Youth Sabbath – Hooray!!!

by Pastor James Black, director, Adventist Youth Ministries

Although we are grateful for Youth Sabbath being one of the official calendar days in the North American Division, it should be clearly understood that every Sabbath should be a Youth Sabbath - a Sabbath experience with every young person clearly identified and assigned to a responsibility.

Youth Sabbath on May 12 can be a great opportunity for celebrating the gifts and talents of young people while challenging them to seek oneness with Jesus Christ. It can also be an excellent time for reaffirming youth who have been faithful and in church every week.

We encourage youth leaders to have a strategic, well planned Youth Sabbath with youth being part of the planning. A well balanced day makes for a meaningful and lasting spiritual experience. Our Youth Ministry focus for this quinquennium, called PERMS, can be the plan. PERMS stands for the following five pivots:

- Prayer and Bible Study
- Equipping Leaders
- Reclaiming the Lost
- Ministry in Action
- Shepherding

Youth Sabbath is also a great time for inviting family and friends who are not members of the church and making the entire day intergenerational. Some see this time as an excellent opportunity to launch new youth initiatives for their local church. If planned well, Youth Sabbath will be remembered for something greater than just a concert or drama presentation. Respect the fact that youth are very intelligent and expect to be challenged and not just entertained. They really desire a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

Look under the “Resources” section of this NewsPoints for some...
Most of the 107 women pastors in the Division were able to attend the first organized conference for women clergy, April 23-26. Boosting the attendance to nearly 300 were female chaplains, seminary students and Division administrators who were there in support of women in ministry.

Dan Jackson, NAD president, attended the event. He said, "It was my privilege to spend time last week with a very special group of godly, Christian, Seventh-day Adventist pastors just outside of Berrien Springs, Mich. These pastors were women and I was blessed to hear their stories, to witness their energy and to see their commitment to God's work. It was a moment in time where I was personally able to witness the fulfillment of the promise of Joel 2:28, 29, where we are told that God would ‘pour out His Spirit on all flesh.’ God be praised for the Spirit-filled women pastors of the North American Division." MORE

AdventSource (AS), will be relocating in order to accommodate Union College growth and the housing of the physicians assistant program there. AS, NAD's central resource center, has moved twice in the last 30 years. The new 17,000 square foot building will house the contact center, graphic arts, resource development and website support along with operations and warehouse space. MORE “Like” AdventSource on Facebook for updates and more.

The first annual NAD Level Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) took place Sabbath, April 21, at the GC headquarters. Creators of the event hope that the PBE will transcend young lives. During the two-hour testing Pathfinders responded to 90 questions. A total of 24 teams placed at the PBE and received award certificates. Teams that scored 90% or higher received top spot. There were 11 First Place winners, eight Second Place teams, and five Third Place title holders. MORE “Like” NAD Pathfinders, Youth and Young Adult Department on Facebook to see more photos.

suggested resources that relate to the PERMS focus. Happy Youth Sabbath!

---

Upcoming Events:

"Restaurados" Hispanic satellite evangelism, May 5-12
NAD Adventist Single Adult Ministries Convention, May 25-26
Mid-America Hispanic Youth Leadership Convention, May 25-27
Adventist Single Adult Ministries Convention, Denver, Colorado, May 25-27
Nonprofit Leadership Certification Program, Session I, June 3-7
"Revive!" by satellite, June 9-16
Andrews University- Family Celebration Weekend, July 19-22; Info: 269-471-6186
Mid-America Camporee, July 25-28
Wisconsin Conference Hispanic Marriage Retreat, July 27-29;
The first NAD-wide Campus Ministries Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) Conference was held April 13-15 at Columbia University in Manhattan, N.Y. Nearly 250 students from across NAD spent a memorable weekend in New York City being inspired to “Break Well” as opposed to “Breaking Bad.” Their purpose is to return to their secular campuses to share Jesus with their classmates.

The NAD sponsored ACF Conference will be held every three years with regional conferences in the intermediate years. **MORE** (NAD news; check FB)

A recent short PBS video on Adventist longevity is online. It features some of the unique beliefs and practices of the Adventist Church which have led to an increased segment of its members living longer healthier lives. **View the video**

The Walla Walla University (WWU) Presidential Search Committee is interviewing several candidates on the “active list” to replace current president, John McVay, who will transition to study leave and a new role as professor this summer. The committee plans to take a more specific recommendation to the WWU Board of Trustees for consideration on May 14.

**Adventists in the News**

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

- **A Q&A Loma Linda Adventist Pastor Randy Roberts - Part 1**
  Patch.com
  April 27

- **Kids hit track in derby cars**
  Times Press Recorder
  April 27

- **Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients**
  TribLocal
  April 24

- **Loma Linda Pastor Looks at the Church’s Role in Politics and Life - Part 2**
  Patch.com
  April 28

- **Huguley Memorial Medical Center joins Texas Health Resources**
  Cleburne Times-Review
  April 26

- **April 27 showed one man there are still good people in the world**
  timesfreepress.com
  April 22

Info: 503-951-1266, or 414-446-5964

NAD Teachers Convention, Aug. 5-8

ASI Annual International Convention, Aug. 8-11

Columbia Pathfinder Camporee, Aug. 9-11

Garland Church, Texas, Marriage Retreat, Aug. 24-26

**NAD Camp Meeting Schedule**

**More upcoming events**

**Hope Channel Programs**

(All times given according to Eastern Time Zone)

Watch live, [online](https://www.adventistchannel.com)

**Hope Channel (HC)**

(On DIRECTV ch. 368):

**NY13:**

- May 4: 7:00, 10:00 p.m.
- May 5: 4:00, 11:00 p.m.
- May 6: 12:00, 9:00 p.m.

**Cards for Mom and Dad:**

#1 Dan Jackson (Mothers)

- May 11: 7:00, 10:00 p.m.
- May 12: 11:00 p.m.

#2 Elizabeth Talbot (Mothers)

- May 11: 7:30, 10:30 p.m.
- May 12: 11:30 p.m.

#3 Mike and Gayle Tucker (Mothers)

- May 13: 8:30 a.m., 2:00, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 p.m.

**Hope Church Channel (HCC):**

**NY13:**

- May 4, 5:00, 8:00 p.m.
- May 5, 10:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m.

