The long-anticipated Adventist Learning Community has been launched. Still in its early stages, it is a new web-based initiative of the North American Division with the goal of utilizing online distance education technology for the benefit of all kinds of ministerial and educational endeavors. Currently, it offers only a fraction of the courses and resources it will one day deliver. The goal is to deliver online continuing education for Church employees, track professional learning across the Division, offer certifications and training for volunteers and employees, enable schools – K-12 and higher education – to share courses and resources, enable conferences and unions the ability to share proven models of evangelistic success, and equip those visiting the web portal with the resources they need to complete the Great Commission. MORE

Nepal: Urgent Help Needed: A 7.9 magnitude earthquake in Nepal has killed close to 4,000 people so far with thousands more injured and homeless. The need is great and immediate action is critical. ADRA is responding and needs your support. Please donate at ADRA.org, call 1-800-424-ADRA, or text ADRA to 41444.

The Canadian Government will match all Canadian donations for the Nepal Earthquake response that are given by Canadian citizens through ADRA Canada by May 25. The ADRA network has come together to jointly respond to this disaster. A team of responders has been assembled to support ADRA Nepal and the members are either already on the ground or are on their way. Stockpiled emergency supplies are also on their way. Hospitals are treating patients outside and are running low on medical supplies. ADRA Canada's main focus is to provide water, shelter, hygiene items, and disease prevention information.

U.S. citizens may also donate, but will not receive a tax-deduction for donating to ADRA Canada, and their donation will not be matched. If using a credit card, U.S. funds will be automatically converted to Canadian dollars at the current exchange rate. MORE

Special Days

May Focus: Community Services
May 2, Community Services Sabbath
May 9, Youth Sabbath
May 16, Single Adults Sabbath

Helpful Special Day Websites and Resources

Offerings
May 9, Disaster and Famine Relief
May 30, NAD Evangelism

Sample Offertory Readings
(in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French)

The Washington Adventist University (WAU) Enactus Team received a number of awards at the Enactus U.S. National Exposition, held April 13-16, in St. Louis, Mo., including being named finalists in the opening round of the
competition, along with placing as finalists in their Walmart project. They also received 3rd place nationally in both their Coca Cola Foundation and Sam’s Club projects. More

Read about the projects.

Casey Tom, Ministry Manager of Faith for Today and Jesus 101 Biblical Institute television ministries, has been elected as the president of the Religion Communicators Council (RCC) of the U.S. She had attended RCC meetings for about five years but did not become a member until 2012, when she was asked to serve on the RCC Board of Directors to replace Linda Walters who had worked at the Adventist Media Center.

Begun in 1929, RCC is the longest standing religious public relations professional organization in the U.S. and Canada. Its purpose is to encourage and assist more coverage of church news in newspapers and magazines. Their tagline is: "Religion is a part of everything and RCC helps you talk about it." RCC sponsors an annual convention and in addition to supplying workshops and skill sharpening events, sponsors events to provide ways for religion communicators to meet public media personnel and meet and network with other religion communicators to exchange ideas and experience that is helpful to one another.

Adventists in the News

Creston Valley volunteer staying in Nepal following 7.8-magnitude earthquake

IMPACT makes an impression on Cochrane

Community leaders out to prevent Baltimore-like situation in Vegas

Local man has donated more than 4,000 hours to Bolingbrook hospital

KAS staff heading back from Nepal

Stroudsburg church opens community/wellness center

‘Our Best Sermon Right Now Is Not Anything We Say But What We Do’: Clergy Address Freddie Gray Protests

Business expo, health and job fair attract large crowd

Curtis-Horne Christian School: Small, 83-year-old independent school looks to grow | Video

Oak Brook Park District Pink 5K on track to raise $11,000

June 28 - July 1, Ministerial Spouses Convention

July 2-11, 2015 GC Session, San Antonio, Texas

July 5, San Antonio InStep4Life 5K Fun Run/Walk

Aug. 5-8, Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries (ASI) Convention

Sept. 20, Let's Move Day

Sept. 20-27, Let's Move Week

Oct. 2-4, Health Ministries Training /Columbia Union

Oct. 9-11, Adventist Recovery Ministries Training, Dallas, TX

Oct. 15-18, Society of Adventist Communicators Convention

Adventist World/ NAD Edition April, 2015

NAD Feature: Back to the Present, by Elden Ramirez, p. 33

NAD News: Camp Hope Still Recovering from January Ice Storm; No One Could Possibly

Biker pastor Tom Hughes receives award

Join the North American Division Prayer Ministry team on Thursday, May 7, for an all-night Prayer Call starting at 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. EDST. Call 404-891-6338; access code is Prayer# (772937#). Get bulletin inserts and MORE.

Faith Community Nursing Training, June 7-11. **Registration closes May 31.** This training is the official curriculum for Parish Nurses or Faith Community Nurses who work closely with the ministerial team of a local church to meet the physical, mental, emotional and social needs of members and engage in health ministries. It is offered once a year by the NAD and this year it is being done in partnership with Southern Adventist University. MORE; REGISTER

San Antonio InStep4Life 5K Fun Run/Walk, July 5 **Registration closes May 31.** Join Adventists from around the world and community members from San Antonio for a free Fun Run/Walk during GC Session. The events aims to raise awareness about obesity and encourage people to live a more active lifestyle as people enjoy the beautiful San Antonio Riverwalk scenery. Preregistration is required and ends on May 31, or sooner, as participation is limited to 2500 people. MORE

The annual Disaster and Famine Relief Offering will be taken on May 9. It is used by Adventist Community Services (ACS) and ADRA to provide immediate relief to people suffering in disasters and famine, as well as helping them to rebuild homes, communities and lives. With the growing frequency and magnitude of disasters, donations are needed more than ever. Bulletin inserts for churches to use on that Sabbath are downloadable in grayscale. A video is also available for showing, downloadable from https://vimeo.com/74669501

Survive This Weather! p. 11

NAD Update: To Heal, Serve, Educate, p. 15

NAD Perspective: The Greatest Sermon Ever Preached, by Daniel Weber, p. 17

Daily Prayer Guide

May 3-9 – This coming week, please pray for the Dakota Conference, with 43 churches and 4,027 members, and for the Minnesota Conference, with 71 churches and 8,978 members.

Also, pray for Columbia Union and the Lake Union, following the suggestions of the 10 Weeks for Bold Prayers initiatives.

Share This Newsletter
If you plan to attend the 2015 General Conference Session this summer, you will want to acquaint yourself with the information entitled, "Operation: Safe Session 2015" in the latest Adventist Risk Management e-newsletter of April 29. It's all about getting around safely during the session.

**ViewPoints**

This ViewPoint might affect your discipleship and evangelism plans

**What are America's Top Churchless Cities?**

"The U.S. has a reputation for being exceptionally religious — and it is true that, historically speaking, churchgoing has played an outsized role in American identity. Still, millions of Americans have little to no connection to local congregations.... While San Francisco is number one overall when it comes to churchless residents, it ranks sixth on the never-churched list (14%)..... However, the California Bay Area takes the top spot when it comes to dechurched adults (48%)." [MORE](BR) in Barna Reports

**REACH North America**

To REACH others, just click and share

"Did you know the Father, Son and Holy Spirit co-exist as one eternal God?" [Fundamental Belief #2 from My Way to Jesus](BR)

Number 2 of "28 Fundamental Beliefs" 90: second videos now available online at the NAD website and at NAD's "My Way to Jesus" site. The site offers options such as sending a prayer request, enrolling in the Discover Bible Course, or watching a video, and provides a phone connection to Adventist Information Ministry where people can chat with someone about spiritual issues or things that are troubling them.

