Participate in donating to a special offering for the Philippines to assist our Adventist churches and members in need following the devastating super-storm, Typhoon Haiyan. 100% of these funds will be sent to assist Adventist members directly affected by the disaster. Churches can use the downloadable flyer/bulletin insert which will be posted on the NAD website in English, Spanish and French. Make checks payable to “Philippine Typhoon Relief” and be sure to mark your envelope as such for this special offering.

ADRA Canada has received a one-to-one match fund from the government of Canada for donations received from individual Canadians by December 9 in response to Super Typhoon Haiyan. Donations must be specifically designated to this disaster (see requirements). Use their dedicated Typhoon Haiyan donation page or call 888-274-2372 to donate. All the funds donated on this webpage will be used only for Typhoon Haiyan response. Connect with and share ADRA Canada news and updates:

If you wish to donate to the broader relief effort for Typhoon Haiyan where food, shelter and other assistance is provided to the general public affected by the disaster, mark your offering envelope “ADRA Typhoon Haiyan” or donate online at www.ADRA.org.

Members are asked not to collect and try to transport supplies to the island themselves. Transportation and communication are difficult at best, and when many individuals or church groups flood the island with good intentions, it requires the use of more security, food, water, and space. Financial donations are more efficiently used in providing goods in bulk that are available to relief organizations at greatly reduced cost, and can be shipped from nearby ports to save money and time. Please pass this information on to your church members.

Brenda Evril Langford Billingy is welcomed by NAD as a new associate director in the Ministerial Department, with the focus to serve women clergy and to support and mentor younger women who become pastors. She replaces Esther Knott who transitioned as a full-time NAD Ministerial Associate and Director of the InMinistry Center at Andrews University Theological Seminary.

Elizabeth Talbot has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the area of biblical studies by the University of Gloucestershire, United Kingdom. Her thesis is “Rest and Sabbath in Matthew's Gospel: An Investigation of Matthew 11:25-12:14 in the Context of the Gospel’s Theology and Setting.” Talbot is speaker/director of Jesus 101 Biblical Institute.
Mural at Adventist Hinsdale helps teen patients make space of their own

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital earns an 'A' for patient safety

Seventh-day Adventist Food Pantry open to anyone in need

Keeping Church at Arm's Length From State

Church plans anti-violence prayer vigil

Senate chaplain becomes folk hero for stern words during shutdown

Put Prayer Call, December 5, on your calendar now. With the busy life that typically surrounds the Thanksgiving holiday in the U.S., it will pay to plan ahead. Download the graphic for use as a bulletin insert. Get Prayer Call Suggestions.

A new health website especially for sharing with the public has been created by NAD Health Ministries. Facts with Hope will feature evidence-based health videos that can be shared on social media, linked on your websites and blogs, shown at church or used as a resource in presentations. A total of 12 videos on various aspects of health will be posted within the next month or so, and one or two videos will be added every month. Check it out and share.

In a survey of more than 50,000 Adventist students 81% said that attending an Adventist School is the most important thing that has helped them develop a religious faith. The Value Genesis 3 Research Team has identified 29 major factors that influence students' faith, such as the school Week of Prayer and the Bible teacher and class. Students at Adventist schools also were shown to make significantly better choices than their peers in non-Adventist schools. In addition, students attending Adventist schools attained a higher GPA than the national average. This video should be shared on your church and school websites, and/or between Sabbath school and church. MORE
“Did you know that you can be totally free?”
Fundamental Beliefs video #10 from My Way to Jesus

Just “Click” to Share your beliefs: The Fundamental Beliefs videos and other updates are shared on the My Way to Jesus Facebook page and again on the NAD Facebook page. Both updates link back to www.MyWaytoJesus.com, NAD’s “seeker site.” The site offers options such as sending a prayer request, enrolling in the Discover Bible Course and a connection to Adventist Information Ministry where people can chat with someone about spiritual issues or things that are troubling them. “Like” these pages on Facebook, and then share the updates with your friends.

Share on your own website: Just go to www.vimeo.com/channels/didyouknow for the entire video 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 North America

REACH: Community Outreach and Evangelism
Are you putting faith in action? Here’s how:

“If you’re not actively engaged in telling others about God's love and sharing His Word, then you really can’t call yourself a Seventh-day Adventist,” warns Lillian Torres, the Pennsylvania Conference and Columbia Union Bible worker.

Torres says there are ten common reasons Adventists admit to shying away from sharing their faith, including “I might say the wrong thing” and “That’s not my spiritual gift.” However, she says, only five of the reasons go beyond poor excuses.

