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ABOUT THE COVER

In the summer of 2015, AIIAS professors and students participated in two archaeological digs. Pastor Rudi Sanchez, pictured in front, is a seminary doctoral student at AIIAS who participated in one of the digs.

Cover Photo by Petronio Genebago Cover Design by Mirriam Carlos Pamula



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Flags is the semi-annual international magazine for alumni and friends of the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIIAS), a graduatelevel educational institution of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

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Then a seed is planted, it does not accidentally grow into a strong plant. Sunshine, good dirt, water and a nurturing environment come together to nurture the seedling as it develops into a strong plant.

Within the Seventh-day Adventist educational system, growth can be seen as well. In many ways students are like seeds. As they become seedlings, multiple elements come together to nurture each seed. Teachers, educational programs, and extracurricular activities, among other things, each help nurture various stages of growth.

This issue of Flags showcases some of the programs and activities that help nurture the "seedlings" in both traditional and informal educational settings. Some students visited Israel and participated in an archaeological dig. Others hosted a workshop for teachers. An alumnus and student assisted during the aftermath of the recent Nepal earthquake. AIIAS hosted a week focused on mission for students and employees that affirmed our core values of service and mission. Together each of these provides opportunities for our alumni, many of whom serve as church leaders, by helping to connect and/or reestablish relationships. The several student-organized forums featured important theological issues facing the Seventh-day Adventist Church. AIIAS has made strides by helping make a more environmentally friendly campus. The first preaching lectureship took place at AIIAS to help pastors communicate the good news. A historical forum reflected on Ellen White and her legacy for Adventism. A new research association was formed on campus. All of these and many more activities help to provide a nurturing environment to help facilitate learning.

Most of all, our individual walk with God requires spiritual nourishment through prayer, reading Scripture, and fellowship with other believers. When any of these elements is missing, it could stunt our growth. It is essential that together we allow God to nurture our lives so that we can serve Him as we each continue to grow into health plants for the Lord.



Te take dirt seriously," a student shared during a chapel program reflecting upon their experience discovering valuable information from the biblical world. Dr. Carlos Mora, chair of the Biblical Studies department, participated in an archaeological dig to the biblical city of Ai (from the time of Joshua). Dr. Alfredo Augustine, professor of New Testament, took four students to the mount (or "tel") of Lachish, the second most important city after Jerusalem during the Judean Kingdom.

Each group spent about three weeks uncovering dirt that has covered up archaeological treasures for several thousand years. Archaeologists are like detectives who look for clues. As they carefully uncover, they analyze the data and interpret the findings. In the process they take lots of pictures. Some of the most important discoveries will be documented later





Theological Society Forum which focused on discipleship.Me eum incil enit alibusaperio to consed ut et hil illestia num deligendae. Cati dolorio. Ullani

We Take By Michael W. Campbell DIRI Seriously **During the summer of 2015 AlIAS Professors and Students** Participated in Two Archaeological Digs

participation of these faculty and students.

So how do you interpret the data?

Archaeologists have two basic ways that they interpret what they unearth. First is relative dating, which looks at the actual artifact for any clues. An approximate date is given based upon comparison with other artifacts where dates are already established. Sometimes figuring out how old something is can be as simple as looking at the color of the pottery or relief.

The logic behind this is really quite simple. Each layer in an

ancient ruin is a strata. Thus relative dating uses stratigraphy to figure out what time period an archaeologist discovered a particular artifact. In addition there can be other clues such as writing, which might date to a particular era, or a notable seal on the handle of an object.

Another option for interpreting artifacts is absolute dating. In some instances someone may unearth a storage area, something that some of our very own archaeologists accomplished this summer. If some kind of organic object, such as an olive pit, then archaeologists employ radio

PHOTO CREDIT: PETRONIO GENEBAGO

carbon dating. Sometimes archaeologists make unexpected finds such as two skeletons, which were sent to a lab in Jerusalem for analysis. In another instance they found a 2,000 year old cat skeleton!

So what did you find?

In addition to those skeletons, each group found quite a lot of pottery that indicate the destruction of the city. Whenever a piece of pottery is found it is carefully documented. Everything is carefully registered. One of the prize discoveries this summer was a large base stand on which a pot would have sat. Carlos

Mora discovered an ancient cistern that still had plaster around it to help keep in the

So why do this?

Why would a group of AIIAS professors and students spend so much money? The group joined up with other faculty and students from other universities. For the one dig they estimated that every day they were there cost an estimated \$25,000! One season alone cost three quarters of a million U.S. dollars!

The reason that AIIAS professors and students contributed to such a large and costly endeavor is that in doing so they play a part in helping to confirm the veracity and trustworthiness of the Bible. As Seventh-day Adventists we uphold the divine inspiration of Scripture. In one way or another such information can be useful in reaching out to an increasingly secular world, which may doubt biblical stories as being true. So such scholarship in a way is actually like evangelism. It is done, according to Alfredo Augustine, in order to "strengthen my faith" and "inspire faith and confidence in the Word of God." 12



So what does a typical day look like on an excavation?

We asked dig participants about what a typical day was like for them in the desert climate.

THE PALACE

שער העיר

תצפית

הבאר 📗

LOOKOUT

THE WELL

THE CITY GATE

Wake Up 4:00

Leave for dig site

Bring tools to the dig site

Begin work and digging

10:30 Lunch

11:00 Continue work and digging

Return to camp headquarters

Pottery washing

Pottery reading

4:30 Bath time

6:00 Dinner

Lecture on archaeology

Curfew (sleep)



AllAS Seminary professor, Dr. Ben Mergal is one of the Speaker of the annual AllAS Asian Theological Society Forum which focused on discipleship.Oditatum, odigend gendam eum faccum int quam elit accatur ioresciur aut

Tam delighted that the board

Services since he is in many ways a son

of this community," observed AIIAS

president, Dr. Stephen Guptill. "He

has distinguished himself as a union

leader in Indonesia and as a man with

missionary zeal. Dr. Sumendap has

previously been a student leader at

AIIAS and has a great capacity to

vacated by Dr. Paoring Ragui who

his retirement in July 2015. "The

an era. Few people have served at

served at AIIAS for 37 years up until

Raguis' departure signals the end of

administrative team."

