Young Adult Life (YAL) is the official young adult ministry movement of NAD. They are a full-throttle force across the division, sharing the hope of Jesus with the largest young adult generation in the history of the world. Their newly launched website, YoungAdultLife.com, will serve as a communication hub for young adult ministry efforts across the division. MORE

The movie, Old Fashioned, is the most most successful Christian film ever to open on fewer than 300 screens. It was sold out in many theaters, and according to Box Office Mojo, was shown in only 224 theaters this past holiday weekend and exceeded $1 million. Viewers on Rotten Tomatoes rated it a positive 96 percent. It plans to expand by 80 more theaters. Check for a showing near you at www.oldfashionedmovie.com/theaters. MORE

Adventist leader ponders the role and challenges of faith-based education

Seventh-Day Adventist Church Is Hosting Creation University

Local radio station to incorporate devotionals, sermons

Doctrine disagreement ends Atlantic Union College accreditation bid

Walla Walla U. student dies of injuries from wreck

A return to 'Old-Fashioned' romance

Soup-er Bowl helps hungry

The 2015 Women's Day of Prayer will be March 7. The theme this year is "It Is Well: The Woman, the Prophet, and the Prayer." Materials were written by Carolyn Rathbun Sutton, who recently became editor of the
Help! I'm a Parent, the 2015 Parenting Devotional, weaves the Word of God with practical applications to the challenges today's parents face. Written by Claudio and Pamela Consuegra.

Church ministry Quick Start Guides (QSG) are available from this AdventSource web page. If you click on any of the ministries listed on this page, you’ll find the Ministry Description in addition to the QSG. Most QSGs are available in English, French, and Spanish. Many (not all) QSGs are downloadable FREE here. All ministry descriptions are available for free download here.

A look at A Brief History of Christian Ordination, presented by Darius Jankiewicz, on Friday evening, January 23, at the Loma Linda University Church, during a weekend series of presentations on the subject of women’s ordination.

“Ordination, as we know it today, is not found in the Bible” says Jankiewicz. “Furthermore, we have a hard time finding such a thing as a theology of ordination in Scripture.”

Watch the video.

Adventist World/ NAD Edition
February, 2015

NAD Feature: Small Church, Big Heart p. 12
Malibu, California church plant

Pray for the Malibu, Calif. church plant. A nurse and her husband who were visiting the wealthy Malibu community, could not find a Seventh-day Adventist Church so decided to start one. Every weekend the church plant sets up for church in a local gymnasium. The church has grown tremendously.

Learn how they make connections with people in the community.

Watch the video.

When forwarding or sharing NewsPoints, use the “Forward to a friend” link at the bottom of the newsletter, or share the link given for that issue posted at www.nadadventist.org/newspoints.

NAD News: Monterey, California, Adventists Host Dental/Health Fair; Adventists Help Communities Affected by Wildfires; Clearlake Homeless Ministry: A Blessing to All

NAD Update: Free Clinic Brings Love and Healing

NAD Perspective: Privilege, by Daniel Weber

Daily Prayer Guide

Feb. 22–28 – This coming week, please pray for the New Jersey Conference, with 88 churches and 15,150 members.

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Adventist leader ponders the role and challenges of faith-based education

Mark A. Kellner

By , Deseret News National Edition

Published: Sunday, Feb. 15 2015 7:00 a.m. MST

Updated: yesterday

Ella Smith Simmons of the Seventh-day Adventist Church speaks with the Deseret News about denominational education, in Salt Lake City on Feb. 11.

Chelsey Allder, Deseret News

Even though her current job title is general vice president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Ella Smith Simmons, the first woman elected to the post, is a teacher at heart.

Indeed, her direct responsibilities for the 18 million-member church are in its educational and humanitarian areas. Adventists operate the second largest faith-based educational system in the world, the Roman Catholic Church being the largest.

Simmons says that while the church's schools began in the United States, where Adventism itself was born, the movement and its educational operations quickly spread around the world. An estimated 8 million young people attend Seventh-day Adventist schools around the world, from primary grades up to its 113 tertiary, or higher educational, institutions.

She said the church's commitment to transmitting its faith to the next generation is so strong, the church's accrediting agency operates to make sure schools are "specifically Seventh-day Adventist in the approach to every bit of our subject matter (and) professional development."
But while Adventist schools in Africa and Latin America are virtually overrun with prospective students, North American schools are sometimes struggling to attract enrollees, something with which she's concerned.

Simmons grew up in Louisville, Kentucky, entering third grade in a newly desegregated public school. The loving acceptance and encouragement from a white teacher "made me feel as if I could learn anything," she said during an interview.

