More than 500 attendees from over 50 countries witnessed the yearly Adventists InStep for Life Award celebration in Flushing, N.Y. on March 16. Leaders and organizations were awarded for engaging their communities in healthier living through promoting active living and healthier eating through health promotion and health education, and increasing access to healthier foods. List of winners and more. [Photo: L-R: Dr. Michelle Davis, N.Y. Dept. of Health and Human Services health administrator; Dr. Jaime Torres, Region II Dept. of Health and Human Services director; Pat Humphrey, Southwestern Union Conf. Communication and Health Ministries director; Heidi Christensen, White House Office of Faith Based and Community Partnerships, Lets Move; Dan Jackson, NAD president. Photo by Rohann Wellington]

Remembering Those Affected by the Explosions in Boston - "Our hearts are torn because of the sad news of the explosions that occurred during the Boston Marathon. We pain for the families of those who lost their lives in this tragic incident and the many who were severely hurt. Our hearts go out to all in this time of sorrow and we pray that the love of God will enfold all involved during their journey through grief." Pastor Donald G. King, President, Atlantic Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

A conference on gays drew Northwest Adventist members and other interested individuals to the Gays in the Family seminar held April 5–6 in Gladstone, Ore. The weekend seminar sought to reaffirm the Adventist Church's position on homosexuality while emphasizing the need of a loving attitude toward gay individuals. MORE

The 2013 Annual GC Spring Meeting was held in Battle Creek, Mich. April 12-15, this Sesquicentennial year because of the close proximity to areas associated with the beginnings of the Seventh-day Adventist® Church. It was attended by delegates from every division. Here are links to stories by Adventist News Network about some of the significant actions that came out of that meeting:

- Spring Meeting, in Battle Creek, marks church’s 150th anniversary
- ‘No more anniversaries,’ Wilson says in Spring Meeting sermon
- Landless director-elect of Adventist Church’s Health Ministries department
- Adventist Church promotes next step for comprehensive health ministry
- At Battle Creek, afternoon presentations highlight lessons from history
- Treasurer says North American tithe up 1%, 4.4% other regions

Photo: Spring Meeting delegates gather outside a replica of the Second Meeting House on the campus of the Adventist Historic Village in Battle Creek, Mich., where the Seventh-day Adventist Church was officially established. The off-site business
April 20 is Literature Evangelism Sabbath. In July of 1849, James White packed copies of *The Present Truth* into a borrowed carpetbag and trekked eight miles to the post office in Middletown, Conn. He was taking the first steps toward what would become a global publishing ministry.

"By 1903, the Adventist Church had reached 70 of the world’s countries. "In many of those places, [the church] established a presence because a literature evangelist was leading," Hirle said.

"Today, more than 20,000 Adventist students worldwide still spend their school breaks selling books to help cover tuition costs and share the Adventist message of hope." MORE

The 2nd Annual NAD Pathfinder Bible Experience on Sabbath, April 20, in Lincoln, Neb. will be live-streamed. More than 450 Pathfinders representing 40 teams from around the division have qualified for the finals after participating in their area, conference and union events. The program will begin at 2:45 p.m. Central Time, and will last through awards and closing prayer. To watch, go to http://www.ucollege.edu/uclive and choose "Channel 1." MORE

The Adventists 2 is a new film by producer Martin Doblmeier, and the sequel to The Adventists, an award-winning film seen on Public Television stations that became a national success. It tells the story of Adventist health on a global level. "It is clearly the most ambitious film I have ever done," says Doblmeier, "having shot it in six countries. I think it gives a picture of what Adventists are doing globally that many Adventists may not even know about." The DVD will be distributed by the Pacific Press® Publishing Association. MORE See the trailer.

Junior and Earliteen Sabbath School Connect4Kids Training for Leaders Webcast will be conducted Sabbath, April 27, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. ET, for junior and/or earliteen Sabbath school leaders. The goal of the workshop is to inspire, encourage and guide Sabbath School leaders to a life-changing ministry for the kids God is sending...
to their Sabbath school class. It will provide ideas and information about resources. It will discuss ideas on how to teach both juniors’ PowerPoints and earliteens’ RealTime Faith curricula. Pastor Troy Fitzgerald will be the special guest speaker. Sponsored by the Oregon Conference Children and Youth Ministries Department, North American Division Children’s Ministries Department, and AdventSource. MORE

NAD Family Ministries app is now available for free download for your iPhone and iPad. It features the latest news, articles, videos, daily devotional, calendar of events, a list of Adventist Counselors, link to AdventSource Family Ministries resources, link to Adventist Association of Family Life Professionals (AAFLP), link to NAD Family Ministries website, and a church finder. Look for NAD Family Ministries in the App Store and download for FREE!

Using Facebook to promote your church and its activities? There's a useful free guidebook available online from ChurchJuice.com: Facebook for Churches. It provides all kinds of great tips and suggestions to make you look more inviting to the community. Quickly identify the mistakes you might be making at your church's Facebook page, and discover the little touches that make it appealing to someone considering a visit to your congregation. From: Best Practices for Adventist Evangelism, 3/17/13.

"Hope for the Future"
Odette Ferriera, director, Adventist Colleges Abroad

REACH: Education for Discipleship

Adventist Medical Center (AMC) in Portland, Ore., was named as one of the top three in the Healthiest Employers of Oregon program because of its LivingWell/Engaged! program. It also has been recognized for two years in a row with the American Heart Association's Fit-Friendly Company Award. This is a result of AMC's focused effort to develop a successful wellness plan that employees would embrace and engage in. They have been so successful that Adventist Health is rolling out a systemwide LivingWell/Engaged! program for all employees in the organization based on AMC's model. Read more in North Pacific Union Gleaner, January 2013 issue, p. 28. [Photo: Ron Benfield and
other employees enjoy a fitness event hosted by Adventist Medical Center
Welcome! > Adventists InStep for Life Awards >

Adventists InStep for Life Awards Presented at Health Summit

Over 500 attendees from over 50 countries witnessed the yearly Adventists Instep for Life Award celebration in Flushing, NY on March 16, 2013, where the Adventist church in North America honored leaders and organizations (churches, schools, hospitals, conferences and unions offices). They were awarded for engaging their communities in healthier living through promoting active living (aerobic miles and participation reported online on our site year round and during Lets Move Day) and healthier eating - through health promotion and health education, and increasing access to healthier foods (community gardens, feeding sites and other initiatives reported on the Adventists InStep website. This initiative is in direct support of the national Lets Move initiative led by the First Lady, Michelle Obama, which the church has been partnering with since 2010 in an effort to improve the health of communities and reducing chronic health risks, including childhood obesity.

Among the officials who attended were:

Heidi Christensen - White House Representative from the Faith-based and Community Partnership office and HHS office
Dr Jaime Torres, MD – DHHS , Region II, Regional director
Dr Michelle Thomas, MD – DHHS, Region II, Health Administrator

Along with NAD president, Daniel Jackson, they assisted in awarding the attendees and posed for pictures with each of them. Mayor Bloomberg send a letter of support which was read to the audience as he regretted not being able to attend.