AIIAS

days

connect with students. We especially

value his presence as a member of the

Dr. Sumendap replaces a position

from the early

up until the

present. He

has selected Dr. Sumendap as

our vice-president for Student

37 Service

By Ingrid Oberholster

nyone who lived or studied at AIIAS between 1978 and 2015 has met the Ragui family. The welcoming and fun-loving family participated in all the campus events and often mentored students. When Paoring Ragui first came to the Philippines as a single man, he didn't expect to fall in love, get married, have children, and call the Philippines his home for the rest of his working days.

In July 1978 when Puring Ocampo started working at AIIAS, she met and fell in love with Paoring, a student at that time. In April the next year, AIIAS employed Paoring as the registrar and the two got married. Through the next 37 years, the Raguis dedicated their lives to the work at AIIAS.

Whether it's standing on the rope before tug of war at mini olympics or ministering at Dasmarinas jail on a Saturday morning, Dr. Ragui will always be remembered as being involved. Whenever there was a

campus event, he would be there supporting and participating in the event. He was a mentor and father to many students who needed help and encouragement.

When wanting to know the history of our institution, the Raguis were always the first resource. They experienced it all. They began working here before AIIAS moved to it's current campus. During their 37 years at AIIAS, they both completed higher education degrees. Mrs. Ragui graduated from AIIAS with a master of art in education degree in 2011. Dr. Ragui graduated from AIIAS with a Master of Arts in Religion degree (1982), a master of divinity degree (1983), and a Doctor of Pastoral

Over the years, Mrs. Ragui served as secretary to seminary deans as well as to all the presidents of AIIAS. From Leslie Hardinge, the first president, to Dr. Stephen Guptill, the current president. She witnessed major decisions being made and helped make sure they went smoothly.

"AIIAS is more than just a place, its our home; our children grew up here," said Dr. Paoring. "We will

The Raguis were an intregal part of AIIAS and we are missing them.

Studies degree (1990).

definitely miss it and everyone here as

Mrs. Ragui commented, "Some of our favorite memories of AIIAS are the moments we saw our children grow in a very good, beautiful, and safe environment. Of course we also enjoyed having friends from all over the world."

NEW Vice-President for Student Services

Dr. Bryan Edward Sumendap began responsibilities in August 2015 as the new AlIAS vice-president for Student Services (VPSS).



Nonseque del et proUpta cum quasperspe nate modipic aborest, ium re, everum, sitiis elliquatest, corecerum niasinus a quo blanda quodignis aut ad quatemp orporerorunt

contributed to key administrative decisions with an amazing wealth of depth and understanding. His many contacts with people in immigration

and the state department made it much easier for students and faculty to get the proper clearance they need. Paoring and Puring will both be greatly missed."

Dr. Sumendap is a former AIIAS student. He received his Bachelor of Theology from AIIAS in 1997, and holds both a Master of Divinity (2001) and Doctor of Ministry (2013) from AIIAS. As an ordained minister, Dr. Sumendap has served in a variety of capacities including local church pastor, chaplain, and associate director of communications and youth. He served most recently in the East Indonesia Union Conference as communication and youth director, ADRA coordinator, Hope Channel Indonesia coordinator, and Angkat Nafiri Radio director.



Nonseque del et proUpta cum quasperspe nate modipic aborest, ium re, everum, sitiis elliquatest, corecerum niasinus a quo blanda quodignis aut ad quatemp orporerorunt

y life was changed when a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck my home in Kathmandu, Nepal, on April 25, 2015. The main quake was followed soon afterward by numerous aftershocks. Over 8,000 people lost their lives. Ten of thousands more were injured, and millions either directly or indirectly impacted.

Soon after the earthquake I joined a rescue team. We visited several hospitals that lacked doctors, medicine, and proper medical treatment. Most hospitals were filled beyond capacity. Food, shelter, and clothes were scarce. The possibility

NEPAL: The Aftermath of a ife-Shattering EARTHQUAKE

A critical issue for earthquake victims was their health. Most people after the disaster moved into tents with extreme heat during the day, and extreme cold at night. Without

requested help for basic needs including food, clean water, and shelter. Others asked for educational assistance. As people rebuild homes, schools, and other public structures many worried about their future.

This was my first time to experience a major natural disaster. I am thankful for the opportunity that God gave me to serve others during this great tragedy. It gave me an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus and to wipe away tears, lessen pain, ease fear, and comfort disheartened spirits. A

Nonseque del et proUpta cum quasperspe nate modipic a quo

blanda quodignis aut ad quatemp orporerorunt

It gave me an **opportunity** to be the **hands** and **feet** of **Jesus** and to wipe away tears, lessen pain, ease fear, and comfort disheartened spirits.

By Tara Jung Gurung

of famine and even basic human survival was obvious.

The goal of our team was to distribute relief supplies to people in the Gorkha District, Nepal. We distributed 600 sacks of rice, 20 sacks of pulse, oil, salt, biscuits, noodles, clothes, educational supplies for children, a Xerox and printing machine, and most important of all, first aid supplies. Some of the educational supplies were used as part of temporary classrooms. We raised approximately USD \$25,000 to help these victims. The funds came from friends, relatives, and various other donors and aid organizations.

adequate nutrition or even the ability to properly prepare food, many people suffered from an imbalanced diet. Some people, in addition to any injuries, suffered from a poor diet that included such symptoms such as headache, fever, diarrhea, stomachache, constipation, and nausea. Many earthquake victims





elliquatest, corecerum niasinus a quo blanda quodignis aut ad quatemp orporerorunt

irds circled in the air, dogs were barking, and people were screaming. A week after the initial earthquake hit Nepal in April 2015, a 7.4 earthquake happened. It lasted for 50 seconds and created wave-like motions.

Ronald Sandoval, a business doctoral student at AIIAS and former ADRA employee, was contacted to join ADRA's emergency response team (ERT) for 21 days. He immediately made arrangements,

terrified of yet another earthquake striking. Many people slept in parking lots.

In the rural areas some villages had as many as 90% of their houses destroyed. There had been landslides causing sand and rocks to block roads to get to rural areas. Villages were usually located at the bottom between hills. To get to these villages, aid workers had to walk long distances and were only able to communicate through cellphones.

