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Robert Henley, M.A., MCSE, MCT
Communication/Technology Director Southeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Spam
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Forget previous vote
Frank W. Hale Jr. mentored thousands of students as a professor, and his promotion of scholarships for minorities helped The Ohio State University become the top producer of black Ph.D.s in the 1970s. Hale, who died yesterday at age 84, was also the first black dean at the Ohio State Graduate School and the first non-clergy to serve as president of Oakwood University, an historically black college directly affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church's world headquarters and located in Huntsville, Alabama.

"He brought to leadership a broader base for Christian education, not simply religion, but also religion and pure education," said Mervyn Warren, Oakwood provost, professor of religion and former interim president.

Hale taught a class each year he served as Oakwood president, and he established the school's department of public relations. Under his tenure, Oakwood joined the United Negro College Fund. He served as president from 1966 to 1971, before accepting the position at Ohio State as associate dean of the graduate school, chair of the fellowship committee and professor of communication.

As the fellowship committee chair, Hale helped grant nearly $15 million to some 1,200 minority graduate students. He also initiated a minority scholars program for high school graduating seniors.
Hale served as a professor at Ohio State from 1971 to 1988, before his appointment as vice provost. A campus building is named after him -- Hale Hall, which also houses the Frank W. Hale, Jr. Black Cultural Center.

"Dr. Hale was a pioneer in the educational field for this nation and for the Seventh-day Adventist Church," said Ella Simmons, a vice president of the Adventist world church, who also served in executive posts at Oakwood, La Sierra University and the University of Louisville in Kentucky.

"He made the right connections to bridge the divide between public and private schools. I have learned a lot from him," Simmons said.

A native of Kansas City, Missouri, Hale attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, earning bachelor's and master's degrees in communication and political science in 1950 and 1951. He earned a Ph.D. in communication and political science from Ohio State in 1955.

Hale was also awarded a post-doctoral fellowship in English Literature from the University of London in 1960.

Hale served as a professor at Oakwood from 1951 to 1959 and chaired the department of English at Central State University from 1959 to 1966. He lectured at more than 300 colleges and universities.

He later received honorary doctoral degrees from Wilberforce University, Shaw University, University of Nebraska, Capital University, La Sierra and Andrews University.

The first two of his three retirement attempts were unsuccessful. Hale served as executive assistant for the president at Kenyon College from 1989 to 1992 and as distinguished university representative and consultant in the office of the president at Ohio State from 1999-2005.

"We have lost one of the true giants of the Ohio State community," Ohio State President E. Gordon Gee said in a statement yesterday.

"Dr. Frank Hale was a scholar, teacher, researcher, administrator, a civil rights pioneer. More than that, he was a force to be reckoned with who opened the doors of opportunity to underserved students through sheer force of his intellect and determination," Gee said.

Hale was inducted in the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame in October.

He is survived by his wife Mignon Scott-Hale, a retired school teacher. His first wife, Ruth, preceded him in death in 2001.

Ifeoma Kwesi, one of his three children, is an assistant professor at Oakwood.
LOMA LINDA, Calif. — Health disparities between black Americans and the rest of the nation have been well-documented in medical journals. But one study shows that blacks who identify as members of the Seventh-day Adventist® Church actually report a better quality of life than the average American. Researchers point to certain lifestyle behaviors as a possible explanation for the difference.

The research was conducted at Loma Linda University as part of the Adventist Religion and Health Study (ARHS), a study of nearly 11,000 Adventists, including more than 3,400 black Adventists.

The findings were drawn from an ARHS survey that included questions from SF-12v2 Physical and Mental Health composite scores, widely recognized among researchers to be accurate measures of quality of life. Examples of questions included are:

"During the past four weeks, how much did pain interfere with your normal work?"

"How much time during the past four weeks have you felt downhearted and depressed?"

