Children REACH North America

The NAD Children's Ministries Department has developed a free, downloadable REACH Coloring Book. "This resource will help kids understand what their role is in reaching others," said Phyllis Washington, director of children's ministries. "This is a way to share the gospel in a simple, yet creative way," she said. The 11-page coloring book contains Bible verses and a song that will help children understand how REACH North America, the Division's new 5-year focus, applies to them. "We want our children to be ready to take their place beside the adults in winning the world for Christ," said Washington.

Many conferences will be utilizing this new resource at their camp meetings this summer. You don't have to be a children's ministries leader to share this resource.

Check out childmin.com and kidsministryideas.org for other resources to share with your children. In addition, for training see the Go Fish website.

Better Quality of Life than U.S. Norm for Adventist Blacks

Adventist blacks report a better quality of life than the average American, black or white, according to the Adventist Health Study. Overall, black Adventist study participants reported better physical and mental quality of life than the U.S. norm, in some cases by as much as 4.5 percentage points. MORE
Upper Columbia Conference Celebrates Grand Opening

Representatives from local and state government joined several hundred other people on Monday, June 20, to celebrate the grand opening of the newly rebuilt Upper Columbia Conference office building in Spokane, Wash.

Robert Folkenberg Jr., UCC president, paid special tribute to the office staff, who, in his words, exhibited “a tremendous spirit and constant commitment to the mission of the church” in spite of the fire and temporary relocation.

The new one-story office is 4,000 square feet smaller than the facility it replaced. Read more and see a selection of photos HERE.

Appreciation for ACS

A co-director of a Christian ministry broke down crying during the first meeting with Adventist Community Services (ACS) staff involved in Joplin, Mo. tornado relief. He later wrote an email to Jody Dickhaut, president of the Iowa State VOAD and state director of the Iowa ACS Disaster Relief:

“.... Thank you so much for being a calm presence during the challenges of those first few days. Your warehousing, distribution, and disaster relief competencies were invaluable. However, those competencies would have only added to the challenge without your love for Jesus and people. I deeply appreciated praying with you the first time we met. I deeply appreciated your heart in the middle of the challenge with the Red Cross. I also appreciated your partner’s heart during the Red Cross challenge; however, I do not remember his name and did not record his contact information. I deeply appreciated your hug and prayer on Thursday when I thought we should shut down receiving and distribution in the church and the rest of my team would not allow us to do so.

“Thank you for caring. Thank you for training. Thank you for being a part of the pre-planning. Thank you for showing up with such a great and helpful attitude. Thank you for submitting to Jesus.”

Alumni Awards
Foundation Awards 10 Adventist Teachers
Ten of North America’s highest quality
teachers have been chosen from 45 nominations received this year to receive a 2011 Excellence in Teaching Award from the Alumni Awards Foundation (AAF). Each winner received $2,000, a medallion and a Certificate of Excellence during special events hosted by the recipients’ schools. MORE

AAF is a nonprofit organization that has awarded grants for Adventist education totaling more than $1.4 million. Since its establishment in 1995, the organization has recognized 106 exceptional teachers with the Excellence in Teaching Award. Their major objective is to strengthen and reward quality Adventist education, and foster the means for school improvements in Adventist K-12 schools.

Adventist Publications Bring Home High Honors

The Columbia Union Visitor, Adventist Review, Adventist World and Ministry received awards at the Associated Church Press (ACP) convention.

NAD’s Columbia Union Visitor received Best in Class, ACP’s top award, among denominational magazines. Visitor associate editor Beth Michaels accepted the award at the ACP’s annual Best of the Christian Press banquet. “Our goal every month is to plan and publish a quality news magazine that will inspire readers and keep them connected to the Columbia Union family,” says Celeste Ryan Blyden, editor and publisher. “This award acknowledges our hard work and says we’re doing something right.”

An Award of Merit was given to Celeste Ryan Blyden for the article titled “Suitcases with Wheels,” written about the Beltsville, Md. church’s annual banquet for homeless women.

The Associated Church Press, founded in 1916, is the oldest association of Christian publications in the United States. This year’s convention was held in conjunction with the Canadian Church Press. MORE and MORE

Photo (left to right): Kelly Coe, Beth Michaels, Celeste Ryan Blyden, Sandra Jones and Taashi Rowe.

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

Letter: Hungry will be fed in Paradise
Enterprise-Record
June 28

Showers on Wheels for Storm Volunteers

“Emotional Health & Wellness: A Biblical Worldview in Practice”
October 12-15

NAD Summit on Abuse
October 15-17

Prophecies Decoded: Can the Past Reveal Your Future?
September 30–October 29

Society of Adventist Communicators Convention
October 20–22

Special Needs Children’s Ministry Training
November 11-13

Adventist Ministries Convention
January 15–18

Health Summit 2012
January 27-February 5

Adventist World
NAD Edition

Check out these stories in the June 2011 edition:

“New Leadership Team Appointed” – pages 11-13
“From Pew Warmers to Church Planters” – pages 14-15
“We Will?” – page 17
“Time to Wake Up” – pages 36-39

Hope Channel Programs
Survey for Developing Multi-Media Parenting Resource

Adventist Parenting is announcing the launch of a survey designed to assist the Family Ministries Department at the NAD gather data needed in the development of a new multi-media parenting resource.

Claudio and Pamela Consuegra, director and associate director respectively for NAD Family Ministries, have been instrumental in spearheading the project. They envision a hands-on, interactive resource parents can use at home with their children—and also something that can be used in small groups at church and in other settings.

“Parenting often presents us with some of life’s greatest challenges,” says Pamela. “At NAD Family Ministries we want to come alongside parents and provide them with resources to make the journey a little easier. Through this survey, I look forward to hearing from parents across the country about the issues that concern them most.”

