

EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION NEWS AND INSPIRATION

CONNECT



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DEC
2016

TOTAL FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

pg. 4

Moving From Me to We!



When babies are learning to talk, one of the first words they learn is “mine.” Little two year olds grab my phone or tablet and say “mine, mine, mine.” And it is evident that they know that the world revolves around them, and of course it does, at least for a little while.

As they grow and develop, parents try to teach them a new word. This word might sometimes make them cry, never wanting to hear it again: “share.” Kids don’t usually like to share, they would much rather keep all of their toys and treats for themselves. Eventually they learn to share and realize that life is about giving not just receiving.

Sometimes, as Christian families we too can forget to share. We may act as if our only job is

to take care of me and mine. God has brought us together for a far bigger purpose. We have been called to share!

Abraham and his family are reminded of this when God says to them, “I have blessed you so that you can be a blessing, through you, all families of the world will be blessed.” In other words, God is saying, Abraham, I haven’t only blessed you and your family so that you can feel good about yourselves. I’ve blessed you so that you can be a blessing to the world around you. So come on Abraham, its time to move from me to we!

Imagine how different your life would be if you embraced this powerful concept. What if you moved from me to we? What if you asked yourself, how can we as a family make a difference? How can we get involved in ministry? How can we begin to Share?

Keep in mind, sharing is not only for married people. Sharing is for every member of the family. It doesn’t matter if you’re single or married, a child or an adult, a teen or a grandparent, God is calling each one of us to share? Why not join with your church family in sharing and making a difference in your community.

If you have parents or children or a spouse, together have a talk about how your family can join us in Total Family Involvement. It’s not time for me and mine, its time to move from me to we! It’s time to share!

Philip Baptiste
CONNECT Editor

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www.ecdadventist.org

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Editor
Philip Baptiste

Advertising/Web
Diane Kibuuka

Designer
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As For Me and My House

TOTAL FAMILY INVOLVEMENT



In the Old Testament, the fearless leader Joshua makes a very profound statement. “Choose ye this day whom you will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15)

Sense if you will his sincerity, feel his fever and capture his courage. Here Joshua is pledging Total Family Involvement to the mission and service of God. Notice Joshua does not have a family meeting to ask his wife and children to vote on this idea. He simply boldly declares, as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Notice this was a powerful declaration of Total Family Involvement. For he said, “as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” That word “we” is the one that I would like to start with. There’s something powerful that can happen when we move from me to we. When we commit with our families to serve the Lord.

To many of our families are focused on me and mine. In fact, there is often a disconnect between what we say or commit

to do in church and how we live together as a family at home. But Joshua doesn’t say me, he says we. He is committed to Total Family Involvement.

He realizes that it’s not enough for him to be an elder in the church, it’s not enough for him to teach the sabbath school lesson, It’s not enough for him to even be a pastor or even a church leader. He knows that the call of God is not just for personal involvement, its a call for Total Family Involvement.

So he says, I don’t know what your going to do, but me and my house, we are going to serve the Lord. I wonder what could happen in our churches and in our communities if each of us committed our families to serving the Lord. Think about it? Can you imagine what our churches would be like if every single family committed to Total Family Involvement. If we choose this day to make serving God our number one priority.

What would happen in our families if instead of tuning into the television we tuned into

Heaven’s vision? What would happen if we stopped focusing so much on our wants and needs and started focusing on what God wants and needs us to do for Him. When we only focus on ourselves, we can only do so much for God’s kingdom. But when our entire family commits to serving Him, then there is no limit to what we can accomplish for His mission.

Do you remember the story in 1st Kings 17:8-15, where God’s prophet Elijah is sent to ask a woman for food? When Elijah asks her to give him some bread, her first response was to say no. You don’t understand she told him weeping, You don’t know my struggle, I’m just making the last loaf of bread with the little flour and oil I have and then after my family and I will starve to death.

But God’s word to her through the prophet Elijah was radical. He said, take care of God’s request first and then God will take care of your needs. This is difficult because we don’t always believe that God can supply our needs. We often doubt His promises and wonder how He will provide for our families if we put them last in order to put Him first.

But I’m so glad that this woman decided to put Him first. And when she chose to serve the lord, she committed her son to do it as well. And together as a family they put the needs of the kingdom first and trusted in God to supply their needs. What happened next was simply miraculous. The flour and oil never ran out. So when her family put God’s business first, then God took care of her families business.

The word of the Lord to us today is abundantly clear. It is challenging us to stop putting God last and to start putting Him first. Choose ye this day whom you will serve. If you choose to serve Him that means that He becomes your first choice. Above everything else. Serving God must be your number one priority. That’s why our division has embraced the theme Mission Priority... It’s Harvest Time. We believe that our first priority not only as individuals but as families is to put the mission of God first.