ARHS results were then compared to results from a nationwide sample of people who took the SF-12v2 survey. Overall, black Adventist study participants reported better physical and mental quality of life than the U.S. norm, in some cases by as much as 4.5 percentage points. (Data)

"It is striking that, although in the general population blacks show poorer quality of life on a variety of measures, our results show that black Adventists have a significantly better quality of life than the average American," says Jerry Lee, PhD, MA, RN, principal investigator for ARHS.
"This difference is particularly pronounced in older age groups, who progressively demonstrate increased mental health—lower depression, more energy, feeling more calm and peaceful, etc.—relative to the general population. This could be a result of the healthy lifestyle choices that are built into the Adventist faith."

Compared to non-Adventist blacks and whites, rates of smoking, drinking, and meat consumption for Adventists were lower, and rates of vegetarianism and water consumption were higher. In addition, about 95 percent of the males and females in the black study cohort attended church weekly or more often, as compared to 30 percent of black males and 50 percent of black females in the General Social Survey—a survey routinely done on a sample of the entire United States by the National Opinion Research Center.

Adventists, who advocate temperance, a plant-based diet, and setting aside Saturday for worship and family time, have received much coverage in recent years for their longevity and quality of life. Loma Linda, Calif., a city with a high concentration of Adventists, was the only United States locale featured in the book "The Blue Zones," by Dan Buettner. The book examined five areas of the world where life spans often noticeably exceed the norms. Loma Linda Adventist subjects of the book have been featured on many national TV spots, including a heart surgeon practicing at 94 years old, interviewed on "The Oprah Winfrey Show," and a piano teacher giving lessons at 97, interviewed on "Anderson Cooper 360."

ARHS is a sub-study of the Adventist Health Study-2 (AHS-2), a long-term health study of more than 96,000 Adventists, including 26,000 black Adventists, across the United States and Canada. Research shows that lifestyle diseases disproportionately affect blacks. Part of AHS-2's goal has been to determine why this is the case by exploring the links between diet, lifestyle, and disease. The results of ARHS are an important step toward learning practices that may help eliminate health disparities between blacks and the general population. As analysis of data continues, more exciting results are expected that will have far-reaching implications for improving the health of the black community.

AHS-2 is conducted by researchers at Loma Linda University School of Public Health. For more information, visit www.adventisthealthstudy.org.

Heather Reifsnyder
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Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center
AUC to lay off all staff as partnership with WAU delayed

By: ANN staff
Date: 07/29/11
1 Comment(s) Read/Add Comment
Email this story to a friend.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church's oldest educational institution, Atlantic Union College, plans to lay off its entire staff of 97 full-time employees on July 31 because of a delay in a partnership proposal of the institution with church-run Washington Adventist University in Maryland.

Leaders of both institutions have been working to secure permission from Massachusetts' education authorities to operate AUC as a satellite campus of WAU following the loss of its accreditation from a regional accrediting agency effective July 31. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges cited financial reasons in its decision.

Meanwhile, plans are in place to enable the current and prospective AUC students to attend WAU during fall semester. About 450 current AUC students were affected, said William Jackson, director of marketing and recruitment at WAU.

In March, both Adventist-owned institutions signed a "memorandum of understanding" meant to allow WAU to establish a satellite location on the South Lancaster, Massachusetts campus.

In a July 14 press release, WAU officials said that the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education has not processed the university's application to establish a satellite campus at AUC as school officials had planned. The proposal could take "up to a year," said Katy Abel, associate commissioner for external affairs for the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education.

"We're working through the process and are optimistic that we'll be able to operate soon after permission is granted by the commonwealth," WAU President Weymouth Spence said in the release.

"Fortunately, WAU has already been working with our students to provide a smooth transition to the Takoma Park campus," AUC President Norman
Wendth said in the release.

