A Ministry for Every Woman

“A Ministry for Every Woman,” the theme for Women’s Ministries in the North American Division, has come to life in churches and conferences all across the division. Everywhere, women are ministering to others and making a difference in their churches and communities, often with the aid of the annual NAD Women’s Ministries Offering, which is received on the second Sabbath of July each year.

In 2010 the Alaska Conference Women’s Ministries used a portion of the offering to assist the women of the Valdez church in “adopting” a local agency that works with victims of domestic violence. Women of the church provide handmade quilts and blankets for the children and women clients of the agency. Each quilt or blanket they make has a large heart-shaped label stitched on with the name of their project, “It’s My Very Own” and the words, “This quilt was handmade by loving hearts and hands in your community of Valdez and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.” The project is still going strong as evidenced by the weekly meetings where the women faithfully continue making the quilts and lovingly sewing on the hearts.

Sharon Mills (L) and Dorothy Taylor (R) of the Valdez Seventh-day Adventist church women's ministries
A request for an orderly process on the ordination question has been unanimously accepted by GC leadership including 13 division presidents, and is described and posted online by the Adventist Review.

After results of the ordination study are received, due in 2014, the GC Executive Committee will decide whether to make further recommendations regarding women’s ordination to the 2015 GC Session. MORE

CNN News gave ACS Community LIFT a good boost, encouraging people to do what they can to support the volunteer efforts waged during Colorado's wildfire situation. In addition to mentioning ACS Lift as part of the community of support organizations active in this effort, they also gave a list of urgently needed items as well as a direct link to their website for financial contributions. MORE

Tens of millions of copies of the The Great Hope booklet in more than 80 languages have already been distributed in several parts of the world and nearly as many electronic copies of the book have been downloaded. NAD sales of 4.5 million copies in NAD, with English, Spanish and French translations, have exceeded our original goal of 3 million copies. Most of the church's world regions are still in the early phases of their distribution.

Rumors in some world regions claim that there is litigation involved with The Great Hope project. Those rumors are untrue. "We are seeing that tools like email, social media and SMS text messages can be tools for good as well as tools for mischief," said world church Public Relations Director Garrett Caldwell.

"If the church encountered legal action against such an important initiative it would be widely reported through official church news channels, such as the Adventist News Network," Caldwell said. MORE

Verlon Strauss is the new treasurer for the Southeastern California Conference (SECC). The Executive Committee of the SECC announced their decision to be effective immediately. Strauss has served as associate treasurer for the conference since November 2010. MORE

Oakwood University's "report card" for this last school year has attained high marks under the leadership of new OU President Leslie Pollard. An author, former pastor and noted theologian, Pollard re-affirms Oakwood’s spiritual heritage: "Ultimately, in a faith-based institution, that’s the dimension they (parents and students) are paying for. I mean, you can go anywhere to learn geometry." MORE

DVD-led Bible Studies
- Could you use some help
- The Great Hope Study Guides are now online
- "Sex Before Marriage"
- Upcoming Events
- NAD Prayer Calendar
- Daily Bible Reading Plan
- JULY Offerings and Special Days
- Adventist World NAD JULY Edition
- Union Magazines and Websites
- Adventist Mission: 3rd Quarter, 2012

Upcoming Events
ACF Institute, July 22-Aug. 3
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
New Jersey Conference Hispanic Marriage Retreat, Sept. 7-9
Nonprofit Leadership Certification Program, Session II, Sept. 23-27
Georgia-Cumberland Hispanic Men's Retreat, Sept. 28-30
British Columbia, Canada Hispanic Marriage Retreat, Oct. 12-14
La Red (Hispanic NET Evangelism series), Oct. 13-20
Society of Adventist
Gone but not Forgotten: Dr. Gordon G. Hadley was dean of the School of Medicine at Loma Linda University and for decades defined the school’s medical outreach to India, China and Afghanistan. Hadley, who died June 29 at age 91, also served a term as director of the Adventist world church’s Health Ministries department. MORE

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

HBCU Oakwood University’s Aeolians Choir Invited; Will Compete in World...
BlackNews.com
July 9

Collegedale 1 of the fastest growing in Tenn.
NECN
July 9

Adventists Live Longer
The Moderate Voice
July 8

Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital’s prayer boxes grow...
Chicago Tribune
July 5

High Park Fire donation center ready to give, receive
The CW2, KWGN Denver
June 18

Fast-growing 7th-day Adventists celebrate milestone, want to explain their faith
St. Cloud Times
July 9

Can bees lead to a longer human life span?
CBS News
July 8

Annual survey: Private high schools
Chicago Tribune
July 5

Richland pastor to bike across US to raise money to buy 1 million diapers
TheNewsTribune.com
July 2

Living Well Bistro and Adventist Health Studies
Freewheel Vegan (blog)
June 25

Communicators Convention, Oct. 18-20
British Columbia, Canada
English Marriage Retreat, Oct. 19-21
Daughter of Zion SDA Church Men’s Ministries Weekend, Nov. 2-4
Michigan Conference Marriage Retreat, Nov. 9-11
NAD Camp Meeting Schedule
More upcoming events

NAD Prayer Calendar

Daily Prayer Guide
July 15-21: Central California Conference, with 129 churches and 35,289 members

Daily Bible Reading Plan

JULY Offerings and Special Days
iGiveSDA App

Offerings:
• July 14, Women’s Ministries
• July 21, Local Church Budget
• July 28, Local Conference Advance

Offertory Readings

Special Days:
The annual NAD Women’s Ministries Offering is scheduled for July 14. The funds are restricted to women’s ministries (WM) outreach activities and leadership training for women. Bulletin inserts and a sample offering call are available on the NAD Women’s Ministries website. Churches are encouraged to have the WM leader or another woman call for the offering.

2014 Division-Wide Women’s Convention is scheduled to be held September 25-28, 2014, in the beautiful Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, Fla. It’s not too soon for women to start planning for this event.

The convention is held every five years. The 2014 “Free Indeed” convention will feature the same type of events as the 2009 convention in Dallas where 2200 women attended. About 40 seminars were offered in English and Spanish that featured various aspects of freedom in Jesus, including spiritual, emotional, physical, and being what God calls us to be. They spent a day doing the “God in Shoes” ministry to women in shelters.

A supply of save-the-date bookmarks in English and Spanish have been mailed to all conference WM directors. If you would like a supply for the women in your church, contact Carla Baker.

ACF Institute 2012 Campus Ministry Training is slated for July 22 to August 3 at La Sierra University. Campus ministry leaders or prospective leaders looking for a great introduction to campus outreach and ministry on today’s campus should make plans to join this summer’s Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) Institute. Participants will spend time honing their skills in campus outreach while drawing closer to God in preparation for ministry for the 2012/2013 academic year. MORE

Four out of five, or approximately 100,000, Adventist students are now attending non-Adventist college and universities according to a 2009 Study on NAD Congregations conducted through the Institute of Church Ministry.

ACF helps students learn how to practice and share their faith on a non-Adventist campus and while helping others maintain theirs.
They’ve run for their lives because of their religious beliefs. Many have been persecuted. They have gone through many troubles on their path to reach America. And many see the U.S. as a mission field and are eager to reach out, especially to people of their own language. Who are they?

More

The Journey of Joy DVD-led Bible Studies are a wonderful introduction for someone who would like to give Bible studies to friends and interested persons. They also provide a great friend-making resource. The beautiful presentations discuss 11 different stories in the Bible, and include room to discuss questions as led by Carla Gober, PhD, MS, MPH. Director, Center for Spiritual Life and Wholeness, Loma Linda University. See 2-page flyer.

The Leader’s Kit contains a Leader’s Guide with step-by-step instructions for conducting a small group study of each lesson; participant Study Guides (workbook) with 9-10 pages of in-depth material for each lesson for $9.99 ea., or in packs of five for $44.99; and two DVDs that contain all 11 presentations. Each presentation is 30 minutes long.

More

Could you use some help in dealing with objections or conflicts when reading or sharing The Great Hope? Cindy Tutsch from the Ellen G. White Estate, offers some advice that may help you in this online video.

