Young adults from six Washington, D.C., area local Seventh-day Adventist churches hosted the third annual Park n’ Praise D.C. event seeking to minister to the homeless and raise awareness about inner-city poverty. The participants furthered this purpose by providing food, clothing, toiletries, prayer and fellowship to 500 homeless individuals in Farragut Square Park in Northwest Washington, D.C.—Noelle Green

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Maryland Central Korean Church Sparks Sabbath Movement
Allegheny East Conference’s Maryland Central Korean church in Gaithersburg, Md., sparked a Sabbath movement that now reaches all the way to South Korea. The Return to the Bible Movement, a mission project to spread the Sabbath message to local Protestant pastors and elders through advertising, began in November 2011.—LaTasha Hewitt

Hartwells Receive Distinguished Service Award

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Cleveland Hispanic Churches Host Four Campaigns

"Who thought this up?" asked one member. "It's never been done before," said another. "This is a bad idea," expressed a third. What was Pedro Simpson, Hispanic Ministries director for the Ohio Conference and pastor of several Cleveland area Hispanic churches and, proposing to cause members such concern? He wanted to hold evangelistic campaigns in four congregations at the same time!—Heidi Shoemaker

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Attend a Retreat for Women in Ministry

"At the Master's Feet: A Time for Affirmation, Connection and Education" is a one day retreat for all female pastors and women in high-school, college or other stages of life who feel called to ministry. This event, hosted by Sligo Church with support from the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists and Columbia Union Conference leaders, will be held August 20 at Sligo Church in Takoma Park, Md., from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.—Pranitha Fielder

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Read the entire August Visitor online!

More Adventist News

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Little Lunch and Learners Lives Lifted
Mountain View Conference Establishes New Martinsville Company
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Six Washington, D.C. Area Churches Unite to Lift up Praise, Address Poverty

Michelle Bernard

Six Washington, D.C., Area Churches Unite to Lift up Praise, Address Poverty in D.C.

Story by Noelle Green

Sabbath, July 25, young adults from six local Seventh-day Adventist churches hosted the third annual Park n’ Praise D.C. event seeking to minister to the homeless and raise awareness about inner-city poverty. The participants furthered this purpose by providing food, clothing, toiletries, prayer and fellowship to 500 homeless individuals in Farragut Square Park in Northwest Washington, D.C.

The day’s activities included a lively concert—with everything from a deaf poet to a youth gospel choir—an inspirational message, prayer teams and a health checkup station. With more than 800 people in attendance, the young Adventist group believes they attained their goal of uniting prayer, service and praise.

The Park ‘n Praise event, which stemmed from the ideas of young people from two area churches, has grown to include six Maryland/Washington, D.C., area churches from three conferences: Potomac Conference’s Seabrook, Community Praise Center and Restoration Praise Center congregations; Allegheny East Conference’s Metropolitan and Emmanuel-Brinklow churches; and Chesapeake Conference’s New Hope church. Already, additional Adventist churches and other denominations, governmental bodies and nonprofits have contacted the event’s organizers stating a desire to participate in Park n’ Praise 2016.

“Our goal is to include all those who are passionate about addressing poverty. All [of our volunteers] say they were excited to serve God in a public space,” says Roland Blackman, event organizer. “Next year’s event will be a bit different because we intend to expand our focus to include not just the homeless, as in years past, but also the poor. We will do that by ministering to women and children who live in D.C. public housing. Our goal will be to provide diapers and wipes for 500 women with young children. We have done the math and this undertaking will be our most ambitious yet, but we are confident that God will do something amazing through young adults who are on fire for him.”

For information about the Park n' Praise, please email parknpraise@gmail.com or look for look for them on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
Six Washington, D.C. Area Churches Unite to Lift up Praise, Address Po...  
http://www.columbiaunionvisitor.com/six-washington-d-c-churches-unite...
Maryland Central Korean Church Sparks Sabbath Movement

Michelle Bernard

Allegheny East Conference’s Maryland Central Korean church in Gaithersburg sparked a Sabbath movement that now reaches all the way to South Korea. The Return to the Bible Movement, a mission project to spread the Sabbath message to local Protestant pastors and elders through advertising, began in November 2011.

Story by LaTasha Hewitt, Allegheny East Conference

The project began when Pastor Namyong Kim and Jaeog Kom, an elder, met and started working with Sung-ho Han, a pastor from a local Holiness Church. Pastor Han was already studying the Sabbath and determined to spread the truth to other Protestant pastors.

In January 2012, Han placed advertisements in two local Korean newspapers, which stated that worshiping on Sunday was not biblical. Many Protestant pastors, elders and believers inquired about the message. The movement quickly spread to other states. Thirty pastors have since contacted Kim for Bible study materials.

In April 2012, Elder Hangjin Jo Cho, an Adventist in South Korea, heard about the project and started advertising in all of the country’s newspapers. Many Protestant ministers soon responded and several have already accepted the Sabbath. More than 150 Protestant pastors in the U.S. and South Korea are now actively studying the Bible.

