Adventist Theological Seminary Releases Major Statement on Headship

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The statement, which went through a rigorous vetting process by the faculty of the Andrews University–based seminary, warned against the teaching of male headship in the church. Introducing such teachings into the church, according to the theologians, may result in “significant doctrinal aberrations.” It also cautioned against the misuse of authority. READ MORE

Church members in Northern California Respond to Earthquake

In the early hours of Sunday August 24, a 6.0-magnitude earthquake struck Northern California, with an epicenter in the Napa Valley. Church leaders have urged local members to reach out their local communities to help meet their needs. A webpage has been established by the Adventist Church in Northern California and are posting updates on the earthquake’s impact on the local church and surrounding communities. Please pray for all the communities impacted by this earthquake. Northern California Conference communication director Stephanie Leal is managing an informational website following the 6.0 earthquake that hit the Napa Valley, California area early Sunday morning August 24. Several Adventist institutions have ben effected by the quake and this page gives updates on the status of the churches in the vicinity. Adventist Community Services is also responding. VISIT the NCC Earthquake Information Web Page

Special Days

September Focus: Health
Sept. 6 – Men’s Day of Prayer
Sept. 7 – 13 – Nurture
Periodicals: (Adventist Review, Insight, Guide, Primary Treasure, Our Little Friend)
Sept. 21 – 27 – Hispanic Heritage Week
Sept. 21 – Let’s Move Day
Sept. 21 – 27 – Let’s Move Week

October Focus: Adventist Heritage
October 4, Children’s Sabbath
October 18, Spirit of Prophecy Sabbath
October 25, Pathfinder Sabbath

Helpful Special Day Websites and Resources

Offerings

Sept. 13, Fall Mission Appeal
Oct. 11 Voice of Prophecy

Sample Offertory Readings

Sept. 4/5, Prayer Call
Sept. 5 – 8, Religious Liberty Summit
Sept. 8 – 10, Risk Management Conference
Sept. 19 – 21, Atlantic
Lake Union Conference Hosts Open House for Community

On August 5, the Lake Union Conference hosted an Open House for community guests. Below is a link to the video most visitors viewed in the chapel before touring the new facility. The video was produced by Gary Burns, communication director, and Pieter Damsteegt, communication intern, and was narrated by Don Livesay, Lake Union president. They enjoyed meeting their neighbors and the many skilled laborers and service providers from the community who helped complete this new ministry facility. WATCH THE VIDEO

Adventists in the News

Adventist host meeting to bridge gap between police, community after Ferguson shooting

Believe in evolution? You’re not really a Seventh-day Adventist, SDA president says

Adventist church files amicus brief for workplace religious freedom case at top US Court

Korean Adventists gather at PUC for fellowship and to teach tradition

Oakwood University’s Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations call for end to ISIS violence

Announcements

Hope Channel moves to High-Definition on DIRECTV

Hope Channel has moved to a high-definition satellite on DIRECTV, and as a result of this change, Hope Channel will be available on DIRECTV all across the United States without limitations and without the need of an additional antennae as has been the case thus far. Hope Channel regrets the inconvenience this change may cause some of our viewers. Yet we are glad for the providential opportunities that allow Hope Channel to reach more and more people in the United States and around the world. While Hope Channel will continue to be available on Channel

August Edition

Cover Story: Love Your Enemy? How World War I pitted believer against believer, p. 24

NAD Feature: enditnow: A young filmmaker breaks the silence about abuse, p. 32

NAD News: $100 million gift to benefit LLU Health, Port Orchard, WA Church connects with its community, Andrews University students start mobile produce market, p. 11

NAD Update: Another
368 on DIRECTV, as of July 16, all DIRECTV customers who currently do not have high definition equipment and subscription package will need to upgrade. Please call 1–800–531–5000 for information about upgrading your equipment and subscription package.

Besides DIRECTV, Hope Channel can be watched in the following ways:

- Online at www.hopetv.org
- Hope Channel app, available for Android, iPhone and iPad.
- Roku box or stick, available at Target or Wal–Mart. This requires a high speed internet service. However, there are no monthly fees to use Roku.
- Glorystar satellite, a one–time purchase with no monthly fees either. For more information please call 866–597–0728
- Hope Channel is a free–to–air broadcast channel in these major east–coast cities: New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, and Tampa. Other free–to–air and cable channels are available across the country.

For more information, call us at 301–680–6689.