The Great Hope Study Guides are now online on the NAD web site, and can be downloaded free of charge. The Great Hope is intended for sharing with family and friends and those with whom we have developed a personal relationship throughout North America. Paperback copies are available for the following quantity prices through local Adventist Book Centers (800-765-6955): 1-99 @ $.79 ea; 100-999 @ $.59 ea.; 1,000-1,999 @ $.53 ea., 2,000+ @ $.49 ea.

ViewPoints

“Sex Before Marriage”
Pastor Claudio and Pamela Consuegra, Family Ministries Department

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On Ordination Questions, G.C. Leadership Appeals for Orderly Process

‘Appeal’ Issued to Guide Unions, Conferences (Posted June 29, 2012)

BY MARK A. KELLNER, news editor

The world leadership of the Seventh-day Adventists has issued a highly unusual “appeal for unity” to regional administrative units of the church that have either taken or are considering independent action regarding the ordination of women to gospel ministry. The request comes in a statement issued June 29, 2012 in response to actions by several union conferences, including two in North America.

The union conferences, the key constituent elements of the church’s worldwide General Conference, have indicated either a willingness to ordain women, or to take independent actions that would permit such ordinations in their territories. At present, the Seventh-day Adventist Church does not ordain women to ministry, following votes at General Conference sessions in 1990 and 1995 on the question where the issue was a major focus of the international delegation.

The appeal, a general version of which is available online, was prepared and unanimously accepted by consensus by the General Conference officers, a group of 40 senior leaders of the church, including the 13 division presidents who also serve as vice-presidents of the General Conference.

The appeal begins by noting the recent local actions and/or proposals, as well as reminding both the union conferences and the church’s wider membership that the entire subject of ordination is under study by the worldwide Adventist family, with results due in 2014. Once those results are received, the document states, the G.C.’s Executive Committee, the highest interim authority between quinquennial international sessions of the church, will decide whether to make further recommendations on the ordination issue to the 60th General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas, in July 2015.

Until then, a move “to change or modify ordination practices is a global one and necessitates a decision from the world body,” the document stated.

“For any union to introduce a different ministerial ordination practice is seen, by the rest of the Church, as readiness to set aside a world Church decision and proceed in another direction,” Adventist leaders wrote. “Such actions, taken at the very time when the world Church is engaged in a study and discussion of the matter, pre-empt the process and any decision that might come from it.”

The leaders pointed to the collaborative approach to key decisions that has characterized Seventh-day Adventist polity since the church’s organization nearly 150 years ago in 1863: “The essence of unity in Seventh-day Adventist organizational functioning is the mutual commitment of all organizations to collective decision-making in matters affecting the whole family—and the acceptance of those decisions as the authority of the Church. The action of any union in pursuing a different course of action represents a rejection of this key value in denominational life.”

At the same time, the appeal noted, “General Conference officers welcome and invite unions to participate in the global study of ordination. This study will be the most widespread and thorough study the Church has undertaken on this topic. Earlier studies have been conducted by commissions. This is the first time that a study of ministerial ordination engages the whole Church through the 13 divisions.”

The leaders acknowledge that the question of women’s ordination has been a topic of deep concern to many within the movement: “… We realize that sharply differing convictions with respect to ministerial ordination for women exist in our global family. We also realize that the passage of time without finding satisfaction for the tensions on this question can give rise to frustration and the erosion of confidence that a timely and mutually satisfactory resolution can be found.” However, the Adventist world leaders said they “earnestly appeal” to the unions involved to:

1. Operate in harmony with the decisions of the worldwide church;
2. Avoid any independent action contrary to the decisions taken by the global body of the church in 1990 and 1995;
3. Communicate to their constituents the implications of independent action for the health of the wider
4. Actively engage in the established global discussion about the practice of ordination slated to report in 2014 and 2015.

As of December 31, 2010, the Seventh-day Adventist Church had 60 unions with conference status and 59 unions with mission status. Organized as a General Conference in 1863, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is active in 209 countries and territories around the world, with 17.2 million church members (not including unbaptized children), who worship in 136,600 congregations every week.
An Appeal For Unity in Respect to Ministerial Ordination Practices

Since the beginning of 2012 several union conferences have recorded actions expressing support for, or commitment to, the ministerial ordination of women. The world-wide Seventh-day Adventist Church is currently engaged in a study of the theology of ordination and its implications. This study is scheduled for completion by the 2014 Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee. At that time the Executive Committee will determine the report which will be given to the 2015 General Conference Session along with whether or not any new recommendation should be considered by delegates to the Session.

In the light of this current study and the actions of several unions, General Conference officers, including presidents of the 13 world divisions, have unanimously communicated an appeal for unity in respect to ministerial ordination practices. The appeal calls: 1) for unity in respecting a global church action (i.e. the 1990 and 1995 General Conference Session decisions on ministerial ordination); 2) for each union executive committee to carefully review the far-reaching effects of pursuing a course of action that is contrary to the decisions of the General Conference in session; and 3) for each union to participate in the current study about the theology of ordination and its implication.

1. Respecting a global decision of the Church

The world-wide Church recognizes the General Conference in Session as the highest ecclesiastical authority for Seventh-day Adventists. The 1990 and 1995 General Conference Session decisions with respect to granting ministerial ordination to women represent the current voice of the Church in this matter. The actions of certain unions indicate their desire to establish an alternative source of authority for a matter that already carries the authority of the world Church.

As currently understood in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, ordination to the gospel ministry is ordination to serve the global Church. No provision exists for a geographically localized ministerial ordination. Consequently the decision to change or modify ordination practices is a global one and necessitates a decision from the world body.

For any union to introduce a different ministerial ordination practice is seen, by the rest of the Church, as readiness to set aside a world Church decision (i.e. the 1990 and 1995 General Conference Session decisions on ministerial ordination). This creates widespread confusion, misunderstanding as well as erosion of trust and also nurtures doubt about these unions acting in good faith as members of the world-wide family.

Some who would encourage unions to proceed with ministerial ordination for women draw attention to selected statements from a General Conference Executive Committee document. As used by these individuals, the statements would indicate that a union has final authority in matters relating to ministerial ordination. Consequently the decision to change or modify ordination practices is a global one and necessitates a decision from the world body.

For one entity to express its reasoned dissent with a global decision of the Church might appear to some as a legitimate course of action. However, the implications of acting contrary to a world Church decision are not limited to the one
entity. Any organization contemplating a course of action contrary to a global Church decision must ask itself, "Is this the pattern of participation in Church life that we wish to establish and recommend for other entities to follow?" "How will we deal with the situation if an organization in our territory should decide to discontinue its participation in one or more matters under which it disagrees with the larger family of organizations?" Mutual agreement upon policies benefit the entire Church and keep it from fragmenting into independent, locally-driven units. They are the reflection of the Spirit-directed will of the body and allow each entity to look beyond itself for the good of the whole body of Christ.

3. Participation in the current study of ordination and its implications

General Conference officers welcome and invite unions to participate in the global study of ordination. This study will be the most widespread and thorough study the Church has undertaken on this topic. Earlier studies have been conducted by commissions. This is the first time that a study of ministerial ordination engages the whole Church through the 13 divisions.

Biblical Research Committees in all divisions have been asked to conduct a study on the theology of ordination and its implications. In addition, during 2012, the General Conference Administrative Committee will appoint a Theology of Ordination Study Committee, with representation from all divisions, to oversee and facilitate the global discussion process and to prepare reports for presentation to the General Conference Executive Committee. The Annual Council 2014 will determine what action, if any, should be recommended to the 2015 General Conference Session. Careful thought is being given to ensure that the study and education process is conducted with fairness and thoroughness in respect to examining the theology of ordination and its practical implications.

All unions are welcome to submit their conviction as part of the global dialog on this question. Their voices, along with others, in this matter need to be heard. Now is the time for unions to share their position on ministerial ordination, and the rationale behind it. Doing so will ensure that various perspectives will be clearly understood by the world Church.

The appeal sent by the General Conference officers to certain unions also reflects this Church leadership group’s message to other unions that may be considering similar steps with respect to ministerial ordination practices. The communication concludes: "We have shared with you our deep concerns about the course of action you have chosen. We realize that sharply differing convictions with respect to ministerial ordination for women exist in our global family. We also realize that the passage of time without finding satisfaction for the tensions on this question can give rise to frustration and the erosion of confidence that a timely and mutually satisfactory resolution can be found."

