Adventist ministries are being called to transform at the 2014 NAD Adventist 14th Ministries Convention (AMC), in Monterey, Calif. More than 500 people registered and are attending workshops on evangelism, ministerial training, community services, communication, technology, children’s ministries, stewardship and many more. NAD President Daniel Jackson welcomed the convention attendees, speaking about the importance of having a holistic ministry that focuses on the six building blocks that the division has chosen to emphasize during this quinquennial.

NAD Assistant to the President Ken Denslow gave the opening address on the subject of Transformational Evangelism, using stories that he has observed over the years as examples of how the church needs to refocus its mission to the communities that surround them. “It takes the nail scarred hands of Jesus” to hold the church together despite our differences, he said. The AMC concludes today.

Washington Johnson II has joined Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM) as an assistant director. “The broad experience in chaplaincy and pastoral ministry that Chaplain Johnson brings with him will be a strong asset to the department,” says Gary Councell, ACM director. “Chaplain Johnson’s primary responsibilities will be to interact with current and prospective chaplains, union and conference Adventist church leaders, and military service personnel. His territory includes the Columbia, Atlantic, and Lake Unions, as well as the eastern portion of Canada.”

The GC announced on January 2 that it had been the victim of cyber theft which had defrauded the church of approximately US $500,000. The theft involved funds that were being transferred on behalf of a denominational entity. A thorough investigation is being conducted. “The North American Division (NAD) realizes that this the type of fraud can happen to any of us at any time in business and in our personnel lives,” says NAD Treasurer, Tom Evans. “We recently completed a internal control analysis of the NAD office operation as is required by policy....”

At Adventist restaurants, meals are good for body and planet

Southwestern celebrates its 120th birthday

International Tree Nut Council Funded Study Links Nut Intake With Lower Risks

Special Days

January Focus: Friendship Evangelism
Jan 19-25, Religious Liberty Week

February Focus: Family Life
Feb 1-22, Black History Month
Feb 1, Christian Marriage Sabbath
Feb 1-8, Christian Home and Marriage Week
Feb 8, Christian Parenting Sabbath
Feb 15, Mental Health Sabbath
Feb 16-22, Family Togetherness Week
Feb 22, Family Togetherness Sabbath

Helpful Special Day Websites and Resources

Offerings
Jan 25, Religious Liberty
Feb 8, Adventist Television Ministries

Sample Offertory Readings

Jan. 8-18, Ten Days of Prayer
Jan. 9-12, NAD Prayer Conference
Jan. 12-15, NAD Ministries Convention
NAD NewsPoints, Ministries Convention, new ACM Assist. Dir., Cyber theft, Health Summit, Mental Health Sabbath, Vibrant Life sale, NEW for parents

**Health Summit**

The Health Summit online registration ends January 20, so register today! This summit of courses is designed for health leaders and individuals wanting to share evidence-based wholistic health programs which will enable them to effectively present the life-changing elements for abundant living. If you want your congregation's health ministry to be relevant and able to address current health issues, you will want to attend. This event presents many exciting opportunities for networking, enrichment and spiritual growth. Watch live streaming of the evening community outreach by John Bradshaw, It Is Written speaker/director, starting on January 26 at 7:30 p.m. EST at www.ChooseFullLife.org. MORE

**Special Mental Health Emphasis Sabbath Webinar**

Tuesday, January 21, at 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. EST. Learn about Mental Health Emphasis Sabbath scheduled for February 15 and how to access the resources available to you. The theme will be “How to Maximize Your Brain Potential.” What a great opportunity to provide members with health information they can use—and share! Register

**Urgent: Pathfinder Camporee Registration**

Due to recent credit card processing problems associated with Target and other merchant stores during the holiday season, many banks are withholding authorization for large credit card transactions. If you experience a failure notice when processing a Camporee order while using a credit card, please contact your credit card issuer or bank to inform them of the purchase. We apologize for any frustrations you may have experienced in this regard and trust that this process will resolve the problem.

**Resources**

Help! I'm a Parent: Christian Parenting in the Real World is a new parenting resource released by the North American Division. It is produced by the Family Ministries Department and authored by the department directors, Drs. Claudio and Pamela Consuegra, to help parents carry on this eternally important task. This resource is in response to hundreds of surveys conducted throughout the North American Division territory. Each chapter represents a response to felt needs of parents with children birth to age seven. The resource is comprised of three major components: The manual, with 10 interactive chapters; the DVD set to accompany each chapter of the manual; and ongoing web support. The manual and DVD set are available at AdventSource.

