

EDITORIAL
UNTO US

PERSPECTIVE
THE END OF THE STORY,
PART 1

LET'S TALK
COVENANT

gleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

*When
Immanuel
Wept*

WHAT WE CAN LEARN
FROM HIS EXAMPLE

DEC.
2015
VOL. 110, N° 12



Peace I leave with you; my peace
I give you. I do not give to you as the
world gives. Do not let your hearts be
troubled and do not be afraid.
John 14:27

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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

“Winter Serenity”
 in Greenwater, Wash.,
 by Sean Henderson,
 of Puyallup, Wash.



UNTO US

This year marks the passing of a century since the death of Ellen G. White in 1915. As we draw this year to a close, we take note of her words describing the incarnation of our Savior.

Heaven and earth are no wider apart today than when shepherds listened to the angels' song.

T

he angels had wondered at the glorious plan of redemption. They watched to see how the people of God would receive His Son, clothed in the garb of humanity. Angels came to the land of the chosen people. Other nations were dealing in fables and worshipping false gods. To the land where the glory of God had been revealed, and the light of prophecy had shone, the angels came. They came unseen to Jerusalem, to the appointed expositors of the Sacred Oracles, and the ministers of God's house. Already to Zacharias the priest, as he ministered before the altar, the nearness of Christ's coming had been announced. Already the forerunner was born, his mission attested by miracle and prophecy. The tidings of his birth and the wonderful significance of his mission had been spread abroad. Yet Jerusalem was not preparing to welcome her Redeemer.

author

Ellen White

With amazement the heavenly messengers beheld the indifference of that people whom God had called to communicate to the world the light of sacred truth.

The Jewish nation had been preserved as a witness that Christ was to be born of the seed of Abraham and of David's line; yet they knew not that His coming was now at hand. In the temple the morning and the evening sacrifice daily pointed to the Lamb of God; yet even here was no preparation to receive Him. The priests and teachers of the nation knew not that the greatest event of the ages was about



to take place. They rehearsed their meaningless prayers, and performed the rites of worship to be seen by men, but in their strife for riches and worldly honor they were not prepared for the revelation of the

Messiah. The same indifference pervaded the land of Israel. Hearts selfish and world-engrossed were untouched by the joy that thrilled all heaven. Only a few were longing to behold the Unseen. To these heaven's embassy was sent.

Heaven and earth are no wider apart today than when shepherds listened to the angels' song. Humanity is still as much the object of heaven's solicitude as when common men of common occupations met angels at noonday, and talked with the heavenly messengers in the vineyards and the fields. To us in the common walks of life, heaven may be very near. Angels from the courts above will attend the steps of those who come and go at God's command.

The heart of the human father yearns over his son. He looks into the face of his little child, and trembles at the thought of life's peril. He longs to shield his dear one from Satan's power, to hold him back from temptation and conflict. To meet a bitterer conflict and a more fearful risk, God gave His only-begotten Son, that the path of life might be made sure for our little ones. "Herein is love." Wonder, O heavens! and be astonished, O earth!

Ellen White, The Desire of Ages, excerpts from pp. 43–49



NORTHWEST PROJECTS GARNER SAC AWARDS

Northwest projects reaped special awards at this year's Society of Adventist Communicators convention, held Oct. 15-17 in Chantilly, Va.



BRENT HARDING

Communicators from the North Pacific Union at the Society of Adventist Communicators convention in Chantilly, Va.

The GleanerNow team of Steve Vistaunet, Anthony White and Jay Wintermeyer won the Best in Class Award in New Media for best use of social media in coverage of this summer's General Conference

session in San Antonio, Texas.

"The Wave" student news-letter team of Alix Harris, Heidi Baumgartner, Cassi Kiger, Skagit Adventist Academy, Buena Vista SDA Elementary School and Cypress Adventist School won the Best in Class Award for Print Newsletter. It also garnered the coveted Reger Smith Cutting Edge Award, which is presented each year to recognize creative, innovative and cutting-edge projects.

Walla Walla University (WVU) students were honored with three Best in Class awards: Best Design Project, "By Heart" by Ricky Barbosa; Best Newsletter, *The Collegian* with Ricky Barbosa, Karl

Wallenkampf, Mindy Robinson, Andrea Johnson, Carolyn Green, Alex Lemnah and Benjamin Ramey; and Best Video Project, "The Exquisite Outdoors" with Jacob Patterson, Grant Perdew, Erik Edstrom, Eric Weber, Nate Stratte and Joel Willard.

David Bullock, WVU communication professor, also received an award for Best Radio or Podcast, along with team members Phil White, Willa Sandmeyer and Matthew Fornier, for their daily Adventist World Radio podcast during the 2015 General Conference Session.

The Society of Adventist Communicators seeks to inspire an effective spread of the Seventh-day Adventist mission and message through principles of professional communication. It is sponsored by the North American Division.

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Excellence is fostered in WWU classrooms.

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There are big plans for this old house.

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GAYLE HAEGER



PICTURE THIS



PETER HERMANDEZ

Oh what fun it is to ride.

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When Immanuel Wept

STEPHEN LUNDQUIST

IT WASN'T CHRISTMAS, AND I WAS FAR FROM THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT. IT WAS THE DAY I QUIT TRUSTING PEOPLE. AT LEAST PEOPLE WHO LOOKED LIKE HIM.

The morning light was still dim as I sat in the neighborhood café munching a toasted bagel. This particular year, I had embraced a personal health challenge to commute to work by bike every day, and my red Trek 1500 was parked neatly in a row of other bicycles just outside the café window.

In the middle of an engaging conversation with a couple other pastor colleagues, I glanced outdoors, and that is when I saw him — or rather, I saw my expensive bicycle traveling past the window. I jumped to my feet, yanked the door open and yelled like I've never yelled before in a café: "HEY!"

Startled customers looked up as I raced out the door after the thief. I was wearing cycling shoes — the running equivalent of reverse high heels. Glancing back at me, he threw his leg over the bike and peddled away.

My mind was spinning with critical, angry thoughts. "What a worthless idiot. He needs to get a job. He's probably going to sell it and buy drugs.

Why do we allow people like this into our country anyway? He is so lazy. I bet he has a long criminal record.”

How quickly I judged. How readily I made assumptions. How naturally I assumed the worst.

I fear my thoughts that day are symptomatic of society. Prejudice runs rampant when we form a negative opinion about someone based on inadequate facts. Break the word down. Prejudice. We “pre-judge” them. Prejudice is simply an ignorant, arrogant assumption.

I’ll come back to the bike, but first we have important things to consider. Critical things. Things that many people in our nation are talking about. At first glance they might not seem to fit within the Christmas season, but actually they reveal the core of Christmas.

OUR LIMITED UNDERSTANDING

Just as the world measured Jesus through its own limited vision, we too measure others with limited understanding.

Author Stephen Covey tells the story of riding on a subway in New York on a Sunday morning. People were sitting quietly — some reading, some lost in thought, some resting or sleeping.

But then a man and his children entered, and everything changed. The children were out of control, yelling and tossing things back and forth. The man sat down next to Covey and closed his eyes, apparently oblivious to the mayhem.

Covey could not believe this father could be so irresponsible. So finally, with a valiant effort at patience, he confronted the man. “Sir, your children are really disturbing a lot of people. I wonder if you couldn’t control them a little more.”

Stephen Covey writes, “The man lifted his gaze as if to come to consciousness of the situation for the first time and said softly, ‘Oh, you’re right. I guess I should do something about it. We just came from the hospital, where their mother died about an hour ago. I don’t know what to think, and I guess they don’t know how to handle it either.’”

