The Pacific Press Publishing Association (PPPA) Board has voted to “request termination of the management agreements” of 17 Adventist Book Centers. They indicate that a plan to terminate these management agreements with the local conferences should be in place by the end of the year. According to PPPA’s announcement, “the current business model for these management agreements has experienced challenges due to changing trends in technology and the way people access information.” MORE

Hawaiian Mission Academy (HMA) has gone completely solar. "Nonprofit organizations do not traditionally benefit from tax incentives," said Roland Graham, principal. "But we found a federal-backed grant that allowed us to work with a financing vendor in putting together a lease. This program gave HMA similar reductions in cost that for-profit organizations receive." It took 700 solar panels to cover 100 percent of the campus energy needs. Projected savings are $3.9 million over the next 25 years. Whatever power they don’t use is fed back into the grid and shared with the community. Conserving energy agrees with our church’s belief that we have responsibility for stewardship of the environment. More: Pacific Union Recorder, August 2013, p. 11

Let’s Move Day (LMD) is an event part of the Adventists InStep for Life (AISFL) initiative of the Division, sponsored by the NAD Health Ministries department in partnership with several other ministries of the church. Events are held throughout the U.S., Canada, Bermuda and Guam. Watch the LMD video report and get energized to start working out for next year’s LMD. See more reports on NAD Health Ministries Facebook page.

Correction: We mistakenly referred to Southwestern Union “College” (SWU) in last week’s NewsPoints report on SWU’s 120th anniversary. The correct name, since 1996, is Southwestern Adventist University. We regret any confusion or problems caused by this error.

Adventists in the News

Senate Chaplain shows his disapproval during morning prayer
D.C. Church prays for government shutdown to end
Oakwood University’s Agape Day 2013 shuts down the campus, paints the town
Vegetarians Slimmer Than Meat-Eaters, Study Finds
Adventist to break ground on Hanford birth center

“Spirituality in Your Marriage,” on the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) will show NAD Family Ministries directors Claudio and Pamela Consuegra on Thursday, October 10, at 1:30 p.m. ET. This network has a large viewing audience so please join us in prayer that it will be a blessing to all those who tune in.

Revelation Today begins this Friday at 7 p.m. ET (with a rebroadcast at 11 p.m. ET). This series, presented by Pastor Ron Halvorsen, and featuring It Is Written Speaker/Director John Bradshaw, will explore Revelation chapter by chapter and reveal the hope that can be found within its pages. Watch at a host location near you, or via 3ABN or live on the Internet. If you know someone who lives near Charlotte, N.C., please invite them to attend the live event at Ovens Auditorium.

Don’t forget the Let’s Move Day and InStep for Life webinar, October 15 at 8 p.m., to discuss reporting and awards. Register. Learn more at www.adventistsinstepforlife.org.

Get excited about what’s coming in 2014. Adventist education is one of NAD’s six “Building Blocks” for this quinquennium. One major objective of this Building Block is to make Adventist education available to anyone who wants it. That means making it affordable and "locally available" via the Internet, even in remote areas where there is no Adventist church or school. The new Adventist Learning Community is an important part of this initiative. It will seek to provide all Adventist learning in one place, including evangelistic and educational resources. The website for the Adventist Learning Community is slated to launch in mid-2014. Watch for it! Video

Online education and certification is possible now, through the International Institute of Christian Ministries (IICM) Community Services & Urban Ministry. The IICM curriculum contains modules with teaching notes and an accompanying PowerPoint presentation that can be adapted by instructors or by students. It lays the groundwork for comprehensive community-based ministry, whether it be from a local church or from a nonprofit organization. Students can enhance their knowledge and skills in areas such as Ministering Across Cultures, Ministry Development & Strategic Planning, Organizational Leadership & Team Development, Community Assessment and Social Capital, and more. IICM will assist you in getting started with taking the certification. MORE
Fundamental Beliefs video #6 from My Way to Jesus

Share on your own website: Just go to www.vimeo.com/channels/didyouknow for the entire series and click on the "Share" button in the upper right corner of a specific video for the embed code, to share on social media or email to a friend.