We congratulate the following institutions and leaders:

1. Adventist Health Systems (Lynnel LaMountain) – hospital systems with most miles and participation rate
2. Southern Adventist University (Lilly Tryon) – university with most miles (2827) and participants (54)
3. Southwestern Union Conference (Pat Humphrey) – innovation in partnerships, most community participants Lets Move Day (union level), 2nd along with SAU in % participation all year round, 2nd in gardens
4. Southern Union Conference (David Long) – most miles in NAD (201,748), second along with SWU in participation
5. Columbia Union Conference (Leah Scott) – Second in miles (199,000), most participation rates year round and on LMD, most participants overall and in Lets Move Day, most pathfinders miles, most gardens
6. Atlantic Union (Leroy Daley, Ruben Merino) – Most participants of 2 conferences in a single LMD event
7. Georgia-Cumberland Conference (EW Dempsey) – most miles, most participation rates,
8. Allegheny East Conference (Leah Scott) – most miles in CUDA, most gardens, most pathfinders miles (columbia union)
9. SDA Chip Association (Stephan Herzog) – most miles from a single lifestyle program group
10. Kansas-Nebraska Conference (Hubert Cisneros) – most miles (mid-america union)
11. Northern California Conference (Gordon Botting) – most miles, % participation, pathfinders, participants, CHIP miles, and gardens (pacific union)
12. Washington Conference (John Loor) – most miles and participation rates from Northern Pacific Union
13. Arkansas-Louisiana Conference (Pat Humphrey) – most miles - SWU
14. Southern New England Conference (Bill Warwick)– most miles & % participation, and pathfinders miles
15. British-Columbia Conference (Maria McLean) – most miles- Canada
16. Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference (Maria McLean) – most participation rates - Canada
17. Texico Conference (Pat Humphrey) – Most participation rates in SAW
18. DuPont Park SDA Junior Academy (Leah Scott) – most miles NAD
19. Spencerville SDA Church (Peter Landless) – Most miles (3rd place) NAD
20. Paradise SDA Church (Gordon Botting) – Most miles (1st place) across NAD
21. Collegedale SDA Church – (EW Dempsey) – most miles (2nd place) NAD
22. Emmanuel Brinklow SDA Church – (Leah Scott) – most gardens NAD

Schools and Universities:
-Southern Adventist University – most miles and participation rates from any other university or college
-Dupont park SDA Jr Academy – (1st place - 5347 miles)
-R.A Lewis Christian School – (2nd place-4560 miles) most participation rates (2395% with 503 participants)

22 institutions (unions, conferences, schools, universities and churches) received awards for their miles of physical activity, participation on Lets Move Day and throughout the year, and number of community gardens sponsored among other activities.

SAVE THE DATE for the next Awards celebration on Jan 25, 2014 in Orlando, FL.

To register to participate in the InStep for Life initiative go to www.adventistsinstepforlife.org
Spring Meeting, in Battle Creek, marks church's 150th anniversary

Apr. 13, 2013 Battle Creek, Michigan, United States

Elizabeth Lechleitner/ANN

In a replica of the meeting house where Seventh-day Adventist Church pioneer and prophet Ellen G. White once spoke for 10 hours on the Great Controversy, world church leaders met yesterday to commemorate the church's 150th anniversary.

The Second Meeting House is located on the campus of the Adventist Historic Village here in Battle Creek, the birthplace of the Adventist Church and the site of this year's Spring Meeting, a biannual business session of the church's Executive Committee, its top governing body.

Spring Meeting delegates gather outside a replica of the Second Meeting House on the campus of the Adventist Historic Village in Battle Creek, Michigan, where the Seventh-day Adventist Church was officially established. The off-site business session marks the church's 150th anniversary. [photo: Brandan Roberts]

Delegates received a crash course in Adventist History 101, with a side of some of the more obscure events surrounding the church's early formation, a strong urging to learn lessons from the past and, above all, a call to rekindle the enthusiasm early Adventists felt for the Second Coming of Christ.

"We must never lose the sense that [Jesus' Second Coming] is soon," Adventist historian Jim Nix told delegates. "This is what our pioneers fervently believed."

Nix, director of the Ellen G. White Estate, explored the church's early roots in Battle Creek during a morning presentation. When church pioneer Joseph Bates first arrived in the rural Michigan town, Nix said, he asked the local postmaster for "the most honest man in town," in hopes that man would be open to the emerging Adventist message. The man was David "Penny" Hewitt, a peddler so honest that if he unknowingly cheated a customer so much as a penny, he felt compelled to make immediate amends, Nix said.

After a "morning worship" by Bates extended well into the evening, Hewitt and his wife, Olive, were convinced of the seventh-day Sabbath and the sanctuary doctrine. The couple became Battle Creek's first Sabbath-keeping Adventists. In 1860, David would suggest naming the growing denomination the "Seventh-day Adventist Church," three years before it was officially established.

Delegates also learned about some of what Adventist historian Merlin Burt called "spiritual detours in leadership" during the church's early formation.

"The Bible doesn't hide the weaknesses of people of faith, and nor should we tell an incomplete story of our pioneers," he said.

Burt, who directs the Center of Adventist Research at church-owned Andrews University in nearby Berrien Springs, Michigan, took the opportunity to defend the reputation of a man many Adventists have viewed unfavorably as an authoritative legalist.
That man, George Ide Butler, was embroiled in a heated debate with other early Adventist leaders regarding the doctrine of righteousness by faith. Butler rejected the notion, claiming it slackened the reins of God’s law.

By 1888, Butler’s health had collapsed. He had been “thrust” into leadership of the Ohio Conference after two dissenters, Snook and Brinkerhoff, questioned Ellen White’s prophetic authority and unexpectedly left the church, Nix said. Butler would later serve two terms as Adventist Church president.

He retired to a rural citrus farm in Florida, where he cared for orange groves and his wife, Lentha, who had suffered a debilitating stroke. Years later, in a letter, Butler said the setting gave him ample “opportunities for meditation,” and admitted that his mistakes were “manifold.” Mellowed by quiet reflection, Butler fully accepted the doctrine of righteousness by faith and returned to church administration, mentoring A. G. Daniels and other young members.

Calling the story “redemptive,” Burt urged delegates to apply its lessons to their own leadership.

“Even when God works and changes our own lives, our limitations still remain,” Burt said. “Hopefully, though, when we’re dependent upon God we can be more humble in our opinions, more charitable to others, less critical, and try to understand and care for others. When we are aware of the mercy of God, it makes us more merciful and able to be more effective leaders.”

During a mid-day break, delegates witnessed the groundbreaking of two new buildings on the campus of the Adventist Historic Village — replicas of the church’s first publishing house and first health reform institute in Battle Creek.

Adventist world church President Ted Wilson, flanked by presidents of the church’s 13 world divisions, breaks ground for a replica of the church’s first publishing house in Battle Creek. The Adventist Heritage Village also has plans to build a replica of the church’s first health reform institute in the Michigan city. [photo: Henry Stober]

Adventist world church president Ted N. C. Wilson, flanked by presidents of the church’s 13 world divisions, raised bright blue shovels into the air for a photo opp, a stark contrast to the gray drizzle that clouded the village.

“May this be a reminder of the importance of transferring truth through the spoken word, and the written word,” Wilson said, referring to the future publishing house.

