

EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION NEWS AND INSPIRATION

CONNECT



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TEAM WORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

When I was an undergraduate student at Andrews University, I worked as a literature evangelist in the summers. I relished the opportunity to share God's word through the power of the printed page and door to door evangelism. We would go in teams of two canvassing with cookbooks, prophecy books, and children's literature.

At the end of the evening, all 50 of us would come back to the church where we would

add up all the books that had been distributed, and then our leader would announce the total. We celebrated the overall amount of books given out rather than focusing on the sales per individual.

Somedays, I did amazing and other days I did not do as well and had so many doors slammed in my face. But at the end of the day, we always had something joyous to celebrate because we realized that our success was not dependent on our own individual

efforts, rather, it was based on the collective efforts of the team.

Our motto for our literature ministry was "Team Work makes the Dream Work" because we realized that we could reach a whole lot more people as a team than just by ourselves.

This is what Total Member Involvement is all about. It's about joining together with fellow believers to collectively use our individual gifts and talents to Share the Hope!

So, as you read through the pages of this issue, remember that Total Member Involvement is a Team Sport. It's not about what you can do alone, but it's about what we can do together to Share the Hope. Truly it is teamwork that makes the dream work, and ultimately, our dream is to reach the world with the good news of Jesus!

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CONNECT (ISSN 0777-001X) October - December 2017. Volume 2. Number 4. CONNECT is published quarterly four times per year by the East-Central Africa Division of Seventh-day Adventists, 00503 Private Bag Mbagathi, Nairobi Kenya. Free for ECD church members and \$10 per year for subscribers. ©2017 East-Central Africa Division of Seventh-day Adventists. Unless otherwise credited, all images are iStock. Adventist® and Seventh-day Adventist® are registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Contact us by email: info@ecdadventist.org or phone: +254-733-333-373

ENGAGE! EMPOWER! ENDURE!

One of the greatest examples of Total Member Involvement is found in the story of Nehemiah! Nehemiah was a man with a dream and mission. He wanted to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. This is interesting because while he lived in Babylon, his heart was in Jerusalem. Even though he worked and lived in another country, he did not forget where his home was. Like Nehemiah, we live and work in the world, but we must never forget that this world is not our home!

Now, Nehemiah had a plan for rebuilding the wall. He knew exactly what needed to be done to make this mission a success. But the first thing Nehemiah did was to pray! When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven. Nehemiah 1:4. This anointed leader realized that success could not result from his own strength. So he committed to fasting and prayer.

Let's take a look at Nehemiah's Prayer in Nehemiah 1:11 "O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honoring you. Please grant me success today by making the king favorable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me." Notice he even prayed for the favor in making his request to a foreign king and God granted his request. If we simply have faith in God and pray fervently

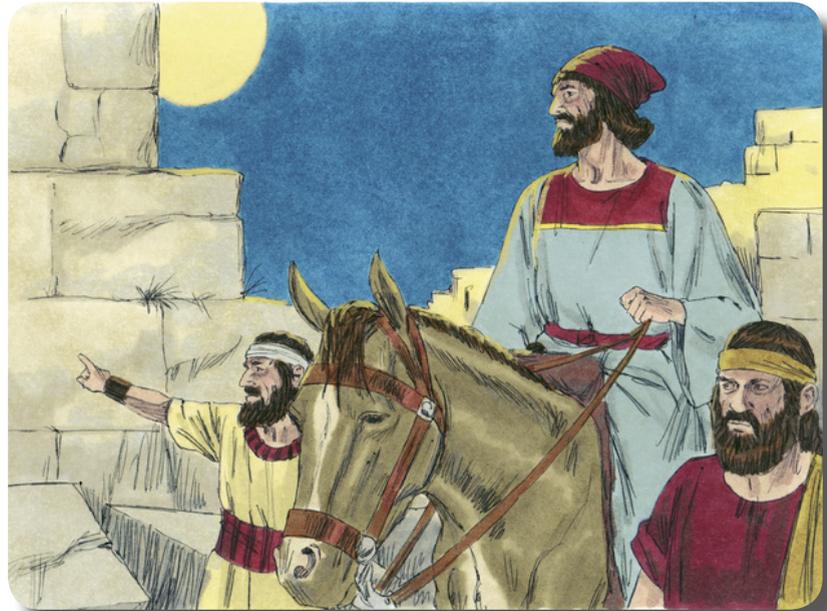
for his guidance, he will be sure to guide and provide all that we need to accomplish the mission.

The secret to our success in TMI is not merely in our abilities or our carefully laid out plans; it is in us moving forward on our knees. What is it that you want to happen in your community? What would you like to happen in your church or your conference or union? Don't you know that the secret to your success doesn't come from having more committee meetings? It's through united prayer and supplication before the God of Heaven.

The first step for us to be successful in our TMI mission is for us to engage in prayer.

The second step for success in our TMI mission is for us to empower a team.

When you read Nehemiah chapter three, you can catch a glimpse of just how massive Nehemiah's team was. He could have tried to rebuild the wall by himself. But he realized that together everyone achieves more. So he divided up the work and got everyone involved. Every family and every member got to participate in rebuilding a portion of the wall.



