Just Claim It!

by Manny Cruz, Associate Director, Youth Ministries

The 3rd Youth Prayer Conference, “Just Claim It,” in Greensboro, N.C., March 7-11, drew approximately 2,500 youth ministry leaders, young adult ministry leaders and youth from across the Division as well as other parts of the world. Led by the NAD Youth and Young Adult Ministries Department it combined with the Youth Leadership Summit and the Ignition Young Adult Ministry Training for the second time around. The event, which focuses on worship, prayer, Bible study and leadership training, is a highlight for many teenagers as well as young adults.

JCI included community service projects, street ministries, community outreach, evangelism training workshops, leadership seminar breakouts, a Bible reading marathon in which the entire Bible was read out loud, leadership development, spiritual music, Biblically-based drama, exhibits, community outreach parade, recreation, and a baptismal ceremony. One of the highlights of this gathering is the different prayer opportunities that young people receive. Whether it’s writing a prayer request on a prayer wall or simply falling to one’s knees with thousands of other youth, it is definitely a wonderful thing to see and be a part of. This year the prayer theme was “The Gethsemane Experience.”

Another highlight of the event was seeing teens, youth and young adults using technology as a means of witnessing and sharing the Gospel. Using the hashtags #JustClaimIt and #iPrayed, thousands of “tweets” and Facebook posts circulated around the internet including pictures and videos on social network sites like, Flickr, YouTube, Vimeo, Instagram among others. Today, young people don’t wait for a news broadcast at 11 pm or a featured article in a church magazine weeks later. Instead, they make the news and share it instantaneously in real time.
God truly blessed the prayer conference, and plans for JCI4 in 2014 are already on the way. Videos and testimonies. JCI3 Photos.

ACS Disaster Relief is at work on tornado disaster sites, but more is needed. On Friday, March 2, several tornadoes struck at different times during the day into the evening hours. In Tenn. several groups immediately went to work helping with chainsaw teams, distribution and other urgent help responses. The Samaritan Center, located in Ooltewah, Tenn., began mobile distribution with goods provided by Georgia-Cumberland Conference Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS DR) warehouse and from Lowes, Home Depot and other corporate donors.

Terry Haight, Georgia-Cumberland Conference ACS DR coordinator, is coordinating the operation of a warehouse in Hamilton County, Tenn., northern edge of Chattanooga. Donated goods are being stored in churches and at a temporary command post until a building for the warehouse is located. Learn specifics with contact information about more help needed.

A New Film to Explore Adventist Education is in the beginning stages. It is being created by Martin Doblmeier, founder and president of Journey Films, and the man behind The Adventists, the award-winning documentary that highlights the Adventist Church’s health emphasis. He says he became interested in the topic after noticing that Adventists were doing one particular thing well: “providing students something that is difficult to describe but something everybody wants, and that is developing body, mind and spirit.” MORE (Visitor News Bulletin, Mar. 7, Columbia Union)

Adventists in the News

Adventist partnership raises USF’s medical profile
Tbo.com
March 13

Florida Hospital Celebration Health Acquires Mazor Robotics’ Renaissance
March 13

Upcoming Events

Invitation to Prayer Call (Teleconference), Apr 5
ACF/NAD Campus Ministry Conference, Apr 6-8
WestPoint 2012, “Connecting with Christ”, April 8-11
SONscreen X, Apr 12-14
Gulf States Marriage & Singles Bahamas Cruise, Apr 15-19
Pathfinder Bible Experience, Apr 21
ACS Reach Out Symposium /New Jersey, Apr 21-22
Women Clergy Conference /Michigan, Apr 23-26
7th World Congress for Religious Freedom, Apr 24-26
Central California Conference Hispanic Men’s Retreat, Apr 27-29
NAD Camp Meeting Schedule
More upcoming events

NAD Prayer Calendar

Daily Prayer Guide
Mar. 18-24: Potomac Conference, with 136 churches and 32,872 members
Runners ‘dash’ through Downtown Glendale
Valley Sun
March 12

Southern Adventist University Presents Archaeological & Biology Lecture Series
The Chattanooga
March 12

Seventh-Day Adventists Celebrate Adventist
HHS.gov The Partnership Center Newsletter
March 8

Florida Hospital and USF Health Partner in Key Specialties
University of South Florida
March 12

Modern interpretation of ancient art form installed at Seventh-day Adventist
Nooga.com
March 11

Adventist InStep for Life program a highlight of the Annual Health Let’s Move Blog
March 7

$1,000 awards are being offered for the best stewardship sermons. Ministers and graduate ministerial students in North America are invited to submit their best stewardship sermons. Up to ten outstanding sermons will be selected for the possible $1,000 award. Submission deadline is August 9.

Anecdotal evidence about Adventists will be replaced by “actual data.” Beginning this year, the GC Office of Archives, Statistics and Research (OASR), under the direction of David Trim (right), will oversee a major research project to survey the opinions, attitudes and spiritual life patterns of Adventist pastors, church members, institutional employees and college and university professors worldwide.

OASR has contracted with research teams at Adventist universities in North America, South America, Inter-America, Europe, Africa, Southeast Asia and Australia to do a “rigorous” survey. While much of the anonymous polling will take place this year, some surveys may continue into early 2013, with full results due back at world church headquarters by June of 2013. (Adventist News Network) MORE

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iGiveSDA App

• March 17, Local Church Budget
• March 24, Local Conference Advance
• March 31, Union Designated
• Offertory Readings

Special Days
March Focus:
Women in the Church

• 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
Revival and Reformation

“The larger-than-life Bible stood open on the round, beveled glass table in my grandmother’s bedroom. The sunshine flooded the room through the opened, sky-blue French louvers. As I lazily opened my eyes, I could see Buni, my dear grandmother, kneeling down to pray. As I tiptoed my way out of bed, I quietly knelt down beside her. Even at the tender age of 7, I understood those moments were sacred.”

