Obama Visits Paterson, NJ, Hurricane Relief Location

September 7, 2011

In this Issue

- Obama Visits Paterson, NJ, Hurricane Relief Location
- An overflow crowd attended NYC Hispanic evangelism effort
- “Canadá para Cristo” (Canada for Christ) is a collaborative
- The NAD Church Resource Center (CRC) is being restructured
- Gone but not Forgotten - Dr. Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse
- Adventists in the News
- The National Marrow Donor Program will be doing screenings
- Anti Domestic Violence Forum for Women and Men
- Reach North
On the heels of Hurricane Irene, U.S. President Barack Obama paid a visit Sunday to a flood-relief staging location where 310 Allegheny East Conference (AEC) and New Jersey Conference (NJC) volunteers distributed nearly $200,000 worth of food products, personal care items and cleaning supplies to 1,226 families (representing 3,337 individuals). The First Paterson SDA Church partnered with Lowes home improvement store and Feed the Children to set up the relief distribution in the Lowes parking lot. All commodities, from three tractor trailers dispatched from the Feed The Children warehouse in Nashville, Tenn., were distributed before 2 p.m. Meals for Kids, known for preparing and delivering individually catered hot and cold lunches to children, also partnered with the church to provide over 800 hot lunches and meals. Lowes “Heroes” program quickly provided volunteers from other NJ Lowes locations to respond and support the relief effort as well.

The President met with residents whose homes were flooded by Hurricane Irene and with the volunteers who helped lead the disaster relief effort. "Many Americans are still at serious risk of power outages and flooding, which could get worse in coming days as rivers swell past their banks," President Barack Obama said Sunday, adding: "The recovery effort will last for weeks or longer."

"President Obama thanked us for giving back to the community and being there to help others in their time of need," said Pastor David L. King of the First Paterson Seventh-day Adventist Church. Pastor King was the lead director and organizer of the community faith-based initiative to quickly identify community partnerships and to set-up the large disaster relief operation.

Pastor King summarized the two-day effort saying, "Our community came together to lift spirits by living our faith and providing people with help and hope. This is an opportunity to share the love of Jesus with the victims of this disaster. We strengthened our footprint in this community with new partnerships and we plan to continue our efforts to heal this community long after the flooding is gone."

"Two community churches located near First Paterson Adventist Church: the Redeemed Tabernacle Deliverance Church and Seminary Baptist Church, brought lots of volunteers;” said Minnie McNeil, AEC Adventist Community Services Director. "I spoke with both pastors, they thanked us over and over for the opportunity to serve. One pastor said, 'I was riding and praying and looking at all the devastation, not knowing what to do, asking the Lord to help my church find a way to help all these people,’ then she said she returned home and received a call from Pastor King. ‘That was God answering my prayer,’ she said… The district manager at Lowe's set up a meeting with Pastor King for this week to see how they can partner in other endeavors." MORE

(Photos: Top left, Obama poses with Pastor David King; right, an NJC ACS DR volunteer providing relief; bottom left, The Paterson SDA Community

America with Astonishing Discoveries

- The 2011 Family Ministries Planbook
- Videos from Adventist Urban Congresses
- Use these videos to promote Let's Move Day
- “Suffering”
- Upcoming Events
- Adventist World NAD Edition
- September Offerings and Special Days
- Union Magazines and Websites
- Adventist Mission DVD and Quarterly

Upcoming Events

Festival of the Laity, Sept. 7–10

Astonishing Discoveries in the Land of the Bible, Sept. 14–18

Let’s Move Day, Sept. 25

Nonprofit Leadership Certification Advanced - Sept. 25-29

Prophecies Decoded: Can the Past Reveal Your Future? Sept. 30–Oct. 29

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

Jesus Loves Jeans, Oct. 8-15

Services hub to provide logistics and distribution of nearly $200,000 worth of products)

An overflow crowd attended NYC Hispanic evangelism effort presented by La Voz de la Esperanza (Voice of Hope) Speaker/Director Frank González, August 31 to September 3. After nearly a year of advance preparation working closely with the Greater New York and Northeastern Conferences, conducting nearly 400 small Bible study groups, their goal of “1011 baptisms in 2011” is already nearly realized, and is expected to be surpassed. MORE

“Canadá para Cristo” (Canada for Christ) is a collaborative Hispanic evangelistic effort between unions and local churches. Hispanic conference and union coordinators will hold simultaneous union-wide evangelistic meetings throughout Canada, October 15-22. This unprecedented Hispanic evangelistic thrust will take place simultaneously in Montreal, Toronto Central, Toronto Bethel-Maranatha, Hamilton, London, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Calgary Central/Maranatha, Edmonton Maranatha, and Vancouver.

