Materialism, the Opium of Christianity
by John Mathews, director, Stewardship Department

Every Christian is faced with an addiction that can numb sensibilities and affect sound spiritual judgment. The addiction is pleasant and brings with it a certain amount of satisfaction. I call this addiction “materialism, the opium of Christianity.” Opium is refined into drugs such as codeine, morphine and heroin and is administered medically to relieve pain. Recreational drug use is illegal but is still desired for the high it can produce. As opium affects the body so can materialism blur the spiritual eyesight of the Christian, and is addictive. It is a pleasant ride but can be spiritually fatal.

Depending on material possessions and things to bring happiness or spiritual fulfillment is a distorted perception and leads us to focus our attention on what this world offers instead of what Jesus wants from us as stewards. We have accepted Christ, and as His stewards, our responsibility is to be focused on our mission and heaven as we manage the resources God has entrusted to us. The cure for materialism is not at first a task that must be done, but a choice that is made. Our choice is to trust Christ for spiritual satisfaction rather than possessions and wealth. Only then will we begin to develop clear perceptions and skills as God’s stewards of the earthly possessions.

How much more could our Church do for missions if everyone returned a faithful tithe? Currently, the denomination receives about $2 billion annually. According to this year’s edition of the Global Tithing Index, a report measuring 2010 statistics of tithing faithfulness per capita across countries, if world membership records were accurate and each member returned a faithful tithe, that amount would actually be about $14 billion! And that does not figure in offerings.

ACS DR is on the scenes of tornado devastation after about a dozen twisters touched down across the Dallas-Fort Worth, Tex., area yesterday, leaving thousands without power and hundreds of homes damaged or destroyed. Cars and trucks were tossed around like toys, according to one news report. Reports are still coming in as to damage. The Texas Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS DR) Depot in Keene is safe (one tornado hit about 4 miles away).

“We praise God that the reports have come back stating no one has died as a result of the storms, but lives have definitely been altered. Please continue to pray for those affected by the recent storms,” said
Dan Jackson, NAD president.

Instead of having warehouse operations, ACS DR is doing mobile distribution in Lancaster, Tex., to deliver clothing packages, personal care kits, blankets and sheets to the survivors of the tornado. For updates, check the Disaster Response page on Facebook.

According to the National Weather Service, it appears that tornado season, which is already upon us, will be worse than usual. ACS is always in need of funding and other donations to run disaster relief operations. Learn more.

According to G. Alexander Bryant, NAD secretary, more than half of the world’s population lives in major cities. Each union in the North American Division will be focusing on major cities in their union.

The first major city will be New York City in 2013 (NY13). Hope Channel and 3ABN will soon air a 1-hour program focusing on the NY13 evangelistic project to begin next year. The program will be recorded on April 16 and will feature interviews with NY13 leadership speaking about the importance of the initiative. It will be hosted by Shawn Boonstra, associate director of the NAD Ministerial Department. Stay tuned to NewsPoints for the airing date and time.

Upcoming Adventist Media Center Programs, the “Dan Jackson Specials” (See broadcast times under “Hope Channel Programs in the sidebar.)

On March 19, NAD President Dan Jackson taped a series of television Specials at the Adventist Media Center in Simi Valley, Calif., to be shown on Hope Channel and The Adventist Channel starting this month.

“He is Risen” is a half-hour Easter special which will air on Hope Channel Easter weekend, April 6-8. It combines music and an inspiring message about our resurrected Savior.

“Titanic - 100 Years Later” is a half-hour special airing April 15, the 100th Anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic - April 15, 1912.

“Cards for Mom and Dad” is a 10-part series of programs celebrating parents. It will air on Hope Channel and at www.theadventistchannel.org from Mother’s Day through Father’s Day. Dan Jackson and Connie Vandeman Jeffery co-host the series which includes special Mother’s Day and Father’s Day messages from Jackson, as well as interviews with several speaker/directors and pastors about their parents. (Times TBA)

From the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 Special called “Always Remember” to the “God’s Christmas Cards” series - programs currently in post-production - the “Dan Jackson Specials” are providing relevant, inspirational messages of grace and redemption through Jesus Christ.

The first Pacific Union Pathfinder Camporee to take place in 22 years was sold out with over 5,000 participants. Praise God that the union, its youth professionals and pathfinders were able to partake in this camporee. - 411 News, April 2012
Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital’s Annual Golf Classic
Patch.com
April 2

Contest emphasizes judiciary to students
Pacific Daily News
April 1

Seventh-day Adventist Church Approach to Mental Health? Take It seriously
Patch.com
March 28

A Man with a Message
Auburn Journal
March 29

French and Spanish translations of The Great Hope are available for the same price ($0.39 ea.) as the English, and are printed upon demand by the Review and Herald Publishing Association. Just order the desired number through your local Adventist Book Centers (800-765-6955). Deadline for ordering any translation of The Great Hope is May 15. Delivery to ABCs is scheduled for June 15. MORE

Volunteers are needed for a variety of roles to help promote and produce this year's SONscreen Festival, April 12-14, at the Adventist Media Center in Simi Valley, Calif. Volunteers will receive free admission to the festival, free merchandise and a special gift as a thank you for their participation and commitment. In addition, they will have the chance to meet and network with workshop instructors, filmmakers, industry professionals, and peers - contacts which can be far reaching in establishing and furthering a career in the film and video industry. Volunteer signup sheet. Email questions to: info@sonscreen.com.

For more than 100 years, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been conducting camp meetings. These convocations, held annually, are spiritual renewal gatherings for members of the Church and their guests. Most conferences in the North American Division plan a camp meeting of several days filled with seminars and sermons that teach biblical principles, healthier lifestyles, practical living principles, and more. Here is a list of all camp meetings to be held in the NAD, updated regularly. Please check the local conference websites for additional information concerning the camp meeting of your choice.