Sperantza Adriana Pasos grew up under the stronghold of Communist Romania. At age 14, she and her mother braved a daring escape plan, evading government officials and armed guards, with the teenager wondering whether she’d ever see her four-year-old sister and adoring father again. This heart-stopping venture is now told in her new book, Hope In Present Danger. MORE

Resources

The Great Hope issue of Message magazine is designed to reach the cities of North-America and 250,000 copies are now available for ordering. This special May/June issue includes five chapters of The Great Hope by Ellen G. White, including “Why is There Suffering?” and “Victory of Love.” This special issue will also include three corresponding articles: “It’s Not about Time: Trying to Set the Clock for the Second Coming of Christ is Dangerous and Futile,” “The Best View: Does Bible Prophecy Make Sense?” and “Decide the Side: Choose Today — Will You be on the Winning Side?”

Order by March 30. Prices: Up to 200 copies @ $0.49 ea. plus S&H; 201 or more @ $0.39 ea. plus S&H. Get order form HERE

Prophecies Decoded set of 14 DVDs that include recordings of 28 presentations by Pastor Ron Clouzet can be ordered online at Prophecies Decoded or from the NADEI Resource Center (or call 718-482-2132) for $89 plus $10 S&H. Credit card orders accepted.
Breath of Life Ministries (BOL) has a new App. It will provide information about upcoming events, news items, BOL broadcast videos and audio recordings of sermons presented by BOL Speaker/Director Carlton Byrd, as well as a link to donate online to the BOL television ministries. It’s available in 15 countries. Get the App at the iPhone App Store.

One of the recurring themes in questions by young adults asked to Pastor Dan Jackson at the Ignition meeting at Just Claim It 3 in Greensboro, N.C., was the lack of support by church leaders at the local church level. “The feeling is that in too many of our churches young adults don’t feel accepted and welcomed in leadership but rather criticized.” Dan Jackson’s reply was: “The Church has to loosen up. We need to value every age group.”

Stay Socially Connected with NAD

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George Johnson Jr., communication director | Bernadine Delafield, NET evangelism coordinator
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5
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3-6-12 Several States Tornado Disaster and Relief in Action

Help is on sites but more is needed

On Friday, March 2, 2012, several tornadoes struck at different times during the day and on into the evening hours. In Tennessee several groups immediately went to work helping with chainsaw teams, distribution and other urgent help responses. The Samaritan Center, located in Ooltewah, Tenn., began mobile distribution with goods provided by Georgia-Cumberland Conference Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS DR) warehouse and from Lowes, Home Depot and other corporate donors.

Terry Haight, Georgia-Cumberland Conference ACS DR coordinator is coordinating the operation of a warehouse in Hamilton County, Tenn., northern edge of Chattanooga. Donated goods are being stored in churches and at a temporary command post, until a building for the warehouse is located.

Here are other reports and activities in the affected areas:

- Branson, Mo. – biggest need is volunteers for debris clean up – Contact Roy Weeden (c) (641) 583-533
- Harrisburg, Ill. – ACS DR Chain Saw Teams have been removing trees. Robert Bradley is coordinating the operation of a warehouse and seeking help with experienced warehouse management volunteers. Please contact him at (618) 214-7548.
- Jeffersonville, Ind. – Established a warehouse and is receiving goods. So far 6 semitrailers have already arrived, and most of it is sorted. Latter-day Saints (LDS) is helping with volunteers. Al Currier, Indiana Conference ACS DR coordinator, is seeking experienced warehouse volunteers such as: floor manager, sorting manager, shipping manager, office manager and volunteer managers. If anyone can help with leadership positions, please call Indiana Conference and ask for Julie Loucks – (317) 844-6201. Southern Baptists have a convention center nearby, and they are offering for volunteers to stay there.
- Ohio and Kentucky are assessing the needs and considering either mobile distribution or warehouse operation.

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Adventist Community Services
North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists®
New Film to Explore Adventist Education

Martin Doblmeier, founder and president of Journey Films, and the man behind The Adventists, the award-winning documentary that highlights the Adventist Church’s health emphasis, is at it again. For his latest film, Doblmeier is in the beginning stages of exploring Adventist education. He says he became interested in the topic after noticing that Adventists were doing one particular thing well: “Providing students something that is difficult to describe but something everybody wants, and that is developing body, mind and spirit,” he explains.

He adds, “And while it’s possible to quantify results of education on mind and body, quantifying spirit is the most elusive of all. We will try to unearth what that means and try to quantify spiritual development.” Doblmeier (far right) is pictured in a sixth-grade technology class at Spencerville Adventist Academy in Spencerville, Md., with teacher Darlene Rackley and students Cameron Mayer (left) and Emma Tennyson. He estimates the new film will be released next spring.—Story by Taashi Rowe

(Taken from Columbia Union Visitor Bulletin, March 7, 2012)
Adventist partnership raises USF's medical profile

By Mary Shedden

One of Florida's major hospital chains on Monday launched a partnership with the University of South Florida, immediately boosting the ambitious medical school's profile.

USF faculty and physicians will provide hands-on care and research at four of the seven area Florida hospitals, including the Pepin Heart Institute in Tampa. Initially, expertise will be limited to cardiology, breast health, neuroscience and surgical cancer care.

Adventist Health System, the Winter Park-based owner of 22 Florida hospitals, will invest $14 million over three years for faculty, fellows, medical residents and staff at USF, which has no teaching hospital of its own.

In return, USF's colleges of medicine, nursing, public health, pharmacy and physician's group gain access to new patients and data, said John Harding, president and chief executive officer of Florida Hospital Tampa Bay division.

"One of the things we have for USF is a lot of patients," he said. "We can feed them a lot of information."

Just as important to USF may be a higher public profile for the 40-year-old medical school that historically partnered only with Tampa General Hospital. Monday's announcement is the second time in 16 months USF Health struck deals with private hospital chains that reach outside of the Tampa Bay area.

