FEATURING: Haiti Earthquake

“Hopital Adventiste is Still Standing: Why?”
by Jack Bennett—See page 3
There are two special items of importance in this new edition of the AIMS Journal.

This is the last contribution that will be made by our out-going president who has served for the past two years, Dr. Jack Bennett. He has completed his term of service and has handed over the reins of leadership to a new president, Dr. Edwin Krick (effective APC 2010).

The second item of special interest is Dr. Bennett’s report of his recent trip to the earthquake-stricken island of Haiti. This was of special importance to Dr. Bennett since he spent many years serving as a surgeon at our hospital in nearby Puerto Rico. During this time he made many trips to Haiti. In fact, he was on hand when they broke ground for a new hospital in Haiti many years ago.

This special edition of the AIMS Journal shows what AIMS is doing in the country of Haiti following the massive earthquake which hit there earlier this year. With the help of a generous donation by a family foundation, AIMS now is in a position to give major amounts of assistance in the form of personnel, food, medical aid, and other supplies.

You will find an unusual number of pictures in connection with Dr. Bennett’s article. He took the pictures during his recent visit to Port-au-Prince.

Even though an even stronger earthquake struck Chile recently, the damage was much greater in Haiti than it was in Chile. There will be long-term assistance to Haiti as they struggle to get back to normal. The church experienced huge losses, except for the hospital in Port-au-Prince which remains largely intact. More than 30 churches were lost and many thousands of church members lost their lives.

The response has been heartening by organizations wishing to give assistance. In addition to what AIMS has been able to do, there have been medical teams and other groups from Loma Linda University, Florida Hospital, Kettering Hospital, and many other church organizations who have gone there to assist.

You will see the picture of one of our Loma Linda graduates, Scott Nelson, who is an orthopedist who has been there on a consistent basis assisting with the program. You are invited to learn more about it from Dr. Bennett’s special edition coverage.

—Don A. Roth, Editor
General Conference Representative,
Loma Linda Campus

About the cover: Amidst the turmoil of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, a Loma Linda University School of Medicine student, Daniel Patton, sits down with an earthquake victim in a rare quiet moment for both. See Dr. Bennett’s story starting on page 3.
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From the President

Hopital Adventiste is Still Standing: Why?

by Jack Bennett, MD

“God has not created poverty; it is we who have created it. Before God, all of us are poor.” Mother Teresa

Recently, I had the privilege of making a short visit to Haiti by means of the first commercial flight from mainland USA directly to Port-au-Prince since the devastating earthquake that has dominated the news for several weeks. What I saw of suffering and devastation made me sad, but didn’t really surprise me. I have been visiting Haiti since the early 1970s, when our family began mission service in Puerto Rico. Even then, Haiti had a long, long history of being synonymous with poverty.

My specific destination was Hopital Adventiste d’Haiti, which has become a center for health services for many organizations during the current disaster. I missed seeing the USA 82nd Airborne medical team, but I did meet members of USA Special Forces Team from Ft. Bragg, members of Chefs without Borders, members of ACTS World Relief, members of ADRA, a group from Maranatha, a team from Southwest Arizona Regional Medical Center, three fourth-year LLUSM students, a team from White Memorial Hospital, nurses from Florida Hospital, and old friends with whom I had worked in Puerto Rico and Guyana, nearly 40 years ago. (There may have been others whom I did not personally meet.)

Many people have asked “Why has the SDA hospital become such a center for medical aid?” The most obvious answer is purely physical: it

Here are the men who headed up the team of people during the Haiti earthquake. At the left is Andrew Haglund of the School of Public Health of Loma Linda University, and at the right is Dr. Scott Nelson, a graduate of the School of Medicine of Loma Linda University.
is still standing, its foundation solid, the structure safe for occupation. Less apparent to the eye is a spiritual foundation that has been reinforced for decades.