“This movement will continue to grow as part of our lay activities movement,” says Guynam Bak, associate pastor.

Feature Photo: Maryland Central Korean church members work together to spread the Sabbath message by distributing literature on the three angels’ message door to door.
Hartwells Receive Distinguished Service Award

Michelle Bernard

The North American Division (NAD) recently awarded Jeanne Hartwell, Pennsylvania Conference Family Ministries director, and Ray Hartwell, Pennsylvania Conference president, the Distinguished Service Award in Family Life during the Adventist Conference on Family Research & Practice (ACFRP) at Andrews University in Michigan.

Story by Tamyra Horst, Pennsylvania Conference

Claudio Consuegra, NAD Family Ministries co-director, presented the award. “We were delighted to present the award to two deserving recipients. They stand out in their work to strengthen families,” says Pamela Consuegra, co-director.

The Hartwells are deeply committed to strengthening families. Jeanne plans a life-impacting marriage retreat each February and plans every detail of family worship, one of the most popular events of camp meeting. Both speak to churches across Pennsylvania and beyond on family topics, including marriage and parenting.
Cleveland Hispanic Churches Host Four Campaigns

Michelle Bernard

“Who thought this up?” asked one member. “It’s never been done before,” said another. “This is a bad idea,” expressed a third. What was Pedro Simpson, Hispanic Ministries director for the Ohio Conference and pastor of several Cleveland area Hispanic churches and, proposing to cause members such concern? He wanted to hold evangelistic campaigns in four congregations at the same time!

Story by Heidi Shoemaker, Ohio Conference

Fearing a disaster, members and leaders of his churches viewed Simpson’s plan with considerable skepticism. However, after prayer and more explanation, the congregations stepped out in faith. Members distributed hundreds of Bible study lessons with invitations to friends and relatives of church members. Each small group had their own campaign prior to the main event, with some small groups divided into missionary couples. Leaders placed advertisements in local papers and flyers. But, members encouraged attendance “primarily through the person-to-person contact, each one bringing another,” says Simpson.

During the main event, four guest pastors presented at four Cleveland-area congregations. Then, the Ebenezer Spanish church hosted a memorable celebration where 29 people made decisions for Christ. This number was so unexpected that many had to wear choir robes since area churches did not have enough baptismal robes for the candidates to wear.

Simpson was not surprised, as he conducted series like this when he pastored in Central America before coming to Ohio. “It’s common to do simultaneous campaigns in an area where you have several churches [in close proximity], and finish all of them in one celebration. … Believe me, it’s exciting to see the wonderful results!”

Today all new members are engaged in some sort of mission. After the conclusion of the series, Simpson provided a special, five-week training program for new members to “re-study the basic doctrine and to train them to do more missionary work,” he shares. “It was amazing to hear from them the new life they are experiencing. … They are excited and working.”

Feature Photo: Javier Morales, a new member of the First Cleveland Hispanic church, embraces Pastor Pedro Simpson while Javier Cruz and Pastor Edwing Monterroza look on.
Attention female pastors and women interested in ministry....

“At the Master’s Feet: A Time for Affirmation, Connection and Education” is a one day retreat for all female pastors and women in high-school, college or other stages of life who feel called to ministry. This event, hosted by Sligo Church with support from the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists and Columbia Union leaders, will be held August 20 at Sligo Church, 7700 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, MD, from 10 a.m.- 5p.m.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Pastor Pranitha Fielder via pfielder@sligochurch.org. Please RSVP by August 17th.
It's possible to take a good thing too far. Over the past decade of interacting with Outdoor School students, our staff has noticed that two well-intentioned mantras, “stranger danger” and “safety first,” have caused our young people to be fearful. I've seen students afraid to walk through a meadow under the canopy of a thousand stars, afraid to try a fresh raspberry that they just picked, afraid to sleep on a top bunk or dip their toes into a mountain stream. It is such a sad way to live while surrounded by the glories of God's creation.

If you focus on the media, you would think we were in the middle of a major crime wave, but Department of Justice figures show crime rates are down 40 percent since the 1990s.

As Christians, we often add a third mantra, one that is somewhat contradictory to the others and an obvious misrepresentation of Scripture. We take a verse like, “The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them” (Ps. 34:7), and tell the children, “As long as you trust in God, nothing bad will ever happen to you.”

At Outdoor School, we take safety seriously, but bumps and bruises are part of life and we shouldn't stop living for fear of them. With the intelligence and desire God has given us and the guidance He provides, we are empowered to explore the world and all His wonders. Fear and darkness can often interfere, but we can still say with confidence, “Follow the Lord and, in the end, you will be on the winning side.”

