Junior campers and staff escaped with only the clothes they were wearing when a wildfire swept through Pine Springs Ranch (PSR) in California this past Monday and Tuesday. “We lost several structures, but we are just thankful that everyone is safe,” said Sandra Roberts, executive secretary of the Southeastern California Conference. The biggest personal loss was the house occupied by the facility manager, Fritz Wuttke, his wife and two teen sons. Their home burned to the ground with everything they owned. “We are thankful to God for a wonderful camp staff ... thankful to God the campers are all safe ... and thankful even though the camp was in the direct path of the fire we did not have more damage,” Roberts said. “We are grateful for the fire fighters and responders who have worked so hard to save the property and been so compassionate to us.”

A Worldwide "500 Days of Injustice" day of prayer - Sabbath, July 27 will mark 500 days that Pastor Antonio Monteiro has been unjustly imprisoned in Togo. The General Conference is asking churches to hold a "500 Days of Injustice" day of prayer. There is no need to alter an entire church service. Something as simple as incorporating 5-15 minutes of presentation and prayer into the service will suffice. A slideshow and short speech will be available for the occasion, if needed, from http://pray4togo.com. A series of four articles are slated to be released on Thursday on the Adventist News Network website. If you are utilizing social media, use #pray4togo500 when referring to the Day of Prayer event.

U.S. News & World Report has named Loma Linda University Medical Center the #1 hospital in the Inland Empire and ranked the Gynecology program 'Among the Best' in the nation. MORE

Kevin Krueger, general manager of KGTS, Walla Walla University's radio station and Positive Life Radio Network (PLR), will become vice president and general manager for WGTS 91.9 FM radio station located on the Washington Adventist University campus in Takoma Park, Md. Under Krueger's leadership, KGTS has grown from a single station to a regional network with outlets in 15 Northwest cities serving more than 120,000 listeners. MORE

Huntsville's First Seventh-day Adventist Church marching into new location

July 17, 2013

July Focus: Adventist Lifestyle

August Focus: Spiritual Gifts

Offerings:

Helpful Special Day Websites and Resources

Sample Offertory Readings

■ Transformational Evangelism

Specifically targeted to large cities and native-born Americans - that tap the convergent energies and collaborative talents of all.

Watch:
"Transformational Evangelism"
Choir Reunion Brings Beautiful Memories

Carol Cain: Tragedy pulled Judge Greg Mathis from street life to fame

Plan now to attend the next division-wide women's convention, Free Indeed 2014, September 25-28. It will be at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando. To register and to see the lineup of speakers, follow the Free Indeed 2014 link on the NAD Women's Ministries website homepage. Free promotional flyers for your church or conference women's event are available by calling 301-680-6427. MORE

If you provided support, or even if you were present in the aftermath of the 9-11 attack on the World Trade Center (WTC) buildings in NYC, you may be eligible for WTC benefits such as Annual medical examinations and treatments for various health conditions. Responders to the Pentagon and the Shanksville, Pa. crash sites are also eligible for services. According to their website, it is important to the WTC Health Program to enroll all responders who are potentially eligible even if you are not experiencing any health or mental health problems at this time. The registration to be included in this program is open until the end of this year. MORE

Health Unlimited, the official NAD Health Ministries newsletter, provides resources for leaders, health ministries news, calendar of events and training workshops, articles, and health 'facts with hope' for use in outreach or in your church bulletin. Produced monthly, it is available in Spanish, French, Russian and Portuguese in addition to English. It is downloadable in PDF format or via subscription at www.NADHealthMinistries.org under the newsletter tab.

Journey to Life is the official Adventist Recovery Ministries newsletter. It provides articles about addictions and unhealthy compulsive behaviors, as well as a Christ-centered 12-step recovery program. This bimonthly newsletter is available in Spanish, French, Russian and English and can be downloaded in PDF format or subscribed to at www.AdventistRecovery.org.

Simple Church is now a global network of house churches that are planted by committed missionaries who are willing to leave their comfort zone to reach people who, most likely, will not walk into conventional church buildings. MORE
“Runners,”
Pastor Dan Jackson
President, North American Division

REACH: Community outreach and evangelism - Every member an active and enthusiastic witness for God using the gifts He has given them to share hope and wholeness with a world in need

Beautiful Feet - The men of Capital City Church in Indianapolis, Ind., are helping ex-offenders put their best foot forward when applying to new jobs. Many of the ex-offenders have only tennis shoes so the men of Capital City collected 65 pairs of new and gently-used shoes to donate. This experience brings new meaning to the old Biblical adage of walking a mile in someone else's shoes. Read more in the April issue of the Lake Union Herald on page 10.