“Can you imagine what I felt at that moment?” exclaims Covey. “My paradigm shifted. Suddenly I saw things differently, and because I saw differently, I thought differently, I felt differently, I behaved differently. My irritation vanished. I didn’t have to worry about my attitude or my behavior; my heart was filled with the man’s pain. Feelings of sympathy and compassion flowed freely. ‘Your wife has just died? Oh I’m sorry! Can you tell me

about it? What can I do to help?’ Everything changed in an instant.” (from *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*).

We see people that act a certain way and make ignorant assumptions. We pre-judge them. Prejudice.

But prejudice doesn’t just happen in New York subways. It happens right here, in our own towns, in our own neighborhoods, in our own hearts.


WHEN JESUS WEPT

When I first became a teacher, I wanted my students to memorize Scripture. So I told them they could choose any six contiguous verses they wanted. The first week they had to write just the first verse. I remember one clever student grinning at me as he carefully wrote “Jesus wept.” Though he likely did this to avoid challenging himself, he unwittingly wrote two of the most profound and powerful words ever penned: Jesus wept.

Here is what we know. Mary, Martha and Lazarus were a trifecta of siblings especially close to Jesus. We know that Lazarus was diagnosed with a terminal illness. We know that Jesus goes to see the siblings in spite of the fact that the last time He was there His enemies tried to stone him. We know that by the time Jesus arrives Lazarus is dead and decomposing. We know that Martha partially blames Jesus for her brother’s death when she says, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

And, perhaps most significantly, we know that Jesus knows what He is about to do. Of course He does. In minutes, He will be recomposing what is decomposing. Tears of

“I didn’t have to worry about my attitude or my behavior; my heart was filled with the man’s pain. Feelings of sympathy and compassion flowed freely.”



“The gospel truth is, when I invite Immanuel into my heart, I start seeing people differently. It’s because He changes my heart.”

sadness will become tears of gladness. A corpse is going to walk. A funeral will become a party.

So why, then, does He weep?

John 11 has the story. “When Jesus saw Mary weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ‘Where have you laid him?’ He asked. ‘Come and see, Lord,’ they replied.”

And then those two words: “Jesus wept.”

The Interpreter’s Bible offers this commentary: “These tears are an authentic revelation of the divine; granting us insight into God’s mind and nature; bringing home to us some inkling of the wonder of his compassion; of the depth and the sureness of his sympathy with his needy, desperate world, and for hurt minds and hearts.”

Jesus weeps because He feels with humans. He doesn’t feel bad for them. He feels with them. He doesn’t feel pity for them. He feels with them. He doesn’t feel sorry for them. He feels with them. “Jesus wept.” The epitome of empathy.

Jesus humanized Himself not simply so He could save us, but so He could feel with us. And that is the promise of Christmas. Immanuel. God with us.

And the God who leaves the safety and sanctuary of heaven in order that He might feel with humans says, “Follow me.” Racism is not an issue. It is people. Homosexuality is not an issue. It is people. Gender inequality is not an issue. It is people. Poverty is not an issue. It is people. And the only way we can begin to humanize issues is by listening. Truly listening. Intentionally listening. Genuinely listening. And as we listen, we are given windows to the soul. And then when an “issue” is discussed, we see the face of a friend.

Truth is ...

I don’t know what it is like to be a woman.
I don’t know what it is like to be a black man.
I don’t know what it is like to be a teenager in 2015.

I don’t know what it is like to be gay.
I don’t know what it is like to be abandoned by my parents.

I don’t know what it is like to be homeless.
I don’t know what it is like to be broke.

But I do know of One who knows what it is like to be deeply human. Because He became “Immanuel.” God with us.

This is the gospel of Christmas. This is the gospel for the end times and for all times. And the gospel truth is, when I invite Immanuel into my heart, I start seeing people differently. It’s because He changes my heart. And prejudice — pre-judging — begins in the heart.

LEARNING FROM HIS EXAMPLE

And to help us all follow the example of Immanuel, here are some gifts we can consider giving to others this Christmas and on through the New Year, to become channels of healing, not hurt:

- 1 Ask open-ended questions. Especially of those who are different than you. Then listen. Befriend them, love them. It’s nearly impossible to hate someone once you know their story.
- 2 Feel with people. It is called empathy. Don’t say, “I know exactly how you feel” because you don’t. But make that your goal.
- 3 Assume the best, in every person, in every situation.
- 4 See people through the eyes of Jesus. This doesn’t mean we pretend we are the same. But we see each other as family. You are my sister. You are my brother. Pray this intentional prayer: Jesus, give me Your eyes today. Give me Your ears. Give me Your heart.
- 5 Refuse to be a part of jokes that promote prejudice. Ending a racist remark with “I was only joking” doesn’t make it right. This is never, ever, ever, ever a joke. Ever. Ever. Ever. Ever.
- 6 Seek nonviolent solutions for the injustice that still occurs in our world. Engage in causes that matter to Jesus. Refuse to be silent while people suffer.

We all face an insurmountable deficit of understanding unless we remember the core of the Christmas message in the words of Paul. Jesus, he says, “came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”

Besides Paul, if anyone deserved to be pre-judged, it was you and me.

Of course I wasn’t thinking these lofty thoughts when my bike disappeared down the street. Or even a couple hours later when, through the stellar efforts of my pastor friends, other witnesses and some timely police support, I got my precious Trek 1500 back that very morning.

The bike thief, though, gave me every good reason to pre-judge him for his actions. It was the day I began to distrust people. Especially people who looked like him.

And, by the way, he looked a lot like me.

Adapted from a sermon by Stephen Lundquist, Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) Bible teacher/religion department head, presented at PAA on December 16, 2014.

NUEVOS INTEGRANTES DEL EQUIPO PASTORAL

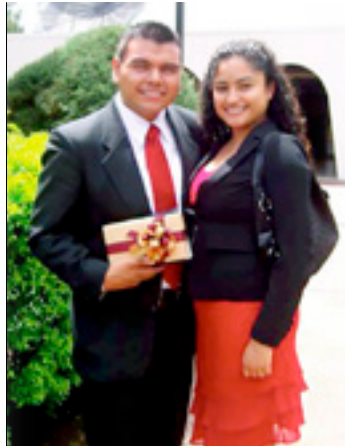
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En los últimos meses el equipo pastoral hispano de la Conferencia de Upper Columbia se ha renovado debido a la partida de tres pastores que aceptaron llamado a otros campos misioneros o se embarcaron rumbo a la universidad para hacer su maestría. Deseamos las más ricas bendiciones a los pastores que se han ido a otros lugares, y por este motivo el Ministerio Hispano de la Conferencia de Upper Columbia se complace en presentar a los nuevos integrantes del equipo: el Ptr. Hugo Villalobos y su prometida Lisbeth; el Dr. Pedro Canales y su esposa Trinidad; y el Ptr. Isaías Hernández y su esposa Graciela.



Dr. Pedro Canales y esposa Trinidad.

El pastor Hugo Villalobos, oriundo de la ciudad de Chicago, Ill. Realizó sus estudios teológicos en la Universidad Adventista de Costa Rica. Allí hizo su práctica pastoral como



Pastor Hugo Villalobos y prometida Lisbeth.

pastor asociado, plantando grupos pequeños, iglesias y colportando. De regreso en los Estados Unidos se desempeñó como pastor distrital en la Conferencia Regional del Lago antes de aceptar el llamado a nuestra conferencia. En Costa Rica conoció a la joven guatemalteca Lisbeth Herrera, quien está actualmente en dicho país finalizando sus estudios de enfermería, con quien está comprometido y con planes de casarse para fines de este año. El pastor Villalobos tiene una gran pasión por el evangelismo y por la lectura, y ha aceptado el llamado para servir en el distrito hispano de Hermiston-Pendleton, en Oregon.

