



# TODAY

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## INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE

### LLU International Behavioral Health Trauma Team members await word from Haitian behavioral health team they trained

By Larry Kidder

Images of the unspeakable devastation and suffering in Haiti, resulting from the magnitude 7.0 earthquake that rocked Port-au-Prince, the capital, and surrounding areas on January 12, 2010, have been a primary feature of the news since the disaster occurred.

As international agencies mobilize to help the tiny nation that shares its island with the Dominican Republic, Loma Linda University is sending teams and supplies to help the nation of Haiti.

The LLU International Behavioral Health Trauma Team (IBHT), is awaiting word from a Haitian behavioral health disaster response team that it trained back in 2004.

In May 2004, Haiti and the Dominican Republic were hit by catastrophic flooding and resulting mudslides. The behavioral health team from Loma Linda University traveled to Haiti in June 2004 to train a team of mental health professionals to deal with the current and future disasters.

Beverly Buckles, DSW, chair and professor in the LLU department of social work and social ecology, and co-chair of the IBHT, believes that the IBHT was very successful in building capable behavioral health disaster response teams in both countries.

"We've e-mailed ADRA-Haiti, wondering how the team in Haiti is holding up," Dr. Buckles says. "If they ask us to come back to Haiti, we'll certainly try to find a way to help them out."

The LLU behavioral team is co-chaired by William Murdoch, MD, medical director of the LLU Behavioral Medicine Center, director of the Behavioral Medicine Institute, and chair and professor of psychiatry, LLU School of Medicine.

The IBHT worked closely with social workers, psychiatrists, psychologists, and marriage and family therapists from federal agencies and non-government organizations (including World Vision and the Red Cross), as well as the United Nations, to develop a network and coordinated plan to deal with the psychological problems that occur immediately and over time in conjunction with a major disaster.

"Our team targets regions of the world where disasters tend to occur on a fairly regular basis," Dr. Buckles explains. "We favor those areas where the infrastructure is still in a state of development and may be less resilient in a major disaster." The team prefers to be proactive, rather than reactive, in the face of disasters.

The trips to the Dominican Republic and Haiti in 2004 are two of more than 30-plus international responses by IBHT. The team responded to major mudslides in both countries, providing clinical services, as well as education of a local team, to deal with future disasters.

"The mental health team in Haiti will have its hands full for the next several months," Dr. Buckles points out. "Thousands of people are currently suffering from acute stress disorder and are in a state of shock."

In such a situation, the first order of business



A member of the Haitian behavioral health disaster response team, trained by Loma Linda University International Behavioral Health Trauma Team, works out in the open with victims of a landslide that buried an entire village in 2004. The LLU team provided supervised field training to the Haitian behavioral health disaster response team. Their training is being tested in the current earthquake disaster.

for mental health experts is to lend support to victims, helping them to address their immediate needs, loss of contact with loved ones, and a myriad of other difficulties.

"After 60 days, the post-traumatic stress cases will begin to appear," Dr. Buckles continues. "Our team in Haiti will become increasingly visible as they begin to deal with any long-term mental health issues."

Those who have recently suffered a major loss or trauma prior to the recent earthquake are now the most vulnerable. "Everyday life is hard for many of the Haitian people," Dr. Buckles

points out. "For them, the earthquake may be only the latest blow, adding insult to injury."

IBHT members just returned from El Salvador, where they trained a team of more than 60, with mental health representatives from the United Nations, World Vision, the Red Cross, governmental education and mental health departments, and other non-government agencies.

During mudslides in El Salvador in November 2009, as many as 25 percent of those who died were Seventh-day Adventist Church members.

Dr. Buckles and her fellow IBHT members will be closely monitoring the situation in Haiti as it develops. "A major positive for the Haitian people is their strong religious faith," she comments. "People are amazingly resilient—even in the face of a major catastrophe."

She also has faith in the Haitian team. "We worked closely with them to develop a plan to help coordinate the international and non-government-organization responses." She adds, "We only hope that they are not stretched too thin to implement the plans they worked so hard to develop."

Dr. Buckles smiles, "I hope they remember that they always have friends in Loma Linda who are ready to support them in this difficult time. The nation of Haiti and its people are certainly in our thoughts and prayers."