Adventist Parenting, a free bi-monthly e-newsletter is available to parents and friends. It addresses issues of family and faith, and offers practical advice to help parents of children 0 through 18 raise confident, God-centered kids in an increasingly secular world. Find the survey.
New Pathfinder Bible Experience

NAD Pathfinder Ministries introduces The Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE). PBE is a team challenge that focuses on immersion in the Word of God. Four levels of play will culminate in an official NAD Pathfinder event on Sabbath, April 21, at the General Conference headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. A full day of activities is planned, including Sabbath morning service with guest speaker, Dan Jackson, NAD president.

The Bible books of Mark and 1 Samuel are the subjects of this year’s experience, along with supplemental information from the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary. Help get the word out and participate in this historic experience with Pathfinders worldwide. A full manual describing details of participation will be available later in the summer.

MORE

Conference Constituency Reports

South Central Conference Constituency Report

More than 1,000 delegates traveled to the Oakwood University Church for the Third Quinquennial and 24th Regular Constituency Session of the South Central Conference. The June 25, 26 meeting had originally been scheduled for April 30 - May 1, but could not be held due to the severe and deadly tornados across the South that knocked out electricity for the entire city of Huntsville.

Dana C. Edmond, president, and Auldwin Humphrey, secretary, were re-elected. Zenobia Seward, was voted as treasurer. MORE

Upper Columbia Constituency Re-Elect Officers

Delegates to the 76th Constituency Session of the Upper Columbia Conference re-elected officers Robert Folkenberg Jr., president; Doug R. Johnson, vice president for administration; and Randall Terry, vice president for finance.

More than 460 delegates attended the meeting, held Sunday, June 19, on the campus of Upper Columbia Academy in Spangle, Wash. Among other business items, they voted three new congregations into the conference fellowship of churches and re-elected 13 departmental directors. MORE

MORE

Prophecies Decoded Offers Insights into World Events

Does the past reveal your future? It’s the question that will attract the attention of all who receive a handbill for NET 2011. It’s also the question that will be answered nightly September 30–October 29 for those who choose to attend.
Ron Clouzet, director of the North American Division Evangelism Institute, invites every church in North America to consider hosting Prophecies Decoded, a full message series, to reap the benefits of local outreach programs in 2011. Order handbills and other printed materials.

Get Real

“IT’s pretty amazing,” recalls Randy Fishell, editor of Real magazine. “One day we got all these cards from prisoners requesting that we send their children Real. We were confused, because we didn’t have a partnership with any prison ministries.”

After some sleuthing, the staff discovered that Inspiration Books East, a Christian tract distributor, had been advertising Real in their handouts to prisoners.

Developed for children ages 9-15, Real is published bimonthly and includes true character-building stories, puzzles, fun facts, and Christian advice. Each issue also contains a bilingual (English/Spanish) story.

You can sign up a child to receive a free subscription to Real at www.ShareReal.org, or call 1-800-765-6955.

Hope Channel Adds Esperanza TV and Church Channel to iPhone App

Hope Channel (HC) traces its roots back to 1995 when the North American Division uplinked its first satellite evangelism series (NET ’95). Since then, HC has broadcast more than 200 “NET” meetings. More than 2 million Seventh-day Adventists can trace their baptisms back to something associated with HC.

HC’s signals cover about 98 percent of the world’s population and they estimate that their total potential audience is approaching 3 billion people.

The new app, which includes the addition of Esperanza TV and the Hope Church Channel, expands the potential audience to more than 50 million iPhone users and more than 19 million iPad users around the world.

You can help share Hope by spreading the word about the new app, available for 99 cents at the iTunes shop. MORE

Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten
Dennis Plubell, Associate Director of 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

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6-28-11 Black members of Adventist church defy health disparities, study shows

Black church members report better physical and mental quality of life than general population

LOMA LINDA, Calif. — Health disparities between black Americans and the rest of the nation have been well-documented in medical journals. But one study shows that blacks who identify as members of the Seventh-day Adventist® Church actually report a better quality of life than the average American. Researchers point to certain lifestyle behaviors as a possible explanation for the difference.

The research was conducted at Loma Linda University as part of the Adventist Religion and Health Study (ARHS), a study of nearly 11,000 Adventists, including more than 3,400 black Adventists.

The findings were drawn from an ARHS survey that included questions from SF-12v2 Physical and Mental Health composite scores, widely recognized among researchers to be accurate measures of quality of life. Examples of questions included are:

"During the past four weeks, how much did pain interfere with your normal work?"

"How much time during the past four weeks have you felt downhearted and depressed?"

ARHS results were then compared to results from a nationwide sample of people who took the SF-12v2 survey. Overall, black Adventist study participants reported better physical and mental quality of life than the U.S. norm, in some cases by as much as 4.5 percentage points. (Data)

"It is striking that, although in the general population blacks show poorer quality of life on a variety of measures, our results show that black Adventists have a significantly better quality of life than the average American," says Jerry Lee, PhD, MA, RN, principal investigator for ARHS. "This difference is particularly pronounced in older age groups, who progressively demonstrate increased mental health—lower depression, more energy, feeling more calm and peaceful, etc.—relative to the general population. This could be a result of the healthy lifestyle choices that are built into the Adventist faith."

Compared to non-Adventist blacks and whites, rates of smoking, drinking, and meat consumption for Adventists were lower, and rates of vegetarianism and water consumption were higher. In addition, about 95 percent of the males and females in the black study cohort attended church weekly or more often, as compared to 30 percent of black males and 50 percent of black females in the General Social Survey—a survey routinely done on a sample of the entire United States by the National Opinion Research Center.

