Columbia Union President to Preach Prophecy Series

New Jersey Conference’s Robbinsville church will host an eight-night evangelism series starting this Friday, March 25. With the theme “Prophecy Countdown,” speaker Dave Weigley, an evangelist and president of the Columbia Union Conference, will expound on the books of Daniel and Revelation. “There’s no more important time in Earth’s history to understand what the Bible has to say about the religious, social and economic things we see in society and that we hear about on the news every night,” says Art Randall, pastor of the Robbinsville church. In preparation for the meetings, 35-40 members, trained by Lillian Torres, Columbia Union and Pennsylvania Conference Bible instructor/trainer, have been giving Bible studies. The series, which will also be available at newjerseyconference.org, will feature topics such as “The Next Super Power,” “On the Eve of Armageddon” and “Heaven: Fact or Fiction.”

During the past five years, Weigley has spoken for series in West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, South Africa, Argentina and India. For more information on the series,
Union ASI Chapter Hosts Convention in New Jersey

Two Sabbaths ago, members and supporters of the Columbia Union chapter of Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries (CUASI) gathered at Allegheny East Conference’s Trinity Temple in Newark, N.J., for their annual convention. Sabbath was the highlight of the two-day event. For Sabbath School, several of the chapter’s 69 members shared testimonies about how God is using them to witness in the marketplace while others set up exhibits that featured their ministries. Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division, shared the worship message, and afterwards, some church members stayed by for training in hosting home-based DVD evangelism meetings. “As laborers for God serving as CEOs, presidents, professionals, ministry leaders and directors, God has called each of us to a higher, nobler work,” said Denise Hayden, a business owner and president of the chapter, explaining the meeting theme “Workmen and Workwomen Worthy of Their Hire.” Though she’s been serving as president for almost 10 years, Hayden was easily re-elected and surrounded by a team of enthusiastic officers (pictured).—Celeste Ryan Blyden

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Adventist HealthCare Names Senior Vice President

Jere Stocks, who has served as president of Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH) in Takoma Park, Md., for the past six years, was named senior vice president of Adventist HealthCare and chair of its new Next Century Health initiative. In his new role, Stocks will focus on forging expanded collaboration with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and developing additional research and healthcare partnership initiatives around healthcare delivery in the 21st century. WAH is looking to build a hospital on land adjacent to the FDA and has already begun talks with its leaders about projects.—Lydia Parris

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Portela to Take Helm at Washington Adventist Hospital

Joyce Portela, who first joined Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH) in 2009 as senior executive officer, will take Jere Stocks’ place as president. Portela, a healthcare executive with more than 20 years of experience at hospitals in California, Florida, Kansas and Tennessee, is now charged with leading the 281-bed tertiary healthcare facility started over a century ago with proceeds from Ellen White’s book, *The Ministry of Healing*. “We are here to serve everyone—those with and those without health insurance,” she says. “We must prove ourselves each and every day with each and every patient. I look forward to being of service to the community.”—Lydia Parris

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Adventist Couple Featured in Pennsylvania Newspaper

Pennsylvania member Aida Suris Tucker just sent me a newspaper clipping from The Record Herald in Waynesboro, Pa. It features her parents, Adolfo and Marcela Suris, who were profiled and interviewed in the paper’s March 11 Super Seniors section. The couple, who celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary March 10, helped start the first Spanish Seventh-day Adventist church in Washington, D.C. Now members of the Waynesboro (Pa.) church, they are still active in ministry, even though they are ages 98 and 93 respectively. They host Spanish migrant workers each Sabbath for home church and dinner, pray for church members at 4 p.m. daily and look for opportunities to share Christ in their community. “When we hear a Spanish voice while shopping in Waynesboro, we try to invite that person to our home to tell them about Jesus and, if needed, counsel them about any problems they might have,” they told the newspaper reporter. What an amazing couple and what an inspiring! story! Thanks for sharing, Aida.—Celeste Ryan Blyden

READ THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Adventists Featured in Religion News Service, USA Today Articles
You probably saw or heard about this headline in USA Today last Friday: “Adventists’ back-to-basics faith is fastest growing U.S. church.” Originally published by Religion News Service, it begins: “Rest on the Sabbath. Heed Old Testament dietary codes. And be ready for Jesus to return at any moment. If these practices sound quaint or antiquated, think again. They're hallmarks of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the fastest-growing Christian denomination in North America. Newly released data show Seventh-day Adventism growing by 2.5% in North America, a rapid clip for this part of the world, where Southern Baptists and mainline denominations, as well as other church groups are declining. Adventists are even growing 75% faster than Mormons (1.4 percent), who prioritize numeric growth. For observers outside the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the growth rate in North America is perplexing. …”

First of all that’s great news and it’s also great that this was printed in “America’s Newspaper,” which has a circulation of 1.8 million (2010 figures). Religion News Service is a 75-year-old, secular wire service that covers religion and ethics exclusively. Each week’s stories are viewed by 125,000 website viewers and dozens of newspapers and media organizations who pay to access and reprint the material. So far, a religious blog, Beliefnet, also picked up the article. Secondly, that means we got great mileage from the article, something we could not have afforded to pay for if asked. This would be a great time for Adventist communicators and public relations gurus to follow up on this story and engage local religion editors in featuring more of our churches and ministries. Finally, while many are excited about the exposure and opportunities the articles have brought to our media-starved church, we can’t ignore the telling comments! they have garnered. The USA Today article alone has yielded more than 140 comments so far; check ‘em out.

READ USA TODAY ARTICLE

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