El Dr. Pedro Canales nació en Vega Baja, Puerto Rico. Completó sus estudios en teología en la Universidad Adventista de las Antillas en

su país natal donde comenzó su ministerio pastoral. Sirvió como vicepresidente y presidente de la Asociación en Puerto Rico y como pastor distrital en New Jersey y Texas. El Dr. Canales cuenta con una Maestría en Artes en Orientación y Consejería, un Doctorado en Ministerio en Cuidado Pastoral y un Doctorado de Filosofía en Teología Aplicada. Su esposa Triny es enfermera graduada



Pastor Isaías Hernandez y esposa Graciela.

de la Universidad Adventista y tienen tres preciosas hijas: Priscilla, Jessenia y Yarissel. También tienen una nieta, Cookie, tan bella como todos en la familia. Al Dr. Canales le gusta trabajar la tierra, leer, hacer deportes y trabajar con los jóvenes. Él y su esposa Triny han aceptado el llamado y están sirviendo en el distrito hispano del Valle de Walla Walla, Washington.

El pastor Isaías Hernández nació en Guatemala. Graduado como Licenciado en Teología en la Universidad Adventista del Plata, Argentina. Además obtuvo una segunda

Licenciatura en Trabajo Social en la Universidad de Walla Walla, Wash. En su vasta experiencia pastoral se ha desempeñado como pastor distrital en varios países de Latinoamérica y en los Estados Unidos, adquiriendo valiosa experiencia multicultural y multiétnica. También ha trabajado en evangelismo, plantación de iglesias y colportaje. Ha hecho programas radiales y televisivos y tiene además un gran talento musical. El pastor Hernández está casado con Gracie y tienen tres bellas hijas: Vanesa, Jéscia y Gabriela. Y hace poquitos meses atrás se convirtieron en abuelos de su primer nieto. En su tiempo libre el pastor disfruta de hacer caminatas, leer, tocar instrumentos musicales y pasar tiempo con la familia. El pastor Hernández y su esposa Gracie han aceptado el llamado para servir en el distrito hispano de Tri-Cities, Wash.

En nombre de la familia de Upper Columbia Conference y la hermandad hispana de este territorio les decimos a ellos: “¡Bienvenidos!”, deseándoles que nuestro amoroso Padre Celestial bendiga sus respectivos ministerios en este lugar.

Informa la oficina del Ministerio Hispano de la Conferencia de Upper Columbia

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ALASKA CONFERENCE CALENDAR 2016

6100 O'Malley Road, Anchorage, AK 99507
907-346-1004; fax 907-346-3279, alaskaconference.org

Office hours:
Monday–Thursday
8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

JANUARY

- 1: Office Closed (New Year's Day)
- 1–3: GYC, Louisville, KY (starts Dec. 31)
- 11–14: Pastors' Meetings
- 15–16: Elders' Training
- 18: Office Closed (MLK Jr.)
- 21: K-10 Board of Education
- 24: Executive Committee

FEBRUARY

- 4–5: Alaska Teachers' Meetings
- 5–6: Anchorage Town Hall Meetings
- 15: Office Closed (Presidents Day)
- 19–20: Fairbanks Town Hall Meeting
- 26–28: Arctic Native Camp Meeting (Nome)

MARCH

- 11–13: Bristol Bay Camp Meeting (Dillingham)
- 11–13: Keeper of My Heart With John Matthews
- 18–20: Keeper of My Heart With John Matthews
- 25–27: Bethel Camp Meeting

APRIL

- 4–5: School Visits (Fairbanks)
- 18–22: School Visits (Southeast)
- TBD: Alaska Women's Retreat

MAY

- TBD: School Visits (Dillingham)
- TBD: School Visits (Amazing Grace)
- 5–15: Southeast Town Hall Meetings
- 19: K-10 Board of Education
- 27–29: Alaska Pathfinder Camporee
- 30: Office Closed (Memorial Day)

JUNE

- 17–19: Interior Camp Meeting (Harding Lake)
- 19–26: Alaska Camps — Tuk: Juniors
- 26–July 3: Alaska Camps — Tuk: Teens

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Though many village adults were busy hunting during the caribou migration, the series drew a large number of children each evening.

SHUNGNAK HOSTS FAMILY EVANGELISM

The Shungnak Adventist Mission hosted Tobin Dodge, Delta Junction and North Pole churches pastor, for a 10-day evangelistic series in September. With his wife, Virlyn, and their six children, Dodge brought a special focus on family issues and relationships and offered ways to break Satan's bonds.

Nature threw a curveball as a wave of caribou migrated over nearby Brooks Range. When the caribou migrate, the locals go hunting. Despite this interruption, several community members attended the meetings, along with up to 20 children each night.

Each evening began with a joint meeting for adults and children during which Dodge described various character traits by comparing them to different types of animals. Then the children got to enjoy their own special program while the adults continued to learn more about practical and direct information about family life.



Tobias Dodge presents another topic during his family issues evangelistic series in Shungnak.

Located north of the Arctic Circle, Shungnak has a rich history of ministry, with a steady Adventist presence there for many years. While they looked forward to seeing their own home, the Dodge family felt the pull of heart strings as they boarded the plane to leave. They took with them the bonds of friendship they forged with both their missionary hosts and new friends in the village.

Tobin Dodge, Delta Junction Church pastor

CAA STUDENTS HOLD WEEK OF PRAYER FOR AGA

After weeks of preparation and prayer, 11 students from Columbia Adventist Academy in Battle Ground, Wash., arrived in Palmer, Alaska, on Oct. 18 to present a week of prayer program for the students of Amazing Grace Academy (AGA). The Columbia students split into three groups to speak to each of the different AGA grade levels.

Kennedy Allen, Derek Edmister and Stephanie Thomas spoke to kindergarten through fourth grade. Jonathan Kinsman, Mitchell Powers, Joshua Ermshar and Kyle Lewis spoke to fifth through eighth grade.

The high school students got to hear Shelby Pine, Nick Jokela, Joe Reed and Alec Scalf. Every day, when the students finished their morning week of prayer program, the Columbia students went into each classroom to pray with the students and to help the teachers.

"The students of AGA seemed to enjoy being with all of us, and we love to be with them too," says Allen. "Prayer was a big part of the whole experience; every day we try to go to each of the classrooms to pray with the students. Our goal was to reach out to these kids and teach them more about God. Every day we would strive to have a good connection with every one of the students."

In coming to Amazing Grace Academy, the Columbia students seem to have come closer to God by sharing their own love for Him. They felt blessed to have the opportunity to make connections with students, teachers and other church members. This trip changed them and brought them closer to God.

Kennedy Allen and Stephanie Thomas, Columbia Adventist Academy students

Eleven students from Columbia Adventist Academy in Battle Ground, Wash., arrive in Palmer, Alaska, to present a week of prayer program for the students of Amazing Grace Academy.



CLASSIC CARS RAISE FUNDS FOR EAGLE SCHOOL

More photos online at
glnr.in/110-12-id_classiccars

The cars started pulling in early for the third annual Eagle Antique and Classic Car Show. The Oct. 4 event was presented by the Eagle Church and Eagle Adventist Christian School as a family-friendly community event that raised funds for the school.

The two previous years, it had been held on Memorial Day weekend. Would people come in the fall? Organizers had changed the date to get



A portion of the cars on display at the third annual Eagle Antique and Classic Car Show.

came from as far as Twin Falls, Idaho, and Vale, Ore. There were cars from 1928 to 2014, all shining and lovingly cared for.

Each participant received a packet that contained registration information, a *Signs of the Times* tract and a Scripture bookmark. Activities for all ages included food booths, free kids' crafts and a bounce house, with the sound of oldies music in the background.

