Responding immediately to the tornado that hit Adairsville, Ga. last week, the Adventist Community Services Disaster Relief (ACS DR) is working diligently to set up their donations warehouse at the Adairsville Big Lots store. "The store is large enough for this operation, probably 25 or 30,000 square feet," said Georgia-Cumberland ACS DR Coordinator Terry Haight in an email January 30. "It was busy, with cars and trucks arriving constantly with donations, and around 30 volunteers going through the donations, trying valiantly to sort into categories. There were no tables, people were sorting on the floor. We got a pretty good idea of what we need to take with us, and we rented a truck and will load it in the morning, hoping to get it unloaded and our gear set up so that we can open for business by Tuesday afternoon, at the latest." MORE

Donations are always needed by ACS DR. To donate, go to http://vad.aidmatrix.org/vadxml.cfm?driveid=2091.

Gone but not Forgotten – J. Wayne Coulter, former Chesapeake Conference president (1985-1995), died on Wednesday, January 23, following a year-long battle with cancer. He was 76. MORE

The Lovely Hill: Where People Live Longer and Happier

Executive Women International Donates $3000 To Southern Adventist University

Adventist Health – Robot Helps People Suffering From Hip Pain

Cleburne Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrates 135 years

February is Black History Month in the North American Division. The existence of Regional conferences and churches in the North American Division has frequently stirred questions among some members of the Seventh-day Adventist® Church. Regional conferences were established by an action taken at the 1944 GC Spring Council when they had a membership of

February 6, 2013

Special Days:

February Focus: Family Life
Feb. 1-28, Black History Month
Feb. 3-9, Christian Home and Marriage Week
Feb. 16, Health Ministries Sabbath

March Focus: Women in the Church
March 2, Women’s Day of Prayer
March 3-9, Adventist Youth Week of Prayer
March 16, Disabilities Awareness Sabbath

Helpful Special Day Websites and Resources:

• Find a full list on the NAD website

Upcoming Events:

Feb. 21, NY Health Summit Webinar
Feb. 25-24, Alive Youth Rally 2013
Feb. 24-26, International Congress on Vegetarian Nutrition
Feb. 25-Mar. 2, Hawaii Family Emphasis (English/Spanish)
Feb. 27-Mar. 2, NY13 Music, Fitness & Health Clinic
Mar. 7, Prayer Call
Mar. 7-9, Music and Worship Conference
17,000 members in 233 congregations. By 2010 the membership had grown to 279,072 members in 1,004 congregations. MORE (p. 14); BlackSDAHistory.org

Don't forget! The next Prayer Call, NAD's all-night prayer vigil, will be February 7-8, beginning at 10:00 p.m. Thursday night, continuing through the night until 5:00 a.m. Friday morning. Join the call anytime. MORE

Do you know how to make a presentation with your iPad? Organize the workflow and hook up? According to TechTalk, there are two types of apps - apps for presenting to others and apps that help you present. Find out in the February edition of Adventist Communicator, an electronic newsletter from the Society of Adventist Communicators. Also, learn more about Roku, on which the fastest growing channel is faith-based.

Studying Together, a Bible reference handbook by evangelist Mark Finley, is now available as an iphone and ipad app. It includes 39 new video introductions, 50 Bible studies, information about various denominations and religions, and answers to difficult questions. MORE

"Fear Factor" Joyce L. Keeler, Retirement Department

“Fear Factor”

Joyce L. Keeler, Retirement Department

REACH: Education for Leadership

Every pastor an equipper, every member a minister – Eight people graduated from the Certified Lay Pastoral Assistant (CLPA) program of the Pacific Institute of Christian Ministry (PICM). The CLPA program, a ministry of the Pacific Union (PU) and North American Division (NAD), was founded in 2006 by VicLouis Arreola, III, director of PU/NAD Asian/Pacific Ministries, when he was a pastor. PICM's objectives are to help members discover and use their spiritual gifts effectively, to provide professional training in ministry, to prepare gifted members to disciple others, and encourage more lay leaders to work with pastors, and to adapt the concept that every pastor is an equipper and every

http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=84ac041b8b70579057dab6f26&id=2f54711fff&ea=3075540be8
member a minister. PICM will begin an additional advanced program, Certified Pastoral Ministry Associate, this spring. MORE

