Adventist Community Services (ACS) is working hard, responding to flooding in Texas. ACS served more than 750 people in San Marcos with clothing from the Texas ACS mobile distribution truck yesterday and today. They also gave out 252 flood buckets. As a joint project between ADRA and ACS, 3,000 buckets were filled with cleaning supplies by Pathfinders at last year’s International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wis. The buckets were then distributed across the country for use in major events such as this one. More than 500 homes have been flooded in the Houston area where ACS is coordinating with area leaders as to how best to respond.

In addition to flood response, ACS volunteers have been operating a donations center in Delmont, S.D., in response to needs following the tornado that ripped through the town on Mother’s Day, May 10. MORE

ACS is a well-respected disaster response leader that can leverage partnerships and make bulk purchases that can multiply the benefits of your donated dollars. Click here to donate.

Untrue rumor – Contrary to a post on a satirical website which has given some people the impression that the flooding in Texas is creating a need to cancel GC Session, the 2015 General Conference Session is still scheduled to take place as planned, July 2-11, in San Antonio, Texas.

The first formally organized Fijian congregation in the NAD has been organized in Sacramento, Ca. The new company – which currently meets at Sacramento Adventist Academy – is the 157th congregation in the Northern...
California Conference. More Fijians live in the Sacramento area than anywhere else in the U.S., and more are coming to the area each year. The congregation has plans for two evangelistic series this year, with the goal of baptizing 40 people. They also hope to broadcast their services online. MORE

A $10,000 grant has just been received by the ACS Community LIFT in Denver, Colo., from the Colorado Garden Foundation. It will be used to help further ACS' efforts to build a horticulture program offering food pantry customers the freshest produce possible. They have begun preparing all available land around the Center for planting, and are inviting volunteers and staff to work side-by-side with clients to teach them the gardening process and show how easy it is to grow food at their own homes. MORE

Hospital deal to bring new services to Murray Medical
5 Christian Denominations With Most Conservative Stance on Evolution
Adventist Health System Is Honored With The 2015 Gallup ‘Great Workplace’ Award

Announcements
Join the North American Division Prayer Ministry team on Thursday, June 4, for an all-night Prayer Call starting at 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. EDT. Call 404-891-6338; access code is Prayer# (772937#). Get bulletin inserts and MORE

(RED: Registration deadline)
June 4-5, All-night Prayer Call
June 7-11, Faith Community Nursing Training (May 31)
June 20-21, Adventist Recovery Ministries Training, Woodside, N.Y. (May 31)
June 28 - July 1, CALLED NAD Ministerial Convention
July 1-11, 2015 Impact San Antonio; Register
July 6-9, Children’s Summer Day Camp for GC2015
June 28 - July 1, Ministerial Spouses Convention
June 28 - July 2, Tour de Youth Ride for Life
July 2-11, 2015 GC Session, San Antonio, Texas
July 5, San Antonio InStep4Life 5K Fun Run/Walk (May 31)
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
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 memorial service for Warren Judd, who died yesterday, will be held on June 8, at 6 p.m., at the Loma Linda University Church.

Do you need ideas for preparing for a meaningful Refugee Awareness Sabbath, June 13? You can find ideas here on the Refugee Ministries website. Don’t miss the play for children or youth, entitled "Jesus was Once a Refugee." Refugee Awareness Sabbath is held annually, close to World Refugee Day, June 20.

Oct. 9-11, Adventist Recovery Ministries Training, Dallas, Texas
Oct. 15-18, Society of Adventist Communicators Convention

2016
Jan. 13-17, Emotional Wellness Summit, Orlando, Fla.

Adventist World/ NAD Edition
May, 2015

NAD Feature: Finding Community, Diversity, and Acceptance – Reimagining Sabbath school for the twenty-first century, by Julio Muñoz; A Ministry for Children and Their Parents, p. 33

NAD News: Columbia Union Hosts Hispanic Evangelism
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

To enditnow: Break the Silence about Abuse

"How to Spot Abuse and Abusers," presented by Christopher Bradford at the 2014 Summit on Abuse

Learn the signs of abuse, as well as some ways to recognize an abuser. To stand by and do nothing when we know abuse is occurring is the same as perpetrating the abuse. If the church is aware that abuse is taking place, the church must intervene to protect, rescue, and become the advocate for the victim.

Domestic or gender-based violence is the second largest health threat to women, second only to the lack of clean drinking water. In fact, it was safer to be a deployed at the height of the Iraq or Afghanistan wars than it is to be a woman in the U.S. Watch the video.