Do you know what I love about this? Jesus promises is Matthew 6:33 that when we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness then all these things will be added unto us. What an incredible promise. What a beautiful way to live. To Make it your mission to fulfill God’s mission. To make Him your number one priority. Not only as individuals but as an entire household. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

What would it take, for you and your house to wholeheartedly serve the Lord. I propose its simply choosing today to join us in Total Family Involvement. Choose to say with Joshua, to all the people and distractions in your life that might be pulling you away from Christ “Choose ye this day whom you will serve, but As for me and my house... we will serve the Lord!”

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

Total Family involvement

By Willie and Elaine Oliver



By the grace of God, your family can be a powerful witness in the community.

in the family that affects the children, and that the God of Abraham is with them. If the homes of professed Christians had aright religious mold, they would exert a mighty influence for good. They would indeed be the ‘light of the world’” (The Adventist Home, p. 36).

Total Family Involvement is an initiative provided by the Department of Family Ministries of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, to guide all the families in the church to witness to their neighbors as a family. It fosters a harmonious work between the departments of the church and the family units of the church to reach out to families in the community.

By the grace of God, your family can be a powerful witness in the community. If the devil has made it a high priority to destroy families because of their power for good in the world, then perhaps it is time the church made it a high priority to build families as witnessing teams to transform our societies—not only from person to person, but from family to family. It is an exponential plan that is blessed by the Holy Spirit.

Is your family ready to be a mighty influence for good? Are you prepared to be a powerful light in the world? Then join us in getting involved in Total Family Involvement!

Everyone can see that families in our world are under attack. We are inundated with stories and statistics regarding high divorce rates, domestic violence, rebellious children, pornography, and babies born to unwed parents. Communities are populated with overwhelmed single parents, angry teens, neglected children. No culture is untouched by these results of broken families.

The entertainment industry is not helping. Television programs, films, magazines, and books make it seem normal and almost trendy to loosen our grip on the values that make solid homes. If good families were to be compared to a sapling, Satan and his host of evil angels are chopping at the roots of the family tree in order to topple down forests of marriages.

Have we stopped to con-

sider the powerful witness of a positive, Christian family? It’s easy to see the dark side, with the broken pieces of deteriorated families all around us. But what can church families do to help struggling homes in our communities to heal and grow?

How can we introduce more of our relatives, friends, and neighbors to the Savior who loves families? Is there something we have overlooked in reaching disintegrating homes for God in our communities?

There is nothing that is more powerful than to reach floundering families and troubled people than a Christian home. When church families reach out to community families, Satan trembles. God created families to be the influential building blocks of society. Imperfect as our homes might be, the world looks longingly for safe

places for children to grow, for examples of purity and integrity, and for family units that stand against the tide of evil in our world.

The witnessing power of one single Christian family in a neighborhood is beyond estimation. We fear the evil influences of a bad family on a good family, but with proper boundaries it would be well for us to also think about the good influence a Christian home can have on those around us. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, a solid home can change a community.

Notice how Ellen White describes the powerful witness of a Christian home:

“A well-ordered Christian household is a powerful argument in favor of the reality of the Christian religion—an argument that the infidel cannot gain say. All can see that there is an influence at work



Now here are

some practical ideas

for Total Family Involvement

1 Involve your family in regular family worship and Bible Study.

- Encourage your teens and young adult children to download a Bible App into their mobile devices for easy access.
- Download the Family Worship App from iTunes as a resource for your family worship.
- Read the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy with your family on a regular basis.
- Read the Adventist Home and Child Guidance.
- Apply the counsel of the Spirit of Prophecy in your family relationships.
- Encourage your teens and young adult children to download the EGW App into their mobile devices for easy access.

2 Enhance the unity and strength of your family.

- Encourage the young adults in your family who are thinking about marriage to access premarital education/counseling.
- Participate in marriage conferences/retreats with your spouse on a regular basis to keep your marriage strong.
- Participate in parenting workshops often to sharpen your parenting and discipling skills.
- As a family, intentionally support single parents, step-families, single adults, seniors, widows/widowers and other often marginalized family groups and individuals.

3 Involve your family in sharing your faith.

- Participate with your family in the Mission to the Families in the Cities initiative using the Family to Family materials to witness to your neighbors, relatives and friends (Available on family.adventist.org).
- Engage your family in the Total Member Involvement initiative.
- Participate with your family in mission trips and other outreach activities.
- Make sure that each member of your family is actively involved in the life and mission of the church.

Real Family Talk

Keeping the Spark Alive

By Willie and Elaine Oliver



How can one keep the fires burning with one's spouse once the children have left home?