While the Hispanic segment is the fastest growing in the NAD membership, the Canadian union has the smallest Hispanic Adventist presence in NAD. MORE

The NAD Church Resource Center (CRC) is being restructured and a newly appointed Resource Development Committee (RDC) will now be responsible for development of resources representing the spectrum of church ministries to serve leaders across the NAD. The exception will be the Vervent cluster of resources, including The Pastor’s DVD, which will now be produced by the NAD Ministerial Department. NAD will contract with AdventSource to manage project development.

Dan Day, former CRC director, will be the Director for Special Projects, working directly with NAD administration to assure that NAD's strategic objectives are maintained with various initiatives and partnerships to further the mission of the division.

Gone but not Forgotten - Dr. Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse, beloved professor and director of the New England Youth Ensemble (NEYE) at Washington Adventist University passed away on August 31 in Mass. She began her music training at the age of six and debuted her own music compositions at age ten. At age 13, she won a music scholarship for study at the University of South Africa, where she had auditioned on both piano and violin. She founded NEYE in 1969 with a group of five students.
who made their first international trip in 1973 to the World Youth Congress in Edinburg, Scotland. 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

Heart Health Improvement Program Info
TribLocal
September 5

Cyclist on cross-country trek
Sturgis Journal
September 3

Congressman Jerry Lewis Visits, Tours Loma Linda University
Department of ... Highland Community News
September 2

'I don't know what old is'
Napa Valley Register
September 1

Florida Hospital serves up monthly taste tour of world’s cuisines
Daytona Beach News-Journal
September 1

Shocking Health Statistics in Clearlake and Lake County Drive
Healthcare ... PR Web
September 1

Calling all golfers: give back to your community
BCLocalNews
August 31

Announcements

The National Marrow Donor Program will be doing screenings at the Festival Of The Laity in Dallas, Tex., Sabbath, September 10. We as Christians want to do our part in saving lives. The screening, for bone marrow
matches for people who have leukemia, is a painless cotton swab in the jaw. Hours: 1:30 - 5:30 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel, 400 N. Olive Street, on the Convention Center side.

**Anti Domestic Violence Forum for Women and Men**，“Silent No More,” will be presented by the Women’s Healing and Empowerment Network (WHEN), with Mable Dunbar, October 21, (6:00 pm - 9:00 pm) and 22 (9:00 am - 5:00 pm), at the West Central Multi-Cultural SDA Church in Spokane, Wa. It's a "Being There Conference," an interdenominational conference designed to provide healing, education, and relevant information for individuals who have either experienced abuse, perpetrated abuse or want to provide help and support for victims of abuse. Info: 509-323-2123; E-mail: whenetworkinformation@gmail.com.

**Reach North America with Astonishing Discoveries** in the Land of the Bible, Sept. 14-18, and Prophecies Decoded: Can the Past Reveal Your Future, Sept. 30-Oct. 29:

Hope Church Channel (HCC): 7:30-9:00 pm ET, PT; 6:30-8:00 pm CT; record and use as convenient in the MT zone.
Sabbath worship services HCC: October 15, 22, 29 (PD only)
10:30-11:30 am, 11:45 am-1:15 pm ET
9:30-10:30 am, 10:45 am-12:15 pm CT
10:00-11:00 am, 11:15-12:45 pm PT
MT: record ET uplink and use as convenient.
15 min break between two presentations

Subscribe to REACH North America News to receive the latest news and information regarding NET 2011 and other evangelism in the North American Division. Email: NETCoordinator@nad.adventist.org

**The 2011 Family Ministries Planbook**, *Celebration of Love*, is packed with sermons, mini-seminars, children’s stories and other leadership resources. This planbook will assist pastors and family ministries leaders as they guide families into nurturing, loving relationships.

**Videos from Adventist Urban Congresses** are online at the Adventist Community Services website for viewing anytime.
Use these videos to promote Let’s Move Day:
Adventists in Step for Life
Let’s Move Day on September 25

"Suffering"

Dan Jackson, President of the North American Division

Stay Socially Connected with NAD

© 2011 North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904 | Visit: nadadventist.org

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

Sent to ahc@andrews.edu — why did I get this?
Spam
Not spam
Forget previous vote
PATERNSON, NJ — In the midst of a tour of the devastated communities in Patterson, NJ, President Barack Obama visited a flood-relief staging location in the parking lot of the Lowes Home Improvement store in Paterson, New Jersey. The President met with residents whose homes were flooded by Hurricane Irene and local volunteers who helped lead the disaster relief effort. "Many Americans are still at serious risk of power outages and flooding, which could get worse in coming days as rivers swell past their banks," President Barack Obama said Sunday, adding: "The recovery effort will last for weeks or longer."