That inspiration moved her away from a career as a physicist to becoming an educator, and then focused on administration. Simmons has served as chairwoman for departments of education at Kentucky State University, and associate dean of the University of Louisville, and professor and administrator at Adventist-owned Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama, and La Sierra University in Riverside, California.

By invitation from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Simmons was in Salt Lake City last week to meet with LDS Church leaders and spend time on the Brigham Young University campus in Provo. She took time to speak with the Deseret News about Adventism's educational and humanitarian missions. (Some questions and answers were edited for length and clarity.)

Deseret News: Give us a sense of what the Seventh-day Adventist represents around the world.

Ella Smith Simmons: Perhaps I should start with our name, because some find that to be just a little interesting. Perhaps the Latter-day Saints understand it, but those who are accustomed to a one-word denominational title find it different.

We are Seventh-day Adventists, indicating by "Adventist," that we are expecting the return of Jesus Christ to this Earth, and "Seventh-day" indicates we celebrate the seventh-day Sabbath, which in the contemporary calendar is Saturday.

DN: How is the Adventist Church approaching the question of educating and keeping its young people?

ESS: It's part of our educational philosophy that we should not just teach 'content matter,' approaching this through rote memorization, filling the empty heads of those who come to us, but rather should teach individuals to be critical thinkers to analyze, to challenge everything.

One area in which we have been challenged (is) the retention of our young people in our institutions.

That's not the case everywhere in the world. In many places, people are lined up for miles to get into our schools, (both) our young people and those of the community. In other places, things are slowing down a bit. We need to find some balance, we need to create or establish more schools where they are needed, because people are coming into our church, literally by the millions in some parts of the world, such as Latin American and in the African nations.
VALDOSTA — On March 7, Seventh-Day Adventist Church is hosting Creation University. Creation University is for anyone motivated to live a happier, healthier and longer life. There will be eight classes total, spread over a three month period from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Those interested can visit www.creationuniversity.net to register. The class is only $45 to attend and for those who qualify there are several scholarships available.

The course is centered around eight core values; Make the best choices, Enjoy quality rest, Be a good steward of God's environment, Do something! Be active!, Live a life of complete trust in the Holy Spirit, Enjoy healthy relationships, Keep a positive outlook in every situation, Eat fun, tasty, creative but nutritious foods.

Creation stands for:

- Choice
- Rest
- Environment
- Activity
- Trust
- Interpersonal Skills
- Outlook
Nutrition

On Feb. 21, Star 105.3 is going to be kicking off enrollment for Creation University on the courthouse lawn. Valdosta citizens are encouraged to attend to learn more about the course’s curriculum and principles. There will be live performances and food available as well.
Local radio station to incorporate devotionals, sermons

BY TRACY FARNHAM | Posted: Friday, February 13, 2015 9:40 am

Depending upon where you are traveling in Burke County — with the radio dial set to 100.3 FM — you could possibly pick up local programming.

Although this isn’t a live broadcast, local programming includes devotions and messages by Pastor Rick Mercer of Morganton Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The studio is located within the church on Jamestown Road.

“The programs are put into an event folder on the computer and they are aired at the time we select,” Barry Mahorney said.

As former pastor of the church, Mahorney retired recently, which has allowed him more time to focus on this area of ministry. He assists Mercer in the recording of the programs.

Church volunteer Max Baynard acts as the program coordinator and makes sure the programs are aired at a later date.

“It is full automated,” Baynard said.

For the most part, Baynard monitors a computer log of programming, making certain things continue to run smoothly and all necessary requirements are met.

“I put programs on about once a week and more as needed with additional programming,” Baynard said.

Baynard said the station follows requirements set by the Federal Communications Commission.

“Local programming should be produced within 10 miles of the local station,” he said.

The FCC regulates communications for the station, which operates as a 100-watt station under a radio license known as Low Power FM Radio, with a listening area reach of approximately three and a half miles. The LPFM licenses are issued to nonprofit groups and faith-based organizations such as the church.

The station is run by all-church volunteer efforts and has been in the works since 2001.
Baynard said the FCC license was applied for in 2001 and the constitution permit was acquired in 2003. In May 2005, they were granted the license to be on air.

In addition to Baynard, Clarence Griffin keeps track of the emails and logs all necessary data into a logbook for FCC records. Also, radio volunteers recognized the efforts of the late Dave Connor.

The radio station isn’t new, but local programming is.

“The radio station is nearing 10 years old,” Mahorney said. “We are in partnership with the 3 Angels Broadcast Network (3ABN) from West Frankfort, Illinois.”

