NAD Leadership Visits Guam-Micronesia

For the past two weeks, a delegation from the North American Division (including administration and department directors) traveled around the Micronesian Islands for exploratory research on this territory that was added to the Division on January 1, 2012. At the 2011 Annual Council, oversight of the region was shifted from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division based in the Philippines to the NAD. "Over the years there has been discussion whether it would fit better elsewhere," said GC Undersecretary Myron Iseminger. "Regulations are U.S.-oriented and many employees come from North America." (AdventistNewsNetwork)

"This is the beginning of a very bright and exciting future for the North American Division. God is, once again, calling on His people in our North America territory to reach out to the world to complete His task on earth. The people of the Guam-Micronesia territory are calling. We must carefully listen to their call and respond," said Dan Jackson, NAD president.

Listed below is statistical information about the Guam-Micronesia Mission territory:

Guam
Congregations: 8
School: Guam Adventist Academy
Medical facility: Seventh-day

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan, Rota, and Tinian)
Congregations: 6

February 29, 2012

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- Lake Union is preparing to relocate
- The Atlantic Union Conference
- Oakwood University has received ISO 9001
- The Emory-Adventist Hospital
- A new Child Protection Plan
- Be sure to check out SONscreen is now accepting entries
- Sets of Prophecies Decoded recordings
- A health/medical library in English and Spanish
- Upcoming Events
- NAD Prayer Calendar
- Offerings and Special Days
- Adventist World NAD Edition
Adventist Guam Clinic
Media: JOY FM and AWR Asia
Other entities: Adventist Book Center Store and restaurant

Chuuk
Congregations: 2
School: Chuuk Adventist School

Kosrae
Congregation: 1
School: Kosrea Adventist School

Republic of the Marshall Islands
Congregations: 2
Schools: Ebeye Adventist School and Delap Adventist School

Republic of Palau
Congregations: 5
Schools: Palau Adventist Elementary and Palau Mission Academy

Pohnpei
Congregations: 3
School: Pohnpei Adventist School

Yap
Congregation: 1
School: Yap Adventist School

As we learn more about our new family members of the Guam-Micronesia Mission territory, NewsPoints will continue to bring you stories and pictures.

Check out the Where in the World is Dan Jackson blog for more photos and stories about our new territory.

Lake Union is preparing to relocate. In May of 2011, Andrews University purchased the Lake Union Conference (LUC) office complex adjacent to the Andrews campus. This location is now the home for the new School of Distance Education, formerly Griggs University along with other University departments. The sales agreement allows the LUC office staff to temporarily consolidate their offices into the original building on U S Hwy 31 until a new office can be constructed. When completed, Andrews University will take full possession of the former LUC buildings and land.

The Atlantic Union Conference Executive Committee has approved in principle a proposal for the development of an evangelistic and gospel medical missionary training school. The Northeast Evangelism Training School (NETS) is envisioned as a non-accredited diploma pastoral and lay training institute to be conducted on the campus of Atlantic Union College to equip each...
student to become an effective soul-winning witness for Jesus.

NETS will offer short-term intensives for pastors during each calendar year, and a six- and nine-month evangelistic medical missionary training course for lay persons with mentoring and “hands on” practice.

MORE

Oakwood University has received ISO 9001 certification, a first among Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and a first in the state of Georgia. ISO 9001 is the internationally recognized standard for the quality management of businesses. MORE

The Emory-Adventist Hospital in Smyrna, Ga., held a rededication ceremony Friday evening, February 24, and invited all the churches in the area. About 250 members from the 19 churches in town responded. They held hands and reached nearly all the way around the hospital, sang and prayed. MORE

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

Adventist starts construction on $39.8M HQ
Orlando Business Journal
February 27

Letter to the Editor Littleton Adventist is top of the line
Our Colorado News
February 26

LOMA LINDA: Historian named citizen of the year
Press-Enterprise
February 24

Why Castle Rock’s New Hospital is a Truly Big Deal
Examiner.com
February 24

Focus on Faith: SMART Move
WAAY
February 27

Lodi Academy got its start as a boarding school
Lodi News-Sentinel
February 25

Porter First in Rocky Mountain Region to Perform Single-Site Robotic Surgery
Newswise
February 23

DG Resident Gives Back to Adventist Hospice
Patch.com
February 22

Offerings:

- March 3, Local Church Budget
- March 10, Adventist World Radio
- March 17, Local Church Budget
- March 24, Local Conference Advance
- March 31, Union Designated

Offertory Readings

Special Days
March Focus:
A new Child Protection Plan is now available through Adventist Risk Management. Last year, the division voted a new child protection policy mandating that every level of church administration implement a training and screening program for volunteers. Adults leading out in Pathfinders, Vacation Bible School, Children's Ministries and Sabbath School programs “must meet church and legal standards and requirements, such as background checks or certification.”

Online training is offered for adults on addressing abuse, neglect, predators, bullying, boundaries and respect. There is also age-appropriate information for children on recognizing and reporting abuse.

ARM resource kits for local churches include PowerPoint presentations, a video clip, a sample child protection policy and reference information. Click here to download Child Protection Plan resources and references from Adventist Risk Management.

Be sure to check out the North American Division's new look on our Facebook page, and “Like” us!