In ECD our goal is to follow Nehemiah's approach. Our goal is to mobilize Total Member Involvement all across this vast division territory. For this to be successful, we need every single member to do their part to help rebuild the brokenness in our community and to engage service by using their unique gifts and talents to help spread the Adventist message with their friends and neighbors.

Step three is enduring till the end!

Nehemiah faced many obstacles in his mission to rebuild the wall. Many of his strongest opponents were fellow believers and church members, not unbelievers. People even came and commanded him to stop building and to come down. But Nehemiah was committed to enduring till the end.

When people tried to get him to stop, he said, we are doing a great work, and we cannot come down. I challenge you to endure in TMI until the end. Don't let your fire burn out or your courage wane. There are still thousands, even millions that need to hear and accept the Adventist message. Let's endure until the end. Let's commit to never stop until every nation, kindred, tribe, and people have had an opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus.

So, remember, the three steps for TMI success. Engage in Prayer, Empower a Team and Endure until the End! Let's be faithful like Nehemiah until we hear the father say "Well done!"

Dr. Blasious Ruguri is President of the East-Central Africa Division.

TMI AND THE EARLY CHURCH

TMI IS NOT NEW! In fact, TMI started with the early church in the New Testament. Acts 5:42 shares how TMI happened in the early church. “And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.”

Here, Luke reveals eight practical steps that were used to cultivate the evangelism and TMI that occurred in the early church. Let’s explore these eight steps together.

The first step is Daily Evangelism.

Acts 5:42 notes that the disciples were involved in personal evangelism and witnessing “daily.” This verse reminds us that evangelism is not an event, but rather part of the process of discipleship. Remember, “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior 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.’” — Ministry of Healing, p. 143.

The second step is Church

Evangelism. Acts 5:42 says, “they continued daily in the temple...” Here we find the disciples reaching out to the community in the temple. Ellen White reminds us that the church exists for mission. As she puts it, “The church is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of man. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world.”— Acts of the Apostles, p. 9.

Step three is House

Evangelism. The text speaks of “every house.” There is something special about families reaching relatives and friends and neighbors with the Good News. Once again, Ellen White comments, “Christ first selected a few persons and bade them follow Him. They then went in search of their relatives and acquaintances and brought them to Christ. This is the way we are to labor. A few souls brought out and fully established on the truth, will like the first disciples, be laborers for others” — Welfare Ministry, p. 60.

Step four is Personal

Evangelism. Again, Acts 5:42 says: “And daily in the temple, and in every house, they...” Why did the Church grow so rapidly? It was because everyone was involved in witnessing—Total Member Involvement! Through the promises of God, the Lord will bring a harvest of souls as every one of us becomes involved. Remember, “The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers.” — Gospel Workers, p. 352.

Step five is Unceasing

Evangelism. Acts 5:42 says, “And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease...” Early Christians did not hold evangelistic meetings once a year and then relax. The New Testament believers

did not cease evangelizing. And because of their unceasing efforts, the Church multiplied. The pen of inspiration admonishes that “Strength to resist evil is best gained by aggressive service . . .” — The Acts of the Apostles, p. 105. Let us be unceasing in our evangelism and TMI efforts.

Step six is Teaching

Evangelism. The Bible says in Acts 5:42 that “they did not cease teaching...” The early church focused on teaching, so should we! “There should be less preaching and more teaching. There are those who want more certain light than they receive from hearing the sermons. Some need a longer time than do others to understand the points presented. If the truth presented could be made a little plainer, they would see it and take hold of it, and it would be like a nail fastened in a sure place.” — Gospel Workers, p. 407.

Step seven is Preaching

Evangelism. Acts 5:42 says that “they did not cease teaching and preaching...” We need to teach and yet also keep on preaching. The apostle Paul proclaims that through the foolishness of preaching, countless individuals are won to Christ. Effective preaching needs to be Spirit-led. “The



preaching of the Word is of no avail without the presence and aid of the Holy Spirit; for this Spirit is the only effectual teacher of divine truth. Only when the truth is accompanied to the heart by the Spirit, will it quicken the conscience or transform the life.” — Gospel Workers, p. 284.

Step 8 is Christ-centered

Evangelism. Notice whom their preaching and teaching was about! Acts 5:42 records that “they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.” Ellen White is clear on this point: “There should not a sermon be given unless a portion of that discourse is to especially make plain the way that sinners may come to Christ and be saved.” Ellen G. White, Evangelism p. 188.

So, how was evangelism done in the early church? In the manner recorded in Acts 5:42, thus, “And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.”

Why not do the same? By God’s grace and through His Spirit, we will see the same results.

Alain Coralie is the Executive Secretary of the East-Central Africa Division

STORIES OF TMI!

Earlier this year, I volunteered to go and preach for a Total Member Involvement or TMI evangelistic campaign for the East-Central Africa Division. To my surprise, I was assigned to go to Bundibugyo in the western region of Uganda. The last time I heard about Bundibugyo was ten years ago as an isolated, quarantined place, due to the deadly Ebola virus. It never occurred to me that the Lord would later send me there for a mission.

Despite its history, the beautiful Rwenzori mountains create a pleasant mood for any visitor to Bundibugyo. The scenery is breathtaking. The beauty of the landscape surpassed only by the precious souls who gave their lives to Jesus. I still recall some stories and testimonies as vividly as if it were only yesterday.

