AIM: Inbound and Outbound

Most Adventist church leaders know about Adventist Information Ministry (AIM), but not everyone knows that AIM is an outreach ministry support service as well as a central contact point for information.

AIM Inbound, Your Contact Point service center 16 hours a day 365 days a year: Who do you call if you want to know more? AIM, the NAD evangelistic contact center, is open with live operators ready to respond and to assist with all outreach endeavors of the church with follow-up care. Whether you are a local church promoting a seminar or the It Is Written weekly TV program, connecting through an AIM 800# gives your audience access to personal, real person, conversation. AIM customizes answering for your specific needs: take an order, make a reservation, prayer, Bible Study sign up and Chaplaincy care. In 2010 AIM took more than 290,000 calls from individuals interested in what our Church has to offer. If you are reaching out be sure you have a plan in place to care for those responding. Explore how AIM can support your ministry at the AIM website or call Rebecca Lofthouse at 269-471-6029.

AIM - Reach Out and Build a Relationship! When you want to make a call and connect with your supporters, clients, constituents and members, AIM is designed to help with that also. AIM is the Division’s central contact center and offers outbound calling services to assist in relationship building, fundraising, surveys, etc. They apply a uniquely spiritual approach to all outreach endeavors. People feel special when they receive a personal call. For more information go to www.callaim.org or call Melissa Lee at 269-471-6776 for help to set up a campaign.
**U.S. News & World Report Ranks LLU Medical Center No. 1**

Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC) tops 40 other hospitals in new metro-area rankings released by *U.S. News & World Report* on March 29. LLUMC’s rankings note high performance in seven specialties — cancer; diabetes and endocrinology; ear, nose, and throat; gynecology; kidney disorders; pulmonary care; and urology — nearly half of the 16 specialty categories considered. Read the full story in the [NAD website news](https://www.nad.org/). For the full list of metro area rankings, visit [www.usnews.com/hospitals](http://www.usnews.com/hospitals).

**Bermuda’s Unconventional Witness to Gangs and Victims**

Scott Smith of Bermuda is gaining recognition for advocating unconventional ministry to gang members and victims of gang violence alike. For a year, Smith has visited the families of every victim of gang violence. 'The Bible says 'Go ye therefore to the world,' not 'Go ye therefore to church,'” says Smith. The former drug addict now calls himself "advocate for a better Bermuda.” His efforts to enlist the support of local churches in his ministry earned him a March 30 front-page feature in Bermuda’s national newspaper, *The Royal Gazette*. By the next day, Smith says he’d gotten 50 calls, most from concerned parents in the community.

Read the story at [ANN NEWS](https://annnews.org/)

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

- [Adventist-supported practice earns national recognition](https://_mysuburbanlife.com/)
  MySuburbanLife, April 4

- [Annual Passion Play Returns](https://nilesdailystar.com/)
  Niles Daily Star, April 3

- [Vegetarian Diet Cuts Metabolic Disease Risk](https://www.foodproductdesign.com/)
  Food Product Design, April 3

- [Court Says Adventist Postmen Can’t Get Saturday Off](https://beliefnetnews.com/)
  BeliefNet News, April 3

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**Upcoming Events:**

- **Transformación- La Verdad te Libertará**
  April 8-12, 7:00-8:00 p.m. ET and 8:00-9:00 p.m. PT - José V. Rojas, on [Esperanza TV](https://www.esperanzatv.org/)

- **FREE: Adventist Single Adult Ministries (ASAM) Webinar**
  April 12 at 8pm EST. [More](https://www.adventists.org/)

- **Construyendo un hogar feliz**
  April 16-24, 8:00-9:30 p.m. ET, and 8:00-9:30 p.m. PT - Adly Campos, on [Esperanza TV](https://www.esperanzatv.org/)

- **The Creation Evolution Debate**
  May 4–8. [Handbills and handouts](https://www.adventists.org/)

- **Family Ministries - Church Growth Webinar**
  May 10 at 8 p.m. EST. [Register and more](https://www.adventists.org/)

- **Non-profit Leadership Certification Program**
  May 15–19 Basic Curriculum Link. [More](https://www.adventists.org/)

- **Adventist Single Adult Ministries Day**
  May 21 [More](https://www.adventists.org/)

- **Women's Emphasis Day:**
  June 11 [More](https://www.adventists.org/)

- **PSI's International Conference on Philanthropy**
  June 21–24 [More](https://www.adventists.org/)