REACH North America

Did you know the world was made in just six days?

Event; Impact San Antonio: A Global Young Adult Experience, p. 11

NAD Update: Empowering Adventist Professionals, p. 15

NAD Perspective: The Church Family, by Daniel Jackson, p.17

Daily Prayer Guide

May 31 - June 6 – This coming week, please pray for the Alaska Conference, with 29 churches and 3,829 members.

Also, pray for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, following the suggestions of the 10 Weeks for Bold Prayers

*Daily Prayer Guide*

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Watch the 90: second video

Each topic on the My Way to Jesus website links to a video, an invitation to study the Bible, the Find-a-Church Directory, a link for kids to My Place with Jesus, a place to send prayer requests, and more.

You can easily post the videos and information on your church website. Share the updates from the My Way to Jesus Facebook page. Learn more.
Donations stack up for ravaged S.D. town

MARCUS TRAXLER Forum News Service

Earla Strid helps a Delmont resident who came in to the American Legion Post 20 building to pick up some things they need on Tuesday afternoon in Delmont. Nearly 170 residents have made at least one trip to the donation center after being affect or even displaced by the tornado that struck the town on May 10.

Enlarge Photo

DELMONT, S.D. -- For all of the goods that are piled up on tables and on the floor of the the Delmont American Legion Hall, the demand for needed items isn't expected to go away soon.

That's perfectly OK, said Bob Forbes, a disaster response coordinator with Adventist Community Services, which is managing the donations in Delmont. He has encouraged those in need to make as many trips as they need.

“We generally tell people to take what they need and don’t be afraid to come back later,” he said. “That’s what we’re here for.”

Volunteers from Adventist Community Services and from Delmont itself have been operating the Donations Management Center since May 12, two days after the tornado hit Delmont on Mother’s Day. They’ve been setting up shop at the American Legion hall in Delmont and have collected about $55,000 in donated goods for the last two weeks, ranging from paper plates to blankets to small fans, and from shampoo to Rice-A-Roni.

In all, 170 locals have made at least one trip to the donation center in the community of less than 300 people, some of them filling up shopping carts that have been provided by the Parkston Food Center.

“It doesn’t take long to fill one of those carts up -- when someone is taking a case of water or a package of toilet paper,” Forbes said.

Dick and Earla Strid were helping at the donation center on Tuesday. They live in an unaffected portion of Delmont and Earla admitted she felt some guilt about being one of the members of the community who was largely unaffected in the tornado.

“We’re one of the lucky ones,” she said. “Volunteering here just seems like the right thing to do. When you have people getting what they need, it’s heartwarming.”

The Strids will be leading the effort with the donated goods once Forbes heads back home for North Dakota today. A pastor in Lehr, N.D., Forbes has been in Delmont for all but two-and-a-half days since May 12. Forbes estimates that about $35,000 of the donated goods have been given back out to those in need. Every item that comes in is inventoried and given a monetary value and then set out for residents to pick up and take with them.

Some of the contributions to the center have been unique, maybe none more so than a Corsica-area homeowner who offered up his house as a donation. Someone can have his single-story home for free, if the person taking it covers the costs to move it.
“We told him we were going to have a hard time making room for it in here,” Forbes said, laughing. “But we took his information to see if we could help someone out.”

There’s a few items that the donation center is not interested in taking -- primarily clothes. Forbes said there’s a reflexive urge for people to send clothes to disaster areas, but he said clothes are also a need that is easily met. Nonetheless, Forbes said they received 26 boxes of clothes from Connecticut via delivery a few days after the storm. Among the other items that aren’t distributed are used pairs of socks, underwear and shoes, primarily because there’s no solid way to know that those items are clean and disinfected.

Another nearby shed is also full with goods that are mostly unsorted, Dick said. For now, they’ve temporarily taken over the unique Legion Hall, which has an arched roof and and features pinewood boards. The building, Dick said, was built in the 1950s, and funded in part when members of the Legion sold jackrabbit hides for $1 apiece.

Marjorie Gilbert, one of the Delmont residents displaced by the storm, said she’s thankful that the donation center is there to fill unmet needs.

“It’s been a godsend. You don’t have the stuff around that you’re used to having and for these folks to be here providing goods here and giving us what’s needed, you can’t thank them enough.”
5-26-15 Sacramento Fijian Company First in North America

by Julie Lorenz

On Jan. 24, the Sacramento Fijian company became the first formally organized Fijian congregation in the North American Division. The service took place on a Sabbath evening at Sacramento Central church, followed by a celebratory Fijian meal.