Edmond was woken up on a Friday night by a loud voice demanding that he gets out of his house! His wife cautioned him not to heed the call. He recognized the voice though. The following morning, he headed to the persons home. The man who had been calling him the previous night came out with a machete and Edmond ran away for his dear life. It was so confusing, as Edmond did not know the cause of it all. Meanwhile, I began the tent meetings by the roadside. Every morning from 6:30 am to 7:30 am, we met to pray for God's Spirit to be poured out. And at the beginning of each sermon, I encouraged attendees to pray for at least three other people to be present.

Edmond walked to church on the first Sabbath of the meetings fearing for his life as he did not know the next move of his pursuer. Edmond looked around and saw his pursuer sitting in the congregation.

For a few seconds, they both looked at each other spellbound. When I had asked each member to pray for three other people, Edmond had prayed for God to change his pursuers heart.

At this point, I was not aware of what was happening. I had only noticed a man who always sat in front by himself with folded arms - Godfrey. Days later, one of the Elders told me the story and informed me that Edmond's pursuer Godfrey had been attending my meetings. I preached about baptism that day. At the end of the sermon, I made a call, and ten people came forward.

Suddenly, Godfrey came forward to accept the call. Everyone stood in wonder and excitement. Some could not believe their eyes that he had just given his heart to Jesus! The Holy Spirit had convicted Godfrey, and he responded to the call. Godfrey started attending the morning prayers and brought his best friend to join him in baptism. By doing so, he, by extension participated in TMI!



Photo Credit: Tom Ongaro

Godfrey was among the 2,800 individuals who got baptized at the Kasese Better Living Centre during the mass baptism held on the following Sabbath. Due to his reputation, word spread and drew the attention of his entire village. Interestingly, on the Friday before the baptism, Edmond took Godfrey shopping and bought him some new Sabbath clothes. What a contrast from the previous week! Indeed there is power in the blood.

In total, at the Bundibugyo site, 41 precious souls were baptized. As we were greeting the new converts, I couldn't help noticing a lady who could not stop crying. As a result of her tears, everyone started crying. Later, the elder explained that she had left the church almost twenty years ago and had been a harsh critic of the Adventist faith. But during the meetings, she was convicted to come back, and she now shed tears of joy.

Among the baptismal candidates was a Muslim woman who came to know the beauty of the Adventist message. There were also young people who took stands for Jesus amidst tremendous opposition from their families.

As new converts sang with joy, it sounded like a foretaste of heaven. The experience humbled me. Many of them have nothing as far as worldly possessions are concerned, but they are rich in faith, love, and fellowship. I have already made plans to speak for another TMI evangelistic campaign in 2018.

Tom Ongaro is the IT Manager and Computer Science Teacher at Maxwell Adventist Academy in Nairobi Kenya

LIFE-WORK BALANCE

Dear Doc,

In the course of trying to do my work well, I spend a lot of time at work, and the stress is weighing me down. I can't sleep well, I eat poorly and lately I have been experiencing head pressures. I think that I might be developing stroke symptoms.

Is there a way in which I could balance both my work and personal life? Please help.

Sincerely Sarah.



Photo Credit: Pixabay

The following tips will help reclaim control of your work-life balance. Use these strategies to restore harmony.

First, start by evaluating your relationship to work, consider the cost, then; apply the following suggested strategies to help you strike a healthier balance.

Married to your work?

It can be tempting to rack up hours at work, especially if you're trying to earn a promotion or manage an ever-increasing workload — or only keep your head above water. Sometimes overtime might even be required. If you're spending most of your time working, your social life, personal health, and home life will take a hit. Is this worth it? Consider the consequences of poor work-life balance:

Fatigue. Your ability to work productively and think clearly might suffer — which could take a toll on your professional reputation or lead to dangerous or costly mistakes.

Lost time with friends and loved ones. Nurturing friendships becomes challenging, and you tend to miss important family events or milestones, which can leave you feeling left out and might harm relationships with your loved ones.

Increased expectations. You might get more responsibility, which could lead to additional concerns and challenges.

Second, strike a better work-life balance. Juggling the demands of a career and personal life is always an ongoing challenge. Consider the following:

Track your time. Pay attention to your daily tasks, both work-related and personal activities. Decide what's necessary and what satisfies you the most. Cut or delegate activities you don't enjoy or can't handle — or share your concerns and possible solutions with your employer or others.

Take advantage of your options. Depending on your job assignment, you may ask your supervisor about having more flexible hours, a compressed workweek, job

sharing, telecommuting or other scheduling flexibility. The more control you have over your hours, the less stressed you're likely to be.

Learn to say 'no.' When asked to spearhead an extra project in the office or even if your child's teacher is asking you to organize a class party, remember that it's OK to say 'no respectfully.' When you quit accepting tasks out of guilt or a false sense of obligation, you'll have more time for the activities that are meaningful to you.

Leave work at work. Create a boundary between work and home. Make a conscious decision to separate work time from personal time.