Stephen Klasko, dean of the USF College of Medicine and CEO of USF Health, said the partnerships defy traditional, political alliances. But USF's success depends on creative private partnerships and independent ventures, he said.

"We have to stop being fragmented in this community," Klasko said. "You don't become the best in the country because of (an affiliation with) one hospital."

Harding said Florida Hospital isn't recruiting physicians from other local hospitals. But some have asked about the partnership that will allow some hospital physicians the ability to teach and conduct research at USF.

USF Health remains a major presence in nearly every department at Tampa General, hospital spokesman John Dunn said. That includes the $33 million, seven-story USF Health South Tampa Center for Advanced Healthcare located at the Tampa General downtown campus.

"We don't expect any diminishing of services," Dunn said Monday. "This announcement was not made at our expense."

Klasko, an obstetrician with an MBA, is passionate about this aggressive business approach to medicine. It's behind downtown's new USF Center for Advanced Medical Learning and Simulation, and a 2010 partnership with the for-profit HCA Healthcare chain to create five trauma centers across Florida.

"We believe that USF is one of the best in the country," Klasko said. "Yes, we will be talking to and participating with everybody."

It's also why Monday's event featured a Who's Who of local politicians and economic development leaders from Hillsborough and Pasco counties. They learned that Klasko and Florida Hospital leaders first discussed partnerships in 2009, more than a year before the non-profit bought the former University Community Hospital facilities.

"The conversation was never should we or could we come together, but how can we," said Michael Schultz, chief executive officer for Adventist Health System's Florida region.

Klasko said the partnership will the Pepin Heart Institute could speed up USF's ability to break ground in research areas such as genomics, or the study of how personal DNA affects health. The partnership, however, is not officially linked to USF's proposed $7 million heart institute approved last week by Florida's legislators.

Charles Lambert, medical director of the Pepin Heart Institute, said adding academic researchers and students to the hospital will only improve the...
level of care and quality of research. "It's always better having the fellows, the students and residents," Lambert said. "They ask questions and you have to be on your toes with these guys." mshedden@tampatrib.com (813) 259-7365
More than 1,400 runners raced through downtown Glendale during Sunday’s fifth annual Downtown Dash, an event that has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for treatment services at Glendale Adventist Medical Center.

For longtime Glendale resident Christa Miller, who is 80, it was her forth time participating. Miller regularly exercises and said that having a routine to keep fit, “is very important to me.”

“I play tennis, I surf and ski and I walk my dog every day,” she said.

She rallied her son, Hajo Katinszky, 57, and granddaughter Jessica Katinszky, 19, to race this year.

“It’s our first time doing the dash,” Hajo Katinszky said, “But we figured if she could do it at 80, we gotta do it too.”

The 5K run and walk sponsored by the Glendale News-Press raises money for Glendale Adventist’s stroke center. In the past three years, the run has raised more than $300,000 for the hospital, organizers said.

Kevin Roberts, the hospital's president and chief executive, said $120,000 were raised last year alone.

And with 1,470 participants on Sunday and more than 200 runners than last year, it was the biggest race so far.

» LIST OF WINNERS, TIMES

Elaine Miller and Narina Minassian guided runners in a stretch before state Sen. Carol Liu encouraged them over a microphone shouting, “Let’s get going!”

In a gray jogging suit and Nikes, Mayor Laura Friedman sent everyone off running on Brand Boulevard, through the Americana and back to the Alex Theatre where the race began.

It was the fifth time for Kevin Danni, a South Pasadena resident who sits on Glendale Adventist’s Civic Advisory Board. He helped recruit a 15-member team of friends and family who participate as “The Heartbreakers” each year.

“We’ve always supported this event. It’s a great cause,” he said.

About 150 students from Glendale, Crescenta Valley and Hoover high school, as well as Crescenta Valley Adventist School, also participated.

-- Kelly Corrigan, Times Community News
Southern Adventist University Presents Archaeological & Biology Lecture Series

Monday, March 12, 2012

The Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum Lecture Series continues on March 21 at 7 p.m. in Ackerman Auditorium on the campus of Southern Adventist University. Daniel Master, professor of archaeology at Wheaton College, will present "Transformations in the Twelfth Century BC: The Coming of the Philistines to Ashkelon." Admission is free. For more information visit southern.edu/archaeology or call 236-2030.

This presentation will highlight the results of the Leon Levy's 2009 Ashkelon excavations, emphasizing new social, religious, and commercial insights. Recent digs at Ashkelon, the largest seaport in ancient Canaan, have uncovered the best preserved twelfth-century remains ever found at the site, including a unique "four-horned" installation which provides evidence of household religion and perhaps a twelfth-century temple.

The third E.O. Grundset Lecture Series of 2012 takes place on March 22 at 7:30 p.m. in Southern Adventist University's Hulsey Wellness Center. Jose Barbosa, associate professor from University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, will present "Applicability of Biological Knowledge: From Bioterrorism to Natural Herbal Medicine." The public is welcome to enjoy this free presentation. For more information visit southern.edu/biology or call 236-2926.
Lee University Hosts Book Signing March 27

Students of Lee University’s Communication Arts Department will host their first author book signing Tuesday, March 27, from noon-2 p.m. in the Great Room of Lee’s Math and Science Complex. This collaborative effort will feature local author and former Major League Baseball media relations executive Michael Ringering, who will be in attendance to sign copies of his first ... (click for more)

Lee To Host Campbellsville University President Dr. Michael V. Carter

Lee University welcomes Campbellsville University president Dr. Michael V. Carter to deliver a lecture on Wednesday at 4 p.m. The event will be held in the Johnson Lecture Hall inside the Humanities Center and is sponsored by Lee’s Sociological Honors Society, Alpha Kappa Delta. Dr. Carter will present “The Sociological Perspective in the Digital Age: Complement, Conflict ... (click for more)