**NAD Prayer Calendar**

**Daily Prayer Guide**
No All Night Prayer Teleconference in May due to National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 3. The next prayer teleconference will be June 7.

NAD Prayer Ministries has a monthly e-newsletter, Watching God from the Front Row, which is emailed to NAD prayer coordinators and others who request it. View the current and past newsletters HERE. Subscribe by emailing NADprayerministries@gmail.com with your request.

Faith For Today was blessed recently as Mike and Gayle Tucker were asked to host "A Night of Amazing Women," a special co-produced by Lifestyle Magazine and TBN featuring some of the stars of the Women of Faith conference. Taped in Dallas, Tex., Mike and Gayle interviewed Sandi Patty, Patsy Clairmont, Sheila Walsh, Brenda Warner and Pat Smith about marriage and family, sisterhood and their own personal testimonies. The result is a fun and entertaining show filled with many moments that will inspire and touch the heart through stories, music, testimony and much laughter.

"Surely the presence of the Lord was in that place, writes Chauncey Smith, account executive at the Adventist Media Agency. "The audience was full (more than double what they normally have for a taping) and they were on their feet. Yes, when it was done...a standing ovation, cheering, laughing, crying, hugging and praising and thanking GOD! Your ministry hit a grand slam! The SDA message was brought home in such a powerful and new way. We stood strong and proud to be members of this church. We have something to say and we preach it."

TBN plans to air the Women of Faith special on Friday, May 4 at 7:00 PM PST (10:00 PM EST). A repeat airing is scheduled for Monday, May 7 at 2:00 PM PST (5:00 PM EST). Double check your local listings for possible schedule changes.

A one hour special program to help members gain a clear understanding of what NY13 is and what they can do to participate will be shown on Hope Channel, May 4, 5 and 6. See the Hope Channel and Hope Church Channel listings in the sidebar for dates and times.

During the 2012 Spring Meeting, leaders stated plans for renewed outreach in a mega city in each of the denomination’s 13 world divisions. Half the world’s population lives in cities. The worldwide urban ministry focus will start in 2013 in New York City (NYC). An estimated 19 million people who speak some 800 languages live in metropolitan New York.

Between 2012 and 2015, church leaders will equip pastors and lay
members alike to launch outreach efforts in more than 650 of the world's major cities. In NYC, a training school, community services, youth ministries, and more relational activities and services will be widely implemented prior to the evangelistic meetings slated for 2013. Guest evangelists from around the world have volunteered to simultaneously preach the gospel in neighborhoods of NYC. MORE. "Like" NY13 on Facebook.

A brand new series will begin this Sabbath on Esperanza TV called "Restaurados" (Restored), which will be broadcast from the Dyckman Spanish SDA Church in New York. It will be shown May 5-12, 8:30-9:30 ET. It can be viewed on Esperanza TV via satellite, via the Internet, or with the Hope Channel App.

Pastor Ruben Bullon, Hispanic evangelist for the Texas Conference, will be the speaker. He is originally from Peru and was raised in Brazil. He has worked in Brazil, has done evangelism in Mexico, multiple countries in Central America, and now he is in full time ministry in the North American Division. MORE (video)

Sign up as a host site for Revive! Revive!, with the theme, “Experiencing God, will be presented by nine different speakers and will highlight nine characteristics of God throughout the Bible. It will be shown live via satellite, June 9-17. The official website was just launched and all of your questions concerning how to host are right there. View the resources page to download necessary materials when they become available. For example, the topics schedule for each night or the time to view in your time zone are available for download now. The new site will prepare your church to host Revive! When people search for a host site, you will want your church to be listed. REGISTER

A pilot school for CREATION Health has made news this year as Indigo Christian Junior Academy (ICJA) in Daytona Beach becomes the first in a three-way partnership between ICJA, Florida Hospital, and Florida Conference. Results since implementing the CREATION Health Schools pilot program have been measurable, including enrollment more than doubled, improved test scores, and more.
A CREATION Health School is one in which the CREATION Health principles are applied with the goal of holistic health for all within the school’s influence.

Preparation for the pilot program began during the 2010-2011 school year with the school board, teachers, and students learning health principles covered by the CREATION acronym which stands for Choice, Rest, Environment, Activity, Trust, Interpersonal Relationships, Outlook, and Nutrition.

Adventist Youth resources to support the “PERMS” focus:

- **The Jesus Way to Youth Discipleship** - To introduce youth to Jesus' way of making disciples and guide them into following His example. Follow us as we discover what Jesus meant when He said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

- **Hey Youth Preach the Word** - To help youth prepare for preaching the gospel of Jesus. It tells how and what to preach and more, including worksheets and resources.

- **Mission Lifeguard Training** - To help equip your church to learn how to reach out to young people and assist them in connecting with Jesus. Kit contains the Mission Lifeguard (MG) Handbook, two MG t-shirts, whistle, tote bag and media kit.

- More resources such as **Just Claim It Prayer Time** and **Youth Ministry Formula (YM2)**, are available at the NAD and GC Youth Ministries Websites

"A Mothers Love"
5-2-12 North American Division Affirms Women Clergy

Report of the first organized conference for women clergy

Most of the 107 women pastors in the North American Division were able to attend the largest conference for Women Clergy to date on April 23-26. It was held at the Adventist Frontier Mission Retreat Center on Lake Chapin, in Berrien Springs, Mich.

Boosting the attendance to nearly 300 were chaplains, seminary students and Division, Union, and Conference administrators who were there to show their support of women in ministry.

The women clergy gathered in small groups to share their personal stories of God’s call to ministry. They also encountered and came up with positive suggestions as to how the NAD could enhance the role of female clergy.

Ron du Preez, Michigan Conference communication director, shared his personal journey of how he came to endorse the role of women clergy and addressed some deeper insights on many of the texts used by those who object to women pastors.

Dwight Nelson, senior pastor, Pioneer Memorial Church, pointed out that the Bible does not forbid women in ministry and further stated that since the Holy Spirit is blessing women, we should follow the Spirit.

Dan Jackson, Division president, attended the meeting. He said, “It was my privilege to spend time last week with a very special group of godly, Christian, Seventh-day Adventist pastors just outside of Berrien Springs, Mich. These pastors were women and I was blessed to hear their stories, to witness their energy and to see their commitment to God’s work.

