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Manassas Church Builds Bridges to Community

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Read the entire October Visitor online here!

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Adventist Church Saves $1 Million With Online Event

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Volunteers distributed more than 4,000 Adventist books, tracts and magazines to participants. Organizers have started planning for Let’s Move Columbus 2015 and already have community organizations committing to sponsor and take part next September.

Find more information and pictures from the event at letsmovecolumbus.org.
Kettering College Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program Approved

October 6, 2014 · by Michelle Bernard · in Education , Kettering College , Ohio Conference

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Nate Brandstater, president, says, “We are thanking God for this wonderful, new opportunity to serve through the training of healthcare professionals at the doctoral level.”

Terrance Anderson has led this work from the beginning as inaugural director of the Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD). He and the rest of Kettering’s OTD faculty and staff continue to prepare for the arrival of the first cohort of students. They have been working particularly hard to develop clinical placement agreements for future students.

Victor Brown, dean for enrollment and student life, says, “This approval is exciting news for Kettering College. It will help cement our reputation as a leading healthcare university.”

Kettering College administration are still finalizing details, such as the start date and application deadlines, but Anderson states they are working hard to be able to begin the program as soon as possible.
Manassas Church Builds Bridges to Community

October 8, 2014 · by Michelle Bernard · in Potomac Conference

Manassas Church Builds Bridges to Community

Story by Tiffany Doss

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In early August, the church worked in conjunction with SERVE, a sector of Northern Virginia Family Services, to help students in need. Students requested supplies through the sector, giving them their name, school and grade. SERVE then purchased the supplies and put them in a backpack with the student’s name on it. These backpacks were taken to the Manassas church, organized by members and distributed to students.

The church also invited the community to their annual Vacation Bible School, offered the use of their school’s playground, recently purchased soccer goals for local kids to play on the church’s ball field and, during the summer, held Family Movie Nights, in which they would feature a family-friendly movie and provide concessions.

“We provided free watermelon and our Pathfinders sold popcorn and other snacks. About 60 people from the
neighborhood attended,” says Pastor Davis. Since then the church has been alternating between movies for kids and those that an older audience might enjoy.

Evidence that the community is starting to respond to the church’s efforts is seen in the tremendous turn out at their recent Neighborhood Fall Festival. More than 375 guests from the neighborhood came in response to the invitations. More than 125 church members attended to meet their neighbors and help out with the booths, crafts and concessions.

“Because of this event, several families toured the church school and one may register their child,” reports Pastor Davis. “Twenty-nine people have requested additional information, including Bible studies, GED classes, ESL classes and other felt needs.”

Phil Dawson, the church’s elder for outreach, says, “Developing relationships is the first step in our ministry. Truly, God has blessed our efforts, and we pray He will continue to use each of us as we reach out to our neighbors for Him.”
Washington Adventist University Education Department Receives NADOE Endorsement

October 6, 2014 · by Michelle Bernard · in Education, Washington Adventist University

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“We are very pleased with the endorsement of our education department,” says Cheryl Harris Kisunzu, WAU provost. “Our faculty, staff and students demonstrate hard work and commitment throughout the year, and this endorsement is a wonderful reflection of their contributions and accomplishments.”

A team of evaluators from NADOE visited the university’s Takoma Park, Md., campus September 23 and 24 to assess the teacher education program. The team consisted of Carol Campbell, associate director of the NADOE, and members Ham Canosa, vice president for education at the Columbia Union Conference, and June Fiorito, chair of the School of Education at Canadian University College. They conducted a full endorsement visit that included a thorough review and evaluation of the university’s accreditation documents, program philosophy, course descriptions, syllabi, bulletin information, portfolios, assignments, student work samples and alumni testimony.

The areas assessed during the visit included religious preparation, methodology for teaching, principles and philosophy of Adventist education, principles of healthful living, experiences in multi-grade classrooms, Adventist curriculum materials and (to affirm the preparation of candidates for the ministry of teaching) experience in Seventh-day Adventist schools.

The visit also included validation of a curriculum library with all of the books recommended by the North American Division, a designated classroom with technology, and enough full-time faculty to meet the needs of the students enrolled in the WAU education program.