## LLU PRESIDENT SPEAKS OUT ON HAITI

### LLU responds to the crisis in Haiti

By James Ponder and Dustin Jones

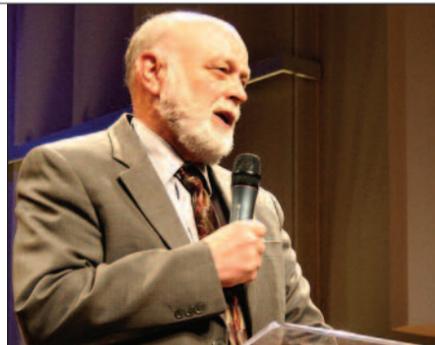
Shortly after the devastating 7.0 earthquake that rocked Haiti on Tuesday, January 12, 2010, officials of Loma Linda University (LLU) began to investigate how the university can best assist the government and people of that Caribbean nation in rebuilding their lives.

"There is a small Adventist hospital and an Adventist university in the western suburb of

Port-au-Prince," says Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, president of LLU. "All of the hospital buildings and most of those at the university are intact. No LLU students or staff were at either of those places at the time of the earthquake."

Hopital Adventiste d'Haiti (HAH), a 70-bed facility built in 1978, is serving as a clinical center for the nation. In 2003, the hospital joined Adventist Health International, an international organization based at LLU.

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Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, president and CEO of Loma Linda University, updated students on the continuing crisis in Haiti after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake rocked the island nation on Tuesday, January 12, 2010.

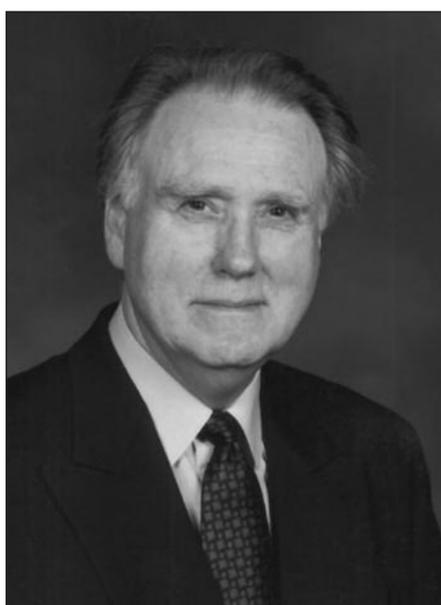
## SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

## Church president to be honored

By Richard Weismeyer

During worship services in the Loma Linda University Church on Saturday, January 23, 2010, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists president Jan Paulsen, DTh, will be honored. Not only will he receive a special honor from Loma Linda University, but he will also be presented with a 446-page *Festschrift* (a book honoring a respected person), containing essays written by 28 Adventist scholars.

The occasion for this special tribute to the General Conference president is his recent 75th birthday. This seems to be a fitting moment to express the appreciation of the world-wide church in a tangible way.



Jan Paulsen, DTh  
President, General Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists

The book, titled *Exploring the Frontiers of Faith*, contains studies on a range of topics including theological, historical, ethical, and educational. Most of the authors, who all share with the honoree a strong European connection, have at some time in the past come to know Dr. Paulsen personally—as his teacher, student, or colleague. All essays are in the English language.

The project to create this tangible token of world-wide appreciation for the long and outstanding service of Dr. Paulsen and his wife, Kari, to the Adventist denomination, was initiated by Borge Schantz, PhD, a retired church leader and missiologist who resides in Denmark and has long known Dr. Paulsen as colleague and friend. At his request, Reinder Bruinsma, PhD, a retired church administrator from the Netherlands, joined him in the editorial task.

The book has been printed and published in English through the Advent Verlag in Lüneburg, Germany, the main German-language publishing house in the Adventist Church, in an edition of 2,500 copies. Some financial support from a number of denominational entities and a few individuals has helped to bring the project to completion.

A special feature of the book is its final section, a congratulatory list with the names of nearly a thousands persons (mostly church workers) from around the world who wanted to congratulate Dr. Paulsen with reaching this milestone in his life, and thanking him for his lifelong dedication to the Adventist Church.

The book will be available to the general public through the Adventist Book Centers. It will retail for approximately \$25.

## LLU responds to the crisis in Haiti ...

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Scott Nelson, MD, an LLU-trained orthopaedic surgeon based in the Dominican Republic, arrived in Port-au-Prince on January 14 with a surgical team to provide surgical services at the hospital.

As Dr. Nelson began making his way to the hospital, he stopped at several parking lots full of injured and offered assistance. Dr. Nelson arrived at the hospital on Friday, January 15, and confirmed that the hospital is one of the few in Haiti that is structurally sound.

“Dr. Nelson is prepared to stay in Haiti for several months,” Dr. Hart shares. “We are committed to backing him up with resources, including diesel fuel to keep emergency power generators working.”