Christian Record Services for the Blind to host 2nd annual EYE RUN event

The EYE RUN is an eye health education event hosted by Christian Record Services for the Blind (CRSB). For a second year, CRSB is promoting good health through a fun run event. Participants can choose to walk or run a 5K or 10K around Holmes Lake in Lincoln, Nebraska. The event is also virtual, meaning that participants worldwide can also register and run or walk on event day, which is Sunday, October 5.

In addition to the walk/run event, hands on learning opportunities will be provided by local organizations and businesses that provide eye health services or support services to those who are blind or visually impaired (Lincoln, NE event only).

Early bird registration, $25 (shirt guaranteed), is open through Monday, September 1. Standard registration, $35, begins September 2 and continues through event day. There will be no onsite registration.

Individuals who are blind or visually impaired, along with their sighted guides, may request a comp code for free registration to the Lincoln, Nebraska, or virtual event by calling Jeri Lyn at 402–488–0981 X213.

To register, visit www.getmeregistered.com keyword EYERUN or visit http://bit.ly/EYERUN.
Facts with Hope are evidence based health messages that may be used in a church bulletin, newsletter, or during the "Health Minute" as part of church service to motivate people to choose a full abundant life. They are published monthly in our Health Unlimited Newsletter.

For more information on Facts with Hope, visit the website, like us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter. You can also watch Facts with Hope videos on Youtube.

A Brother’s Moving Prayer

On July 22, 2014 Drew Forsey, a graduate of Southern Adventist University and an avid bicyclist, suffered a high speed accident while on a ride. Drew spent an extended period in a coma and is now starting the long road to recovery. Drew's brother, Dilan, a film student at Southern Adventist University started documenting his brothers accident, medical care, and recovery, while at the same time uncertain what he would do with the images he captured.

With the help of some close friends, Dilan has created a video titled Drew Forsey: Visual Prayer, which is an emotional glimpse into the struggles and small victories that the Forsey family has gone through over the past month. The NAD Communication Department hopes that you are touched by this short video and that it changes your life as it has ours.

WATCH THE VIDEO HERE

Adventist schools in Pacific Islands outfitted with emergency communication equipment

Nine Pacific Islands in the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s Guam–Micronesian
Mission are each now outfitted with backup emergency communication equipment in the event that normal forms of communication are unavailable, such as cell phones and landlines.

Leaders of each school were outfitted with ham radios and licensed as amateur radio operators during the GMM volunteer orientation in Oahu, Hawaii earlier this month. 

READ MORE
8-28-14 Andrews Theological Seminary Releases Major Statement on Headship

By Julio C. Muñoz  The faculty of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary voted and released a statement on August 21, which unequivocally reaffirmed Christ as the head of the church and sought to be a unifying voice in the church regarding the current debate on leadership.

The statement, which went through a rigorous vetting process by the faculty of the Andrews University-based seminary, warned against the teaching of male headship in the church. Introducing such teachings into the church, according to the theologians, may result in “significant doctrinal aberrations.” It also cautioned against the misuse of authority.

“As the faculty of the SDA Theological Seminary we affirm that Jesus Christ is the only head of the Church and to Him we are totally submitted,” said Dr. Jiri Moskala, Dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, in an exclusive interview with NewsPoints. “We are committed to follow His leadership. He can delegate authority of leadership, but it is always a servant (and not a headship) leadership role.”

The document, in very clear language, states that only Christ can be the head of the church, “…while there exists legitimate leadership in the Church, no other human being may rightfully claim a headship role in the Church.”

Dr. Moskala stated that the Seventh-day Adventist Church, like several of the early protestant reformers, agree that Christ is the only head of the church. He cited the example of Jan Hus, the 15th Century Czech reformer, who was the first to write a theological treatise on godly headship, and it cost him his life. In 1415 Hus was burned at the stake in Germany.

“Now we need to put it on another level. No human being – either male or female, in whatever capacity, pastor, church elder, Conference, Union, Division or General Conference president, may usurp this position from Christ,” said Dr. Moskala. “It means that we need to be consistent and should not speak about male or female headship in the church.”

The process of developing this statement was thorough and included “very careful study of the Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy.” The document underwent several drafts.

“It represents a consensus of the Seminary faculty who created this document as a service to the worldwide Church,” said Dr. Moskala. “It was discussed at the Theology and Christian Philosophy Department, the Seminary SDA Faith Committee, the Dean’s Council, and two faculty meetings. It was passed by overwhelming vote.”

