FOURTH QUARTER 2013 NEWSLETTER

We could praise God for the many ways He is working in His people at this time. We see a powerful spiritual awakening in various parts of the world, and among different people groups! We are happy to share just a few short examples of reports we’ve received in the following newsletter. Please send in any sightings of God moving in special ways so we can pass them on to encourage and give ideas to others. And share this newsletter as widely as possible with all your networks.

Thanks for all you are doing to keep this most important priority before our people.

Your Brothers in Jesus,
Youth Pray Through the Night

Recently 500 young people from all over the Mizo Conference in India came together for Ten Days of Prayer, August 1-10, 2013. They alternately met together and prayed throughout the day and into the night.

During the last three days, many young people gave their testimonies. With tears in their eyes, they shared from their hearts what changes they had experienced, and what God had done in their lives. For three nights, the majority of them stayed up all night, singing, praying, and giving testimonies. The Lord sustained them from getting tired as they attended the meeting the next day. Read more [here](http://bit.ly/15n9RU).

Revival Wave Beginning in Fiji

“Words cannot describe the revival that took place in Fiji, June 14-28, 2013,” reports Colin Hone, lay evangelist from Wamberal, Australia, who was invited to speak throughout the country on prayer and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Every night two or more churches within a district would come together to hear the message. Afterward, they broke up into small groups to pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the fruits of the Spirit to be seen in their lives.

“People apologized and reconciled with each other over past grievances,” says Hone. “They forgave each other, and cried tears of joy. This happened in all 18 districts throughout Fiji!”

This revival was to prepare for the evangelistic meetings by Justin Lawman, the
Northern New South Wales Conference president. At the end of the meetings, 500 people were baptized. Read more http://bit.ly/15nbnWO.

Tokyo 13

Reaching a city the size of Tokyo, with 35 million people in the metropolitan area, has been a daunting challenge to the 3,500 church members living there. The Adventist-to-population ratio is 1:10,000. In spite of skepticism and doubts, church leaders met together to address the challenge. Many of the church members in Tokyo are 65 years of age or older, and the total amount of tithe has decreased in recent years.

Using the counsel of Ellen White on working the cities, they focused on prayer and scripture as a foundation for a revival among the current members. They divided up into eight small groups, had revival meetings, shared testimonies, held a camp meeting and had joint worships and joint prayer meetings together.

Then the groups extended their focus to relationships, and reaching existing networks among them: alumni groups, youth groups, and inactive members. These activities brought about a big change among the church members, for now they
saw themselves as evangelists, and began working to win their loved ones and neighbors for Christ!

During September and the beginning of October, the eight groups each held their own meetings, and decisions were made for Christ. At least 60 people were baptized, with nearly 30 more who are currently studying to be baptized. God is breaking down walls in this hard-to-reach area. Read more http://bit.ly/1ebi4NK.

Luanda for Christ

After 25 years of civil strife, the country of Angola is now ripe for a harvest. In a setting with more than 80,000 church members, church leaders invited lay people to participate in small groups of 6 people. Each one was to bring in five more, making a group of 30. They had hoped that at least 20,000 would commit to participate, forming at least 4,000 small
groups. When leaders called for a commitment from the participants, 43,000 people agreed to participate, making not just 4,000 groups but 8,000 small groups!

In September, when the participants all met together, they filled two stadiums—one with 20,000 people, the other with 40,000. They have already baptized 17,000. By the end of the year, they will have a big baptism, and expect their membership to grow to 120,000. Read more http://sidadventist.org/?p=527.

NY13

"When the cities are worked as God would have them, the result will be the setting in operation of a mighty movement such as we have not yet witnessed." Medical Ministry p. 304

There is evidence that this promise is being fulfilled. As members are engaging in comprehensive ministries and hundreds of evangelistic meetings, God is blessing this effort. The number of baptisms in the New York City area this year is up nearly 50 percent from that of last year, which was their highest year. Members and leaders are working together, lives are being changed, miracles are happening, and, because of a very aggressive follow up, more members are being assimilated and trained for service, increasing attendance in the local churches. Leaders say that there is more interest and compassion for the people in New York City than they have seen in years past.

