Becoming Advocates for Religious Liberty

The Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) department has promoted religious freedom through Liberty magazine since 1906. Primary funding for the magazine comes from its annual campaign. This year the campaign’s theme is “Freedom to Share Jesus.” The special offering collected on January 22 will enable PARL to publish the magazine and fund litigation for religious liberty issues.

Todd McFarland, associate general counsel, who conducts litigation work, says the Adventist Church takes a strong stance on the separation of church and state and defends the religious liberty rights of not only Adventists but also people who are not members of the church. “The church does this for three reasons. The first is self-interest; when the church protects others it protects itself. The second is because Seventh-day Adventists believe it is consistent with God’s desire; God gives us the freedom to choose. And the third, mingling of church and state weakens both institutions.”

PARL works with legislators to ensure religious liberty. It helps people in religious liberty litigation, educates people by distributing materials and promotes religious liberty through broadcasts such as the half-hour program “Kingdom Come,” which will air through the Hope Church Channel January 22 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Eastern Time.

Lincoln Steed, editor of Liberty magazine, says, “One of our challenges is getting people involved in contacting their legislators. By becoming a member of the North American Religious Liberty Association people can become advocates for religious liberty.”

Churches can sponsor magazine subscriptions for local community leaders. Though most of the events that promote religious liberty are held by local unions, division leadership also offers seminars on religious liberty.

To subscribe to the magazine, sponsor a subscription or view the magazine online, visit
Neal C. Wilson, Retired Adventist World Church President, Passes to His Rest

By Mark A. Kellner, News Editor

Adventist Review

Pastor Neal C. Wilson, 90, a past president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, known widely for his administrative skill, jovial spirit, and phenomenal memory of people he had met, died December 14, 2010, in Dayton, Maryland, not far from the church headquarters building he helped construct. He was the son of a Seventh-day Adventist leader and the father of another, Pastor Ted N. C. Wilson, who is the current world president of the denomination, active in 203 countries.

A private interment was held December 17, 2010. Memorial services were held Wednesday, January 19, 2011 in the auditorium of the church’s world headquarters building in Silver Spring, Maryland.

“The Lord calls people for certain times,” Leo Ranzolin, a former general vice president of the world church, said in a telephone interview. “The church needed a leader of [the] stature” of Neal Wilson to handle the challenges his tenure would encounter, Ranzolin added.

Wilson’s son, Ted, told employees of the General Conference on January 4, 2011, of the personal nature of the loss: “He was not only my father, but also my friend,” the current General Conference president said.

Read more ➤

Registration Underway for Music & Worship Conference

The 8th annual Andrews University Music & Worship Conference is being held March 24–26. Sponsored by the Center for Youth Evangelism and Departments of Music and Christian Ministry, and the NAD Church Resource Center, the event will provide training opportunities for pastors, worship leaders, church musicians and lay leaders from around the world.

Featured presenters will include Roberta King, associate professor of communication and ethnomusicology at Fuller Theological Seminary’s School of Intercultural Studies, and Pedrito Maynard-Reid, professor of Biblical studies and missiology and assistant to the president for diversity at Walla Walla University. Presenters will discuss issues relating to creativity, diversity and excellence as well as techniques and strategies for improving worship experiences.
Event registration is required and can be completed online. For registration information, a schedule of events and more, visit www.auworshipconference.org or call 269-471-8380.

NAD Year-end Meeting Audio CDs Available

You can now purchase audio only versions of the devotional messages presented during the 2010 North American Division Year-end Meeting. Speakers include Elder Mark Johnson, president, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada; Elizabeth Talbot, co-host, Voice of Prophecy; Elder Dan Jackson, president, North American Division; Elder Roscoe Howard III, vice president, Adventist Health; and Elder Jose V. Rojas, director, Volunteer Ministries.

Click here to download the order form. You can also order online at www.adventsource.org. To order a specific devotional message, type the catalog number (listed on the order form) in the search bar at the top of the AdventSource website.