More about REACH

http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=84ac041b8b705798057dab6f2&id=5601ae54b8&e=3075540be8[8/8/2013 2:56:20 PM]
North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists®: 7-17-13 Summer youth camp evacuated, everyone safe

7-17-13 Summer youth camp evacuated, everyone safe

Junior campers and staff escaped with only the clothes they were wearing
Gerry Chudleigh reporting

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All campers, staff and animals are safe after they quickly evacuated from Pine Springs Ranch, the Southeastern California Conference youth camp and conference center, shortly before a forest fire swept through the camp this past Monday night and Tuesday.

According to camp director Carmen Ibanez, the 124 junior campers and 55 staff members escaped from the camp with only the clothes they were wearing. They were hosted Monday night by the Hemet Seventh-day Adventist Church. By Tuesday noon the last campers had been returned to their parents, and staff members had found temporary housing in nearby homes. On Tuesday Ibanez and Tim Rawson, associate treasurer of the conference, were given a quick ride through the camp on a fire truck, but they were told they would probably not be admitted to the property again until Friday, due to continued fires.

“We lost several structures, but we are just thankful that everyone is safe,” said Sandra Roberts, executive secretary of the conference.

The evacuation was so quick that neither camp staff nor the county animal control people were able to evacuate the 25 horses or the animals in the camp nature center, but all the animals were found in good condition Tuesday morning when the county animal control people entered the camp.

The biggest personal loss was the house occupied by the facility manager, Fritz Wuttke, his wife and two teen sons. Their home burned to the ground with everything they owned.

Other structures destroyed included the camp store, the maintenance building, and the multi-million dollar sewage treatment plant. Several other buildings were damaged, including the Town Hall and staff houses, but the largest buildings on the property -- the 80-room lodge, the dining room and kitchen, the multi-purpose building and the camper cabins -- were not damaged.

Roberts says they will assess the damage after the fire ends and they are admitted back into the camp, but she expects it will be some time before the camp is operational again.

“We are thankful to God for a wonderful camp staff … thankful to God the campers are all safe … and thankful even though the camp was in the direct path of the fire we did not have more damage,” Roberts said. “We are grateful for the fire fighters and responders who have worked so hard to save the property and been so compassionate to us.”

Photos, links to other reports, including an NBC video, have been placed on the Southeastern California Conference website. For ongoing updates or to make a donation to help rebuild the camp, go to http://fundly.com/support-pine-springs-ranch
WASHINGTON, D.C. – July 16, 2013 – A specialty program at Loma Linda University Medical Center has been ranked among the best in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. The Gynecology program at Loma Linda University Medical Center was ranked #47 in the country by U.S. News & World Report, which, for the fourth year in a row, also ranked Loma Linda University Medical Center the #1 hospital in Southern California’s Inland Empire (Riverside-San Bernardino metro area) for 2013-14.

The last time a specialty at Loma Linda University Medical Center was ranked nationally was in 2008, when the Department of Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery, & Facial Plastic Surgery was recognized among the top programs in the nation.

The annual U.S. News & World Report rankings, now in their 24th year, recognize hospitals that excel in treating the most challenging patients.

“We are very proud and honored for our Gynecology program to be ranked among the best in the nation and for Loma Linda University Medical Center to once again be named the best hospital in the Inland Empire,” says Loma Linda University Medical Center CEO Ruthita J. Fike.

“These honors are very much valued by our organization because they reflect the commitment, hard work, and clinical expertise of thousands of physicians, nurses, and staff, all dedicated to upholding our mission of continuing the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ,” she says.

“We are deeply honored to be nationally ranked for the provision of high quality Gynecologic care,” says Dr. Ron Swensen, chairman of the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics at Loma Linda University Medical Center. “This reflects the expertise of the entire team: doctors, nurses and ancillary personnel, all working toward a superior patient experience. We thank our patients for their trust in us.”

He noted that among the noteworthy services offered at the department include minimally invasive and robotic surgery, female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery options, comprehensive gynecologic oncology and infertility services, as well as a Perinatology Institute for high-risk pregnancies.

U.S. News ranks Loma Linda University Medical Center #13 in California, improving from #18 in 2012-13. Loma Linda University Medical Center was cited for 11 specialty programs. Aside from giving Gynecology national ranking, U.S. News cited the following “high performing” specialties of the hospital: Cancer; Cardiology and Heart Surgery; Diabetes and Endocrinology; Ear, Nose and Throat; Gastroenterology and GI Surgery; Geriatrics; Nephrology; Orthopedics; Pulmonology; and Urology.