Happenings

River Gallery Has Opening Reception For Pathways April 6
A Night To Remember Gala Set For May 19
Latest Hamilton County Marriages
Ferri Robinson: Get Built Chattanooga Cross Fit, A Serious Gym With A Friendly Atmosphere
Chattanooga: Marlene Geren Has A Country Side To Her 🇺🇸
All Happenings Articles

Dining

The Frittata - Whatever That Is - Turned Out Great At Bluegrass Grill
Charles Siskin: Winter’s Last Hurrah
Mellow Mushroom Has Excellent New Location Near Hamilton Place
Georgia Winery Releases Green Wine For St. Patrick’s Day
Menchie’s Swirls Into Chattanooga With Grand Opening Celebration
All Dining Articles

Business

2012 Chattanooga Seal Of Satisfaction Award Recipient Companies
Chattanooga Gas Prices Up 4.4 Cents In Past Week
All Business Articles

Student Scene

Lee University Hosts Book Signing March 27
Lee To Host Campbellsville University President Dr. Michael V. Carter
Lee’s Kleinmann Awarded Page
All Student Scene Articles

Church

Bill Passes For Annual Tennessee Day Of Prayer
This Sunday Is Youth Day At Signal Church
All Church Articles

Memories

TSLA to Host 1940 Census Seminar
Remembering Hixson Jr. High School 🎓
All Memories Articles

Breaking News

Girl, 13, In Critical Condition After Being Shot In The Head On Bennett Avenue
A 13-year-old girl is in critical condition after being shot in the head on Bennett Avenue on Saturday night. At 10:09 p.m., Chattanooga Police responded to a shooting near 2012 Bennett Ave. - where they found the young girl suffering from the gunshot wound. She was transported to Erlanger Hospital where she underwent emergency surgery. Investigators have suspect leads ... (click for more)

1 Killed As 2 Shot On Fagan Street
One person was killed as two people were shot late Saturday morning on Fagan Street. At approximately 11:28 a.m., Chattanooga Police responded to a shooting that occurred in front of 4009 Fagan St. When the officers arrived they found Jabari Jennings, 25, and Lawande Haggard, 24, suffering from gunshot wounds. Haggard was shot in the leg and was transported ... (click for more)

Several Area Residents Saw Wednesday Night Meteor That Hit Near Rock Spring
Alexander, Corker Pleased By President’s Declaration Of “Major Disaster” For Tennessee
City Council Agenda For Tuesday Night
Individuals In Area Counties Qualify For Tornado Disaster Aid

Opinion

Smart Meters Confirmed To Pose Threat To Privacy - And Response (2)
"Mayor: We told you so!" I guess if we were children in a school yard, that might be the statement members of area personal liberty groups, including the Chattanooga Tea Party, could use after reading that CIA Director David Petraeus confirmed our concerns about smart meters and the threat they pose to our personal liberties and privacy. According to an ... (click for more)

Roy Exum: A Tale of Two Hospitals
I think it is absolutely wonderful that Chattanooga’s Memorial Hospital has just announced a dynamic capital campaign to raise $15 million from our area’s wonderful philanthropists. The campaign, with $8 million already pledged, is being headed by two of the greatest cheerleaders in our city – Jan Guerry and Bill Stacy – and I can virtually guarantee it will be a rousing success. ... (click for more)

The Random Callers Should Be Helping Instead
Heed Sheriff’s Advice On Gangs - And Response
Roy Exum: What Our Teachers Tell Us
Roy Exum: A Soldier’s Dad Writes

Real Estate

CHA Looking At Purpose Built, But Has Made No Decision, Executive Director McRights Say
Steve Hiatt Speaks At Chattanooga Apartment Association Thursday
All Real Estate Articles

Living Well

Suicide Awareness Week Events
Researcher To Address Teen Sleep Patterns, Early School Times In Lecture March 29
Morning Pointe Dedicates Activity Area In Honor Of Long-time Volunteer Pat Coggin
All Living Well Articles

Outdoors

Wyoming Tribe Given Right To Kill 2 Bald Eagles
Crabtree Farms Has Annual Spring Plant Sale April 21-22
All Outdoors Articles
Seventh-Day Adventists Celebrate *Adventist InStep for Life*

One of the highlights of this year’s Annual Health Summit in Orlando, FL sponsored by the North American Division of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, was the *Adventist InStep for Life* Celebration and Awards event. This year’s program marked the extraordinary achievements of Adventist hospitals, health ministers and congregations who led the way in increasing opportunities for physical activity and access to healthy, affordable food for their communities.

Created in response to First Lady Michelle Obama’s *Let’s Move!* initiative, the *Adventists InStep for Life* program was designed to help Adventist churches, schools and health care organizations join in the effort of reversing the trend toward childhood obesity. Every NAD conference, church, school, university and health care organization has been encouraged to form an *Adventists InStep for Life* team to coordinate activities that increase physical activity, inspire nutritional eating, and create access to healthy, affordable food.

And their communities answered the call by collectively walking over two million miles (double their goal of one million miles walked!), adding 16 Summer feeding sites so that kids wouldn’t go hungry when school was out, and planting 101 new community gardens!

The gathering was honored by the presence of the Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. Regina Benjamin, who recognized the Adventists as early leaders in the effort to emphasize wellness and preventive care as a priority. Dr. Benjamin shared the opportunities in the National Prevention Strategy and its primary goal of moving the healthcare system from a focus on sickness and disease to a focus on wellness and prevention. “If we want to truly reform health care in this country,” she said, “we need to prevent people from getting sick in the first place, to stop illness and disease before it starts.”

The Surgeon General recognized the Adventist Church’s proactive nature and “wellness-first” strategies, and noted that the community was an exemplar of “making health something you live, not just something you hope happens.”