Just "Click" to share your beliefs on Facebook: If you are on Facebook, you can "Like" the My Way to Jesus Facebook page. Then look for the 28 Fundamental Beliefs Facebook updates in the photo album titled "Biblical Teachings.” Beliefs on video will be posted in the album titled "Personal Testimonies on Video."

Share the Beliefs videos on your own website: Just go to [www.vimeo.com/channels/didyouknow](BR) for the entire video series and click on the "Share" button in the upper right corner of a specific video for the embed code or to email it to a friend.
NAD NewsPoints- Adventist Learning online, URGENT for Nepal, PrayerCall, Community/Parish Nurse training, Fun Run/Walk at GC2015, Safe GC, Churchless
You might not think so, but Seventh-day Adventists are masters of technology. Think of how Sister White used the printing press, steamship, and trains to further the Great Commission. Historically, we have used any tool at our disposal to spread the Gospel. Think of how many billions of people have access to the Gospel through Adventist World Radio, or the Hope Channel, or 3ABN, our digital and hardcopy printing houses, or through the General Conference’s new world class website. Technology is and has been the tool God has given us to complete the Great Commission. How else could a handful of believers in the mid-19th century have grown into a worldwide Church with more than 18 million members?

Looking forward, the next technology we must embrace for the Church is the Internet. Whether we like it or not, the Internet’s reach into our lives is hard to exaggerate. Many younger Adventists recognize our Church has not yet harnessed the Internet’s full potential. Our uniquely Adventist message should be just as prominent in the digital realm as every competing distraction.

This is where the Adventist Learning Community comes in. Launched in April of 2015, the Adventist Learning community is a new web-based initiative of the North American Division with the goal of utilizing online distance education technology for the benefit of all kinds of ministerial and educational endeavors. Although only in its early stages, and offering only a fraction of the courses and resources it will one day deliver, the platform’s potential for changing the way our Church does business in the digital realm is plain to see.

To sum up the Adventist Learning Community is difficult, but the Adventist Learning Community aims to deliver online continuing education for Church employees, track professional learning across the Division, offer certifications and training for volunteers and employees, enable schools – K-12 and higher education – to share courses and resources, enable Conferences and Unions the ability to share proven models of evangelistic success, and equip those visiting the webportal with the resources they need to complete the Great Commission. That’s a long list, so allow me to explain.

Right now, pastors and Church administrators have little to no professional development requirements. This is most unfortunate. How are our Church leaders going to stay relevant if they don’t constantly work to improve their skills.
and knowledge? The Disciple Peter makes this problem evident, stating, “for if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ellen White writes, “the gospel is not properly taught and represented…by men who have ceased to be students.”[1]

The Adventist Learning Community can provide Church employees with new opportunities for customizable professional development that can follow them throughout their career. Whether you’re a teacher, pastor, administrator, or staff member, you can take courses on the Adventist Learning Community for continuing education credit. These courses can be recommended to the employee by their employer or independently selected. Additionally, since the North American Division has developed a list of Core Qualities for some professionals employed by the Church, courses will be designed specifically to address those skills that employees need most.

For instance, if a Ministerial director notices a pastor in their Conference needs help empowering Church members to be serve as disciples, the ministerial director can assign the pastor a course written by Adventist leadership expert Bill Santos on enabling leadership. The pastor can take the course at his or her convenience anytime, anywhere and the course will count towards their professional development plan. Because the Adventist Learning Community is a Division-wide system, no matter where the pastor resides his or her professional development portfolio will be accessible to them and their employer. The same principles apply to teachers, administrators, and other staff members.

Beginning in July of 2015, if a pastor attends a seminar, conference, takes an academic course for university credit, or even reads a book relevant to their ministry, they will be able to self-report this professional development activity on the Adventist Learning Community and apply for continuing education credit from their Conference ministerial director. If approved, by the ministerial director, the activity will be assigned a continuing education value and will be recorded on the pastor’s Pastoral Continuing Education platform. Applying for continuing education credit can be done by simply answering a few short questions and providing a scan or photograph of their respective activity. By tracking pastoral professional development in this way, we can assess learning. This means we can individually help equip pastors with the specific core qualities they need to be effective.

Traditionally, the most respected way of demonstrating competency for completing a certain task or profession has been through a license or college level degree. While this is still the gold standard, certifications and endorsements are proving more and more important in defining skills and aptitudes. In other words, people don’t always need a degree or state license to be trusted with a designated responsibility. This is especially true on the local Church level. It’s unrealistic to expect everyone involved in ministry on the grassroots level to hold a degree in ministry, and yet, it’s often necessary for them to have at least some training in order to ensure their work is done properly. This is where certification and endorsements come in. As a Church, on any level, but particularly in the higher levels of Administration, the training needs of people in the field can be identified, and then certification courses and programs to equip local church members can be built to meet the demand. Family ministry directors, single adult leaders, community services directors, youth leaders, and philanthropic leaders are but a few of the certifications we’re currently working on. Distance education can empower, train, equip, and unleash people for Christ in a cost efficient, convenient, and timely manner.

The great thing about using distance education technology is that it’s already established and available to most people in the North American Division. Technology is everywhere; smart phones, tablets, desktops, laptops, your watch, Google glass. There are devices everywhere you are and where everyone else is. The digital landscape is probably one of the most ubiquitous commonalities in the North American Division today. There are actually more internet ready devices than there are people in the United States.[2] In order to tap into the opportunities created by technology the ALC is partnering with Adventist institutions of higher learning such as Andrews University, Southern Adventist University, Southwestern Adventist University, and Loma Linda University. These institutions will be offering courses, content, and support to the Division’s push to make the Gospel more accessible and equipping people who wish to lead out in its advancement.
Distance education for ministerial and educational purposes is a paradigm shift for how our Church does business. Many employees of the Church travel more than they are at home. Those employees are doing a valuable service, training and preaching all over the globe. But this way of doing business is expensive and inefficient. When trainings are done at a conference, convention, or seminar not only does the trainer have to travel to the respective location, but so too do all of the attendees. This is true of teachers and their continuing education, of pastors and their professional development, and local church leaders. It means only those that can afford to attend the trainings and all of their associated costs can get the training. It also means that the trainer can only do a finite number of trainings each year. However, what if we took that training and delivered it for free online? If we did this, our Church would save money, we could equip more people to further the gospel, and we could assess learning rather than just assume learning was taking place.

Right now, there are literally hundreds of uniquely Adventist websites offering ministerial and educational resources throughout the world. It’s hard to find what you’re looking for. What if we put all of our uniquely Adventist resources in one place? Videos, PowerPoints, photos, articles, audio files, and other resources you didn’t even know existed could be suggested to you. Ratings and user comments on the resources you find could help you make sense of your search and bring the best resources to the surface. And, above all, you could save time and better further the Gospel Commission using the best possible resources. The Adventist Learning Community is beginning to build just such a database. Obviously, this endeavor is in its infancy, but everyday dozens of new resources are uploaded to the Adventist Learning Community database, and by the end of the year we plan on having tens of thousands more.

