

Outlook

SECOND QUARTER 2017 | SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

Mission to
the Cities



Outlook

SECOND QUARTER 2017

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Why Do We Use A Logo To Represent The Seventh-day Adventist Church?

Mamerto M. Guinguing II

Seventh-day Adventist is more than just a name or a logo. It is a visual representation of a group of people, who claims to have the entire Bible as the source of all teachings and norm, and points to Jesus Christ as Creator, Redeemer, and soon-coming King.

In 1860, after the name Seventh-day Adventist was voted to be the official name of the group of believers, Ellen White said that the name bears the approval of heaven. Since then we use this name as our corporate identity. We use it to refer to our faith community. With this name we identify our group as the prophetic movement that emerged after the 2300-days prophecy, or literally the group that came out after 1844. We use this name to refer to our group as the visible, last-day remnant of Revelation. That we have a name is a long-settled issue, but how do we visually represent that name?

Visible Symbol

Recently, the Church came out with a new identity guideline system to explain the new identity toolkit. We now have a new, dedicated website <https://identity.adventist.org> for this. There are four elements in it which includes the seven-grid, or the creation grid, the advent sans as the official font, the color, and the symbol. “The ultimate goal of this work is to help people know we are all Seventh-day Adventists,” the website explains. When they see the symbol, they will know what it is that the symbol represents. Thus, our Seventh-day Adventist logo/symbol should be

Universality of the Message

The logo is a registered symbol of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is us who gives meaning to the symbol we use. To alter its design, even in its minutest form, is to distort its meaning. This design represents our church and the message we carry to the world. It is protected by copyright and trademark. We do not have the freedom to change or alter it to our liking. We encourage every church organization to adopt the official symbol of the church.

placed within the range of vision, visible enough to be seen by the people because it is our visual identity, and it is our brand.

It is our prayer that when people see the logo, they will bring people to an understanding of who we are as a church.

Centered on Hope and Experience

The purpose of the logo is to communicate the intended message. It is a message we tell about our personal encounter with Jesus and His word. Jesus always gave each one the unforgettable experience. We can see many examples of it in the Bible: Peter walked on water; the thousands who were fed with just five loaves of bread and two fishes; Lazarus being resurrected; Blind Bartimaeus received his sight. It is our hope that when people see the logo, they will think of Jesus Christ and His salvation and the wonderful experience of hope He gives to those who believe on His name. ❖

(n.d.). Retrieved from <https://identity.adventist.org/global-elements/the-church-symbol/>





Bangladesh Adventist Union Mission employees (BAUM) Mrinal S. Halder (above photo) and Young Moon Kim (bottom right photo) distribute yellow "Quit Smoking" caps during an Adventist-sponsored anti-tobacco parade (top right photo) in Dhaka, Bangladesh on May 31.



[photos: BAUM]



Bangladesh Adventists celebrate World No Tobacco Day

Adventists share healthy lifestyle principles in the streets of Dhaka

Jan 07, 2017 • Dhaka, Bangladesh • Benjamin Raksham/ Teresa Costello • Southern Asia-Pacific Division

With growing governmental concern over tobacco use, the Seventh-day Adventist church in Bangladesh responded with a health rally on May 31, which happened to be World No Tobacco Day as part of its ongoing community health efforts.

Government reports in Bangladesh indicate that more than 40% of its residents use tobacco products and the number is rising. Alarming, the "Smokeless Tobacco and Public Health: A Global Perspective Report" released in 2014 by the Center for Disease Control noted that Bangladesh and India are home to 80% of the world's smokeless tobacco users. Bangladesh's Health and Family Welfare Minister Mohammad Nasim recently called for a national social movement to combat the increasing problem.

Adventist leaders noticed the prevailing tobacco use in the area around the Adventist headquarters in capital city Dhaka, particularly among the rickshaw pullers who often live below the poverty line and have limited access to medical care and

health programs. For them preventative health measures are a practical approach Adventists can offer. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency Bangladesh (ADRA Bangladesh), Dhaka Seventh-day Adventist Church and Bangladesh Adventist Union Mission (BAUM) Health Ministries Department jointly sponsored the health rally to share what they can offer to the community.

The rally began at around 9:00 a.m. at the Union headquarters and featured a two-kilometer, or a little over a mile, parade through the crowded city streets. The lively procession featured traditional drummers and Adventists who served as live anti-tobacco messages. Dressed in brightly colored Adventist Community Service vests, they carried banners and umbrellas with tobacco cessation slogans and wore yellow caps with "Quit Smoking" in English and Bangla.

Despite the scorching heat and humidity, more than 100 employees and church members from the BAUM, ADRA Bangladesh, Dhaka Adventist Pre-Seminary and School (DAPS), Adventist Dental Clinic

(ADC), and Dhaka Seventh-day Adventist Church participated.

Adventist church leaders such as Myun Ju Lee, president of the Adventist church in Bangladesh; Sweetie Ritchil, treasurer for the Adventist Church in Bangladesh; other departmental directors, and four local mission presidents were among those who distributed almost 1,200 pamphlets during the parade.

As a union president with a busy ministry schedule, Lee was very intentional about his participation in the rally. "I've seen many rickshaw drivers smoking as they wait for passengers. Today I had the opportunity to be part of a group sharing about the dangers of tobacco and encouraging them to stop using it. When they accepted the leaflets about how to be smoke free, I was happy to be a part of an activity that could have an effect not just on one man but a family and, perhaps, even a community." Reflecting on his experience, he added, "I want to stay involved in these kinds of activities. Isn't a leader to be an example in every type of ministry? I would like to encourage all leaders to work together with our colleagues."

In addition to literature, the group gave their caps to rickshaw pullers and pasted "Say No to Smoking/Have Longevity" stickers on rickshaws, buses, and lampposts as a way for their message to continue its impact.

Similarly, Adventists in Dhaka will continue to seek ways to carry their message of positive health choices based on biblical principles to as many city-dwellers as possible. ❖

[Reprinted from Adventist News Network]

Seventh-day Adventists in southern Philippines assist Marawi city evacuees displaced by militant fighting



Adventists in the region ask for prayer for the people of Marawi

May 31, 2017 • Marawi City, Philippines • Teresa Costello with additional reporting by Jade Soreño and Romhelyn Gay Deles

Adventist groups are assisting evacuees displaced from the Philippines' largest Muslim city of Marawi during militant fighting in southern Philippines this past week. Members of a militant group called the Maute invaded the city in response to a failed military attempt to capture the group's pro-ISIS leader on May 23. They took over a government hospital and burned a private Christian college and the city jail prompting Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte to declare martial law in the island of Mindanao.