—Glen Milam

Photo by Tom Hall via Flickr
Kettering College’s Annual 5k Raises Over $10,000 for Adventist Community Center

Michelle Bernard

Kettering College in Dayton, Ohio, recently donated $10,340 to the Good Neighbor House, a nonprofit organization that provides food pantry services, clothing, and household items to under-served individuals and families in the Greater Dayton Region. The money was raised during the seventh annual Spring into Health 5K, which had over 600 participants this year.

Students in the Physician Assistant (PA) Department (pictured with school administrators and Good Neighbor House staff) have been the primary organizers of the event since its start in 2009.

“Raising over $10,000 for such an exceptional cause was a meaningful and eye-opening experience,” says Missy Gottschlich, a PA student. She adds that donating to the Good Neighbor House was a natural choice because their mission of supporting and caring for people in the community nicely parallels with the mission of service that is prevalent in the Kettering College physician assistant program.

Victor Brown, Dean for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs says, “We hope that the number of participants for this annual 5k will continue to grow so that we will be able to donate even more in the future!”

The Good Neighbor House, founded by eight Dayton-area Seventh-day Adventist churches in 1994, gives help and hope to the underserved in the Dayton community, providing food, pantry services, health promotion, clothing and household items to individuals and families in need.

Kettering College’s annual 5k event is a fundraiser for Dayton’s Good Neighbor House (75 percent) and for the college’s Physician Assistant Student Professional Development Fund (25 percent). The event will be held again in April of 2016.
Little Lunch and Learners lives lifted

PHOTO: A Lunch and Learn class earlier this summer. Photo by ACSGW.

BY BILL BROWN

The summer’s big success story is Lunch and Learn.

The summer day-camp for low-income children and teens taught them math, English, computer skills and swimming. The camp fed them breakfast, lunch and a snack daily. 90 initially registered for the program, but 100 showed up the first day. The extra children were not turned away. Program staff scrambled to accommodate them and more latecomers.

State Delegate Will Smith poses with Lunch and Learn day camper Jaden Jackson after presenting him with an award for “Most Improved.” Photo by Bill Brown.

110 youth “graduated” Lunch and Learn, which started in early July. The campers, staff, assistants, volunteers, parents, siblings and an impressive number of local politicians were on hand Aug. 5 for the closing Parent's Night program. It was held at John Nevins Andrews School on Elm Street, Takoma Park.

Day campers make a show of hands during Parents Night, Aug. 5. Photo by Bill Brown.

The keynote speaker was state senator Jaime Raskin – on his second visit to Lunch and Learn. Earlier in the month
he visited a class to teach some Greek myths.

In his speech he reminded them of the myth of Icarus who flew too close to the Sun, melting the wax that held his feathers on and fell into the ocean. Luckily, said the senator, “the lifeguard was on duty that day,” and Icarus was rescued – a detail often left out of the story.

*State senator Jaime Raskin makes keynote speech. Photo by Bill Brown.*

Raskin advised the children to aim high, but not too high, as Icarus had done.

“Stay close to the people who love [you] and stay close to your friends and stay close to the community.”
Lunch and Learn classes were held at John Nevins Andrews School, a private Seventh Day Adventist elementary school. Swimming classes were held a few blocks away at the Piney Branch Elementary School pool. The county-owned pool is administered by the Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington.

*Camper in the Piney Branch Elementary pool. Photo by Ken Flemmer.*

*James Thomas’ computer class. Photo by ACSGW.*

A number of institutions and individuals created Lunch and Learn. ACSGW was a co-sponsor, along with Montgomery County, the city of Takoma Park, and the MAN-UP mentoring program.

According to MANUP director Terrill North the Lunch and Learn program started in response to the discovery that 80% of the students on free and reduced-price meals did not have adequate nutrition over the summer. North said that Lunch and Learn is one of the largest of the 128 programs in the county.

*Computer instructor Ty Cohen stands by display boards at Parent’s Night showing camper’s class work. Photo by Bill Brown.*

Resident Jackie Frazier founded the program three years ago with 60 students. Takoma Park councilmember Jarrett Smith was given credit this year for instigating and enlarging it.

Also on hand were Maryland state delegates Will Smith and David Moon, Takoma Park mayor Bruce Williams and council members Terry Seamens, Jarrett Smith, Fred Schultz and Kate Stewart.

ACSWG’s Director Ken Flemmer who introduced senator Raskin reviewed the session, referring to the new red Lunch and Learn t-shirts all the campers, volunteers were wearing.

*Ken Flemmer, ACSGW’s director, shows off the summer camp t-shirt. Photo by Bill Brown.*
“These red t-shirts represent many hours that have been spent maintaining reading skills and math skills, . . . learning new skills like what’s really going on inside that computer – and swimming!” he said.

Delegate Will Smith helped hand out the awards, posing with each awardee. Awards were for various achievements, such as “most-improved.”

*The campers sing “We Are the Champions.”*  
*Photo by Bill Brown.*

Joyce Seamens, director of Piney Branch Pool operations and two swimming instructors presented swimming awards.

The youth performed a song and a play for the parents and distinguished guests.

