North American Division Responds to
Japanese Disaster

On Friday, March 11, a massive 8.9 magnitude earthquake occurred 80 miles east of Sendai, Honshu Island, Japan, causing a 30 foot tsunami. With damage assessments and the death toll still unfolding, it has already become clear that the devastation will be of catastrophic proportions.

“As the church in Japan copes with the impact of the recent earthquake and tsunami, the support of church members around the world through prayer and financial donations is greatly appreciated,” said Pastor Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division. “Assessments are still taking place of where major assistance will be needed,” he said.

There are approximately 15,000 Seventh-day Adventists in Japan worshiping in 115 churches. “Adventists are few and far between in Japan so we didn’t have a heavy concentration of churches or schools,” said Ken Osborn, treasurer of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. “The greatest challenge will be the overall economic impact for Japan more than rebuilding institutions or churches. With less than one percent of the population being Christian, opportunities will develop to express the hope Adventist Christians share,” said Osborn.

The North American Division is accepting donations on behalf of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. “As a part of our worldwide church family, we feel compelled to help out our brothers and sisters as they attempt to rebuild their lives and communities.”

To donate electronically, click here.

Or make checks payable to:
Note: ADRA International committed an initial response of $25,000 and an assessment team is currently in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, one of the hardest-hit regions. ADRA Japan has been providing hot meals in an evacuation center. ADRA Japan continues coordinating with the Japanese Department of Social Services (DSS) and anticipates involvement in managing and coordinating evacuation centers in the affected area. To send your contribution to ADRA’s Emergency Response Fund, contact ADRA at 1.800.424.ADRA (2372) or give online. Canada residents may send their contributions to ADRA Canada’s “Japan quake/Pacific tsunami” fund or to the Emergency Response Fund, contact ADRA Canada at 1-888-274-2372 or give online.

Photo Credit: REUTERS-Yomiuri

White Estate Publishes Beta Website

The White Estate has a free 1.2 beta searchable website that contains Ellen G. White’s writings in multiple formats available in nine languages. The site’s two main parts, writings and online books, include Adventist pioneer writings and the Bible. The online books are available in MP3, eBooks, PDF and on Kindle. The White Estate also has an iPhone/iPad application.

La Sierra University won’t Neglect Creation Teaching, President, Chairman Vow

Source: Adventist News Network by Mark A. Kellner, Adventist Review

In an open letter welcomed by many Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders and members across North America, La Sierra University on March 9 acknowledged serious problems in its teaching of origins over the last several years, and apologized for not having adequately communicated Seventh-day Adventist beliefs about creationism to its students.

IGNITION Summit 2011

April 4–6
Dallas, Tex. For more information about this young adult ministry leadership training click here.

SONscreen Filmmaker Submissions 2011

April 7–July 9
For more information click here.

Adventist Single Adult Ministries Webinar

April 12 at 8pm EST
Presented by Andrea Hicks, director of Adventist Single Adult Ministries for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America and founder of F.O.C.U.S. Ministries
This webinar will help you create exciting and meaningful ministries for the single adults in your church and community.
To sign up click here.

The Creation Evolution Debate

May 4–8
Ron Clouzet, DMin; Timothy Standish, PhD. For handbills
Gone But Not Forgotten

Dr. J. Wayne McFarland, an originator of the Five-Day Plan to Stop Smoking, died Monday, in Loma Linda, Calif. He was 97. Loma Linda University School of Medicine Alumni Association honored him last year as Alumnus of the Year at their annual banquet. Survivors include his two daughters, Patricia Foll and Margaret McFarland; three grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Adventists in the News

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

GOP Congressman Says Families Should Abandon City Life
Raw Story, March 15

Work Begins at Simi Community Garden
Ventura County Star, March 15

Poway Seventh-day Adventist Church Unveils Big Plans
Patch.com, March 15

The WOW Diet: A Balance of Science and Religion to Find the Perfect Diet
Deseret News, March 15

Japanese Ties Tug at Local Residents as Crisis Deepens
Chattanooga Times Free Press, March 13

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” - pages 32-37

Vacation Bible School – The Best Evangelistic Series Webinar
May 8 at 8pm EST Presented by Candy DeVore, editor of Kids Ministry Ideas, and Phyllis Washington, Director of Children’s Ministries for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. Learn why you should take community kids and their families into consideration as you plan for VBS this summer. To sign up click here.