U.S. News evaluates hospitals in 16 adult specialties. In most specialties, it ranks the nation’s top 50 hospitals and recognizes other high-performing hospitals that provide care at nearly the level of their nationally ranked peers.

“A hospital that emerges from our analysis as one of the best has much to be proud of,” says Avery Comarow, U.S. News Health Rankings Editor. “Only about 15 percent of hospitals are recognized for their high performance as among their region’s best. Just 3 percent of all hospitals earn a national ranking in any specialty.”

U.S. News publishes Best Hospitals to help guide patients who need a high level of care because they face particularly difficult surgery, a challenging condition, or added risk because of other health problems or age. Objective measures such as patient survival and safety data, the adequacy of nurse staffing levels and other data largely determined the rankings in most specialties.
The specialty rankings and data were produced for U.S. News by RTI International, a leading research organization based in Research Triangle Park, N.C. Using the same data, U.S. News produced the state and metro rankings.

The rankings have been published at http://health.usnews.com/best-hospitals and will appear in print in the U.S. News Best Hospitals 2014 guidebook, available in bookstores and on newsstands August 27.

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**About Loma Linda University Health (LLUH)**

Loma Linda University Health includes Loma Linda University's eight professional schools, Loma Linda University Medical Center's six hospitals and more than 900 faculty physicians located in the Inland Empire of Southern California. Established in 1905, LLUH is a global leader in education, research and clinical care. It offers over 100 academic programs and provides quality health care to 40,000 inpatients and 1.5 million outpatients each year. A Seventh-day Adventist® organization, LLUH is a faith-based health system with a mission "to continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ."
Kevin Krueger, general manager for KGTS 91.3 and Positive Life Radio Network at Walla Walla University, has accepted a position with a radio station in Takoma Park, Md. Krueger will become vice president and general manager for WGTS 91.9 FM, a radio station operated by Washington Adventist University. The station serves the Washington, D.C., area, broadcasting contemporary Christian music to over 600,000 listeners. “It’s an honor to be invited to guide the team at an industry leading station and ministry. KGTS/PLR and WGTS have a long rich ‘sister station’ history that I plan to continue. I anticipate many wonderful opportunities to serve the people in our nation’s capital just as we have served those in the Inland Northwest. Whatever the scale or location, it really boils down to service – one person serving another,” says Krueger. Krueger began working as a student announcer at Walla Walla University’s radio station in 1982. After graduating from WWU in 1987 with a communications major, he became program director. After one year in that position, Krueger was named to his current position of general manager. The station, which marked its 50th anniversary this year, serves as a training ground for students in communication and other academic areas. “Working with and mentoring students has been one of the most meaningful aspects of my work here,” says Krueger. Under Krueger’s leadership, the station has grown from a single local station into a regional Christian radio network with 120,000 listeners. Stations in the Positive Life Radio network are based in 15 cities in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Krueger initiated a program at Positive Life Radio called the Hands & Heart ministry to facilitate listener participation in community service projects. Projects include the regional Christmas in July food drive and Days of Compassion, a child-sponsorship program. Krueger launched the Rice for Cambodia program, inviting listener donations that would provide necessary rice to starving people in the Asian country. Since then, listeners have donated more than $1.3 million to this cause. In May, the Cambodian government honored this effort, conferring a medal on Krueger and the Positive Life Radio Network. The medal is designated for foreigners who have rendered distinguished services to the people of Cambodia. Krueger is also a recognized expert in his professional field. He shares his expertise by serving as a programming and fundraising consultant to Christian radio stations throughout the country. Krueger is also general vice-president and incoming president of Society of Adventist Communicators and has served as president of Adventist Radio Broadcasters Association. “I’m humbled by what lies ahead. The opportunities to serve others and share Christ are huge. I feel fortunate to be joining a team of professionals and student interns that know their craft. The change is a hard one, we have deep roots in the Inland Northwest, but it’ll be good to take all I’ve learned here and take it to our nation’s capital to encourage and bless people,” says Krueger.

Krueger will be relocating to the East Coast with his wife, Lisa, and their two children.

Published July 8, 2013.
Huntsville's First Seventh-day Adventist Church marching into new location, large vision on Evangel Drive

Kay Campbell | kcampbell@al.com

Pastors Alfonzo Greene III, left, and Pastor Debleaire Snell lift the pulpit into place as workers put the finishing touches on the sanctuary of the renovated church building at 1303 Evangel Drive N.W. in Huntsville. The first service in the new location will be Saturday, July 20, 2013. (Kay Campbell / KCampbell@al.com)

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama – With the snip of a ribbon on Saturday morning, July 20, 2013, the members of First Seventh-day Adventist Church will mark a new era by marching, singing together, into their new church complex.