During the program, Northern California Conference (NCC) Executive Secretary Marc Woodson encouraged the members to keep their “bula” spirit. (Bula is a Fijian word that connotes a feeling of affection and welcome.) He also reminded them: “Don’t forget the purpose of your congregation.”

The new company – which currently meets at Sacramento Adventist Academy – is the 157th congregation in the NCC. Conferences organize church groups into companies for the purpose of fellowship, worship and mission; the “company” status is a step on the way for a group to become organized as a church.

"Praise the Lord!" said one of the group’s long-time members, Olivia Wieland. "He has rewarded our hard work. Now we are ready to work toward an organized church."

More Fijians live in the Sacramento area than anywhere else in the United States, and more are coming to the area each year. Adventist immigrants from Fiji want to worship with the music and traditions of their own culture and in their own language. “The yearning to maintain the Fijian communal bond created the desire for the establishment of a Fijian church,” said Joseph O’Connor, who pastors the congregation.
O’Connor came to the United States about 15 years ago to earn his master’s degree in religious studies from La Sierra University. He did more postgraduate work at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, planning to return to Fiji, where he had served for five years as a pastor. A Fijian group that met at the Sacramento Central church asked him to stay in the United States, and he and his wife, Sotia, agreed to work with them.

The new company is comprised of members from various small groups in Sacramento – most of whom came to the organization service. “Today we witness a coming together, for we Fijians have gone through experiences that hammer the truth home – united we stand, divided we fall,” said Jone Korovata, who serves as an elder.

The new company’s services are conducted in Fijian and English. “We plan to establish a multi-ethnic church which reflects our wider Fijian community, our young people that are being born and bred in the U.S., and the community at large that Fijians have married into,” said O’Connor.

The congregation is eager to grow. Plans are in the works for two evangelistic series this year, with the goal of baptizing 40 people. The company also wants to broadcast their services online. “All it takes is for us to cooperate with Jesus to reach more people faster than you ever thought possible,” said Poate Matairavula, head elder.

Along with his congregation, O’Connor looks forward to making a unique contribution in the conference territory. “I am forever grateful that the purpose of the Sacramento Fijian company is to further enrich the Northern California Conference with the unique, friendly island gospel spirit of Jesus Christ,” he said. “We look forward to finishing God’s work among the rest of the Fijian community in Sacramento.”
ACS Community LIFT Receives Gardening Grant

By News Anchor

ACS Community LIFT was recently awarded a $10,000 grant from the Colorado Garden Foundation to help further ACS’ efforts at building a horticulture program offering food pantry customers the freshest produce possible.

ACS LIFT has already begun preparing all available land around the Center for planting. There will be container planters, a full garden in shared space with neighbors, local plots in one of the Denver Urban Garden spots, and a garden plot at the LifeSource Adventist Church’s community garden. Trees are already being trimmed and land is being cultivated.

One of the plans to help maintain these gardens is to invite volunteers and staff to work side-by-side with clients to teach them the gardening process and show how easy it is to grow food at their own homes. Marilynn Banks, an Americorps volunteer to ACS LIFT, is a master gardener who has taken on the challenge of helping to build the program into something sustainable for years to come.

One of the hardest and most expensive types of food to secure for customers is the fresh produce that this garden will help supply. If you are interested in supporting the project or in getting your gloves on and digging in the soil along with ACS LIFT, please contact ACS at 303.935.389.

This article was also published in the June 2015 print edition of OUTLOOK. It was written by Donna Webb, who works with ACS LIFT in Denver, Colorado.

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Rural hospitals across the nation are facing increased financial pressure, but officials say they believe a recently approved agreement between the Hospital Authority of Murray County and Adventist Health System will allow Murray Medical Center to not only survive but prosper in the years to come.

“We think they are going to improve all services that we currently provide, and they will be adding services,” said Randall Richards, chairman of the Hospital Authority. “They know how to run a hospital. They turned around Gordon Hospital (in Calhoun), and we think they will do the same thing for us.”

Adventist Health System is a faith-based health care organization headquartered in Altamonte Springs, Fla.

With 45 hospital campuses, more than 70,000 employees and nearly 8,300 licensed beds in 10 states, Adventist Health System serves more than 4.5 million patients annually, according to a press release from Adventist.