While exact numbers are difficult to determine, officials estimate that up to 2,000 of the city's over 200,000 residents remain trapped in the city due to the fighting between militants and the military. The rest fled during the early days of the week-long siege with thousands making their way to Iligan City located 38 miles north of Marawi. While many used public and personal transportation, some fled on foot, attempting to walk to the city. Others found refuge in the areas surrounding Marawi. The influx of evacuees caused Iligan City officials to declare a May 29 lockdown over fear that militants might try to enter the city with the evacuees and broaden their hold on the area.

In response to the evacuees' plight, Adventist members are assisting in as many ways as possible. They gather relief goods like food packs, water, personal necessities, infant diapers, and clothes. The Adventist Medical Center (AMC) in Iligan City stands ready to provide medical assistance as needed. A social worker from the hospital recently organized a visit to one of the evacuation centers in the city at the outdoor court of Iligan School of Fisheries.

"The current situation gives very little comfort to the evacuees who are sleeping on the floor of the outdoor court. I see the need to organize a medical mission to avoid an outbreak of illness among those seeking safety in the evacuation centers," said Jun Mar, a staff worker in AMC-Iligan.



Volunteers from the local Adventist headquarters in South Philippines and a local government representative discuss the needs of evacuees displaced by the recent uprising in Marawi City, Philippines.

However, stories of local members and their active caring led the way. A group of local members traveled almost 90 kilometers from the Adventist church union headquarters in south Philippines (SPUC) in Cagayan de Oro City to Iligan City. They delivered donated clothing, toiletries, and food to one of the city's three refugee centers. There they listened to and tried to encourage the women who had fled with their children and now wonder what happened to their husbands.

In addition, the group visited others in one of the most poverty-stricken areas and discovered that they were the first ones to bring relief goods there. In one tiny make-shift home, they discovered 42 people sharing the small space. The evacuees thanked the group for bringing much-needed supplies and hope.

One of the group's members is now organizing a soup kitchen for the military. Although their needs are provided by the government, additional support and caring encourage them during the long and difficult days.

As the casualties increased throughout the week, Adventists in the Philippines and abroad were concerned for the members of one Adventist congregation in the city. This congregation is composed of students and faculty from Mindanao State University. It is reported that all of them were safely evacuated. The students returned to their family homes and the faculty were transported to Iligan.

Seventh-day Adventists in the region ask the World Church to pray for the people of Marawi and the Adventists who are striving to share compassion and represent our caring God in the midst of conflict.

Marawi is located in Mindanao, the second largest and southernmost island in the Philippines. The Adventist church oversees 2,000 churches with almost 500,000 members in the region which includes Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago. ❖

[Reprinted from Adventist News Network]



[photo: Joshua Sagala]

Southern Asia-Pacific Division President Samuel Saw emphasizes the value of missionary work at a benefit concert in Sentul International Convention Center, Sentul City, Indonesia. The proceeds will help send missionaries from SULADS and 1000 Missionary Movement to numerous unreached cities, urban and rural areas.

Adventist Church in Indonesia raises over \$100,000 for missionaries

Adventist leader shares moving stories about missionaries who minister to those in need despite personal discomfort

May 23, 2017 • Jakarta, Indonesia • Gay Deles/ SSD Media Ministries/ Nelson Paulo

An Adventist leader shares moving stories about missionaries who minister to those in need despite personal discomfort. Seventh-day Adventists in Indonesia raised more than \$100,000 in three weeks to help missionary ministries in the church's Southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD). Adventist members in west Indonesia organized a benefit concert to promote mission work and gathered a crowd of over 11,000 and filled the entire venue.

"... what else could be better than worship? A twelve-hour praise and worship has never happened in my life," said Nelson Paulo, director for the SSD media ministries services. "I've heard people at the venue tell me that this is the longest Happy Sabbath they have ever attended."

Members of the Adventist Church in east and west Indonesia gathered in the Sentul International Convention Center on May 6 to hear Saw Samuel, president of the church's southern Asia-Pacific region share stories of missionaries who go to challenging places, like a remote island in southern Philippines and the lush mountainous region of Irian Jaya (Papua), Indonesia.

During his message, Samuel shared stories of volunteers from the Socio-

economic Uplift, Literacy, Anthropological and Developmental Services (SULADS) and the 1000 Missionary Movement with headquarters in the Philippines.

Samuel shared his experience from a visit when he and fellow church administrators went to the Philippine island of Tawi-Tawi to meet volunteer teachers who work among the Muslim communities. Their goal is to help alleviate quality of life through literacy. Samuel described the living conditions the teachers experience—including water scarcity, risky travel on a small boat to reach communities on surrounding islands, and the possible threat to safety.

Samuel also told stories of young people who are missionaries from the 1000 Missionary Movement program. They are assigned to work in a local community in Irian Jaya, Indonesia.

"How can you only eat sugar cane with tapioca? But these two missionaries ... have no discouragement... and regret. They were in tears. I knew that they miss their home and their friends. But they hold up their fists and say, "Once a missionary, always a missionary!"

Samuel added, "With the spirit and commitment, our young people are in the field, reaching out to the people."

Samuel was in Jakarta for the church's West Indonesia Union Mission President's Council. The meetings were also attended by several administration officers and department directors. Also in Jakarta were Guillermo E Biaggi, general vice president for the Adventist world church, and Claude Richli, associate secretary for the Seventh-day Adventist Church and liaison to the Adventist church in the Southern Asia-Pacific region.

The Adventist church's West Indonesia Union Mission (WIUM) oversees more than 830 churches with a membership of 100,000. It operates other institutions including a university and hospital in Bandung. With the WIUM headquarters in Jakarta, it is also home to the production studio Hope Channel-Indonesia.

In east Indonesia, the Adventist church's East Indonesia Union Conference located in Manado takes care of at least 870 churches with 114,000 members, operates a hospital and clinic, as well as aviation services in Irian Jaya and an Adventist World Radio studio. ❖

[Reprinted from Adventist News Network]



Locals in the heavily affected capital of Colombo wait for flood waters to recede.



Adventists in Sri Lanka

among survivors of recent widespread flooding



May 31, 2017 • Sri Lanka • Teresa Costello

In spite of widespread devastation, Adventists assist in disaster response. Recent heavy rains have caused landslides and extensive flooding in Sri Lanka with Adventists among those affected in 15 of the country's 25 districts. Almost 180 people have died and more than 100 are missing in what officials consider the worst flooding in more than a decade. The central and southern areas are hardest-hit with over 100,000 people displaced and a half million affected.