The grand opening service will be held at the complex at 1303 Evangel Drive N.W. in Huntsville on Saturday at 9 a.m.

Sabbath School Bible study classes for all ages begin at 9:30 a.m., with worship at 11:30 a.m.

Guest speaker will be Pastor Dana Edmond, the president of the regional network of Seventh-day Adventist Churches called the South Central Conference.

The 54,000-square foot complex set on 12 acres at the top of a hill overlooking both the University Drive entrance to the University of Alabama in Huntsville and the campus of Downtown Rescue Mission will provide some elbow space for the growing congregation.

Currently the congregation, which has added 401 members since senior Pastor Debleaire Snell joined the staff on July 17, 2010, has been squeezed into two services at their current location on Stringfield Road. There the sanctuary seats 600, less than half the 1,500 capacity of the Evangel Drive complex formerly owned by West Huntsville Church of Christ, a congregation that moved to Old Monrovia Road near Providence.

The Evangel Drive location positions the congregation to add to their vibrant church and community programs.

"You have UAH there," said Tim Allston, an active member of the congregation, pointing to the north of the property. "There's the Downtown Rescue Mission there, the Stake Center for local Mormons and the area's largest Muslim masjid just over on Sparkman. There's public housing and also, surprisingly, one of the city's youngest neighborhoods, with lots of children."

"Our goal is to be a lighthouse," said Pastor Debleaire Snell, the senior pastor of the church. "I think we have just scratched the surface of becoming a place where broken lives can be repaired."

Snell will lead a sneak-peak "Vision Tour" of the renovated facility on Friday, July 19, 2013, from 5-7 p.m.

The congregation will also host a master class for young violin players given by international virtuoso Jaime Jorge on Friday, 3 p.m., at the 6300 Stringfield Road address. He will give a free community concert at the new complex at 1303 Evangel Drive on Saturday, 6:30 p.m.

Read about the master class and concert here.

The dynamic preaching and teaching of senior Pastor Debleaire Snell, preaching at left while associate Pastor Alfonzo Greene III reacts, at right, has helped the congregation add 401 new members to the congregation of Huntsville's First Seventh-day Adventist Church. (Courtesy of Keith Rush)

Room to grow

Allston and Snell were walking through the complex with the church's ministers, associate Pastor Alfonzo Greene III and Pastor Alfred Hill.

Around them, construction workers moved quickly, finishing the last tasks of an extensive renovation that has created a sweeping, two-story foyer, re-opened the balcony, and transformed the traditionally plain Church of Christ auditorium into a space equipped with the latest in video and audio equipment, room for a choir of more than 100 voices, and space on the platform for the animated preaching of the ministers and for creative church services.

The fan-shaped sanctuary is lined with comfortable benches and tantalizing glimpses of the view of the valley from both sides through tall, narrow windows.

But it wasn’t the sanctuary that sold Pastor Snell on the complex, he said; it was the multi-purpose room at the end of classroom hallway downstairs.

"Think of what we’ll be able to do for our children on this floor," Snell said as he entered the wide room complete with a fireplace at one end. "We’ll have children’s church here, and it’s ideally situated with its own door outside for community ministries."

"We are going to make this a great place where kids just want to be all the time," Snell said.

Armand Rush, a member of Huntsville's First SDA Church, looks out of a window from the sanctuary where workers are putting up the last speakers for the first service on Saturday, July 20, 2013. The building is on a hill overlooking the UAH campus. (Kay Campbell / KCampbell@al.com)
Life University

Kids – and their parents, too. Snell has led the congregation in emphasizing practical ways to improve life, both spiritually and physically, through a series of summertime classes called “Life University,” being held Wednesdays through Aug. 7. Classes include marriage enrichment, personal finances, health improvement, advanced Bible study and more.

“We want to feed the mind, mend the heart, build the family, restore the body and prepare the soul for eternity,” Snell said.

Snell, now 36, was named Pastor of the Year in 2012 for the 35,000-member South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, a group of predominantly non-white SDA congregations in Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi and the Florida panhandle.

The congregation, which emphasizes the SDA doctrine of a holy responsibility to protect and build health, also offers free fresh fruits and vegetables to anyone who is hungry after church services. They have already hosted a free family movie night on the sloping lawn outside for anyone in the neighborhood and served juice and popcorn. The next free movie night will be Aug. 17 at 8:30 p.m.