The 43-bed Murray Medical Center had been independent since 2012 after agreeing to a split from Hamilton Health Care System, which had managed it since 1998. It had been managed by other firms before Hamilton

Adventist and the Hospital Authority signed an interim management agreement in September 2014. And on May 1 of this year, state regulators approved a five-year lease of the hospital by Adventist.

Under the lease, Adventist paid off the $5.1 million debt the Hospital Authority owed Hamilton.

“They will be forgiving one-fifth of that money each year,” Richards said.

As soon as they took over the day-to-day operations, Adventist began bringing in new equipment, including a mobile MRI and new beds and furniture for patient rooms.
Evolution and religion are two controversial topics, and opinions vary widely even among different Christian denominations about where the truth lies. The Genesis story of Adam and Eve versus the idea that society slowly developed from adaptation do not align.

With Christianity as complex and divergent as it is, denominations take widely varying stances on this hot topic.

SPECIAL: Prayer Changes Your Brain in 4 Amazing Ways

Here are the top five denominations with a conservative stance on evolution, meaning they less likely to believe in it:

1. **Southern Baptist Convention**
   R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kentucky, told *Time* magazine in 2005 that evolution and biblical views could not be reconciled.

   “I believe the Bible is adequately clear about how God created the world, and that its most natural reading points to a six-day creation that included not just the animal and plant species but the earth itself," Mohler told *Time*.

2. **Church of God in Christ, Mennonite**
   This Baptist-derived denomination laid out its objection to evolution on its website, citing passages from Genesis, Hebrews, Exodus, Jeremiah, and Revelation that reject evolution.

   Its belief statement says, “The Genesis account of the creation is true. The simple yet profound revelation must be received by faith. The theory of evolution, which teaches a continuous natural development from the lowest to the highest forms of life, is a contradictions of the teachings of the Bible.”

3. **Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**
   While the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America supports the theory of evolution in union with a non-literal reading of the Bible, the Missouri Synod faction of Lutheranism directly rejects the conciliation of evolution and religion.

   In its *Creation and Evolution* pamphlet, President Dr. A.L. Barry wrote that Adam and Eve and the Genesis story of Creation are true, “not merely a ‘myth’ or a ‘story’ made up to explain the origin of all things. ...Many aspects of evolutionary theory are directly contradictory to God’s Word. Evolution cannot be ‘baptized’ to make it compatible with the Christian faith.”

4. **Seventh-Day Adventists**
   The Adventist Church President Ted Wilson spoke in 2014 in vehement opposition to the theory of evolution.

   “If one does not accept the recent six-day creation understanding, then that person is actually not a ‘Seventh-day’ Adventist since the seventh-day Sabbath would become absolutely meaningless historically and theologically,” Wilson said.

5. **Amish**
   Lastly, the Amish, who stop formal education after the eighth grade, cited religious objections as one of the reasons...
its denomination opposes the idea of evolution. On its website, they stated, “Theories such as evolution are objectionable to the Amish, who take a literal view of the Bible and the Creation story.”

SPECIAL: Can Prayer Heal You? Dr. Crandall Discovered the Truth

Related Stories:

- Christianity’s Denominations: The 11 Branches of Christ-Based Religion
- 8 Christian Denominations With Most Conservative Stance on Transgender Community

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Adventist Health System, which manages Takoma Regional Hospital, has received the prestigious 2015 Gallup Great Workplace Award for the fifth consecutive year.

"This international award recognizes organizations that create an engaged workplace that, in turn, drives business outcomes," Jack Lister, Takoma's human resources director, said in a news release announcing the award.

"Employee engagement is a top priority at Takoma because we know that engaged associates offer the best patient experience and healthcare delivery."

Daniel Wolcott, Takoma's president and CEO, agreed.

"This award demonstrates the deep connection our associates have with our mission to extend the healing ministry of Christ, and with our vision to be the best place to work, practice medicine and receive care," he said in the release.

The Gallup organization compares companies across a workplace research database comprised of work teams in more than 100 countries.

This year, Gallup honored 40 organizations, including Adventist Health System, a faith-based health care organization headquartered in Altamonte Springs, Fla.

A national leader in quality, safety and patient satisfaction, AHS has around 70,000 employees, including nearly 600 at Takoma.

Takoma recently was also named one of only 150 "Great Places To Work In Healthcare" by Becker's Hospital Review, joining the Mayo Clinic, Johns Hopkins Medicine, and Cleveland Clinic, according to the release.

In addition, Takoma has been named "The Best Place To Work" for the past seven years in The Greeneville Sun's "People's Choice" awards.