When meeting someone, she suggests three simple steps to lead the initial conversation. MORE
North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists® : 11-13-13
Adventists Donating for Typhoon Haiyan Relief

Participate in donating to a special offering for the Philippines to assist our Adventist churches and members in need following the devastating super-storm, Typhoon Haiyan. 100% of these funds will be sent to assist Adventist members directly affected by the disaster. Churches can use the downloadable flyer/bulletin inserts in English, Spanish and French posted below. Make checks payable to Philippine Typhoon Relief and be sure to mark your envelope as such for this special offering.

ADRA Canada has received a one-to-one match fund from the government of Canada for donations received from individual Canadians by December 9 in response to Super Typhoon Haiyan. Donations must be specifically designated to this disaster (see requirements). Use their dedicated Typhoon Haiyan donation page or call 888-274-2372 to donate. All the funds donated on this webpage will be used only for Typhoon Haiyan response. Connect with and share ADRA Canada news and updates:

If you wish to donate to the broader relief effort for Typhoon Haiyan where food, shelter and other assistance is provided to the general public affected by the disaster, mark your offering envelope “ADRA Typhoon Haiyan” or donate online at www.ADRA.org.

Members are asked not to collect and try to transport supplies to the island themselves.

Transportation and communication are difficult at best, and when many individuals or church groups flood the island with good intentions, it requires the use of more security, food, water, and space. Financial donations are more efficiently used in providing goods in bulk that are available to relief organizations at greatly reduced cost, and can be shipped from nearby ports to save money and time. Please pass this information on to your church members.

Haiyan, the strongest storm to ever make landfall, had claimed 2,344 lives as of Wednesday night, November 13, according to the Philippines' National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council,

and that number is expected to rise. At this time, 79 are still missing. The storm affected 9.8 million people across the Philippines and Vietnam. Death is everywhere and hospitals are overwhelmed. With wind gusts exceeding 235 mph / 300km/h, storm surges two-stories high, and torrential rain, the super storm destroyed homes, schools, villages, and town centers and emergency shelters. In the northern part of Cebu Island, up to 97% of structures in the storm's path were destroyed. ADRA teams immediately went to work helping those affected to survive. An ADRA team has finally reached northern Cebu and succeeded in conducting a rapid assessment of Daanbantayan and Medellin towns.

Fliers/Bulletin Inserts:

English (PDF - color)
Spanish (coming soon)
French (coming soon)
Typhoon Haiyan slammed into the Philippines on Friday, November 8, 2013, setting off landslides, knocking out power in several provinces, and cutting communications in the country's central region. Thousands of lives are feared to have been lost, with a large number of injuries and destruction of property and infrastructure. Approximately 11.3 million people are reportedly affected, and although needs assessments are ongoing, humanitarian needs will be substantial.

**Donation criteria for individual Canadians**

For every eligible dollar donated by individual Canadians to registered Canadian charities in response to the impact of Typhoon Haiyan on the Philippines and other affected countries, the government will set aside one dollar for the Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund. The government will use the Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund to provide assistance through international and Canadian humanitarian organizations, employing established channels and procedures.

To be counted for the purposes of the Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund, donations from individual Canadians may not exceed $100,000 per individual and must be:

- monetary in nature.
- made to a registered Canadian charity that is receiving donations in response to the impact of Typhoon Haiyan. *(Please note, donations cannot be made directly to the Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund or to DFATD.)*
- specifically earmarked for response to Typhoon Haiyan.
- be made between November 9 and December 9, 2013.

**Donation criteria for registered charities**

Registered charities declaring eligible donations must complete the declaration form. Forms must be received by DFATD on or before December 23 for donations to be counted towards the size of the relief fund.

To ensure that donations are eligible for the matching program, you should ensure that:

- the donation complies with the conditions outlined above,
- the registered charity receiving the donation will be using the funds in response to the humanitarian crisis related to the impact of Typhoon Haiyan, and
- the registered charity receiving the donation will be declaring it to DFATD.

**Declaration form**

It is up to the registered Canadian charity to certify, through the Typhoon Haiyan Relief Matching Fund 2013 Declaration Form, that the donations declared are eligible. Registered Canadian charities are under no obligation to declare donations to DFATD if they are not satisfied that they meet eligibility requirements. Registered charities declaring eligible donations must complete the declaration form. Forms must be received by DFATD on or before December 23 for donations to be counted towards the size of the relief fund.

The Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund is separate from the funds raised by charities and will be administered separately by the Government of Canada. This means that a charity declaring the amount of eligible donations raised does not receive a matching dollar from the Government of Canada. For every eligible dollar donated by individual Canadians to registered Canadian charities, the government set aside one dollar for the fund. The government will use the fund to support the efforts of experienced Canadian and international humanitarian organizations to meet immediate needs in response to the crisis in the Philippines and other affected countries.

**Guidelines for submitting proposals to the Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund**

The Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund will support experienced Canadian and international humanitarian organizations with significant in-country capacity to deliver humanitarian assistance in the Philippines and other affected countries.
Allocation of funds

Charitable organizations fundraising for the relief efforts in the Philippines and surrounding countries will not have privileged access to the fund. Allocation decisions will be based on DFATD’s humanitarian assistance guidelines and the ability of Canadian and international humanitarian organizations to access the affected populations and deliver timely, effective, and appropriate humanitarian assistance.

Note: Documents provided in an alternate format

If you cannot access the documents that are provided in an alternate format, refer to the Help page.
Empowering communities.
Changing lives.

How would you like to change the world?
The victims of Typhoon Haiyan desperately need your help and your prayers.

Thank-you for helping today!

Donation Information

Amount:
- $1,000.00
- $100.00
- $50.00
- $10.00
- Other

Additional Information

Corporate: □ This donation is on behalf of a company
Anonymous: □ I prefer to make this donation anonymously
Comments:

I would like to receive an annual receipt only:

Attribute gift to this Adventist Church's Goal:

What prompted your gift today?

Billing Information

Title:
First name: *
Last name: *
Country: Canada
Address lines: *
City: *
Province: <Please Select>*
Postal Code: *
Phone: *
Email: *

Payment Information

If donations received for a particular fund or project exceed those needed, or a country's programmatic needs change, ADRA Canada reserves the right to reallocate funds to where its needed most, without further notice to the donor.

Cardholder's Name: *
Credit Card Number: *
Brenda Evril Langford Billingy

**Associate Director**

Brenda Evril Langford Billingy joins the North American Division team as an associate director for the NAD Ministerial Department. Billingy joins the NAD Ministerial Team with mission and focus to serve women clergy, and to support and mentor younger women called by God to be pastors in the North American Division. Billingy replaces Esther Knott who transitioned as a full-time NAD Ministerial Associate and Director of InMinistry Center at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

Pastor Billingy was born on the Island of Trinidad, West Indies - the youngest of eight children born to Gladys and Lenny Langford. She received a pre-professional degree from Caribbean Union College at 18 years of age and then migrated to the United States where she completed her B.A. degree in Psychology from Columbia Union College and a M.A. degree in Education from Howard University.

In 1995 Brenda was ordained as a local Elder and her life began to change dramatically. Serving in that capacity allowed her to discover the special gifts that God has graciously bestowed upon her - especially the gift of speech, counseling and encouragement. It was then that she made a promise to the Lord that when her children were enrolled in College she would devote all of her time and attention to His purpose for her life.

This decision led her to return to Columbia Union College in 1998 to complete a B.A. degree in Religion. Upon graduation she was hired by the Allegheny East Conference as the Associate Pastor of the Metropolitan SDA Church in Hyattsville, Maryland. Brenda later served as the Senior Pastor of the Bladensburg SDA Church for 4 years before returning to Metropolitan SDA Church as the Senior Pastor for the past five years.

Ministry assignments include the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Trinidad, St. Croix, Jamaica, and Africa. Brenda has also had the honor of preaching the Word for the General Conference Session in 2010. As ministry partners, Brenda and her husband, Edsel, will celebrate their 39th anniversary in 2013. They are blessed with two wonderful daughters - Rhonda and Shana, the joy and pride of their lives.

Her hobbies include reading, creative writing, tennis, swimming and skiing. Her goal is to perform Earthly ministry with a Heavenly mindset, and her desire is to be known as a "humble vessel willing to be used by God".

Ivan Williams, NAD Ministerial Director says, "Pastor Billingy brings a passion to serve pastors in our division. She will use her church as a classroom for training and her position as senior pastor to help lead, mentor and coach other women clergy towards excellence. We are excited to have her on our team and know God will greatly use her."
Occupational Therapist Pam Pinto designed the new mural on the Behavioral Health Unit, which adolescent patients on the unit then painted. (Provided photo).

HINSDALE – To make the space a little more their own, the teenage patients in the Behavioral Health Unit at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital have helped paint a new mural.

Titled “Funky Sol,” the mural features an orange and yellow sun rising from a bright blue ocean, where orange clownfish, spotted jellyfish and green sea turtles swim.