REACH: Community Outreach and Evangelism
Every member using gifts God has given them to share hope and wholeness with a world in need

Boys Build Churches with Lego Sales — Two brothers, Colter and Grayson, who are 13 and 10 years old, are finding new and creative ways to raise money to build Maranatha Volunteers International's $10 churches. Their family began supporting The $10 Church program because it was an achievable goal for the children and something the family could work on together. They began by selling eggs, collecting bottles and cans. Then they decided to have a yard sale. The boys put up signs that the money was going for missions and learned that customers were less likely to haggle about the price when they knew the money was going for a good cause.

Recently, the brothers, who love Legos, decided to use leftover pieces and parts to create lots, scenes or groups. They take photos of them and their dad lists them on eBay. Their goal is to raise at least $10 a month. They have also started a blog, Legos4God, to encourage other kids to do the same. More: The Volunteer, Spring 2013, p. 3, from Maranatha Volunteers International
NAD NewsPoints - 17 ABCs management changes, academy 100% solar, affordable education, Consuegras on TBN, "Lego churches," and more
Pacific Press asks to end ABC contracts
Conferences will resume ownership; online options available. (Updated: October 9, 2013)

BY MARK A. KELLNER, news editor

A total of 17 Adventist Book Center retail stores servicing 24 conference territories operated by the Pacific Press Publishing Association (PPPA) of Nampa, Idaho, under management agreements with conferences, will transition to local Seventh-day Adventist Church conference administration, officials of the publishing house announced following a September 26, 2013, board meeting.

The board “voted to request termination of the management agreements” for the stores, which it has managed “over the course of nearly 15 years,” a statement from the organization said. The outlets, PPPA said, served “nearly half of the North American Division membership.” A plan to terminate management agreements for the stores should be in place by December 31, 2013, the statement indicated.

“The board recognized that the current business model for these management agreements has experienced challenges due to changing trends in technology and the way people access information,” the PPPA announcement said.

The publishing house said it would not leave any local conferences or members without easy access to church materials.

“We are committed to making all quarterlies, magazines, books, and music easier than ever to order,” says Dale Galusha, PPPA president. “For most products, the local church won’t even notice a change in how they are ordered or delivered.” These materials are available online at www.AdventistBookCenter.com.

Pacific Press is a Seventh-day Adventist publisher based in Nampa, Idaho, that publishes books and magazines for all ages. The company, which has been in operation since 1874, has been based in Nampa, Idaho, since 1984.

CORRECTION: An earlier version of this story misstated the number of Adventist Book Centers involved, as well as the date for transitioning those centers. Both errors have been corrected above.
Stewardship of the Environment

It is the belief of the Seventh-day Adventist Church that humankind was created in the image of God, and is thus to represent God as His steward and to manage the natural environment in a faithful and fruitful way. Nature is a gift from God.

Unfortunately, men and women have been increasingly involved in an irresponsible destruction of the earth's resources, resulting in widespread suffering, environmental degradation, and the threat of climate change. While scientific research needs to continue, it is clear from the accumulated evidence that the increasing emission of destructive gasses, the massive destruction of the American rain forests, and the depletion of the protective mantel of ozone (the so-called greenhouse effect), are all threatening the earth's eco-system. There are dire predictions of global warming, rising sea levels, increasing frequency of storms and destructive floods, and devastating desertification and droughts.

These problems are largely due to human selfishness and greed which result in ever-increasing production, unlimited consumption, and depletion of nonrenewable resources. Solidarity with future generations is discussed, but the pressure of immediate interests is given priority. The ecological crisis is rooted in humankind's greed and refusal to practice good and faithful stewardship.

The government and people of Costa Rica are to be commended for their support of a comprehensive policy of sustainable development in harmony with nature.

Seventh-day Adventism advocates a simple, wholesome lifestyle, where people do not step on the treadmill of unbridled over-consumption, accumulation of goods, and production of waste. A reformation of lifestyle is called for, based on respect for nature, restraint in the use of the world's resources, reevaluation of one's needs, and reaffirmation of the dignity of created life.

This statement was approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee (ADCOM) for release by the Office of the President, Robert S. Folkenberg, at the Annual Council session in San Jose, Costa Rica, October 1-10, 1996.