Family Ministries - Church Growth Webinar
May 10 at p.m. EST Presented by Claudio and Pamela Consuegra, directors of Family Ministries for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. Discover how a vibrant Family Ministries program can be the foundation for significant church growth. To sign up click here.

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
Note: Reaching Out in Love describes the important evangelism aspect of NAD’s strategic plan to REACH North America. The most effective way to REACH OUT is to do it with LOVE as was Jesus’ example. His compassion for lost souls is now our mission. The challenge is our privilege.

In the Beginning: Making Sense of the Creation-Evolution Debate

It is time to order handbills. Click here to order printed materials and plan for mailing services. No handouts or study guides are available for the live event beginning May 4, 7:30-9:00 pm ET/PT, 6:30-8:00 pm CT. MTZ should record the ETZ uplink.

Visit host.propheciesdecoded.com to locate an article and advertise the seminar in local newspapers.

Adventist Preaching

The North American Division created Adventist Preaching, a collection of sermon series presented by renowned Adventist preachers, to provide sermons for churches without speakers and to give members the opportunity to build a personal DVD library of favorite preachers.

Disability Ministries

Disabilities Ministries raises the level of awareness, educates and encourages the church family to affirm all who come to Christ to use their gifts regardless of their different abilities. The ministry develops resources in seven disability groups: cognitive, hearing loss, hidden, mobility, psychiatric, speech and visual. Charlotte L. V. Thoms, coordinator of Disabilities Ministries says, “Disabilities Ministries, unlike other ministries is not a stand-alone ministry but includes all while omitting none.”

Advent Source offers various Disabilities Ministries publications such as the Disabilities Ministries Handbook, an article that helps members adapt their church so it is more accessible to people with disabilities. Advent Source also provides a Disabilities Ministries coordinator ministry description and an article that lists seven ways to welcome a blind person to a church.

Festival of the Laity

September 7–10
Dallas, Tex.
www.festivalofthelaity.com

Astonishing Discoveries in the Land of the Bible

September 14–18
Ron Clouzet, DMin; Michael Hasel, PhD.

Prophecies Decoded: Can the Past Reveal Your Future?

September 30–October 29
Ron Clouzet, DMin
Print orders/handbills and door hangers available through www.AdventistEvangelism.com

Society of Adventist Communicators Convention

October 20–22
Click here for more information.

Adventist Ministries Convention

January 15–18, 2012
Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club in Innisbrook, FL

The One Project

February 13–14, 2012
Seattle, WA
www.the1project.org

Visit our website
Share This Newsletter

Facebook
Pastor Alvin M. Kibble, a vice president of the North American Division, delivered a sermon at the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Montclair (New Jersey) on March 12. During his sermon, titled “A Magnificent Obsession,” Kibble introduced the concept of establishing a B.H.A.G. (big hairy audacious goal) and sticking to it. “Nehemiah refused to be distracted from his BHAG and from God when the enemy tried to call him four times while trying to repair the walls of Jerusalem,” he said. The Montclair church has recently launched a $1.2 million capital campaign.
La Sierra University won't neglect creation teaching, president, chairman vow

Open letter signals shift in two-year controversy
11 Mar 2011, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States
Mark A. Kellner, Adventist Review

In an open letter welcomed by many Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders and members across North America, La Sierra University on March 9 acknowledged serious problems in its teaching of origins over the last several years, and apologized for not having adequately communicated Seventh-day Adventist beliefs about creationism to its students.

"We found that only 50 percent of the students surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that our Adventist view of creation was presented, and only 40 percent agreed or strongly agreed that our Adventist view was supported," LSU President Randall Wisbey and LSU Board Chairman Ricardo Graham wrote in the open letter.

The letter accompanied the release of a Board-approved report on the controversy that has focused on the Riverside, California, campus for nearly two years.

