North American Division Hosts Media Summit

Leadership seeks answers on how to better utilize media for ministry

Approximately 100 communication professionals, which included local church members, pastors, media ministry leaders, and denominational leaders, came together on May 22-23 in Ontario, Calif., for the first-ever Media Summit sponsored by the North America Division. Themed “The Media Imperative: Harnessing Modern Media to Proclaim the Gospel,” the purpose of this event, according to Division executive leadership, was to “converse on the various uses of media today and the practical ways in which these powerful mediums can be used in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ in our territory.”

In his opening remarks to the attendees, Pastor Dan Jackson, president of the 1.1 million-membered church in North America, explained how media has developed over time - from radio stations to Facebook being the third largest nation in the world. And he pointed out the focal points of the Summit: 1) Revival and Reformation (Reach North America), 2) Administrative: Signaling Priorities, and 3) Use of Technology.

He also shared some sobering facts of how unknown the Church is in the Division’s territory and how much money has been spent on media ministries in the past. “We need to be honest enough with ourselves to find out how we react to an ever changing world. Are we looking at all the tools that are available to us?” said Jackson. He, however, told the audience that this meeting was not set up to condemn past actions and...
decisions, but to “move into bold new horizons for God. These days are the beginning of a Godly revolution in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America,” he exclaimed.

Jackson’s opening presentation set the stage for the two-day intensive, which included various presentations from other media professionals dealing with topics of social media, radio, and television. “We wanted to have fruitful dialogue on content, distribution, and production for each of these media forms,” said G. Alexander Bryant, executive secretary for the North American Division. The first day of the Summit included presentations from media “heavy hitters” such as filmmaker Phil Cooke and social media “guru” Brian Solis just to name a few. The second day of the Summit allowed participants to break into groups to give aspirations and recommendations to Division executive leadership. “We hope that we have received significant ideas on the use of media as we look to the future,” said Bryant. A committee has been formed that will look at the recommendations and how to implement them in a comprehensive media strategy for the Division.

During the meeting, Jackson also noted that the Division is celebrating 82 years of media ministries and recognized the leadership from the past and present. “When we think of the media ministries that we have, we really need to praise God and thank Him for the love effort and guidance of the Holy Spirit.” Currently, the Division operates seven media ministries: Breath of Life, Esperanza TV, Faith For Today, It Is Written, La Voz de la Esperanza, LifeTalk Radio, and Voice of Prophecy.

Program planners also offered the opportunity for people to view online. Nearly 250 people registered for the “online” Summit and were also able to ask questions to the presenters and make comments about the presentations. “I have not been a huge fan of social media but the presentations showed me how powerful it is - I just have to use it better,” said David S. Battle, who is an online doctoral student and a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church, in Berrien Springs, Mich. Additional technology allowed for participants to answer polled questions through the Web and smartphones.

Delwin Finch, pastor for web ministries at Forest Lake Church in Apopka, Fla., attended the Summit because he was curious to hear what his Church had say about social media in a formal public forum. Finch and his team use various social media tools to enhance church services including texting prayer requests during the church service.

Gordon Harty, a software engineer for the North American Division, who currently resides in Temecula, Calif., attended the Summit because he wanted to be part of the discussion on the implications of social media and ministry. “In the past, our Church has been afraid of it because when you put your information out there it isn’t being moderated. But I’ve always felt that if we aren’t out there, we don’t exist. We have to take the plunge. We can either stay where we are and remain irrelevant or move forward, take the risk and stay relevant,” he said.

At the conclusion of the two-day meeting, President Jackson opened the floor for comments. During this time of transparency, he shared with attendees that the Division’s leadership didn’t have all of the answers, but that he wanted everyone to find a way to work together. “I admire Pastor Jackson for taking ownership in this new direction that the Division is taking and forging a new alliance with grassroots and denominational leadership to create a platform for dialog,” said Paula Sanders Morris, a member of the Decatur Seventh-day Adventist Church in
Decatur, Ga.

Jackson also shared with the audience his vision for the Division. “God has a dream for the North American Division that is far greater than any of us can think of. What is the dream? It is that we see utilization of all human and financial resources join together to herald the soon coming of Jesus.”

Note: To listen to the final charge given to attendees by Dan Jackson, click here.

By George Johnson Jr., communication director, North American Division

Photo: Phil Cooke presents a seminar entitled “Bigger Screens/Bigger Reach”

FEMA Commissions ACS DR to Operate Joplin Multiagency Relief Warehouse

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has been tasked with operating the official multiagency warehouse for tornado relief in Joplin. The Missouri branch of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (MO/FEMA) has entrusted that responsibility to Adventist Community Services-Disaster Response (ACS-DR), reports Gaylord Hanson, Mid-America Union coordinator for that church agency.