Adventists, who advocate temperance, a plant-based diet, and setting aside Saturday for worship and family time, have received much coverage in recent years for their longevity and quality of life. Loma Linda, Calif., a city with a high concentration of Adventists, was the only United States locale featured in the book "The Blue Zones," by Dan Buettner. The book examined five areas of the world where life spans often noticeably exceed the norms. Loma Linda Adventist subjects of the book have been featured on many national TV spots, including a heart surgeon practicing at 94 years old, interviewed on "The Oprah Winfrey Show," and a piano teacher giving lessons at 97, interviewed on "Anderson Cooper 360."

ARHS is a sub-study of the Adventist Health Study-2 (AHS-2), a long-term health study of more than 96,000 Adventists, including 26,000 black Adventists, across the United States and Canada. Research shows that lifestyle diseases disproportionately affect blacks. Part of AHS-2's goal has been to determine why this is the case by exploring the links between diet, lifestyle, and disease. The results of ARHS are an important step toward learning practices that may help eliminate health disparities between blacks and the general population. As analysis of data continues, more exciting results are expected that will have far-reaching implications for improving the health of the black community.

AHS-2 is conducted by researchers at Loma Linda University School of Public Health. For more information, visit www.adventisthealthstudy.org.

Contact: Heather Reifsnyder
hreifsnyder@llu.edu
909-558-1000 x42932
Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center
Grand Opening Celebrates New Building

by Steve Vistaunet

The ribbon cutting wrapped up the dedication ceremony.

Elder Max Torkelsen and Elder Dan Jackson unveiled the mission statement engraving next to the front door.

Bob and Audrey Folkenberg visit with Elder Dan Jackson in the lobby.
A pathfinder honor guard, from Pullman, Wash., participated in the dedicatory ceremony.

SPOKANE, Wash., 6/20/2011 - The landscape wasn't complete, but the joy and relief wrapped up in the Grand Opening celebration for the newly rebuilt Upper Columbia Conference office in Spokane, Wash., was palpable. Robert Folkenberg Jr., UCC president, welcomed representatives from local and state government, and several hundred other folks who came Monday, June 20, to tour the facility.

Bob Kyte, Adventist Risk Management president, reflected on the miraculous providence that provided adequate insurance coverage to replace the original building destroyed by fire in December 2008. "This currently represents the largest single payment in the history of our organization," he remarked, then quipped, "it's a record we hope will stand for a long, long time."

Folkenberg paid special tribute to Bill Skidmore, UCC human resources director, who oversaw the project as conference liaison with the architects and contractors. He also noted the resiliency of the office staff who exhibited "a tremendous spirit and constant commitment to the mission of the church" in spite of the fire and temporary relocation.

The new office is 4,000 square feet smaller than the facility it replaced. Everything is contained on one level. Natural light from skylights and large windows washes through nearly every nook and cranny. Signage with the three angels motif is being placed both inside and outside the building.

Herman Schreven, Adventist Book Store manager, is nearly rhapsodic about his new area. "In our old building," he says, "we had to hand truck all our food inventories over to the store ... through the snow." Now adequate space and storage is simply in the next room.

The testimonies of God's providence throughout the project are numerous. "The initial loss was devastating," Folkenberg said, "but the end result is an added blessing to our church. And," he adds, "the insurance monies funded the replacement. No church money was required." That didn't come without careful and sometimes seemingly small decisions: Metal instead of wood door frames; and hydro-seeding outside grass instead of laying sod. "A lot of little choices," says Folkenberg, "added up to big savings and a project that came in under budget."

Doug Johnson, vice president for administration, recalls the questions that came directly following the fire. "Even while the building was burning, we found ourselves asking 'Where do we go from here?'" he says. "But every step of the way, God more than met our needs and astounded us with answers we'd never dreamed of."
10 Phenomenal Teachers Awarded


With strong recommendation, 10 of North America’s highest quality teachers were selected this spring by the Alumni Awards Foundation (AAF) to receive a 2011 Excellence in Teaching Award.

Nominated by principals, superintendents, colleagues, and former students, the 10 teachers selected have been celebrated across the North American Division. AAF board members and staff have traveled from coast to coast to present each teacher with a $2,000 gift, medallion and Certificate of Excellence during special events hosted by the recipients’ schools. Colleagues, students and community members have had the opportunity to publicly thank the teachers for the impact they’ve had in their local schools. One remaining presentation for September is scheduled.

The finalists were chosen from 45 nominations received this year. The AAF staff and Selection Committee diligently considered each teacher, and what resulted was an impressive top 10.

“After reading the essays from the nominations and their supporting documents, my belief in the quality of teachers that we have in our schools has been strengthened,” said Roo McKenzie, Southeastern California Conference Evangelist for Education. AAF appointed McKenzie to serve on this year’s Selection Committee. “Adventist Christian Education has some superstar teachers indeed.”

Robert Nobuhara, a 2010 Excellence in Teaching Award recipient from Monterey Bay Academy, was also on this year’s Selection Committee. Nobuhara said what he appreciated most of all about the candidates was that many if not all of them strongly focused their teaching to connect their students to Jesus Christ.

AAF’s Selection Committee of six agreed that choosing the final 10 was challenging. In fact, committee members said it took several rounds of voting to determine the finalists.

“I had to go with my heart to make the selections, but it was very difficult,” said Arpad Soo, Selection Committee Chairman and AAF Board Member. “We have so many outstanding teachers this year, and they all deserve an award. It’s a thrilling experience to read and see what these educators are doing. My congratulations to our 10 recipients this year.”

