

FEATURE
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PERSPECTIVE
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?

LET'S TALK
PATHWAYS

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NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION



THE

WORLD'S
GLEANER

APR.
2016
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Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

Isaiah 40:28

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION



FEATURE

8 The Digital Church

10 eAdventist

PERSPECTIVE

42 What Do You Expect?

44 He Saved Others ... And He Saved Me!

LET'S TALK

46 Pathways

CONFERENCE NEWS

12 Accion

13 Alaska

15 Idaho

16 Montana

17 Oregon

21 Upper Columbia

25 Washington

28 Walla Walla University

30 Adventist Health

5 INTERSECTIONS

6 PICTURE THIS

31 FAMILY

34 ANNOUNCEMENTS

35 ADVERTISEMENTS

STEVE VISTAUNET

gleaner

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Gleaner STAFF

Editor: Steve Vistaunet

Copy Editor: Laurel Rogers

Advertising and Project Manager:

Desiree Lockwood

Digital Media Coordinator:

Anthony White

Design: GUILDHOUSE Group

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LETTERS

Sheep, Goats and Perfection

In regards to [Martin Weber's Perspective, "Adventists: Sheep or Goats," February 2016], there is so much truth (salt-of-the-earth type stuff), but do I detect a bit of pepper? You said, "Thus any doctrine that does not support the spiritual discipline of community with Christ and one another is false teaching." (AMEN) "And any scenario of final events that enshrines personal perfectionism is spiritually bankrupt as well as useless in the public square." This last sentence seems to cast aspersions, but perhaps I just do not understand your intent. What do you mean by "personal perfectionism"? Does your theology of perfection have something different than what I have read today in *Maranatha* (Feb. 19)? I will provide it here ...

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." This is the work before you. ... You must experience a death to self, and must live unto God. "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." Self is not to be consulted. Pride, self-love, selfishness, avarice, covetousness, love of the world, hatred, suspicion, jealousy, evil surmisings, must all be subdued and sacrificed forever. When Christ shall appear, it will not be to correct these evils and then give a moral fitness for His coming. This preparation must all be made before He comes. It should be a subject of thought, of study, and earnest inquiry, What shall we do to be saved? What shall be our conduct that we may show ourselves approved of God? ... Only the faultless will be there. None will be translated to heaven while their hearts are filled with the rubbish of earth. Every defect in the moral character must first be remedied, every stain removed by the cleansing blood of Christ, and all the unlovely, unlovable traits of character overcome."

Carl Sullivan, online at GleanerNow.com

Mission to the Cities

Thank you for the timely and honest article [Let's Talk, "Missionary," February 2016]. On the Internet was a report that the most atheistic city in the U.S. is our own Portland, Ore. Seattle and San Francisco were tied for second. If this report is true, then our Northwest cities are more needy than New York or L.A., spiritually speaking. ... God doesn't ask us to save the cities but to warn the cities and invite them to the gospel feast. ... One of the greatest mission fields is at our doorstep, and we are still failing to see it as such.

Linda Kinne, Estacada, Ore.

GOT A
BIG IDEA?

PROJECT MATCHING GRANTS UP TO \$10,000 ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE DIGITAL MEDIA FUND. YOUR PROJECT IDEA MAY QUALIFY. DISCOVER THE DETAILS ONLINE AT NPUC.ORG/DIGITALMEDIAFUND.



DIGITAL MEDIA FUNDS NOW AVAILABLE

Projects don't all begin in conference committees. Members all across the Northwest have skills and ideas that can help advance the Great Commission to Northwest communities.

With this in mind, the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) is sponsoring a new resource for grassroots ideas. During 2016 the NPUC Digital Media Fund will provide a limited number of matching grants up to \$10,000 for selected projects that initiate creative ways to reach out via new media.

"Our church has been a pioneer in its use of traditional broadcast media," says Steve Vistaunet, NPUC communication director. "We hope this fund will encourage new pioneers in digital media outreach — especially from some of our young adults who can most effectively reach their peer groups."

Project ideas may involve unique websites, smartphone apps, podcasts, YouTube video series or other creative approaches.

Those with digital media ideas should visit the online project page at npuc.org/digitalmediafund for specific information on how to apply for a matching grant.

+ PICTURE THIS



Camp Umpqua gets a face-lift.

SEE PAGE

17



Ring of Fire is back in action.

SEE MORE AT
glnr.in/TVAbells



Friendship Tournament brings joy.

SEE PAGE

22



On the edge of their seats.

SEE PAGE

24



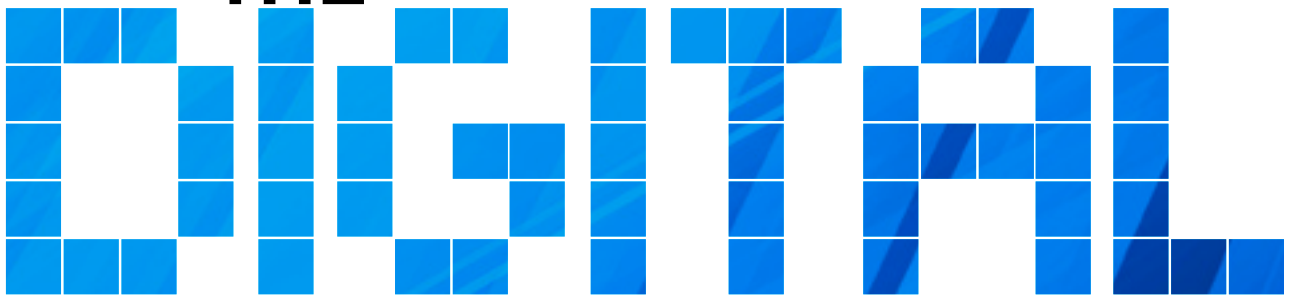
WWU elects a team of seniors.

SEE PAGE

29



THE



MUCH OF WHAT HAPPENS IN TODAY'S WORLD IS EMBEDDED IN THE DIGITAL DOMAIN. SHOPPING, BANKING AND EVEN RELATIONSHIPS ARE CARRIED ON THROUGH DIGITAL DEVICES SUCH AS SMARTPHONES AND TABLETS. OFTEN OUR CHURCHES, USED TO MORE TRADITIONAL METHODS, ARE SLOW TO ADOPT THE MOST CURRENT TECHNOLOGIES ON BEHALF OF THE GREAT COMMISSION. LOREN BORDEAUX, NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR, OFFERS ENCOURAGEMENT HERE TO NORTHWEST CHURCHES AND MEMBERS TO BECOME MORE INTENTIONAL ABOUT NEW METHODS.



HOW IMPORTANT IS DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY TO THE MISSION OF OUR CHURCH?

The future of our church rests on everyone: children, youth, collegians, laborers, professionals, seniors and the elderly. We cannot afford to leave any group out as all are important. However, each church must learn now how to communicate, engage and involve the younger generations. If we neglect this, we will not only fail in reaching younger demographics within our communities but also risk continuing to see two out three of our own youth walk away from the church because they feel disconnected.

Obviously technology cannot and should not replace personal time and relationships we build with each other, young and old. But ask 10 tweens and teens in your church what they use to communicate, and you'll quickly discover some new ways to connect, methods our traditional channels are missing. Do the same for other age groups too, and you'll get a quick reality check.



WHAT ARE THE BASICS THAT EVERY CHURCH SHOULD CONSIDER IN DIGITAL COMMUNICATION?

Each church should have an accurate and updated website or social media presence. That means helpful and current information, not content from months or years ago. Make no mistake. If your website is full of outdated information, it gives your members and any community member who is searching for you an undesirable message: "We are lazy, unprofessional and unconcerned about how we connect with our world." If information on these sites are not current, it's better to not have them, so be committed once you start. If you have a church website, it must be mobile-friendly.

If your church hasn't started a video ministry, it's time to begin. It costs less than you might think to live-stream your church services on the Internet. Video ministry is a great way to involve young people too, especially for those who don't relish being upfront. They can help with nearly any aspect of the ministry, from camera operator on up.

Having a website/social presence and video ministries are almost yesterday's news; if you don't have a vibrant, up-to-date online presence, it's beyond time to start.

WHAT ABOUT COPYRIGHT ISSUES FOR MUSIC/WORD/GRAPHIC PROJECTION IN THE SANCTUARY?

This is a very important issue, one that we should all take very seriously. We should never pontificate about obeying God's law while illegally using copyrighted material. If you don't know about CCLI (Christian Copyright Licensing International) get to know them well, pay for the type of licenses your church needs to cover your copyrighted material usage and follow their recommendations. Go to <http://us.ccli.com> to learn more.



BEYOND THE BASICS, WHAT IS ONE TREND WITH WHICH OUR CHURCHES SHOULD BE UP TO SPEED?

We need to leverage wireless devices such as smartphones, tablets and other highly portable devices. According to a recent PEW survey, more than 60 percent of the U.S. population has a smartphone. Among young adults, 85 percent own a smartphone, and they use those mobile devices many times a day. We need to think mobile first, even before paper, with any project, initiative or communication. We need to change how we do things.

Some of our churches are beginning to use smartphone technology to promote and track their evangelistic efforts. They are able to follow attendance and demographics to nearly any event or service in real time. Having real-time information that also allows for deeper post-analysis would revolutionize decision-making.

Here's something to consider: Can we take a page from big business and track our online visitors in ways that help direct them to a deeper study of the gospel? Could that also encourage them to connect further with Jesus and His followers? Why shouldn't we use every digital tool possible to pinpoint and answer the felt needs of those who are seeking for truth?

For a variety of things or services at a potential price discount for your church visit purchasing.adventist.org for more details.

WHAT ARE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS TO KEEP CHURCHES AND MEMBERS SAFE FROM ONLINE OR COMPUTER SECURITY PROBLEMS?

Without any special settings, your home computer is likely open to whatever the Internet offers — good and bad. I suggest setting your router/firewall to use OpenDNS. It helps filter adult content as well as other high-risk websites. You can learn more by visiting opendns.com/home-internet-security.

If your church provides Wi-Fi for staff and visitors, make sure you also provide appropriate Internet filtering. If you are unable to afford filtering, then you shouldn't be providing Internet service.



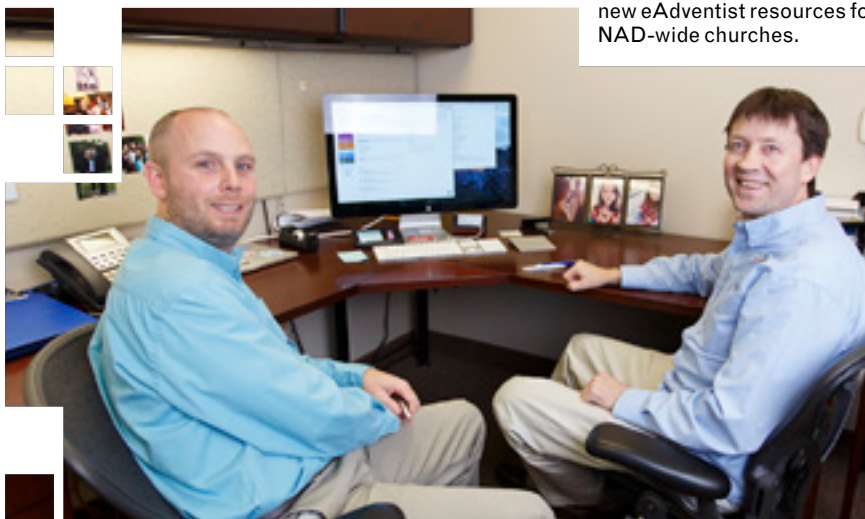
“ASK 10 TWEENS AND TEENS IN YOUR CHURCH WHAT THEY USE TO COMMUNICATE, AND YOU’LL QUICKLY DISCOVER SOME NEW WAYS TO CONNECT, METHODS OUR TRADITIONAL CHANNELS ARE MISSING.” LOREN BORDEAUX

eADVENTIST

A DIGITAL BLESSING TO THE CHURCH

BRIAN FORD AND ROB GARVIN SPEND MUCH OF AN AVERAGE DAY IN FRONT OF LUMINOUS COMPUTER SCREENS. TO THE CASUAL EYE, THEIR WORK MAY NOT LOOK REMARKABLE. BUT WHAT THEY HAVE ACCOMPLISHED DURING THE PAST DECADE HAS TOUCHED MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE NORTHWEST AND BEYOND — THE ENTIRE CONTINENT OF NORTH AMERICA. WHILE THEY SHARE AN UNASSUMING OFFICE AT THE NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE (NPUC) HEADQUARTERS IN RIDGEFIELD, WASHINGTON, THEIR SALARY COMES FROM THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION (NAD). THEIR EFFORTS HAVE HELPED CREATE EADVENTIST, OUR CURRENT STANDARD FOR DIGITAL ONLINE MEMBERSHIP RECORDS.

(From left) Rob Garvin and Brian Ford are developing new eAdventist resources for NAD-wide churches.



WHO'S ONLINE?

PERCENT OF CHURCHES THROUGHOUT THE NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE AND EACH LOCAL CONFERENCE WHO ARE ACTIVELY USING EADVENTIST FOR MEMBERSHIP RECORD KEEPING.

NPUC	—	61
AK	—	20
ID	—	69
MT	—	35
OR	—	79
UC	—	50
WA	—	72



It is out-of-sight, out-of-mind for most members, yet eAdventist is available to help your local church and conference manage your membership status, keep contact information updated and make sure you receive information such as the *Gleaner* regularly. When used properly, it saves a great deal of time for church clerks and conference personnel. Not every church is actively using the system, but more are coming online every month.

When was the last time you picked up a dictionary or encyclopedia? Online digital information is so common today it is difficult to remember when most records were kept on reams of paper in file cabinets or volumes on a shelf. Many individuals do their shopping and banking online. Even church tithes are easily paid via electronic applications such as Adventist Giving.



A BIT OF HISTORY

Little more than a decade ago, that was not the case. Church membership records were largely paper files, carefully protected by long-sacred protocols.

