**eSketches**

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By WAU Staff

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eSketches is an e-mail news letter issued by the Communication department of the Southeastern Conference. For more news, log onto http://www.secsda.org

To submit news for eSketches and Sketches on line, log onto http://www.secsda.org.

Robert Henley, M.A., MCSE, MCT
Communication/Technology Director Southeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Washington Adventist University and Atlantic Union College Vote Memorandum of Understanding

By: WAU Staff
Date: 03/10/11
0 Comment(s) Read/Add Comment

Email this story to a friend.

Takoma Park, MD -- The Trustees of Washington Adventist University (WAU) today voted a Memorandum of Understanding with Atlantic Union College (AUC). This MOU calls for the two institutions to work toward an agreement to establish a branch campus of Washington Adventist University at Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Massachusetts. WAU would lease the facilities of AUC, and become the sole provider of higher education at the New England location. All provisions are dependent upon approval from the required accrediting and regulatory agencies.

This move follows a recent decision by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges to discontinue AUC’s accreditation July 31, 2011, for financial reasons.

“We’re grateful that our enrollment growth and financial position enables us to continue to provide accredited higher education to the community and constituents that Atlantic Union College serves,” said Weymouth Spence, EdD, president of WAU. “Our desire is to build upon the rich heritage they’ve established with a focus on the future.”

Norman Wendth, PhD, president of AUC, added, “I have believed for many years that to unite Atlantic Union College with Washington Adventist University would create a truly impressive educational institution. I am deeply pleased that we can respond to AUC’s accreditation challenge in such a historically significant way.”

The expansion positions WAU to serve the educational needs of students in 15 states in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern United States and the island of Bermuda.

Officials from both entities will now work together to complete a formal and binding agreement. This process will address key questions about governance, academic programs, and services in order to facilitate a smooth transition for both current and future students. WAU will then develop a business plan and seek approval from their governing boards, as well as state, regional, and church accrediting agencies.

7600 Flower Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 • www.wau.edu
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WAU will provide updates as they become available via email and at www.wau.edu and www.auc.edu. Inquires should be directed to William Jackson, vice president for Marketing and Recruiting at WAU at (301) 891-4475 or wjackson@wau.edu.

About Washington Adventist University
Founded in 1904, Washington Adventist University, a liberal arts institution of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, is headquartered in Takoma Park, Md. The university offers eight graduate and 32 undergraduate programs for 1,300 students of all faiths. The mission is to produce graduates who bring competence and moral leadership to their communities by creating a culture that “operates in an environment of faith.”
of excellence designed to engage minds and transform lives.

About Atlantic Union College
Founded in 1882, Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Mass., is the oldest campus in the Seventh-day Adventist worldwide educational system. Spring enrollment is 444 students in bachelor’s, master’s, associate and certificate programs, and the Adult Degree Program. Its specialized mission is to produce service-centered professionals who have the skills needed to help create healthy communities.
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Celian Hunt Celebrates 90th Birthday

By: Milicent Taylor  
Date: 03/10/11  
0 Comment(s) Read/Add Comment  
Email this story to a friend.

On November 5, 2010 Celian Adian Hunt celebrated her 90th birthday. She was born in Nevis, a tiny island in the Caribbean. She is the seventh child of Ellen and Peter Griffin. Hunt had four sisters and seven brothers. Hunt lived in Nevis, St. Croix, and New York before migrating to Miami, Fla., where she joined the Perrine Church located in Perrine, Fla.

A Seventh-day Adventist for most of her life, she loves witnessing to others and has worked as a colporteur. She believes in the power of prayer and spends a great deal of her time praying for her family.

Once she found Him she never let go. Hunt has three children, Almenis, Lydia, and Loretta. She has several grandchildren and great grand children. Hunt has lived through 17 United States presidents and has witnessed a multitude of changes worldwide but through it all has remained faithful.

She says the highest point in her life was “getting to know God for herself.” She wants to be ready to go home with her savior when He comes. Her son, Almenis Griffin is thankful to God for her. “Her guidance and prayer made me who I am today,” said Almenis.