**NAD News**

Theology of Ordination Study Committee (Report and Defining), pp. 11-13

**NAD Update**

New Parenting Resource Released, pp. 14-15

**NAD Perspective**

When the New Wears Off, p. 17
Sale! Vibrant Life has a new special issue about the mind-body-spirit connection with emphasis on the mind. It's especially for use with the NAD Mental Health Sabbath, February 15. You will want to have enough copies to read and to share with others. It includes information about how to improve your life and emotional intelligence, what happens when you are constantly afraid and how to stop it, how to overcome depression, and much more. Regularly $3.99 ea, on sale now until January 31 for only $0.38/issue. MORE

Did you know God gives us special gifts and talents so we can live fully for Him?
Fundamental Beliefs #17 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 from there onto 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, watching a beliefs video, 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.

You can share the Beliefs videos 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 to email to a friend.

REACH: Education for Discipleship and Community Outreach and Evangelism

A “Difficult Texts” class taught by Ricardo Norton, Hispanic Institute director at Andrews University, trained more than 150 people at the Mott Haven Spanish church as part of the NY13 initiative. The once-per-month class was sponsored by the Greater New York Conference Hispanic Ministries Department directed by Michael Guerrero. Each student had to spend at least 10 hours a month giving Bible studies and also actively participating in evangelism events. MORE: Atlantic Union Gleaner, June 2013, p. 9
1-15-14 Adventist Ministries Called to Transformation

Ken Denslow presents opening address

A cool California winter evening was the welcoming environment for the opening of the 2014 North American Division Adventist Ministries Convention, January 12, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency in Monterey, Calif. Held for the 14th time, the convention features the various ministries that are involved with the mission and outreach of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. More than 500 people registered and will attend workshops on evangelism, ministerial training, community services, communication, technology, children’s ministries, stewardship and many more.

NAD president, Daniel Jackson welcomed the convention attendees, speaking about the importance of have a holistic ministry that focused on the six building blocks that the division has chosen to emphasize during this quinquennium in North America. Jackson then introduced his assistant, Elder Ken Denslow who gave the opening address on the subject of Transformational Evangelism. Denslow has served as a pastor and administrator for many years and drew upon stories that he has observed over the years, as examples of how the church needs to refocus its mission to the communities that surround them. He referred to the squabbles that take place in the church on many levels and said that, “It takes the nail scarred hands of Jesus” to hold the church together despite our differences. On the subject of unity, Denslow proclaimed that “Revival produces unity. True revival helps us look at ourselves and causes us to grab the hand of Jesus, and then reach out to our brothers and sisters who are struggling.” His closing pleas were a call for action in our churches, that all of our churches become transformed, filled with transformed members who pray “may God bless us and not give us peace until we are committed to reaching those outside the walls of our churches.” The Adventist Ministries Convention will conclude on Wednesday with the closing keynote being presented by Pastor Brenda Billiny, the associate director of the NAD Ministerial Department, as she talks about church members and their “BEAutiful Legacy”, a reference to the Convention theme, “BEAutiful deSiGN, … you are a chosen people”.

--Daniel Weber, NAD Communication
North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists®: 1-9-14 Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries Adds Assistant Director

William Johnson II

Washington Johnson II has joined the North American Division Department of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM-NAD) as an assistant director. “The broad experience in chaplaincy and pastoral ministry that Chaplain Johnson brings with him will be a strong asset to the department,” says Gary Councell, ACM director. “Chaplain Johnson’s primary responsibilities will be to interact with current and prospective chaplains, union and conference Adventist church leaders, and military service personnel. His territory includes the Columbia, Atlantic, and Lake Unions, as well as the eastern portion of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada.” Johnson, a United States Navy Reserve Chaplain (Commander), was recently deployed to Djibouti, Africa. During his deployment Johnson served as Deputy Command Chaplain and Senior Protestant Chaplain for approximately 3,500 service personnel at Camp Lemonnier, the only permanent U. S. military base on the African continent.