This is just part of what the Adventist Learning Community hopes to accomplish, and some of the many benefits our Church can enjoy if we embrace distance education for ministerial and educational purposes. Visit us at adventistlearningcommunity.com and explore the possibilities and opportunities created by distance education technology for completing the Gospel Commission. God has given us a tool for his work, let us make the most of it.

Ministry Training and Teacher Certification Courses, new in 2015:

- Teaching & Preaching to Copyright, Southern Adventist University
- Adventist K-12 School Board Membership, NAD Office of Education
- Adventist K-12 School Board Leadership, NAD Office of Education
- Family Ministries Curriculum for Local Church Leaders (English and Spanish), NAD Family Ministries Department
- Men’s Ministries for Local Church Leaders (English and Spanish), NAD Men’s Ministries Department
- Single Adult Ministries Local Church Leaders, NAD Single Adult Ministries Department
- 2014 Faith and Science Council Conference Continuing Education Certificate Course, GC Faith and Science Council
- Native Ministries Continuing Education Certificate Course, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada Native Ministries
- Creating a Positive Digital Footprint, Southwestern Adventist University
- Pastoral Empowering Leadership with Bill Santos, NAD Office of Education

adventistlearningcommunity.com
Canadian Government Matching Nepal Earthquake Donations

The Canadian Government has announced that it will match all donations for the Nepal Earthquake response made between April 25th and May 25th.

It has been four days since a 7.8 magnitude earthquake devastated Nepal. Over 5,000 people have been killed and the death toll is expected to rise further. Thousands more have been injured. The United Nations estimates that eight million people have been affected. Rescuers continue to dig in the rubble hoping to find survivors trapped beneath. Afraid of what the dozens of aftershocks may bring, hundreds of thousands are spending their nights in the open.

Houses, schools, businesses, historic temples, and other buildings have collapsed entirely or are now unsafe. Many areas are inaccessible as roads are damaged and there is debris from landslides.

Hospitals are treating patients outside and medical supplies are low.

Thankfully, all of ADRA Nepal's staff are unhurt and the ADRA Nepal office is still standing. The ADRA network has come together to jointly respond to this disaster. A team of skilled responders has been assembled to support ADRA Nepal and the members are either already on the ground or are on their way. Stockpiled emergency supplies are also on their way.

Providing water, shelter, hygiene items, and disease prevention information are now our focus.

More information will be provided as it becomes available.

We thank our supporters who have heeded our calls for prayers and donations.

More help is urgently needed. Please donate today.

DONATE NOW
4-29-15 Washington Adventist University Enactus Team Wins at U.S. National Competition

Washington Adventist University’s Enactus team traveled to St. Louis, Missouri to participate in the Enactus United States National Exposition, held April 13-16. The team received a number of awards, including being named finalists in the opening round of the competition, along with placing as finalists in their Walmart project. They also received 3rd place nationally in both their Coca Cola Foundation and Sam’s Club projects.

“Being part of Enactus for my entire college experience has to be the most rewarding part of attending Washington Adventist University. Competition this year demonstrated that as college students we truly can change the world if we mean to do so. All the presenting teams exhibited so much professionalism and were so friendly that I will miss the interaction when I graduate,” said Royanne Richards, Enactus past president and senior class president.

“The 'We All Win' mantra proved to be true of the Enactus National Exposition 2015. It was a pleasure to meet so many students and get a chance to demonstrate the impact we have been making across the world. We are the future, so it is great when we get a chance to connect and share ideas. Never in a million years would I imagine getting interviewed and offered an internship with such a large corporation on the same day. Enactus is worth the effort,” said Sashawna McCalla, a senior finance major and Enactus Bridge Forte project leader.

Washington Adventist University was one of more than 180 university teams that competed for the U.S. championship last week. Participating students use business concepts to develop community outreach projects, transform lives and shape a better, more sustainable world. The culmination of the Enactus program is an annual series of competitions that provide a showcase for teams to present the results of their projects and be evaluated by business leaders serving as judges. Teams compete first at national level, then at the international level when the national champion teams from each country meet at the Enactus World Cup.
During this academic year, the Enactus Washington Adventist University team organized ten projects in the Takoma Park community; including working with Mr. Kim of Rainbow Coin Laundry, where the team created a tutoring service for K-4th graders while their parents do laundry. This project led to the Sam’s Club 3rd place award.

#  #  #

*Washington Adventist University is Montgomery County’s only four-year private college. Part of the Seventh-day Adventist system of higher education, Washington Adventist University has been educating college students since 1904 on a 19-acre campus in suburban Takoma Park, close to the nation’s capital. Approximately 1,100 students of all faiths participate in the university’s eight graduate and 32 undergraduate programs. The 2014 edition of U.S. News & World Report ranked Washington Adventist University among the best regional colleges in the north.*
The photos Johann Harnisch emailed home to Creston from Nepal in recent days offer a personal glimpse of what residents of Kathmandhu are experiencing in the aftermath of Saturday's 7.8-magnitude earthquake.

Piles of brick rubble and teams of medical personnel in full emergency mode, working outdoors, paint a grim picture of a region best known for its proximity to Mount Everest.

Johann, 23 — one of nearly 400 Canadians in Nepal — flew from Canada to Nepal on March 31, part of a team of dentists, doctors and students to hold classes and clinics in a large city a 14-hour bus ride from Kathmandu.

“Hundreds of people flocked to receive medical attention,” Michelle Harnisch told the Advance in an email that included photos she and Johann’s father, Pastor Rudy Harnisch, have received since Sunday.

The group of volunteers was co-ordinated by ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency), a Seventh-day Adventist international aid organization. As they went about their mission to provide routine medical care, Johann could hardly have imagined what he would soon face.

“Arriving back at Kathmandu last Thursday to see the rest of the team off, Johann and James (another volunteer)
stayed with a local doctor and his wife, waiting to board their planes the following week,” Michelle wrote. “But the Saturday morning events changed everything.

“Close to noon on Saturday they experienced a violent shaking of the building they were in, similar, Johann said, to the shaking of the bus they rode in over the mountainous roads of Nepal.

“Running outside, they witnessed buildings crumbling and mountains giving way to clouds of dust. Racing back to the hospital, they wondered if the three-story structure would still be standing. Thankfully, it stood, and thankfully they were there with the doctor and many other willing hands to receive the dying and injured that poured in.

“Since the initial quake, many other aftershocks have terrified, injured and killed more people. Operating on the victims’ broken bones, pouring plaster casts, delivering babies and sheltering patients from the rain in their outdoor emergency room — among many other tasks — has kept the team very busy. They are thankful to be alive and to be of service to the Nepalese during this terrible crisis.”

Michelle said on Monday the first two days after the earthquake were agonizing as the Harnisch family awaited word that Johann was safe. Once he was able to re-establish communication, the young volunteer has sent back a steady stream of messages and photographs.

“We were going to go away for the weekend but changed our plans,” Michelle said.

Instead, they were soon immersed in following the news about a string of earthquakes that has now claimed more than 4,000 lives and left many thousands more in peril.

In a matter of weeks, Michelle and Rudy have witnessed their son complete a carpentry course at Cranbrook's College of the Rockies, fly off to do volunteer work in one of the world’s most remote areas and take part in an international effort to save lives.