SONscreen is now accepting entries for the Tenth Anniversary SONscreen Film Festival, April 12-14 at the Adventist Media Center in Simi Valley, Ca. Regardless of whether you're submitting to the festival or not, you are invited to take advantage of this learning experience and the unique opportunity to network with professional and student filmmaker's.

Imagine a Healthy 100, a health evangelism outreach in Lake Mary, Fl., January 28-February 3, attracted 650 local residents and Health Summit attendees. The outreach was a cooperative effort by Florida Hospital's Creation Health, and Mark and Ernestine Finley. It included vegetarian nutrition demonstrations, a testimony on some aspect of Creation Health coordinated by Des Cummings, and a health lecture by Mark Finley, assistant to the GC President.

Women in the Church
- March 3, Women's Day of Prayer
- March 4-10, Adventist Youth Week of Prayer
- March 17, Disabilities Awareness Sabbath

Helpful website(s) and Resources:
- Women's Ministries
- Women's Day of Prayer Resources and Information
- 3rd NAD Youth Prayer Conference, March 7-11 (“Just Claim It!”)

Adventist World
NAD Edition

News: "Adventist Recovery Ministries: A Journey to Life," p. 11-12; Central America Literacy Learning Circles Inspire Southern California Church Members, p 12, 13
Perspective: "Claiming Alaska" p. 17
NAD Letters: p. 18
Feature: "Christ's Healing Touch" p. 32

Union Magazines and Websites
Atlantic Union GLEANER
Canadian Adventist MESSENGER
Columbia Union VISITOR
Lake Union HERALD
Mid-America OUTLOOK
On Friday evening Pastor Finley appealed for people to lay their burdens at Jesus’ feet. Over 100 people responded. One was a young woman visiting from England who had been invited by a Health Summit attendee who had met her at the hotel. Another was a young woman caught in the grip of substance abuse.

Pastor Finley commented, “Jesus ministered to the total person—physically, mentally and spiritually. As we follow Christ’s methods, we too will win the hearts of people. There is a new openness to health today. They desire a longer and better quality of life. When we meet their physical and emotional needs, they are open to divine realities.”

Sermons, graphics, advertising and all printed materials for this new approach for pastors and medical professionals will be ready this summer.

Sets of Prophecies Decoded recordings of 28 presentations on 14 DVDs as presented by Pastor Ron Clouzet can be ordered online from the NADEI Resource Center for $89 plus $10 S&H.

A health/medical library in English and Spanish has been developed by the Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital in Bolingbrook, Il. The online library, called Medicine Plus, provides information and presentations on many types of health issues, from back pain and diabetes to depression and heart disease. Health videos and podcasts are also available. MORE

“After his wife was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, Columbia Bible College and Seminary President Robertson McQuilkin found himself torn between two commitments, two divine callings. He made the decision to resign from his prestigious post and spend time taking care of his ailing wife. Those around him suggested that he hire someone to take care of her. He stated that his beloved wife had spent the past forty years loving...
and taking care of his needs and even if he were to take care of her for the next forty years, he would still be indebted to her. He then said, ‘I don’t have to take care of her. I get to take care of her.’ That is what marriage is all about. It is a commitment we make before God!” — Claudio and Pamela Consuegra at a “Love for a Lifetime” Marriage Retreat in Harrisburg, Pa.

Stay Socially Connected with NAD
Guam-Micronesia Mission now part of North American Division

Oct. 11, 2011 Silver Spring, Maryland, United States

Ansel Oliver/ANN

The Seventh-day Adventist Church’s Guam-Micronesia Mission, an administrative region comprising islands in the western Pacific Ocean, will now report to the denomination’s North American Division.

The shift, approved by the denomination’s Executive Committee this morning, moves oversight of the region from the church’s Southern Asia-Pacific Division, which is based in the Philippines.

The mission region includes the United States territories of Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Northern Mariana Islands and Palau.

"Over the years there has been discussion whether it would fit better elsewhere," said world church Undersecretary Myron Iseminger. "Regulations are U.S.-oriented and many employees come from North America."

The region is home to roughly 4,500 Adventist Church members. The Adventist Church there also operates numerous elementary and secondary schools, which are staffed largely by student missionaries.

North American Division President Dan Jackson welcomed the move. "We are always happy to cooperate with the world church, and we will embrace the peoples and the ministry of the Guam-Micronesia Mission," he said.

Southern Asia-Pacific Division President Alberto Gulfan confirmed that his executive committee had made several requests to shift oversight of Guam-Micronesia.
"We loved serving Guam-Micronesia over the past years, but we have some challenges and we are very happy and grateful to the leadership of the North American Division ... for their willingness," Gulfan said. "I believe this is God's timing."

Southern Asia-Pacific acquired administrative oversight of the denomination's operations in Pakistan in a territorial realignment on Sunday.
2-29-12 The Atlantic Union's Bold, New Vision

An Evangelistic Training School

The Atlantic Union Conference Executive Committee at its February 16, 2012 meeting approved in principle a proposal for the development of an evangelistic and gospel medical missionary training school. NETS or Northeast Evangelism Training School is envisioned as a non-accredited diploma pastoral and lay training institute conducted on the campus of Atlantic Union College to equip each student to become an effective soul-winning witness for Jesus.