"This is not acceptable, and we apologize," the two leaders added.

Dr. Lisa Beardsley, Education director for the Adventist Church world headquarters, called the statement "a step in the right direction."

"My prayer is that Adventist education at La Sierra University will grow and acknowledge its redemptive purposes," Beardsley said.

Larry Blackmer, vice president for Education for the church's North American Division, also saw promise in the university's letter.

"I am so pleased with the board and administration's openness in addressing the issues that have concerned the church for the past few years," Blackmer said. "I found their statements to be sincere, looking to do what is right.

"This issue has been a controversy regarding the university for the past two years, and I hope with strong administrative follow-through, with monitoring by the board of directors and a continued commitment to the core values of the church, that this chapter can be closed and we can focus on the many wonderful things that are happening on the LSU campus," he said.

A team from Adventist Accreditation Association (AAA) -- which recently conducted a site visit at La Sierra -- concluded that, subject to AAA approval, the university "should receive the maximum accreditation possible under AAA guidelines." La Sierra announced the team's findings online on February 8, but has since removed the statement from the university's website.

The full board of AAA will vote next month on a final accrediting recommendation for the school.

In its place, La Sierra has posted "An Open Letter Regarding the Teaching of Creation," in which the school states its apology, adding, "Instruction at the university, while being strong in many areas, has not adequately presented the denomination's position on the subject of creation."

"There is some evidence that students have not always been respected for their belief in the Biblical creation position," the La Sierra statement said.

In 2009, one LaSierra student said he'd felt that lack of respect. Louie Bishop told Adventist Review he was placed on "citizenship probation" by the school for circulating letters opposing the teaching of evolutionary concepts and for posting notes of a professor's classroom lecture online.

Following consultation with its Board of Trustees at a February 10 meeting, the university announced, "The Board adopted, and directed campus administration to implement, the following measures:

* Accept and implement the recommendations from the Adventist Accrediting Association.
* Develop faculty workshops regarding the challenges of teaching controversial topics such as those in biology.
* Continue the work in progress, (as identified [elsewhere in the statement]).
* Conduct regular follow-up surveys of biology students.
* Provide the Board with ongoing candid and prompt reports of both progress and challenges in dealing with this issue."

Moreover, the school said, "The university president and provost identified steps to address this issue that have already been taken or are currently in progress. These include:

* Ensuring that all biology students discuss key documents relating to our Adventist belief regarding origins, including Fundamental Belief #6 [and] the 2004 Annual Council Reaffirmation of Creation, and Genesis 1 and 2.
* Increased participation by the Church's Geoscience Research Institute in planning the General Biology Seminar.
* Ongoing refinement of the General Biology Seminar, based on student exit surveys and other input.
* Attendance of biology faculty members at the Geoscience Research Institute summer workshop.
* Continue the lecture series that presents a range of Adventist views on the integration of faith and science.
* Establish dialogue with biology professors from sister Adventist colleges and universities."

According to the statement, La Sierra's "biology department specifically commits to:

* Faithfully present the Seventh-day Adventist Church's position on creation.
* Respect every student's religious beliefs.
* Help students learn how to grapple with issues of faith and science in faith-affirming ways.
In conclusion, the statement said, "La Sierra University is committed to being an institution that does not just present the Church’s view of creation, but fully supports it. We pledge our commitment to work prayerfully and diligently to ensure that our mission to provide a rigorous and faith-affirming Seventh-day Adventist education is carried out on behalf of our students and our Church."

Daniel Jackson, president of the church’s North American Division, expressed hope at the news.

"I appreciate the expression of the La Sierra University administration and the Board in terms of their stated determination to promote the teachings of Scripture, in particular creation," Jackson said in a telephone interview.

"My prayer would be that God would give them the commitment and resolve to see this matter through in a way that will be a blessing to students, faculty and the constituency at large," Jackson said. "La Sierra University has had a reputation as an excellent institution."

David Asscherick, the Adventist pastor and evangelist whose open letter to church leaders in 2009 brought attention to the concerns at La Sierra University, also expressed optimism.