View Adventist World Online

Check out the online edition of the January 2011 Adventist World. NAD stories include:

“What if You Couldn’t Buy or Sell” – page 9
“In the Shadows of the Capitol” – page 10
“In North America 1.1 Million Adventists Urged to Reach Others” – pages 12-14
“Sunday’s Coming, But First …” – pages 34-39

Note:
Reaching Out in Love describes the important evangelism aspect of REACH North America, the new five-year plan for the North American Division. The most effective way to REACH OUT is to do it with LOVE. People respond to love and compassion. Jesus’ compassion for lost souls is now our mission. The challenge is our privilege. Read on for ideas to Reach Out in Love.

The love of Christ controlled every aspect of the lives of the disciples and moved them to a passionate commitment to His service. They sought God for the promised power of the Holy Spirit and knelt before Him in heartfelt confession and earnest repentance. They were absorbed in reaching the world with the gospel, but recognized they were powerless to accomplish the mission without the mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Ron Clouzet, Andrews University Theological Seminary professor and director of the North American Division Evangelism Institute (NADEI), has accepted the Division challenge to Reach out by coordinating a year of outreach seminars culminating with a full message series to begin September 30. He is expanding the team by enlisting the talents of seminarians. The NADEI staff is also working with him to hold a field school of evangelism at the live site in Nashville, Tennessee. He is inviting your church to join the team.

12 CE units available for dietitians, nurses, allied and public health professionals. Click here to learn more.

NET 2011 Early Bird Registration Deadline
April 1
For incentives and event information click here.

SONscreen Filmmaker Submissions 2011
April 7–July 9
For more information click here.
To register click here.

Non-profit Leadership Certification Program
May 15–19
Basic Curriculum Link for more details click here.

PSI’s International Conference on Philanthropy
June 21–24
For more information click here.

ASI Convention
August 3–6
Sacramento, CA
www.ASIMinistries.org

Festival of the Laity
September 7–10 in Dallas, Tex., North America Division’s Adult Ministries department will host its 3rd Festival of the Laity. This year’s festival, themed “Our Portion of the Power: Equipping to Finish the Work.”

Click here to visit the Festival’s site.
The initiative was launched during a Day of Prayer and Reformation on January 8. Many churches and homes tuned into the broadcast to hear inspiring stories of how God is using men and women to share the gospel and to hear Pastor Clouzet’s messages and invitation to join forces to accomplish great things for the Lord in 2011.

**Jesus in Your Church Rebroadcast**  
**January 22 and 29 at 4:30–6:00 p.m. ET**

Due to technical difficulties, the afternoon program is being rebroadcast on the Hope Church Channel.

DVDs of Jesus in Your Church broadcasts can be purchased from the NADEI Resource Center. Call Andrea Pusey at 269-471-8303

**The Greatest Show on Earth: Making Sense of the Creation-Evolution Debate**  
**New dates: May 4–8, 2011**

**Second preparatory event of NET 2011:** Creation-Evolution debate hosted by scientist, Dr. Timothy Standish, and theologian, Ron Clouzet. Accept the challenge to reach the world for Jesus by inviting friends to attend this seminar.

**Topic 1:**  
The Way We Were: A Look at Deep Time

**Topic 2:**  
The Life of Creatures: Wonder and Trouble in Paradise

**Topic 3:**  
Genes and Genies: What We Know and What We Don’t

**Topic 4:**  
The Flood and the Fossil: Radiometric Dating and Hard Questions

**Topic 5:**  
Father God or Mother Earth: History, Presuppositions, the Problem of Evil and a Loving God

**Prophecies Decoded: Can the Past Reveal Your Future?**  
**September 30–October 29, 2011**  
**Speaker:** Ron E M Clouzet

**Early Bird Registration:** Register before April 1 to receive free resources and planning manual. [http://Host.PropheciesDecoded.com](http://Host.PropheciesDecoded.com) or 855-NET-2011.

**Subscribe to REACH North America News**

REACH North America News is a must for pastors, elders, church leadership and anyone who has a passion for outreach and evangelism. If your church friends and leadership are not getting this valuable newsletter, invite them to subscribe by emailing [NETCoordinator@nad.adventist.org](mailto:NETCoordinator@nad.adventist.org).