Offerings:
- April 7, Local Church Budget
- April 14, Christian Record Services
- April 21, Local Church Budget
- April 28, Local Conference Advance

Offertory Readings

Special Days:
April Focus: Stewardship
- April 7, Missionary Magazines (Signs, Message, El Centinela, Priorities)
- April 14, Stewardship Sabbath
- April 21, Literature Evangelism Sabbath
- April 28, Education Sabbath

Helpful website(s) and Resources:
- NAD Stewardship
- iGiveSDA App
- NAD Education
- Counsels on Stewardship
- Faith and Finance

Adventist World
NAD Edition

News: "Camp Meetings in North America,” p. 11
Update: “Train Up a Child” p. 14
Perspective: “Financial Faithfulness, Financial Freedom” p. 17
NAD Letters: p. 18
Feature: “Like Streams of Light” p. 34

Union Magazines and Websites
Atlantic Union GLEANER
Canadian Adventist
Revive! - and activate your church.
Hosting evangelism gets members active. This evangelism series is specifically intended to bring spiritual renewal to our own members. With a wide-variety of speakers, each message can relate to someone. By having each person participating, these meetings will be uplifting to all.

Revive! will be broadcast via satellite, June 9-17, live from Alaska, with gifted speakers and evangelists. The Division is partnering with Voice of Prophecy, Alaska Conference, Family Reunion Music/Camp Meeting at Sea, Adventist Media Productions, and the Quiet Hour, to reach all 5,600 churches division wide. Plan ahead with your pastor and church board. What a great way to have each member involved in winning souls for the Kingdom of God. Imagine the blessings all will receive with everyone doing their part. Plan now to register. MORE

The NAD Calendar of Special Days was created to help build a balanced awareness in churches of all aspects of the church work. Stewardship is the focus for the entire month of April, and special Sabbaths are listed for other ministries as well. This is the month when U.S. citizens are paying their taxes and thinking about finances. What are some ways the church can help people in the community and church members with their finances? Here are some suggested resources. More can be found at the ‘Store’ at the NAD Stewardship website:

Faith and Finance is a 12-week study guide on family finance. It is designed for home study or a midweek meeting and is available in English and Spanish. Accompanying DVDs and Participant's Guides are also available. Among the topics are developing a budget, how to stay out of debt, saving and investing and planning for retirement. Order through iGiveSDA.org, your local or online ABC (800-765-6955) or AdventSource (800-328-0525).

The Spirit of Prophecy Book of the Year for 2012 is Counsels on Stewardship. This book pulls together all of the published statements made by Ellen G. White on the topic of stewardship. You will find this volume a valuable resource for your library. A 64-page study guide is also available, with a 10-lesson curriculum for a weekend seminar, prayer group series, or small group study. Both are available at your ABC.

Do you ever need a bookmark? This bookmark lists five stewardship principles from Scripture and on the reverse side five stewardship principles from the Spirit of Prophecy. Available in packages of 100, this makes a great giveaway for your stewardship study groups or invitees. From AdventSource (800-328-0525).
ViewPoints: “Runners”

Pastor Dan Jackson, President, North American Division

Stay Socially Connected with NAD

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

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This year’s Global Tithe Index indicates that accurate membership records strengthen local tithing rates, no matter the country or currency. The index is not an official publication of the Adventist Church, but it can help examine tithing rates when adjusting for economic factors specific to different nations. [Stock photo]

Is the Adventist Church not realizing $12 billion?

Apr. 02, 2012 Silver Spring, Maryland, United States

Ansel Oliver/ANN

How much money would the Seventh-day Adventist Church have for mission each year if world membership records were accurate and each member returned a faithful tithe?

About US$14 billion.

The denomination currently receives about $2 billion annually.

That’s according to this year’s edition of the Global Tithing Index (GTI), which is a report measuring 2010 statistics of tithing faithfulness per capita across countries.

The GTI is published privately by Claude Richli, associate publisher of the Adventist Review and Adventist World magazines. Though not an official publication of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the annual ranking can help administrators compare countries in similar regions and uncover trends.

This year’s GTI introduced a new measurement called the Total Tithe Potential, which shows the total tithe that should theoretically be received in a country if all Adventist Church members were faithful in tithing 10 percent of their income.

The total tithe potential for 2010 was about $14.1 billion. The same year, the Adventist Church received about $1.9 billion in tithe.

The GTI is an instrument that aims to level the field in comparing tithing faithfulness across countries that have economic disparity. It measures tithe per-capita by comparing a nation’s measure Gross Domestic Product with the aggregate tithe volume per country divided by the number of members on church rolls.

The GTI examines 104 countries and uses information from the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists 2010 Statistical Report and the United States’ Central Intelligence Agency World Factbook.
Eritrea and Switzerland again topped this year’s annual ranking, followed by Austria, Denmark and France.

The GTI also indicates increasing faithfulness among members in countries such as Brazil, which in 2010 was responsible for about half of the gains in world tithe.

This year’s edition also offers stark evidence of how an audit of membership rolls reveals a more accurate gauge of members’ financial support. Nations that had big gains in ranking on the index this year – including Togo and Bolivia – were areas that Adventist Church leaders have recently conducted membership audits.

Togo jumped to number 7 on the ranking, up from the 38th spot last year. Richli attributed the jump entirely “to the courageous decision on the part of its leadership to drop all missing members,” he wrote in the report.

In 2010, Togo reported 5,343 members, a 52 percent drop from 11,028 the previous year.

That move, Richli said, showed that active members in Togo were as faithful as their counterparts in affluent countries. The church’s action in Togo, however, puts a spotlight on the “obvious need” for membership audits in many countries, Richli wrote.

Unfortunately, Richli said, about one-third of countries surveyed contribute less than 10 percent of total tithe potential. He said that figure “clearly shows that in those countries, church rolls are vastly inflated.”

Two advisors on the project are business professors at the Adventist International Institute for Advanced Studies, a graduate school in the Philippines and directly affiliated with the Adventist Church’s world headquarters.

