

ADVENTIST

ECHO

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SOUTHERN AFRICA - INDIAN OCEAN DIVISION



Impact South Africa - 2013

Jesus in the City

We Connect

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FIND YOUR MISSION IN THE GREAT COMMISSION ...

You and I were created to have a mission in life. But if we do not pursue the mission for which God created us, we will find a substitute. We cannot live in the absence of purpose. If we do not live our God-assigned mission, we will live what might be called a (shadow mission). My shadow mission is what I will do with my life if I drift on autopilot ... it is what you are side-tracked or distracted by. It consists of the activities toward which I will gravitate if I allow my natural inclinations and selfishness to take over. But our hunger for significance is an indicator of who we are and why we were created.

Jesus said: "you are the salt of the earth." But salt does not exist for itself. Salt's calling is to lose itself in something much bigger and more glorious, and then it fulfills its destiny. We were made to count. We were made to be salt. Your mission is not about you. Let's consider the story of Esther, in the Old Testament.

Esther did not set out to be queen, but once she was on the throne, she had to decide between a (shadow mission) of safety, wealth and power and her God-given mission of saving her people. Esther's story reminds us that we are where we are because God wants to work through us right where we are. Your mission starts where you are, not where you think you should be.

And if your leaning is towards the mission that God has for you, you will be able to see that God is working behind the scenes orchestrating events in your favor to accomplish His will for you. How is it that of all the women in the empire, a Jewish girl named Esther became queen? How is it that of all the people in the empire, Mordecai was the one who saved the king from assassination? How is it that the king should have insomnia on the very night Haman built a gallow for Mordecai? How is it that of all the stories, the one read to the king was of Mordecai saving his life? How is

it that Haman, the scheming murderer, became victim of his own schemes and that Mordecai, his intended victim, became instead his replacement?

Even in exile where there is no Jerusalem, no temple and no Sanhedrin, God is present. He is still supreme. To miss out on the mission He has given us, right where we are, is to spend our entire lives trying to win the wrong game. Even though God is unseen by Esther, His purpose is certain. He was always present with her ... as He is with you and me.

"... for such a time as this..." Esther had not been brought to this point in her life for the sake of accumulating an exquisite wardrobe and precious gems. She had not been brought to this point to become the most desirable woman in the kingdom. Safety, security, fame, wealth and power ... these were not her mission. They were her shadow mission. The privileges awarded to her were intended to facilitate the accomplishing of her mission. Her mission was to be part of God's plan to redeem the world. And so it is no accident that she was where she was. "Who knows" said Mordecai, "but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

(What is your mission?) I have discovered my mission in the great commission outlined in Matthew 28: 19, 20 ... to go and make disciples... The goal of discipleship is to make disciples who can then make disciples, teaching them to observe all that Jesus commanded. "Disciples cannot be massed produced. We cannot drop people into a program and see disciples emerge at the end of a production line. It takes time to make disciples. It takes individual personal attention."

It takes a disciple to make a disciple. Realizing this, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Southern Africa Indian Ocean region is serious about the gospel commission to preach the gospel and make disciples. Like in the case of Esther, your mission is to be part of God's plan to redeem the world.

... one member - one soul ...

Dr Paul Charles
Editor



Adventist youth reach out to HIV AIDS orphans in South Africa

July 1 – 5, 2013 - Adventist youth from all over the world participated in COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS in the cities of Cape Town, Pretoria and Johannesburg in South Africa. With a planned roll-out of more than seventy projects, many groups united their efforts demonstrating the Power of One and made a lasting difference, rekindling hope for those living in poverty and with HIV AIDS. Entering into child-headed homes of orphans, and ministering to their physical needs made many orphans realize that they indeed belong to the family of God.

Adventists are committed to education for prevention of AIDS.

Adventist support sex education that includes the concept that human sexuality is God's gift to humanity. Biblical sexuality clearly limits sexual relationships to one's spouse and excludes promiscuous and all other sexual relationships and the consequent increased exposure to HIV.

Adventist youth reach out to poor in South Africa

Adventist youth reached out to the poor in South Africa, providing meals and food parcels to those in desperate need. Working in collaboration with Meals on Wheels, thousands received nutritious meals every day, as part of the community Service projects embraced by hundreds of young people of the Seventh-day Adventist from more than 15 countries.

"The fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah is precious to Seventh-day Adventists.

The call is to restore and "to loose the bands of wickedness ... to deal thy bread to the hungry ... bring the poor that are cast out to thy house ... when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him" (verses 6, 7). So as repairers of the breach, we are to restore and care for the poor. If we carry out the principles of the law of God in acts of mercy and love, we will represent the character of God to the world. Every day, more than 24,000 children die due to preventable conditions created by poverty.

Seventh-day Adventists believe that actions to reduce poverty and its attendant injustices are an important part of Christian social responsibility. All human beings bear the image of God and are the recipients of God's blessing (Luke 6:20). In working with the poor we follow the example and teaching of Jesus (Matthew 25:35, 36).

Revival is all about a God of lovingkindness seeking to deepen His relationship with us. The initiative in revival is His. His Spirit creates longings within us. His Spirit convicts us of our need. His Spirit reveals Jesus' goodness and grace.





Adventist youth place high value on children and Education in South Africa



Hundreds of Adventist youth committed to reach out to children in South Africa dedicated their time and resources in helping to refurbish education centers and crèches as a tangible expression of the value they place on children.



Seventh-day Adventists place a high value on children. In the light of the Bible they are seen as precious gifts from God entrusted to the care of parents, family, community of faith and society-at-large. Children possess enormous potential for making positive contributions to the Church and to society. Attention to their care, protection and development is extremely important.

The Church regards the nurture and protection of children as a sacred trust.



ADVENTIST YOUTH build homes for destitute families in South Africa

In a concerted effort by Adventist youth from all over the world, homes were built for needy families in Mamelodi, Mpumalanga and Soshanguve, among many other places in South Africa over a period of just five days. As homes were handed over, tears of joy were shed by the grateful recipients for this unexpected display of love and kindness. One mother exclaimed: "I thought God forgot about me but through these young people and what they have done for me, I know that God loves me and has not forgotten about me."

The Adventist church remains committed to partner with governments and non-profit organizations to eradicate poverty and participate in social responsibility initiatives.

Jesus in the city

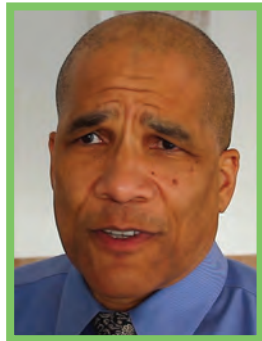
The 3rd world youth congress hosted by the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division, in Pretoria, South Africa will remain as a defining moment and life-changing event for thousands across the globe. More than 28 761 visited the lives-stream from Pretoria, South Africa.

It was a time and opportunity to allow Christ to embrace and reconnect us to Himself. Indeed the World youth Congress was a time of intense worship, dynamic fellowship and sincere commitment to walk with Jesus.

Dr Paul Charles
SID Communication – We Connect ...



"LET THEM BE INVOLVED IN THE DECISION-MAKING OF IMPORTANT ISSUES, DON'T USE YOUNG PEOPLE AS A TOKEN. THEY WANT TO BE HEARD, SEEN AND FELT, THEY WANT TO FEEL THIS IS MY CHURCH. I LOVE MY CHURCH I CAN DO IT." BARAKA MUGANDA

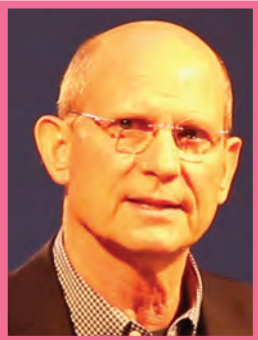


"WHEN PEOPLE ARE ON FIRE FOR JESUS AND WITH THIS DESIRE TO DO SOMETHING GREAT FOR GOD, I BELIEVE WE WILL HAVE DANIELS, JOSEPHS, AND ESTHERS AND THIS WILL BE THE PEOPLE THAT WILL GO AROUND THE WORLD AND THEY WILL TRANSFORM THE CITIES, THE CHURCHES AND VILLAGES, THEY WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR JESUS." DELBERT W. BAKER



"WE TRULY EMBRACED DIVERSITY AT THIS EVENT. THERE WAS A PLACE AT THIS CONFERENCE FOR EVERYONE — FROM EVERY COUNTRY, FROM EVERY CULTURE." GILBERT CANGY

"TWO WORDS: GET INVOLVED, GOD IS ALREADY AHEAD OF YOU AND IS WAITING FOR YOU." GILBERT CANGY



"GOD'S CALLING YOU TO MISSION IN THE CITIES, I WANT TO LAY THAT BURDEN ON YOU, YOU HAVE THE ENERGY, THE STRENGTH, THE INTELLECT, THE TALENT AND THE CREATIVITY TO HELP THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH ROCK THE CITIES OF THIS WORLD." TED WILSON

"THIS IS YOUR MANDATE, THIS IS YOUR DESTINY. SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST YOUTH, OLDER MEMBER, GOD HAS CALLED YOU FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS. SALVATION THROUGH THE BLOOD AND GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST IS TO BE ON YOUR LIPS WHEREVER YOU GO; IT IS TO ANIMATE YOUR LIFE AND YOUR ACTIONS." TED WILSON



"I CHALLENGE YOU, YOUNG PEOPLE, TO ACCEPT JESUS AS YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOUR AND AFTER DOING THAT YOU NEED TO BE A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST BECAUSE THOSE TWO ARE LINKED TOGETHER. YOU CANNOT BE A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST AND NOT FEEL KEEN TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT CHRIST. WE ARE HERE CHALLENGING YOU TO JOIN THE PIONEERS OF THIS CHURCH WHO WERE YOUNG AND DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST." BUSI KHUMALO



"WHEN THE COVENANTAL COMMUNITY, THAT IS THE FAMILY OF MAN, IS FRACTURED AND BROKEN AND IS OPERATING ON DIFFERENT PRINCIPLES ... NOT THE PRINCIPLE OF OTHER CENTEREDNESS AND LOVE ... BUT THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-PRESERVATION ... AND THE MOMENT THAT DECISION IS MADE THE FAMILY OF MAN IS BROKEN. AND REST OF SCRIPTURE IS ABOUT GOD SEEKING TO BRING THE FAMILY OF GOD BACK INTO HARMONY WITH THE FAMILY OF GOD." DAVID ASSCHERICK