The HHS Partnership Center joined Dr. Benjamin; Donna Richardson Joyner, a member of the President’s Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition; Katia Reinert, director of Health Ministries for the North American Division of Seventh-Day Adventists; and Dan Jackson, President of the North American Division, to celebrate and present awards to those across the country who led the way in making their communities healthier. All award recipients and many of their success stories can be seen at www.adventistinstepforlife.org.

As the Adventist community looks forward, their commitment to make “Every Church a Center for Health, Healing and Wholeness” seems well within reach, given the strength of their national leadership, their capacity to train and equip community members, and their clear vision that healthful practices are part of God’s intent that all shall “have life and have it more abundantly.”

To see how the Adventists adapted the *Let’s Move Faith and Communities toolkit* for use throughout their communities, check out the *Adventists InStep for Life toolkit*. 
Adventists InStep for Life is sponsored by the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in North America, its Health institutions and Hope Channel and coordinated by the Adventist Health Ministries department.

http://www.hhs.gov/partnerships/resources/newsletter/030812.html#Seventhday
CAESAREA, Israel, Mar 13, 2012 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Mazor Robotics Ltd (tase:MZOR), the leader in innovative surgical robots and complementary products for spine surgery, announced that Florida Hospital has purchased a Renaissance(TM) system. Renaissance is Mazor Robotics' next generation surgical guidance system for spine procedures. The system will be installed at Celebration Health hospital, part of the Florida Hospital system. Dr. Nizam Razack will be the first surgeon in Florida to perform cases with the Renaissance. His first cases are scheduled for mid-March.

Florida Hospital, comprised of 7 hospitals across Central Florida, treats more patients than any other hospital in the US and is a member of Adventist Health System. Adventist Health System operates 43 hospitals in ten states making it the largest not-for-profit Protestant health care system in the United States. Home to Florida Hospital's Global Robotics Institute and Nicholson Center, Celebration Health is an international destination for patients seeking advanced medical treatment as well as for physicians who wish to be trained on state-of-the-art equipment and advanced techniques. Celebration Health played a leadership role in the broad adoption of surgical robotics in urology and gynecology.

"By partnering closely with innovators in robotic surgery, Celebration Health built the leading center for robot-assisted surgery and recruited the world's best urologists and gynecologists," said Monica Reed, Celebration Health CEO. "We are excited to partner with Mazor and bring the same competitive edge to our spine center."

"Mazor aims to work closely with early adopters of Renaissance within large hospital networks to broaden the system's potential exposure to a large number of surgeons," said Ori Hadomi, CEO of Mazor Robotics. "With a state-of-the-art training facility, its large affiliate hospital network and global reputation, we are confident that Celebration Health will be a strong partner for training surgeons to perform robotic spine procedures and an excellent reference point for other hospitals considering the distinguishing features of surgical robotics."

About Mazor Robotics
Mazor Robotics Ltd (tase: MZOR) is dedicated to the development and marketing of innovative surgical robots and complementary products that provide a safer surgical environment for patients, surgeons, and OR staff. Mazor Robotics' flagship product, Renaissance(TM), is a state-of-the-art surgical guidance system that enables surgeons to conduct spine surgeries in an accurate and secure manner. Mazor Robotics systems have been successfully used in the placement of over 15,000 implants in the USA and Europe. Numerous peer-reviewed publications and presentations at leading scientific conferences have validated the accuracy, usability, and clinical advantages of Mazor Robotics technology. For more information, visit www.mazorrobotics.com

SOURCE: Mazor Robotics Ltd
Florida Hospital and USF Health Partner in Key Specialties to Expand Translational Medicine Across Tampa Bay [VIDEO]

Written by Anne DeLotto Baier · March 12, 2012 @ 4:49 pm · Filed under Health Care, Hot News, Press Releases, Research

**The Alliance Brings The Latest Medical Advancements To Local Communities**

TAMPA, Fla. (March 12, 2012) – Florida Hospital and USF Health have formed a strategic alliance, combining Adventist Health System’s innovative approach to patient-centered care with the University of South Florida’s leading research, to deliver cutting-edge medical therapies in hospital and outpatient settings. Through this unique public/private partnership, Florida Hospital is making an investment of approximately $14 million in four key specialty areas to bring enhanced patient care, state-of-the-art technology and expanded services to Tampa Bay.

“Our partnership with USF Health will bring their leading-edge research right to the doorsteps of residents in communities where we have hospitals in Tampa Bay,” said Mike Schultz, President and CEO of the Florida Region for Adventist Health System, the parent company of Florida Hospital. “Patients in Hillsborough, Pinellas and Pasco counties will no longer have to travel for personalized and state-of-the-art medicine in the specialties where we have affiliations with USF Health.”

In September 2011, the Florida Hospital announced that it was developing strategic health care partnerships, including one with USF Health. Today, both organizations announced how the partnership is translating medical research advancements into cutting-edge patient treatment in the following specialty areas: cardiology at Florida Hospital Pepin Heart Institute, breast health at Florida Hospital Tampa, neuroscience at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, and surgical oncology, melanoma and breast cancer at Helen Ellis Memorial Hospital in Tarpon Springs.
"Through these critical specialties, we’re going to transform how patients experience health care at Florida Hospital in our area," said Dr. Stephen K. Klasko, CEO of USF Health and dean of USF Health Morsani College of Medicine. "Patients will have greater access to our world-class physicians and the new scientific discoveries at USF Health. As important, USF Health will also work with Florida Hospital and its patients to create personalized, coordinated care in cardiology, breast health and other targeted specialties."

Cardiology
Cardiovascular patients at Florida Hospital Pepin Heart Institute will benefit from research collaboration and USF Health's exploration in genomic screening for personalized health care. Genomic screening uses an individual's genetic profile to customize the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease to each patient. "No other providers in Tampa Bay will be able to replicate the level of how we begin to tailor procedures to individual patients to maintain their heart health," Dr. Klasko said.