I pray that all works out for AUC. Has some of the famous graduates of AUC been involved to assist, such as Alvin Kibble or Mark Finley and others. These are situations that the entire denomination should take under all night prayer. I am certain the students taking courses in DC will greatly benefit from the experience educationally and career opportunities but will any of their financial aid follow? Remain Faithful, Yours in Christ
Evangelism comes in many forms. Crusades and tent meetings bring thousands of people to the Seventh-day Adventist Church each year, but they can't reach everyone. That’s where alternative methods come in.

"We must reach the people in our communities and let them know how much God cares and that we’re here them," said Olinto Groce, pastor of the Tabernacle Seventh-day Adventist Church. "This weekend will give all of us tools to witness to them."

The North American Division’s Reach-Out Symposium, held at Miami’s Tabernacle Seventh-day Adventist Church from April 15 to 17, was an opportunity to remind hundreds of attendees from the United States and the Caribbean that many sermons take place away from the pulpit.

"We’ve had a chance to learn, and we’ve had a chance to put into practice what we’ve learned," said Joe Watts, disaster response national coordinator.

The seminars were designed to attend the needs of as many people in the surrounding community as possible. In addition to Disaster response, workshops focused on Senior Citizens and Youth.

For Seniors the workshops covered topics such as Medicare and Medicaid, estate planning and financial and legal issues.

For the focus was on the Youth Empowered to Serve initiative. In addition to tutoring and mentoring, young people who stay active tend to stay out of trouble.

The ultimate goal is church growth through community development. Each church has a vital stake in the neighborhood it serves.

As churches target and identify the needs of their areas, they are, by extension, targeting and identifying the needs of future members of the
congregation.

Programs such as food distribution and tutoring work best where people need assistance making ends meet and students need after-school help.

"I think this is a phenomenon," said Sung Kwon, executive director of Adventist Community Services. "I’m thrilled to see older generations working side-by side with younger generations to get everyone involved and where they need to go."

Deroy Moncrieffe, head of Tabernacle’s Community Service department spearheaded the symposium’s South Florida stop (the NAD has symposiums throughout the year around the United States, and couldn’t be more pleased with the results).

"This is what we have long looked forward to," Moncrieffe said to the church before the symposium. "When it’s over, we will have the opportunity to change lives."

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Copyright 2005 Southeastern Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists
The Bethel SDA Church in Gainesville, Fla. is the new church home for 16 precious souls. Their baptism is a result of the three-week “New Lease on Life, Family Survival in the 21st Century” Bible conference that was recently held at Bethel.

Randy Robinson, treasurer of the Southern Union was the guest evangelist. “The series sought to teach attendees how to survive everyday challenges,” said Kevin K. Bryan, pastor of Bethel.

Preparation for the event began with a Soul Winning Action Team (SWAT) training on prayer, fasting and tract attack, led by Personal Ministries Leader, John Washington, Sr.

Members were divided into groups representing the twelve Biblical tribes and set out each Sabbath armed with door hangers, sets of Bible Studies, fliers and an eight-question community survey.

Night after night the Word of God was presented in a simple and practical way through music, scripture and the preached Word. Intriguing nightly topics included, “Sleeping Through the Siren”, “Strange Man of Mud and Metal”, “Your Day In Court”, “Mr. One Day Late”, and “What’s In A Name?” just to name a few.

Each night also featured a segment entitled “Focus on Finances” which highlighted key action texts to assist listeners in coping with hard economic times in which we are now living. The proven formula for getting out of debt forever was outlined in the 4 “P’s”: Put away credit cards, Prioritize your debt, Pick the smallest one, Pay it off.

On the first Sabbath of the crusade, two attendees gave their hearts to the Lord, followed by three additional ones on the second Sabbath.

The final Sabbath saw an abundant outpouring of the Holy Spirit, with nine...
additional baptisms during the Divine Worship Service.

But wait, the Holy Spirit still was not through. At the close of the final service on Saturday night, an appeal was made and six others made their stand...two of which were baptized that night, bringing the total number baptized to 16. In addition, 10 Bible studies were conducted and will by the Grace of God lead to further baptisms.