"I’m happy to see the university affirm the reality and seriousness of these issues, and I look forward to observing the implementation of their plan," he said during a March 10 visit to the Adventist Church headquarters.
GOP congressman says families should abandon city life

By Eric W. Dolan
March 15, 2011 @ 9:45 pm

In Breaking Banner, Nation | No Comments

In the documentary *Urban Danger*[^1], 84-year-old Republican Congressman Roscoe Bartlett, who is serving his tenth term as the representative of Maryland's Sixth District, explains why US citizens should avoid living in cities.

"There are a number of events that could create a situation in our cities where civil unrest could be a very high probability," Bartlett said in the film[^2]. "And I think that those who can and those who understand need to take advantage of this opportunity when the..."
winds of strife are not blowing to move their families out of the city."

"It's just plain fun when you're looking at the challenge of what do I have to do so that I'm independent of the system," he added.

Before becoming a member of Congress, Bartlett worked as a professor at the University of Maryland, research scientist, small business owner, and farmer. He was awarded 19 military patents for his inventions of life support equipment.

Rep. Bartlett is also a devout Seventh-day Adventist and conservationist who supports renewable energy legislation.

"As a member of Congress, I'm concerned, I would like everybody to do this," he continued. "I would like everybody to have a year's supply a food. I'd like everybody to have some plans so that they can make do if any one of these emergencies occurred. It's going to be easier to do that and you avoid the problems of civil unrest if you are out of the cities and in the country."

URL to article: http://www.rawstory.com/rs/2011/03/15/gop-congressman-says-families-should-abandon-city-life/

URLs in this post:

Copyright © 2011 The Raw Story. All rights reserved.
Work begins at Simi community garden

By Jeanne Brown Special to The Star
Tuesday, March 15, 2011

A sturdy group of volunteers built several raised planting beds during the Simi Valley Community Garden’s inaugural work day Sunday.

The Community Garden is located on a 2-acre piece of Simi Valley Seventh-day Adventist School and Church property at 1636 Sinaloa Road.

Church members, school parents and staff members and local gardeners comprised the group of about 20 who showed up with saws, hammers, a rototiller and a small tractor.

Dave Watkins, music director at the school and one of the garden's board members, said he was happy to help build the boxes. While he worked in his father's vegetable garden as a boy, he's "been a condo dweller for 10 years," he said.

Beth Dooley, the garden's executive director, said much was accomplished Sunday, including the completion of two large vegetable garden beds that the school's students will plant. Four small flower beds, which will serve as a sign at the garden's entrance, were also finished. Each of the beds will contain the letter S, I, M or I spelled out in white rock and surrounded by flowers.

"We hope to be able to get the rock and flowers in this week, but all the prep work is done, which was the hardest part," said Dooley, a Simi Valley city employee and resident.

The church allocated the land for the garden, which will eventually be divided into plots that community members can rent for a small annual fee, said Salina Perry, the garden's president. Perry is a member of the church and her son attends the school.

The garden is expected to consist of 200 10-by-20-foot plots for residents to cultivate. Volunteer architect Darin Gaines' plan for the garden also includes a fountain and picnic tables.

Water is still an issue, said Dooley, Watkins and Perry. The garden will likely need its own line to supply city water and a water meter. They have recently begun talks with the city to find out about requirements to bring a water line to the area, they said.

Dooley and Perry said they will make a presentation to the Sustainable Simi Valley Committee at its next meeting in May.

Support from the committee is important, Dooley and Perry said. Their best hope is to receive financial help with the costs to install the water line and meter. In the meantime, they are working to get major donations from corporations, foundations, service clubs
and individuals.

For more information, call 915-8678 or e-mail simiatthegarden@yahoo.com.
The Neighborhood Files

Poway Seventh-day Adventist Church Unveils Big Plans

The local church hopes to add a new building, members and a pastor within a year.

By Kristina Blake | Email the author | March 15, 2011
The Poway Seventh-day Adventist Church plans to soon have a new building, new members and even a new pastor.