Throughout the evening there were lots of waves, smiles, hugs and cheers for favorite teachers, staff, assistants and friends.

*Photo by Bill Brown.*
A 2013 partnership between the Voice of Prophecy (VOP) and the Mountain View Conference (MVC) recently resulted in a new church company in West Virginia. One of the three mailings the partners sent to blanket the MVC was focused in the New Martinsville area. The Toll Gate church, located in nearby Pennsboro, accepted the return VOP Bible study interest cards that came from New Martinsville and surrounding areas.

Story by Valerie Morikone, Mountain View Conference

Donald Waldron, a Toll Gate deacon, and Daniel Morikone, Toll Gate pastor, visited more than 50 homes of people who indicated interest in Bible studies following the mailings. Together, they visited the potential Bible students. Nearly a year later, a small core group started meeting periodically on Sabbath afternoons in Paden City, a town about 10 miles from New Martinsville.

As the students began to believe in the seventh-day Sabbath and grew closer to Waldron, some expressed a desire to worship on Sabbath as a group. Recently the New Martinsville group officially became a company. Larry Boggess, conference president, attended the first official service. Now the group meets every Sabbath afternoon for two hours for Bible study and fellowship.

“I am very happy to [see] the direction the Lord is moving with the New Martinsville project,” shares Waldron, who is acting as lay leader. “Doors are opening, and I’m walking through them [while] praying for increased faith in the promise that, as God’s Word goes out, it will not return void” (see Isaiah 55:11).
Chesapeake Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Women's Ministry Retreat

High Heels & High Callings
(Women of the Word)

*The steps of the godly are directed by the Lord.*
*He delights in every detail of their lives.*
*Psalm 37:23*

October 30 - November 1, 2015
Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel, Ocean City, Maryland
www.clarionoc.com

Enjoy a seaside weekend away to walk with God and worship among friends. Whether you prefer heels or flats, embark on a biblical journey and gain deep insights from the stories of women in Scripture. Sip cocoa by a cozy fire. Take a walk at low tide. Make a soft blanket for someone in need. Laugh, pray, and sing with your soul sisters. Buoy your spiritual life through practical seminars. Take time from your busy life for you!

Cost - Rates Increase $30 on August 1, 2015
Prices are per person. Full weekend packages include registration fee, meals, and 2 nights lodging. Commuter packages include registration fee and some meals.

Full Weekend Packages:
$195 - 4 people in a room
$215 - 3 people in a room
$255 - 2 people in a room
$375 - 1 person in a room
Commuter Packages (no hotel):
$110 - Sabbath only
$135 - Weekend

Discount
$30 discount is available to full-time students under the age of 25.

Registration Deadline
September 30, 2015. You may request a refund minus a $50 processing fee through September 30, 2015. After this date, please substitute someone to attend in your place.

Blanket Fund Donations
It is our goal each year to impact the community in which our retreat is held. We will again be making blankets for an organization in Ocean City this year. If you would like to make a monetary donation for the materials of these blankets, you will be given the option at the end of your registration process online. You may also donate at anytime by following this [link](http://www.ccosda.org/article/301/ministries/women-s-ministries/women...).

Location
Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel, 10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Maryland 21842

Who May Attend
Women and teen girls. Must be at least 15 years of age to attend and accompanied by an adult if under 18, full package rates apply. As a courtesy to other participants, and to maximize your benefit during this event, we ask that you make other plans for the care of your children younger than 15.

Dress Code
As usual, the dress code is comfortable and casual.

Contact Information
Samantha Young/Director - syoung@ccosda.org, 410-995-1910
Natysha Berthiaume/Administrative Assistant - nberthiaume@ccosda.org, 410-995-1910
SVA, SVAE and the New Market Church will be hosting "The Run For Rescue," a 5K and 10K run through historic New Market, Virginia for the benefit of the New Market Fire and Rescue. Don’t miss this opportunity to run through a small part of the community served by these local heroes. Come participate in this second annual Run For Rescue on September 27, and explore some of the beauty of the Shenandoah Valley has to offer! [http://runforrescueneumarket.com/](http://runforrescueneumarket.com/)
Washington Adventist University to Host Third Visionaries Gala

Michelle Bernard

Washington Adventist University will host its third Visionaries Gala September 20 in support of the university’s “Vision 2020, Growing With Excellence” plan. The gala is an annual event that supports “Vision 2020” to encourage and expand interaction between the university and community. The emcee for this year’s gala is Georgette “Gigi” Godwin, president and CEO of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce since 2007.

Story by Lisa Krueger, Washington Adventist University

At each gala, four people are recognized for their exemplary leadership to the university, community, country and world while keeping with the institution’s commitment to excellence and moral leadership. This year’s honorees are:

- Lars and Julie Houmann are honored for their excellence in healthcare leadership and innovation. Lars (pictured) graduated from WAU with a bachelor’s in business administration in 1980 and is currently serving as president and CEO of Florida Hospital.
- Mikhail Kulakov Jr., WAU professor of religion, is honored for his excellence in biblical scholarship. Kulakov led a team of biblical scholars in translating an antiquated version of the Bible, dating back 130 years, into modern Russian.
- Esther Newman, CEO and founder of Leadership Montgomery, is honored for her excellence in leadership development and community service. Newman founded the organization 26 years ago and has served county and
Hope in Hiroshima 70 Years On

News commentary: The uplifting stories of two Adventist survivors of the atomic bomb blast.