Respond to Hurricane Sandy," "Ministry through Flowers," pp. 11-13

**NAD Update:** "Not Bad, Just Different;" "Women's Day of Prayer Observed;" "Counting on Revival;" p. 14, 15

**NAD Perspective:** "Wanted: Female Pastors," p. 17

**NAD Letters:** p. 18

**NAD Feature:** "Finding a Place: Disabilities ministries in your church and community," p. 33-37
2-6-13 ACS DR Responds to Adairsville, Ga. Tornado Relief Needs

Responding immediately to the tornado that hit Adairsville, Ga. last week, the Adventist Community Services Disaster Relief (ACS DR) is working diligently to set up their donations warehouse at the Adairsville Big Lots store. "The store is large enough for this operation, probably 25 or 30,000 square feet," said Georgia-Cumberland ACS DR Coordinator Terry Haight in an email January 30. "It was busy, with cars and trucks arriving constantly with donations, and around 30 volunteers going through the donations, trying valiantly to sort into categories. There were no tables, people were sorting on the floor. We got a pretty good idea of what we need to take with us, and we rented a truck and will load it in the morning, hoping to get it unloaded and our gear set up so that we can open for business by Tuesday afternoon, at the latest."

According to reports so far, several families of the Calhoun, Ga. Adventist Church were affected, with two whose homes were completely destroyed. Calhoun Pastor Gary Rustad had been visiting victims through the night and all day. Church members volunteered their time and efforts donating and distributing supplies and helping with clean-up on Sabbath and Sunday.

ACS DR enjoys a great reputation in Ga. A comment on the Adairsville Georgia Tornado Info Facebook page responding to the news about the ACS DR warehouse operations said, "I am thrilled to see this happen. There isn't another disaster org in this nation that does warehousing as well as the Adventists!"

Donations are always needed by ACS DR. To donate, go to http://vad.aidmatrix.org/vadxml.cfm?driveid=2091.

[Photo: Calhoun Adventist Church members organizing donations and supplies for tornado victims]
Compassion (Global Youth Day) - Mar 22, Fri
AYM Compassion Candlelight March (early evening) - Mar 23, Sat
SONscreen Film Festival 2013 - Apr 4, Thu
SONscreen was created by the North American Division to...
Pre-meetings - Spring Meeting - Apr 4, Thu
Pre-Meetings in advance of Spring Meeting FYI Only

More Calendar

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More
Former Chesapeake, Mountain View President Passes Away

J. Wayne Coulter, former Chesapeake Conference president (1985-1995), died on Wednesday, January 23, following a yearlong battle with cancer. He was 76.

“He made a real mark in advancing the development of the Mount Aetna Camp and Retreat Center,” said Rick Remmers, Chesapeake Conference president. “It was during his leadership that the lodge and nature center were built, as well as a church on the campus of Highland View Academy. Our hearts and prayers go out to Sharon, Christy, Todd and their families during this difficult time.”

Coulter was passionate about church growth. He began his ministry in the Florida Conference as a pastor and evangelist, then accepted a call to be the Ministerial director for the Minnesota Conference. He went on to serve as evangelist for the Mid-America Union. From there he went to the Mountain View Conference, where he was Ministerial director then president before coming to the Chesapeake Conference in 1985. Ten years later, Coulter accepted a call to be president of the Illinois Conference. In 2002 he retired and moved with his wife, Sharon, to Tennessee, where he pastored the Decatur church.