Fruit juices and herb teas will also be the offerings in the coffee-shop-style gathering area near the main entrance to the complex. Adventists avoid caffeine and other drugs as part of fulfilling what they see as a sacred responsibility to keep themselves healthy to be ready for communion with God and service to others.

The health message, as Adventists call it, is often the first thing people know about the denomination, which worships on Saturday. But it’s not the most important thing to know, Snell said.

“The most important thing to know about Adventists is that we believe in the birth, life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and in his soon return,” Snell said.

*Story updated 7/17/13, 11:30 a.m., to add concert and master class information.*
Choir reunion brings beautiful memories

Former members of the Washington Gardens SDA Youth Choir sings together for the first time in two decades during a reunion held at the church last Saturday.—Contributed Photos

Glenroy Sinclair, Assignment Coordinator

They have not sung together for more than two decades and when they did so last Saturday, their inspirational voices and testimonies pierced the hearts of the congregants like bullets.

The many teary eyes spoke volumes as hundreds turned out at the Washington Gardens Seventh-day Adventist Church for the grand youth choir reunion.

It was not entertainment, but gospel evangelism bringing the congregants and the residents, who were in earshot, closer to God.

As promised, old friendships were rekindled and new ones strengthened. It was a spirit-filled day. Some of those who flew in from oversea stressed that it was their first trip to Jamaica in 18 years.

Backed by organist George Williams and pianist Elder Dale Flynn, the choir sang for hours (with the odd interval), stoking the fire of memories with some very old pieces and bringing the hope of things to come with new gospel songs.

Testimony

Flynn, who was the original director of the youth choir in the 1990s, was humbled and said he was grateful for the moments.

"It is really good to see that after so many years, these music ministers continue to allow themselves to be used by God, which is the mission of the choir in the first place," said Flynn, who is also the first elder at the Washington Gardens SDA.

But it was the testimony given by 46-year-old Ruth Duenes, a past student of Immaculate Conception High, which arrested the attention and confirmed the seriousness of God and worshipping.

"God had to slow me down because I was going too fast," the former Washington Gardens SDA Youth Choir member told The Gleaner.

Now supported by a walking stick, the limping mother of two told the story of her mounting success while working in the banking industry in New York.

"Shortly after I got employed in the banking industry, I started getting promotion after promotion, climbing to the top, but my focus was wrong. My focus then was too much on material things and not on God. I was moving up the ladder too fast, so God had to stop me inorder for me to redirect my focus," said Duenes, who grew up in the Oakland Crescent area of Waltham Park Road.

Focus on God

In 2005, she had a heart attack and became furious with God.

"Yes, I was angry with God. I asked him why me, then it's like the Holy Spirit responded and said, 'Why not you?' After humbling myself before God, my health began to improve," said Duenes.

Duenes advised that nothing was wrong with being ambitious and aspiring to reach the pinnacle of one's career, but she warned that one's main focus must be on God.

At the end of the divine hour, an overwhelmed Dr Meric Walker, pastor of the Washington Gardens SDA, charged the congregants to set their priorities right and
focus on Jesus.

"No matter your status or your level of education, I charge you to hold on to Jesus and remain committed," Walker encouraged.
Listening to Judge Greg Mathis talk about his life leads one to think there must be angels.

For Mathis, the reality TV judge, former 36th District Court judge, author and lecturer, his angel came in the form of his mother, Alice Lee Mathis.

It was while sitting in a Wayne County jail cell where the 17-year-old awaited sentencing for carrying a gun that Alice Lee Mathis paid her son a visit.

Greg Mathis was the youngest of her four sons. A Seventh Day Adventist, his mom worked two jobs to support her family.

Greg Mathis was spending his summer with Charles Mathis, his birth father from whom Alice had long been estranged. The area was one where the notorious Errol Flynns gang congregated, and the impressionable teen started hanging out with them.

Young Mathis was heading down a perilous path when he got caught. Alice Lee Mathis had more on her mind than her son’s problem.

“She came to visit me and told me she was dying of cancer. She asked me to turn my life around. I promised her I would,” Mathis said.

The judge gave the teen early probation due to his mom’s health.

Young Mathis was scared straight, and he didn’t want to disappoint his mom. He began working at a McDonald’s, and a cousin helped him enroll at Eastern Michigan University.

“My Mom got to see me on my way as I was in college three months when she died,” he said.