A good marriage is one in which the spouses consistently show regard for each other before children, during children, and after children. This kind of relationship is where husband and wife make their marriage a priority, so that their home feels like a little heaven on earth. A lack of regard for the marriage in which at least one spouse places a low priority on the relationship will create the opposite effect: a conflicted and devitalized marriage.

The empty nest syndrome refers to a time in the life of parents or guardians when their children leave home to go away to school, get married, or move out on their own. It is a time filled with feelings of loneliness and the reality that parents are becoming less influential in the lives of their

children, while others—perhaps professors, friends, or spouses—seem to rank higher in importance in the lives of their children.

During this time in the life of a married couple, it is important for them to realize the need to make their marriage the most important relationship in their lives. This reality is a normal part of the life cycle. When people get married, their relationship with their spouse becomes the primary relationship, second only to God. The Bible actually refers to this in Genesis when God says: “This is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh” (Gen. 2:24). To be sure, marriage is the only relationship on earth where you become one with another human being. This is not the case with children, and should never be.

Invariably, when children are born, one or both of the spouses may make them the

central focus of attention to the detriment of the marriage. While it is true babies are helpless and need the careful attention of responsible adults to grow, they should never take the place of a spouse or the marriage relationship will suffer and be stunted in its growth. This is the kind of reality that bodes poorly for a marriage and becomes glaring when children leave home, leaving the couple very little in common.

Couples who make their marriage a priority before, during, and after children have left home, will find comfort in each other and ameliorate feelings of disaffection. Of course, if this is not the case, and it is why you are asking about what to do to keep the fires burning now that the children are gone, all is not lost. It is not too late to make a change.

We encourage you to engage your spouse in conversation about your present reality and your desire to develop a closer,

more intimate relationship as you deal with this stage of your marriage. You may even want to ask your spouse to forgive you for not being all you could have been, and pledging your desire to do better going forward. You may also agree to enlist the help of a good Christian counselor to help you talk through the hurt and pain of the past. This will help you develop strategies for building a stronger, more satisfying union, reigniting the spark you once had.

Remember Christ's promise: “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you” (Matt. 7:7). We are praying for you to trust God to help you sustain a vibrant, satisfying marriage for years to come.

Willie Oliver, PhD, CFLE, an ordained minister and family sociologist, is director for the Department of Family Ministries at the world headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Elaine Oliver, MA, CFLE, an educator and counseling psychologist, is associate director for the Department of Family Ministries at the world headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Address your questions to them at family.adventist.org.

Strong Families = Strong Churches

By Willie and Elaine Oliver



How are family ministries programs helping the world?

Families form the core of society and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

And when strong and healthy marriages abound, the likelihood of multiplying strong and healthy families is greater. In solid families, children are disciplined in the life of Christ, taught Bible principles of stewardship, and learn how to be positive witnesses in their environments. All these things bode well for making even stronger and healthier churches.

Scripture teaches us that marriage was the first institution established by God at Creation, and ever since the beginning of time the evil one has worked to destroy it. God's plan for marriage was for it to be a permanent union between a man and a woman. It was to be the place where children are nurtured

to love and serve God, where God-given gifts are developed and refined, and where all members learn how to share the good news of salvation with neighbors and friends.

For more than 35 years the vision of the General Conference Family Ministries Department has been to boost families spiritually and relationally so that the church as a whole is strengthened. Thus, a number of initiatives have been put in place to help family ministries leaders and church members around the world accomplish specific goals.

Each year a family ministries curriculum called a Planbook is produced and made available through AdventSource for use in the local church during Christian Home and Marriage Week in February and Family Togetherness Week in September. This resource includes sermons, workshops, children's stories, reprinted articles, and book reviews, among many other resources,

to aid churches around the world in their marriage and family strengthening initiatives.

Marriage strengthening, training, and evangelism are among the most important initiatives that the Family Ministries Department will be pursuing in the immediate future. Marriage conferences have been conducted in several areas of the world. Most of the union conference directors of family ministries have been certified for conducting marriage conferences, and hundreds of local pastors and church leaders have learned the skills of PREPARE/ENRICH, a leading resource for premarital education and marriage intervention.

Of special note is the family-to-family evangelism concept now implemented in all 13 divisions of the world church. Family Ministries Department directors Willie and Elaine Oliver are making their commitment to this new

kind of evangelism tangible by scheduling themselves for four family evangelism series in four world divisions during the next four years.

The nonreligious worldview of most of the world's inhabitants make it all the more crucial that Adventist families bear a quiet but effective witness to the values of the gospel.