Our beliefs

Seventh-day Adventist beliefs are meant to permeate your whole life. Growing out of scriptures that paint a compelling portrait of God, you are invited to explore, experience and know the One who desires to make us whole.
Hawaiian Mission Academy contracted in 2012 with Sunetric, a local full-service renewable energy firm, to install solar energy on campus.

“We’re trying to be a sustainability-minded school,” said Roland Graham, principal. “Installing this system will not only reduce our energy costs significantly, but it will do so with a limited impact on the environment.”

The decision was a timely one. Solar technologies have been steadily improving since the project was first considered in 2007. Unpredictable inflation rates from the electric company gave the school board the incentive to approve pursuing solar energy solutions in 2012. Federal and state tax programs also encouraged renewable energy.

“Nonprofit organizations do not traditionally benefit from tax incentives,” said Graham. “But we found a federal-backed grant that allowed us to work with a financing vendor in putting together a lease. This program gave HMA similar reductions in cost that for-profit organizations receive.”

After vetting several companies, administrators chose Sunetric, and installation began in December 2012.

It took 700 solar panels installed on the roofs of the gymnasium, dormitory and cafeteria to cover 100 percent of the energy needs on campus. These panels will stabilize the rate of inflation and eliminate the school’s energy costs. Projected savings are at $3.9 million over the next 25 years.

“What’s great about our new system,” said Graham, “is whatever power we don’t use gets fed back into the grid so our neighbors can use it. It’s neat that we can share this clean energy with our community.”

HMA will be a fully solar-powered campus by the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year.

Summer Lee
Give Us This Day, Our Daily Senate Scolding

By JEREMY W. PETERS

WASHINGTON — The disapproval comes from angry constituents, baffled party elders and colleagues on the other side of the Capitol. But nowhere have senators found criticism more personal or immediate than right inside their own chamber every morning when the chaplain delivers the opening prayer.

“Save us from the madness,” the chaplain, a Seventh-day Adventist, former Navy rear admiral and collector of brightly colored bow ties named Barry C. Black, said one day late last week as he warmed up into what became an epic ministerial scolding.

“We acknowledge our transgressions, our shortcomings, our smugness, our selfishness and our pride,” he went on, his baritone voice filling the room. “Deliver us from the hypocrisy of attempting to sound reasonable while being unreasonable.”

So it has gone every day for the last week when Mr. Black, who has been the Senate’s official man of the cloth for 10 years, has taken one of the more rote rituals on Capitol Hill — the morning invocation — and turned it into a daily conscience check for the 100 men and women of the United States Senate.

Inside the tempestuous Senate chamber, where debate has degenerated into daily name-calling — the Tea Party as a band of nihilists and extortionists, and Democrats as socialists who want to force their will on the American people — Mr. Black’s words manage to cut through as powerful and persuasive.

During his prayer on Friday, the day after officers from the United States Capitol Police shot and killed a woman who had used her car as a battering ram, Mr. Black noted that the officers were not being paid because of the government shutdown.

Then he turned his attention back to the senators. “Remove from them that stubborn pride which imagines itself to be above and beyond criticism,” he said. “Forgive them the blunders they have committed.”

Senator Harry Reid, the pugnacious majority leader who has called his Republican adversaries anarchists, rumps and hostage takers, took note. As Mr. Black spoke, Mr. Reid, whose head was bowed low in prayer, broke his concentration and looked straight up at the chaplain.
“Following the suggestion in the prayer of Admiral Black,” the majority leader said after the invocation, seeming genuinely contrite, “I think we’ve all here in the Senate kind of lost the aura of Robert Byrd,” one of the historical giants of the Senate, who prized gentility and compromise.

In many ways, Mr. Black, 65, is like any other employee of the federal government who is fed up with lawmakers’ inability to resolve the political crisis that has kept the government closed for almost a week. He is not being paid. His Bible study classes, which he holds for senators and their staff members four times a week, have been canceled until further notice.

His is a nonpartisan position, one of just a few in the Senate, and he prefers to leave his political leanings vague. He was chosen in 2003 by Senator Bill Frist, a Tennessee Republican who was the majority leader at the time, from a group of finalists selected by a bipartisan committee. Before that he ministered in the Navy for nearly 30 years.