AAF is a nonprofit organization that has awarded grants for Adventist education totaling more than $1.4 million. The organization has recognized 106 exceptional teachers with an Excellence in Teaching Award since its establishment in 1995. AAF partners with educators, church officials and philanthropists to develop and fund programs that awaken the full potential in Adventist education.

The AAF Board of Directors includes individuals who have become leaders in their communities and professions. AAF board members say they draw inspiration from their common heritage in Adventist schools. Their major objective is to strengthen and reward quality Adventist education, and foster the means for school improvements in Adventist K-12 schools.

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD RECIPIENTS

Steven Atkins, Andrews Academy, Michigan Conference
Sonia Barrett, Brooklyn Seventh-day Adventist School, Greater New York Conference
Steve Baughman, Highland Academy, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference
Vivian Beierle, Mission Hills Christian School, Northern California Conference
David Goymer, Paradise Adventist Academy, Northern California Conference
James Marxmiller, Mountain View Academy, Central California Conference
Gordon Miller, Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary, Potomac Conference
Mark Smith, Portland Adventist Academy, Oregon Conference
Keren Taccone, West Palm Beach Junior Academy, Florida Conference
Wendie Warren, Bermuda Institute of Seventh-day Adventists, Bermuda Conference
Adventists Show Well at Associated Church Press Convention

BY STEPHEN CHAVEZ, managing editor, Adventist Review

Four Seventh-day Adventist publications were recognized for their contributions to Christian publishing at the Associated Church Press (ACP) convention held April 27-29 in Chicago. Adventist Review, Adventist World, Ministry, and the Columbia Union Visitor were among those named “Best of the Christian Press” at the ACP’s annual event.

“Our mission to inspire and inform Seventh-day Adventists around the world drives our weekly and monthly publications,” says Bill Knott, editor and executive publisher of Adventist Review and Adventist World. “Our primary audience—and the one we care most about—is the reader who finds in these magazines a sense of deep connection to a world-circling fellowship of faith and outreach. But it certainly is gratifying to have peers in Christian publishing notice and applaud the quality of our work. I’m enormously proud of this team of hard-working professionals, and I congratulate them for the part they have each played in this recognition.”

Adventist Review was honored with an award of excellence for its coverage of the 2010 General Conference session in Atlanta. Adventist Review art designer Bryan Gray received an award of merit for his design of the June 30, 2010 issue, which was the fifth of the General Conference bulletins produced on-site at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

Assistant editor Kimberly Luste Maran’s interview with Ian Bonilla, “Just a Regular Guy” (May 20, 2010), brought her an award of merit in the interview category. Maran's biographical profile of Adventist author Joe Wheeler garnered an honorable mention for the article "Christmas in My Heart--And Beyond" (Dec. 16, 2010). Illustrator Ralph Butler also received an award of merit in humor graphic for his illustration that accompanied the cover story “Bumpers, Sandboxes, Autographs, and the Power of Jesus” (Aug. 26, 2010). Adventist Review also received an honorable mention in best in class: newsletter for its KidsView.

Adventist World received an award of merit in the devotional (long format) category for J. Stanley McCluskey’s article “Can We Always Count on God’s Protection?” (January, 2010). Adventist World also received an honorable mention, citing the magazine’s design firm, Dever Designs, for its design of the cover story “Convicted by a Scrap of Paper” (June, 2010).

Ministry: International Journal for Pastors received an

The Columbia Union Visitor received an award of excellence for best in class: denominational magazine.

The Associated Church Press, founded in 1916, is the oldest association of Christian publications in the United States. This year’s convention was held in conjunction with the Canadian Church Press.
Visitor Named “Best Denominational Magazine”
Story by Visitor Staff

Meet the Staff: Kelly Butler Coe, art director and designer; Beth Michaels, associate editor; Celeste Ryan Blyden, editor and publisher; Sandra Jones, copy editor and bulletin board editor; Taashi Rowe, assistant editor.

The Associated Church Press (ACP) recently bestowed a high honor on the Columbia Union Visitor, naming it Best in Class among denominational magazines. Visitor associate editor Beth Michaels accepted the award at the ACP’s annual Best of the Christian Press banquet during the last weekend of April.

“Our goal every month is to plan and publish a quality news magazine that will inspire readers and keep them connected to the Columbia Union family,” says Celeste Ryan Blyden, editor and publisher. “This award acknowledges our hard work and says we’re doing something right.”

Founded in 1916, the ACP (theacp.org) is the oldest interdenominational religious press association in North America. Members include writers, editors, designers and other communicators from Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian and Seventh-day Adventist organizations, etc. From some 1,000 submissions in 60 categories, judges this year chose just over 200 winners from entries published in newspapers, newsletters, magazines, news services, eZines and websites and recognized them with honorable mentions and awards of merit or excellence. “Best in Class” is the top award.

Joe Thoma, ACP’s executive director, explained why the Visitor, a first-time entrant, stood out from its peers: “In my discussion with the judges and the awards committee, they were particularly impressed with the magazine’s bold use of color photos. Especially impressive are the full-spread and full-page, full-bleed pieces that integrated the art and typography in a way that should be an inspiration to other publications in the field. Composition and reproduction are excellent.”

Blyden also won an Award of Merit for her feature article, “Suitcases with Wheels,” which covered
the annual holiday dinner for homeless women sponsored by Potomac Conference's Beltsville (Md.) church. The Adventist Review, Adventist World and Ministry were also recognized for work in 2010.