Within this context the Department of Family Ministries has employed a number of key initiatives to advance the cause of Jesus on earth and help usher in the kingdom of grace.

When marriages are devitalized, family life is fraught with unhappiness, emotional pain, and diminished spiritual health. But when there is revival in a person's spiritual life, they are more likely to experience healthier relationships across the board, making them more viable disciples and witnesses of Jesus Christ.

Ellen White said it best: "The circle of family and neighborhood duties is the very first field of effort for those who would work for the uplifting of their fellow men....No work entrusted to human beings involves greater or more far-reaching results than does the work of fathers and mothers" (The Ministry of Healing, p. 351).

This Article first appeared in the Adventist World Magazine and is reprinted here with permission.

FIRST ELLEN WHITE SYMPOSIUM HELD IN AFRICA

CHURCH MEMBERS FLOCK TO THE ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF AFRICA TO STUDY WHITE'S LIFE AND LEGACY.



Janet Oyende

Nearly 200 people from across Africa gathered in Kenya for the continent's first Gift of Prophecy Symposium on the life and teachings of Seventh-day Adventist Church co-founder Ellen G. White.

A total of 181 Adventist leaders, pastors, and lay people from the church's three divisions of Africa joined representatives from the Adventist world church headquarters in the United States at the July 27-30 symposium at the Adventist University of Africa in Nairobi.

Merlin Burt, director of the White Estate Branch Office at Andrews University, emphasized in his opening presentation that White was a genuine prophet, and all her writings intentionally direct the reader's focus on the Bible and the love of God in Jesus Christ.

The Bible, and not her writings, are to be the basis for all doctrinal faith and

practice, Burt said. White, he said, endeavored to present the matchless charms of Christ to all people, and she brought out the depth and breadth of the humanity of Christ Jesus and the parental love of the Heavenly Father.

James Nix, director of the Ellen G. White Estate at the General Conference, delighted delegates with story after story of Ellen White's personal life.

One delegate commented it was like "sitting by the fire, with grandpa telling stories."

The Friday vespers program was filled with hymns and other songs that White loved, woven in with several narratives by Nix to the audience. The service ended with the hymn "Sweet By and By," which was the last known hymn that White sang two weeks before her death at age 87 on July 16, 1915.

On Sabbath, Passmore Hachalinga, director of the

Ellen G. White Research and Heritage Center at Helderberg College in South Africa, challenged worshippers to go back to the Spirit of Prophecy and the Bible to close the gap created by sin between humans and their Creator.

Topics addressed during the symposium included White's contribution to the work of the church, developing a love for White's counsels in the 21st century, reaching Millennials, Adventist education in Africa, health reform, contemporary prophetic ministry in Africa, mission leadership, and worship.

Several attendees were impressed with what they described as the rigor and thoroughness of the presenters. One delegate, a district pastor from Zimbabwe, said he was personally challenged to organize a similar symposium in his territory.

A young delegate pledged

to "read and apply, reread and apply" the counsels of White in his personal life.

A church leader from the Uganda Union Mission said the symposium had helped him see White's personal spirituality on a deeper level. He spoke of how, prior to the symposium, he would look "through her books for counsel on a few things here and there, but never quite seen her for who she really was — gentle, kind, courteous, human — a person just like us."

The symposium closed with a consensus statement in which delegates reaffirmed their "unconditional commitment to the Bible as the inspired Word of God, and to the theological and practical guidance and end-time applications given in Ellen White's writings."

Gift of Prophecy symposia are being organized around the world to broaden church members' understanding of the spiritual gift of prophecy and the life of White after an initial symposium was held at Andrews University in October 2015.

The first Gift of Prophecy symposium in the Adventist Church's Inter-European-Division, whose territory includes the German-speaking countries of Europe, was held at the Bogenhofen Seminary in Austria in mid-July.

Janet Oyende is an editor for the research department for the Adventist University of Africa.

ECD PRESIDENT MOBILIZES MEMBERS FOR MISSION



Dr. Blasious Ruguri, President of the East-Central Africa Division (ECD),

recently visited the country of Burundi to encourage and mobilize members for mission.

Tens of thousands gathered at the grounds of Buganda for a joyous time of worship and fellowship.

The ECD President's visit made headlines in the region as government officials, Members of Parliament, and other dignitaries gathered for the special occasion. Dr. Ruguri said He was blessed by the visit and believes that the people of Burundi are united for mission.

Dr. Ruguri challenged leaders and members to get actively involved in ministry.

Church leaders in Burundi said that, "The President's visit boosted the morale and created a sense of belonging—a sense that we belong to a worldwide church, not only in Burundi but in other parts of the world." The Adventist church in Burundi is home to over 393 churches with approximately 113,633 members.