“In looking at the GTI reports over the years, it’s been evident when church administration has taken clear steps to address issues in financial governance and membership records,” said Ronald Vyhmeister, director of the business program at AIIAS and a consultant to the GTI.

“This year again the membership record issue stands out as an issue that quite evidently needs to be addressed in many parts of the world,” Vyhmeister said.

Other trends noted in this year’s report include tithing in Europe, which shows a mixed picture. Some countries, such as the United Kingdom and Norway, show a gradual improvement following the start of the recession, but countries such as Spain show that the recession is severely affecting giving there.

Also, three countries ranked in the denomination’s Southern African Union – South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland – confirm that their rise in previous years was not due to a statistical distortion; each are among the top 20 countries, ranking solidly in the middle of the Western countries.

See the full report here: http://www.aiias.edu/gti/reports.html
**ACSMINISTRIES**

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**CHANGING LIVES BEGINS WITH YOU**

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.~Matthew 25:40

- **Donate Funds Today**
- **Volunteer**
- **Donate Goods Today**

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**CURRENT NEWS**

- **Tornados Touch Down in Texas**  - Posted 4-4-12
- **The Widow’s Mite: A Modern Day Story**  - Posted 3-26-12
- **Collegedale Academy Freshman Take a Day off to Help Their Neighbors**  - Posted 3-21-12
- **Recovery Center opens in Batavia, OH**  - Posted 3-15-12
- **ACS DR Responds to the Tornadoes - Update**  - Posted 3-8-12 Report 3-14-12
- **ACS is on the scene with Tornado Wreckage**  - Posted 3-7-12
- **Church Impacts Community**  - Posted 3-6-12

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **ACS Presents - Reach Out!**
  - ACS Outreach Symposium
  - April 29-May 2, 2012
  - Leoni Meadows
  - Grizzly Flats, CA

  - See more details

  2012 Reach Out Schedule

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**COMPASSION ACTION**

- **View ACS Introduction Video**
- **Sermon: Called to Serve PowerPoint Show**
- **Resources**

**Donate Now**

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**SUPPORT ACS**

Learn more at www.communityservices.org

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**FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES**

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**Adventist Community Services : Home**

http://www.communityservices.org/
"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me."  - Ellen G. White, *Ministry of Healing* page 143
Night march held to protest against escalating violence

BY NAOMI Martin

Hearing the chants of “justice” in the streets, neighbors streamed out of their houses Friday night to join a group of about 150 Baton Rouge residents holding candles and marching along Fairfields Avenue to call attention to the city’s high murder rate, as well as the killing of Florida teen Trayvon Martin.

“The violence here is crazy,” said Brenton Scott, 16, who knows five boys who have been shot and killed from his Park Forest neighborhood. “I came tonight because I wanted to show everybody that we’re doing something about it.”

The march, organized by the Working Interfaith Network of Baton Rouge, began at the
Berean Seventh Day Adventist Church about 6:30 p.m. with speeches and prayers. The organizers urged participants to sign their “next day pledge,” a commitment to take part in efforts to reduce youth violence and mass incarceration in East Baton Rouge Parish.

The speakers decried black-on-black violence.

The Rev. Robert Davis, pastor of Berean Seventh Day Adventist Church, said that a public outrage similar to that being expressed over Trayvon Martin’s killing should have happened earlier in the black community, considering the country’s 58,500 black-on-black murders over the past 10 years.

“Enough is enough,” Davis said. “We’ve already shed too much blood.”

Davis said the community needs to take action and partner with law enforcement to quell the violence.

“But if we don’t have a partner in law enforcement, we’re going to stand over your shoulder and you’re going to get sick and tired of seeing our faces,” Davis said. “We are not going to stand idly by any longer.”

The Rev. Jennifer Jones-Bridgett, of Shiloh Baptist Church, said she hoped the outrage sparked by Trayvon Martin’s killing would call attention to the injustices of Baton Rouge’s own murder problem.

“Everybody in here knows somebody who been killed, questions never really got answered, and we got silent and went back in the house,” she said. The audience answered, “Amen.”

Kerrick Alexander, 23, said the march was an outlet for black people to voice their frustrations with both crime and racism.

“To see people come together and actually show we care, the young people care — that’s really cool to see,” he said.

Alexander said he coaches teenagers in basketball because he wants to keep them off the streets to avoid the kind of violence that took the life of his best friend when he was 14 years old.

“It’s really making me consider it as a career because I’m able to make a change in a kid’s life and keep them from being dead or on the path to being dead or in jail,” he said.

Margaret Evans, 50, said she wanted to march to draw attention to the racism she and her family still experience today. She said one of her sons had recently been harassed by police in Mississippi who had told him: “You can’t do anything about it.”
“This is our opportunity to say, ‘Yes we can,’” she said.
Sponsorships are now available for the Bolingbrook Hospital Foundation's second annual Golf Classic.

The event, which raises funds to advance Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital's mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ, will be held Wednesday, May 23, at the Bolingbrook Golf Club.

The event will kick off at 7 a.m.

Proceeds raised from the 2012 Golf Classic will benefit patient care services at Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital.

Sponsorships starting from $200 offer a plethora of opportunities for companies to be highlighted during this prestigious event.

Golf Classic participants will enjoy 18 holes of golf, golfer gift, breakfast, lunch, beverages, course contests, auction, and awards.

Bolingbrook Golf Club, located at 2001 Rodeo Drive in Bolingbrook, was designed by acclaimed course architects, Arthur Hills and Steve Forrest and offers elevated tees, rolling fairways, and seven lakes.

For more information or sponsorship opportunities, call Derek Cazeau at 630-312-6006.
Bob Jonas  
11:59 am on Monday, April 2, 2012
Businesses looking for a great way to promote themselves should consider sponsoring this event. Golfers can get an early start to playing for the season. Great event.

Submit ›
"No courts. No justice. No freedom."

That's the theme of this year's Law Day Essay Contest, sponsored by Guam's courts and the Guam Bar Association.

Middle school and high school students are encouraged to submit essays in recognition of Law Day, which is on May 1. The contest focuses on the role of the judicial branch among the three branches of government.