"We therefore earnestly appeal to you:

1. That your union continues to operate in harmony with the global decisions and global decision-making processes of the Church.
2. That until such time as the Church decides otherwise, your union refrains from taking any action to implement ministerial ordination practices that are contrary to the 1990 and 1995 General Conference Session actions.
3. That the union membership be informed concerning the implications for the entire Church in the event that one entity, for whatever reason, chooses a course of action in deliberate opposition to a decision of the whole Church.
4. That the union actively participates in the global discussions about the Church’s understanding and practice of ordination. The contributions of a union in this discussion can be forwarded to the Theology of Ordination Study Committee through the respective Ordination Study Committee set up by each division.

"Thank you for your willingness to receive and reflect on these things. We join you in diligently and prayerfully seeking to know the will, the blessing and the guidance of God in this and all other matters affecting our life together as a Church and our collective endeavor to advance His kingdom."

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1. At December 31, 2010 the Seventh-day Adventist Church had 60 unions with conference status and 59 unions with mission status.
2. The group of 40 officers involved include officers from the Presidential, Secretariat and Treasury offices of the General Conference plus the presidents of divisions who, in addition to being presidents of their divisions are vice-presidents of the General Conference.
3. The 1990 General Conference Session approved that women should be given wide participation in all church activities, including soul winning and pastoral duties, but that "in view of the possible risk of disunity, disension, and diversion from the mission of the Church" the Session also approved the Annual Council recommendation that ordination of women to the gospel ministry not be authorized.
4. The 1995 General Conference Session action denied the request of the North American Division that the Session adopt provisions on ordination as outlined below: "The General Conference vests in each division the right to authorize the ordination of individuals within its territory in harmony with established policies. In addition, where circumstances do not render it inadvisable, a division may authorize the ordination of qualified individuals without regard to gender. In divisions where the division executive committee takes specific actions approving the ordination of women to the gospel ministry, women may be ordained to serve in those divisions."
5. Information that a number of women serve as ordained ministers in China has been cited as justification, for unions elsewhere to proceed in a similar manner. It has been alleged that the Northern Asia-Pacific Division recognizes these ordinations and has therefore established a precedent for granting ministerial ordination to women. However, these ordinations were not authorized or conducted according to the policies of the Church. Nor are these ordinations approved or recognized/endorsed by the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. The Seventh-day Adventist Church does not have an officially organized structure in China that is comparable to other areas of the world. Government regulations do not permit outside involvement in church affairs within China. The practice, in China, of ministerial ordination for women is acknowledged as a reality that has arisen in China and is beyond the influence of the world-wide structure of the Seventh-day Advent Church.
The Waldo Canyon Fire invades the Mountain Shadows neighborhood of Colorado Springs, Colorado, on Tuesday.

The Waldo Canyon Fire invades the Mountain Shadows neighborhood of Colorado Springs, Colorado, on Tuesday.

(CNN) -- A raging wildfire has forced 32,000 residents to evacuate their homes near Colorado Springs, Colorado. Extreme heat and winds gusting to 65 mph fueled the Waldo Canyon Fire as it broke through containment lines Tuesday afternoon.

"It's horrific and terrifying and all those things, you know, we firefighters dread seeing," Colorado Springs Fire Department spokeswoman Sunny Smaldino told CNN's Carol Costello.

The fire doubled in size overnight, and 15,324 acres were burning by Wednesday morning, fire officials said.

"Right now, we're asking anybody who would like to help to donate to the Red Cross, and that will help all of the families that are going to be in need," Smaldino said.

Dave Rose, an El Paso County information officer, said one in four callers to the joint information center is offering food for firefighters, shelter for displaced neighbors or to volunteer in some capacity.

Reactions: Monster fire terrorizes a Colorado city

The Red Cross has opened four shelters for evacuees from the Waldo Canyon Fire. It is also providing shelter, meals and mental health services for victims of multiple fires in Colorado and neighboring Utah and New Mexico.

To support the Red Cross, go online, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or text the word "REDCROSS" to 90999 to make a $10 donation via your cell phone bill.

The Salvation Army is also responding to the needs of fire evacuees across the region, including coordinating meals at two shelters in Colorado Springs. Local volunteers can register to help with relief
Colorado fire 'smacks you in the face' 

Colorado Wildfires Force Evacuations

To make a donation to the Salvation Army's disaster response team, go online or call 1-800-SAL-ARMY. Designate donations for "Disaster Relief" or "Wildfires."

New app tracks Colorado wildfires

Six other wildfires remain active across the state, and five more were recently fully contained, according to the Colorado Department of Emergency Management. The largest active blaze is the High Park Fire near Fort Collins, which has burned 87,250 acres and is only 55% contained.

The Adventist Community Services Disaster Response team opened a donation center to help victims of the High Park Fire at Foothills Mall in Fort Collins.

"We need approximately a hundred volunteers a day to collect the donations coming in and sort them ... and also help with people as they're coming through shopping, because they're in a daze, quite
honestly," said ACS Community LIFT Communications Coordinator Donna Webb.

The center most urgently needs new socks and underwear, personal care items, camping gear, men's jeans, work boots and nonperishable food items. For a complete list of needs and volunteer opportunities at the center, visit HelpColoradoNow.org. To support Adventist Community Services Community LIFT's disaster response efforts, donate online.

Among the first responders battling the High Park Fire are volunteers from Rist Canyon, Glacier View and Poudre Canyon Volunteer Fire Departments. Each department accepts donations to support their response efforts and pay for supplies and equipment.

Donations to the Rist Canyon VFD can be mailed to RCVFD-Reasurer, P.O. Box 2, Bellvue, CO 80512, or visit RCVFD.org to donate via Paypal.

To support the Glacier View VFD, mail check donations to 1414 Green Mountain Drive, Livermore, CO 80536.

Poudre Canyon Volunteer Fire Department is accepting check donations mailed to P.O. Box 364, LaPorte, CO 80535, or call Canyon Utilities at 970-881-2262 to make a credit card donation to the department.

Some of the wildfires' smallest victims are the animals caught in the fire zone. Local humane societies are working to make sure their needs are not overlooked.

iReporters share their harrowing views of the western wildfires

The Larimer Humane Society is coordinating rescue, care and temporary shelter for animals affected by the High Park Fire. For more information or to make a donation, visit the organization's website.

The Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region is coordinating shelter for animals affected by the Waldo Canyon Fire. Donations can be made online to help the organization care for evacuated animals.

A team of volunteers at the Norris-Penrose Events Center is caring for 155 horses at the equestrian space in Colorado Springs.

"We have the best facilities for an evacuation process like this," General Manager Johnny Walker said. "We weren't financially set to do this, but that doesn't matter. It's all about the horses."

To help with large animal evacuation efforts at Norris-Penrose, donations can be made to the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Foundation's trust accounts at Chase, UMB or Stockmens Banks.

In New Mexico, the Little Bear Recovery Team is helping residents affected by the Little Bear Fire, which has burned 44,330 acres and is at 90% containment, according to the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

The organization's recovery center is seeking donations of baby diapers, Pedialyte, Enfamil and first aid kits. To volunteer or make a donation, visit the team's website.

Samaritan's Purse is taking work orders to help homeowners affected by the Little Bear Fire recover personal items and remove debris. Register to volunteer or make a donation online.

Photos: Wildfires rage in Western states
The Adventist Church is distributing copies of the book *The Great Hope* worldwide.

Written by Adventist Church co-founder Ellen G. White, the abridged version of the book would be updated in its language and include 11 chapters of the original *Great Controversy* which was originally written in 1888 and revised in 1911.

Already, tens of millions of copies of the paperback book in more than 80 languages have already been distributed in several parts of the world and nearly as many electronic copies of the book have been downloaded. Most of the church’s world regions are still in the early phases of their distribution.

Rumors in some world regions claim that there is litigation involved with *The Great Hope* project. Those rumors are untrue. "We are seeing that tools like email, social media and SMS text messages can be tools for good as well as tools for mischief," said world church Public Relations Director Garrett Caldwell.