The *diversity* of the students and employees at AlIAS helped him communicate and eased the adjustment of working with a multi-cultural team in Nepal.

packed his bags, and flew to Nepal.

Many houses, temples, and other buildings were destroyed terribly from the earthquake and its aftershocks. Thankfully, the airport was functioning, the roads were okay to drive on, and the market was still functioning.

Most people chose to sleep in the streets under the sky. They were

PHOTO CREDIT: BAUDOUIN NACH

By Ingrid Oberholster

ADRA worked in three main provinces and towns. They worked with other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the shelter and rebuilding cluster. They also provided non-food items, food, water and sanitation

"There was no time to rest," said Ronald in an interview. "It's really a 24-hour-a-day job."

At AIIAS, Ronald had the opportunity to take classes such as "Change and Crisis Management" that helped him better handle situations he was thrown into.

"My whole time in Nepal was like a living case study," he explained. "Instead of just studying what I should do theoretically, I got to use it in a real situation."

The diversity of the students and employees at AIIAS helped him communicate and eased the adjustment of working with a multi-cultural team in Nepal.

After being there for 21 days, Ronald saw a lot being done to rebuild the broken lives and country. Although there has been a lot of development, the road to recovery is still long. The most important thing is that the journey was beginning.



Nonseque del et proUpta cum quasperspe nate modipic aborest, ium re, everum, sitiis

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hen my dad mentioned a Summer Institute Program at AIIAS my first thought was, "So?" As an AIIAS kid for almost 22 years, AIIAS was "home" not "school." My dad wouldn't let up, so I finally said yes. Little did I know, that "yes" would change my life.

On my first day of graduate school I was late to class. As I peeked inside the classroom I realized that I was

Prema Gaikwad, made each session so enjoyable that I often forgot that I was in school! Each day began with singing, devotional, and prayer. The next eight hours was a mixture of learning and laughing that included sharing and discussion. Every day we learned new techniques and strategies that showed in a practical way what we learned. We learned how

for AIIAS Academy students where we applied what we learned. Our professors observed us, and afterward we gathered together and discussed what we learned. Since the time I attended this Institute I have used what I learned in my own classroom. Students are both learning and having

> The things I learned in the Summer Institute Program have

made a big impact on my life as a

> teacher. I could not help but share the new things I learned with my co-teachers,

who were very enthusiastic about the things I shared with them. We faced the school year with so

many new and useful ideas that would help our students. Looking back, I can see the effects of the many techniques and strategies I learned in the Summer Institute. My students are having more fun, they are learning more, and I am Nonseque del et proUpta cum quasperspe nate modipic aborest, ium learning more too! You see, being a

teacher means you never stop learning, which is why I am truly grateful to the Lord for the awesome opportunity of

being part of that program. It won't be the last. See you soon, Summer Institute!

Making the Most of a on the Control of the Control

By Meg Therese Murillo-Adriano

scared to death. The professors (yes, there was three of them!) welcomed me with welcoming smiles and helped me feel at home.

I learned a lot during the Summer Institute Program. The funny thing is that it was so interesting that it almost never felt like school. Our professors, Dr. William Green, Dr. Rita Henriquez-Green, and Dr.

to handle misbehavior, how to ask questions that students would want to answer, making learning fun, applying cooperative learning in the classroom, and so much more. Each day we learned something new.

At the end of the program, we conducted a 10-day "summer class"

NOTE: The Summer Institute is a special program that the education department at AIIAS offered for the first time from March 23 to April 24, 2015 for teachers of all ages and any subject matter. It covered what is called 'researchbased teaching practice" that provided students with effective instruction resulting in increased student achievement. Students were allowed to enroll for up to 9 credits for completing the work during the summer term and an additional 3 credits based upon follow-up work in the classroom or school.

Public Health Department Launches Medical and Dental Initiative

to Nearby Residents

√he AIIAS Public Health department partnered with the Municipality of Silang to perform urgently needed medical and dental work to residents of Purok 2, a nearby barangay. Over 300 local residents benefited from this outreach effort. The project is part of a long-term intervention partnership called AIIAS-Biga Community Development (ABCD) that seeks to make a difference in the lives of the community surrounding AIIAS.

"The medical and dental mission was an entry project meant to establish a positive relationship with area residents. Our vision is to have the project last five to ten years as part of a comprehensive health assessment and diagnosis that will meets their basic needs," remarked Dr. Cesar Galvez, chair of the public health department.

Pastor Eduardo Peñafiel, a local resident, noted: "This project impacted our community because the residents live in an especially depressed area. Residents don't really have money to

buy medicine, and sometimes need the money for food." He added that most people live below the poverty line. "So this program is really a big help, and provides not just medical and dental aspects, but also creates opportunities for spiritual growth."

Barangay captain Crisanto Corpuz and other local officials mentioned that this project would ultimately assist over 600 households in Purok 2 with an estimated 1,600 individuals including children. Most residents hold irregular or underpaid jobs, which tends to result in idleness.

Biga 1 councilors Nene Saputil,

Gani Toleda, and Giro Doneza expressed their

> concern about community youth. Their dream is to help children whose parents cannot ordinarily



Nonseque del et proUpta cum quasperspe nate modipic aborest, ium re, everum, sitiis

afford an education. Brgy. Captain Corpuz affirmed this concern about education: "We hope AIIAS can extend not only medical and dental assistance, but also livelihood training. Teaching residents specific skills needed to earn a living, creating work opportunities or perhaps to provide a more sustainable source of income."

Master of Public Health (MPH) students will conduct a follow-up assessment across Biga 1, Purok 2 and adjacent barangays as AIIAS seeks to partner with local community leaders. This program is just one way that MPH students obtain practical experience showing the loving hands of Jesus in making a difference in the lives of those around them.

Asian Theological Forum Discusses the Making of Disciples

→ he third annual AIIAS Asian Theological Society (AATS) Forum was held at AIIAS from June 12-14, 2015. AATS president, Chuanshan Liang, remarked on the purpose for this year's meeting:



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focused on "The Sabbath in the

African Experience." The scholarly

meeting occurred April 16-19, 2015.