A memorial service is planned for Sabbath, February 2, at 4 p.m., at the Decatur church located on HWY 58 South, Decatur, TN 37322.—Story by Samantha Young

Copied from: http://us5.campaign-archive2.com/?u=fe12b9595dd2970ceea6479d5&id=20a5c6863b
The Lovely Hill: Where People Live Longer and Happier

By Emily Esfahani Smith

In one idyllic community in southern California, Adventists live 4 to 7 years longer -- and more healthily and happily -- than the rest of the country. A look at their diet, lifestyle, and philosophy

When Ellsworth Wareham was in his nineties, he decided that his house in Loma Linda, California -- a beautiful city 60 miles east of Los Angeles, Spanish for "lovely hill" -- needed a new fence. But rather than hire a contractor to install the wood fence, as most nonagenarians would no doubt do, Wareham went to the hardware store, bought the supplies he needed, and returned to dig some post holes. As Dan Buettner recounts in his book *Blue Zones: Lessons for Living Longer From the People Who've Lived the Longest*, Wareham proceeded to put the wood fence up himself.

A few days later, Wareham was in the hospital -- performing open-heart surgery on a patient.

Wareham has had some extraordinary experiences. During World War II, he was a doctor in the Navy; once, when he was on board a destroyer near the coast of Okinawa, he removed the appendix of an officer as the ship was being tossed about in the middle of a typhoon. In the 1950s, he did pioneering work on open-heart surgery when it was still a new technique. On a U.S. State Department sponsored trip in 1963, some surgeons from Loma Linda -- including Wareham -- were with a team of doctors that brought open-heart surgery to Pakistan for the first time. And during the Vietnam War, the work that he and other heart surgeons did in Saigon was featured on the Walter Cronkite show.
By many accounts, Wareham, now 98, has led a good, full, and meaningful life. What does he know that we don’t?

As a middle-aged man, Wareham spent a lot of time in the operating room cutting into one patient after another who had heart problems. There, he noticed something: patients who were vegetarian mostly had much cleaner and smoother arteries than those who ate meat. The arteries of meat-eaters tended to be full of calcium and plaque.

So he made a choice. He decided to become a vegan. That decision was not too hard to make given the fact that many of the inhabitants of his southern Californian community were already very health conscious. Consider: there is no meat sold at one of the largest grocery stores in town. In fact, as recently as a generation ago, meat was difficult to find in the grocery stores of Loma Linda, as the New York Times reports. On top of that, smoking is banned in the town; alcohol is scarcely available; and fast food restaurants are hard to come by.

But make no mistake: Loma Linda is not some bohemian enclave of free-spirited vegans. Rather, what makes the community remarkable -- and remarkably health conscious -- is that it is home to one of the largest concentrations of Seventh-Day Adventists in the world. A conservative denomination of Christianity founded during this country’s Second Great Awakening in the mid-1800s, the religion advocates a healthy lifestyle as a main tenet of the faith. This is a major reason why Wareham, a Seventh-Day Adventist, takes his health so seriously.

"Adventists believe in the body and soul as one," according to Dr. Daniel Giang of Loma Linda University’s Medical Center. Pastor Randy Roberts of the same university references scripture to drive the point home: "In Corinthians, Paul speaking of the human body says specifically, ‘you are the temple of the Holy spirit.’ Therefore, he says, whatever you do in your body, you do it to the honor, the glory and the praise of God." The Seventh-Day Adventists, like Jews and Muslims, stay away from foods that the Bible deems impure, like pork.

Many Seventh-Day Adventists are vegetarians, physically active, and involved in their community. In other words, their lifestyles are quite unique in an America where community has become less and less important and over one third of the population is obese. Smoking and drinking are discouraged by the faith, as is the consumption of caffeine, rich foods, and certain spices. By most of our hyper-connected standards, the Seventh-Day Adventists are also an isolated community. Unlike other Christian sects that take their Sabbath on Sunday, they take theirs on Saturday. The more conservative members of the religion cut themselves off from popular culture altogether.

Because of their unique lifestyle, scientists from a variety of organizations like the National Health Institute and the American Cancer Society have since 1958 been studying how the community’s dietary habits, lifestyle, disease rates, and mortality interact in a series of studies known as the Adventist Health Studies. What they have found in the decades since is remarkable.

Loma Linda leads the country in longevity. While the average American woman will live to be 81, vegetarian Adventist women in Loma Linda will on average live to be 86. While the average American man will live until 76, the average vegetarian Adventist man will live until 83.