"President Obama thanked us for giving back to the community and being there to help others in their time of need," said Pastor David L. King of the First Paterson Seventh-day Adventist Church. Pastor King was the lead director and organizer of the community faith-based initiative to quickly identify community partnerships and to set-up the large disaster relief operation.

Over 3,000 people were on hand for Obama's visit, King said. The president joined by Governor Chris Christie of New Jersey spoke with residents in the parking lot for nearly half an hour, spending most of his time listening to them talk about flood waters damaging their homes and cars. He also congratulated the volunteers for "doing what Americans do in times of crisis....pull together" according to Pastor King.

New Jersey was declared a federal disaster area after homes and businesses were flooded following Hurricane Irene. The rising Passaic River forced thousands of people from their homes and caused extensive area power outages. More than 2000 residents had to be evacuated and over 500 families spent the previous week in local shelters as businesses and community clinics were shuttered by the 100 year storm according to Ora Jane Bell, Adventist Community Services Director – First Paterson SDA church and local member of C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Team).

Utilizing 310 Allegheny East Conference volunteers, First Paterson SDA Church Community Services served as the local coordination organization hub to provide logistics and distribution of nearly $200,000 worth of food products, personal care items and cleaning supplies to 1,226 families (representing 3,337 individuals). All commodities, from three tractor trailers dispatched from the Feed The Children warehouse in Nashville, Tenn., were distributed before 2pm. Feed the Children is a Christian, international, nonprofit relief organization that delivers food, medicine, clothing and other necessities to individuals, children and families in need in times of famine, war, poverty, or natural disaster. "It's just an awesome feeling to take care of hundreds of people during a time when they need our support the most" says John Ricketts, Disaster Services Manager for Feed The Children.

Meals for Kids, known for preparing and delivering individually catered hot and cold lunches to children, also partnered with First Paterson SDA to provide over 800 hot lunches and meals to the community residents and volunteers. "Once we got the call from Elder Burt-Miller from First Paterson SDA, it only took minutes for us to say YES" said Owners Sean and Jackie Collins.

Lowes "Heroes" program quickly provided volunteers from other NJ Lowes locations to respond and support the relief effort as well. In addition to their employee/volunteers, Lowes also provided the staging location, bottled water, buckets, security and the canopies to register local recovering residents. "We believe community involvement extends beyond the stores. "Whether it's helping with natural disaster recovery or taking an active role in programs that make our neighborhoods better places to live, we are committed to helping our neighbors through alliances with well-respected organizations." says Michael Bergamo, Lowes General Manager.

Lowes's Corporate initiated the original idea to help the community by quickly mobilizing their internal resources within 1 week to identify a partnership with Feed The Children who then in turn contacted their local partnership Minnie McNeil of Columbia Union Conference and Director Adventist Community Services (ACS). McNeil quickly reached out to Pastor King to request his assistance. She says, "ACS was chosen for 2 reasons":

1. “Seventh-day Adventist ACS are founding members of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (National VOAD), a forum of organizations sharing knowledge and resources throughout the disaster cycle —preparation, response and recovery— to help disaster survivors and their communities.”

2. “ACS remains very well connected, relevant and committed to local communities nationwide”

Members of National VOAD form a coalition of nonprofit organizations that respond to disasters as part of their overall mission.
Paterson-based Seminary Baptist Church and Redeemed Tabernacle who brought teams of volunteers of all ages out to assist with the distribution of relief items. “It is great to see like faiths come together for a common mission. We are all out here trying to move the misery out of people’s lives by working together and we look forward to this continued partnership” said Reverend Alfred Steele of Seminary Baptist.

We are prepared to serve and feed the people both physically and spiritually. Many of our residents have no where to go, so we are going to do the best we can to help them” says First Paterson SDA First Elder Dewitt Evering, who also served as site manager of relief operations.

Meanwhile, several residents expressed gratitude and appreciation while standing online for as long as 2 hours to register and get there relief items. “This is absolutely wonderful” says Brenda, “I lost everything and my three daughters are not going to be able to start school this week until I can get back on my feet”. Life-long Paterson residents Kathy and Greg expecting a baby in 1 month said they have not been able to get to her home on Haledon Street since Sunday, when she had water up to her knees in her own living room. Our apartment was condemned this week and we have been in a shelter and we need all the help we can get. We don’t even know where we are going to live now”.

Paterson Mayor Jeffery Jones urged patience as inspectors examined the homes, which he said, might not be done until after Tuesday. “Paterson is particularly hard hit,” …..”Tremendous devastation.”