- **ASI Convention**
  August 3–6 in Sacramento, CA. [More](https://www.adventists.org/)

- **Festival of the Laity**
  September 7–10, Dallas, Tex. [More](https://www.adventists.org/)
Check out the April 2011 online edition of Adventist World. NAD stories include:

“Camp Meetings in North America” - pages 11-13
“Making Sense of the Creation-Evolution Update” - pages 14-15
“Beyond Sibling Rivalry” - page 17
“The ‘Art’ of Bullying” - page 34

Grow Your Church Through Adventist Single Adult Ministries (ASAM)

April 12, 8:00 p.m. ET: FREE webinar to help create exciting, meaningful ministries for single adults in your church and community. Learn to think outside the box for reaching singles. Create an ASAM program that can become the foundation for significant church growth. Explore outreach opportunities you may be missing. Learn to identify different types of singles and how to evaluate your single adult ministry. Find resources to get started or to take your ASAM to the next level, and more. Concludes with a live question and answer session led by Andrea D. Hicks, founder of F.O.C.U.S. Ministries and coordinator of ASAM. More

NAD Statistical Resources Now Online

The 4th Quarter 2010 Membership Report is now online at the NAD Secretariat website. The Secretariat site also contains the Treasury Reports and Camp Meeting Schedule. The Camp Meeting Schedule is regularly updated as changes come in.

ASI's New Website is Up and Running

The Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) ASI website has been redesigned for easier use and access. It serves as both a source of information and an outreach tool. ASI is a cooperative network of lay individuals, professionals and ministries who share a common commitment: to support the global mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

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

Ron E M Clouzet, DMin, Timothy G Standish, PhD, May 4-8, LIVE on the Hope Channel, 7:30-9:00 pm ET/PT, 6:30-8:00 pm CT. MTZ should record the ETZ uplink.
Order handbills, door hangers, posters and more. Mailing services available. No handouts or study guides needed. Download news story and ads for local newspapers.

"Every Word" 1-Minute Devotionals

“Every Word” is the brand new Daily Devotional, a 1-minute video by It Is Written Speaker/Director, John Bradshaw, available via computer or mobile phone. Sign up or watch now.

Remembering Passover and the Last Supper at Easter


Now Open: New La Sierra Center for Research on Adventist Education

The Center’s special focus is applied research to benefit K-12 education. It builds upon the CognitiveGenesis study. The first project, according to Center Director Elissa Kido, is to create a decision-making tool for Adventist parents. Read the full story in the April issue of the Pacific Union Recorder.
Who Is In Your Boat?

Larry Blackmer, Vice President for Education

Stay Socially Connected with NAD

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12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904 | Visit: nadadventist.org

George Johnson Jr., communication director | Bernadine Delafield, NET evangelism coordinator
Lynetta Murdoch, editorial assistant. Email: newspoints@nad.adventist.org

Sent to ahc@andrews.edu: unsubscribe | update profile | forward to a friend
In Bermuda, Adventist ministers to gang community, enlists support of area churches

Former drug addict now calls himself 'advocate for a better Bermuda'

5 Apr 2011, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States
Elizabeth Lechleitner/ANN

A Seventh-day Adventist layperson in Bermuda wants the island nation's churches to shut their doors. For a month.

"The bible says 'Go ye therefore to the world,' not 'Go ye therefore to church," said Scott Smith, who is gaining recognition in Bermuda for advocating unconventional ministry to gang members and victims of gang violence alike.

The 44-year-old native Bermudian isn't against corporate worship; he's a member of the Pembroke Adventist Church. But he says many people won't step foot in a church -- not even one like Pembroke, which is situated in a neighborhood notorious for gang violence and is responsive to its community's unique needs.

To connect with their neighbors, Christians should visit them, Smith says -- a simple, obvious solution, but one he's observed is more likely to generate talk than action.

If churches in Bermuda closed their doors for a month, members and leaders could channel energy, time and resources into a concerted effort to change the atmosphere on Bermuda's streets, Smith says.

Parts of the Atlantic Ocean island nation have experienced escalating gang violence in recent years, leaving many Bermudians bracing themselves for the next shooting, Smith says.

Last week, Smith met and prayed with a mother whose 16-year-old son was shot in the family's front yard in what she described as an act of gang retribution. Among the lucky ones, her son is recovering in an area hospital, Smith says.