This year's theme is to underscore the importance of the judiciary in society, said Danielle Rosete, Supreme Court of Guam staff attorney and Law Week chairwoman.

"Just think back to the days we had the Japanese occupation," she said. "We had no courts then. Our manamko' didn't have freedom."

Rosete said the American Bar Association chose the theme in response to court hours and services being cut across the country.

Ashley Patricio, now in eighth grade, won third place last year for St. Anthony Catholic School in the contest's middle school category. Last year's essay asked students to explore the role of lawyers in defending the rights of the accused.

"Learning about the law is important because sometimes we take our prejudice first," Patricio said. She learned that it's important to reserve personal opinions, and focus on the practice of law.

"We cannot just use our judgments, we have to actually have (defendants) put on trial," she said.

The Law Day contest is part of a larger group of activities for Law Week, including an art contest and fairy tale mock trials.

The mock trials featuring popular fairy tale characters have been gaining popularity over the years, Rosete said. A trial last year was "The Three Bears vs. Goldilocks," during which kids got to decide whether Goldilocks should be sued for bad behavior. Amid the fun, kids learned the roles of judges, witnesses, and lawyers.

Rosete said that though kids get a basic understanding of the judiciary branch in school, Law Week serves to expand upon their knowledge.
"We need to take it a step further and add more," she said. "There's always room for improvement."

**LAW DAY ESSAY CONTEST**

- **Essay rules:** Middle school students must write 750 words or less, and high school students must write 1,000 words or less, explaining the role of the nation's courts in our constitutional democracy. In preparing the essays, students should consider the following questions:
  1. What is the role of the judicial branch among the three branches of government?
  2. How does an independent court protect one's right to a fair trial?
- **Deadline:** April 20
- **Prizes:** Include Amazon Kindle products, and the opportunity to participate at Student Island Leadership Day at the Federal District Court of Guam.

**LEARN MORE**

- For more information on Law Day go to [www.lawday.org](http://www.lawday.org)
- For information about the competition contact Maria Cenzon at 475-3278
Seventh-day Adventist Church Approach to Mental Health? Take It seriously

John Gavin, chair of the Social Work Program at Washington Adventist University and a Senior Fellow with the Center for Metropolitan Ministry gives kudos for the Church’s approach to mental health.

By Gina Tenorio  Email the author  March 28, 2012

Mental health issues have been in the news following the killing of 17 Afghan civilians by an American soldier. Below is a letter to the Adventist News Network John Gavin, chair of the Social Work Program at Washington Adventist University and a Senior Fellow with the Center for Metropolitan Ministry congratulating the Adventist Church for tackling the issue of mental health.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church last year demonstrated an important milestone regarding a religious organization’s approach to mental health – it takes it seriously.

The denomination held an international conference on Emotional Health & Wellness, which was significant for several reasons:

It pulled together several church departments to work together on an issue.

The event was a joint effort of Loma Linda University, Adventist Education, Health Ministries, Women’s Ministries, Chaplaincy Ministries, Family Ministries, and others.

For a long time these organizations have struggled alone with the challenges of helping people who suffer from mental health problems. By joining together their impact is multiplied.

The conference also demonstrated that the Adventist Church is willing to address real issues regarding mental health. As Dr. Carlos Fayard pointed out in his ANN Commentary (July 6, 2011) about last year’s conference, there are many within the church who deny or minimize mental health issues or who apply simplistic solutions, relegating them to simple matters of spirituality.

Adventist psychiatrists, psychologists and physicians know first-hand the living nightmare that characterizes the existence of those experiencing depression, anxiety, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, grief, addiction and other problems. They are the ones who bring hope and healing to those experiencing emotional distress.

To read more, click on the Adventist News Network website.
Seventh-day Adventist Church Approach to Mental Health? Take It seri...
Charles "Chuck" Halterman is 54 years old, and says that he has been homeless for the past 35 years. He is a big, burly man, with a friendly smile. But he is missing most of his teeth, which makes his smile rather disconcerting.

Chuck is anxious to tell me what Auburn's homeless people need. "We need a Mission, a laundromat, and a work center," he says.

When asked how he became homeless, Chuck says, "Well, I came from the moonshine State of West Virginia. My Dad weaned me on beer, and I had my first mixed drink when I was seven years old."

"My Dad was an old-school biker," Chuck says. "He used to beat up Hells Angels. His arm muscles were so big that he could pick up a man while he was riding his Harley, throw the man over a table, and catch the man on the other side of the table, while still riding his Harley. Dad owned three different carnivals during his life. He used to ride his motorcycle in the motordrome - that spherical steel cage."

Chuck goes on talking about his father until I finally have to cut him off.

"But, what about you?" I ask.

Chuck says that out of the six children in his family, Chuck was the only one who lacked the hereditary bump on his earlobes that would indicate that he was one of his father's natural offspring. So, Chuck's father, suspecting that Chuck was illegitimate, beat Chuck brutally, almost every day, and forced him to do miserable, degrading work.

Once, when the principal of Chuck's elementary school was trying to get Chuck removed from his home, the principal lifted up the back of Chuck's T-shirt, and showed a local official that there was not a one-inch space anywhere on Chuck's whipped back that the principal could touch without also touching blood.

Eventually, Chuck ended up in a foster home in Michigan. His mother came and got him out, promising that she would be responsible for him. But after about six months, she kicked him out.

He worked in the oil fields in Odessa, Texas, until the crash in 1983. At about that time, he and several of his just-laid-off oil-worker friends were together in a bar. They each had $400 of pay in their pockets, "And we decided that we would liquidate it."

Chuck lined up a whole row of boiler makers on the bar. He drank them all.

Then, he stumbled outside.

He saw a nice car parked outside, that had a bass boat in tow. He stole the car, and was still driving it around when he got arrested. He went to jail for 120 days."

"That doesn't seem too bad," I said. "Only 120 days isn't too long."