"If the church encountered legal action against such an important initiative it would be widely reported through official church news channels, such as the Adventist News Network," Caldwell said.

The distribution project will continue through 2013 with more than 170 million copies marked for sharing. See the project's website at [greatcontroversyproject.adventist.org](http://greatcontroversyproject.adventist.org).
7-10-12 New Treasurer Announced for Southeastern California Conference

July 9, 2012 (Riverside, CA) – The Executive Committee of the Southeastern California Conference voted to appoint Verlon Strauss as the new treasurer. The committee announced their decision to be effective immediately.

Strauss has served as associate treasurer for the conference since November 2010. Part of his responsibilities included managing the conference audit, performing accounting of all the bond transactions and assisting with the implementation of the NAD treasury software.

Strauss came to SECC from Loma Linda University where he worked in multiple senior management positions. When he left, he was the senior vice president for financial affairs. Prior to his time at LLU, he worked in the private audit sector as well as for the General Conference Auditing service. Strauss holds a MBA from La Sierra University, a BBA from Pacific Union College as well as a CPA license.

He replaces Thomas Staples, who retired at the end of June. Staples served 18 years as SECC treasurer and has over 40 years of denomination employment experience around the globe.

"I am excited about the opportunity to provide good and effective leadership and follow the tradition that Tom Staples set. I look forward to continuing to work with the treasury department staff in this new capacity as well as the challenges that we will face together," stated Strauss.
7-11-12 Oakwood University’s President Dr. Leslie Pollard’s “evangelism"

Saving the Least, the Lost and the Last!

How did Oakwood University’s “freshman president” fare?

by Dawnette Chambers, President, CSM Agency, a student-created/run public relations agency at Oakwood University, Huntsville, Alabama, USA

By any “report card,” Oakwood University President Dr. Leslie N. Pollard, 56, completed his first full “freshman year” with top grades.

As OU’s first president with both ministerial and academic doctorates and an MBA, this board-appointed “Chief Spiritual Officer” and alumnus can point to several kudos at the completion of his first full year, namely:

1. A pioneering ISO 9001 certification, an internationally recognized standard of quality business management – the first and only SDA or historically black college/university (HBCU) or Alabama institution so certified;
2. Establishing a Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations at Oakwood, reaching out now to the world’s 1 billion Muslims;
3. Spearheading the Consortium of Adventist African Universities and Partners, bringing together for the first time all SDA colleges and universities from the heartland of the historical African Diaspora, for faculty and student cultural exchanges;
4. Reached for the first time the 2,000-sudent milestone, and possessing the highest black male enrollment (41%) of all schools in the United Negro College Fund, the consortium of 39 private U.S. HBCUs;
5. A 150% enrollment increase in the Oakwood LEAP adult degree completion program, while offering former Oakwoodites the “tuition amnesty” of Deuteronomy 15:1;
6. Because of April 27, 2011’s tornado-causing power outage that shut down north Alabama and forced Oakwood to re-schedule its Commencement, alumni and friends launched a $310,000 fundraising campaign to purchase back-up generators;
7. Oakwood, “the Julliard of the South,” produced repeating national choral champions, the Aeolians, who will compete in the 7th World Choir Games, the world’s largest global choral competition; and
8. Oakwood is home to two other national champions: its men’s basketball and Honda Academic All-Stars runner-ups.

An author, former pastor and noted theologian, Pollard re-affirms Oakwood’s spiritual heritage: “Ultimately, in a faith-based institution, that’s the dimension they (parents and students) are paying for. I mean, you can go anywhere to learn geometry.”

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7-05-12 Hadley, 91, leaves legacy of medical missionary service

Dr. G. Gordon Hadley was dean of the School of Medicine at Seventh-day Adventist-run Loma Linda University in California and for decades defined the school’s medical outreach to India, China and Afghanistan.

Hadley, who died June 29 at age 91, also served a term as director of the Adventist world church’s Health Ministries department.

At the helm of the Loma Linda University School of Medicine from 1977 to 1986, Hadley sharpened the school’s focus on overseas mission and spirituality in healthcare education. He taught in the department of Pathology and Human Anatomy and mentored pathology students.

Hadley grew up in Washington, D.C., where his father’s ministry to the region’s underprivileged population impressed upon him the value of service and compassion. From a young age, he wanted to become a medical doctor.

Shortly after his graduation from Loma Linda University in 1944 (then the College of Medical Evangelists), Hadley was drafted by the U.S. military. After two years of service at the 138th Evacuation Hospital in Europe, he was discharged and returned to Loma Linda to complete a three-year residency in pathology.

Hadley spent more than a decade teaching at Loma Linda University and completing occasional mission assignments at medical colleges in Vellore, India, and in Kabul and Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

“I remember he would tell mission stories in Sabbath School and church from his early days in Afghanistan,” said Fred Hardinge, an associate director for the Adventist world church’s Health Ministries.

“They were always so inspiring,” he added. “And he went back later in life to continue the work and relationships that he had established there. I found that so admirable.”

In 1994, Hadley assumed leadership of the church’s then fledgling Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital in Hangzhou, China. In 2001, Loma Linda University officials turned once again to Hadley’s leadership skills, this time with Kabul Medical Institute in mind. Although he and his wife Alphie’s relocation plans were interrupted by the September 11 terrorist attacks, Hadley did return to Afghanistan for several months, supervising an overhaul of the facility’s curriculum.

In 2011, Hadley received the Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center Lifetime Service Award for his contributions to the academic and health care community.

Hadley is survived by his wife, Alphie; son, Walter; and two daughters, Patty and Bonnie.

A memorial service was held Saturday, July 7, at the Loma Linda University Adventist Church.

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Adventist News Network
Huntsville, AL (July 9, 2012) -- The Aeolians Choir of Oakwood University (www.oakwood.edu) has been invited to, and will compete in the 7th World Choir Games - the world's largest international choral competition. It was announced by INTERKULTUR, the International Organizing Committee of the World Choir Games (www.2012worldchoirgames.com) in Cincinnati, Ohio, July 11-13.

The Aeolians will serve as the only Seventh-day Adventist and/or the only Alabama choir to participate in this biennial event, known as the "Olympics of choral music."

According to Ferdinand the Oakwood choristers, the 2010 and 2011 national HBCU choir champions and, more recently, the sole U.S. performers in the seven-day Second International Moscow Christmas Festival of Sacred Music in Russia in January, will compete in three categories: Contemporary Music, Music of Religions and Negro Spirituals.

Black-on-Black . . . love? HBCU Wilberforce University's Jeremy Winston Chorale will also compete. Chorale director Jeremy Winston is a former Oakwood Aeolian, choir-mate and very good friend of current Aeolians director, Jason Max Ferdinand.

Hmmm., . . . a first-time, head-to-head duel of former Oakwood Aeolians-turned-HBCU-choral-directors . . . battling now on the world stage?
"This also marks the first time ever the World Choir Games will be held in North America; previous venues were Austria, China, South Korea and Germany."

The World Choir Games takes place every two years. Approximately 20,000 participants, including 400 choirs from 70 countries, are expected to attend the 2012 Games. There will be competition in 23 musical categories, including Barbershop and Show Choirs, which have been added for the first time because of their popularity in the United States.

This first-ever World Choir Games invitation/competition for Oakwood University caps an unprecedented 2011-2012 school year for this 115-year old United Negro College Fund school, namely:

1. Newly-inaugurated 11th president, Dr. Leslie N. Pollard, is OU's first leader with both ministerial and academic doctorates - and an MBA, http://www.atoday.org/article/1104/news/april-headlines/weekend-feature-oakwood-s-new-president-after-one-year; therefore and as a result

2. OU is the first and only HBCU and Alabama school that's ISO-certified, http://www.oakwood.edu/news/1604-oakwood-university-a-pioneer-with-iso-9001-certification; and


4. Through establishing its new Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations at OU (CAMROU), OU's reaching out now to the world's 1 billion Muslims, http://www.oakwood.edu/news/1597-oakwood-university-opens-adventist-muslim-center, as well as through its Consortium of Adventist African Universities and Partners (CAAUP), bringing together for the first time all Seventh-day Adventist colleges and universities from the African Diaspora, http://www.oakwood.edu/images/zfiles/administration/Presidents-FYI%20Presidents%20FYI%20Issue%2070%20-%20February%202012.pdf;


10. Oakwood's LEAP adult degree completion program offers dirt-cheap private-school tuition ($269/credit hour) as well as extends to former "Oakwoodites" tuition amnesty, following the Holy Bible's Deuteronomy 15:1, http://www.atoday.org/article/1150/news/april-headlines/oakwood-university-to-seek-an-enrollment-of-3-500 - what no financial institution or credit card will ever do!