Manage your time. Organize household tasks efficiently, such as running errands in batches or doing laundry daily, rather than saving it all for your day off. Put family events on a weekly family calendar and keep a daily to-do list. Do what needs to be done and let the rest go.

Bolster your support system. At work, join forces with co-workers who can cover your

tasks for you — and vice versa — when family conflicts arise, in consult with your supervisor. At home, enlist trusted friends and loved ones to pitch in with child care or household responsibilities when you need to work overtime or travel.

Nurture yourself. Eat a healthy diet, exercise, and get enough sleep. Set aside time daily for an activity that you enjoy. Better yet, discover activities you can do with your partner, family or friends.

Third, know when to seek professional help. Everyone needs help from time to time, either from Counsellors or other Mental Health providers. Feel free to find a Christian counselor in your area to ensure you get optimal confidential professional help.

Remember, striking a healthy work-life balance isn't a one-shot deal. Creating work-life balance is a continuous process as your family, interests and work-life change. Therefore, periodically examine your priorities and make the necessary changes, to ensure you're keeping on track.

Have your life-work balance!

Dr. M Wangai Jr is a Medical Doctor and Consultant Physician in Nairobi, Kenya

PASTOR'S KIDS ENERGIZED FOR TMI AT PK CONGRESS IN ARUSHA



Photo Credit: Japheth Angwenyi

Over 600 Pastors Kids from across the eleven countries of the Adventist churches East-Central Africa region gathered in Arusha, Tanzania, earlier this year for a dynamic PK Congress.

The PK's were delighted by a welcoming video clip during the opening program, from the Adventist world Church President, Elder Ted Wilson. As a Pastors' kid, he reminded the delegates that being a PK is a marvelous opportunity to serve the Lord. Referring to the theme of "Rekindling the PK's Identity" and the Key text of Jeremiah 1:5, he reminded the PK's that while being a PK is simply a part of their Identity, what was more important is that they are children of God.

Elder Wilson encouraged participants saying, that just like the PK (Priest Kid) Jeremiah of Old Testament, God knew them before they were born and He has great plans for their lives. He challenged them to respond to God's calling positively, regardless of their age and their professions. Finally, he announced words of blessings for the Pastor's Kids TMI evangelist campaign which was to take place in Arusha immediately after the Congress.

The objectives of the convention were threefold. To assure the ECD PK's that the church loves them and that they are of great value to God. To reclaim Pastor's Kids who have left the church and those who no longer felt comfortable with the church.

And finally, to appreciate Pastor's Kids role in Ministry, and to encourage them to use their spiritual gifts both in Ministry and in Total Member Involvement.

Keynote speakers for the event included Willie and Elaine Oliver, GC Family Ministries Directors, David & Beverly Sedlacek, Andrews University, Pako Mokgwane, GC Associate Youth Director, Blasious Ruguri, ECD president, Alain Coralie, ECD Executive Secretary, Jerome Habimana, ECD Treasurer along with other ECD Departmental Leaders and PK's.

The PK's expressed that they felt appreciated for having shared their parents over the years, and felt humbled on being dedicated to God by our ECD president, Pastor Blasious Ruguri. The congress climaxed with a baptism of 8 precious souls, with the subsequent TMI Pastor's Kid's evangelistic campaign resulting in 840 baptisms. The PK's left energized, ready to go back and continue engaging in TMI within their respective territories.

Winfrida Mitekaro is the PK and Shepherdess Coordinator for the East Central Africa Division

FM RADIO PROGRAM GOES VIRAL THROUGH WHATSAPP!

In Burundi, an Adventist radio program aired on the national radio station has gone viral through WhatsApp, in particular among the people who understand the Kirundi language.

The program hosted by the Adventist Church in Burundi through its Communication department airs once a week on Sabbath; and has gained an international appeal from radio listeners around the world.

It all began about a year ago when due to consistent requests from listeners, the presenter decided to make the audio of past radio programs available for free download on WhatsApp. The new initiative made it possible for the audience members to tune in even if a radio program had already aired or even if they missed out on the live broadcast. More and more listeners started downloading the radio show from their phones and mobile devices.



Photo Credit: Eric Nsengiyumva

From that time, miracles began to happen. Calls came from all over the world to appreciate the host and the solid biblical content of the program. Stunned, the host found out that he needed to create a WhatsApp group for the listeners of the program. However, to his surprise, one group could no longer hold the numbers of those requesting to join since only 256 people can be in one group. So a second group was born, followed by a third and now even a fourth group has launched.

Now, people who are in Australia, US, Europe, Asia and all over Africa are not only downloading the radio program; but also getting copies of the Sabbath School Lesson study guide in the language of Kirundi. Also, they are sharing the program's audios with friends and family members who belong to other WhatsApp groups.

As a result of this program going viral, a member from the far south of Burundi, where it's said, "is beneath the toes," can invite someone to a church service from Bujumbura. Someone from Dubai, U.A.E can fellowship on Sabbath with someone in South Africa. Non Adventists can become Adventists through WhatsApp.

Regular program listeners shared that they enjoy the programs practical teaching of Bible truths, along with the answers given to different and very controversial questions raised by listeners from various backgrounds and religions.