Johnson formerly served as editor-in-chief of Message Magazine and pastor of multiple congregations in the South Central and Northern California Conferences. He is a graduate of Oakwood University, Andrews University Theological Seminary, and Reformed Theological Seminary, receiving Bachelor of Arts, Master of Divinity, and Doctor of Ministry degrees, respectively. Johnson and his wife, Joyce are parents to Washington III.

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Deena Bartel-Wagner
Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries
Publications Editor/Webmaster
1-6-14 Cyber Theft

On January 2, 2014, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists announced that it had been the victim of cyber theft which had defrauded the church of approximately US $500,000. The theft involved funds that were being transferred on behalf of a denominational entity.

Church officials are cooperating with federal authorities in the ongoing investigation and working with the banks and insurance companies to determine what recoveries may be possible. Although it cannot be ruled out at this time, indications do not suggest any insider involvement. “No personal information such as private information, personal donor records or internal accounts were accessed or compromised in the scheme,” said Adventist world church treasurer Bob Lemon. “We are modifying procedures to do our best to prevent this from happening again.”

“The North American Division (NAD) realizes that this the type of fraud can happen to any of us at any time in business and in our personnel lives,” says NAD Treasurer, Tom Evans. “We recently completed a internal control analysis of the NAD office operation as is required by policy. In late 2013, our NAD Internet Technology Services Department went through an extensive audit by a company that specializes in finding weaknesses in a company’s systems of internal control as it relates to NAD internet technology within and outside of our building. We also have in place procedures for transferring funds to outside church organizations and employees. All church organizations need to be vigilant moving forward to safe guard the funds that have been entrusted to it.”

Recently the Seventh-day Adventist world Church surpassed 18 million members and currently has a presence in more than 200 countries.

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*North American Division Communication Department, with information provided by the Adventist News Network.*
At Adventist restaurants, meals are good for body and planet

By G. Jeffrey MacDonald

LEWISTON, Maine On a main drag dotted with fast-food joints, a new church-run restaurant is breaking the mold: It offers vegan fare as a healthy alternative in a low-income neighborhood.

But for Seventh-day Adventists, who opened The Ark in a former Pizza Hut, the project is no first. Adventists established meatless restaurants as early as the late 19th century in a bid to encourage healthy living.

Now, after decades of lackluster interest, the tradition is being revived. Eager to rekindle urban ministries, Adventists are feeding growing numbers of city dwellers hungry for meals that are good for both the body and the planet.

“There’s greater interest in vegetarian eating and healthful living now than ever,” said David Trim, director of archives, statistics and research for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. “It’s an idea whose time has come.”

These days, Adventist initiatives are giving rise internationally to new vegan (no animal products) and vegetarian (including dairy but no meat) restaurants.

Adventists have opened vegetarian restaurants in New York City; Phnom Penh, Cambodia; Copenhagen, Denmark and Tampere, Finland, according to Trim’s records. Others have sprung up in recent years in cities as varied as San Francisco and Chattanooga, Tenn. More are in the works in countries from England to Brunei, a Muslim nation where Christian evangelism is banned but operating a restaurant is permitted.

For Adventists, who believe discipleship involves care for the body as well as the soul, meatless restaurants provide vehicles to bless the world. They also enable new friendships to take root as diners, wait staff and cooks share common passions. When making friends, being able to sell someone a tasty, inexpensive bean chili or share a hummus recipe doesn’t hurt.

“People are really tired of words,” said Matthew Blake, a Walmart forklift driver and volunteer chef at The Ark, where entrees cost less than $9. “If I can educate people to make lifestyle changes, lower their cholesterol and improve their wellness, they’re being healed. And so this is as close as you can really get to modeling the life of Christ – by healing.”

The Ark’s main purpose as a “center of influence” is to promote good health and the happiness that comes from feeling healthy, according to director Don Ball. Now open three days a week for lunch, The Ark will expand hours in January to offer midday meals six days a week and dinner two nights a week.

After lunch on weekdays, tables are routinely folded up and chairs reconfigured for free workshops on health-related topics such as therapeutic massage, hydrotherapy, smoking cessation and vegan cooking.

Rethinking their choices

On a recent night, raw food chef Raphaelle Vatistas showed 20 attendees how to make desserts without dairy or refined sugar. Many are trying to address health problems, from diabetes to cancer, but some turn out for other reasons.