Designed by Occupational Therapist Pam Pinto, the mural plays multiple roles for the unit’s patients. It helps to differentiate their space from the adult patients staying there and works on important skills, offering patients a healthy activity that they have a personal stake in, Pinto said in a news release from Adventist Hinsdale.

Fourteen adolescent patients took part in the mural’s construction, starting with Pinto’s design and then painting their own personal
additions. The patients, for instance, came up with the clownfish and turtles on their own.

An amateur artist, Pinto has done murals for family and friends, but this is her first on the Behavioral Health Unit.
Adventist Hinsdale Hospital earns an 'A' for patient safety

By SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA
Created: Monday, November 11, 2013 8:28 a.m. CST

HINSDALE – Adventist Hinsdale Hospital earned the highest grade possible – an “A” – from The Leapfrog Group, which has released a hospital safety score for more than 2,500 general hospitals across the country.

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital’s safety score is based on the levels of infections, injuries and medical and medication errors, according to a news release from Adventist Hinsdale.

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital has undertaken several programs focusing on patient safety. One area it has focused on is proper hand hygiene, making sure everyone keeps their hands clean while caring for patients at the hospital, to reduce the possibility of spreading germs, according to the release.

It has also worked on making sure patients and their families have the information they need to understand their care, specifically for patients on ventilators.

Hospital administration meets every weekday in a safety huddle, to discuss all safety issues and possible risks. The huddles are designed to heighten awareness about safety and resolve any problems that might arise in a timely manner.

Additionally, staff has received training on the importance of establishing a culture of safety.

For more information, visit hospitalsafetyscore.org.
Volunteers at the Seventh-day Adventist Food Pantry at 795 Route 42 in Sparrowbush would like those in need of food, blankets and other commodities to know that they are there to help.

The food pantry, which opened in the summer of 2012, is staffed by an all-volunteer group of seven, plus three directors.

The variety of supplies may vary, but they include fresh vegetables, fruits, dairy products, breads and other bakery items, boxed or canned foods, juice, water, blankets and toiletries.

"People leave our pantry with prepackaged bags, along with 'help yourself' fruits and vegetables from our open market set up in front of our pantry. This makes us a unique food pantry," said Mischelle Eckes, a director of the pantry with Carol Eckes. "Many people have left here in thankful tears, especially for the blankets and variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, as it helps to sustain them from week to week."

The pantry, which is non-denominational, is led by pastor Jesse Nascimento of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Port Jervis. It was established when the need became apparent to the directors over the past few years.

"Through God's perfect timing, and with the economy being what it is and the need of so many families, we decided to open at the vacant former Lennie's Place ice cream stand next to Eckes Auto Body," Carol Eckes said.

"We investigated an ad in the Times Herald-Record for the TOUCH (Together Our Unity Can Heal) program, and with that so many opportunities blossomed for us," she said. "We have continued to grow and serve the tri-state area since then."

Many of the items available at the pantry are purchased through the organization's membership with the Hudson Valley Food Bank (Feeding America), Cornell Cooperative Extension Gleaning Program, Glean Mobile, the Seventh-day Adventist Greater New York Conference, and donations from local and surrounding areas. Volunteers and donations are always welcome and appreciated.

There are no stringent guidelines or complicated forms to fill out to receive help. Individuals are simply asked to complete and sign an application with program guidelines.

Pantry volunteers say they plan to keep the program running as long as there is a need. While the facility is open officially from 2-5 p.m. each Thursday, it is open by appointment any day of the week.

"Running a food pantry is a seven-day-a-week commitment, and we are typically serving over 200..."
people weekly," Mischelle Eckes said. "We may be reached by appointment by calling 845-856-5663. Everyone in need is welcome."
A U.S. federal appeals court right now is considering whether for-profit businesses can be exempted from a contraceptive mandate in the Affordable Care Act -- a mandate that is tantamount to a "war on Christianity" by the Obama administration, according to at least one elected official.

A Christian in Pakistan was sentenced to life imprisonment in July 2013 for the crime of blasphemy. With no actual evidence presented at his trial.

Earlier this year there was a proposal in North Carolina to allow the state to declare an official religion.

What do these three situations have in common? They're all current examples of things that go wrong when either the government wrongly asserts itself into religious issues or the church tries to break down barriers (or makes powerful accusations against the government) in an attempt to exert improper influence on the business of the state.