NETS will offer short-term intensives for pastors during each calendar year by the most outstanding soul winners and church growth specialists in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. NETS will offer a six- and nine-month evangelistic medical missionary training course for lay people who desire further instruction on how to win souls in their local churches. Students will be taught how to follow the example of Jesus in meeting the needs of those they minister to, ultimately leading them to a saving knowledge of Christ and His last-day message.

While being provided with the highest quality education in soul winning, students will also have the opportunity to be "mentored" with "hands on" practice under the tutelage of experienced and successful evangelistic instructors.

Ellen G. White wrote many years ago, "We have come to a time when every member of the church should take hold of medical missionary work. The world is a lazar house filled with victims of both physical and spiritual disease. Everywhere people are perishing for lack of a knowledge of the truths that have been committed to us. The members of the church are in need of an awakening, that they may realize their responsibility to impart these truths" (Testimonies, Vol. 7, p. 62).

The cost of operating NETS will be fairly low, since most of the instructors will be contract teachers and/or current church employees. A business plan, including a marketing/enrollment plan is being developed to ascertain financial feasibility.

NETS will be governed by the Atlantic Union Conference in cooperation and consultation with the North American Division and the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Eventually, it would have the possibility of expanding into a world-class international city evangelistic training school and lay training medical missionary center.

The evangelistic endeavors conducted by instructors and students throughout the northeast will foster the growth of local Adventist churches. Students flooding into churches in New England, New York, and Bermuda from NETS will breathe new life into congregations. Pastors attending NETS short-term intensives will return to their congregations refreshed with a new vision. With a new workforce of lay people, trained and equipped to witness for their Lord, the church in the Atlantic Union will grow rapidly. Souls will be won for the kingdom of God.

God's prophetic messenger to the remnant gives us this assurance. "There is no change in the messages that God has sent in the past. The work in the cities is the essential work for this time. When the cities are worked as God would have them, the result will be the setting in operation of a mighty movement such as we have not yet witnessed" (Medical Ministry, p. 304). This promise of our Lord will be fulfilled before His return.

Multitudes in the great cities and rural areas of the Atlantic Union territory will be reached with the Three Angels' Messages. The coming of our Lord will be hastened. The opportunity lies before us. The time is now to make a courageous decision to dream God's dreams and do something significant for His cause. As Jesus said 2000 years ago, it is time to launch out into the deep and cast out the NETS!!

Donald G. King, president, Atlantic Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Members, Atlantic Union Conference Executive Committee

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HUNTSVILLE, Alabama -- It won't be long before there's a new flag joining the others at the entrance to Oakwood University.

Only this flag will be unlike any that will fly at any other university in the state.

Or any other Historically Black College or University anywhere.

To those in the local business community, though, it will be familiar.

You see, the Seventh-day Adventist school has received ISO 9001 certification.

"This kind of makes us a pioneer," said Tim Allston, Oakwood's director of public relations.

Indeed it does.

In spite of all the government contracts won by the likes of UAH, Alabama A&M, Auburn and Alabama, Oakwood University is the first college or university in the state ISO registered.

Ironically, Auburn's Technical Center and Alabama A&M help companies gain ISO certification, but they don't have the certification themselves.

"This is exciting for us," said Marcia Burnette, Oakwood's assistant vice president for development. "We were the first HBCU accepted into NASA's mentor-protégé program.

"At that time, our objective was to get ISO 9001 certified."

Oakwood is also in the mentor-protégé program with SAIC, and she said leading the move to certification was program consultant Dr. Jay Billings.

"He helped us get through this," she said. "He brought this up years ago and worked with us off an on for it."

So, what exactly is ISO 9001?
It is an internationally recognized standard for the quality management of businesses. "It makes us eligible to become a prime contractor for grants, not a sub," Burnette said. "We can actually go and bid ourselves."

She said it also provides an enhanced corporate imaging and marketing, assures better documentation and is a proven program for corrective and preventive actions.

And, according to Allston, it's no coincidence the school pursued the certification under school president Dr. Leslie Pollard, who has a master's in business administration.

"He is our first president with an MBA and understands and leads us to pursue such business-world benchmarks," he said. "His wife, Dr. Prudence Pollard, is a professor of management in our business department and an examiner in the Alabama Productivity Center at the University of Alabama."

And with the designation, also comes added pressure, Allston said.

"It puts a healthy pressure on us to keep up the registration," he said. "We can take it and apply it to other areas of campus, to let our students and faculty know we can be academic and spiritual and navigate those worlds successfully.

"ISO designation is for what we've done and, to keep the honor, we have to continue to work."

In the meantime, Burnette will be keeping her eye out for the flag to arrive. "I just got an email that said, 'Please have certificate (and flag) expedited immediately,' " she said. "We're excited about the flag.

"Send us the (certificate and flag), and we can blast it all over the place."

Budd McLaughlin can be reached at budd.mclaughlin@htimes.com and 256-532-4527.
Participants joined hands in a circle of prayer that extended around the hospital. Credit Sydney Busby

More than 250 members of the Smyrna-Vinings faith community joined hands to pray Friday afternoon at Emory Adventist Hospital’s rededication ceremony. The circle of worshippers held hands in a chain that wrapped around Cobb County’s only faith-based hospital. Observers of all denominations and their pastors turned out despite the chilly weather to recommit the hospital to its mission.

