New Opportunities for Volunteers

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Deadline Ending for Ultimate Workout and Collegiate Projects

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Malawi: Caring Hand to Mouth Sponsors and Builds Churches

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THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2011

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS

Are you looking for something exciting to do in the upcoming months? Check out Maranatha’s long list of volunteer opportunities.

Several projects are coming up this summer. First, a stateside project will be held in Loveland, Colo. June 8 to 29. These local projects are perfect for those who want to experience a mission trip, but don’t wish to travel overseas. Join other volunteers at Eden Valley Institute, a Seventh-day Adventist lifestyle center, where you will help repair several buildings.

Looking for something to do with your family this summer? Maranatha’s Summer Family Project is perfect for those who want to experience the joy of service with their loved ones. This year’s mission outreach will be held June 16 to 26 in Choluteca, Honduras, where you will help build and paint a large school campus and reach out to the locals with medical and dental clinics.

If you’re between the ages of 14 and 18, Ultimate Workout is the place to be this summer. Join other teens from around the globe as you come together for an unforgettable and extreme experience in service to others. Ultimate Workout 21 will be held July 12 to 25 in Tuxtla, Chiapas, Mexico.

New this year is the Collegiate Project, a special trip designed for those who have outgrown the popular Ultimate Workout but still would like to experience a mission trip with peers their own age. This project, for ages 18 through 24, will be held July 12 to 26 in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico.

If you’ve outgrown the Ultimate Workout and Collegiate Projects but still feel young at heart, check out the Young Adult Project, held this year July 28 to Aug. 8 in Honduras.

More projects are also available. “We have a huge list of amazing volunteer opportunities this year, and we encourage you to check them out,” says David Lopez, director of volunteer projects.
DEADLINE ENDING FOR ULTIMATE WORKOUT AND COLLEGIATE PROJECTS

The registration deadline for Maranatha’s Ultimate Workout project for teens and the new Collegiate Project for university-age young adults is almost here. Sign up by April 1 so you don’t miss these amazing opportunities!

Ultimate Workout was originally created as a way to give teenagers a spiritual boost, and it continues to strengthen young people each year. Young adult staff members facilitate the project and encourage teens to grow socially, spiritually and as leaders among their peers. Daily worship times, construction work, interaction with local people and bonding with new friends make Ultimate Workout a life-changing experience for many.

The Collegiate Project is for ages 18 through 24. Participants will build a One-Day Church structure with block walls in a rural community near the capital of Tuxtla Gutierrez in Chiapas, Mexico. The project, to be held July 12 to 26, 2011, will be led by Rebekah Widmer, a business major from Pacific Union College.

Visit our website for more information about the Ultimate Workout Project and the Collegiate Project.
MALAWI: CARING HAND TO MOUTH SPONSORS AND BUILDS CHURCHES

Twenty-four volunteers with Caring Hand to Mouth, a humanitarian organization from Oregon, are currently building 37 One-Day Churches in Malawi near Malamulo Hospital.

Dr. Matthew and Ronna Hayden with their four children are leading the group, along with Randy and Marta Meyer. Ten of the volunteers are students from Laurelwood Adventist Academy in Jasper, Ore.

The group continues to build, despite heavy downpours, rocky mountain 'goat' trails and slick mud. Even after a full day of baking sun or muddy rain, they have big smiles on their faces. "We are loving it," says Randy. "In fact Matthew says he could do this for a year." Marta adds, "The kids are having a great time! We all are!"

The group began preparing for their sponsorship and building of the 37 One-Day Churches in early 2010. In September, several group members attended the One-Day School training session held by Maranatha near Portland, Ore. just before Maranatha’s annual convention. In the following months, the group worked out the logistics of building the churches and split into three construction teams. They purchased construction tool kits for each team. When they arrived in Malawi, they were ready to roll.

Not everything has gone as planned, however. Even before the group left the United States, they encountered difficulties by airport authorities who would not permit them to bring the generators to charge their cordless drills on jobsites. Then, one of their group members was delayed for two weeks. The rain in the area has made negotiating steep, clay trails to jobsites a unique and spine-tingling challenge for volunteers, Maranatha crews and support teams. Though each team was completing one church per day by their second work day, weather did not permit them to keep up with this pace.

But the group has quickly learned to go with the flow and to accept the challenges and joys as part of an overall positive experience. The joy of the church members and their friends at receiving a new church has brightened numerous days. The Malawians have welcomed their new friends in many ways. They sing and clap, bring tasty food dishes (including vegetarian foods painstakingly prepared), and express, "Zikomo," or "Thank you! Thank you for sharing Jesus' love with us in a very tangible, blessing-filled way!"

—Reported by Susan Woods in Malawi
Maranatha is pleased to announce that Maranatha Mission Stories will once again air on Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) on Saturdays at 2:30 PDT, beginning April 2.

“Friday night’s episode will be different than Saturday’s, so you can watch Maranatha Mission Stories every Friday night and Saturday for an entire month and not see the same episode twice,” says Christina Lloyd, producer for the show.

This weekend, learn about the Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church in Zambia, where locals, young to old, crush rocks for a living. Volunteers built a One-Day Church for the members in 2010, answering the prayers of the rock crushers. “I’ve seen the church growing from 30 to 300, and by next year we expect to have 600 members,” says Ringson Hachibambamba, elder for the Hill Church. Watch this week’s episode of Maranatha Mission Stories for how the congregation has experienced miracles in their small village.

Maranatha Mission Stories airs on Hope Channel Sunday at 9 p.m. PDT and Thursday at 5 p.m. PDT, and on Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) Friday at 6:30 p.m. PDT and Saturday at 2:30 PDT.