Presenters focused on the Sabbath—

meaning, perception, and associated

Christian Ekoto, president of

AATA and Forum coordinator

reflected: "Some cultures within

Sabbath even though they aren't

Adventist or even Christian. We

cultural groups." Each year a panel

across the continent. Some of the

recommendations from this year's

meeting were forwarded to division

session highlights current issues

would like to find ways to reach these

the African continent celebrate the

challenges.

√he 11th AIIAS African

Theological Association

(AATA) Theological Forum

"Asia has the most complicated religious and cultural situation in the world, and the Christian mission within this continent is seriously challenged by various unreached peoples and the strongest resistance to Christianity." As a result a variety of presentations focused on "Making Disciples: Opportunities and Challenges of Developing Faithful Disciples in Asia." AATS provides a venue for tackling a variety of issues that the Seventh-day Adventist Church faces across Asia.

AIIAS has a significant role in the Seventh-day Adventist Church because it is located in the heart of the 10/40 window, a term used

by missiologists to describe the geographical region where the majority of humans live and where Christianity is a minority religion. The AATS Forum provides an annual gathering place and platform for academic research and discussion to help reach people within an Asian context. Students, faculty members, and other scholars are encouraged to present their research at these annual forums.

The keynote speaker was, Dr. Julio Conrdero Amurao, the Dean of the School of Theology of the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP). He has extensive experience in mission.

Dr. Paoring Ragui, then vicepresident for student services and public relations at AIIAS, remarked: "We are very proud of our students and faculty members who put so much effort into creating such a great program that directly impacts the mission work in Asia." 12

new building extension for the AIIAS Theological seminary contains much needed room for growth. The new facility was dedicated in a ceremony on July 22, 2015. The extension includes space for three additional faculty offices, a storage room, meeting room, and a new chapel that can seat up to 120 people.

The community gathered in the chapel for a special service of praise to God for the new facility. Seminary dean Dr. Richard A. Sabuin and his family sang a special dedicatory song. "God and God alone. That's the reason for this building. That's the reason for this Seminary. That's the reason why we are each here," remarked Dr. Guptill to a crowded chapel. "This is an exciting moment for AIIAS and for all who have been a part of the project." He added that it took many significant

New Extension Provides More Room for Growing AIIAS Seminary

individuals to make this "beautiful building" possible.

Even the physical construction speaks about the spiritual atmosphere. The open environment with high ceilings provides a specious feeling.

In the front of the chapel is a special metallic artwork depicting Jesus Christ as the Good Shepherd. Stained glass windows provide a rich tapestry of

Dr. Sabuin extended appreciation to all of the donors who made this building possible. "God is the source of the funds, and they have become the channel of these resources," noted Dr. Sabuin as he unfolded a scroll with the words "Praise the Lord" that appeared on the reverse side. Vice-president for academic administration, Dr. Dolf Oberholster, led a litany of praise with the congregation. Birds were released to celebrate the occasion with light refreshments. The new extension building, measuring 450 sq. meters cost approximately USD \$80,000, and took about six months to construct.

Discovering the Sabbath in African Context

leaders in the three world divisions of the Seventhday Adventist Church in Africa.

> Dr. Dolf Oberholster, vice-president for academic administration, observed: "This kind of academic learning experience helps develop students with their scholarship. It takes what they learn and applies it to a specific context. Such learning complements the work being done across the continent of Africa."



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The results of the meeting are published in The Journal of AIIAS African Theological Association (JAATA).



AllAS President Dr. Stephen Guptill, Seminary Dean Dr. Richard Sabuin, Donor

Augustine Dela Paz cut the ribbon together symbolizing the official opening.

Representative Cedric Lanchenal, Student Representative Budi Hartanto, and Architect

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Academic Academics

erhaps there is no better place to recognize the impact that AIIAS than to see the many church leaders who gathered together during the General Conference session held in San Antonio, Texas. On July





Agnihit re expliquatium alistrum apideritia vere eiuntia temqui commodit, senia im eturepe liberatia percidu stionseguis maio. At ma guias et perit alisinc torerun duntemporeri derrum

4, 2015, over 200 alumni, former personnel, and their families gathered to hear Dr. Stephen Guptill share about developments taking place at AIIAS including recent building projects.

positions of trust around the

key role of AIIAS is to prepare

Several notable alumni were

recognized as part of the program.

They included Pastor P.D. Chun,

as the first graduate from the

the first AIIAS Seminary graduate,

church leaders for service.

these alumni

important

meeting.

pioneer

graduate

and his

wife Kathleen

participated in

the gathering,

and General

Conference Sabbath School Director Ionathan Kuntaraf

Alice Chen Magarang '83, President of Taiwan Adventist College; Dr. Ricardo Gonzales

secretary of the General Conference Another former dean present was Joel Musvosvi, now President of Solusi University. Other notable faculty

president of Student Services and Public Relations, and his wife Puring welcomed participants."We are very pleased to see familiar faces, former





too. Other notable alumni include

world in addition to serving as '08, President of Chile Adventist delegates during this important University; Joseph S. Peranginangin '95, President of West Indonesia "We are glad to see Union Mission; Noldy Sakul'79, General Conference leaders and President of East Indonesia Union departmental leaders, university Conference; Myun Ju Lee '05, presidents, division leaders and President of Bangladesh Union administrators of different entities Mission; Francisco Gayoba, President around the world," remarked Dr. of Adventist University of the Guptill. He also observed that a

Philippines

Several former AIIAS professors serve at denominational headquarters and at other significant institutions. They include former AIIAS Theological Seminary dean, G. T. NG, who was re-elected as executive

include Dr. Edwin Reynolds who now teaches at Southern Adventist University; Clinton Wahlen, associate director of the Biblical Research Institute, Ronald and Shawna Vyhmeister, who at the time served at the Adventist University of Africa (and who have since then moved to Middle East Adventist University); Gerald Klingbeil, associate editor of Adventist Review/Adventist World magazines; and Myron Iseminger, elected at the session as General Conference unsecretary.

> Paoring Ragui, who just before the session retired as vice-

colleagues and former students," noted Dr. Ragui who during his 37 years at AIIAS had the

privilege to serve with many of these individuals. "To see those laughing together, sharing stories, and taking photos; the time was unforgettable.