“We rededicate this hospital every year to our mission, which is to extend the healing ministry of Christ,” said Casey Leno, Emory Adventist Hospital’s chaplain. “Now this year we really want to make a point from here on out to really connect to our community a little bit better. So what we’re doing is we’re reaching out to you guys. Clearly that’s why you’re here. You are the community. You are our hospital.”

Leno went on to say that while there are many hospitals in Cobb County, Emory Adventist Hospital is the only one that strives to care for its patients’ bodies and souls.

“We see you come through our doors every single day and we’re touched by you and hopefully you’re touched by us,” he said. “We want to be a facility that when you come through our doors as a patient you feel better, not just physically, but emotionally and spiritually as well. That’s what sets us apart.”

After a brief introduction from Leno, Darlene Kimbell of Life Church Smyrna Assembly of God sang “Go Light Your World,” a song that asks believers...
to share their faith with the world. The worshippers then joined hands around the hospital and were led in prayer by pastors from 20 Cobb County
churches.

Pastors from Smyrna churches included Steve Kimmel, Smyrna First Baptist Church; Jamie Auton, King Springs Baptist Church; Joey Hatchell, Faith United Methodist Church; Jenny Anderson, Cumberland United Methodist Church; Hector Guzman, Crosspoint Presbyterian Church; Mike Parker, Hurt Road Baptist Church; Jackie Sanders, Fellowship Christian Center; Lee Delbridge, Smyrna Christian Church; Shell Osbon, Life Church Smyrna Assembly of God; Jeff Buchanan, Sharon Baptist Church; and Mateus Nanbu, Brazilian SDA Church; Jim Kuczynski, St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church; Barbara Hatchell, First United Methodist Church; Moses Edwards, Shilo SDA Church; and Ronald Hopkins, Faith Christian Center. Teronda P. Hamilton from The Cathedral of Turner Chapel, Bill Levin from Marietta SDA Church; Rick Esterline, Atlanta North SDA Church; Matt Tinkham and Peter Kulakov, Lakeview-Hiram SDA Church also attended the ceremony.
Adventist Health System pulled a $39.8 million building permit at the end of January to start work on their second new headquarters building in Altamonte Springs.

The six-story, 195,000-square-foot building will include a five-story parking structure. The building will have the capacity to accommodate 895 employees, although it will be initially built out for 460, expected to move in at the first quarter 2013.

The first building of Adventist Health System's headquarters opened in December and houses 350 employees.

“We have departments and employees that sit all over Central Florida,” said Adventist Health System spokeswoman Christine Stewart. “It'll be exciting to have us all together on one campus.”

Adventist Health System is the parent company of Florida Hospital, which operates seven hospitals with 2,287 beds. Adventist Health System has 44 hospitals with more than 7,700 licensed beds and 55,000 employees.
Littleton Adventist is top of the line

Posted: Sunday, February 26, 2012 2:05 pm

Did you know angels actually live in Littleton, Colo.? I refer to the nurses, techs, runners, physical therapy specialists, chefs and lab folks who took care of me for 11 days at Littleton Adventist Hospital.

The nurses are dedicated, intelligent, personable, caring human beings whose sole purpose is to restore your good health and send you home, “never to be seen again;” a code phrase all nurses have to toss at you.

The doctors are some of the most intelligent men I have had the pleasure to meet in my life.

I do not presume to know how these brilliant men are hired. For sake of argument, let's say every spring four board members of Littleton Adventist travel throughout the country visiting the major medical schools. Let's see, maybe it goes like this: “You’re No. 1 in medical school; we’d like to hire you. You’re No. 2 in medical school; sorry, we have no openings!”

Believe me when I say they have nothing but the best at Littleton Adventist. I’ve had six major surgeries in my life; five in Chicago and one in Colorado prior to this hospital stay. Never have I been an eyewitness to such brilliance.

So be of good cheer, fellow citizens of Littleton and the surrounding communities. Your future health is in the hands of the “healing angels” of Littleton Adventist.

God bless you one and all.

Richard “Buzz” Polizzi

Littleton
Sitting in a conference room in the library at Loma Linda University about 100 yards from the historic sanitarium where he was born, a book on the table next to him about the history of the university medical center — a book he wrote — Richard A. Schaefer made a confession.

"I didn’t like history when I was in high school and college," he said.

Then he quickly added, “Loma Linda’s history is so compelling it just got my attention.”

His dedication to telling the story of the Seventh-day Adventist university and the town, as well as his service to the Loma Linda Chamber of Commerce, earned him honors recently as the chamber’s 2012 Citizen of the Year.

“He knows the history of not just the medical center, but the entire city, way back to the 1800s,” said chamber CEO Phil Carlisle. "He knows how this city evolved into what it is today.”

The chamber taps his knowledge on a regular basis, recruiting him to emcee everything from installation dinners to its State of the Community luncheon. The chamber’s humanitarian award, given to such notables as famed pediatric heart transplant surgeon Dr. Leonard Bailey, was Schaefer’s idea.

He was chamber president from 2008 through 2010 and has served 22 years on the organization's board of directors.

“He has probably done more for this chamber of commerce than anybody I know,” Carlisle said.