WAU is accredited by the Adventist Accrediting Association, with Department of Education accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and also by the Maryland Department of Education.
The Adventist community in the Takoma Park area celebrated the life of Sue Miller this morning at Sligo SDA Church. Miller, who died in a motorcycle crash last Sunday, was a teacher at Sligo Adventist School and an active member at Restoration Praise Center.

Read more at http://www.pcsda.org/2014/10/02/2220/
The appeal emphasizes that God established the headship of man over woman in the Garden of Eden and says He desires to maintain that hierarchy.

Story by Andrew McChesney News editor, Adventist Review

Editor’s note: On Aug. 22, the Adventist Review published an online story about the release of a consensus document by the faculty of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, “The Unique Headship of Christ.” We offer the following story about a recently published response to that earlier story.

A group of 25 Adventist theologians and pastors has appealed to faculty of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University to reconsider a recent statement on Biblical concepts of headship.

The group — which includes a current and a former seminary faculty member, alumni, and students, as well as professors from other North American Adventist universities — has sent an eight-page open appeal to the seminary, the church’s main North American training ground for pastors, in connection with the document approved by consensus in late August.

The appeal, dated Monday, “urges the faculty to reconsider their statement and adjust it so that it considers the full biblical counsel on this subject and be in harmony with the vital Protestant and Adventist principle of ‘the Bible and the Bible only.’”

“Instead of unifying church members, it seems that the document has brought confusion in regard to the Biblical view of Christ’s headship and its implications for leadership under Christ in the church,” the appeal says.

The appeal opens by concurring that Christ’s headship over the church is absolute. But it also says “the arguments in the seminary document to support His headship role are at times problematic.”

“We see the need to recognize that Scripture is clear that Christ has delegated leadership responsibility for His church to ministers and elders as undershepherds in His stead with His authority,” it says.

The appeal lists four “problematic arguments” from the seminary statement, and follows each with a reply.

The appeal makes no mention of women’s ordination, a divisive issue among some church members that may face a vote at the General Conference session next July.

Contradicting the seminary statement, the appeal affirms that God established the headship of man over woman in the Garden of Eden and says that God desires to maintain that hierarchy.

“There are clear indications in both the Bible and the writings of Ellen White that Adam had a leadership role before the entrance of sin, one that continued after the Fall, because both are created in the image of God,” it says.

“This view is in harmony with the plain teaching of the apostle Paul with regard to the equal value of men and women as heirs of salvation (Gal. 3:26-29).”

The signatories said they hoped seminary faculty would use their suggestions.

“We feel strongly about the reputation of the seminary and are concerned that this statement … will not solve the current controversy over gender and leadership roles in the church,” it says. “To the contrary, it may hurt the
seminary’s reputation, trust, and credibility among members in North America and worldwide, and may undermine our credibility among thinking scholars in other denominations.”

This story was originally published on *Adventist Review Online*. 
Artículo especial de Visitor: Siervo de Dios, amigo de la humanidad

Los miles de participantes en el camporí internacional de Conquistadores “Forever Faithful”, que se llevó a cabo este verano en Oshkosh, Wis., tomaron parte en muchos eventos de alcance y servicio comunitario además de intercambiar botones, obtener los honores, explorar las grandes salas de exposiciones y participar en numerosas otras actividades. Más de 5,000 Conquistadores y miembros de la directiva hicieron manualidades con los niños locales, sirvieron como voluntarios en la biblioteca pública Neenah Public, limpiaron la costa del lago Winneconne, sirvieron como voluntarios en Lutheran Homes and Health Services de Fond du Lac, y en numerosos otros proyectos. Algunos clubes también realizaron asesoramiento en la comunidad para ayudar a las iglesias locales a satisfacer mejor las necesidades después de acabado el camporí. Lo hicieron todo en su esfuerzo por ser un “siervo de Dios y amigo de la humanidad”, cumpliendo así la promesa del Conquistador durante su tiempo en Oshkosh.