The Adventists are also notably resilient. "Some Adventists get personally offended if they get colon cancer or some other disease," says a doctor from the town.

The death rate from cancer for Adventist men is 60 percent lower than that of the average California male; for Adventist women, it is 75 percent lower. According to Loma Linda University, ground zero in
the Adventist Health Studies, "Death from coronary heart disease among Adventist men was 66 percent [lower compared to their California peers]; for Adventist women, it was 98 percent [lower]. Stroke death rates for Adventist men were 72 percent [lower], compared to their non-Adventist counterparts. For Adventist women, death from stroke was 82 percent [lower]."

These facts have led Buettner, a National Geographic Explorer, to label Loma Linda America's hot spot (or "blue zone") of health and longevity. Their physical health is not the only thing outpacing that of regular Americans. On measures of mental health and well-being, the Adventists also score much higher than the average American.

***

What are the Adventists doing differently from the rest of us? Beyond their conservative lifestyle and commitment to faith -- research shows that attending religious services regularly is associated with greater longevity and happiness -- there is also the matter of what they eat, which is a mostly Mediterranean diet. Eating like Greeks not only can account for their excellent health, but it may also explain why they score higher on measures of well-being.

According to research in psychology, happiness is determined by three variables. Your genetic makeup accounts for 50 percent, and your circumstances account for 10 percent. The remainder of your enduring happiness is determined by the choices we voluntarily make -- how we think and act and what we do on a day-to-day basis. That 40 percent, as social psychologist Sonja Lyubomirsky points out in her book The How of Happiness, can go a long way.

According to a new large study, which will be published in a forthcoming issue of the Journal of Psychosomatic Research, eating Mediterranean foods is linked to feeling happy. People who eat foods associated with a Mediterranean diet -- non-starchy fresh vegetables, fresh fruits, olive oil, legumes, and nuts -- experience more of those emotions associated with being happy than people who eat a typically American diet, which consists of high-fat dairy products, eggs, refined grains, and processed food.

The health benefits of eating Mediterranean foods have been well documented. People whose diets incorporate a healthy serving of fresh vegetables, olive oil, fish, whole grains, and fruit are at lower risk for heart disease and cancer, the two leading causes of death in the United States. They are also at lower risk for diabetes and Alzheimer’s. They are better able to control their weight and cholesterol levels; they tend to be more alert; they exhibit less depressive symptoms; and they may live longer.

To see what a difference eating Greek makes, consider the effects that just three simple patterns of the Mediterranean diet have had on the Adventists.

The first is the role of nuts, which forms a large part of the Adventist diet in Loma Linda. According to Gary Fraser, a doctor and professor at the Loma Linda University School of Medicine, "Adventists who consumed nuts at least five times a week had about half the risk of heart disease of those who didn't. This was true of men, women, vegetarian, non-vegetarian--we split the population up about 16 or 17 different ways and each time asked the question, 'Does nut consumption matter?' And every time we saw that it did." The nut eaters also lived two years longer than those who did not regularly consume nuts.

Then there are tomatoes, a staple of the Mediterranean diet. If you are an Adventist woman who eats tomatoes three or four times a week, you are 70 percent less likely to get ovarian cancer than your friends who eat tomatoes more sparingly. For men, eating tomatoes decreases the chances of getting prostate cancer.

Finally, eating meat makes a big difference. Adventist men who do not eat meat outlive American men by seven years. Adventist women who do not eat meat outlive American women by five years. Many
Adventists do not eat meat, but even those that do outlive their peers thanks to the amount of vegetables, fruits, and other healthy foods they eat. Meat-eating Adventist men live 7.3 years longer while the women live 4.4 years longer than other Californians.

On the other side of the spectrum, we know that certain dietary patterns, like eating lots of fatty foods, are associated with depression and mental illness.