“I’m so pleased with the outpouring of support and efforts of all our volunteers,” said Pastor King. “We have a terrific team who believe in our motto ‘mission within our borders’. It is because of them and our partners that we were able to distribute”:

- Over 3,337 residents served.
- Over 800+ meals served.
- 100+ ready-to-wear clothing articles
- 2000 pre-packaged boxes of food
- 2000 hours of personal care and hygiene items
- 20 pallets of miscellaneous goods
- 70 pallets of water, ready-to-eat food, baby food, diapers, cleaning products, buckets and much more for our Paterson residents.

Pastor King summarized the 2 day effort saying, “Our community came together to lift spirits by living our faith and provide people with help and hope. This is an opportunity to share the love of Jesus with the victims of this disaster. We strengthened our footprint in this community with new partnerships and we plan to continue our efforts to heal this community long after the flooding is gone.”

(Photos: Top left, Obama poses with Pastor David King; right, The Paterson SDA Community Services hub to provide logistics and distribution of nearly $200,000 worth of products; bottom left, an NAD ACS DR volunteer providing relief)

For press coverage, photo’s or video interviews of the event please contact
LaFayette Trawick - Lafayette.trawick@gmail.com
Festival of the Laity - Sep 8, Thu - Anyone interested in strengthening ministry capacity in the areas...

Archaeology Seminar - Sep 14, Wed - A pre-NET event 7:30-9:00 pm ET, PT; 6:30 pm CT Hope ...

Nonprofit Leadership Certification Advanced - Sep 25, Sun - The certification program consists of basic training to build ...

Let's Move Day - Sep 25, Sun 8:00 AM - The North American Division has set aside Sunday, September 25 as...

National Conference on Innovation - Oct 2, Sun - In the past seven years, the National Conference on Innovation ...

Gulf States Conference Couples Retreat - Oct 7, Fri - God wants our homes to be the happiest place on earth, the very ...

Go Fish Children's Ministries Convention - Oct 7, Fri - Children's ministries coordinators and volunteers, ...

Emotional Health & Wellness: A Biblical Worldview in Practice - Oct 12, Wed - A multi-disciplinary, multi-cultural conference hosted by Loma ...

NAD Summit on Abuse - Oct 15, Sat - NAD Summit on Abuse addressing abuse issues in Adventist ...

Society of Adventist Communicators Convention - Oct 20, Thu - Description: A convention where ...

2012 Adventist Ministries Convention: Tools of the Master - Jan 15, Sun - he...
2012 Adventist Ministries Convention
is an opportunity for ...

NAD Health Summit - Jan
27, Fri 1:30 PM - North American Division Health Ministries is excited to announce...

More Calendar
9-06-11 “Canadá para Cristo”

A collaborative Hispanic effort across Canada

“Canadá para Cristo” or Canada for Christ is a collaborative Hispanic evangelistic effort between unions and local churches. Hispanic conference and union coordinators will hold simultaneous union-wide evangelistic meetings throughout Canada, October 15-22. This unprecedented Hispanic evangelistic thrust will take place simultaneously in Montreal, Toronto Central, Toronto Bethel-Maranatha, Hamilton, London, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Calgary Central/Maranatha, Edmonton Maranatha, and Vancouver. The meetings will include music by a variety of musicians, experienced preachers. Sandra Juárez, director of Esperanza TV (Hispanic Hope Channel) will visit each of the sites. As the official Hispanic channel of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Esperanza TV has contributed to the increase in Hispanic church membership.

“The Hispanic segment of the Adventist membership in the North American Division is growing faster than any other,” says NAD President Dan Jackson.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada has the smallest Hispanic Adventist presence in the North American Division (NAD). Division Hispanic leaders are participating in this event as a way of igniting Hispanic work in Canada.

R. Ernest Castillo, vice president for Ethnic Ministries of the North American Division stated, “It is a privilege for the North American Division Hispanic leadership to contribute to the proclamation of the Gospel in a part of our division that has not experienced an event of this magnitude.”

http://www.nadadventist.org/article.php?id=639
2012 Adventist Ministries Convention
is an opportunity for ...

NAD Health Summit - Jan
27, Fri 1:30 PM - North
American Division Health
Ministries is excited to
announce...

NewsPoints Newsletter
Signup for NewsPoints
Find an Adventist
Church in your
neighborhood
More

Your Church can have a
beautiful website for free!
Click for Details

What has helped you most in your
personal Christian growth?
Take the Poll

Legal Notice & Privacy Policy

More Calendar

North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists® : 9-06-11 “Canad...
http://www.nadadventist.org/article.php?id=639
Server not found

Firefox can't find the server at %20www.nadadventist.org.

- Check the address for typing errors such as www.example.com instead of www.example.com
- If you are unable to load any pages, check your computer’s network connection.
- If your computer or network is protected by a firewall or proxy, make sure that Firefox is permitted to access the Web.