"Florida Hospital Pepin Heart Institute will now combine its personalized health care delivery and clinical research with USF Health's leading academic medicine and research," said John Harding, President and CEO of Florida Hospital Tampa Bay Division. "This innovative partnership will give health care consumers a broader range of treatment options for cardiovascular disease."

Breast Health
Women across Tampa Bay have been experiencing the benefit of a comprehensive diagnostics center exclusively dedicated to breast care at Florida Hospital Tampa. Recently, USF Health partnered with an existing breast program composed of Florida Hospital Tampa, Community Medical Imaging and Tampa Bay Breast Care Specialists to build an even more comprehensive breast health and cancer program. This collaboration brings together private practices, academic medicine and a hospital to form a renowned team of expert radiologists, radiation oncologists and breast surgeons. Based at Florida Hospital Tampa, this multidisciplinary approach to breast care provides a comprehensive range of diagnostic services, cancer treatments and research protocols to patients, while offering a higher level of coordinated care. One of the major patient benefits is reducing the time from screening to diagnosis to treatment. Providing rapid diagnosis — often within the same day — increases early detection, which is a critical factor in successful outcomes for breast cancer patients.
Neuroscience

The new Neuroscience Institute at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills will have a team of USF Health neurosurgeons on-site who are trained in the treatment of brain, spine and acute stroke procedures. Time is an important factor with most medical issues, but especially with stroke and neurological conditions. The new 24/7 dedicated stroke team includes academic neurosurgeons from USF, neuro-interventional radiologists, board certified neurologists, emergency physicians and certified registered nurses to coordinate care from triage to diagnosis, treatment and recovery. Patients will have access to the latest evidence-based treatments from USF, including brain surgery, spine surgery and minimally invasive treatment of aneurysms. Having all of these services offered in one location means patients will no longer need to travel outside Pasco County, saving precious time, which is a critical factor for neurological procedures.

Surgical Oncology, Melanoma and Breast Cancer

To round off the partnership, patients in Pinellas and west Pasco counties will benefit from enhanced medical expertise at Helen Ellis Memorial Hospital. USF Health physicians will now be available for patients – a plastics and reconstructive surgeon trained in the most advanced technologies and treatments for breast cancer and other oncological disorders, and an internationally known surgical oncologist specializing in the treatment of malignant melanoma, complicated skin cancers and breast cancer. The partnership creates a comprehensive and coordinated approach to cancer care that gives patients the option to receive state-of-the-art treatment without leaving their community.

"These four affiliations are the foundation for Florida Hospital and USF Health’s plans to establish a higher standard of coordinated care throughout the market," said John Harding. "This announcement is just the beginning of our vision to elevate health care in Tampa Bay."

For more information, please visit www.HigherDegree.org.
About Florida Hospital Tampa Bay Division

The Florida Hospital Tampa Bay Division is a not-for-profit 1,003-bed hospital system composed of Florida Hospital Tampa, Florida Hospital Pepin Heart Institute, Florida Hospital Carrollwood, Florida Hospital at Connerton Long Term Acute Care, Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel (opens 2012) and Helen Ellis Memorial Hospital. Part of the Adventist Health System, Florida Hospital is a leading health network consisting of 22 hospitals throughout the state. For more information, visit www.ElevatingHealthCare.org.

About USF Health

USF Health’s mission is to envision and implement the future of health. It is the partnership of the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine, the College of Nursing, the College of Public Health, the College of Pharmacy, the School of Biomedical Sciences and the School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences; and the USF Physician’s Group. The University of South Florida is a global research university ranked 34th in federal research expenditures for public universities. For more information, visit www.health.usf.edu.

Photos by Eric Younghans, and video by Amy Mariani, USF Health Communications

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Modern interpretation of ancient art form installed at Seventh-day Adventist Church
Todd Grafe creates new stained glass backdrop for The Well

By Mary Barnett  •  Published Sunday, March 11th 2012 at 1:35pm

When a new Seventh-day Adventist congregation decided to add a contemplative and inspiring element to their modest church on Chattanooga's Southside, they commissioned local stained glass artist Todd Grafe to create a modern, nontraditional work to be a focal point.

Grafe took his inspiration for the three-panel installation from the name of the church, The Well, to design the piece that represents water moving across each panel. Ripples reflect on the wall behind the suspended installation, underscoring the motif.

The artist is inspired by the shapes, patterns and textures in nature and said he likes to spend time at museums and looking at other artists, working to stay familiar with trends and design ideas.

"Design is one of the harder parts, but once I cut the first piece of glass, things move along pretty quickly," he said.

The original art created for the church took Grafe about eight weeks to make and includes more than 200 individually cut pieces of glass, including five antique handmade red rondelles from Germany.

"They have been in my family for about 30 years. I don't usually use them in projects. I tend to keep them for myself. This was a special project," Grafe said.

Grafe has been working with glass since he was 12 years old, getting his start at the family business, Grafe Stained Glass.

He pursued an art education in college until he received a piece of advice from a professor that changed his course.

"He told me, 'What are you doing here in an art class when you already do art and already make a living at it? What you need to do is focus on making stuff and get out there and do your thing,'" Grafe recalled.

Twenty years later, the artist still finds ways to express himself with the thousand-year-old medium, working as a full-time artist at his own studio, Grafe Glass, located in St. Elmo.

Grafe's work includes restoration of old stained glass windows and commissions for contemporary original art. He said he enjoyed collaborating with the Southside church to come up with something that they both liked.

"The part I like best is I start with a blank piece of paper and end up with what we have [at the church] today," he said.

