Adventist Education is Evangelistic

The North American Division oversees the largest organized private school system in the world. About 90,000 students are enrolled in 1,380 educational institutions. Their purpose is to teach students to live an ethical and holistic life.

The Value Genesis Study reveals that Adventist® school students remain in church longer than those who attend public school. In fact, many parents and students are baptized as a result of Adventist education, according to Larry Blackmer, vice president for education.

Adventist education begins at home and benefits family life. As the Cognitive Genesis Study demonstrated, families that have worship have a stronger family life. Students learn better because of family worship.

Adventist educational benefits extend to society. “Education raises the economic, social and intellectual level, and in addition, Adventist education emphasizes character building,” says Blackmer. “A college diploma will add nearly a million dollars to a person’s lifetime income,” he adds,

Adventist education faces several challenges. The biggest one is sustainability. “It is difficult to run a private school system in this economy,” says Blackmer. “I believe strongly that every child deserves a quality Adventist education.” In addition, “It is a struggle to find high-quality, dedicated leaders. The most important part of Adventist education is the teacher. That’s why Adventist education administrators emphasize that the teacher is not employed by the church, but called by Jesus.”
Texas Wildfire Response

Wildfires raced across Texas last week and the Possum Kingdom Lake area was greatly affected. James Buckmaster, pastor of Mineral Wells and Graham Churches, reported that his home narrowly missed being consumed by fire. The Mineral Wells Church wanted to do something to help.

The Texas Conference Adventist Community Services Disaster Response Depot delivered Personal Care Kits to the Mineral Wells Adventist Church, and the members distributed them to area motels, requesting that the desk clerks make them available for the evacuees.

A Personal Care Kit consists of: towel, washcloth, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, comb, soap, and deodorant. To help replenish Personal Care Kits, donations may be sent to Texas Disaster Depot, P.O. Box 35, Keene, TX 76059. (One kit costs $5.00.)

AWR to Expand Guam Station

The Board of Directors of Adventist World Radio has approved, in concept, the expansion of AWR’s shortwave broadcasting facility on the island of Guam in the Pacific Ocean. This project will result in much better coverage of China, a critical mission area for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. More

"The Adventists" wins Gabriel Award

Have you seen The ADVENTISTS? This film, the latest production from filmmaker Martin Doblmeier and Journey Films, has won the Gabriel Award as this year's outstanding nationally released film on religion. The Gabriel Award, established in 1965, is considered one of the nation's top media awards honoring a "values-centered view of society and humanity."

Go to the News Section at the North American Division website for more details and links.

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

Adventists in the News

With Homeless Shelters Full, Howard County Churches Helped Dozens
This Winter
ColumbiaPatch Newsletter, April 26

Despite difficult financial times, local church rally behind music program
The Examiner Washington, April 24

Testimony in Clay
CB55 News Channel Cheyenne, April 24

In Loma Linda, the checkmate is in the mail
The Sun - San Bernardino, April 23

Singing group Committed makes splash at Oakwood gala
Huntsville Times, April 22

How to Live Forever
Newsweek, Apr 10, 2011

**GIEN Global Internet Evangelism Network**

GIEN 2011 will meet in Montego Bay, Jamaica, June 1-2. Anyone interested in using the Internet to share the good news of the gospel is invited to attend. Register now through May 26.

**SONscreen Winners Announced**

Do you need a video created for your organization or ministry? Whether you just want to see who won, or need to know who to contact to create a video for you, you will be interested in the winning videos in categories such as Best in Fest, Audience Choice Award, Best Documentary, Best Comedy, and more. For the rest of the story go to the NAD website, News Section.

Contact: www.SONscreen.com to see the winners. If your organization needs to produce a video, the SONscreen office can help you reach a winning SONscreen videographer. Contact info@sonscreen.com or 805-955-7773.

**Churches Check Nursery Cribs**

New Safety Regulations -- Be sure to read the article in the Adventist Review about new safety regulations from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, effective this June, for cribs. Churches and any child care facility or anyone involved in caring for small children will want to be sure that their cribs are safe.
**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**

Opening night Standish and Clouzet will explore, *The Way We Were: A Look at Deep Time*.