The faculty of the seminary and its leadership hope the document will be a unifying element in the current leadership
debate.

“I am excited to offer to the worldwide Church this biblical-theological study that uplifts the unique headship of Christ in the Church. It is my hope that it will significantly and positively contribute to the current debates on servant leadership,” said Dr. Moskala.

“I am grateful,” Dr. Moskala continues, “for the faculty that is dedicated to the Church and its mission, and worked diligently and prayerfully to produce this statement. I praise the Lord for their commitment to God’s cause and unselfish service, and wonderful spirit of cooperation among my faculty. I pray that this document will play and prove to be a unifying influence in the Church.”

You can read the document in its entirety HERE
By Vince Sullivan, Delaware County Daily Times

CHESTER A community meeting hosted by the Better Living Center of Macedonia Seventh Day Adventist Church Tuesday night sought to bridge the gap between the city's police force and the public.

In the midst of ongoing strife in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson, Mo., after a police officer shot and killed an unarmed man, church leaders wanted to try and alleviate any tension in Chester before a similar incident occurred.

What we wanted to do is take a proactive approach so that what's happening in Ferguson does not happen here, said Blane Stoddart, president of the Better Living Center.

He pointed to demographic similarities between Ferguson and Chester, including population, unemployment and poverty rates and the racial makeup of the cities.

We want to be actors for positive change, Stoddart said.

The meeting featured a panel made up of police officers, attorneys and elected officials and each offered insight into how the public can best interact with the police, and the police with the public. Stoddart served as the mediator and posed questions to the panelists, including some from the audience.

The responses about what to do when approached by a police officer were unanimous: Comply with the officer's orders.

At the time of the car stop is not the time to argue about it, said Chester Police Commissioner Joseph Bail Jr.

Chester Police Officer Roosevelt Turner added that he would tell his own son to do what an officer says.

You don't have to be a lawyer out on the streets, said Turner, a four-year veteran. I'd tell my son to comply, give respect and then come home and tell me what happened. We'll handle it from there.

Defense Attorney Nusrat Rashid also recommended complying with an officer's orders and letting a defense attorney, like her, handle the situation in court later.

Bail said all officers in the Chester Police Department are equipped with electric stun guns and pepper mace and are trained in the continuum of force philosophy of escalating the use of force based on the threat. He added that citizens can ask a police officer questions during an encounter.

Name and badge number should always be given when asked, Bail said. This is not a police state. Citizens have the right to ask any questions they want. Our officers are instructed to answer.

Bail added that citizens who feel they have been wronged by a city police officer can come to the department and file a citizen complaint, which will be investigated.

Mayor John Linder said recruiting efforts for the city police department have been stepping up in recent years and the city is seeking a grant to aid in attracting new candidates to apply. He said the increase in the amount of violence in the city, as well as the brazenness with which it is committed, have added to some of the tension between the police and the people.

Everything has escalated in the community, Linder said. The violence has escalated to the point we never thought it
would where people are being shot down in the daytime near churches and schoolyards.
Believe in evolution? You're not really a Seventh-day Adventist, SDA president says

Juliet Bailey-Penrod

Oakwood University Professor Juliet Bailey-Penrod sees no conflict between conducting her research into cell biology and beginning with an assumption of a literal creation. 'We all have our biases,' she says, explaining how one can be a serious scientist and also a creationist. Oakwood University is a Seventh-day Adventist institution, part of the worldwide organization headed by President Ted Wilson who last week told SDA science professors at a gathering that believing in evolution was incompatible with being an Adventist. (Kay Campbell/KCampbell/AL.com)

'If you can't believe the Bible about our very beginnings, how can you believe it about anything else?'

Seventh-day Adventist Church's world president, Dr. Ted Wilson, told a gathering of SDA science teachers that believing in evolution is incompatible with being an Adventist. (The Huntsville Times file/Robin Conn)

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama – Any science teacher who teaches evolution without couching it in a literal seven-day creation as described in the Bible doesn't belong in a Seventh-day Adventist school, the president of the 17.9 million-member worldwide denomination told a gathering of science teachers on Friday, Aug. 15, 2014.

In fact, President Dr. Ted Wilson told the international invitation-only gathering of about 350 Adventist high school and college science teachers, those teaching science in an Adventist school who do not believe that the Bible's account of complete creation around 6,000 years ago by God of the Earth in a literal 24/7 earthly week should not even call themselves "Adventist."