The series was made possible and successful due to the teamwork and cooperation of the Southern Union Conference, Southeastern Conference, the pastor, Bible workers, and members of Bethel.
First conversation between Adventists, Mennonites focuses on living Christian life

By: Bettina Krause and Ansel Oliver/ANN
Date: 07/29/11
0 Comment(s) Read/Add Comment
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This month's formal conversation between leaders of the Mennonite World Conference and the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists offered the opportunity for both groups to share their beliefs and dispel misunderstandings in a receptive forum, leaders of both groups said.

"By sitting down and talking with those of other faiths, we gain a deeper understanding of who they are," said John Graz, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director for the Adventist Church, whose department organized the June 28 to July 1 event at its world headquarters.

In a joint statement, leaders from both faiths said each shares "a desire to recover the authenticity and passion of the New Testament church, a similar understanding of Christian history, and a strong commitment to be followers of Jesus in their personal lives and in their corporate witness to the world."

The Mennonite World Conference represents some 99 Mennonite and Brethren in Christ national churches worldwide, with a combined membership of some 1.6 million. Mennonites, who trace their roots to the Anabaptist branch of the 16th Century Reformation, are today recognized for their emphasis on peacemaking, their stance as conscientious objectors, and their involvement in dispute resolution, both at local and international levels.

The roughly 500-year-old communion faced some of the most severe persecution of Christians; last year the Lutheran World Federation even...
apologized for its persecution of Anabaptists, the root of the Mennonites.

The Adventist Church rose following the Second Great Awakening in the United States in the 19th century, and it now has a world membership of some 17 million.

Danisa Ndlovu, president of the Mennonite World Conference, expressed his thanks to the Adventist Church for hosting the conversation.

"When you see people from a distance you can't say that you know them," said Ndlovu, who also serves as bishop of the Brethren in Christ Church in Zimbabwe. "But it is different when you sit down with someone and exchange ideas -- now we can say 'We know you.'"

Still, further conversations will pick up were this meeting left off. Future talks would explore Sabbath, its theology, and the Second Coming, said William Johnsson, director of the Adventist Church's inter-faith relations. "They believe in the Second Coming but it doesn't have the focus we put on it," Johnsson said.

Adventists hold their Sabbath day of worship from Friday sundown to Saturday sundown, as opposed to Mennonite and other Christian groups who worship on Sunday. The Mennonite delegation requested an opportunity to experience how Adventists keep Sabbath, and they stayed an extra day to attend a Friday evening supper and a church service on Saturday, Johnsson said.

Mennonite leaders at the meeting said they were interested to learn of the Adventist Church's focus and commitment of resources to issues of healthful living and religious freedom. The Adventist Church incorporates health as part of its faith and operates the largest integrated network of Protestant hospitals worldwide. The Adventist Church also launched in 1893 what is now the International Religious Liberty Association, a non-sectarian organization dedicated to promoting freedom of conscience.

Mennonite leaders also identified the structure of their global communion as inverted compared to the Adventist Church. Though based in Strasbourg, France, Mennonites congregations are autonomous, which generates more diversity, said Robert Suderman, former general secretary of the Mennonite Church Canada, who co-chaired the meeting.

Suderman said structures of both communions "have their pros and cons." In the Adventist Church, theology and direction is offered at the General Conference world headquarters and then trickles down through the rest of its five levels of administration: divisions, unions, conferences and local congregations.

The administrative structure may have been responsible for some of the Adventist Church's success, Suderman said.

"Adventists have grown very quickly in 150 years and we haven't," he said. "That's probably an issue we want to investigate in the next round of conversations."
The two faiths are planning another conversation next year in Switzerland.
ADRA delivering food, water during East African drought

By: Christina Zaiback/ANN staff
Date: 07/29/11
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The Adventist Development and Relief Agency is providing water, food and emergency supplies to thousands of the most vulnerable people affected by a drought in East Africa.