Eating meat taxes the environment more than a plant-based diet does, according to the Center for Science in the Public Interest. Methane from livestock and their manure does as much to accelerate global warming as 33 million cars, the center says. Livestock production also strains resources: 41 percent of irrigated U.S. farmland goes for livestock feed production, and 4,500 gallons of water are required to produce one quarter-pound of beef.

Some patrons of The Ark are rethinking how they relate to the natural world and other creatures – even if they aren’t signing on to Adventism, which encourages but does not require a meatless diet.

For Doreen St. Laurent of Lewiston, weekly meals at The Ark are part of a regimen to keep her cholesterol levels down. She finds the meatless diet helps her feel better and therefore be less stressed, more patient and friendlier toward others.

Through her vegan diet, she feels closer to nature, she said, and she’s cultivated practices to reflect that deeper connection. With
"Earthing," she keeps her bare feet still in the dirt or grass for an extended time. She does it while reading a book for about 30 minutes, even when temperatures outside drop to 40 degrees.

After lunch, worship

For those seeking spiritual connections, Adventists are glad to share about their faith, but only if restaurant customers ask about it. Familiar hymn tunes, such as “Be Thou My Vision” and “How Great Thou Art,” play softly without lyrics in the background as people eat lunch.

Outside of lunch hours, tables are sometimes cleared to make room for worship, Bible study or a prophecy seminar. But if all people do at The Ark is eat lunch, that’s quite all right.

“If they don’t become Christians, that’s fine,” Ball said. “We’re just here to love, to bring peace, to bring joy to the community. I mean, that’s what Jesus did.”

The Charlotte Observer welcomes your comments on news of the day. The more voices engaged in conversation, the better for us all, but do keep it civil. Please refrain from profanity, obscenity, spam, name-calling or attacking others for their views.

Have a news tip? You can send it to a local news editor; email local@charlotteobserver.com to send us your tip - or - consider joining the Public Insight Network and become a source for The Charlotte Observer.

Read more

The Charlotte region is vast and diverse. The more voices engaged in conversation, the better for us all. The Charlotte Observer welcomes your comments on news of the day, but we ask that you keep the discourse civil.

- Do not use profanity or obscenities. And don't try to camouflage profanity with asterisks, abbreviations or other symbols or foreign phrases.
- Do not use threatening language. Talk of violence won't be tolerated.
- No racial, gender or sexual-orientation name-calling.
- Do not attack other commenters for their views. Do not libel or defame anyone or violate their privacy.
- Keep your comments succinct and stay on topic. Comments that bear no relation to the story may be deleted.
- Do not add images to your comments.
- Do not report comments as abusive simply because you disagree with them. Report them only if they violate these guidelines.
- Do not post spam or advertising of any kind.
- Do not post a comment using all capital letters.

We do not monitor each and every posting, but we reserve the right to block or delete comments that violate these rules.

You can help: Notify us of violations by hitting the "Report Abuse" link. Users who continue posting comments that violate these guidelines may, at our discretion, be blocked from submitting future comments as well.

And finally, as Mark Twain said: "Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest."

Enjoy the discussion.
Southwestern celebrates its 120th birthday

This picture, from the archives of the Herbert M. and Ivanette Hopps Museum and Welcome Center, is on or around the first day for 56 students at the Texas School, which opened Jan. 7, 1894, and was owned by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The area had not yet been named Keene. The building also served as an Adventist church. The photo includes first students and teachers of the Texas Industrial School. (Courtesy Southwestern Adventist University)

Five names, 120 years. Southwestern Adventist University celebrated its 120th birthday Tuesday.

The first students and their families had to travel to Keene by covered wagon because the railroad had not even made it this far. Instead of carrying books to class, students were swinging axes to clear enough land to build their classroom. Instead of buffet lunch in what is today the largest vegetarian restaurant in Texas, students were growing, harvesting, and preserving their own food to ensure their survival over the coming winter months.

In 1876, when Comanches still terrorized this area, D. M. Canright organized a church of 18 members in Dallas, the first Seventh-day Adventist church in Texas. In June 1892, church officials decided a Christian school that taught industrial skills was needed in Texas. A committee was formed and land was looked at in the counties of Van Zandt, Kaufman, Hood and Johnson. After considerable prayer, each committee member agreed that an area in Johnson County was the place for this new school, according to “Lest We Forget,” a chronicle of Southwestern Adventist University by Mary Anne Hadley.