Majintha Gunatilake, Sri Lanka Mission (SLM) communication director, reports that "around 300 Adventists (70 families) are affected in the Matara District which is 133 km south of the capital of Colombo. Some of the affected districts are not this far." To date, there are no reports of damage to or loss of Adventist churches.

"We are trying to help them in their immediate needs and also finding ways to extend our support further," comments SLM President George P. Wambeck.

"Local church pastors and members work hand in hand to help the people in affected areas," adds Gunatilake. "Local pastors, members, and a Global Mission worker have committed to help the families who are in desperate situations." He notes that "the wells of that area are also...flooded and they want to clear those wells by pumping out the dirty water." It is not yet clear how local officials will do this, but Adventists are ready to help as needed.

Several Adventist organizations are preparing to help with ongoing and future needs. ADRA-SLM will soon be in the areas most affected, while several SLM schools plan to assist in the Matara District in the south.

Since May is the start of the monsoon season, more flooding is likely to happen as the season progresses. This brings a concern for survivors developing dengue fever, a potentially life-threatening disease common in tropical areas. Surges in cases often develop after flooding as stagnant waters provide ample areas for mosquito to breed. Thus, Adventist medical groups may be among those treating survivors as needed.

SLM is home to 3,042 Adventists in 37 churches among the predominantly Buddhist country's 21,000,000 citizens. SLM is one of 14 countries in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. ❖

[Article and photo reprinted from Adventist News Network]



[photo: Joshua Sagala]



Chinese Adventists help strengthen urban communities in Jakarta and around Indonesia

May 29, 2017 • Jakarta, Indonesia • Romhelyn Gay Deles

Organized in 2003, the Chinese Adventist membership in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta has found a way to serve urban communities by offering a practical and sustainable jumpstart to improve the quality of life for city dwellers. This enthusiastic group, mostly composed of working professionals in various fields, started the Chinese Ministry Center (CMC) and began producing a simple radio talk show in 2006. The show's focus on health issues widely caught the attention of listeners. Information about these radio shows are also shared through social media to reach a wider audience. The hosts would then invite their listeners to a health camp where activities are centered on nutrition, spiritual and social health, and physical fitness.

The founding members of CMC truly believe that every member of the Adventist church needs to be personally involved in sharing love, spreading hope, and encouraging spiritual and physical healing to communities. To support this, four centers of influence were first established by the CMC-Jakarta in the Jakarta suburbs of Cideng, Pluit, Kelapa Gading, and Serpong.

Today, centers of influence are promoted as Life Hope Centers by the Adventist world church (GC). These centers can be any establishment that connects the church to the needs of the community.

The focus of these centers in Jakarta is as varied as the Adventists who serve there.

Liong Pit Lin is involved in the Life Hope Center in Pluit. She was miraculously

healed after being diagnosed with three types of critical stage cancer. She now travels across Indonesia to share her testimony. She believes it is God's way of blessing others through her story and allows her to offer awareness seminars on cancer and prevention.

Dewi Tjhin is a career woman who has devoted her life for the mission of the church because she found joy in following Jesus Christ. She believes that God's purpose in her life is to serve others. As much as she is still involved with the programs and planning of the Chinese Ministry Center-Jakarta, she presently gives more of her time as an administrative director of Sekolah Kristen Makarios, a school where she is developing a program that caters to the holistic academic experience of students. She believes that if students have a clear understanding of self-worth and personal value as God sees them, they will attain success. This will therefore help fulfill their purpose in life and encourage them to become better citizens of their country.

Liong Pit Lin and Dewi Tjhin also find the time to co-host in CMC-Jakarta's local radio show giving health tips and encouragement to their listeners. The show is aired on Heartline FM 100.6. They also post updates and information on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/cmc.jakarta88>.

Today, Adventists all over Indonesia took inspiration from what CMC started in Jakarta and have now started Life Hope

Centers in places like Bandung, Surabaya, Semarang, Makasar, Manado, Solo, and Bali.

One result is Club Sehat, a health food store in Bandung, a city southeast of Jakarta. Club Sehat not only introduces products for a healthier lifestyle, but has become a venue for locals in the community. Local church members come to support the regular meetings organized for customers who have a deeper interest in how to live a quality life. This Life Hope Center provides a safe place where locals can join in light conversations or intentional discussions over specialized topics which they can practically apply in their lives.

Offering practical life improvement and positive messages, these are just a few ways the Adventist church in Indonesia is becoming known for its centers of life and hope. With more members becoming inspired to share more with their communities, plans are underway for more Life Hope Centers. To learn more about these centers and how to get involved in your area, go to <https://am.adventistmission.org/lhc>.

Indonesia, one of 14 countries in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division territory, is home to over 200,000 Adventists in over 1,700 churches. ❖

[Reprinted from Adventist Review online edition]

Sri Lanka Adventist

students and teachers spread health awareness in their community



Sri Lanka • Teresa Costello with additional reporting by Majintha Gunatilake

Annual temperance walk offers “a better life—one step at a time”

Students often think lessons take place only in the classroom and don't influence their lives beyond those doors. Students at an Adventist school in western Sri Lanka have learned differently and recently set out to show their community how health education can positively affect all aspects of life.

Throughout the school year, the 1,250 students at the Adventist International School, Negombo (AIS) learn the positive effects of a plant-based diet, exercise, hygiene, and tobacco-free living in the classroom. Since most of the students are non-Christian, some of these lessons are eye-opening, enough so that they want to share with those around them.

The school's 2017 Annual Temperance Day on May 25 provided just that opportunity. Students collaborated with their teachers at the 1-12 grade school for various aspects of the day's program this year. With a goal to “promote a healthy lifestyle and a society free of smoking, alcohol, and drugs,” each high school class was responsible for decorating a vehicle for the parade. They chose different health emphases such as healthy fats, exercise options, and the importance of rest. Some vehicles bore large handmade fruit and vegetable displays while others



(photo: Chamara Yithana and AIS media)

Adventist International School (AIS) students share health education during the school's annual Temperance Day parade for the community on May 25.

were covered with colorful banners and decorations.

The parade drew 1,500 participants consisting of AIS students and staff, SLM administrators, and the AIS Pathfinder club as well as students and staff from nearby Kandan Adventist High School. A contingency of students in traditional dress drew the crowd's attention beforehand followed by the participants, a marching band and decorated vehicle floats for the five-kilometer parade.

According to participants, the school's efforts do make an impact by emphasizing how simple changes can make a big difference in people's lives. AIS staff hope to

create a ripple effect with students to become health ambassadors for their families and communities. This event is just one of several ways the school attempts to offer practical ways to improve their community.