A Second Chance At Baptism

Hilander Torres woke up one Sabbath morning and felt deeply impressed that God was directing him to go to the nearest Seventh-day Adventist Church and be baptized. Nearly seven weeks earlier, Torres had attended all of Revelation of
Hope meetings held in the Manhattan Seventh-day Adventist Church, where Elder Ted Wilson, President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, had conducted meetings. At the time he had felt convicted by the message, believed it was the truth, and knew he should have been baptized, but for some reason he didn’t do it. For weeks he had been struggling with his decision, and prayed about it, asking God for direction.

Now, as he opened the Yellow Pages to look for the nearest Seventh-day Adventist church, he found the address for the Hanson Place Seventh-day Adventist Church, and went there. As he walked in, he realized that they were just finishing up the same Revelation of Hope series that he had attended weeks earlier! And by divine appointment, they were having a big baptism that day!

After the service, when Dr. Delbert Baker, the speaker for the series and General Vice President for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, made an appeal, Torres eagerly came forward, requesting to be baptized that day. The Bible Worker, surprised at his determination, talked with him and suggested that he may want to study with someone before making this decision. Torres then explained that he had already studied, and had attended all the meetings, and believed it was the truth, and wanted to be baptized. So he took the baptismal vows and was baptized. Hilander praises God for giving him another chance to take his stand for Him. The Hanson Place members are rejoicing that their meetings ended up with 37 baptisms so far.

Importunate Prayers Answered

A Haitian couple lived in the greater New York City area, in a community without a Seventh-day Adventist Church. The wife came in contact with a Seventh-day Adventist lady, and wanted to go to church with her, but the lady’s church was 45 minutes away, making it difficult to attend on a regular basis. So the Haitian lady took her concern to God, and started praying for a Haitian church to come to her community.
In another part of the city, conference leaders targeted several areas around the city where they would plant new churches as a result of NY13. This lady’s community was chosen as one of the targeted areas! And better yet, it was to be a Haitian church, just as she had prayed! Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear (Isa. 65:24, NIV). This dedicated lady was baptized June 29, 2013, along with her three daughters. She was the first member on the register of names for that newly organized Haitian Seventh-day Adventist Church.

**Spanish Church Plants English Church in South Bronx**

The Fusion Seventh-day Adventist Church was organized as a company on January 5, 2013, by the Mott Haven Spanish Church. Young people, between the ages of 13-28, took the initiative and went out to serve their community, and today more than 40 people meet there every Sabbath. The young people are the leaders and elders of the church. Several of them are professionals. There are very few older adults. They were organized as a church in September, 2013.

True miracles happen every week. These young people have been working in 22 community centers, and they currently have eight walk-by Prayer Stations, and conduct 130 Bible studies every week. Read more [http://bit.ly/17VxXBS](http://bit.ly/17VxXBS).

**Couple Rediscovers Church**

A young Chinese architect from the University of Indiana married a woman who had an Adventist background. He went to Notre Dame to get his Master’s degree,
and while there, the two periodically attended the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan. After he graduated from Notre Dame, the couple moved to New York City, but couldn't find a church that interested both of them. So they began listening to Adventist pastors on the radio. After listening to the radio for some time, the Lord convicted them to return to church. About that same time, they received a flyer in the mail for the Revelation of Hope meetings being conducted in the Manhattan Seventh-day Adventist Church. The couple attended the meetings, and from the beginning, decided to be baptized. Elder Tony Romeo, the local church pastor, had the privilege of baptizing them and welcoming them into the faith.

Med Student Changes Priorities

Moses is a medical student attending the University of Massachusetts. Although he had some Adventist background, he was not baptized. He had a rotation of shadowing a physician at Columbia University, in New York City, during the month of January. While he was there, he attended the weekend Convocation held at Hunter College, where Elder Ted Wilson, Seventh-day Adventist World Church President and other church leaders spoke. Knowing that Elder Wilson would be conducting a series of meetings in New York City in June, he arranged to have his academic schedule changed, so he could be back in New York City to attend the meetings. He faithfully attended and was baptized June 29, 2013 in the Nassau Coliseum in Long Island, New York.

Chained to Sinful Habits

John was a middle-aged man living in Greenwich Village who was brought up Catholic. When his mother received the handbill in the mail for the Revelation of Hope meetings, she gave it to John. John, along with his brother, decided to check out the meetings that were held in the Manhattan Seventh-day Adventist Church. John was touched as he listened to God’s Word, and felt convicted by the Holy Spirit. He wanted to be baptized, but felt chained to several habits he had acquired
while living in the world. John pled with God to free him from those controlling habits, and surrendered his life to Christ. God delivered him and gave him victory over his sins. John was baptized June 29, 2013, and became a new person in Christ. His brother also wanted to be baptized, and is currently studying with the local pastor.

