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In Mexico, student killed in kidnapping attempt near Adventist university

By: Benjamin Garcia contributor
Date: 06/03/11
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A Montemorelos University student was shot and killed minutes away from the Northern Mexican school's campus in the evening hours of May 29, officials have confirmed. The shooting -- possibly a case of mistaken identity, a city official said -- happened just hours after the Seventh-day Adventist institution celebrated its 68th graduation ceremony.

Yoselin L. Perez Ramirez, 20, a second-year communications major, died of gunshot wounds after an attempted kidnapping. According to authorities, Perez was walking into a store at approximately 8:30 p.m. yesterday when she was approached and threatened. She ran away and later tracked down and shot. She was about to return to her home in Oaxaca for the summer, according to a statement made by Ismael Castillo, president of Montemorelos University.

"This is a very sad and unfortunate situation," Castillo said in an email to staff and faculty hours after the news broke out. "Our university community mourns the loss of our student. We cling to Jesus' promise in the Bible that I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."

Salvador Sepálveda Trejo, secretary of public security for the city of Montemorelos, said the investigation into the murder is ongoing. In recent months, the city has seen a rise of drug-related violence, with leaders of various "cartels" operating in the area and being arrested along with huge caches of weapons.

"Everything points to what could be a [case of] mistaken identity," Trejo said.

Perez, who lived on campus during the school year, was baptized during a week of prayer held at the university last November. University leaders are making arrangements with municipal and government officials to transport her body to her parents, who work at an Adventist school in the city of Santa Maria del Tule, Oaxaca, some 850 miles to the south.

A memorial service for Perez was held in the late afternoon of May 30 on the Montemorelos campus.
In Nepal, youth revival meeting is denomination's first

By: ANN Staff
Date: 06/03/11
0 Comment(s) Read/Add Comment
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A weekend youth rally in Nepal earlier this month, the first for the Seventh-day Adventist Church there, underscores how the denomination is growing in the formerly Hindu nation. Some 350 Adventists under the age of 30 from Nepal and Northern India met from May 4 to 8 for the Nepali Youth for Christ conference in Banepa, about 20 miles east of the capital Kathmandu.

Many walked for days from their remote villages to bus stops to attend the conference, which included preaching and workshops on spiritual leadership, Bible study and health. At night, attendees slept on cement floors with a thin mat and blanket.

"These were some of the most earnest young Adventists I've ever met in my 10 years of preaching to youth," said Jeffrey Rosario, an instructor at the Sonora, California-based ARISE Institute in the United States, who spoke at the conference.

The conference leadership team was comprised of eight people, all between the ages of 16 and 21. Eighteen-year-old Madeline Cardona led in organizing the meeting.

Rosario said other young Adventists are helping to lead the church in Nepal. Flora, 20, helps run an orphanage that rescues children, many of whom are born and raised in prison with their inmate mothers. "For $400, a child can have food, clothing and shelter there for an entire year," Rosario said. "I felt like the guy at the end of Schindler's List: 'this car, it's worth 10 people, this gold pin, it's worth two more people.'" It made him think of his own possessions, he said.

"In my world, most 20-year-olds are more interested in Lady Gaga's new single or the latest gossip on Facebook," Rosario said.

Rosario's language interpreter for the conference, Philip Dangal, 19, and his younger brother David are recent converts and developing preachers. Their father was a witchdoctor who converted to Adventism.

"The gospel has clearly changed their entire family," Rosario said.

Attendees spent Saturday afternoon on the streets of Banepa and surrounding villages sharing literature about Jesus.
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"It is heartening to see how the young people longed for the Adventist literature in the Nepali language, but that there are so few in print," said Bhaju Ram Shrestha, the first Adventist in Nepal.

"We want Jesus to come soon, and he is too kind to come soon because millions of Nepalese have not heard the sweetness of his presence, for what is the use of his second coming if the people have not experienced his first coming," Shrestha said.

Much of the Adventist Church's infrastructure in Nepal surrounds Scheer Memorial Hospital, an Adventist institution established in 1960.