"I could sense that everybody felt special to belong to AIIAS. Each of these individuals has helped AIIAS become what it is today," observed AIIAS public relations director, Bruce Sumendap. He led out in a brief quiz about AIIAS with a variety of special prizes. "Thank you for organizing the Alumni gathering, we had a wonderful time," said alumnus George Razmerita from Romania who is now a professor at Chile





Agnihit re expliquatium alistrum apideritia vere eiuntia temqui commodit, senia im eturepe liberatia percidu stionsequis maio. At ma quias et perit alisinc torerun duntemporeri derrum





Arise! Shine! Jesus is coming!

Te make it happen with Jesus" was the theme for the AIIAS Business Club seminar and workshop conducted for students and faculty of South Philippine Adventist College (SPAC). The school is located in Matanao, Davao del Sur, on October 8-9, 2015. The purpose was to enhance business, teaching,

with Active Learning, based on the theme, Jesus as the Master Teacher. Kepha Pondi, business club president, discussed Stewardship as part of the theme *Jesus* as a good Steward. Raimond Luntungan, a professor and business department program director, presented Communication Skills and Media with Jesus as a Great Communicator. Dr. William Daniel

about 300 students and 70 faculty and staff from SPAC participated in the seminar.

While there the business club was featured during the college chapel, faculty devotional, and led the Sabbath worship service. AIIAS participants used a variety of methods to share including songs, drama, musical rendition, and group dynamics.

"SPAC has been blessed by your coming ... It was a pleasure serving you and same time learning from you," said Dr. Chliejvferwyn Catolico, SPAC president. "We also enjoyed the company of the group," added

stayed as guests of Davao Mission two additional before returning to AIIAS.

During these

last two

days they enjoyed

some

sight-

seeing, which

included

hopping to

Samal and

Talicud islands,

island

Alevir Pido, SPAC vice president for academic affairs. education. The group was tasked Afterward the group next travelled to Mountain View College (MVC) for a quick tour with Dr. Chliejvferwyn Catolico, and his wife, that offers theological education. Leticia Catolico. They were warmly received by MVC administrators and AIIAS alumni who gave them a tour of campus that included the beautiful MVC waterfalls on campus. Later guidelines as part of a Handbook. they went to Davao City where they

other more. It also helped me to think about my devotional and missionary life, to assess what am I doing to contribute with God's work," Ana Peña de Vargas commented.

"We enjoyed the trip: especially the worship songs and services; seminars; creative Sabbath worship; AY program; wonderful meals and moments of fellowship that we shared together with wonderful people at SPAC, MVC and Davao Mission and the fun of island hopping and snorkeling to see the beauty God has created in the depths of the sea. It was inspiring, refreshing and recreating," said student Kepha Pondi. 🗗

AIIAS Business Club By Jasmin Tuapin Shares Jesus During MISSION TRIP to Mindanao



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communication, and leadership skills by emphasizing Jesus as the true model for excellence.

Dr. William Haskell Green, AIIAS graduate school dean, and wife, Dr. Rita Dianne Henriquez-Green, who is also an education professor, hosted the workshop. They began

Tiengo, a professor in business, presented the topic, Christian Leadership, with the theme, Jesus as a Servant-Leader. Dr. Kenneth Pradeep Swansi, business department chair, conducted a workshop on Creative and Critical Thinking, with the theme, Jesus as a Creative Thinker. Altogether

n international team of ministerial and educational experts held the second of a series of meetings at AIIAS this past September to discuss the future of Seventh-day Adventist theological with working on a document that sets guidelines and professional standards for any Adventist tertiary institution The formal name of the group, The International Board of Ministerial and Theological Education (IBMTE), was tasked with reviewing these theological

swimming at Babu Santa and Isla Reta

Beach Resorts, and snorkeling at Coral

we were able to stay in one roof with

the professors, making more jokes

and sharing more regardless of our

academic status," said Bernie Dambo.

with friends and we got to know each

"The trip helped us to socialize

"What I'd like during the trip was

Garden.

Church Leaders Discuss Future of

Seventh-Day Adventist Theological Education

"AIIAS is a great choice for international meetings such as this since it is a crossroads for many church leaders," noted Richard A. Sabuin, outgoing dean of the AIIAS Theological Seminary. "Members of this body consisted of seminary deans, divisions leaders, and Adventist World church leaders."

The IBMTE taskforce establishes basic subject areas along with their course content. They develop core standards for faculty selection along with basic requirements for students who wish to enter into theological training. Ultimately a critical factor is to make sure that each theological training program meets basic standards and fosters the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. 12



Interpreting ELLEN WHITE By EIKE MUBLIER is Like Using a Pair of Chopsticles



Boribustrum dolores nimi, non nem undellaborOptate es eaque volor ma volectiorum, core restrum iunt,

2015 marked the 100th anniversary of Ellen G. White's death. AIIAS seminary dedicated its 18th annual theological forum to reflect on Ellen G. White's contribution to Adventist theology, philosophy, and practice. The three-day conference, held from November 12-14, 2015, was organized under the leadership of Dr. Michael Campbell and Dr. Oleg Zhigankov. The schedule included a variety of keynote speeches, plenary sessions, and breakout

Dr. George R. Knight, a prominent author and professor emeritus of Adventist history at Andrews University. Dr. Knight is well-known for his numerous books on Ellen White's life and writings, including the historical setting along with controversies during the formative years of Adventism. In his two keynote speeches he challenged attendees to

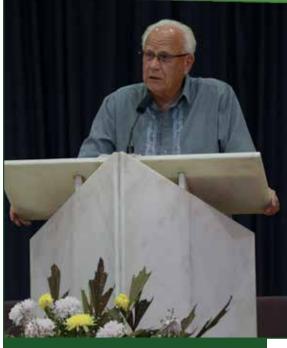
carefully reflect on how they have used, and perhaps sometimes abused, the prophetic gift. He challenged them to make the most of the prophetic gift.

Aside from multiple AIIAS faculty, a total of 15 international guest speakers presented during the plenary sessions. Guest lecturers included prominent theologians from universities ranging from North America, the Middle East, Australia, with representatives from the Biblical Research Institute and the General Conference, and historians from the

Center for Adventist Research (CAR) at Andrews University and the Ellen G. White Estate, Inc. Theologians presented papers relating the role and function of prophets, prophetesses, and prophecy in scripture and its modern application. Historians examined Ellen G. White's impact on 19th century American society, and specifically examined the Adventist setting. Some of these featured speakers had previously collaborated on a recent book entitled The Gift of Prophecy in Scripture and History published by the Review and Herald. Speakers shared insights that they developed for this book project as part of this forum.

