Volunteer Ministries: Preserving a Vision of World Service

The North American Division's Office of Volunteer Ministries (OVM) provides opportunities for young people so they can be a part of a worldwide service-driven army of youth. In current global economic struggles many of our Adventist institutions increasingly depend on volunteers to function. In an effort to provide organizations with personnel and young people with a life-changing experience, OVM acts as a liaison between both parties.

Currently, OVM mobilizes more than 76,000 volunteers each year. Eighty percent of the volunteers are youth.

"Becoming a missionary involves risks," says Sayuri Rodriguez, who was a missionary in Kazakhstan for two years. "Leaving everything behind is not easy but when one answers God’s call to follow Him, the reward is much greater than the sacrifice. Being a missionary is one of the best experiences of my life."

José Vicente Rojas, director of OVM says, "Our missionaries are volunteers who go out to make a difference in this world. The most powerful impact of a missionary is seen one life at a time."

To become a missionary send an e-mail to the Ernest Hernandez, volunteer processing coordinator or call 800-331-2767.

About the picture: Sayuri Rodriguez (fourth from left to right) with a children's class that she begun while in Kazakhstan.

ADRA International to Reduce Staff

Confronted by a decline in current and projected revenue from public sources, the ADRA International administrative committee has decided to reduce the workforce at its international headquarters by 20 percent and has undertaken corporate wide restructuring.

This difficult decision to reduce the number of professional, dedicated ADRA staff came after a close review of the agency’s current and projected financial situation. These projections indicated that expenses, if not modified, would exceed the budget allocation for administrative costs. All departments have been affected by the reduction in staff. In total, 17 positions were eliminated and transition packages were offered to exiting employees.

In this Issue

- Volunteer Ministries: Preserving a Vision of World Service
- ADRA International to Reduce Staff
- Maranatha Reaches out to U.S. Hispanic Population
- View Adventist World Online
- Reach Out
- Preparation for NET 2011
- Adventist News Network
- Society of Adventist Communicators
- Women's Ministries

Upcoming Events:

- Women’s Day of Prayer
  March 5
  For Women’s Day of Prayer resources click here.

- LLU School of Public Health “Healthy People Conference”
  March 8–9
  Experts will discuss food sources and their effect on personal, social, economic and environmental health. Click here to learn more.

- Andrews University Music and Worship Conference
  March 24–26
  Participants will have access to a variety of practical workshops.
Maranatha Reaches out to U.S. Hispanic Population

Maranatha Volunteers International hosted its first-ever Hispanic convention at the Calvary Assembly Orlando Church in Winter Park, Fla. on Feb 26 in an effort to involve more of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s Spanish-speaking population in outreach. The event drew nearly 5,000 people from across the state. Speakers for the event included the well-known evangelist Alejandro Bullón.

Photo credit: Maranatha Volunteers International

Read more

Adventists in the News

The following are positive stories that have appeared this week in the news about Seventh-day Adventists in the North American Division territory.

Linda Vista Adventist School students visit 'adopted' grandparents
Ventura County Star, February 28

Hinsdale Adventist Academy Students Fuel Up to Play 60
Hinsdale-Clarendon Hills Patch, February 28

Announcements

View Adventist World Online
Check out the March 2011 online edition of Adventist World. NAD stories include:

"The Loma Linda Report" - page 11
"NET 2011 Emphasizes Local Church Evangelism" - pages 12-13
"Are NET Events Successful?" - pages 14-15
"Women in the Wings" - page 17
"North American Division Responds to Enditnow" - page 32-37

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

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.

The Creation Evolution Debate
May 4–8
Ron Clouzet, DMin; Timothy Standish, PhD

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

Women’s Emphasis Day
June 11
For resources 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
Dallas, Tex.
www.festivalofthelaity.com
Reach Out

The North American Division organizations of every type combine their efforts in communicating Adventism’s distinctive message of hope and wholeness to every person within the NAD territory with a focus on big cities. It will be accomplished through discipleship, evangelism and community outreach.