The Poway SDA Church, which is located at 13940 Pomerado Road, is in a transition stage. The church is constructing a main sanctuary and planning on renovating its fellowship hall. At the same time, it is planning to merge with the San Diego Korean Seventh-day Adventist Church. And, because one of its two pastors, Pastor Richard Moore, accepted an out-of-state job and left in December, the church has an interim pastor, Pastor Lori Purdey, until the position is permanently filled.

The Poway SDA Church is currently in the grading phase of its construction project, which started in January. The planned building will seat 200 people. There will be as many as 80 parking spaces.

Pastor Limuel Liwanag said the new building is necessary because the church has 120-130 members, and its current sanctuary seats about 120 people.

“That is small for us anymore,” he said. “It has always been our dream to present a church that is acceptable to the community where people would be delighted to come over. New renovations, a new building would be something that will add to the beauty of the city.”

The new building will be attached to the old building, which will be used as a youth hall.

“I think it will be good for the group of believers that worship there, and I think also good for the community,” said church member Kieron Toussaint, who has attended the church since 1989. “We’ll have more room for growth. We’re maximizing the space as it is, so the increase in size will be good and something that is definitely needed.”

In addition to the new building, the Poway SDA Church plans to renovate its fellowship hall, which is located on a small hill behind the current sanctuary. If the city approves the plan, the church hopes to expand the one-story building to a two-story building, Liwanag said. The top floor would be a 200-seating capacity dining hall and the bottom floor would have classrooms for children.

The current fellowship hall, Liwanag said, has been a polling place for more than 20 years. The church allows the community to use the building for other various programs as well.

The Cancer Project, a nonprofit organization, has used the fellowship hall for three years, for example. In January, the nonprofit organized a cooking class series in the fellowship hall.

If the renovation project is approved, Liwanag said the church is considering allowing the community to use it as a daycare facility.

“The anticipation is to provide more services for the community,” Toussaint said. “We’re hoping to continue our good relationship with the community of Poway. We do quite a few things there, but we’re looking to do more.”

It addition to these projects, the Poway SDA Church is pursuing a merger with the San Diego Korean SDA Church.

The two churches have been working together to host a vacation bible school for children in the Poway community for the past few years.

The San Diego Korean SDA Church, which has services for Korean-speaking and English-speaking members, has also outgrown its building. Therefore, the church has been renting a facility.

“It appears that this is a center location for them, and so we’ve tried to pursue the possibility of joining,” Liwanag said.

The church’s regional office, the Southeastern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, has to approve the merger. Liwanag believes they will approve the merger within the next month.

“They’re going to look into it and see if this is something that will benefit both congregations and the community,” Liwanag said. “It’s almost a done deal.”

Do you attend the Poway Seventh-day Adventist Church? What do you think about the new changes? Tell us in the comments.
"We're excited about being a part of the community of Poway and being an asset to the City of Poway," said Im, who is a medical doctor based in Temecula. "We want to make an impact to everyone that's around there in a positive way."

If and when the merger is approved, the Poway SDA Church will have to modify its original building plan to accommodate more members. Liwanag said the modified plan would add a balcony to the new building, which would seat 49 more people. They plan to limit the capacity to 49 people so the church doesn't have to add an elevator, which would be too costly, he said. The new plan would also have to be approved by the city.

The original construction plan is expected to cost about $2.7 million, Liwanag said. A balcony is estimated to cost $200,000 more. The fellowship hall renovation project is estimated to cost roughly $1.5 million, Liwanag added.

If the merger happens, it will help the Poway SDA Church fund the projects, Liwanag said. The San Diego Korean SDA Church plans to sell its building.

"We're excited to be a part of that project and come and help them out with that project," Im said. "There is a financial need, and we're combining the strengths of two churches. We're stronger as one church, and were more capable of doing bigger projects, and the building project happens to be one of them."

The church hopes to finish its construction and renovation projects within a year, Liwanag said.

"I'm excited about what we can offer to the community," Liwanag said. "We are here not only for ourselves, but for the community. That's why I'm excited!"
The commercials are on television constantly. Eat this yogurt to help to feel more regular. Drink this juice for more energy. Subscribe to this plan to have meals delivered and to help lose weight.