The breakout sessions allowed participants to attend specialized topics presented mostly by AIIAS faculty and students. The topics in these sessions included studies related to Ellen White and her writings on issues of mission, emotions, imperialism, young adults, interpretation of Revelation





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and the Gospels. One particularly rich discussion featured a panel discussion by church leaders about the interpretation of Ellen G. White's writings in Asia. Liang Chuan Shan, a doctoral student from China, described the importance of correctly interpreting Ellen G. White's writings from a balanced perspective. He said that in doing so that "correctly interpreting her writings is like using a pair of chopsticks. It requires balance and avoiding extremes."

The conference drew representatives from across Asia including countries as diverse as Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia, and China, as well as various Filipino islands. Over four hundred registered participants engaged in the daily sessions.

In November 2016, the 19th AIIAS Theological Forum will be hosted under the auspices of the Biblical Studies Department. The focus will be on archeology and its impact on Christianity. Speakers from the Middle East and the United States will enrich the program once again.

Statement of Consensus

We, the attendees at the 18th AIIAS Annual Theological Forum, with full confidence in the end-time prophetic guidance through the ministry of Ellen G. White (1827-1915), adopt the following Statement of Consensus:

- We reaffirm our full commitment to the Bible as the only rule of faith and practice, recognizing that the Bible itself lists the prophetic gift among the gifts of the Spirit intended to build up the Christian church toward "the unity of the faith" and "the fullness of Christ" (Eph 4:11-14).
- We reaffirm our confidence that God has blessed His end-time remnant with the gift of prophecy (Rev 12:17; 19:10) in the life, ministry, and writings of Ellen White, to keep His children faithful to the Bible and its teachings.
- We reaffirm that the inspired writings of Ellen White are as authoritative today as they were during the formative years of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
- We reaffirm that when interpreting Ellen White's writings, we should seek their most natural meaning, considering all her writings within their historical and literary contexts, recognizing the need for human reason to be aided by the illumination of the Holy Spirit.
- We reaffirm that the principles found in Ellen White's writings dealing with the practical aspects of Christian life and behavior are still relevant and necessary for us today.

- We reaffirm that sermons should be based on Scripture and informed by the writings of Ellen White.
- We reaffirm that the mission of the Church and its outreach methods should be informed and guided by sound biblical principles and the writings of Ellen White.
- We reaffirm our commitment to read and study the Bible and Ellen White's writings, as well as to encourage others to do so.
- We reaffirm our responsibility to reach and engage new generations whose questions and challenges require innovative approaches in making Ellen White's prophetic ministry relevant.
- As Seventh-day Adventist theologians, editors, pastors, and teachers, we reaffirm our unconditional commitment to the Bible as the inspired Word of God, and to the theological and practical guidance and endtime applications given in Ellen White's writings.

DRAFTING COMMITTEE: Alberto R. Timm, Chair; Reuel Almocera, Secretary, Michael W. Campbell; George R. Knight, Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, Silang, Cavite, Philippines, November 14, 2015.

IIAS is committed to helping the environment. A recent visit by 300 visits from a church district in northern Luzon included a campus tour. They highlighted during their tour how the AIIAS community properly disposes of its trash. The AIIAS community

is proud about the campus by helping to maintain a "parklike" atmosphere that takes its environmental impact seriously. Some of the ways that AIIAS tangibly does something about "Going Green" include:

Segregated Garbage

AIIAS uses color-coded bins around campus for people to segregate their biodegradable, nonbiodegradable, and recyclable waste. Recovery centers on campus help each community member about how to properly dispose of their garbage.

Planting New Trees

In 2014 AIIAS initiated a tree planting initiative. The Filipino community at AIIAS SDA Church

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donated 1,000 mahogany tree seedlings. The AIIAS administration matched this gift with another 1,500 seedlings. Planting trees helps to provide clean air and helps to replace trees uprooted by typhoons. Each year the campus loses approximately 40 to 60 trees on campus due to tropical

AIIAS Campus

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storms. More than 700 trees were planted along the creek that runs north/south through the middle of campus. The remaining seedlings were planted along the eastern slope just beyond the campus walls. The AIIAS Pathfinder Club and the physical plant services spread the seedlings across approximately two acres of land.

Renewable energy

The AIIAS administration is trying to reduce the overall electricity consumption, which saves both operating funds as well as helps the

environment. AIIAS has installed solar lights in the parking lots on campus. These lights contain a solar panel, LED lamp, and rechargeable battery. Another renewable energy initiative is the use of energy efficient cooling systems on campus to replace conventional air conditioning systems. The physical plant is

reviewing a prototype system that they hope to implement in the next few years.

Backyard gardening

Students are encouraged to cultivate their own vegetable garden. Gardening plots are available to any student who requests one. Some students use the space to grow their own food. Some grow salad greens including lettuce, chili peppers to add spice to their food, and some even grow vegetables such as cabbage. Students are able to reduce their

expenses while providing themselves with fresh produce.

Eco-Friendly Buildings

The Siew Huy Auditorium, completed in 2010, is an energy efficient and environmentally friendly building. The large windows in the hallways are made of rustproof aluminum screen—not glass. The inner windows are fitted with huge metal grills. This ventilation system allows unobstructed cool air to flow freely through the auditorium that seats approximately 1,200 people without any air conditioning. The large glass panels on the upper side of the wall provide natural lighting further lowering lighting and energy consumption.

Creating Environmental Awareness

Environmental awareness starts with educating children who live on the AIIAS campus. AIIAS Academy hosts regular chapel talks that highlight the importance of taking care of the environment. School projects require students to use recycled materials. Students are awarded for their creativity through their ability reuse and recycle project materials. The 2015 AIIAS Academy science fair featured creative concepts for solarpower on campus, which included a campus model built from recycled materials.

aith of our Fathers" was the theme for the week of prayer held September 26 to October 3, 2015. A variety of speakers emphasized the importance of spiritual growth. Participants were challenged to remember our rich heritage of faith.