Iowa-Missouri Conference ACS-DR leaders, who have established an excellent collaborative relationship with local FEMA officials in previous disasters, are working hard on location to organize the warehouse operation for the various charities and government agencies officially involved.

The Iowa-Missouri Conference is collecting information from those who are interested in volunteering at the warehouse. To inquire or to make cash donations, email pewagley@ucollege.edu or call 515.223.1197.

Further updates will be added to previous info posts on www.outlookmag.org.

by Martin Weber, communication director of the Mid-America Union

146 Baptisms Following Breath of Life Series

The Breath of Life Television Ministry just completed its 2011 Spring Revival at the Berean Church in Atlanta, GA, where Breath of Life Speaker/Director, Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, preached nightly on the theme, “God’s Language of Love,” as expressed through the Ten Commandments. At the conclusion of the revival meetings on May 14, 146 individuals were baptized! Read more in the News Section on the North American Division website.

Ministry Training, November 11-13

Adventist Ministries Convention, January 15–18

Health Summit 2012, January 27-February 5

Hope Channel Programs

Hope Channel

(On DIRECTV ch. 368)

• May 25-28 – IIW Babylon Rising with speaker John Bradshaw, LIVE, from Las Vegas – 7pm ET/PT
• May 27, 8:00 pm and 11:00 pm ET - Joplin Tornado Aftermath Interview on World of Hope
• May 28, 6:00 pm ET - Joplin Tornado Aftermath Interview on World of Hope

HOPE Church Channel

• May 25-28 – Babylon Rising, with speaker John Bradshaw, LIVE, from Las Vegas – 7pm ET/PT

Adventist World

NAD Edition

Check out these stories in the May 2011 edition:

*Can We Be Adventist and
Bermuda Ordains First Female Elder

The Bermuda Conference made history recently when the executive committee overcame longstanding barriers and voted to allow a woman to be ordained as a local elder. Julie Richardson, a member of the newly-organized Restoration Ministries Seventh-day Adventist Church in South Hampton, was ordained on February 26. Her pastor, Ulric Hetsberger, felt that Richardson would be a great addition to the church’s leadership team and petitioned the conference to approve it. Richardson, a church member for many years, is noted for her spiritual gifts of discernment, teaching, and wisdom, along with her keen intuition and sensitivity to others’ needs. Along with Pastor Hetsberger, conference president Jeffrey Brown and other pastors from the conference participated in the ordination. More (page 8)

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

Teens Forego Fun to Help Tornado Victims
NewsChannel9.com, Chattanooga, Tenn, May 24

All-male Pinoy Choir Wins Gold in US Festival
ABS-CBNNews.com, May 24

Class President Will Miss Graduation To Keep The Sabbath
Hartford Courant - Courant.com, May 23

Gas on sale, courtesy of local church
KUSA-TV 9News.com, Colorado, May 22

Union College president leaving after 13 years
Lincoln Journal Star, JournalStar.com, May 19

Tornado Aftermath Interview on Hope Channel

Excellent Too?” pages 11-13
“Successfully Hosting NET 2011” – pages 14-15
“Genuine Community Service” - page 17
“When You Care Enough” - pages 25-29
Catch "World of Hope" on the Hope Channel this week to witness an interview with Adventist Community Services Disaster Response Pacific Union Coordinator Charlene Sargent and Joplin Church Pastor Dwight Seek. They will talk about the record-breaking tornado that wiped out Joplin, Mo. on Sunday, May 22.

Broadcast times for World of Hope are Friday—8:00 pm and 11:00 pm ET. and Sabbath—6:00 pm ET on the Hope Channel (or on DIRECTV ch. 368)

**How You Can Help with Disaster Relief**

The ACS DR teams in Missouri join ACS DR teams currently responding in Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Arkansas, Virginia, and Alaska to provide aid to individuals affected by tornadoes, flooding and other disasters. Tons of donated goods are being processed and provide aid to thousands of individuals in need.

If you are interested in helping ACS DR and the many survivors attempting to put their lives back together, please pray for them and consider making a donation to Adventist Community Services Disaster Response.

To donate:
1) Donate online,
2) Call 1-800-381-7171, or
3) Mail a check or money order to:
   Adventist Community Services Disaster Response
   12501 Old Columbia Pike
   Silver Spring, MD  20904

**Holy Spirit Boosts Efforts to REACH OUT**

A church in the North Pacific Union that recently hosted the Creation-Evolution seminar is praising God for the seminar!