The challenge of taking the gospel to the world is not new. The disciples faced this challenge in the first century. We face it in the twenty-first century. The New Testament Church was seemingly confronted with an impossible task. But empowered by the Holy Spirit, the Church exploded in growth (Acts 2:41; 4:4; 6:7; 9:31).

Christ’s Great Commission was accompanied by His great promise. “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

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.

Preparation for NET 2011

Become a host site for community outreach and evangelism this year by registering online or by calling 855-NET-2011.

Commit to regular prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon those who will be touched by the evangelism initiative in 2011. Pray for the speaker, Dr. Ron Clouzet, and his experienced team from the North American Division Evangelism Institute. Register as a prayer warrior.

Equipment sales are available at www.AdventistSat.com print orders are available at www.AdventistEvangelism.com

Adventist News Network

Adventist News Network (ANN) is the official news service of the denomination and a service of the Communication Department of the church’s world headquarters. To subscribe to the weekly news bulletin visit ANN’s website.

Society of Adventist Communicators

Practicing Communicating contains how-to articles and latest trends to help those involved with communication ministry. Click here to subscribe.

SONscreen Film Festival
SONscreen's *Reel Time* is the connection to the growing Christian film community. It provides readers with the latest industry tips and trends as well as information about filmmakers and their projects, employment opportunities, and links to blogs of fellow filmmakers and Christian film enthusiasts. Click [here](http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=84ac041b8b705798057dab6f2&id...) to subscribe.

**Women's Ministries**

*Women's Intuitions eXpress* is a monthly electronic newsletter especially for women who are interested in Women's Ministries resources and events, or who are involved or would like to be involved in an outreach ministry by or for women. To subscribe click [here](http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=84ac041b8b705798057dab6f2&id...).

*Women's Intuitions* is a quarterly newsletter for women in North America. Its purpose is to provide spiritual enrichment, leadership focus, news and updates. To subscribe and to see back issues, click [here](http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=84ac041b8b705798057dab6f2&id...).

**ViewPoints**

“Like the woman at the well, there are people in your world who are in need of a life-changing conversation, one that could make a difference for eternity. Jesus has placed them in your sphere of influence for a reason; you have what they need—a saving knowledge of Him. If you don’t take the time for that conversation, who will,” said Carla Baker, NAD women’s ministries director at a leadership training event for approximately 220 women in Chico, Calif., on February 19.

“It’s not about money; it’s about good causes that have a price tag. Unfortunately, people sometimes put the cart before the horse. You need to have a good case for a worthy cause and then work to make it happen,” said Lilya Wagner, Ed.D, CFRE, director of Philanthropic Service for Institutions (PSI) to attendees of a training session at a combined meeting of the International church and the First Bilingual church (both in New Jersey) on the weekend of February 19.

“God does not expect us to become religious practitioners. God wants us to become the hope of the world. This is why we have to combine the Great Commission mandate with
transformation,” said Pastor Sung Kwon, national executive director, Adventist Community Services, at Wewoka Woods Camp “Reach Out” training session in Oklahoma City, Okla., on February 26.

Stay Socially Connected with NAD
Find us on Facebook | Follow us on Twitter
A Message from ADRA's President

Thursday, March 3, 2011

For more information, contact:

John Torres, Assistant Director of Public Relations
301.680.6357 (office)
301.680.6370 (fax)
John.Torres@adra.org

To donate to ADRA go to:

Online: www.adra.org
Phone: 1.800.424.ADRA (2372)
Twitter: www.twitter.com/ADRA
Facebook: www.facebook.com/joinADRA

SILVER SPRING, Md. - The president of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) International’s office in Silver Spring, Maryland issued the following statement on the recent restructuring of its international headquarters:

From the Desk of the President...