AIS administrators plan to continue to share health education with those around the school. In the future, AIS will offer a health awareness program on November 11. In February 2018, the school will join in a World Church city awareness program. SLM President George Wambek encourages schools to reach out to their communities and joined AIS' 2017 Annual Temperance Day to show his support.

Meanwhile, AIS teachers will continue to emphasize the importance of positive personal health choices to their students. Day by day, they hope that these lessons will walk out of the classroom and into homes to benefit families and communities across Negombo.

Established in 1984, AIS serves a multi-faith community including Hindus, Buddhists, Catholics, and other Christians. Adventists make up less than 10% of the student body. Located in Sri Lanka's fourth largest city and almost 40 kilometers north of the capital Colombo, AIS is one of four secondary-level Adventist schools operated in the SLM educational system under the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. ❖



[Reprinted from Adventist News Network]



1,400 Baptized during the groundbreaking evangelistic drive in the Philippines

Adventist World Radio and 49 Japanese presenters get big results.

Philippines • Andrew McChesney • Adventist Mission

About 1,400 people were baptized on a Philippine island after a groundbreaking evangelistic campaign propelled by 49 Japanese presenters and Adventist World Radio.

Among those who gave their hearts to Christ on Mindoro island on Sabbath, June 24, were dozens of former Adventists, an entire village of 85 people, and 12 villagers who hiked for 12 hours to reach the nearest river.

The outreach effort, which saw a total of 15 villages expressing an interest in baptism, marks the first time that Adventist World Radio has taken a frontline role in the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Total Member Involvement evangelistic meetings, and it is to be replicated in Japan next year.

"Adventist World Radio has never had such a successful experience," said Duane McKey, who serves as Adventist World Radio president and oversees the Adventist world church's Total Member Involvement initiative.

The evangelistic work started on March 1 when nine local radio stations started airing one to three hours of Adventist World Radio programming daily across Mindoro, which is the seventh largest island in the Philippines and located five hours by boat and car south of the Philippines' capital, Manila.

"The health and lifestyle programs, however, generated little response over the first three weeks, so Adventist World Radio tweaked the programming to include daily evangelistic sermons on topics such as the state of the dead and the seventh-day Sabbath," McKey said.

At 11 a.m. every day, listeners were asked a question about the previous day's sermon, and the first five people who called in with the correct answer received a small radio, a copy of Ellen White's book *Steps to Christ*, or another gift.

Big Radio Response

"The response mushroomed," McKey said, speaking by telephone from Manila on Sunday. "People were running down the mountains to find a radio to listen to the sermons. They were excited. They took notes as they listened so they could answer the question the next day."

Adventist World Radio connected callers with local churches, which, in turn, sent out Bible workers and organized Total Member Involvement events such as free health screenings and street marches against illegal drugs.

"The focus was connecting people with the local churches, and that is why it worked so well," McKey said.

About 1,400 people were baptized on Sabbath, and more than 100 others will be baptized in the next week or two.

McKey participated in the baptisms at the village of 85 people, baptizing their chief and other villagers.

Later in the day, he and other church leaders met 12 baptismal candidates at a river 48 miles (77 kilometers) from their mountainside village.

"They walked a solid 12 hours to get to the river for baptism," McKey said. "All 250 families of the village had wanted to be baptized after listening to sermons on the radio, but the others weren't ready. We sent a Bible worker to work with them," he added.

Twenty-five families made the 12-hour walk to attend the baptisms.

The radio broadcasts and evangelistic meetings also brought former Adventists back to church, and they were rebaptized on Sabbath.

It wasn't immediately clear how many residents from the 15 villages who expressed interest in baptism were baptized on Sabbath, but five villages have decided to prepare for baptism. Another island with 10

villages

just contacted

Adventist World Radio just this weekend to request a Bible worker to help villagers prepare for baptism.

Adventist World Radio has decided to expand its broadcasts and set up a permanent presence in the Philippines.

"We were going to broadcast only for six months, but now we will broadcast for another year and help them get their own radio station," McKey said.

Enthusiasm in Japan

Thirty pastors and 19 laypeople from Japan participated in June 9-24 evangelistic meetings in Japan.

"The Japanese presenters—who are preparing for national evangelistic meetings in Japan in 2018—were reenergized by the experience," McKey said. "They said this was so life changing. Some thought that public evangelism couldn't be done anymore, but now they see that you can preach the message and get results."

Enthusiasm also is growing back in Japan, with one local church voting a US\$120,000 budget for public evangelism next year. McKey said the day after the church board approved the budget, a pastor found three envelopes containing \$10,000 each in his office. The following Sabbath, an elderly church member placed another \$10,000 in the Sabbath School offering plate.

"Church members are saying, 'Do something!'" McKey said. "It's been a thrill to see that happen." ❖

[Reprinted from Adventist News Network]

[photo: Dan Bostio]

[photo: Julio Tumarías]



In the Philippines, first-ever documentary film festival inspires filmmakers to produce Adventist materials



Organizers of the festival see huge potential for Adventist film production in the country

Over 200 guests from local Adventist media teams and cinematographers attended the Media Missionaries Fellowship and Film Festival held at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies(AIIAS) on May 25. The one-day gathering, sponsored by the North Philippine Union Conference(NPUC) in cooperation with Hope Channel Philippines(HCP), featured the screening of locally produced Adventist films.

The ten entries were screened and evaluated for overall creativity, content, relateness to the Adventist distinctives, and their narrative flow. The newly organized media group from the central province of Luzon, Project Life-Nueva Ecija, featured the life of Bonifacio Calipus, a former gambler and drug user who, after endangering his life several times, found his way to Christ.

In the film Calipus testifies: “I was a prisoner of cockfighting and drugs for a long time. I just can’t imagine how long God has been calling me to come home. I am just happy; our God never tires.”

The local conference media team from south Luzon, highlighted the life of Rey Laviña, a fisherman who, like Peter, James, and John, witnessed God’s miracles in the sea.

The film shows Laviña testifying of God’s goodness: “My life is just like my boat. My

boat was tested, was destroyed, was carried away by strong waves and winds, but it is still here. God overcame.”

The event recognized the talent, creativity, and passion of local media enthusiasts. The goal, according to organizers, is to encourage young film makers to eventually produce programs for Hope Channel and other social media outfits.

“We cannot disregard young talents who are passionate in this field of ministry,” said Joel Sarmiento, NPUC Communication director. “There are still rough edges, but once these young, talented individuals are immersed more in these kinds of atmospheres, we will see more Adventist films in the future.”