"THE BEST WAY TO LET GOD SEE YOUR GIFT IS TO JOIN UP WITH A FRIEND, TWO OR THREE OR EVEN FOUR OF YOU, DO SOME WITNESSING PROJECT TOGETHER AND YOU WILL SEE GOD'S GIFT COME OUT IN YOU INDIVIDUALLY." EUGENE FRANSCHE





"NEVER GET TOO BIG FOR GOD, NEVER DENY GOD NO MATTER WHERE HE TAKES YOU, NO MATTER WHAT ROLES YOU'RE IN. IF YOU REMEMBER TO PUT HIM FIRST IN YOUR LIFE YOU WILL BE EXTRAORDINARILY SUCCESSFUL. TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING AND IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM AND HE WILL DIRECT YOUR PATH." BEN CARSON



Urban Evangelism is Ratsara's Call to Adventist Church in SID

More than 20 000 Seventh-day Adventists gathered in Cento Desportiva Da Cidadela Stadium, in Luanda, Angola (February 16, 2013) to launch: "Luanda for Christ," part of the initiative of the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division to reach every major city with the life-changing truth about God's grace through Jesus Christ. Members, who were enthusiastic about their faith, personally sacrificed to be present at the stadium where they demonstrated their passion to fulfill the gospel commission. Dr Paul Ratsara in his address to the leaders and members made it clear: "Our mission and message to the cities will unite us as a global people and guard us from isolating ourselves from society and from each other. We will demonstrate the timeless relevance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our message to the cities of the world is that another city is coming: the New Jerusalem, a city of safety, hope and refuge with God at its center."

Pastor Passmore Mulambo, Personal Ministries Director-SID confirmed, with the leaders in Angola, that a tremendous amount of prayer, time, money and strategizing had gone into this vision and already more than 52 000 small groups have been established to impact Angola. He said: Church members are encouraged to bring non-baptized friends and family members to the small groups for Bible study and fellowship." Though many factors are involved in this growth, we consider the use of small groups as one of the most effective. Dr Gilberto Araujo, Vice President and Chairman of the SID Urban Evangelism committee said: "small groups have proven to be an effective instrument in God's hands to bring us more growth—spiritual growth, growth in relationships, growth in preparing disciples, and growth in planting new churches."

Elder Michael Lee Ryan, General Vice President – General Conference, in his sermon, spoke about renewing our altars with God. He highlighted that a renewing of our corporate culture compels us to reach out with compassion, like Jesus. He said: "the love of Jesus has to be communicated to our neighbors and everyone, including other countries." In his concluding words, he appealed to the 20 000 strong gathering: "each and every one of us have an obligation to be ambassadors of the kingdom of heaven."

"The Lord is guiding the Seventh-day Adventist Church to respond to the pen of inspiration's clarion call to evangelize the cities."

One member – One soul.
Lift up Christ – Tell the World.



AWM CONGRESS - SID



They came from the North, South, West and East to be molded by the Potter. This is what happened when over 3,000 women from all over the 23 countries of the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division gathered at Rainbow Towers, Harare, Zimbabwe from 2 – 6th April 2013 for the 3rd division-wide congress. SID AWM organized this unifying event under the theme 'In the Potter's Hands'.

The Minister of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr. Olivia N Muchena, officially opened the congress. Addressing the women, she emphasized the need for women to realize how powerfully endowed they are and that they have at their disposal the potential and power to impact families, communities, nations and the world ... economically, politically and socially. Dr. Paul Ratsara, President of the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division, in his address affirmed the value which the leadership of SID places on the women of the church. He challenged the women to be spiritual, good wives and good mothers. He encouraged the women to say that regardless of what circumstances they may be in; if they put themselves in God's hands there is no limit to their usefulness.

In an interview conducted by Dr. Paul Charles, Sr. Heather-Dawn Small, Women's Ministries Director of the General Conference, said " Women are at work in the gospel for Christ. They are powerful, committed and filled with power of the Holy Spirit and God is using them in many spheres of the Church." Speaking during the same interview Raquel Arrais, Associate Women's Ministries Director of the

General Conference said, "Women comprise ½ of the world population. In the Seventh-day Adventist church, women is the majority and Women's Ministries Department mobilizes the women to equip and prepare them for ministry.

Among the speakers, was Katy Bennett, a Life Coach, who was dealing specifically with the young women and Omobonike Sessou, Women's Ministries Director of the West Central Africa Division who was doing the morning devotions.

Highlights of the congress were realised when the women bought and distributed 6,000 copies of 'The Great Hope' in the city of Harare; 14 pioneer directors in the department of Women's Ministries were honored for their dedication and courage for establishing the department under very difficult circumstances. Among them was Sr. Priscilla Ben who pioneered the department in the former East Central Africa Division out of which SID was born after the re-alignment. Further, 160 women graduated in different levels of the Leadership Certification Course through Griggs University.

Indeed it was a time for renewal, revival and reformation, fellowship and also a time for engaging minds about the role of women in the church.

Caroline Chola - AWM Director SID





Adventist *Family* Ministries

Celebration on Marriage Commitment in Bloemfontein

"We are in the verge of divorce, but thank God for the One-day Celebration of Marriage Commitment that was heaven-sent to us at the right time. My wife and I renewed our marriage vows together, and now we are determined more than ever, to make our marriage work." One of the young husbands confided after the event on condition of anonymity.

Another couple who could not contain their thrill shared this comment, "we have been married for 23 years and we just wished this Marriage Commitment program was there when we started our marriage. We could have eliminated a lot of misunderstanding and miscommunication. The things we learned today from our presenters have rekindled our love and renewed our marriage commitment for each other. You must run this program every year so the church can prevent many divorces especially from our young couples. We are very far away from Bloemfontein, but we are very glad that we came." This is one of the many testimonies gathered after the event.

The Southern Africa Union embarked on a One-day Celebration of Marriage Commitment, on the 4th May 2013, at the SAU Auditorium. The event was blessed with three married presenters. Dr and Mrs Negre stressed the sanctity and oneness of marriage, and they also dealt with issues that destroy oneness. Dr Paul Charles spoke powerfully about Communication Skills and Problem Solving in marriage. The video clips he presented were an eye-opener even to those married for a long time. Dr and Mrs Papu captivated the audience by their open, heart-warming presentation on Sexual Oneness. There was laughter every few seconds from the audience as the Papius' openly discussed sexual expression by calling a-spade-a-spade. The One-day celebration was wrapped up with the topic of Forgiveness with an emphasis that couples need to pray together and work as a team.

As the day drew to a close, about 90 married couples renewed their vows and received a signed Marriage Commitment Certificate. Tears were visible in many couples' eyes as they went through the marriage vows. The event was sealed with a kiss between husband and wife.

Dr Jun Negre,
Director; Family & Health Ministries - Southern Africa Union Conference

K I D S I N D I S C I P L E S H I P

The goal of discipleship is to make disciples who can then make disciples, teaching them to observe all that Jesus commanded. Realizing this, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division is serious about the gospel commission to preach the gospel and make disciples. Leaders from all over Southern Africa converged in Johannesburg in 2013 to participate in the second part of KIDS in Discipleship Ministry training. *The Kids In Discipleship* ministry equips church congregations, parents, and key mentors to implement the Deuteronomy 6 model of discipleship that will help foster a family's ability to use their gifts for worship, ministry, and mission.

Part of the strategy of the SID is to Disciple children. K.I.D. takes a systematic approach of creating relationships with the home, church, and school to help implement discipleship principles that will build a child's faith to become a lifestyle. Under the leadership of Mrs Caroline Chola (Children's Ministry Director – SID), this ministry has become intentional.

One key word heard repeated many times [at the conference] was the home. And there is good reason for this. Yes, the most effective discipling center is the home. We are called to make disciples, not just converts. Disciples are made in intimate, accountable relationships. Discipleship is a process, not a program. Making disciples

involves helping another learn to obey all that Jesus commanded. Making disciples takes place in the context of loving, safe, confidential, and personal relationships. Speaking of establishing this functional link between the home, church and school, in the discipling process, many participants articulated its importance.

Making disciples involves bringing people into a personal relationship with Jesus and staying with them until their whole lives are in obedience to Christ Jesus. It is for this reason that the SID has embraced the Kids in Discipleship ministry. It is a ministry that is not in competition with other ministries but complementary in the spirit of co-operation and collaboration to fulfil the mandate to make disciples, of especially children, as we wait expectantly for the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The SID, together with K.I.D. continues to be dedicated to equipping parents to spiritually nurture their children to have a personal, meaningful, and fruitful relationship with Jesus Christ. Discipling children is a priority in the Seventh-day Adventist church of the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division.

The unity, commitment and passion for discipling children must now filter down to every church and home in the SID region.

A RE-AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

- *An Official Statement* -

Over the past several decades the Seventh-day Adventist Church has felt it necessary to clearly state in various ways its position in regards to marriage, the family, and human sexuality. These subjects are at the heart of many pressing issues facing society. That which for centuries has been considered to be basic Christian morality in the marriage setting is now increasingly called into question, not only in secular society but within Christian churches themselves.

An increasing number of nations are not only debating the topic of "same-sex unions," but some have already passed various pieces of legislation, thus making it a world issue. The public discussion has engendered strong emotions.