“The information and pictures we have received from Johann makes it very real,” she said.

The most recent information before the Advance went to press came from Rudy, who had just received word that Johann is staying two weeks longer — “at least” — to assist with relief operations on the ground.
The Canadian University College (CUC) Drama/Ministry Team IMPACT "Impossible Mad Possible At Christ's Throne from Lacombe Alberta make a stop at the Polar Bear Habitat to make paper mache feeders for Ganuk.

Linda Horn

The Canadian University College (CUC) Drama/Ministry Team IMPACT "Impossible Mad Possible At Christ's Throne made a stop in Cochrane last week to check out the sights and presented two IMPACT programmes at the Inninew Friendship Centre.

Alison Down, a pastor of the local Seventh-day Adventist Group in Cochrane, met members of the IMPACT group while she was at CUC, last autumn attending classes. She spoke about Cochrane and Moosonee communities and with tentative arrangements made she brought the news to the two community groups who embraced the excitement of having young people work along side for a few days, said Down.

“They were here for one week, made an "IMPACT" upon those they met and worked with and now they are heading home filled with new experiences, memories and friends made,” said Down.

The group, which is mostly made up of youth who attend the Parkview Adventist Academy and CUC, both of which are located in Lacombe Alberta, perform all over including street ministries, schools, churches, seniors' homes, soup
“The goal is to spread the gospel of Jesus to all people,” said Down.

They group travelled to Moosonee stayed there from Monday to Wednesday and did radio programs, and conducted IMPACT programmes in the evenings. They also visited Seniors both in Moosonee and Moose Factory Island.

They arrived in Cochrane on Thursday and left for home on Sunday. They conducted two radio programs on 102.1 CFCJ, Cochrane’s Christian Radio. The group also got to try their hand at making paper maché feeder toys for Ganuk at the Polar Bear Habitat. They also had a visit at the Cochrane Child Care Centre and played with children, and shared music with the seniors at the Villa Minto.

The group also presented two IMPACT programmes at the Inninew Friendship Center, lead out in services at both the Seventh-day Adventist Church group and the Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church.

“I really enjoyed my time here,” said Lyle Notice an IMPACT group member from Lacombe Alberta. “I loved getting to see the polar bear and also playing with the kids. Cochrane is a great town. Our host has been so gracious and even gave us a history of Cochrane. “
Community leaders out to prevent Baltimore-like situation in Vegas
FOX5 Vegas - KVVU

LAS VEGAS (FOX5) -

The violence that erupted in Baltimore Monday is concerning to Las Vegas police and community leaders.

Dr. Calvin B. Rock, who heads the Las Vegas chapter of Operation ReachBack, a nonprofit that addresses the social needs of black communities, is fearful a similar scene could play out in Las Vegas.

"The one thing that I think of when I see it is [it's] tragic," Rock said. "It's unnecessary. It's really unnecessary and could be ameliorated by conversation and by discussion."

Rock is teaming with Pastor Oneil Madden with the Abundant Life Seventh-day Adventist Church to begin that discussion. This weekend they'll host a seminar called No Jail, No Bail with Metro police. They hope to teach young men and women what to say and do when encountering a police officer.

Rev. Dr. Ralph E. Williamson mentors young men at the First African Methodist Episcopal Church in Las Vegas. He said that what's happening in Baltimore could easily happen in the city.

"We need to find ways to control the environment and try to handle the solutions of the problems we are being impacted with," Williamson said.

"It gives us an opportunity to talk about peaceful protests - as Christians, how we stand up for our rights in a moral way?" Madden said.

Community leaders said they believe transparency between the Las Vegas community and its police department is key to preventing situations like the one in Baltimore.

The seminar is set for 3 p.m. Sunday at Abundant Life Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 1720 North J Street in Las Vegas. For more information, call 702-647-2627.

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by Taboola
Not looking for attention or a pat on the back, Sid Cudebec merely wants to make someone’s day a little brighter.

With more than 4,000 service hours at Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital, Cudebec was bound to make someone smile. In fact, his selflessness is one of the reason’s ABH recently awarded Cudebec with its Service Excellence Award.

“Sid goes above and beyond to make things rights and has made a huge impact in our volunteer program here and he is considered part of the hospital team,” said Danielle Muhlenbeck, program manager for service excellence and volunteer services.

But Cudebec shrugs off the compliments, and explains he just wants to do something positive with his time and give back to Bolingbrook and the community he has lived in since 1974.

“I love dealing with people, and if I can help in some small way, why not,” he said.

He has been volunteering at the hospital since it opened in 2008 and before then at the Tall Grass Corporate Center.

“I volunteer at Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital because I believe all of us make a difference in the areas and departments we serve; a difference with the patients we greet and help,” said Cudebec. “I have been truly blessed in my life, and it’s my way of giving back. In addition, I enjoy working at ABH and all the people, (patients) and employees I work with.”

Odds are if you’ve been to the hospital yourself or to visit, you probably have bumped into Cudebec. Whether you see him at the welcome desk, delivering mail, or the man who helps direct you to the right room or wing of the hospital, Cudebec does so with joy.

“You can hear the kindness in his voice. He does everything with all his heart and its shows,” said Muhlenbeck.

He has volunteered in many areas of the hospital, including Hospitality Desk as an Escort, Health PASS, Marketing, Foundation, Infection Control, Mail Room, Emergency Department Front Desk, Medical Surgical Units and New Employee/Volunteer Orientation. He is also the CREATION Health Coach for the volunteer department and promotes wellness initiatives on the volunteer team. In addition, he has volunteered countless hours at community outreach activities on behalf of the hospital.

“I just think it’s important to greet everyone with a hello and how may I help you. Maybe I grab them a wheelchair or escort them down the hall—it’s hard enough to be in the hospital, I am just glad to help out a little,” said Cudebec.

Muhlenbeck said the hospital considers its volunteers to be an important part of the patient experience at the hospital and wanted to recognize an individual that radiates Service Excellence.

In his spare time, Cudebec climbs mountains… literally!

In 2013, he and his son climbed Mt. Rainer and made it to the summit. In 2014, he placed first in his age group at the Hancock Hustle downtown Chicago, climbing 94 floors to the top of the John Hancock Building in 20 minutes and 14 seconds.
Aside from climbing mountains, he considers himself blessed in many ways with a wonderful wife, Laura of 41 years, two children and three grandchildren, early retirement and good health.

He has developed many close relationships with team members over the years and considers ABH his "home away from home."

In addition to volunteering at ABH, he also volunteers at his church as an usher, greeter and other church functions, as well as a Stephen’s minister. In his spare time, he enjoys working out, canoeing, riding bikes and reading.

The ABH volunteer program has been in effect since the hospital opened in 2008. There are currently 174 active volunteers giving their time to the hospital. If anyone is interested in applying to become a volunteer, they can go to www.keepingyouwell.com/abh. Due to the popularity of the program, there currently is a waitlist.
KAS staff heading back from Nepal

By Sean Slatter

April 29, 2015, midnight

Tragedy: Saturday's earthquake has caused devastation in Nepal.

See your ad here

A pair of Kempsey Adventist School teachers are on their way home after being caught up in Nepalese natural disaster on the weekend.

Primary deputy principal Jill Pearce and teacher librarian Vanessa Hardy were visiting a hospital just outside of Kathmandu when the 7.8 magnitude quake hit, causing extensive damage and claiming thousands of lives.