His work can also be seen at the Whole Foods store in North Chattanooga as well as in many private homes all over the Tennessee and Georgia area.
Adventist InStep for Life program a highlight of the Annual Health Summit in Orlando, FL

One of the highlights of this year’s Annual Health Summit in Orlando, FL sponsored by the North American Division of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, was the Adventist InStep for Life Celebration and Awards event. This year’s program marked the extraordinary achievements of Adventist hospitals, health ministers and congregations who are leading the way in increasing opportunities for physical activity and access to healthy, affordable food in their communities.

Created in response to First Lady Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move! initiative, the Adventist InStep for Life program was designed to help Adventist churches, schools and health care organizations join in the effort of reversing the trend toward childhood obesity. Every NAD conference, church, school, university and health care organization has been encouraged to form an Adventist InStep for Life team to coordinate activities that increase physical activity, inspire nutritional eating, and create access to healthy, affordable food.

And their communities answered the call by collectively walking over two million miles (double their goal of one million miles walked!), adding 16 summer feeding sites so that kids wouldn’t go hungry when school was out, and planting 101 new community gardens!

The gathering was honored by the presence of the Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. Regina Benjamin, who recognized the Adventists as early leaders in the effort to emphasize wellness and preventive care as a priority. Dr. Benjamin shared the opportunities in the National Prevention Strategy and explained its primary goal of moving the healthcare system from a focus on sickness and disease to a focus on wellness and prevention. “If we want to truly reform health care in this country,” she said, “we need to prevent people from getting sick in the first place, to stop illness and disease before it starts.”

The Surgeon General recognized the Adventist Church’s proactive nature and “wellness-first” strategies, and noted that the community was an exemplar of “making health something you live, not just something you hope happens.”

The HHS Partnership Center joined Dr. Benjamin; Donna Richardson Joyner, a member of the President’s Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition; Katia Reinert, director of Health Ministries for the North American Division of Seventh-Day Adventists; and Dan Jackson, President of the North American Division, to celebrate and present awards to those across the country who led the way in making their communities healthier. All award recipients and many of their success stories can be found at www.adventistinstepforlife.org.

As the Adventist community looks forward, their commitment to make “Every Church a Center for Health, Healing and Wholeness” seems well within reach, given the strength of their national leadership, their capacity to train and equip community members, and their clear vision that healthful practices are part of God’s intent that all shall ‘have life and have it more abundantly.’

To see how the Adventists adapted the Let’s Move Faith and Communities toolkit for use throughout their communities, check out the Adventist InStep for Life toolkit.
Adventists InStep for Life program a highlight of the Annual Health Summit in Orlando, FL | Let... http://www.letsmove.gov/blog/2012/03/07/adventist-instep-life-program-highlight-annual-health...
3-13-12 Wanted—Your Best Sermon

$1,000 award for best stewardship sermons

Ministers and graduate ministerial students in North America are invited to submit their best stewardship sermons. Up to ten outstanding sermons will be selected and awarded $1,000.00 each.

“We know there are many exceptional stewardship sermons and we would like to share them with other ministers and leaders throughout North America,” states John Mathews, Stewardship director for the North America Division (NAD). Stewardship is a central biblical theme and faithful stewardship by members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church makes it possible for the church to fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ.

The project of obtaining quality stewardship sermons is a joint project of the NAD Stewardship and Ministerial departments. Ivan Williams, NAD Ministerial director explains why this division-wide effort is being made: “Ministers preach on many topics and each minister has particular areas of emphasis and study. We are asking those who have focused on stewardship to share their sermons so others can benefit.”

Tithes, offerings, theology of money, eschatology and money are just some of the stewardship topics on which sermons may focus. For additional suggestions and for details about this contest visit www.iGiveSDA.org/contest or www.nadministerial.com/contest. Also on these sites are important contest rules and submission information. Those interested in participating should review the rules before starting the project.

Ministers (active or retired) from the North American Division or graduate ministerial students (such as M.Div. or similar) studying in North American schools may participate. For additional information about this contest visit www.iGiveSDA.org/contest or www.nadministerial.com/contest or contact Lori Bryan at 301-680-6432, lori.bryan@nad.adventist.org.
Survey of Adventist ‘opinions, attitudes and spiritual life patterns’ coming to local churches

Feb. 24, 2012 Silver Spring, Maryland, United States

Elizabeth Lechleitner/ANN

More than 60 percent of Seventh-day Adventists worldwide are women. Less than 40 percent of American Adventists study their Bible once a week.

Regularly cited at Adventist board meetings and business sessions, these and other so-called church statistics are not actually known to be factual. Many familiar “facts” might better be classified as “anecdotes, hunches and instincts,” says Adventist researcher David Trim.

Trim, who directs the world church’s Office of Archives, Statistics and Research, wants to see anecdotal evidence replaced by “actual data.” Beginning this year, his office will oversee a major research project to survey the opinions, attitudes and spiritual life patterns of Adventist pastors, church members, institutional employees and college and university professors worldwide.

“We need to know what is actually happening in the church, not just what we’d like to be happening,” Trim says. That knowledge can equip church leaders to use money and resources more judiciously and effectively, he says.

“We’re doing this because we want to do ministry and mission better. We want to be better stewards of what God has given to us, and we want to be more effective in discipling and winning souls,” Trim says.

It wasn’t until last year that top church officials first voted to establish an ongoing budget for Adventist research meant to inform the church’s strategic plan. Previously, Adventist research was conducted sporadically, with limited focus and funding, and almost exclusively in North America, Trim says.

This time around, the plan is for a “rigorous” survey carried out in each of the church’s 13 world divisions, Trim says. Using the new research budget, his office has contracted with research teams at Adventist universities in North America, South America, Inter-America, Europe, Africa, Southeast Asia and Australia. Each team has demonstrated research “expertise and experience,” Trim says. While much of the anonymous polling will take place this year, some surveys may continue into early 2013, with full results due back at world church headquarters by June of 2013.

Survey questions will go beyond age, gender, ethnicity and other statistics-based research to ask about attitudes and opinions on spiritual life, fundamental beliefs and values, church leadership, Adventist institutions and fellow members, among other topics.