In light of these developments, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is clearly restating its position. We reaffirm, without hesitation, our long-standing position as expressed in the Church's Fundamental Beliefs:

"Marriage was divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman in loving companionship."¹ Though "sin has perverted God's ideals for marriage and family," "the family tie is the closest, the most tender and sacred of any human relationship," and thus "families need to experience renewal and reformation in their relationships" (An Affirmation of Family, 1990).² God instituted "marriage, a covenant-based union of two genders [male and female] physically, emotionally, and spiritually, spoken of in Scripture as 'one flesh.'" "The monogamous union in marriage of a man and a woman is . . . the only morally appropriate locus of genital or related intimate sexual expression." "Any lowering of this high view is to that extent a lowering of the heavenly ideal" (An Affirmation of Marriage, 1996).³

Homosexuality is a manifestation of the disturbance and brokenness in human inclinations and relations caused by the entrance of sin into the world. While

everyone is subject to fallen human nature, "we also believe that by God's grace and through the encouragement of the community of faith, an individual may live in harmony with the principles of God's Word" (Seventh-day Adventist Position Statement on Homosexuality, 2012).⁴

We hold that all people, regardless of their sexual orientation, are loved by God. We do not condone singling out any group for scorn and derision, let alone abuse. Still, God's Word that transcends time and culture does not permit a homosexual lifestyle. The Bible's opposition to same-sex unions/marriage is anchored in God's plan at creation for marriage (Gen 1:26-28; 2:20-24), in divine legislation (Lev 18:22; 20:13; 1 Cor 6:9-11), and in Jesus' explicit confirmation of a permanent, monogamous, and heterosexual marriage relationship (Matt 19:4-6).

¹ Seventh-day Adventists Believe: An exposition of the fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Doctrine 23 on "Marriage and the Family."

² Public Statement, An Affirmation of Family, released July 5, 1990, at the General Conference Session, Indianapolis, Indiana.

³ Statement voted by the General Conference Administrative Committee on April 23, 1996.

⁴ Statement voted by the Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee, October 17, 2012



COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH MINISTRY

Adventists believe health and healing is a ministry. They advocate a holistic approach to health that involves physical, mental, social and spiritual wellbeing. Adventist health leaders believe in God's restorative powers, the prevention of disease through simple lifestyle changes and the effectiveness of proven medical treatment and therapy. Further, Adventists believe that Health and healing is a crucial component in presenting the Gospel to everyone.

Adventists believe every church is a center for health and healing. The Seventh-day Adventist Church operates a network of about 600 hospitals, clinics and dispensaries worldwide, and counts many innovative health leaders among its members.

But recently, top church officials called for a renewed emphasis on the comprehensive side of health ministry—the blending of physical and spiritual components. "We've been doing this for 150 years. It's in our DNA ... but we're taking a new look at it" Mark Finley.

"If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen," said Dr. Allan Handysides, co-director for

the Adventist world church's Health Ministries department, quoting a passage from White's landmark book, "The Ministry of Healing." In an exclusive interview at the 2013 GAIN conference in Dubai, Adventist world church President Ted N. C. Wilson, said: "Health is the right arm of evangelism. Health is what opens the door." Going forward, health ministry will be deeply rooted in church initiatives such as *Mission to the Cities* and other outreach initiatives of the church.

Dr Llaguno (SID Health ministries Director) together with Dr Jongimpi Papu (Ministerial Director – SID) reiterated the position of the world church that "every church, every hospital, every institution, every supporting ministry and initiative of the church must be comprehensive in its message." Every member of the Seventh-day Adventist church is encouraged to follow the church's health principles in their personal lives. Dr Paul Ratsara (SID President), remarked:

"Leaders of the church must set an example of a healthy lifestyle so that our testimony may be credible and indeed comprehensive."

To learn more about Comprehensive Health Ministry write to: lilaguno@sid.adventist.org



THROW THE GOSPEL NET IN CYBERSPACE

The Annual Global Adventist Internet Network (GAIN) conference conducted in Dubai (May 15-19, 2013) brought together SDA Communication and Information Technology directors and internet and media professionals to discuss creative and innovative ways of spreading the gospel through modern technology.

With approximately 250 people attending, enthusiasm was high as the Holy Spirit opened minds and hearts to work together to fulfill the great gospel commission. The Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division was represented by thirteen delegates. Elder Ted Wilson, in his presentation highlighted the need to let down the gospel net into cyberspace, especially in this hi-tech, fast paced world.

The SID Communication department invites you to share testimonies of your internet or

media ministry. If you have an internet ministry or have come to the Adventist faith or know of someone who has come into the Adventist family of God through the internet, please write to us: charlesp@sid.adventist.org

The next GAIN meetings (2014) will take place in India. The conference takes place once, in a different part of the world, every year. We hope that more people will attend the next GAIN meeting from SID in 2014.

GAIN

Adventists POSITIVE about HIV AIDS



Thirteen years ago, in his closing address to the 2000 International AIDS Conference in Durban, Nelson Mandela issued an impassioned call to arms against the epidemic threatening the life of this continent. He said, "We need - and there is increasing evidence of African resolve to fight this war. Others will not save us if we do not primarily commit ourselves."

In line with this call, the Trans-Orange Conference (TOC), in the territory of Southern Africa, launched the Association for Adventist People living with HIV and AIDS. The SID congratulates the Trans Orange Conference and Mrs Rhoda Nithani (HIV AIDS Director –SID), highlighted that "we are making a historic declaration of the intention of the Seventh-day Adventist church to de-stigmatize those living with HIV AIDS."

"In advocating and educating regarding behaviors that prevent the transmission of HIV, pastors and lay-leaders demonstrate the love and compassion of God in their Seventh-day Adventist ministry." We must be adequately informed as to the dangers of AIDS and how it is spread. We must use that information to protect

ourselves as well as share with others the information on prevention" Dr Oscar Giordano. Rhoda Nithani agrees that Seventh-day Adventist church members and employees have a Christian obligation to respond to and treat people suffering with AIDS as Jesus our Savior treated the sick and outcast. Tragically, the world responds to AIDS sufferers as it once did to lepers - as sinful carriers of death to be shunned and isolated. But God, in Jesus, gave us His response. He went out of His way, often walking for several days, just to touch and heal a person afflicted with leprosy. He always offered love, acceptance and forgiveness to those afflicted by religious pride and other sins of the day. Through His redemptive love He offered life and freedom from the burden of sin. The Seventh-day Adventist Church seeks to engage in the ministry of Christ. It must respond with love and acceptance when dealing with all people, including those with AIDS.

For Guidelines on formulation of policy on HIV AIDS and how to organize an Association email: nthanir@sid.adventist.org

SID COMMUNICATION – WE CONNECT



ADRA RECEIVES FORD RANGER FROM KJAER & KJAER - BY RENEE CEROVSKI

On April 8, Kjaer & Kjaer officially handed ADRA Madagascar Country Director, Peter Delhove, the keys to a brand-new 2012 Ford Ranger. This ceremony marked the culmination of the Ranger Donation Competition, which took place in September and October last year.

Sixty-eight different projects from 56 NGOs in 23 African countries participated in the competition to win the 2012 Ford Ranger. In the first round, the projects competed to be among the top five projects with the most Facebook votes. The top five projects could advance to the next round where a panel of judges would choose one project to receive the 2012 Ford Ranger.

In July, ADRA Madagascar entered the competition to win a truck for its Ampanihy project. This project currently focuses on teaching conservation agriculture to female-headed households and assisting with health training for community health volunteers to 4,000 beneficiaries. Ampanihy, southwest Madagascar, has been suffering from drought since 2007.

They are also actively involved in other ADRA projects, such as Sambaika (a program that helps pregnant and lactating women have proper nutrition). And there are similar stories of triumph throughout the Amoron'i Mania and

Vatovavy regions. Individual members (overwhelmingly women) who may not have otherwise had the opportunity are starting small businesses, investing in better farming equipment and materials, or financing their children's education with their VSL loans. It may seem like small measure of success in the field of international development, but it is one that may keep bellies (and hearts) full for years to come.



YOUTH ALIVE Conference *Ignites Youth to Prevent AIDS*

- By Mireille Ravoninjatovo

Following the training of facilitators at the beginning of March, the Youth Alive Conference took place during the first week of April. About 30 facilitators and 80 young people from six cities in Madagascar attended the training program in Antananarivo. This was the second phase of the Youth Alive Program, which aims to prevent HIV/AIDS and other high-risk behaviours among the youth. Youth Alive is organized by the Indian Ocean Union Mission (IOUM) and funded by ADRA Madagascar.

Dr Andry Rakotomanana, from the National Council of the Fight Against AIDS said that 'through this program, the Adventist Church would hopefully contribute to achieving the government's aim, which is to eradicate HIV/AIDS within 5 years in Madagascar.

In addition, Youth Alive workshops also addressed more serious topics such as sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS, dating and sexuality, marriage, career building, tobacco, drugs, alcohol, violence and abuse, women

vulnerability, life skills, self-esteem, and finally, building a relationship with God.

On Saturday afternoon, the participants did community service in various places. One group distributed books and clothing at an orphanage and hospice. Another group visited patients in a hospital, while the third group sang songs and performed educational skits in the local neighbourhood.

Mrs. Rhoda Nihani, one of the facilitators from the SID, was very confident about the participants.

"They are vibrant, eager to learn and share. So, there is a chance that we can reach many young people," she said. "Something is going to come out of this program."



Called to be Agents of Reconciliation



Two things characterized the 2013 SID Leadership Summit – February 5, 2013:

1. A Commitment to the reading of God's Word, the Holy Bible. This is a regular practice throughout the entire SID Territory. Seventh-day Adventists, together with others are enriched and blessed with the systematic reading of God's Word following the Revived by His Word initiative of the World church. Indeed, God's Word has an inherent power to change lives.

2. Secondly, prayer is not only foundational for Christian growth and service, in the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division, it is recognized as the hallmark of all great leaders.



As Leaders from the entire Southern Africa Indian Ocean Territory, submitted to God in prayer, two things were self-evident. Firstly, as leaders strive for excellence, the starting point is not in delivery and performance but in submissive recognition of their total dependence and reliance on God's strength and not their own.

Secondly, the example is clear. The call is for all members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the SID territory to seek the Lord in unison, and solidify their relationship with God. And in that relationship, God is calling us to be powerful examples of the transforming power of God's grace in an individual's life.

One full day, the first day, of the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division (SID) Leadership Summit (February 5, 2013) was exclusively dedicated to celebrate the marriage commitment of Leaders and their spouses. Placing the need for such a conference at the heart of the gospel mission Willie Oliver declared that: "Indeed, we need to Strive for excellence in our marriage and families so Jesus Christ can come soon."

SID Serious about the Call to the Gospel Ministry. The need for a period of time to prove one's calling may be even greater today when so many new Christians are training for the ministry. This makes the need for supervised internship critical to maintain the integrity of the gospel ministry.