The Pathfinders presented the colors, and a tribute was made to the veterans. Awards were given to the best of each decade, Best of Show and a car owner's People's Choice. The awards were trophies made from car parts by Melissa Anderson, an art student at Boise

State University.

Church members had a great time getting to know the car owners and sharing about their church and school. One man came to the registration desk and asked about the church. He is new to the area and said he was looking for a new church family.

David Green, a local church elder, says, "I'd do this again in a heartbeat. It was so fun talking with these old guys. They are really neat people." One guest took three copies of *Happiness Digest* with the promise she would read one and share the others with her friends.

Another man was impressed with the young man, Austin States, who was leading

the Pathfinders during the presenting of the colors. "It's good to see leadership being taught to young people," the man said.

"I had many visitors telling me how much they appreciated the effort," says Bob Atteberry, Eagle Church pastor. "Sometimes I hear, 'What good does it do to have a car show at church?' Let me tell you, there was one woman who needed help, and I was able to assist and spiritually share with her."

Jodi Giem, Eagle Church member

The Golden Eagle Pathfinders present the colors.



The Eagle Fire Department adds a classic fire engine to the display.

away from a holiday weekend in order to get more volunteer help and wondered if people would come — and they came.

In fact, they kept coming, with 93 cars in all. People

MONTANA MEN'S SUMMIT INSPIRES

The 2015 Montana Men's Summit was convened on the last weekend in September, as always, at Mount Ellis Academy just east of Bozeman. The message presented by Minner Labrador from the Southwestern Union was timely and inspiring.

Labrador presented the biblical view of a God who is not only a gentle, loving shepherd but a warrior with fire in His eyes, according to Revelation. He is a God who is passionate about justice and defending His children.

Attendees were challenged to be God's uncompromising, totally dedicated warriors, fathers and husbands. The statistics indicating that, as dad goes, so goes the family are astounding.

The Mount Ellis ski area provided an ideal setting in which to contemplate a powerful Creator. The food was good as always and the accom-

modations comfortable.

Song services were accompanied by four or five guitars, plus a saw played by Merlin Knowles, Montana Conference president. A theme song for the weekend was composed by Dan Clark.

Clark also performed several original pieces as special numbers, as did Norm Johnson, Havre Church pastor. The Montana Men's Chorus performed Sabbath evening.

Those who did not attend missed a tremendous blessing. The message, the fellowship, the music and the setting were outstanding.

Montana men are looking forward to the 2016 summit with Lincoln Steed, *Liberty Magazine* editor, as their speaker. Plan now to attend, be a blessing and be blessed.

Leo Beardsley, Havre Church communication leader

Minner Labrador from the Southwestern Union shares a biblical view on the nature of God.



ROLLIN HANSON



Some 50 elders gathered for a first-of-its-kind Elders' Symposium.

MONTANA CONFERENCE HOSTS ELDERS' SYMPOSIUM

Some 50 elders from churches across the state of Montana convened in Missoula for a first-of-its-kind Elders' Symposium. VicLouis Arreola III, Pacific Institute of Christian Ministry (PICM) director in California, presented the first segment of ECT (Elders Certification Training) — a cutting-edge program developed to better equip local elders and lay leaders for ministry in their respective churches.

The schedule included such topics as the ministry of visitation, effective evangelistic planning in the local church, leadership styles and basic sermon preparation, among others. Participants shared and discussed in cohort breakout sessions throughout the two-day event. Upon completion of additional assignments such as church administration, fundamental beliefs, lay pastoral ministry and required reading,

elders will receive an Elders Certification.

Throughout the symposium, the elders sensed God's presence and that great things are in store as they continue to seek Him and the advancement of His kingdom in their territory. A new sense of understanding was felt that local church elders do indeed play a vital leadership role.

David Brown, PICM field representative from Missoula, and the Montana Conference ministerial department helped to make this event a reality. Now they look forward to seeing what God will do as these elders engage the churches in their respective territories in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Barry Taylor, Montana Conference ministerial director

PAA HOSTS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY FOR TEACHERS CITYWIDE

Every month, Portland Adventist Academy hosts language teachers in a Professional Learning Community (PLC), the only one of its kind in the Portland metro area. The PLC supports educators using an innovative teaching method called Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS).

The 20 language teachers in the PLC teach Spanish, Korean, French or American Sign Language. They come from 14 different elementary, junior high and high schools, including Columbia Adventist Academy in Battle Ground, Wash., and Livingston Adventist Academy in Salem. “[We’re from] public, private and parochial schools, as well as two new teachers who teach at an after-school language program,” says Rita Barrett, head of PAA’s language department who founded the PLC in 2011.

The PLC meets for a few hours one Sunday a month and provides teachers the environment to discuss, model and practice TPRS. “The positive energy and enthusiasm makes this a safe place to practice and improve my skills,” says Lynn Ingraham, Vancouver (Wash.) School of Arts and Academics French and Spanish teacher.

“We make time for discussion of specific teaching skills, new ideas and to brain-



“We make time for discussion of specific teaching skills, new ideas and to brainstorm solutions for specific problems teachers face,” says Rita Barrett (right), PAA teacher and founder of the PLC. Marién Vera (middle) from Columbia Adventist Academy and Ann Cedeño (left) from the Vancouver Home Connection and Lieser School are two of the teachers benefiting from the PLC.

storm solutions for specific problems teachers face,” says Barrett. “We make sure that each teacher has an opportunity to be heard to practice and that everyone goes away feeling supported and ready to return to class with stronger skills.”

The PLC is especially helpful for teachers new to TPRS. Angelica Dull, Kalama (Wash.) High School Spanish teacher, lost her husband suddenly and had to return to her teaching career after a 20-year absence. “Rita reached out to me about the PLC, and so I attended,” she says. “I was impressed that teaching language had changed so much.

Through TPRS, students are engaged in acquiring language and are active in learning instead of the traditional way of memorizing information.”

“It’s great to know that PAA has a level of rigor in its instruction that attracts teachers from Portland and beyond,” says Dan Nicola, PAA principal. “We’re known to others in our city as a place that encourages and seeks out empowering professional growth.”

“I’m always looking for a good teaching idea,” says Ingraham. “But of course I cannot just mimic. I have to integrate it and make it my own. Our group is a safe place for me to explore ideas with

professional colleagues.”

Positive learning relationships with professionals from the greater Portland area strengthens PAA’s academic reputation as well as its emphasis on Christ-centered, character-driven values. “We have bonded so much with the passion that we have as language teachers,” says Dull. “The excitement that this group has given me has helped me regain a passion for teaching after the loss of my husband. This is priceless and forever appreciated.”

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA Gleaner correspondent

MEMBERS' VISION BECOMES REALITY ⁺

More photos online at glnr.in/110-12-or_lents

Many months ago, Ron and Silvy Ririhe-na proposed a health evangelism program, which became a reality for Lents Church in Portland with a Health Expo on Sept. 20, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Ririhenas had served at several large-scale Adventist health expos. They believed the Lents Church, in conjunction with California's Weimar Health Institute, could sponsor such an event on a smaller scale. The church board agreed, and four dedicated Weimar instructors arrived a week early to conduct training sessions.

Eager anticipation filled the air the morning of the event. Booths marked by col-



Cheryl Scheufler demonstrates plant-based recipes.

ored banners sharing NEW-START (Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunshine, Temperance, Air, Rest and Trust in God) guidelines were spaced throughout the Lents Activity Center. Beside the banners,

church members were taking their places in the booths for health screening and sharing.

A dental van was on site, and folks were lined up, waiting for the starting time. When the doors opened, the guests were queued for the dental services and began visiting the other health stations.