Schaefer, who lives in Forest Falls, was born 70 years ago in the hilltop Loma Linda Hospital and Sanitarium, a keystone in the history of the area because, ironically, its failure to catch on for early investors opened the door for the Adventist Church to buy the land around it and open what became Loma Linda University and Medical Center.

He graduated from the local Adventist school, Loma Linda Academy, in 1959 and attended La Sierra College. About a month before his graduation in 1966, he landed a job in public relations at Loma Linda University.

“I didn’t ever submit a resume to anybody to get the job,” he said.

He was working as a carpenter finishing an A-frame cabin in Forest Falls when the homeowner asked him what he was studying. The homeowner, Oliver L. Jacques, was director of university relations at Loma Linda.
They struck up a friendship that led to the job offer as Jacques’ assistant.

Schaefer became the public voice of the institution for 34 of its most eventful years.

One of the biggest of those events, certainly, for Schaefer, was the 1984 transplant of a baboon heart into the chest of a newborn who became known as Baby Fae.

“That was a baptism by fire,” he recalled. “We were used to dealing with the news media 1,000 times a year, just giving routine patient condition reports and working on human interest stories. But when Baby Fae happened, that went to 1,500 times a day.

“We dealt with all the wire services, broadcast networks, news magazines and people from Europe we’d never heard of before,” he said. “I did interviews on the Voice of America. My first day with Baby Fae was 36 hours long.”

“I learned that people cheer those who take great risks to try to help one little person,” Schaefer said.

Baby Fae died soon after the transplant. Schaefer notes that the procedures pioneered on her behalf were employed a year later. Bailey performed the first successful newborn human-to-human heart transplant, and hundreds more since.

Schaefer’s public relations job ended in 2000, when university officials asked him to work on preparations for the institution’s 100th anniversary in 2005.

He not only took on that role, his research has led to 15 books detailing the history of the town, the university and the medical school. His newest, to be published later this year, is an 800-page unabridged history of Loma Linda.

He wrote it, he said, to tell the world “this is a special place on Earth.”
As you drive South on I-25 towards Castle Rock, CO, you can see a huge building going up towards the West. This is the new hospital, part of the Castle Rock Adventist Health Campus. Although the hospital dwarfs any other building project in the Castle Rock area, many people presume that its presence will only affect them if they become ill. After all, for local residents it’s a lot easier to go to a hospital in Castle Rock than to drive towards Denver for any medical care.

What many people are unaware of is that the presence of this new hospital puts Castle Rock “on the map.” A quick comparison with nearby hospital serviced communities shows that the new hospital can actually increase home values in Castle Rock and reverse the downward trend. Here’s how:

There are a number of rating books that rate communities, starting with the big dog in rating books, the Places Rated Almanac. Most other major rating books take their methodology from the Almanac. Places Rated Almanac uses ten areas of evaluation to come up with its rating of communities in the U.S. The ten evaluation areas are: Job markets, Cost of living, Housing costs, Educational standards, Quality of public transportation, Health Care, Recreational facilities, Crime rates, Environmental factors, and Climate.

As any local resident can plainly see, Castle Rock gets high scores for nine of the ten evaluation areas. However, when it comes to Health Care, Castle Rock has traditionally gone to the back of the line. For evaluation of a community concerning Health Care, the Almanac scores in six areas. These areas are: (1) General/Family Practitioners per 100,000 population; (2) Medical specialists per 100,000; (3) Surgical Specialists per 100,000, (4) Accredited General Hospital Beds in the community; (5) Physician Residency Programs, and finally (6) Hospital Services in the community.

Since Castle Rock does not have a hospital, the community is almost disqualified in all of the six areas. To see how important it is for Castle Rock’s new hospital to receive a good score in Health Care, all you have to do is look to the North, to Zip Code 80124, which encompasses Lone Tree, CO. Until a few years ago, Lone Tree was in the same boat as Castle Rock. However everything changed for Lone Tree when Sky Ridge Medical Center opened nine years ago. Along with the new hospital, medical office buildings were built and quickly filled up with medical specialists.

To compare Lone Tree to Castle Rock, you can look to one of the premier medical references on the web, healthgrades.com. This website has made great efforts to list all available physicians by their office locations. As part of the Almanac’s healthcare methodology, they count both Primary Care physicians and Specialists in the market areas they evaluate and the score is affected by how many doctors a market
has. Let’s examine the Denver-Aurora, CO market which includes Castle Rock. This market includes 10 counties with 45 cities and towns totaling approximately 2.8 million people. According to the Almanac, the Denver-Aurora market has 5,148 patient-treating physicians, and 4,249 hospital beds. This calculates to 543 physicians per 100,000 population. According to the Almanac, this would rate the Denver market at 111th for health care.

When you use healthgrades.com to do a physician count for Castle Rock (using zip codes 80104, 80108 and 80109), you get a total of 157 doctors for the Castle Rock market. The most recent U.S. Census for Castle Rock shows that it had 48,231 people. That calculates to 325 physicians per 100,000 population. There is no hospital and so doctors aren’t persuaded to open an office here. A lower count of 325 doctors equals a low score.