Articles by Philip Baptiste, editor for CONNECT.

CONGO

ADVENTIST IN NORTH EAST CONGO ENERGIZED BY TOTAL MEMBER INVOLVEMENT



The Adventist church in the North East Congo region is excited about Total Member Involvement (TMI).

During the recent TMI campaign led by General

Conference President Ted Wilson in Gisenyi, Rwanda, church members from the neighboring city of Goma got involved and held meetings simultaneously win-

ning thousands of people to Christ. Pastor Elkana Kerosi, Communication Director and Treasurer of the North East Congo Union Mission says, "In the Central Kivu Field we baptized 3457 Leaders in Congo as a direct result of the TMI Evangelist meetings held in the region."

According to Kerosi, A Pastor from a Sunday keeping church was baptized along with his entire family after systematically receiving Bible studies from the district pastor. Church Leaders credit the success of the meetings to

prayer. Kerosi reported "Every church had daily prayer meetings for one week prior to the evangelist campaign to prepare themselves. Then we asked church members to invite their neighbors and friends to come to the TMI sites all across the city."

The church in North East Congo is rejoicing with the new members that have come to accept the joy of the Adventist message. As a strategy for retention, each new believer has been assigned a mentor to help ensure that they stay strong in the Lord.

LEADERS IN ETHIOPIA PLAN AND ORGANIZE FOR MINISTRY



The strategic plan is centered around the Adventist World Church's initiative of Total Member Involvement.

Participants pledged to lead according to God's word and committed to mobilize training at the local church level.



Earlier this year, the Ethiopian Union Mission launched a five-year strategic plan for all church leaders at the Adventist Union headquarters in Addis Ababa.

The training was conducted by church leaders at the Union and engaged over 115 participants. The theme for the event was "Mission Priority: It's Harvest Time". Attendees received training materials and resources to support them in their leadership roles. Participants shared that they went away

energized and super-charged for mission.

Strategic plan implementation methods were discussed during the three-day training event. The strategic plan is centered around the Adventist World Church's initiative of Total Member Involvement. Leaders in Ethiopia reported that they feel ready to accomplish the five-year strategic plan by the grace of God.

Additionally, the specialized training has helped to encourage other fields and conferences to get involved in

leadership development. For example, the Central Ethiopia Field implemented an advisory meeting shortly after the Union concluded its training. The advisory emphasized training based on systematic approach to implement the five-year strategic plan successfully.

The trainers developed guidelines and other supplementary materials. Leaders from Central Ethiopia shared that to have fruitful effort, Total Membership Involvement must be manda-

tory. Participants pledged to lead according to God's word and committed to mobilize training at the local church level. Approximately 117 church leaders attended the training. At the close of the advisory, sixteen evangelists were ordained as pastors to serve the Central Ethiopian Field and beyond.

Mihrete Dagneu is the Communication Director for the Ethiopia Union Mission

ADVENTIST MEMBERS SHARE THE HOPE AT DEAF CAMP MEETING



Over 400 deaf people from all walks of life assembled at a special camp meeting for the Deaf held in Kisumu in Western Kenya earlier this year. The Spirit of God moved mightily in this meeting, and 87 people were baptized during the Sabbath celebration. Another 200 were awarded certificates after completing the Discover Bible study program.

Guest speakers at the event included Dr. Larry Evans Assistant to the GC president on special Needs Ministry, Pastor John Blake of Gospel Outreach Ministry and Pastor Paul Muasya General Field Secretary for the East-Central Africa Division and the chief promoter of the deaf ministry in the region.

The highlight of the day was the testimony of a young

man who is not only deaf but also physically challenged in other ways. This young man was baptized last year in a deaf camp meeting held in Kilifi, Kenya.

During that meeting in Kilifi, Pastor Muasya challenged them to bring one person to Christ. The young man took the challenge personally and started sharing the gospel with his fellow

deaf friends. Over ten people attended the meeting in Kisumu and were baptized.

Finding the funds and interpreters to organize meetings for the deaf is challenging, as there are less than 30 interpreters available. The Lord has opened doors for the deaf ministry, and one only needed to be there to, see the joy on their faces as they sang passionately in signs. Participants left the event energized and committed to share the hope so their neighbors and friends can hear more about Jesus.

Samuel Misiani is Communication Director for the West Kenya Union Conference

RADIO MINISTRY YIELDS OVER 800 BAPTISMS



More than 800 listeners in Kitui County have come to the faith through the local Adventist FM station known as Wikwatyo (which means hope in the local language). The station which started to broadcast in 2010 came as a surprise to the church.