"Yes, but that was jail in Odessa, Texas," Chuck said. "In Odessa, they put wires, glass, and cockroaches in the food."

I ask Chuck whether he lost his teeth from fighting.

"A few were lost from fighting," he says. But then, rather shamefacedly, he admits, "But the rest from drugs."

If Chuck had a magic wand, and could do anything, he said that he would buy some acreage with some gold on it, and build a nice little house, buy a nice car, maybe find a wife, and grow some nice vegetables.

I asked Chuck if he had a chance to deliver a single message to the world, what would his message be?

Chuck said his message would be, "Believe in Jesus, God, and the Holy Spirit."

He says that since he and his buddy, Dave, have been going to church over at the Seventh Day Adventist Church (where they have
substantial services available to help the homeless), it seems to him as if, each day, God has been providing them with just enough of what they need, so that they are able to get by.

I think about my Rotary friend, Dan Appel, who is the Pastor over at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, and I hope that he gets a chance to hear what Chuck is saying.

Chuck is still looking at me. “That would be my only message,” he says.

I promise Chuck that I will do my best to get his message published.

Keywords
Auburn Homeless
The Daily News Online

Seventh-Day Adventists setting stage for annual 'Journey'

By Marqise Allen / The Daily News | Posted: Monday, April 2, 2012 8:30 pm

Being the bad guy has its ups and downs.

"I really enjoy it," said Wayne Nichols, who plays the role of Satan in the Kelso-Longview Seventh-Day Adventist Church's production of Journey to the Cross. "I get to be the person who everyone else plays off of and be someone I'm not."

He also has been kicked in shin by an elderly woman who found his performance too convincing.

"She kicked me pretty good," Nichols said. "She didn't understand I was playing a part. ... It was a little bit of affirmation that I did a good job."

The West Side Highway church is putting on its annual Easter production Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. The hour-long program portrays the final three and half years of Jesus's life, starting with his being tempted by Satan in the desert and ending with his resurrection after being crucified.

Nichols says he goes into a dark room to "evil up" and get into character before each performance.

"But I try to come up with ways to make it a little different than what people will expect," he said.

Steve Green has played Judas Iscariot for the last 15 years. But it wasn't an easy decision for him to assume the role of the man who betrays Jesus for 30 pieces of silver when first asked to do so.

"I thought about it for a while, being a believer," Green said. "It's better than playing Satan, though."

Green said he's never been assaulted while playing the role of Judas, but he has fallen victim to some light ribbing.

"It's just good-natured humor," he said.

Just in case not everyone gets the message, the audience at Sunday night's sneak preview/dress rehearsal was reminded that Nichols and Green are only playing the "villians" in the Easter story and shouldn't be regarded as espousing the views or actions of their characters.

Dan Hughes, one of the directors of Journey to the Cross, said this year's musical is similar to previous productions with the exception of a few minor adjustments and some changeover in the cast. But it's a show that doesn't require many wholesale changes, he add.

The husband-wife team of Rollyn and Angie Bettis, both of Salem, Ore., are returning to their familiar primary roles. Rollyn Bettis plays Jesus while Angie Bettis, who appears throughout the production in a contemporary red dress while the rest of the cast wears "Bible times" clothing, functions as a combination narrator and vocal soloist.

"I've seen a lot of different productions," Hughes said. "The reason why we've stuck with this production is because it tells the complete story where people who don't know church history can come and get something out of it."

The presentation begins at 7 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. No admission will be charged.

"Just like salvation, it's free," Hughes said.
Michelle Kolvitz, RN, has worked at Adventist Hinsdale (Ill.) Hospital for 23 years.

For one day last month, she became "Female Patient Adult." That's what the placard hanging from her ID badge said March 13 during one of the day-in-the-life scenarios nurses were practicing to prepare for this month's opening of a new patient pavilion on campus.

"I cannot wait to be in here," said Kolvitz, who usually works on the postpartum unit. "I love the rooms. They're so much bigger."

Kolvitz and other nurses were taking part March 13 in the second of four planned days of scenarios in the five-story, 116,000-square-foot pavilion.

In one scenario, Kolvitz was a new mother whose baby went missing from her room. A "code pink" was called on the unit for nurses to practice the scenario.

"There's a lot of evidence-based research that says if you have drills, it helps your patients have better outcomes," said BettySue Netzel, RN, director of women's and children's services. "We're taking the same thought process to moving. If we do drills and practice before we move, we'll have a smoother transition from the old building to the new tower. By doing drills now, it won't be so new for the nurses."

Kolvitz, who said she was involved in a real-life code pink at a different hospital previously in her career, said the practice is invaluable for nurses and staff members.

"Codes happen when they happen," she said. "It's not like they're planned."

The new pavilion, which will give the hospital 277 beds, features private patient rooms, updated nursing units, a new chapel, and a lobby that is awash in natural light from large skylights and includes a floor-to-ceiling waterfall.

The pavilion is connected to the existing hospital and is divided into neighborhoods that ensure nurses are no more than 50 feet from patients at all times.

"Our new pavilion strengthens the nurse-patient relationship by giving our caregivers easy access to patients at the bedside," Hinsdale CNO Shawn Tyrrell, RN, MSN, CNAA, said in a news release. "The opening of this space represents the start of a new and exciting chapter in our hospital's history."

For Netzel, the excitement during scenarios came from seeing nurses and hospital staff work together, sometimes stopping drills for discussion.

"Staff are so involved," Netzel said. "They're the ones making decisions because it's their work environment. [They']re talking about where things go and how they're going to organize their work flow. It's a fantastic opportunity. They're all engaged and talking to each other.

"People are invested in their opinions counting," Netzel said. "They feel totally involved. That's what I like."

Netzel also praised the warm colors of the new building's interior, saying the color scheme will provide a healing atmosphere for patients.

"Not only is the space bigger than we're used to, but the color scheme is so calming," she said. "We brought the nature colors inside. Everbody's talked about how nice it is."

Patients also will notice a difference beyond the color scheme and furnishings.