Located across the street from a Baptist church, the sign about the seminar attracted the attention of the Baptist preacher. The pastor and some of his family attended the creation meetings and have since also attended Sabbath programs. This past week the pastor, his wife and their five children attended the worship service and stayed to enjoy fellowship dinner.

Members are praying that the Holy Spirit will continue to work with this family and that their eyes will be opened to more truths of the Bible.
"Babylon Rising" Begins Wednesday!

From May 25-28, Pastor John Bradshaw of It Is Written Television will explore the prophecies of the Bible through a series called Babylon Rising. The meetings will show that Scripture makes sense of today's troubled world, and that the Bible can be trusted as reliable.

Each one-hour program will also include interactive elements through Facebook and Twitter. It will be broadcast live from the Cashman Center in Las Vegas, but it will also be hosted locally and available via the Internet, 3ABN and the HOPE Channel. Learn more at www.babylonisrising.com.

Viewpoint by NAD President Dan Jackson

"We need a multi-pronged approach in which we incorporate ministries that reach out to others who are unchurched. We need to stop entertaining ourselves," said Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division to a room full of communication and media professionals at the NAD Media Summit on Monday, May 23 in Ontario, Calif.

Click here to hear Jackson's final challenge to the attendees of the Summit.
It’s mid-afternoon on Sabbath and Julie Richardson is in the middle of discussing the origins of tithing with her husband and a group of teenagers after a shared meal. She steps into the study for a moment to discover another young girl sitting alone, seemingly reading a book. On closer inspection she notices more beneath the surface.

“Are you all right in here?” she asks, already in counselor mode. What begins is a conversation that will leave an indelible impression on the young girl and ultimately change the course of her life.

Anyone who is fortunate enough to encounter Richardson in action can attest to her keen intuition. She is uniquely sensitive to the emotional needs of others. Her eyes see beneath the surface of what is visible and her ears hear not only what is said, but the words left unsaid. She has the ability to look beyond the outer “skin” of a situation and get to the heart of the matter. Her solutions are always timely, practical, and straight from the Word of God.

There’s no doubt that Richardson possesses the gift of discernment, but what you may not know is that she is also a people watcher—or rather a studier of people. In fact, she has been studying people, temperaments, and relationships for most of her adult life. Of far greater importance, though, is the fact that Richardson has mastered the art of submission to God, which is the beginning of wisdom. This combination of wisdom, discernment, and knowledge of how people interact helps to make her a very effective minister.

Fast-forward 22 years to January 2011 when Ulric Hetsberger, pastor of the newly-organized Restoration Ministries Seventh-day Adventist Church in South Hampton, Bermuda, decided that Richardson would be a great addition to his leadership team in the capacity of elder. Hetsberger’s decision was significant because the Bermuda Conference had never ordained a woman as an elder before, and there were mixed feelings concerning the appointment. Thus, Richardson was cautious about whether she should accept or decline. However, unbeknownst to her, God had been providing a dress rehearsal for her position as an elder for quite some time.

After much prayer, Richardson agreed to allow her name to be put before the Bermuda Conference Executive Committee, trusting that whatever the result, God’s will would be done. The rest, as they say, is history, and on February 26 Julie Richardson paved the way for other females by becoming the first female elder in the Bermuda Conference—a truly a historic event.

Reflecting on the day of her ordination, Richardson remembers looking out at the crowd of supporters and seeing many women who could have been called to be first to take up the mantle of elder. She is still awed that God chose her.

The telephone rings early Sabbath morning. It’s the middle of March, a few weeks after her ordination service. When Richardson picks up, a familiar voice says, “I have an issue and I need some godly insight. Can you help me?”

Little has changed. Richardson is still counseling, teaching, praying, settling disputes, and attending to the spiritual needs of others. The only difference is that now, the dress rehearsal is over!

—Deandré Proctor, member, Restoration Ministries

Julie Richardson paved the way for other females by becoming the first female elder in the Bermuda Conference.
Teens Forego Fun to Help Tornado Victims

John Madewell
2011-05-24 13:08:00

When summer rolls around, teenagers typically search for a job so they can make car payments, land the latest iPod, or spring for a nice date. In the wake of the April 27 tornado, will teens be motivated to volunteer and forego the paying job?

Apison, Tennessee’s Community Relief Center is at Apison Baptist Church. Pastor Bob Dasal said about 20 teenagers turned out last week to help clean the devastation.