She is described by many as a loving, kind, pleasant, friendly, and a mother of mothers. Her granddaughter, Sudian Hendrickson said that she is “the best grandmother anyone could have.”
Sybil and Enos Euell recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at the Mt. Zion Church, located in Kissimmee, Fla. Their love affair with each other and with God began in Jamaica. It was on that island where they were united in marriage.

Sometime later, the call of service took them to England where they continued teaching in the Seventh-day Adventist faith. Always willing to go where God was leading, Sybil and Enos migrated to the United States of America where they were lead to the Mt. Zion Church in Kissimmee, Fla.

Enos served as an elder and singing group leader. Sybil served as interest coordinator and children’s ministry director. Together they enjoyed giving Bible studies to adults, young adults, and children. As a result many persons have been baptized through their combined ministries. The anniversary celebration began with the couple walking down the aisle, hand-in-hand, as they did 60 years ago.

This time the bride carried no flowers, veil, or train, but she carried a grateful heart filled with 60 years of wonderful memories. Their union produced seven children, 50 grandchildren, and 36 great grandchildren.

Obadiah, their eldest son, describes his parents’ marriage and ministry as “a remarkable accomplishment of commitment, patience, and love.”

Oswald Euell, D.Min., described his parents as “servants of God, whose faith remains strong in God as they move toward the sunset years of life.” He stated that his mother requested an anointing for healing. What followed was a beautiful and solemn Anointing Service, which included intercessory prayer for repentance, and petitioning God’s help and healing on behalf of Sybil Euell.

There were seven pastors participating in the ceremony: Hubert J. Morel, Jr,
There were seven pastors participating in the ceremony: Hubert J. Morel, Jr., president of Southeastern, Oswald Euell, son of the celebrants, Maxwell Berkel, pastor of Mt. Zion, George Greaves, associate pastor of Mt. Zion, Tony Taylor, former immediate past pastor of Mt. Zion, Olinto Gross and Roy Parham also past pastors of Mt. Zion.

There were some emotional moments, especially when daughter Eugenie gave her tribute to her parents. She thanked her father for taking time to teach her to read as a little girl. She attributes some of her present abilities to that firm foundation.
Marshley Registe Wins 13th Annual Spelling Bee

Marshley Registe, 13, an 8th grade student at Miami Union Academy, emerged as the winner of the 13th Annual Southeastern Conference Spelling Bee which was held at the Mt. Calvary Church, located in Tampa, Fla. on February 26.

After 17 rounds Registe won the competition with the correct spelling of the word dogma, which means something held as an established opinion. The competition featured contestants from 13 of the 15 schools that comprise the Southeastern Conference school system.

Second and third place winners were Cunnie Chostel, a student the Mt. Calvary Junior Academy in Tampa, Fla., and Sheila Lanssiquout, a student at the Mt Sinai Junior Academy in Orlando, Fla.
To qualify for the spelling bee each student had to win the spelling at their school. To prepare for the spelling bee, students studied the word list provided by the Scripts National Spelling Bee.


“The spelling bee provides our students with the opportunity to showcase the spelling ability,” said Carol Byrd, SEC superintendent of education. The event was held at Mt. Calvary because a student from the Mt. Calvary Junior Academy won the event last year.

Next year's spelling bee will be held at, you guessed it, Miami Union Academy.
You can view more photos of the spelling bee at http://www.flkr.org/secsda.
Blanket Ministry Gives Hope To Dialysis Patients

By: Edna E. Francois  
Date: 03/10/11  
0 Comment(s) Read/Add Comment  
Email this story to a friend.

If it were possible to periodically update Bible stories the story of Veronica Hollis would be included in the modern day version of the book of Acts.

Acts 9:36 would be rewritten in this way: “Now there is at Kissimmee a certain disciple whose name is Veronica, which by interpretation means ‘one who bears a true image’. Now this woman is full of good works, and acts of kindness.”

Veronica Hollis crochets a blanket that will be given to a dialysis patient to provide warmth during a treatment session. She has given away more than 24 blankets.

Even though Dorcas’ story took place centuries ago, there are people today who belong to the sisterhood of the “Dorcas Society.” Veronica Hollis, a member of the Mt. Zion Church in Kissimmee, Fla., crochets woolen blankets for dialysis patients.

