



# SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

## Illinois Conference Update

Kenneth A. Denslow, President

Thursday, February 07, 2008

### ***Decatur and Mattoon Building Projects***

This past Sabbath I had the pleasure of visiting two of our churches in central Illinois that have recently finished renovation projects.

In the morning I was with the Decatur church. After the worship service we adjourned to the newly refurbished youth center for our fellowship dinner. This youth center project was a total redo of a building adjacent to the church that had been basically used for storage for many years.



Darlene Doran heard a visiting youth speaker say that it would make a good youth building. That one comment planted a seed in her head and she pursued the vision with the rest of her fellow church members. Today this beautiful and spacious center stands as a testimony to the dream of a teenager.

In the afternoon I stopped by the Mattoon



Church where members were waiting to show off their newly completed fellowship hall. The Mattoon

Church

**Members in their new fellowship hall** purchased two used barracks years ago and moved them next to the church to be used as a church school. For a couple of decades the building sat empty. A year ago the members began a project to renovate the school and to build an addition that would join the two buildings. They also remodeled the school and now have a beautiful fellowship hall.

It is good to see that our churches recognize that care of the house of God is a form of worship.

### ***Special Musical Program in Decatur***

While at the Decatur Church I had the opportunity to meet Dr. Wendell Becton. Dr. Becton has a unique ministry in the community. One day, three years ago, he was having his personal devotions and began asking himself, "What can I give back to the community?" The answer was an annual musical program that features Negro Spirituals.

The Third Annual Negro Spirituals program will be on Sabbath, February 9, at 2:00 p.m. on the campus of Richland Community College. The program will feature music from ten different music organizations, including two Seventh-day Adventist Churches.

This annual program has met with a great deal of enthusiasm from the community. The first year Dr. Becton personally sponsored the costs of the concert. Now it is sponsored by several community organizations and businesses. Admission is free.

We applaud Dr. Becton for his innovative approach to touching people in his community.

### ***Advent Chamber Orchestra***

The Advent Chamber Orchestra grew out of the vision of Elias and Roxana Goldstein. This young couple sees their work with this musical company as a ministry and a means of bringing glory to God.

This year they have concerts in several places including North Central College in Naperville and at the Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church. For dates and ticket prices visit their website at [www.adventchamberorchestra.org](http://www.adventchamberorchestra.org) or call 630-226-0686.

We have remarkable talent in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and this couple and their chamber orchestra are evidence.

## Youth Challenge

Ron Clark, our Review and Herald publishing director for Illinois, is interviewing applicants for Youth Challenge for the coming summer.

Youth Challenge is an opportunity for high school and college students to earn money for school while also doing ministry. This program has been a huge impact on the lives of countless young people over the last two decades. The young people also touch the lives of many people each summer for Jesus.

If you or someone you know would like to be a part of the program this summer, contact Ron Clark at [rclark@rhpa.org](mailto:rclark@rhpa.org).

## Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries

I want you to be aware of two upcoming ASI events.

The first one is the ASI Lake Union Chapter Spring Fellowship. This year it is taking place in Holland, Michigan on April 18 and 19. The theme for the weekend is "Like Master, Like Disciple". Dr. Philip Samaan, author of *Christ's Way of Reaching People* and other books, will be the featured speaker for the weekend. All the information you need about the weekend can be found at [www.asi-lakeunion.org](http://www.asi-lakeunion.org).



Tampa skyline with convention center

The second event is the ASI International Convention on August 6 -9 in Tampa, Florida. The theme this year

is *By Knowing Him*. For more information and

registration go to their website at [www.asiministries.org](http://www.asiministries.org).

We are proud that several of the leaders for the Lake Union Chapter and the National ASI are members of the Illinois Conference.

## Chicago Outpost

One of the ways that the Chicago Outpost Ministry can support itself is by offering website design services. If your church or school needs some assistance in this area you might want to visit with Daniel Mesa. His email address is: [danielrmesa3@gmail.com](mailto:danielrmesa3@gmail.com).

Chicago Outpost staff members have worked with a number of our churches in western Chicagoland and even as far away as Freeport. The Illinois Conference has collaborated with this ministry by providing free housing in former faculty homes at Broadview Academy.

## A Tithe Testimony

Financially speaking, the Seventh-day Adventist Church runs on tithe. The year 2007 was a challenging one for the Illinois Conference when it comes to tithe. For much of the year we were receiving less tithe than for the same period the previous year.

