January 20, 2011 -- Happy New Year!

4,000 Youth Knock on Doors in Baltimore

Some 4,000 young people spent part of New Year’s Day knocking on doors, sharing their faith, promoting upcoming health seminars and offering Bible studies to people throughout Baltimore. In just a few hours, this army of youth visited 38,000 homes, prayed with 2,227 people, distributed more than 50,000 pieces of literature and flyers advertising health seminars at area churches and rejoiced over receiving 1,480 Bible study requests.

The outreach initiative was one of the highlights of the 9th annual Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC) conference, convened last month at the Baltimore Civic Center. In his Sabbath sermon, Seventh-day Adventist Church president Ted Wilson (pictured) encouraged attendees to live out their conference theme “No Turning Back” by becoming involved in their local churches, attending church business meetings, accompanying church elders on visitations, teaching Sabbath School and helping to finish the work of preparing people for Christ’s soon return. “We have a work to do, and there must be no turning back,” he said. Afterwards he joined their outreach efforts.—Seth Shaffer contributed to this report.

READ MORE AND SEE PHOTOS
Adventist Recovery Ministry Marks 25 Years

Last Sabbath Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., hosted the 25th anniversary celebration of Adventist Recovery Ministries (ARMin). The Christ-centered, 12-step recovery program helps people recognize their need for recovery from any and all addictions through Jesus Christ—the highest power. The daylong program started with the divine service, during which ARMin founder Hal Gates shared his own testimony of overcoming alcohol, drug, gambling and sex addictions.—Story by Taashi Rowe; Photo by Gary Lunsford

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Adventist Hospitals Receive $1 Million Grant

Women in Washington, D.C., metropolitan area now have improved access to breast care services due to a nearly $1 million grant from Susan G. Komen for the Cure given to Adventist HealthCare, the largest single Komen grant ever awarded to the health network.

The four-year, $917,000 grant will fund the Navigate to Health: Rapid Referral Program, which will provide comprehensive breast care services to medically underserved, low-income, minority women in Montgomery and Prince George’s counties. The grant will be split between Adventist HealthCare’s two local acute care hospitals, Shady Grove Adventist and Washington Adventist. The health network is partnering with the Montgomery County Primary Care Coalition for the program.—Story by Melissa Lavine

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Adventist Inducted Into Civil Rights Hall of Fame

Frank Hale Jr., PhD, along with nine others, was recently
inducted into the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame. This member of the Allegheny West Conference’s Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, is a vice provost and professor emeritus at The Ohio State University (OSU). He is also a nationally-renowned educator who has spent his life advocating for diversity, equity and access. Hale has served the education community locally and internationally for more than 54 years, including service as OSU’s first African-American graduate school dean. In this capacity, Hale advocated for excellence through diversity and, in collaboration with the university-wide fellowship committee, was responsible for leading the effort to secure more than $15 million in graduate fellowship awards that were granted to nearly 1,200 minority students. —Story by Visitor Staff; Photos by Dan Yount, Cincinnati Herald

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Visitor Touts Whole Health for 2011

Adventists operate 700 hospitals and clinics around the world and often tout the benefits of “the health message” from the pulpit. But do we live it? Do we share it? Here are 4 ways to kick off your year of whole health:

1. Read your January Visitor where health professionals make the case for embracing and sharing whole health in 2011. Also, find out what 18 foods you should eat this year!

2. Get Your 2011 Visitor Calendar themed “Whole Health” and hang it where you can see it everyday! If you’d like extras to share with your non-member friends, email bweigley@columbiaunion.net. Free while supplies last.

3. Watch Columbia Union Story #7, which features inspiring stories from our Adventist HealthCare and Kettering Adventist HealthCare. Show the stories in church or enjoy them for vespers.

4. Listen to our January podcast of AudioVisitor, which features an interview with Lynette Moore, MD, who lost 100 pounds! Read her story in your January Visitor too!

WATCH A VIDEO HEALTH TIP FROM KATIA REINERT ABOUT BALANCE
Top 5 Church Websites
Article A Hit!