For a year now, Smith says he has visited the family of every victim of gang violence. "I hear about a shooting, I go," he says. "I know not everyone will accept Christ, but if I can share his love, that's something. You can't show people the Second Coming of Christ until you show them the love of Christ." Smith, who introduces himself as "an advocate for a better Bermuda," often asks, "Where did we go wrong?" It's a question he's used countless times as a conversation wedge with gang members, families mourning a loss to gang violence and government officials. It generates a sense of shared responsibility, he says.

"Sometimes we're so quick to condemn, or to sell an agenda or a message, that we forget to acknowledge that we messed up somewhere along the way, too," Smith says.

Admitting that church members can and have made mistakes is key to getting community members to open up, Smith says. And when they do, be ready to listen, he says. "You'll develop relationships; you'll build trust."

Smith's background is one many he ministers to can identify with. As a troubled teenager, he was introduced to the Adventist faith, but for a time maintained parallel lives: one, as a drug addict flirting with gang affiliation; another, as a young man fascinated by the Daniel and Revelation seminars held in his neighborhood.

Smith says his past on the streets lends him credibility, but his lack of academic credentials makes entering ministry to gang members and victims of gang violence difficult. While he studied briefly at church-run Oakwood University in Alabama, United States, Smith dropped out when his father's painting business floundered and finances evaporated.

His efforts to enlist the support of local churches in his ministry earned him a March 30 front-page feature in Bermuda's national newspaper, The Royal Gazette. By the next day, Smith says he'd gotten 50 calls, most from concerned parents in the community.

"They'll say, 'Scott, can you help me? I have a son who's involved in a gang. Can you go talk to him?" Smith says.

He's happy to provide spiritual support and, when he can, advocacy, Smith says. He has vouched for numerous former gang members seeking employment, matching several with area employers.

Talking is free, but Smith hopes local churches will contribute resources toward his ministry to help provide the tangible needs -- such as food, clothing, shelter and education -- community members face.

Smith's pastor, Stefan Burton Schnüll, applauds his passion, but says closing Pembroke Adventist Church's doors for a month may not be the answer. Many church members are ill equipped to work with gang members and a month's show of support may be just that -- a short-lived gesture rather than a sustained effort. Schnüll said he would prefer devoting an entire Sabbath every other month to ministry in gang-affected communities.

Meanwhile, Pembroke is partnering with local Anglican and Catholic congregations to organize an Easter weekend event to commemorate victims of gun violence and offer services such as counseling, prayer, food and music to community members.

"Of course, this is only one event. We need a regular presence in the community," Schnüll said. "Scott is right about that."
William Dejaun Tull, who pastors the Somerset Adventist Church, calls Smith a friend and says he plans to set up a meeting with Adventist Church administration in Bermuda to see how the church can better support his ministry.

"We are aware of the growing gang problem in Bermuda, we support what he's doing and we are looking for ways to help, but as a pastor, I need to be careful that I don't put unrealistic expectations on my members," Tull says. "A lot of them are very unsure how to minister to the gang community."

If Smith wants to present his ministry to members on Sabbath morning, Tull says he would make time during services.

Smith says he would welcome the opportunity to speak at area Adventist churches. He has previously accepted invitations to share his ministry in several area schools and businesses, as well as Bermuda's Senate chamber.

He now serves on a chamber committee brainstorming ideas for community improvement.
Adventist-supported practice earns national recognition

By Brian Hudson, bhudson@mysuburbanlife.com
La Grange Suburban Life
Posted Apr 04, 2011 @ 06:00 PM

La Grange, IL — Illinois Heart and Vascular, a program supported by La Grange Adventist hospitals, has earned the Bridges to Excellence Cardiology Practice Recognition, becoming one of 11 practices in the country to achieve the status.

The organization completed a pilot program and met quality performance standards to earn the certificate, which is endorsed by the American College of Cardiology, according to a hospital news release.

The practice is part of the Adventist Heart and Vascular Institute, which was created last year when Adventist Hinsdale and Adventist La Grange Memorial hospitals combined efforts with Adventist Health Partners and the cardiology practice of Illinois Heart and Vascular.

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The emergence of spring at Andrews University brings with it an opportunity to witness to the community. Since 2003, Andrews University has hosted its annual Easter Passion Play on campus, drawing thousands of audience members from across the country to each event. With the help of more than 600 community and student volunteers, the eighth annual Easter Passion Play will return on Saturday, April 23 to celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

“Families will love the Easter Passion Play because it is interactive learning,” said Ron Whitehead, executive producer of the Easter Passion Play. “The Bible story comes alive with the sights, sounds and smells of Bible times. It is the most powerful story ever told.”