Based on objective and subjective information obtained at the stations, the guests were given a health score when they stopped by the Weimar Health Gauge Station. Next, medical personnel counseled regarding health issues, and ministerial staff offered spiritual counseling and shared helpful pamphlets and books.

Throughout the day musicians performed. Two plant-

based recipes were demonstrated by church member Cheryl Scheufler, and guests got to sample the recipes.

The last station offered chair massages. The last backrub was given to a young, thin homeless woman. During the massage, she nodded off. When she awoke, she expressed her thanks.

Those involved with the Health Expo may well echo the comment Steve Madsen, Lents Church pastor, gave to the Ririhenas: "Thank you again for persevering with this vision to help it and lead it to become a reality."

Carol Specht, Lents Church communication leader

GOD PROVIDES FOR STAYTON VBS

Stayton (Ore.) Church members gathered this year to start an expedition. The Everest-themed Vacation Bible School loomed over the group gathered one Sunday to get the church ready for a week that would be remembered by everyone who took part.

To say that this Sunday was the start of VBS would not be totally true; as with all great expeditions, this one started

much earlier, with planning and gathering the needed equipment. By the end of the day, Base Camp, mountains and ice caves were made. Now the leaders just had to wait for the kids.

The next day, the kids came. Each day was filled with songs, Bible stories, science experiments, yummy food and fun games. By the end of the week, the kids and staff alike



The Everest-themed Vacation Bible School was a week that will be remembered by everyone who took part.

were humming and singing along with the songs.

But like all expeditions, VBS had to come to an end. As the kids learned on their last day, "God generously

provides all that is needed" (2 Cor. 9:8) ... and more.

Dustin Gordon, Stayton Church member

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS SHARPEN ATHLETIC SKILLS AT MILO'S SPORTS CAMP

Milo Adventist Academy in Days Creek recently welcomed 106 students middle school students and their 27 sponsors to Milo's fourth annual Sports Camp. The young people represented nine Adventist elementary schools in the Oregon Conference and four home-school families.



ABBY ALCANTARA

Milo counselors give the coach their full attention as he starts introductions.

At the first meeting on the evening of Sunday, Sept. 27, Milo's new athletic director, Justin Braman, introduced the young guests to the 32 academy students who would be their counselors and instructors for the next two days. Groups of middle schoolers rotated through seven different sports.

At each station, two academy instructors gave the students tips on improving their game and helped them practice before they tried an actual game. The rotations included basketball, floor hockey, softball, soccer, volleyball, flag football and lacrosse.

As a bonus on Sunday and Monday evenings, students enjoyed games of capture the flag and dodgeball. The visitors

also enjoyed a double-lane water slide and watching a Milo girls varsity volleyball home game.

Chad Reisig, chaplain, and his student chaplains led out in morning and evening worships for the camp, inspiring students to put God first in everything we do. Senior chaplain Sarah Ayon shared her story of how God led her to Milo even though it meant leaving her beloved roller derby team behind and of the blessings she received as a result of following His lead.



PETER HERNANDEZ

Eric Grout, a Sutherlin Adventist School sixth-grader, enjoys the water slide at Milo's Sports Camp.

The fifth- through eighth-graders are already excited about returning for Arts and Technology Camp in February. For more information, email kathy.hernandez@miloacademy.org.

Kathy Hernandez, Milo Adventist Academy teacher and recruiter

More online at glncr.in/110-12-or_milo

CAA IS FIRED UP AND CELEBRATING

God's faithfulness was once again experienced at Columbia Adventist Academy (CAA) in Battle Ground, Wash., and it called for a celebration.

This past spring, the community and alumni came

More online at glncr.in/110-12-or_caa

supporters; and to tell the stories of everything God did to bring the school to this point so that future generations could hear those stories and repeat them to the next generation.

Teachers, parents, alumni and students teamed up to create a program of thanksgiving and celebration for the Fall of Debt. Greg Jackson, CAA accountant and also an alumnus, had the joy of burning the promissory notes to the North Pacific Union Conference, thus bringing fire to the celebration. The evening ended with socializing and recounting the miracles along the way, tours of the facility and refreshments.

CAA is thankful to all of the *Gleaner* readers who had a part in helping the school reach this milestone.

Larry Hiday, CAA Gleaner correspondent



Dale Lamberton, board member and parent of two CAA alumni, ended his testimony by grabbing his guitar and having the audience join him in singing "Give Thanks."

together to pay off the final loans for CAA's administration building. From the groundbreaking in 2008 to the Fall of the Debt celebration on Oct. 5, many miracles have occurred.

Humanly speaking, the timing could not have been worse for constructing what was then determined to be a \$6.4 million structure, as the economy took a nose dive just as construction began.

There was no way to pay for the building based on human plans, but God came through with His plans. The debt was paid, and a celebration was in order to praise God for His faithfulness; to thank the community, alumni and



The CAA handbells and choir, under the direction of Nita Yuros, added joyful sounds to the Fall of the Debt celebration.

Read more online at
glnr.in/110-12-or_sunnyside

LONGTIME PASTOR PASSES BATON AT SUNNYSIDE

It is a long way from Beulah, N.D., to Portland, Ore. — 1,286 miles to be exact. It takes 20 hours and 29 minutes travel time by car with average traffic and weather. For Scott and Dorothy Lemert, it also took a career of 40 and a half years filled with about 2,100 Sabbaths and countless blessings serving God and shepherding His people.

Along the way, Scott filled pastoral positions in



ROGER ROSEQUIST

Scott LeMert, longtime Sunnyside Church lead pastor, preaches on his retirement Sabbath.

Scott had intended to retire in spring 2016, but his plans changed when he suffered a stroke in March 2015, despite having no risk factors for one.

Doctors determined Scott had a congenital growth on the inside the left ventricle of his heart and surgery was needed. With the cardiac surgeon's skill, the support of family and the prayers of Sunnyside members, Scott came through with flying colors. However, he would need considerable recovery time.

Early in the process of diagnosis and treatment, Scott decided to move his retirement up to Oct. 3, 2015. This produced a sense of urgency, as Sunnyside had just lost its associate pastor, Shirley Allen,

to the Oregon Conference children's ministries department, leaving only assistant-turned-associate pastor Jonathan Russell on staff, with support by the church elders.

A Sunnyside pastoral search committee was formed to work with the Oregon Conference to start the search for the next senior pastor and associates while Scott was still in office. In September, the congregation learned Russell had been asked by the search committee and conference to accept the senior pastoral role at Sunnyside and had humbly accepted. The congregation enthusiastically agreed.

Russell, with his wife, Jaclyn, started his ministerial career with a two-year internship at the East Salem Church, working under Gary Parks. This was followed by training

Colby Maier, Sunnyside Church assistant pastor, will focus on young adult and youth ministries.

at the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich.

Russell then accepted a call to Sunnyside to be assistant pastor with a focus on young adult ministries. Over the years, his ministry has expanded, as has his family, which now includes three energetic children.

It's rare that a senior pastor preaches his retirement sermon on the same Sabbath an associate pastor is installed in his place, but that's what happened Oct. 3 at Sunnyside. Warren Rushold, Sunnyside Church communication leader, reviewed highlights of Sunnyside's history, and head elder Arnold Petersen presented a well-deserved tribute to Scott Lemert. Following Scott's sermon, Dave Allen, Oregon Conference vice president for administration, installed Russell as Sunnyside's new senior pastor.

Colby Maier was also introduced as Sunnyside's new assistant pastor for young adults and youth. The search committee and Oregon Conference continue to search for two additional associate pastors to keep Sunnyside moving toward the heart of God and His kingdom.