ADRA's Africa Regional Office, based in Nairobi, Kenya, is launching a multi-faceted intervention in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda to combat the high rates of malnutrition and protect the affected population from the threat of the spread of disease. An estimated 85,000 individuals will benefit directly from this response, ADRA officials said.

Low rainfall over the past year is causing the driest year across the region since 1951.

The World Food Programme reported that more than 10 million people in East Africa are in dire need of humanitarian aid as a result of diminishing food sources stemming from the recent rise in food prices and severe drought that have overwhelmed the region.

Of the nearly 10 million people requiring humanitarian assistance, more than half are children.

An ADRA spokeswoman said the agency's response is an increase of existing operations in the region.

"We're not new in these areas and we're aware of the needs and how to serve these populations," said Marie-Jo Guth, who serves on the Emergency Unit at ADRA International.

"Without water, it's a simple matter of survival for many of them right now," said Guth, who returned from Ethiopia last week.

In the Western Somali region of Ethiopia, ADRA will provide an emergency water trucking response, as well as livestock feed and veterinary assistance to protect the assets of the farming communities, who rely on livestock for
their livelihood.

In Kenya, ADRA is providing food rations to 800 households, with a special ration reserved for pregnant and lactating mothers, and an additional ration for malnourished children.

Kenya is experiencing its highest rate of acute malnutrition since 2003, a significant cause being the 25 percent increase in food prices from January through April. ADRA is also drilling four boreholes for wells in various communities and making drinking water readily available with emergency water trucking.

In Somalia, ADRA is providing high-risk areas with clean drinking water through a water trucking response and repairing several boreholes in strategic locations. ADRA is also constructing latrines to protect against the spread of diseases among internally displaced persons camps.

In Uganda, hundreds of thousands of people are reported to be in danger of severe starvation and living with a dangerously low supply of water. ADRA will provide food, water and emergency non-food items to 55,000 beneficiaries in northeastern region of Karamoja.

ADRA is a global non-governmental organization providing sustainable community development and disaster relief without regard to political or religious association, age, gender, race or ethnicity.

For more information, visit adra.org.
Southern Mexico's religious liberty forum spotlights local challenges to freedom of belief

By: Raul Lozano/ANN staff
Date: 07/29/11
0 Comment(s) Read/Add Comment
Email this story to a friend.

Seventh-day Adventist Church religious liberty advocates hope last week's religious liberty forum in the Mexican state of Chiapas will improve the situation of Protestant Christians in the region, who in recent decades have faced increased local resistance to their beliefs.

The July 16 forum -- preceded by a meeting with some 600 church pastors and laypeople from three regions in Southern Mexico -- drew religious liberty experts and local government officials, raising awareness of challenges to religious liberty in Chiapas.

World church Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Director John Graz, who spoke at the event, thanked Mexican officials for their ongoing efforts to protect freedom of conscience, noting that in some countries such a festival would be forbidden.

While Mexico's national constitution makes provisions for religious liberty, local religious customs and traditions often usurp the law in Chiapas.

Although they garner little attention from the international community, recent cases of violence directed toward Protestants in the region, among them Adventists, intensify the need to protect the region's tenuous religious liberty, Graz said.

"When these people join the church, there is a contradiction between their new Protestant values and their ethnic culture," Graz said. "They are seen as
betraying their heritage."

New Protestant converts declining to participate in monthly festivals of religious saints can face arrest. Others are required to perform community service if they don't contribute funds to Catholic events.

Although not clearly categorized as religious intolerance, the recent cases of Adventist families expelled from their communities in the Highlands of Chiapas and an Adventist family gunned down on the way to church last month in Huixtan, Chiapas, are especially troubling.

Adventist religious liberty experts have followed the situation in Chiapas for years, Graz said, noting that thousands of Protestants have been affected since the mid-1990s. "Mexico is a democratic society, but these challenges prove that religious freedom is fragile and at risk everywhere if we are not aware and vigilant," he said.

