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AIM Participates in Tsunami Telethon

The office was buzzing; students and volunteers anxiously geared up for what promised to be a busy night at Adventist Information Ministry (AIM) on Fri., Feb. 11. AIM was asked to answer phones for the telethon, Hope in Tragedy, that would air simultaneously on 3ABN and the Hope Channel. Proceeds would benefit mission work in tsunami-effected areas. The show, hosted by Mark Finley, was broadcast from Silver Spring, Md. A total of 27 staff, students, and volunteers gave up Fri. night activities to answer phones and receive donations.

Located on the Andrews University campus, AIM is the central call center and coupon-processing service for Seventh-day Adventist media outreach in the North American Division. AIM answers calls on behalf of programs such as It is Written and Amazing Facts.

Calls started coming in at 9:30 p.m., and phones didn’t stop ringing until past midnight, even though the program went off the air at 11 p.m. By the end of the evening, over $83,000 was raised.

“Working as a volunteer at AIM for the tsunami fund-raiser was fun!” said Cami Cress, a volunteer. “Generous folks just kept calling, offering what they could. For some it was like the widow’s mite, yet every bit added up to over $83,000 in just two hours! Being a part of this fund-raiser was a blessing to others, but also to me.”

Beverly Stout, University Relations Lake Union Herald correspondent

Center for Adventist Research Receives Historic Review and Herald Editorial Library

Members of the Andrews University board of trustees, students and faculty, friends, and guests from the Review and Herald Publishing Association (RHPA) filled the Center for Adventist Research (CAR) exhibit room on Sat., Mar. 5, for a special dedication service of the Review and Herald Editorial Library collection.

The Review and Herald Editorial Library came to the CAR and the James White Library as a donation from the RHPA in Dec. 2004. This collection is a rich resource of Adventist church history, full of rare books, tracts, periodicals, and early advent charts.

Until now, the collection had been stored in a vault at the RHPA offices in Hagerstown, Md. Merlin Burt, CAR director, approached the RHPA executive committee with a proposal to donate the collection to Andrews University and move it to the James White Library with the understanding the collection would be properly cared for, while making the valuable materials accessible for new generations of Adventist researchers.

Once the books arrived in Berrien Springs, the work began for the staff at the CAR and bibliographical services department, who now had the job of cataloging the collection. Among the 2,500 books, there were several duplicates, and 1,213 have been cataloged so far, with 500 more items to go through. The RHPA and CAR are planning to share duplicates with other Adventist universities and research centers around the world. Each book in the collection has a special marker that indicates it is part of the Review and Herald Library.

“The most exciting thing [about the collection] is the stories,” stated Burt. “It’s not just dusty old books. There’s a story of faith connected with it that is remarkable and thrilling.”

Robert Smith, RHPA president, noted he was pleased to see the collection would remain a legacy of the RHPA. Burt has also agreed to assist the RHPA in putting together a museum of their own.

For more information about the CAR, visit their website: http://www.andrews.edu/library/car/index.html.

Beverly Stout, University Relations Lake Union Herald correspondent

From left to right: Claraan Hollancid, AIM chaplain; Keren Lawrence, AIM staff; Julie Christman, AIM customer service representative; and, Gelnice Kaping, staff, were kept busy answering phones during the Hope in Tragedy telethon.

From left to right: Mark Thomas, RHPA vice president; Niels-Erik Andreasen, Andrews University president; Robert Smith, RHPA president; and Merlin Burt, CAR director, stand in front of part of the recently-donated Review and Herald Editorial Library collection.