However, the hours which we are required for local broadcasting have been only music, Mahorney said, adding that they are beginning to air some local sermons and devotionals.

“(For) 16 hours of the day we’ve been using their programming and the other 8 hours up until now has been all music,” Mahorney said. “We now have daily Bible Boost, a one-minute devotional, Monday through Friday. Sermons will air three days of the week.”

Mahorney said it is likely that local folks have picked up the radio station, but are not aware of its locality to the local church.

“What we are doing now, people will identify the station is from this local church,” Mahorney said.

The listening area can be hindered by the demographic region of the mountains.

“We don’t have a huge footprint here because of our location,” Mahorney said.

Mercer said he is able to pick up the station at his home near the Lake James community while Baynard said he has picked up reception at Crabtree Meadows along the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Mercer who was installed as pastor in November is excited about this opportunity to share the word across the airwaves.

“This station is going to reach where God wants it to reach,” Mercer said. “The person that God wants to get it, will.”

Mentioning the amount of traffic along Interstate 40, which runs parallel to the church property, Mercer said, “We are praying that those children God wants to hear it will, and we are opening a door for God to speak to their heart.”

A radio ministry reaches people where they are physically and spiritually.

“You might be going through something in your life and you’re carrying your kids to school or going to work and you hear that you are not alone and that God loves you and that he (God) cares … we need to hear that and be encouraged,” Mercer said.

The station is trying to pick target times where people are commuting for the Bible boost, which airs around 6:20 a.m. and 5:20 p.m., Mercer said.
Also, Mercer’s sermons will be aired in segments known as Words of Life on Monday at 6 p.m.; Wednesday at midnight and Saturday at 7 a.m.

Programming provides power to strengthen believers, Mercer said.

“We’re staying in the word of God and that’s where the power’s at,” Mercer said. “God will give us the opportunity to speak to hearts that need him the most.”

The implementation of local programming at this time, Mercer attributes to Mahorney’s passion for this type of ministry.

“He’s the one who has the time and knowledge to put this all together,” Mercer said. “He is retired, but God has put him to work doing this and because he’s passionate about it, we’re seeing great things.”

It’s a God thing, the two agreed.

“This has really been a burden on my heart and the lord said this is something we’ve got to do,” Mahorney said.

In addition to local programming, the 3ABN provides nutrition and children’s programs to listeners. Additionally the station will supply Amber and weather alerts.

A sign on the door reads, “WHGW-LPFM Radio Room.”

Mahorney said they’ve attributed the call letters to We Honor God’s Word.

For more information about the church and its ministries, visit www.morgantonsda.org.

The church will host a revival Feb. 27 through March 1 with service times at 7 p.m. nightly and 11 a.m. on Feb. 28.
Doctrine disagreement ends Atlantic Union College accreditation bid

By Karen Nugent CORRESPONDENT

LANCASTER — A plan to accredit Atlantic Union College with a national Christian college association has fallen through because of a disagreement about a religious tenet.

Gina Brown, AUC's academic administrator, said Thursday the Seventh-day Adventist college, which lost accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges in 2011, has withdrawn its application for accreditation with Virginia-based Transnational Association of Christian Colleges, a process that began more than a year ago.

Ms. Brown said the decision to pull the application is based on a difference over a religious tenet regarding eternal damnation. She declined to elaborate, and referred a reporter to Transnational's accreditation manual.

In its Biblical standards section, the manual requires prospective applicants to adhere to the belief in the existence of Satan, "a personal, malevolent being … who acts as tempter and accuser, for whom the place of eternal punishment was prepared where all who die outside of Christ shall be confined in conscious torment for eternity."

Adventist doctrine is not in agreement with eternal torment for those who reject God or Christ.

"Based on that, we wouldn't continue with the application. We have nothing bad to say about them," Ms. Brown said of Transnational. The association's accredited members include Bob Jones University in South Carolina and Boston Baptist College in Boston. Many of its members are Baptist institutions in the South.

Founded in 1883, Atlantic Union College, after several troubled years, lost NEASC accreditation mainly because of finances and declining enrollment. Students have not been enrolled nor have regular classes been held there since 2011, but it was approved by the state to again enroll students in 2013. However, Ms. Brown said that without accreditation, students cannot receive federal tuition aid.

"We could open tomorrow," she said. "But we want to ensure that students can pay."

The Main Street (Route 70) campus's only occupants, besides administrative and facilities services, is the Northeastern Evangelistic Training School, which offers a four-month training program.

Ms. Brown said the college has applied for accreditation from a different organization, which will be announced in March. College officials, under a new president — Avis Hendrickson — are also pursuing reaccreditation with the New England association, and plan to offer bachelor's and associate's degrees as in the past, as well as certificate programs.