He also met his future wife, Linda, at EMU. The couple has three children.

Mathis also discovered a passion for politics. He became involved with the Democratic Party and helped with the Rev. Jesse Jackson’s 1984 presidential run.

He worked for former Detroit City Councilman Clyde Cleveland and Detroit Mayor Coleman Young.

He went on to law school and earned a degree from University of Detroit Mercy.

His star continued to shine as he went on to become the youngest person ever elected a 36th District Court judge at 34.

He then launched his TV show “Judge Mathis” in 1999.

Today “Judge Mathis” airs on 300 stations across the nation, including CW50 where it airs weekdays at noon and 4 p.m.

“I came back from college to tell my ex-street brothers they, too, could find a better life,” Mathis said.

He had started a program in a church basement and invited them in. They arrived and proceeded to rob him.

“I stopped trying to help individuals and started a community program,” the street-smart judge said.

Mathis originally got funding for his community program from the City of Detroit, Wayne County and various companies.

As his TV show grew, Mathis spent more time and money on the center. He eventually purchased the Mathis Community Center, where he offers self-improvement classes, food and clothing assistance and occupational training for former convicts.

He also spends time in Los Angeles and Chicago — where he films his national TV show.

Mathis also has a new TV show debuting this September on BET called “The Mathis Project.” It will focus on eight unsolved murders in cities including Memphis, Tenn., and Gary, Ind.

“One of the biggest barriers to solving murders in the black community is the ‘no snitch code,’ ” he said. "My feeling was I
could get people to talk to me.”

As if that doesn’t keep him busy enough, Mathis began working on his own video game revolving around a big-city judge who battles crime.

“They wanted it more scintillating and violent than I was comfortable with,” said Mathis, who decided to pass on the opportunity.

No doubt that’s a decision Alice Lee Mathis would be immensely proud of.

Contact Carol Cain: 313-222-6732 or clcain@cbs.com. She is senior producer and host of “Michigan Matters,” which airs 11:30 a.m. Sundays on CBS 62.
2014 North American Division Women's Convention

When: September 25-28, 2014

Where: Rosen Shingle Creek Resort
Orlando, FL

Speakers:

Dan Jackson    Dr. Ella Simmons   Katia Reinert      Adrienne Townsend

Music by:

Kelly Mowrer        Gale Jones Murphy

Preliminary Schedule:

Thursday:

Noon-9:00pm        Registration
2:00pm-5:30pm      Seminars
7:00pm               God in Shoes training (required for everyone
participating in God in Shoes outreach to women's
shelters on Friday)

Friday:

8:00am-9:00pm        Registration
8:00am-1:30pm        God in Shoes
9:00am-11:45am       Seminars
1:30pm-4:45 pm       Seminars
7:00pm-9:00pm        General Session – Dan Jackson

Sabbath:

9:00am-12:45am      General Sessions – Katia Reinert and Adrienne Townsend
3:00pm               Afternoon meetings and seminars

Sunday:

8:00am-9:15am        Seminars
9:30am-noon           Brunch/General Session – Ella Simmons
**Hotel registration**: Begins September 1, 2013. YOU MUST register for the convention **BEFORE** you can reserve a hotel room. No one can reserve more than two hotel rooms.

**Room Rate**: $125 per night (for up to four persons)

**Convention Registration Fees**:
- Early bird registration through June 3, 2014 - $149
- June 4 - September 16, 2014 - $199
- Sabbath Only (through September 16, 2014) - $99

**Event registration**: Click here
The World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program provides medical monitoring and treatment for responders at the WTC and related sites in New York City, Pentagon, and Shanksville, PA, and survivors who were in the New York City disaster area.

I Am Looking for Information On...

Resources
- Information about the WTC Health Program for current members

News
- Recent news regarding the WTC Health Program and spotlights on important notices

Research
- Information on NIOSH funded 9/11 research and other scientific literature on 9/11 health effects

Reports
- WTC Health Program data and reports

Regulations
- Relevant laws, regulations, and other notices that govern the WTC Health Program

Policies and Procedures
- Policies and procedures used to administer the WTC Health Program

Notice: The WTC Health Program will closely monitor any fraudulent activity including the submission of fraudulent information in support of a claim of eligibility or for necessary and covered services, fraudulent misuse of the WTC Health Program by health care providers participating in the program, and submission of claims for services not provided or needed as claimed. The WTC Health Program will report fraudulent conduct to federal law enforcement agencies and violators may be subject to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. Information concerning suspected fraud related to the WTC Health Program by contractors, grantees, health care providers, or individual recipients should be reported to the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General by phone at 1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477); online at oig.hhs.gov/report-fraud; or in writing to the following address: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, ATTN: OIG HOTLINE OPERATIONS, P.O. Box 23489, Washington, DC 20026.
People often ask me, “How is Simple Church going?” to which I respond, “Better than I ever dreamed.” But what does that really mean?