Try Again
Heart Health Improvement Program Info
Thursday, September 8 2011, 6:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. The Community House, 415 W. Eighth Street, Hinsdale Tel: 630-403-8095

The first of six FREE information sessions for the coming Coronary Health Improvement Project in Hinsdale, a 30-day health improvement program, will be held at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 8, at The Community House, 415 W. Eighth Street. Additional sessions at The Community House will be on on Sept. 13, 14 and 19. Two more sessions will be at the Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church on Sundays, Sept. 11 and 18, also beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Introductory materials and an orientation video will be presented. Guests will have the opportunity to ask questions, register for the program and schedule a comprehensive health screen. For a fee, participants attend 16 sessions over five weeks beginning Sept. 25.

The program is designed to substantially lower high levels of blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, heartburn, angina and depression. Past participants report an increase in energy while losing weight, improving sleep and lowering cholesterol. It facilitates the reversal of narrowed arteries.

For more information or to register to attend one of the information sessions, call Deborah Ward at 630-403-8095 or email HindaleCHIP@hsdac.org.

Contact: Deborah Ward, 630-403-8095, HindaleCHIP@hsdac.org
http://www.HinsdaleCHIP.org
Filed Under: Food and drink, Health and fitness
By Dorothy Deer Thursday at 11:18 p.m.
Jose Merlos is riding his bike to the lower 48 states. He started in Seattle, Wash., on June 13 and has been to 12 states so far. He expects to be done 15-18 months from the time he started.

On Thursday afternoon, Merlos was heading east on U.S. 12 when he met Sturgis resident, Carl Deeds in White Pigeon. Deeds called the Journal with news of a guy riding across the country.

“He looks like he’s on a quest,” Deeds said.

And he is. Merlos rode into Sturgis about 4:15 p.m. and talked about his trip so far.

The bicycling venture started when Merlos’ car broke down in 2009. He started riding a bike and learned that people actually travel that way.

“He looks like he’s on a quest,” Deeds said.

Merlos likes bicycling so well Merlos went on a 400 mile trip from his home town near Chicago to the Mississippi River. It took six him days.

On that trip Merlos realized, “I like it. I like the people I met along the way.”

His next trip was last July — a two week stint of 1,200 miles around Lake Michigan.

“I rode 90 miles a day,” Merlos said.

And it confirmed, “I’m really liking this lifestyle,” Merlos said.

But his retail job at Piggly Wiggly made it hard to take longer vacations. When he decided to ride coast to coast, Merlos had lot to give up.

His job at the grocery chain, his apartment and the car (which he repaired) that started it all.

A friend suggested that if he was going on this adventure, why not raise money for a charity. Through the Seventh Day Adventist Church he found a fund he cared about — a water well in Cameroon, Africa.

A well would cost $15,000 and so far, Merlos has raised less than $1,000. On weekends he shows up unannounced at churches and tells those who are curious about the cause.

The riding is actually going better than the fund raising.

It has been a hot summer but other than weather problems, Merlos said it’s been a good trip.

The hottest day was 110 degrees in North Dakota and he’s encountered a some pretty fierce storms along the way.

“This is highway 12, right?” Merlos asked. “I’ve seen highway 12 all the way from Idaho.”

It was in Idaho Merlos encountered his most memorable experience so far.

He was following the Lewis and Clark route and in a bar one night, started talking to a Native American of the Nez Perce tribe. He told Merlos the legend of how their tribe came into existence.

A few days later at the museum of the Battle of the Big Hole, a documentary film played telling how the Nez Perce lost the battle. The authority on the tape was the man from the bar.

“I was telling everybody, ‘I talked to that guy,’” Merlos said.

From the same person, “I learned how they came to life and how they died. I thought that was pretty cool,” he said.

That wasn’t Merlos’ only history lesson. The Native American also told Merlos how his great, great, great grandfather met Lewis and Clark as a 12 year old boy.

“I learned so much about Native American culture — more than in school — just being in the field and reading historical markers,” he said.

And while he says the trip has been good, it might be his perspective and love of the challenge because for some people it wouldn’t be a good trip. So far Merlos said the longest he went without sleeping in a bed was 33 days. His longest stretch without a shower was 10 days.

That was in the states without bodies of water and he couldn’t even go for a swim.

“I used a lot of baby wipes,” Merlos said.

And there was a heart wrenching experience on U.S. 12 in Montana.

The highway was parallel to a river so as he rode, Merlos was able to watch some rafters. He even video taped them. Several hours later he learned that a raft had drowned.

When he heard of the accident, “I was hoping it wasn’t them,” but there were no other rafters in the area, he said.