A desire for a body that worked the way it was supposed to work is what drove Michelle Snow to write "The W.O.W. Diet." After having little to no success solving her problem, her husband suggested prayer to receive inspiration on how to proceed. The answer she received surprised her.

Snow, a registered nurse who has a doctorate in public health, had approached her issue purely from a scientific angle. The inspiration she received told her it was time to move beyond that perspective and see what the diets of various religions suggested.

From there, she studied the diets of six different religions — Seventh Day Adventist, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Latter-day Saints and Muslims — as well as what scientific research suggested. What she found through her extensive research was not only interesting, but helpful for understanding the reasoning behind each dietary constraint.

Finally, Michelle broke down the ideal diet based on information from her seven sources and labeled it the Word of Wisdom — or W.O.W. — diet. The Word of Wisdom is commonly known as the health law of the LDS Church and is found in Doctrine and Covenants 89.

To keep it simple, she pared it down into a few rules, including: fill your diet with legumes and whole grain; eat until you are no longer hungry, not full; eat breakfast, eat at regular intervals, eat meat sparingly, eat foods in their natural state whenever possible, don't be afraid to eat snacks to tide you over until meals, drink water liberally, avoid refined sugars and grains, fatty foods and processed foods.

While nothing in this diet is necessarily unique or out of the ordinary — nutritionist have been preaching these concepts for more than 20 years now — the research and background is what makes this book a compelling read. Seeing the comparisons of where these seven different groups agree and where they diverge from each other made for an interesting thought process that lead to an examination of the average western diet. The end of this book hosts multiple pages of suggested reading, all in support of the W.O.W diet.

After her research and dietary journals, Snow included nearly 100 recipes to give those trying the diet a jump start. They provided recipes are not only nutritionally sound but varied and approachable for the home cook. She also goes out of her way to denote which recipes are gluten free.

Kevin Whitmer is a chef living in West Valley City with his wife and two children.
Japanese ties tug at local residents as crisis deepens

A man walks with his face covered to protect against dust Monday in Yotsukura, Japan. AP Photo/Gregory Bull
By Kate Harrison
Monday, March 14, 2011

Area residents with ties to Japan are grappling with worry and disbelief as the impact of Friday’s earthquake and tsunami grows worse.

“It’s still not hitting me much because I was in Japan till few days ago and it was so peaceful. I still can’t believe it,” Ashley Uyeda, a Southern Adventist University student who grew up in Japan, said in an e-mail.

Her mother lives in Chiba, a district in the Tokyo area, and wrote her an e-mail this weekend saying that Tokyo residents are doing everything they can to conserve electricity.

“Our area will have our electricity turned off for about 3.5 hours in the morning and 3.5 hours in the afternoon. They are saying that there isn’t enough electricity to last very long, so everyone has to help.” She added: “We have news of the disaster all day long on all TV stations. Can’t believe that it was so big.”

Although Uyeda said the nuclear crisis is not affecting her immediate family, she’s worried about many relatives living close to the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station. Her mother still hasn’t heard from them. About 200,000 people have been evacuated as experts battle to stave off radiation leaks and meltdowns.

Daniel Coulbourne, a student at Covenant College who grew up in Japan, said the streets around his family’s apartment in Shin-Uraysia are buckled, water is flowing up from the cracks and the air is dusty and dark.

“The grocery store my mom usually goes to is four feet up off the sidewalk,” he said in a telephone interview Sunday. His dad has to wait in line for drinking water, and there are huge lines in all the stores, he said.

He’s been looking online at photos of familiar places now devastated by the quake. One video he watched showed plates of ground shifting in the park he used to ride through every day on his school commute.

Coulbourne said his initial worries for his family have subsided, but he’s still uneasy about the possibility of nuclear crisis.

“I’m still substantially worried about the power plants,” Coulbourne said. “But I feel a lot of relief knowing my family’s alive and doing relatively well.”

Japanese earthquake aftermath
An official scans a man for radiation at an emergency center Sunday in Koriyama, northeastern Japan. AP Photo/Gregory Bull
view photo gallery