Eight hundred acres of rolling, tree-covered hills were purchased. A portion was surveyed and set aside for school purposes, while the rest was divided into lots of 1¼ to 10 acres for families who wished to move to the site.

And that they did, as Adventists from across North America arrived in covered wagons and set up tents.

Advertisements

These pioneers began clearing the land of green briars and scrub oak and erecting a building to house the new school. Selling wood in Cleburne for $3-$4 per cord helped make ends meet in those early days.

Sweet view of Texas
The founders of the school saw Texas as a land of promise. E. G. Rust said: “It is the most beautiful face of country that I ever saw, being rolling prairie, with numerous little streams, or branches, along the banks of which there is sufficient timber for fuel. The soil is very productive.”

In 1894, W. W. Prescott wrote, “The school farm is covered with small timber, and the first work was to clear the ground. The young men in attendance were invited to bring with them axes, and were told they would be given work in clearing this ground. They have done so, and have been able to earn for themselves from six to eight dollars a month, besides carrying on the regular duties of school. The climate is favorable for out-of-door work. Land can be worked ten months of the year in comfort.” John T. Hamilton, son of H. H. Hamilton, longtime president of Southwestern, said in 1984: “I grew up hearing about two places, heaven and Keene. Until I was nearly grown, I thought they were the same place.”

The school at Keene grows
Only a few months after Adventists arrived in Keene, they opened the Texas School in the midst of a Texas winter. It was January 7, 1894, with Cassius Boone Hughes serving as the first principal with 56 students in attendance. In December of that year, 16 students and five teachers moved into the new dormitory called The Home, which would be later called North Hall, and later Heritage Hall. It remained for almost a century on the highest point in Keene. Today the Chan Chun Centennial Library sits there visible all over the county.

In April 1896, workers completed and dedicated a building for high school students. At this time, Keene also featured a sanitarium where
nursing students were trained. The nursing program remains one of Southwestern's strongest programs.

In December 1902, a railroad line connected Keene with Egan on one end and Cleburne on the other end. The engine was referred to as “Old Betsy,” and made the 10-mile run from Egan to Cleburne in less than an hour. Today, Old Betsy Road follows the route of the railroad tracks from Keene to Egan.

In 1916, the name was changed to Southwestern Junior College, offering both two-year degrees as well as preparatory education for students who completed their degrees at Union College in Lincoln, Neb. In 1962, the name was changed to Southwestern Union College, with students able to earn a baccalaureate degree in Keene. Later, the name was changed to Southwestern Adventist College and in 1996 the name changed again to Southwestern Adventist University, offering master's degrees as well as bachelor's.

**Where are they now?**
Each spring, Homecoming Weekend, scheduled this year for April 10-13, testifies to Southwestern's influence on its graduate's and their influence on the world. Grads work in government, serving not only in Austin and Washington D.C. but in capitals of other countries. Business owners, medical professionals and educators throughout Johnson County and the world are Southwestern graduates. Hundreds of missionaries have spread the good news of the gospel to the darkest corners of the world. In every aspect of society, Southwestern graduates live successful lives of service for their families and communities.

Built under the traditions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Southwestern's priority remains preparing students for productive lives of service to God and witnessing for Him in a challenging world.

*Southwestern Professor of Communication Glen Robinson contributed to this article.*
International Tree Nut Council Funded Study Links Nut Intake With Lower Risks of Obesity

digitaljournal.com/pr/1672310

Davis, CA (PRWEB) January 08, 2014

A new study, published today in the online journal PLOS ONE, looks at the association between tree nuts (almonds, Brazil nuts, cashews, hazelnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios and walnuts), metabolic syndrome (MetS) and obesity in a population with a wide range of nut intake ranging from never to daily.

