Creation-Evolution Debate Assessed

Approximately 675 churches plus countless homes all over North America tuned in to *In the Beginning: Making Sense of the Creation-Evolution Debate* broadcast live on *Hope TV* from Nashville, May 4-8.

In Ronan, Mont., the average attendance was 85 people with 60% of them being guests, including a number of Amish. In Tucson, Ariz., a church averaged 40 people and 10 guests in attendance. In Hot Springs, Ark., they averaged 60 people, including five guests. In Surrey, British Columbia, 80% of the attendees were guests.

DVD recordings of the meetings will be available in about a month and will be announced in *NewsPoints*.

Katia Reinert Recipient of Humanitarian Award

Katia Reinert, NAD Health Ministries director, will be one of three recipients of The Humanitarian Award which is for voluntary service, to be given by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. The award is given in relation to mission trips and other volunteer trips Reinert did to Africa, South America and Madagascar, where she conducted health
education for women on depression and mental health. She will receive the award at next month’s American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Foundation National Conference in Las Vegas.

Max Trevino Announces Retirement; Larry Moore Accepts Presidency

Following 45 years of dedicated service and ministry to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Max A. Trevino, president of Southwestern Union Conference (SWU), has announced his retirement. Trevino started in 1966 as assistant Book and Bible House manager for the Colorado Conference (now the Rocky Mountain Conference). In 1969 he became assistant treasurer for the SWU; in 1972, treasurer of the Oklahoma Conference; in 1980, treasurer to SWU, and in 1995 he replaced Cyril Miller as president of the SWU. More

On Tuesday, May 10, the SWU Constituency elected Elder Larry Moore to serve as the new union president. He had just been elected president of Texas Conference. More

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.

Adventists in the News

Bradley Co. sets up disaster relief distribution center, needs to fill it WBIR-TV, May 8

FEMA Open Disaster Recovery Center At Colleagedale The Chattanoogaan, May 7

Mission workers return from trip to Arizona Calaveras Enterprise, May 5

Adventist church, neighbors square off on proposed site Gazette.net, May 5

Upcoming Events:

WEBINAR - Crisis Care in Disaster Response, May 12, 7:00—9:00 PM EDST

Non-profit Leadership Certification Program, May 15–19 Basic Curriculum

Adventist Single Adult Ministries Day, May 21

Babylon Rising, May 25-28

GIEN, June 1-5

Women’s Emphasis Day, June 11

Family Celebration Sabbath, “Celebration of Love,” June 15-16

PSI’s International Conference on Philanthropy, June 21–24

ASI Convention, August 3–6

3rd Annual Adventist Interpreters Conference, August 3-7

Festival of the Laity, September 7–10

Astonishing Discoveries in the Land of the Bible, September 14–18

Let’s Move Day, Sept 25

Go Fish! Children’s Ministries Convention, October 7-9

Live, Interactive Satellite Evangelism

Be a host for Babylon Rising, a four-night live, interactive event, May 25-
28, that will invite people to associate current world events with ancient Bible prophecies. Attendees and viewers will learn that the Bible makes sense of today's troubled world, that the Bible can be trusted as reliable, and that the God of Heaven is working to fill lives with hope and certainty. Anyone—anywhere—will be able to host the meetings via satellite or the Internet in their home, church or business. There will even be a way for viewers to get involved with the live event through Facebook and Twitter.

It Is Written Speaker/Director John Bradshaw will be the presenter for Babylon Rising which will be broadcast live from Las Vegas, Nevada, via the Hope Channel, the Hope Church Channel, and the Internet.

If you or your church wants to host this event, go to www.babylonisrising.com/host to receive a free downloadable host kit with all the information you'll need.

3rd Annual Adventist Interpreters Conference, August 3-7
A wide variety of seminars for church interpreters will be held during the Southern Deaf Fellowship Camp Meeting at Cohutta Springs Conference Center in Georgia. It is designed to strengthen signing skills and vocabulary, including religious signing. In addition, voice-interpreting practice will be available.

RSVP by June 30 to Esther M. Doss at: 870-213-7339 or esther@edgemontvideo.com. More

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.

Creation-Evolution Seminar Attracts Students
Who was attracted to the topic of creation versus evolution? This is a question leaders are evaluating.