The SID Leadership Summit highlighted the critical need for consistent evaluation of ministerial interns. Dr Jongimpi Papu, Ministerial Director (SID), made it very clear that deviation from the policy regulating supervised internship is not only detrimental to the individual but costs the church more than we can imagine when the integrity of the ministerial call is compromised.

The SID Policy creates an opportunity for those desiring of joining the gospel ministry before they go for training to prove themselves and the church that they have a willingness to develop the ministerial gift.

A unique feature of the SID Leadership summit (February 2013) was the intentional inclusion of the spouses of Leaders and designing a special

program for them. More than 70 women gathered to focus on issues relevant and unique to their special calling.

Dr Ganoune Diop, the appointed Devotional speaker for the Summit, highlighted the fact that Seventh-day Adventists are called for a specific purpose. "Indeed the connection of Christian Leaders with Christ compels us to reconcile with others. To reconcile is not an option but a mandate to be carried out daily by those who profess to be followers of Jesus Christ," he said. He continued: "Reconciled to Christ with His righteousness, Leaders and lay-members, then reach out to others."



Festival of the Lairity

Pastors in SID: +-1500
Membership: +3 million

Even if every pastor in SID had to win one soul per day for Christ... we would realize 547 500 people added to the Lord's kingdom per year. In three years, (547 500 x 3) ... 1 642 500 people will be reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is good. However, if each member would reach just one soul, not per day but per year, in three years 24 million precious souls will be added to the kingdom of God. Now that is great. **God's plan is for us to move from good to great!** God is using men and women who are passionate about their responsibility to prepare a people for the imminent return of Jesus. Yes, the center and circumference of the Seventh-day Adventist church is Jesus Christ and the foundation is His Word, without which is no revival or reformation. Matthew 24:14: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached to all the world as a witness to all the nations and then the end will come."

"To me it is clear that the preaching of the gospel is the prerequisite for Jesus Christ to come. The bible and the spirit of prophecy says we are not only here to wait but to hasten the coming of Jesus, because when we preach the gospel it is not only to hasten the coming of Jesus but to end this wicked world. This is our priority, it is the life blood of this church, the core business of this church. Everything is led by this and that is why we are here, that is why we spend time praying and studying the word so we can be useful to end this wicked world and prepare for the world to come, where we will have no tears or death and no bitterness," Dr Paul Ratsara. It is clear that God is working in and through individual members of the church in the SID region. By our choice and relationship that number must increase until the entire church is mobilized and energized to take the gospel of Jesus Christ into every marketplace, prison, corporate office, street corner, home and church.

Paul Charles



Every Sabbath, laypeople in the Southern Africa Indian Ocean region, preach more than 20 000 sermons in local churches. Ordained pastors preach less than 8% of the total number of sermons. Since 2003, when the membership of SID was 1 713 768, the church has grown to more than 3 million in 2013. This is a net growth of more than 1 286 232 million precious souls over the past ten years. 96% of that increase is the direct result of the unwavering commitment and dedication of laypeople who love Jesus Christ. This has been the pattern before and after 2003. This means that of the more than 3 million members of the church in SID, 2 880 000 have been introduced to Jesus by lay-members. This leaves little room to doubt that truly the Seventh-day Adventist church is a lay-movement and its success hinges on Spirit-filled and mobilized lay-people.

Success of the mission to go into all the world and assist people to respond to the invitation of Jesus is largely dependent on the active participation of men and women who have tasted [for themselves] and seen that the Lord is good and His mercy endures forever. This needs to be consistently celebrated and encouraged so that it continues. A festival of Laity, such as the recent SID Festival of Laity facilitates this. Approximately 1000 lay-members, from different countries of Southern Africa and Indian Ocean, attended the SID Festival of Laity, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, 23-28 April 2013.

A festival of the laity is important for nurture and training. It is also a time of intense prayer and devotion, seeking the will of God. Because so much hinges on effective participation of lay members; workshops and

break-away sessions conducted during the festival focused on practical demonstrations and discussions on the different ministries open to individual members. Workshops were conducted by passionate, spirit-filled presenters on topics such as the *Theology of evangelism*, *Kids in Discipleship*, *How to run effective Internet programs*, *family ministry* and other important presentations. Indeed, an empowered laity is a confident laity. Pastor Mulambo, the SID Personal Ministries Director in speaking about the festival of Laity said that the purpose of the Festival of the Laity is to celebrate with thanksgiving, the way the Lord has been leading His church thus far and to remind us that God, who has been leading his church thus far will continue until the church is victorious and triumphant.

"We are a movement of destiny, children of prophecy, born out of the scriptures themselves, that is who we are. Those pastors specialised in training their members, when the laities were working, when God's children were working, the growth of the church was amazing because it was not only the pastor who was working but the members too. When it was the members who were working, the church of God multiplied, it grew tremendously. God has given us a special message and we need not to keep quiet about this message, we must continue to blow the trumpet, and before you go out in the morning to do God's work, he has already prepared the field for you and all that is waiting for us is to go and harvest and bring the crop home" Dr Solomon Maphosa.

SID Communication





PATHFINDERS

SHOW RESPECT TO LOCAL LEADERS

Over 700 Pathfinders from all over Botswana gathered in the small town of Maun, 31 March to 07 April, to have an experience with God. The theme of the Camporee was "For This Reason." The pathfinders had an amazing time participating in the festivity of fun and spiritual activities. A male singing group called "ALL THE WAY" ministered to the pathfinders in music making this year's Camporee a unique and memorable one.

Pathfinders took some time to visit the Paramount Chief and walked for more than 20 km in their uniforms from their campsite (Tsodilo Secondary School) to the kgotla (communal and traditional meeting place). The March, led by Botswana Police Service impressed the residents of Maun. It was a marvelous sight. A sea of green, yellow and white! The visit to the kgotla was to pay homage to the chief as a gesture of respect for local authorities. The chief, Kealetile Moremi, admonished

the pathfinders on issues of discipline, HIV/AIDS, temperance and deportment. She concluded by encouraging the pathfinders to stay in Jesus as these are tumultuous times. During the opening ceremony on the same day, Member of Parliament for Maun East, Honourable Frank Ramsden, appreciated the Adventist church for participating in the development of the nation by equipping young ones with life skills.

The highlight of the camp was when Pathfinders went to the CDD of Maun to distribute "The Great Hope" on Sabbath Afternoon. The people of Maun were happy to receive the book.

The Pathfinders were humbled by the attendance of Union and Conference Officers as well as frontline pastors and GC directors who took time to be with them the whole week and freely engage in activities with them. This will go a long way in the establishment of the work of God among this age group. It is a loud statement by the church leadership about Youth Ministry in Botswana.

By Pako Mokgwane, Youth Director, Botswana Union





16 MARCH 2013

Young people in the Southern Africa Indian Ocean region were excited to be part of eight million strong Adventist young people who were mobilized on the streets of our villages, towns, and cities around the world to be the hands and feet of Jesus through acts of kindness. The 16th of March was celebrated as *Global Youth Day* with Seventh-day Adventist youth infusing hope with diverse acts of compassion everywhere. Young people donated blood as the symbol of the ultimate life-saving act of compassion. Wearing specially designed T-shirts for the global initiative, youth visited people in their homes, and workplaces sharing literature and providing health services in communities that people normally shy away from.

A team of young people stepped into trains, to dispense hope just before they arrived at their stations to work. Truly, our youth made the presence of Christ felt in forgotten and forsaken places.

The police were amazed at the commitment of our youth as they cleaned their offices and provided medical checks. Orphans were reminded that they are children of God, our heavenly Father.

"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me". Ellen White, *Ministry of Healing*, p 143.

The leadership and youth of SID are committed to being the hands and feet of Jesus every day.



THE *great.com* MISSION

We're seeing the Internet revolutionize the way people communicate, work, play, and conduct business. The Internet is also changing the way people search for spiritual answers. It means that we now have a new avenue through which to reach those who are disengaged from Christianity. If we are to fulfill the Great Commission mandate of Matthew 28:19-20—to "go and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you"—then we must understand that cyberspace is part of that world we are commanded to reach. When confronted with spreading the Gospel in cyberspace, perhaps we should think of the Great Commission as the "great .com mission."

With hundreds of millions of people online, the Internet has become a global marketplace—not only for products and services, but also for ideas and philosophies. In this global marketplace, we have the opportunity to exchange our thoughts and ideas with people who do not share our beliefs. The Internet presents a platform to reach out and be reached at the same time. Teens who regularly participate in online Christian discussion groups are using the Internet as a source of spiritual enrichment, not a substitute for traditional church involvement.

Many young people find it easier to discuss spiritual issues online than in face-to-face conversations. Particularly for females, the anonymity of Internet communication, often cited as something that inhibits the development of true relationships, may actually be a positive factor when it comes to discussions of faith.

"I personally feel more comfortable talking about my beliefs to people online because they don't know me," one teenage girl explained in a survey response. "They aren't going to judge or act different the next day because of a conversation we had. With personal (non-internet) friends, there are some things I don't feel comfortable talking about because I'm unsure of their reactions. Also, it gives opportunity to share the Gospel without rejection." Internet may not be as negative a factor in spiritual growth as some might believe.

One thing is certain: The Internet is here to stay. So, too, are the millions of seekers who feel alienated from the traditional church and are turning elsewhere to find relevance, meaning, and spiritual connections. What an opportunity!

SID Communication

THE IMPACT OF ONE MAN'S DECISION



On 13 April 2013, the first group of individuals from a charismatic church was baptised into the Seventh-day Adventist church at Florida, Johannesburg, and are now rejoicing in their new found faith.

Sidney Mazibuko, a lay-pastor, was born an Anglican but later joined the charismatic movement where he was personally introduced to Jesus Christ. One day, while reading his Bible, he came across Matthew 24:20 ('Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.'). This puzzled him. He could understand the 'winter' part of the verse, but why the Sabbath? Did God still have a special day? God impressed him to go back to Genesis 2, showing that the Sabbath was there from the beginning of Creation; and to Exodus 20, making it clear that it was part of His eternal law. God was taking Sidney on a journey. Later he came across a dirty copy of *National Sunday Law* in a friend's workshop and read it with great interest. The scales of deception began falling off his eyes.