Posted August 11, 2015

By Victor Hulbert, communication director, British Union Conference

The little paper lanterns float down the river in serene beauty.

Over a period of hours many thousands float by. It is a moving experience standing in the twilight, watching a scene so peaceful, but with a memory of horror, death and destruction.

The festival is Toro-nagashi, the floating of paper lanterns down the Motoyasu River in downtown Hiroshima. This is year it is especially large. The few remaining Hibakusha, or A-bomb survivors, gather with tens of thousands of local residents, tourists and pilgrims to remember the dead and to pray for peace.

It's still hard to believe, even 70 years on. On Aug. 6, 1945, a single bomb detonated 1,900 feet (580 meters) above central Hiroshima instantly killed 70,000 people — and within a few months had killed that many again.

Yet there is hope for the future in retelling the stories of the past.

Adventists have long had a presence in Hiroshima. Just outside the central area stands a well-respected school with a beautiful church. That is where I met Mrs. Sako and Mrs. Kino, both Hibakusha.

Mrs. Kino was in her late 20s in August 1945. She lived about 2.5 miles (4 kilometers) from the epicenter of the blast and missed the main effects of the detonation.

Trained in first-aid, she spent her time helping those whose bodies were scorched by the heat blast, whose skin was sliding of their arms like undercooked pizza topping, or whose bodies were punctured with broken glass. Her story is one to stop you sleeping at night.

Yet she did not tell it in a sense of bitterness. She spoke of hope. She spoke of how God protected the Seventh-day Adventist community so that not one life was lost. She spoke of the help that she and her Adventist family were able to provide.

Mrs. Kino told me: “I knew God's promise in the Bible that although many fall I will save. Indeed, I think, I can feel the promise of that fulfilled for myself. I think many things happen in the world, but I think the most important thing is, just forget about fighting, but if we become close to each other, hand in hand, and believe in peace, I think that will bring a bright future.”
Mrs. Kino, left, and Mrs. Sako remembering the Aug. 6, 1945, atomic blast at Hiroshima in a 2005 interview. (Victor Hulbert)

Mrs. Sako was not so fortunate. She was a 17-year-old schoolgirl called up by the military to help demolish buildings to make fire breaks in a city built principally of wood. When the Enola Grey plane flew overhead and dropped its solitary bomb, she was only a mile (1.5 kilometers) from the epicenter.

She told me how she saw a great flash. A mixture of blue and orange. How she was thrown over a 6.5-foot-high (2-meter-high) wall, where she landed, blinded by the blast, tucked between the wall and a water tank.

She could not say how many hours she lay there, but after a time her sight started to return. She crawled out into a scene of absolute devastation. All the soldiers and the men who were there at the time of the blast were gone. The houses were just flattened. There was just nothing.

Mrs. Sako survived because of the love of a father who never gave up on her. The first-aid clinics refused to treat her, telling her father that they had to help those who had some chance of living. She suffered for weeks with breathing difficulties, severe burns on the exposed parts of her body, and maggot-infested wounds and radiation sickness.

“Since then,” she said, “I really dislike war. I hate war. I really don’t want my children to experience what I experienced. I really try to do my best to prevent the thing that happened.”

Mrs. Kino and Mrs. Sako are exceptional people. With what they have gone through it would be understandable if they held hurt and bitterness in their hearts. Instead, they hold forgiveness.

Mrs. Sako married when she was 21. Despite the risk of mutation or deformity, she bore a son. Thankfully he was perfect, but his birth started her thinking about religion. She realized that she needed something in her life, an explanation for what had happened.

She looked around various religions starting with her traditional Buddhist and Shinto roots but also looking at various Christian churches. Eventually she received an invitation to an Adventist evangelistic meeting. It was in those meetings that, she says, “I found the thing that did not change. Everything around me may change, but I believe in a God who does not change.”

That made the difference for her, and she became a leading light in the Hiroshima Adventist Church.
"Definitely I think my faith taught me forgiveness," she said. "My father was a Buddhist, and it is the atomic bomb that led me toward Christianity. I asked my father if I could become a Christian. My father said, 'Well yes, Christianity teaches love. Buddhism teaches compassion. There is no objection to me.'"

Despite a horrific past, Mrs. Sako has found a hope for the future. She has been made whole by her faith in a creator God.

"The first time I went to church after the evangelistic series the subject was Genesis," she said. "I fell in love with the story of Genesis, of creation, and especially the idea that we are special. That we are in God’s image. That makes all people special to me. That encourages me. I really treasure that God is my friend and the church is a support."