During the next four sessions they will discuss the life of creatures, genetics, radiometric dating, the age of the earth and the flood and fossils. The final presentation May 8 will summarize areas of debate to strengthen personal faith in an omnipotent God and His creative powers. [More](#)

This seminar is hosted by respected theologian, Dr. Ron E. M. Clouzet and research scientist Dr. Timothy G. Standish of the Geoscience Research Institute. It will begin Wednesday evening, May 4, 7:30-9:00 pm ET, PT, on [Hope Channel](#), DirecTV or [Hope Church Channel](#).

**Pathfinder Games and Events**

Over 150 games and activities are included that promote good sportsmanship, Bible knowledge, and practical application of Pathfinder skills. Activities such as a Bible Quiz Program, Nature Alphabet, Triangular Bandage Relay, and a wide range of more indoor and outdoor activities. Step-by-step instructions and equipment lists included.

AdventSource: Catalog #001184 ($10.95) [More](#)

**Adventist e-Books**

Adventist publishing houses have e-books for Kindle, with special web pages which are continually updated. Check them out regularly at: [Pacific Press e-books](#) or [Review and Herald e-books](#) You can also search at Amazon.com for “Adventist e-books.”

**Breakthrough, Transformación Series with Jose Rojas, and More**
The Breakthrough series (in English and Spanish) presented by José Rojas in 2010, and again on the Hope Channel, April 8-14, 2011. It and other evangelistic and training events can be viewed or purchased at the North Pacific Union’s website.

Viewpoints of Leaders in NAD

“Who does the choosing? God does. Who does He choose? The foolish, the weak and the base... We have our meetings and we choose people. We need to make sure we’re choosing people God has chosen.” —Alex Bryant, executive secretary of the North American Division, sharing the Sunday morning devotional at the 26th Constituency Session of the Columbia Union Conference. (From the April 17 Visitor News Bulletin)

“One of the greatest gifts that parents can give to their children is to love their spouse!” -- Claudio & Pamela Consuegra, NAD Family Ministry Directors, at a marriage retreat, “Love for a Lifetime,” April 15-17 in Guelph, Ontario, Canada

Stay Socially Connected with NAD
Press Release: AWR Board Approves Plans for Expansion of Guam Shortwave Station

April 11, 2011 16:45

by Shelley Nolan Freesland
AWR Communication Director

The Board of Directors of Adventist World Radio has approved, in concept, the expansion of AWR’s shortwave broadcasting facility on the island of Guam in the Pacific Ocean. This project will result in much better coverage of China, a critical mission area for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Guam station, which was established in 1987, currently broadcasts programs in 30+ languages for nearly 300 hours each week to a large portion of Asia. Just over half of these hours consist of Mandarin programming for listeners in China. The station’s shortwave footprint also includes India; together with China, these two countries contain close to half of the world’s population. As well, listeners in countries such as Vietnam, North Korea, Cambodia, Indonesia and more can all hear AWR programs in their own languages.

The station’s broadcast equipment consists of six towers, four curtain antennas, and five transmitters. The largest tower is 330 feet tall, and each curtain antenna is about the size of two football fields. The shortwave signals that are generated can travel for thousands of miles, enabling the gospel message to freely enter non-Christian areas without being subject to government control.

The current equipment cannot provide a signal of sufficient strength, at the right frequency, to adequately reach listeners in northern China, Mongolia, Siberia, and beyond. Adding a fifth antenna will enable AWR to broadcast a strong signal to these areas during prime listening hours, as well as simultaneously transmit additional programs in more languages.

“Over the years, our Mandarin broadcasts have generated incredible response from listeners in China,” says AWR president Dowell Chow. “But these listeners are primarily located in the south part of the country, where our signal is much more consistent and clear. So our goal is to provide the same quality of broadcasts to the millions of people in the northern areas.

“At the same time, we are continuing to develop programs in additional languages. We are excited to have recently found producers in Tibet and Bhutan. But once their programs are ready for broadcast, we will need to be ready to add them to our airtime schedule.”