**Manhattan Life Hope Center**

June was the debut month for Life Hope Center at Bryant Park, a Center of Influence that is in Manhattan's Midtown area. The center will offer services such as seminars, presentations, health screening, Bible studies, fitness classes, counseling, vegetarian and plant-based cooking classes, and seminars, in order to connect with the community and reach out to people at their felt needs.

As lunch seminars, happy hour lectures, and other events are being promoted on a monthly basis, a new church is also being planted on the premises. Called The Upper Room at Bryant Park, it meets every Saturday at 5:30 pm. A week-night Bible study meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 pm, with Thursday being a follow-up study to evangelistic series conducted by Elder Ted Wilson, Seventh-day Adventist Church President.
By Pastor Bledi Leno, host Pastor for The Upper Room at Bryant Park in Manhattan, New York.

Hip Story that Leads to Jesus

“In March 2013 I learned that the Veterans Administration (VA) would replace my right hip. Then my doctor told me that as long as I smoked they wouldn't replace it because they found that an infection is often a by-product of smoking. I determined to quit smoking. I got an e-cigarette on March 6. I had no idea that this one action would lead me on a path back to Jesus.

“After a couple of weeks, I realized that drinking coffee was making it hard to keep my mind off of having a cigarette, even with the e-cigarette, so I stopped drinking coffee. The same with alcohol; I quit drinking. I started reading my Bible, and found this site. I became impressed to "visit" the Redding Seventh-day Adventist Church and felt such warmth that I continued going week after week. By June, I had joined the 777 prayer circle and felt such power. I also found myself talking to Jesus throughout the day about small things that bothered me; I can feel His listening presence.

“I received a tax bill that I had no money to pay. At first I fretted, then I said, ‘Lord I don't have this money, so you handle this.’ About a week later, I received a refund check in the mail which allowed me to not only pay the tax bill, but to pay tithe on the money and give an offering to a church project that had touched my heart. ‘My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus!’

“After more than 26 years away from Him, He used my desire for a new hip as the carrot to lead me back to His side. In the hustle of the world, the trials of life, and my sinful condition I had forgotten the peace found in being with Christ... My God came and got me, His lost sheep.”

Marilyn Fletcher
Lewiston, California
Vision One Mission

More than 15,000 members in the South Colombia Union, of the Inter-American Division, are actively involved in recruiting, training, deploying, and motivating one million members to live in readiness for Christ’s return, and be active witnesses, reports Dr. Balvin Braham, Assistant to the Division President, Inter-American Division. Participants of Vision One Mission are involved in Revived by His Word (the daily Bible reading plan), daily prayer initiatives, (prayer groups over the telephone, face to face, and through social media at 7:00 am and 7:00 pm), small groups, and personal evangelism. During the first half of the 2013 alone, more than 10,000 souls were baptized as a result of this initiative. More than 2,000 evangelistic campaigns were held, leading up to the Vision One Mission Celebration on Sabbath, May 4, when 3,580 of them were baptized. Vision One Million, is an initiative that first began in 2011 and will continue until 2015, but members have already pledged to make this a way of life. Their lives have been changed and are motivated to make Bible reading and prayer a part of their daily lives.

10 Days of Prayer, 2014

Plan now to participate in the next 10 Days of Prayer, January 8-18, 2014. Organize an event at your church or invite a small group into your home. Either way, you’ll be blessed! The time spent in prayer is never wasted. “Never be reluctant to pray, for prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven’s treasure house. Without regular prayer we are in danger of growing careless and losing our way” (A Call to Stand Apart,
p. 40). Go to www.TenDaysofPrayer.org to download the leader’s guides and theme sheets.

Here’s what previous participants are sharing:

“This year the Ten Days of Prayer has been a success at our church. . . . We have many backslidden members but now most members have returned and new members have joined after the Ten Days of Prayer. As a local church we are planning to have a similar event in the month of May 2013.”--Bentry Phiri

“Thank you for this program as it has created lots of interest in prayer activities in Eastern Nigeria Union Mission.”--Josiah C. Nwarungwa

“The Ten Days of Prayer were a great blessing for our group in Newcastle (Australia). I want to thank you for the themes you prepared in Spanish. They were awesome!! We experienced unity, forgiveness, and a great desire to develop the virtues of 2 Peter 1:5-7. One hundred percent of our group participated for the first time and enjoyed it.”--Roberto Velasquez

Praying 777

“I appreciate very much the 777 prayer plan. Indeed, it is the most needed thing [to pray worldwide] intensively for the work in the big cities of the world. May God listen to
thousands of sincere prayers of those who desire the Lord to come very soon.”