T. Paul Boatner, president of Transnational, confirmed that AUC's application was "returned" because of an issue that did not meet one check-off on a list of requirements. He declined to say what the item was, but, describing Atlantic Union as a good college, stressed that it had nothing to do with finances or academics.

In September, Transnational accepted AUC's financial statements and was moving forward with the application, according to the college's website. The religious snag surfaced in the fall.

Ms. Hendrickson, the new president, has been asked to serve on a NEASC evaluation team, and holds several degrees, including a doctorate in education from Grambling State University in Louisiana.
She succeeds Dr. Duane M. Cady, a surgeon who served as interim president beginning in 2012. He followed Norman L. Wendth, who led the institution through rocky times following the loss of accreditation.
Students gather during a Wednesday prayer vigil at Walla Walla University. Photo courtesy of Walla Walla University

#The following is a news release from Walla Walla University:

#Walla Walla University President John McVay just released the following statement:

#We are saddened to inform you that Walla Walla University lost a treasured member of our campus family this evening with the death of Madison Baird. At the time of her death, Maddy was surrounded by family and friends who were singing together and sharing messages of hope from the hundreds who loved her. Maddy was a bright light on our campus and in our community, and our hearts are broken.

#As we gathered during the last two days to pray for Maddy, we placed our trust in our Heavenly Father, and now we continue to look to Him in the blessed hope that soon, at the resurrection, we will see Maddy again.

#We are grateful for the thousands of expressions of empathy from throughout the Walla Walla Valley and around the world. Prayers and words of encouragement have come from India, Taiwan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Kenya, Australia, Spain, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Canada, Nigeria, Pohnpei, and across the United States. Walla Walla University is a strong family that has been strengthened further by your support.

#Campus chaplains, counselors, and pastors are available this evening in Conard Chapel for students, faculty, and
staff, and will be available as needed in the days to come. We will keep you informed about opportunities to celebrate Maddy’s life.

#The following is previous coverage of the crash.

#COLLEGE PLACE — A Walla Walla University student is in critical condition this morning at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle after colliding with a pickup truck while riding her bicycle Tuesday afternoon, officials said.

#Madison Baird, 20, was riding her bicycle westbound on West Whitman Drive, approaching Hampton Lane, shortly after 4:30 p.m. when she collided with the westbound vehicle, Walla Walla County sheriff’s Chief Operations Deputy John King said.

Madison Baird

#Baird’s mother, Lisa Bjelland-Giebel, said in a university news release this morning that “We made it through the night, and every breath is precious.”

#The man driving the truck, whose name was being withheld by the sheriff’s office today, told deputies that while he was driving the setting sun was glaring in his eyes so he reduced his speed. He heard a thump and pulling over to investigate and discovered the injured Baird.

#Radio traffic during the incident stated Baird was initially unresponsive but had a pulse. CPR was started on scene and continued while Baird was transported to Providence St. Mary Medical Center and later air-lifted to Harborview.

#According to King, the driver of the truck volunteered to provide a blood sample to show he was not impaired at the time of the crash.

#“No indications of impairment were found, and at this time, there are no criminal or grossly negligent indications,” King said. “The investigation is ongoing. It’s a very sad, very unfortunate situation.”

#Patrol Sgt. Barry Blackman, a crash scene investigator, was evaluating the scene of the collision, King said.

#According to an online article in Spectrum Magazine, a Seventh-day Adventist news source, Baird was seen wearing a bright orange reflective safety vest at The Atlas, a WWU student-run coffee shop on campus, before she left on her bike.

#Baird is majoring in Spanish and focusing on a preprofessional program of nutrition and dietetics, according to the university’s press release. She graduated from Walla Walla Valley Academy in 2013.

#Stephanie Tshappat can be reached at stephanietshappat@wwub.com or 526-8326.
A return to 'Old-Fashioned' romance

Photo by Contributed Photo/Times Free Press.

While "Fifty Shades of Grey" got an R rating from the Motion Picture Association of America in part because of "unusual behavior," members of the crew that helped make the film "Old Fashioned" laughingly point out their that romantic comedy also features "unusual behavior."

In their case, it's a man and a woman falling in love and treating each other with decency and respect.

IF YOU GO

"Old-Fashioned" opens Friday and is showing at East Ridge 18.

"Old Fashioned," which opens this weekend just like "Fifty Shades" -- and no, that's not a coincidence, is a movie that deals with romance and second chances based on Christian principles. And it's a movie about a man and a woman who attempt to do something sort of strange by trying to enter into a courtship based on some outdated ideas.