VIDEO: See and hear Aeolians director Jason Max Ferdinand and music department chair (and former Aeolian chorister and director) Dr. Wayne Bucknor discuss the World Choir Games, "Aeolians 101" and "What is 'the Oakwood Sound'?" at www.youtube.com/oakwooduniversityhsv.

PRESS CONTACT:
Tim Allston
Oakwood University
tallston@oakwood.edu
256-694-5651

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Aliethia Evans
I AM SO PROUD OF THE AEOLIANS AND MY ALMA MATER! YAAAAAY! Jason Max Ferdinand.
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Annette Maynard-Phillip
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Collegedale 1 of the fastest growing in Tenn.

COLLEGEDALE, Tenn. (AP) — Ted Rogers remembers riding his bike down rural Apison Pike through Collegedale as a boy, heading to the Trading Post to buy candy. The town center known as Four Corners was just a couple of businesses and didn’t have a stoplight.

Rogers, now Collegedale’s city manager, drives down the same street to get to work, but it’s clustered with restaurants, banks, gas stations and shops. And that’s just the beginning.

“We are in the middle of some pretty incredible growth in Collegedale, and we're only on the cusp,” he said.

Collegedale is still — relatively speaking — a small town: Just 8 square miles and 8,200 residents, according to the most recent U.S. census. But with its population spiking 27 percent since 2000, Collegedale is the fastest-growing city in Hamilton County and one of the quickest-growing in the state.

But its 2,000-person growth recorded over 10 years doesn’t even take into account the activity in the city since the Volkswagen plant and Amazon facilities at nearby Enterprise South industrial park became fully operational.

“I consider those census figures already out of date for Collegedale,” said Kelly Martin, who in an act of foresight was hired as the town’s strategic planner last year.

In rolling fields along Little Debbie Parkway, the most recent sign of growth is beginning to take shape: a $19 million, 278-unit luxury apartment complex called Integra Hills that is expected to be complete in early 2013.

Work on another 246-unit complex on Apison Pike will begin in the upcoming weeks, Rogers said.

And those come after the $100 million development of retirement community Greenbriar Cove.

"While the majority of us would like to keep our quaint, small-town feel, we fully recognize and accept that growth is coming," Mayor John Turner said. “But we're trying to keep our small-town mindset."

---

MAGNETISM

Many factors have aligned to make Collegedale the magnet it is becoming, explains Rogers.

The town has had steady employers in the Collegedale-based Southern Adventist University — owned by the Seventh-day Adventist Church — and McKee Foods, producers of Little Debbie Snacks. Both fared well in the recession.

But with the arrival of Volkswagen, the city literally found itself at a crossroads — adjacent to Enterprise South and the growing number of employers in the vicinity, making it a nearby and attractive place for those employees to live.

The city is zoned for some of the best schools in town and has one of the lowest property tax rates in the county. It also has its own municipal airport.

There is a lot of property — and potential — for more businesses to serve the growing population.

"Collegedale is on retailers' radar screens because we have a relatively affluent population that is largely underserved in certain retail markets," said Martin.

Pilar Albernas, who in 2011 opened Ají Peruvian Restaurant on Ooltewah-Ringgold Road with her family, said she's pleased with how the restaurant's opening has been timed with such development.

"With all the construction here, it's growing every day," Albernas said.

Besides growing in population, Collegedale also has grown in physical size. The city has annexed outlying property within the urban growth boundary designated by Hamilton County and is continuing to move forward in that process.

The growth has led to a new crop of headaches, including concerns about public safety — growing the town's police force was a hot topic in this year's budget hearings — and outgrown infrastructure.

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STRATEGIC GROWTH

More roads — and bigger roads — are leading to Collegedale.

A new exit off Interstate 75 linked Collegedale straight to the highway, and the Tennessee Department of Transportation is about to start widening Apison Pike to a five-lane road and rerouting a new connection with East Brainerd Road.

With these expansions, Rogers and Martin say more roadside businesses and retailers are inevitable.

"I see that really breaking loose in the next 18 months," said Martin.

But "breaking loose," doesn't mean uncontrolled growth, city leaders emphasize.

Over the last several years, commissioners have passed development ordinances bent on promoting an ideal Rogers calls "attractive constraint." The goal is to keep businesses and apartment complexes from being "monolithic," "barenaked-brick" and "an incoherent mish-mash" of buildings — just several of the terms city leaders used to describe what they want to avoid.

Buildings are to be constructed with a variety of quality materials and architectural offsets that are naturally pleasing to the eye. Landscaping ordinances call for greenery to soften corners, hide heating and air conditioning units and provide a buffer between properties. Parking lots need curbs. Ideally, all signs will be monument-styled with brick, cement and stone.

"It gives us the opportunity to have planned growth. Not restricted growth, but with zoning and sign ordinances and design standards. We're raising the bar, asking them to make an investment," said Turner.
These ordinances have provided a gateway for the luxury apartment complexes and more upscale businesses, Rogers says.

"It essentially provides owners with shared property value protection," Rogers explains. "People are willing to make a business look nicer if they know the one next to them will put in the same effort."

ADVENTIST INFLUENCE

More influential than strategic zoning and sign ordinances, Collegedale's character has been largely defined by the Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

"Collegedale started as an Adventist community. I think it's fair to say it's been rather influential in terms of the attractiveness of the area," said City Commissioner Larry Hanson, an Adventist who retired from a long professorship at Southern Adventist University.

The town draws its name from the school, which moved there in 1916. The fibers of Adventist values have been woven into the community in many other such prominent and more subtle ways.

Hanson said an Adventist mentality of stewardship and "looking after each other" has led to a community of good neighbors, with the creation of the nonprofit Samaritan Center and other church-related missions.

O.D. and Ruth McKee — who began McKee Foods — met when the university was still Southern Junior College.

A long list of commissioners have identified themselves as Adventist. And the university has made a big impact on the city's arts scene. It is home to the area's only classical music station, WSMC-FM, and has spurred the creation of the Eastern Tennessee Symphony Orchestra.

Local businesses have learned to cater to the beliefs of its large population of Adventists, who do not work on Saturdays. Many abstain from alcohol and from meat.

"We're spoiled by the restaurants here," laughs Lucas Patterson, editorial manager for the university, who said that many restaurants like Rafael's Pizzeria offer specialty toppings and foods for their Adventist customers.

"We went to a sub shop in Chattanooga the other day and my sons asked what kind of 'fake meat' they had," Patterson said. "I just say, 'You'll have to forgive my children; they're from Collegedale.' That's the reference point."

But as more people unaffiliated with the Adventist faith move into the city, some of that direct influence is being diluted.

Hanson estimates that less than 50 percent of the Collegedale population is now Adventist. More businesses are open on Saturdays, and the city has recently become much more alcohol-friendly.

Voters approved a controversial liquor-by-the drink referendum allowing restaurants to serve alcohol, and just last month overturned a ban that erased any distance specifications between churches and businesses that sell alcohol.

Vinita Sauder, the vice president of Southern who has lived in Collegedale for 25 years, said that while changes in the alcohol rules have upset some residents, it hasn't led to conflict.

"It's part of adaptation. As the city matures and businesses move in, we can adjust," she said. "Obviously we'd prefer to be a dry city, but we're not the only tenant in town."

As the city grows, mutual collaboration is "stronger than ever," Sauder said.

"We're growing together. We have healthy businesses, healthy university, and a healthy city."
Who knew?

Dr. Gary Frazer conducted a survey comparing lifestyles of Adventists to non-Adventists. “The men were living about seven years longer, and the women about four-and-a-half years longer than their non-Adventist neighbors,” Frazer said.