The orphanage where they were based, which was also located just outside of Kathmandu, suffered only minimal damage but they were forced to sleep outside for the remaining two nights of their stay.

Originally scheduled to fly home on Monday, Jill and Vanessa were not able to get on a flight until Tuesday night, meaning they were forced to spend more than 24 hours at the airport with limited supplies.

They were in Nepal as part of a month long trip where they were training teachers at the Dibya Guan School in the country's Chitwan province.

Kempsey Adventist School's association with the Dibya Guan School is overseen by the NGO Asian Aid.

Kempsey Adventist School marketing and events manager Leanne Deanshaw said the Asian Aid officer had been "very helpful" in assisting the pair throughout the ordeal.
Stroudsburg church opens community/wellness center

Ben Parrish, wellness coordinator with Adventist Whole Health Network in Reading, checks the blood sugar level of Delia Palmer of Stroudsburg during the Stroudsburg Seventh Day Adventist Community and Wellness Center's open house Wednesday. (Andrew Scott/Pocono Record)
As tensions and unrest continued Tuesday in Baltimore over the death of 25-year-old Freddie Gray, religious leaders took to the pews and the streets to call for peace.

Several churches opened their doors to offer safe haven to local residents, especially students after Baltimore City Public Schools were closed Tuesday.

“You have all these kids with nowhere to go. The community has to step up and feed our children, provide youth activities and be there for people going through an understandably traumatic experience,” said the Rev. Heber Brown, pastor of Pleasant Hope Baptist Church, one of those offering refuge.

“Our role is to be a moral voice at this time,” said Brown, who on Monday evening joined with other clergy to form a wall of protection during protests at the corner of West North Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue. That intersection is just blocks away from where police chased Gray before his April 12 arrest, and next to a CVS store that was looted and lit on fire and an Ace Cash Express that was broken into on Monday, according to a Washington Post map.

The Rev. Heber Brown joined other clergy at protests on Monday. (Photo: Jamye Wooten/KineticsLive)

“I was standing with my Muslim brother from [Nation of Islam] Muhammad Mosque No. 6 and Christian pastors. We were there to protect the protesters from police and the business and houses,” said Brown, who noted that police pepper-sprayed him. “Our best sermon right now is not anything we say but what we do.”

Doors were also opened at Metropolitan United Methodist Church near downtown Baltimore, Northside Baptist Church, Waverly United Methodist Church, John Wesley United Methodist Church and Empowerment Temple Family Life Center.

The Rev. Jamal Bryant, who gave an impassioned eulogy Monday at Gray’s funeral that called on mourners to “get your black self up and change this city,” welcomed dozens at Empowerment Temple.
"We opened our doors for nonviolent students and teens to have a place not just to relax, but Empowerment has also invited therapists to give them counseling," said the Rev. DeVante Mills, who is not a minister there but recently started attending the church after moving to Baltimore from Memphis, Tennessee.

On Tuesday morning, Mills, 22, showed up at the building with a car full of donations: 75 McMuffins, hash browns and cases of Dasani water bottles. Later, he said he planned to buy DVDs, like Denzel Washington’s "The Great Debaters," to entertain the kids.

“The body of Christ said stand bold in situations like this. I think the pivotal role we have is keeping peace,” said Mills, who added that he had joined other clergy in peaceful marches on Monday.

Faith leaders had planned a prayer rally Tuesday afternoon at Security Square Mall in west Baltimore County. The mall is closed because of rumors that violent protests might spread there, according to the Baltimore Sun, and a flyer circulating on social media said clergy were “calling all pastors, believers and people who care” to go to the shopping center to “pray for our city, county and state.” But early Tuesday afternoon, Apostle Karen Bethea, one of the prayer organizers and a co-founder of Set the Captives Free Outreach Center in Baltimore, posted on Facebook that they would instead pray via conference call.

Bethea also announced a clergy meeting for the early afternoon at New Psalmist Baptist Church. Empowerment Temple is scheduled to host a nonviolent civil disobedience training at 5 p.m.

A group of Baltimore-area Seventh-day Adventist churches, whose clergy had marched on Monday evening, cancelled a Tuesday afternoon street cleanup because of safety concerns.

Seventh-day Adventist clergy joined in a march Monday. (Photo: David Franklin)
Joshua McLean, a 20-year-old seminarian at Family Bible Ministries in southwestern Baltimore who had planned to attend the cancelled Security Square Mall prayer gathering, said that he was grateful for the religious response.

“I have mixed feelings about these protests and violence. Yes, people want us to be peaceful, but at the same time people won’t stop killing us,” said McLean, who is black. “Right now, we just need to keep peace and calm. We need to rebuild our communities and our youth for a better future.”

*Also on HuffPost Religion Re-Thinking Non-Violent Resistance*

**live blog**

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**Baltimore Police Commissioner: 'Curfew Is Working'**

Baltimore Police Commissioner Anthony Batts reported 10 arrests since the curfew went into effect at 10 p.m. Two arrests were for looting, one for disorderly conduct, seven for curfew violation, Batts said just before midnight on Tuesday.

"The curfew is working," Batts said.

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**Police: 'Criminals' Started Library Fire**

Baltimore police said "criminals" set a fire outside a library. But a reporter said he saw sparks from a tear gas grenade start the blaze.

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04/28/2015 11:41 PM EDT

**What Happened To This Protester Seems Pretty Sketchy**

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**Baltimore City Councilman: 'Just Call Them Niggas'**

Is it accurate to call the Baltimore protesters thugs?

City Councilman Carl Stokes doesn't think so -- and he expressed his feelings very explicitly during an on-air...
interview with CNN's Erin Burnett on Tuesday.

Watch the video from CNN below:

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Out Past Curfew: Journalists And A 'Handful' Of Protesters

[H/T Washington Post]

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Protester To Media: 'You Can Support Us, But You Cannot Join Us'

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04/28/2015 10:58 PM EDT

Attorney General Loretta Lynch Reiterates Ongoing Probe Of Baltimore

From the White House:

Earlier today, Attorney General Loretta Lynch and Senior Advisor to the President Valerie Jarrett hosted a conference call with over 50 local leaders from across the country including Mayors Michael Nutter (Philadelphia, PA), Tom Barrett (Milwaukee, WI), Karen Freeman-Wilson (Gary, IN), and Chairman John Eaves (Fulton County, GA).

During the call, Jarrett noted that her thoughts were with the family of Freddie Gray and expressed appreciation for the heroic efforts of police officers, fire fighters and community leaders joining their fellow Baltimore residents who are helping to clean up the debris and property destruction. She also highlighted the 21st Century Policing Task Force’s constructive recommendations that, if adopted by local law enforcement agencies across the country, would enhance community trust – including recommendations for providing training on bias, properly implementing body-worn camera programs, conducting independent investigations of fatalities, and promoting officer safety and wellness. The Attorney General spoke about DOJ efforts to award grants to local police departments in ways that encourage adoption of the Task Force recommendations. The Attorney General also noted that the Department of Justice has opened an investigation in Baltimore and is working with local enforcement, and emphasized that she looks forward to strengthening the partnership that local officials have with the Department of Justice. The two pledged to stay in touch and keep them updated on the ongoing situation in Baltimore.