It was a moment in time where I was personally able to witness the fulfillment of the promise of Joel 2:28, 29 where we are told that God would ‘pour out His Spirit on all flesh.’ God be praised for the Spirit-filled women pastors of the North American Division.”

Donna Holland, administrative pastor at the Beltsville, Maryland, Adventist Church, expressed her reactions to the conference. She said, “I appreciated the Women’s Clergy Conference because it provided opportunity to meet other women clergy and to learn more about what is being done to bring more equality between men and women clergy.”

“ar been to four of these conferences so far but this was the first time that someone from the NAD came,” exclaimed Ann Roda-Hernandez, pastor for families at New Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church in Fulton, Maryland. “It was absolutely amazing that the NAD leadership was there — Dan Jackson, the Ministerial Department team and some Union presidents. It was the greatest show of affirmation that I’ve ever seen from our church! It meant a lot to the women clergy and it was a positive and inspiring experience for us who have experienced opposition to our calling.”

The Women’s Clergy Conference was planned by Esther Knott, associate ministerial director of the North American Division and a pastor at Pioneer Memorial Church. The event was sponsored by the North American Division Ministerial Department.

The NAD Ministerial team is working to upload the presentations and other highlights from the Women Clergy Conference. Watch NewsPoints for an update or visit www.nadministerial.org.
Lincoln, NE – AdventSource’s board of directors voted on April 19, 2012 to move forward with plans for constructing a new building to house the ministry resource center for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.

“This represents a big step forward for the ministry of AdventSource,” said Tom Lemon, Mid-America Union president and chairperson of AdventSource’s board of directors.

Founded in 1982 as a partnership between the General Conference Youth Ministries Department and Union College, AdventSource (then NAYM) was created as a one-stop center for Pathfinder Club supplies. Because of the success of this model all North American Division ministries now distribute leadership materials through AdventSource. In addition to more than 4,000 resources, AdventSource also provides church and school website support and event registration services.

Over the past 30 years AdventSource has relocated twice to accommodate college growth. AdventSource is preparing to move once again following the college’s decision to repurpose its current location in the south end of the Don Love Building to house the college’s growing physicians assistant program.

Because AdventSource provides student labor and other services, Union College has offered AdventSource the option of a long-term land lease to allow for the construction of a new facility at Prescott Avenue and 51st Street on land owned by the college.

“Union College values AdventSource’s presence on our campus and we are pleased that this partnership is going to continue,” said John Wagner, president of Union College.

The new 17,000 square foot building will house the contact center, graphic arts, resource development and website support along with operations and warehouse space. AdventSource is financing the $2 million project through cash reserves, a building loan and support from Union College, the Mid-America Union and the North American Division.

Brad Forbes, director of AdventSource, presented AdventSource’s board of directors with a schedule including plans for breaking ground in May and occupancy by the end of 2012.

Frederick Russell, senior pastor of the Atlanta Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church and AdventSource board member, said, “I’m excited about the future of AdventSource on many fronts. The addition of new facilities is part of a series of progressive steps to ensure that AdventSource continues as the premier place for ministry resources for Seventh-day Adventist churches in North America.”

###

Cassie Martsching, Director of Communication
AdventSource
Phone: (402) 486-8816
www.adventsource.org
Join Seventh-day Adventist communication professionals from...
4-26-12 Pathfinders Converge in DC for Bible Experience

Pathfinders Test Knowledge in Bible Experience

By Tanisha Greenidge

Excitement filled the air as Pathfinders from across the country gathered at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (SDA) for the first annual North America Division (NAD) Level Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) on Saturday, April 21, 2012. The NAD Youth Ministries Department created and sponsored this event as a way to standardize the Bible Bowl format that is traditionally used in many churches throughout the world.

Gene Clapp, who served as moderator, was very instrumental in the event. He also wrote the questions that were used. At this competition, 26 teams tested their knowledge of Bible books 1 Samuel and Mark, along with specific areas chapters from the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary.

"It's more than just studying the Bible and knowing facts and figures," said James L. Black, Sr., director of the NAD Youth Ministries department. "We are hoping that this sparks renewed interest in God's Word and that there is resurgence [among the youth] of their love for God's word and that they will embrace the mission of the church."

As the judges tallied the votes, the Miami Central Pathfinders led the Second Place teams, and five Third Place title holders. 90% or higher received top spot. There were 11 First Place winners, eight Place winners, and five Third Place title holders.

Creators of the event hope that the Pathfinder Bible Experience will transcend young lives. "I would like for them to walk away knowing that Transcend young lives. "I would like for them to walk away knowing that we should study the Word," said Director Manny Cruz. Next year the testing site will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska.

"It was an amazing experience! Hopefully, we'll do better than we think," said an expectant Aryn Flaig, 16, of the Piedmont Park Thunderbirds from the Mid-America Union Conference. Her mood reflected the sentiment of many Pathfinders.

During the two-hour testing, Pathfinders responded to 90 questions that ranged from: "What will God's response be if we do not forgive others?" to "How much did Goliath's coat of mail weigh?" Many clubs began studying in October 2011. To reach the division level, clubs tested against other teams within their district or conference before advancing to the union level.

Excitement rippled through the auditorium as the testing ended. Any hardships that teams encountered to reach the division level resulted in smiles, fist bumps, and satisfied relief.

As the judges tallied the votes, the Miami Central Pathfinders led the Second Place teams, and five Third Place title holders. 90% or higher received top spot. There were 11 First Place winners, eight Place winners, and five Third Place title holders.

Creators of the event hope that the Pathfinder Bible Experience will transcend young lives. "I would like for them to walk away knowing that Transcend young lives. "I would like for them to walk away knowing that we should study the Word," said Director Manny Cruz. Next year the testing site will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska.

"It was an amazing experience! Hopefully, we'll do better than we think," said an expectant Aryn Flaig, 16, of the Piedmont Park Thunderbirds from the Mid-America Union Conference. Her mood reflected the sentiment of many Pathfinders.

During the two-hour testing, Pathfinders responded to 90 questions that ranged from: "What will God's response be if we do not forgive others?" to "How much did Goliath's coat of mail weigh?" Many clubs began studying in October 2011. To reach the division level, clubs tested against other teams within their district or conference before advancing to the union level.

Excitement rippled through the auditorium as the testing ended. Any hardships that teams encountered to reach the division level resulted in smiles, fist bumps, and satisfied relief.