One church saw their location in a small college town as an advantage for hosting the series. Deciding to target students, they distributed handbills and fliers on campus. In Milton-Freewater, Ore., an entire class of undergraduate students studying Evolutionary Biology, and their professor, a PhD in evolutionary biology, attended Thursday evening's presentation, The Life of Creatures.

For more, read Dr. Clouzet's article in the feature article above.
"The ADVENTISTS" Sales to be Donated to Tornado Victims Relief

Spread the word and buy in quantity. Let’s make "The ADVENTISTS" the top-selling DVD on Amazon.com this week - During the week of May 9-15, proceeds of all DVD sales of "The ADVENTISTS" ordered on Amazon.com will be given as a donation to Adventist Community Services to support its efforts to assist those affected by the recent tornadoes. While there, give the DVD a 5-star rating. The tornado victims will thank you.

"It was absolutely shocking to see the pictures of the destruction caused by the recent tornadoes throughout the South - so many homes and lives destroyed in an instant!" says filmmaker Martin Doblmeier. "We wanted to offer something to say 'we are with you in your time of need.'"

ACS Disaster Crisis Care Webinar

Crisis counseling for people in shock following the loss of loved ones and/or property due to disasters such as the tornados, is a specialized skill, needing specialized training. All pastors, volunteers or professionals who are interested in responding to disaster aftermath needs, must have specialized disaster-related crisis response training. Adventist Community Services’ Crisis Care Ministry is presenting a webinar on May 12, 7:00–9:00 PM EDT. The webinar will focus on how to provide emotional and spiritual care for individuals in crisis as well as how disaster response volunteers can protect themselves or recover from compassion fatigue.

To join the webinar, go to: https://connect.hsin.gov/acsteleconference (for visual); Also, call: 866-822-1298 (for audio), and use Code: 3016608 to enter the call.

28 Fundamental Beliefs Brochure

This brochure concisely summarizes the 28 fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It opens with a summary of Seventh-day Adventists, followed by a brief summary of each of the 28 fundamental beliefs and supporting Bible verses for each belief. This brochure closes with information about where the reader can find Bible studies. This brochure is ideal for placement in your church’s literature rack and sharing with the people you meet. Click here to order from AdventSource.
“Addictions are a way to change the way we feel with things we don’t really need. You will never have enough of what you don’t need, because what you don’t need will never satisfy you.” - Katia Reinert, NAD Health Ministries Director, April 30, while doing seminars on mental and emotional health at the Miami Temple Church in Fla.

“It’s not easy to remember one’s mission. There are so many worthy distractions - distractions which may well contribute to the mission but are not the mission and may actually end up thwarting the mission when substituted for it. Our mission is clear - giving the Gospel, the good news of salvation, to everyone in the world... but our model or our methodology may send us down the wrong path. We may get sidetracked in what we are doing. Luke 4:18 - Jesus, quoting from Isa 61 - ‘The spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom to the prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed and to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’” - Pastor Gary Patterson, (Former Assistant to the NAD President for Administration, now retired General Field Secretary of the General Conference), in his sermon at Forest Lake Church, April 16, 2011 http://media.forestlakechurch.org/sermons

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Southwestern Union President Announces Retirement

Posted on May 10, 2011

Following 45 years of dedicated service and ministry to the Seventh-day Adventist Church—having spent 31 years with the Southwestern Union and 16 of them as president—Max A. Trevino has announced his retirement.

Beginning his church career in 1966 as assistant Book and Bible House manager for the Colorado Conference (now the Rocky Mountain Conference), he later moved to the Southwestern Union Conference in 1969, where he became assistant treasurer. He held that position for three years and then in 1972 became treasurer of the Oklahoma Conference. After eight years of service in Oklahoma, Trevino returned in 1980 to the Southwestern Union, where he held the position of treasurer and then in 1995, replaced Cyril Miller as president of the Southwestern Union.

"Forty-five years is a good long time," Trevino said at the Southwestern Union Constituency meeting held May 9 in Keene, Tex. “I have enjoyed every minute of service to this great church, but after much prayer and thought, I've decided that the time has come to move on to the next phase of my life, and enjoy retirement."