Warren Rushold, Sunnyside Church communication team leader



ROGER ROSEQUIST

Jonathan Russell preaches as the new lead pastor of Sunnyside.

North Dakota, Iowa, Idaho and Oregon. He served as Oregon Conference assistant to the president for 13 years before his final pastoral stop as Sunnyside Church's senior pastor.



UCA DEDICATES WALLACE DINING COMMONS

Alumni and friends were able to witness a miracle during Upper Columbia Academy's 70th Alumni Homecoming on Sabbath, Oct. 3. The Wallace Dining Commons Dedication was scheduled on the program, but as of print time the remaining balance had not been raised to pay the debt.

"I knew we couldn't have the dedication unless we finished paying the conference," Linnea Torkelsen, UCA alumni and development director, admits. "\$56,000 still had to be raised." Torkelsen said she went to her knees and then to Facebook. By Sabbath morning, \$26,588 remained.

"I did the offering appeal with great peace because of the potato harvest the previous week," explains Torkelsen. "UCA volunteers had planted 800 pounds of seed potatoes hoping for a crop of 5,000 pounds — enough to feed the whole campus for the school year. Instead, they harvested just under 15,000 pounds. If God can do that for a potato crop, He could certainly supply the final amount we needed to go ahead with the dedication."

With great anticipation, the congregation waited as the offering was counted. At the end of the service, it was announced the Lord had provided all that was needed to pay off the final bill with \$120 to spare.

A simple, joyous service was held to dedicate the Wallace Dining Commons, named after former faculty member Clarence "Pop" Wallace. His family joined alumni, staff and students in watching Randy Terry, Upper Columbia Conference vice president for finance, light the fire that consumed the mortgage.

Weston Davis, UCA building committee chair, gave a brief overview of the project, which spanned more than three years, and John Winslow, UCA principal, thanked the building committee members, donors and volunteers who made it all possible. Larry Marsh, Upper

Columbia Conference superintendent of schools, offered the dedicatory prayer.

"We so appreciate Linnea's work and Weston's leadership to help bring the project to completion," Winslow adds.

"Staff, students and guests have appreciated the wonderful facility we have to use now."

*Tamara Michelenko Terry,
Upper Columbia Academy
communication coordinator*



TAMARA TERRY

(From left) Randy Terry, Upper Columbia Conference vice president for finance; Linnea Torkelsen, Upper Columbia Academy alumni and development director; Larry Marsh, Upper Columbia Conference superintendent of schools; and Weston Davis, UCA building committee chair, watch the Wallace Dining Commons mortgage burn during the 70th Alumni Homecoming.

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Debbie* didn't know how they were going to make it. She wanted her son at Upper Columbia Academy, but her family was short financially. She emailed the vice principal for finance. Miraculously in the mail that day were two checks covering the balance. Every semester there are students needing financial assistance. This holiday season, why not consider giving the gift of Adventist Education? It is one gift that will make an eternal difference.

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*UCA Parent

SPOKANE CENTRAL GIVES AN OLD HOUSE NEW PURPOSE

A beehive of activity is taking place in a little house between Spokane Central Church and its fellowship hall. The church is fixing up the house as an after-school activity center.

The house, once a parsonage for the fellowship hall back when it was owned by another church, went on sale this past summer, and church members jumped at the chance to own it. Members of the church are



Members and friends of Spokane Central Church, plus Gerald Haeger, associate pastor (front, second from left), have taken a special interest in the little house next door.

Gayle Haeger, urban ministries coordinator for Spokane, Wash. They have talked with principals and educators in Spokane School District 81 and are working on a plan that will identify students who will most benefit from their after-school program.

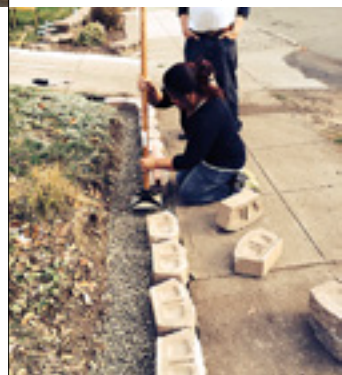
The team plans to be open for about two hours after school, Monday through Thursday. Several people from the school district have encouraged them, saying, “Anything you can do for our children would be a real contribution to the community.” The local school, Emerson/Garfield, is in one of the more impoverished neighborhoods in the state of Washington.

Members hope that, come

underway, team members need to finish the oak floors, put siding on the outside walls and re-finish the retaining walls. The siding was donated by Hy Mark Wood Products. A donor provided substantial funds to get this project started, and ACS provided some startup funds.

Kathy Marson, Upper Columbia Conference communication administrative assistant

Rachel Sumagpang lays block for the new retaining wall.



The little house is wrapped and ready for wood siding donated by Hy Mark Wood Products.

excited to be able to contribute to the needs of their community and have spent hours tearing off siding, tearing out carpet, building a retaining wall, pulling out carpet tacks, landscaping and more.

Rachel Sumagpang, executive director for this new venture, is working with Patty Marsh, Upper Columbia Conference Adventist Community Services (ACS) director, and

Jan. 4, 2016, the little house will be teeming with activity after school with hands-on fun through a curriculum emphasis called STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics.)

With the project still

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CASCADE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STUDENTS SUPPORT COMMUNITY PROJECTS

More photos online at glnr.in/110-12-uc_cca

Students from Cascade Christian Academy in Wenatchee, Wash., divided and set out to conquer a number of projects on Friday, Oct. 23, that the Wenatchee Valley Make a Difference Day committee sent out in their annual flyer. It was “all hands on deck” when CCA’s staff and volunteer parents and church members set out to their various locations.

In keeping with tradition, CCA’s high school students landed at Camp Zanika on Lake Wenatchee to help this particular Camp Fire USA site prepare for the winter. Grades seven through eight students joined the Volunteer Chore Services by doing yard work for low-income, disabled

adults and seniors, while the sixth-grade students tackled a large mound of fresh bark to be spread around playground equipment at the local Pioneer Park.

A group of sixth-grade girls, with the help of some retirees from the Wenatchee Church, sewed Christmas stockings for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)

Faith Pepple sews Christmas stockings for foster children.



to give to foster children in the Wenatchee Valley. Several church members donated

the festive fabric and trim for the students to use.

The fourth- and fifth-grade class used a couple of their art classes to decorate laundry baskets for Serve Wenatchee, a local community service organization, to fill and give to needy families at Thanksgiving. Kindergarten through fifth-grade classes made their way to nearby nursing homes and assisted living facilities to brighten the day of the residents.

“See a need, do a good deed” was the slogan for this



CCA high school students winterize Camp Zanika.

year’s Make a Difference Day — a perfect parallel to what the Bible teaches in Heb. 13:16: “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” As an Adventist school, Cascade Christian Academy is committed to teaching its students about the blessing of helping others and the responsibility of being citizens of the world.

Julie Savino, Cascade Christian Academy chaplain

BEACON WEEK OF PRAYER BRINGS BIBLE TO LIFE

Making the Bible relevant to kids today isn’t always easy. However, with some creativity, David Crockett, Lewiston (Idaho) Church pastor, spent a week with local Beacon Christian School bringing the Bible to life as he shared about Naaman’s little slave girl as well as Joseph, Josiah, Samuel and David.

The Bible stories Crockett shared helped the students gain a deeper understanding about faith

in times of trouble. He used the story of Josiah and his evil father and grandfather to show how God can use anyone, regardless of his or her background.

One of the unique ways Crockett brought the Bible to life was by getting the kids to put themselves into the story. “How many of you are 8 years old?” he asked. “Imagine that tomorrow morning you wake up and there’s a secret service agent standing by your bed

who tells you, you are the president of the United States. Would it be hard?”