While the above just scratch the surface, it's no exaggeration to say that if you've paid much attention to the news during the last few decades, you can be forgiven for assuming that some religious organizations believe a primary purpose of government is to legislate more religion into public life. From prayer in public schools to religious imagery in courtrooms to national elections, some religious groups in America have repeatedly sought to influence various sectors of government to enshrine particular principles.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Seventh-day Adventist church and for each and every one of those years Adventists have been a minority voice strongly advocating for greater separation between church and state - exactly the opposite of what many have come to expect from organized religions in this country.

During the Civil War, that meant taking a stand for conscientious objection to military service. At the end of the 1800s, Adventists led the fight against a national "Sunday Law" proposed in Congress: because we observe the Bible Sabbath on Saturday, Adventists, Jews and others sought the right to work or open a business on other days of the week. By petitioning Congress, we helped secure a basic right enjoyed today by millions of Americans.

A common argument by the religious right is that "America is a Christian nation." While it's true that some of our founding fathers were Christian, these bright minds recognized the dangers of imposing faith on others. This is why they very deliberately included this cornerstone language in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof ..."

The core idea was that America should be a land where believers could practice their faith, free of government interference. But the other side of the coin is that those who don't believe also were to be free from legislative imperatives to follow the church's dictates.

Here is the real danger in pushing for greater influence by the church on the state's business: the church must stand for morality, God's Word and free will, and attempting to coerce our neighbors via legislative or other means runs completely counter to that. Faith should inspire and unite - not be used as a cudgel. And as for government, a free people should never be subject to legislated interference with one's beliefs or ability to worship according to his or her conscience.

All of the above notwithstanding, will government ever make laws with which we as a church strongly disagree? Yes, absolutely. Like many other faiths, the Seventh-day Adventist church subscribes to the Biblical definition of marriage as being between a man and a woman, for example. But where we differ from some of our peers is that we acknowledge that there's a difference between government allowing certain actions with which we might disagree on moral grounds ... as opposed to compelling them. That is the fine line that is religious liberty.

This is why it is optimal when the church does what it does best -- which is educate, serve others and spread the gospel -- while refraining from the business of governing. And the government should do what it does best -- which most assuredly rules out telling people what to believe or how to worship or enacting any restrictions thereof. When each entity is functioning as our founders intended, a functional balance can be achieved.

Oh, and as for prayer in the public schools? Consistent with our approach that church and state should remain far, far apart, we...
don't believe that prayer should be imposed on public school students (or faculty or others) who may believe differently than the person doing the praying. We certainly encourage prayer, of course, but it's about free will.

My fellow Seventh-day Adventists around the world and I believe that we serve a wonderful and mighty God who cherishes religious liberty and grants each individual the right to believe or not to believe in harmony with the dictates of their own conscience.

It is precisely the right to hold these varying viewpoints while respecting each other that makes America and all countries that foster freedom great.
Church plans anti-violence prayer vigil | The Selma Times-Journal

Published 10:17pm Monday, November 4, 2013

The Temple Gate Seventh-Day Adventist Church will host their inaugural community prayer vigil Friday, Nov. 15 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. for those affected by violence.

Titled the “Saving our Streets: Candlelight Vigil for Selma’s Youth,” the vigil will be held at Temple Gate SDA Church on 1601 Franklin Street.

“We want to show recognition to the violence in the area,” Donella Jackson, the Youth Ministries leader at Temple Gate SDA Church, said. “It’s to recognize those who have lost their lives.”

Jackson said the growing rate of violence in Selma has motivated her to plan this event.

“We hear about someone being killed day after day,” she said. “I am scared to do anything at night.”

She said the vigil allows the community to come together and show a united front.

“We want them to know that you don’t have to pull out a gun and want to kill,” she said. “We want to show that we are here for our young people. We want to show the families what we are still here.”

Jackson, a Selma resident, said she is frustrated with the negative perception that Selma has gained over the years. She said people automatically overlook the positive aspects associated with Selma.

“When they think of Selma, they are not thinking about rich history,” she said. “They think it’s always negative.”

Justin Davis, the assistance youth leader of Temple Fate SDA Church said prayer is a necessity.

“The key to the solution of our problems is being exposed to prayer,” Davis said.

He said the violence has the potential to hinder businesses from coming to Selma.

“People don’t want to come into a community that is violent,” Davis said. “The safer the community, the better it is for the entire community.”

Jackson said they want the support of Selma city leaders and government to help make this prayer vigil a true success.

“I don’t like hearing negative things about my city,” she said. “I love my city.”
Senate chaplain becomes folk hero for stern words during shutdown

By Hamil R. Harris

WASHINGTON – It’s been nearly a month since Senate Chaplain Barry Black made national headlines by using his opening morning prayer to scold lawmakers for their part in the recent government shutdown.