Confronted by a decline in current and projected revenue from public sources, the ADRA International administrative committee has decided to reduce the workforce at its international headquarters by 20 percent and has undertaken corporate wide restructuring.

This difficult decision to reduce the number of professional, dedicated ADRA staff came after a close review of the agency’s current and projected financial situation. These projections indicated that expenses, if not modified, would exceed the budget allocation for administrative costs. All departments have been affected by the reduction in staff. In total, 17 positions were eliminated and transition packages were offered to exiting employees.

Responding to an ever-changing economic environment, the restructuring of ADRA’s headquarters office will ensure that the agency is positioned to more effectively and efficiently meet the needs of its network and partners, while continuing to serve those in poverty and despair.

In 2009, a hiring freeze was initiated along with a reduction in administrative expenses in an effort to combat the gradual decline in total revenue that ADRA International and many other humanitarian organizations had been experiencing since 2007. In addition to this decline, several of ADRA’s federally funded programs will be completed in the near future, reducing current and projected funds for administrative expenses.

A major portion of ADRA’s programmatic funding comes from government grants and partnerships. The recent shift in the United States government funding policies in addition to proposals in congress could decrease the amount of funds available, which will result in increased competition among aid agencies.

Despite the changes in staffing and the continuing economic uncertainty, ADRA’s development and relief projects and programs will continue unaffected, assisting nearly 20 million people each year.

Although difficult, these changes in both personnel and structure will enhance ADRA’s ability to more efficiently meet our financial obligations and remain true to those who entrust us with their funds, while strategically positioning ADRA for positive growth in the future.

ADRA is a global non-governmental organization providing sustainable community development and disaster relief without regard to political or religious association, age, gender, race or ethnicity.
Maranatha Reaches out to United States Hispanic Population

Maranatha Volunteers International hosted its first-ever Hispanic convention at the Calvary Assembly Orlando Church in Winter Park, Fla. Feb 26. The event, which drew nearly 5,000 people from across the state, was an effort to involve more of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Spanish-speaking population in outreach.

The non-profit organization has sent some 70,000 volunteers around the world to build churches, schools and hold outreach programs since 1969 and has worked in numerous Hispanic countries over the years. The crowd was enthused to hear how Maranatha is helping to grow the global church by building churches and schools in dozens of countries, Maranatha leaders said.

"Attendees were energetic and responsive to learn how they can personally get involved in mission work, both here at home and abroad," said Kyle Fiess, Maranatha vice president for marketing and projects.

"As a result of Maranatha's churches and schools, our baptisms have gone up, our tithe has gone up, and the life of the church has improved," Leonel Lozano, president of the Adventist Church in Ecuador, told the congregation.

Other speakers included Alejandro Bullón, a well-known Adventist evangelist, Israel Leito, president of the Adventist Church in Inter-America, Melchor Ferreyra, field secretary for the church in Inter-America, Gilberto Araujo, vice president for the church in the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean region, Ron Watts, assistant to the church president in Southern Asia, and church evangelist Mark Finley. Popular Christian singer Steve Green provided the music.

Bullón challenged the crowd to get involved in missions. "It doesn't matter how much money you have. All of you have time," he said.

The event was a collaborative effort with Adventist church leadership in Florida. Abel Paulin, vice president for the church's Spanish-language ministries in Florida, made it possible for members of nearly 90 local congregations to attend. "It was a tremendous weekend and a real blessing. It wasn't only about Maranatha, but the mission of the church in many countries. It was about church planting, growth and baptisms," he said. "Many people were telling me, 'Man, we've got to do this, we've got to go with Maranatha and do this work with them.' It was a real mission enthusiasm that came out of the convention."

"The event marked a new commitment to the Hispanic community to involve them more in missions, outreach, volunteering and donating," Fiess said. "Since Maranatha began, we've worked in Spanish-speaking countries. People walked away from this convention with a wider vision of mission work around the world and an awareness of how they can get involved in helping others."