"As educators, teachers, scientists, theologians, department directors, editors, administrators, pastors and members, we all share a common belief in God's authoritative voice as the Creator," Wilson told the 350 or so participants at the opening of the 10-day conference in Nevada, which was to include field trips to fossil sites in the deserts of Utah and Nevada. "We believe that the Biblical creation account in Genesis 1 and 2 was a literal event that took place in six literal, consecutive days recently as opposed to deep time. It was accomplished by God's authoritative voice and happened when He spoke the world into existence."

In the beginning-God

For Oakwood University biology Professor Juliet Bailey-Penrod, Wilson's statement merely reiterates what she herself believes and teaches in her classes at the Seventh-day Adventist university in Huntsville, Ala.

"If you believe in evolution, then the first premise of Christianity goes out the door – that God created perfect human beings, who fell, and who were in need of salvation through Jesus," Bailey-Penrod said Tuesday. She went on to refer to the basis for the Adventist observance of Saturday-Sabbath, a day when most Adventists attend church, do not work, and spend time with family or in nature. "Belief in creation is central to Seventh-day Adventist beliefs because we believe there was a literal six-day creation, and then God rested on the seventh day as an example to us – therefore, we should rest."

The texts used by Oakwood do include evolutionary theories and findings that assume an evolutionary premise. Church scholars do not write those texts, Bailey-Penrod said; the texts are those used at any other American university. The difference is that her students will learn those theories alongside her presentations of evidence that Adventists scientists have collected that shows alternative interpretations of those findings that fit with a young-earth,
Bible-based creationist model.

Is examining the natural world from the viewpoint of upholding creationism a bias that goes against the classic model of scientists as unbiased, objective gatherers of raw data?

"In reality -- creationist or evolutionist -- we all bring our biases," Bailey-Penrod said. "At the end of the day, we are looking at the same data. But as a Seventh-day Adventist, I begin the process by believing that the Bible is God's authentic word. Therefore, everything should be interpreted in light of that authoritative word. All science has its foundation in God. It is not possible to separate it."

That viewpoint has cost her credibility points at scientific conferences, she said, where she's watched other professors from secular universities rearrange their faces to attempt to hide their disdain when they see she is from a Christian university. They treat her like she is not a serious scientist, she said -- instead of recognizing that she just owns up to her biases at first, rather than pretending to be unbiased.

Bailey-Penrod can see why President Wilson would call for the resignation from Adventist schools of any science teacher who doesn't start with the same view of a literal creation as described in the Bible.

"Parents choose to send their kids here so they can learn within a religious context, a safe context," Bailey-Penrod said. "We prepare our students to go anywhere -- and they do, so of course we teach them the prevailing theories of evolution. But to be a proponent, to be pushing this thing? That's totally contrary to the organization. And it doesn't interrupt my academic freedom -- when I agree to work in an Adventist institution, I agree to certain confines."

"If you can't believe the Bible about our very beginnings, how can you believe it about anything else?" Bailey-Penrod said.

Creation-evolution discussion --

- The full text of Wilson's talk is posted at AdventistReview.org.
- The Geoscience Research Institute, an organization sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, gathers data that supports a literal seven-day creation and subsequent worldwide flood as described in the Bible.
- For some alternative Adventist viewpoints on how it is possible to accept evolution and still be an Adventist, see some back-and-forth about Wilson's talk posted at SpectrumMagazine.org, a forum for Adventists who sometimes dissent from official church views.
- For the statement of a biology professor at LaSierra University, a Seventh-day Adventist college in Riverside, Calif., who was fired in 2012, apparently as the result of his offering a view that creation could be taught in biology classrooms as a theological truth while evolution was approached as a scientific truth is also posted at SpectrumMagazine.org.
Adventist Church files amicus brief for workplace religious freedom case at top U.S. court

Church hopes Supreme Court will take case of Muslim girl who was denied job

August 27, 2014 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | Ansel Oliver/ANN

The Seventh-day Adventist Church filed an amicus brief today urging the United States’ top court to accept the case of a Muslim girl who was denied a job because her hijab—a head-covering—violated a company’s policy.

The Adventist Church’s “friend-of-the-court” brief is joined by seven other faith groups for the case Equal Employment Opportunity Commission vs. Abercrombie & Fitch Stores, Inc. The U.S. Supreme Court will decide in October whether to accept the case.

The Church’s move follows a decision last year by a federal appeals court that ruled against the girl and created additional statutes that violate protections of the U.S. Civil Rights Act. That ruling, by the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver, said the religious observance or practice in question must be mandatory, not just encouraged by the employee’s religious beliefs.