Robert Conrad
Brazil

“I am a volunteer of He's Coming Broadcasting Network Philippines, a supporting ministry of our church. We want to air your 777 videos as fillers on our TV programs to promote 777 prayer . . . ”

Blessie Ensencio
Philippines

The 777 prayer themes for fourth quarter 2013 are available at http://www.revivalandreformation.org/777.

Revived by His Word Feedback

“Your daily devotionals have actually been a blessing to me and many others... A revival at the time of emergency, when I was at the verge of losing my soul spiritually. Thanks be to God for reviving and reforming my life again through your web page.”

Osei Frimpong Richard
Ghana

"I am so encouraged by this initiative. I really enjoy the blogs for each of the chapter readings. They really provide explanations to each of the chapters read. Thank you so much."

Mishael Daniel Mwachiyaba
Kola, Zambia
“Love, love, love this program.”
Penelope Bidwell
Madison, Tennessee, USA

“I love studying together and sharing what we learn. Some of the group have the most beautiful prayers. And it’s wonderful to hear the testimonies on the answers to the prayer requests. I hope somehow that we can continue studying after GC.”
Grace Huse
Chico, California, USA

“I really appreciate the Bible blog at the end of each chapter. It makes the chapter come alive. Otherwise I would miss a lot from my reading of the Bible. May God bless you for this effort.”
Mxolisi Myendeki
South Africa

“I want to thank you for doing this project! I would like to incorporate this into our church’s website . . . .”
Daniel Gray
Stafford, Virginia, USA

Once again the hashtag #RPSP (Revived By His Word in Spanish and Portuguese) was the third most popular Trending Topic on Twitter for Oct 1, 2013 in the country of Brazil, reports Pastor Magdiel Perez Schulz, Executive Secretary
for the South American Division! Schulz says this occurs frequently through the year since so many members are commenting on it.

R&R on Facebook

The Revival and Reformation Facebook page has over 57,000 followers, with a reach of more than 300,000 different people, and 11,000 people engaged (by sharing it, commenting on it, or “liking” it) with something that was posted.

Join over 4,000 members, who are interacting in our Facebook group for discussion, sharing, and talks about the daily Bible reading.

New Resources

Revived by God’s Word, the mini handbook on Bible Study, is now available in print form. It includes chapters on practical tips for Bible study, practical methods of Bible study, memorizing God’s Word, and applying God’s Word to your life. Reprinting, copying, and translation are encouraged, as long as the content is kept intact, copyright is attributed to the General Conference Ministerial Association, and credit is given to the authors. It can be downloaded at www.revivalandreformation.org/bible-study.
Mini Handbook on Prayer

Praying for Rain has been translated into 14 languages, with commitments to translate it into Norwegian, and Hindi. You can read it in various languages and download it at www.revivalandreformation.org/prayer.

Transformation

Jim Ayer shares his personal journey and unfolds the practical wisdom and understanding God has provided for every person that leads to the re-creation of your whole person—from the inside out. Your Daily Journey to Transformation is a companion study guide to the book Transformation, and will explore your personal relationship with God, that will move you out of your comfort zone and into a life shaped and powered by the Holy Spirit. Both books are available through the Adventist Book Center.
**Bible Studies for Kids**

The General Conference Children’s Ministries Department has created a set of Bible studies, which are a creative, kid-friendly approach to the 28 fundamental beliefs. It will introduce children to the pillars of faith. It is perfect for Primary-aged children to study by themselves, or with their parents, in preparation for baptism, in Sabbath schools, and Bible classes. You can view them online [here](#).

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**2014 Family Ministries Planbook**

Themed “Revival and Reformation: Families Reaching Across,” the 2014 Family Ministries Planbook is designed to assist pastors and ministry leaders in communicating the importance of reaching out to neighbors, relatives, and friends.
with a ministry of compassion and grace. From seminars and children’s stories to articles and book reviews, it features an abundance of resources to enhance ministries to families around the world.

Available from AdventSource (adventsource.org or 402-486-8800) or online at family.adventist.org.

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