Other Visitor Awards
• 2008 DeRose-Hinkhouse Memorial Shoestring Award for the AudioVisitor Podcast
• 2007 Religion Communicators Council (RCC) Award of Merit for the 25th Columbia Union Constituency Session Print Report
• 2007 RCC Award of Merit for Celeste Ryan Blyden's Crisis Management Guide
• 2006 RCC Award of Excellence for the President's Constituency Report Video produced by Celeste Ryan Blyden and David Brillhart
• 2004 RCC Award of Excellence for the 2004 Visitor Calendar
• 2005 Illustrators Club of Washington, Maryland and Virginia Certificate of Merit, for the June Visitor Cover Illustration by Ralph Butler with art direction by Kelly Butler Coe
• 2004 Illustrators Club Certificate of Excellence for the December Visitor Cover Illustration by Ralph Butler with art direction by Kelly Butler Coe
Letter: Hungry will be fed in Paradise

Chico Enterprise-Record

Posted: 06/26/2011 12:20:38 AM PDT

What great news: Paradise Adventist Church announced that it will serve a free lunch on every Sunday (starting last month) to those that are hungry. If someone needs a free meal in Paradise/Magalia they can get a lunch every day of the week. Yes, every day.

We don't know of a community our size in California that offers a free meal seven days a week. Understand what it takes — almost 1 percent of our population volunteers every month to serve a lunch to those that our hungry. Yes, 280 people give of their time to prepare and serve a meal seven days a week.

Most communities fret about the condition of the poor; some hold meetings; others write grants to foundations or search for some government program that might help. They create paperwork and sweat but little else.

In Paradise/Magalia, Paradise Adventist Church, St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, Paradise Lutheran Church, St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Paradise United Methodist Church, Family Resource Center, Stirling City Assembly of God, Paradise Alliance Church and Paradise Pentecostal Church of God all answered the call and said, "Yes we will feed you."

We have all been raised up.

— Jonathan Trivers, Paradise
Showers on Wheels for Storm Volunteers

Even a tractor trailer has become a place tornado relief volunteers can call home.

From the outside, it looks like a big rig, 18-wheeler.

On the inside however, it's a place where volunteers, who came to Apison from Cincinnati, can wash off hours of working in the heat of day.

"The way they're being used here, they're sleeping in a church, and we can pull this up to the church and they have shower facilities," said Terry Haight, a worker with Adventist Community Services Disaster Response, who operates the truck.

McKee Foods donated the tractor-trailer to Southern Adventist University and students turned it into a mobile relief center in response to Hurricane Katrina. It spent three years in the devastated Gulf Coast. Now, the semi-truck is helping out its hometown.

"It takes about an hour to set up," said Larry Wise, who maintains the truck. "You got to find an electrical source, and if we don't have an electrical source, we have an on board generator."

The 18-wheeler is complete with 13 showers, with separate sides for men and women.

There's also six sinks on the outside of the trailer, and an 80-gallon hot water heater, which means when these volunteers get back from a hard day's work, they won't be running out of hot water.

Volunteer Sophie Ash from Vertical Youth Group appreciates the showers.

"It's amazing going in that shower," she said. "It's really nice because you have the hot, and you can turn it to cold. I'm taking a cold one tonight."

Only two household outlets are needed to power the shower trailer. Thanks to the on-board generator however, it can work without electricity whether its in Louisiana or Tennessee.
Magical Night Of Mystery And Truth For Tornado Relief Is July 13
by Cheryl Torres
posted June 26, 2011

At 8:30 p.m. on April 27, the community was changed forever when an F4 tornado hit. The devastation and loss of life were overwhelming. Now out of the ashes are blooms of beauty that can be seen in our community.

We, as a community, are coming together on Wednesday, July 13, at 7 p.m. on the campus of Southern Adventist University in the IIes P.E. Center for a night of "amazing illusions, full-blast laughs, an inspirational message, and live music and multimedia" featuring Master Illusionist Greg Davidson.

The audience will also be treated to a pre-show featuring piano and violin soloists Rebecca and Jessica Peck and 13-year-old singing sensation Mallory Ledford.

Greg’s entertainment and inspirational programs have been highly acclaimed. His unique blend of magical illusion and Christ-centered message intertwined with his witty warmth has taken him all over the world.

More than just a fun family night, this event is also a fundraiser to benefit the Apison and Cherokee Valley Road communities. A love offering will be taken at the presentation and 100% of the proceeds will go toward the recovery efforts in these two communities.

Tickets will be available by calling The Samaritan Center at 238-7777 ext. 16, or call Apison United Methodist Church at 236-5175 for more information and ticket pick-up.

Tickets will also be available at the Apison Baptist Church, Apison Seventh-day Adventist Church, Village Market and Hullco Exteriors. Tickets are free to the public.
Two days before the Enfield High School Class of 2011 holds its commencement exercises, the class president received his diploma in an unorthodox ceremony at the conclusion of graduation rehearsal Thursday.

Patrick Knighton, a Seventh-day Adventist, is unable to attend Saturday's graduation due to religious beliefs. On April 12, he appealed to the Board of Education to change the date of graduation.

"One of the distinctions of my religion is that we observe the Sabbath Saturday as our holy day," he told board members at that time. "On this day, we refrain from business or business-related activities...because of the day of the week, my friends, family and I will not be able to attend this special ceremony. It is clear to see that this is causing me tremendous grief."

The Sabbath Saturday runs from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday, Knighton said.

The school board convened a special meeting on April 18, and voted to keep the graduation date as originally scheduled for June 25. However, the board later decided to follow the advice of Superintendent of Schools John Gallacher that all future graduations be held on weekdays.

At the conclusion of Thursday morning's rehearsal in the school gymnasium, Knighton, wearing a green gown and mortarboard, received the Ed Boland Award, the social studies department scholar award, presented by Dr. Frank Taylor.

