Announcements for Disaster Relief

**Bulletin inserts with information about the Midwest tornadoes disaster** and how to help are linked on the Adventist Community Services website in English, French and Spanish, in black and white and in color. To stay up to date on news and needs for survivors of this most recent U.S. weather-related disaster, use that web site.

Adventist Community Services personnel are on location and have been moving into a warehouse in Washington, Ill., one of the towns most affected. The Indiana ACS DR team is standing by to manage a warehouse operation if the state requests their services. MORE

**A special offering to help our Adventist survivors of the super storm Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines** is being collected in local churches. Donations are also being received by ADRA and ADRA Canada for their relief work there. Use the latest bulletin inserts (in English, Spanish and French) for sharing information with your church. [Photo: Tacloban, Philippines, Seventh-day Adventist Church is still standing with only slight damage in the midst of total destruction.]

A letter of recognition and high praise was delivered to Cathy Kissner, Adventist Community Services (ACS) director of Rocky Mountain Conference, from Ken Goodson, Regional Director of the AmeriCorps Southwest Region Leadership Team, regarding the work of ACS in Colorado following the heavy flooding there. In it, she and ACS volunteers were recognized and thanked for “outstanding leadership, support, guidance, energy and enthusiasm working with FEMA Corps teams... and for going above and beyond the call of duty in helping them to deliver on NCCC’s [National Civilian Community Corps, the state side version of Peace Corps] two-part mission of strengthening communities and developing leaders.”

Following two long paragraphs praising their many shining qualities, the letter concluded with, "Above all Cathy and her team stand out for their dedication, compassion, and selfless service. The distribution center is a well-oiled machine because they refuse to offer anything less than their best service to citizens in crisis. This attitude has overflowed to Alpine 1 and all volunteers who have worked at the distribution center. A good leader is one who invests in her followers, teaches them, takes care of them and leaves a legacy...”

NAD would also like to offer our congratulations and appreciation as well -- for Cathy and her team, and also for all those ACS leaders and volunteers who put in long, tiring and selfless hours helping many traumatized and desperate people following disasters.

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November 20, 2013

**Special Days**

**November Focus: Health**

Nov 2-30, Native Heritage Month
Nov 23, Welcome Home Sabbath

**December Focus: Christian Hospitality**

Dec 7, Bible Sabbath

**Helpful Special Day Websites and Resources**

**Offerings**

Nov 30, NAD Evangelism
Dec 14, Adventist Community Services

**Sample Offertory Readings**

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**What's a "Building Block?**

- **Retention of Young Adults**
  - Watch: "Retention of Young Adults"
  - 
- **Retention of Young Adults to the Church through a revitalized campus ministries program along with Spirit-filled
Religious obligations protected at work

Edmontonian deployed to the Philippines says 'it's a very, very desperate situation'

Adventist GlenOaks earns highest possible safety grade

Typhoon Haiyan: Adventist church in Oxon Hill participates in relief efforts

Thanksgiving brings out best of Nyack

Church donates to food pantry

NAD Year-end Meeting devotionals and Sabbath services are now available for downloading from the Hope Channel. They include messages from NAD President Dan Jackson, GC President Ted N.C. Wilson, Omar Grieve, Carlton Byrd, Elizabeth Talbot, and the Sabbath school service presented by NAD Children's and Adult Ministries.

Early-bird registration deadline for NAD Health Summit: December 2. Do you want to share evidence-based wholistic health programs that effectively present the life-changing elements necessary for abundant living? If you answered "Yes," plan to attend the NAD Health Summit. January 24-February 2, in Orlando, Fla. Health ministry directors and volunteers, pastors, health care professionals, women's and personal ministries directors, community service and community outreach volunteers, youth leaders and anyone interested in health ministry are invited to attend. Keynote speakers include Dr. Ben Carson, Dan Jackson, and Dr. Neil Nedley. Spanish and French translation will be available for select sessions. The early-bird registration fee of $299 is available through December 2, so register now.