“I use a biblical perspective to decide my beliefs about various issues,” Mr. Black said in an interview in his office suite on the third floor of the Capitol. “Let’s just say I’m liberal on some and conservative on others. But it’s obvious the Bible condemns some things in a very forceful and overt way, and I would go along with that condemnation.”

Last year, he participated in the Hoodies on the Hill rally to draw attention to the shooting death of Trayvon Martin. In 2007, after objections from groups that did not like the idea of a Senate chaplain appearing alongside political figures, he canceled a speech he was scheduled to give at an evangelical event featuring, among others, Tony Perkins of the conservative Focus on the Family and the columnist and author Ann Coulter.

Mr. Black, who is the first black Senate chaplain as well as its first Seventh-day Adventist, grew up in public housing in Baltimore, an experience he draws on in his sermons and writings, including a 2006 autobiography, “From the Hood to the Hill.”

In his role as chaplain, a position that has existed since 1789, he acts as a sounding board, spiritual adviser and ethical counselor to members of the Senate. When he prays each day, he said, he recites the names of all 100 senators and their spouses, reading them from a laminated index card.

It is not uncommon for him to have 125 people at his Bible study gatherings or 20 to 30 senators at his weekly prayer breakfast. He officiates weddings for Senate staff members. He performs hospital visitations. And he has been at the side of senators when they have died, most recently Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii in December.

He tries to use his proximity to the senators — and the fact that for at least one minute every morning, his is the only voice they hear — to break through on issues that he feels are especially urgent. Lately, he said, they seem to be paying attention.
“I remember once talking about self-inflicted wounds — that captured the imagination of some of our lawmakers,” he said. “Remember, my prayer is the first thing they hear every day. I have the opportunity, really, to frame the day in a special way.”

His words lately may be pointed, but his tone is always steady and calm.

“May they remember that all that is necessary for unintended catastrophic consequences is for good people to do nothing,” he said the day of the shutdown deadline.

“Unless you empower our lawmakers,” he prayed another day, “they can comprehend their duty but not perform it.”

The House, which has its own chaplain, liked what it heard from Mr. Black so much that it invited him to give the invocation on Friday.

“I see us playing a very dangerous game,” Mr. Black said as he sat in his office the other day. “It’s like the showdown at the O.K. Corral. Who’s going to blink first? So I can’t help but have some of this spill over into my prayer. Because you’re hoping that something will get through and that cooler heads will prevail.”
WASHINGTON (WJLA) - On Wednesday night at Capitol Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church, members came together to pray for the end of the government shutdown stalemate.

"Tonight, there are large numbers of employees who are home, not because they choose to be, Lord, but because they were shut out," attendees prayed together.

Pastor Gene Donaldson says the shutdown is affecting many of his members, and he prayed for compromise among those working just blocks away.

"We believe that a spirit of unity must prevail," he said. "Lord, we pray for all of those who are looking at mortgage payments today..."

Dr. Johari Rashad, 37, is a federal employee with the Office of Personnel Management and was furloughed just yesterday.

"You're really being told that you're not worth it, that it doesn't make any difference whether you come to work or not, and it does -- and that's what hurts," he said.

Also difficult is the unknown. How long will this last?

According to POLITICO’s Darren Samuelsohn, the shutdown is very unlikely to end this week. Beyond that, it’s hard to say.

"I think we're going to see a lot more jockeying, a bit more posturing, but actually reaching a conclusion? I have a hard time seeing that right now," said Samuelsohn.

EPA employee Steve Hopkins says it’s very frustrating, especially since he’s already been furloughed once before this year due to sequestration.

"You cut back as much as you can cut back, and then you try to cut back a little further in case it happens next week too," he explained.

Additionally, Hopkins says it’s all causing the government to lose some good people:

"When a good job opportunity comes along that pays quite a bit more than the federal government, they say, 'Why should I put up with this?'"
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Oakwood University's Agape Day 2013 shuts down the campus, paints the town

Oakwood University Agape 1

Oakwood University students carefully re-stripe the parking lot of First Seventh-day Adventist Church on Evangel Drive in Huntsville, Ala., during the university's Agape Day 2013, when the university shuts down for the morning to send students, faculty and staff into the community to help non-profit organizations. (Courtesy / Oakwood University)

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on October 02, 2013 at 4:04 PM, updated October 02, 2013 at 4:05 PM

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama – This was a shut-down that did some good.

