

Mission Sonlight, 3rdQtr 08-North American Division Overview Script

NARRATOR: Welcome to Mission SONlight. During the third quarter of 2008, we will be reporting from the North American Division. Although this territory may seem familiar to you, there are some facts you possibly haven't heard before. Mission SONlight visited sites throughout the Division in early 2008 to bring you this report.

The territory of the North American Division includes Bermuda, Canada, the French possession of Saint Pierre and Miquelon, the United States of America, Johnston Island, Midway Islands and all other island of the Pacific not attached to other divisions within the boundary of the international dateline to the west, the equator to the south and 120 degrees longitude to the east.

The Division's unions are the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, and the Atlantic, Lake, Mid-America, North Pacific, Pacific, Southern and Southwestern Union Conferences. Headquarters for the North American Division are located in Silver Spring, Maryland. It's from this location that Don Schneider serves the Division's constituents as president.

The first Seventh-day Adventist Church was established in Washington, New Hampshire. The building that those early church founders worshipped in still stands today as a testimony to their search for Biblical truth. During 2008, the North American Division will celebrate 95 years since its organization in 1913.

Today, the North American Division is home to 6,019 Adventist congregations and over 1 million baptized members. Throughout this Division, Adventist congregations are as diverse as the countryside itself. From large cities to small towns; mountain ranges,

wide-open ranges of prairies, lakes and oceans are sights that our church family sees in the places they live and work.

Take a bird's eye view on a typical Sabbath morning and you will find services being held in languages that are from around planet Earth. These are too numerous to list all of them, but they include English, French, Japanese, Korean, Ghanaian, Haitian, Khmer, Filipino, Vietnamese and others.

Within the boundaries of this Division you will find over 1,031 schools, from elementary through university level. There are 140 hospital and retirement centers. Twenty-one publishing houses provide books and literature for distribution.

Adventist lay members use many methods to reach their communities with the good news that Jesus is coming again soon. Some may use Bible studies and evangelistic meetings. Others faithfully provide leadership and teach good citizenship in Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs. You'll find some members faithfully meeting community needs through Adventist Community Services. There are others who have a desire to share Jesus through the airwaves and make use of radio in their local communities.

The 13th Sabbath Mission Offering for 3rd quarter is being designated to take the story of Jesus to the airwaves throughout the North American Division. This will be accomplished by the Voice of Adventist in Canada and LifeTalk Radio in the United States.

This quarter you will learn the story of Harold Williams, a visionary pastor, who saw the need to establish a radio station called Voice of Adventist Radio in Newfoundland, Canada in 1929. You'll meet Elliott Tam, an Adventist lay-member in

British Columbia, who used the foundation laid by Williams and overcame roadblocks to have an on-air religious radio presence in his hometown of Cranbrook, British Columbia.

NARRATOR: You'll also learn of the work being done by LifeTalk radio in the United States.

ELVIN VENCE: LifeTalk got started back in the '90's in Yakima, Washington. Then it moved to Vonoor, TN, where they had a new facility and an uplink.

NARRATOR: You'll hear how LifeTalk radio stations impact the communities these stations serve.

BOB HILL: Based on our surveying at the county fair we have a pretty good feeling that there are a good percentage of people in our county and they city proper that know that we're there.

NARRATOR: You will also learn of a couple, using LifeTalk, reaches out to a county without any Adventist presence at all.

ELVIN VENCE: There's no actual Adventist church in this area.

NARRATOR: Learn how North American Adventist military personnel, who are deployed, are using Adventist media. Their ministry to others is enhanced by the fact that LifeTalk is available through the Internet.

DARRYL BENTLEY: While I was stationed in Iraq, I had the opportunity to witness and do Bible studies to a number of soldiers.

Narrator: Having access to materials on the Internet is a way for our troops to have the spiritual materials they need when they are deployed.

NARRATOR: It is important to these service personnel to have materials readily available even though they are far from home and the spiritual materials that we have readily available here. The Internet provides them with the opportunity to access them and share with others who they come into contact with in their daily activities.

DARRYL BENTLEY: Being far from home and far from my reference library, far from the resources that one typically has available from the church I found myself turning more and more to the Internet.

NARRATOR: As you contemplate your 13th Sabbath Offering, think about your friends and neighbors who haven't accepted living the story of Jesus as a part of their everyday experience. This is your mission field. Who will you choose to talk with about Jesus this month? This quarter? As you make those plans, don't forget to look ahead to September 27. That will be the day you have an opportunity to share your monetary wealth. What will you give to help tell the story of Jesus through the radio airwaves of Canada and the United States. Reporting from the North American Division for the 3rd Quarter of 2008, this is Mission SONlight.