According to the Adventist yearbook, there are about 8,000 Adventists in Nepal, up from about 5,400 in 2008. There are six ordained Adventist preachers in the country.

In 1993, Nepal had only 212 Adventists, according to the Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia.

Nepal's population is more than 28 million. Formerly a Hindu nation, the Nepalese parliament declared it a secular state in 2006.

The next Nepali Youth for Christ meeting is scheduled for June, 2012.
Christine Carr Celebrates 90th Birthday

By: Yvonne Moye
Date: 06/03/11
0 Comment(s) Read/Add Comment
Email this story to a friend.

Christine Carr celebrated her 90th birthday on June 10, 2011. She was born in Chicago, Illinois, the 4th child of five children born to Marie and W. H. Williams. She was the loving wife of the late Edwin G. Carr for 49 years. To this union was born Emerson and Ellery two loving and devoted sons.

Christine received a Bachelor’s degree in childhood education from McAlester Senior College in St. Paul, Min., and went on to receive a Master’s degree in child psychology from the University of Minnesota in Duluth, Min.

After 26 years in the field of education, she retired and along with her husband moved to Orlando, Fla. in 1988.

Christine was invited to attend a Revelation Seminar that was being conducted at Mt. Sinai SDA Church located in Orlando, Fla. by a friend. Upon completion of the seminar and continued bible studies, she was truly convicted of the 7th day Sabbath, the Health Message and the Spirit of Prophecy. She was baptized in 1995 and became a member of the Mt. Sinai.

Her dedication to education led her sponsor several students to Mt. Sinai Junior Academy. She has also contributed to the needs of the church. Christine is an honorary member of the senior citizens committee, the deaconess board and Kings Daughters Chapter 2 at Mt. Sinai.

A loving mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and sister, she is a treasure to her family and friends alike. “I want to be in that number when Jesus comes again,” said Christine.
Maranatha Conducts Annual Health & Fitness Fair

By: Willie Mae Peterkin Musgray  
Date: 06/03/11  
0 Comment(s) Read/Add Comment  
Email this story to a friend.

More than 1,500 people gathered at the North Florida Fairgrounds on Sunday, April 10th for the second annual Southside Community Health Fair, sponsored by the Tallahassee Maranatha SDA Church. This year, professional football player Ernie Sims and his Big HITS Foundation, which stands for "Helping to Instill Tools for Success," joined Maranatha as a co-sponsor.

A major contributor to the fair was the Florida A&M Univeristy (FAMU) chapter of Health and Educational Relief for Guyana (IHERG), a volunteer organization that provides local and international service opportunities for students of all majors. The fair was comprised of more than 70 vendors that provided a plethora of free services and goodies from noon to 5 p.m. for the medically and financially disenfranchised. However, this year’s focus was especially on seniors, youth, and children.

"This community health fair is a direct result of the outreach and in-reach pillar ministries of our church," said Willie L. Taylor, pastor of the Maranatha. The collaboration required to successfully plan and implement such a huge fair was born from the Joint Leadership Initiative, which was developed and promoted by Taylor. "Joint Leadership is a means to empower the church ministries to support each other and to serve the community in a big way," Taylor added.

A variety of critical health screenings were offered throughout the day at the fair, including HIV, diabetes, cholesterol levels, high blood pressure, vision, and dental screenings. The Leon County Mobile Health Unit, managed by Kathy Lewis was also on site.

"I expected to have a full and fruitful day with everything we offered and the Lord did not disappoint," said James L. James, head fair coordinator and Out-reach Pillar Ministry leader. "We must have touched more than 1,500 souls today."

Other activities included free food and clothing distributions, as well as a complete vegetarian meal served during the event. Children and youth enjoyed the rock climbing wall provided by the US Army. But, most of their time was spent in the Moon Walk and the Bounce House.

"Southside youth are more at risk, so we are trying to give them an alternative," said James. "We want them to know we are here for them."

"People were impressed that we had quality music and that it was indeed a real health fair," said Natalia Word, project manager and assistant coordinator of the fair.