When you look at Lone Tree, however, you see how much a hospital helps in getting a good Almanac score. Hospitals attract doctors like honey attracts bears. According to healthgrades.com, the zip code for Lone Tree, 80124, has 405 physicians in this single zip code. Since the 2010 Census lists this zip code with 19,321 people, this calculates out to 2,096 physicians per 100,000 population. Lone Tree is doctor rich. Since the entire Denver market has only 543 physicians per 100,000 and is ranked 111th in the Places Rated Almanac, Lone Tree finds itself in an enviable position.

So, how much will Castle Rock rise in the ratings when the hospital and medical buildings are fully built and functioning? If Lone Tree is any indication, Castle Rock should see at least 839 physicians per 100,000, putting it well ahead of the larger Denver-Aurora market for healthcare. When you add in the 50 Accredited General Hospital Beds in the new hospital when there weren’t any hospital beds before, along with three operating rooms, two c-section operating suites and a cardiac catheterization lab, it is pretty easy to foresee a giant bump up for Castle Rock in the various places rated books, and this bump up can translate into a rise in home values as Lone Tree’s experience has shown.

Most of us who live in Castle Rock have watched our real estate market languish. A quick look at the “Zestimate” from Zillow’s web site will show a drop in the majority of local home values. The average home value for zip code 80109 (where the new hospital sits) has dropped by $13,000.00 since August 2003. Compare this with the Zillow graph for Lone Tree’s Zip Code of 80124 and you see the Lone Tree community actually bucking the downward trend for home values, with the average Lone Tree home rising from August of 2003 by $12,000.00. Why is August 2003 important? That was when Sky Ridge Medical Center opened its doors. Castle Rock’s new hospital will go a long way in lifting all of our spirits and should help return our community to the prosperity we all have known. When the new hospital in the Castle Rock Adventist Health Campus opens, I hope all of our citizens turn out to celebrate this happy day.

Mike Robinson is Sr. Partner at Robinson & Henry P.C., ph. 303-688-0944.

Hospital | February 24, 2012

Michael Robinson
Castle Rock Republican Examiner
Huntsville, AL -- Last August, the pastor at First Seventh-day Adventist Church in Huntsville asked his congregation to consider starting an after-school tutoring program. The response was unanimously supportive, and the "Success in Mathematics and Reading Today" program was born. Church members lined up to donate several hours of time each week to help neighborhood children improve their reading and math skills.

Now, the church is planning an even bigger step - moving from its location at 6300 Stringfield Road to a larger building about three miles away. First SDA is renovating the old West Huntsville Church of Christ at 1303 Evangel Drive. The project should be complete by the end of July or early August. Pastor Debleaire Snell says, "we've had a great run here on Stringfield, but we've outgrown our space and our facility here. It's not just sanctuary space but the space to be able to house ministries, such as the SMART program."

Dr. Jennifer Patterson is the director of the SMART program. She says, "we're excited about just exploding in size, so we want to definitely reach out to those children who are going to be in the neighborhood that we're moving in to." The program currently provides free tutoring to children in grades K-12. The tutors are all certified teachers or content specialists. Elementary school students are tutored on Mondays and Wednesdays. Middle and high school students meet on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

The program is rewarding to both the tutors and the students. Carmen Erwin recently retired and enjoys the opportunity to combine her love of children with her passion for teaching. She adds, "in fact, one of our children told his mom that the tutoring session was awesome. So, that's just rewarding to know that the impact is right there."

The church is currently taking applications for tutoring during the fall semester. For more information, call the First SDA office at (256) 852-8360.
Lodi Academy got its start as a boarding school

By Jennifer Bonnett/News-Sentinel Staff Writer | Posted: Saturday, February 25, 2012 12:00 am

Lodi Academy sits just off Highway 99 on the southeast corner of the city limits on a 38-acre site.

It first opened its doors as a boarding school in 1908. Before becoming a day school in 1968, Lodi Academy had its own dairy and a printing press for school and commercial work, and offered post-secondary courses in education.

Today, it is an accredited Seventh-day Adventist high school with about 105 students. In June, it will graduate 27 seniors. Some of the students come from as far away as Elk Grove and Tracy.

The Seventh-Day Adventist church started a school system in the 1870s, according to Principal Doug Brown. Lodi Academy was founded as a campus to train teachers.

The gymnasium — the largest auditorium in Lodi until Hutchins Street Square was built — is still standing, as are other buildings including a warehouse and industrial arts building.

Remote from the church's headquarters in Michigan, California had only two denominational schools, Healdsburg College and San Fernando Academy. But neither provided for teacher training, Brown said.

That's when Lodi Academy was born. For the first two years, the institution's name was Western Normal Institute. Then the name changed to Lodi Normal Academy and, in 1911, Normal Institute.

Sadie Jauch, who will be 105 next month, is the school's oldest living alumni. She lives just a few blocks from the school where she still attends the annual homecomings and enjoys looking at photos of former graduating classes.

She recalls that back then, faculty did not address students by their first names; she was Miss Boss, her maiden name.

Jauch said the former campus looked different with several two-and-three-story buildings. She can still describe the campus, building by building.

Though she did not live on campus when it was a boarding school because she was already a resident of Lodi, Jauch graduated in 1929 and went on to become a registered nurse. She returned during World War II and taught emergency medical training at the campus.