In addition to the film screenings, media professionals from two leading Philippine television networks shared vital points in becoming effective virtual storytellers while upholding Adventist distinctives. Janet Tolete, former senior program analyst of GMA and now an associate editor of Philippine Publishing House(PPH), advised on creating viral and appealing content. Leah Martinez, Artist Talent Coordinator and Special Events Consultant for TV /Movie Productions and Concerts/ Local and International Shows for ABS-CBN, shared her personal experiences as an Adventist in a secular media and how media impacts culture and personality.

Some attendees such as Gem Roy Fuentes, director of Project Life Media Ministries, says that it is time for Adventists to enter this avenue to reach greater multitudes of people. The idea of creating appealing content caught Fuentes’ attention as his media missionary group teaches basic production and film making skills at schools and local churches. He notes, “Young and old, almost everyone is influenced by this technology and we can’t afford not to have an Adventist presence here.”

For others such as Rey Laviña, local church leader and creator of the film entry “*Bangka, Boat*,” the day was personally transforming. Laviña never thought that film making could create such a huge impact on not only an audience but also the ones telling their stories. Laviña was seen in tears while watching his own conversion story as detailed in his film.

Such impact is precisely the motivation for this first of many similar Adventist film festivals. Leaders such as Mamerto Guinguing II, Communication director of Southern Asia-Pacific Division, looks forward to seeing these festivals and its attendees impact their communities. “We encourage the young minds to explore this form of media, for it is an effective tool in bringing the message to the world.” ❖

[SSD Communications Department]



[photo: Arjelo Onde]

Adventist youth group

volunteers to help clean a popular zoo in Thailand

Thailand • Arjelo Onde

The Nakhon Ratchasima Zoo or Korat Zoo is an approximately 200-acre establishment in Korat, Thailand, and one of the most visited tourist destinations in the country. Managing and maintaining this facility demands careful planning and a fleet of manpower. A group of Adventist youth recently volunteered at the zoo as a way to raise awareness for the June 5, 2017 World Environment Day.

This group consists of Adventist young professionals studying and working in Thailand who call themselves #CareTeamKorat. With a mix of nationalities from around the world, they are the only organized Adventist youth group in the whole province of Nakhon Ratchasima.

The group pooled their personal funds and also raised money to organize activities to benefit others. For the 2017 Global Youth Day on March 18, they organized a community day. They gave away grocery items and health books, organized a feeding program for children, taught English, and conducted free blood pressure checks for the elderly. After a full day of service, massive rain flooded the area forcing the

group to navigate through waist-deep waters on their way home.

That experience didn't deter them from seeking new service opportunities. To celebrate the World Health Day on April 8, they organized a small medical mission for the local community. They offered free services like Thai massages and saunas as well as simple laboratory tests such as proteinuria test, bile salt in urine test, blood sugar test, blood typing, and blood pressure measurements.

When they looked for another service project, they thought of the zoo and the environment. The group believes that it is important to maintain cleanliness in the zoo because it is home to animals that need a clean environment to live —just like humans do. So, the group offered to clean the zoo for World Environment Day on June 5 but with one small change: They requested to clean it the day before, a Sunday, so they would not have to take a leave from their jobs.

Their request reached Airada Dengler, the zoo's website manager and foreign relationship officer, who was surprised but happy to hear their request. "This would

be the first time for a group of young professionals to offer community services in the zoo and our first time to welcome an outside group to help clean the facility," says Dengler.

Over 50 of these young people were at the zoo that day and even brought some of their nonmember friends to join the activity. They raked dead leaves, loaded mounds of them into dump trucks, cleaned ponds, trimmed bushes, and weeded lawns.

To show their appreciation, the zoo management sponsored lunch and gave the group a free tour on a safari train around the zoo. The management urged them to come back any time to conduct activities at the zoo.

The group hopes to send the message that Adventists care for the environment. For #Careteamkorat, the size of a group doesn't matter compared to the bigness of their heart for their community and surroundings. Simple acts of kindness are still, by far, louder than words.

To see what other activities the group is involved in, follow #Careteamkorat on Facebook or to find out about the zoo they care so much about, visit www.korat-zoo.org. ❖

IF Plus CF Equals HC

Media Ministry Department



[photo: Joshua Sagala]

Billy Sales presents family relationship tips to care group members attending the June 14-17 Harvest Celebration meetings at the Southern Asia-Pacific Division's recently inaugurated Alberto C. Gulfan, Jr. Multipurpose Hall. Over 150 people were baptized on the final day.

Have you heard about this formula? It's a formula not even any branch of science can solve. What is this formula? What does it mean? It's a method of how one can extend care toward another. It's a formula that enables integration between family members. It's a formula that spells success to those who experience it.

The Alberto C. Gulfan, Jr. (ACG) Multipurpose Gym held a huge gathering of over 50 care groups from within the outskirts of Cavite, Philippines, for one celebration dubbed, "*Pamumuhay na Matagumpay*" (Life Victorious) from June 14-18, 2017. The local Adventist office in Cavite organized the first-ever Care Group Harvest Celebration with an average nightly attendance of 500. The event was an opportunity for community families to hear new perspectives about hope through the Scriptures and learn timely health messages.

Each evening, organizers welcomed guests with various health assessment programs headed by the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) Health Director, Dr. Lalaine Albanoso. The well-attended Health Expo featured Body Mass Index

IF + CF = HC

IF (Intercessory Family) plus **CF** (Cared Family) equals **HC** (Harvest Celebration): a simple calculation of families in action.

(BMI) evaluations, vital signs check, and nutritional advice.

SSD employees Edward Rodriguez and Aurora Yabut served as hosts and set the mood for the guests prior to each evening's presentation. Care groups energetically learned new songs during the series with the theme song "Victory in Jesus" becoming a favorite.

Care group discussions were the highlight of the series. Interesting group topics facilitated by care group leaders focused on the challenges of living victoriously and the solutions God provides. These nightly 20-minute ice breakers provided members with opportunities to share their thoughts and hear the experiences of other group members. Their goal this time was to deepen their connections to each other so they will

have continued support networks as they grow spiritually.

During the evening presentations, Pastor Jun Canosa, executive secretary of the Cavite Satellite Office (CSO), thoroughly explained the Bible through sensible points and illustrations.

"There is nothing in this world that can help us achieve a victorious life, other than Jesus," Canosa emphatically appealed. "It is only through Jesus, and only through Him, that we can live successfully."