Even when that information began to be transferred and stored to computer hard drives, the information was only available to people in that specific location. Local conference records were updated whenever reports were received — and often the data was significantly outdated or incomplete.

When Brian and Rob first came to the NPUC in 1999, the current NPUC computer-based

system was in trouble. With the Y2K issue looming, the system would have needed extensive and expensive renovation. While a temporary “work-around” solved the initial crisis, Brian and Rob immediately began working on a Web-based solution. What they designed would enable the system to allow smooth access to record sharing and updating.

In the spring of 2002, they proposed the initial version to the NAD, with a request to pilot the program within the six NPUC local conferences for the remainder of the year to work out the user interface and any lingering bugs. When that initial

time meeting with local conference executive committees to help them understand the positive elements to the new online data resource. When the final conference accepted the program in 2008, eAdventist became the first NAD-wide software adoption.

Nancy Lamoreaux, NAD IT director, assembled a virtual team to work on further developments and problem solving. Sherri Ingram-Hudgins, now global membership director for the world church, focused on customer service. The NAD began reimbursing the NPUC for Brian and Rob’s payroll and then took them on as full-time employees in 2009.

A RANGE OF RESOURCES

While eAdventist was initially the domain of conferences and church clerks, recent efforts have expanded it to include tools for pastors and members. This provides additional continuity of information when pastors move. When Pastor A transfers to a different church, any data he or she has imported to eAdventist doesn’t leave. It remains available online to the next pastor. Church and conference record management is simplified, providing easy management of union magazine subscriptions and email list management for e-newsletters. Every feature now and in the future is being added at no cost to local churches or members.

Brian and Rob are currently working to integrate more hands-on management tools for pastors and members. Those will include member login options to allow each

person to submit corrections as needed. Local church directories will be accessible to each member via continually updated online resources and mobile apps. They also hope to finalize resources to allow a pastor to track meeting interests — such as someone who attends a CHIP (Complete Health Improvement Program) or Vacation Bible School meeting — and assign a mentor for each.

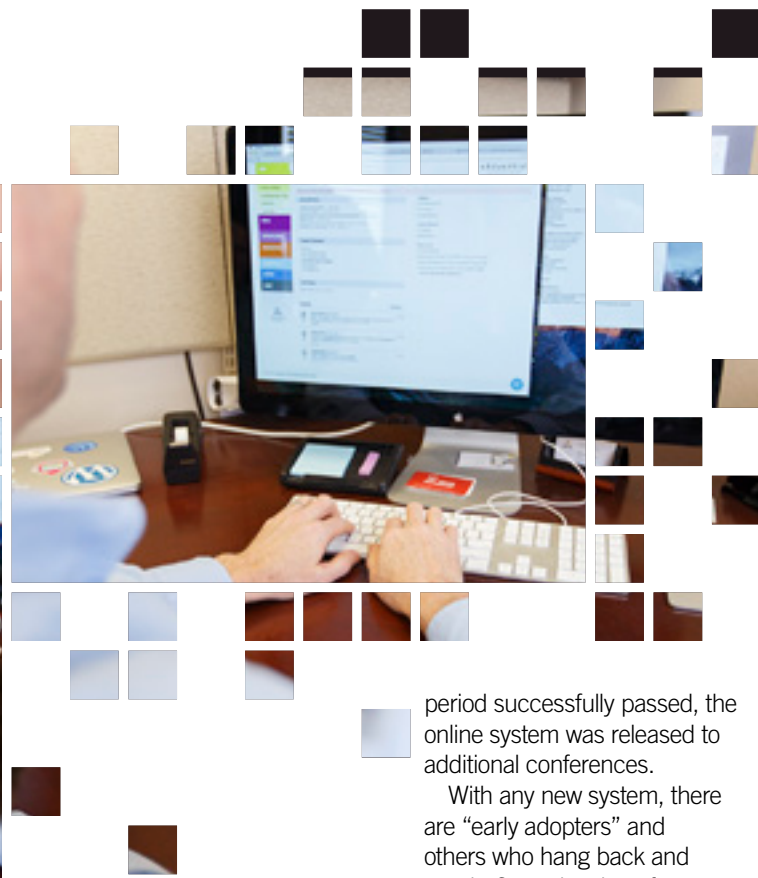
A note here on access to member information. Pastors and clerks are assigned an account by the local conference. They can see only the information directly related to their church. Personnel at the conference are tasked with monitoring changes and working with those churches not using the online service. The online records are carefully protected with encrypted security measures. In the future, pastors and members can expect expanded mobile accessibility and features.

Brian and Rob hope more Northwest churches will recognize the benefits of this online program. It’s available to all, but currently only 61 percent of NPUC-area churches are actively using eAdventist. (See the blue box on page 10). For various reasons, some Northwest churches have not yet taken advantage of this online resource.

It’s not necessarily an age-related challenge. Rob’s grandmother in Zillah, Washington, was one of the first church clerks to use the online system. At 70-plus years of age, she was still excited to learn something new.

period successfully passed, the online system was released to additional conferences.

With any new system, there are “early adopters” and others who hang back and watch. Some local conferences jumped right in, excited about the online service, while others waited to see if it would catch on. Beginning in 2003, Brian and Rob spent a great deal of



Read more online at
glnr.in/111-04-accion



DOS EN UNA: PASTORA Y PASTOR



Oración de dedicación al ministerio en la Iglesia Hispana de Vancouver.

Recientemente, la Conferencia de Oregon hizo un llamado al ministerio pastoral a un nuevo elemento, pero, en esta ocasión no se trata solamente de un nuevo pastor asignado a un distrito. Se trata del primer llamado a una mujer hispana al ministerio en la Conferencia de Oregon.

Su nombre: Belinda Rodríguez Castrejón. Pero,



Pastores Al Reimche, David Paczka, Samuel Castro y Belinda Rodríguez.

¿quién es ella? Conozcámosla un poco más a fondo.

Tengo entendido que creciste en una familia de misioneros, por favor cuéntanos de tu familia.

Así es ... Vengo de un hogar cristiano, de 4ta generación Adventista, mi padre, el Dr. Benjamín Rodríguez, es un hombre que entregó su vida al ministerio de salud. Nací y crecí en el campo misionero.

¿Dónde naciste?, ¿En qué lugares viviste?

Nací en Nicaragua, donde mi padre trabajó como

misionero. Se desempeñó como director o médico cirujano de varios hospitales Adventistas en México, Centroamérica y en Zambia, África.

¿Cuándo decidiste qué carrera ibas a estudiar?

Cuando estaba en África y ver la manera como Dios nos guió y protegió en condiciones extremas, ver la necesidad y condiciones de vida, eso impresionó tanto mi mente que comenzó el deseo de prepararme para servir a Dios. El campo misionero cambio mi vida.

¿Por qué estudiar teología si tradicionalmente es una carrera para hombres?

Provengo de una familia donde ambos abuelos fueron pioneros de la obra Adventista en México. Su ejemplo y celo por las cosas de Dios impactaron mi corazón. Seguí el llamado de trabajar para Dios, directa o indirectamente. Y más allá de soñar con ser empleada, yo sabía que no existían oportunidades de trabajo para pastoras en Interamerica, pero, si al estudiar lograba que pudiera salvarse mi familia para mí eso era suficiente.

¿Tuviste algún desafío con tu familia, amigos, compañeros o maestros por ser una mujer estudiando teología?

El desafío, mantener firme

la idea de porqué estaba ahí. Si no lo tienes claro, el programa para pastores te va aislando y se hace difícil. Mi familia siempre me apoyó. ¿Compañeros?, algunos no estaban de acuerdo y lo externaban.

¿Los profesores? ... cada año hay mujeres, pero en los años que estudié hasta hoy, no hay un programa definido para nosotras en las clases prácticas.

¿Qué pensabas del futuro que vendría después de terminar la escuela?

Terminé la carrera sabiendo que no habría oportunidades para mí. Pensé que mí llamado sería trabajar indirectamente. Me casé con un pastor, Samuel Castro, a su lado durante 19 años, hemos construido un ministerio sólido y he sido muy feliz, haciendo lo que pueda para apoyar a la iglesia.

En tu opinión ¿cuál es la diferencia entre ser la esposa de un pastor y ser llamada al ministerio?



Oficiales de la NPUC quienes acompañaron en la oración de dedicación en la Iglesia Hispana de Woodland.

Sinceramente ... Estoy en el proceso de descubrirlo, ser esposa de pastor es un llamado a afrontar circunstancias, dando apoyo al esposo. El llamado al ministerio es un compromiso directo a la iglesia, sus miembros y su misión.

¿Cómo fue tu llamado al ministerio pastoral?

Desde que recibí la invitación fue un proceso claro y transparente donde la conferencia, juntas y comités, que lo aprobaron me dieron la seguridad de que no fue el capricho de alguien, sino que fue directamente de Dios. Me siento honrada y deseosa de contribuir como mujer en el ministerio. Siento el respaldo de una conferencia, el respeto de los hermanos y la responsabilidad de pastorear como profesión y vocación. Habrá muchas inquietudes y preguntas ... pero ahora nos daremos la oportunidad de descubrir que puede hacer en la práctica una mujer en el ministerio pastoral.

David Paczka, Conferencia de Oregon Director ministerio Hispano

ROUND TABLE EVANGELISM

The evangelism coordinator of the Alaska Conference has taken a serious look at an 1886 appeal by Ellen G. White: “Ministers should not do the work which belongs to the church, thus wearying themselves, and preventing others from performing their duty. They should teach the members how to labor in the church and in the community.”

Innovative evangelism is presented all through the New Testament. Paul used different techniques to reach people for the gospel of Jesus Christ. In Athens, he used philosophy. It was innovative, but it did not yield a harvest. Matching intellect with intellect did not compel them to follow Jesus. When Paul began forming relationships and preaching Christ crucified, he was able to establish many churches.

Public evangelism has been successful since the days of Paul and will be until the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The challenge that churches face is the retention rate — keeping those who have been convicted and baptized into the Adventist Church.

Many times, unless a new member makes friends in the local church, he will not stay no matter how much truth he has learned. Unless discipleship becomes a priority, retention rates will remain low.

Roundtable evangelism may be the answer to this problem. This format is not new to the business and professional world. Men and women have paid thousands of dollars in training programs using this format. Converting it to teaching about Jesus and a study of the Great Controversy between Christ and Satan has proven to be successful.

The Alaska Conference executive secretary was asked to hold a series of evangelistic meetings at the

Palmer Church using the roundtable format. Here’s how it went after a year in preparation:

When all the preparatory work was done and the doors were

open for the first meeting, the guests were seated at round tables staffed with a table leader, an assistant and a table coordinator. This way, friendships were established early in the meeting and more church members were involved with discipleship. This created better grounding and retention of new members.

The material they studied as a group was the *It Is Written* Bible study guides, which allowed the speaker to focus on a few texts rather than many texts. The truth, mixed with love, friendship and fellowship, lets everyone experience community.

From the moment guests walked into the hall, there was food served with hot drinks, which they took back to their tables. The table leaders introduced how everything was going to work and took down their contact information.

The pastor began with announcements and introduced the topic of the night. Once that was out of the way, he gave the tables 15 minutes to work on a study guide that is related to the presentation. The evangelist then spoke for 25 minutes and gave the tables another 15 minutes to finish up their study guides. What was not finished was sent home with them to finish on their own time.

This method helps the leaders and church members to become friends with new people. When a visitor did not show up, the table leader went to his or her home, gave the lessons missed and invited the person back to the meetings. People came back because of members reaching out to them.

What made the meetings successful was more than those who requested baptism and profession of faith. It was watching church members excited about winning souls and being involved in outreach. Some members even said they needed these meetings for themselves. The morale was high, and the Palmer Church family will be working with interests generated from the meetings for a while.

Quentin Purvis, Alaska Conference vice president secretariat

Palmer Church members attend roundtable evangelism meetings.



DILLINGHAM PROGRAMS UNITE MEMBERS, COMMUNITY

In recent months, the Dillingham Adventist School's 28 energetic students, only four of whom are Adventists, along with teachers and volunteers, have been very busy. In the spirit of Thanksgiving and Christmas, two special programs were presented in Dillingham Church, to which the community was invited.

The attendance was amazing. Both programs far exceeded everyone's expectations with more than 140 non-Adventists attending both programs.

The Thanksgiving program, themed "Giving Thanks," included songs and readings presented by the students. Mae Syvrud, Dillingham Church member, shared what giving thanks is all about from a Native Alaskan perspective. The natural resources of fish, moose and berries are just a few of the

bountiful harvests upon which Alaskans depend for their sustenance and for which they are grateful.

The Christmas program was also a blessing, with special numbers by students and church members alike. "A Savior is born!" was proclaimed, and people's faces lit up with joy in seeing their children's participation.

Each program was followed with refreshments and mingling to get to know the community members.

Church members were soon seeing some of the same faces at their evangelistic series beginning in February. This church and school community asks for prayers as they meet and connect with people who need to know Jesus.

Charleen Williams, Dillingham Church communication leader



Dillingham students participate in the Thanksgiving program.

DEDICATED MISSIONARY RETURNS TO LAST FRONTIER

The village of Savoonga has a population of about 800 Native Alaskans. The small community lies close to the Arctic Circle at the northeast tip of St. Lawrence island, just off the coast of Siberia.

After more than 20 years with little or no missionary presence in this village, Bill and Eloise Hawkes from North Carolina consented in 2008 to be volunteer missionaries there. Both were recently retired nurses who chose to leave their home church, family and children to live in the Arctic and minister to this village of Siberian Eskimos. Their dedication and presence has been a blessing to the church.

This year, the pair brought the community together during the holidays with a Christmas program featuring the local children. The program was a huge hit in the village; the church was packed with people waiting to get in. Savoonga's 25 members were excited to see such support for the church.

After Christmas, the couple returned to North Carolina, where Bill had a



Bill and Eloise Hawkes receive a certificate of appreciation for their missionary work in Alaska.

surgical procedure. He was recuperating nicely when he suddenly died. His passing left Eloise without her life companion but still committed to minister to the people in Savoonga.