On the occasion of the official inauguration of Hopital Adventiste, in 1981, Wanda Krone (coordinator of Missions International) remarked, “Only the records of heaven know the number of people who have worked together to make this a reality.” True enough; but we do know the names of some of them. Dr. Ivan Angell (College of Medical Evangelists, Class of 1950), who was based in Puerto Rico, saw a need for a “polyclinic” in Port-au-Prince. As time passed, Dr. Angell realized that the clinic was no longer adequate for the medical and evangelistic needs of a growing church. In 1972, he and a group of American physicians, (operating as Missions International), began to raise money to build an Adventist hospital in Haiti.¹

In December 1974, Elder Robert Pierson, Dr. David Hinshaw (then Dean of the School of Medicine), Dr. Angell and I (from the Bella Vista Hospital), and various Haitian government representatives, attended groundbreaking ceremonies for the hospital project.² Construction progressed while the money held out, but halted when funds were exhausted. Then came a Thirteenth Sabbath Special Project offering of 1977, when members from around the world gave $135,000, the Inter-American Division contributed $43,000, and we knew: the hospital could be finished.³

Alfred Christensen, a retired Florida contractor and former Haiti missionary, supervised the construction, promising to see that “maximum use” would be made of the Sabbath School offerings.⁴ The Florida Hospital accepted 10 thousand dollars.⁵

Text continues on page 7
Haitian earthquake victims line up to see physicians at the Haiti Hospital. There were also many lines for other purposes: food, water, medical care, and transportation.

Because of lack of beds and rooms in the hospital, patients were placed in tents on the hospital grounds.

A group of patients and volunteer helpers are shown seated on the grounds of the Adventist Hospital waiting for their turn.

Supplies came from all different directions and were deposited in a large area of the hospital. It took a great deal of work and organization to get everything sorted out and supplied to patients.

Making some organizational progress in one of the storage areas are Dr. and Mrs. Dan Patchin who are volunteers from the Pacific Northwest.

Dr. Jack Bennett, center, shown with two volunteers who came to Haiti from the Dominican Republic. They are Bienbenida Guzman and Gustave Guzman.
More than 2,000 meals per day were supplied to staff and to patients. Here are individuals preparing food in an outdoor kitchen.

Dr. David Martin of San Antonio, Texas, and two of his new Haitian friends, some of whom lost either hands or feet.

Alfonso Duran, a fourth-year Loma Linda medical student, is shown assisting with an emergency room patient at the Haiti Adventist Hospital in Port-au-Prince.

This sad little lad is given some emergency assistance in the emergency room of the Haitian Hospital.

This photo of a kindergarten building shows some of the destruction that resulted from the earthquake in Haiti.
Haitian nurses for specialized training, and helped in many other ways. (Please refer to the *AIMS Journal* vol. 30, no. 3 for a feature article on the Florida Hospital.) A staff was assembled: hospital administrator, medical director, chaplain, three doctors and 18 nurses. Seven-hundred dignitaries representing the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Haitian government witnessed the inauguration of a modern, 65-bed hospital on April 26, 1981. President Jean-Claude Duvalier sent flowers.

During the ensuing years, other people and organizations have contributed to strengthening the foundations of Hopital Adventiste. Adventist Health International (AHI) has assumed a prominent role in organization and development. Global Health Institute (GHI) of LLU has also assisted, encouraging other health professionals to visit this hospital. Recently, the LLUSM Class of 2010 has adopted the hospital, undertaking short-term service during vacation periods, and vowing to raise an endowment of $100,000.00 before their graduation!

And AIMS has assumed a long-term commitment by accepting a $100,000.00 gift from a family foundation, which is to be distributed at our discretion to meet various hospital needs.

The central purpose of all our efforts, however, is to assure a well-functioning hospital for the people of Haiti, and the faithful hospital employees, for they are the ones who have given meaning to Hopital Adventiste. It is because of their work that Hopital Adventiste is a respected and trusted institution. That the Haitian workers were largely absent from the hospital during my visit is evidence only of their responsibilities for the care of wounded or displaced family members. As they make permanent arrangements for housing and care of dependants, they

*See Haiti on page 11*
AIMS Will Meet During 59th General Conference Session

A meeting of the Association of International Medical Services (AIMS) will be held during the 59th quadrennial session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Atlanta, Georgia.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 30, at 3:00 p.m. in a room already arranged with the management of the ten-day convention.

All healthcare professionals from around the world from every division have been invited to attend this meeting.

It will be chaired by Dr. Ed Krick, the newly elected president of AIMS, and speakers will include Dr. Richard Hart, the president of Loma Linda University, and others yet to be named.

The meeting will be held in Building B, Room 314, and directions to this location can be obtained from the information desk of the session.