And while he reflects on the trip so far Merlos still plans for the future. The midwest boy knows winter is coming and he needs to get south. Biking up to Boston and the East Coast is Merlos’ next goal.

“I’m just trying to beat winter,” he said. “I want to be to one of the Carolinas no later than November.”

For those back home and his new friends along the way, Merlos has a blog site: www.josemerlos.wordpress.com.

He stops where internet access is free to keep it updated.

And in his situation, free is good. Merlos is doing this trip from his savings and budgeting about $20 a day — that’s for food and camping.

His diet includes pasta, beans, tuna, oatmeal, peanut butter, bread and coffee — “I have to have coffee,” Merlos said.

Camping can be expensive so he looks for the most reasonable and so far that’s been in Nebraska where every town — even the smallest — has a public park with no charge for camping. Merlos said.

So does his family think he’s crazy?

“Everybody I know thinks I’m crazy,” said Merlos, who turned 28 in July. But “I’m enjoying every day of it.”
Popular Videos

Galliano Guilty in French Anti-Semitism Case
First Person: Water Rises, People Shake Heads
IHOP murders: New details emerge
Texas wildfires seen from space
Flooding Leads to Evacuation of 100,000 in Pa.
Vt. Still Cleaning Up After Irene

Comments (0)
Login or register to post a comment:
Congressman Jerry Lewis Visits, Tours Loma Linda University Department of Physiology and Pharmacology

Published: Friday, September 2, 2011 12:12 PM PDT

Loma Linda University (LLU) Department of Physiology and Pharmacology welcomed Jerry Lewis, Congressman of California’s 41st District, on Thursday. Mr. Lewis was led on a tour of the neuroscience and biochemistry laboratories by department professor John Zhang, MD, PhD, to see the active joint efforts of clinical and basic neuroscientists at LLU. Their research has helped enhance physician training, improve patient care and power local science, health, and economic growths.

"The neuroscience program is a fabulous example of why Loma Linda University is one of the cutting-edge research programs, not only in Southern California, but in the nation," Congressman Lewis said after the tour. "I join all of my constituents in expressing pride and gratitude that we have this wonderful research and teaching institution in our midst. I look forward to my next visit to see what new breakthroughs they have made in extending lives and improving the health of all Americans."

Also the Professor of Neurosurgery, Neurology, and Anesthesiology, Dr. Zhang’s goal was to give Mr. Lewis a firsthand view of the groundbreaking research being conducted at LLU, which is federally funded. "Science and research play an important role in the lives of many Americans. Every day neuroscientists are discovering new and exciting medical treatments for a variety of neurological and psychiatric illnesses and disorders. I am honored to have had this great opportunity to meet with Mr. Lewis and show him the research being conducted in my lab at LLU."

In addition to the neuroscience laboratory tour, Dr. Zhang and his faculty gave Congressman Lewis a presentation on their Translational Neuroscience Research Consortium, which was partially funded by the National Institute of Health to continue developing new treatments for devastating neurological disorders and illnesses.

About Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC)

Loma Linda University Medical Center’s comprehensive health system includes the Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital, LLUMC – East Campus, Behavioral Medicine Center, Heart and Surgical Hospital, and physician clinics. LLUMC is widely respected as a health care leader and is known for its pioneering and cutting-edge work in such areas as organ transplants, proton treatment for cancers, cardiac care, physical rehabilitation, acute pediatric and adult care, as well as treatments for chemical dependence and other behavioral disorders. LLUMC is the largest and only Level 1 trauma Center in the San Bernardino, Riverside, Inyo, and Mono counties, which covers over 40,000 square miles in Southern California. With a total of 974 beds, the Loma Linda University Health System includes the only children’s hospital in the region. Loma Linda University Medical Center sees over 30,000 inpatients and about 750,000 outpatient visits a year.

About Loma Linda University

Loma Linda University (LLU) is a Seventh-day Adventist educational health-sciences institution with more
than 4,000 students located in Southern California. Eight schools comprise the University organization. More than 55 programs are offered by the schools of Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health, Religion and Science and Technology. Curricula offered range from certificates of completion and associate in science degrees to doctor of philosophy and professional doctoral degrees. Students from more than 80 countries around the world and virtually every state in the nation are represented in Loma Linda University's student body. LLU also offers distance education.
For much of their married life, Lyle and Ruth McCoy’s home base has been a tree-shaded cottage bearing the tantalizing name “Woolloomooloo” in the hills north of Angwin proper.

This is where their four sons — Larry, Ken, Ron and Kalvin — grew up. Where Lyle McCoy, an elementary school teacher and 55-year veteran of the Angwin Volunteer Fire Department (15 of them as chief), kept his pager, “talkie” and truck at the ready. When night fire calls came in, his wife would grab the keys and start up the truck while he climbed into his turnouts.