“The Adventist Church is committed to a strategic planning process that provides direction based on a body of evidence,” says Michael L. Ryan, a world church general vice president and vice-chair of the church’s Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee.

“All strategic planning is really only for one reason: How do we better advance the mission?” Ryan says.

How beneficial the results are depends largely upon whether Adventists worldwide fully engage in the survey, Trim says. There’s no way to track survey results back to individual respondents, so researchers are hoping members will feel confident in giving honest answers -- “not what you think we’d like to hear,” he says.

“We understand that people will not always be doing what we wish they were doing. We understand that people are not necessarily believing what we want them to believe. And we understand that often they won’t be feeling very happy with us,” Trim says. “There’s going to be what will be perceived as bad news. But we want to know this so we can do a better job.”

In some cases, survey results might spur church leaders to launch programs that would “modify our behavior and practices,” Trim says. Other results may prompt better communication between leaders and members.

“If people are unhappy with an area that’s fundamental to our faith, then we can educate and explain to members why this is essential,” Trim says.

While he expects that much of the research will be published by Adventist scholars, Trim says some of it will remain confidential.

“My hope is that in fact we would not only get answers to really important questions, but -- as a side product -- we would also increase the research capacity of the church,” Trim says.

Many Adventist researchers have demonstrated that they can produce “good, rigorous research,” and Trim is keen to see them given “time and space” to benefit the church.
instincts" about the church. Here, Trim reviews files in the Office of Archives, Statistics and Research, which he directs at world church headquarters. [ANN file photo]

“I think at times we have made decisions based on who can give the best speech at a [church business meeting]. Somebody who gets up and has a burden on his heart and says, ‘Brethren, I feel we should do thus and so,’ and he’s eloquent, he’s impassioned, and he uses all the right Adventist buzzwords and everybody says, ‘Amen, vote the money.’ And often nobody asks, 'Is this really reflecting a need wider than this one person’s perception?’” Trim says.

More and better Adventist research will equip leadership to use church money and resources in the best possible way rather than the most immediately appealing way, Trim says.

He also hopes the church’s growing commitment to research will help boost member confidence in Adventist leadership. They’ll know that research is steering leadership toward better informed decision-making and, ultimately, better methods of spreading the Adventist hope.

Church leaders expect the first wave of surveys to begin by the end of April.
My Lord, the Strength of My Hope

posted on December 21, 2011, under Member by communication

by Adriana Pasos, Spiritual Ambassador Coordinator, Florida Hospital Mission Development, Orlando, Florida

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes…” —Romans 1:16

Adriana Pasos reads from a near-100-year-old Romanian-language Bible used by her grandmother. (Photo: Lee Bennett)

The larger-than-life Bible stood open on the round, beveled glass table in my grandmother’s bedroom. The sunshine flooded the room through the opened, sky-blue French louvers. As I lazily opened my eyes, I could see Buni, my dear grandmother, kneeling down to pray. As I tiptoed my way out of bed, I quietly knelt down beside her. Even at the tender age of 7, I understood those moments were sacred.

Every morning, without fail, Buni would read from that huge, red Bible that covered nearly half the table. Its pages tattered by use, the red and blue markings and notations were a clear indication this Book had been read many times. It was only later on I would realize the courage it took for her to even own a Bible, much less have it displayed in plain sight, in a country where Christians were persecuted for much less.

Every morning when I would get up, she would read a verse out loud from that Ancient Old Book. Then, my mother and I would harmonize soprano and alto voices, giving praises to God through precious hymns.
I couldn’t wait for evening to arrive. It was then that Buni would recount to me the wonderful Bible stories in such a vivid way. My favorite was Joseph. His faithfulness to God, his courage in the face of adversity, and the power to stand for what is right, no matter what, would leave an indelible mark on my life that I would only later discover.

As I look back at those experiences, I realize now how they shaped who I am today. They painted the picture of a Saviour who is real. A Saviour who hears me, who forgives me. A Saviour who will never, ever leave me. A Saviour who loves me “immeasurably more than I can hope or imagine.”

Today, so many years later, I am convinced that starting my day with God is the most important thing I can do for my own sanity and that of my own family. I have found that when I don’t, my actions and reactions are quite different than I would desire. My husband and my children have experienced the difference first hand and have lamented many times, “Oh, no. Mom has not had her time with Jesus today. Watch out!”

So, I am learning, in a world that’s running at warp speed, I need Him above anything else. “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33) The world in which we live screams for our attention, through every device possible and every application. Each one can be used for my good or for my bad. The choice is mine.

I have found, however, that one timeless invention—the Sabbath—is still at the top of my list as the true oasis from the chaotic, crazy pace I run. That piece of eternity in a dying world, linking us to Our Eternal Creator God as a reminder of Who He is and whose we are, is a most precious gift. Just as in years past, our family still gathers together as a third and fourth generation, around the piano, singing those hymns, talking about what God has done in our lives, and watching our own children now play out the Bible characters they’ve learned. No doubt, “…faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” (Romans 10:17)
Sperantza Adriana Pasos grew up under the stronghold of Communist Romania. At age 14, she and her mother braved a daring escape plan, evading government officials and armed guards, with the teenager wondering whether she’d ever see her four-year-old sister and adoring father again.

This heart-stopping venture is now told in a new book, *Hope In Present Danger*, and set for release January 13 through Florida Conference Adventist Book Centers (ABC). The ABC will also host a book signing at Camp Meeting 2012 after Adriana tells her dramatic story.

“You will be inspired as you read this amazing story of hope and courage,” says international speaker Mark Finley. “Adriana’s story, in the face of overwhelming odds and insurmountable obstacles, will touch your heart, lift your spirits, and increase your faith.”

Pick up *Hope In Present Danger* at the ABC beginning January 13, by telephone order at (877) 553-5222, or at Camp Meeting.