While AWR recently put significant resources into launching a comprehensive podcasting system – in which all of its radio programs can also be heard worldwide online – the organization recognizes that shortwave broadcasts are still a vital part of its mission, Chow says. “In spite of the growth in Internet usage,” he explains, “shortwave is still the primary method of receiving information for literally hundreds of millions of people. A full 24 percent of the world’s population does not have regular access to electricity. So at AWR, we remain very aware that our listeners are extremely diverse.”
AWR hopes that the installation of the new tower and antenna can be completed by the end of 2012, which is the Guam station’s 25th anniversary year.

Adventist World Radio is the mission radio arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Programs are broadcast throughout Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Middle East through shortwave and AM/FM radio. All of AWR’s multi-language programming is also available worldwide as podcasts and on-demand at awr.org.

–end–
The ADVENTISTS wins prestigious Gabriel Award as top religion program

How the Adventist approach to health has made its members some of the healthiest and longest living people on earth

The ADVENTISTS, the latest production from filmmaker Martin Doblmeier and Journey Films, has won the Gabriel Award as this year's outstanding nationally released film on religion. The Gabriel Award, established in 1965, is considered one of the nation's top media awards honoring a "values-centered view of society and humanity." This year's winners also included Walden Media (The Chronicles of Narnia), DreamWorks Animation (How to Train Your Dragon), WGBH's American Experience (My Lai), WNET Thirteen (Art Through Time), and the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. (Volunteerism in Canada).

The ADVENTISTS is a documentary film now airing on PBS stations that tells the story of the Seventh-day Adventist faith and its unique approach to health and healing that has made its members some of the healthiest and longest living people on earth.

"We released the film to PBS stations last spring at a time when our country was deeply embroiled in the health care debate as an alternative to the media’s focus on health and economics," says Martin Doblmeier who has won five previous Gabriel Awards including one for BONHOEFFER. "The ADVENTISTS story offered a way to speak about health care in terms of faith - that health care could be 'sacred work,' that caring for the body was caring for the 'temple of God' and many people resonated with those ideas."

The ADVENTISTS is a production of Journey Films of Alexandria, VA and a presentation of SCETV. For more information contact Shyla Palm (Shyla@journeyfilms.com) or visit www.journeyfilms.com. The DVD is available on Amazon.

To watch clips visit YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXqX1ckgOuY and http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2JDyAezM-rk
Also "like" The Adventists page on Facebook
and follow the film on Twitter: @TheADVENTISTS
Volunteers in the News

With Homeless Shelters Full, Howard County Churches Helped Dozens This Winter

A cooperative effort between Grassroots and 16 area churches meant that many homeless had a warm place to sleep on cold winter nights.

By David Greisman | Email the author | April 26, 2011

One of the guests at the cold weather shelter sits in the communal family bedroom on the floor in a Howard County church. Credit Courtesy Photo

For the four coldest months of the year—and at a time when shelters were full—dozens of homeless in Howard County still had a place to stay at night in area churches, according to figures released this week.

The homeless included twice as many children as in past years of Grassroots’ cold-weather shelter program.

For the 18 weeks between Nov. 22 and March 28, a total of 78 people stayed at churches around Howard County, according to the Columbia-based social services agency.

Each of the 16 congregations hosted them for one to two weeks, giving food, doing laundry and providing transportation, clothing, medicine and a place to sleep for between 20 and 25 homeless people at a time.

This past winter’s number is in line with what Grassroots has served in the past several years, according to Andrea Ingram, the agency’s executive director.

Grassroots organizes, helps run and provides some staff for the program. The churches set up temporary shelters inside their buildings and staff them with volunteers.

"I think the most we’ve served is 100 and the least we’ve served is about 70. There’s some turnover," Ingram said. "We’re trying to move people out into permanent housing or other opportunities that are really a more stable situation than being in a cold weather shelter.

The cold-weather shelter guests are driven each day from The Mall in Columbia to the church that is hosting them a.m., when they are brought back to the mall. Special arrangements are made for those who need to get to work early or must be taken to school.
This winter’s 78 guests included 39 individuals, three couples without children and 10 families with children, according to statistics Grassroots compiled. The program served 20 children, which is twice as much as the highest number in previous years.

Seventeen of the 78 were repeat visitors from years past.