This program started decades ago, even before the church could start an official radio station, and is called IJWI RY'INZAMBA Y'IHEREZO (the Voice of the Final Trumpet). This program has now become a worldwide program through WhatsApp. And so far it has united people from all walks of life, and it is leading many to accept the good news of the Adventist message.

Eric Nsengiyumva is the Communication Director of the Burundi Union Mission

EAST CONGO UNION EXTRAVAGANZA ENERGIZES MEMBERS FOR MISSION



Photo Credit: Martin Mayenze

More than 10,000 Adventists in East Congo attended an Extravaganza celebration of evangelism, sponsored by the East Congo Union Mission last month in the city of Lubumbashi, DRC. On the grounds of Lupopo stadium in Lubumbashi, August 23 to 26, 2017, the East Congo Union Mission (ECUM) held this unique event which will remain forever etched in the history of East Congo Union Mission and East Central Africa Division.

ECD President, Dr. Blasious Ruguri along with ECD Treasurer, Pastor Jerome Habimana and ECD Ministerial Director, Pastor Musa Mitekaro and Winfrida Mitekaro were the keynote speakers for the Union-wide Extravaganza in the city of Lubumbashi. East Congo Union Mission's theme for this incredible event was "A Sense of Duty and Transparency."

Despite the poor roads and infrastructure in this country, church members came from all four corners of the Union for this grand celebration. People flocked from different Fields and Missions and even traveled distances as far as 1000 Km to participate. Special guests from the government included the Governor's representative Mrs. Françoise Kyembe, who opened and closed the ECUM Extravaganza along with the financial administrator of the Lubumbashi University, Mrs. Kat.

Also in attendance was the provincial representative of the Congolese National Police and the Provincial Army. Attendees shared that they felt the presence of the Holy Spirit under the burning sun, and had gathered to worship from early morning until 7 p.m.

The ECUM Extravaganza culminated with the ordination of 9 pastors and a grand baptism of 117 precious souls. The event heightened the visibility of the church in the community as Adventists paraded on the streets for a great mission focused parade.

The primary goal of the event was to celebrate the missional accomplishments of the past two years and to mobilize members for Total Member Involvement. Organizers have already begun to prepare for the TMI campaigns in 2018 that will be held nationwide in the DRC.

Martin Mayenze is the Communication Director of the East-Congo Union Mission

GRADUATION EQUIPS FOR SERVICE



Photo Credit: Elkanah Kerosi

The Adventist University of Goma (UAGO) recently celebrated its second graduation ceremony in July, since the university was handed over to the North

that the University is making positive progress in improving the infrastructure of the main campus in the city of Goma. The university had inherited

East Congo Union Mission. The current Chancellor, Dr. Mwangachuchu Rudatinya, and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Mwendambio Paluku shared

some previous challenges before being handed over to the union such as many debts, inadequate school buildings, a lack of permanent professors and a low student enrollment.

The current leadership of the Union working through the University council managed to pay the debts; it is also implementing a plan consisting of allocating 3% of the tithe from the two fields to the development of the

University. Moreover, the Union has voted to train three teachers at doctorate level beginning this year urgently. The Graduates shared that they were extremely grateful for the excellent Adventist education they had received and now felt ready and equipped to serve their church and their respective communities.

Elkanah Kerosi is the Communication Director for the North East Congo Union Mission

TEACHERS CONVENTION IGNITES EDUCATORS FOR MISSION!



Photo Credit: Mihiret Dagnev

Teachers and educators from across the Ethiopia Union Mission (EUM) recently gathered together to revive and reform the Adventist Education schooling system in their region.

On July 10-12, 2017 the EUM teachers' convention was conducted at the Akaki Adventist School in Addis Ababa and had 437 educators in attendance. It was implemented as part of the Ethiopia Union Mission's strategic plan and was scheduled a year in advance.

Dr. Andrew Mutero, Education Director for the East-Central Africa Division along with the General Conference Education Associate Director Dr. Mike Lekic, provided cutting-edge resources and support for the teachers' convention.

The new content offered by keynote presenters to revive and reform Adventist teachers is designed to address sharing the everlasting gospel to the community, and especially to the new millennial generation. The goal of the convention was to empower teachers to be more mission focused in their approach.

During the three-day training event, the teachers explored a variety of topics all under the motto "Every teacher an Evangelist and Every school a gateway to heaven." The convention addressed a wide range of topics including, The ECD Vision 2020, Adventist Education Philosophy, the Integration of Faith and Learning and much more.

Educators shared that the content of the messages and the presenter's mission focused approach shifted their attitudes and professional performance in a very positive way. All 437 teachers promised to practice the Adventist education philosophy as mission oriented teachers.

Mihiret Dagnev is the Communication Director of the Ethiopia Union Mission

TMI – A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE



Photo Credit: Elnorie Caballero

When the call was made to participate in TMI during our ECD morning worship, I was a bit hesitant to volunteer. I am shy, but I prayed, “Lord, use me to bring souls to your kingdom.” I asked Pastor Okindo ECD TMI Coordinator, what made him decide to put me on the list of speakers. He replied, “I want you to experience the joy of seeing souls accept Jesus.”

TMI in Kenya!

My prayer partner Night and I began praying long before TMI campaigns start, for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of those people whom He wants to be saved in His kingdom. We also began to pray for the sites where we would be assigned.