This month she returns to take up residence in her little parsonage in Savoonga and meet the needs of the folks there. That's called missionary dedication.

Ken Crawford, Alaska Conference president

AGAPE COMMUNION OPENS THE NEW YEAR IN NAMPA

Nampa Church welcomed 2016 with approximately 90 church members welcoming in the new year by giving thanks for the blessings of the past year and asking for God's continued mercy — come what may.

Church members filled the fellowship hall on Friday evening, Jan. 1, and, with warm coats hung over chair backs, everyone sat down to enjoy food and fellowship by candlelight for the first time in this new year. They were treated to eight different kinds of homemade soups, several varieties of breads, and basketfuls of delicious purple, red and green seedless grapes. Spiritual goals for the new year were a hot topic of discussion, as well as praises for prayers answered during the past year.

After supper was cleared away by those in charge of the meal, the ordinance of humility was celebrated to honor our Lord's example and to renew warm friendships and family ties. All participants joined in a solemn season of prayer, asking



Noah Shipp, one of the church's children, looks at the Bible cake.

God's blessings and strength for the Nampa Church family as a whole, the various ministries involved in both outreach to the community and those ministries that benefit our members.

The highlight of the evening was the candlelight communion service led by Chris Evenson, Nampa Church pastor, assisted by the elders. A beautiful silence ensued, and everyone seemed to sense a divine presence as the emblems were served and eaten.

At the conclusion of the service, the hymn "Gleams of the Golden Morning" was sung, after which all were dismissed with an unspoken resolution to serve God more faithfully.

Tim Larson, Nampa Church member



Pastor Chris Evenson and his son, Jakob, share in foot washing.



Some of the children received these adorable bears that say, "Give me a hug."

NAMPA HELPS BRING JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy was the feeling that spread throughout the entire room at the Nampa Church Community Services' second annual Christmas Gift Giving event on Dec. 6, 2015. The parents of the recipient children were thrilled with the huge selection of gifts, according to age and gender, of toys, clothes, toiletries, gift cards, blankets, pillows and so much more. There were also



One of the parents surveys the spread of chocolate.

laughter, were amazed and surprised at the abundance of gifts donated with unselfish love.

The doors opened at 9 a.m. to welcome the expectant parents. With Christmas music in the background and volunteers to help each person, everyone was able to pick out their gifts with comfort and ease.

More than 60 families were served. Nampa members thank God for His continuing "favor" to this ministry and for the continued support of their church family.

Joann Burnsed, Nampa Church Community Services director



Joann Burnsed holds one of the quilts given to families.

candy canes and chocolate for the whole family.

Each family also received a new blanket or afghan donated by the Nampa Church family. Volunteers set up for the event the night before and, amid much gaiety and

BELGRADE SHARES CREATION HEALTH WITH LOCAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Chris Barr was holding a seminar for the Belgrade Church in the Lutheran church the Adventists rent. The Lutheran pastor came in one evening while Barr was setting up for the CREATION (Choice, Rest, Environment, Activity, Trust, Interpersonal Relationships, Outlook and Nutrition) Health Seminar. The other pastor started asking questions about what Barr was presenting, and Barr explained to him about the seminars.

The CREATION Health program finds its genesis in the Bible's creation story. Its eight simple strategies for enjoying and sustaining optimum health for the whole person are based on God's original plan for man. Who can improve on that?

Barr offered to have a similar seminar for the Lutheran congregation. After working out the details, the two pastors spent the next hour talking about history, the post-Reformation revival, the Constitution, religious liberty and more.

Barr met with the Lutheran congregation on a Sunday morning during their church service and explained to them what CREATION Health was all about. They got the ball rolling, and now 30–35

people meet every Tuesday evening at 6:30. The program lasts for eight weeks, includes a multimedia presentation with a high-quality DVD lasting 14–18 minutes, and uses a PowerPoint presentation.

The meetings also feature self-assessment exercises, a quiz and prizes. The evening rounds out with a Q-and-A on any health topic attendees wish to ask about.

This seminar provides a unique bridge between the church family and the local community. After all, Jesus spent the greater part of His



Chris Barr leads a CREATION Health seminar for the local Lutheran church.

ministry healing people physically, emotionally and spiritually, and He tells us to go and do likewise. This is a great opportunity to learn how we

might imitate His ministry in this area.

Phil Hudema, Montana Conference health director

 An advertisement for the Montana Conference Camp Meeting. The background is a scenic view of a camp with several buildings, trees, and a lake. The text is overlaid on the image.

The Time Is Now
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MILO'S CAMP UMPQUA EXPANDS

Milo Adventist Academy's Camp Umpqua in Days Creek is expanding. Six new cabins have been framed in, and plans are in progress to complete the project in 2016 so that the camp will be available for church retreats and Pathfinder camporees.



Falling trees during a winter storm that blew through in December damaged the roof of Camp Umpqua's lodge.

Camp Umpqua was used as the Oregon Conference youth camp from 1955 to 1961, until Big Lake Youth Camp opened in central Oregon. About 400 young people participated each summer at a cost of \$20 per camper, which included round-trip transportation on Greyhound buses (per *Gleaner* articles archived at adventistarchives.org).

Over the next few years, Camp Umpqua fell into disrepair through lack of use. Milo Adventist Academy alumnus Dan Wilbanks (1973), now Roseburg Junior Academy

principal, was the taskforce assistant boys' dean at Milo during the 1975–1976 school year when he first had a vision for what Camp Umpqua could be.

As the Pathfinder director that year, he coordinated a project to clean up the camp and raise money for repairs. The lodge received a new roof, and two new wood stoves were installed.

In the 1990s, the Oregon Conference turned the Camp Umpqua property over to Milo Adventist Academy, but the academy had its own financial needs and wasn't able to keep it up.

Volunteers gutted and rebuilt the boys' bathroom around 2000 and the girls' bathroom followed. Camp Umpqua caretaker Richard Pearson has been chipping away at improvement projects since 2005, including building an outdoor stage and amphitheater. In the spring of 2015, Mike Brown, father of current Milo senior Hope Brown, strengthened and stabilized the supports and leveled out the lodge.

Camp Umpqua made history last summer by hosting Maranatha Volunteers International's first ever Ultimate Workout in the U.S. Almost 100 teens gave of their time to make improvements to the camp as well as to adjacent Milo Academy.

A winter storm in De-

cember 2015 brought heavy snow and damaged the roof of the Camp Umpqua lodge. Milo is raising funds to provide the repairs and renovations, especially to include a functioning kitchen.

A group of students and teachers cleaned up debris from the recent storm for Milo's annual Campus Day. They hauled away loads of fallen branches so the outdoor amphitheater is again usable and also cleaned the interior of the lodge.

Milo Academy principal Randy Thornton envisions Camp Umpqua as a place where churches can come for retreats, where Pathfinders have the opportunity to camp, where Milo students continue to have special vespers and church services, and where everyone can enjoy the great outdoors.



Maranatha volunteers raise the first wall of a new cabin at Camp Umpqua.

More ministry partners are needed. To learn more about how you can help with the restoration of Camp Umpqua, visit miloacademy.net/donate or email jan.thornton@miloacademy.org.

Kathy Hernandez, Milo Adventist Academy teacher and recruiter

More online at glnr.in/111-04-or_milo



A new single cabin and a duplex in the boys' village still need some finishing touches to be ready for use.

YOUNG PEOPLE MAKE COMMITMENT FOR CHRIST

Read more online at glnr.in/111-04-or_commitment

The Grants Pass Church was blessed with the baptisms of three young people on two high Sabbaths.

Seth Ermshar, 12-year-old son of Philip and Cheri Ermshar, was baptized on Jan. 30. He is a student at the local Adventist school, where his father is principal.

Christian Martin, Grants Pass Church pastor, reminded Seth that he was being baptized into a larger extended family, an Adventist family that would love and pray for him always. Cheri sang “Baptized in His Name” as a tribute. Pictures from Seth’s life were projected for all to celebrate his birth and rebirth. Seth will no doubt be an inspiration for his classmates who are considering the decision for Christ.

A week later, Micah Cothran, 17, and his sister, Eve, 14, were ready to die to self and begin their new life with

Christ. Two years ago, the siblings both hungered for truth and wanted to learn more. They began Bible studies and soon made the decision for baptism.

“They have gentle, teachable spirits,” says Chuck Austin, Grants Pass Church Bible worker. “They show sincere interest and even ask questions on various subjects at times. They are growing in their understanding of God’s Word.” Both are students of North Valley High School, where they now look for opportunities to share Christ.

Their parents, Nick and Angela Zook, were baptized last year. It’s truly exciting to see an entire family ready for Christ’s return.

Jennifer Burkes and Brian Rice, Grants Pass Church communication team



Family members and Christian Martin (center), Grants Pass Church pastor, celebrate young people recently baptized, including (from left, each holding a book) Micah and Eve Cothran and Seth Ermshar.



Kris Warmkessel, Shamar Sanker and Michael Mancía write out their names in Braille patterns.

More online at glnr.in/111-04-or_valleyview

WORKSHOP HELPS PATHFINDERS EXPERIENCE DISABILITIES

When the Valley View Pathfinders of Medford, Ore., walked into their fellowship hall on the evening of Feb. 24, they weren’t sure what to think about the unusual setup of displays circling the room.

Brent and Rachel Olstad of southern Oregon’s Joni and Friends were invited to bring a 13-station interactive workshop, “Come Feel What I Feel,” to share with the club some ideas of what it might be like to live with a disability.

Each station had an activity designed to give insight into a different disability. Activities included having Pathfinders hold a pencil in their mouths to write their name (paralysis), pouring themselves a glass of water while blindfolded (visual impairment), practicing their name in sign language (hearing impairment) and tying shoelaces while wearing bulky gloves (motor impairment).

“It was really cool to understand how people with disabilities deal with things,” says 13-year-old Shamar Sanker.

An object lesson introduced the idea of value. A brand-new dollar bill, a



Tarik Sanker attempts to write his name using only his teeth to hold the pencil.

wrinkled and taped-up dollar bill, and various coins adding up to a dollar illustrated that, no matter what we look like on the outside, we all have the same value in God’s eyes. “I thought it was a great experience,” says Laurissa Mancía, 11. “They demonstrated that people with disabilities are not different than anyone else, and that we are all the same.”

This workshop is just one way to help youth have compassion as Jesus did. “I learned how I can maybe be more understanding and helpful,” says 12-year-old Tarik Sanker.

Kimberly Little, Valley View Church Pathfinder Club secretary

REDMOND CHURCH SERVES THE COMMUNITY

+ More photos online at glnr.in/111-04-or_redmond

The community service program at the Redmond Church was established in approximately 1985. The program served 2,382 families in 2015 and gave out more than \$4,000 of food. Volunteers also gave out more than 5,300 pieces of clothing.

The current services are directed from a facility located at Ninth and Glacier on the grounds of the Redmond Church. Its hours of operation are Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The primary mission of the facility is to offer assistance with food, clothing and household items.

John Kelly took over as director in 2008, with Jeanne Brower as assistant director. Brower has been a part of the community center since 1987.

The regular volunteer staff workers are Claudia Cordis, Ivarine Craig, Ruth Greenway, Esther Grimsley, Verda Harding, Joan Peterson, Lupe Perry, Earl Ropp and Arland Sanborn.

Sanborn and Kelly help with transportation and supply procurement. They obtain food supplies on Monday, before the center opens on Tuesday, plus bread is picked up early Tuesday morning.

The majority of these people have been active in the center for the past eight years. Procurement and distribution of food, clothing and household items occupy the major portion of the time the facility is open.

Applicants seek help by completing a form with family

information, what food they need and other needs. Each Tuesday morning before the program opens, the workers have morning prayer and a devotional. Perry provides bilingual support to help families fill out the proper paperwork. Perry, 91, has been working at the center since 1996.

The food is boxed for each family, and then the family picks up the food at a drive-up window. Verda Harding and Ester Grimsley run a clothing and household items area, free to those who need these items. The program is blessed to have many volunteers, even more than needed, to help.



The community service program has more help than it even needs.

Kelly was asked at a meeting, “How do we get so much help?”

“You make it fun,” he answered.

The Lord has blessed the community center with plenty of helpers, food and the opportunity to help others in the community.

Lorene Ferguson, Redmond Church communication leader

COASTAL STUDENTS HEAD INLAND FOR SNOW CAMP

+ More photos online at glnr.in/111-04-or_snow

In January, Lincoln City Adventist School students in grades seven through 12 enjoyed two days of fun in the snow while studying high-mountain science topics ranging from glaciers to varying precipitation amounts within a given snowpack. Snow Camp took place at Big Lake Youth Camp in central

Oregon, under the direction of Arthur Ordelleide, who specializes in outdoor education. The students enjoyed themselves immensely, and all felt like they came away with increased awareness of practical science principles.

Ruthie Gage, Lincoln City Adventist School teacher



TUALATIN VALLEY ACADEMY EXPANDS TO NINTH GRADE

More online at
glnr.in/111-04-or_TVA



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hen David faced Goliath, he faced him with complete

trust that God would take care of the details. Tualatin Valley Academy (TVA) in Hillsboro is doing the same thing.

TVA will be opening a ninth-grade class this fall, with the intention of adding 10th grade in the 2017–2018 school year.

The school has already been growing. Current enrollment is 205, and a second kindergarten class was opened this year. TVA anticipates continued growth next year, and the new ninth-grade curriculum aims to meet part of that need.



Tualatin Valley Academy high school students will have opportunities to participate in stellar programs, including a hands-on science program.

school or attending a public or private high school close to home. Last year, nine of the 13 eighth-graders who graduated chose either a public school or a non-Adventist private school on the west side of Portland.

So, why not have an Adventist high school option on the west side, especially if it keeps kids in Christian education

who would otherwise leave it? TVA is preparing to offer a robust high school curriculum with small classes and a focus on science and technology.

Generous donors have made scholarship funds avail-

able to incoming ninth-graders via the Every Child Deserves to Know Christ scholarship, from which 20 TVA students are currently benefiting.