"I think the benefit for the patients is they get engaged staff," Netzel said. "Your caregivers really make a difference in
your hospital stay."

On the fourth floor, which Kolvizt soon will call home, the new rooms will benefit nurses.

"You can get your equipment around the room," she said. "You can do your work." Larger nurses' stations also have a designated area for physicians to chart.

"We were all crunched into one area (before)," Kolvizt said.

Anticipation for the pavilion has been building since 2010, when construction began.

"We can hardly wait," Netzel said. "We're so excited."

*Barry Bottino is a regional editor.*

**SEE A PHOTO GALLERY** of the new pavilion at Nurse.com/Galleries.


To comment, email editorIL@nurse.com or post a comment below.
The death and resurrection of the Christ has been celebrated for nearly 2,000 years but one group of Christians -- about 10,000 of them who worship in Loma Linda -- do not observe Easter Sunday.

"Worshipping on Sunday really comes from sun worship," said Darold Retzer, executive pastor of Loma Linda University Church of Seventh-day Adventists.

The church has a congregation of 6,000, according to Retzer.

The idea of worshipping on a Sunday has pagan connotations for Adventists and as Retzer said, in the Old Testament of the Bible, the Sabbath is meant to fall on a Saturday.

Other Christians set aside an entire week of veneration -- from Palm Sunday -- when according to biblical scripture, Jesus triumphantly rode into Jerusalem and people laid palms in the street for Him -- through Good Friday, Holy Saturday and finally Easter Sunday.

However, Seventh-day Adventists do not observe what Christians worldwide refer to as Holy Week.

"We focus on the Resurrection but we do refer to it as Easter; Our worships are on Saturday," said Retzer, but because of Sunday's pagan roots, it is not a holy day for Adventists.

In celebration of Easter -- and Adventists use the word because it has been accepted through the centuries -- the Adventists' usual Saturday night worship service is split into two days.

"There are only two days named for Easter in the Bible," Retzer said.

On Friday, the congregation will do what Roman Catholics do on what they call Holy Thursday -- priests wash the feet of congregants.

"The way we celebrate Communion is that we have an actual foot washing," Retzer said.
The congregants will wash each other's feet, as there are no priests in the Seventh-day Adventist religion.

"We don't have an altar ... we don't even have a pulpit," Retzer said.

The pastor stands on a platform, with nothing between him and his congregation, Retzer said.

Instead of just one day of Sabbath observance, said Retzer, "because of Easter we break them up."

On Friday night, "we have a service of contemplation, in which we commemorate the crucifixion, focusing on the crucifixion and sacrifice of Our Lord."

Following the foot washing, there will be a homily, a kind of sermon.

On what is Easter for Seventh-day Adventists, the congregants Saturday will share Communion -- they call it "Emblems" because of the food's symbolism -- as part of the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is usually unleavened wheat bread -- more of a cracker than the thin wafers used by Roman Catholics -- and grape juice rather than the grape wine used by Roman Catholics.

"At Easter we make something special of it and we have a 3-by-3 wafer of bread and a (small) bottle of grape juice," Retzer said.

Congregants are handed silver gift bags, with a napkin.

"People get a bag at the beginning and then as the pastor begins his homily, he has people open their bags and eat their bread and drink their grape juice."

An important distinction between Seventh-day Adventists and Roman Catholics is that Catholics believe in transubstantiation; they believe that in a miracle, bread is transformed into the body of Christ and wine into the blood of the Christ.

The word "Christ" comes from the Greek "Christos" which translates into "Messiah."

At 7:30 p.m. Friday, following the foot washing ceremony, Pastor Randy Roberts will deliver a homily on "The Feet of Our Souls."

On Saturday evening, again because it is Easter and after the Resurrection celebration, the Loma Linda University congregation will listen to a choir's rendition of the Hallelujah Chorus, from Handel's Messiah.

The Seventh-day Adventists, said Retzer, are "basically mainstream evangelical protestant Christians, who do not cling to ritual and tradition, as do some other Christian faiths."

"We take the Bible ... as it reads," he said.
Easter Not a Sunday For Seventh-day Adventists - Loma Linda, CA Patch

http://lomalinda.patch.com/articles/easter-not-a-saturday-for-seventh-day...

carl miller
7:08 am on Saturday, March 31, 2012
Interesting John. So, only you and those Christians who agree with you are real Christians. Isn't that the attitude that led to the Inquisition. Nasty at least, dangerous at most.

Flag as inappropriate
Reply

carl miller
7:11 am on Saturday, March 31, 2012
That being said, Easter and Christmas have a pagan origin just like Sunday observance, and it's about time SDA's apply the principle in a broader way. Good for them.

Flag as inappropriate
Reply

Seventh-day Adventist
7:31 am on Saturday, March 31, 2012
Not exactly John. If believing Jesus is Michael the Archangel makes Seventh-day Adventists non-believers, you'll have put the lies of spiritual giants such as Charles Spurgeon and Matthew Henry right there with them. Michael the Archangel is one of the names of Jesus. A short investigation of the scriptures will reveal Jesus has many names. The meaning of Michael is "He who is like God" and Archangel refers to leader or chief over the angels -- not that Jesus is an angel or was created. We believe Jesus is one of the figures of the Godhead or Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Fundamental Beliefs 2, 3, 4, and 5).

We do not believe Ellen White is the "final court of appeals" or the "infallible interpreter" of Bible doctrine. The Bible is perfectly capable of interpreting itself and a quick look at the 28 Fundamental Beliefs will show that number 1 says "The Holy Scriptures are the written word of God...the authoritative revealer of doctrines...". She never believed herself to be such and referred to herself as the "servant of the Lord". Do Adventists believe Ellen White was divinely inspired? Yes (see Fundamental Belief 18) but we don't believe she is the final word on all scriptural interpretation.

Justification by faith is not a contradictory doctrine. We believe Christ and His alone justifies us by our faith in His sacrifice for us on the cross. We believe in righteousness by faith which is not perfectionism.