Jarrett also remained in regular contact with Mayor Rawlings Blake (Baltimore, MD) and Maryland Governor Larry Hogan.
Jennifer Bendery

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Journalist Reportedly Hit By Rubber Bullet

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Confusion After Curfew

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Police Fire Pepper Balls

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Conflicting Reports On Whether Smoke Or Tear Gas Deployed

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Police Fire Smoke Bombs

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Police Warn Reporters To Leave As Violence Breaks Out

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04/28/2015 10:18 PM EDT
Wolf Blitzer Fails To Goad Protester Into Condemning Violence

"Freddie Gray will never be back. Those windows will," said DeRay McKesson, during an interview with CNN's Wolf Blitzer on Tuesday.

McKesson, an activist best known for his efforts in Ferguson, Missouri, during protests of the police killing of teenager Michael Brown, refused to condemn Baltimore protesters who turned to violence on Monday -- even after Blitzer noted at least 15 injured police officers, 200 arrests and 44 vehicles set ablaze.

"There's no excuse for that kind of violence right?" Blitzer asked McKesson, who then promptly responded:

"Yeah, and there's no excuse for the seven people the Baltimore City Police Department has killed in the past year either, right?"

Blitzer then invoked the peaceful ways of Martin Luther King Jr. -- who was arrested on multiple occasions for getting rowdy with law enforcement while protesting.

"I don't have to condone it to understand it, right?" McKesson said. "The pain that people feel is real. And you are making a comparison. You are suggesting this idea that broken windows are worse than broken spines, right? And what we know to be true is that the police are killing people everywhere. They're killing people here."

Blitzer continued vainly trying to get McKesson to condemn the violent protesters.

"The violence that the police have been inflicting on communities of color has been sustained and deep ... I think that the unrest, the uprising, whatever you call it is, again, a cry for justice here and a cry for justice across the country because the police continue to terrorize people -- and the terrorizing is actually deadly," McKesson said.
Check out the footage below:

[H/T Mediate]

-- Julia Craven

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04/28/2015 8:18 PM EDT

'We Are Freddy's Family Now'

Baltimore protesters got into a heated conversation with law enforcement officials on Tuesday as they continued calling for justice in death of 25-year-old Freddie Gray.

One man repeatedly asked officers who was responsible for Gray's death.

"Find out who did that shit to my man and we're going to calm down," he said.

"All y'all got to do is indict the six officers that killed Freddie," said another man.

"We are Freddie's family now ... Freddie's not the only one!" he added.

Six Baltimore officers have been suspended with pay as an investigation digs into what happened on the day Gray was arrested.

Their names are Lt. Brian Rice, Officer Caesar Goodson, Sgt. Alicia White, Officer William Porter, Officer Garrett Miller, and Officer Edward Nero, according to CNN.

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04/28/2015 7:41 PM EDT

Hillary Clinton To Speak About Baltimore On Wednesday

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said Tuesday that order needs to be restored in Baltimore and the U.S. should examine its criminal justice system.

Clinton, speaking at a fundraiser in New York City on Tuesday, promised a more detailed presentation of her views on Wednesday.

-- Sam Levine

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04/28/2015 6:41 PM EDT

Baltimore City Schools To Reopen Wednesday

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Some 2,000 National Guard troops will join more than 1,000 law enforcement officers Tuesday night to keep the peace in Baltimore after Monday's riots, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan told CNN.

"Acts of violence and destruction of property cannot and will not be tolerated," Hogan said at a press conference. "Maintaining law and order, innocent lives and property is our number one priority."

Harry Reid Defends Baltimore Protesters

HuffPost's Ryan Grim reports:

Baltimore's violent protests are an understandable response to a system that's rigged in favor of the rich and leaves young people with little hope or opportunity, Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) said Tuesday afternoon.

"We cannot condone the violence we see in Baltimore, but we must not ignore the despair and hopelessness that gives rise to this kind of violence," Reid said on the Senate floor, condemning the violence in a way that seemed more dutiful than heartfelt. "So let's condemn the violence, but let's not ignore the underlying problem."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), meanwhile, was less interested in the root cause of the unrest, instead calling for law enforcement to crack down. "I hope the investigation into illegal behavior will be be concluded soon and those who've been engaged in criminal behavior will be promptly pursued and charged," McConnell said.

Read more here.
Eugene "Big U" Henley said on Tuesday that he understands why violent protests have engulfed Baltimore, but thinks it's in the demonstrators' best interest to stay out of the streets.

The 48-year-old former West Los Angeles gang member said in an interview with The Huffington Post that after seeing numerous instances of police violence go unpunished, many may see fighting back as the only option.

Read the full story here.
BALTIMORE -- A group of community members came together Tuesday to funnel positive energy into a very dismal neighborhood, a day after violent protests rocked Baltimore.

Dozens of people gathered at the intersection of W. North Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue -- an area that on Monday was marred by trash, burning vehicles and a torched CVS.

Instead of chaos, the intersection on Tuesday hosted a group of drummers, percussionists and martial artists. Jason Harris, a local artist, told The Huffington Post that several community groups came out to form a drum circle and perform capoeira “to put out some positive community energy in the place where violence occurred yesterday.”

Read the full story here.

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04/28/2015 4:27 PM EDT

Volunteers Step Up After School Closings Leave Baltimore Kids Hungry

HuffPost's Alexandra Svokos reports:

A vast majority of Baltimore’s 85,000 public school students are eligible for free and reduced-priced meals, and the city's school closings Tuesday have left thousands of children without access to that food. Thankfully, volunteers and community organizers are working to meet their needs, providing safe spaces and free food for public school students throughout the city.

Volunteers have been using the term #BaltimoreLunch on Twitter to organize donations and food distribution with the help of the nonprofit organizing tool Operation Help or Hush. City officials announced Monday that Baltimore schools would be closed as a result of the rioting and unrest that has broken out in response to the death and subsequent funeral of Freddie Gray, a black man who died of a spinal injury that he sustained in police custody last week.

Read the full story here.

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04/28/2015 4:13 PM EDT

Mitch McConnell Wants Rioters Prosecuted

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) opened his weekly briefing by offering his sympathies to the people harmed in Baltimore’s riots and calling for quick prosecutions.

"I hope the investigation into illegal behavior will be be concluded soon and those who've engaged in criminal behavior will be promptly pursued and charged," McConnell said.

Although he could have been referring to the investigation into the killing of Freddie Gray, McConnell's spokesman...
said he meant the people who were committing the violence and arson seen in the city overnight.

-- Michael McAuliff

Anti-Riot Demonstration Pops Up Where Protest Had Been Planned

Several dozen Baltimore residents converged along Security Boulevard near where a riot, or "purge," had been advertised via Instagram fliers Tuesday. Several children came with their families, including Mekai Hines, a 12-year-old who came with his mom and brother.

"I'm here because people have been talking about rioters coming to Security Mall, and I'm here with a prayer group and we're praying that people don't come up here and riot," Mekai said.

On the other side of the highway, a police helicopter landed in the closed Security Square Mall parking lot, where dozens of officers had gathered.

-- Arthur Delaney

Baltimore Residents Come Together To Clean Up City After Riots

HuffPost's Cameron Keady reports:

Following the Monday funeral of Freddie Gray, the 25-year-old black man who died in police custody last week, protesters clashed with police officers in violent riots throughout the city of Baltimore.