It’s where, in the days when Angwin lanes and winding roads were anonymous, Lyle McCoy set about getting the streets named and houses numbered so firefighters had an easier time finding their way.

This house — whose name may or may not mean “house in the woods” in the Maori language — is where Ruth McCoy expanded on the idea, creating a database of Angwin residents and businesses, their phone numbers, street names and addresses on individual 3-by-5 index cards.

The treasure trove of information was transformed into the Angwin directory, which she revised and updated for 32 years before turning the duties over to another active Angwin couple. She still keeps a hand in, though — when she learns that someone has moved or died, she fires off an email noting the change.

“We’ve lived here so long that people still call us to ask questions about things,” she said.

The 88-year-old and 89-year-old also share a birthday month and for 13 days each spring are the same age. Come Sept. 3, they’ll be sharing another landmark date — their 67th wedding anniversary.

In 1940, Ruth McCoy was a student at Pacific Union College working in the school cafeteria in the summer and pursing classes in prenursing. Her future husband enrolled a year later, earning his way as a cafeteria cook and baker, intent on becoming a minister.

“He caught my attention,” Ruth McCoy said. She laughed as she recalled being introduced to the Los Angeles transplant by a classmate. “I thought ‘Oh, he looks pretty good,’ so I made it a point to get acquainted.”

After earning a Bachelor of Arts in religion, Lyle McCoy changed course and set his sights on a master’s degree in education. Ruth McCoy had already realized that nursing wasn’t for her after working for a summer at St. Helena Hospital. She became a secretary instead.

The two were married in the chapel of old Irwin Hall in 1944. By 1947, Lyle McCoy had joined the fire department, where he would serve until 2009.

They’ve lived in Angwin almost as many years as they’ve been married, with several exceptions. The family spent six years in Hilo, Hawaii, where he was sent to be principal of Mauna Loa Adventist School. He was eventually called back to Angwin and a position at PUC Elementary School. Ten years later another call came, this time to help with the Adventist General Conference education department’s formation of a health/science curriculum. Off the McCoys went for two years of research in Loma Linda and one year in Washington, D.C. before returning to Angwin and his job at PUC Elementary. When Lyle McCoy retired from teaching in 1977, he joined the staff at College Ace Hardware.

The couple’s interest in the community has taken many guises. Lyle McCoy served on the Angwin Community Council for nearly 30 years, many of them as its secretary. On Election Day he organized the polls.

He credits his wife’s efforts in the 1950s for raising the money needed to pay for materials for a firehouse constructed by a volunteer crew.

She credits him and two others with starting Angwin’s ambulance service, in which her husband served nearly 40 years.

In the early years of their “retirement,” the couple went on a cruise or two and traveled with a group of other Adventists to build
churches. (Despite an early run-in with a table saw, Lyle McCoy has a knack for carpentry. He and his boys expanded their Angwin home.)

The couple’s life tempo has slowed a bit, but Ruth McCoy still tends to the community bulletin boards at College Market, rotating and updating the “for sale” and “for rent” notices on one side and the business cards on the other.

Last week, as they watched the antics of a backyard squirrel and a flock of finches, they laughed about a favorite saying propped against the living room window: “I don’t know what old is, but old is older than me.”

They talked about the things important to them, about their sons who are visiting, one at a time, to help out on the property. They mentioned a granddaughter, one of their nine grandchildren, who is living with them while she attends PUC. Ruth McCoy shows a family bulletin board with photos of everyone, including the newest of three great-grandchildren.

They talked about the changes in their lives. Lyle McCoy is finding his memories aren’t as crisp and detailed as they once were. Ruth McCoy calls their health “pretty good,” despite a rough patch here and there “that comes with age” and said they were blessed not to have anything more life-threatening.

And they finally got down to the reason for their long marriage.

“When we got married we made a commitment and that was it,” Ruth McCoy said. “Everything we’ve done, we’ve done together.”
Florida Hospital serves up monthly taste tour of world's cuisines
By ANNE GEGGIS, Staff writer

Chef Chris Ghalayini, dressed in Mideast attire, and assistant Latasha Williams, right, dish out Middle Eastern cuisine at Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center on Wednesday. (N-J | Anne Geggis)

DAYTONA BEACH -- "A taste of culture" Wednesday at Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center came spiced with the flavors of cumin, saffron and fiery cayenne -- favorite taste sensations of the Middle East.

The hospital has started bringing an appreciation for the staff's diversity to the cafeteria table by featuring the food of particular regions the last Wednesday of each month in its East Volusia facilities.

This month, Asia's food will be in the spotlight. In July, it was Eastern European.