The brief claims last year’s ruling also mandates undue responsibility on applicants to raise concerns over religious observance. Applicants might not always know the employer’s requirements.

Church legal counselors said the ruling then allows an employer’s ignorance to eliminate protections for religious-observant applicants, which violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

“If this decision were to stand, employers would be able to avoid their obligation to provide reasonable accommodation for employees of faith,” said Todd McFarland, an associate general counsel for the Seventh-day Adventist Church headquarters. “It could mean that everyone from Sikhs who are wearing a turban to Seventh-day Adventists and Jews who need Sabbath off from work could be denied a reasonable accommodation.”

The case stems from a 2008 incident in which Samantha Elauf wore a hijab when applying for a sales position at an Abercrombie & Fitch store in Tulsa, Oklahoma. After a manager confirmed with a supervisor that Elauf’s headwear violated store policy, she was deemed ineligible for hire without discussion of religious accommodation.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which filed a lawsuit on Elauf’s behalf, said the move defied Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. The title obligates employers to take steps to “reasonably accommodate” a prospective employee’s “religious observance or practice.”

While a federal judge sided with the EEOC in 2011, the 10th Circuit’s ruling last year upended that decision, claiming Elauf never told Abercrombie she needed a religious accommodation, even though she was wearing a hijab in the...
And that, Adventist legal counselors say, places undue responsibility on the applicant to determine whether her religious beliefs or practices conflict with company policy.

Today’s amicus brief points out that “Frequently, an applicant will be unaware of a work-religion conflict simply because of her inferior knowledge of the employer’s work requirements.”

Also, a hiring process can be technologically structured so that an employee can’t raise the issue of potential conflict, such as online applications asking applicants which days of the week they are available to work.

Religious clothing and the observance of Sabbath and other holy days are the most common areas of conflict in the workplace, McFarland said. Hijabs, turbans, yarmulkes and other head coverings frequently conflict with a company’s “look” policy, while Sabbath observance can clash with scheduling.

The Adventist Church is joined on the brief by the National Association of Evangelicals, Union of Reform Judaism, Christian Legal Society, The Sikh Coalition, American Jewish Committee, KARAMAH: Women Lawyers for Human Rights, and the American Islamic Congress.

Abercrombie & Fitch changed its policy on headwear approximately four years ago. The Ohio-based company has settled similar lawsuits in California, the Associated Press reported last year.

—additional reporting by Elizabeth Lechleitner
Korean Adventists come for fellowship and to teach tradition

By Cynthia Sweeney Cynthia Sweeney csweeney@stherenastar.com

Each year since 1984, Koreans have descended on the campus of Pacific Union College for one week during the summer. Last week, they come from up and down the West Coast, from Los Angeles to Seattle, with a few coming directly from Korea, to reconnect with their traditions, their faith and one another.

During the week they attend seminars, worship together and hold a festival. Traditionally, the event at the Seventh-day Adventist college has not been open to the public. This year, however, organizers decided to open the midweek festival to the community.

“Instead of us invading the campus and the community, we wanted to get to know this area and be a part of it, and we wanted to open the event to the community to learn about Korean culture,” said Daniel Yim, youth pastor at Napa Korean SDA Church, and one of the event’s organizers.

In previous years, the festival consisted of typical American fair games. This year, an effort was made to bridge the generation gap, as organizers brought in ancient Korean games and traditional Korean food and music.

“There is a gap in the generations because of modern technology. The first generation has good memories of our traditions. We’re hoping to come together and lessen the gap and understand each other,” said Dr. Eric Kim, a physician at St. Helena Hospital and part of the week’s organizing committee.

Yim agreed.

“We’re trying to teach kids growing up here in the U.S. how their parents and grandparents did things when they were little,” he said.

It seemed to work. Kids actually put down their cellphones long enough to enjoy simple games like trying to toss a colorful stick into a pot, shooting a bow and arrow at a target, and a board game called Omok with white and black stones that resembled tic-tac-toe. The games proved challenging on a physical and mental level, and brought out competitive natures.

PUC hosts this annual event, and others during the summer when dorm rooms are empty to bring in extra revenue. Students who live near the campus also volunteered to give up their dorm rooms during the week. About 22 percent of the student population at PUC were self-described as Asian-American, as of last fall, and 8 percent described themselves as multiracial, which may include Asian students as well.