In the next few paragraphs I will share the good and bad, what we have learned and mistakes I have made, a few statistics and--most importantly--the driving conviction that unites Simple Church CORE4 missionaries around the world. Additionally, for those interested, I will share some of the challenges we face, give some links to the differences between Church Planting Movements (CPM) and institutional church structures, and highlight some steps for conferences who wish to partner with the Simple Church Global Network, as well as next steps for lay people who are willing to leave their comfort zone to reach people who will most likely not walk into conventional churches.
Simple Church is now a global network of house churches that are planted by committed missionaries who are willing to leave their comfort zone to reach people who, most likely, will not walk into conventional church buildings.

After four years of missionary work, we highlight some of God's blessings:

- 33% of adult attendance is secular and/or unchurched. When children are added, about 51% of total attendance is secular and/or unchurched.
- 49 Simple Church plants, including those who are in training.
- 6 of the 49 have multiplied as 2nd generation Simple Churches
- 11 Countries, 6 languages, 31 baptisms
- Typical attendance is about ten. (Gatherings have ranged between a new CORE4 to 52 people).
- Simple Church has grown from two families to 490 people (49 simple churches times a typical attendance of 10) with 51% being secular and/or unchurched.
- About a 1:56,000 member/tithe ratio (the NAD is about a 1:950 ratio)
- 25,160 people visit the web page in the last twelve months. 55.64% are new visit.
- 4,725 have downloaded the NAD Simple Church webinar introduction in the last twelve months.
- Simple Church is working with about two-dozen conferences.
- Every Simple church has a coach

6 Lessons Simple Church has learned:

1. God sent the first missionary, Jesus.

2. God invites us. We only accept His invitation to join Him in His missionary work. Ellen White captures the urgency of joining God when she says, “God selects his messengers, and gives them his message; and he says, ‘Forbid them not.’ New methods must be introduced. God's people must awake to the necessities of the time in which they are living.” Review & Herald, September 30, 1902 par. 13

3. God’s invitations are not limited to geographic boundaries. The gospel commission says, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations . . .” Matthew 28:19. White echoes this when she says, “Thus Christ sought to teach the disciples the truth that in God's kingdom there are no territorial lines, no caste, no aristocracy; that they must go to all nations, bearing to them the message of a Savior's love.” Acts of the Apostles, page 20.

4. Opposition is a given.

5. God uses all kinds of methods to reach people. “He will bless all who work out the spirit which He works in. To such workers He will give favor and success. As field after field is entered, new methods and new plans will spring from new circumstances. New thoughts will come with the new workers who give themselves to the work. As they seek the Lord for help, He will communicate with them. They will receive plans devised by the Lord Himself.” 6 Testimonies, page 476. Simple Church is just one of the many methods God is using to reach people.

6. Lay-people are not asking the church for permission to accept God's invitations. The role of church leadership is changing.[2] This can be disturbing for...
some church leaders. Culture has shifted and church leaders must support, encourage, resource, and affirm what God is already doing among the lay people. Mahatma Gandhi understood this leadership principle when he said, “There goes my people. I must follow them, for I am their leader.”

Mistakes I have made:

1. I underestimating what God has invited His people to do - specifically lay people. It has been one of the most fulfilling honors to work with front-line simple church missionaries who are giving up their comfort zones for one purpose - reaching people with the Everlasting Gospel. This is the heartbeat that unites Simple Church missionaries around the world.

2. I tried to herd cats. In most Western cultures people are losing confidence in many institutions, no matter what form they come in – government, profit or non-profit. Home schooling, home birthing, and home churching are here to stay. Even in house church networks, if the network tries to micro-manage lay people, they will quietly go somewhere else. There is no substitute for authentic sola Scriptoria empowerment. Today’s culture seems to be hyper sensitive to pat answers that begin with “The policy manual says…”.

3. Signs of the Times, Jun 2013 cover article is called “spiritual but not religious?” This demographic is the fastest growing religious group in America. I believe this shift will significantly impact our churches ability to reach people much more then I had originally anticipated.

Institutional values and church planting movement values: Much has already been said regarding these differences and the tension that comes from them. These three videos summarize the main issues:

Next steps for conferences who want to partner with this network. The first step is to call Milton Adams, (407-745-1805), email, or skype (miltonbrendaadams).