We’re hearing from some of you that you really liked our website feature. To arrive at our decision, we reviewed nearly 700 church websites from across the Columbia Union, selecting the best ones from EACH of our eight conferences. Then we asked five web professionals and designers to grade each one. We tallied the numbers and the churches with the top scores made the top 5. Congrats to Chesapeake’s New Hope church in Fulton, Md., for earning the title “Best Columbia Union Church Website!” Others with great potential whose sites were current or had special features were included in our honorable mention list. We hope this feature and the tips shared will inspire churches to make their websites strong representatives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

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4,000 Youth Knock on Doors in Baltimore

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The outreach initiative was one of the highlights of the 9th annual Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC) conference, convened last month at the Baltimore Civic Center.

In preparation for their second event in Baltimore (they also met here in 2006), leaders of the youth- and young adult-led organization called on the Chesapeake Conference to select neighborhoods ripe for evangelism and develop a plan to follow up with anyone interested in Bible studies. Lillian Torres, Columbia Union Bible Instructor trainer, and two of GYC’s leaders—Chelsy Jourdan, vice president for evangelism and Matthew Tinkham, Jr.—prepared members from 11 Chesapeake churches to give Bible studies.

According to Kleyton Feitosa, conference evangelism coordinator, the large response marks a significant benchmark in their outreach and evangelism efforts in Baltimore. He says the newly trained members are already following up with the interests.

In addition to this outreach effort, attendees of GYC (gycweb.org) spent their holiday weekend attending seminars, visiting exhibits, and listening to keynote messages all designed to strengthen their faith and inspire them to engage in ministry. In his Sabbath sermon, Seventh-day Adventist Church president Ted Wilson (pictured above) encouraged them to live out their conference theme “No Turning Back” by becoming involved in their local churches, attending church business meetings, accompanying church elders on visitations, teaching Sabbath School and helping to finish the work of preparing people for Christ’s soon return. “We have a work to do, and there must be no turning back,” he said. Afterwards he joined their outreach efforts.
Members Celebrate 25 Years of Regeneration
Story by Taashi Rowe

Last Sabbath Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., hosted the 25th anniversary celebration of Adventist Recovery Ministries (ARMin). The Christ-centered, 12-step recovery program helps people recognize their need for recovery from any and all addictions through Jesus Christ—the highest power.

The daylong program started with the divine service, during which ARMin founder Hal Gates shared his own testimony of overcoming alcohol, drug, gambling and sex addictions. “It has not to do with the [ARMin] program, but with the Holy Spirit of God making new creatures out of old reprobates, new creatures out of addicts. People who have worried too much, drank too much, eaten too much … done whatever our postmodern society thinks is the way to go,” he said.

The celebration continued into the evening with testimonies from recovering addicts, a puppet show, a panel discussion and music. Ray Nelson, director of ARMin, shared the church’s history with drug abuse prevention. He noted that the nascent Seventh-day Adventist Church shunned the “evils of ardent spirits” and saw tobacco as a “filthy, health-destroying, God-dishonoring practice.” However, a practical ministry to help members deal with and successfully recover from addictions did not come until 1986 when God inspired Gates to start ARMin. With Bible texts and passages from Steps to Christ, the program is an adaptation of the Alcoholics Anonymous 12-step program and puts Christ at its center.

In this program, “Jesus is the highest power and we acknowledge that He can do for us what we cannot do for ourselves,” Nelson explains.

Pat Mutch, former director for the Institute for the Prevention of Addictions at Andrews University (Mich.), encouraged attendees to rejoice over what the Lord has done with this ministry. She said when she started doing research on Adventists and alcohol abuse in the 1980s, “our biggest problem was that we didn’t have a problem.”

Gates calls it being in the “congregational closet.” He says, “If you don’t recognize you have a problem you won’t do anything about it. I had to recognize that my life was unmanageable. I got to the point where my whole life existed because of my addictive behavior. I’m now going into 31 years of sobriety. It is amazing when you let go and let God do what you cannot do for yourself.”
DeWitt Williams, Former North American Division Health Ministries director, said, "Most of us don’t confess our problems because we have a darling sin that we must nurture and are not willing to give up. But when you give your strong weakness to God, He heals."

One woman, who described herself as "addicted to people, places, things, situations and ideas," was trying to escape her addictions when she ended up at the Westminster (Md.) church. They had just started an addiction recovery program and she was one of the first people to enroll. A lifelong Adventist, she said, "I couldn’t tell anyone of y’all—I couldn’t tell anyone that I was in pain, and I couldn’t get help." Because of the church’s program she has now been clean for 19 years.