"It was an amazing experience! Hopefully, we'll do better than we think," said an expectant Aryn Flaig, 16, of the Piedmont Park Thunderbirds from the Mid-America Union Conference. Her mood reflected the sentiment of many Pathfinders.

During the two-hour testing, Pathfinders responded to 90 questions that ranged from: "What will God's response be if we do not forgive others?" to "How much did Goliath's coat of mail weigh?" Many clubs began studying in October 2011. To reach the division level, clubs tested against other teams within their district or conference before advancing to the union level.

Excitement rippled through the auditorium as the testing ended. Any hardships that teams encountered to reach the division level resulted in smiles, fist bumps, and satisfied relief.
4-26-12 All for Christ and Campus!

College students meet to grow secular campus ministries

The first North American Division-wide campus ministries conference was held the weekend of April 13-15 on the campus of Columbia University in downtown Manhattan, New York. Sponsored by Columbia University Adventist Christian Fellowship, North American Division Youth Ministries and the Atlantic Union Youth Department, nearly 250 students from across North America spent a memorable weekend in New York City being inspired to "Break Well" as opposed to "Breaking Bad." (A term from the Southeast referring to leaving home and making a bad break from parents into adulthood that spirals down instead of up. Also based on a current AMC TV drama reflecting the conflicted life of Walter White, a high school chemistry teacher with only two years to live.)

Worship leader Nick Zork led the group in inspiring worship throughout the weekend which began on Friday evening at The Church Of The Advent Hope on Manhattan's lower east side and continued on to Columbia University's Earl Hall, a religious life building. Special weekend features included a concert from Ohio's Manhattan's lower east side and continued on to Columbia University's Earl Hall, a religious life building. Special weekend features included a concert from Ohio's

Pastor Yi's final presentation emphasized the importance of going back to our campuses and sharing "What great things God has done for us." His passage was from the story of the healed demoniac and the demoniac's desire to stay with Jesus. Jesus however, commanded him to "break well." The challenge of returning to our campuses to share what God blessed us with in New York City.

The NAD sponsored Adventist Christian Fellowship Conference will be held every three years with regional conferences in the intermediate years. Visit www.acflink.org.

###

Bernadine Delafield
NAD Office of Communication
North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists
Loma Linda and Redlands has changed a lot in the 25 years since Pastor Randy Roberts, senior pastor at Loma University Seventh-day Adventist Church, settled into the area to minister to the community.

Roberts heads one of the largest Adventist congregations in the world. As time has passed, both the church and community have changed. In a two-part interview, we talk to the Pastor - who ministers to the spiritual needs to roughly 7,000 members of the church - about his work, the church and the community.

Part two will run Saturday.

How long have you been in the ministry?

Just overall, about 30 years in some branch there - of either pasturing or chaplaincy or teaching. But overall, about 30 years.

How many at Loma Linda University Seventh-day Adventist Church?

Almost 12 years.
Are you a Loma Linda native?

No. My family is originally from Texas, although I grew up outside of this country. I grew up in a lot of Latin American countries. Quite a few. My dad was a pastor also. In that day and time (we) tended to move a lot. I was born on Columbia, South America. We lived in Columbia, Venezuela, Curacao, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Mexico; Quite a few places.

Did you always know you wanted to be a pastor?

Fairly early on, probably mid-teen years, yeah, something like that.

Was it because it was logical you would follow in your father’s footsteps?

I’m sure that the fact that my dad was a minister had an affect on that, no question, but I had deeper sense that that’s where God was leading me, guiding me, calling me.

What do you find the most fulfilling about what you do?

Being able to have a positive influence on people's lives, moving them maybe in a more God-ward direction; being able to share with them a vision of a God of love; A god who has a big heart; A God who desires a forever friendship with us. I think some of those things are part of the same package of wanting to make a difference in people’s lives in a positive way for God.

Do you live in Loma Linda?

We live in Redlands. But I've lived Loma Linda/Redlands a little over 25 years. I worked first at the Chaplain's office in the (Loma Linda University) Medical Center. I was there a little over seven years. And then I taught at the School of Religion at the university. I was there for 6 1/2 years or so. And I've been at the church since.

How important do you think the Adventist church and Adventist community is to Loma Linda?

There are a lot of us as Adventists in Loma Linda just by sheer numbers. But I hope that we're important in a greater sense than just our numbers. I hope we're important because this specific church and other churches are making a difference in the community. We're trying to be cheerful neighbors and helpful neighbors. We're trying to reach out and touch them in ways related to health, in ways related to needs for food, money, clothing, shelter, whatever or spiritual needs, a deeper and better understanding of God. We strive to be a church that, if it was gone, would be missed and not an isolated, insulated group of people.

But a group of people involved in their community, loving their community and trying to be a positive influence on the community.

There have been a few figures on the size of the population of Adventists in Loma Linda. Does the church track that? Pastor Roberts answered that the church does not, but he did make some observations on the subject:

I think it has changed over time. If you go back 20 years, maybe 25 years when (his family) first moved here, I would say that Loma Linda was probably heavily weighted in the Adventist direction. If you drove up here on Anderson (Street) up to Lawton and that whole subdivision up here, my guess would have been that most of the people would have been Adventist. Not all, but most of them. But then when the building boom came, buildings were going up everywhere. There were new subdivisions were built south of Barton (Road) and on Mission Road and on all these other areas all around, not just Loma Linda, around this area and certainly in Loma Linda.

Then I think many, many other people moved in and this became, as is true down this corridor, a bedroom community to people working more down in the LA and Orange County direction. The housing was cheaper. Then I think the percent, because of the growth that came into Loma Linda, I suspect that the percentage of Adventists went down pretty significantly. That's all anecdotal. That's just my observation.
A Q&A Loma Linda Adventist Pastor Randy Roberts - Redlands-Loma ... http://redlands.patch.com/articles/a-q-a-loma-linda-adventist-pastor-rand...
Kids hit track in derby cars

By Kenneth Klein/Contributing Writer

Brook Wooten adjusted his helmet’s hockey mask and gently eased off the brakes as his homemade derby car rolled off the starting ramp.

Rumbling down the driveway that served as the track, he told his father, Ben, the brakes were terrible — and then smiled.

“Good run and lots of fun,” said Brook of Santa Maria after crossing the finish line.

