



Adventist News Network

Contact: John Banks
Tel: (301) 680-6307
Cell: (301) 346-1618
E-mail: BanksJ@gc.adventist.org

Contact: George Johnson Jr.
Tel: (301) 680-6057
Cell: (240) 338-2219
E-mail: george.johnson@nad.adventist.org

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St. Louis Adventist Church Meetings to Include Cultural Activities

Silver Spring, Maryland, United States – [Reger Smith/ANN Staff] The approximately 70,000 Seventh-day Adventist Church members due in St. Louis, Missouri, United States, to participate in the church's 58th General Conference Session, will not forget to include the local community. During the 10-day event, there will be several cultural programs available to the public at large, officials say. These include:

Kiener Plaza "GospelFest"

The Kiener Plaza amphitheater has been reserved July 5 to 9 for lunchtime concerts in the park, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. These musical events are presented free to the public and feature artists from the General Conference Session in the Edwin Jones Dome at America's Center. Each day will feature three to five artists, with a mix of styles and nationalities represented.

The Sonscreen Film Festival

An expanded version of the annual Sonscreen Film Festival produced by the Adventist Church in North America, this event will highlight the best of young Adventist filmmakers and also include other Christian filmmakers from the community and from the film industry. With an emphasis on Christian messages, this event will also provide an activity of interest to the film-going public in St. Louis as well as Adventist attendees. It will be held in the Roberts Orpheum Theatre located a block from America's Center on Wednesday and Thursday, July 6 and 7. The festival is being produced and directed by the North American church region.

Bible Festival

This event will have thousands of young people handwrite the Scriptures, but with a twist. This Bible rewrite will be a *paraphrase*, which will take place on the streets

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12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD
20904-6600 USA
Phone: +301 680 6300
Fax: +301 680 6312
www.adventist.org

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and squares of St. Louis involving thousands of Adventists from the church's convention as well as youth from area churches, synagogues and mosques and from no church at all. Each person will write a portion of Scripture, putting it in their own words. The resulting version will hardly be "authorized" but it will reflect a community's understanding and view of scripture at a certain place and time. The resulting "St. Louis Bible" will be presented to the city of St. Louis as a gift. This event is being planned and coordinated by the North American church's Youth Department, directed by James Black.

Classical Oratorio

A classical oratorio by Dr. Virginia Rittenhouse will be performed, under her production, on Friday afternoon (July 8) at 3 p.m. The performance, featuring full orchestra and a 50-voice choir, will be held in the Christ Church Cathedral, an Episcopal church about six blocks from the Convention Center at the corner of Locust and N. Tucker Street.

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