I visited Hiroshima to report on a tragedy. I left the city with a story of hope.

Find out more about author Victor Hulbert’s journey to Hiroshima in this 28-minute video presentation.

This is adapted from an article first shared in Adventist Review in August 2005. Mrs. Kino and Mrs. Sako have now passed away but left a lasting legacy.

We reserve the right to approve and disapprove comments accordingly and will not be able to respond to inquiries regarding that. Please keep all comments respectful and courteous to authors and fellow readers.
enditnow Day (formerly Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day)

Theme 2015: "Love at Home"
August 22, 2015
Author: Dr. Julian Melgosa

The North American Division recognizes that children and men, as well as women, are victims of abuse. God abhors abuse of EVERY kind, and we are working to prevent it.

The entire enditnow Emphasis Day kit may be opened in MS Word or Adobe Acrobat, depending on which program is available to you. You may print it and reproduce it if you'd like to share it with others. We encourage you to use it in your church's Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day.

ENGLISH:
Sermon and Seminar
Children's Story
PowerPoint for Sermon
PowerPoint for Seminar

SPANISH:
Sermon and Seminar
PowerPoint for Sermon
PowerPoint for Seminar

FRENCH:
Sermon and Seminar
PowerPoint for Sermon
PowerPoint for Seminar
*If the fourth Sabbath in August is not a convenient date for your church to observe Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day, please work with your pastor to find another date. This year's resources will be available on the web site beginning in June.

Archives - Previous enditnow Emphasis Day Materials

enditnow (espanol)

Journee de Prevention de la Violence Domestique

Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day - Voted Policies
WHO Teams up With Adventists in a Global First

Michelle Bernard

The effort to reduce infant and maternal mortality rates begins in South Africa.

Story by Joanne Ratsara for Adventist News Network

The World Health Organization and the Seventh-day Adventist Church are kicking off an unprecedented global partnership aimed at reducing infant and maternal mortality rates.

This is the first time that the WHO, the public health agency of the United Nations, has partnered with a faith-based organization on a global scale, says Annette Mwansa Nkowane, WHO’s lead nurse and a main proponent of the five-year project to educate more midwives.

The WHO approached the Adventist Church with the proposal for the project after a major health conference organized by the church in Geneva, Switzerland. The Geneva-based WHO has identified a global lack of qualified midwives as a contributing factor in the deaths of mothers and babies and the church’s global network of educators and hospitals as a way to address the shortfall.

Fifty international nursing leaders and educators from North America, Europe, South America, and Africa are meeting this week in Bloemfontein, South Africa, to implement the project, starting in four African countries. The $1 million project is funded by the OPEC Foundation for International Development through the World Health Organization and was designed by WHO officials, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and the Loma Linda University School of Nursing.

“We are grateful to begin this partnership. We will produce something the world will benefit from,” says Nkowane, a nurse and midwife educated in Zambia whose full title is worldwide technical officer for nursing and midwifery. “I believed and was convinced this would be successful. I believe that with God all things are possible.”

“The persistence of the WHO has led to this historic day,” said Patricia Jones, associate director for nursing with the health ministries department of the Adventist world church. “Thank you for not giving up and for having faith in us in a faith-based group to be trusted to take on such a project.”

Understanding the Challenge

About 280,000 women die in pregnancy or childbirth every year worldwide, according to WHO statistics. Complicating matters, Africa has about 12 percent as many physicians as the global average and 30 percent as many nurses. The gap is widening as Africa’s population grows rapidly and schools in various countries are only able to educate 10 percent to 30 percent of the needed healthcare professionals.

Nkowane says the project would improve the quantity and quality of midwives and help close a gap in the ratio between faculty and students, which she put at 1:45 in developing countries and 1:12 in developed countries.

The project focuses on four institutions in Africa where the maternal mortality ratio is 14 times higher than in the world’s developed regions: Malamulo College of Health Sciences at Malamulo Hospital in Malawi, Maluti College of Nursing at Maluti Hospital in Lesotho, Kanye Adventist College of Nursing at Kanye Hospital in Botswana, and the at hospital Adventist University of Cosendai in Cameroon.

The WHO expects the project to contribute toward the achievement of United Nations Millennium Development
Goals to reduce maternal and child mortality and recognize the universal truth that there cannot be health without a workforce.

The Beginnings

Seeds for the collaboration were sown in 2009 in Geneva during the first global health conference hosted by the health ministries department of the General Conference, the administrative body of the Adventist world church.

Health Ministries director Allan Handysides and his successor, Peter Landless, established a close association with the WHO during this conference.

Immediately before the event, Adventist nursing educators met in Geneva for a pre-conference organized by Jones, director of global nursing at the Loma Linda University School of Nursing. One of the pre-conference’s speakers, Jean Yan, WHO’s lead nurse at the time, was impressed with what she observed.