Sidney shared these findings with his group and told them to do more research about the Sabbath. "Go to the local libraries and find out more about Sabbath and Sunday," he appealed. A few days later God ensured

that Sidney's prayer would be personally answered. He received a personalised invitation to the Amazing Discoveries 2010 campaign, conducted by John Carter at the Mosaiek Theatre in November 2010. Close to 100 000 personal invitations were handwritten and Sidney providentially receive one of them.

Sidney did not want to attend this Bible series alone. He decided to take all of his members to the campaign to hear truth for themselves. He sacrificially decommissioned 3 of his taxis for the duration of the whole series (Sidney was a part time taxi operator) so that his group (about 30 of them) could personally attend Amazing Discoveries. On the 13th of April 2013, 13 candidates, including Sidney and his wife, were baptised. Another 10 will be baptized in the next baptism. Sidney is currently working in Mohlakeng and the surrounding suburbs sharing the amazing bible truths entrusted to Seventh-day Adventists. Only Heaven will tell the full extent of one man's decision!

Shandrell Penniken & Glenn Smithwick, Johannesburg





A CHURCH LEADER'S PRAYER AND GEMS: SHARING MY TESTIMONY

Leadership position is a privilege and a challenge. God knew about the challenges of leadership - hence He commanded Joshua to "...Be strong and of good courage. Do not be afraid, neither be dismayed. For Jehovah your God is with you in all places where you go." (Joshua 1:9 MKJV). The following are some of the Bible blessings, principles, and gems which are critical to one's Church Leadership:

1. Prayer for Wisdom. Solomon requested God to give him "wisdom" and "an understanding heart," and God granted his request (1 Kings 3:9-11). This gift is not given automatically, but it must be requested.

2. Faithfulness and Fruitfulness in service. In the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:19-30, the servants were expected not only to be faithful in taking care of their master's business, but also to make it fruitful. The servant with one talent was not punished for losing the master's talent. He actually kept it faithfully, and never lost it. The punishment was based on lack of fruitfulness. God expects us to be both faithful and fruitful.

3. Forgiving spirit. Church Leadership is the only area where a person apologizes even though one is right. Marriage is another. Jesus Christ encourages us to be "peacemakers" (Matthew 5:8 MKJV), and also to be

forgiving (Mark 11:25, 26).

4. Developing listening skills. God instructs Job to listen. "Hear this, Job, listen to me; be silent and I will speak," (Job 33:31 MKJV).

5. Leading and Following. We need to pray for the skills and graces of leading, and also the humility of remembering how to follow when we are not leading.

6. Leading rather than following issues. It behooves Church leaders to be at the cutting-edge of issues. Leaders ought to lead and manage issues rather than following or being managed by issues.

7. Remain focused on God. Humans have a need to worship, to trust, to relate, to depend, to be needed, to be loved, to be appreciated, to be safe and protected, to be peaceful, and a need for salvation in order to deal with issues of guilt. God is the only One who is able to meet all these needs. Jesus Christ makes an invitation to those who are weary, and He promises rest (Matthew 11:29).

Dr Tankiso Letseli, President of Southern Africa Union Conference

GOVERNMENT COMMENDS SDA CHURCH

The Zimbabwe government has urged the Seventh-day Adventist church to maintain its critical role in strengthening local education by providing quality education at church run schools and other training institutions.

Speaking at the 2013 National Teachers' Convention, which brought together teachers from Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) schools around the country, the Deputy Minister of Education, Sport, Arts and Culture, Lazarus Dokora hailed the church for establishing 86 primary and 44 secondary schools as a step in advancing national development through education.

Anderson Adventist High School Headmaster, Mr Caxton Mukasvanga said the SDA church is striving to keep abreast with technology by introducing e-learning in all schools. The 2013 National Teachers Convention (28-31 March 2013) attracted over 700 teachers from SDA schools providing a platform for teachers to exchange notes.

"You are the most influential people to every child you teach ... look at every child as a candidate for heaven," said Dr Ellah Kamwendo (Education Director - SID).

Vumile Dlodlo, Zimbabwe





SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY... THIS IS A MINISTRY WHOSE TIME HAS COME

The mission of Special Needs Ministries is to bring all members into the work of Christ. In order to promote full inclusion of members with disabilities, it is important to focus on each person's abilities, talents, and relationship with God. Special Needs Ministries blends the services of those with a disability with those who do not have a disability into a bond of ministry, each returning to God the talents and gifts He has bestowed. The commission of Jesus Christ compels us to lead others to accept Him as personal Savior, to unite with His church, and nurture them in preparation for His soon return. There are no exceptions to this commission and the local church may become truly and fully inclusive in its mission.

Special Needs Ministries does not stand-alone. Rather, it supports every other ministry because people with special needs should be involved in every ministry in the church. The church should view Special Needs Ministries as an artery that carries life-giving blood to the entire church body.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has made an intentional decision to train, challenge, and encourage each division, union, conference, and church in this ministry whose time has come. Although the Seventh-day Adventist Church has always ministered to people with special needs, its most visible contribution has been the establishment of Christian Record Services (CRS). In 1899 a legally blind young man named Austin Wilson

established the Christian Record Braille Foundation. Wilson started producing a Braille magazine titled Christian Record. By 1911 the circulation grew to more than 2,000. Today, CRS has provided services to people with visual disabilities with eight periodicals, more than 1,500 talking books, and blind camps and representatives worldwide. In 1980 it began providing services to persons with hearing disabilities.

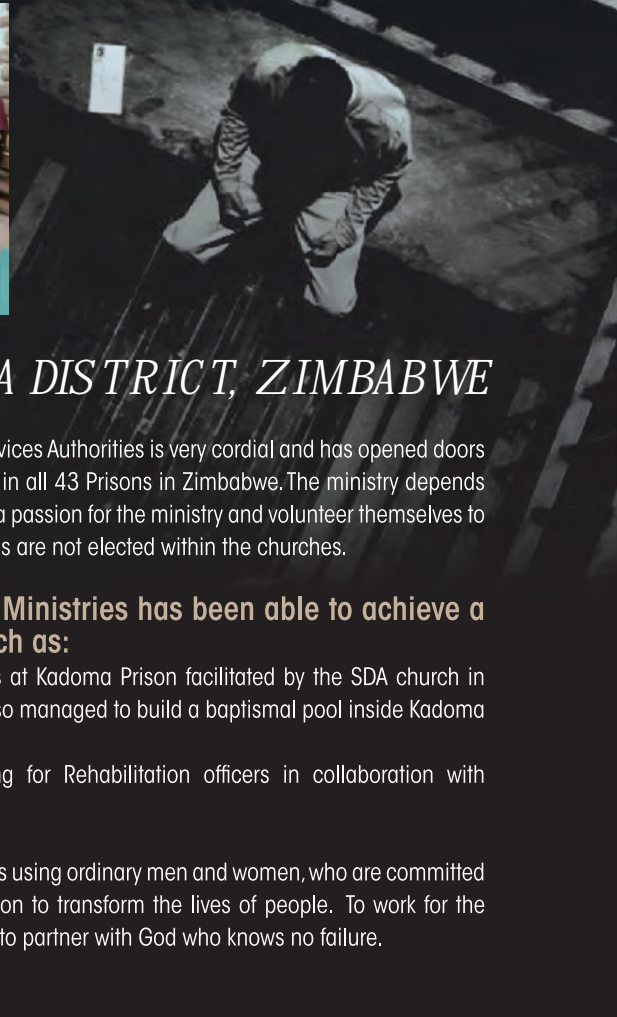
Generally, three criteria identify a person with a special need:

- A special need is a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities include breathing, communicating, hearing, learning, manual tasks, seeing, walking, or working.
- A person with a special need has a record of such impairment.
- A person with a special need is regarded as having an impairment that is limiting.

Usually, a person with a special need has recovered from a condition, been misclassified with a condition, or is still living with the physical or mental impairment. Regardless, there is a record of the condition. Prejudicial attitudes of others can cause those with an impairment to become classified as having limitations. For example, a person with a facial disfigurement caused at birth may be labeled as having a disability when in actuality there are no limits to his or her capabilities. The dignity of people with special needs must be maintained. "Mothering" or patronizing is not ministering but menacing. The Holy Spirit is a special guide in blessing all persons with the special need to be a blessing.

This is a ministry whose time has come. This is a wonderful opportunity to reflect the character of Jesus Christ. The doors are open and people are waiting to be welcomed into the house of God. Let them come: the blind with their guide dogs, those in wheelchairs, and people with necessary behavior-modifying medication in their bags. Rejoice as some walk slowly but observe as all are moving toward the kingdom of heaven, where there will be no pain or sorrow, where there will be no one with special needs, where we will all be changed into the perfect reflection of our Master, who cautions us today, "As you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matt. 25:40, NRSV).

To learn more about Special Needs Ministry and to download the Special Needs Booklet for training in your church, please visit: <http://www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org>



TRANSFORMING LIVES IN PRISON GLENARA DISTRICT, ZIMBABWE

Highlands SDA Women's Ministry department started a ministry, in 2004, to women in prisons near Harare, providing material support for babies born to mothers in prison and bibles, old Sabbath School Lessons and other spiritual materials to the inmates – the mothers.

In 2005, Zimbabwe Prison Services Authorities approached the group to assist with Whawha Male Young Offenders Prison, 275 km from Harare. The prison holds male prisoners aged between 15 and 20yrs old. The Young Offenders prison averages 350 inmates at a given time. The objective of the prison is to separate the young offenders from the hardcore criminals, rehabilitate them and reintegrate them back to the community. The SDA Prison Ministry group took up the challenge, now as Glenara District comprising of a few churches. The group started sourcing material support, spiritual books and seeking permission to install TVs in prisons that can only show HOPE Channel and 3ABN. This request was granted by the government. This is a first in Zimbabwe. The relationship between the Glenara SDA Prison Ministry Group and the government department of

Zimbabwe Prison Services Authorities is very cordial and has opened doors for the group to work in all 43 Prisons in Zimbabwe. The ministry depends on women that have a passion for the ministry and volunteer themselves to the work. The positions are not elected within the churches.

Glenara Prison Ministries has been able to achieve a lot of things such as:

- Over 300 Baptisms at Kadoma Prison facilitated by the SDA church in Kadoma. They have also managed to build a baptismal pool inside Kadoma Prison.
- Counseling Training for Rehabilitation officers in collaboration with Connect.