Hollis began the blanket ministry, over 12 years ago when she found out that the cold treatment rooms caused some measure of discomfort to dialysis patients. She was then motivated to put her crocheting skills to work, and began making blankets to help relieve their discomfort wherever possible.

Veronica believes that she has distributed over 24 blankets since this ministry began. She would be happy to have others join her in this project for “there is a great need,” said Veronica.

A recent recipient of a beautifully crocheted blanket said to her, “Thank you so much. I had no idea that someone recognized my need.”

When asked, what would you like to accomplish through this ministry?
Veronica’s quick response was, “I would like to bring one moment of hope to someone, and in this way he or she will know somebody cares.”

Each blanket is accompanied by a card, which contains a verse or statement of God’s love and care for His children.
Veteran attorney and business leader Dwayne Leslie will serve as the Seventh-day Adventist Church's voice in Washington, D.C., following a vote taken yesterday by the world church's Executive Committee. As associate director for the world church's department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) and director of Legislative Affairs, Leslie will represent the world church and its concerns on Capitol Hill, at the White House, and among Washington's diplomatic community.

Leslie replaces attorney James Standish, who served in the department for eight years.

One of his first goals, Leslie said, is to "expand the relationships that James has established, and to build on the great job he's done in representing the church."

During a career spanning both the corporate and legal worlds, Leslie has focused on legislative and healthcare issues and has represented a diverse range of clients, from biotechnology companies to media organizations.

Leslie said he will draw inspiration in his new role from the activism of the early Adventist Church which, despite its small size, frequently spoke publicly on issues of temperance, freedom of conscience and human rights.

"Today, we still have so much to contribute to the public discourse -- on health, education, and issues of justice and conscience," Leslie said. "But how can we speak if we don't have a seat at the table?"

"The story of Adventism will be told -- but the question is: Will we choose to tell it ourselves? Or will we allow others to define our church and its agenda for us?" he said.

Leslie brings a broad range of experience and abilities to his new role, said John Graz, PARL director. "But more than this, he brings a strong desire to serve his church and advocate on its behalf," Graz said.

After studying economics and political science at Andrews University, Leslie went on to earn a law degree from the University of California at Berkeley. He began his legal career at the international law firm of Jones Day before...
Adventists respond to New Zealand quake

By: Pablo Lillo/Adventist Review staff
Date: 03/10/11
0 Comment(s) Read/Add Comment
Email this story to a friend.

In the wake of devastation and death spawned by a magnitude 6.3 earthquake that struck Christchurch, New Zealand's city center today, Seventh-day Adventists in the South Pacific are responding with material and spiritual support. At least 65 people are known to have been killed, and another 100 are trapped in collapsed buildings, the New Zealand Herald reported. Unlike the 7.1-magnitude quake, which hit the same area last September, this temblor struck closer to downtown Christchurch, and in midday, when office workers and shoppers were abundantly present.

The denomination's Sanitarium Health Food Company in Papanui has been asked by Emergency Services in Christchurch, New Zealand, to provide a triage center for the injured. The Christchurch Hospital, the largest tertiary teaching and research hospital in the South Island, was evacuated due to safety concerns and is now only admitting people with serious injuries.

Pierre van Heerden, general manager for Sanitarium in New Zealand, said the site has been made available.

"We're blessed to have little damage to our buildings and to serve the wider community in times of devastation. The Christchurch factory in Papanui has a large garden and extra space for people to congregate and use as a triage center. We have a borehole on site that is functioning and that will give us an opportunity to provide fresh drinking water to the Christchurch community." Sanitarium also plans to provide Weet-Bix, milk and bottled water for those in need.

Craig Gillis, president of the church in South New Zealand said, "At this time it is difficult to get much information about what has happened due to communication channels being blocked and overloaded. Our office staff are all fine. Christchurch Adventist School students, teachers and staff are fine, as are the preschools."

At this stage there aren't any reports on church members.

The earthquake is reported to have lasted approximately a minute with extreme violence -- rocking buildings back and forth. There are reports of absolute devastation in the city center of Christchurch as buildings have collapsed.

There are reports of people trapped in rubble in the central business district and emergency services report there aren't enough ambulances to serve the injured and fatalities.