Some of the doctrinal beliefs covered during this time included the great controversy, state of the dead, and understanding of the remnant. One student remarked that "It redirected us to the spring of living water that we may forsake the broken cisterns that hold no water."

"The week of prayer this time was conducted in a unique way," says vice—president for student services, Dr. Bryan Sumendap. "To ensure active participation, attendees were divided into three groups during each morning session." The interactive nature of the discussions challenged listeners to reflect on their own spiritual journey. Facilitators rotated between groups to provide variety and to make sure that each person in the group was able to participate.

Another meeting was held each evening that covered more doctrinal beliefs including the spirit of prophecy, heavenly sanctuary, righteousness of Christ, and the latter rain. About half way through the week Pastor Jose Orbe, Jr., communication director for the North Philippine

The recent International

Conference emphasized climate

sustainability. Environmental

the importance of developing

change, environment conservation, and

other issues concerning environmental

scientists and advocates emphasized

environmental awareness for people

to "save the planet" not just from a scientific perspective, but from the spiritual dimension of Christian environmental stewardship.

AIIAS is committed to reducing energy consumption and creating a campus that is increasingly environmentally friendly. At all levels AIIAS is committed to coming up with creative new ways to reduce consumption and lessen its carbon footprint on this earth. Together AIIAS is committed to creating a greener future for everyone.





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Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, focused the remaining meetings on "The Three Angel's Messages and the Judgment." His command of scripture and interesting delivery added weight to his messages. He often reflected on the wide variety of biblical heroes whose faith continues to inspire faith.

Of course no event at AIIAS is complete without the amazing variety of music with styles from all around the world that reflect the rich cultural diversity of our student and

faculty. The spiritual climax of this week was being able to celebrate the Lord's Supper as a faith community. As students, staff, and faculty washed feet, partook of the emblems of Christ's broken body and blood, it reminded everyone that the center of all Adventist doctrine is Jesus Christ. In the midst of serious academic study each person was invited to remember that the reason AIIAS exists is to prepare workers to more effectively serve in preparing for the Second Coming of Christ. 12



HEALTH CONFERENCE Challenges
Participants to Act Upon Research past seven years. "The increasing diversity of participants from

→ he 16th International Conference on Business, Education, and Public Health, featured over 250 educators, researchers, and practitioners. The conference featured 38 presenters who covered topics as diverse as the environment, a vegetarian diet, and recent trends in education and learning. Participants presented their research findings including best practices from the field.

A special highlight was a presentation by Adventist scientist Dr. Gary Fraser, who is the leader of the Adventist Health Study that examines diet, exercise, heart disease, and cancer among Adventists in North America. Although church leaders in the 1950s were initially hesitant to conduct such a study, with time it has demonstrated the benefits of a vegetarian lifestyle. Results demonstrate that vegetarian Adventist church members tend to have far less obesity, heart disease, or

diabetes as compared to the general population.

Another key issue was the environment. Dr. Samuel Soret, a Loma Linda based medical geographer and environmental nutritionist, challenged participants that merely issuing statements about the environment is not enough. "As a church we have all the infrastructure to respond and provide solutions to environmental issues," noted Soret as he highlighted the vast network of Adventist hospitals and education institutions around the world. What the denomination needs is more "mobilization" and "reflection."

This particular conference was the best-attended event of its kind so far. Dr. Cesar Galvez, chair of



a wide variety of educational

institutions means that AIIAS is

becoming increasingly recognized

as a research institution," observed

Galvez. Attendees were challenged

to conduct research in their area

of expertise. One participant from

Southern Luzon State University,

Joan Eliada, expressed appreciation

for the wide variety of experts from

publish," she

remarked. 🖰

around the world who presented

at this conference. "I am now

motivated to do research and

ith students and faculty from various nations coming together in one place, AIIAS has been a melting pot of unique cultures and backgrounds. Daily campus encounters offer an opportunity to discover something new about a student or a colleague and their rich heritage.

To better understand each other, AIIAS organizes an annual cultural night. Each year, the night is truly a feast of colorful dresses, dynamic storytelling, and folk dances. Sometimes you even get to taste a local delicacy or hear an instrument you never imagined existed (like a saw played with a violin bow).

Cultural night 2015 at AIIAS offered a less ubiquitous format. Anchoring to the theme #throwback, each community was tasked to share a piece in their country or community's history and

Each story was a blend of careful choreography, dialog, storytelling, dance and colorful customs. World history came to life.

The Latin community portrayed the gripping Spanish conquest of the Inca Empire and the emerging new culture of the Americas. The Chinese community displayed an elaborate and exquisite procession of the 'heavenly kingdom, a central belief in their traditional system.

By Bruce Sumendap #throwback2015: highlights
of world history

The Indian and African No group was short of props and communities highlighted their 'undivided spirit' of independence and self-rule during the tumultuous colonial times. The Indonesian

The Filipinos joined together to tell the compelling story of how the Philippine Flag was designed, what it represents, and the people who fought

community featured the illustrious life

of their national hero who struggled

for education equality.

costumes, from a scaled-down Spanish ship, to an original Japanese dagger, they were painstakingly crafted in AIIAS or shipped from overseas for the event. Nothing was superfluous.

It was not only a treat for the eyes and ears, but a learning experience to be remembered many years to come. Vibrant. Inspiring. Educational. These three words sum up the cultural night. Hats off to the student association for organizing a memorable event.





hile it is important to study the Word of God, it is just as sacred a responsibility to effectively communicate Scripture through spoken word on Sabbath morning. Perhaps one of the most frequent complaints I hear during my travels is that people say that their pastor is boring. While it is essential to maintain a positive attitude so that one can learn even from the dullest message, there are some pastoral tools that can help people communicate God's Word more effectively.

As a result the leadership of the AIIAS Church decided to partner with the AIIAS Theological Seminary and the Southern Asia Pacific Division (SSD) Ministerial Department to develop an annual preaching lectureship. The goal is to feature some of the best preaching in the denomination while at the same time creating an opportunity for practical guidance about how to develop effective sermons.