But Brook wasn’t alone Sunday at the Valley View Adventist Academy’s Box Car Derby in Arroyo Grande.

The event, which sought to raise about $2,000 to help refinish the school’s worn-out gymnasium floor, featured 35 to 40 racers, said event coordinator Rachael Adamski.

“Dads and moms getting involved ... the family set together is what’s happening here,” said school Principal Phil Ermshar. “A lot of love went into these derby cars.”

Because the race was a fun event, no restrictions applied to how cars were built, how big they were or how much they weighed — as long as they were safe.

Racers, who had worked after school and on weekends, also decorated their derby cars with themes from the 1950s through the ’80s.

There was a VW bus, a green Jeep with a mounted toy rifle and others with roll bars, exhaust pipes, grilles and flames.

Justin Meulpolder, 11, of Grover Beach decided to use the ’80s theme on his plywood creation by dripping several bright colors of paint all over it.

“I’m ready to race, and it’s better than being home all day or doing homework,” Meulpolder said.

Lucas Appleton, 9, of Grover Beach sat in his derby car waiting patiently.

“Last year, it did not work so well ... the brakes did not work,” said Lucas, adding he was looking forward to today’s event. “This year, the brakes I have will work. Let’s get started.”

The racers began the event in the school’s lower parking area, where the derby cars were carefully loaded onto a service vehicle and brought up the track to the top of the hill.

Racers and families then doubled checked the cars for problems before bringing them to a tilted wooden starting ramp that it took Steve Behrens of Nipomo about a week to make.

Behrens gave each racer a look of confidence — allowed some short chit-chat, usually between father and son — and then pulled the cord that released them.

At speeds of about 20 mph, the youngsters roared down the track lined with caution tape, hay bales and onlookers as an announcer called all the action.
Jason Behrens, 12, who won last year’s event, had some advice for other racers before he ripped down the track toward the checkered flags at the finish line.

“Stay away from the hay,” he said firmly.

Along the way, fans cheered and yelled at the racers, who at times struggled to keep the derby cars straight.

“I never got to do this as a kid, but it sure looks like fun,” said Lucas Appleton’s father, Jeff.
Hinsdale – Only a few hours old and already Emilia “Emi” Joy Sato has a great story. She was the first baby born at the new patient pavilion at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital at 4:32 a.m. on Monday, April 23, to parents Regina and Junichi Sato, of La Grange Park. Emi is the couple’s second child. Their son, Julian, 2, was born at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital. “I heard the new pavilion was opening soon, but I didn’t really think about it,” said Regina Sato with Emi in her arms a few hours after she was born. “Then I get here and I’m a celebrity! The nurses are so excited and I’m going to enjoy all the attention because I know when I get home, I’ll be nothing but sleep deprived.”

After her contractions started at home, Regina Sato came to the hospital at about 9 p.m. on Sunday when the new pavilion itself was only open a few hours. Seven hours later, Emi was born without any complications. She weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces and was 21 inches long. Both of Emi’s parents are musicians at Music Makers of Western Springs. Junichi Sato teaches piano while Regina teaches piano and voice lessons. And it appears the Satos’ musical talent will continue into the next generation. “Regina and I couldn’t help but notice that Emi was born with long, beautiful fingers,” Junichi Sato said. “I think she’ll be a wonderful piano player.”

Construction of the Adventist Hinsdale Hospital pavilion began in 2010. The project was designed based on input from neighbors, patients, physicians and hospital staff and complements the hospital’s world-class care and technological advancements.

Among the most notable changes: private patient suites including private bathrooms and space for overnight guests, updated nursing units, corridors that separate patient and visitor traffic for privacy, a new lobby and Calandra chapel, updated labor and delivery suites, including some with whirlpool tubs to promote relaxation and a new covered driveway on Oak Street providing easier access to patient services and registration.

Each of the new patient suites also features a plasma TV, wireless internet access, comfortable rollout beds for family members, and oversized windows with beautiful views and plenty of natural light. Now that the new space has opened, the hospital has 277 beds.

“We were thrilled to finally open our new pavilion for all of our patients, but especially for our littlest ones,” said BettySue Netzel, director of women and children’s services at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital. “The opening of this new space represents the start of a new and exciting chapter for our hospital and is a celebration for our community.”

A few hours before hospital nurses and staff celebrated Emi Sato’s arrival, they welcomed baby Gavin McNeer, who was born to Dr. Jennifer and Mac McNeer at 2:34 a.m. on Saturday, April 21, making him the last baby born in the hospital’s former labor and delivery unit and the first patient transferred over to the new pavilion. Gavin weighed 8 pounds, 10 ounces and was 22 inches long. Gavin’s mom is Dr. Jennifer McNeer, of La Grange. She is a pediatric hematologist and who also...
Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi...

Adventis...
Adventist Hinsdale Hospital welcomes first patients to new pavilion - Hi... http://hinsdale.patch.com/announcements/adventist-hinsdale-hospital-w...
Pastor Randy Roberts leads one of the largest Adventist congregations in the world right here in Loma Linda. As senior Pastor for the Loma Linda University Seventh-day Adventist Church, he ministers to some 7,000 members. Many travel in from as far as San Diego and Orange counties.

Pastor Roberts recently sat down to speak with Redlands–Loma Linda Patch about the church, the Adventist community and religion. Part one of our interview was published April 27. He spoke about his background and what led him to become a minister.

In part two, the pastor discusses how some perceive the church, the role of religion in today's world and the University Church's role in the city.

I've gotten a mixed response when I've posted stories about the church and the community. My experience has been, quite honestly, nothing but positive. Dr. (Rhodes) Rigsby, the Mayor, has always been very open that he is a member of the church. His philosophy has always seemed to be one of, to paraphrase, live and let live. But not everyone seems to see it this way. Do you think people misunderstand the church?

I think so. Anytime you hear of a church that either isn’t well known, or is in some way, some fashion different than maybe many other churches that are more familiar, people tend to have questions about them. And since as Seventh-day Adventists, we worship on a different day, we worship on Saturday rather than Sunday, that sets us apart as somewhat different. And most of us (people in general) are at least a little bit uncertain, if not outright suspicious, of any kind of thing that is different -- whether it be a church or some other organization or a group of people. A lot of that is just based on uncertainty, lack of knowledge. We’re not sure who these people are, those kinds of things. So it’s not surprising there would be some different kinds of feelings.