The city had experienced 144 vehicle fires, 15 structure fires and nearly 200 arrests, the Associated Press reported on Tuesday. Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan declared a state of emergency.
But out of the chaos has come a flurry of community outreach to put Baltimore back together. On Tuesday morning, residents came together to clean up areas damaged by the unrest. More than 2,500 people had joined a Baltimore cleanup effort Facebook event as of Tuesday afternoon, and the numbers continue to grow.

Read the full story here.

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Business expo, health and job fair attract large crowd
A large number of area residents found time throughout a Sunday afternoon to attend the 12th annual business expo, health and job fair April 19 at the Leiske-Pultar Gymnasium on the campus of Southwestern Adventist University.

The expo and fair — organized by the Keene Chamber of Commerce, in association with the Keene Business Development Corporation and the Keene Economic Development Corporation — was held in cooperation with Southwestern and the North Central Texas WorkForce.

Southwestern's Department of Nursing conducted health screenings in the areas of blood pressure and blood sugar and presented booths featuring nutrition, children's health, environmental health, dental health and stroke and heart disease prevention.

Hearts & Flowers owner Sharon Vaughn, left, visits with a customer during the Business Expo, Health and Job Fair April 10 at the Leiske-Pultar Gymnasium. (Paul Gnadt)

The Texas Health Resources Mobile Health Unit provided well-woman exams, mammograms and colon cancer screenings.

The WorkForce processed 27 employment applications at its 13-work station mobile laboratory.

Hot food prepared by Sweet Peppa's Restaurant of Keene was available for purchase.

Exhibitors were Adventist Book Center, Bennett's, Calahan Real Estate, City of Keene, Community Opportunities Inc., Crosier Pearson Funeral Home, Crossroad Fellowship Church, Edenway Birth Center, Hearts & Flowers, Henslee Group – Keller Williams, Hill College, Keene Adventist Elementary School, Keene Chamber of Commerce, Keene Family Dental and Keene Independent School District.
Other vendors were Keene Adventist Church, Kristi's Vintage Rentals, Lifeway Dental, Marshall Young Insurance, Quality Brakes & Alignment, Read-Billingsley Real Estate, Rosser Funeral Home, Sonic Drive In, Southwestern Adventist University, That Catering Company, Time Out Massage, Town Hall Estates, Ulrich Barn Builders, Universal Windows Direct of DFW, Workforce Solutions of Cleburne and Young Living Essential Oils.

Universal Windows Direct owner Trey Corkran visits with a customer during the Business Expo, Health and Job Fair April 10 at the Leiske-Pultar Gymnasium. (Paul Gnadt)

Expo sponsors were the Keene Economic Development Corporation, the Keene Business Development Corporation, Southwestern Adventist University, Cleburne Ford, Community Opportunities Inc., Crosier Pearson Funeral Home, Crossroad Fellowship Adventist Church, Ideals Design and Pinnacle Bank.

Southwestern Adventist University Department of Business Administration professors Dr. Aaron Moses, left, and Dr. Fred Harder prepare to meet attendees at the Business Expo, Health and Job Fair April 10 at the Leiske-Pultar Gymnasium. (Paul Gnadt)

This article is the:
Curtis-Horne Christian School: Small, 83-year-old independent school looks to grow | Video

By Austin M. Davis, Leader-Post April 25, 2015

REGINA — When principal Andrew Savenye refers to the Curtis-Horne Christian School community as a family, he isn’t only referring to the students who are his children.

Savenye’s two kids, in grades 1 and 4, make up more than 10 per cent of the school’s total enrolment this school year. With 19 students and two teachers (including Savenye), Curtis-Horne is easily one of Regina’s smallest schools.

“It’s actually rewarding,” Savenye said. “You can focus on a child more, so if they’re struggling in a math, reading or language class, you can work with them at their level and grow with them more, rather than them being lost in the shuffle.”

He has been in Regina for three years, after 13 years of teaching at a B.C. school under the direction of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Curtis-Horne is one of four schools in the church’s Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference, with the others in Saskatoon, Rosthern and Winnipeg. The church operates more than 1,000 elementary and secondary schools in North America.

As a registered independent school, Curtis-Horne is able to provide a bible-based curriculum for its kindergarten to Grade 9 students. Savenye said there are biblical influences in how the kids are taught skills like handwriting and reading.

Advertisement

“We’re not opposed to other faiths,” Savenye said. “We’re open to everyone. We’re open to the community, but we do let them know that we do have the Adventist perspective.”

Historically, the school has always had students from other faiths and Savenye believes it works well and offers students religious diversity.

“They will actually find there are a lot of similarities between the faiths. If there are differences, we also have our two pastors in Regina and if questions arise, we can always go through them," he said, adding that Curtis-Horne also employs a school chaplain who can take on those kinds of questions.

Kids are split into two classes in the school, with Savenye teaching kindergarten to Grade 4 and Vanessa Brenya teaching grades 5 to 9.

Savenye believes students benefit from being in a multi-split class with kids in other grades. He said younger students can retain lessons meant for the older grades that they overhear and students in older grades get to review material taught to the younger students.

But what’s it like for the teacher who has to balance teaching students in different grades?

“It’s a challenge. You have to go back and forth lots. You don’t have a lot of sit-down time," Savenye said.

After having existed so long in relative obscurity, compared to other schools in the city, Savenye said he wants to get the Curtis-Horne name out there.
Though the name and building have changed, Curtis-Horne has existed since 1932. It began as Regina Seventh-day Adventist, The Regina Academy, and after a few alterations was changed to Curtis-Horne Christian School in 2000, named after two former teachers.

When the school first opened, a building was purchased from the Catholic Church and divided into a church and school. In 1949, the school was moved into the back of the church at Montreal Street and 15th Avenue and continued there until the new church was built at Hill Avenue and Kings Road. In 1969, a two-room school was ready on the land adjacent to the Hill Avenue church. An addition, including a gymnasium, extra classroom, science lab, library and extra washrooms, was added to the school in 1985.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church covered — and still covers — all of the school’s capital costs.
Oak Brook Park District Pink 5K on track to raise $11,000

Community Contributor Jessica Cannaday-Oak Brook Park District

With over 900 people currently registered for the 2015 Pink 5K, the Oak Brook Park District is on track to meet its goal of raising $11,000 for Open Arms-the Breast Cancer Outreach Fund of the Adventist Hinsdale Hospital Foundation.

Nearly 600 of the race's registrants are part of one of the 18 teams on this year's race roster. "Team registration is one of the unique factors of this race," says Oak Brook Park District's executive director, Laure Kosey. Businesses and individuals that recruited 25 or more friends could register as a team at a discounted rate through April 10 and receive a personalized team t-shirt.

"My company, Professional Benefit Administrators of Oak Brook, does this walk every year and my daughters are joining me this year," said Shirley Johnson, one of the 46+ members of Team PBA-Positive Believers Achieve.

"The race truly illustrates how the greater Oak Brook community is inspired to come together for a good cause," says Mary Tansey, corporate and community relations for the Oak Brook Park District. The event is fully sponsored by Evergreen Bank Group and Adventist Hinsdale and Lagrange Memorial Hospitals. More than 25 other local businesses will be onsite after the race providing free giveaways and Pinstripes of Oak Brook will be hosting a special brunch from 10am-noon with a special discount for Pink 5K participants.