There was the mixed reaction to the governments offer of a frequency in a place such as Kitui which was considered

unproductive. At the time there was only one Adventist church in the area which was established after the church established the first Adventist primary and secondary school. Sadly, the church membership had been less than 200 for over ten years, and Adventism was considered a foreign religion to the locals because of the church membership composed people from other

communities.

Several years after, Wikwatyo is seen as a special providence of God because it has become a household name in the region. The station whose bulk of programming is in the local language is well received in the remotest of parts in Kitui and beyond. Pr. Silas Kioko who was assigned to the station as his district together with a few workers not only speaks on radio but visits those who show interest in the Adventist message.

As a result, over 800 people have come to the faith some of them prominent leaders of former churches. The radio station continues to spread its

wings to remote areas of Kitui. In one of those small villages, Francis Mutunga one of the listeners not only heard the messages but went further to witness to his neighbors and they were baptized together in early 2016. Francis has now constructed a small mud structure at the local shopping center where the new congregation meets every Sabbath.

Church leaders are requesting prayer for God to continue to use adventist radio stations to reap souls for His kingdom.

Dr. Catherine Nyameino is communication director of the Easy Kenya Union Conference.

ADVENTIST COMMUNICATORS AND RADIO PROFESSIONALS EQUIPPED FOR EXCELLENCE



Participants at the Rwanda Union Mission Communication Advisory



Pastor Hesron Byilingiro is the President of the Rwanda Union Mission.

In a three-day communication advisory held in Rwanda Union Mission (RUM), Adventist communicators and radio presenters were motivated for mission and equipped for excellence.

The advisory was facilitated by Prince Bahati, Communication Director for East-Central Africa Division from August 22 to 24th, 2016. The job of a communication director, principles of radio evangelism and techniques of interviewing were among the topics covered.

Participants shared that

they really found the advisory helpful. Pastor Samuel Nginshuti, communication director in East Central Rwanda Conference says that he gained a lot from this training. “This advisory has been an eye opener to me. From now onward, I will be communicating on time because there are some events to which I was not giving much attention,” he said.

In his closing remarks, the President of Rwanda Union Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist, Pastor Hesron Byilingiro reminded partic-

ipants that communication is key to any development in every field of life. Thus, communication remains a powerful tool to be utilized in the mission. “When we use traditional ways of evangelizing, there are some places we cannot reach but now we reach them due to this communication tool” he says.

Pastor Hesron Byilingiro commended the work of Adventist communicators and Radio presenters and urged them to be acquainted with the new technologies. He also reminded them

that communicators should understand the structure of the SDA church, its policy and philosophy in order to communicate effectively.

Apart from the communication directors and radio managers who attended, some district pastors also attended the event to be trained in the principals of radio evangelism.

Onesphore Yadusoneye is Acting Communication Director and Managing Director of Voice of Hope Radio

ADVENTIST HEADQUARTERS WELCOMES REFUGEES IN JUBA

Cliff Momanyi / ADRA



Earlier this year, the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in South Sudan hosted more than 10,000 refugees as the world's youngest country faces civil unrest. After the war broke out recently in South Sudan, an influx of 7,530 people flooded the compound owned by the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in South Sudan. The number of refugees in the compound reached over 10,000.

The fighting in Juba broke out at the presidential palace, known as J1, when president Salva Kiir, the first vice

president Dr. Riek Machar and vice president James Wani Igga were meeting to discuss the security situation and other issues related to the implementation of the "Comprehensive Peace Agreement on Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan" signed in August 2015. The fighting at J1 spilled to other areas in the outskirts of Juba city. The areas where the fighting was concentrated include Gudele, a Checkpoint on the road to Yei, Munuki and Tongping within the city.

The Adventist Church was happy to open its doors for the people to find shelter and protection. ADRA, the

humanitarian arm of the Church, responded through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) by giving emergency food to the population. The foods distributed included sorghum, flour, oil, sugar and salt. People from near and far flocked to the compound. The refugees occupied verandas, offices and the parking areas. Even church officers and pastors' buildings were shared with displaced individuals.

The war has displaced more than 42,000 people, Currently 33,000, including earlier Internally Displaced Persons from 2013, are shel-

tered at the UN compound while others are sheltered at several churches in Juba. Unfortunately, the fighting at the J1 killed 300 soldiers and 33 civilians. The total casualties are yet to be confirmed. The situation in Juba has calmed down in recently although many people are evacuating their families out of the city by road and air.

Prince Bahati and John Taban are the Communication Directors for the East-Central Africa Division and South Sudan Attached Territory respectively.

50 YEARS AND COUNTING IN TANZANIA

Kirumba's jubilee celebration highlights mission priority.