During an afternoon presentation, Adventist world church Vice President Delbert Baker explored how the early church’s outreach method put it at the leading edge of advocacy for equality.

Early Adventists, Baker said, grappled with slavery, equality and other “defining issues” of the mid-19th Century. The church was officially established two years before the end of the Civil War, which pitted the northern and southern U.S. states against each other in a bloody battle over slavery, states’ rights and the preservation of the Union.

Ellen White counseled early Adventists to let “timeless biblical principles” guide their approach to race relations. Using Luke 4 as what Baker called an “outreach blueprint,” Adventists were “unequivocal” in their belief that the Bible prompted ministry to all people and compelled Christians to “set the oppressed free.”

Indeed, Baker said, early Adventists were a diverse group, well representing gender, age and ethnicity. A former slave named Charles Kinney became the church’s first black minister. Missionary Anna Knight was the first black woman to do outreach in India.
Progress, however, "was not accidental" or, at times, even "easy," Baker reminded delegates. It often required the "prodding of members" and the "confrontation of Ellen White."

Early Adventists also struggled over whether to formally organize as a church, a subject Barry Oliver, president of the church’s South Pacific Division, explored. Early pioneers such as James White were fervent in their call to “come out of Babylon,” which they first interpreted as a challenge to leave organized religion and return to gospel simplicity.

But financial collapse and an urgent need to fund outreach led the Adventist Church to embrace formal organization.

“The development of mission was a clear impetus for organization,” Oliver said, adding that early leaders were equally clear in cautioning that “when structure inhibited mission, it should be changed.”

Formal organization led to burgeoning church growth worldwide. When the church was officially established in 1863, there were 3,500 Adventists. By the turn of the century, there were 75,000 church members worldwide in America, Europe, the South Pacific and other so-called “mission fields.”

During a question–and–answer period, one delegate asked Oliver whether he feared current tension between world church headquarters and local regions would jeopardize the church’s unity. Some administrative units of the church have lately challenged the world church on the issue of women’s ordination.

“You’re asking me to be a prophet,” Oliver said, eliciting laughter from the delegates. He thought for a moment, then recommended a healthy “balance” between the church’s world headquarters and regional administration.

“We are resilient as a church, but unity must be guarded appropriately,” he said.

**Adventist History**

In the mid–1800s, a small community of Christians in the northeast United States began to study Bible prophecy and concluded that Jesus would return in 1844. They were led by Baptist preacher William Miller and included future Seventh–day Adventist Church co–founder Ellen G. White, then a teenager. When Christ didn’t return, the Millerites regrouped and later launching what is today a global Protestant denomination of some 17 million baptized members.

**Key dates**

- 1844: Great Disappointment
- 1860: The group decides on the name “Seventh–day Adventist”
- 1863: The Seventh–day Adventist Church is officially organized
- 1874: The Adventist Church sends its first missionary overseas. J. N. Andrews sails for Switzerland
'No more anniversaries,' Wilson says in Spring Meeting sermon

Apr. 14, 2013 Battle Creek, Michigan, United States

Mark A. Kellner, News Editor, Adventist Review

Meeting in the city where the Seventh-day Adventist Church's General Conference was first organized, members of the world church's Executive Committee heard a direct call from Adventist world church president Ted N.C. Wilson, to not forget the lessons learned from Adventist history.

Adventist world church President Ted Wilson urges an audience at the church’s Battle Creek Tabernacle to rekindle the sense of urgency early Adventists felt for the Second Coming of Christ. [photo: Brandan Roberts]

Wilson spoke during a Sabbath sermon on April 13, 2013, at the Seventh-day Adventist Tabernacle in downtown Battle Creek, Michigan, part of a weekend planned to commemorate 150 years since leaders of the then-nascent movement voted to organize the loosely knit confederation of believers into a General Conference.

“This is a very sad anniversary,” Wilson told delegates gathered for the 11 a.m. worship service. “We should have been home by now! The Lord has wanted to come long before this. Why celebrate any more anniversaries when we could be in heaven?”

The early Adventist pioneers, many of whom had survived the 1844 "Great Disappointment" of the so-called "Millerite" movement, which expected the return of Christ on October 22, 1844, still believed in the soon-coming return of Jesus, Wilson noted, but now refused to set dates. Nevertheless, many believed the work of proclaiming the Three Angels Messages of Revelation 14 would be completed quickly and that Christ's return would be imminent.

Today's 17 million-member Seventh-day Adventist Church still passionately proclaims Christ's imminent return, he observed. Wilson, the 20th president of the church since its organization in 1863, asked whether the movement has been as faithful to God's commands and counsels as it might have been.

"Why must we wait on this earth any longer?" Wilson asked. "Why must we observe more anniversaries of the establishment of the General Conference? Are we guilty of not obeying and following our own counsels and going backward and not forward? God has called the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a movement to a unique message and a unique mission. When will we fully embrace it and remember God's leading in our past and not forget Him? How long will we, like ancient Israel, keep breaking our promises to the Lord and following our own counsel and not His?"

In his Sabbath message, which was also carried live on the "Hope Channel," a satellite network owned by the Adventist world church, Wilson explained why the anniversary was important, not as a time for celebration, but as a challenge for Adventists now.

"We are celebrating 150 years here in Battle Creek because we don't want to forget who we are, where we came from and what God has in store for us as His people -- a unique people with a unique message at a unique time in Earth's history," Wilson said. "Jesus is coming soon! All the signs point to the climax of Earth's history. It is time
to proclaim the three angels’ messages with Holy Spirit power. It is time to reap the results from The Great Controversy Project. It is time to enter New York and many other cities with the power of the loud cry with our 'Mission to the Cities' project! It is time to fully utilize comprehensive health ministry to act as the right arm to the Gospel message. It is time to 'Tell the World,'" he added, noting several world church outreach initiatives.

Wilson stressed that world church leaders will continue their role of guiding the movement’s many global operations as it continues to work to proclaim the gospel message.

"The General Conference will continue to stand firm for God’s truth as the overall supervising body of God’s worldwide work," Wilson said. "It will not lessen its strong guiding and nurturing role over all Seventh-day Adventists worldwide until the very events of history occur when ultimately religious persecution prevents organizations from functioning. The General Conference, by God’s grace and His power, will not be decentralized, neutralized or sidelined."

Concluding his remarks, Wilson said the mission given to the Seventh–day Adventist Church, from its pioneer days and the organization of the General Conference in Battle Creek 150 years ago, is uniquely intended for this movement.

"This message will not pass to another group or church," Wilson declared. "There will not be another remnant church. You and I are part of the final church God has prepared. [The] 150 years of the General Conference is simply a call to move forward on that great journey on that narrow pathway, allowing God to make revival and reformation real and actual in our lives and in the church."
Landless director-elect of Adventist Church’s Health Ministries department

April 17, 2013

Landless director-elect of Adventist Church's Health Ministries department

Apr. 14, 2013 Battle Creek, Michigan, United States

ANN staff

Delegates of the 2013 Spring Meeting voted today to elect Dr. Peter Landless, a physician and pastor, as director-elect of the Seventh-day Adventist world church’s Health Ministries department. Landless will replace current director Dr. Allan Handysides, who has announced he will retire in September.