Pastoral Evangelism and Leadership Council (PELC) will be December 8–11, in Huntsville, Ala. PELC is the the largest continuous gathering of Adventist pastors and leaders in the world. The theme this year is "Greater." Three "boot camps" will be run: The Keys to Powerful Preaching, Write Now!, and Building the Church through Media and Technology. MORE or call (800) 732-7587.

New children's "Draw Me Healthy" app is free for this weekend - The app is based on the book, Draw Me Healthy, by Brandon Reese. Children help the main character learn healthy habits by drawing pictures on their iPad. The app, along with a few others, is available for this weekend.
The Living it app is up for grabs, right now, at the App Store. Have inspiring videos and devotionals at your finger tips, and be alerted to new content as soon as it's available. Click here to install!

"Did you know God is more powerful than Satan?"
Fundamental Beliefs video #11 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.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are times when many people are hurting, especially while observing many others celebrating and enjoying many blessings. "If we would indulge less in feasting and merriment upon these occasions, and instead make them means of benefiting humanity, we should better meet the mind of God," wrote Ellen White (The Review and Herald, December 11, 1879, par. 6)

What are your plans for the holidays? Read about what Ellen White did one Christmas, and check a list of suggestions offered by José Cortés, Jr., in the Atlantic Union Gleaner, December 2012, p. 7.

NAD News:
- He's Alive TV Available Across U.S. and Beyond, WWU Students Assist Academy in India, Union College Professor Participates in Homeland Security Conference, ADRA Leaders Explore Partnerships at Southern Adventist University, Three-Point Play Shares Jesus With Kids, pp. 12-14
- Friendship Evangelism, p. 15
- Living Gratitude, p. 17
- Friendship Evangelism, p. 15
- Hospitality from the Heart, pp. 34-38

NAD Update:
- Friendship Evangelism, p. 15
- World Service, p. 18
- Friendship Evangelism, p. 15

NAD Letters:
- p. 18

NAD Feature:
- Hospitality from the Heart, pp. 34-38

NAD NewsPoints:
- Disaster relief in Midwest and Philippines, YEM Devotionals, Health Summit deadline, "Greater", New Apps, holiday REACH

Daily Prayer Guide
Nov. 24-30, Please pray for the Southeastern Conference with its 138 churches and 39,916 members, and the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference with 86 churches and 11,449 members. Also, please remember to pray for the survivors and those assisting them following the epic storm that devastated the Philippine Islands, and for those affected by the rash of tornadoes that swept through some northern states during the night of November 17-18.

Share This Newsletter
On Sunday, November 17, dozens of tornadoes passed through eight Midwest states destroying and damaging hundreds of homes and killing eight people. Illinois and Indiana were hit the hardest. A head elder from Peoria (Illinois) church stated that two Adventist families’ homes were totally destroyed and another family’s home was damaged. No one was injured. The local Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS DR) personnel are conducting needs assessments and preparing to assist in relief efforts.

Illinois Conference Community Services has been called to Washignton, Illinois, where a disaster response team is setting up a warehouse today in response to this week's tornado damage. Three trucks with supplies are arriving soon.

Indiana Conference Community Services are delivering Meals Ready to Eat (MRE), clothing and toiletries to the Kokomo area in Indiana. Their disaster response team is standing by to manage a warehouse operation.

One Member's Account of the Storm:
After arriving home yesterday afternoon, I saw the destruction on the news and more completely today. I am amazed that we were not in the path of any of those tornadoes. God worked a miracle indeed! I was very concerned during the meeting. The Washington twister touched down only 12 miles away from our meeting. I have had firsthand experience with tornadoes and knew we were very much at risk. I was shooting prayers heavenward as the sky darkened. I hated to interrupt the meeting but I firmly believe we witnessed a miracle. There was only a single person that lost their life in Washington. Was it because we stopped and prayed on their behalf? I believe it was!