But I hope that once there is an opportunity to interact with Seventh-day Adventists, get to know some of them better, get to know what they stand for ... I hope that that disappears and that there’s a positive impression.

From your perspective, is the church growing in numbers?

I can say this, it is a growing church that reflects the growth patterns of the larger Protestant Christian Faith.

What I mean by that is that in the northern world and in the western world, the numbers tend to be shrinking. In the Southern hemisphere and moving toward the east toward Africa and so forth, the numbers are really growing. So if you take it on balance, is the Seventh-day Adventist Church growing? The answer to that is, yes it is, in fact, quite significantly. But the places were it’s growing reflects where Christianity as a whole tends to be growing --
South America, Central America and Africa. Those are the places of the greatest growth.

Not so much here in North America. In fact in North America, and again I think this is reflective of Christian faith in general, the numbers are a little more, maybe static, and in some cases even declining.

Do you believe then that we are drifting away from our faith?

I think certainly, in America today, religion occupies a very different place, a very different prominence than it occupied even in my childhood a few decades ago. It's in a very different world than it was at that time. In same ways, yes people have stepped away from that. George Barna's organization, which does a lot research into these matters, says that the rates of Biblical illiteracy are very high. The kinds of things that society in general would once have known and recognized as being from the Bible many now don't know and recognize that. They just don't know.

They asked different questions of people, even people who claimed to go to church. One of the questions Barna's organization asked was about the Epistles. And one of the comments they got back was that the Epistles were the wives of the Apostles. And yet, the Epistles are the letters that Paul and Peter and James and others wrote.

His organization says that that kind of lack of awareness, that Biblical illiteracy, is pretty high. I even read, just in the last two or three months, of one pastor who heard that stat and quoted it the next week in his sermon. Somebody stopped him at the door and said, "Well if the Epistles aren't the wives of the Apostles, who's wives are they?" So even the people sitting in church will have a lack of awareness.

I think the answer is yes. There is an America that has a very different emphasis on religion. In some cases, religion is not welcomed. In other cases, it's mocked and derided, the Christian faith. I think there is a real difference than the world I knew in what years I did spend in this country. Like I said, I spent a lot of years out of this country when I was growing up, but we would always come back for vacations and furloughs. I did spend two or three years here. But even in my college years, Christian faith occupied a very different place from what it once did.

Having said all that. I think that gives the church the opportunity to be the church, to be the light of Jesus, the love of God in the world in a very unique way.

What do you teach people? How do impress this love and devotion to faith?

My role here, probably the most central way in which I do that, is through a preaching ministry. I do a lot of teaching as well. And my focus personally is for my wife and me to pour our lives into our two kids so they will grow up to be positive citizens who contribute to their world, who love God, who love others, who serve others.

So that maybe one of the ways you outline your life is by the people who you disciple, the people who you pour your life into. Our kids are really our first order of business for us, and then our congregation after that.

A lot of people felt the church took a stand or should have taken a stance on some issues, including a proposed McDonald's coming to the city to the loss of Sunday mail delivery, which conflicts with the Adventist belief of observing a Saturday Sabbath. What role do you feel the church should play in city politics?

Well, in this congregation, you will probably find people representing the whole spectrum. From one side of the people who will fight with all their strength to keep (McDonald's) out to the other side and the people who would say this is a free country, allow people to make their own choices.

You would find the entire spectrum seated right here every week in worship. From an official angle, otherwise the official church, we do not and did not take a position on that. Our position is we are for health. We want to do everything we can to promote health for ourselves, for others, for everyone in our community. We're very supportive of that. At the same time, we are for freedom of choice. Freedom of people's ability to choose what they're going to do.

That doesn't mean that people can't stand up against whatever they oppose -- whether it's McDonald's or whatever other organization might be building down the block. They have a right to do that. We’re not going to tell them we can't. As a church, while we want to be healthy and want to encourage our members and friends in our community to be healthy, we do believe that any business has a right to do what it can to expand and to grow. I think we can understand that.

I can tell you that we decidedly, intentionally, avoid in our church, from the front, encouraging people to vote this way or to vote that way or to take this stand or take the other stand. That's not something we get involved in. In fact we have a policy here among the pastoral staff that when an election is coming around for … two months or three months before the election, we will not knowingly or intentionally have any candidate participate publicly up front in the service because we’re not trying to promote this candidate over that candidate.

We’re here as pastors to pastor to our entire congregation. Whether they are on this side of the aisle or that side of the aisle, our goal it to minister to each and everyone one of them, not to take political stances.

Could there be a scenario in which we would? I would hope so. But I haven’t seen it yet. The reason I would say I would hope so is because I just finished reading one of the best books I’ve read in a very long time, a book called “Bonhoeffer” written by Eric Metaxas. It’s one of the best sellers right now in Barnes and Noble. It’s a powerful book on life of the German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer in World War II who took the exceedingly unpopular stand of opposing Hitler far before others did. He could just see where things were headed and he began to speak out against that. He was ultimately executed by the Nazis.

My point is to say, could there come something in which conceivably the church would take a stand, yes. I don’t know what that could be. But as Bonhoeffer did, there could conceivably come a time in any community or any country where people of faith or people of conscience would have to stand up and say we simply can’t go along with this, whatever that might be.

But in general terms certainly with city politics and other things like that, we intentionally as a church leaders pull back and respect people’s right to make those choices.

Now we can say we encourage you to get out and vote. We encourage you to get involved in your community; we encourage you to be active; we
encourage you not to sit on the sidelines; but we don't go a step further and say "This is how we expect you to vote. We expect you to stand."

I hope we can teach some principals about ethical living and all the rest that will help inform people's decision-making process as they make those choices, but Adventism has a pretty strong emphasis on free moral agency. And that is the right that God has given each one of us as individuals to make choices of conscience informed by our relationship with God, but which are true to our conscience.

In fact one side note, not the principal reason, but one side note is, like I said a moment ago we have the whole spectrum sitting in our pews. There have been times when I can look here and see this person and look there and see that person and know that they are in leadership on opposing sides of the same issue. They're both here and they're both worshipping. We respect that.

H. D. Schmidt
8:39 pm on Saturday, April 28, 2012
It is a very sad commentary that the USA does not lead out when it comes to Christian growth!
Advertise
Advertise on Patch and reach potential customers in your backyard and beyond. Click here for more information.