“Yes, we are celebrating, but we still have lots of work to do," said the coordinator for the Atlantic and Columbia unions. "We need more people to be committed to helping free others from addiction."

ARMin’s 25-year anniversary celebration will continue all year at different churches nationwide. For more information or to find meetings, visit adventistregenerationministries.org.
A team from Shady Grove Adventist Hospital took part in the 2010 Susan G. Komen Global Race for the Cure in Washington, D.C.

Women in Washington, D.C., metropolitan area now have improved access to breast care services due to a nearly $1 million grant from Susan G. Komen for the Cure given to Adventist HealthCare, the largest single Komen grant ever awarded to the health network.

Shady Grove, Washington Adventist Hospitals Receive $1 Million Komen Grant

Story by Marissa Lavine

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The four-year, $917,000 grant will fund the Navigate to Health: Rapid Referral Program, which will provide comprehensive breast care services to medically underserved, low-income, minority women in Montgomery and Prince George’s counties. The grant will be split between Adventist HealthCare’s two local acute care hospitals, Shady Grove Adventist and Washington Adventist. The health network is partnering with the Montgomery County Primary Care Coalition for the program.

“We are grateful to Komen for providing this grant that will allow us to create a program to expand and enhance breast care services for women in our community,” said William G. “Bill” Robertson, Adventist HealthCare president and CEO. “We believe that this important program will improve health and save lives among local women.”

Through the Navigate to Health program, which started during this first quarter of 2011, the hospitals are expected to offer breast cancer care and services for approximately 2,000 new patients between 2011 and 2014. The program will also help them offer specialized services to decrease the time between diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer for local women. Additionally, the Navigate to Health program will help the hospitals expand the number of mammograms they provide to underserved women, educate local women on breast self-awareness and enhance the follow-up process for women who have had a positive result from a screening.

“We know that breast cancer is one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers among Marylanders,” said Gaurov Dayal, chief medical officer for Adventist HealthCare. “This program not only aligns with our mission of improving the health of our community, but it also provides an important service to women who may not have access to breast cancer screening and treatment.”

The Navigate to Health program is a wonderful addition to Adventist HealthCare’s numerous community programs. In 2009 both hospitals contributed approximately $63 million in community benefit through charity care and other programs—more than any other health system in Montgomery County. Programs at Shady Grove Adventist and Washington Adventist hospitals have been providing free mammograms to local women for the past 18 years.
Frank Hale Jr., PhD, explains that by fighting for students’ rights, civil rights era educators like himself were hoping to inspire them to make excellence their goal and superiority their norm. Frank Hale Jr., PhD, along with nine others, was recently inducted into the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame. This member of the Allegheny West Conference’s Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, is a vice provost and professor emeritus at The Ohio State University (OSU). He is also a nationally-renowned educator who has spent his life advocating for diversity, equity and access. Hale has served the education community locally and internationally for more than 54 years, including service as OSU’s first African-American graduate school dean. In this capacity, Hale advocated for excellence through diversity and, in collaboration with the university-wide fellowship committee, was responsible for leading the effort to secure more than $15 million in graduate fellowship awards that were granted to nearly 1,200 minority students.

During the induction ceremony, Hale explained that by fighting for students’ rights, civil rights activist/educators like himself were hoping to inspire them to make excellence their goal and superiority their norm.

“‘Civil Rights’ are two powerful words,” Hale said. “You can’t be civil and bigoted too. Diversity is about dynamic expression of collaboration in which various groups have the opportunity to explore, to learn to appreciate and celebrate one another and to that degree they can learn to appreciate each other’s heritage and each other’s history.”

He founded the university’s Graduate and Professional Visitation Day program and the undergraduate equivalent, the Minority Scholar’s Program, in an effort to actively recruit underserved and underrepresented student groups. During Hale’s tenure at OSU, the university became the number one producer of Black PhD students. He has served on many national boards, including the United Negro College Fund, the Ohio Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission and the Seventh-day Adventist Commission on Higher Education. He is the author of 11 books and has been published in more than 50 professional journals.

Frank Hale Jr., PhD, was among 10 civil rights pioneers recently inducted into the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame.
Balance--Katia Reinert

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