And how come? “We believe that there’s about four or five different factors that we were able to identify,” he said. “Being a vegetarian seemed to help. Being careful about your body weight, like, not being too thin or not being overweight. Interestingly, people who ate nuts four or five times a week, just small amounts every day, seemed to benefit. People who have never been a smoker. And the last one was, being careful with your physical activity, and being sure that you exercised vigorously three or four times a week.”

There are other factors to longevity. CBS Sunday Morning reports on them. The Adventists Health study.

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One Response to “Adventists Live Longer”

1. *RP* says:
   July 8, 2012 at 4:39 pm

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Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital's prayer boxes grow in popularity

Matt Russell
Journatic News Service

10:15 AM CDT, July 5, 2012

Prayer boxes placed throughout Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital have special meaning for both patients and hospital staff.

Some prayers are scribbled quickly on the back of receipts, while others are printed neatly on scrap paper. Still others are penciled on the back of business cards created solely for prayer requests. The ones scrawled in children's large, careful handwriting mean the most to Monica Stadnicki.

"Please pray for my grandma so she can get better," one child's prayer reads, according to a press release.

Stadnicki, a financial counselor in the hospital's admitting department, placed the first prayer box years ago and invited coworkers to submit requests. She recently expanded the program by placing boxes at each patient registration station for patients and family members. Employees started to take notice, and soon the boxes started appearing throughout the hospital.

Prayers written by co-workers remain confidential. Once the box is full, Stadnicki takes it to the hospital chapel and empties it into a basket. After making the prayers, members of the pastoral care department dispose of the scraps of paper by burning them.

As for prayers written by patients and their families, Stadnicki collects and prays for them every Friday. Sometimes a co-worker helps her read the requests. When she is too busy to devote time to prayer, she brings the pile to the pastoral care department so chaplains can pray for the requests.

"Reading through the prayers is heart-wrenching and uplifting at the same time," said Jenny Tillay, manager of pastoral care at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital in the release. "We're grateful for prayer warriors like Monica, who put their faith into action by reaching out to their co-workers and to our patients and their families."
Employees in the health information management department place prayer requests in a blue porcelain box set out by HIM technician Norma Lovett. The box is inscribed with a message: "I said a prayer for you," and cites Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Lovett believes the box provides an important spiritual outlet for her team members.

"It brings a sense of peace to the department," she said.

The idea didn't become a success overnight. Co-workers slowly warmed up to the prayer boxes during the first several weeks after they were first set out. Both Stadnicki and Lovett are spiritual ambassadors, employees who voluntarily serve to meet the spiritual needs of their co-workers, offering prayers, a listening ear and other types of support.

"At first, people were reluctant," Stadnicki said. "But now, the people who weren't warm to the idea are the first to submit their prayers. And I think it's made us a better team. We've grown and have become more like a family. I really feel like this is why I'm here at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital. God put me here for a specific purpose, to pray for others."
LARIMER COUNTY, Colo. — People across Colorado want to do their part to help the hundreds of victims of the High Park Fire. Now, a donation center in Fort Collins is serving as a clearing house for the massive donations that are expected over the next few weeks.

At the Foothills Mall in Fort Collins they’re not gearing up for a sale or clearance, but for a cause.

In what was once a Mervyn’s now stands a warehouse for the High Park Fire weary.

It is a large location for those looking to donate and those looking to receive, and where the only tags are yellow ones that say “free.”

“I have worked Katrina, the Windsor tornado, Four Mile Canyon,” says Cathy Kissner, with Adventist Disaster Response. “We sort it, we set it up in boxes, and then we set up a store [with] the gifts the community has given them.”

The donation center is also looking for items ranging from diapers to pet food to laundry detergent.

“If any disaster happens in the country, we immediately respond to it,” says Koy McKoy, with Americorp. “A lady brought in a bucketful of dolls. I was just thinking about the children.”

Children, adults, animals—all affected by fire, and in many cases now forced to start over with one-stop shopping under one roof.

The Red Cross is also doing its part to help evacuees.

On Monday they opened their bulk distribution center at The Ranch in Loveland.

 Volunteers are putting kits together that include sifters, shovels, rakes, work gloves and masks.

The items are to help clean up the mess that’s left behind from the fire fight.

“Once they do get to go back to their homes, there’s going to be a mess there,” says Bill Fortune with American Red Cross. “Our hope is when they’re back there cleaning it up our goal is to make it safe.”

The kits also include personal items for home owners to help start the re-building process.

http://kwgn.com/2012/06/18/high-park-fire-donation-center-ready-to-give-receive/
SAUK RAPIDS — Jack Jones wants people to know he is not a cult member.

Jones belongs to the Countryside Christian Center, a Seventh-day Adventist Church, which is a Protestant Christian denomination that observes, Saturday — the seventh day of the week — as the Sabbath.

The Sauk Rapids church had its 120th anniversary on Saturday. Countryside Christian Center includes about 80 members.

“We actually discovered it by accident,” said Head Elder Eric Emerson of the anniversary date of the center's founding. “We were looking through some of the old church documents.”

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is the fastest-growing Christian denomination in North America, growing by 2.5 percent, according to The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.

“A lot of people say that the Seventh-day Adventist church is a cult. We’re not. We are Christian. We do believe in Jesus. We accept him as our savior, and out of love for him, we keep the seventh day as the Sabbath, according to the Ten Commandments,” Jones said.

Beliefs

Among the fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is its emphasis on the second coming (or advent) of Jesus Christ.

“In Catholicism, they believe that when you die you either go to hell or you go to heaven or you go to purgatory,” said Jones, a St. Joseph resident. “We believe that when we die, we are in the grave until Jesus comes again, the second time.”

A unique doctrine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church maintains that a divine judgment of professed Christians has been ongoing since the 1840s.

“Adventists believe that God is concerned with the quality of human life, and that..."
everything — the way we live, eat, speak, think, treat each other and care for the world around us — is a part of His plan," according to the center’s website.

“We are Bible-based. We don’t have any other books or anything that give us any special insight, spiritually, other than the Bible itself, so that’s one of the things that attracted me most to it,” said Emerson, who helps the pastor provide support to parishioners.

“One of the things that people think that Adventists are about is that they’re vegetarians — many of them are — but only 50 percent of the Church population is vegetarian; what we encourage is healthy living.”

Anniversary

North America is home to 1.1 million of the world’s 16 million Adventists, and it is growing more than twice as fast overseas, according to The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.

“Most people would be surprised we have been around this long, because they probably weren’t aware that it was there,” Emerson said. “When you don’t worship on Sundays, people think that you’re oddball and perhaps that you wouldn’t believe in Jesus.”

Jones has been going to the Sauk Rapids church for almost two decades; his mom and dad were Seventh-day Adventists, he said.

“I think the longevity is there, because there are people who are looking for that unique experience,” Emerson said.

More online
For information about the Countryside Christian Center of Sauk Rapids, call 252-0325 or visit http://countryside23.adventistchurchconnect.org.

Advertisement

For information about the Countryside Christian Center of Sauk Rapids, call 252-0325 or visit http://countryside23.adventistchurchconnect.org.
Beliefs
Seventh-day Adventists describe their beliefs in the following ways:
• God wants you to see a clear picture of his character, and in doing so, find his love irresistible.
• Scripture is a road map. The Bible is God’s voice, speaking his love personally to you today.
• Jesus never changes; Jesus is creator, sustainer, savior, friend, God’s son and God himself.
• God loves you and wants to give you the highest quality of life imaginable.
• In the heart of God is a place you can experience as home. God loves you, and wants to spend time with you personally.
Source: www.adventist.org/beliefs/index.html
What's the secret to living a longer life?

Consider this: Scientists are now researching the way bees think. Yes, the way bees THINK, and altering the lifespan of microscopic worms in search of groundbreaking answers.

"What has happened in the last 20 years is really a dramatic breakthrough in our understanding that lifespan itself is quite changeable," said Gordon Lithgow, a molecular biologist at the Buck Institute for Research on Aging in Marin County, near San Francisco.

But before we get to the science, some essential life lessons from people who've already cruised into old age:

Ellsworth Wareham was born October 3, 1914. (That makes Dr. Wareham 97 years old.) He performed his last operation as a heart surgeon just three years ago. What's his recipe for longevity?