"We're shocked at what's happening in Christchurch," said Barry Oliver, president of church's South Pacific Division. "We want to assure the people of Christchurch and our Church community of our support. I invite everyone to pray for safety and a sense of peace."
In Ethiopia, Adventist Church, burned in interfaith violence

By: ANN Staff  
Date: 03/10/11  
0 Comment(s) Read/Add Comment  
Email this story to a friend.

At least 30 Protestant churches in western Ethiopia, among them seven Seventh-day Adventist congregations, were burned down last week in a series of attacks by religious extremists from the region. Unrest was first reported on March 2 and has since killed at least one Christian, wounded several others, left personal property destroyed and displaced thousands of Christians, reports indicate.

"The level of destruction is not fully and clearly confirmed," said Tamire Shaemalo, Communication director for the Adventist Church in Ethiopia, citing inconsistencies between reports.

Preliminary reports, however, indicate that dozens of Adventist homes were burned alongside the churches, members were robbed and food and farm animals were destroyed during the attacks, Shaemalo said. Church officials in Central Ethiopia estimate a total loss of more than 5 million birr (about US$30,000) in church property, including burned tithes and offerings, he added.

Some reports indicate the violence erupted in response to recent border skirmishes, in which Ethiopian soldiers sought to deter Muslim extremists. Others said the attacks were provoked when a Christian allegedly desecrated a copy of the Quran.

Police in Ethiopia yesterday arrested 130 religious extremists linked to the violence, Voice of America reported.

The attacks have ignited tensions in a region known for longstanding harmony between Muslim and Christians, church religious liberty advocates said.

"We are deeply troubled by what has happened in Ethiopia, where relations among religions have been relatively peaceful," said John Graz, director of the Adventist world church's department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty.

"We hope that these incidents will not incite further violence in the region, and we encourage people of all faiths who stand for peace and religious freedom to work toward reconciliation," Graz added.

Ethiopia is about 60 percent Christian and 40 percent Muslim, census reports indicate. Approximately 170,000 Adventists worship in more than 800 churches across the country.

The Adventist Church in Ethiopia will send six church officials to join representatives from five other faith communities later this week at the Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia, which is expected to survey the situation, Shaemalo said.
Interfaith event in Jordan opens new conversation with Islamic world

By: Bettina Krause/IRLA/ANN staff
Date: 03/10/11
0 Comment(s) Read/Add Comment
Email this story to a friend.

A religious liberty conference held in Jordan last week represents a historic step forward in dialogue between the Islamic world and advocates for religious freedom, organizers said. The Teaching Respect for Religions Symposium gathered scholars, political representatives and legal experts at the Amman College of Al-Balqa Applied University on March 1. The event marked just the second time the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA) has met in the Middle Eastern in its 119-year-history.

Organized in 1893 by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the IRLA is the oldest association dedicated to freedom of conscience for people of all faiths and persuasions.

"This conference has opened up an extraordinary opportunity for meaningful conversation with key Islamic leaders and thinkers about what it means to respect different religious traditions, and to live in harmony with one another," said John Graz, IRLA secretary-general.

"Two of the most powerful forces we can use to fight religious prejudice are knowledge about each other and building personal relationships," Graz said in his address.

The symposium was co-sponsored by the Arab Bridge Center for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization founded by former Jordanian Judge Amjad B. Shammout. It brought together IRLA experts, Islamic scholars and Imams, Jordanian law-enforcement leaders, youth leaders and members of the diplomatic community. Jordan's Prime Minister Marouf Suleiman al-Bakhit lent his support to the event and was represented by Jiryis Samawy, secretary-general of Jordan's Ministry of Culture.

Delbert Baker, a vice president of the Adventist world church and vice president of the IRLA, spoke to the group about respect and freedom -- principles that he said are mutually valued by both the Islamic and Judeo-Christian worlds. Yet, he said, too often a gap appears between theory and practice. He challenged the audience to analyze whether these principles influence their interactions with people.

In presenting his paper "Beyond Tolerance," IRLA coordinator for Interfaith Relations, Bill Johnsson, defined the difference between respect and tolerance. "Respect" actively affirms an individual's right to religious freedom, while "tolerance" can imply a reluctance to grant people their religious views, he said.

According to Johnsson, Jordan provided an ideal location for the...