His words turned him into a folk hero to many.

“It is time for our lawmakers to say enough is enough,” Black said in early October before the chamber.

“Cover our shame with the robe of your righteousness.”

“Remove from them that stubborn pride,” the chaplain, a Seventh-day Adventist and retired Navy rear admiral, said during another opening prayer. “Forgive them for the blunders they have committed.”

The impact on popular culture was immediate. Comedian Kenan Thompson parodied his prayer on “Saturday Night Live.” “Bless these braying jackasses,” Thompson said in the sketch.

The New York Times wrote a glowing profile. Senators on both side of the aisle called him a hero.

What seemed to resonate with many was that Black used his proximity to lawmakers to sharply give politicians a message that many Americans would have done if given a chance.

But in the weeks since the national spotlight has faded, Black has kept a low profile. He hasn’t given many interviews since the shutdown ended. His office politely declines to answer questions about his comings and goings.
But Black still does the daily work of talking to audiences about the word.

For instance, Black participated in a three-day revival last month at Zion Baptist Church in Washington, where he preached on the topic “Surviving as a Lamb in a Wolf's World.” His remarks from the pulpit offered a window into what the Baltimore native is like when he is not presiding over federal lawmakers as chaplain.

“I am not here because I am the 62nd chaplain of the U.S. Senate. I am here because praise is what I do,” Black, quoting from a popular gospel song, told the assembled crowd at Zion.

The Rev. Keith Byrd Sr., the pastor of Zion, said Black first spoke during the church’s Men’s Day Program last December, and he was invited back to conduct a revival. Byrd said the timing of Black’s latest appearance was coincidental. "We had no idea what was going to transpire between December 12th and October 2013 but the Lord knew so he is here for this season and it is meant for him to be here to preach now for this season,” Byrd said.

Byrd said he wasn’t surprised that Black’s words had such an impact. “He is able to communicate with the average person while at the same time understand the challenges of the politician [and] what they are going through,” he said. “And right now we wanted him to speak because he can relate to where people are right now, people who are hurting.”

In an Oct. 23 interview with C-SPAN, Black offered some clues as to why he publicly chastised lawmakers. For example, during the shutdown, Black said: “When our federal shutdown delays payments of death benefits to the families of children dying on faraway battlefields, it is time for our lawmakers to say enough is enough. Cover our shame with the robe of your righteousness, forgive us, reform us and make us whole. We pray in your merciful name.”

“I write my prayers out of the overflow of my devotional life,” he said, explaining his words. During the interview he quoted Supreme Court cases to offer an unapologetic response to a reporter’s questions as to whether he went too far. “I am a pastor first. I am not a politician. I am descriptive rather than prescriptive.”

Black said members of the Senate know him well, and they know what he prayed during the shutdown was different. “They know when I go off script, go rogue, it must be important. They take that very seriously. The scolding aspect [of prayer] is not the normal aspect of my praying.”

Black took over Senate chaplain duties 10 years ago. But while the national media focused on his recent rebuke to lawmakers, he is no novice to making his voice heard during tough times on Capitol Hill.

During Washington’s last major political stalemate – the 2011 “debt ceiling” fight – Black had some choice prayers, as well.

“Lord, help them to comprehend the global repercussions of some poor decisions, and the irreversibility of some tragic consequences,” he prayed in July 2011. “Quicken their ears to hear. Their eyes to see. Their hearts to believe and their wills to obey you. Before it is too late.”

Later that month, he said: “Deliver our lawmakers from the paralysis of analysis, when constructive and prompt action is desperately needed.”

Indeed, as his recent actions have shown, Black takes his role seriously in helping lawmakers develop the spiritual mettle to solve the country’s problems. He said that though he has many duties on Capitol Hill, his most important assignment is to pray every day for all of the members of the U.S. Senate and their spouses.

“I want to be the greatest intercessor in the history of the U.S. Senate,” Black told the Zion crowd.
Prayer Call

Date  December 5, 2013
This event starts at 10:00 PM. It ends on December 6, 2013 at 5:00 AM.

Description

Join Prayer Call anytime between 10 p.m. Eastern Time, December 5, until 5 a.m., December 6. You do not need to be on the call all night.

Praying for:
Pastors, Leadership, Teachers
Specific things in the news, such as disaster victims, Sandy Hook community in the aftermath of the school shootings
Will take requests (Please take care not to give full names and personal information such as health, marital problems, etc., concerning other people.)