That included students from the Seventh Day Adventist school and East Hamilton High School. Dasal said students volunteered for class credit.

On an impressive note, Dasal added, they came back after class and worked even more, again for free.

Today, a group of teenagers from Knoxville and north of it came down to clear trees, brush and debris in Apison. They’re from affiliated churches. Dasal said this selfless display by teenagers shows how “great they are in today’s busy world.”
MANILA, Philippines – An all-male Filipino acapella singing group proved its world-class talent after winning big in the recent American International Choral Festival held in Reno-Tahoe last May 4 to May 8.

The California-based choir, “Prime Note Ensemble” bested 18 other contestants and won the gold in the Folklore category. They also bagged the silver in the Male Chamber and Popular Music categories.

Prime Note Ensemble’s stellar rendition of the native song “Kruhay” and Lion King’s official sound track “Circle of Life” won the gold and silver diplomas respectively, according to the official results from the website of the The American International Choral Festival.

The award-winning choir, led by choirmaster Novem Cabios and founder Medard Obida, has been recognized for participating in three international choral events under the organizer, Intrkultur.

Prime Note Ensemble is now qualified to compete in the Wolrd Choir Games and the World Choir Championships in the next five years.

Another Filipino group also emerged victorious in the event.

Ramon Lijuaco Jr.’s “Young Voices of the Adventist University of the Philippines” won the gold in the Sacred Song category.

According to its website, the American International Choral Festival combines the best of the American and international choral traditions. All choirs are welcome to compete but they can still participate in the festival without competing.
Allmale Pinoy choir wins gold in US festival

as of 05/25/2011 8:32 PM

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Class President Will Miss Graduation To Keep The Sabbath

Enfield Senior Still Plans Way To Address His Classmates And Celebrate Accomplishments

By KIM VELSEY, kvelsey@courant.com

The Hartford Courant

2:04 PM EDT, May 23, 2011

ENFIELD —

It's easy to run into Patrick Knighton, but considerably harder to catch the Enfield High senior class president in one place for any prolonged period of time.

Knighton is, it seems, involved in everything — the varsity tennis and soccer teams, the Enfield Youth Council, the Darfur Awareness Committee, the recycling club, to name just a few. It appears that this year, the only thing Knighton won't be participating in is his high school graduation.

Knighton, a Seventh-day Adventist whose religion prohibits him from attending secular events on Saturdays, won't be going to the June 25 ceremony. As class president, he would have led his classmates in turning their tassels, but Knighton said it's most important for him to keep the Sabbath, as he's been doing his entire life.

"I've missed basketball games, soccer games, science competitions," said Knighton. "I even had to take the SAT on a Sunday."

"I think the ceremony in itself is pretty meaningful, celebrating all the work we've done over the past 12 years," he added. "But it's out of my hands."

Knighton's situation has spotlighted the sometimes difficult choices that devout students in public schools must make to balance religious and secular roles, and raised the question of whether public schools should accommodate their needs.

Superintendent John Gallacher said he did not believe that there had been any religious issues with Saturday graduations in the past.

The Enfield Board of Education, after hearing an appeal from Knighton and his mother in April, voted not to
change the date, citing calls and letters from families that had already made plans around the tentative date and "logistical things that have been set in motion."

Before the vote, Chairman Gregory Stokes said that, for him, it was important to be consistent with the previous year's decision to hold high school graduation at First Cathedral, a Bloomfield mega-church, regardless of the objections raised by several students.

Knighton said that he didn't fault the board for its decision. Although he is disappointed, he said he's the only Seventh-day Adventist in the school system and it would have meant changing things for the 224 graduating seniors at Enfield High and also for the seniors at Enrico Fermi High School, also in Enfield.

"I think it's really hard. … The thing about America is that the majority rules," he said. "I have a lot of respect for the people who made the decision."

And balancing competing needs is something that Knighton is more than familiar with. Besides being involved in a multitude of high school activities, Knighton is a member of the State Education Resource Center Youth Advisory Council and the Enfield Youth Council, and serves as an alternate student representative on the school board.

At the church he attends in Springfield, he's one of the few teenage deacons, according to Pastor Mihail Baciu. He participates in a youth outdoors group modeled on the Boy Scouts and volunteers to help run a service at a nursing home once a month.

"He's a very nice guy, you can count on him, honest, hard-working and always ready to help others work in a team," said Baciu.