It is evident that God is using ordinary men and women, who are committed to Him and His mission to transform the lives of people. To work for the salvation of others is to partner with God who knows no failure.

Ben Carson

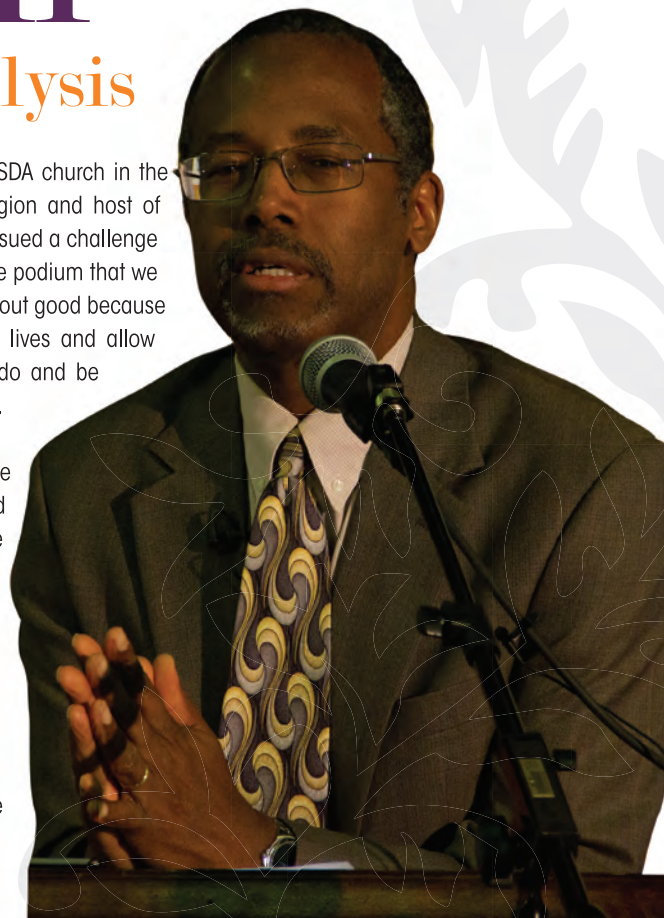
Applies Best and Worst Analysis

Dr Ben Carson who was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor, in a University Lecture, addressed the medical fraternity and members of the public on Intelligent Risk Taking in Medicine in the Sports hall at Medunsa, South Africa on July 12, 2013.

"One of the things that Ben and I have in common is that we are both Spiritual," said Prof. Mokgalong. In 1997, Ben Carson was the primary surgeon in the team of South African and Zambian surgeons with Prof. Mokgalong, that successfully separated type-2 verical craniopagus twins, Luka and Joseph Banda who were neurologically intact. Speaking about Ben Carson, Mokgalong said that he is a devoted Christian. He was invited by the current director of Neurosurgery, Dr. Patrick Lekgwara, who had only been a medical student at the time when the famed surgery took place. Dr. Sam Mokgokong, the neurosurgeon who was the head of the department at that time, also spoke eloquently of the historical landmark surgery, before Dr. Carson gave his remarks. This is the 4th visit of Dr Carson to Medunsa.

Dr Paul Ratsara, President of the SDA church in the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Region and host of the International Youth Congress issued a challenge just before Dr Carson ascended the podium that we should do more than just speak about good because the "ultimate good is to give our lives and allow ourselves to be used by God to do and be good." He spoke from James 4:17.

Dr Carson in his presentation spoke about rational risk taking. He said that professionals must evaluate and use their frontal lobe to make decisions. He said: "I was willing to take risks. I always asked God for wisdom and applied the BWA (best worst analysis). I pray before every procedure, look at all the alternatives and then make a decision applying common sense and logic in doing what is best.





Communication TRAINING

The SID communication department conducted training in Botswana and Madagascar in March and April 2013. Training is an essential component of the Communication department. Communication directors and media leaders gathered to learn latest techniques and relevant approaches to communication. For many, it was the first time to be part of a video report in front and behind the camera while being exposed to the in-depth look into the camera. In Botswana, the emphasis was on Journalism, Camera training and the role of public relations in the church. The training was conducted by Otieno Mkandawire, the technical assistant in the SID Communication department.



IOUM is a fore-runner in the work of Adventist World Radio (AWR). Thousands of people come to know about Jesus through the medium of radio. And the leadership has taken a step further to incorporate other media such as internet and print to saturate its territory with the good news of Jesus Christ. The church in Madagascar has submitted five more applications for FM Radio stations to add to the seven that is already on-air bringing Hope to Madagascar.

The communication department conducted the Sabbath program, and at the end of the sermon, 40 people stepped forward to be baptized and in the afternoon session at the first historic church in Madagascar, 9 precious souls were baptized by the local pastor.



THE ACCREDITING ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH



The Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities (AAA) is the denominational accrediting authority for all tertiary and graduate educational programs and institutions owned by Seventh-day Adventist Church entities. Accreditation evaluate the quality of the denominational institutions' programs and their implementation of the Seventh-day Adventist philosophy of education in order to foster the unity and mission of the Church.

Accreditation provides not only accountability for the integration of faith and learning and for quality education, but also serves as a forum for reflection, commitment (including financial commitment by governing boards or sponsoring organizations), and collaboration between gown and town—in this case, the church. The process promotes transparency and demonstrates accountability to the church constituency. Furthermore, this form of intentional dialogue fosters collaboration and understanding between the work of education and the work of the church.

The SID Education department has been consistently evaluating its institutions throughout the territory to ensure compliance with the Adventist philosophy of education. "The SID Education Department pressed forward to fulfill its Mission Statement: To ensure quality Adventist education that covers the spiritual, mental, physical, and social dimensions of life for productive life here and in the world to come," Dr Kamwendo.

Adventist Education strongly advocates a work education program in its



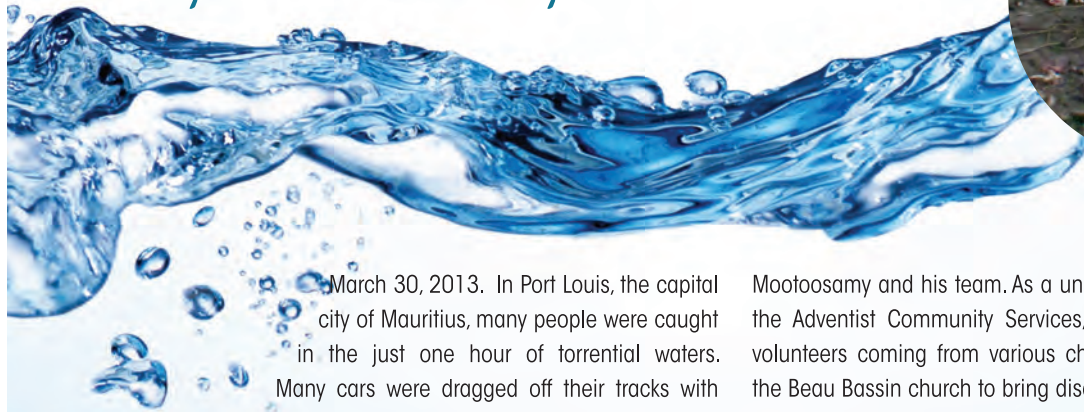
institutions, affirming the dignity of manual labor. Students are encouraged to earn bursaries and scholarships through this program. Many leaders in the church passed through this program and can testify of its effectiveness. "The benefit of manual training is needed also by professional men. A man may have a brilliant mind; he may be quick to catch ideas; his knowledge and skill may secure for him admission to his chosen calling; yet he may still be far from possessing a fitness for its duties. An education derived chiefly from books leads to superficial thinking. Practical work encourages close observation and independent thought. Rightly performed, it tends to develop that practical wisdom which we call common sense. It develops ability to plan and execute, strengthens courage and perseverance, and calls for the exercise of tact and skill" (Education, p. 220).

Statistics - SID Education

Number of Educational Institutions and Schools: 357; Tertiary – 6; Workers' Training – 5; Secondary Schools -134; Primary Schools – 212; Number of students – 99 786; Number of Teachers – 4 491 .

SID Communication

Adventist church at the forefront of disaster relief in Mauritius



March 30, 2013. In Port Louis, the capital city of Mauritius, many people were caught in the just one hour of torrential waters. Many cars were dragged off their tracks with passengers inside. Stationary cars were pushed one upon the other and pedestrians were baffled. It was general panic. In one hour of downpour, the raging waters coming down the mountain range flooded the city. Water flooded two underground tunnels leading to the waterfront near the harbor and eleven people died.

The Adventist Church in Mauritius responded early morning on Sunday. Rapid relief started through the pastor of the Beau Bassin Adventist Church, Pastor Vissen

Mootoosamy and his team. As a unified team, the Adventist Community Services, ADRA and volunteers coming from various churches joined the Beau Bassin church to bring disaster relief. Radio One, a local private radio station, spread news around the island that the Beau Bassin Adventist Church was a collecting point of donations of food items and clothes from the general public. Donations from all over poured in on Sunday and Monday.

Young volunteers wearing T shirts bearing the logo of Adventist Community Services, were visible everywhere helping, distributing bags of food, clothing and mattresses. People were very grateful to receive the generous intervention and asked a lot of questions about the church in Mauritius. The Adventist church is committed to making a difference and bringing hope in Mauritius.

Mahen Neeliah - Communication Director – Mauritius Conference



LAST ONE-DAY CHURCH IN MALAWI COMPLETED

Maranatha has been constructing churches and schools in Malawi, where a rapidly growing Church has created a need for new church structures. Many congregations are finishing their One-Day Church with fire brick walls.

Maranatha Volunteers International, founded in 1969, is a non-profit Christian organization, which organizes and implements the construction of urgently needed buildings all over the world. In the past 40 years, more than 65,000 people have volunteered for Maranatha projects in 78 countries.

Dr Gilberto Araujo (Vice President-SID), in response to the generosity of Maranatha said: "We give praises to God for what was accomplished in SID territory and our deepest and sincere thankfulness to Maranatha Volunteers International for what they have done in Malawi."