I know Donna said her brother was in the path of one of them and was apparently unscathed. My wife and I took a week of vacation to assist in Joplin and worked a warehouse with ACS. The destruction in Washington looks eerily similar to Joplin. God clearly put His protective hand over His children.

Please let us know in the south what we can do. We are equipped in the southern part of the state to deal with this kind of disaster. The need is just being assessed but the people are already mobilized. God is awesome and his people will be there to do the right thing.


Pray for the thousands of individuals who have been affected by and will be responding to this tragedy and consider giving a financial donation through ACS to support disaster response efforts:

To donate: Visit www.communityservices.org | Call 1-800-381-7171

Make checks payable to ACS and mail to: 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904
Or place your donation in a tithe envelope marked “ACS Disaster Response”

**Download Flyer**

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**Video Footage from Washington, IL**
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El domingo 17 de noviembre, decenas de tornados atravesaron por ocho estados del medio oeste del país, destruyendo y dañando cientos de casas y matando a ocho personas. Los estados de Illinois e Indiana fueron los más afectados. El primer anciano de la iglesia Adventista de Peoria, Illinois, reportó que las casas de dos familias Adventistas fueron totalmente destruidas y la casa de otra familia fue dañada. Ninguna de estas familias sufrió daños físicos. El personal local de Servicios Comunitarios Adventistas | Ayuda al Desastre (ACS DR por sus siglas en inglés) está conduciendo evaluaciones de las necesidad inmediatas y preparándose para ayudar en el esfuerzo de mitigación.

Por favor oremos por los miles de individuos que han sido afectados, y por aquellos que responderán al llamado de ayuda ofreciendo una donación financiera a través de ACS (Servicios Comunitarios Adventistas) la cual será de mucha ayuda para las víctimas de esta tragedia.

Para donar, visite: www.communityservices.org | Llamar al 1-800-381-7171
Haga cheques pagos a ACS y envíelos a:
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Priez pour les milliers de personnes qui ont été touchées par cette tragédie, ainsi que ceux qui vont répondre et envisager de faire un don financier à travers ACS pour soutenir les efforts du secteur réponse aux désastres.

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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 your local church and be sure to mark your envelope "Philippine Typhoon Relief."

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:
Adventists are givers at heart, and we all want to help those overwhelmed by super-storm Typhoon Haiyan that has left the Philippine people devastated. Here are THREE ways to help:

Donate for Seventh-day Adventist members and missionaries: Make checks payable to your local church and place them in the offering envelope marked “Philippine Typhoon Relief” OR donate online at Hope4.Fundly.com/Typhoon-Haiyan. 100% of your donation will go to help Adventist members directly affected by the disaster

Donate for all survivors in the Philippines: Make check payable to ADRA and mark your envelope, “ADRA Typhoon Haiyan.” OR donate online at www.ADRA.org

Canadians: Please donate through ADRA/Canada where there is a matching fund available for Canadian donations, at www.ADRA.ca.

Thousands of our fellow church members, approximately 13 long-term missionaries from the North American Division, and thousands of the precious non-Adventists of the Philippines who are not Seventh-day Adventists – are in dire need of our help.
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Los adventistas son personas que poseen un corazón generoso, y todos deseamos ayudar a quienes están agobiados por la destrucción que provocó la supertormenta del tifón Haiyan, el cual ha dejado al pueblo filipino sumido en la devastación. Éstas son TRES formas de ayudar:

Para ayudar a miembros y misioneros adventistas del séptimo día: Coloque su donación en el sobre de diezmos y ofrendas, a nombre de “Philippine Typhoon Relief”; o puede donar electrónicamente a través de Hope4.Fundly.com/Typhoon-Haiyan. 100% de su donación ayudará a miembros adventistas que han sido directamente afectados por el desastre.

Para ayudar al pueblo filipino en general: Coloque su donación en el sobre de diezmos y ofrendas, a nombre de “ADRA Typhoon Haiyan”, o puede donar electrónicamente a través de www.ADRA.org.