Dr. Allan Handysides, right, retiring director of the Adventist world church’s Health Ministries department, prays for Director-Elect Dr. Peter Landless, center, with Adventist world church President Ted Wilson. “We pray that grace will permeate our lives,” Handysides said of Landless and other church leaders. “May each of us be a beacon to call others from the darkness of sin.” [photo: Brandan Roberts]

Delegates also received the names of two nominees for other vacancies at the church’s headquarters in Silver Spring in the U.S. state of Maryland. They elected Jesse Johnson to fill a vacancy on the Adventist World Radio board. Johnson is currently president of netAserve, which provides technology support to the Adventist Church.

Kimberly Westphall will serve as associate director for quality control for the General Conference Auditing Service (GCAS). Westphall currently works as GCAS regional manager for the church’s North American Division. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and is a certified public accountant.

Landless, who has served as an associate director for the church’s Health Ministries department since early 2002, has advocated for compassionate and comprehensive health ministry, urging each church to act as a health care center to the surrounding community. His career has spanned clinical practice, research, teaching and administration, both academically and in the Adventist Church. The South African native began practicing medicine in 1974. He has since completed specialties in family medicine, internal medicine and cardiology.

“It has been a pleasure to work with someone who has been a true friend and colleague,” Handysides said of Landless. “We've worked together as a team. I support [this nomination] with all my heart.”

Adventist world church President Ted N. C. Wilson said he was pleased that Landless not only brings a veteran career in medicine to the job, but also solid spiritual qualifications.

“[Peter] has functioned as a pastor and continues to provide pastoral guidance,” Wilson said. "Any of you who know him know he has a deep concern and care for each of us."

A formal tribute for Handysides is expected to take place in October at the church’s Annual Council biannual business session. Until then, Handysides and Landless will work alongside each other as co-directors.

Church officers will work closely with Landless to find a replacement for him, Wilson said, adding that they expect the new associate will share a similar passion for comprehensive health ministry.
Adventist Church promotes next step for comprehensive health ministry

Apr. 15, 2013 Battle Creek, Michigan, United States

Elizabeth Lechleitner/ANN

Adventist evangelist Mark Finley quoted a line yesterday from his mentor, television ministry legend George Vandeman, to encourage Seventh-day Adventists to take a more proactive approach to personal and corporate health.

Mark Finley, special assistant to the Adventist world church president for evangelism, urges Spring Meeting delegates to reprioritize the church's early health message. [photo: Brandan Roberts]

The line comes from a story Vandeman was fond of telling: The only way to reach an ancient monastery perched atop a towering mountain was a single rope. A monk peering over a sheer cliff pulled tourists up in a wicker basket. “How often do you replace the rope?” one asked nervously.

“Every time it breaks,” the monk said.

The punch line hit home for many delegates to the first business session of Spring Meeting here in Battle Creek. They laughed, but they also paused to reflect on their own lifestyles, not unlike early church leaders who, 150 years ago, first heard church co-founder and prophet Ellen G. White’s account of her vision on seemingly radical health principles. Don’t smoke. Exercise. Leave that pork chop off the menu.

That vision, given in a time period when bloodletting and doping were common medical practices, would become the backbone of what is today a holistic global health ministry. The Seventh-day Adventist Church operates a network of about 600 hospitals, clinics and dispensaries worldwide, and counts many innovative health leaders among its members.

But this week, top church officials called for a renewed emphasis on the comprehensive side of health ministry—the blending of physical and spiritual components. The discussion was a continuation of what world church health and ministerial leaders first addressed at a summit last month.

“We've been doing this for 150 years. It’s in our DNA,” Finley said. “But we’re taking a new look at it.”

Delegates reviewed and accepted 10 recommendations that came out of that summit. They include refocusing on Christ's method of meeting physical needs before spiritual ones, and finding ways to integrate these methods into curriculums and practices at the church's education institutions. The document also pledges to support the work of “centers of influence,” where such ministry is already taking place.

“If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen,” said Dr. Allan Handysides, co-director for the Adventist world church’s Health Ministries department, quoting a passage from White’s landmark book, “The Ministry of Healing.”

Adventist world church President Ted N. C. Wilson also referred to White’s writings. “The best thing you can do in New York is medical missionary work,” he said, quoting a line from a letter she wrote. “Health,” he continued, “is
the right arm of evangelism. Health is what opens the door."

Going forward, health ministry will be deeply rooted in church initiatives such as Mission to the Cities, church leaders said.

Some delegates, however, questioned whether the world church’s current budget for Health Ministries could fund a quality, appealing program that will impact the community. A delegate from the church’s South Pacific Division strongly urged the Executive Committee to review existing successful community programs and incorporate them into mainstream ministry. He cited depression- and addiction-recovery programs as possible examples.

Mike Ryan, an Adventist world church vice president, agreed. "We have so many programs, but bridging them to create something big, we’re weak on that"—hence the urgent call for “comprehensive” health ministry delegates heard today.

Jonathan Duffy, president of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency, applauded the new approach to health ministry. He said there are steps to conversion, beginning with raising awareness and ending with lifelong discipleship.

"What excites me is that this is a genuine attempt at blending ministries," Duffy said. "All of us have to consider this and ask, ‘How am I contributing to this ministry?’ How does ADRA fit into this? We are part of the preparatory work."

Handysides said not only should the message be comprehensive—appealing to physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual needs—but the delivery should be, too.

"Every church, every hospital, every institution, every supporting ministry must be comprehensive in its message," Handysides said. "Even these meetings are going to have to change," he added, referring to the long hours spent sitting in conference rooms during church business sessions.

"We’re going to have to take a walk at every break," he said.

Jóhann E. Jóhannsson, treasurer for the church’s Trans–European Division, thought accepted recommendations could be more pointed toward Adventists themselves.

"I feel these 10 points only focus on what we’re going to do for others, with no mention of what we need to do ourselves. Exercise doesn’t come easy for most of us. We can say we don’t smoke or drink," Jóhannsson said, “but there are other groups out there right now who [demonstrate health] much better than we are. We need to encourage ourselves to practice what we’re going to preach. Then I think as a church we can do this."

Finley agreed, adding that when a full document is voted at Annual Council in October, delegates will be asked to pledge to follow the church’s health principles in their personal lives.

Adventist world church vice president and frequent marathon runner Delbert Baker closed with a thought that may have been on more than a few delegates' minds: "Mark, I think everyone wants you to take them for a jog right now."
At Battle Creek, afternoon presentations highlight lessons from history

Apr. 14, 2013 Battle Creek, Michigan, United States

Mark A. Kellner/Adventist Review and Elizabeth Lechleitner/ANN

In the end, it seemed fitting that an archivist—in this case, David Trim of the Seventh-day Adventist world church—would encapsulate two days of presentations reflecting on the 150 years since the denomination's formal organization.

"This is a historian's dream," the waistcoated Trim said yesterday afternoon to an audience of church officials gathered at the Adventist Historic Village. "Church leaders sitting down for two days listening to history—may it happen many more times."

David Trim, director of the Adventist world church's Office of Archives, Statistics and Research, recounts how the early Advent movement grew from an small, insular group in the U.S. Northeast to one "illuminating the whole earth" with "God’s truth." [photos: Brandan Roberts]

The two-day review of history was not, however, merely an academic exercise. Instead, the presentations were designed to help delegates to the church's Spring Meeting, one of two bi-annual business sessions, understand the roots of present-day Adventism as well as to draw lessons from the lives of pioneers, early believers and even apostates.