In March 2013, Maranatha hit a major milestone when crews completed the last One-Day Church in Malawi. Since entering Malawi in 2011, Maranatha has built nearly 1,000 churches and schools. This has been Maranatha's largest One-Day structure project to date. Maranatha will continue to work in Malawi as needed, but this concludes Maranatha's One-Day structure program in the country.

"As a Division, we are extremely grateful for the partnership between SID and Maranatha. We continue to pray that God will continue to cast His favor upon Maranatha as they bring Hope and joy to God's people throughout the world,"
Dr Paul Ratsara – SID President.

Maranatha spreads the gospel throughout the world as it builds people through the construction of urgently needed buildings.





CHARITY WALK: FOR THE ALLEVIATION OF POVERTY IN MAURITIUS

The Adventist Community Services of the Mauritius Conference organized a charity walk on Sunday 28th of April 2013, from Belle Rose to Rose Hill for the raising of funds for the alleviation of poverty in Mauritius. This walk started at the Mauritius Beverages Company Limited and ended at the Municipality of Beau Bassin- Rose Hill. Antonio Lamarque, the dynamic and enthusiastic director of ACS, accompanied by his associates, Tony Ahvee, Lindsay Foolchand, and Cyril Lai Choo of ADRA, led the event successfully,

Antonio Lamarque commented on the theme of the charity walk, "Ansam Ar Twa", which means that the Adventist Church works with the collaboration of the target beneficiaries for the improvement of their standard of living through the four projects described above.

Pastor Jean Claude Alger, in his welcoming speech to the charity walkers, commended all the people present to walk for the poor. He said that the Adventist Church works for the betterment of the standard of life of poor

people as a core portfolio of its worldwide mission.

Mr Louis Toussaint André, Mayor of the Municipality of Beau Bassin Rose Hill praised the Adventist Church for such a laudable social initiative. He was very impressed by the presence of so many young people in the walk. He commented on the food project for the homeless as a Bible based, Christ centered undertaking.

At the end of the protocol ceremony, Murvin Camatchee, the Chief Financial Officer, handed a symbolic cheque of MRU 20,000 to a beneficiary, Mrs Mala Beeharry, for the purchase of corrugated iron sheets for her house.

Mahen V NEELIAH

Communication Director: Mauritius Conference.

Few and simple plans yield greater results



In the spirit of collaboration, Leaders attending the SID leadership summit (2013) were privileged to interact with Pastor Herbert Boger, President (Southern Parana Conference, South Brazil Union). He quoted: "The use of simple means will bring to the belief of the truth those with property and land, and they will be influenced to become helping hands of the Lord in the progress of his work" (E G White).

Leaders had to be reminded that God uses simple plans, even today. "... the more simple our plans or work in God's service, the more we shall

accomplish" (White). As it became clear that growth is essential to the vitality of the church, leaders were enthused to depend on the Holy Spirit and expect great things from God. "Church Growth comes from theology and fidelity to the Bible," he said.

At a time when everyone wants to do everything, the SID leadership was further reminded to design plans that God will bless and that few goals accomplished with excellence, yields a greater result. If the church does its part and not hinder the growth of the church, God will surely make it grow properly. "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow" 1 Corinthians 3:6. Pastor Boger drew parallel lessons from South Brazil, illustrating principles of leadership and growth that would call for a paradigm shift. He clearly outlined that the vision of the church must not be simply written on paper and filed away. The vision must be ever before God's leaders.

Further, leaders were reminded of the local Pastor's role in facilitating explosive growth. It is not God's plan that Pastors should be tied down to the church with no time or energy to reach out into the world. Finally, it was very clear that the strategy of the Bible must become our strategy. We should not be content until God's will is accomplished.

Dr Paul Charles - SID Communication – We Connect ...

NEW PRESIDENT FOR SOUTH-WESTERN ANGOLA UNION MISSION



Pastor Manuel Filipe Pacheco was recently elected and introduced to the Executive Committee of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division (SID) as the new President of South-Western Angola Union. Pastor Pacheco has served the Seventh-day Adventist church for 32 years, as Pastor, teacher and most recently Vice-Chancellor of Huambo University-Angola.

He replaces Pastor Teodoro Elias (retired) who has devoted unreserved and dedicated service in the Seventh-day Adventist

church for 45 years. Under his leadership, Angola was realigned into two Union Mission territories. Dr Pardon Mwansa (GC General Vice-president) prayed for and welcomed Pastor Pacheco on behalf of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

The SID family praises God for the commendable service of Pastor Teodoro and welcomes Pastor Pacheco as President of South-Western Angola Union mission.

NEW DIRECTORS APPOINTED AT EXTRA-ORDINARY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - SID



February 7, 2013 – During an Extraordinary Executive Committee held at St George, Pretoria, it was voted to elect Pastor Aniel Barbe to serve as Stewardship and Trust services Director for the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division. Pastor Aniel Barbe replaces Pastor Micah Choga, who served with distinction at the SID offices in the same office since 2005. Pastor Choga was recently elected to serve as President of the Zimbabwe Union Conference. Pastor Barbe will continue to serve as President of IOUM, but will resume full responsibility of the Stewardship office at SID, soon.

Stewardship is a fundamental doctrine for the Seventh-day Adventist Christian, based in the belief that God, at creation, established the first humans as the caretakers of the world, and that this responsibility has passed to all progeny of that original couple.

At the same meeting, Mr Ashley Jude Le Fleur was appointed to serve as Human Resource (HR), Director of SID. The HR Director will also assist the Administration of Union Conferences, on a consultative capacity, within the SID territory.

SID Communication



SOLUSI UNIVERSITY HOSTS SCHOOLS IN DISCIPLESHIP WORKSHOP

A cross section of church leaders and educators from Zimbabwe Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (ZUC) attended Schools-In-Discipleship workshop hosted by Solusi University February 27-March 3. The workshop was organized by Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division in conjunction with Zimbabwe Union Conference. Professor Kathy Goddard of Southern Adventist University served as a major resource person. ZUC has embraced the Schools-in-Discipleship initiative.

Hopeson Bonya - Field Secretary, SID



Update on Current Issue

Discussion and debate about ministerial ordination practice is a separate matter and is under global study and review. General Conference Session decisions (1990 and 1995) did not authorize ministerial ordination without regard to gender, either globally or regionally. Any change in this practice requires action by a General Conference Session. Every Church organization in the world has been given the opportunity of participating in the current global study. This can be accomplished through interaction with the respective division-appointed Biblical Research Committee. Division Biblical Research Committees will interface with the General Conference-appointed Theology of Ordination Study Committee. The study is to be completed by 2014 with a report from the Theology of Ordination Study Committee presented to the General Conference Executive Committee at its 2014 Annual Council, which will decide what to refer to the General Conference Session in 2015.

The General Conference Executive Committee specifically affirms the important roles that women fill in the life of the Church. Their giftedness and commitment is a blessing to the whole Church and a necessary part of its work in mission. Moments of tension in denominational life can be opportunities for both learning and enhancing relationships. The presence of conflict and the expression of difference can help make the Church stronger. In such moments the commitment of all to informed and collective decision-making processes is the best way to resolve matters while keeping the Church together as a world family.

Paul Charles - SID Communication – We Connect



Adventist Youth & Youth Camps - always action packed - is part of the signature of the SDA Church.

Here are some reasons why it is still encouraged:

- Strong Relationships
- Encounters with God
- Faith Building
- Nurture
- Training
- Fellowship

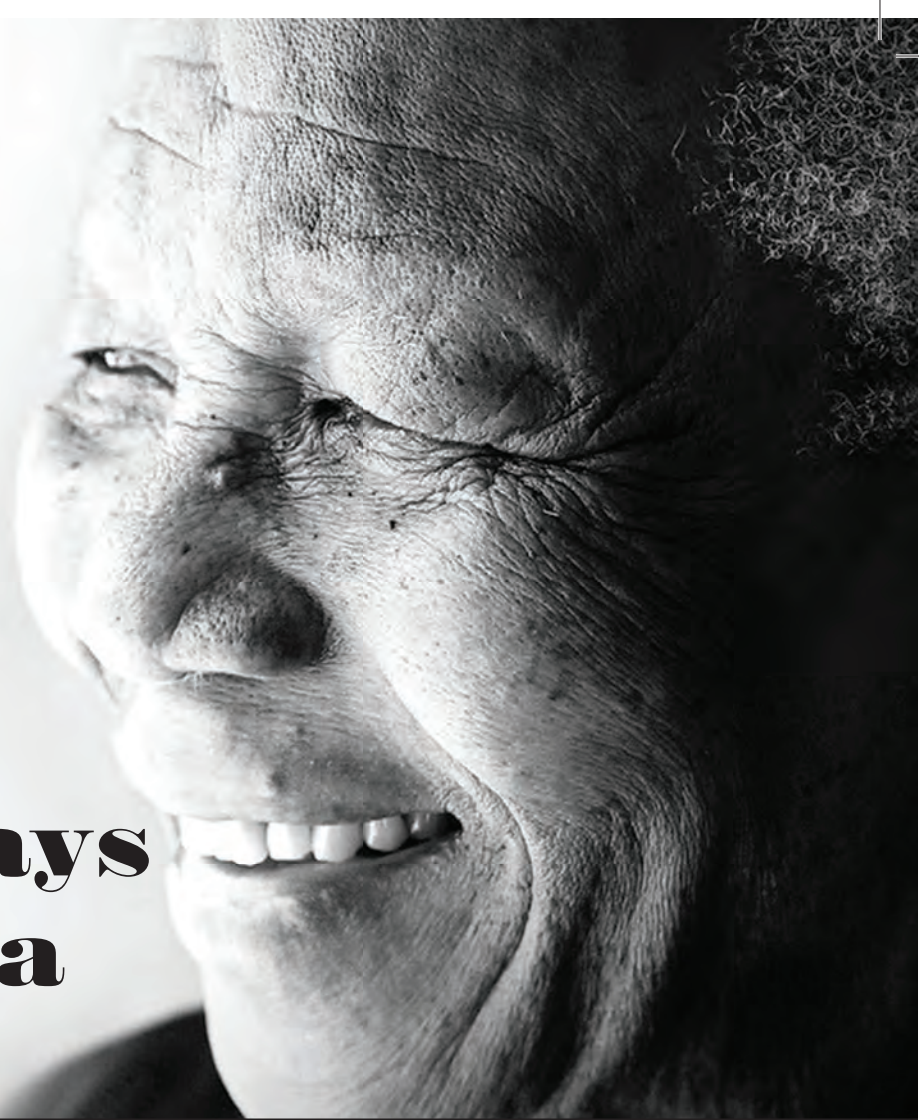
"To save from sin and guide into service:" this true and only motive, so complete and impressive, was adopted during the 1926 General Conference session.