“There’s a certain population that really are chronically homeless,” Ingram said. “These are folks who are going to tend to have addiction or mental health issues, that are resistant to treatments.”

That doesn’t mean that some people are destined to be in the program each year, she said. One person came in for six straight winters before she finally moved into a full-time shelter and then into permanent housing.

A majority of those who were in the cold weather shelter program this year – 59 people, or 67 percent – left the program with what Grassroots calls “a positive resolution of their situation.”

Those positive resolutions include 24 people moving into permanent housing such as apartments, 17 people moving in with family members or friends, 11 people entering Grassroots’ full-time shelter, and seven people entering another shelter. Two people were hospitalized, and officials aren’t certain of the fate of the remaining 17.

The number of people using the program doesn’t really depend on how bad the winter is. “Cold is cold,” Ingram said. But the number of families stands out to her.

“Starting in 2008, we started to get more hotline calls related to financial stress and financial needs,” she said. “Even people in Howard County were affected by the recession, just like everybody else. There were families that were more vulnerable.”

The cold weather shelter program began last decade.

“We were just experiencing so many people that we couldn’t serve,” Ingram said. “It’s hard on the people we can’t help, and it’s hard on staff. You want to put something together quickly. Nobody’s coming to you and saying ‘Here’s all the money you need to expand.’ ”

Partnering with local churches was a natural move.

“It’s a very big investment, but it’s also for one week and it fulfills part of their mission as a faith community,” Ingram said. “I’ve had congregations that would say to us that just doing this program has transformed their congregation.”

Those in the program also get help with food stamps, medical assistance, social-service referrals, resume preparation and tax returns, according to Grassroots.

“We don’t give up hope on those who are chronically homeless,” Ingram said. “If we see them again next year, we have another opportunity to engage with them.”

According to Grassroots, the congregations that participated in this winter’s cold weather shelter program were Atholton Seventh Day Adventist Church, Bethany United Methodist Church, Columbia Community Church, Covenant Baptist Church, Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church, Cornerstone Community Church, First Presbyterian Church, Gary Memorial United Methodist Church, Glen Mar United Methodist Church, Grace Community Church, Kittamaqundi Community Church, Linden-Linthicum United Methodist Church, Owen Brown Interfaith Center, St. Paul’s Catholic Church, St. John Baptist Church, and St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church.
Despite difficult financial times, local church rally behind music program

By Patrick McCoy, DC Performing Arts Examiner
April 24th, 2011 9:51 pm ET

The stories are countless about the arts being cut in public schools and performing arts arenas due to the recent financial times. Church music programs have been affected in the same manner. In spite of such hardships, the music ministry of Takoma Park Seventh Day Adventist recently presented an Easter concert that was excellent in every meaning of the word. Anwar Ottley, who serves as the Minister of Music led the evening of music with a spirit of enthusiasm. “How can you tell a young musician he can’t have a concert?” said Pastor de Silva before the audience assembled. Silva explained that Takoma SDA in its 107 years has had a celebrated history of musical excellence and the down turn in the economy threatened to end the traditions of the annual Christmas and Easter concerts at the church. Ottley, who is a young, energetic individual in spite of the grim situation still managed to maintain one of the church’s long standing traditions.

Under the direction of Ottley, the program featured the various choirs of the church, guest soloists and instrumentalists. The program opened with two movements from a Mendelssohn organ sonata performed superbly by the church organist, Joy Leilani Garbutt. A variety of vocal combinations where featured throughout the evening: from the full choir singing Horatio Parker’s great anthem The Lord is my Light accompanied by brass, organ and tympani to the Men’s Chorus rendering a rousing version of the Baptist hymn, Yes God Is Real. At the conclusion, Ottley was recognized for his hard work and heart for music ministry.

This type of visionary leadership and commitment serves as a model for any church experiencing financial difficulties to find creative ways to maintain the excellence of the arts in worship.