Canadienses: Favor de donar a través de ADRA/Canada, a través de www.ADRA.ca, y participar en el fondo de contrapartida donde igualan las donaciones canadienses.
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Les Adventistes sont des donneurs de cœur, et nous voulons tous aider ceux qui sont submergés par la tempête Typhoon Haiyan, qui a laissé les gens de Philippines dévastés. Voici trois façons d’aider:

Faites un don aux membres et missionnaires adventistes du septième jour: Libellez vos chèques à l’ordre de votre église locale et placez-les sous les enveloppes marquées “Philippine Typhoon Relief”. Ou faites un don en ligne à Hope4.Fundly.com/Typhoon-Haiyan. 100% de votre don ira pour aider les membres adventistes directement touchés par la catastrophe.

Faites un don pour aider le public en général: Emettez votre chèque à ADRA et marquez votre enveloppe “ADRA Typhoon Haiyan” ou faites un don en ligne à www.ADRA.org.

Canadiens : S’il vous plaît faites un don par ADRA / Canada, là où il existe un fonds de contrepartie pour les dons canadiens à www.ADRA.ca.

Des milliers de nos membres d’églises, environ 13 missionnaires à long terme de la Division Nord-Américaine, et des milliers de précieux gens des Philippines qui ne sont pas Adventistes du Septième Jour - ont désespérément besoin de notre aide.
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Canadiens : S’il vous plaît faites un don par ADRA / Canada, là où il existe un fonds de contrepartie pour les dons canadiens, à www.ADRA.ca.
This week’s question comes from Manuel T. from Oakland, who asks:

**Q:** “I am a Seventh-day Adventist. Saturday is our Sabbath, and pursuant to our religion we are supposed to keep the Sabbath holy and not work. My manager recently changed my schedule to require that I work on Saturday. He knows I keep the Sabbath, and when I brought this up, he stated that I should “change my religion if it was interfering with the job.” In essence, he told me to either go against my religious beliefs or quit. I feel this is a real test of my faith. What are my legal rights? He also tells me that I should change my religion’s name to Sixth-day Adventist since we take Saturday for religious observance and not Sunday and laughs at me, saying that my religion can’t count.”

**A:** It is sad that in this day and age, religious discrimination continues to exist. I have been handling employment discrimination cases for 20 years now and have regularly seen these kinds of abuses, including discrimination against Jews, Catholics, Muslims, atheists and Seventh-day Adventists. I have seen cases where employers have demanded that employees pray and others where employers forbade it. Religion is so personal and polemic, it must be respected and accommodated.
The California Fair Employment and Housing Act prohibits discrimination based on religion. “It is unlawful employment practice for an employer because of the religious creed of any person to discriminate against a person in compensation or in terms, conditions, or privileges of employment” (Government Code, 12940(a)).

To prove discrimination, plaintiffs must show they were a member of a protected class, were competently performing the position held (or could have competently performed the position), suffered an adverse employment action and the action occurred under circumstances suggesting discriminatory motive.

Pursuant to the FEHA, it is an unlawful employment practice for an employer to discharge a person from employment or to discriminate against a person because of a conflict between the person’s religious belief or observance and any employment requirement, unless the employer demonstrates that it has explored available reasonable alternative means of accommodating the religious belief or observance and found no reasonable accommodation (Government Code 12940(j)).

Once the employee establishes a prima facie case, the employer must establish it initiated good-faith efforts to accommodate, or no accommodation was possible without producing undue hardship. (“Employment Discrimination: Law and Litigation Volume 1” by Merrick T. Rossein).

Under the FEHA, employers have a duty to reasonably accommodate a “religious belief or observance,” which includes observance of a Sabbath or other religious holy day or days.

Reasonable accommodation includes the possibility of “excusing the person from those duties that conflict with his or her religious belief or observance or permitting those duties to be performed at another time or by another person” (Government Code 12940(l)). Under the California Code of Regulations, scheduling changes are one form of recognized reasonable accommodation.