The students really enjoyed their daily visits with Crockett. At the end of the week, the upper-graders planned a surprise scavenger hunt for him to show their appreciation for his great stories.

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



Students at Beacon Christian School enjoyed singing David Crockett’s favorite song, “Father God.”



More online at
glnr.in/110-12-uc_southhill

SOUTH HILL MEMBERS GLOW FOR JESUS

The Spokane (Wash.) South Hill Church members lit a bonfire, opened their doors and invited their community to a Glow Party this past Halloween.



Lucy Hermina played Mary and shared about God's love for us by sending Jesus to save us from sin.

People's openness on Halloween got Jeremy Foss, South Hill Church associate pastor, thinking about what

could churches could do to capitalize on this receptive spirit. "Instead of turning off our lights and hiding, I wanted to do something different," explains Foss.

On the afternoon of the party, Pathfinders went door to door in the community collecting food bank donations and inviting each family to the Glow Party that evening.

When the appointed time arrived, a welcoming bonfire greeted people outside the church. Inside, visitors discovered all kinds of light-filled activities that pointed to God.

The Glow Walk featured prominently in the evening's activities. Visitors walked around the church's Glow Walk to hear Bible stories presented by 12 members dressed in character.

The member playing Joseph handed candy corn to the kids after sharing how God gave him dreams to help save Egypt from famine. Rahab

told about God's deliverance and then shared red licorice to illustrate the red cords she hung in the window.

"This was real opportunity to be a light in our community," says Foss. "We had over 100 people attend, and everyone really enjoyed the night." One family came looking for a haunted house but stayed for the Bible stories



Aimee Boyer handed out Life Saver candy after sharing the life-saving story of Jonah and Nineveh.

and asked about what Adventists believe.

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



The church converted their multipurpose hall into an activity center for the Glow Party, complete with a bounce house.



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NEW MISSION-FOCUSED LEADERSHIP POLICY ADOPTED

A new policy for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in western Washington seeks to help commissioned ministers more readily fulfill mission-focused leadership responsibilities — a decision that is generating positive reactions from constituents and policy watchers.

The Mission-Focused Leadership Policy stands on the scriptural belief of the “priesthood of all believers” found in 1 Peter 2:5, 9 and follows the Adventist Church’s theology of ordination, voted at the General Conference Annual Council in 2014.

This policy also respects the world church’s ordination requirements. It is a practical approach to allow commissioned ministers to participate, along with ordained ministers, in the new General Conference Total Member Involvement (TMI) initiative, to fulfill the Gospel Commission commanded by Christ Jesus in Matthew 28.

The leadership policy was approved in a regularly scheduled conference executive committee meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 20, for the Seventh-day Adventist Church

in western Washington, commonly referred to as Washington Conference.

Under the new Mission-Focused Leadership Policy, commissioned ministers may now perform baptisms or weddings outside their district, but still within Washington Conference, without first asking permission. Additionally, commissioned ministers may now ordain local elders, deacons or deaconesses; plant a church in cooperation with Washington Conference; and hold any leadership position in the Washington Conference. This policy applies only to the western Washington territory.

Washington Conference will continue to recommend qualified individuals for respective ordination or commissioned credentials to the North Pacific Union Conference executive committee for its approval.

To read the full Mission-Focused Leadership policy for Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, please visit washingtonconference.org/missionleaders.

Washington Conference executive committee

NEW MEMBER CHALLENGES CONGREGATION TO SHARE FAITH

Joelle Nicholson professed her faith in Jesus and Adventist beliefs by being baptized in the cold waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca on Thursday, Oct. 22.

Sixty church members stood by at Port Williams to provide warm hugs and encouraging words to Nicholson after her baptism by Mark Pekar, Sequim Church pastor. Nicholson chose the date of her baptism because it was her birthday and the location because she likes to pray there.

Several months ago, she was invited by an Adventist from Canada to worship in the Sequim Church. She attended and has not missed a service after that life-changing day.

“She is God’s gift to our congregation on many counts,” says Collette Pekar, Sequim Church associate pastor and Nicholson’s mentor.

“She is passionate about prayer, worship, outreach and small-group community. We have been praying for young families, children and teenagers.”

When Nicholson was voted into church membership the following Sabbath, she challenged the congregation to share their faith in Jesus and their Adventist beliefs.

Nicholson’s two sons, Jacob and Christian, joined their mother on the platform and were enthusiastically welcomed by profession of faith and voted into membership.

One member commented, “Her testimony brings us hope of many good things God has planned for our church.”

John Gatchet, Sequim Church communication director

Joelle Nicholson often comes to Port Williams on the Strait of Juan de Fuca to pray. She chose the same place for her baptism.

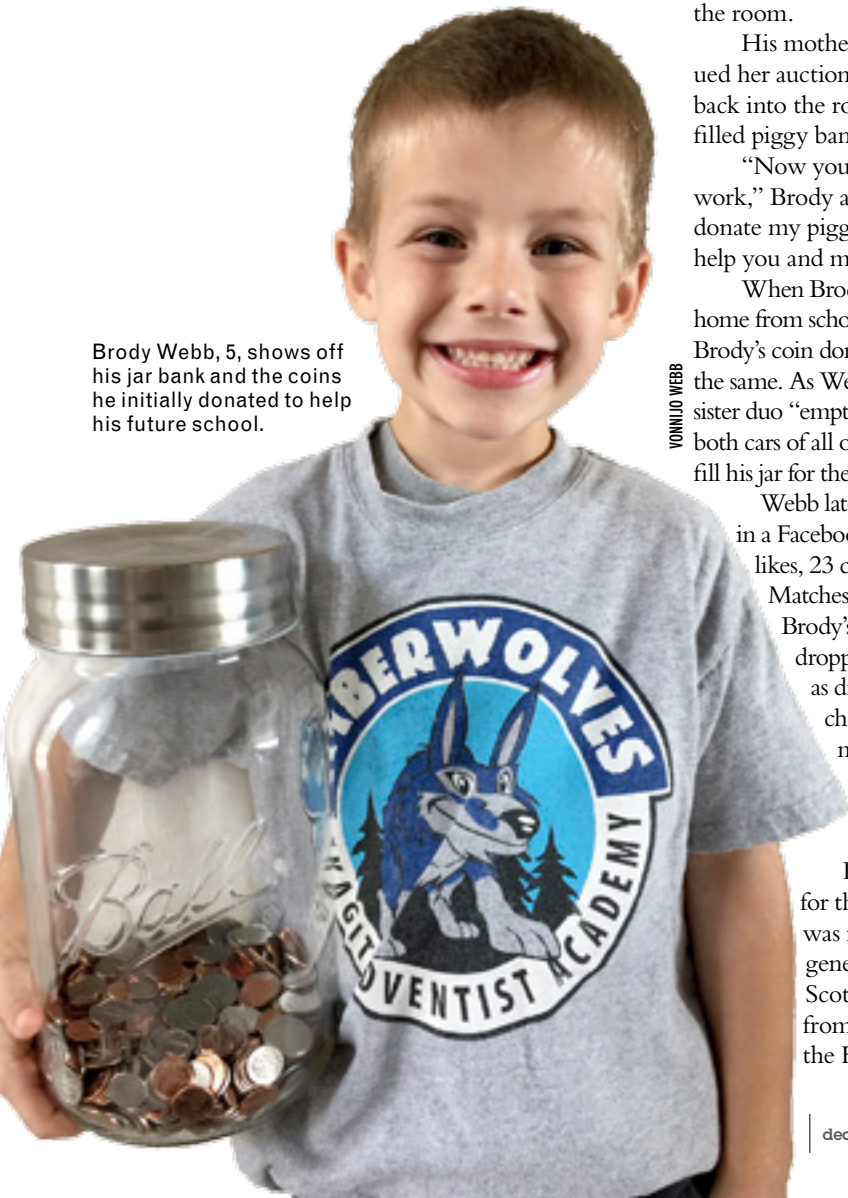


JOHN GATCHET

More photos online at
glnr.in/110-12-wa_brodysjar

BRODY LEARNS ABOUT GIVING

Brody Webb, 5, shows off his jar bank and the coins he initially donated to help his future school.