Max Trevino’s wife, Betty, has stood faithfully by his side during his 45 years of service. A professional educator, Betty spent many years teaching in the Adventist school system and currently serves as the registrar in the Education Department at the union.

"It's really hard to say 'so long' to this union family. It has been such a tremendous blessing to work for you as your president for these last 16 years," Trevino said. “I want to personally thank each worker and layperson in the Southwestern Union for your tireless efforts to make ours the fastest-growing union in the division God has richly blessed your efforts with many thousands of souls for the kingdom, and it's my hope and prayer that we will continue to labor side-by-side, as we continue to fulfill the Great Commission."

In response to Trevino’s announcement, NAD president Dan Jackson said, "Max's contribution to the Southwestern Union, the North American Division, and the world church has been a great blessing. He will be sorely missed. Not only has he been a friend and a compassionate administrator, but he has demonstrated over the years his great love for God and his church."
Southwestern Union Constituency Elects New President

Posted on May 10, 2011

During the 29th regular quinquennial constituency session of the Southwestern Union on Tuesday, May 10, the delegates selected Larry Moore to serve as the Southwestern Union president, a position formerly held by Max Treviño, who announced his retirement May 9.

No stranger to the Southwestern Union, Elder Moore was born and raised in Texas. He has pastored in Arkansas, Texas, and Arizona, and also serve

d as president of the Nevada/Utah Conference. Last month, Moore was chosen to serve as the president of the Texas Conference, after a brief appointment as ministerial director there. Prior to his service at the Texas Conference, Moore served as senior pastor at the Burleson, Texas, church. He and his wife, Jeannine, have two married daughters.

Reelected were the current leadership team: Sam Green, secretary; Deryl Knutson, treasurer; Eddie Canales, vice-president; Buford Griffith, Jr., vice-president; and Duane McKey, vice-president.

Also reelected were Joel Wallace, undertreasurer, trust services director; Carlos Ribeiro, associate treasurer; Eunice Warfield, education director; Mike Furr, associate education director; Margaret Taglavore, children's ministries director; and Mark Bond, communication director.
Bradley County emergency workers have set up a distribution center for items tornado victims will need to start over. Officials said supplies are slowly coming in, but more are still needed.

Terry Haight, a relief worker with the Adventist Disaster Response, said non-perishable foods, cleaning supplies, and pet foods are needed. He said he isn't sure where enough items will come from to serve the thousands who the tornadoes left in need. But, he said his team has faith.

"We need people to think about what they would need if they moved into their own home again. They're going to need dish sets. They're going to need pots and pans, things for bathrooms, for their bedrooms, linen sets, and so forth," said Haight.

The Adventist Disaster Response is in charge of cataloging, sorting, and distributing donated items to the Salvation Army and other groups who are serving those in need. Haight said their operation is expected to be on the ground in Bradley County for at least three months.

Nine people were killed, and more than 300 homes in Bradley County were destroyed or damaged by the tornado outbreak. Officials said it will be months, or even years, before the affected areas are re-built.
FEMA Opens Disaster Recovery Center At Colleegdale
May Open Additional Center In Lookout Valley
posted May 7, 2011

FEMA has opened a disaster response center at Southern Adventist University, 4870 University Dr., at the Hulsey Recreation Center in Colleegdale.

Hours of operation will be 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week.

Storm victims from Hamilton County can visit the center to apply for federal financial aid.

Officials said pre-registering online at www.disasterassistance.org will speed up the process or call 1 800-821-3362.

Officials are anticipating an additional FEMA disaster recovery center will open in Lookout Valley in the next few days.
Mission workers return from trip to Arizona

Posted: Thursday, May 5, 2011 10:07 AM CDT

A number of Calaveras County residents recently returned from a week-long mission trip to the Navajo reservation near Page, Ariz. Led by Tuolumne County resident Pastor David Calderaro, 10 members of the Angels Camp Seventh-day Adventist and San Andreas Seventh-day Adventist churches joined with seven others from Yuba City churches to labor on housing and a reservation community center.

“Members have shown interest in a mission trip – in providing for believers that have no facilities of their own,” Calderaro said. “This is an area of great need that we can do right here at home in the United States, without the high cost of overseas travel. This is also an opportunity for us to develop our relationships, see what we can do together with God and get to know each other better.”