Salvation and Service

A Youth Christian Camp Instills Great Values in Cool Ways . In other words, values and beliefs are caught, and not necessarily taught. A Youth Christian Camp Helps young people own their Faith. A well-run youth Adventist camp allows many opportunities for youth to get some alone-time with God practicing some of the basic spiritual disciplines. A Youth Christian Camp Allows Young People to Create Great Relationships. When young people interact with new friends who share their beliefs, talk openly about them, and live a life that sincerely involves faith, their own faith can grow greatly.



Adventist Church Prays for Mandela



The Executive Mayor, Councillor Kgosientso Ramokgopa, who is charged with the overall responsibility of providing political leadership to the City of Tshwane, host city of the 3rd World congress of Youth and Community Service "IMPACT SA 2013," called upon the youth and members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to pray for the first President of democratic South Africa, Dr Nelson Mandela. Dr Mandela, lay in hospital, just ten kilometers from the venue of the Youth Congress.

A few minutes later, after Romokgopa praised the SDA church for their commitment to moral regeneration and making a mark in society, Irvin Khoza, remarked that it was an honor for him to be associated with the SDA church. Young people from more than 97 countries were in high spirits, united by the mission and purpose of the church. When the Premier

Soccer League (PSL) chairman, Dr Irvin Khoza, ascended the podium, the audience of young people could not contain themselves as he boldly expressed his affiliation with the SDA church and thanked the church for their investment and values that was instilled in him, as a child and is evident in his current leadership.

The Seventh-day Adventist church continues to uphold the former President in their prayers and Dr Ratsara, president of the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Region, in his opening remarks at the congress, urged the 3500 strong gathering of young people, to pray for the world icon and beloved leader, Nelson Mandela.

A few days later on July 13, 2013, together with more than 20 000 Seventh-day Adventists, Dr Ted Wilson, President of the World SDA Church, on behalf of the Seventh-day Adventist church of more than 17 million members prayed for the health of beloved former president of South Africa, Dr Nelson Mandela.





You are safe with me ... I Believe in Creation

Modern minds may find it difficult to accept how a group of people would consider themselves superior to another group of people. However, the idea that certain people may lean towards that ideology of individual superiority is not far-fetched. What is it that will make a person, who bleeds as the next person and feels love and pain as the next, who is of the same intrinsic value and worth as the next person assume that he is superior by far, in every aspect? When you trace the historical processes that led to genocides and crimes against humanity, like Apartheid, you will identify global ideologies, rooted in Social Darwinism and eugenics, that influenced Apartheid laws and mentalities.

A certain group of people began to think they were superior and therefore acted in line with that belief. It's preposterous! But: "as a man thinketh ... so is he" Proverbs 23:7. A man is literally what he thinks, his character being the complete sum of all his thoughts. Not too many stop to think through the implications of our belief systems. Not too many people stop to think through the implications of the evolutionary theory. Have you taken a recent look at Charles Darwin's famous book that started it all? You know the one. *The Origin of Species*. And are you aware of the full original title Darwin gave his book? Maybe in our current politically correct culture the complete title is too offensive to put right on the cover. But like it or not, here's the whole title. Ready? On *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection or the Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle for Life*.

What? Favored Races? Yes, Favored Races! Darwin made certain that the essence of his theory was front and center. Let's break it down. First we see that the book is about origins. Darwin is attempting to inform us where we came from. According to him, our existence is a purely accidental naturalistic phenomenon. Then he moves into the process by which he believed we came into existence: "By Means of Natural Selection." That simply means that the strong survive and the weak don't, also described by Darwin as, "the survival of the fittest." Every creature is in competition for survival with all others. It's "natural," Darwin says, "that those with stronger traits will conquer those with weaker traits. The survivors will then breed, thus preserving and strengthening the traits most suited for survival. Things get gradually better as the weak are slaughtered and the strong survive to propagate." So evolution is dependent on the elimination of the weak. In fact, to the degree that any of the weak survive, the evolutionary process will be hindered. In this sense, competition and conquest are good for the advancement of life. The highest law is self-preservation, and the brutal

cycle of killing is merely an amoral (neither right or wrong) necessity.

Which brings us to the final part of Darwin's title. It's a mouth full for a book title, but get these words: "The Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle for Life." The idea is so heavy that even those who believe the theory see the racist implications and cringe. And yet, no explanation can alter what Darwin means when he speaks of "favored races." Sure, Darwin used the word "races" to refer to all life forms, both vegetable and animal, but that does not lessen the racist implications because the human species was included in Darwin's theory. The theory of evolution unavoidably teaches that some human races are favored above others. It should come as no surprise, then, that Darwin's cousin and disciple, Sir Francis Galton, became the father of modern "eugenics," which is the Greek word for "wellborn." Taking Darwin's evolutionary theory to its logical conclusion, Galton taught that "the gifted," or more highly evolved humans, should treat the less favored among us with "kindness"—get this—"so long as they maintain "celibacy." He went on to say, "If these continued to procreate children inferior in moral, intellectual and physical qualities, it is easy to believe the time may come when such persons would be considered as enemies of the state"

(Quoted in Peter and Jean Medawar, *Aristotle to Zoos*, p. 87).


People considered as "enemies of the state" because they are inferior? Galton's ideas turned out to be a dark "prophecy" that came true when Nazi eugenics scientists bought into Darwin's "favored races" theory and supervised Hitler's "Final Solution." Millions who were regarded as less evolved than the Aryans were slaughtered with survival-of-the-fittest gusto, and the evolution-educated conscience seems to have felt no guilt. Kill or be killed, and why feel guilty, because, after all, if self-preservation is the highest law, and if the "triumph of the strong over the weak" is simply necessary for the advancement of mankind, well, then, may the best race win! And the pattern was mimicked in the Caribbean, Australia, America and South Africa, et al.

Which begs the chilling question, If Darwin was right, then which ones are the "favored races"? Which of us are more highly evolved? Which of us are better than the rest of us? The Nazis' thought they were answering the question with their Aryan supremacy ideology and their gas chambers. The Bible clearly states that the earth was created in six days (Genesis 2v1-3), man was created in the image of God (Genesis 1v27) and God rested on the Seventh-day declaring it a day set apart to memorialize creation (Exodus 20v8-11) and further as a sign that God is our redeemer (we cannot earn our salvation – Deuteronomy 7v7,8) and that we are sanctified by God (Ezekiel 20v12) and not through our acts (no matter how good they may be).

The Sabbath is central to our worship of God. The memorial of Creation, it reveals the reason why God is to be worshiped: He is the Creator, and we are His creatures. "The Sabbath, therefore, lies at the very foundation of divine worship, for it teaches this great truth in the most impressive manner, and no other institution does this. The true ground of divine worship, not of that on the seventh day merely, but of all worship, is found in the distinction between the Creator and His creatures. This great fact can never become obsolete, and must never be forgotten."

We must be His in practice because He is our creator. So it is not that we merely believe in creation rather than evolution; more than this, such belief in creation must elicit a life given-over to that Creator. Maybe Darwin and those who still believe in evolution refused to do that?

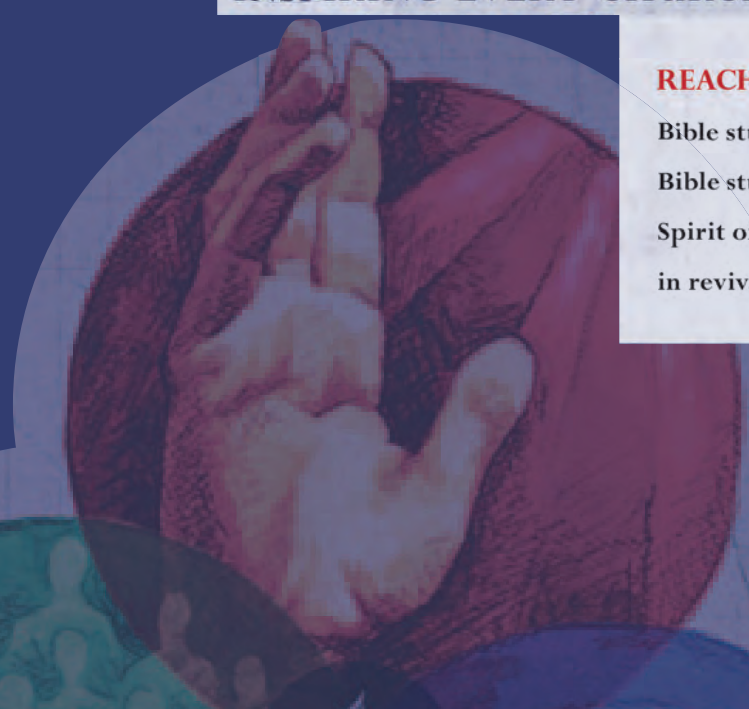
From the Book: *Reasonable Evidence for a Remarkable Faith*

An illustration of three hands holding globes. The top hand is red and clasped in prayer. The bottom-left hand is green and open. The bottom-right hand is blue and clasped. A small white dove logo is on the green globe. The background is a blue grid with faint circular lines.


Reach Up, Reach Out, Reach Across

TELL THE WORLD


INSPIRING EVERY CHURCH MEMBER TO:

A close-up illustration of a red hand holding a red globe, with fingers clasped in prayer.

REACH UP to God through Bible study, prayer, Adventist Bible study guides, and the Spirit of Prophecy, resulting in revival and faithfulness.

A close-up illustration of a green hand holding a green globe, with fingers spread.

REACH OUT to others as a friendly church that puts Christ's mission first, invites all peoples to fellowship and makes a difference daily in the community.

A close-up illustration of a blue hand holding a blue globe, with fingers spread.

REACH ACROSS the barriers that threaten to divide us as a family, endeavoring to disciple, nurture, and involve every individual in the life and mission of the church.