Additionally, your manager’s conduct may create a hostile environment. Under the FEHA, hostile-environment harassment requires a showing that harassment was “so severe or pervasive” as to “alter the conditions of the victim’s employment and create an abusive working environment” (Meritior Savings Bank FSB v. Vinson).

It should be noted that the abusive conduct alleged need not be both severe and pervasive — one or the other is sufficient.

Therefore, Manuel, it would appear that your manager needs to realize that he is in violation of the law. My suggestion to you is to document this conduct and file an official complaint with your company’s human resources department.
Hopefully they will take the right steps to remove this manager or severely discipline him.

Drop this article in your letter to HR and hand it to your manager. If they won’t take corrective action, then contact a trial lawyer skilled in the area of employment discrimination and harassment to help them get some religion.

*Christopher B. Dolan is owner of the Dolan Law Firm. Email questions to help@dolanlawfirm.com.*
EDMONTON – As the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan continues to unfold in the Philippines, an international aid effort is underway for those suffering through the devastation.

Here in the city Saturday morning, members of the Edmonton Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church held a candlelight vigil to pray for those affected by the disaster. Donations were also collected to help in the relief efforts.
“Our friends and family members are suffering so much from this storm,” said Andy Magbago, a member of the church.

“There’s no means of livelihood, nothing. There’s no food. There’s no houses,” he said holding back tears. “No houses were standing.”

“It’s been emotional and it’s so burdening because lots of our family members… and friends are over there,” added Andy’s wife Lerma Magbago.

**Story continues below**

According to the latest figures by the Philippines’ main disaster agency, 3,633 people have died and 12,487 were injured. Many of the bodies remain tangled amongst piles of debris, or lining the road in body bags. Some are believed to have been swept out to sea.

There are reportedly 1,179 people still missing.

**READ MORE: For Philippine typhoon survivors, search for missing loved ones is a hellish daily routine**

“I just have never seen anything like this. I can say that it’s almost as if the city was scooped up and turned upside down. It’s that bad. There is nothing that hasn’t been touched,” said Edmontonian Pernille Ironside, a member of UNICEF’s immediate response team who has been deployed to the city of Tacloban, one of the hardest hit areas.

“The homes, the cars are overturned and halfway up the side of the wall. There’s fallen trees everywhere, power lines down. You couldn’t even imagine this in a movie, it’s that bad,” she explained over the phone Saturday morning.

> “Everywhere you see there are people, families, who are just trying to find some space where they’re safe and they’re trying to find food and water. It’s a very, very desperate situation.”

Ironside arrived in the Philippines Friday morning. As a child protection specialist, she says finding adequate food, water and shelter are not the only concerns for those on the ground.

“As a result of the chaos, there’s always a risk that families are separated from one another,” she explained. “There are unaccompanied and separated children who then become vulnerable to all kinds of potential exploitation, abuse, even trafficking. So our number one priority from a child protection perspective right now is to make sure that we’re identifying any children who are not with their usual care people and ensuring that they have appropriate interim care.”

Edmontonian Rashad Chin is also packing his bags for the Philippines. Chin – the response coordinator for Canadian Medical Assistance Teams (CMAT) – is one of six Edmontonians who will be in the country for three weeks helping those who have survived the disaster.

“We try to be prepared for everything,” he said. “Because the hospitals are down in the area or maybe damaged, or there’s personnel that cannot attend work, who may have been actually injured or killed themselves in the disaster… just the regular health care needs of a country who are now trying to rebuild after a disaster need to be met.”

Chin also works as an emergency physician at the University of Alberta Hospital and says he’s been receiving an overwhelming amount of support.

“The support is huge,” he said. “My phone is going off every couple seconds with volunteer requests from health care professionals who want to deploy with us.”
As of Friday, the Canadian Red Cross had raised $9.3 million for relief efforts. And all the generosity is not going unnoticed.