“Dr. Yan saw our group as a powerful network for change in nursing education and health care because we are an organized global system,” Jones says. “She reasoned that if there is such a global system of nurse educators within the Seventh-day Adventist Church, why couldn’t there be a project that could enlist the talents of such a team to make a difference in health care?”

The idea began to incubate. Yan pursued the matter with Jones in the following months.

“At first I was afraid to accept the challenge,” Jones says. “Senior leaders at Loma Linda University School of Nursing were cognizant of that fact that we don’t teach midwifery, nor do we have an army of midwifery experts.”

Despite this, the WHO continued to pursue the matter with the church.

Adventist Church leaders voted to accept the WHO’s proposal during a 2010 Spring Meeting at world church headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland.

That same year, Yan retired and Nkowane was appointed as the lead nurse. She followed Yan’s vision and worked further to develop the project with Jones. Nkowane also sought funding, a length process that delayed the project until 2014.

“WHO persisted in writing grants to create funds for this project until they succeeded,” Jones says.

The WHO proposed various project sites, and the donor selected the four participating institutions. The project will be implemented by the midwifery educators at the colleges, WHO-associated consultants, local WHO collaborating centers, practicing midwives in the hospitals, and a task force from the Loma Linda School of Nursing.

Three of the sites receiving the primary focus of the project are within the Adventist Church’s Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

“We take this as a sacred trust from God to be able to contribute to the achievement of these specific United Nations Millennium Goals in cooperation with the World Health Organization,” division president Paul Ratsara told this week’s conference.

He said the project was in harmony with the mission of the global church.

“Mothers lives will be saved. Babies will be saved,” he says. “We will strive to improve always and continue to set the bar higher as we find innovative ways to improve the health of the communities we serve, thereby being the hands and heart of Jesus.”

Feature photo: Annette Mwansa Nkowane, left, WHO’s worldwide technical officer for nursing and midwifery,
attending a meeting this week in Bloemfontein, South Africa, to implement a $1 million, five-year project between the WHO and the Adventist Church. Pictured with her are Paul Ratsara, president of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division, and Patricia Jones, associate director for nursing with the health ministries department of the Adventist world church. [Photo by Joanne Ratsara]
2 Pastors Facing Death Sentences Freed in Sudan

World News

The Adventist Review shares the following world news from Religion News Service as a service to readers. Opinions expressed in these reports do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Review or the Seventh-day Adventist Church. -- Editors

Their release follows an international outcry.

Posted August 6, 2015

BY FREDRICK NZWILI ©2015 Religion News Service

After international outcry, two South Sudanese Presbyterian Evangelical Church pastors who faced a possible death sentence in Sudan have been set free after a court hearing on August 5.

The Rev. Michael Yat and the Rev. Peter Reith were on trial in Khartoum on criminal charges of undermining the constitutional system, espionage, promoting hatred among sects, breach of public peace and offenses relating to insulting religious beliefs. The first two charges are punishable by the death penalty or life imprisonment.

"I am feeling free because I was in jail for many months. I have become like I'm born again," said Yat in comments to Christian Solidarity Worldwide, the global Christian anti-persecution group that announced the release.

More than 220,000 people had signed a petition by the American Center for Law and Justice, which sought their freedom. CSW had run a campaign to free Yat and Reith, who were detained on December 14, 2014, and January 11, 2015, respectively. "We are overjoyed at the clergymen's release from prison," said CSW chief executive Mervyn Thomas.

Since largely Christian South Sudan gained independence in 2011, Christians in the largely Islamic and Arabic Sudan have faced frequent arrests, harassment and interrogation by intelligence agencies.

Last month, 10 young Christian women were detained for wearing trousers and miniskirts to church in the war-torn Nuba Mountains region of South Kordofan.

"We continue to urge Sudan to uphold its constitutional guarantees for freedom of religion or belief and its responsibility to promote and protect this right under international law, in order to preserve Sudan's pluralism and diversity," said Thomas in a statement.

We reserve the right to approve and disapprove comments accordingly and will not be able to respond to inquiries regarding that. Please keep all comments respectful and courteous to authors and fellow readers.
Topping Expectations, 3,111 Patients Get Free Adventist Healthcare in Spokane

The Your Best Pathway to Health event is declared “a true miracle.”

Posted August 5, 2015

By Andrew McChesney, news editor, Adventist Review

A two-day mega-clinic ended up providing free Seventh-day Adventist healthcare to 3,111 people in Spokane, Washington, well above its goal of 3,000.

Organizers were elated that the more than 1,600 volunteers, weary but happy after the Your Best Pathway to Health event on Aug. 3 and 4, had had the opportunity to make a difference in so many lives in the city of 207,000 people.

“It’s a true miracle,” said Costin Jordache, the event’s communication director.

Organizers initially had hoped to sign up 800 doctors, dentists, nurses, massage therapists, barbers, and other volunteers, but the free clinic opened with twice the number, creating more capacity than demand by the afternoon of the first day.