"It has served a lot of people, and a lot of purposes," she said.

Lodi Academy became the school's permanent name in the early 1930s.

In 1963, Harris Pine Mills established a furniture manufacturing plant within walking distance of the Academy, according to Brown, and students ages 16 to 18 could earn all their school expenses.

But after determining a boarding school was no longer necessary, four years later the dormitories were closed, the original main building demolished and a new campus built to serve day students only.

"It's been a big blessing in this area to have had such a wonderful Christian school," Jauch said.

Contact reporter Jennifer Bonnett at jenniferb@lodinews.com.
Newswise — DENVER (Feb. 23, 2012) – Taking advantage of another breakthrough in robotic surgery, a surgeon at Porter Adventist Hospital is among the first in the country and is the first in the Rocky Mountain Region to perform a robotically-assisted removal of the gallbladder through a single small incision.

Each year, about one million people in the U.S will undergo gallbladder removal surgery. Of that number, 40 percent of these patients are women, ages 18 to 44. Thanks to this latest advance, patients can now have their gallbladder removed and be home in a few short hours with minimal discomfort and potentially no visible scar.

Warren Kortz, MD, a general surgeon and a member of the Porter Robotics Institute, recently performed the robotic-assisted cholecystectomy (gallbladder removal surgery) using a single incision through the belly button. Porter is one of just twenty sites across the country to offer this groundbreaking surgery made possible through a new FDA-approved single-site advancement to the da Vinci® Robotic Surgical System.

“This new technique offers even greater advantages to patients having gallbladder removal,” Dr. Kortz said. “Robotic-assisted surgery has been a great option for patients, but now we can do an entire gallbladder procedure using just one small, cosmetically hidden incision. It is easier on the patient and the technology provides better surgical skill.”

Intuitive Surgical, Inc. received FDA-approval on the new operating platform for the da Vinci® Surgical System specifically for cholecystectomy procedures. The system enables surgeons to reduce the traditional number of incisions from four small incisions to one incision that is an inch in length and cosmetically hidden at the belly button.

“We’ll be able to use this technology for other surgical procedures in the future,” Kortz added. “The instrumentation
and the vision system are constantly being improved, and we can expect to see even greater benefits for patients and surgeons.

Surgeons at Porter Adventist Hospital use the da Vinci System for a variety of minimally invasive robotic surgical procedures, including general, abdominal, urological, gynecological, and complex head and neck surgery. For more information about conditions and procedures offered through the Porter Robotics Institute, visit http://www.porterhospital.org/roboticsurgery or call 303-715-7PRI (7774).

About Porter Adventist Hospital
Porter Adventist Hospital is a full service, Nursing Magnet® designated, 368-bed acute-care referral center for complex medicine and surgery patients. In addition to being ranked No. 1 for 2010 in overall cardiac care in Colorado by a national hospital reporting company, Porter specializes in cancer care, joint replacement, spinal care, advanced robotic surgery and organ transplantation. Porter is sponsored by Adventist Health System and is connected to Centura Health, Colorado's health care leader, and its integrated statewide network of 13 hospitals, seven senior living communities, medical clinics, affiliated partner hospitals, Flight For Life® Colorado, and home care and hospice services. Together, Porter and Centura Health provide care that transcends the walls of a hospital. Connections that only Centura Health can make. For more information about Porter Adventist Hospital, visit www.porterhospital.org or the Media Room at http://porter.mediaroom.com.

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Spinal Cord Stimulation for Back Pain

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From Adventist St. Thomas Hospice:

Hinsdale – Prior to January 2009, Dawn Ceren could not have imagined how important hospice would become for her. It was during that month that her 48-year-old husband took his own life. In her pain and confusion, and with enormous concerns about her young son, the Downers Grove resident turned to Adventist St. Thomas Hospice for guidance and support. She found it.

“Hospice was always there for me and for my son,” Ceren said. “There is real acceptance. No one is judgmental. When I spoke to friends or acquaintances after my husband died, it seemed everyone had their own war story to tell, rather than let me talk. At hospice, you can tell your own story and get it out without interruption.”

Ceren was so grateful for the support she received from Adventist St. Thomas Hospice that she began volunteering there in 2010. She helps out in the office out of gratitude for the services she has received.

Ceren attended grief support groups and she saw a grief counselor referred by the hospice. Ceren’s son, Dave Foley, now 11 and in sixth grade at Indian Trail School in Downers Grove, attended a support group called Tommy’s Kids. The group is for children who have experienced the loss of someone significant through death. He also attended the program’s bereavement summer day camp and hopes to volunteer at the camp when he’s old enough.

“Through Tommy’s Kids, Dave met other children who experienced the pain of losing a parent,” Ceren said. “He can talk to them. He finds companionship.”

Ceren and her son have experienced still more loss. Ceren’s mother was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2007. Her parents, who were living in Tennessee, moved in with her in 2009. Her mother died at age 72 in October 2010, after receiving services from Adventist St. Thomas Hospice.

“We had home care; they helped her with her medications, and they helped our whole family,” Ceren said.

In addition to volunteering at Adventist St. Thomas Hospice, Ceren volunteers for her school district, where she also works as a secretary on a substitute basis. Her father, 81, still lives with her. They are helped by her sister in Westmont.