Courtesy of Lael Caesar



Regional Commissioner John Mongella opening the jubilee celebrations. From left: pastor Harun Kuyenga, who translated Lael Caesar's sermons from English into Kiswahili; Lael Caesar, Adventist World associate editor and the celebration's main guest speaker; Sadock Butoke, South Nyanza Conference president; and Yusufu Lutunja, Kirumba church pastor.

His audience of members and friends of the Kirumba Seventh-day Adventist church in Mwanza, Tanzania, were ready with their answer: “Ni wakati wa Mavuno!” (It’s harvest time!)

The parades, displays, and music, as well as government ministers’ speeches and Adventist World associate editor Lael Caesar’s sermons, maintained a steady focus on Kirumba’s mission priority. “You are here because God

put you here for a purpose,” Caesar said. “This jubilee is not the end. Jesus wants to take you all the way, all the way home.”

The weeklong jubilee celebration included multiple activities on the grounds of the Kirumba church that demonstrated the church’s focus on the world church’s Total Member Involvement program. The range of members’ participation included displays of Christian books

and health foods, and a community clinic attended by more than 1,300 patients — the fourth to be conducted there in the last three years.

Medical services spanned the areas of urology, eye exams and distribution of glasses, dental checkups, physiotherapy, cervical and breast cancers, blood pressure and diabetes. Simultaneously, 50 other members volunteered as blood donors.

Lameck Mwamukonda,

retired president of the former Tanzania Union Mission, struck his own note of urgency in his Sabbath vespers message. “The time has come for every church member to invest and participate fully in mission,” he said.

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"GIVE THEM THE KEYS" YOUTH EVANGELISM YIELDS 405 BAPTISMS



Youth from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, gathered at the Ukonga Church on August 27 to celebrate the conclusion of a city-wide Youth Evangelistic Campaign. The event encompassed 25 sites in the city and was themed “Give Them The Keys/Pass It On” and is part of a General Conference leadership empowerment initiative designed for Total Youth Involvement.

Pastor Pako Mokgwane, Associate Director of Youth Ministries for the General Conference, launched the initiative August 14-27.

“Our Church launched this global strategy of entrusting young people—the majority in the church—to be given [a larger] responsibility to lead the church,” said Mokgwane.

Before the mornings message, a big emblematic key was passed from Church leaders and elders to youth as a sign of a church being ready to put the initiative in action.

“We want the youth to give God their prime strength, not the residue of it. From what I have seen in Tanzania, it suffices to say, the youth are ready to receive the keys

of Leadership and Mission. We just need to give them a chance.” Mokgwane added.

East-Central Africa Division Youth Director, Pastor Magulilo Mwakalonge, appealed to the Youth to work with elders. The initiative is not about terminating the work of elders, but about collaboration in the Church.

The event resulted in a total of 405 baptisms on the shores of the Indian Ocean.

Christopher Ungani is communication and media director for the Southern Tanzania Union Mission.

ADVENTIST PHILANTHROPIST DONATES BRAND NEW THEOLOGY BLOCK TO BUGEMA UNIVERSITY



University of Africa. Former vice chancellor of Bugema University Prof. Moses Golola. Former deputy vice chancellor academics, Prof. RT Mugerwa. Uganda Union treasurer Elder Frank Kiggundu, faculty members and university council members.

The building which will benefit over 500 students of theology and religious studies will also serve as a community center. Bugema University is the only Adventist University in Uganda with over 5,000 students drawn from over 20 countries. This October, approximately 1,400 students will graduate from the University.

A theology block worth over USD 200,000 funded by a US-based philanthropist was recently unveiled at Bugema University's main campus in Luweero district, 30 km North of Uganda's capital, Kampala.

The block comprising of lecture rooms, several offices and modern restrooms was a donation from Dr. Richard Rajarathinam, a philanthropist, and Friends of Bugema, a group of donors formed by

Dr. Rajarathinam. He is the owner and CEO of Office Care, a private company based in the US state of Maryland.

Pastor Daniel Matte, President of the Adventist church in Uganda and Chairman of Bugema University Council, was the chief guest at the inauguration ceremony. Pastor Matte expressed gratitude to Dr. Rajarathinam, and his family whom he noted has done a lot in advancing God's work. He

thanked them for the selflessness portrayed in the donation they made and called upon the university to utilize the facility well in preparing God's servants for His ministry.

Some of the distinguished guests during the ceremony were former Uganda Union President Pr. Christian Alideki.

President of Washington Adventist University, Dr. Weymouth Spence. Dr. Anna Galeniece of Ellen G. White Estate at the Adventist

Articles by Immanuel Osoro Ogwal, communication director for the Uganda Union.