The high school program will have strong emphasis on technology, science, media studies and music. Students will have the opportunity to participate in stellar programs such as videography, video productions, communications technology and hands-on science classes, plus challenging music programs including choir, handbells and band.

Small classes allow students flexibility to participate in many extracurricular trips such as a marine biology trip, trips to Washington, D.C., or the Amazon, and trips for on-location filming. Because of the proximity to students' homes, parents will have the

opportunity to be involved.

Outreach is also important to TVA. Hillsboro, where the school is located, is expected to grow explosively over the next several years. Nike and Intel are nearby, which provides opportunity to reach out to those families and offer them all the benefits of a small, Christian private school. It gives TVA the opportunity to reach beyond the borders of churches and to get into the community, like Jesus asked His followers to do.

David trusted that, if this was what God wanted him to do, God would hold up His end of the bargain. TVA has that same trust. With God leading TVA toward growing a high school program, everyone involved is excited to see what miracles He has in store.

For more information, contact TVA at 503-649-5518 or online at tvaschool.org.

Rachel Blackburn, Tualatin Valley Academy Gleaner correspondent



For many years TVA has served both community and Adventist students. After they complete the eighth grade, students and their parents must choose between commuting to an Adventist high



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES CHANGE LIVES

Won't you join us Monday morning for Women's Bible Study Group?" My fourth invitation. What excuse could I use this time? Didn't she know I am a busy mom?

One to please, I make my way Monday morning with daughter in stroller to a neighboring home to read, study and pray with a small group of women. Little did I realize that sunny walk began the journey of more than 30 years of weekly spiritual inspiration with women, young and old, in varying places. Hours in the Word and time on our knees together resulted in plans made, needs met, friendships bonded, dreams of ways to serve and share the gospel, and God's blessing felt.

Women cooking together, sorting clothes, making crafts, giving massages, preaching in Costa Rica, parading colorful hats, hugging a child, piecing quilts, sharing books, making beautiful music, intently listening, baking bread, hiking a mountain trail, encouraging the downtrodden, comforting the abused, tutoring a child, planting a garden — these photos and many more could be placed in an album titled "Women's Ministries." These

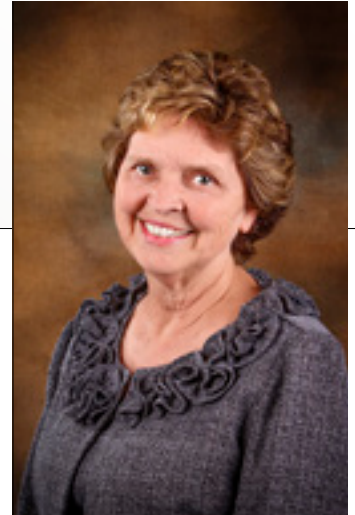
moments in time represent *lives changed* as women interact with one another.

Something happens as Spirit-filled women interact with other women. Synergy, "the total effect is greater than the sum of the individual elements," describes well the essence of women's ministries. I watch amazed as women inspiring other women powerfully impact our homes, churches, schools and communities.

Could this be a reflection of a Sunday morning, close to 2,000 years ago, with two

Marys ministering together?¹ A dread courses through their veins as they make their way to the tomb. Last to linger at Calvary, but with love in their hearts, these women press on to serve their Jesus one last time. An earthquake, a stone rolling back, an angel invitation to "come and see!" An empty tomb. Afraid yet filled with joy, they run to tell — on their way they meet Jesus ... falling at His feet. Once again, they must run and tell!

1. Matt. 28:1-10 (NIV)



Patty Marsh, Upper Columbia Conference women's ministries director.

Patty Marsh, Upper Columbia Conference children's ministries, community services and women's ministries director

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
Psalm 139:14 (NIV)

Sabbath, May 7, 2016 • 10 AM to 4 PM
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More online at
glnr.in/111-04-uc_friendship

TOURNAMENT PROVIDES REUNION OPPORTUNITIES

For students at Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) in Spangle, Wash., attending the Friendship Tournament at Walla Walla University (WWU) in College Place, Wash., is just as much about the friendship as it is the tournament. Huge smiles and hugs start each game as former staff and students arrive to watch.

This year, to help WWU round out the tournament, UCA's womens' and mens' junior varsity teams joined the traditional varsity teams to participate in the three-day event.

Before they left, the women's varsity basketball team told John Winslow, UCA principal, they were hoping to receive the Sportsmanship

Award again this year. The look on their faces when it was announced they had received the award was priceless.

"Basketball is so much more than just playing ball," says Joe Hess, vice principal for student life and men's head dean. "They have the opportunity to work as a team, to depend on each other and — win or lose — to know they gave it their best."

That pride is what brings many former staff and students to the games to encourage their UCA family. "It's fun to see the students really enjoying their time together no matter the score," Hess explains.

With the games complete, students headed back to start their student week of prayer.

That same encouragement and support transferred from the basketball court to the sanctuary as their classmates share what the Lord has inspired in them. Some nervously presented for the first time, but they were okay because their UCA family was

there to support them just as they did at the tournament.

*Tamara Michalenko Terry,
Upper Columbia Academy
communication coordinator*

By the look on their faces you might think they won the Friendship Tournament, but those smiles by UCA's womens' varsity basketball team are for winning the tournament's Sportsmanship Award for the second year in a row. It was a goal they set for themselves before the tournament even began.



Pastor Eric Chavez joins the youth on the slopes.

More photos online at
glnr.in/111-04-uc_youth

UCC YOUTH ENCOURAGED TO SKI UPHILL

What do you get when you mix teenagers, water, cold and the Holy Spirit and stir until combined? One group of energetic teens tried it this February and discovered the Upper Columbia Conference SkiFest, based at Camp MiVoden in Hayden, Idaho, Feb. 13–15.

SkiFest is the Upper Columbia Conference youth department's winter youth retreat that takes place over the Presidents Day holiday weekend. The annual event is designed not only to draw skiers to Schweitzer Mountain for a long weekend of snow skiing and snowboarding but to provide spiritual renewal at Camp MiVoden.

This year, the event focused on "Skiing Up Hill." SkiFest participants spent Sabbath at Camp MiVoden singing, fellowshiping and listening to Eric Chavez, Republic Church pastor, share the concept of going against the norm. Chavez encouraged teens to live radical lives for



Worshipping together in music played a key role in this year's SkiFest at Camp MiVoden.

God, different from their peers. Sunday and Monday, the youth hit the mountain for some downhill bonding on the slopes. Chavez took to the slopes along with the kids.

Wendy Eberhardt, Upper Columbia Conference youth director, shared something unique about this year's SkiFest. The youth group from the Republic (Wash.) Church brought 16 non-Adventist young people with them. "We enjoyed a weekend of fellowship and sharing with them," says Eberhardt.

*Jay Wintermeyer, Upper
Columbia Conference assistant to
the president for communication*

BELOVED PRINCIPAL RETIRES FROM ROGERS

Clare Thompson has been an educator for most of her life, with the vast majority of it spent at Rogers Adventist School in College Place, Wash. At the end of this year, she will be stepping away from a career that has been full of rewards and surprises.

Thompson began her teaching career by holding school for her dolls. Deep down she knew she would be a teacher when she grew up.

After a side trip into nursing and being a stay-at-home mom for a while, Thompson was begged by a friend to become the lead teacher of the Walla Walla College Child Development Center. Thompson finally agreed when she was lured with the offer of free tuition for her 4-year-old twins.

By the end of that year, she was having so much fun she decided to return to college and earn her teaching certificate. It added the extra perk of quality time with her children and the chance to be 100 percent mom during school vacations.

Thompson began teaching at Rogers Adventist School in 1985. Since then, she has taught nearly every grade, plus classes at Walla Walla University. She became vice principal in 2001 and then principal in 2010.

Technology and a more child-friendly philosophy are two of the major changes she has experienced. "Through current brain research, we are learning more about how children learn and are realizing that one-size doesn't fit all," Thompson says. "We now look for ways to meet each child's needs and interests within the given curriculum, and I've noticed that children are treated with more respect, which is as it should be since we are all children of God." She also notes that parents are more involved.

Thompson has most enjoyed being able to share Jesus especially with children who are

going through difficult times and watching a child "get it" after struggling to understand.

Thompson's dream for the future of Adventist education and Rogers is education that is completely focused on serving the whole child, including the spiritual aspect. "I hope this continues to be a learning community where teachers and children learn together," she says. "I pray for parents who value Christian education where the home, church



and school work together to raise children for Jesus."

Thompson is married to Tom Thompson, who recently retired from Walla Walla University after 42 years of teaching. The Thompsons have three children. Trina, the oldest, chairs the music department at Andrews University, while Heidi is a dietitian at Kaiser Westside Medical Center in Hillsboro, Ore. Tyler is a shipwright and machinist in Wrangell, Alaska.

Clare and Tom also have two grandchildren who are the lights of their eyes. It seems somehow that Clare's teaching days are not really over.

Audrey Campbell, Rogers Adventist School media center director

PATHFINDERS TRAIN IN EXODUS

The conference-level Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE), covering the book of Exodus, took place on Sabbath, Feb. 20, at the College Place (Wash.) Village Church. Ten Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) Pathfinder teams gathered for testing.

Each of the four districts held PBE events in January. A total of 18 clubs participated from Blue Mountain, Columbia Basin, East Cascade and North Lakes districts. Of those teams, 10 made first or second place and were able to participate at the most recent event in College Place, Wash.

Here is how the 10 teams placed:

- » Brewster Blazers — 3
- » Cashmere Cascade Peaks — 3
- » Hayden Lake Ponderosa Pathfinders — 1
- » Kennewick Night-

- hawks — 2
- » Milton Rangers — 3
- » Moses Lake Crusaders — 3
- » Pend Oreille Valley Wildcats (Newport Church) — 1
- » Walla Walla Sunrise (Walla Walla City Church) — 1
- » Wind Valley Arrows (Cle Elum/Ellensburg Church) — 1
- » Young Disciples Team Yakima Braves — 2

The ultimate purpose of PBE is to bring the participants closer to Jesus. And while every Pathfinder is encouraged to do their very best, competition is not the objective. In fact, there are no losers, and all are given an award in recognition of their efforts. Most important is what each Pathfinder takes away from the Pathfinder Bible Experience.



(From left) Luke Torquato, Christina Ford and Carissa Torquato from the Hayden Lake Ponderosa Pathfinders participate in Pathfinder Bible Experience.

Anthony Jones, a seventh-grade Pathfinder from the Cashmere Cascade Peaks Pathfinder Club, said a couple of things he learned from the book of Exodus. “I learned that God is always there and cares for His people, and He is orderly as shown in the tabernacle,” he said. He also learned an important truth: “God will always lead me, and He is there for me when I need Him.”

“We are very proud of all of our Pathfinders and the four teams moving on to the union PBE,” said Jeff Wines, UCC Pathfinder director. “No matter the place, all have gained a greater knowledge of the book of Exodus. God can use you and what you have learned to both guide you and bless others.”

The four teams in first place participated at the union-level PBE on March 12

in Chehalis, Wash. Division-level testing is scheduled for April 15 and 16 at Prescott High School in Prescott, Ariz.

The study books for the next PBE will be Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and 1 and 2 Timothy — a total of 30 chapters.

The event is coordinated in Upper Columbia Conference by Tony and Claudia



Jeff Wines congratulates a Pathfinder on completion of the Pathfinder Bible Experience for North Lakes District at the Newport (Wash.) Church.

Phillips. They and the entire team of coordinators, coaches and parents who lead the teams of Pathfinders deserve a big thank you. The Bible promises their efforts are well worth it: “Train up a child in the way that they should go and when they are old they will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6, NKJV).

Kathy Marson, Upper Columbia Conference communication administrative assistant



SUSIE WORKMAN

KIDS' PROGRAM TEACHES CHILDREN TO SHARE THEIR FAITH

M

any churches offer a Vacation Bible School each summer to creatively teach faith-based values to church and community children. a new multilingual VBS program this year called Kidsville with curriculum



SHIRLEY ALLEN

options for early childhood and elementary ages.

"I'm really proud of this program," Pozo says. "It's one of the best VBS programs I've seen because it integrates prayer into the traditional programming."

The prayer program uses color association. For example, red represents love and blue represents hope. Every time a child sees something red, they can remember "God's love," Pozo says.

"VBS is evangelism for kids; it's an important outreach program," Pozo says. "We need to be intentional about engaging our community children into our Sabbath School programs."

INTENTIONAL PROGRAMMING

Children's ministries through Sabbath School programs, VBS, Adventist education and training at home all work together to prepare children for a life of faith.

"Children need to learn at a young age how Jesus is a good friend to have in our lives and how Jesus can help us go through anything in life," Pozo says.

Pozo shares a dream for quarterly children's church programs where children in the church invite their neighborhood friends to attend a special one-day VBS program with stories, songs, crafts and a small snack.

"Children's Church should be very purposeful; it's an evangelistic opportunity," Pozo says. "This is an opportunity for children to bring a friend and experience sharing the gift of God's love."

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director

BIG PICTURE OF MINISTRY



Julia Armstrong, a student at Northwest Christian School in Puyallup, served as a page for a week in February in the Washington State House of Representatives, as sponsored by state Rep. Pat Sullivan (D-Covington). Pages perform a wide variety of responsibilities, from presenting the flags to distributing amendments on the House floor.



North Cascade Eagles celebrate their first-place standing at the conference-level Pathfinder Bible Experience. They are one of five teams that answered questions on the book of Exodus in preparation for the union-level Pathfinder Bible Experience in March.



The Trust Services team for Washington Conference — Peter Rampton, Rita Gruesbeck and Carol Craig — recently received a three-year Level A accreditation following a scheduled audit from the Trust Services Accreditation and Certification Committee of the North American Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

North Pacific Union Conference children's ministries leaders are ready to help churches soar with their children's programs.

Kent Spanish Church wanted to take the VBS experience beyond summertime and help Adventist children experience sharing their faith with their neighborhood friends.