The fervor of early Adventists sometimes faded: Moses Hull was one of those who suggested the name "Seventh-day Adventist Church," but later apostatized into Spiritualism. John Harvey Kellogg, leader of the church's early health and education departments, built the famed Battle Creek Sanatorium, but later wrested it from church control, and in 1907 was dropped from membership because of his advocacy of pantheistic ideas. Toward the end of his life, Kellogg acknowledged his errors, at least privately, but declined rebaptism for fear of igniting controversy, said Bill Knott, editor of Adventist Review and Adventist World magazines.

Sadly, though, Knott said, "Kellogg's story ended well before his death," because of his separation from the movement.

Ella Simmons, an Adventist educational system veteran now in her second term as a general vice president of the Adventist world church, spoke of the collapse of institutions centered in Battle Creek—the Sanitarium, snatched away by Kellogg and later burned; the Review and Herald Publishing Association, also burned in a fire; and Battle Creek College, which ultimately collapsed.

Early church pioneer Ellen G. White had warned church officials against what she called the "proliferation of buildings" in Battle Creek, Simmons said. White feared the concentration of institutions in one place would indulge insular thinking and jeopardize the church's mission and outreach, she said, adding that White later went so far as to call the fires "necessary" in an article for the Adventist Review.

"It's not the buildings or institutions that give character to the church, but the faithfulness and integrity of its workers," Simmons said. "We are the temples of God."

But, Simmons noted, the failures and problems at Battle Creek were the ashes from which major institutions such
as Loma Linda University and Andrews University grew.

Simmons also traced the development of the church’s education system, now a network of 112 colleges and universities and about 8,000 schools worldwide, serving an estimated 1.7 million students. Establishing a denominationally-based school system was an afterthought for early Adventists, many of whom questioned the value of investing in education when the end of the world was supposedly imminent.

Church co-founder James White was among early proponents of Adventist education, saying, “The fact that Christ is coming soon is no reason the mind shouldn’t be improved.”

Early Adventists were not always committed to worldwide mission, either. More than a decade passed between when the church was founded and when John Nevins Andrews left for Europe as the church’s first overseas ministry.

In his Sabbath afternoon presentation, Trim recounted the change in Adventist attitudes that moved the church from solely preaching its message in North America to a focus that took it “into all the world.”

Adventist world church President Ted N. C. Wilson urges Spring Meeting delegates to allow the weekend’s historical lessons to “inspire an unprecedented return to the message that Jesus will soon return.”

At first, early Adventists were preoccupied with the United States’ “providential” place in history, Trim said. They were reluctant to take biblical phrases such as “all the world” and “every nation,” literally, concluding that they “did not need to leave America to fulfill prophetic destiny,” he said. Indeed, some of the church’s first missionary work was to reach immigrant populations in the U.S.

By 1873, it was again James White who called for a change. In one sermon, he mentioned that the Advent message should “go to all people” 14 times. Ultimately, Trim said, it was influential leaders such as James, prophetic counsel from Ellen White and good communication—constant reports from Europe detailed the need for mission work there—that led to world mission. Together, “these implanted passion for mission in the Adventist DNA, which I hope will never be extracted,” Trim said.

Reflecting on the shifts in focus and realizations early church leaders came to, Adventist world church president Ted N. C. Wilson thanked the afternoon presenters for highlighting the need for humility and flexibility in leadership, drawing this lesson from the life of former church President George Ide Butler: “You can’t be a leader and think you know it all. You’ve got to come to the cross every day,” Wilson said.

Echoing his Sabbath sermon, the world church leader also took the opportunity to urge delegates not to become complacent, but to recapture a sense of urgency about the Second Coming.

“Where do we go from here?” Wilson asked. “Use the experiences of this weekend to inspire an unprecedented return to the message that Jesus will soon return. Let’s be part of this great Advent movement.”

In closing the afternoon presentations, Jim Nix, director of the Ellen G. White Estate, thanked former world church President Jan Paulsen who, while in office, first suggested that Spring Meeting be held in Battle Creek to commemorate the church’s 150th anniversary.

**Adventist History**
In the mid-1800s, a small community of Christians in the northeast United States began to study Bible prophecy and concluded that Jesus would return in 1844. They were led by Baptist preacher William Miller and included future Seventh-day Adventist Church co-founder Ellen G. White, then a teenager. When Christ didn’t return, the Millerites regrouped and later launching what is today a global Protestant denomination of some 17 million baptized members.

**Key dates**

- 1844: Great Disappointment
- 1860: The group decides on the name “Seventh-day Adventist”
- 1863: The Seventh-day Adventist Church is officially organized
- 1874: The Adventist Church sends its first missionary overseas. J. N. Andrews sails for Switzerland
Treasurer says North American tithe up 1%, 4.4% other regions

http://news.adventist.org/en/archive/articles/2013/04/16/treasurer-says-north-american-tithe-up-1-4-4-other-regions

April 17, 2013

In 1899, the fledgling Seventh-day Adventist Church had only $55.33 in a bank account here in Battle Creek. Two years later, the financial landscape had worsened. The church was some $40,000 in debt. The fiscal crisis would spur early Adventists to reorganize the church’s priorities at the turn of the century.

Yesterday, Spring Meeting delegates heard a considerably more optimistic report about their church’s financial standing—a testament to the faithfulness of membership worldwide and the prudent handling of funds at the various levels of the church, church financial officers said.

Adventist Church Treasurer Robert E. Lemon reports to Spring Meeting delegates that the Adventist world church received about $1.4 billion in tithe last year. Yesterday's financial reports also unveiled a new funding structure for the church's auditing service, with organizations to pay for a portion of their audits. [photo: Brandan Roberts]

Tithe returned in the North American Division for 2012 was up about 1 percent from 2011 and totaled US$933 million. Tithe from divisions outside North America increased 4.4 percent for a total of close to $1.4 billion.

Mission offerings from outside North America similarly rose, reaching about $60 million, a 6 percent increase from the previous year. Meanwhile, mission offerings returned in North America dipped 2.6 percent, totaling nearly $23 million.

"We have seen a tremendous increase in mission giving by divisions outside of North America," Adventist world church Treasurer Robert E. Lemon told ANN. "But I want to point out that in North America, local churches often give to many projects directly, or their members go on mission trips. These acts of mission giving go uncounted."

Spring Meeting delegates yesterday also heard initial recommendations to appropriate the church’s supplemental budget of nearly $14 million.

"The blessing of the Lord has been evident in the giving and administration of our church," said Adventist world church Undertreasurer Juan Prestol. "We praise the Lord for that."

Delegates voted to approve one of the appropriations today—$300,000 to South Sudan. Since Sudan’s split in 2011, most of the Adventist population has shifted to Christian-majority South Sudan. The appropriation from Adventist world church headquarters will fund much-needed infrastructure for the church there and pay off some existing facilities in the cities of Juba and Malakal.