The schedule of the launching of the TMI in Kenya was March 3-17, 2017.

I was assigned to the Laiser Hill Adventist Church nearby. I preached to the children’s group with 30 regular attendees during weekdays and 100 plus on weekends. I encouraged them to invite their friends, neighbors, and classmates. One non-Adventist boy named Steven asked his next door neighbor also named Steven to attend and, praise the Lord; both Stevens were baptized.

March 18, 2017, marked the most amazing experience of the joy of seeing souls accept Jesus. Alex, Henry, and the five non-Adventist children of our family friends were baptized

together with thousands of other candidates in Uhuru Park that day. I felt so happy and am still praising God up to this day.

Friendship Evangelism

Recently I was asked to help out in the ECD grounds for improvement and landscaping. I gladly helped because I have a passion for beautiful flowers and plants in the campus. One Friday morning, I was working with the Farmline workers, and I was impressed to ask them, “Which church do you attend?”

Two non-Adventist young men, Henry and Francis, gave me the names of the churches they attended. But Alex, a very tall non-Adventist guy told

me something very impressive. He said, “I want to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church”. I was surprised and did not expect him to answer that way. Deep down, I felt so happy that I asked that one question. Alex and Henry came to attend the Advent Hill University Church.

The ECD President’s challenge for us to engage in personal and friendship evangelism sparked an inspiration in my heart, and I invited two non-Adventist families to come to church with us. Two or three young men from Farmline Company also joined us. We are happy to share our lunch food with them every Sabbath.

Elnorie Caballero is the Administrative Assistant to the President of the East-Central Africa Division

ADVENTIST IN KENYA PRAY FOR PEACE!

Photo Credit: Catherine Nyameino



The Sabbath of August 5, 2017, was a historic day as Seventh-day Adventists

thronged the Nakuru grounds to listen to messages of peace and music from various choirs

in Kenya gathered to pray for peaceful elections. Thousands of Adventist from all walks of life

from across the country. East Kenya Union Conference president Dr. Samuel Makori was the speaker for the day. Pastor Makori also reminded Seventh-day Adventists that the Adventist church takes a neutral position and hence does not take sides as far as matters of politics are concerned.

Presidents from various conferences offered prayers

between sessions and Pastor Kenneth Maena president of West Kenya Union Conference offered the closing prayer of consecration. Sabbath afternoon, the invited choirs blessed the attendees with joyous songs and beautiful musical inspiration.

Catherine Nyameino, Ph.D. is the Communications Director of the East Kenya Union Conference

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY CONVENTION CULMINATES WITH A BAPTISM OF 90 PEOPLE

A dynamic one week convention organized by Special Need Ministries department of the Rwanda Union Mission culminated with a baptism of ninety people. This event took place in the city of Kigali from August 6 to 12, 2017 and was attended by 171 participants from fields and conferences of the Rwanda Union Mission. 154 of the 171 attendees were people with special needs.

Pastor Elie Hakizimana, the Coordinator of Special Needs Ministry (SNM), says that the convention was organized in a bid to bring hope to this group which has long been despised in some communities. Thus, the theme of the meeting was: "Living in Full Hope."

In a live radio program aired on Voice of Hope Radio before

the event, Pastor Elie said that the mindset of church members and leaders has changed regarding ministering to people with special needs.

The proof is that some churches now have Sabbath sign language interpreters to translate the message of the Bible to people who cannot hear the message audibly. In addition, some church members are learning sign language so that they may be able to communicate the message of hope to people who cannot hear.

On the closing day, many church leaders and government officials attended the event and commended the Seventh-day Adventist Church for having thought about this particular group so that it can be preached the Word of God.

The guest of honor, Honorable Rusiha Gaston, a member of parliament who also lives with a special need, applauded the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Rwanda for their initiative to gather the people with special needs so that they are reminded of their worth in the sight of the Creator.

At the end of the convention, one hundred (100) wheelchairs equivalent to 38,794,100 Rwanda Francs (more than US \$45,000) were distributed to people with physical challenges. Regular Bibles and Braille-Bibles, all equal

to 1,600,000 Rwanda Francs (nearly US \$2000) were distributed to the needy. Besides those items distributed, each attendee received the book, *Great Controversy*.

Onesphore Yadusoneye is Communication Director in Rwanda Union Mission and Managing Director of Voice of Hope Radio



Photo Credit: Onesphore Yadusoneye

AUCA GRADUATES A RECORD 657 GRADUATES!

The Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) celebrated its 23rd graduation from September 8-10th, 2017. The event was unique because for the first time the university awarded a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Education. Among the 657 graduates, 386 were female.

The guest of honor was Emmanuel Muvunyi, the Executive Director of High Education Council in Rwanda.

In his remarks, he thanked AUCA for teaching the bible on top of other academic subjects. He challenged the University to uphold high academic standards by doing technical research, adding more programs, and training more PhD lecturers.

In the baccalaureate, the East-Central Africa Division president and AUCA chancellor, Dr Blasious Ruguri challenged the graduates to go and serve the community.

He also congratulated the faculty for making AUCA a competitive university by ensuring academic quality.

Speaking on behalf of the graduates, Hirwa Dieume thanked the Seventh-day Adventist Church for establishing AUCA.