The first Easter Passion Play on the campus of Andrews University was produced in 2003 under Whitehead’s vision and direction. Since its beginning, the production has grown from attracting a 5,000-member crowd to an estimated 10,000 expected at this year’s production.

The indoor/outdoor walk-through experience begins at the Howard Performing Arts Center with a short video welcome and the opening scene. Then, visitors head outdoors to be part of the crowd at Jesus’ triumphal entry into the Jerusalem marketplace. The audience will then be guided through the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of the marketplace, complete with live animals and food samples. Continuing on the journey, participants will experience a Roman encampment, hear Christ’s words at the Last Supper and witness the arrest of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The reality of Christ’s sacrifice is depicted through a moving crucifixion scene followed by a lights-and-sound show in the darkened Johnson Gym. The production culminates here with the savior emerging victorious from the tomb.

Hospitality staff will greet and assist participants as they exit the gym. Free refreshments will be available at the Hospitality Tent sponsored by Pioneer Memorial Church. Visitors can take a moment to reflect in the Prayer Room and/or ride a free shuttle bus back to main event parking areas.

“Being part of the Easter Passion Play is all about service,” said Dave Fernandez, Spanish student at Andrews University. Fernandez portrayed the role of Jesus during the 2009 and 2010 Easter Passion Plays. He said: “You have to pray for God to humble you and let him be seen through you… When you allow yourself to be broken and used — it’s an incredible blessing.”

Individuals, families, church and school groups are encouraged to reserve wristbands early for this event. Wristbands will be given at the first scene and can be reserved online for free at www.passionplay.andrews.edu. The first rotation will begin at 10 a.m. followed by new rotations every 30 minutes until 6:30 p.m. The Spanish rotations will take place at 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Participants To volunteer, visit www.passionplay.andrews.edu and click on the “Volunteers” link. Volunteers must complete a registration form and receive approval in order to participate in the event. Non-speaking roles are still available.

Founded in 1874, Andrews University is the flagship institution of higher education for the Seventh-day Adventist church, located one-half mile east of the U.S. 31 Bypass in Berrien Springs.
Court Says Adventist Postmen Can’t Get Saturday Off

April 5, 2011

Categories: faith, news, RNS

(RNS) Neither snow nor rain nor Saturday Sabbaths should keep a Missouri mailman from his appointed rounds, a federal appeals court has ruled.

Seventh-day Adventist Hosea Harrell argued he was the victim of religious discrimination when the U.S. Postal Service refused to give him Saturdays off. Harrell took the days off anyway and was fired in 2008.

Like Jews, Seventh-day Adventists observe the Sabbath from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday, and believe the day should be kept holy by refraining from secular work.

But the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, upholding a lower court decision, ruled that giving Harrell Saturdays off would create an “undue hardship” for his fellow mail carriers and the post office where he worked.

“This accommodation would have burdened other letter carriers with more Saturday work at least in part because they did not share Harrell’s religious beliefs,” wrote Circuit Judge Bobby Shepherd.

Also, the Warrensburg post office schedule is determined by seniority and could not have been changed without violating a collective bargaining agreement with a mail carriers’ union, according to Shepherd. Harrell was the most junior letter carrier.

The six other mail carriers were asked to give up their Saturdays but declined. Harrell was offered a different position with the USPS and leave to attend church services on Saturday, but rejected both offers, according to Shepherd. The routes could not have been covered using fewer carries, the USPS argued.

- DANIEL BURKE, Religion News Service
LOMA LINDA, Calif.—Individuals who adhere to a vegetarian diet have a lower risk of developing metabolic disease like diabetes and cardiovascular disease, according to a new study published in the journal *Diabetes Care*.

Researchers at Loma Linda University conducted a cross-sectional analysis of 773 adults who participated in the Adventist Health Study 2. Measuring for metabolic risk factors, they found vegetarians had lower levels of triglycerides, glucose, blood pressure and waist circumference than non-vegetarians. The only exception was cholesterol.

As reported by Reuters, the researchers found 23 out of every 100 vegetarians have at least three metabolic syndrome factors, compared with 39 out of every 100 non-vegetarians and 37 out of every 100 semi-vegetarians. Vegetarians’ average BMI of 25.7 was four points lower than non-vegetarians, who had BMIs near 30.