He then received his diploma in a special presentation by Connie Hall, his first and second-grade teacher in Berrien Springs, Mich., who flew in from Reno, Nev. to take part in the ceremony.

"Patrick has always been dear to my heart, he has been consistent in his beliefs and what he stood for," Hall said. "I've kept up with him through the years, and when he asked me to come to present him his diploma, it was a no-brainer - I stopped what I had to do to fly up here and support him. He has always stood for what is right. He's been a role model to my son, helping him to know how to live and stand for right."

With his family and about 50 members of his church looking on in delight, Knighton was congratulated by Gallacher, Mayor Scott Kaupin, Board of Education
peers who have meant so much to me over the past four years. We are the type of people that are not bewildered by the types of things we can't control. Throughout our four years at Enfield High, we've been attacked by several major natural and unnatural disasters. We survived through a flood, a fire, multiple snow days, blizzard conditions, no electricity for a day, two graduation controversies, and we narrowly missed a tornado, yet we kept unparalleled composure. Rather than complaining about them, we would rather make the best of a bad situation. It is this type of attitude that has made us successful at Enfield High, and this type of attitude will also move us far in life. Class of 2011, I leave you with three words: go be victorious.*

Knighton's fellow seniors gave him a standing ovation as he concluded his speech.

Principal Tom Duffy said, "I met with Patrick and his mom, and we wanted to personalize and individualize enough that he, his family and his church family felt as though they were part of it. I also wanted the class to be involved in it, and that was important to Patrick as well. This is a close-knit, well-rounded class that has done a lot of things together; this class has stayed together through a lot. He had kind, heartfelt words to speak to his class, and we wanted him to get the due respect, honor and meaning that a well-earned diploma and being a department scholar has."

In an interview following the ceremony, a grateful Knighton said, "I never pictured this in my mind, and I'm thankful to God that I had the experience. I hope my classmates learned a lesson about their character and what they should be accomplishing in life. They have supported me full on and were understanding to my situation, and I really appreciate them for that."

*Congratulations to Patrick Droney, EHS Senior Class President, on receiving his diploma in a special ceremony. He also received the Mr. Boland department scholar award, named in honor of the late Mr. Boland, who was a beloved teacher at the school. He will be attending West Point to study engineering.

Comments (4)

Patrick Droney
6:10am on Friday, June 24, 2011

Patrick, congratulations on your achievement and best wishes to you in the future. You are a credit to your class and to your school. All the best.

Mary LaMesa
9:10am on Friday, June 24, 2011

Although I have never met you...I would like to say that you are a role model and true inspiration to our youth today! Congratulations on your accomplishment!

Susan
10:22am on Friday, June 24, 2011

May God always shine down upon you! You are a special light in Enfield!

Julie Cotnoir
12:28pm on Friday, June 24, 2011

Congratulations Patrick! I had the great fortune of having Mr. Boland for a teacher and I was thrilled to read that you were presented the scholar award named in his memory. Best wishes for continued success!
It could have been a wedding.

There were flowers, ministers and a room filled with family and friends.

There also was a young woman dressed in white about to take vows.

But instead of saying "I do," she said "I won't."

It was part of a unique event known as a purity ceremony, where young women — tweens and older — pledge not to have sex before marriage.

A growing trend among many young people over the past decade, some ceremonies are elaborate affairs, with formal attire, an exchange of purity rings and sit-down dinners.

Others are more modest with only a simple promise of abstinence.

Jazzmin Pride knows all about the celebrations.

"One of my friends had one last year and she encouraged me to do one, too," the 17-year-old Highland View Academy student said.

The daughter of Ron and Jeri Pride of Falling Waters, W.Va. Jazzmin said she recently approached her parents about having her own purity ceremony, which she thinks took them by surprise.

"They thought it was a great endeavor," she said. "But I'm not sure they thought I would really go through with it."
When she showed her commitment to the event, Jazzmin said her family and friends were very supportive.

"I have five siblings — one older and the rest younger," she said. "And they were really enthusiastic. They teased me a bit. But they were very encouraging."

One of her sisters took part in the ceremony as a flower girl.

Jazzmin said she has read about purity balls, with tuxedo-clad fathers, women in long gowns and 10-piece orchestras.

"Mine wasn't like that," she said. "I simply wanted to publicly make a statement about my stand on purity."

The event was held in a chandeliered room at the Review and Herald Publishing Association.

A member of New Joy Fellowship Seventh-day Adventist Church, Jazzmin said she was blessed and prayed over by several pastors, as well as her father.

"It was a great experience," she said.

Jazzmin said she invited several of her friends to the ceremony and is hopeful they will follow in her footsteps.

"At first, many of them asked 'why do that?,' she said. "But once they were at the ceremony, they really appreciated what I was doing. They even said the vows with me."

Jazzmin said she could see herself coordinating future ceremonies for interested young women.

"I hope I'm laying the groundwork," she said.
The risk of child and adolescent overweight is related to types of food consumed

Background/Aims: To investigate the association between the risk of overweight and the consumption of food groups in children and adolescents.

Methods: We studied 1764 healthy children and adolescents (age 6-19y) attending 16 Seventh-Day Adventist schools and 13 public schools using a 106-item non-quantitative food frequency questionnaire from the late 1980 Child-Adolescent Blood Pressure Study. Logistic regression models were used to compute the risk of overweight according to consumption of grains, nuts, vegetables, fruits, meats/fish/eggs, dairy, and, low nutrient-dense foods (LNDF).

Results: The frequency of consumption of grains, nuts, vegetables and LNDF were inversely related to the risk of being overweight and dairy increased the risk.