"I think one of the important things is a plant-based diet, which is another way of saying that you are a vegetarian," said Dr. Ellsworth.

Becky Beck's another super-senior. She misses neither a beat nor a stitch. "I am 98 years old and I have been quilting for about 70 years," she said.

What's HER secret? "I don't drink coffee, I don't drink tea," she said.

And if you want to catch up with 101-year-old Herb Wile, meet him at the gym. "The body is the temple of the Spirit of God, and the scriptures says keep our bodies healthy and well," Wile said. "If you have a healthy body you generally have a healthy mind and they go well together."

Herb Wile, Ellsworth Wareham and Becky Beck all live in Loma Linda, Calif., and they are all 7th Day Adventists - a Protestant denomination that emphasizes physical health as a vital pathway to spiritual health.

Dr. Gary Frazer conducted a survey comparing lifestyles of Adventists to non-Adventists. "The men were living about seven years longer, and the women about four-and-a-half years longer than their non-Adventist neighbors," Frazer said.

And how come? "We believe that there's about four or five different factors that we were able to identify," he said. "Being a vegetarian seemed to help. Being careful about your body weight, like, not being too thin or not being overweight. Interestingly, people who ate nuts four or five times a week, just small amounts every day, seemed to benefit. People who have never been a smoker. And the last one was, being careful with your physical activity, and being sure that you exercised vigorously three or four times a week."
But before you rush out and become a vegetarian - or a 7th day Adventist - there's another critical element that helps determine how long you'll live: Genetics.

In New York City some super-centenarians - living to 100 and over - are subjects of a study by Dr. Nir Barzilai, director of the Longevity Genes Project at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

What's remarkable about these folks - all Eastern European Ashkenazy Jews - is that, while their lifestyles may not have been the healthiest, that just doesn't seem to matter.

"As a group they have been overweight," said Dr. Barzilai. "They have been smoking - 50 percent of them have been smoking. Only a few have been exercising. Because they have the genes that protect them, they do not have to work with the environment the way you and I should."

Dr. Barzilai is in the vanguard of a growing army of researchers working to get a handle on how, and why, we age.

The fact is, advances in health care and pharmaceuticals are already extending lives. In 2010, there were more than 70,000 centenarians (people living to 100 and beyond). But glance ahead to 2050, and the projected number soars to 4.2 MILLION.

And strides in research could boost that figure - and better the odds - for all of us.

"The aging field has just exploded. It's really incredible, what's been achieved in basic labs like this, with worms and flies and yeast cells," Dr. Lithgow said. He showed Petersen "clumps of shiny, green proteins" which had become damaged during normal aging, clumping together. "This is a process we are trying to stop," he said.

"It turns out that we can change the rate of aging quite simply in simple animals, which is really incredible."

By understanding and manipulating genes, Lithgow is learning to design therapies that treat age-related diseases in humans.

"I think we should be thinking about the diseases of aging in the way that we now think about the childhood diseases that we grew up with," Lithgow said.

"Your sense is that someday we may think about Alzheimer's or Parkinson's the way I think of measles or mumps?" Petersen asked.

"I think we will think of them as diseases that still occur that we have to take precautions against," he replied.

But a healthy older body needs a healthy mind . . . and that's where BEES come in.

It turns out they have the same kind of brain cells as humans (though far fewer of them). Arizona State University researcher Gro Amdam plays a mind game that works like this: The bees get a whiff of a distinctive odor, followed by a taste of sugar water.

"Sugar is like a chocolate cake for bees," Amdam said. "And the bee will respond to that by sticking out her tongue."

Amden determines just how quickly the bee figures out that a whiff of the scent means a treat is on
its way. The older the bee, the slower the learning curve.

but that can be reversed: Changing the bee's lifestyle can lead to restoring a more youthful brain.

For the proof . . . head to the hive.

The average lifespan of a bee is about 30 days. But in that time, they can give us a fountain of useful knowledge.

Their first task as adults is taking care of the eggs laid by the queen. They all work together. As they age, they become so-called “foragers,” leaving the hive to find nourishment for the eggs. Now alone, as single busy bees, their brain CHANGES.

"Because after a while, as a forager the bee brain actually deteriorates, much like you see in people with dementia," Amdam said.

But force the bees back in time by returning them to the hive - and their brains snap back.

"They can better remember new things again, an ability that was lost to them as their brain aged when they were foragers," Amdam said.

Key here is that bees are SOCIAL beings, and have a tough time coping with the stress of foraging alone.

"A bee deals very poorly with loneliness. If you isolate a bee, she will usually not survive more than about a week or ten days," Amdam said.

Petersen asked: "How does this help me?"

"It helps you because it shows that a social intervention can trigger proteins that can heal your brain," Amdam explained. "Changing your social life is something you can do today."

"What do I do?" Petersen asked.

"You should get married," she suggested.

"It's remarkable to see even in experiments with worms and flies, that we're beginning to understand that stress is a major factor," said Lithgow. "And I think what socialization does, it alleviates stress. It provides support in a community."

So if we learn from the worms and the bees, we need to stay socially connected . . . watch out for stress.

And by making the right choices about diet and exercise, it's possible we might add up to ten years to our lives.

"Can you imagine children and grandchildren with another ten years of healthy lifespan for grandparents? That's a wonderful thing," Lithgow said. "It's something we really should be going after. And it's something that the science is telling us is absolutely possible."

How close? Lithgow said, "I see, in terms of the choices we make, we can do this today."
For more info:

- Buck Institute for Research on Aging, Novato, Calif.
- Dr. Gordon Lithgow
- Adventist Health Study, Loma Linda University School of Public Health
- Institute for Aging Research, Albert Einstein College
- Amdam Lab, Arizona State University

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TribLocal's annual survey of private high schools found students with special needs have a couple of options in the Bolingbrook area, including Joliet's Dillard Harris Educational Center and UCP Reedswood School.

UCP Reedswood School caters exclusively to students with some form of disability, either physical or related to learning. All students are referred to the school from the surrounding public school systems so that students' families effectively pay no tuition to send their children to UCP.

Instead, the school is paid directly by the public school system on a daily rate per student.

"We serve students with autism, multiple disabilities, developmental disabilities and cognitive impairment," said Susan Knaperek, UCP school director. "I'd say the only students we are not working with at this time are those who are emotionally disturbed."

UCP currently has 60 students enrolled from ages 3 to 22, ranging from preschool to high school. Class sizes do not exceed 10 students, and there is one teacher and two licensed paraprofessionals per class. None of the latest UCP graduates pursued higher education.

The school's curriculum presents a blend of traditional academics with life skills designed to help students live independently and become functioning members of their communities. Students are also taught pre-vocational skills to prepare them for life after graduation.

"We actually focus more on the functional daily living skills of the students that we have there," said Knaperek. "Especially for the more severe students, which are the majority of them. We take into account communication, motor skills, community outings, functional academics, recreational leisure, and daily living skills for independent functioning."

Academics are not based so much on a student's grade level as they are on a student's particular aptitude for a subject. About 20 of the school's students are taking modified high school-level courses. There is no waiting
Dillard Harris Educational Center, in the Guardian Angels Community Services facility, serves students enrolled in special education from grades 6 through 12. The school only accepts students who have been suspended or expelled from public schools in the area, either permanently or temporarily, and who have special education needs.

Although the school has 52 students, it served about 94 students during the just-ended school year. Three students graduated eighth grade and nine graduated high school during the past school year. Two students plan to enroll in college in the fall.

Like UCP Reedswood, there is no tuition for students who attend Dillard Harris. The public school system compensates Dillard Harris at a per diem rate determined by the state of Illinois.

Dillard students get close attention. The student-to-teacher ratio is 5-to-1, and classes are capped at 10 students, attended by a licensed special education instructor and a certified paraprofessional. The curriculum revolves around traditional athletics, life skills and social skills, as well as career training.

"With the ratios being so small, the students get a little bit of extra support," said Laura Coan, Dillard Harris program director.

One of the principal benefits available to Dillard students is its counseling program. The school employs a full-time, licensed counselor and social worker. It also has a pair of social work and counseling interns who provide weekly counseling sessions for students.