The Adventist University of Central Africa was founded in 1978, but the official opening was held on October 15, 1984. Currently, the university operates on a new campus at



Photo Credit: Prince Bahati

Masoro, which is located in Gasabo district in Kigali City. The university is committed to achieving its complete development and expansion as a world-class Adventist institution of higher learning.

Prince Bahati is the Communication Director of the East-Central Africa Division

MAMA AGATHA'S TMI TESTIMONY

GOD SAVED ME FROM KILLING MYSELF

I had planned to kill my self-tomorrow on January 15, 2017, but I have decided not to commit suicide because of the message I heard on Sabbath that has touched me and challenged my decision to carry out an act of doing away with my life, narrates Agatha, a Church member at Pagirinya SDA church in Refugee settlement in West Nile Adjumani district in Uganda. This is a story told to Amoli Thomas, the district pastor for the SDA churches in Adjumani District refugee settlements in Uganda.

Mama Agatha as known locally has been a committed member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, since the 90's but fell into the frustrating experience when her husband who was by then a member that brought her to the church abandoned her at the Church through backsliding.

Agatha got into the relationship when she was not a member of SDA church but became a member later. Following the departure of the husband, the children also abandoned her and joined the father in wayward living. Blaming her for their misfortunes because she insisted on being a member of the Adventist faith. The children began hating her resolving that they will no longer help her in any way.

Mama Agatha held on for some time. However, she also succumbed to the situation concluding that she is already a loser, she decided to follow suit abandoning her commitment to God and leaving the church. She has been away for quite some time no longer a member in regular standing.

The 2016 displacement in Eastern Equatoria in South Sudan by the ongoing conflict forced her into exile in Uganda along with her other community members from her area. Agatha then fell into a difficult situation because; there was no one to help her put a roof on her head despite the presence of the husband and children in the camp.

It is upon this experience of abandonment and frustration that she finally contemplated doing away with her life. Saying she is no longer of any value to continuing living. She went ahead to fix a date upon which she will execute her plan. It is on January 14, 2017 the day before her planned date, that a preacher who came to conduct a Ten Days of Prayer in Pagirinya preached a sermon that in her words, was sent directly to her by God. It was God's plan to bring me to Church on this Sabbath. I used to attend worship long ago and God kept me alive to hear this message meant especially for me.



Photo Credit: John Taban

This, therefore, confirms God's word through the prophet; Jeremiah 29:11 that says, I know the plans I have for you says the Lord "they are plans for good and not for disaster to give you a future and hope" (NLT Bible).

While we most of the time think and do things that bring us harm, God is tenderhearted and continues to rescue and provide us a way out of the supposed disasters.

Mama Agatha was re-baptized in the recent TMI evangelist campaigns in May 2017 among many others a total of 1,111 from the land of South Sudan and Refugee camps. Agatha now enjoys a renewed life of faith in Christ. Mama Agatha's rebaptism took place in the Pagirinya Refugee Settlement Adjumani District-Uganda on May 20, 2017

John Taban is Communication Director for the South Sudan Attached Territory

ADVENTIST SCHOOL IMPACTS IT'S COMMUNITY WITH CREATIVE TMI OUTREACH!



Photo Credit: Abraham Reid

Hundreds of lives were impacted by an Adventist school in Tanzania that reached out to its local community by offering free health services. The Kongowe Adventist Primary School (KAPS) in Kibaha, Tanzania's Coastal Region conducted a special health clinic in a distinctive style from June 10 - 24, 2017.

The school came up with a strategy of impacting its

community by offering free medical services such as BMI test, Blood Pressure test and diabetics test along with distributing free pieces of literature. Following

this initiative, the school participated in the Total Member Involvement (TMI) outreach event by having students spend an hour after lunch each day to visit community members and invite them to the TMI outreach meetings held at the school.

Upon arriving at school, every guest had the opportunity to choose the program he or she wanted to participate in. The

selection ranged from learning English, Basic Computer Education, Nutrition and Contemporary entrepreneurship. Kongowe Primary School teachers conducted these courses along with few other volunteers. Attendees averaged 200 community guests nightly.

Visitors spent 45 minutes to an hour in their chosen programs then proceeded to the playing grounds. There were various games prepared which involved all attendees irrespective of their gender, age and ability. These sports and games programs took about half an hour then participants went to the auditorium for individual speeches. The first was on health issues affecting our communities today, a talk of about 25 minutes. After that, the school chaplain followed preaching the word of God.

At the close of the evening, visitors were invited to a welcome table prepared by KAPS. The week had fallen on the Muslim fasting Month (Ramadhan Kareem) so the evening meal was served to all who attended. This was a moment of laughter, sharing stories and life experiences. At the time of departure, guests were loaded into school buses and sent home. Each day buses were full causing drivers to have to make several trips.

As a result, 28 people were baptized in this challenging area. Neighbors are eagerly anticipating another program of the same sort.