Tags: Takoma Park Seventh Day Adventist Church, Anwar Ottley, Music, easter 2011
From around the web

- Douglas LaBier: Why Most Relationship Advice Fails (And What To Do When It Does) (The Huffington Post)
- Tough love prescribed for Nigeria’s wounds (Financial Times)
- Do Animals have Souls? (Petside.com)

We recommend

- Easter Services in and around Baltimore
- Two concerts celebrate Ellington's music and legacy
- MORE THAN A CONCERT: Handel's "Messiah" made an experience
- Mount Carmel Christian Church hosts busy Easter week
Another Easter celebration took place on Saturday at The Seventh Day Adventist Church here in Cheyenne.

Sculptor Victor Issa transforms a life-size clay sculpture of the head of Jesus to depict several states of His life; such as His Ministry, crucifixion and return as King of Kings.

Issa's Testimony In Clay has been presented across the United States as well as overseas.
In Loma Linda, the checkmate is in the mail

John Weeks, Staff Writer

Posted: 04/23/2011 03:39:00 PM PDT

Loma Linda is special. But it's a little less special than it used to be.

For generations, home delivery of the mail came on Sunday not Saturday. It was a special deal worked out long ago between the U.S. Postal Service and the predominately Seventh-day Adventist community, in keeping with that denomination's observance of sabbath on Saturday not Sunday.

But starting this weekend, the mail comes on Saturday, as it does elsewhere. The budget-challenged Postal Service says it no longer can afford to make special accommodations for a single community.

Some Loma Linda residents are outraged, even threatening in some cases to block access to their mailboxes on the sabbath. Others are taking it more in stride. They don't feel that their quiet time will be interrupted by the letter carrier any more than it is by the newspaper carrier, or the patrolling police officer, or the stroller-pushing babysitter, or any of the other working people who must do their duty on that day.

After all, even some Adventists work on Saturday, notably doctors, nurses and other hospital workers.

There are five hospitals in Loma Linda, and a lot of work goes on there, seven days and nights a week.

I grew up in Loma Linda, and I remember many occasions, in church, when a prayer or sermon would be disrupted by this or that doctor's pager ringing. The doctor always would get up and go. To work.

When I lived in Loma Linda, for most of the 1960s, all of the '70s and part of the '80s, I thought Sunday mail delivery was pretty cool, but only as a talking point. It didn't present any advantages or disadvantages, as far as I was concerned. It was just different. It made Loma Linda special.

Ah, yes, special.

And now, even though the mail comes on Saturday instead of Sunday, Loma Linda still is special, in so many other ways. Though, again, not quite as special as it used to be.

Because of the fact that most Adventists eat mostly or totally a plant-based diet, and also practice an abstemious lifestyle that shuns tobacco, alcohol and drugs, Loma Linda has earned the distinction of being identified as one of the world's five "Blue Zones" (www.bluezones.com), where people live significantly longer than elsewhere.

When I lived there, meat was nowhere to be found. There were no restaurants that served it.

There were no grocery stores that sold it (the

when I mowed the lawn on Saturdays."
wonderful Loma Linda Market, which since the 1930s has been one of the world’s great health food stores, still to this day does not carry meat products. There were no meat smells in the air. You never sniffed a roast cooking in someone’s kitchen. You never smelled steaks grilling on a backyard barbecue.

You also never smelled tobacco smoke. There was not a single ashtray in that whole town, that I ever saw, and there was nowhere to buy cigarettes.

Or alcohol.

Except down at the Shamrock Liquor store at Waterman Avenue and Redlands Boulevard. That was the devil’s corner, for sure. There even was a bar nearby called Wayne’s Hideaway. Technically, the intersection is in San Bernardino, but it was too close for comfort to Loma Linda. Many a silent prayer was sent up by pious Adventists as they ran the gauntlet there, on their way to the freeway.

Loma Linda ran on a different clock. It had a different lifestyle. It was quiet. And polite. I think I became the first person ever to utter a swear word there. One day, when I was a punk-nosed teenage driver, I got into a dispute with a lady over a parking space in front of the Loma Linda Post Office. (Hmmm, the Post Office ... ironic.) I ended up telling her to go to hell. She staggered back a step. Then she told ME to go to hell! She staggered back two steps. As shocked as she was that I had said it, she was mortally horrified that she had said it.