The churches raised $5,000 that was sent ahead to buy materials to be used when the group arrived. Expertise and supervision were provided by local builders Steve Bullock, deacon, and David Howard, elder. No other professional craftsmen were in the group that was made up of homemakers, teachers, health care workers, students and pastors.

The group set about framing, leveling, bracing, wrapping, siding, trussing, sheeting and roofing. Windows and doors were fastened in place. Cabinets were installed and countertops and tile work installed.

The drive to the community center under construction was about 40 minutes out of Page, then about three miles off the pavement on unmarked roads. The housing was beyond that, requiring a guide to traverse another 13 miles of increasingly narrow, unmarked, multiple-forking and deeper sand track. This created a challenge for those without four-wheel drive, as getting stuck was a near-daily experience. There was no water, no electricity and no propane delivery trucks.

Lunch for the workers centered around sandwiches, difficult to prepare on site. Case after case of water was consumed. Thumbs were smashed, splinters were acquired, cuts and scrapes appeared. Faces and arms became red and then browned as the week went by. Heads sprouted shade-giving hats, gloves took on new importance. Skills were developed, hammers became favorites. Appreciation for the construction trades grew. The recipients were appreciative.

For a more detailed report, stories and slideshow including many local sights, come to the Angels Camp Seventh-day Adventist Church Saturday, May 7. The church is at 140 N. Main St. Services start at 9:30 a.m. Lunch will follow.

Back to news
Thursday, May 5, 2011

Adventist church, neighbors square off on proposed site

Years later, Reaching Hearts case back before County Council

by Daniel Valentine | Staff Writer

After years of lawsuits, allegations of discrimination and continuing objections from environmentalists and neighbors, the Prince George's County Council is once again deciding whether to allow construction of a new church and school in West Laurel.

More than 40 people came before the council Tuesday to speak for and against an application by Reaching Hearts International to extend sewer service to their property on Brooklyn Bridge Road near the Montgomery County line in Laurel.

A council committee will debate the proposal at a later date. Council members made no comments during the hearing.

Members of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church bought the property in 2002 in hopes of building a new worship center and future school for their 900-parishoner congregation. Their efforts have long been opposed by nearby residents, who say the center and school would bring traffic and cite past county planning studies warning that the asphalt runoff would pollute the nearby Rocky Gorge Reservoir.

The dispute between the church and neighbors has been debated in numerous lawsuits and votes going back to 2003, when Reaching Hearts first applied for the sewer extension but was denied on environmental grounds. After it was denied a second time in 2005, the church sued the county for religious discrimination, alleging the county practiced "a history of prejudice against churches and of using zoning ordinances to obstruct the development and limit the growth of churches in the county," and won a $3.7 million judgment in 2008.

A federal appeals court upheld the decision last year, and the church filed for a new application last summer. Reaching Hearts plans to build a 72,000 square foot sanctuary and a 12,000 square foot gymnasium, according to the county application.

The public hearing Tuesday once again pitted the congregation against the community. Residents called on the council to consider the alleged environmental damage.

"We want to say again, we have no objection to building a church on the front [of the property]," said Melissa Daston, president of the West Laurel Civic Association. "The issue is the building in the back."

Others noted the torturous legal history as they asked the new council to reject the application.

"They are using this federal religious law to get around [the issue]," said Rebecca Jo Williams, who lives near the site. "They're manipulating the very laws that were intended to protect the environment."

Church members asked the council to allow them to build their center and school, which would replace a Spencerville conference room the church rents out on Saturdays, the traditional day of worship for Seventh-Day Adventists.
"We pay $80,000 a year in rent. We have no baptismal font, we cannot perform family weddings. We cannot have Bible study," Pastor Michael Oxentenko said. "It's inadequate to worship God according to the forms of our faith."

Lawyer Ward B. Coe III, one of the attorneys for Reaching Hearts, warned lawmakers that they could be liable for more legal action if the council rejects them again.

"Denial of this application will continue to damage the lifestyle of Reaching Hearts," Coe said. "The kinds of hardships that are implied [by residents] cannot deny the expression of religious freedom."

dvalentine@gazette.net
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You are invited to submit your
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Cohutta Springs Convention
Center. August 4-7, 2011

Photo Gallery
View pictures of SDF events.

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