Ceren and her son have remained involved in support groups at hospice, mainly through family night once a month.

“There is always a smile and a hug; there is warmth,” Ceren said. “Now I see new fami too. Men tend to hold in their feelings. If more fathers took advantage of the program, i

Adventist St. Thomas Hospice offers supportive, holistic care to patients and their fami counties. For information, call (630) 856-6990.
Safe churches a priority for Adventist Risk Management

Feb. 21, 2012 Silver Spring, Maryland, United States

Elizabeth Lechleitner/ANN

A new child protection program from the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s risk management organization is galvanizing the church’s ongoing efforts to shield minors from abuse and misconduct.

Through training for adults and children, as well as background screening for employees and volunteers who work closely with minors, Adventist Risk Management’s Child Protection Plan equips local leaders to make the church a safe place, says ARM Vice President and Chief Risk Management Officer Arthur Blinci.

“It’s part of our mission to help protect the ministries of the Seventh-day Adventist Church,” says Blinci, citing Children’s Ministries, Youth Ministries, Pathfinders and Adventurers as a “core component” of that mission. “Faith-based communities have a moral, ethical and legal responsibility to protect children from harm when they’re in our care,” he says.

The church has made significant strides toward achieving that goal. In North America, many church employees and volunteers are mandated reporters, Blinci says. This means they have a legal obligation to report abuse or allegations of abuse that occur within the church setting. By 2003, the church’s North American Division had drafted protocol for dealing with sexual misconduct and child abuse. Late last year, the division voted a new child protection policy mandating that every level of church administration implement a training and screening program for volunteers.

The Adventist world church has also been proactive about writing guidelines and voting policies to protect minors. Indeed, at the church’s General Conference Session in 2010, delegates voted to add to the Church Manual specific language guiding the appointment of church employees and volunteers who work closely with minors. They agreed that adults leading out in Pathfinders, Vacation Bible School, Children’s Ministries and Sabbath School programs “must meet church and legal standards and requirements, such as background checks or certification.”

Still, Blinci says that policies, guidelines and good intentions only go so far. Adventist Risk
Management routinely handles a couple dozen cases of child abuse every year and has spent some $30 million on indemnity cases over the past two decades. Many U.S. states have open statutes of limitations, allowing older claims of abuse to be raised and litigated.

What the church needs are tools and resources to put in the hands of local church administrators and leaders, he says.

“We’ve heard for so many years from church members, ‘How do we do it?’” Blinci says.

Now Adventist Risk Management is providing an answer. Through a partnership with Shield The Vulnerable, the organization’s new Child Protection Plan offers online training for adults on addressing abuse, neglect, predators, bullying, boundaries and respect. It also provides age-appropriate information for children on recognizing and reporting abuse.

Shield The Vulnerable -- a California-based service provider that frequently works with faith-based, non-profit organizations -- also offers background screening for employees and volunteers as a “critical” line of defense, Blinci says.

“So often, especially on the volunteer side, there’s typically no screening. You want to volunteer for Children’s Ministries? Great, come on, we can use you,” he says. “Now, when potential volunteers know before they even apply that you’re going to run a criminal background check, if they have a propensity, they’re not even going to volunteer.”

While creating the Child Protection Plan, ARM discovered that the church’s Lake Union Conference had already partnered with Shield The Vulnerable and piloted its training and screening programs in the U.S. states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and a portion of Minnesota.

Blinci expects all 59 of the North American Division’s conferences will follow suit in the coming months. Through Shield The Vulnerable, a conference or other administrative unit creates an account that tracks progress as they train volunteers and perform background screenings. “It goes all the way down to the local church and school level,” he says.

ARM resource kits for local churches include PowerPoint presentations, a video clip, a sample child protection policy and reference information.

While North American Division policy doesn’t mandate the use of Shield The Vulnerable, it does require some type of training and screening. “There are other ways a conference may choose to do their own training and orientation, but they have to do something,” Blinci says.

“Abuse of children is not only prevalent in society, but is also occurring within our churches,” says Phyllis Washington, Children’s Ministries director for the North American Division. “By recognizing that the problem exists in our congregations, we are taking a crucial step toward providing a safe
environment, restoring trust, promoting healing and ultimately preventing child abuse.”

While the Shield The Vulnerable program may not fully apply to the world church due to differences in reporting laws, some of its elements are universally relevant and can be tailored to fit local needs, Blinci says.

“The goal is to protect our kids, which are the greatest resources we have. Hopefully now there are no excuses.”

Click here to download Child Protection Plan resources and references from Adventist Risk Management.
SONscreen Film Festival
X
April 12-14, 2012
@ AMP Studios
101 W. Cochran St.,
Simi Valley, CA 93065

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The 2012 SONscreen Film Festival will be held on April 12-14 @ the Adventist Media Center in Simi Valley, CA

Stay connected on Facebook to hear about event information and film competition details.

Or to register to attend this years event, sign up here.

We are introducing film submissions this year to be done through the industry standard website, Withoutabox.com

Click to submit, Withoutabox.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES:
February 20, 2012 (early)
February 27, 2012 (standard)
March 5, 2012 (late)

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Also, visit the Health Videos and Podcasts for current news updates.

If you are looking for a physician, please contact our physician referral line at 630-856-7500.

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