The 2015 Pink 5K will be held Mother's Day Weekend, Saturday, May 9 at 8am in Central Park, 1450 Forest Gate Road in Oak Brook.

Since 2012, the Oak Brook Park District's Pink 5K has generated over $27,000 for Adventist Hinsdale Hospital Foundation's Open Arms, who in turn utilizes the funding for its annual 40-40-40 program. This program provides mammograms for women over the age of 40 who could not otherwise afford the screening. Since its inception, Open Arms has provided over $100,000 worth of care to 225 women.

For more information or to register, please visit www.obparks.org/pink5k.

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This item was posted by a community contributor. To read more about community contributors, click here.

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NEWARK – Tom Hughes has ridden his motorcycle through every state in the U.S., ministering to bikers he meets on his travels and opening their hearts to Jesus.

It's something he felt called to do, and he's loved every minute of it. His alma mater, Washington Adventist University, recognized Hughes' passion for and dedication to bringing the biker community to Christianity with its Zella Holbert Service Award.

The award is presented annually to an alumnus in recognition of his or her dedication, vision and caring service to humanity.

The news came as quite a shock to Hughes, who wasn't expecting the award at all. “I didn’t think anyone noticed,” Hughes said of his work. “I’ve been riding motorcycles since I was 16, and I think this is just a ministry that God gave me to help these bikers meet Christ. There aren’t a lot of people doing that kind of ministry, but I can do it.”

Hughes agreed to accept the award, but only if he could accept it on behalf of all the men and women at his church, Newark Seventh-day Adventist Community Church, who support him and, of course, the many bikers he has met in his travels.

He has been street witnessing since 2000, leading dozens of motorcyclists to Christ. One encounter Hughes will never forget happened with a man who couldn't believe God would want anything to do with him.

Hughes encouraged him to pray with him and show him that God truly cares for him. He asked God to come into the man’s heart and bless him, and by the end of the prayer, the man was in tears, so happy to have felt God's love, Hughes said.

“That’s why you do this,” he said.

Hughes received his award April 16 during Washington Adventist University’s alumni weekend. It was a humbling moment, and it’s nice to know that people appreciate the work he is doing, Hughes said. If anything the award has been an affirmation that he’s doing what he was meant to do and encouragement to keep it up.

“It just kind of made the point to me that I’m living my dream,” Hughes said. “My dream was to minister to people and make a difference in their lives. I worked very hard to become a pastor, and I feel very blessed that I’m actually doing it (my dream).”

emaddern@newarkadvocate.com

740-328-8513

Twitter: @emmaddern
Revival camp upcoming

The 5th Annual Revi It Up Revival meeting will take place July 24-25 at Newark Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 701 Linnville Road, in Heath. Participants can ride their motorcycles in for a weekend of fellowship, gospel music and the good news of Christ. For more information, contact Tom Hughes at 740-739-0750 or TomHughes@BibleBiker.com.
The Seventh-day Adventist community is strongest when it acts together. With your offering today, you are joining ACS and ADRA to provide immediate relief to those in disaster and famine, as well as helping us rebuild homes, communities, and lives.

Disasters close to home and around the world are growing in frequency, intensity, and in the level of destruction they leave behind. The economic cost of rebuilding is higher than ever, but even more devastating is the cost of human suffering.

Whether it's a tornado in Oklahoma, families fleeing Boko Haram in Nigeria, or a medical pandemic, such as Ebola in West Africa, each disaster leaves families displaced, communities destroyed, and critical needs exposed.

ACS (Adventist Community Services) and ADRA (Adventist Development & Relief Agency) are the humanitarian arms of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. ACS works within North America and also includes Hope for Humanity, a partnership with ADRA and the Health Department of the General Conference to provide Ebola intervention in West Africa. ADRA is currently serving communities in more than 130 countries worldwide.
April 24, 2015—The U.S. has a reputation for being exceptionally religious—and it is true that, historically speaking, churchgoing has played an outsized role in American identity. Still, millions of Americans have little to no connection to local congregations.

Currently, about four in 10 U.S. adults qualify as "unchurched" under Barna's definition (38%). Unchurched adults have not attended a church service, except for a holiday or special occasion, at any time within the past six months.

Churched and unchurched adults are not evenly distributed across the country. Church attendance varies widely from city to city and region to region. Many cities outpace the overall U.S. population when it comes to church avoidance.

For example, the San Francisco metro area tops the list of America's most churchless cities: Six in 10 Bay Area residents meet the Barna definition of unchurched (61%). A full list of the nation's largest metro media markets is shown below, ranked by unchurched population.

Barna tracks not only overall churchlessness, but also what proportion of unchurched adults are "dechurched"—that is, who used to attend regularly but have not attended at all in the past six months—and what proportion are "never churched"—meaning they have never in their lives regularly attended a church. Among the general U.S. population, 29% are considered dechurched and 9% are never churched, for a combined total of 38% unchurched. (For a deeper dive into the substantial differences between these two groups, read Churchless by George Barna and David Kinnaman.)

While San Francisco is number one overall when it comes to churchless residents, it ranks sixth on the never-churched list (14%), outpaced by:

1. West Palm Beach-Ft. Pierce, FL (17%)
2. Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-San Luis Obispo, CA (16%)
3. New York, NY (15%)
4. Harlingen-Weslaco-Brownsville-McAllen, TX (15%)
5. Chico-Redding, CA (15%)

However, the California Bay Area takes the top spot when it comes to dechurched adults (48%), ahead of:

2. Seattle-Tacoma, WA (44%)
3. Portland-Auburn, ME (43%)
4. Boston-Manchester, MA (42%)
5. Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY (41%)
What Are the Least Churched Cities in the U.S.?

Get a detailed report about your city or state

**AMERICA'S TOP CHURCHLESS CITIES**

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What Are the Least Churched Cities in the U.S.?

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The data reported in this table are based upon telephone and online interviews with nationwide random samples of 62,896 adults conducted over a ten year period ending in August 2014. The maximum margin of sampling error associated with the aggregate sample is ±0.4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Respondents who say they have not attended church within the past six months are classified as “Churchless.”

The data were analyzed by DMA. The label “DMA” stands for Designated Market Area and represents a unique geographic area that also serves as a commonly accepted media market as defined by The Nielsen Company. DMAs have been configured so that each DMA is comprised of one – and only one – of 210 DMAs in the country and are based on the television viewing habits of the residents in each county. While there are 210 DMAs, this table contains data for just 117 of them. Those are the areas in which we had a sufficient number of completed surveys with people from a given market (a minimum of 150 or more).
About the Research

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About Barna Group

Barna Group (which includes its research division, Barna Research Group) is a private, non-partisan, for-profit organization under the umbrella of the Issachar Companies. Located in Ventura, California, Barna Group has been conducting and analyzing primary research to understand cultural trends related to values, beliefs, attitudes and behaviors since 1984.

If you would like to receive free e-mail notification of the release of each update on the latest research findings from Barna Group, you may subscribe to this free service at the Barna website (www.barna.org).

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2. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit co-exist as one eternal God?

Did you know The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit co-exist as one eternal God?

There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons. God is immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing, above all, and ever present. He is infinite and beyond human comprehension, yet known through His self-revelation. He is forever worthy of worship, adoration, and service by the whole creation.