While children's ministry leaders made arrangements to present a one-hour children's program at a nearby trailer home neighborhood, parents and grandparents in the church collected school supplies and assembled backpacks.

They advertised the program and free school supplies one week ahead of the children's program. When the day arrived, 20 children showed up.

"The Pathfinders and Adventurers were dressed in their uniforms and presented a puppet show for the children," says Abby Pozo, Washington Conference children's ministries coordinator. "We sang, prayed, shared a Bible story with the puppets and offered a small snack. Many of the neighborhood children had previously attended VBS, and they remembered the songs."

NEW VBS PROGRAM

The Adventist Church is rolling out

YOUNG ADULTS GATHER FOR '#TINDERTIMES'

If you have to ask what “Tinder” is, you’re probably not using social media to find a date. Taken from the name of the popular dating app, #TinderTimes was a dating, love and marriage “life conversation” for young adults hosted by the Renton Church on Feb. 20.

“#TinderTimes is a commentary on the state of relationships today,” says Randy Maxwell, Renton Church pastor, who will soon be releasing a new book, *Lovestrong: Breakthrough to the Relationship of Your Dreams*. “We wanted to



DAVID HENRY

Fifty young adults from the greater Seattle area showed up to a life conversation about relationships at Renton Church.

dialogue about the challenges of maintaining God-honoring relationships in our casual ‘hook-up’ culture.”

Young-adult leader and church elder Samuel Nimako-

Mensah organized the event. “#TinderTimes was an idea born out of an impromptu brainstorming session with our young adults at Renton Church. We noticed a keen interest in topics relating to love, dating and marriage. So we decided to organize #TinderTimes to give our young adults an opportunity to share openly and challenge society’s views on relationships with biblically based principles.”

More than 50 young adults turned out to grapple with issues like loneliness, finding the “right one,” sexual

temptation and expectations, and contentment.

“I would love to see more events like this,” says Chanel Treadwell, a young-adult leader, “because it provides a safe place for [us] to ask those deeper questions and receive quality, Bible-based answers.”

Other life conversations like these are being planned. Follow the Renton Church Facebook page for the next scheduled event.

Randy Maxwell, Renton Church pastor



DAVID HENRY
The audience at #TinderTimes participates in an interactive conversation on modern relationships.

KINGDOM ASSIGNMENTS HELP LEWIS COUNTY ADVENTIST SCHOOL STUDENTS

It all started with a sermon series in October 2014 when Ira Bartolome, Centralia Church pastor, preached on talents, challenged the congre-

gation to invest in “Kingdom Assignments” and offered five red envelopes to the church family.

Donna Meador, kindergarten through second-grade teacher at Lewis County Adventist School in Chehalis, accepted one of the red envelopes. Inside, there was a \$100 bill and directions to invest it and make it grow. The stipulation was that it was to be used to benefit the community.

Meador knew several community students at LCAS needed help with tuition assistance and chose this cause for her Kingdom Assignment. In November 2014, Meador and a whole host of volunteers prepared and served an



KAREN CARLTON

Proceeds from fundraising dinners help provide tuition assistance for eligible students from Lewis County Adventist School.

enchilada meal to raise funds for her Kingdom Assignment. After the event, enough food was left that many meals were boxed up and shared with shut-ins and the homeless in the community.

A second meal, “A Taste

of Asia,” was prepared and served in January 2015. The results were similar.

February 2016 brought the third delicious meal for this project. Between the three meals, countless enchiladas and spring rolls, and many volunteer hours, more than \$1,200 was donated toward tuition assistance for community students at LCAS.

Through these assignments, students at Lewis County Adventist School were blessed with some tuition assistance while families enjoyed the home-cooked meals and friends to share the food.

Karen Carlton, Lewis County Adventist School principal



Donna Meador, LCAS teacher, finds a variety of ways to live and teach young people about a life of service.

AAA STUDENTS STEP AWAY TO STEP UP

Fourteen peer-selected students from Auburn Adventist Academy spent a day away from campus as they sought God's will in a new way.

Along with their Bible teachers, Karyle Barnes and Katelyn Campbell, the students spent a day of reflection at Sunset Lake Camp in Wilkeson preparing for their roles in student week of prayer.

The first questions the students grappled with were why they thought God had chosen them to speak and, of equal consequence, why they said yes to the call. For several students, it was an answer to their prayers for the opportunity to serve God.

The participants read Scripture passages relating the story of how the disciples were

called to service, dissected each calling, and discussed how and why God calls people from all different walks.

To continue their introspection, students were sent outside to partake in a 20-minute discipline of silence with an exercise criterion to be alone with their Bible and listen to God. The most common reaction to this activity was that the students did not realize how much impact just being still, quiet, alone and thoughtful can have on a person.

"I loved how we went out in nature to talk to God on our own," says Hayden Watson, a senior. "I usually think of hearing God through the Bible, but it made me realize that nature is a new way to look at God."

Various activities also helped students bond, like one activity where students had to line up in birthday order.

"We had to do it without talking," says Madlyn Ellis, sophomore. "It took us some tries before putting ourselves correctly, but we learned to rely on each other and that all of us were there for support."

Finally, prayer partners were randomly selected, and students were asked to write one thing they thought the school family most needed.

After reading each paper spread over the floor, students stood on the piece of paper they felt most connected to and prayed.

Each student took their paper with them, their footprints a reminder of their commitment to be God's feet, to seek His leading and watch what wonders He performs this year through them.

Stacy Tejel, AAA English teacher



MAKENA HORTON

Before they step up to share personal and biblical stories of faith, 14 Auburn Adventist Academy students and their Bible teachers step away for a day of reflection and preparation.



Auburn Adventist Academy | Alumni Weekend | May 5-7, 2016
www.auburnacademy.org/alumni

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SUMMER SMARTS

JUNE 20–AUGUST 26

New students

Summer Advantage is open to any undergraduate student who has not taken any Walla Walla University credits, including Adventist Colleges Abroad credits, since completion of high school or academy. A Summer Advantage student may take up to 12 credits online and/or on the College Place campus, except certain courses that consist of individual instruction.

Ask about our Summer Advantage 40% tuition discount for new students!

Current students

Summer study opportunities are numerous. Consider an online or hybrid course. Complete degree requirements after graduation. Off campus programs and tours are another exciting option.

K-12 teachers in the NPUC

Work toward certification or certification renewal. Consider a M.A. degree. Classes designed specifically for your summer schedule are available.





College Place, Wash., campus senior officers: (front row, from left) Savannah Kisling (environmental science), vice president; Kara McMahon (biology/pre-med), president; Natalie Hall (biology), social vice president. (Back row, from left) Grant Gustavsen (business administration), treasurer; Chelsea Bond (music), spiritual vice president; Benjamin Gow-Lee (biology/pre-med), secretary. (Not pictured) Class sponsors: Darold Bigger, professor of religion, and Terrie Aamodt, professor of history and English.

SENIOR CLASS ELECTS OFFICERS

The 2016 senior class at Walla Walla University has elected officers for the main campus in College Place, Wash., and the nursing campus in Portland, Ore.

“My vision is for our class to realize the many diverse talents we have that make us unique, but also the many things we share in common that make us one family,” says

Kara McMahon, senior class president. “I want us to enjoy this last year at our university by making lasting memories so we remember this year as being one of the best years of our lives.”

Libby Knapp, Walla Walla University marketing and university relations student writer



Portland, Ore., campus: (from left) Debbie Lampson, assistant professor of nursing, sponsor; Elizabeth Green (nursing) and Isabella Asamsama (nursing), co-presidents.

STUDENT ENGINEERS MAKE PLANS TO BRING ELECTRICITY TO PERUVIAN VILLAGE

The Walla Walla University student chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB-WWU) held its annual spring fundraising gala on Feb. 27. Proceeds from the gala will support the EWB-WWU project in Japora, Peru, which will bring electricity to the village that sits at 13,300 feet in the Andes Mountains.

The 75 families living in the village put electricity high on their list of priorities for

stream. “Our goal is to complete the project this summer,” says Nelson. “It’s a pretty ambitious project.” The EWB-WWU team traveled to Japora in March during spring break to take final measurements and work out other questions before returning to start developing the power system this summer.

The community of Japora will provide 5 percent of the cost of the electrical system.

EWB-WWU has a total fundraising goal of \$60,000. The spring fundraising gala raised \$23,321.34 in one night.

EWB-USA is a nonprofit international organization founded in 2000 that includes 100 professional chapters,

more than 220 student chapters and a growing membership of more than 12,000. Their mission is to assist developing communities worldwide with their self-identified engineering challenges and to train internationally responsible engineering students.

To learn more about the Japora project, visit EWB-WWU.org or call Curt Nelson at 509-527-2076.

Kim Strobel, Walla Walla University marketing and university relations supervisor



services needed. “The community wants lights in their houses and power to the school so the kids can learn something about computers,” explains Curt Nelson, EWB-WWU club sponsor and professor of engineering. “The parents in Japora realize that their kids will have a really hard time if they move out of the village and don’t know anything about computers.”

WWU engineers are making plans for a microhydropower system that will harness power from a nearby

HEART MONTH GETS A POSITIVE BEAT

Adventist Health's Northwest region celebrated Heart Month in February with special events, podcasts and information that encouraged heart-healthy habits.

Through its annual Art for the Heart community celebration, Tillamook Regional Medical Center on Oregon's coast teamed with area artists to hold a monthlong art show. Meanwhile, Walla Walla General Hospital in southeast Washington partnered with local restaurants to put heart-healthy entrees on their February menus during the third annual Dine Out Heart Smart program.



Walla Walla University nursing students teach hands-only CPR to A Fair of the Heart attendees

In the Portland, Ore., metropolitan area, the month culminated in A Fair of the Heart on Feb. 28, which offered health talks and screenings, heart-healthy food samples, and giveaways at Adventist Medical Center (AMC).

As a positive spin on heart health, AMC also took a special look at how

mental health and a positive attitude impact heart health.

"The mind-body connection is a powerful thing," explains Stephanie Gallian, a counselor practicing at Adventist Health Medical Group's Gresham Station clinic in Oregon. "Emotions must come out — and if you don't find healthy ways to release them, the mind will find unhealthy and often physical ways to let that negativity out."

Fortunately, the mind-body connection works the other way too — with positive behaviors and thoughts — Gallian explains. She notes that many activities that reduce stress and anxiety — like regular exercise and eating a balanced, plant-heavy diet — are also known to positively impact heart health.

SIX WAYS TO STAY POSITIVE

Jaci Cress, director of spiritual care for Adventist Health in Walla Walla, Wash., offers several specific ways people can stay positive — and, in doing so, help their bodies, minds and spirits. Her suggestions include:

- » Writing down things for which you're grateful;
- » Taking mini sabbaticals — brief periods of rest and relaxation — several times during the day;
- » Walking, outside if possible;
- » Connecting with others — friends, people with shared interests, and groups focused on service and volunteering;
- » Restoring your spirit through music, reading, hobbies and community — like Adventist Health's



Daniel Ananyev, an integrative medicine physician at Adventist Health in Portland, Ore., explains how small lifestyle changes can have a big impact on heart health.

PrayerWorks (AHPrayerWorks.org), a 24/7 virtual prayer community where you can post your prayer requests, concerns and struggles and let others know you're praying for them too;

- » Letting go of resentment and opening up to forgiveness — "Studies have shown that resentment and an unforgiving spirit can actually raise your blood pressure and lead to other chronic health problems," Cress explains.

Practicing positivity each day helps people be more prepared to deal with crises in the future. "Get those behaviors firmly established as habits, so you don't have to frantically learn how to do them in the middle of tough times," Gallian suggests.

Gallian's advice is beneficial year-round for all healthy habits — not just during Heart Month. That's why Adventist Health sees every month as another opportunity to share God's love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing.

Adventist Medical Center marketing and communication

Fenton 90th

Jean Fenton's family surprised her with a 90th birthday celebration with her friends at the Eagle Church on July 25, 2015, in Eagle, Idaho. She was then treated to a weekend with her entire family.

Jean June Johnston was born Aug. 13, 1925, in St. Louis, Mo. She grew up with one sister, Roberta, who passed away in 2009. Jean was married to Fred Jean Fenton in 1950, who also passed away in 2009.

Jean was a longtime member of the St. Louis Central Church until moving to Idaho. Attending the Eagle Church since 2009, she continues to be an active member conducting her own mail ministry with encouraging words, cards and articles to those who are celebrating, grieving or ill.

Her family includes Jodi (Fenton) and Ross Giem of Nampa, Idaho; Pam (Fenton) and Luis Castillo of Bismarck, N.D.; 5 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Gay 90th

Mace Gay celebrated his 90th birthday several times: once with his daughter Carmen, who shares his birthday; another celebration with the family of his wife, Lenella, in Seattle, Wash.; and finally with a Gay family reunion at Grand Ronde, Ore.

Mace was born Nov. 27, 1925, in Edmonds, Wash. He has a younger sister, Lois Wyman. He graduated from Edmonds High School in 1943, served two and a half years in the Navy, and returned to Walla Walla College in 1946.



Mace Gay

He graduated in 1950 with the first class of engineers to graduate from WWC.

He married Helen Baker, and they had more than 62 wonderful years together. Mace's career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers took him from Seattle to Portland, Ore., to Charleston, S.C., and Thomasville, Ga. He retired in 1980, moving to Crescent Bar on the Columbia River, near Quincy, Wash. In 2005, Mace and Helen moved to Wenatchee.

He had the privilege of serving as local elder in the churches in the above listed cities, in addition to school boards and other duties as assigned. He was instrumental in design construction for churches in Mountlake Terrace and Quincy.

Six months before Helen died in 2010, she recommended Lenella as a possible second wife after she died. She wanted Mace "to go on living." They had all been friends for more than 30 years. Mace married Lenella (Hitchman) Chellis in 2011. She had been married to Allen G. Chellis, also an engineer from WWC. Allen had passed away in 2006 after 54 years of marriage to Lenella. For several years after retirement, the two families lived near each other and worked with Mission Church Builders

(MCB) in southern California during the winters. One assignment took Mace and Helen to help finish a church in Kauai, Hawaii.