Volunteer
If you want to help local causes, or your cause needs local help, your next click should be right here.

Contribute
- Send us news tips
- Put an event on the calendar
- Announce something to everyone
April 26, 2012

Huguley Memorial Medical Center joins Texas Health Resources

Special to the Times-Review

Huguley Memorial Medical Center in Burleson is becoming part of the Texas Health Resources health system. Texas Health and Adventist Health System, the parent company of Huguley, have formed a joint venture company that will own and manage the hospital. The agreement, which will be announced at a public ceremony at 9:30 a.m., is effective May 1.

Huguley will remain a nonprofit, faith-based organization, and over time, is expected to adopt the Texas Health brand. Texas Health will own controlling interest in the joint venture, and Adventist Health System will continue to manage the daily operations of the hospital.

The service area of Huguley complements the areas served by Texas Health facilities in southwest Fort Worth, Cleburne, Burleson and Arlington. This agreement extends the Texas Health network south and east down the I-35W corridor, an area that is growing faster than national averages.

“This agreement allows our two organizations to better serve the people of south Tarrant County, Johnson County and Ellis County,” said Doug Hawthorne, FACHE, CEO of Texas Health Resources. “Both Texas Health and Adventist Health System have strong foundations as faith-based, nonprofit health systems that are dedicated to improving health in the communities we serve. Given today’s challenging health care environment, it makes sense for us to look for opportunities to collaborate with other health systems to improve the health of our communities.”

“Huguley Memorial Medical Center’s affiliation with Texas Health Resources connects two systems that share a commitment to providing patient care driven by excellence, delivered with compassion, and inspired by the healing ministry of Christ,” Adventist Health System President and CEO Don Jernigan said.

Ken Finch, Huguley president and CEO added, “Health care is changing and we must work together and work smarter to more effectively meet the health care needs of those we serve. I believe this new partnership will be a great benefit to our communities, physicians, employees, and patients as we combine our resources and talents to better reach more people in need.”

By joining together, Texas Health and Huguley will improve coordination of care delivery along the south I-35W corridor. Many Huguley-affiliated physicians are already on the medical staff of a Texas Health hospital and participating in Texas Health’s quality improvement initiatives. This agreement will expand the group of physicians who can take advantage of Texas Health's quality initiatives and training programs.

Texas Health and Huguley are developing integrated strategies for addressing the health needs of specific population groups. They are also coordinating their entire continuum of care, from wellness, prevention and primary care through acute care in the hospital, to rehabilitation, long term, home health, palliative and hospice care for the benefit of the communities served.
Texas Health is building a health information exchange to connect to the existing Adventist Health System HIE enabling the eventual integration of Texas Health and Huguley’s patient clinical records. All of Texas Health’s and Adventist Health System’s wholly-owned nonprofit hospitals have implemented electronic health records and can share patient information across their respective systems. The EHR has proven to be an effective tool in advancing patient safety, quality and coordination of care. Texas Health HIE to AHS HIE connectivity moves these health systems into the next level of enhanced care as patients traverse between the continuum of the health systems.
April 27 showed one man there are still good people in the world
By Mariann Martin
Sunday, April 22, 2012

For months, Jojo Macatiag pinched pennies and squirreled away dollars for the trip of a lifetime — three months off work to travel through Canada and Alaska. It was going to be his final fling before the then-26-year-old came back to Southeast Tennessee to find a career job and settle down. He had dreamed of that day. Planned the adventure. Last April he packed his 1997 Honda Civic, mapped the route and headed out.

The second, third and fourth calls were more frantic. Macatiag’s 78-year-old stepdad was missing. The man’s house and business were destroyed, blown to smithereens and scattered to the winds at the corner of Apison Pike and Clonts Road.

This was a man Macatiag was not close to and barely liked. He had been part of a fractured and difficult childhood, which ended with Macatiag living at the Children’s Home/Chambliss Shelter. As an adult, Macatiag scarcely spoke to him.

But when the calls came from friends, Macatiag knew what he would do. Early in the morning on April 28, he began the long drive back to Apison.

“This was a 78-year-old man with two bad knees,” Macatiag said. “You know that God would still help him no matter what. We are here to be God’s hands and feet.”

At that crossroads in his life, as he watched the mile markers tick back toward Tennessee, Macatiag’s world was about to turn upside-down — filled with 20-hour workdays, spreadsheets, people who had lost everything and volunteers from nearly every state in the nation.

Within weeks, he and Doug Walter — another Apison native who jokes that God sent the tornadoes to give him a purpose in life — organized a loose-knit network of contacts and volunteers who set to work cleaning up their corner of Apison and rebuilding the lives that had been twisted into despair and destruction by the wind.

In the last year, Macatiag learned every building code in the book. He can recite lists of permits needed to build a house. He can run a chainsaw and drive heavy equipment.

But most of all, the last year has strengthened his faith in God.

The storms of April 27 showed him there are still good people in the world.

“Everything that had happened to me — you see how horrible the world is,” Macatiag said. “Then you see the good people all over the country coming to help people they never even met. Those are the little moments of love that keeps it worthwhile.”

Macatiag still remembers the day he decided to commit his life to helping rebuild in Apison.

It was about two weeks after the tornado. He had spent days sifting through his stepfather’s belongings, helped him salvage equipment he used in his signmaking business.

Most people had found a temporary place to live. Other volunteers slowly were packing their bags and leaving. Macatiag thought about
going, too.

Instead, he cleared the spot where his stepdad’s house had been.

Walter showed up to help. He found a large vinyl sign in the debris and hung it between two posts. “OPEN HOUSE,” it said in big letters. Only there were no houses, just open spaces filled with battered trees.

Some of the first response agencies left. The Federal Emergency Management Agency handed out checks to some of the people who had lost everything. But to the uninsured, it would never be enough to rebuild.

Then people came to offer help. Soon Macatiag and Walter were telling volunteers how to find them. Look for the sign, they said.

Soon, Macatiag, Walter and their crews became known as the Open House Volunteers. The pair organized those who turned out to help, cooked meals and worked on cleanups, repairs and rebuilds. A makeshift village of tents sprang up at the corner of Apison Pike and Clonts Road.

Throughout the day, Macatiag was a whirlwind of activity. Dressed in his volunteer firefighter uniform — dark blue cargo pants and a dark blue T-shirt — he herded college kids, marshaled supplies and mapped spreadsheets.