"It is really a special human drama," says Zach Gray, the film's executive producer. Gray is on the faculty in the School of Visual Art and Design at Southern Adventist University and was one of 15 people affiliated with the Collegedale school that worked on the movie.

"Old Fashioned" was written, produced and directed by Rik Swartzwelder, who also stars in the film; he is longtime friends with Southern Adventist professor David George, who worked as director of photography on "Old Fashioned."

Swartzwelder plays Clay Walsh, a former hard-partying frat guy who finds religion and moves to a small town where he becomes notorious for openly sharing his high-minded and outdated theories on love and romance. He meets Amber, played by Elizabeth Ann Roberts, a free spirit who is surprisingly attracted to Clay's "unusual" ideas. Over time, the two find common ground and romance blossoms. But unlike "Fifty Shades," romance doesn't rise from a regimen of bondage, discipline or sadomasochism.

POLL: Will you see "50 Shades of Grey"?

Love is something that affects us "spiritually, emotionally, physically," Swartzwelder told TheBlaze.com. "I categorically reject the idea that hookups are exclusively physical."

He started writing the screenplay almost nine years ago, so creating an answer to "Fifty Shades" and its racy story line was not on his mind. But the marketing campaign for "Old Fashioned" takes full advantage of the film's release alongside "Fifty Shades."

The trailer, for example, opens with the words "Based on the bestselling book 'Fifty Shades of Grey'" appearing on the screen, only to have a big red "not" drop on top of them. There is more wordplay throughout the trailer, with
things like "sexy corporate mogul" drawn through and replaced by "sincere small businessman."

The film is being released by Freestyle Releasing, which also handled "God's Not Dead" and Nicolas Cage's recent remake of "Left Behind."

"Opening the same weekend as 'Fifty Shades,' there's definitely a David v. Goliath comparison," Swartzwelder told Variety. "They will have more screens, more money, more hype ... but we're hopeful that we are not alone in our belief that there are others out there who desire more from love -- and the movies -- than objectification or domination."

George says the film is more about creating conversations on love, romance, how to compromise and how to communicate than it is about offering a how-to on dating.

Southern offers film production through its School of Visual Art and Design and, along with Gray and George, several former students also worked on the film, which was shot primarily in Ohio two years ago. Melody George was the production designer and Bryan Fowler and Chris Stiles were behind the camera; Daniel Wahlen served as a digital imaging technician. Much of the post-production was done at Southern.

Fowler has worked on several film and commercial projects and was impressed with the level of detail and care given to each shot and scene of "Old Fashioned."

"I still teared up at some scenes and I was there to shoot them," he says. "I knew it was coming and I knew the lines, and I still teared up."

Contact Barry Courter at bcourter@timesfreepress.com or 423-757-6354.
RONAN — Super Bowl festivities are traditionally a time of feasting on a smorgasbord of good eats, but one local church spent the month of January focusing on ways to make sure those who go without food day to day will be provided for.

The Ronan Seventh Day Adventist Church's sixth annual Soup-er Bowl Challenge smashed the parish's previous record for total number of cans of soup collected for its January food drive. The church, which has between 80 and 100 members, split into two teams to raise enough money to buy 5,568 cans of soup that went to the Ronan Bread Basket and Polson Loaves and Fish food pantries.

The lively competition divided the church into two groups: the Jackson Jackals, led by Dale Jackson and Billee Collins, and the Adams Ant Eaters captained by Aric Cooksley.

The Jackson Jackals managed to squeak out enough dough to purchase 3,135 cans of Campbell's Soup from Walmart Supercenter in Polson that provides the bounty at a deeply discounted rate. The Adams Ant Eaters only had 2,412 cans purchased at last count, but they emerged victorious after a last minute anonymous $600 donation. The cash and the cans were split evenly between the local food banks.

“We have a giving heart,” Community Outreach Coordinator Russ Jenkins said, “that is inspired by Matthew 25:40: ‘I assure you that what you are doing for the least of these my brothers and sisters, you are doing it for me.’ Over the past six years we have been blessed to share over 15,000 cans of love.”

The fundraiser has become a staple for the two local food banks that have seen their needs swell exponentially since the recession hit in 2008. Bryan River said the food bank never seems to have enough donations of soup.

“We have to buy it,” he said.

Not having to buy the soup helps get the pantries through winter, which is usually the toughest part of the year after holiday donations dry up.

“We really count on it,” Ronan Bread Basket Director Sherri McDonald said. “It lasts us until April, usually, but each year we have more people coming in, so it might not last as long. It is wonderful. Everyone can eat soup, even the kids.”

Tags

Ronan