Drew Ramsay, MD, of Columbia University elaborates:

Emerging research in the fields of neuroscience and nutrition show that people who eat a diet of modern processed foods have increased levels of depression, anxiety, mood swings, hyperactivity, and a wide variety of other mental and emotional problems. One study found that adolescents with low-quality junk food diets are 79 percent more likely to suffer from depression. Another found that diets high in trans fats found in processed foods raised the risk of depression by 42 percent among adults over the course of approximately six years. And a huge study of women's diets by the Harvard School of Public Health concluded that those whose diets contained the greatest number of healthy omega-3 fats (and the lowest levels of unhealthy omega-6s) were significantly less likely to suffer from depression.

While scientists know a lot about the health benefits of a Mediterranean diet and eating patterns associated with mental illness, they know far less about the eating habits that are related to a thriving and good life. This new study steps in to fill that void.

"Much of the published research has focused upon food's association with depression and foods association with disease," Patricia Ford, the lead author of the study, tells me. "This study is focusing upon positive health and positive well-being."

Ford and her team at Loma Linda University examined the eating patterns of over 9,000 healthy Seventh-Day Adventists in North America over a four-year period. How often did they eat fast food? Did they eat meat? What kinds of dairy products were they consuming? What about nuts? Desserts? Fish? They then examined their self-reported feelings of positive and negative emotions--how often did they feel inspired? Excited? Enthusiastic? Upset? Scared? Distressed?

The researchers found that those who eat like Greeks feel more inspired, alert, excited, active, inspired, determined, attentive, proud, and enthusiastic than those who consume a more typically American diet consisting of highly processed foods, soda, and sweets like cookies and doughnuts. People who eat foods associated with a Mediterranean diet also experienced less negative emotions like being afraid, nervous, upset, irritable, scared, hostile, and distressed. The more people ate those foods that are more typically American -- specifically, red meat, sweets, and fast food -- the less of these positive emotions they felt.

For women, the findings of Ford's study were particularly dramatic. Though men ate more red meat, processed foods, desserts, sodas, and fast foods than women, when women ate unhealthily, they experienced more emotional distress. Not only did those who ate red meat and fast food frequently experience less positive moods, but they also experienced more negative feelings, a pattern not seen in men who ate less healthy foods.

Those women might look to the life of Marge Jetton for inspiration. Like Wareham, Jetton is a model of the Adventist lifestyle. At 100 years old, Jetton, a former nurse, would wake up at 4.30 am each morning. After getting dressed and reading from the Bible, she would work out. When she completed her mile-long walk and 6-8 miles on the stationary bike, she had oatmeal for breakfast. For lunch, she would mix up some raw vegetables and...
fruit. Occasionally, she would splurge on a treat like waffles made from soy and garbanzo beans. That wasn't all. The centenarian volunteered regularly, barreled around town in her Cadillac Seville, and pumped iron. She also tended to a garden that grew tomatoes, corn, and hydrangeas.

Though she was sad and lonely after her husband died in 2003, she found happiness in serving other people. "I found that when you are depressed, that's when you do something for somebody else ... My motto is: A stranger is a friend we haven't met yet." Another motto: "Try to be happy in spite of your trials."

She died in February 2011 at the age of 106. Her friends and community remembered her as being quick-witted and funny. "She represented the promise of good living," Buettner said when she died.

This article available online at:


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Executive Women International Donates $3,000 To Southern Adventist University – 
02/04/2013 – Chattanoogan.com

Executive Women International (EWI) of Chattanooga donated $3,000 to Southern Adventist University. Since chartering in 1987, EWI of Chattanooga has contributed more than $170,000 to scholarship donations at area schools. The scholarships are specifically designated for single mothers.

EWI of Chattanooga President Ani Yacoubian, of Yacoubian Tailors, says, "EWI representatives feel fortunate to have made a positive impact on their community through enriching the lives of local women."

Connections, Careers and Community is the tagline of EWI, fulfilled through connection and promotion of member companies, career-enhancing professional development and community involvement.

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Two Cleveland State Math Professors Received Pearson Product Of The Year Award

Karen Wyrick, Math Department Chair at Cleveland State Community College and John Squires, Math Department Head at Chattanooga State Community College, have co-authored an eCourse series that was awarded Pearson Higher Education Product of the Year. The Squires-Wyrick MyMathLab Series is based on lessons learned at the two colleges ...