The Care Group Harvest Celebration concluded on June 17 with over 150 baptisms. ❖

[Nelson Paulo]



Mission Adventures

CEBU X TAGLOBAN | PH 2017

30 TRAVELERS / 13 DAYS /
COUNTLESS WAYS TO LEARN, LOVE, AND EXPLORE

What happens when you combine a love for travel with a love for serving others? You get a whole new way to see the world: Mission Adventures (MA)!

MA is the brainchild of the SSD Adventist Youth & Young Adult Ministries Department. MA leader/tour guide/missionary Anthony Stanyer conceptualized it with his team and support from SSD leaders such as Jobbie Yabut, SSD Youth director, and Dr. Samuel Saw, SSD president. Today's young professionals want to explore the world and improve their communities. MA offers them a chance to do both.

WE LOVED BEING PART OF THE FIRST EVER MA GROUP! We had an amazing two weeks together from June 5-17. The first week we learned and explored. We learned so much about ourselves, each other and how to make a real difference in the world through seminars and classes for teambuilding, leadership, social justice, effective social media, creative storytelling and more. The rest of our time we explored the Cebu area and enjoyed travel activities like boating, hiking and even swimming with whale sharks!

For the second week, we loved those God brought into our lives during our week in the Leyte province. The Palo Seventh-day Adventist church near Tacloban became our base and we transitioned from travel adventures to community mission work. Now we had a chance to use our new knowledge in an area that hasn't truly recovered from the massive devastation of 2014's Typhoon Haiyan (locally known as Yolanda).



It was exhausting and exhilarating! With so much to do, we divided up and tried to be everywhere at once. We staffed a medical mission/health expo, held a Vacation Bible School, helped with the construction and landscaping of a new church, and conducted sports camps, Healthy Living workshops, livelihood seminars, drug awareness and prevention programs, Discipleship and Nurturing small groups, and a nightly series called *Encountering Jesus*. Whew!

As our second week together ended, we prepared for the first Sabbath service in the new Palo church and global Compassion Weekend. What a joy to worship together with our new friends from the church and community! And what an even bigger joy to witness 30 of them show their commitment to Christ through baptism because of the nightly meetings!

Our hearts were so full of God's love that we had plenty to share during our compassion projects. We were so blessed to be able to share the hope and joy Christ gives when we visited a hospital and an orphanage.

All too soon, it was time to pack up and leave but we made sure to bring our memories and new commitment to create mission adventurers in our own areas with us. Can't wait to see where next year takes us!





WHAT'S NEXT?



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LEAPS and BOUNDS: Print at Work in SSD

Every inch of a printed page spells out its great influence on its readers.

Our ministry through the printed page has grown immensely in the recent years. Driven by the inspiration drawn from different stories in the field, publishing workers can't help but continue the commission until all will be reached through the written word.

Since its beginning, the vastness of the literature work in this part of the world has been a challenge. Massive as it may seem, the Lord has been good in bestowing His lead to further His work in this form of media.

The Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) Headquarters have witnessed the written pages at work. Different accounts of literature work from within the territory testifies to how the Lord abides.

Literature Ministry Turns 10 in Vietnam

In the previous years, literature evangelists in Vietnam worked strongly in distributing our books to households. This endeavor of the church grew so immensely that it caught the attention of the government due to its growing Christian

influence. This eventually resulted in its immediate cessation.

It was only 10 years ago when the publishing work started to pick up pace once more. This opportunity sparked revival among Adventist literature evangelists in the country, and they started visiting houses once again. Since then, the Vietnam Adventist Mission (VAM) developed. Local church leaders saw the opportunity as the nation is gradually opening its gates to the world.

Pham Nguyen To Phuong, publishing ministries director of VAM, leads the publishing work as it continues to grow within the country's local communities. The local Adventist church in Vietnam works with over 60 literature evangelists led by three area publishing ministries Leader (APML).

During the past 10 years, the Adventist Book Center-Home Health Education Services (ABC-HHES) was established. The ABC-HHES is a regional office of the Publishing Ministries providing families the opportunity to enjoy health, and experience happiness through the books they print and distribute. This group received government approval to produce and circulate 20 books comprising health, family, and Spirit of Prophecy manuscripts.

"When we started the work in 2007, we had only Seven literature evangelists (LE) and two SOP books (*Steps to Christ* and *Prophets and Kings*)," Pham Nguyen To

[photo: VAMI]





Phuong said. “He blessed us lavishly. Every year we print two to four new books. Since we have 38 books. We also recruited new LEs each year. As of now we have 45 LEs, three credentialed LEs and one licensed LE, the highest number of credentialed LEs in Southeast Asian Union Mission (SAUM).

Leaders from different Adventist church institutions attended the anniversary celebration of the 10th year literature ministry work in Vietnam. They included Almir Marroni, publishing director of the Adventist World Church; Ven Bermudez, Southern Asia-Pacific Division publishing director; Abel Bana, executive secretary for the Southeast Asia Union Mission (SAUM); and Francis Lajanim, SAUM publishing director. The story of VAM’s 10-year literature evangelism journey unfolds through the testimonies of literature evangelists.

“Seeing how the Lord led this mission (VAM) in the past 10 years shows the fulfillment of the prophecy and the revelation of Jesus,” Bermudez stressed. “Who can shut the door and stop the Lord’s work from fulfilling its mission?” he added.

The simple celebration also recognized several individuals who played important roles in the literature ministry in Vietnam.

Literature Ministry Seminary in South Philippines reaches 35

Streets are normally flooded by different labor unions fighting for their rights as day breaks in the Philippines on May 1 each year. But over 2,000 lay evangelists in the south of the Philippines hail this day differently, for once again another year has been added in the literature missionary work.

This year’s celebration was even more special as the Literature Ministry Seminary (LMS) there turns 35. Reveling in the “Celebrating the Goodness of the Lord through LMS” theme, literature evangelists (LEs) shared memories from the early 80s to the present. The weeklong celebration concluded with LMS’ Homecoming program attended by over 200 LEs, publishing ministry leaders, and local church members at the South Philippine Union Conference (SPUC) Garden church.

The LMS-SPUC is recognized as the first-ever literature seminary in the world. It is one of the five seminaries within the SSD furnished with complete training facilities. LMS-SPUC offers a convenient and conducive learning experience to trainees through well-ventilated rooms and

a fully functional video facility for training. Currently, the LMS is headed by SPUC Publishing Director Rey Cabanero; LMS Associate Nildo Mamac; and LMS Dean Demetrio Taotao, Jr.

Former LMS dean and now Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIIAS) Professor, Dr. Remuel Tornalejo was also present at the event. Tornalejo, served LMS from 1996-2000, a time of trainee enrollment growth.