Flag as inappropriate
Reply

Rollie Donato
7:39 am on Saturday, March 31, 2012
You got it in reverse, my friend... The Sunday-worshipping congregants are pagans and not Christians. We, SDA's, hold on to the Bible as our creed, and we don't follow human theology. It makes sense when you see that the true Bible scholars are SDA's. I love being an SDA, and we know more than you do. Loma Linda was founded by SDA's from Battle Creek, Michigan, including Ellen G. White, and considered by many as an Adventist City.

Flag as inappropriate
Reply

Obed C.N
7:55 am on Saturday, March 31, 2012
The Seventh Day Adventist Church is the remnant church of our living God. The church has its membership from across all the nations of the globe. It is in obedience to the Lord's command to make disciples of people and to be a light to the world. The church has a unique message that it shares with the world.

The church has its membership from across all the nations of the globe. It is in obedience to the Lord's command to make disciples of people and to be a light to the world. The church has a unique message that it shares with the world. This message is based on the Bible, which is the word of God. The Bible is the source of all truth and knowledge of God. The church teaches that the Bible is the inspired word of God and is the final authority for all of life. The church also teaches that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation. It is through faith in Jesus Christ that one can be saved and have eternal life.

Flag as inappropriate
Reply

John Doe
2:20 pm on Saturday, March 31, 2012
As a Christian I believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible, authoritative Word of God. Therefore, the ministry I attend emphasizes the exposition of God's Word from Genesis to Revelation, line upon line, precept upon precept. I believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe in the deity of Christ, in His Virgin Birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning
death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of God, and in His personal return in power and glory. I believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful humanity, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is essential, and that repentance from sin and acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is the only way to come into a relationship with God.

Rolie Donato
2:36 pm on Saturday, March 31, 2012
You are right, my brother....and coming to your senses as an SDA Church member after all. What you wrote is- This is the belief of the SDA Church. Please identify yourself with a true name. You are my friend now, fellow church member, same faith and same belief. Welcome back to the SDA Church- God-bless!

John Doe
2:21 pm on Saturday, March 31, 2012
I believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life; I further believe His power and gifts are available to believers today. I believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation. I believe it is important to uphold the scriptural practices of the early church. Therefore, I hold to the practice of water baptism and the regular taking of Communion. I do not believe that either of these practices is essential for salvation, but that they serve as a demonstration of my living faith in Christ.

Gustavo
12:24 am on Sunday, April 1, 2012
Guzzy
I am also a Christian and I too am tough the word of God from Genesis to Revelation. I believe that our salvation only comes from nothing else but a true faith and a true relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In Him consist all life and by Him can we only get to see the Father. If my salvation consists in anything else than what Jesus did for us than we have truly believed a myth...

carl miller
8:06 am on Sunday, April 1, 2012
Well Gustavo, you believe in a myth anyway. Surely you don't believe that story is history. If you do, you need to get a grip on reality.

Rolie Donato
2:39 pm on Saturday, March 31, 2012
True....this is the belief of the SDA Church! God-bless! As An devout SDA Church member, I don't believe on Easter Celebration. But I believe is -Jesus died for us on the cross to redeem us from sin. Truly, He is our Lord and Savior!

carl miller
8:11 am on Sunday, April 1, 2012
Human sacrifice to an angry god! Surely you don't believe that, Rolie. It was vulgar enough when the israelites slaughtered innocent animals to appease old Jehovah, but a human sacrifice is just a bit much for 2,012. That kind of theology is a lot like the religion of Voodoo.

carl miller
2:43 pm on Saturday, March 31, 2012
I guess the SDA's have Jesus, and the others have the Easter Bunny. Both are fictional characters! LOL!

Rolie Donato
2:46 pm on Saturday, March 31, 2012
Easter Celebration illustration: Holy Thursday- Jesus dined with His disciples for the last time. Good Friday- Jesus died on the cross @ 3:00 pm.
Easter Not a Sunday For Seventh-day Adventists - Loma Linda, CA Patch

(Saturday) Sabbath: Jesus rested on the grave. Sunday: He arose early in the morning to life eternal—after the Sabbath rest. That's why it is called, "Easter Sunday." Sunday has no significant at all! It is just an ordinary day.

carl miller
3:00 pm on Saturday, March 31, 2012
Christians plagiarized their story from ancient mythology about solar gods such as Horus, Tammuz, Arys, etc. They rewrote the mythology as historical fiction. Do the research! No excuses.

Rollie Donato
3:03 pm on Saturday, March 31, 2012
Hi Carl...you may laugh @ others having bunnies, but not on the SDA Church with having Jesus, who is our Lord and Savior. Truly, I believe... Truly, I received...Rollie...

carl miller
3:11 pm on Saturday, March 31, 2012
Rollie, SDA's got their Jesus from the Roman Catholics who created him. The Catholics in turn created him from the mythology of the mystery religions of Greece and Rome. Jesus is a fictional character that was used by Constantine to unite his empire. Jesus was simply the last deity of the Roman Pantheon. The SDA's are just as deceived as the rest of the Christian world.

carl miller
3:13 pm on Saturday, March 31, 2012
Rollie, SDA's oppose Catholics (at least in their old literature), but yet they worship the Catholic god. It's all too silly!

John Doe
4:20 pm on Saturday, March 31, 2012
I was misinformed on some of what you believe in. Thanks for cluing me in to more information on what the SDA believe! It would be interesting to see a debate between one of your pastors at SDA and one of mine from Calvary Chapel.

carl miller
8:14 am on Sunday, April 1, 2012
Well John, if you want to know what SDA's believe, just read the Nicean Creed of the Roman Catholic Church. They share the same beliefs.