“It’s overwhelming and it’s so touching that it’s actually people that we don’t even know. And it’s just, we’re so lucky to be loved by other people,” Lerma explained. “They are so devastated by this situation, but to know that somebody is there to help them, that would be a comfort to them.”

If you’d like to donate to the Canadian Red Cross, you can do so by calling 1-800-418-1111, stopping into a local office, visiting the Red Cross’s website, or texting redcross to 30333.

*With files from Shannon Greer, Global News.*

**Caley Ramsay**

**Web Producer**

Caley joined the Global Edmonton team in 2012, after graduating from the Broadcast and Online Journalism program at the British Columbia Institute of Technology.
Adventist GlenOaks earns highest possible safety grade

By SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

GLENDALE HEIGHTS – Adventist GlenOaks Hospital recently earned an “A” – the highest possible grade – in hospital safety from The Leapfrog Group, according to a news release from the hospital.

The safety score was based on the hospital's levels of infections, injuries and medical and medication errors, the release said.

Adventist GlenOaks has implemented several programs to improve safety, such as the teamwork training undertaken by its Surgical Services Department, according to the release.

The hospital has also put in place a program requiring Intensive Care Unit patients to consult with a physician who is board certified in critical care management, the release said.

The Leapfrog Group is an independent, national nonprofit organization of employer purchasers of health care and experts on patient safety, according to the release.

For more information, visit www.hospitalsafetygrade.org.
Typhoon Haiyan: Adventist church in Oxon Hill participates in relief efforts

By Kimberly Suiters

(WJLA) - From well-funded relief organizations with celebrity endorsements to homemade appeals for hygiene packs, the Typhoon Haiyan relief effort is officially worldwide.

"We are trying to reach 500,000 survivors," says celebrity actress Scarlett Johansson in the new PSA for Oxfam.

Meanwhile in the D.C. area, Pastor Ariel Matira, whose Filipino Oxon Hill 7th Day Adventist Church is holding a donation drive on Saturday, is calling for clothes, blankets, and food.

At the world headquarters of the Adventist Development & Relief Agency in Silver Spring, they’re documenting the distribution of emergency kits since their donors want proof -- bags are stuffed with rice, sardines, and peanuts.

"We have given 1,000 people food and 3,000 people emergency shelter," said Pastor Matira.

On Friday, they learned they were the first non-profit to feed survivors, having already been on the ground in the Philippines the last 30 years.

Although Pastor Matira would rather be helping back in the Philippines, he is amazed by the compassion and generosity he is witnessing here.

"It's amazing," he said.

More in "D.C."

Hot on WJLA.com Today's most talked about stories
The spokesperson for the church ministry, which also provides daily hot meals, says their goal is to provide Thanksgiving dinners for 100 families.

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Church donates to food pantry

Posted: Sunday, November 17, 2013 12:00 am

ROCK HALL — On Sunday, Oct. 14, Rock Hall Seventh-Day Adventist Church brought joy to a full congregation. For more than 100 years, the church has celebrated a "Harvest Home" program, with talented musicians coming from near and far.

This year the "free-will" offering and bake sale proceeds were given to the Rock Hall Community Food Pantry, which is overseen by the Rock Hall United Methodist Charge. Food pantry director Sue Becker and Tom Willis, coordinator of the Backpack Program for the local elementary school, received the check in the amount of $1,200. Mayor Bob Willis commented on the community spirit of Rock Hall.

The food pantry is currently serving more than 100 families. Donations of money or canned goods are always appreciated. For information, contact the RHUM Charge office at 410-639-2144.
By His death on the cross Jesus triumphed over the forces of evil. He who subjugated the demonic spirits during His earthly ministry has broken their power and made certain their ultimate doom. Jesus' victory gives us victory over the evil forces that still seek to control us, as we walk with Him in peace, joy, and assurance of His love. Now the Holy Spirit dwells within us and empowers us. Continually committed to Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we are set free from the burden of our past deeds. No longer do we live in the darkness, fear of evil powers, ignorance, and meaninglessness of our former way of life. In this new freedom in Jesus, we are called to grow into the likeness of His character, communing with Him daily in prayer, feeding on His Word, meditating on it and on His providence, singing His praises, gathering together for worship, and participating in the mission of the Church. As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to His salvation, His constant presence with us through the Spirit transforms every moment and every task into a spiritual experience.