“It’s a privilege to celebrate and witness the growth of the LMS,” Tornalejo said. “Through the years, LMS played its role in training our LEs, devising training programs to greatly improve and meet the demands of time.”

Florante P. Ty, Philippine Publishing House president, expressed his appreciation for the institution’s continuous growth. “Reaching 35 years is very inspiring”, said Ty. “Overcoming challenges year after year, then after reaching a certain point of existence, we come to realize how God sustains His workers and His ministry.”

[Ven Bermudez]

What Is Planned Giving & Trust Services?

Rex Rosas

Planned Giving & Trust Services provides information to individuals that will assist them in using gift planning documents.

Why Planned Giving?

The principle of *planned giving*—The recognition of God as owner of all and we as His stewards—is seen in Scripture from Genesis to Revelation.

Genesis 1:1

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (New International Version).

Genesis 1:28

"God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground'" (NIV).

Isaiah 65:17

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind" (New King James Version).

1 Peter 4:10

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" (NIV).

Psalms 24:1-3

The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein" (NKJV).

Revelation 21:1

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away" (NIV).

Do I have to be rich to use Planned Giving & Trust Services?

No! On the mission/conference level, Planned Giving & Trust Services is designed to assist with a simple will, regardless of income.

The steady increases in tithe and offering support received by the missions/conferences in the territory of SSD is a testament to the stewardship growth and maturity of their faithful church members. How about in the area of Planned Giving? The General Conference report of the total contributions to the work of God for the years 2010-2014 through Planned Giving is \$339,341,092. Of the 13 divisions, NAD is the top giver at about 72% of the total gifts and SSD came in third at 6%. Praise the Lord for His goodness! Based on this data, it is exciting to consider the extent of the potential for growth at SSD and the rest of the divisions as they experience a steady growth in membership as well.

How do tithes and offering, differ from planned giving? Tithes and offerings come from regular income while planned gifts come from accumulated possessions. Tithes and offerings are regular financial support for the **present** needs of the church, while a planned gift is a special legacy for the **future** growth of the church. We can only give our tithes and offerings during our lifetime but we are presented with this glorious opportunity to perpetuate our stewardship; Even if we have departed this life, our planned gift remains as a legacy to the church. Planned giving programs encourage members to seriously consider the sacred stewardship of their accumulated assets; These programs also motivate members to engage in estate planning for the wise management of their accumulated possessions and eventual distribution for family, others in

need, and the church in accordance with God's will.

The need for engaging in planned giving becomes more compelling when considered in connection with the Church's strategic plans for future mission programs. In times of economic adversity, planned giving can provide stability and viability of long-term church programs, and position the church and its organizations to avoid operating in the "survival mode." It's sad to note that excellent initiatives for mission were started enthusiastically but experienced premature death due to lack of uninterrupted support to maturity. Planned giving sustains the attainment of the dreams and visions of the church and its members in the years to come. Instead of depending only on regular tithes and offerings, the ministry of the church will be positively enriched and extended far beyond what is possible through planned giving.

Planned giving truly is a tremendous blessing to the church when rightly appreciated, embraced, and practiced by members as part of the total member involvement theme. For many ordinary church members, each modest planned gift may be negligible in monetary worth but God commends giving in faith as the widow did with her mite. Most significant of all is the moral values of planned giving you will leave behind that will serve as an example and inspiration to be emulated by generations to come. ❖



Adventist educators intensify stand on creationism



The longstanding debate between creationism and evolutionism continues to be an issue in schools all throughout the world. As Adventist educators take a stand for creationism, the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) Education Department strives to equip them with information from ongoing research and studies that uphold the concept of God as Earth's creator. As part of this service, leaders held a creation conference for Adventist educators and pastors in Bali, Indonesia, on May 16-21 as part of SSD's annual education conference.

More than 120 Seventh-day Adventist educators, Bible workers, and scientists attended the "Celebration of Creation," a 5-day meeting discussing top trends in science that differ from creationism. The SSD Education department organized the event in cooperation with the Geoscience Research Institute (GRI) for representatives from Adventist regional offices, churches, and schools.

Scientists from the Geoscience Research Institute shared the latest discoveries and breakthroughs regarding creationism. Speakers and their areas of expertise included Dr. Timothy Standish, biology; Dr. Ronald Nalin, earth sciences; Dr. Benjamin Clausen, physics; and Dr. Raul Esperante, paleontology.

Over 30 topics were offered such as Amalgamation, Vestigial Organs, Intelligent Design, Transitional Fossils,

Catastrophism and Uniformitarianism, the Geologic Record, the Fossil Record, Theistic Evolution, and others.

During the conference, the GRI representatives raised substantial issues regarding the use of textbooks that underline the existence of the world through several evolutionary theories in Adventist schools. Dr. Timothy Standish, Senior Scientist for GRI, says that theories conceptualized by worldviews shouldn't be left untold to our students. According to Standish, the knowledge of different worldviews provides numerous opportunities to place confidence even more in creationism.

"Should evolution be taught in Adventist schools?".... The answer is "Yes," Standish said. A better question should be "What should be taught about evolution in Adventist schools?" he added.

In addition to the learning that took place indoors, the conference included

two outdoor learning opportunities: Tegenungan Waterfalls and Batur Volcano Museum. Located 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of the conference venue, delegates viewed several rock formations and various volcanic rock layers, all of which reveal the history of volcanic activities in Bali.

The Tegenungan Waterfalls is one of the most well-known tourist attractions in Bali. Situated in the lowlands, this nature area is easily accessible to tourists and provides not only a memorable but educational experience. Likewise, Mount Batur, a fully functional museum built in 2004, details the historical volcanic eruptions recorded since 1804, providing significant scientific discoveries about rock formations and other geological findings. ❖

[SSD Education Department]



[photos: SSD Education Department]



Open to all pastors, professionals, teachers, faculty, staff, college and high school students.

OPEN CATEGORY	
Pastors, Teachers, Professionals	
Up to 7 Gold Awards	\$100 each
Up to 7 Silver Awards	\$75 each
Up to 16 Bronze Awards	\$50 each
Total Prizes	US \$2,025

STUDENT CATEGORY	
College and High School Students	
Up to 7 Gold Awards	\$100 each
Up to 7 Silver Awards	\$75 each
Up to 16 Bronze Awards	\$50 each
Total Prizes	US \$2,025

GUIDELINES

- Theme: “Service and Sacrifice for the Lord.” An awardee can only receive up to two (2) awards.
- Submissions must be original and authors take responsibility for copyright permissions of content and all references. All submissions must be written in English.
- Submit on MS Word using Times New Roman font size 12. Submissions must have a minimum of 2,000 words and a maximum of 3,000 words.
- All submissions become the property of the SSD Education Department. Authors grant the SSD Education Department the right to publish their submissions.
- Relatives and family members of SSD office headquarters personnel are disqualified.
- Email submissions to Jessica M. Vicente at jvicente@ssd.org
- Winners will be announced in the first quarter of 2018.