Abraham Reid Youze is the Communication Director for the South East Tanzania Conference

PRESIDENT ATTENDS SABBATH WORSHIP



Photo Credit: Christopher Ungani

John Pombe Magufuli, the president of the Republic of Tanzania, recently attended a special Sabbath worship service celebrating the construction of the new Magomeni Adventist

church, the first established in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Church leaders Joseph Mngwabi, president of the East-Central Tanzania Conference and Herbert Nziku, president of the South-East Tanzania Conference, also attended

the ceremony. Magufuli was impressed by the message given by Mark Malekana, president of the Southern Tanzania Union Mission.

Addressing Malekana, Magufuli said, "I thank you for the excellent sermon that you have preached today. Church denominations, including Seventh-day Adventist, make a significant contribution to our nation, and I assure you that the government will continue to cooperate with you."

Magufuli personally contributed \$2,230 (USD) and 400 bags of cement to erect the building. He also conducted an impromptu fundraising

campaign for the building project and raised nearly \$11,290 (USD).

In his tributes, Malekana thanked Magufuli for joining the church members at the Sabbath worship and contributing to the church construction. Malekana concluded the service with a special prayer of consecration for the nation and the president.

Christopher Ungani is the Communication Director for the Southern Tanzania Union Mission

ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO TO BROADEN COVERAGE IN UGANDA

Adventist World Radio is committed to continuing its support of radio projects in the Uganda Union Mission. They are setting up new projects in unentered parts of the country such as the Northern region of Uganda under the Northern Uganda Field of the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Adventist World Radio Global Training Director Ray Allen recently visited the area. He applauded the Uganda Union for its innovation in radio evangelism after conducting a site survey of all four Ugandan Radio Stations. (Prime Radio, Light FM, Ebenezer, and Maranatha).

Church leaders shared that Radio evangelism has played a significant factor in the recent membership growth in the nation. For example, Prime radio hosted an outreach event in January of 2017 at Mandela National Stadium in Uganda baptizing over 1,007 souls. In fact, Radio Ministry in Uganda greatly contributed to the record breaking baptism of almost 50,000 during the 2017 Total Member Involvement (TMI) campaigns which climaxed in July.

Mr. Fred Nkayivu, the Managing Director of Prime Radio said Prime Radio is expanding its coverage and touching lives in unique ways. Pastor Allen's visit coincided with a giveaway of a wheel chair to a new convert, Juma Ssekamanya, a Muslim-turned-Adventist through Prime Radio. A double amputee, Juma requested for support to aid his movement, and Prime Radio announced this request. A good Samaritan heard this on the air and

donated a brand new wheelchair.

After handing over the wheelchair to Juma, Pastor Allen said: "Here we have a prime example of how a radio goes from broadcast to baptism and beyond. I'm just thrilled to be here to witness and to hand over this wheelchair to this gentleman who has given his whole life to Christ." And to Prime Radio he said the encouraging words "Prime Radio continue doing what you are doing, you are truly the lifeblood of the community and a blessing to others."

Rwenzori Field in the Western part of Uganda is where Light FM, one of AWR projects has benefited massively from Adventist World Radio in soul winning. Pastor Ezekiel Mutwanga, the Rwenzori Field President, expressed his gratitude for equipment Light FM had received from AWR a few days before Pastor Allen's Visit. The Field President also shared that for three months before TMI campaigns began, the radio was flooded with evangelistic messages which enabled the mass baptism of at least 2,700 individuals at the Kasese Better Living Centre.

The majority of people getting baptized in the Rwenzori Field region of Uganda are crediting Light FM as their first source of the Adventist message. Baluku, a Catholic scholar, baptized as a result of the radio ministry, said that as he tried tuning his radio set, he found Light FM. The music and the messages sounded authentic. He was able for the

first time to hear about the Sabbath and other unique bible truths that are only professed by the Adventist faith.

Commenting on the baptisms resulting from radio messages Pastor Allen said: "AWR has a new slogan From Broadcast to Baptism; now in Africa we are already integrating the radio with our evangelistic efforts." Added Pastor Allen, "All I can say is AWR is here to partner with you; it is your initiative that takes place, but we are here to assist you in the work of spreading the gospel."

Having covered the Southern part of the country fairly well, AWR now aspires to extend coverage to Northern Uganda which experienced about 20 years of civil war up to around the year 2006. Not only was the region affected economically but the church growth was also slowed down. It remains a mostly unentered area according to the Uganda Union Mission.

However, by God's providence, the word is spreading in the North. According to Pastor Robinson Okello, The Executive Secretary of Northern Uganda Field, around the year 2000 the church membership was a

paltry 5,000. When private FM stations were set up in the region, the church started buying airtime to spread the word. Pastor Okello says before the extensive use of radios, the church did "ambush evangelism" whereby the evangelists approached and spoke with people who had heard nothing about the Adventist message.

Radio has now loosened the ground, and many people already have a prior message from the radio stations which appeals so well to them that they are looking to hear more whenever there is a public evangelistic campaign. The use of radio has therefore contributed to the sharp growth in church membership in the North which now stands at about 24,000.

Besides the vast unentered Northern Uganda region, South West Uganda Field with headquarters in Mbarara town, Bunyoro region in Western Uganda Field and Karamoja region in Eastern Uganda are looking forward to establishing AWR projects in their areas. Then the entire Uganda would be covered.

Immanuel Ogwal is the Communication Director for the Uganda Union Mission



Photo Credit: Emanuel Ogwal

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