ETSU To Hold Reception For Area High School Students Feb. 19

East Tennessee State University’s Office of Admissions will hold a reception for Chattanooga area high school and transfer students and their families at the Chattanoogan Hotel, 1207 Broad Street, on Tuesday, Feb. 19, from 6–8 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Information offered will include admissions procedures, scholarships, financial aid, and housing. Representatives ...

Breaking News

County Commission Approves Architect For Police Firing Range Despite Roof Hangup

The County Commission on Wednesday approved hiring Franklin and Associates to design a $4 million indoor police firing range on E. 11th Street despite a hangup over the type of roof it will have. Commissioners Joe Graham and Fred Skillern voted against the resolution, based on the roof issue. Commissioner Graham said he wanted assurance that a metal roof would be used instead ...

Motorcyclist Adam Bailey Killed In Accident Tuesday Night

One man on a motorcycle was killed in a traffic accident Tuesday evening. Chattanooga Police responded to a traffic crash at 5400 Highway 153 at approximately 8:35 p.m. According to witness statements and evidence at the scene, it appeared that Adam Bailey, 41, was southbound on Highway 153 operating a Honda CBR600 motorcycle. Samantha Stearns, 43, was operating ...


February 6, 2013
Dear Mr. Walter Hussman, In the early 1980s I was a staff photographer for the Chattanooga News Free Press and found it to be a very educational and rewarding job. The owner and editor of the Times proudly displayed the header “To Give The News Impartially, Without Fear or Favor” as you still do on Chattanooga’s only daily paper. Over the last year, I feel that your newspaper ...

Times Free Press Subscription Increase May Be The Last Straw – And Response (3)

I have been a lifelong subscriber the Chattanooga Times–Free Press (including its predecessors). Over the past several years, I have seen the steady decline in the value of the “product” delivered to my driveway. Instead of real “news” articles; we are seeing more and more of the so called “lifestyle” stories in place of reports of the things people need to know about and look for ...

Opinion
Adventist Medical Center is the only hospital in the Oregon using a robot to assist in performing hip surgeries.

Portland, Ore – January 28, 2013 – The hip is one of your body’s largest weight-bearing joints and millions of Americans are suffering with hip pain. Adventist Medical Center is the first and only hospital in Oregon, providing people suffering from hip pain, an option of robotic assisted surgery. Thanks to the collaboration between orthopedic surgeons and a robot, patients can now experience less pain and quicker recovery times.

Surgeons at Adventist Medical Center are accomplishing this with technology known as MAKOplasty® Hip, the latest innovation in total hip replacement surgery. Using, a highly advanced, surgeon-controlled robotic arm system, the robot enables the accurate alignment and positioning of implants.

MAKOplasty Hip is designed to assist surgeons in attaining a new level of reproducible precision in surgery, to restore patients’ confidence in their mobility and help them return to active lifestyles.

Like other total hip replacement procedures, MAKOplasty Hip may be a treatment option for people who suffer from either non-inflammatory or inflammatory degenerative joint disease.

About Adventist Medical Center (AMC) Adventist Medical Center (AMC), located in southeast Portland, is a nonprofit, 302-bed acute care facility, offering a full range of inpatient, outpatient and emergency services throughout the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area. It is home to Adventist Health–Portland, which includes more than 30 primary care and specialty clinics in the metro area.

Adventist Health–Portland is part of Adventist Health, a faith-based, not-for-profit integrated health care delivery system serving communities in California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington.

Our workforce of 28,700 includes more than 21,000 employees; 4,500 medical staff physicians; and 3,000 volunteers. Founded on Seventh-day Adventist health values, Adventist Health provides compassionate care in 19 hospitals, more than 150 clinics (hospital-based, rural health and physician clinics), 14 home care agencies, six hospice agencies and four joint-venture retirement centers. We invite you to visit our website at www.adventisthealthnw.com for more information.

Media Contacts:

Judy Leach, Director

Adventist Health

(503) 251–6162

leachjl@ah.org
Cleburne Times-Review, Cleburne, TX

February 1, 2013

Cleburne Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrates 135 years

Event planned Saturday

By Matt Smith/msmith@trcle.com

Dr. Tony Torres, former pastor of the Cleburne Seventh-day Adventist Church, said he’s proud to have been a part of the church’s history in Cleburne.