A report from [www.alertnet.org](http://www.alertnet.org), an online service of the Thomson Reuters Foundation, stated that the Adventist hospital is “the only functional hospital” in Port-au-Prince, and added that, “colleagues from Haiti are reporting that the hospital is completely full and that there is not enough medication.”

Loma Linda University is currently working with two humanitarian organizational entities—SIGN-Post in Washington, and CURE International in Pennsylvania to help assist HAH.

“LLU’s response has been in three areas—fundraising, deployment of human resources, and acquisition of select equipment and supplies,” says Jerry Daly, MSLS, assistant vice president for global outreach.

Both SIGN-Post and CURE have secured the means to transport equipment and personnel into the region on relief aircraft. CURE has identified the Adventist Hospital as one of three sites where they are working and as a result, some of the stream of now flowing supplies and medicines into Haiti can go to support HAH.

On Thursday, January 14, a website at LLU was created to accept donations for Hopital Adventiste d’Haiti. Currently, more than \$45,000 has been raised for this cause.

Andrew Haglund, MS, assistant professor of geoinformatics, spoke with several local church groups and is assisting in gathering additional funding for the hospital.

Mr. Haglund, along with Mike Fishell, MD, and Chris Vannucci, a physician assistant, left for Haiti on Tuesday, January 19. Once on the ground, this group will help determine what is needed for a shipment to arrive later in the week.

On Thursday, January 21, Chris Jobe, MD, an orthopedic surgeon at LLU, his wife, Melanie,

## LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY PEOPLE

## Norwegian filmmaker joins office of university relations staff

By Dustin R. Jones

Cosmin Cosma, MA, has recently joined the staff of Loma Linda University relations. During the past five years, Mr. Cosma has worked for the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation in Norway as a news cameraman and editor. This work included daily news production, current affairs, and children’s television production. Additionally, he brings extensive experience in documentary filmmaking, short films, and live studio broadcast production.

Mr. Cosma received his bachelor’s degree in digital media technology from Pacific Union College (PUC), Angwin, California, in 2001.

In 2004, he graduated from Bond University, Australia, with a master’s degree in film and television production.

“During my years at PUC, I fell in love with California and I have always wanted to come back and live here,” says Mr. Cosma. “When a

job surfaced here at Loma Linda University, I seized the opportunity and decided to move from Norway to California.”

Mr. Cosma’s most recent work features the Sherpa people in Sogn, Norway. Along with another journalist, Mr. Cosma met with a group of workers from the Himalayas who come every year to work with stones in the area. The group is doing an impressive job restoring old stone buildings, stone fences, and roads with techniques that had been forgotten long ago in Norway.

The mini-documentary, featured in a regular show, “Sights from Norway,” was broadcast Thursday, January 7, 2010, and captured 431,000 viewers, almost 25 percent of the Norwegian market share.

“I am looking forward to showing others the important work that is being done by LLU and LLUMC through exciting and interesting documentary films,” says Mr. Cosma.



Cosmin Cosma, MA, shoots some video while on location in Stadt, Norway.

and DuWayne Carlson, MD, an orthopedic surgeon from Lincoln, will be traveling to Haiti, bringing additional supplies. Melanie speaks French fluently and will serve as a translator.

LLU’s response to the crisis in Haiti has not been alone. Whittemore Enterprises in Ontario, generously opened their offices on Saturday and put together three battery-driven Stryker reciprocal surgical saws, two amputation sets of instruments, and numerous hand saws plus some other necessary orthopedic instruments. These instruments were sterilized at Loma Linda University Medical Center and are being hand-carried to HAH.

In addition, a much-needed sterilizer has been crated and delivered to MedShare in San Leandro. This equipment, along with packed gloves, gauze, and other useable supplies, will be flown to Haiti by CURE and delivered to the hospital.

Many individuals, both alumni, faculty, and staff of Loma Linda University and its entities have inquired as to what skills are needed and how best to help. In addition, individuals from the community and from across the United States have contacted LLU. The Global Health Institute at LLU is collecting these names and organizing what skills would be best suited to assist at the hospital. Once the first team from LLU arrives in Haiti on January 19, and reports back, there will be a clear understanding of the specific

needs at HAH and how LLU might help.

Individuals who would like to donate to the relief effort of HAH are invited to visit the website at [www.llu.edu](http://www.llu.edu) or to contact the LLU office of philanthropy at 24519 Redlands Boulevard, Suite A, Loma Linda, CA 92354. The phone number is (909) 558-5010. Please make checks payable to: Loma Linda University—Haiti Earthquake.

### DONATE TO THE LLU HAITI RELIEF FUND

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