He's also a high-honors student, is in the National Honor Society and coaches Enfield High's Unified Sports team — a Special Olympics program in which disabled students play alongside non-disabled youths. And he works Sunday mornings as a bus boy at TJ's restaurant on Route 5.

Knighton said that he didn't mean to end up so involved; it kind of happened accidentally. Teachers or advisers recommended some of the groups. At other times, he walked into the wrong place or ran into people doing something interesting and just stayed on.

Gregarious and earnest, Knighton gained his social ease the hard way — by moving a lot as a kid. His father was in the military and before he finished middle school he'd already gone from Virginia to Alabama to Ohio. After his parents divorced, he moved with his mother to Michigan, where she pursued a degree in social work, before moving to Georgia and then to Enfield, where he started seventh grade.

"It's hard to be the kid that moves a lot," said Knighton. "You miss a lot of friends, sometimes you lose contact. You learn to make do."

Knighton credits religion with helping him do so many things, so well, in high school. As much as he wants to celebrate graduation with his class, he said he can't do something he knows is wrong, that it's important to stand by his beliefs.

"He keeps the principles that are important for him. … His mother gave him a very good and Christian education," said Baciu.

And, Knighton points out, he has a lot to be happy about. He'll receive his diploma during the graduation
rehearsal on June 23, which his family and friends and his church community will attend, and he'll give a speech that may be recorded and played at the main graduation.

He'll also be able to attend SafeGrad celebrations with his classmates after sundown that Saturday and he's looking forward to attending Quinnipiac University this fall, where he plans to study biology and take classes in the physician's assistant program in preparation for medical school. He plans to become an anesthesiologist.

And, he pointed out, his situation prompted the board to reconsider Saturday graduations. For a variety of reasons, including cost issues, the board voted this week to approve a proposal that would put all future graduations on weekdays.

"That's pretty rewarding," said Knighton. "Someone behind me will not be put in that position. They won't have to go through that."

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Gas on sale, courtesy of local church

5:33 PM, May 22, 2011 | comments

PARKER - Drivers lined up for blocks Sunday to take advantage of cheaper gas provided by a Parker church.

The Newday Seventh Day Adventist Church paid 50 cents for each gallon of gas sold, lowering the price from $3.79 to $3.29 per gallon.

Lead Pastor Dave Kennedy says his church members wanted to show kindness to their community.

"Our church believes that the purpose of the church is to love God and serve people," Kennedy said.

Volunteers from the church were also cleaning vehicles’ windows and handing out doughnuts and orange juice today.

"We're always looking for creative ways to serve people, and certainly we're serving more critical needs in our community and around the world, but we thought this would be a fun thing to do right now," Kennedy said.

Newday Church agreed to pay down the price of 3,000 gallons, and the fuel was gone a few hours after they started pumping.

For more information on Newday Seventh Day Adventist Church, visit http://www.newdaysda.com/.

(KUSA-TV © 2011 Multimedia Holdings Corporation)
Union College president leaving after 13 years

By the Lincoln Journal Star | Posted: Thursday, May 19, 2011 6:39 pm

David Smith, president of Union College since 1998, announced Thursday he will leave Union at the end of June to become senior pastor of a large Seventh-day Adventist church in Tennessee.

In a news release, Smith said he and his wife, Cherie, currently a pastor at the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church adjacent to Union, "had hoped and prayed to remain at Union College until retirement. But Cherie and I have always done what God convicted us to do. That is why we came to Union College 13 years ago. And that is why we are moving to Tennessee this summer." The couple will join the pastoral team of the Collegedale Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Under Smith's leadership, Union College emerged from 15 years of debt and saw enrollment almost double to more than 1,000 students for the first time in 24 years. The Ortner Center, Union's conference center and student dining facility, was built. And two highly successful academic programs were launched: master of physician assistant studies and international rescue and relief, which has gained renown for responding quickly to natural disasters, including the earthquake in Haiti and the tornadoes last month in Alabama.

"It has been such a blessing to work with all the wonderful people at Union College and see how God has blessed this campus over the past 13 years," Smith said. "I have every confidence that Union will continue to grow and to offer a high quality, spiritually based educational experience."

Tom Lemon, chair of the college's board of trustees and president of the Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, said Smith's leadership "has been very valuable and will be greatly missed."

The board of trustees has begun a search for a new president.

Smith taught English at Union from 1979 to 1981, but left to teach at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale. He returned to Union 17 years later as its 27th president.

Union College, located on a 50-acre, tree-lined campus on South 48th Street, was founded 120 years ago. In 2010-11, it enrolled 900 students from 45 states and 23 countries.