"We want people to become familiar with the diversity of all cultures," said Debbie Saeger, employee relations manager who helped coordinate the event. "And food is an obvious way to engage them."

And because this is a hospital -- coming from a tradition where plant-based, whole grain foods are emphasized -- the food had to be healthy.

The hospital system's head chef, Chris Ghalayini, dressed in a traditional Mideastern dishdasha robe with a keffiyeh on his head, took Saeger on a tour of the dishes he became familiar with as a child during eight years in Egypt with samples in small plastic cups. She took a taste of the batata harra -- also known as spicy potatoes.

"Oh, it's not that spicy," she said. "Oh, wait, spicy now."

She started waving toward her mouth: "Whoa, here it comes!"

Florida Hospital is affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which promulgates the biblical prohibitions against shellfish and pork and suggests veganism is ideal for health. Chef Ghalayini, both a Lebanese and American citizen, said it wasn't hard to showcase his ancestral home's food while conforming with Adventist ideals.

"We don't eat a lot of shellfish and we didn't eat meat that often -- maybe once a week," Ghalayini said. He gestured toward the hummus and the tabouleh which are an everyday feature at the cafeteria: "Our main staples are vegetarian."

Phyllis Rehmar of Daytona Beach, a retired Pelican Bay resident, said she's a regular at the hospital -- for the food.

"It's very, very good," she said of the regular menu. Of Wednesday's offerings, seven years living in Turkey had her raving about its authenticity. "It's not Taco Bell," she said.

Ghalayini uses familiar tastes to explain some of the mysterious sauces offered for drizzling over falafel, a mashed bean patty. "If you like hummus, you'll like this," he told Varinia Brandner, a registered nurse who looked quizzically into a vat of tahini.

Sean Noseworthy, director of food and nutritional services for Florida Hospital's East Volusia operation, said there's a lot to love in the Middle East -- both for its flavor and healthfulness.

"They are using all the things I like to promote -- whole grains, beans, legumes and wonderful vegetables like eggplant and okra," said Noseworthy, also a registered dietician.
She said she believes there's something to love from a health perspective in every culture -- except the post-industrial diet found going through the drive-through lane.

"I call it SAD -- the standard American diet," she said. "You can find it all over the world. Wherever it spreads, as countries industrialize, you can see the disease incidence begin to escalate."

© 2010 The Daytona Beach News-Journal.

Do not republish or distribute without permission.
Who knew that playing golf could benefit so many Aldergrove and Langley families? But that is what the Acts of Kindness (AOK) Charity Golf Classic offers its golfing enthusiasts — a chance to play golf and give back to their community.

Acts of Kindness is an organization dedicated to improving the lives of families in the Aldergrove and Langley area. Each year in May during their “Extreme Home Repair Project” more than 200 volunteers and 120 sponsors unite together to restore the home of a family in need. Working together over 10 days, the volunteers tear down walls, lay flooring, prime and paint, and design a new living space, that will refresh the lives of a family struggling with life’s difficulties.

Find AOK on the web at aokaldergrove.org to nominate a family for this year’s Extreme Home Repair Project.

Another significant project for AOK is the Breakfast Club. Every day of the school year, hungry boys and girls in the Aldergrove community will find a hot and healthy breakfast waiting for them at Shortreed Elementary School. Faithful volunteers show up early to cook, clean and cajole kids to enjoy a tasty, nutritious meal that studies show will help children to improve their test scores. Shortreed teachers are excited at the difference they can see in their students as a result of a hearty, regular breakfast.

Another community function happens twice a year when single moms have the opportunity to have their cars washed and the oil changed. While the kids get their faces painted, and the cars are serviced, moms can relax over coffee and donuts and enjoy a few moments of free time. Over 30 moms attended the Single Mom’s Oil Change event last spring. Next Oil Change is Sunday, Oct. 2, at Fraser Valley Adventist Academy in Aldergrove. Call 604-856-5879 to reserve a space.

AOK is holding their eighth annual Charity Golf Classic at the Redwoods Golf Course on Monday, Sept. 12. This event has raised over $350,000 since it began and 100 percent of that money has
gone back into the community to improve the lives of moms, dads, and kids in the Aldergrove and Langley area.

Inspirational and fun for participants, the Charity Golf Classic has proven to be a tremendous financial boost to AOK’s community programs. This event provides the funds to fuel the service activities that will benefit the community throughout the rest of the year. Registration begins at 9 a.m. at the Redwoods Golf & Country Club.

AOK is supported by the Aldergrove Seventh-day Adventist church along with local sponsoring businesses. For information call 604-856-5879 or visit: aokaldergrove.org

Find this article at:
http://www.bclocalnews.com/opinion/128842663.html

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

© Copyright Black Press. All rights reserved.