Indonesia retreat on unique challenges of administrators' wives



[photo: EIUC]

Leadership brings both joys and challenges which can have a great impact not only on leader but those closest to them such as their family. To address this, administrators' wives from the East Indonesia Union Conference (EIUC) gathered in Batam, Indonesia, for the January 25-29, 2017 EIUC Administrators' Wives Retreat.

During the four-day event, featured speaker Helen Gulfan, SSD Shepherdess International Director, encouraged attendees to be authentic and positive in their ministries, families, and personal

lives. To compliment this focus, other presenters emphasized practical ways administrators' wives can flourish in their unique roles. The event also featured a unique Sabbath welcome program on Friday evening with snakefruit as an illustration followed by the group dividing into smaller groups that moved from one prayer station to another. "It was the highlight of the retreat for me. The sacred stillness of the room combined with the earnestly-sung praise songs by some groups, fervent prayers from others, and tears from all commenced the Sabbath

in such a moving way. It's exactly what I needed—and I didn't even realize it until I came here," commented one attendee.

The retreated ended with a full day of Sabbath activities from the morning Sabbath school and church to the final afternoon program—a recommitment to serve God first as these administrators' wives serve their families, partner with their husbands, and reach out to their churches and communities. ❖

[SSD Women's Ministries Department]



[Photo: WIUC]

West Indonesia Sabbath School teachers sing during the May 24-28 union-wide training in North Sumatra, Indonesia.

Hundreds attend division training

for local Sabbath School teachers in west Indonesia

Level 1 Certification offered during four-day series

As the number of Adventists continues to grow in west Indonesia, leaders see a pressing need for programs and church environments that nurture new members while providing leadership opportunities for established members, particularly in the area of the church's Sabbath School programs. To meet this need, West Indonesia Union Conference (WIUC) leaders partnered with the Southern Asia-Pacific Division of Adventists to offer a Sabbath School Level 1 Certification at the Surya Nusantra Adventist College, North Sumatra, Indonesia, on May 24-28.



Over 300 delegates consisting primarily of Sabbath School teachers, local church leaders, and members attended the four-day training.

One area of particular concern is the quality of teaching offered locally. According to local church leaders, members would prefer attending a Sabbath School class where the teacher is prepared and well versed about the topic. This is just one factor leaders feel will encourage greater Sabbath School attendance and participation. This can then deepen the connection members feel to one another and their local churches.

Hermogenes Villanueva, Southern Asia-Pacific Division Sabbath School Director, sees the value of preparing, learning, and understanding the lessons. According to Villanueva, studying the weekly Sabbath School lesson takes humility in order for a teacher to fully comprehend and share its message.

"The more we humble ourselves, the more we learn," Villanueva said. "...and the more we learn, the more that we should humble ourselves."

The concept of Sabbath School began in 1852 with Adventist pioneer James White organizing the first Sabbath School class and later writing the first Sabbath School lesson. From the start, the program focused on four areas: encouraging daily Bible study, creating connection among the class members, identifying and acting on ways to reach their communities, and supporting mission projects around the world.



Such focus continues in today's Sabbath Schools but now Sabbath School teachers can progress through levels of certification in areas such as coaching, preparation, and equipping to enable them to better communicate and reach those goals.

Certification for Sabbath School teachers has been an ongoing program in SSD territory to develop more teachers as membership continues to grow. The certification program also aims to provide a conducive learning experience for churchgoers, members and visitors alike. ❖

[SSD Sabbath School Department]



Adventist medical missionary summit in Indonesia promotes integrated health ministry

In southeast Asia, Adventist health practitioners see health as a vital part of what Adventists can offer to communities in urban areas in the 10-40 Window. This philosophy drew more than 75 doctors, missionaries, and health educators from both private and government entities, to Bali, Indonesia, on May 22 to 24 for a medical missionary summit on reaching their communities through an integrated approach. Organized by the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) Health Department, the summit promoted an integrated health ministry through the Total Member Involvement program of the Adventist world church.

Organizers believe that this collaboration of medical missionaries opens opportunities to show an integrated effort within the denomination in the 13 southeast Asian countries which have an Adventist presence.

The summit also highlighted health ministry plans within SSD countries and the organization of a medical doctors' association in the Philippines. SSD leadership also recognized and encouraged the involvement of independent and supporting ministries as part of the

Medical Missionary Network of Southern Asia-Pacific Division.

Dr. Lalaine Albanoso, SSD Health Department director, says this invitation to call medical practitioners from both public and private organizations to partner together will increase their influence and bring a much-needed health message to even more communities.

"It is encouraging to see our doctors, missionaries, and health educators filled with enthusiasm in this thrust of church toward unity," Albanoso said. "The commitment of these medical missionaries is a huge leap exhibiting the true mission of the church."

Dr. Zeno Charles-Marcel, associate director for the General Conference Health Ministries department, spoke to the group about the responsibility that comes with their profession. He said that to be a medical missionary is a call not only to be doctors, but to also set an example of a life living in accordance to His health message.

Jay Coon, vice president for Growth and Development at Auburn Adventist Academy in Auburn, Washington, U.S., elaborated on future medical missionary initiatives where summit participants can be involved.

"There are so many opportunities that await us in the medical field," Coon said. "Our health message offers a holistic approach to wellness. It is vital that we let the whole world know about [it]. And one way we can do that is through our medical missionaries."

Dr. Edward Nathan, Public Health doctor for Penang Adventist Hospital in Malaysia, reminded participants that wellness must begin in themselves and be reflected in their workplace. "The kind of health message that we carry should not be kept to ourselves. It should manifest in places where we can make our influences."

The Medical Missionary Association of Seventh-day Adventists was organized in 1938 within the world church structure. Medical doctors, nurses, and other health professionals were encouraged to serve as an auxiliary arm of the church in promoting a healthy Adventist lifestyle and providing health services to the community. Since then, individual divisions have organized associations within their fields such as the Medical Missionary Network of Southern Asia-Pacific Division. ❖

[SSD Health Ministries Department]



Reach
the World:
CHRIST OUR
RIGHTEOUSNESS