**PSALM 1:1, 2**

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, ² but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.

**PSALM 23:4**

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

**PSALM 77:11, 12**

¹¹ I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. ¹² I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds.”

**COLOSSIANS 1:13, 14**

¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

**COLOSSIANS 2:6, 14, 15**

⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him . . ¹⁴ having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

**LUKE 10:17-20**

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.” ¹⁸ He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. ²⁰ However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

**EPHESIANS 5:19, 20**

¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**EPHESIANS 6:12-18**
For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

21-25

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

38-39

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

4

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

25

not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
Compassion and the Christmas Season

It is clear that Jesus was not born on December 25. That does not mean Adventists cannot practice compassion during the Christmas season. Compassion must be a lifestyle that permeates every waking hour, every day of the year, including the holiday season. Compassion was a priority of Jesus daily, even during the holidays: “But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them”—Matthew 9:36 (NKJV).

An Adventist pioneer, and a former Adventist youth, right here in the Atlantic Union territory had some interesting things to say about Christmas. Ellen White wrote: “If we would indulge less in feasting and merriment upon these occasions, and instead make them the means of benefiting humanity, we should better meet the mind of God”—The REVIEW AND HERALD, December 11, 1879, par. 6.

This is what she did during a cold Christmas in Denison, Texas, in 1878: “I suppose you will be interested to know how we spent Christmas. The day before Christmas, we went to town, and it was tediously cold. I suffered with cold. I never remember of its being much colder in Michigan. But Brother Moore’s people were living in a tent and were very uncomfortable. We were determined he should not live thus, and we commenced to bring about a change. We moved them into Sister Bahler’s old house, which was very open but better than a tent, for several nights. We had divided our bedding with them to keep them from suffering.

“We then went to the city and purchased for them flour, white and graham; sugar, a bone of meat. . . . We laid out $10 for clothing to make them comfortable, and necessary furniture to get along. I will tell you everything they had for breakfast—a few corn gems and a little beef suet fat. Not a chair; a straw bed and a comfortable laid over it. The children had an old rug and blanket laid under them. Sister Moore had no shoes, no comfortable clothing. He had no pants fit to be seen.

“Christmas morning we all took breakfast together”—Manuscript Releases, vol. 14, p. 318.

Do not spend the Christmas season fighting those who celebrate it, attacking Christmas trees, or trying to keep others from mentioning the word. Rather, show compassion to someone. That’s what Jesus would do.

Just a few tips:
1. Prepare a banquet for families that go hungry.
2. Organize a coat drive.
3. Coordinate a toy drive for kids in need (your post office has thousands of letters that kids send to Santa; unless you do something, these requests might never come true).
4. Visit someone who is lonely or recently lost a loved one.
5. Invite a homeless for soup or pizza at a deli.
6. Sing songs about Jesus’ birth with your youth group at a busy corner of your city.
7. Visit a cancer ward in a hospital.
8. Visit a waiting room at a hospital emergency room during late hours and give out some hugs and hot chocolate.
9. Arrange a visit to a local jail.
10. Send cookies and a great book to a soldier deployed overseas.
11. Visit affluent families and businesses and request their partnership with your youth group to sponsor a family in need.
12. Invite your neighbors over for dessert.
13. Invite college students, who cannot afford to go home for the holidays, to your Christmas dinner.

Remember, “For as much as you did it to the least of these, you did it to me”—Jesus. ■

José Cortés, Jr., is the director of Adventist Youth Ministries in the Atlantic Union.