GOVERNMENT LEADER PLEDGES LAND FOR ADVENTIST CHURCH



The Jinja District Chairman, Hon. Titus Kisambira has pledged a sizable piece of

land complete with a full title deed to establish an Adventist Church in Jinja, Uganda.

The announcement came at a special luncheon at the Source of The Nile Hotel hosted by the district leadership of Jinja in honour of ECD President, Dr. Blasious Ruguri who was speaking at a Camp Meeting in Uganda

Hon. Kisambira described Adventists as great people in his district who have contributed not only spiritually but also

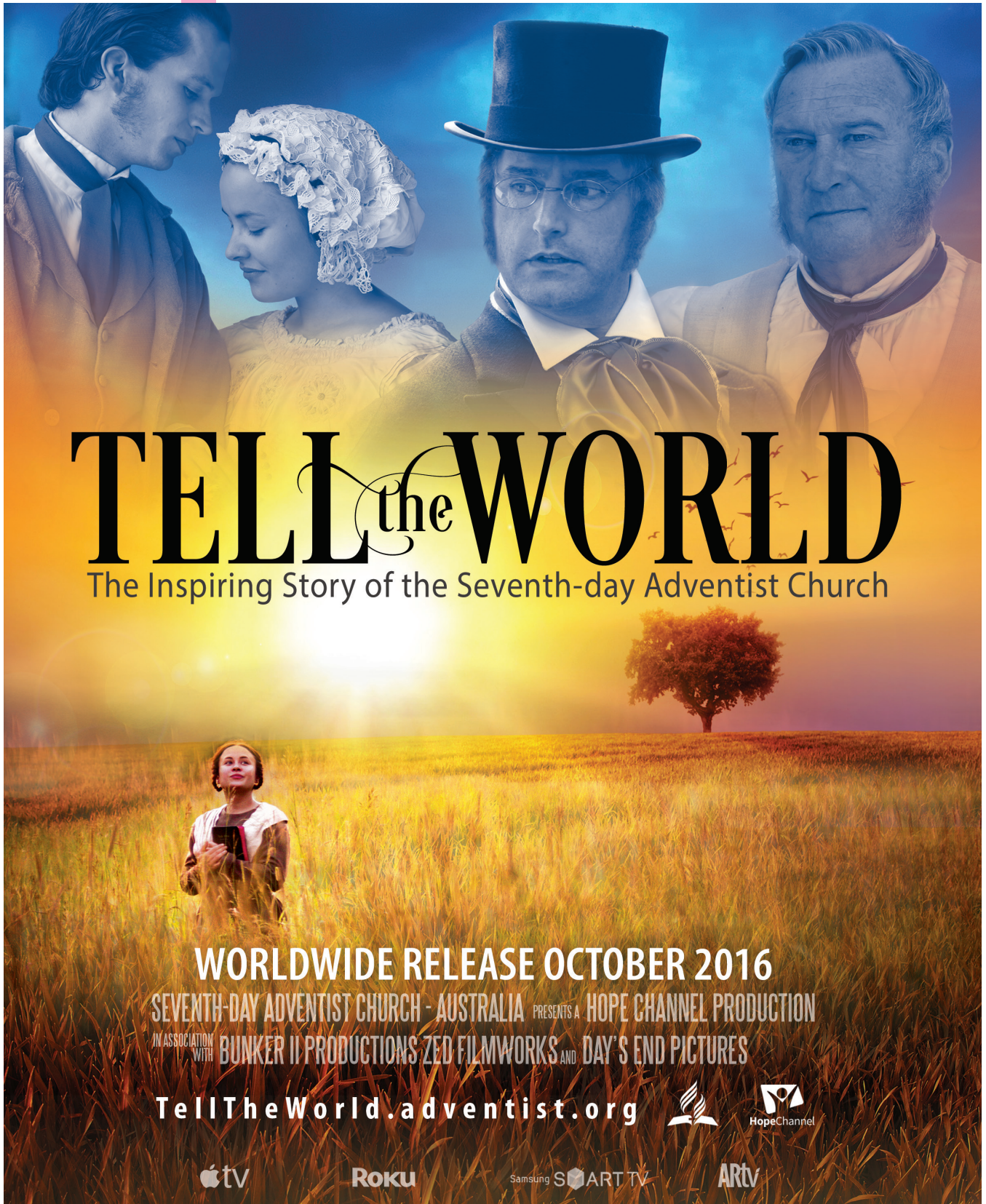
developmentally. He shared that some of his best staff serving with integrity at the council offices are Adventists. Additionally, he also promised to send his staff for further studies at Adventist University of Africa in Kenya.

Immanuel Osoro Ogwal is communication Director for the Uganda Union.

CONNECT

Private Bag
Mbagathi, 00503
Nairobi, Kenya

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