Mace and Lenella presently spend the growing season at his home in Wenatchee, Wash., and the remainder of the year at her condo in Seattle. (Yes, they winter in Seattle, not Arizona!)

The Gay family includes Mace Albert Gay III and Eileen of Grand Ronde, Ore.; Keith Leon and Patty (Long) Marker Gay of Umatilla, Ore.; Carmen Diane Johnson; 6 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

Mandigo 50th

Wally and Sandi Mandigo celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 13, 2015, in College Place, Wash., with a reception. Daughters Elizabeth Yaw and Crystal Levin planned a 50th anniversary celebration at Gospel Outreach, which about 55 friends and family attended. A light reception was served with speeches and a slideshow.

Wally met Sandi Bishop at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., where Sandi was working on her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and Wally his Master of Divinity. They married in Tallahassee, Fla., after a short engagement. Their honeymoon was spent at Daytona Beach and traveling from her home in Florida to their new home in Milton-Freewater, Ore.

Wally's life work includes working for the Adventist

Church for 25 years. He pastored in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alabama, Florida and Wisconsin. He also spent several years as the conference evangelist in Montana. Later Wally returned to Walla Walla University to get his Master of Social Work. He worked for Washington state as a counselor the last 10 years before retirement.

Sandi partnered with him in ministry and worked on and off in nursing. Together they raised two daughters and one son. They retired in College Place where they both volunteer at Gospel Outreach. Their



Sandi and Wally Mandigo

three children and five teen grandchildren all live within a five-hour drive.

The Mandigo family includes Crystal and David Levin of Redmond, Wash.; Elizabeth and Louie Yaw of College Place, Wash.; Patrick Mandigo of Portland, Ore.; and 5 grandchildren.

FAMILY BIRTHS

CURRIER — Bjorn Declan was born Nov. 9, 2015, to Brandon A. and Mandy I. (Shallenberger) Currier, Lewis-McChord, Wash.

DENNEY — Ava Nicole was born Oct. 26, 2015, to Eric and Erin (Meidinger) Denney, Spokane, Wash.

FAMILY WEDDINGS

SORIANO-RAMOS

Wilma M. Soriano and Salvador Junior Ramos were married Dec. 6, 2015, in Salem, Ore., where they are making their home. Wilma is the daughter of Jose and Carmen Soriano. Salvador is the son of Salvador and Diana Ramos.

FAMILY AT REST

ANDRE — Roy Leonard, 91; born Oct. 8, 1924, Portland, Ore.; died Jan. 22, 2016, Newport, Ore. Surviving: wife, Doris (Tillotson); sons, Jerry, Federal Way, Wash.; Larry, Nampa, Idaho; Don, Newport; 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

BADGER — Dwayne Modrell, 84; born June 9, 1931, Medford, Ore.; died Feb. 2, 2016, Brookings, Ore. Surviving: wife, Carol (Hanson) Lewis; sons, David, Round Mountain, Calif.; Greg, Medford; stepson, C. Roger Lewis, Napa, Calif.; daughter, Donna McAllister, Bella Vista, Calif.; stepdaughters, Rhonda Lewis, Del Rio, Calif.; Judy Lewis and Jatklyn Lewis, both of Angwin, Calif.; 10 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

BAILEY — Charles “Jack” J., 85; born Sept. 6, 1930, Port Angeles, Wash.; died Dec.

FAMILY AT REST

4, 2015, Federal Way, Wash. Surviving: wife, MaryAnn (Reeves); son, Gilbert, Sandpoint, Idaho; daughter, Cherie Adams, Federal Way; 4 grandchildren, a step-grandchild and 2 great-grandchildren.

BLISS — Ellen May (Payne-Rose), 89; born Feb. 16, 1926, Chelan, Wash.; died Dec. 21, 2015, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: son, Donald, Chugiak, Alaska; daughter, Thora L. Bliss, Walla Walla, Wash.; sister, Myrtle (Rose) Age, Colville; 8 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

CANFIELD — Edward R., 85; born Jan. 11, 1930, Morrow County, Ore.; died Nov. 29, 2015, Kennewick, Wash. Surviving: wife, Shirley (Bowman) Cole; stepsons, Allan Cole, Foristell, Mo.; Dale Cole, Kettle Falls, Wash.; Lloyd Cole, Shoreline, Wash.; Richard Cole, Moses Lake, Wash.; Tom Cole, Kennewick; stepdaughter, Cindy Everett, Kennewick; brother, Brian Fletcher, Goldendale, Wash.; sister, Carol Garcia, Goldendale; 17 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

CASLOW — Olive, 99; born June 20, 1916, Rochester, Ind.; died Dec. 13, 2015, Portland, Ore.

DAVIS — Martha Helen (McKee), 85; born March 13, 1930, Ooltewah, Tenn.; died Dec. 4, 2015, College Place, Wash. Surviving: husband, Lee A.; son, Larry A., Westport, Ore.; daughter, Ruth Elaine Lenz, Spokane, Wash.; brother, Robert McKee, Sanford, Fla.; sisters, Charlotte Taylor, Ooltewah; Frances Highsmith, Lawley, Ala.; 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

DAWSON — Shirley Ann (Hurtig), 66; born Feb. 22,

1949, Bryan, Ohio; died Jan. 12, 2016, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: husband, John; sons, Benjamin and Brent, both of Walla Walla; daughter, Beth Curnuck, Walla Walla; sisters, Sharon Wilson, Ooltewah, Tenn.; Darlene Repp, Bryan; and 11 grandchildren.

FRISBY — Norman, 92; born May 24, 1923, Truth, Alaska; died Oct. 23, 2015, College Place, Wash. Surviving: wife, Carol J. (Simpkins) Perry; daughter, Annaslee Hawley, Mill Creek, Wash.; a grandchild and a great-grandchild.

GARCIA — Frank Roman, 93; born Feb. 12, 1922, Claremont, Wyo.; died Jan. 4, 2016, Vancouver, Wash. Surviving: wife, Maria (Alvarez); sons, Frank Jr., Salem, Ore.; Gilbert, Wilsonville, Ore.; Mike, Oregon City, Ore.; Rueben, Aurora, Ore.; Lee, Mollala, Ore.; daughters, Jeannie Garcia, Vancouver, Wash.; Gloria Garcia, Wilsonville; brother, Pat. Longview, Wash.; 15 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren and 6 great-great-grandchildren.

GEPPERT — George Wesley, 73; born Sept. 12, 1941, Oregon City, Ore.; died Sept. 11, 2015, Portland, Ore. Surviving: wife, Reneé (Augustine); son, George Daniel Geppert, Amboy, Wash.; daughter, Deanna (Geppert) Gallentine, Tigard, Ore.; foster daughter, Melissa (Bartholomew) Skaggs, Mt. Home, Idaho; 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

GODMAN — Alma Barbara (Will), 91; born Nov. 12, 1924, Hazelton, N.D.; died Jan. 21, 2016, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: son, Dan C., Milton-Freewater, Ore.; daughters, Jackie A. Daugherty, Hermiston, Ore.; Patricia M. Withers, Gresham, Ore.; brother, Herbert M. Will, Spokane, Wash.; sister, Tillie Mondor, Yakima, Wash.; 6 grandchildren and 11

great-grandchildren.

GRIFFIN — Delbert Vernon, 84; born May 12, 1931, National City, Calif.; died July 20, 2015, Pendleton, Ore. Surviving: wife, LaVonna (Kruse) Griffin; sons, Delbert E. and Keith, both of Pendleton; Dan, Kuna, Idaho; sister, Doris Baker, Sunset, Utah; 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

HERIGSTAD — Grant Milo, 31; born Nov. 10, 1984, Kokomo, Ind.; died Nov. 27, 2015, Kent, Wash. Surviving: wife, Cheryl (Aberde); parents, Gary and Sally Herigstad, Enumclaw, Wash.; sister, Valia Sheidler, Baker City, Ore.; grandmother and step-grandfather, Helen and Richard Fearing, Mt. Vernon, Wash.

HOFFMAN — Myra Belle (Bacchus), 94; born Aug. 31, 1921, Kansas City, Kan.; died Jan. 24, 2016, Portland, Ore. Surviving: son, Ken, Gaston, Ore.; daughters, Linda Mackett, Oregon City, Ore.; Wanda Thompson, College Place, Wash.; Julee Thomas, Colfax, Calif.; 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

JOHNSON — Gary Glenn, 54; born Aug. 25, 1961, Erie, Penn.; died Jan. 11, 2016, Portland, Ore. Surviving: wife, Candice (Jaqua); son, Trevor Gary, Riverside, Calif.; daughter, Julia Cherié, Portland; parents, Glenn and Carlene (Heid) Johnson, Berrien Springs, Mich.; and sister, Janice Kijak, Bellingham, Wash.

JONES — Julious M., 77; born Aug. 25, 1938, Fouke, Ark.; died Nov. 12, 2015, Lebanon, Ore. Surviving: wife, LaVonne (Taylor); son, Brent, Boston, Mass.; daughters, Julie Hagan, Kingman, Ariz.; Tami Drake, Wichita, Kan.; Teri Seller, Satellite Beach, Fla.; Tawnya Ellis, Pleasant Hill, Ore.; stepmother, Doris Jones,

Fouke; brothers, Edward, Blue Lake, Calif.; Thomas, Arcata, Calif.; Paul, Eureka, Calif.; sisters, Janie Lowrance, Azle, Texas; Frances Jimerson, Sapulpa, Okla.; Sletta Bentley, Riddle, Ore.; Norma Baskette, McKinleyville, Calif.; Eva Long, Fouke; Peggy Johnson, McKinleyville; 10 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

JUBERG — Lorraine (Davis), 93; born March 25, 1922, Deaver, Wyo.; died Feb. 1, 2016, Gladstone, Ore. Surviving: son, Randy, Palm Bay, Fla.; son, Terry, Portland, Ore.; 4 grandchildren, a step-grandchild and 3 great-grandchildren.

KRAMER — Betty Hazel (Mason), 88; born March 21, 1927, Los Angeles, Calif.; died Jan. 15, 2016, Vancouver, Wash. Surviving: sons, Gary, Battle Ground, Wash.; David, Portland, Ore.; daughter, Patti Haywood, Welches, Ore.; brother, Dale Mason, Gladstone, Ore.; 4 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

LANE — Pamela Ray, 73; born Nov. 3, 1942; died Dec. 2, 2015, Brookings, Ore. Surviving: sons, Joseph Scroggins, of Georgia; and Wayne Scroggins, of Arkansas.

LANG — Violet Roberta (Stewart), 88; born Oct. 1, 1927, Camaguey, Cuba; died Dec. 21, 2015, Portland, Ore. Surviving: husband, Harold; sons, Robert, Boise, Idaho; Gerald, Winter Park, Fla.; daughter, Sharon Howard, Portland; sister, Velma Smith, Rogersville, Tenn.; 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

MONTGOMERY — Loren T., 89; born Oct. 14, 1925, near Little Rock, Ark.; died Oct. 12, 2015, Roseburg,

Ore. Surviving: son, Kendall, Daphne, Ala.; daughter, Trudy Snawder, Roseburg; 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

MOSSER — Julia R. (Faris) Stratton, 88; born Dec. 20, 1927, Glendale, Calif.; died Dec. 6, 2015, The Dalles, Ore. Surviving: daughter, Michelle (Stratton) Browning, Stinnet, Texas; stepdaughters, Carmen (Mosser) Clark, Port Townsend, Wash.; Carol (Mosser) Moddrell, Lewiston, Idaho; Coreen (Mosser) Duston, of Nebraska; sister, Mildred (Farris) Schaber, Longview, Wash.; 11 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

NORGON — Marian Juanita (Ring), 98; born Sept. 6, 1917, Whitetail, Mont.; died Oct. 9, 2015, Spokane, Wash. Surviving: sons, Ron Meeker, of California; Del Norgon, Spokane; 4 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

NOYES — Emma Ruth (Vaselenko), 80; born Jan. 8, 1935, Lizard Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada; died Jan. 7, 2016, Forest Grove, Ore. Surviving: husband, Edwin, Forest Grove; son, Michael, Sandy, Utah; sisters, Esther Norton, Boring, Ore.; and Margie McConnachie, Spokane Valley, Wash.

OSBERG — Ethelyn Virginia (Sailor), 91; born Sept. 26, 1924, Boyds, Wash.; died Nov. 22, 2015, Forest Grove, Ore. Surviving: sons, Calvin D., Forest Grove; Kerby C., Loma Linda, Calif.; and 5 grandchildren.

PALMER — Louella Geniva (Robbins) Matthews Wassom, 105; born Dec. 23, 1910, Spokane, Wash.; died Dec. 28, 2015, Seattle, Wash. Surviv-

ing: sons, Rodney Palmer, Mount Lake Terrace, Wash.; Leonard Wassom, of Oregon; Gary Matthews, of California; daughters, Doryce Palmer Seibold, Granite Falls, Wash.; Rovena (Wassom) Hill, of Oregon; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

PASCHTAT — James Otto Jr., 74; born Aug. 20, 1941, Olympia, Wash.; died Nov. 30, 2015, Plummer, Idaho. Surviving: daughter, Cherie Engebretson, Walla Walla, Wash.; sister, Ethel Heath, Seattle, Wash.; and a grandchild.

RAMSLAND — A. Maxine (Taylor), 91; born Dec. 26, 1924, Malin, Ore.; died Jan. 19, 2016, McMinnville, Ore. Surviving: sister, Jean Brown, Klamath Falls, Ore.; and a grandchild.

STRAHAN — George Victor, 91; born Nov. 16, 1924, Blaine County, Okla.; died Jan. 31, 2016, Chandler, Ariz. Surviving: son, Bruce, of Arizona; daughter, Renee VerBerkmoes, of California; 5 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

WALTER — Elden Keith, 87; born April 4, 1928, Elma, Wash.; died Jan. 9, 2016, Centralia, Wash. Surviving: daughters, Eve Garlyn, Kingman, Ariz.; Eldena “dena” Colon, Mossyrock, Wash.; sister, Lila Dorothy Irene Vaughn, San Diego, Calif.; 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

WENTLAND — Percy Virgil, 94; born March 26, 1921, Carrington, N.D.; died Jan. 20, 2016, Moses Lake, Wash. Surviving: wife, Anita June (Cushman); and daughter, Judi Hanson, Hermiston, Ore.