Researchers at Loma Linda University studied 803 Seventh-day Adventist adults using a validated food frequency questionnaire and assessed both tree nut and peanut intake together and separately. Mean tree nut intake was 16 grams/day among the high tree nut consumers and 5 grams/day among low tree nut consumers. “Our results showed that one serving (28g or 1 ounce) of tree nuts per week was significantly associated with 7% less MetS,” stated lead researcher Karen Jaceldo-Siegl, DrPH, “Doubling this consumption could potentially reduce MetS risk by 14%.” She added, “Interestingly, while overall nut consumption was associated with lower prevalence of MetS, tree nuts specifically appear to provide beneficial effects on MetS, independent of demographic, lifestyle and other dietary factors.”

MetS is a cluster of risk factors shown to be associated with death, a twofold increased risk for cardiovascular disease, and a fivefold increased risk for type 2 diabetes. While the diagnostic criteria can vary, presence of any three of the five following conditions results in a diagnosis of MetS: abdominal obesity, elevated triglycerides, low HDL cholesterol (the good cholesterol), high blood pressure, and hyperglycemia (high blood sugar levels). Based on NHANES data from 2003-2006, an estimated 34.3% of the U.S. population has MetS.

In addition to the effect of nuts on MetS, the researchers also looked at the effect on obesity. “We found that high tree nut consumers had significantly lower prevalence of obesity compared to the low tree nut consumers,” stated Dr. Jaceldo-Siegl. “And, high consumers of tree nuts had the lowest prevalence of obesity when compared to the low peanut/tree nut groups.”

This latest study comes on the heels of the nuts and all-cause mortality study published in the New England Journal of Medicine last month. “All of this new research supports the growing body of evidence showing that consuming nuts can improve your health,” states Maureen Ternus, M.S., R.D., Executive Director of the International Tree Nut Council Nutrition Research & Education Foundation (INC NREF). “In 2003, FDA (in its qualified health claim for nuts and heart disease) recommended that people eat 1.5 ounces of nuts per day—well above current consumption levels—so we need to encourage people to get their handful of nuts every day.”

The International Tree Nut Council Nutrition Research & Education Foundation (INC NREF) represents the research and education arm of the International Tree Nut Council (INC). INC is an international, non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to supporting nutrition research and education for consumers and health professionals throughout the world and promoting new product development for tree nut products. Members include those associations and organizations that represent the nine tree nuts (almonds, Brazils, cashews, hazelnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios and walnuts) in more than 40 producing countries. For more information, please visit our website at http://www.nuthealth.org.

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Read the full story at http://www.prweb.com/releases/2014/01/prweb11470477.htm
Bounty on the mutiny at college's Pitcairn Island center

Small college hosts wealth of info on legendary insurrection at sea

Herb Ford founded the Pitcairn Islands Study Center, housing an extensive collection on the Bounty. Photo: Michael Macor, The Chronicle

Herb Ford founded the Pitcairn Islands Study Center, housing an...
Pitcairn is a tiny South Pacific island just 1 mile wide and 2 miles long, but with a famous bit of history involving Tahitian women, Captain William Bligh, a ship named the Bounty, and a mutiny on board.

The story of the famous mutiny on the Bounty in April 1789 has been the subject of countless films, starring the likes of Errol Flynn, Clark Gable and Marlon Brando, as well as books, magazine articles and debates. It has also been the focus of study for more than three decades by a scholar from Angwin, an unassuming, soft-spoken octogenarian who has amassed one of the world's biggest and best known archives on Bounty history.

"It's got mutiny, it's got romance, it's got murder, it's got adventure," Ford enthused. "It's got just about everything you can think of that lures people into a story. Hardly a quarter of a year goes by without another book being published somewhere about it."

Ford added, "We now have people coming to the center from all over the world to do research. We have books and material you can't find anywhere else."

**Why Napa County?**

The center houses encyclopedias on Bligh, the Bounty crew and Pitcairn Island, where some of the mutineers sought refuge. There are demographics on the Pitcairn population and the Bounty crew, and volumes of research on Bligh himself. There are photo tours, Pitcairn Island stamps, and even a modern-day cruise ship schedule for transportation to the island.

"Why is the collection here?" Ford said, having fielded the question before. "Pacific Union College is sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventists, and all Adventist kids - including myself - learn about the Pitcairn Island because it was a showcase of missionary activity of the church in the Pacific."

Ford was working as a teacher in the journalism and communications department at Pacific Union when he got the idea to start a "very aggressive acquisitions program" around the Bounty story. "Part of my hope was that those who want to write about it will consult with us, as a great deal of the storytelling around it had lacked historical accuracy."

