

Already this week, churches across the territory have been involved in children and youth week of prayer, as well as Bible reading and prayer vigils.

To view the webcast of the youth revival and reformation program from Trinidad, beginning at 9:00 a.m. (AST), click here
As major political changes grip parts of Southwest Asia and Northern Africa, Seventh-day Adventist Church officials announced today they are continually monitoring the denomination's work there, and said a report is due next month from an internal commission.

Church Undersecretary Homer Trecartin responded in an interview today, explaining that the nature and extent of the church's work in the Middle East is "extremely varied."

In some countries the Adventist Church is officially recognized, operates schools, and members meet openly in church-owned facilities. Christians in other nations aren't allowed to own property used for religious purposes and must share space with other groups in government-recognized "Christian" facilities, Trecartin said.

In some countries, it is prohibited to operate a Christian church. "In some of those countries we have no members. In others we have no official church groups meeting," Trecartin said.

"We don't know what the future might hold for that region but we are praying that the Lord will do great things to reveal His love there," he said.

The church's Middle East Study Commission, established in October, is examining the administrative structure of the Adventist Church in the region. Trecartin said the commission would bring a report to the denomination's Executive Committee, meeting next month for Spring Meeting in Huntsville, Alabama, United States.

The commission is comprised of officials from the world church headquarters and its Trans-European and Euro-Africa divisions, both of which oversee work in Southwest Asia and Northern Africa.
The Adventist Development and Relief Agency in Japan is providing shelter, food and free Wi-Fi at its office in central Tokyo for victims stranded in the wake of today's massive earthquake and ensuing tsunami.

The magnitude-8.9 earthquake -- the largest in Japan's history -- struck off country's northeastern coast, cutting off electricity to millions of homes, interrupting the region's mobile phone network and paralyzing Tokyo's train system, the Associated Press reported.

The earthquake's effect on the Adventist Church in Japan is not currently available.

An ADRA assessment team is expected to survey the affected area tomorrow to define immediate needs and better position relief workers to respond in the coming days, ADRA Japan officials said.

Currently, ADRA Japan is coordinating with the Japan National Disaster Office and local non-governmental agencies.

ADRA International this morning committed US$25,000 to fund an initial response in the country.