Loma Linda Expands Free Dental Care in Central Jamaica

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In Romania, Wilson finds active community of Adventist believers

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Seventh-day Adventists in Romania can use their position as Europe's largest community of believers to positively impact the region, the denomination's top official said during a recent visit.
Residents from the adjoining communities Sydenham in St. Catherine and Mandeville in Central Jamaica are smiling a lot in recent days. Residents from the adjoining communities Sydenham in St. Catherine and Mandeville in Central Jamaica are smiling a lot in recent days. Thanks to the free dental care they have received from a team of volunteers dentists from the Loma Linda University (LLU) School of Dentistry located in Southern California, United States. This follows a missionary trip to the island last year where hundreds of adults and students benefitted. "It was important to me and Loma Linda University that we honor the promise that we made last year to return as we were unable to see everyone," said Dr. Lincoln Edwards, assistant professor for the School of Dentistry and Medicine at LLU and head of the missionary team. "This missionary trip is two-fold as it provides the students with the experience of being missionaries and brightens the smile of my fellow Jamaicans."

The team's two-week trip is divided into two locations, the Hiram S. Walters Health and Outreach Centre in Sydenham, St. Catherine, and the Northern Caribbean University (NCU) in Mandeville. The outreach project, which started on June 10, will end on June 24.

The Central Jamaica Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (CJC), which owns and operates the Hiram S. Walters Health and Outreach Center has invested thousands of dollars to facilitate the visit of the team that includes six doctors and seventeen students. "Wholistic community evangelism is the goal and vision for our conference, that is why we have repositioned this H. S. Walters Clinic as a health and outreach centre," said Pastor Levi Johnson, president for the church in Central Jamaica. "The mandate of the Church is touching and transforming lives, and I am grateful that Loma Linda University has chosen to partner with us once again."

"The health center has been overwhelmed with a number of persons who turned out for the dental services daily," said Mary Cole, health and women's ministries director for the church in Central Jamaica. "The doctors and students are offering services such as cleaning, filling and extraction, along with dental hygiene education."

"I am here to get my teeth clean and I am so happy for this service," said Jacqueline Turner, as she waited eagerly for her number to be called. "This programme is a good thing and shows that the Adventist Church is interested in the well-being of the communities it serves."

Loma Linda University (LLU) is a Seventh-day Adventist educational health-sciences institution with eight schools and more than 4,000 students. More than 55 programs are offered by the schools of allied health professions, dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health, religion and behavioural health.
In Romania, Wilson finds active community of Adventist believers

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Jun. 18, 2012 - Bucharest, Romania....Nelu Burcea/ANN staff

Seventh-day Adventists in Romania can use their position as Europe’s largest community of believers to positively impact the region, the denomination’s top official said during a recent visit.

Adventist world church President Ted N. C. Wilson spoke to an audience of some 4,000 church members last week in Bucharest’s Palace Hall, once a landmark of the former Communist regime.

“God has blessed His people here in Romania. He blessed you with an enthusiasm for His work [and] He’s blessed you with love for the Adventist message,” Wilson said. “Your loyalty to God’s church is well-known. What a privilege it is to be part of this great family.”

Wilson called on church membership in Romania to continue to embrace the church’s “unifying” mission and support it through promotion of church initiatives such as The Great Controversy Project.

Church members there have already distributed more than half a million copies of the classic book by Ellen G. White, a co-founder of the denomination, said Teodor Hutanu, Adventist Church president in Romania.

Hutanu told Wilson that other church initiatives such as Revival and Reformation and Mission to Cities are likewise “well-known by the Romanian Adventist believers.”

“It is true that you are the strongest, largest contingent of Seventh-day Adventists in Europe,” Wilson said. “Reinforce that wonderful blessing God has given you in reaching out to every village, every city, every town.”

Impacting the community can only happen, however, if Adventists are “personally connected to Jesus through faith,” Wilson added.

While in Romania, Wilson toured the Adventist Media Center, the Life and Health Publishing House, the Adventist Theological Institute and an Adventist Development and Relief Agency shelter for victims of domestic abuse.

“I appreciate the involvement of the Romanian Adventist Church,” Wilson said after meeting and praying with shelter staff.

On Sabbath afternoon, Wilson took the opportunity to meet with young church members on the campus of the Adventist Theological Institute in Cernica. During a question-and-answer session, Wilson addressed topics ranging from Christian lifestyle and Adventist fundamental beliefs to his personal life as church president.

President of the church’s Euro-Africa Division, Bruno Vertallier, who accompanied Wilson on his tour of Romania, joined the Adventist leader in presenting brief spiritual messages during the session.
Later, in an interview for the church's television network, Hope Channel, Wilson commended young Romanian Adventists for their "spirituality, depth and missionary zeal" and encouraged them to maintain their faith.

Wilson enjoys a traditional Romanian welcoming ceremony upon his arrival in Bucharest last week.