The church, located at 111 Meadowview Drive, celebrates its 135th birthday on Saturday by inviting everyone to show up for a day of fellowship and fun.

Events, including a worship service with music, begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue through the day.

The church is the second oldest Seventh-day Adventist church in Texas, according to a history of the church penned by Torres' wife, Dedra.

“Our church has been growing since it started,” said Torres, who served as pastor from February 2002 to August. “I think we’ve always had a tender, compassionate spot to reach out and try to help the community.”

That spirit manifested itself through the years as members donated food, clothing and maintained a fund for those in need.

“I call it disinterested benevolence,” Tony Torres said. “Doing good without expecting anything in return. Doing good simply to do good. When I came here I saw a need to provide quality medical care to the uninsured, which is why I began the [HOPE Medical & Dental Clinic] to target a need not being met in the community.”

In addition to the HOPE Clinic, the church operates a kindergarten through eighth-grade school established in 1998 and the Family Life Center, established 1995, which has a full kitchen as well as rooms for classes and events.

Such success and growth grew out of years of dedication on the part of parishioners and modest beginnings.

The Rust brothers, who traveled from Battle Creek, Mich. to just west of Dallas in 1875 later came to Cleburne to preach in an “open air” assembly, according to Dedra Torres’ history of the church.

Since none of the three brothers were licensed preachers, they sent for evangelist Robert M. Kilgore, who arrived in Cleburne with a 50-by-70 foot tent in tow to begin a series of lectures on July 6, 1877. About 300 attended the first meeting and attendance grew. A heavy downpour destroyed the tent, but failed to dampen the members’ spirits. They simply continued to gather under the night sky.

“For six weeks people came from as far away as 12 miles, which was a day’s journey for a family by wagon,” Dedra Torres writes.

The church formally adopted its current name on Feb. 2, 1878 and rented space in the Cleburne Methodist-Episcopalian Church for a year.

Soon after, officials apparently built their own church in Cleburne. The congregation moved to Keene soon after, however, after a tornado destroyed the Cleburne church. While there, they worked with other Seventh-day Adventists to found the Keene Industrial Academy, now known as Southwestern Adventist University, according to Dedra Torres’ church history.

Church members returned to Cleburne in 1907, holding services at the Knights of Pythias Hall. In 1911, they built a new church at Sunset and Featherston streets.

Financial troubles plagued the church in 1925 and membership dropped to 17. In 1931, the church organized its first Dorcas Society, a community outreach program, and by 1941 membership had climbed to 47 members. Church officials that same year established the Worthy Student Fund, allowing children who would otherwise not be able to do so to go to church school.

Cleburne Mayor Roy Anderson and others led a dedication ceremony for the church’s new building, completed in 1950 on the same location as the previous church.

Membership grew and, in 1964, officials voted to sell the old church and purchased property on Country Club Road. Church leaders never
In 1967 Samuel and Julia Waldrip donated five acres of land and in 1969 the new church opened in its present location. The Waldrips are the grandparents of Cleburne’s newly appointed Police Chief Robert Severance.

From the early tent meetings through the troubles of ’25, the church now boasts more than 500 members. Tony Torres retired in August, making way for Pastor Harly Charles to lead the church into its next chapter.

“It’s an honor to carry on the church’s tradition and be part of that,” Charles said. “And it’s encouraging to see the church is still strong, active and growing, something I’m going to do my part to continue and hopefully see our church celebrate 150 years and beyond.”

On the web:

www.cleburnesda.com
WHEREAS, the present development of our work among the colored people in North America has resulted, under the signal blessing of God, in the establishment of some 233 churches with some 17,000 members; and, "WHEREAS, it appears that a different plan of organization of our colored membership would bring further great advance in soul-winning endeavors, therefore"

"WE RECOMMEND, that in the unions where the colored constituency is considered by the union conference committee to be sufficiently large, and where the financial income and territory warrant, colored conferences be organized."