The General Conference
Adventist Missions Department and the North American Division sponsor Simple Church. Gary Krause, Adventist Mission’s Director, and Dan Jackson, NAD president, have written letters of support and recommendation. Download Gary’s letter and Dan’s letter.

**How to start a new Simple Church gathering:** How many people do you know who will most likely not walk into a church building? You are not alone. Western cultures are facing a major crisis. With some 87% of North America (and 95% of other western cultures like Australia, Europe, and New Zealand) not attending a conventional church on a given weekend, we are praying that God will raise up an epidemic of simple church missionaries.

Visit SimpleChurchAtHome.com to get started.

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[1] A Simple Church coach is a person who is part of another CORE planting team actually doing what they are coaching others to do. Coaches have weekly contact by reading weekly reports and replying to reports.

[2] Mark Finley first brought my attention to this 5 years ago when he helped with the development of the Simple Church Global Network.

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[3] I want to thank several people who were instrumental in the birth of this Simple Church Global network. God, who invited me to join Him in this work. Russell Burrill, who first planted seeds in my heart and who has spent years writing books and teaching classes. Burrill’s dissertation, *Recovering an Adventist Approach to the Life & Mission of the Local Church* is worth reading. Mike Cauley, president of the Florida Conference, has mentored this network from its infancy and provided wisdom and encouragement along the way. Tom Evans (NADEI/Texas Conference) and Gary Brady (Texas Conference) gave me a workbook (Experiencing God, by Henry Blackaby) that pushed me to risk accepting God's invitations to join Him in His missionary work of developing a house church network that would empower lay-people to reach the mission field that lives where they live. These people, along with many others (Gary Krause, Mark Finley, Don & Marti Schneider, Dan Jackson, Ken Denslow, Bill Knott, Peter Roennfeldt, Monte Sahlin, Don James, and Kurt Johnson), have been very supportive and encouraging.
Beautiful Feet

BY BRYAN CHAPMAN

The Capitol City Church Men’s Ministry is to be commended for empathizing with the needs of other men by launching a campaign that collected, in just three weeks, 65 pairs of new and gently-used men’s dress shoes for ex-offenders.

Based on the words of Jesus, in Matthew 25:45, “As much as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it unto Me,” the campaign for shoes was a platform which afforded me an opportunity of God to directly minister/serve one-on-one the needs of other men.

A residence facility for ex-offenders has been identified for the shoe distribution. Ex-offenders adopted by Men’s Ministry have paid their debt to society and recognize their need for correction. Several also have indicated their need for conversion in Christ with the desire to attend a church of their choosing. Since many have expressed they own only a pair of gym shoes, the dress shoes not only will support their reform but also their dignity. Recipients will use the shoes to complete their modest dress apparel for church attendance and job interviews.

“It’s been said that ‘You can’t understand a person until you have walked a mile in their shoes;’ however, what happens when an individual doesn’t have shoes to walk in? It’s hard to know what a person is really going through; however, the Bible teaches us that we have a responsibility not only to preach the gospel with words, but also to demonstrate it through acts of kindness. Discipleship is about serving one another and we, at Capitol City, seek ways in which we can practically demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ,” said William J. Lee, Capital City Church pastor.

Eric was the first recipient of a brand new pair of shoes. He said, “The shoes complete my presentation.” An ex-offender, Eric has found a job and delivers very compelling poetry at churches. He now “sells” Jesus instead of drugs. Eric expressed his thanks, and was followed by ten other men who submitted their requests and sizes for dress shoes.

The Men’s Ministry is commended for covering the feet of other men, literally. In doing so, they have provided for others “beautiful feet.” According to Isaiah, the campaign for dress shoes has enabled the “Men of Cap” (Capital City Church) to “acquire” beautiful feet themselves. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, “Thy God reigneth!” (Isaiah 52:7 NKJV).

Bryan Chapman is the Men’s Ministry leader of the Capital City Church in Indianapolis.
Our Five Core Values

Five enduring values, introduced at the 2010 NAD Year-end meetings can provide clarity and focus throughout the North American Division. These core values include:

**Revival & transformation:**
Connecting with God through public and personal worship

**Education for discipleship:**
Every youth and adult learning, growing, and becoming more like Christ

**Alignment within the Church:**
Connecting effectively within our diverse church family

**Community outreach & evangelism:**
Connecting with our communities--sharing hope and wholeness

**Healthy leadership & management:**
God’s stewards insisting on personal and church-wide excellence