Pure Reality Sees First Weddings
By: John Devine
Exodus 23:19 says The best of the first fruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God. In early days, people were taught to give the first fruits the first and best of their harvest to the Lord in recognition of His blessing. Now after eight years, Pure Reality is seeing its first fruits begin to bloom.

Full story @ http://www.secsda.org/sketches/story.cfm?id=1141

2013 Adventist world budget: mission, administrative support
By: Ansel Oliver/Adventist News Network
The 2013 budget of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's world headquarters funds mission work and administrative support outside of
North America, as well as the operation of the headquarters building. The Adventist Churchs nearly US$174 million world budget this year allocates nearly $42.4 million in appropriations to the fields outside of North America. An additional $28.5 million appropriations funds missionaries and employees serving in other divisions.

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In early days, people were taught to give the first fruits the first and best of their harvest to the Lord in recognition of His blessing. Now after eight years, Pure Reality is seeing its first fruits begin to bloom.

The organization's mission is to reinforce God's plan that sexual purity is the standard God has set for us, and it continues its phenomenal growth through annual retreats, Treasure Key ceremonies, and its Pure Ambassador program.

The eighth annual retreat held at Camp Kulaqua from March 16 to 18 had 510 people (including staff) from 12 years old to young adults ready to give their lives to Him. Twenty-four people gave their hearts to God through baptism.

The attendees reinforced their commitments through Treasure Key ceremonies held on April 22, 2012, at Tabernacle Seventh-day Adventist Church in Miami, Fl., and on June 2, 2012, at First University Church in Tampa, Fl. In June 2011, the Pure Reality team hosted a Treasure Key Weekend in Nassau, Bahamas.

Each attendee receives a token key, which symbolizes that their sexual purity was reserved for their spouse and is exchanged during their wedding vows or on their wedding night. Though there have been baptisms and rededications, the first fruits of Pure Reality now include young people who are now giving of themselves in marriage.

Since 2010, four couples Jono and Ketsia Gustave, Jonathan and Natacha Dalberiste, Adley and Alexa Philossaint and Gregory and Clodianne Larose have gotten married and use many of the principles they learned at Pure Reality to this day.
The Gustaves are at Oakwood University and serve with the National Association to Prevent Starvation, where they travel around the world taking care of physical and spiritual needs of others while spreading the word of purity. Before their wedding, the Gustaves, both 27, shared this message with their guests.

"After Pure Reality we walked in confidence understanding what God was calling us to: a pure, sanctified relationship covered in the blood of the Savior. A year and a half after Pure Reality we decided to join in holy matrimony, and a symbolism of our love on that day was the exchange of the keys that were given to us at the Pure Reality ceremony. Even before Pure Reality we agreed not to get wedding bands, so the key that symbolized our purity in Christ was perfect!"

The Dalberistes, who were married on May 8, 2011, were friends since 2006 and did not begin dating until 2008. Said Natacha, 25, "We each agreed and made the commitment that we would remain pure for our future spouses when we were just friends, not knowing that we would end up being each others spouses. God has a funny way of working things out. We made the vow of remaining pure to each other not only to be able to exchange treasure keys the night of our wedding but also because we understood that God intended sexual intimacy to be for marriage."

Jonathan, 26, introduced his future wife to Pure Reality in 2009. The two attended the 2010 retreat and were engaged months later, but the time before marriage can be filled with temptation.

Said Natacha, "There were times when the devil tried to make us believe that because we loved each other and were contemplating marriage that it was OK to indulge in activities of married couples, but praise God the Holy Spirit constantly reminded us of Hebrews 13:4. Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. With much prayer, advice from married couples, and constant communication with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ we were able to make it through our two-and-a-half years of courting and dating."

While the Dalberistes have been married for a year, the Laroses and Philossaints are still in their honeymoon phase. Not only do they share the same wedding date July 1, 2012 but many of the same beliefs regarding abstinence.

Adley Philossaint, 26 and Alexa Philossaint, 24, grew up together and have been part of Pure Reality since the beginning. In fact, Alexa is the daughter of one of the mothers who were inspired to start the program. Said Alexa, "I had a candle from the first year of Pure Reality on which I had written a promise to keep myself pure until my wedding day. And when I was finally able to give it to my husband, the feeling was exhilarating because God helped me to achieve what the world said was impossible, waiting until marriage."

Added Adley, "It has been so amazing to experience true love, love that is
patient, kind, long-suffering. But all this comes only with waiting on the Lord's master plan for your life."

With such a long relationship they dated four years before they were married they have been fortunate enough to see God move in their lives. Both have completed their undergraduate degrees. Adley, is preparing to be a certified public accountant while Alexa is in law school at the University of Miami. The future is bright, but only because God comes first.

And these are lessons that they would like to pass down to others. "Pure reality has given me so much," Alexa Philossaint said. "I can't imagine not giving back to show the young people that living a life style of purity is possible with the help and constraint of the one and only true Living God."

The Dalberistes and Philossaints had long relationships before dating, but the Laroses met at Pure Ambassador training. The Pure Ambassadors are young people who are specially trained to talk to their peers about the merits of such a program. From that program, love bloomed.

Said Clodiane Larose, 25, of her new spouse Gregory, 23, "During the Pure Ambassador training and the game night, we were learning, growing and planning for our future spouse. We had no idea we were seating right next to each other the whole time. It surprised us that God was playing matchmaker, and we were meant to be more than just friends."

As the Pure Reality continues to grow and evolve, so do the relationships of the people involved. Seven years ago, the goal was to lay out the plan of love and marriage as young people transitioned from adolescence to adulthood. Now adulthood and marriage have been reached the messaged has not only spread throughout the country, but it has deepened the bonds of matrimony.

Perhaps Clodianne Larose summed it up best when she said, "at our wedding, many witnessed Gods real version of love, pure love and were inspired. We believe this ministry is powerful, and we definitely want to share it."