“PUC is proud to have been ranked as the third most diverse national liberal arts college by U.S. News & World Report in their 2013 rankings,” said Cambria Wheeler, PUC’s director of college relations. “Certainly, our Asian and Asian-American students contribute to the great community created by this cultural and ethnic diversity.”

About 1,200 people with Korean ancestry attended all or part of the weeklong event at PUC. Of those, probably 60 percent were immigrants from Korea, said Kim. He also said he thinks Koreans have embraced Adventism because of his birth country’s “bitter history” involving occupation by Japan and the North’s occupation by hostile Communists. In the face of such adversities, “we seek somebody above to help us,” Kim said. “We give up everything for God.”

Seventh-day Adventism is a born-in-America Christian denomination with about 19 million members worldwide, including a vigorous presence in Korea, said Herb Ford, an Angwin resident who runs the college’s Pitcairn Study Center. There are 235,000 Adventists in that nation of 75 million, with two Adventist universities, seven hospitals, a
publishing house and a radio-TV production center, he said.

During the week, Korean Adventists attend seminars, workshops, music rehearsals and sporting events, and also perform community outreach. Participants also held a 5K run for charity on Friday, as they do every year, with this year’s proceeds going to fund missions to leper colonies in China.

At the festival, traditional food and refreshments were light, with an emphasis on rice and fresh fruit. Rice cookies could be washed down with rice juice, which was sweet with a hint of ginger and cooked rice for texture. There was cantaloupe juice, from cantaloupe concentrate with strawberry and lime and a persimmon drink. All-American cotton candy did get slipped in as “it’s fun and people like it,” Yim said.

With the success of the event at PUC, Kim said that in the future, organizers will be looking at the possibility of re-creating the experience in Napa.
Oakwood’s Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations calls for end to ISIS violence

WHNT News 19

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (WHNT) – The Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations at Oakwood University released this statement on August 22 condemning acts of violence by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS):

“The Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations at Oakwood University (CAMR-OU) is saddened by the ongoing acts of aggression being perpetrated by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Their actions demonstrate a basic disdain for humanity and are clearly against the message of peace, love and mercy that is so evident in the Qu’ran and embraced by the vast majority of Muslims.

We call upon people of faith everywhere to pray for God’s intervention in the hearts of those associated with ISIS. Let’s pray that they will truly submit to God’s will and join those who walk the “straight path” (Sdirat al Mustaqlm); those upon whom the mercies of God pleasantly rest.

We also call upon people of faith to join in the struggle against prejudiced attitudes towards all Muslims because of the actions of a violent few. We believe that the only antidote to terror is peace and call for all true believers to promote and practice peace in their spheres of influence.”
-Keith Burton, Ph.D.

Director of the Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations at Oakwood University
North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists® : 8-28-14
Adventist schools in Pacific Islands outfitted with emergency communication equipment

8-28-14 Adventist schools in Pacific Islands outfitted with emergency communication equipment

NAD Office of Volunteers staff
Silver Spring, Maryland, United States
Nine Pacific Islands in the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s Guam-Micronesian Mission are each now outfitted with backup emergency communication equipment in the event that normal forms of communication are unavailable, such as cell phones and landlines. Leaders of each school were outfitted with ham radios and licensed as amateur radio operators during the GMM volunteer orientation in Oahu, Hawaii earlier this month.

In previous years, cell phones haven’t worked for several days following a storm or rare typhoon on some islands. Administrators said the move would improve response times and communication to the remote territories during emergencies.

“These radios, due to their portability and versatility, offer us more ways to communicate with the island principals in emergency situations,” said Ernest Hernandez, processing and communications coordinator for the Office of Volunteer Ministries at the North American Division.

The Adventist schools throughout the GMM are mainly staffed by university student missionaries and other volunteers from the North American Division. The schools serve as a key ministry outreach for the Adventist Church in the territory.

The nine islands include the Federated States of Micronesia—Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap—the Marshall Islands of Ebeye and Majuro, the Northern Mariana Islands of Guam and Saipan, and the Republic of Palau.

Elden Ramirez, director of the Office of Volunteer Ministries, said several student missionaries are still urgently needed on the island of Chuuk for the 2014-2015 school year, as well as a few of the other islands.

“We’re hoping some university students or other volunteers will respond to God’s call to serve in these important positions this school year,” Ramirez said. “The island schools will really appreciate it, and the volunteers will likely be blessed even more through the experience.”

For more information, visit www.hesaidgo.org or call 301-680-6493.