Delegates also approved a $7 million supplemental budget appropriation for the church’s General Conference Auditing Service (GCAS) as it phases in a new funding structure. Starting in January, a portion of audits will be funded by the audited organizations. After four years, funding for GCAS audits will be paid 80 percent by
institutions, and 20 percent by conferences, unions and divisions, Lemon said.

Delegates also heard an item regarding Hope Channel – the Adventist Church’s official television network. Prestol noted that Hope Channel would require approximately $8 million more than is currently budgeted for the network to continue providing current satellite coverage through 2020. The matter is expected to undergo further study later this year before delegates are asked to act, Prestol added. If approved, funding would come from the so-called “extraordinary tithe,” which was a one-time payment of $102 million in tithe to the Adventist Church in 2007.

Following the report from church treasury officials, External Auditor Jim Nyquist, a partner from the firm Maner Costerisan & Ellis, commended the Adventist Church on the quality of its accounting records. He noted that audited financial statements presented to Spring Meeting cover the operations and appropriations handled through the world headquarters.

It has been agreed by the Executive Committee that it would be impractical to try to consolidate financial information from all the world divisions and institutions directly affiliated with the world church headquarters. One delegate, while acknowledging that it would not be practical to present an audited consolidated statement, wondered why financial information from the separate audited statements of the church’s 13 world divisions wasn’t available.

Lemon agreed that a more comprehensive look would be helpful.

Indeed, Lemon indicated that treasury is already planning to present a 10-year comprehensive report of the church’s 13 world divisions and its institutions at Annual Council in October.
Hinsdale Hospital saves money, as well as lives

BY KIMBERLY FORNEK | kfornek@pioneerlocal.com April 11, 2013 5:32PM

HINSDALE — Utility companies are expected to provide energy, not make payments to their customers.

But ComEd and Nicor Gas are doing just that for Adventist Hinsdale Hospital. In less than five years, the hospital has received $252,800 in incentives through the Smart I Program, which subsidizes investments in energy efficient equipment.

Hospital officials expect those upgrades to continue to save the hospital money.

Earlier this month, Nicor presented hospital officials a check for $60,682 to help pay the $193,660 cost of replacing a burner on the hospital's third boiler. ComEd contributed another $1,800 for installing a variable speed drive on the burner to further reduce energy use.

The efforts to improve energy efficiency started in 2007 when the hospital put new burners on its two main boilers. Improvements to the steam transport system, water pumps, air conditioning systems, and interior and exterior lighting followed.

Reynaldo Tuazon, the hospital's energy and utilities manager, calculates the combined effect of the new equipment is saving the hospital more than $588,000 annually.

He estimates new lighting and radiant heat controls installed this year will save the hospital another $29,000 a year.

"Ray (Tuazon) handles the hospital money as if it were his own," said James Today, administrative director of facilities for both Hinsdale and La Grange Memorial hospitals.

Customers cannot entirely control their utility costs, because the price of the commodity, namely natural gas and electricity, varies based on market forces. Weather, too, is a factor.

But the upgrades the hospital has installed are reducing the amount of energy it uses. From 2007 to 2012, the number of kilowatts of electricity Hinsdale Hospital used fell 15 percent, and the amount of natural gas purchased fell 15 percent.

Electricity use went up about 1 percent from 2011 to 2012, when the hospital built and opened its four-story patient pavilion, although the addition increased the total square footage of the hospital facilities on the site 20 percent.

Hospital officials want the public to know about the improved efficiency because the public helped pay for them through extra fees on their electric and natural gas bills, la energy efficiency programs.

"The residents of Hinsdale are contributing to the energy programs and we want them to know we are doing everything we can to make sure those dollars are invested in the community," Today said.

Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital is embarking on similar energy-efficient improvements.

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Adventist Health challenges staffers to lose weight over the winter

Find out how the hospital trimmed its collective waistline by 219 inches.

By Jessica Levco | Posted: April 8, 2013

The period from Thanksgiving to Valentine’s Day is when a lot of Americans put on a few extra pounds—sometimes more than just a few.

This year, Adventist Health in Portland, Ore., wanted to help employees buck that trend.

The hospital encouraged employees to sign up for its first-ever Holiday Hold-em Challenge, which encouraged employees to shed some pounds or main their current weight.

More than 200 employees participated. Two weeks before Thanksgiving, employees could fill out a form on the hospital’s Intranet and enter their weight. Then, after Valentine’s Day, they were asked to re-enter their weight. A spouse could be included on the card, too.

Email reminders were sent out about the challenge, and information about it was posted on the hospital’s internal webpage. Scales were set up throughout the hospital so employees could weigh themselves.

During the designated period, 181 employees either maintained or lost weight. Collectively, the group lost 586 pounds and 219 inches of waist size. Three prizes were awarded: The top prize was a trip for two to a resort (donated by a local credit union), and the two runners-up received iPads. The only money the hospital spent on the program was for the iPads.

“If they aren’t feeling well, that’s not only a bummer for them individually, but it might interfere with their work and how they can be there for our patients,” says Ed Hoover, manager of Adventist Health’s LivingWell and community wellness program. “If someone is not well, there’s also a greater chance for injury or accident.”
How is your hospital helping staffers live a healthier lifestyle?

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Blessed Hope Seventh-Day Adventist Church to Host Youth Conference

Ashley Penn
FN News Reporter
ashley@nasguard.com

Lives are anticipated to be changed as the Blessed Hope Seventh-Day Adventist Church gears up for their first 'Jesus is the Answer Crusade.'

Church Youth Leader William Rahming introduced the event and noted that the crusade will shed light on various topics of concern within today's society.

"Starting on the 14 of this month, one of the things we are going to be discussing basically is the need for salvation and the steps to obtain salvation.

"We're going to also be discussing something that worries our society, which is same sex union and homosexuality. There has been much talk in society about it and so we're going to look at what the Bible says about it," he said.

"I feel that God will show up in a mighty way and we believe that the topics that we have chosen are practical, we believe that they are for today and not yesterday and we believe that persons who come out will be blessed," Rahming continued.

The youth leader also pointed out the issue regarding youngsters ending up on the wrong side of the law, but suggested this crusade as the answer.

"When we look at our society, when we look at our prison system or when we look at our justice system it is crowded with young people and I think sometimes the negative effects of society or the negativity of young people actually reflects the majority but we believe that there are wholesome young people who are not going down that road, Rahming said.

"What we aim to do in this two weeks is try and show our young people how we can avoid the pitfalls of getting got up in the justice system, prison. We believe that we can point you in a new and a better direction," he concluded.

Asst. Youth Leader Leona Hylton said the event would not only impact lives within the community, but also members of the church.

"We're having this crusade not just because we can have it. We're having this crusade because we know that persons in the community, including ourselves, need to get more connected with God.

"Some may say that the Bahamas is a Christian nation but we could differ at times, so we really want to bring in our young people," she said.
However, the assistant youth leader also highlighted the importance of repentance.

"You cannot hear and do and stay the way you are and don't repent, repentance is key. In order for us to get to heaven, we need to repent of all the things we've done in the past that was incorrect and change and move forward in the future," Hylton concluded.