Dexter Quinn
9:13 am on Sunday, April 1, 2012
This is a response to all the comments here, no matter what religion you have it is very important to know the truth about this things. What I can suggest to you is check out this DVD's that I have watched because these would only give you one thing. The Truth! Here are the links where you can get copies of these DVD's:
http://www.passionfortruth.com/SabbathDay.html
http://passionfortruth.com/TheTrueMeaningOfChristmasAndEaster.html

Gerald Brown
4:51 pm on Monday, April 2, 2012
No Christian denomination or group recognizes the biblical sequence of events of the cross. Exodus 12 stipulates that the lamb is selected on the 10 day of the month and sacrificed on the 14th day. That is five (5) days inclusive. Palm Sunday to Good Friday is six (6) days, which does not comply with the LORD's instructions in Exodus 12. Christianity has added an extra day that is not authorized by God to make it appear that Jesus endorsed Sunday keeping. The Easter season is a big Christian lie.
For anyone who would like to know more, contact me at jerbro@linkline.com.

Gerald Brown

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Easter Not a Sunday For Seventh-day Adventists - Loma Linda, CA Patch
http://lomalinda.patch.com/articles/easter-not-a-saturday-for-seventh-day...
Florida Hospital Carrollwood Purchases Mazor Robotics’ Renaissance™ System

Press Release: Mazor Robotics Ltd – Sun, Apr 1, 2012 3:00 AM EDT

CAESAREA, Israel--(BUSINESS WIRE)--

Mazor Robotics Ltd (TASE: MZOR.TA - News), the leader in innovative surgical robots and complementary products for spine surgery, today announced that Florida Hospital Carrollwood, a 120-bed community hospital in Tampa, FL, has purchased a Renaissance™ system. Renaissance is Mazor Robotics’ next generation surgical guidance system for spine procedures. The system will be installed at Florida Hospital Carrollwood, part of the Florida Hospital Tampa Bay Division of Adventist Health System.

Renaissance is the only robotic technology specifically for the spine available in the marketplace. Florida Hospital Carrollwood is currently the only hospital in the Tampa Bay region to offer spine surgery with the Renaissance system. The system was installed on Friday, March 30.

“This takes spine surgery to the next level,” said Dr. Antonio Castellvi, world-renowned spine surgeon who will be the first to use Renaissance at Florida Hospital Carrollwood. “It will provide me with accuracy not available before, making my spine surgery even more precise and safer for my patients, with even better outcomes.”

“This is the second sale of a Renaissance system within the Florida Hospital Network,” said Ori Hadomi, CEO of Mazor Robotics. “Florida Hospital is among the preeminent hospital networks in the United States. We are very excited to be broadening our presence within this prestigious organization, and to be building our sales momentum as we end the first quarter.”

“We have made clear our commitment to provide the safest, most accurate and innovative technology available for our spine patients,” said Brinsley Lewis, CEO, Florida Hospital Carrollwood. “This newest addition to our overall imaging and surgical tools helps to ensure we are meeting our commitment. The most important factors in this are the safety of our patients and the most successful outcomes possible. With our skilled spine surgeons and Renaissance, along with our mission to heal the body, mind and spirit, we continue to elevate healthcare in the communities we serve.”

About Mazor Robotics

Mazor Robotics Ltd (TASE: MZOR.TA - News) 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™, 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.
March 28, 2012

Ronald McCowan: Keys to long life

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Many lives are cut short due to lifestyles that are not conducive to longevity. It is a known fact that the leading causes of death in the United States such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, and chronic lung disease are largely related to lifestyle.

In a March 18 Huffington Post article, Miriam Weiner noted that the average life expectancy in the United States was approximately 78 years, which is significantly better than the 67 years of the world in general. However, in Loma Linda, Calif., the average life expectancy is an impressive 89 years, and an active life to over the age of 100 is not rare. The population of Loma Linda is 23,000 of which 50 percent are Seventh-day Adventist. This past December, the city of Loma Linda, with some reluctance, approved its first McDonald's restaurant. The city is one of the five Blue Zone areas in the world where this longevity phenomenon appears to be the "norm".

In "The Blue Zones: Lessons for Living Longer from people who lived the longest," Dan Buettner noted that in Sardinia, Italy; Okinawa, Japan; Nicoya Peninsula, Costa Rica; Icaria, Greece; and Loma Linda, there were several common lifestyle factors that promoted longevity. This list included daily physical activity, living life with a sense of purpose, routine stress relieving activities, plant based diets, and socialization which involved putting family first, belonging to a faith-based community, and having associations with people believing in healthy behaviors.

In response to this news, Minnesota, Iowa and California communities have created Blue Zone programs and have seen a 40 percent decrease in city workers health care costs.

Weiner lists 11 healthy habits to adhere to for those wanting to live to the age of 100. These include not retiring, flossing everyday, remaining active, consuming a fiber rich cereal for breakfast, getting six hours of sleep at night, consuming whole foods in lieu of supplements, being less neurotic, living like a Seventh-day Adventist, being a creature of habit, staying connected with friends and family, and being conscientious.

Weiner's advice of living like a Seventh-day Adventist warrants further discussion. A study of 34,000 Seventh-day Adventist over more than 40 years found that the vegetarian (no meat of any kind) and lifestyle conscious group had 60 percent fewer cancers, including cancers of the lungs, colon, and breast and a 24 percent reduction in mortality from coronary heart disease, compared to a non-vegetarian and less health conscious group. Other findings included less arthritis, less obesity, lower cholesterol levels, better physical and mental quality of life, and fewer cases of diabetes.

Additionally, a follow up study of 3,400 black Seventh-day Adventists revealed a better quality of life than the general population in the United States and an elimination of health disparities through the adventist lifestyle. This was reported in the June 27, 2011 issue of Science Daily.

While only about 50 percent of Seventh-day Adventists are vegetarian, the lifestyle associated with the maximum health benefit includes being vegetarian, remaining physically active, abstaining from smoking, alcohol, and caffeine use, and adherence to a weekly rest period in the form of the biblical seventh day, Saturday or Sabbath. These findings are compelling in light of ever-rising health care costs and the power and accessibility of these lifestyle changes.

McCowan is a Charleston physician.