That’s Loma Linda for you. I remember the time that a new Sun publisher, who arrived here from a different part of the country, bought a house in Loma Linda. He had heard that it was a safe city, a clean city, a good environment for kids. He lasted there only a few months before he moved to Redlands. “I couldn’t take it,” he told me at the time. “I couldn’t take the looks I got from people

Ah, yes, Saturdays.

Saturdays are going to be different now, what with mail delivery and all.

Loma Linda is different in many ways, now, from how it used to be. It’s bigger, busier, more demographically diverse. Adventists aren’t quite the majority that they once were.

There are restaurants in the city where you can order a steak. There are drive-ins where you can get a burger or a taco. There are markets that sell meat. And alcohol. And cigarettes. There are ashtrays outside most public buildings.

Loma Linda has become a little more worldly. And now it’s getting mail on Saturdays, just like everywhere else.

It’s too bad, in a way, that the government will stand up, and justly so, for the rights of American Muslims to build mosques and worship the way they please, but it won’t stand up for the right of Adventists to get their mail on Sunday instead of on their day of worship.

On the other hand, I understand that the Postal Service is in danger of going out of business, and
fact that has been reported in this newspaper and elsewhere. I don't think Loma Linda's leaders even know that there has been a recession for most of the last decade (and please, let's not tell them ... they will stagger back two steps).

Loma Linda is in good shape. It's still a Blue Zone. It's still more abstemious and healthy than other cities. It's still clean and quiet and polite and safe.

Loma Linda needn't worry. It's still special.

Singing group Committed makes splash at Oakwood gala

Published: Friday, April 22, 2011, 6:53 AM

By Paul Gattis, The Huntsville Times

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama -- The president of the United Negro College Fund, Michael Lomax, spoke Thursday night at Oakwood University's annual gala at the Von Braun Center.

But he was perhaps upstaged by the entertainment.

Committed, the Oakwood-based a cappella group that won NBC's "The Sing-Off" in December, was back in town to provide the entertainment along with Take 6 - the Grammy-winning group from Oakwood that has been a model for Committed.

"Just as long as they are doing it for the right cause, I don't mind being upstaged," Lomax said before the gala. "These artists this evening are going to be performing to celebrate the work of this great institution and to celebrate education."

The six members of Committed wore coats and ties at a pre-gala reception, shaking hands, hugging necks and posing for pictures.

"It's very overwhelming," Committed member Therry Thomas Jr. said. "Some of us were here last year, and we were just sitting in the audience watching everybody else perform.

"We were just normal people this time last year. Now it's a complete turnaround. We're still getting used to people recognizing us on the street. Everybody has been such a great supporter. We're really thankful for that."

Committed members are Thomas, Alain Gervais, Robert Pressley Jr., Dennis Baptiste Jr., Geston Pierre and Maurice Staple.

Thomas said the group has been traveling, playing shows and working on its debut album due to be released this summer. And, yes, the group is planning a concert in Huntsville this summer, as well.
Lomax also praised the work being done at Oakwood, including the transition in leadership. Leslie Pollard became president at the school in January after longtime president Delbert Baker left to become a general vice president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"I see a very seamless transition," Lomax said. "Oakwood is a very stable institution. Delbert Baker was a wonderful president and a great friend of mine.

"He has passed the baton to a new president, and Dr. Pollard is going to do a great job. This is a wonderful institution in an extraordinary community - a community that values education."

Want to follow Committed? Check out their website, Facebook page and Twitter account.

Follow me on Twitter @paul_gattis

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How to Live Forever

Plucked from scientific research, here’s what it takes to lengthen your days.

April 10, 2011
Infographic by Robert De Ieso, Jr., Research by Lauren Streib
Adventist Filmmakers Gather for 2011 SONscreen Festival

Honoring and mentoring Adventist filmmakers

When Kristine Barker was a senior in high school, she won the special jury prize at the 2007 SONscreen Film Festival. Four years later, in 2011, as Barker was about to graduate from Southern Adventist University (SAU) her film production, Blue, directed by SAU student Tanya Musgrave, won the Best in Fest award. The film also was honored with a second major award, the Audience Choice award.

At the same time, Barker’s younger brother, Jonathan, a senior in high school, won the top high school prize for his film entry. In honor of the singular occasion, Kristine was asked to present the award to her brother. The Barkers’ experience exemplifies the mentoring aspect that the annual festival promotes.