**The breadfruit trees**

Ford takes visitors back more than two centuries, when a seaman named Fletcher Christian turned against his friend and Bounty captain, William Bligh. Bligh and crew had been dispatched to the South Pacific by leaders in England. They were to sail to Tahiti and bring back a certain plant called the breadfruit, which had been introduced by the famous explorer, Capt. James Cook. Cook said the fruit, similar to a potato, would be a great source of cheap food.

"They spent about five months in Tahiti gathering those seedling plants," Ford said of the Bounty crew. "During those months, the sailors had formed some interesting - and fruitful - liaisons with the women of the island. When they got back at sea after five months of lolling around on the beach, they were none too happy with the harsh life of running a sailing ship in the late 1700s."

And Bligh was known for his sharp tongue, which he used "like a sword," Ford said.

"Early in the morning, the mutineers led by Fletcher seized Bligh's arms cache, got Bligh and 18 of his loyalists, and put them in a little boat and basically said, 'Goodbye, we'll never see you again.' " The islands around Tahiti were populated by cannibals, Ford noted, and if Bligh and his men made it to shore, they would be "turned into the evening stew."

"Bligh was a very skilled navigator and he knew how to take care of his men. With this little boat, they made their way across more than 4,000 miles of ocean and made their way back to England. Leaders of the British Navy then sent a crew to go and find the wayward pirates."

**Pacific hideout**

The mutineers, knowing they needed to hide, discovered a dot of land called Pitcairn Island and settled there. The nine renegade British seamen, along with a dozen Tahitian women and half-dozen Tahitian men, burned the Bounty and found they could hide under the native banyan trees.

Ford said that one of the biggest misrepresentations around the mutiny story is that Bligh was a villain.

"There was never a more loyal, patriotic commander of ships in the British Navy than Capt. William Bligh," Ford said. "His great failing
was his preciseness. When he gave an order, he wanted it obeyed. But he was a sailing master to Capt. Cook, and he learned from Cook how to take care of men at sea and to keep them alive."

Ford said that another part of the center's mission is to help today's residents of Pitcairn Island by raising awareness - and money. "There are about 55 Pitcairn residents today, and about 47 of those are native Pitcairns, who are descendants of the mutineers," said Ford, who has visited the tiny island several times. "The rest are outsiders: there's a pastor on the island, a physician, a police officer from New Zealand, an assistant administrator and a schoolteacher."

He said the Pitcairn residents are trying to boost tourism to the tropical island - there is a museum there, among other things - and they also make what Ford calls some of the purest honey on earth.

Ford said he is amazed by "how alive the Bounty story is." He added, "I'm interested in all of the wrinkles of this story. And I'm certain there is much that I still don't know."

**Study center**

The Pitcairn Islands Study Center is in the Nelson Memorial Library at Pacific Union College, 1 Angwin Ave., Angwin (Napa County), 94508. For information: (707) 965-6625, [www.library.puc.edu/pitcairn](http://www.library.puc.edu/pitcairn).
Verna Loveless Bragg

Bradley County resident Verna Loveless Bragg, formerly of Madison, Ind., celebrated a century of living Dec. 8 with a multitude of family and friends from across the country at Ladd Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Born Dec. 9, 1913, in Topeka, Kan., Bragg moved to Bradley County in 2011 to live with her daughter, Bureen Mann and son-in-law, Bill. The mother of three children, Bragg has nine grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren.

Throughout her lifetime, Bragg has worked as a physical therapy assistant, nurse assistant and nanny. She’s also been very active in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, having served in the Dorcas Society, Missionary Volunteers, Sabbath School and the church orchestra. She’s an accomplished saxophonist and also has a degree in herbology.

Bragg has witnessed several historical milestones throughout her long life including World Wars I and II, the stock market crash of 1929, the Great Depression, the space age, the Civil Rights era, the Vietnam and Korean wars, and the end of the Cold War.

She enjoys working word puzzles, making crafts and watching the Three Angels Broadcasting Network on television.

Bragg attributes her longevity to her religious faith and vegetarian diet.

“I’ve never been a meat eater, but I do eat well,” Bragg said. “I’ve lived life as a Christian and I’ve chosen to always have a positive outlook. I’m happy.”
DID YOU KNOW GOD GIVES US SPECIAL GIFTS AND TALENTS SO WE CAN LIVE FULLY FOR HIM?