To Join:
Dial 712-432-0031 to join. Access number 435650 plus the "#" sign

Use the attached JPEG (below) for church bulletin inserts, to post as a reminder at home or office or to enclose with personal invitations to join the call. Print Prayer Call suggestions on the back.

Document 12-05-PrayerCall.jpg

Contact Information 712-432-0031, Access number 435650
http://www.NADPrayerMinistries.org
Listed below are a few suggestions to make this a powerful time of prayer with as little disruptions as possible.

1. After you enter the access you are instructed to announce your name. Please do not announce your name because it interrupts the person who is praying.

2. Please activate the MUTE function on your phone except when you are offering a prayer. (This will reduce the cumulative noise of 100+ phones and will also allow you to use the SPEAKER PHONE function. Don’t forget to turn off SPEAKER PHONE when you UNMUTE your phone to pray.)

3. If you do not have a MUTE function, please do not use your SPEAKER PHONE unless you have a number of people in the room that are participating in the prayer call.

4. Pray in line with the focus of our prayer segment as directed by the leader. There are other opportunities for praying personal prayers.

5. In humble submission, pray as you are directed to pray by the Spirit and heart of God. This is not a forum to advance your favored agenda.

6. Keep your prayers short and to one point so that others can have an opportunity to pray.

7. Remember there is power in praying God’s own Word.
DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN BE TOTALLY FREE?

In infinite love and mercy God made Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might be made the righteousness of God. Led by the Holy Spirit we sense our need, acknowledge our sinfulness, repent of our transgressions, and exercise faith in Jesus as Lord and Christ, as Substitute and Example. This faith which receives salvation comes through the divine power of the Word and is the gift of God's grace. Through Christ we are justified, adopted as God's sons and daughters, and delivered from the lordship of sin. Through the Spirit we are born again and sanctified; the Spirit renews our minds, writes God's law of love in our hearts, and we are given the power to live a holy life. Abiding in Him we become partakers of the divine nature and have the assurance of salvation now and in the judgment.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

JOHN 3:16

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

GALATIANS 1:4

4 who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

GALATIANS 4:4-7

4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. 6 Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” 7 So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

TITUS 3:3-7

3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

JOHN 16:8

8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment:

GALATIANS 3:13, 14

13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.” 14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through...
1 Peter 2:21, 22

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 

“Christ committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

Romans 10:17

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Luke 17:5

The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”

Mark 9:23, 24

“If you can” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.” Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

Ephesians 2:5-10

made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Romans 3:21-26

But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Colossians 1:13, 14

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Romans 8:14-17

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Galatians 3:26

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith,
John 3:3-8

3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” 4 “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” 5 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

1 Peter 1:23

23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

Romans 12:2

2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Hebrews 8:7-12

7 For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. 8 But God found fault with the people and said: “The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. 9 It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord. 10 This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 11 No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. 12 For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

Ezekiel 36:25-27

25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

2 Peter 1:3, 4

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Romans 8:1-4

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Romans 5:6-10

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own
love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!
Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Are You Putting Faith in Action? Lillian Torres Explains the Importance of Personal Evangelism

Story by Beth Michaels Published on 9/26/2013

Lillian Torres has dedicated her life to drawing people to Christ and training others to do the same.

If you’re not actively engaged in telling others about God’s love and sharing His Word, then you really can’t call yourself a Seventh-day Adventist,” warns Lillian Torres, the Pennsylvania Conference and Columbia Union Bible worker who has dedicated her life to drawing people to Christ and training others to do the same. “Our goal as Christians should be to tell every person we interact with each day about God's love.” She further explains, “If I’m not intentionally engaged in personal evangelism, I can’t claim to be an Adventist because we believe in the second coming of Christ and proclaiming it. And, being a Christian means to believe in Christ’s teachings and gospel, and showing it in character and practice. If I’m neither, then what am I?” Torres’ words are blunt, but she has good reason for them: the Barna Research Group recently reported that only 55 percent of born-again Christians believe it is their responsibility to share their faith. And, according to Campus Crusade for Christ, only 2 percent of Christians actively share their faith. The Truth About Evangelism Torres says there are 10 common reasons Adventists admit to shying away from sharing their faith, including “I might say the wrong thing” and “That’s not my spiritual gift.” However, she says, only five of the reasons go beyond poor excuses: low self-confidence, no motivation, no training, fear and it is not a priority.

“Jesus said in Matthew 28:19, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ This is a gift God wants to give to each of us,” she says.

What we need to realize, says Torres, is that even skeptics and atheists do not look well on Christians who don’t share their faith. She quotes a famous atheist who pointedly declared, “I don’t respect people who don’t proselytize. … How much do you have to hate somebody to believe that everlasting life is possible and not tell them that?”