This action, taken at the Spring Council of the General Conference in 1944, set in motion the establishment of regional conferences in the North American Division. Most conferences had one or two states as their assigned territory. Because membership in the proposed "colored" conferences was too scattered to make them viable, union executive committees enlarged their territories to encompass several states, hence the name "regional" conferences. The 2010 North American Division (NAD) Statistical Report showed the “different plan of organization” with 279,000 members in the nine regional conferences. That year regional conferences employed 719 ministers who shepherded 1,004 congregations. These conferences are now predominantly composed of members who are Black but not exclusively Black.

The formation of regional conferences is consistent with biblical principle of 1 Corinthians 12:4-6: “There are diversities of gifts [gifts of grace produced by the indwelling Holy Spirit], but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries [service to the Christian community], but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities [an operational power that produces obvious results], but it is the same God who works in all.”

The existence of regional conferences frequently calls legitimacy and relevance into question. The growth of the Adventist message among Black people in the United States speaks for itself, as does the application of the cited biblical principle.

Regional conferences have long been part and parcel in the official Seventh-day Adventist Church organization. Just as a family home has bedrooms for sons, daughters, and parents, regional conferences are the bedrooms where Black people identify initiatives to grow the Lord’s work in their part of our North American Division home. Not bad, just different; not segregated, not separate and unequal, not ostracized and excluded, not for Black people exclusively, just different; and, by the grace of God, productive in the household of faith.

—By Joseph W. McCoy, executive director, regional conference retirement plan

Women's Day of Prayer Observed Across North America

Since 1990 the Women’s Ministries Department has promoted the first Sabbath in March as a special day of prayer for the women of the church. The importance of praying together is mentioned by Ellen G. White: "Prayer unites us with one another and with God. Prayer brings Jesus to our side, and gives to the fainting, perplexed soul new strength to overcome the world" (Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 250).

Women’s Day of Prayer is a special day for women to connect with God personally to revive or strengthen their spiritual life. Corporate prayer is an ideal way for women to strengthen their bonds of friendship as they learn more about each other while interceding for their churches, their communities, and their sisters around the world. We especially encourage prayer for women in other parts of the world because it increases our awareness of their issues and builds empathy for them.
Some churches celebrate Women’s Day of Prayer with a prayer breakfast, a day- or weekend-long prayer conference, or fasting and prayer for particular concerns. Women often preach a sermon about prayer in their local churches and conduct other prayer-related events that day.

Each year resources are prepared by the General Conference Women’s Ministries Department to facilitate observance of this special day. These may be downloaded from the North American Division Women’s Ministries Department Web site: www.nadwm.org. The resources include a sermon, a children’s story, and a seminar for Friday evening or Sabbath afternoon. The resources are available in English, Spanish, and French.

—By Carla Baker, director, NAD Women’s Ministries Department

Counting on Revival

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America sets aside a week for a Youth Week of Prayer every year. This year’s Youth Week of Prayer is March 16-23. The theme is mission and service, and the title of the weeklong series is Revival That Counts: A Call to Justice and Mercy.

Thousands of Adventist youth take part in the initiative, and many teens and young adults are baptized as a result. Some churches start planning months in advance; others decide to participate a month or two before it begins. If your youth group has not yet considered it, try it; it’s not too late.

The General Conference Youth Department provides resources, making it easy for teens, youth groups, pastors, leaders, parents, and teachers to plan and carry out this event. It can be done in a church, school, or even at home.

Resources include training videos, ideas, daily readings, and, of course, the messages for each day. There are resources for both junior youth and teens as well as for senior youth and young adults. They are downloadable for free at gcyouthministries.org.

This is something that happens every year! Post photographs and video clips of your activities on your youth group’s Facebook page.

—By Manny Cruz, associate director, NAD Youth Ministries Department
Prayer Call

Thursday, Feb 7
Starting at 10 p.m. EST
Ending at 5 a.m. EST, Feb 8
Phone number: 712-432-0031
Access Code: 435650#

www.NADPrayerMinistries.org
North American Prayer Ministries