



Adventist Health's Mission is Multi-Faceted

Emily Young

An obvious part of Adventist Health's mission is patient care, but that's just the beginning. Each of organization's facilities also is committed to ministering to patients, families, staff and the surrounding community. This commitment is evident through a program that facilitates prayer for coworkers, a doctor who ministers to the homeless in his community and a course that teaches hospital staff to spiritually serve patients and their families.

Taking Prayer into the 21st Century

At Adventist Health's corporate office in Roseville, Calif., the New Year brought more than just resolutions. It also brought the beginning of a new program to more efficiently communicate prayer requests.

Stanley Snyder, web services team lead, helped start a program called Adventist Health e-Prayer Requests with mission leader Wayne Judd, web services programmer James Mason and communication specialist Shawna Malvini as a way to relate employee's needs to other employees. The requests are submitted through a new feature on Connect, the office's intranet site.

"I think it's been really neat," says Bonnie Webb, a professional assistant at the corporate office. "It shows that we care about each other."

Employees can submit their requests anonymously or write their name on them. However, Webb says most of the requests are submitted anonymously. Then an e-mail is sent out to a group of people who have chosen to be on the prayer list, the e-Prayer Band.

And the reach of the e-prayers goes past communication on computers. At the end of the week, the e-Prayer Band comes together to pray over the requests as a group.

Though technology sometimes keeps people physically apart, the corporate office now uses technology to

enhance employee interactions. The e-Prayer Requests program facilitates real prayer with real people in an innovative way.

Doctor Helps Hawaii's Homeless

Camping on a Hawaiian beach may seem like the perfect vacation, but for the homeless population of Hawaii, living on the beach is less than ideal. The state of Hawaii has the third largest homelessness rate in the United States, with more than 15,000 homeless people, according to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

The growing problem motivated Denis Mee-Lee, M.D., a doctor at Castle Medical Center, to do something. Each month, Mee-Lee spends the last Saturday feeding up to 200 homeless people in local parks.

"Feeding the homeless is a spiritual commitment I've held for the past 12 to 15 years," explains Mee-Lee. "We go to the park at the end of the month since most people have run out of food stamps by then."

When he is not helping the homeless, Mee-Lee is very busy at CMC. He chairs the department of psychiatry and directs the behavioral health unit, which he founded 32 years ago. He is also the president and principal investigator of the Hawaii Clinical Research Center, which he co-founded 20 years ago.

Mee-Lee also is involved with the community surrounding CMC. He teaches psychiatry as a clinical professor at the University of Hawaii and lectures about pharmaceutical and forensic psychiatry.

Despite all these responsibilities and more, Mee-Lee still makes time to participate in outreach with his church family at the Japanese Seventh-day Adventist Church in Manoa,



Dr. Denis Mee-Lee feeds the homeless the last Sabbath of each month, and, along with his wife, organizes his church's participation in an interfaith ministry called Family Promise.