Specifically, the odds ratio (95% CI) for children in the highest quartile or tertile of consumption compared with the lowest quartile or tertile were as follows: grains/legumes 0.59(0.41-0.83); nuts 0.60(0.43-0.85); vegetables 0.67(0.48-0.94); LNDF 0.43(0.29-0.63); and, dairy 1.36(0.97, 1.92).

Conclusion: The regular intake of specific plant foods may prevent overweight among children and adolescents.

Author: Vichuda MatthewsMichelle WienJoan Sabate
Credits/Source: Nutrition Journal 2011, 10:71
Published on: 2011-06-24

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The risk of child and adolescent overweight is related to types of food co...
6-28-11 The Pathfinder Bible Experience

Announcing an NAD-wide Pathfinder Event

According to the North American Division (NAD) Pathfinder Director, Elder James Black, Sr., most of the Pathfinder ministries in the NAD do not participate in any kind of bible challenge experience. At the urging of the Pathfinder Committee, a new program was developed that gives ownership to the local leaders and hopefully will bridge all the different models into one unified annual experience. The time is now to introduce our Pathfinders to a new experience that will bring us all together as a division. Therefore,

It is with great excitement that NAD Pathfinder Ministries introduces The Pathfinder Bible Experience, a team challenge that focuses on immersion in the Word of God. Four levels of play will culminate in an official NAD Pathfinder event on Sabbath, April 21, 2012, at the General Conference headquarters in Silver Spring, Md. A full day of activities is planned, including Sabbath morning service, with guest speaker, Dan Jackson, NAD president.

The Bible books of Mark and 1 Samuel are the subjects of this year’s experience, along with supplemental information from the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary. A full manual describing details of participation will be available late in the summer, but for now here is what you need to know:

Each year on the first Sabbath in February, teams of up to six Pathfinders will participate in an area Pathfinder Bible Experience. Clubs can field as many teams as they have Pathfinders to fill! Those placing in the 1st place category with 90% and higher of the top score earned will advance to conference level on the first Sabbath of March. Union level will be held on the last Sabbath in March and the Division level on the third Sabbath in April. The local conference and union may alter the date forward or backward a week according to their unique scheduling needs.

Most questions will require short answers.

No special equipment is required, just a laptop and projector at each event.

Pam Scheib, a Pathfinder leader in Pennsylvania Conference, has been appointed as the NAD Pathfinder Bible Experience Coordinator. You can contact her at papathfinders@verizon.net or at 717-887-2171.

Exciting developments are underway to connect the Pathfinder Bible Experience with the broader church life, Bible study, and revival, reformation and repentance.

A special note to conference and union Pathfinder directors: Since this is a ministry of Pathfinders across the entire division, we are seeking committed, qualified adults to help write questions and assist in coordinating and growing the Pathfinder Bible Experience. If you have a person in your conference whom you feel spirit led to recommend, please send their contact information to Pam Scheib.

We invite you to get the word out and participate in this HISTORIC experience with Pathfinders worldwide. See you at the General Conference World Headquarters with your teams on April 21, 2012.

Watch for further details at www.PathfindersOnline.org
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Report: South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Third Quinquennial and 24th Regular Constituency Session

Huntsville, AL - June 26, 2011 - Over 1000 delegates traveled to the Oakwood University Church for the Third Quinquennial and 24th Regular Constituency Session of the South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, June 25-26, 2011. This meeting was originally scheduled for April 30 - May 1, 2011. However, the severe and deadly tornados prevented this from happening. Delegates at the Constituency Session, held every five years, met to discuss the business of the conference, vote in the administrative team, directors, and share their votes and opinions on how the conference should operate. Report listed below:

ADMINISTRATION
Dana C. Edmond - President
Auldwin Humphrey - Secretary
Zenobia Seward - Treasurer

DEPARTMENTAL PERSONNEL

Adventist Community Services - Referred to executive committee
Communication - Michael Harpe
Children’s Ministries - Referred
Disabilities - Referred

Education Superintendent - Erma Lee (Interim) - Search Committee
Family Life Director - referred
FHES - Java Mattison
Human Resources - Appointed
Latino Ministries - Edgardo Herrera
Ministerial - Benjamin Jones, Jr.
Prayer & Men's Ministries - Roy Rugless
Evangelism - Alfred Miller and Donell Morgan
Religious Liberty - Referred

Sabbath School & Spirit of Prophecy - Craig Newborn
Prison Ministry - Referred
Evangelism & Personal Ministry - Jeffery Watson
Stewardship - Referred
Women’s Ministries - Referred
Youth Ministries - Vandeon Griffin and Wayne Hewlett

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

North Alabama
Cleveland Wilson
Elvira Young
Sheila Toney
Debleaire Snell

Central Alabama
Elvira Findley
Janice Gaiter

South Alabama
Donald White
Michael Ross

Tennessee
Nikkia Hampton
Darrel Thomas
Darnell Fletcher
Furman Fordham

Mississippi
Betty Graves
James McCoy
Douglas Johnson

Kentucky
Hasten Miller
Second Representative-Referred to Executive Committee

Florida
Curtis Hall

Institutional Representative
Leslie N. Pollard

Departmental Representative
Edgardo Herrera

Association Committee
Officers, ex officio: President, Secretary, Treasurer
Donna Harrison
Veronica Luckett

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE 2011-2016
Sandy Robinson - North Alabama
Albert Frazier - Kentucky
Martin Lister - Central Tennessee
Fred Batten - West Tennessee
Clifton McMillan - Central Alabama
Marion Johnson - South Alabama
Danny Chandler - Mississippi
Norma Hunt - Florida
Stephanie Crider - East Tennessee
Aaron Carranza - North Alabama

New Church Fellowships:
Tuscaloosa New Life
The Luz & Esperanza SDA Church of Boaz, AL
The Oakwood Spanish SDA Church
The Moss Point Bible Fellowship Church in Moss Point, MS
The Lima Drive SDA Church in Lexington, KY
The Aliento de Vida SDA Church in Memphis, TN

Session adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

South Central Conference is dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ—communicating the Gospel to the world, starting with our territory: TN, KY, AL, MS, and Northern FL; and we are devoted to serving our communities producing positive life changing results.