WHITE — Patricia Ruth (Calkins), 89; born Sept. 15, 1926, Gresham, Ore.;

died Dec. 12, 2015, Forest Grove, Ore. Surviving: husband, Robert; sons, Robert E., Gresham; Allen, Beaverton, Ore.; daughters, Eva L. Cochran, Vernonia, Ore.; Carlena White, Cornelius, Ore.; Roberta McMahon, Medford, Ore.; Jennifer Koo, Portland, Ore.; Melissa Knapp, Sweet Home, Ore.; Leioni Clark, Laguna Nigel, Calif.; Ella Hight, Winnemucca, Nev.; brothers, Ray Calkins and John Calkins, both of Aurora, Ore.; Burt Calkins, Longview, Wash.; 22 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

WILKINSON — Elizabeth Ann (VanArsdale), 92; born July 25, 1923, Flint, Mich.; died Nov. 14, 2015, Lebanon, Ore.

WOLCOTT — Millie (Ginter), 78; born Feb. 17, 1937, Bradleyville, Mo.; died Feb. 20, 2015, Hayden, Idaho. Surviving: husband, Roger; sons, Dan, Walla Walla, Wash.; Joe, Spokane, Wash.; daughter, Rocki Pardee, Sandpoint, Idaho; 7 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

The *Gleaner* also accepts expanded obituary announcements with short bio and photo. For submission and cost info, contact info@gleanernow.com or call 360-857-7043.

[Go to GleanerNow.com/contribute](http://GoToGleanerNow.com/contribute) to submit family announcements.

The North Pacific Union Conference *Gleaner* accepts family listings as a service to members of Adventist churches in the Northwest. While this information is not intended as an endorsement of any facts or relationships represented, the *Gleaner* does not knowingly print content contrary to the biblical beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

Offering

April 2 — Local Church Budget;

April 9 — Christian Record Services;

April 16 — Local Church Budget;

April 23 — Local Conference Advance;

April 30 — NAD Evangelism.

More events listed at GleanerNow.com/events.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

April 15-16 — Collegiate Couples Seminar;

April 17 — Tri-College Service Day;

April 21-24 — Alumni Homecoming Weekend;

April 22 — Scholarship Awards Celebration, University Church at 11 a.m.

OREGON

Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist School Centennial Celebration

April 28-30, 2017 — Plan now to attend the Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist School celebration of 100 years of service. Featured speaker George Knight will lead Friday night vespers and share a message during the Sabbath service. Weekend activities planned include lunch at the school, tours and a musical program featuring school alumni. Also anticipated is a 5K run and golf tournament. For more information, please call the school office at 541-479-2293 or email office@gpsdaschool.org. We are in the process of seeking out former students, staff, volunteers and anyone else involved with the school over the past 100 years to help celebrate this anniversary. Those wishing to be added to the mailing list should contact the school office. For updates and information, please like our Facebook page ([gpsda100celebration](https://www.facebook.com/gpsda100celebration)) or visit our website gpsdaschool.org.

PAA/PUA Alumni Sabbath

May 7 — Portland Adventist Academy (formerly Portland Union Academy) welcomes ALL to Alumni Sabbath 2016. See you at Portland Adventist Academy's Alumni Sabbath. Honored classes: 1946, 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2006. Church service in the PAA gym with featured speaker Dustin Serns, class of 2006. Class pictures for honored classes immediately following church and lunch in the cafeteria (donations accepted).

Southern Oregon Christian Women's Retreat

June 3-5 — Southern Oregon Christian Women's Retreat at Milo Adventist Academy in Days Creek, Ore. Themed "Portrait of a Woman," the featured speaker is Janice Nelson. To register or for more information, email miloretreat2016@gmail.com or call Pat Young at 541-601-8694. This retreat is not limited to women who live in southern Oregon. All are welcome to attend.

Missing Members

The Dallas Church is looking for the following missing members: Joshua Benavides, Eric Buen, Diane Dalton, Alison Fretwell, Jane Hunt, Marilyn LeBaron, Teri Marie, Kenneth Person and Nancy Saludo. If you have any information about these missing members, please contact the Dallas Church, PO Box 450, Dallas, OR 97338 or call 503-623-5872.

UPPER COLUMBIA

Homecoming and Alumni Weekend

April 15-16 — Cascade Christian Academy (CCA) and the Wenatchee Church want to invite all friends, members and graduates to attend their annual Homecoming and Alumni Weekend. Friday night vespers will begin at 7 p.m. in the church sanctuary; Sabbath morning services will begin at 9:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. with a luncheon to follow in the school gymnasium. Featured speakers and music for the weekend include Diana Hernandez and Susan Whitely, retired CCA teachers; Terry Mace and friends; and CCA student ensembles with director, Cheryl Gabel. Cascade Christian Academy will be hosting their talent show on Saturday night as well. All are invited to attend. For more information, contact Julie Savino, julie.savino@ccawenatchee.org.

Spokane Junior Academy/Palisades Christian Academy's Alumni Weekend

April 29-30 — Spokane Junior Academy/Palisades Christian Academy's Alumni Weekend. The second annual Jerry and Frances Wilson Golf Tournament kicks off alumni festivities. For information on activities, go to pcasda.org or call 509-325-1985. Don't miss the Saturday night extravaganza.

WASHINGTON

AAA Alumni Weekend

May 5-7 — Come home to visit your Auburn Adventist Academy school family and celebrate a nearly 100-year heritage. Honor classes include 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2015. A full weekend of activities is planned. Details online at auburnacademy.org/alumni or by calling 253-939-5000.

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ADULT FOSTER CARE HOME IN BEAVERTON, owned by an Adventist family with 18 years experience, is offering all levels of care including ventilator and LVAD assistance. For more information, call 503-997-7258 or visit us online at newlifecarehome.com.

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SONBRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER in College Place seeks an executive director. This is a full-time position leading an education center, thrift store, dental clinic and hundreds of volunteers. For more information, see SonBridge.org. Send your resume and cover letter to search@sonbridge.org.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks development officer/grant writer.

Responsibilities include grant writing, donor relations, event coordination and data entry. Exceptional written and verbal communication skills are essential. Candidates must have a bachelor's degree with strong consideration given to those with experiences in grant writing and donor relations. Submit cover letter and CV/resume to sgrady@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks qualified and visionary professional to serve the department of music as director of keyboard and theory studies. Responsibilities include teaching keyboard,

theory and church music classes. Ideal candidate will possess a doctoral degree, be an accomplished performer and have professional experience as a church musician. Send CV and cover letter to Mr. Jonathan Wall at jwall@swau.edu.

BETTER LIFE BROADCASTING NETWORK is accepting applications for director of operations. This full-time position will assist with day-to-day management responsibilities. For a full description, visit betterlifetv.tv. Send questions and resumes to resume2216@betterlifetv.tv.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks Doctor of Nursing Practice director. This full-time faculty position will serve as director of the DNP program. This individual will provide the administrative/management and direction for the DNP program with a focus in FNP and DNP preparation. In addition to administration/management oversight, would also teach in the DNP program and in the undergraduate program if needed. Qualifications include: DNP degree, FNP certification and experience, formal academic teaching experience preferred, experience with accreditation a plus, evidence of scholarship, experience with online teaching a plus; and Seventh-day Adventist affiliation preferred. For more information and to apply, visit andrews.edu/admres/jobs/661.

UNION COLLEGE seeks committed Adventist social work program director effective January 2017. Essential qualifications include an MSW (relevant doctorate preferred) and two years' professional social work experience. Successful teaching also valued. Email letter of interest and CV to Dr. Denise White, chair of Human Development, dewhite@ucollege.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a Seventh-day Adventist librarian for a faculty position. The ideal candidate will have experience with college

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MATH AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT at Southwestern Adventist University is seeking a highly motivated individual to teach a combination of statistics, upper-level mathematics and/or general physics. Doctoral degree preferred; master's degree considered. Send CV and copy of transcripts to Dr. Amy Rosenthal, arosenthal@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks qualified professional to serve the department of music as director of orchestral studies. Responsibilities include teaching keyboard, theory and church music classes. Preferred candidate will hold a doctoral degree, be an accomplished string performer and have professional experience as a conductor. Send CV and cover letter to Mr. Jonathan Wall at jwall@swau.edu.

Events

JOIN US FOR RESTORATION INTERNATIONAL'S NW FAMILY RETREAT held this year on July 13-17, at Upper Columbia Academy, Spangle, Wash. Visit restoration-international.org, or call Vernon and Karina Pettey at 406-890-1195.

DESIRE MORE IMPACT FROM YOUR SHORT-TERM MISSION EFFORTS? Southern Adventist University's global community development program is hosting a Transforming and Educating Ambassadors for Mission and Service Forum, July 14-16, 2016. Congregations across North America will discuss improvements on short-term mission impacts for sustainable difference making. For registration and information, contact mgcd@southern.edu or 423-236-2070.

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NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES (NAISS) is recruiting Christian host families to host Chinese students for 30 days this summer (July 15-Aug. 15). Becoming a host family is culturally, financially and spiritually a great blessing. Host families earn \$1,450 for the winter program and \$1,600 for the summer. If you're interested, contact us by phone at 541-510-7787 or by email at info@naiss-us.com.

DID YOU DONATE TO THE DAYTON ADVENTIST CHURCH Fellowship Hall Building Fund anytime during 2007 to 2016? The 2015-2016 church board is asking you to review your decision. You have three options: You may designate your offerings for another purpose; allow the present church board to use their discretion to identify another use; or you may request a refund of your donated offerings. If you wish a refund, please provide proof of your donation with a receipt, along with your address and phone number. The board will review your request and, subject to board approval, your donation will

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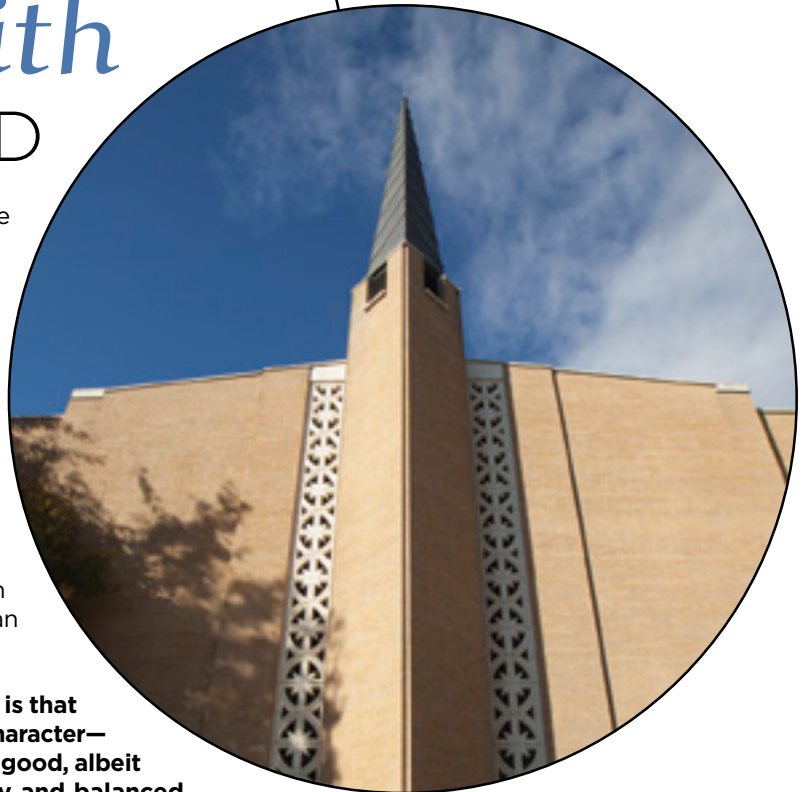
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Every quarter at Walla Walla University, the Chaplain's Office and Campus Ministries team choose a theme for the WWU vespers program. This theme sets the spiritual tone for the WWU campus—bringing students of all class standings and disciplines together to herald in the Sabbath. Vespers is one of the university's most attended worship programs.

This year is special, however. For the first time, the Chaplain's Office has teamed up with the University Church in this vision-casting process. Friday night vespers and Sabbath morning worship will be calibrated to the same theme each quarter. This entire 2015-2016 school year has an umbrella theme: Do You Have the Guts?

Paddy McCoy, campus chaplain, says **“Our hope is that people will think about their personal integrity, character—who they are when no one is looking—and make good, albeit tough, decisions that help them to live healthy and balanced lives committed to Christ.”**



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DST	1	8	15	22	29
ALASKA CONFERENCE					
Anchorage	8:44	9:02	9:21	9:39	9:58
Fairbanks	8:42	9:04	9:26	9:49	10:12
Juneau	7:37	7:53	8:09	8:25	8:41
Ketchikan	7:23	7:37	7:51	8:05	8:19
IDAHO CONFERENCE					
Boise	8:11	8:19	8:28	8:36	8:44
La Grande	7:20	7:29	7:38	7:47	7:56
Pocatello	7:56	8:04	8:12	8:20	8:28
MONTANA CONFERENCE					
Billings	7:42	7:51	8:00	8:09	8:18
Havre	7:49	7:59	8:09	8:20	8:30
Helena	7:56	8:06	8:15	8:25	8:34
Miles City	7:32	7:41	7:50	8:00	8:09
Missoula	8:05	8:14	7:24	8:33	8:43
OREGON CONFERENCE					
Coos Bay	7:43	7:51	7:59	8:08	8:16
Medford	7:37	7:45	7:52	8:00	8:08
Portland	7:38	7:47	7:56	8:05	8:14
UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE					
Pendleton	7:23	7:32	7:41	7:50	7:59
Spokane	7:19	7:29	7:39	7:49	7:58
Walla Walla	7:21	7:31	7:40	7:49	7:58
Wenatchee	7:30	7:40	7:50	8:00	8:10
Yakima	7:31	7:40	7:49	7:59	8:08
WASHINGTON CONFERENCE					
Bellingham	7:40	7:50	8:01	8:11	8:21
Seattle	7:39	7:48	7:58	8:08	8:18

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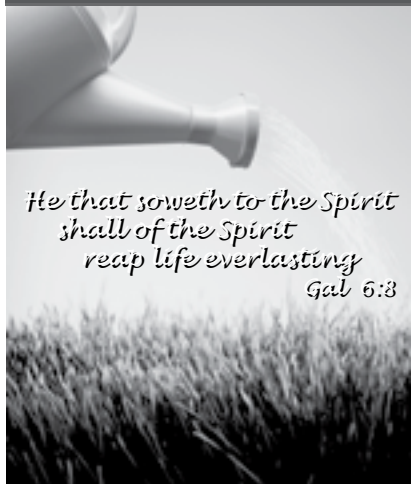
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- SOULS Northwest Jason Worf
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208-375-7524 • idahoadventist.org
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WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?