Our 2007 budget assumed a 1.7% increase in tithe over 2006. Near the beginning of the fourth quarter of 2007 I began to pray very specifically for a 2% increase. Others joined me in this prayer.

Two weeks ago, I was out of town but Paula Saint-Villiers who records the remittances from the churches gathered office staff around and telephoned me to tell me that she had the final tithe figure for 2007. It was a 2.07% increase over 2006.

That may seem like a small thing to you, but it was faith-growing for me.

## Weimar College Closing

After 30 years of training Seventh-day Adventist youth and young adults for lives of consecrated ministry, the Board of Directors of Weimar Institute of Health & Education voted to close the college program as of June 20, 2008. Taking fiscal responsibility, the difficult decision came after seeking various financial and ministries solutions for several years.

While this institution is on the west coast, several of our pastors and teachers are graduates of Weimar College. The college is closing but Weimar Institute will continue to run its wellness programs.



"Sharing God's grace with our world through preaching, teaching, and healing."

# Update.....

## **Northern Campmeeting Music**

Choir Directors/Music Directors - We are hoping for all church choirs in the Chicagoland area to participate in the Northern Camp Meeting, Choir and Testimony Festival. When - May 17, 2008. Please contact Shona Cross, 630-856-2880, [adminsecretary@illinoisadventist.org](mailto:adminsecretary@illinoisadventist.org) for more information.

## **President of the Seventh-day Adventist World Church Grants First Interview with International Television Network**

ADVENTIST WORLD HEADQUARTERS, SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND USA - The president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has accepted an invitation to be interviewed on "Night Talk" with Mike Schneider, a one hour program airing on Bloomberg TV. The interview will take place on January 24, 2008 at the Night Talk studio in New York, New York.

This is the first time the president has granted an interview with a major international television network. Time and date of airing to be determined. The interview is expected to discuss issues facing the church, Adventist beliefs, growth and the history of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination.

"Night Talk" airs on the Bloomberg television network in the U.S., Europe and Asia on Bloomberg TV at 8PM, 10PM and Midnight on weeknights and is simulcast on Bloomberg Radio at 10PM. The Friday night Show re-airs over the weekend Sat at 8:00- 9:00 pm, 10:00-11:00 pm and Mon 12:00am - 1:00 am.

## **Camp Akita Work Bees**

Volunteers are needed for spring clean up at Camp Akita. There is something for everyone to do. The dates for the Work Bees are March 9 and April 6. Lunch will be provided. If you need directions to Camp Akita, please contact the Conference office or visit the camp website at [www.campakita.com](http://www.campakita.com).

## **Upcoming Events**

*La Red* (Bullon meetings)      August 10 - 17  
Net 2008                              October 24 – Nov. 29

Band Festival at HAA              March 13 – 15  
Pathfinder Camporee              April 11 – 13  
Hispanic Youth Congress        April 25 – 26  
Northern Campmeeting            May 17

## **News in Brief**

- Last Sabbath the Thompsonville and Noble Pathfinder Clubs both placed 1st in the Area 1 Bible Achievement Program and will go to the conference level.
- [www.biblos.com](http://www.biblos.com) is a helpful and free Bible study aid.
- In conjunction with the CHIP (Cardio Health Improvement Project) program the Rockford Church sponsors at healthy cooking class on the first Tuesday of every month, reports member, Jill Leigh.

## **Prayer List**

- Family of Carol Flood from the Southwest Church. Carol passed away on Wednesday.
- Dr. Ron Berglund, former member at North Aurora, has had a serious illness.
- Herb Peak, former member at Downers Grove, has been admitted to a nursing home due to his Parkinsons.
- The sale of the old Central Hispanic church building in Chicago.
- Roberta Marsmaker, member of the Southwest Church, whose husband passed away last week.

-----  
-----

Copyright (c) 2006 by Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Illinois Conference Update is a review of news and information for members and friends, issued by the President of the Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.



*"Sharing God's grace with our world through preaching, teaching, and healing."*

# Update.....

Reproduction of information in this update is encouraged.

To subscribe (or unsubscribe) to Illinois Conference Update, please send an e-mail to [news@illinoisadventist.org](mailto:news@illinoisadventist.org)



*“Sharing God’s grace with our world through preaching, teaching, and healing.”*