Commented Jason Satterlund, director, Big Puddle Films, “We feel like this is one of the best festivals we’ve attended. I think it’s because the focus was so much on mentoring the artist. Most festivals tend to be very star struck. With SONscreen, the talk was all about nurturing people and helping them grow into successful people for God’s kingdom.”

“I think that’s a great description of what we are trying to do as a community,” said Paul Kim, SONscreen Film Festival director. “One of the things that I was most excited about was our new workshops that were scheduled on Friday. For one workshop, a director, a screenwriter, and an editor led out in a critique session with the students. The session was basically by appointment. Having your work professionally critiqued is incredibly important and valuable, and this was something SONscreen participants have never had before, aside from what they have experienced with their teachers.”

For critiquing sessions, professionals screened film entries with the filmmaker, then offered 20 minutes of critique and analysis of the film. “While this can be a pretty tough experience for them,” Kim noted, “it’s critical to a young or beginning filmmaker’s success and thought processes. They need to hear what real professionals think of their work, and what they could have done better to connect with the audience. These three particular professionals involved in the sessions represented key aspects of filmmaking. The fact that they had actually worked together previously brought a unique camaraderie and dynamic to the session that made it a success. Zach Gray and David George, two attending teachers from Southern Adventist University, also were invited to show one of their films for feedback. It was clear that, from their perspective, they found the critique experience invaluable.”

The nearly seven hours of screenings scheduled throughout the event reflected the variety of film genres from which Adventist students and professionals choose to convey their messages: public service announcements, documentaries, comedy and drama.

A Sabbath afternoon panel featured Dean Batali, Robert Kirbyson, Cheryl McKay and Clare Sera, professionals in the film industry who have written and produced for major Hollywood studios. Panelists spoke openly of sexual and other issues, including spirituality, with which they have to deal almost daily as Christians in a secular creative workplace. For young filmmakers in the audience who may dream of working in Hollywood or some other film or television capital, the panel injected a measure of reality. “We try to provide a varied Christian perspective on the industry so that students can understand issues with which different Christian filmmakers wrestle,” said Kim.

For a list of 2011 SONscreen awards and other festival information, visit http://SONscreen.org.
The Adventist Review shares the following world news from Religion News Service as a service to readers. Opinions expressed in these reports do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Review or the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

-- Editors

BY ERIN ROACH

In order to comply with new safety regulations taking effect in June, churches need to replace their nursery cribs, which could already pose a danger to children and leave churches open to liability lawsuits.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission unanimously approved sweeping new safety rules, which outlaw drop-side cribs and require stronger hardware and supports. The commission said it is unlikely that existing cribs will meet the new standards.

Jim Swedenburg of the Alabama State Board of Missions served more than 10 years as a state missionary for church administration and said churches that have weekday ministries or daycares especially need to heed the new safety standards.

"If a parent had a child that was injured and the daycare was in that sense negligent in not having changed that bed, that's going to put them at greater risk for any kind of liability judgment," Swedenburg told Baptist Press. "In other words, nobody's going to come around and inspect the cribs and force the church to comply, but if they don't they're still going to be taking a risk."

For years, parents favored drop-side cribs because they could lower the rails on one side to more easily lift their children from the cribs.

Since 2000, drop-side cribs have been blamed in the deaths of 32 infants and toddlers and suspected in another 14 fatalities. In the past five years more than 9 million drop-side cribs have been recalled, and Congress has pushed for stronger crib safety rules.

At issue is malfunctioning hardware, including cheaper plastics or assembly problems that can lead to the drop-side rail partially detaching from the crib. A dangerous "V"-like gap between the mattress and side rail can trap a baby, causing it to suffocate or strangle.

Also, as children grow they can apply more force to the crib by shaking it, running around in it, or jumping up and down, the Associated Press said. To address this, the new safety standards affect far more than the drop side.

"A crib's mattress support, slats, and hardware are now required to be more durable and manufacturers will have to test to new more stringent requirements to prove compliance," the commission said.

Beginning June 28, all cribs manufactured and sold must comply with the new federal standards.

To read the rest of the story, click here.