Local news media, which had been covering the event closely, were alerted quickly and asked to let the community know that vacancies for treatment remained. More than 40,000 text messages were sent out to Spokane residents in the evening.

The extra push seemed to work. While 1,485 people sought healthcare on Monday, slightly shy of the goal of 1,500, the figure was easily made up with 1,626 people on Tuesday.

“We were pleasantly surprised to have made the 3,000 goal,” Jordache said. “At the beginning of the day we weren’t confident that we were going to reach the goal, but steadily people kept coming in.”
Patients receiving message therapy and hydrotherapy in one section of the vast expo center. (Anthony White / NPUC)

**Waiting in Line**

Hundreds of people stood in the dental care line outside the expo center for a second day before the free clinic opened early Tuesday. People at the front of the line said they had waited all night, desperate for crowns, root canals, and other procedures.

Two other lines — for medical services and vision care — were noticeably shorter at 6:30 a.m., a half hour before the doors opened, with fewer than a dozen people in each.

Evangelist Mark Finley, who worked as traffic flow manager at the event, said the dental, medical, and vision departments saw similar numbers of patients throughout the day but the dental line started off long because of pent-up demand for a service that many insurance policies don’t adequately cover. Organizers capped the number of dental patients when daily capacity reached the limit.

Grateful patients treated the volunteers like heroes. When buses pulled in to offload the volunteers at 6 a.m. on the first day of the clinic, the crowd of waiting patients erupted in loud and sustained applause.

Your Best Pathway to Health, which is both an event and the name of a service of ASI, a membership-based organization of Seventh-day Adventist laypeople who actively participate in the church’s worldwide mission, co-organized the free clinic as a way to say thank you to the city of Spokane for hosting the annual ASI Convention, which opens Wednesday and runs through Saturday. The free clinic, the third to be held in the United States in the past two years, seeks to show Jesus in action.

A patient tells how she learned about the Spokane free clinic — and how she couldn’t refuse to visit. Video courtesy of GleanerNow

**More Than Free Services**

Volunteers provided a total of 7,757 services, including 319 surgeries and 1,164 dental procedures, as well as physical and occupational therapy, nutrition and lifestyle coaching, haircuts, and free clothing. Chaplains prayed with patients before they left.

But the volunteers went a step beyond offering physical and spiritual healing. They also sought to make patients feel comfortable.

In the dental section, for example, patients were ushered to rows of cushioned chairs to wait their turn in line. Newcomers sat in the last row and made their way to the front row.

A reporter saw a mother and two preteen daughters take their places in the last row. As soon as they sat down, a female volunteer walked up and asked the mother, “Would your daughters like a muffin?”
One girl smiled shyly. “Yes, please,” she said.

The girls each received a wrapped, healthy-looking muffin, which they seemed to enjoy. As the girls nibbled on the muffins, a young male volunteer approached the family and offered bottles of drinking water.

A nutritionist spoke from a stage near the front row about the health advantages of replacing meat with beans. She told of a man who lost about 150 pounds (68 kilograms) by doing just that and showed a photo of him on a large video screen.

Read “Adventist Mega-Clinic Opens to Long Lines in Spokane”

Read “Extreme Makeover: Pathway to Health Edition”

Patients will be invited to visit health information centers at local Adventist churches to pick up prescription glasses, lab reports, and other follow-up work. They also will be invited to attend health and lifestyle courses at the churches.

Your Best Pathway to Health followed the same model in San Antonio, Texas, where 1,700 volunteers provided $20 million in free healthcare to nearly 6,200 patients over two and a half days in April 2015.

The first free clinic saw 3,100 people in San Francisco and Oakland, California, receive $5.2 million in free healthcare over three days in April 2014.

Some $8 million in services were expected to be offered at the Spokane clinic, but Jordache said the value was still being calculated late Tuesday night. He added, however, that the retail price alone for 170 new men’s suits and four wedding dresses that were given away — including to an engaged couple — was $42,000.
Making Jesus Real

Dr. Peter Landless, director of the Adventist world church’s health ministries department, praised Your Better Pathway to Health volunteers for making Jesus real to so many people.

“They indeed reflect the grace-filled, empathetic and life-changing example of the great Master Physician, Jesus Christ,” Landless told the *Adventist Review*. “Through the lens of unselfish service, recipients of this care may more clearly discern the love and compassion of the loving Savior, who *is* the path that ultimately leads us to wholeness.”

Even more volunteers will be needed for the next free clinic — the biggest yet for Your Best Pathway to Health — that is being prepared for Los Angeles next March. At least 3,000 volunteers are being sought to care for 4,000 patients per day, or a total of 10,000 patients during the two and a half days of the event.

“We are going to need a lot more volunteers,” Dr. Lela Lewis, president of Your Best Pathway to Health. “This was wonderful for Spokane, but we’re going to need a lot more for L.A.”

Volunteers are invited to register at [Pathwaytohealthvolunteer.org](http://Pathwaytohealthvolunteer.org).

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