More than 2,000 good-deed-doers exercised “Agape” love in the Huntsville area on Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2013, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., when the students and staff of Oakwood University headed into the community to perform acts of selfless love.

“Students will put down their textbooks, faculty cease grading papers, administrators delay ‘administering,’ and staff shut down their computers so that we can go into our local community to demonstrate Oakwood University’s motto: ‘Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve,’” said Patricia Stewart Daniel, assistant vice president and Agape Day coordinator, when she announced the day.

The University shuts down all classes at least every two years for the day of service. The Agape Day program is part of the Seventh-day Adventist university’s program, founded in 2012-13, Oakwood University for His Hand in Ministry, OU4HHIM, which coordinates both local and international missions.

Oakwood volunteers dispersed from the school for cleaning and small painting jobs at local schools, thrift stores, community centers, parks, shelters and other non-profits, with work varying from taking down the Whimsical Woods exhibit at Burritt-on-the-Mountain to doing computer research for the International Services Council.

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Vegetarians may not only be more likely to outlive their meat-eating counterparts, they could have a leg up in the weight department, too.

A new study from Loma Linda University researchers shows an association between diet type and weight, with vegetarians having a lower body mass index than non-vegetarians. Interestingly, researchers found this association despite both groups in the study having similar caloric intake.

The Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics study is based on data from the Adventist Health Study 2, which includes dietary data from five groups: meat-eaters, semi-vegetarians (occasional meat-eaters), pesco-vegetarians (vegetarians who eat fish), lacto-ovo vegetarians (vegetarians who consume dairy) and vegans (who don't consume any animal products). Data was collected between 2002 and 2007 from 71,751 Seventh-Day Adventist men and women, with an average age of 59.

Caloric intake was similar among all dietary patterns -- about 2,000 calories a day -- with the one exception being the semi-vegetarians, who consumed 1,707 calories a day.

Researchers found that average BMI was lowest among vegans, while average BMI was highest among the meat-eaters. Looking specifically at obesity (defined as having a BMI over 30), researchers found that vegans had the lowest percentage of people who were obese -- just 9.4 percent -- while meat-eaters had the highest percentage of people who were obese -- 33.3 percent. About 24 percent of semi-vegetarians were obese, 17.9 percent of pesco-vegetarians were obese, and 16.7 percent of lacto-ovo vegetarians were obese.

Even though calorie intake was similar across all the groups, there were differences in the types of nutrients consumed. Meat-eaters had the lowest intake of plant proteins, beta carotene, fiber and magnesium, and the highest intake of heart disease-linked fatty acids.

Of course, diet isn't the only factor in weight -- the study didn't examine other factors, such as exercise or socioeconomic status. It merely showed an association between eating patterns and weight, not a cause-and-effect relationship.
Adventist to break ground on Hanford birth center

Adventist Health will break ground on a new family birth center in Hanford on Oct. 10.

The center, sited next to the Adventist Medical Center at 115 Mall Drive in Hanford, will feature 34 beds—10 for labor and delivery, 16 for after delivery, four for evaluation and four for delivery preparation—when completed in 2015.

The $40-million center will also have six neonatal intensive care beds operated by Children Hospital Center as well as two operating rooms and all new equipment and technology.

A groundbreaking ceremony scheduled Oct. 10 at 10 a.m. at the project site will include renderings showing what the new building will look like.

Wayne Ferch, president and CEO of Adventist Health/Central Valley Network, will make a presentation about the project along with Vice President of Patient Care Services Andrea Kofl, and Dr. Richard Ellsworth, Hanford Medical Center's chief of medical staff.

Community members with babies or toddlers born in Kings County will also be in attendance, as will George the Giraffe, mascot for Children's Hospital Central California.

The planned 49,000 square-foot birthing center is expected to help attract physicians to the region.
with its obstetrics and delivery services for Kings County families.

Project funding is provided through private gifts and Adventist Health, requiring no public taxes.

Adventist Health also operates hospitals in Selma, Reedley and the Central Valley General Hospital in Hanford as well as dozens of clinics through the San Joaquin Valley region.