God bestows upon all members of His church in every age spiritual gifts which each member is to employ in loving ministry for the common good of the church and of humanity. Given by the agency of the Holy Spirit, who apportions to each member as He wills, the gifts provide all abilities and ministries needed by the church to fulfill its divinely ordained functions. According to the Scriptures, these gifts include such ministries as faith, healing, prophecy, proclamation, teaching, administration, reconciliation, compassion, and self-sacrificing service and charity for the help and encouragement of people. Some members are called of God and endowed by the Spirit for functions recognized by the church in pastoral, evangelistic, apostolic, and teaching ministries particularly needed to equip the members for service, to build up the church to spiritual maturity, and to foster unity of the faith and knowledge of God. When members employ these spiritual gifts as faithful stewards of God's varied grace, the church is protected from the destructive influence of false doctrine, grows with a growth that is from God, and is built up in faith and love.

ROMANS 12:4-8

4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:9-11

9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

1 CORINTHIANS 12: 27, 28

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28 And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.

EPHESIANS 4:8

8 This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”

EPHESIANS 4:11-16

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

ACTS 6:1-7
In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.” This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13

Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well. Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

1 PETER 4:10, 11

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.
The New York Southern Asian company was officially organized as a church on March 2. More than 100 people gathered for this important occasion. At the end of the service, six people joined the church on profession of faith, and seven people made a commitment to join the church, subject to baptism, in the near future.

Representatives from the Greater New York Conference who participated in the service include G. Earl Knight, president; Hermann Kuma, Multi-ethnic Ministries director; and Carlos Gonzalez, treasurer, along with his wife, Dilcia.

In September 2004, Samuel Masih’s wife, Kamla, was working in Maryland and was invited by Liyaqat Masih to attend the Indo-Pak church for a baptism service in New York. Once there, she was introduced to Angel Rodriguez, then Multi-ethnic Ministries director for the conference, who asked her about Pastor Masih’s work in India. After much discussion, Rodriguez asked Mrs. Masih if Pastor Masih could come to New York and start a church in the Punjabi community. On October 16, 2004, Masih arrived in New York, where he was introduced to Rodriguez. After the meeting, Rodriguez invited Masih to start a Punjabi church in New York. After much thought and prayer, Masih agreed to work for the conference. In November 2004, the New York Punjabi group was officially formed by Lloyd Scharffenberg, who was at that time the Multi-ethnic Ministries director. During that period of time, the Punjabi group increased to 17 people.

Finding themselves without a place to worship, Vijay Masih opened his house for the Lord and the group held Sabbath worship in his house for five months. When the congregation started increasing, Masih asked John Piroski, pastor of the Jackson Heights church, and the church board members for permission to use the church’s basement for worship services. From June 2005-2006, they held church services in the basement. The membership increased to 35.

On July 19, 2008, the New York Punjabi group was organized into a company. At that time, the membership increased to 33. Since there was a language barrier, Masih asked the conference to change the name from the New York Punjabi company to the New York Southern Asian company. His request was granted in 2010. Meanwhile, God provided a church sanctuary at 30-61 87th Street, East Elmhurst, New York.

Now, worship services are being conducted in Hindi, Punjabi, and English, and people of different languages are attending the church. The membership has increased to 65 people. The church is participating in the 2013 evangelistic campaigns being held in New York City, and hopes to win more souls for the Lord.

—Contributors: Samuel Masih, pastor, and Malvika Samuel, communication director, New York Southern Asian church

The Greater New York Conference’s Hispanic Ministries Department launched the Evangelism Institute on January 6 at Mott Haven Spanish church as part of the NY13 initiative. Ricardo Norton, director of the Hispanic Institute at Andrews University, taught the class entitled “Difficult Texts.” More than 150 lay people attended and registered to continue and finish the class. They will receive a Bible certification from Andrews University. The classes will be offered once a month until June.

Each student must spend at least 10 hours a month giving Bible studies and actively participate in various evangelism events. A graduation ceremony will be held at the GNYC Hispanic Camp Meeting on Saturday, July 13, to honor all the students of this program.

—Michael Guerrero, Hispanic Ministries department director, Greater New York Conference