Laarni Flores, director del club Piscataway Eagles de New Jersey Conference, de la iglesia Lake Nelson, dice que ser voluntario es importante para los Conquistadores porque, a una temprana edad, aprenden a ayudar a las demás personas. Flores ha sido un miembro de la directiva del club por más de cinco años y señala que los miembros que en el pasado estuvieron bien involucrados en servir, aún hoy están involucrados. “Ya forma parte de su vida”, dice ella. — V. Michelle Bernard

Read the entire story in English here.
Adventist Church President Calls for Day of Prayer for Ebola Victims

October 2, 2014 · by Michelle Bernard · in Uncategorized

Seventh-day Adventist Church President Ted N. C. Wilson issued the following statement on news.adventist.org last week:

On behalf of the leadership and membership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in its 13 world divisions, and indeed the more than 18 million members in 215 countries, I would like to express my deep concern for the people in West Africa who are living under the threat of the Ebola virus—particularly in the countries of Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Senegal and Nigeria.

I am urgently imploring all Seventh-day Adventists around this globe to make Sabbath, October 11, 2014 a special Day of Prayer for our brothers and sisters in West Africa and for the entire population in that region as they face this virtually unprecedented tragedy. Let us pray that God will put a halt to the spread of this virulent virus.

Having had the wonderful privilege of living and serving in West Africa with my wife and family for nine years, our hearts go out to the families of the more than 2,800 people who have already died from the epidemic. After news from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, which projects that by January cases could number between 550,000 to as high as 1.4 million, coupled with a 71 percent fatality rate according to the World Health Organization, we are devastated by the potential of this outbreak to destroy lives.

I especially want the Seventh-day Adventist Church worldwide and specifically the church members of the West-Central Africa Division to know that we who serve at the Church headquarters are praying for you, and we are joined by a global family of hope in God’s power to save.

There are many initiatives that are taking place on the part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its entities to assist in this extremely challenging crisis in West Africa. You will see or hear about these through ANN, Adventist Review, Adventist World, Hope Channel, Adventist World Radio and elsewhere.

On Thursday, September 25, 2014, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency hosted a prayer event in the Atrium of the General Conference building and were joined by many others via Google Hangout.

On October 1, 2014, the General Conference Ministerial Association will launch a global prayer campaign for those impacted by the Ebola virus. People around the world are expressing their support via social media through the hashtag #UnitedinPrayer.

On October 11, during 2014 Annual Council, there will be a live connection between the many world leaders who will meet at the General Conference headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, and Pastor James Golay, the president of the West African Union in Monrovia, Liberia. He will be staying in Liberia with our church members to encourage and support them during this very traumatic time instead of attending the Annual Council but will be connected electronically with the meetings. He will share with the world leadership a first-hand report about the critical situation in his territory of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia where we have 33,000 Seventh-day Adventists. After the report from Pastor Golay there will be a special prayer emphasis for those living facing this devastating situation.

Please remember the special Day of Prayer on Sabbath, October 11, 2014, for West Africa as the population confronts the rapidly expanding Ebola challenge.

In all of this we want those in West Africa to know that, not only during the Sabbath prayer emphasis, but day-by-day,
hour-by-hour, the people affected by this crisis will be lifted up in prayer to our Creator, Savior and Master Physician. Let us earnestly pray for the latter rain of the Holy Spirit and the proclamation of the three angels' messages, which will point people to Christ's soon coming when illness, diseases, the Ebola virus, fear and death will be conquered through God's almighty power to save for eternity. Even so, come Lord Jesus!

With kind Christian regards and sincerely yours,

Ted N. C. Wilson President General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Adventist Church Saves $1 Million With Online Event

STREAMING LIVE: André Brink, center, associate communication director for the General Conference, monitoring an online stewardship conference. Credit: Stewardship Ministries

Andrew McChesney News editor, Adventist Review

A stewardship conference shows that the church can reach more people at lower costs than with a traditional conference.

Posted October 3, 2014

Penny and André Brink may be among the most sought-after personnel at the Adventist world church's headquarters in recent days.

The South African married couple work in different departments — Penny is in stewardship and André is in communications — but the two teamed up on a recent weekend to help implement an unprecedented online conference that every General Conference department seems to be talking about.