The General Conference Session is held every five years to receive reports and to elect officers. Weekend attendance at times has reached more than 25,000 people. There are more than 2,000 who are officially named and who will do the business of the session during the ten-day conclave.

This special meeting will be of great interest to all healthcare professionals.

Ira Bailie Receives Award

Dr. Ira Bailie recently received the Association of International Medical Services Global Mission Award.

During the annual AIMS meeting on March 6, 2010, Dr. Jack Bennett, AIMS president, presented the award to Dr. Bailie. Dr. Bailie spent many years of service in two areas of the world—South America and Nepal. After leaving Nepal he was instrumental in providing equipment, funds and personnel for the Scheer Memorial Hospital in Nepal.

The editorial staff of the AIMS Journal congratulate Dr. Bailie on this mission award given by AIMS.
Deferred Mission Appointees
Now Serving Overseas

as of March 2010

James E. Appel  Bere Adventist Hospital, Chad
Alfred Da la Torre  School of Medicine, River Plate Adventist University, Argentina
Herbert N. Giebel  Ile Ife Hospital, Nigeria
Ryan Hayton*  Malamulo Hospital, Malawi
Frederick J. Lee  Community Hospital of SDA, Trinidad
Jane Lee  Community Hospital of SDA, Trinidad
Belen Lohr  Ile Ife Hospital, Nigeria
Jason L. Lohr  Ile Ife Hospital, Nigeria
Seth Lukens*  Gimbie Adventist Hospital, Ethiopia
Norman McNulty  Community Hospital of SDA, Trinidad
Julie Namm*  Guam SDA Clinic, Guam
Danae Netteburg*  Bere Adventist Hospital, Chad
Olen Netteburg*  Bere Adventist Hospital, Chad
James Kenji Nozaki  Guam SDA Clinic, Guam
Crystal Pierson  Saipan Adventist Clinic, Saipan
Kenneth D. Pierson  Saipan Adventist Clinic, Saipan
Tiffany Priester*  Blantyre Adventist Hospital, Malawi
Robert Renck  Davis Memorial Hospital, Guyana
Michael J. Robinson  Guam SDA Clinic, Guam
Mark Sandoval  Community Hospital of SDA, Trinidad
Aaron Sartin*  Scheer Memorial Hospital, Nepal
Sally Sartin*  Scheer Memorial Hospital, Nepal
Audrey Shank  Koza Adventist Hospital, Cameroon
Crishelle Shank  Malamulo Hospital, Malawi
Gregory S. Shank  Koza Adventist Hospital, Cameroon
Sarah-Jane Shearer  Saipan Adventist Clinic, Saipan
William Shearer  Saipan Adventist Clinic, Saipan
Kozue Shimabukuro*  Adventist Medical Center, Okinawa
Michael Stafford  Saipan Adventist Clinic, Saipan, M.P.
Edwin J. Supit  Guam SDA Clinic, Guam
Darrell L. Vaughan  Adventist Dental Clinic, Okinawa
Nick A. Walters  Bangkok Adventist Hospital, Thailand
Wayne E. Ward  Guam SDA Clinic, Guam
John Wilson  Davis Memorial Hospital, Guyana
Josef Wollmann*  Community Hospital of SDA, Trinidad

* Call Voted
Haiti  
(Continued from page 7)

are returning to the work they love, and the patients who have learned to trust them. They know, as do all of us who serve, that happiness arrives as a shared experience. The smiles of grateful children are precious to anyone, but much more so when they are a response to our willingness to pass on the talents, time and resources that Jesus gives us. “In your heart I have given you the full measure of My love that you may freely show how much I love My people and care for them in their times of distress.” 
(From “Jesus Speaks,” author unknown)6

This is my last article as president of AIMS. In my new role of “Past President,” it will be my pleasure to continue with a colleague—who has been my friend for over 50 years—as he assumes the helm of AIMS! Godspeed, Dr. Ed Krick!

5 Ibid.

BECOME A MEMBER OF AIMS  
Association of International Medical Services  
NEW TIERED MEMBERSHIPS

The board invites you to carefully consider one of the following six levels of membership:

• $1,000 Local Life Membership
• $2,000 Regional Life Membership
• $4,000 National Life Membership
• $7,500 International Life Membership
• $12,500 Global Life Membership
• $25,000 Universal Life Membership

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