Free Adventist Apps
Three Seventh-day Adventist apps are available for you to download to your iPhone/iPad or Android. The White Estate app features all 412 books written by Ellen G. White. A companion app, called EGW Lite, features content from 10 of White's most popular books. The Sabbath School app is available for iPhone, iPad and Android platforms in English, French and Spanish. The InPrayer app is designed to facilitate a global prayer chain. This is available for both iPhone and Android platforms.

Read more ➤

Religious Liberty Helpline
To address issues dealing with religious liberty rights, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has a helpline. Individuals with a religious liberty problem may call 877-721-3700 toll free. The information will be forwarded to a local religious liberty representative.

Adventist Community Services e-Reporting
For the past year, ACS has hosted free web-based E-Reporting software that registers your clients and records services provided to your community. This includes all community services provided by ACS and all ministries or groups in your church. Activities could include visiting or assisting the sick or elderly, feeding the homeless, tutoring or mentoring children, or providing goods for those in need. The software also captures basic volunteer, income and expense information.

This means no more paper reports to send to your conference or the North American Division. Once you enter the information into the database, you, your conference, your union and NAD can generate a variety of reports.

To watch the Adventist Community Services E-Reporting video from NAD Church Resource Center click here.

Sabbath School
Established as a major setting for religious education in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Sabbath School is a vital ministry in the local church. It provides an environment where individuals of all ages can learn about God, His Word, and His plan for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. The Sabbath School lesson helps participants develop a deeper understanding of the Bible and its teachings, fostering growth in spiritual knowledge and personal relationship with God. With weekly lessons on various topics, the Sabbath School curriculum offers a comprehensive approach to spiritual learning, enabling participants to grow spiritually and intellectually, guided by the principles of Christianity. This private learning time, held in a classroom setting or in small group settings, provides an opportunity for individuals to learn about the Bible and its teachings, deepening their faith and understanding of God's plan for them. The Sabbath School lesson is often used as a platform for personal reflection and spiritual growth, promoting a closer connection to God and His Word.

Sabbath School Lesson
The Sabbath School lesson is a crucial element of the Sabbath School program. It is designed to provide a platform for spiritual growth and learning, ensuring that participants engage deeply with the Bible and its teachings. The lesson is tailored to address the needs and questions of the participants, offering guidance and insights on various topics. It serves as a resource for individuals to explore their faith and deepen their understanding of God's plan for their lives. The Sabbath School lesson is led by qualified instructors or facilitators who have expertise in the subject matter, ensuring that the content is delivered in a meaningful and engaging manner. The lesson usually consists of an introduction, followed by a detailed discussion of the week's topic, and concludes with a recap or summary of the key points covered. This structured approach helps participants to retain the information better and apply it to their daily lives, fostering a stronger connection to God and His Word.
Adventist Church, Sabbath school exists to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Its website provides tools for Sabbath School programs in local churches. Click here to visit the website. To visit the NAD Adult Ministries website click here.

To download adult Sabbath School materials click here and look under "Adult Sabbath School Materials" and click and save the compressed file.

**Hope Channel**

Hope Channel is the global television network of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Its website provides programming schedules and links to Hope Channel broadcasting in English and other languages. Click here to visit the network's site.

Click here to view schedules for Hope Channel and Hope Church Channel.

**147th Annual Statistical Report—2009**

The 147th Annual Statistical Report—2009 is a report that provides a detailed statistical summary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the current year, as well as summary tables of past years. It gives 41 items of information about church membership, tithe and offering contributions, and church workers, for each conference, mission, union, and division. There are departmental statistics, and summary tables. Click here to view the report.

“Perfection is the enemy of good, therefore, pursue progress not flawlessness. Those who will not act until they can do so without defects will never achieve their highest potential. Permit your reach to exceed your grasp by aiming for progress not perfection,” said Rear Admiral Barry Black, the 62nd Chaplain of the U.S. Senate, at Miracle Temple Church in Baltimore, Md., on January 15 in his sermon titled “Pursue Progress Not Perfection.” His sermonic text was Philippians 3:12–14.

Photo Credit: A. Cassell-Swaby

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