The event will be held at 7:15 nightly from April 14-27 at 7 Sunset Highway & East Beach Drive.
FAITH THAT INSPIRES ACTION

A World-Wide Ministry from Compassion Church of Katy

Reviewing UNHOOKED: A Show Seeking to Cure Addiction

APR 9
Posted by Rev. Robert A. Crutchfield
About these ads (http://en.wordpress.com/about-these-ads/)

Hope TV (http://www.hopetv.org/) the Christian cable network was kind enough to send me an advanced copy of their new show UNHOOKED. The show which currently spans 28 thirty minute episodes seeks to show those impacted by addictions (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Addiction) a compassionate way to recovery.

Each segment of the first episode opens with an addict we only know as Keith. Keith shares the story of how he found himself the victim of addiction, the impacts it was having on his life, and the journey he took on his way out of those addictions.

Two of the show’s hosts Pastor Bernie Anderson, and Dr Kit Freier Anderson spent much of the show interviewing this episode’s guest Dr. Mickey Ask. The three of them went through a detailed explanation of what is an addiction, many of the common reasons people fall victim to addiction etc. They did not place emphasis on one recovery model over another in this episode, but were non judgmental approach throughout.

This episode contained a lot of information for such a short program. I myself ended up with a page and a half of notes preparing for this article. Much of it I may use for more than this one brief article.

As the series progresses I hope that we
can see more through the eyes of the addicts, pastors, and clinicians that have been there. They are the ones who often have the strongest message and greatest impact on those who are suffering. Soothing music plays through much of the episode. This sets a calming tone that many of those the show is trying to reach may find comforting. I like that the show uses both a clinical and spiritual approach, and shows how someone seeking to recover doesn’t have to choose between a spiritual or clinical recovery, but can journey to recovery aided by the best both spheres have to offer.

I would definitely suggest you give this show a try if you or anybody you care about may be suffering with an addiction.

Unhooked is made possible through a partnership between Hope Channel, Versacare, the Health Department of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists (http://www.nadadventist.org), and Adventist Recovery (http://faithinspires.wordpress.com/2013/04/05/new-show-unhooked-focuses-on-common-addictions/#) Ministries.

The show will be available on Hope TV which can be found on Hope Channel can be seen on DirecTV Channel 368, Roku (http://www.roku.com), and via live stream at the show’s website http://www.hopetv.org/unhooked (http://www.hopetv.org/unhooked). It airs Sundays at 9pm Eastern and Tuesdays at 3:30 pm Eastern. More information about the show can also be found at its website.


NOTE: The opinions expressed here are my own and I was not asked to give a positive review by Hope Channel.”

Related articles
- New Show, UNHOOKED, Focuses on Common Addictions (http://faithinspires.wordpress.com/2013/04/05/new-show-unhooked-focuses-on-common-addictions/) (faithinspires.wordpress.com)
- The power of intervention (http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/features/the-power-of-intervention-americas-most-successful-addiction-treatment-has-been-slow-to-catch-on-here--until-now-8564929.html) (independent.co.uk)
- Intervening On Behalf Of An Alcohol Addict (http://interventionsforalcoholabusers.wordpress.com/2013/04/09/intervening-on-behalf-of-an-alcohol-addict/) (interventionsforalcoholabusers.wordpress.com)
About Rev. Robert A. Crutchfield

a bi-vocational minister organizing a new church plant in the Katy, Texas Area.

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Publishing work was central to early Adventist Church

Apr. 10, 2013 Silver Spring, Maryland, United States

Elizabeth Lechleitner/ANN

Editor’s note: This story is part of a series of historical articles published this year marking the 150th anniversary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In July of 1849, James White packed copies of “The Present Truth” into a borrowed carpetbag and trekked eight miles to the post office in Middletown, Connecticut, United States. He was taking the first steps toward what would become a global publishing ministry.

Uriah Smith, right, and other Adventist publishing leaders reenact in the 1890s the early days of the church’s publishing ministry. [photos courtesy Office of Archives, Statistics and Research]

Weeks before, the young, penniless Seventh-day Adventist Church pioneer had persuaded a local publisher to print 1,000 copies of the first issue of what is known today as “Adventist Review” magazine. White convinced the publisher that donations from Sabbatarian Adventists scattered across the U.S. Northeast would trickle in to cover the $64.50 printing costs. He was right.

“When God is behind something, what seems impossible is really only an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to work a miracle,” said Wilmar Hirle, current associate director for the world church’s Publishing Ministries.

That magazine grew into what Adventist historian George Knight called “probably the most effective instrument in both gathering and uniting the body of believers who would become the Seventh-day Adventists in the 1860s.”

In the 1840s, there were only a few hundred Sabbatarian Adventists, but that number grew to 3,500 by 1863 when the Seventh-day Adventist Church was officially established. Early church periodicals not only spurred evangelism, but they also provided a sense of spiritual community among early believers. Later on, publishing extended to lay ministry opportunities traditionally limited to pastors.

By 1844, when the Millerites wrongly expected the Second Coming of Christ, early believers had already distributed an “astonishing” 8 million pieces of literature, Hirle said. Boston, Massachusetts publisher Joshua Himes printed the Sabbath tracts and charts illustrating the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation that accompanied William Miller’s sermons in small churches throughout the U.S. Northeast.

The first edition of “The Present Truth” published in July of 1849. The magazine was instrumental in uniting early Sabbatarian Adventists and is today known as the “Adventist Review.”

But it wasn’t until 1848, after early church pioneer and prophet Ellen White was shown in vision that her husband, James, should launch a magazine that the Adventist publishing ministry began in earnest.

In the vision, White said God instructed James to “print a little paper and send it out to the people.” Despite the couple’s financial struggles, White said she had been assured that, with faith, the paper would eventually be “like streams of light that went clear round the world” (“Life Sketches”, pg. 125).
Early issues of “The Present Truth” were a platform for church leaders to clarify what had happened in 1844, discuss emerging doctrines such as the Three Angels Messages and, above all, unpack the Sabbath truth. Indeed, it was the seventh-day Sabbath that prompted the church to launch its first publishing house.

James and Ellen White, among other early church founders, grew increasingly concerned that a magazine proclaiming the Sabbath was being printed by a publisher who often worked on Saturday, Hirle said.

So, in 1853, early Adventists voted to establish a publishing house in New York. It was a house in the truest sense — early publishing leaders lived and worked together in a rented home in Rochester. Adventist pioneer Hiram Edson, who had recently sold his farm, lent the proceeds to purchase a Washington hand press. The machine took three days to produce one copy of what was then called “The Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald.”

An early Washington hand press. The machine took three days to produce one copy of “The Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald.”

With no money to buy a paper cutter, Adventist pioneer Uriah Smith is said to have trimmed the edges of magazines with his penknife. Years later, Smith wrote, “We blistered our hands in the operation, and often the tracts in form were not half so true and square as the doctrines they taught.”

By 1855, the church’s publishing ministry had moved to Battle Creek, Michigan, and Smith, at age 23, was serving as editor, a role he would maintain in some capacity throughout his life.

As the church’s publishing ministry continued to grow in the mid-1800s, young Canadian immigrant George King developed the idea of subscription sale of Adventist publications. He was looking for a new ministry outlet after James White urged him to explore a career beyond the traditional role of pastor.

“James asked him to preach a sermon. It was a disaster,” said Hirle. “So he started literature evangelism.”