Contact:
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South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
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michael.harpe@scc-adventist.org
615-226-6500, Ext 128

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Next >
Upper Columbia Delegates Re-Elect Officers

by Steve Vistaunet

Bob Folkenberg, Jr. gave the president's report, focusing on how Upper Columbia Conference has worked to meet the specific goals outlined by the 75th Constituency Session.

Spangle, Wash., 6/19/2011 - Delegates to the 76th Constituency Session of the Upper Columbia Conference, re-elected officers Robert Folkenberg Jr., president, Doug R. Johnson, vice president for administration, and Randall Terry, vice president for finance.

More than 460 delegates attended the meeting, held Sunday, June 19, on the campus of Upper Columbia Academy in Spangle, Wash. Among other business items, they voted in three new congregations to the conference fellowship of churches and approved the merger of two churches: Blue Mountain Valley and Mission Native American. They also re-elected 13 departmental directors: Larry Marsh, education; Jay Wintermeyer, communication; Gerald Haeger, ministerial; Wayne Hicks, family life/Pathfinders; Art Lenz, information and technology services; Dave Livermore, personal evangelism, discipleship and adult Sabbath School; Patty Marsh, community services, children's and women's ministries; Richard Parker, youth; Wayne Searson, trust; Bill Skidmore, human resources; Jay Sloop, health; and Herman Schreven, Adventist Book Center.

Randy Terry, vice president of finance, noted that despite recent tithe downturns, the conference is still creatively finding ways to move forward with an energetic mission. More than $3.2 million has been raised toward the $4 million goal for the Kids Educational Endowment/Scholarship Program (KEEP), and more than $660,000 has come in toward a $1 million goal for new Camp MiVoden cabins.

Folkenberg reminded delegates of the Share the Life initiative that embeds a spirit of mission in every church and member. He called each member to be part of God's reclamation army—standing between the devil and the discouraged. He pointed to the new vision statement taken from Ellen White's Testimonies to the Church, volume 9, page 126, which begins with the words, "In visions of the night, representations passed before me of a great reformatory movement among God's people." “This should be our desire," said Folkenberg.

This constituency session came on the heels of the UCC camp meeting also held, for the first time in years, on the UCA campus.
6-22-11 New App Makes Hope Channel More Mobile Than Ever

Esperanza TV and Hope Church Channel Added

Seventh-day Adventists® will be glad to know that their church's global TV network now offers more choices of channels for iPhones, iPads, and iPod Touches.

Hope Channel is pleased to announce the addition of Esperanza TV and Hope Church Channel to its iPhone app. Hope Channel North America, Hope Channel Germany, and Hope Channel International are already included in the app.

Available for 99 cents at the iTunes shop, the app also offers a program guide that synchronizes with the local time zone of the device. This means Hope Channel is now available to more than 50 million iPhone users and more than 19 million iPad users around the world. Church members can use this news to share the network with friends and family.

To get the app, install iTunes on your computer or Apple device then visit the iTunes store and search for the Hope Channel app; or visit itunes.apple.com/us/app/hope-channel/id373523568. The app works with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad, and requires iOS 3.1 or later. If you already have the app, you can download it again to get the updates.

Apps for Android phones are in development and are expected to be available this Fall.

HopeTV.cz (our Czech and Slovak channel) now offers its programming to iPhone, iPad, and Android users free of charge. Novo Tempo (Portuguese) and Nuevo Tiempo (Spanish) also have apps for audio streaming.

As of July 1, Hope Channel will have 13 different channels serving the world utilizing 14 satellites that create 19 different "footprints." Hope Channel's signals cover about 98 percent of the world's population with a free TV signal. By adding together the subscribers to satellite TV services that provide Hope Channel, the populations served by local TV stations and cable systems that air Hope Channel, and the number of satellite receivers aimed at the satellites that carry us as a free signal, we estimate that our total potential audience is rapidly approaching three billion individuals.

Each channel's content is carefully contextualized for the cultures we reach by using program hosts and guests from the culture; and by addressing issues relevant to that culture in ways most comfortable and familiar to them.

Hope Channel traces its roots back to 1995 when the church did its first evangelistic series by satellite (NET '95). Since then, Hope Channel has broadcast more than 200 "NET" meetings. More than 2 million Seventh-day Adventists can trace their baptisms back to something associated with Hope Channel.

Here is a list of Hope Channel's current channels and coverage areas:

North and Central America: Hope Channel (English), Hope Church Channel (English, but with two hours each evening in French), and EsperanzaTV (Spanish)

South America: Novo Tempo (Portuguese) and Nuevo Tiempo (Spanish)

Europe: Hope Channel Germany, Hope Channel Romania (Speranta), Hope Channel Europe (multiple languages, but mostly Russian, Ukrainian, and English)

Hope Channel International (several languages) covers Africa, India, Russia, Asia, Pacific Rim, South Pacific

Hope Channel India (Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, some English) also reaches much of Europe and Africa

Hope Channel North Africa/Middle East (Arabic, Farsi, Turkish) reaches the 10/40 Window and most of Europe

Chinese Hope TV (Primarily Mandarin, starts July 1) will cover China and part of Vietnam

We also have online-only channels in Norwegian, Czech, Bulgarian, and Korean.

There are channels in development for other languages and people groups.