In February of this year, I spoke at the Florida Conference Women's Retreat. Yes, I know that seems weird — and it may seem even weirder that this was the second time I have done so. Believe me, when they asked the 450 attendees to raise their hands if this was the first time attending, and I wasn't able to raise my hand, I felt a little weird.

Normally, women's ministries and I are politely acquainted but not in any kind of active relationship. About the only experience I had prior to these speaking engagements was conveniently forgetting something at the church office during the women's ministry cookie exchange. I showed up, feigned surprise and "exchanged" a few cookies while blessing their good culinary work.

But I digress . . .

Speaking during this event has driven something home to me that I long for in all our home churches. Each time I have gone, the women in attendance are overflowing with the expectation that Jesus will be present and work through the music, the speaker, the seminars and the fellowship to bring a life-changing revelation to them. They completely invest their faith in the worship opportunity.

Their expectation can be felt in the passion with which they sing, the engagement with the messages and the willingness to participate in everything — with

hardly an invitation. No one has to beg them to sing louder or respond; they just do. Even a good morning is met with an "amen," and, for a change, the instruments need to compete against the volume of singing in order to be heard. It's electric.

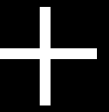
What makes the experience especially meaningful for me is how much these women participate given what they are going through. Several ladies shared stories of husbands in prison, kids out of the church, financial troubles, work issues and a host of other trials that would make most people lose their faith.



AUTHOR

Seth Pierce





Once the sun sets we can go back to life, which we expect more out of than church — something wholly other and outside of life.

Yet, these women refuse to let any of these circumstances steal their blessing and alter their expectations. In 2 Corinthians, Paul, speaking about giving, states, “The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully” (ESV).

While this certainly applies to financial stewardship, what about faith stewardship? What about the investment of praise, worship and hope? Heb. 11:6 says faith is what pleases God — so in all our giving of time and finances, what do we give in terms of faith?

Adventists like to judge Pentecostals for their emotional expressiveness during worship service while envying them at the same time. When I was among them in high school, I was amazed to see how early they would arrive to put their Bibles down on the front row — to save their seat — in order to catch everything that was spoken from the pulpit. I was stunned at how they had to create application processes because so many wanted to be involved or even apprenticed in audio/visual arts, or greeting, or even help direct cars in the parking lot. Every area of life had the potential to reveal Jesus to them, and they didn’t want to miss out. What kinds of expectations do we bring to ministry and worship?

We might expect the sermon to be similar to the other

hundreds we have heard from the pastor. We may expect no one will sing. We expect to arrive 15 minutes late due to the inevitable family drama that occurs getting ready for worship service. We might expect we don’t have to try very hard because we are only volunteers. We might expect the service will be an hour, lunch will occur promptly at noon and once the sun sets we can go back to life, which we expect more out of than church — something wholly other and outside of life.

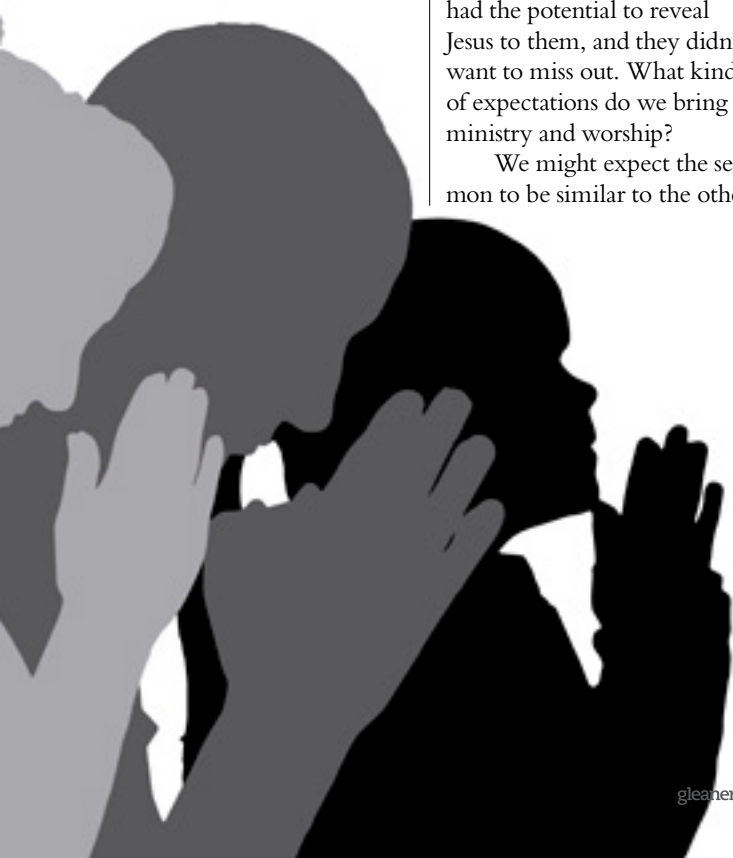
We have lowered expectations for our worship experiences and ministry opportunities. We lack any kind of vision for what God might be able to do if we invested our faith — and people perish for lack of vision.

We allow our faith expectations to take a beating

through cynicism, stress, past hurts and imperfect realities we feel will never change. The product is cynical, stressful, harmful, stagnant faith-communities that die.

God has promised that where two or more are gathered in His name, He is among them (Matt. 18:20). He promises the gift of the Holy Spirit to His children (Luke 11:13) — a gift that transforms attitudes and perspectives and realities. What if we, as clergy and laity, stepped back, identified our faithless expectations and replaced them with a fresh hope that what occurs Sabbath morning can be revelatory and revolutionary? How many blessings have we missed because our faith wasn’t paying attention? What do we expect?

Seth Pierce, Puyallup Church lead pastor



HE SAVED OTHERS ... AND HE SAVED ME!



AUTHOR

Martin Weber

Millions of Christians celebrate our crucified and risen Lord on one particular weekend each year. The world with its Easter bunnies considers this strange. Foolish, actually. How could the death of a peasant itinerant 2,000 years ago provide purpose for life today — with assurance of heaven for eternity?

For many unbelievers, the best thing to say about Jesus on the cross is that He was a very good man having a very bad day. But we Christians understand that “God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not counting our trespasses against us” (2 Cor. 5:19).

Christ’s saving reconciliation shines through each of seven statements He made on the cross. Let’s consider them in turn, beginning with Luke 23:34: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Amazing grace! Jesus intercedes on behalf of murderous enemies. Meanwhile His disciples, then and now, are clueless about the depth of our own depravity (John 13:8). Even our best works require forgiveness, since every-



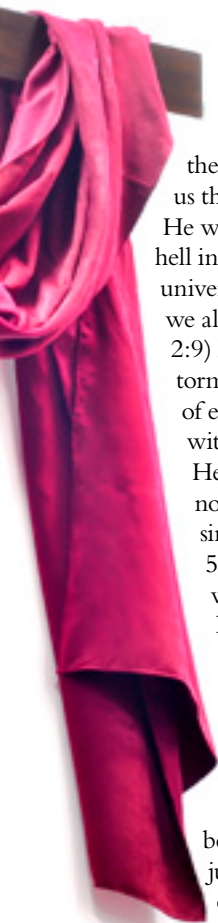
thing we do falls short of perfection. Thus grace is never earned — just humbly received and shared.

Christ was crucified between two thieves cursing and mocking Him (Matt. 27:44). What wondrous love is this, stooping so low to save us! Even naked criminals sense their social superiority to the disgraced “King of the Jews.”

Suddenly one of them is jolted to his senses — this is indeed the Messiah! He pleads for mercy: “Lord, remember me.”

Christ’s response is swift and certain: “You will be with me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43). The forgiven thief died in peace.

Somehow, many Christians today are reluctant to embrace that assurance of salvation. And yet we too may “rejoice because our names are written in heaven” (Luke 10:20).



As Jesus on the cross opened to us the gates of heaven, He was going through hell in experiencing the universal and final death we all deserve (Heb. 2:9). Beyond physical torment is Christ's loss of eternal fellowship with the Father, since He who had known no sin had become sin for us (2 Cor. 5:21). Suffocated with our guilt, Jesus laments, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matt. 27:46).

Christ was forsaken so we can be accepted, not just by God but by each other. We are brothers and sisters in His redeemed family of a shared new humanity. This is evident in Christ's next statement at Calvary, perhaps the most underappreciated of them all:

"When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, 'Woman, behold, your son!' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother!' And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home" (John 19:26–27).

Christ's mother is sud-

denly more than a friend; John now has family responsibilities. Likewise with us. As fellow believers we comprise a new human race, the body of Christ. We become brothers and sisters with people who otherwise would be strangers or enemies — at best just pleasant acquaintances or friends. But now we are united forever in a new community of the Spirit through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Suffering on the cross, Christ finally attends to His own miserable condition. Through parched lips, He cries, "I am thirsty" (John 19:28*). Beyond physical thirst is His burning yearning for love from those He came to save (*Desire of Ages*, p. 191).

Finally on that fateful Friday, Christ's six hours of unfathomable suffering draw to an end with the shout, "It is finished!" (John 19:30). This is not a wail of despair but a triumphant announcement of accomplishment. *Christus victor!*

His life's work complete, Jesus offers Himself in final surrender: "Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit" (Luke 23:46). Then He bows His head and dies.

Like many of you, each year at this season I read anew the gospel accounts of our Lord's death and resurrection. I was captured by the irony of the mockery of Christ's enemies as He hung on the cross.

As fellow believers we comprise a new human race, the body of Christ.



They "scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!'" (Luke 23:35).

"He saved others"? Indeed He did — He saved me! The devil's own disciples unwittingly announced my salvation! Overwhelmed at that insight, I found myself laughing and crying at the same time.

A skeptical world considers this foolish emotionalism. Well, fine! Paul boasted, "We are fools for Christ's sake" (1 Cor. 4:10). But "the foolish-

ness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength" (1 Cor. 1:25).

Glory to the crucified and risen Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ!

*Lexham English Bible; all other Bible texts are from the English Revised Version.

Martin Weber, Adventist product manager for Faithlife, maker of Logos Bible Software

PATHWAYS

L

ong, long ago, and not so far away, I learned a memorable lesson from the joys and sorrows of Northwest berries.

My uncle and aunt lived on an Oregon farm surrounded by tangled blackberry bushes. Around the perimeter of their property, the berries were easy picking. After a few days, however, the immediate gratification of that bounty became harder to find. Deeper into the thorny thicket, I could spy larger, more luscious beauties. But, how to reach them was the question.

Since a suit of armor was unavailable, my ingenious mind hit on a brilliant answer. Running to the barn, I found several wooden planks and hauled them out to the berry bushes. Placed on top of the brambles, they allowed me to carefully crawl up and over to where the clusters were plump and bursting with fragrant juice. Pleased with my achievement, I spent the next few minutes enjoying the fruit of my labor, swatting aside an occasional yellow

jacket wasp. And then I spied the real mother lode. Not two feet away, tantalizingly close, were the biggest and best berries I'd ever seen.

AUTHOR

Steve Vistaunet

I could have yielded not to temptation and retraced my steps. I did not, and therein lies the object lesson of this story. Stretching far out over imminent danger, I had just about touched paradise when the board tilted. Peter walked on water. I walked on air. We both suffered the consequences.

I've done belly flops off a diving board, taken tumbles from skateboards and bicycles, fallen into trash receptacles. Nothing compares to the swan dive into blackberry bristles that day.

When you are embraced by hundreds of thorns, you don't move. Neither did I. Every effort to dislodge one painful dagger brought several more spikes into play. And then there were the wasps, which found my juice-covered hide a delightfully unexpected summer picnic.

Cousins came flying in response to my frantic yells. My memory of the aftermath may be a bit fuzzy, but I think I now understand the presumptuous frustrations of a dog who wages war with a porcupine.

I still love berries. I'll take a fresh blackberry pie over almost any other dessert. But I have a healthy respect for the context in which they are found. Beautiful berries and fragrant roses mix their rewards

with pain if not treated with care.

I think about that sometimes when things beyond my reach beckon. Is it worth the risk, I wonder. Do I need to step out in faith beyond my comfort zone? And, if I step out, if I put my toe in the water, will it part? Or will I be caught up in the flood and cry out like Peter, "Lord, save me!"

Scriptures remind me that I am prone to plan my own demise. "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death," intones the wise man. But inspiration also affirms that with God, "all things are possible."

We are created for pathways of faith, not foolishness. But that faith is linked to our hands stretched high toward the grip of the Master. Any walk into the unknown is best done hand in hand with Him.

Steve Vistaunet, Gleaner editor

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AND DO THIS, UNDERSTANDING THE PRESENT TIME: THE HOUR HAS ALREADY COME FOR YOU TO WAKE UP FROM YOUR SLUMBER, BECAUSE OUR SALVATION IS NEARER NOW THAN WHEN WE FIRST BELIEVED.
- ROMANS 13:11 -

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