She says we also need to be aware that many people who join a church cite a personal connection as the reason. In The Inviting Church, the
author reports that 79 percent of those he polled said that a friend or relative’s invitation is what prompted them to visit and then join their church.

She also points out that there are tremendous blessings to be gained from sharing our faith. Lisa Arosarena, a member at Pennsylvania Conference’s Chestnut Hill church in Philadelphia, concurs and shares a few: “First, I believe that God has used it to refine my character—showing me areas where I lack faith and am still unconverted. Secondly, God has placed upon my heart, for the first time in my life, a burden to see others won to His kingdom. I still find myself struggling with boldness at times, but I have been amazed at how God has given me opportunities to witness. It has been amazing to see my small effort, and, most importantly, the Holy Ghost’s power, lead to baptism.”

Follow Christ’s Example

“Most of our members are afraid to share because they fear someone will ask them a question they do not know the answer to, or challenge them on what they believe,” says Torres. But, she notes, that’s all the more reason to be prepared—everything we do well takes practice.

So, what is the best way to prepare for sharing our faith? Our first step, says Torres, should be to understand Christ’s methods. “The goal is to model the life of Christ by studying, meditating and pondering on what He did, and how He interacted with friends and enemies,” she says. His methods are best summarized in Ministry of Healing (p. 143):

1. He mingled and became acquainted with people.
2. He showed His sympathy for them.
3. He ministered to their needs.
4. He won their confidence.
5. Then He bade them, “Follow Me.”

To that end, “We cannot just hang out with Adventists,” warns Torres. “God’s love is not a secret to be kept.” If you don’t want to go door to door, she suggests starting conversations with people you encounter during errands, with parents and teachers at your child’s school or while waiting in line—anywhere!

When meeting someone, she suggests following three simple steps to lead the initial conversation:

1. Share your interests. After you swap details about what you both do for a living, the conversation usually turns to hobbies and interests. “Make sure to include one that is related to what you believe,” Torres suggests. “For instance, ‘I’m part of the Women’s Ministries at my church.’” This can stir their interest and give you a chance to share more about your faith.

2. Make religious connections. If they ask about your denomination, tell them about the four Cs—the four common beliefs Adventists share with other Christians (see the sidebar). This often gives you an opportunity to, in turn, ask what they believe and if they attend a church.

3. Leave them with material to read. If they’ve shared a genuine interest in your beliefs, always make sure to have material ready to give them, like a copy of Steps to Christ, a GLOW tract (see glowonline.org) or Bible study request cards (like those at seminarsunlimited.org). “I think it’s even better to give them your church’s website, assuming your church offers Bible study lessons,” suggests Torres, or at least give them your phone number and offer to talk more.

For more ideas about personal evangelism, Torres suggests Mark Finley’s book Studying Together.

Put Fear Aside

Torres understands the fear of witnessing. “I still get butterflies in my stomach before I knock on a door or share with someone, but my love for God moves me forward and overpowers my fear,” she says. She also keeps in mind that the Lord promises His help. “Simply make yourself available and you’ll see how God can speak through you,” she suggests.
She says it’s also important to remember, “Truth that is not lived, that is not imparted, loses its life-giving power, its healing virtue,” (Ministry of Healing, p. 148). In other words, Torres explains, “If you’re not imparting the truths God gives you, that truth loses its power and influence in you.”

So, get out there today, and watch the Lord use you.

**Lillian’s Four Cs**  
Seventh-day Adventists share four common beliefs with other Christians. Be prepared to share these with those you meet, says Torres:

1. We believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God.  
2. We believe in the cross and that we’re saved by God’s grace.  
3. We believe in keeping all of God’s commandments.  
4. We believe in the soon coming of Jesus Christ.

**Ready to Take the Conversation Further?**  
When a new contact digs for deeper spiritual information, Torres says there are two diagnostic questions you should be prepared to ask. For the questions—and how to answer them—visit [columbiaunion.org/evangelismquestions](http://columbiaunion.org/evangelismquestions).

**Your Turn**  
How do you share your faith? Tell us at [facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor](http://facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor) or tweet [@VisitorNews](http://twitter.com/VisitorNews).

---

Post by Columbia Union Visitor.

**COMMENTS POLICY:** The Columbia Union Conference Visitor encourages quality conversation and welcomes your thoughtful comments. All comments are subject to approval but will not be edited. **Please limit your comments to 500 words or less. Only one comment per person will be published.**