Abraham Madero, director of religious ministers at the Secretary of Government in Mexico City, told festival attendees that the country is "a step away from the full recognition of religious liberty." While Mexico recognized basic religious liberty in 1992, recent restructuring of the country's human rights legislation offers an "open door" to expand religious liberties outlined in the constitution.

"Religious liberty is one of the fundamental human rights," said Enrique Ramirez, undersecretary of religious affairs for the State of Chiapas. Recently, local government in the region passed a law to "prevent and eliminate" religious discrimination, Ramirez said.

The region has also launched a program to develop a "culture of peace" in Chiapas by helping communities establish "an environment of friendship and agreement," Ramirez said. Already, 1,000 citizens have undergone training to address problems in their respective communities, he said.

The region is also expected to collaborate with the Inter-religious Committee of Chiapas to address challenges to religious liberty as they arise, he added.
Norwegian Adventist leader says hate must not prevail following attacks

By: ANN staff
Date: 07/29/11

The Seventh-day Adventist Church's top leader in Norway on Friday said the church and the community must not let hatred prevail following a national tragedy of 76 people killed in a bombing and shooting spree. Separately, the denomination's religious liberty director urged careful dialogue on the incident and cautioned that the ideology of the man who confessed to the acts should be referred to as "extremist" instead of "Christian Fundamentalist," as several news reports had indicated.

"Our thoughts are with relatives and friends of those who have been injured and killed," said Reidar Kvinge, president of the Adventist Church in Norway. "We are appalled by the cruel disregard for human life these actions show."

"The grave tragedy that has affected young, enthusiastic people gathered at Utoya must not lead us in Norway to let hatred prevail," Kvinge said.

Norwegian native Anders Behring Breivik, 32, confessed to a pair of July 22 attacks, which killed 76 people, The Washington Post reported. Breivik allegedly was responsible for the bombing of a government building in the capital, Oslo, and later gunned down dozens of teens and young adults at a youth camp of the Labor Party on the island of Utoya in Lake Tyrifjord.

Reidar Kvinge, president of the Adventist Church in Norway, said Friday's national tragedy was "appalling" and urged members and the community not to let hate prevail. [NUC file photo]
Breivik had apparently targeted the nation's ruling Labor Party, a left-center party and historic supporter of immigration and multiculturalism. Breivik allegedly published earlier that day an online screed that railed against pluralism, including, in his words, the "Islamization of Western Europe."

The afternoon bomb attack on the government building did not affect a nearby Adventist Church property in Akersgt, but services on Saturday were canceled on advice from police, said Torre Tjeransen, Communication director for the Adventist Church in Norway.

The Adventist Church's national headquarters, along with a junior college, is located a few miles from the Utøya island in Lake Tyrifjord, Tjeransen said.

There are about 4,600 Adventists in Norway, a nation of about 4.9 million people.

In a statement today, John Graz, director of the Adventist world church's Public Affairs and Religious Liberty department said "media reporting that these attacks may have been motivated by right-wing Christian fundamentalism are profoundly disturbing."

"Such acts are utterly alien to Christian teachings and values," Graz said. "Violence carried out in the name of Christianity is an absolute distortion of a religion that finds its genesis in Jesus Christ, the 'Prince of Peace.'"

Graz also urged caution in the use of the term "fundamentalist" to describe the individual alleged to have carried out the attacks, instead proffering the term "extremist" as a more accurate description of the type of ideology and behavior that falls far outside the norms of a religious community.

"There's a risk that 'fundamentalism' will become blurred in people's minds with the idea of 'conservative Christianity' -- a confusion that could serve to widen the gulf of misunderstanding between different religious traditions," he said.

"We must re-double our efforts to promote understanding and respect between people of different cultures and faiths," he said.

--reporting by BUC News, IRLA and ANN staff