Recent research indicates that the most successful ministers in Asia are

those who utilize the narrative style of preaching, or in essence, pastors who know how to share God's Word

reflect and look for stories from their own lives, reading, and the world around them to help elucidate the

AIIAS Launches Inaugural Preaching Lectureship

> relevant and interesting stories. As a result Dr. John Brunt, recently retired senior pastor of the Azure Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church in Grand Terrace, California, was invited to speak for this inaugural preaching lectureship. He is well known as a master of narrative

preaching.

During the training he challenged pastors to recognize that "the whole sermon can become a story." What is more is that "really good preachers learn to see the world as a sermon." By careful planning, whether a pastor is the senior pastor of a large church or someone with several dozen churches, the preaching of God's Word is their most sacred responsibility. By planning ahead the pastor as more time to

should be characterized by four words: Gospel, Biblical, Alive, and Clear. In other words, the preaching should always center on the good news of the gospel, which must be firmly based in Scripture. As Brunt put it, "I like to give my people a steady diet of Scripture." As the message is internalized it becomes alive and dynamic. Even the outline of the sermon should "flow out of the text." Ultimately the message must be clearly communicated. He challenged those to simplify the sermon down to a simple sentence. If you can't do that, then go back and work on the sermon some more.



Tribute to My Friend Pastor Solly

ome people enter our lives with a distinct purpose. Pastor Solly was a person with such a jovial nature that he demonstrated true friendship. Our friendship began as new students in the Ph.D. program. I admired his ability to study the biblical text, create interesting PowerPoint presentations, and share rich insights in class. He shared his "Solomon Island" humor, which enriched our classes, but disdained any mediocrity in the pursuit of our studies.

Pastor Solly was a model student. He was fond of saying: "do not study hard, but smart." He stayed up late at night in order to meet deadlines. His specialty was New Testament studies, and by the time he passed away, he was familiar with the variety of contemporary approaches, hermeneutical studies, especially the verbal aspect theory. He was especially passionate about the study of Revelation 13.

He buffered several recent storms in his life, especially the shooting of his daughter in early 2015. He also faced a variety of financial hardships, the absence of his wife while raising teenage children, but despite these challenges he continued to pursue his doctorate. Even during his sickness he hoped that he would soon be able to take his Ph.D. comprehensive exams.

Solly loved his family. He sometimes had to cut our visits together short in order to make time to communicate with his wife and other family members. Despite the distance in space, he maintained a close relationship with his wife while she was away in the Solomon Islands.

reasons that he will be missed, I will especially miss his friendly smile and his ability to share a joke that would make me laugh. He has exerted a significant influence in my life that will continue to show in my life, and the lives of countless others, until we meet again by God's grace in heaven to continue our friendship for all eternity.

While there are many

By David Odhiambo

Asian Qualitative Research Association Starts at AIIAS

By Ingrid Oberholster

umbers alone cannot solve the issues we have today," said Dr. Safary Wa-Mbaleka during an interview. "We need to talk to people. We need to observe people. It's time for qualitative research."

In 2014, Dr. Wa-Mbaleka was asked to hold a qualitative research seminar for 60 professors and PhD holders in the Philippines. It was during this seminar that he realized the wealth of qualitative research knowledge we have at AIIAS and the dire need of educators around the Philippines for training qualitative research.

Invitation after invitation followed for him to present qualitative research seminars and workshops around the Philippines. The more places he went, the more he had a desire to create an association, a group of academics who have a passion for qualitative research and changing the research world.

In collaborating with Dr. Sunia Fukofuka and Dr. Arceli Rosario, fellow faculty members who also have a passion for qualitative research, the Asian Qualitative Research Association (AQRA) was born. Dr. Wa-Mbaleka is the president, Dr. Rosario is the secretary, and Dr. Fukofuka is the chief financial officer.

The association aims to encourage more qualitative research to be done in the Philippines and the rest of South-East Asia. With more education about this method, the research world will be able to change. Numbers will be able to help and there will be more explanation behind the numbers.

To begin with, this year on April 20 - 21, AQRA will be hosting it's first International Conference on Qualitative Research (ICQR). The keynote speaker will be Dr. Ella Simmons, a seasoned researcher who is currently serving as a general vice president of the Seventh-day Adventist church.

NOTE: For more information about the association or the conference, please email Dr. Safary Wa-Mbaleka at wa-mbalekas@aiias.edu

Celebrating Health through Wholeness

holeness, Health, and Oneness," was the theme of the AIIAS festival weekend. Held from Oct. 29 to Nov. 1, 2015, the weekend includes health lectures, cooking classes, worship services, and an international buffet featuring the benefits of a healthful lifestyle. The weekend is a joint venture of the AIIAS Seventhday Adventist Church and the AIIAS Public Health department.

The weekend provides an opportunity for students to provide leadership in public health through this public health campaign. It creates a prime opportunity to encourage the community to embrace a healthy lifestyle. Specifically the students, staff, and faculty of AIIAS were encouraged to partake in all the activities.

Friday morning medical professionals provided a complimentary health screening. Over 100 people participated. Another highlight was the international buffet that featured cuisine from countries represented by the AIIAS community. It was a trip around the world in a single meal. A professional vegan chef taught cooking classes to finish the weekend. She invited participants through the culinary dishes to make food that is both health and appetizing.



Alumni Connection

AIIAS is a global community, and we would like to hear from you!

Email us at flags@aiias.edu

or write to

Flags, AIIAS, Lalaan 1, Silang, Cavite 4118

Philippines

ALUMNI: Send news about yourself that can be shared in upcoming issues of *Flags*. Please include your picture, full name (indicate if it has changed since you were at AIIAS), degree completed at AIIAS and year of graduation.

FORMER FACULTY AND STAFF: Send us the dates that you were at AIIAS, your position, your current mailing address, and email address, along with any news notes (with a recent picture) about yourself for future publication in *Flags*.

EVERYONE: If you would like to be a part of the good things that are happening at AIIAS, there are many opportunities to become involved! More information is available on our website (www.aiias. edu) and facebook page (www.facebook.com/aiias).

As a developing institution, AIIAS is constantly bettering the services provided for students such as student scholarships and building projects. Any financial support you can offer will be greatly appreciated. It will help to give more students the opportunity to experience AIIAS as they prepare to help further God's work throughout the world. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to:

AIIAS, c/o Treasury General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904, U.S.A.

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