"Some students get an infraction at a public school, and because they're special ed, they get a 45-day suspension and come to us for that 45 days," Coan said. "We continue their academics and provide them with counseling and work on the issues that they got kicked out of their public school for."

There is no waiting list at Dillard Harris.
Richland pastor to bike across U.S. to raise money to buy 1 million diapers

A 56-year-old Richland pastor plans to ride across America four months after having open-heart surgery in hopes of raising enough money to buy 1 million diapers for infants.

Eric Shadle of the Richland Seventh-day Adventist Church will start the 3,700-mile journey Sunday.

"When I think about the need for diapers, I think about how vulnerable those in diapers are," he said.

Shadle serves as a board member of the Tri-Cities Diaper bank, which helps poor families get diapers.

The bank has collected 150,000 diapers since its founding 18 months ago, a feat Shadle said would have been impossible without community support.

Shadle hopes to further the goals of diaper banks across the nation when he rides in July.

Plans for the ride have been a year in the making. Shadle said he is not a hardcore cyclist, but he has worked with a trainer and been on several long-distance rides.

But last November, Shadle faced a serious complication for the ride. He started experiencing severe chest pain during his training.

On Feb. 8, doctors performed open-heart surgery and said he would need at least three months of recovery before he could get back on a bike.

Shadle's friends and family brought a new black bicycle to the hospital for motivation. He said the bike, and his dedication to all the infants dependent on the diaper bank, encouraged him through his recovery.

Shadle said the need for diapers is great, but -- like a difficult bike ride -- it is important to keep pedaling.

"When it gets tough (on a ride), I focus on the next 20 pedals. Here at the diaper bank, we need to think of the next person that comes through our doors," he said.

Families spend on average $100 a month on diapers for one infant, Shadle said. The cost forces poor families to choose between diapers and other necessities, like food.

"People are responding to this real need," he said.

And now the National Diaper Bank Network also has responded with a pledge to match donations, diaper-for-diaper, up to 250,000 diapers, said Renee Martin, associate program manager for the Tri-Cities Diaper Bank.

To reach the 1 million diaper goal, the bank hopes to raise $250,000. Because the bank can purchase diapers for 14 to 15 cents each in bulk at Walmart, money is the most effective means of donation. However, the bank accepts diaper donations of any brand and size -- even opened packages, Martin said.

More than a week from Shadle's ride, the bank already has received $40,000 in donations. Donations can be made at ride4diapers.org and tricitiesdiaperbank.org.

Along the way, Shadle plans to speak at churches and diaper banks every weekend.
Shadle's mission will fuel him as he rides 70 miles a day on average, six days a week, until he reaches Silver Spring, Md., on Sept. 5.

Shadle said he feels strong enough to handle the distance, despite his recent surgery.

A team of volunteers will shadow Shadle on his route by vehicle. They will carry his luggage, food and water so Shadle can focus on the ride.

Shadle's own church will hold a public event and breakfast at 8 a.m. the morning Shadle begins his ride. But Shadle plans to begin his ride down George Washington Way by 8:30 a.m., as his first day holds a 100-mile trip to Pomeroy.

The bank will accept donations at the launch party, and members of the community are welcome to ride along Shadle -- by bike, skateboard or whatever -- as he leaves Richland.

-- Eric Francavilla: 509-582-1535; efrancavilla@tricityherald.com

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I stopped for a late lunch at the Living Well Bistro on my way home from visiting family in Oregon this past weekend. This is a relatively new addition to the vegan restaurant listings for Portland, Oregon on Happy Cow. The man at the counter said that the Bistro opened up about 8-9 months ago. I’m ecstatic that I discovered it. It’s located just inside the Adventist Medical Center.
As a health care provider who is constantly frustrated with the nutrient-poor food served in “typical” hospitals and nursing homes, I still can’t contain my enthusiasm about dining in a 100% Plant-Based restaurant inside a hospital. Pinch me! This gives me hope for the future of health care.

I looked on the Adventist Health website and found that the hospital also has a Garden Cafe, which “…embraces the Adventist position of practicing a vegetarian lifestyle to support the holistic nature of humankind. All food or beverages consumed should honor and glorify God and preserve the health of the body, mind and spirit.”

You can poke around this website to learn more about the Adventist Health Studies (AHS) at Loma Linda University. AHS are “long-term studies exploring the links between lifestyle, diet, and disease among Seventh-day Adventists.”

I found out that, of the 96,000 AHS-2 study participants…

- 8% are vegan
- 28% are lacto-ovo vegetarian
- 10% are pesco-vegetarian
- 6% are semi-vegetarian (eating meat/fish less than once per week)
- 48% are non-vegetarian.

So how do those numbers compare to the U.S. general public?

According to the 2011 Harris Interactive survey (conducted on behalf of the Vegetarian Resource Group)...

- 5% are vegetarian
- Half of the vegetarians are vegan (2 1/2%)

That’s quite a difference. Those numbers are WAY too low! No wonder that the Adventist Health studies provide so much information on the benefits of plant-based eating.

Now...let’s enter the Living Well Bistro...
The Living Well Bistro Menu features breakfast items, appetizers, soups, salads, whole grain bread, flax crackers, tacos, live pasta, naan pizzas (with Daiya vegan cheese), rice/quinoa bowls, wraps, desserts, smoothies, and other beverages: A vegan’s dream come true!

On one side of the Bistro is a display of kitchen items for purchase...
I smiled W-I-D-E when I saw all the vegan cookbooks on display! Dr. Neal Barnard is a doctor you can trust with your precious health...

Colleen Patrick-Goudreau’s The Joy of Vegan Baking...
I ordered the Garden Veggie Wrap & Sesame Ginger dressing for the salad...

“A whole wheat tortilla filled with our sunflower pate, cucumbers, bell pepper, tomatoes, carrots and seasonal greens finished with a creamy dill dressing”

I grabbed a Banana Almond Smoothie for the road...

“Bananas, almond butter and dates blended in rice milk”
I couldn’t resist this crazy moist, melt-in-your-mouth Mint Brownie...

Just like the Terminator said…
“‘I’LL BE BACK.’”
7-10-12 Mission Comes to Indiana

20,000 Karen and Mizo peoples emigrate to Indiana Conference

Than Than Aye threw her bronzed body into the slurry water. Swinging each limb with fervor, she worked to sink completely under the river’s surface. The knocking pattern of machine guns vibrated through the air and the scrambling whirl of frantic speech, panicked breathing and pounding feet on packed-down soil clouded around the fleeing villagers and ransacking soldiers alike.

"Lord, if you just make it stop I will serve you with every bit of me ‘til the day I die!” Than Than Aye prayed in her black liquid hole.

Many near-death adventures led Than Than Aye to one of nine Taiwanese refugee camps located along the Thai-Burma border. Keeping her promise to serve God, Than Than Aye shared the education she had received from the Eric B Hare Academy in Burma (renamed Myanmar in 1989) with other tribes who also took sanctuary from the military dictatorship.

Now relocated to the United States, Adventist refugees in Indiana continue to serve God. Three primary communities of Adventist Burmese are represented in Indiana. They include the Karen, Chin and Mizo tribes.

Both resilient and gentle, Burmese immigrants do not eagerly solicit charity. Instead, many Burmese Adventists see the U.S. as a new mission field.

"People are spiritually hungry," said Chawnthu, a Mizo Adventist who relocated in January and serves as a pastor figure amongst the growing Burmese population in Indianapolis. "Now is a good time to tell of Christ. We can fill the cravings people have for certainty with the good news of a heavenly home."

NPR reports that, "By 2007, 7,000 of the more than 3.5 million displaced Burmese refugees were relocated in Indiana, and 100 more continue to arrive each month in Fort Wayne alone."

With more than 5,000 Burmese in 2011, Fort Wayne, Indiana may possibly host the largest community of Karen immigrants in the U.S. Around 40 Burmese adults and their children now call the Fort Wayne Seventh-day Adventist church ‘family.’ Pastor Silas, also an immigrant, reports three more Burmese baptisms on Sabbath, June 9, 2012.

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Kortnye V. Hurst
Indiana Conference Communication Secretary