George King’s efforts to preach from house to house, rather than from the pulpit, in the U.S. and Canada helped grow Adventism into a global denomination. By the late 1870s, King was selling books and subscriptions to magazines such as “Signs of the Times.”

By 1903, the Adventist Church had reached 70 of the world’s countries. “In many of those places, [the church] established a presence because a literature evangelist was leading,” Hirle said.

Adventist missionary Arthur Carscallen established African Herald Publishing in 1913. Carscallen was one of dozens of church leaders who helped expand Adventism worldwide through publishing ministries.

Later, the church’s literature evangelism ministry would expand to include the first student literature evangelists in
the early 1900s. Today, more than 20,000 Adventist students worldwide still spend their school breaks selling books to help cover tuition costs and share the Adventist message of hope.

Just as literature evangelism has grown, so has the church’s publishing ministry, which still remains at the “core” of Adventism, Hirle said.

Most recently, the Adventist Church embarked on a massive worldwide distribution of a modern adaptation of “The Great Controversy,” a book by Ellen White that highlights small groups of people who preserved an authentic form of Christianity throughout history. Church members worldwide distributed 100 million copies in 12 months.

Hirle said early church publisher James White, who, during thirty years of writing, printing and establishing publishing houses worldwide, often struggled to find support and overcome financial challenges, would likely be surprised to see how publishing is now widely supported in the church.

“If he could see publishing houses that print in a day what he was spending a year to print, I think he would be very happy,” he said.

Adventist History

In the mid-1800s, a small community of Christians in the northeast United States began to study Bible prophecy and concluded that Jesus would return in 1844. They were led by Baptist preacher William Miller and included future Seventh-day Adventist Church co-founder Ellen G. White, then a teenager. When Christ didn’t return, the Millerites regrouped and later launching what is today a global Protestant denomination of some 17 million baptized members.

Key dates

- 1844: Great Disappointment
- 1860: The group decides on the name “Seventh-day Adventist”
- 1863: The Seventh-day Adventist Church is officially organized
- 1874: The Adventist Church sends its first missionary overseas. J. N. Andrews sails for Switzerland
The 2nd Annual North American Division Pathfinder Bible Experience will take place this Saturday April 20 in Lincoln, NE. More than 450 Pathfinders representing 40 teams from around the Division have qualified to the finals after participating in their an Conference and Union level events. The Sabbath Afternoon program will be live streamed at the following internet address from Union College. Go to this address: www.ucollege.edu touch the “Parents” tab on the left side of the screen, Under the “Life on Campus” column, touch “UCLive”. Touch “Channel 1” for program viewing.

The program will begin on Sabbath Afternoon, 2:45 pm, local Lincoln time and will last through awards and closing prayer.

**AdventSource Orders @ PBE**

Hello Everyone – we are looking forward to hosting you for the 2013 Pathfinder Bible Experience the coming week-end.

Today a number of Pathfinder leaders have called in to see if they could place an order to pick-up while they were here in Lincoln. The answer is YES! If you place their order by Friday noon we can hold it for pick-up Friday afternoon (we are open until 3 pm) or Saturday night during our open house.

Because of the number of people we expect during the open house we are not going to be taking orders at that time.

Praying for safe travels -- see you Friday evening or Sabbath.

Brad Forbes, Director
AdventSource
Sequel to "The Adventists"

Nampa, Idaho (March 11, 2013)—Martin Doblmeier, award-winning filmmaker and director, will release a new documentary, The Adventists 2, in April, 2013. The DVD will be distributed by the Pacific Press® Publishing Association (PPPA).

The film is the sequel to The Adventists, an award-winning film seen on Public Television stations that became a national success.

In The Adventists 2 Doblmeier explores how Seventh-day Adventists are changing healthcare in communities around the world. Filmed on location in Haiti, China, the Amazon, Africa, and Peru, The Adventists 2 is a collection of six stories that demonstrates the importance of the health message and mission to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and its commitment to take both to the ends of the world.

Doblmeier’s films examine how faith compels individuals to perform extraordinary feats to meet societal needs.

For information on how to schedule an interview or special screening event, contact Karen Pearson at the PPPA.

View a clip of The Adventists 2.

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2-11-13 Pacific Press® to Distribute THE ADVENTISTS 2
Prayer Call - Aug 1, Thu 10:00 PM - Join Prayer Call anytime between 10 p.m. Eastern Time,...

PSI Executive Leadership Institute - Aug 6, Tue 1:00 PM - PSI invites senior fundraising professionals and executives to...

PSI Development Planning Workshop - Aug 7, Wed - A hands-on, one day event geared to address the needs of sole...

2013 ASI International Convention - Aug 7, Wed - Annual Convention of Adventist-laymen's Services and...

Prayer Call - Sep 5, Thu 10:00 PM - Join Prayer Call anytime between 10 p.m. Eastern Time,...
Living a healthy and fulfilling life is a goal to which most people aspire and one that God planned for His people all along. However, finding balance between all of life’s demands can often be challenging. A lack of balance can lead to stress, poor eating habits, lack of exercise and strained relationships.

Adventist Health’s mission of “sharing God’s love through physical, mental and spiritual healing” seeks to help patients regain balance in life, while recognizing that employees often need assistance too. Adventist Medical Center (AMC) in Portland, Ore., used that recognition as inspiration for an employee wellness program that focuses on balance and healthy living. As a result, it was recently named one of the top three Healthiest Employers of Oregon for its LivingWell/Engaged! program. The hospital has also been recognized two years in a row with the American Heart Association’s Fit-Friendly Company Award.

“This award is meaningful because it signifies our commitment to wellness,” says Tom Russell, AMC’s president/CEO. “Adventist Health believes that taking care of the workforce by providing them the wellness tools necessary to maintain a balanced life equips them to deliver on the mission of providing exceptional care to those they serve.”

The goal of the Healthiest Employers of Oregon program is to recognize organizations that are committed to creating healthy workplaces. For several years, AMC has made a focused effort on developing a successful wellness plan that employees would embrace and engage in. They have been so successful that Adventist Health is rolling out a systemwide LivingWell/Engaged! program for all employees in the organization based on AMC’s model.

“We have made some significant commitments to supporting the health of our employees through preventative health screenings, educational resources, incentives, fun challenges and more,” says Ed Hoover, AMC LivingWell and community wellness manager. “These are just part of a larger commitment to being the best place for employees to work, physicians to practice and patients to receive care.”

More than 90 percent of eligible employees are participating in the program. According to Hoover, employees report eating more fruits and vegetables, eating less fatty foods and increasing physical activity as compared with a year ago. As an example, a current challenge program focuses on the holidays. It began at Thanksgiving and runs to Valentine’s Day, helping support healthy choices during the busy and food-filled holiday season.

Not only does being healthier benefit employees and their families, it also affects their job performance. Better customer service, increased productivity, less sick time and related health care costs, improved job satisfaction and a healthier community are all results of a healthy workplace.

“Adventist Health’s heritage and mission to nurture mental, physical, social and spiritual health sets us apart from many companies,” says Hoover. “We recognize that by fostering both a healthy workplace and healthy home environments, we will be in an even better place to experience the more ‘abundant life’ that Christ wants for all of His precious children.”

Brittany Dobbs, Adventist Health GLEANER correspondent