His phone rang constantly. Many nights he would sleep only a few hours. His patience and calm in any situation amazed his friends; no matter what happened, he always kept his smile.

Sometimes he would fall asleep on a job site. His fellow volunteers joke about the time they found him fast asleep atop a half-built wall.

He used the money he had saved for the Alaska trip to pay his bills and buy supplies for rebuilding projects.

Macatiag is quick to point out that every volunteer helped change lives in Apison. He rarely talks about his own involvement and insists others helped shoulder the task of rebuilding.

Walter, who reluctantly had taken disability leave April 1 from his job at Southern Adventist University after an injury, was always there. His bum shoulder didn’t keep him from making phone calls, Walter said. Some days he planted flowers or sifted through debris. He found treasured coin collections and family photos.

“We had a project we believed in,” Walter said.

But there were dark days, too. Macatiag’s relationship with his stepdad never improved. They finished his house; now they rarely talk.

A reporter stopped by Macatiag’s stepfather’s new house several times, but efforts to reach him were unsuccessful.

Macatiag lost friends in the storm — Holly Readus, a close friend and high school classmate, died on Cherokee Valley Road and he didn’t know about it until after her funeral.

He broke up with his girlfriend of four-plus years last summer.

As he recounted the low moments, his brown eyes showed the pain. It was one of those rare moments when he sits still.

At night, when all the volunteers went home, Macatiag stayed to guard tools and building supplies from looters. It was lonely, he said. The trees that were still standing, damaged by the storm, creaked in the wind.

“You see all these miracles during the day, but at night there was no one to share them with,” he said.

He stayed for 225 days, leaving for the first time at Thanksgiving.

Other volunteers urged him to take some time off, so he went on a trip for several weeks after Christmas. When he came back, some people seemed unhappy that he had left; projects had stalled. The constant adrenaline rush of the summer was gone.

“I felt like I failed,” he said.

He became depressed and ill. He struggled, wondering what was next in his life.

Good friends like Kenneth Britt have helped, he said. On Wednesday, Britt joked with Macatiag as the two prepared to cut trees on a property in Harrison where the March tornado hit. Britt’s wife brought Macatiag a chai tea from Starbucks and hugged him.

“I’m proud to know him,” Kenneth Britt said. “He puts everybody else first; I’ve never met anyone like him.”

Work is wrapping up in the Apison area. Volunteers from around the country have completed nearly a dozen houses. Most of the people are back in their homes.

Robert Mills’ rebuilt home is just across the corner from Macatiag’s stepdad. Volunteers helped build the brown-sided, one-story house and clean up the area, he said.

“There were all kinds of volunteers here, but Jojo just sort of took over,” Mills said. “If it wouldn’t have been for Jojo, this area wouldn’t be where it is now.”

In another month, Open House Volunteers expects to have most of the major projects completed. Back to a sort of normal.

“When you start seeing the homes coming back after it all looked so hopeless — through God you can move mountains,” Macatiag said.

“Apison was mountains.”

He isn’t sure what will happen next. He would like to find a job that includes helping in disaster recovery. No matter what he does, he will always help with the next disaster, he said.

“If you take care of the physical needs, the spiritual needs will follow,” he said. “Even if it is only one person who was helped, whose life was changed, it’s worth it.”
5-1-12 An Explosion of Evangelism

GC, NAD, Unions, Conferences Collaborate to Reach Large Cities

Shawn Boonstra, associate ministerial director for evangelism, North American Division, recently sat down with presidents and other representatives from the GC, NAD, Unions and Conferences who have formed a strategy to reach New York City, the largest metro area bordering their territories of responsibility.

Stepping up to the challenge as presented by General Conference president Ted N. C. Wilson and North American Division president, Dan Jackson, were Donald King, president of the Atlantic Union and Frank Bondurant, vice president for Ministry Development, Columbia Union in addition to presidents of Southern New England, Frank Tochterman; New Jersey, Jose Cortes; Northeastern, Trevor Baker; Allegheny East, Charles Cheatham; and Greater New York, G. Earl Knight. They discussed the whys, the hows and the historical significance of targeting New York City with the message of a personal Savior.

Ted Wilson answered Boonstra’s leading question, “Why target large urban centers and why New York City?” Wilson put it simply, “That’s where the most people are. Approximately 50% of people live in cities rather than the countryside. While on this earth, Jesus went to where the people were. He wept for them. He did practical and good things for them.”

Jackson added, “God loves the cities. He loves the people who live there. It is our work to find people who are yearning for something better, so it is our goal to reach every major population center in the North American Division. New York is the first. Much will be learned from the NYC experience and that knowledge will help us focus efficiently on future initiatives.”

Ellen G. White wrote about NYC. She said, “Those who bear the burden of the work in Greater New York should have the help of the best workers that can be secured. Here let a center for God’s work be made, and let all that is done be a symbol of the work the Lord desires to see done in the world.”

A training school, community services, youth ministries, and more relational activities and services will be widely implemented throughout the city prior to the evangelistic meetings slated for 2013. Guest evangelists from around the world have volunteered to simultaneously preach the gospel in neighborhoods of NYC. This strategy to reach the city is implemented throughout the city prior to the evangelistic meetings slated for 2013. Guest evangelists from around the world have volunteered to simultaneously preach the gospel in neighborhoods of NYC. This strategy to reach the city is the first time that the General conference, Division, Unions and Conferences have worked closely together to accomplish a major initiative of this kind.

King continued, “New York City is the financial capital of the world with 20 million people. God wants His work to explode in NYC.”

The one hour NY13 special program produced by the NY13 Communication team was filmed for television on April 16 in the Hope Channel studios. It will be shown on Hope Channel and 3ABN and as a promotional DVD throughout the Division so that members will have a clear understanding of what NY13 is and what they can do to have a part in the massive initiative to offer the gift of grace and hope to the huge metropolis of NYC. Visit www.NY13.org for broadcast dates.
Society of Adventist Communicators Convention - Oct 18, Thu - Join Seventh-day Adventist communication professionals from...

More Calendar

NewsPoints Newsletter

Signup for NewsPoints

Find an Adventist Church in your neighborhood

More

Your Church can have a beautiful website for free!

Click for Details

What has helped you most in your personal Christian growth?

Take the Poll