The event: the World Stewardship Online Conference, which registered 2,000 sites in 83 countries for 12 hours of presentations by 15 speakers, including General Conference president Ted N.C. Wilson, vice presidents Pardon Mwansa and Benjamin Schoun, Inter-American Division president Israel Leito, and North American Division president Daniel R. Jackson.

The cost: about $20,000.

Compare that with the $1,168,000 that it would cost to organize a traditional conference of the same scale, and you'll see why church leaders are eager to pursue similar online conferences.

"This was a precedent-setting experience because I think this was the first of many more that will take place, in time, for the world church," said Schoun, who oversees technology and communications for the world church and previously worked as president of Adventist World Radio.

The General Conference and the church's world divisions and conferences have conducted online conferences in the past. But this was the first time that the General Conference attempted a conference of this size.

André Brink, associate communication director at the General Conference, crunched the numbers after the Sept. 19-21 conference, and Wilson immediately asked Schoun and Brink to share them in a report to the six-day Annual Council, a major church business meeting that starts Oct. 9.

A few figures about the online conference are unknown, such as how many people watched from the 2,000 registered sites.
sites. People have e-mailed photos of 60 to 200 people watching in churches and halls, while perhaps other people watched alone at home, Brink said. So Brink conservatively estimated that the online conference was watched by five people at each site.

That figure would mean that viewers watched the equivalent of 11,753 hours of presentations.

In contrast, Brink said, a regular Adventist conference of three speakers and 40 attendees held in a European city would result in 720 hours of presentations (if the speakers spoke a marathon 18 hours — instead of 12 — over three days). Airfare, hotel, transportation and per diem expenses for the smaller conference would amount to $52,800.

Organizers said the online conference also managed to accomplish several other feats that would be challenging to repeat at the typical smaller conference:

- The presentations were made available in four languages, English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.
- A total of 48 hours of video footage — the 12 hours of presentations in four languages — was recorded and will be made available online and to church-affiliated television channels.
- Organizers avoided the potentially herculean task of coordinating the jam-packed schedules of the General Conference president, two vice presidents, and other leaders so they could converge at the same location at the same time. The site of the broadcast — General Conference headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland — optimized the chances that the leaders would be available to participate. Wilson and Andrews Seminary professor Jo Ann Davidson recorded their remarks in advance, but their physical absence from the studio was all but unnoticeable to online viewers.
Penny Brink, conference co-organizer and assistant director of the Stewardship Ministries department, said the total cost for online production came to $18,520, which included $8,530 spent for the design and construction of a reusable studio set.

"Other costs for our event included catering for crew, volunteers and presenters over the weekend, and the odd air ticket for out of town presenters — who were the minority," she said. "In the light of this, I'm guessing that a safe
budget for such an event is around $20,000 minimum."

The Brinks were quick to note that the conference was a huge collaborative effort, with Erika Puni, director of Stewardship Ministries, leading regular planning meetings from a year before the event, and technical teams joining forces from the General Conference, Inter-American Division, and Hope Channel to make sure it happened.

This week, church leaders headed to the offices of André and Penny Brink, both located on the second floor at General Conference headquarters, to learn more about the stewardship conference.

“We are committed to the effective use of media to train, equip, and nurture church leaders around the world,” said Derek Morris, editor of Ministry magazine and associate secretary of the Ministerial Association, who stopped by André Brink’s office at the recommendation of top church leaders.

The next online conference will be staged by the Global Adventist Internet Network, whose members had planned to meet in West Africa next February but decided to use the online format because of the Ebola crisis.

While the General Conference headquarters was buzzing about the online conference, André Brink said he doubted that the Internet would replace traditional conferences completely.

“I wouldn't say, ‘Do away with advisories,'” Brink said. “You still need that personal connection. But every once in a while do something online and reach more people at a low cost. “

The stewardship conference, however, underscores new opportunities to share Jesus at considerably lower costs, Schoun said in an interview in his office.

“I think it was a very successful experience, and it fits right into our goal and objective as a world church to use technology to reach every person in the world for Jesus Christ,” he said.

Contact news editor Andrew McChesney at mcchesney@gc.adventist.org. Twitter: @ARMcChesney

Related link

Adventist Review, Sept. 5, 2014: "Online Conference to Teach Adventists How to Manage Resources"

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