VONNIJO WEBB

Brody impatiently waited while his mom typed school auction information into a computer document.

At age 5, it is often hard to wait and equally hard when you're feeling sick and just want your mom's attention.

"Mom, why do you have to do all this work for the auction?" Brody inter-

rupted. His mother turned from a desk filled with stacks of notes and donation descriptions to explain to him once again how all the auction items would help raise money for Skagit Adventist Academy, their local Adventist K-12 campus in Burlington. He listened and then left the room.

His mother, VonniJo Webb, continued her auction work until Brody came back into the room toting his partially filled piggy bank jar.

"Now you can be done with your work," Brody announced. "I want to donate my piggy bank to the auction to help you and my future school."

When Brody's sister, Maddisyn, came home from school that day and heard about Brody's coin donation, she decided to do the same. As Webb recounts, the brother-sister duo "emptied the whole house and both cars of all our loose change to try and fill his jar for the school."

Webb later shared the sweet gesture in a Facebook post that generated 55 likes, 23 comments and "Brody Matches" from inspired donors.

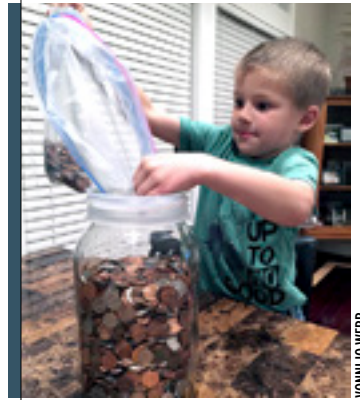
Brody's grandma, Joan Smith, dropped off "lots of quarters" as did other men, women and children that Brody and his mom know.

"Brody is excited every day to find more change," Webb says.

Pat Grant, an auctioneer for the school community, was inspired by Brody's generosity and donated \$300. Scott Raines, a salesman from Ferndale who also saw the Facebook post, offered to

match Brody's original jar on the night of the auction and challenged his friends to do the same.

A local ophthalmologist, Dan Siapco, dropped off his filled coin jar at the school with the note for Brody: "Your generosity inspired me to



VONNIJO WEBB

With every coin donation, Brody Webb has a good time counting and adding to his growing coin collection.

donate my piggy bank as well. Thank you for being a cheerful giver!"

Brody's first philanthropy venture, along with additional donated coins, yielded \$2,015 at the end of the auction on Nov. 1. Additional funding came after the auction, bringing the total to \$4,800. Brody's original jar held \$313.

School leaders will purchase portable staging for the school gym and phase two of the playground thanks to donated funds from the coin collection and the auction.

"Brody wanted to help me get done quicker with all my items, and now it's grown into so much more," Webb says. "I'm a very proud mama, and he's pretty excited too."

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director

SEATTLE HOSTS FIRST PUBLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY TRAINING

An email notification popped up on the screen: “I’m looking for an Adventist group on my public university campus. Can you help me?”

Recent efforts for public college campus ministry in the Seattle area are making it easier to answer “yes” to email and social media requests.

The Volunteer Park Church in Seattle hosted the Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) Campus Catalyst event Oct. 9–11. It was the first time an ACF public college campus ministry training event has been held in the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC).

Campus Catalyst is an interactive weekend event designed to help launch new college ministries to grow and share faith on a public campus.

“Catalyst really helped to solidify in my mind that ministry at my school is possible as well as needed,” says Gracie Watson, a student at Green River Community College in Auburn.

The weekend involved 11 college/university students, five church pastors, and department directors from Wash-

ington Conference and Upper Columbia Conference.

“Catalyst was a great reminder that the simplest things make a big difference,” says Bianca Irimia, a microbiology major at University of Washington in Seattle. “Anyone can be used by God in a big way if they are willing.”

The weekend was the



TRACY WOOD

This is the first time for Seattle to host an Adventist Christian Fellowship training session.

beginning of NPUC Adventist Christian Fellowship ministry on non-Adventist colleges and universities, with more to come next year.

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director

Read more online at lnr.in/110-12-wa_ACF



Auburn Adventist Academy aims to offer a Christ-centered, character-driven approach to educational athletics.

AUBURN MOVES FORWARD, LOOKS UPWARD

Full week of prayer energized Auburn Adventist Academy (AAA) students as they learned more about who God is from local pastor and guest speaker Robin Song. The week ended with Community Service Day, another highlight as students went out into the local community to help clean up parks, bag and shelve food at the local food bank, and plant trees.

Auburn’s sports programs are in full swing as well. Students participated in volleyball and soccer during the fall sports season. Both teams were able to enjoy Fall Classic at Walla Walla University.

The boys soccer team finished out their season winning the Sea-Tac league championship tournament this year with noted sportsmanship, honoring the Sabbath hours and remembering last year’s undefeated season. The coach-

es are also exceptionally proud of the Falcon cross-country team, which brought home the Sea-Tac League team Sportsmanship Award.

Many who remember the aviation program at AAA will be thrilled about the resurrection of a portion of that program with the start of ground school. Mike Latta, a retired American Airlines captain, will be teaching Auburn students all they need to know to pass the FAA Private Pilot Knowledge Test.

“We are praising God for the amazing people, students and programs that are going on all over our campus,” says John Soule, AAA principal. “As Auburn moves forward, we are looking upward as we seek to follow God’s plan for this academic institution.”

Stacy Tajel, AAA English teacher



The Career Development Center

AT WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

The Career Development Center assists students and alumni with career exploration, internship and job searching, and the graduate school application process.

As part of the education program, the department offers a variety of services and workshops, including the use of an online job and internship database. They work hard to develop relationships with graduate schools and employers to give students access to graduate school programs, job opportunities and internships.



- Career Coaching
- Career Assessments
- Resumes and Cover Letters
- Job and Internship Postings
- Internship Registrations

- LinkedIn Evaluations
- Mock Interviews
- Graduate School Professional Statement Reviews
- Professional Network

For more information and to join WWU's Professional Network of alumni career coaches, visit career.wallawalla.edu and click on the Alumni link.

Career Development Center
career.wallawalla.edu
(509) 527-2664 | career@wallawalla.edu



WWU BUSINESS STUDENTS EXCEL ON NATIONAL EXIT EXAM

Seniors in the Walla Walla University (WWU) School of Business scored in the 96th percentile on the Major Field Test in Business (MFT) in 2015. This year, approximately 69,000 senior business students from 563 business schools across the nation took the test. A score in the 96th percentile means 96 percent of business students taking the MFT scored lower than WWU business students.

“What these MFT scores show is that our business program is for students that are serious about their career and are ready to compete at a high level,” says Josefer Montes, School of Business professor and dean. “Our boutique approach to our program, the small class size, one-on-one interaction with the professors and the real-life hands-on projects all give our students a distinctive learning opportunity.”

The MFT is administered by the Educational Testing Service, which is same the organization that administers the Graduate Record Exam and other exit exams for college seniors. The MFT takes two hours to complete and tests senior business students on how much they know about important business subjects including accounting, economics, finance, management, marketing, business law, quantitative analysis, information systems and international business.

Since 1992, senior business students at WWU have scored in the top 12th percentile on the MFT. In 2013, they scored in the 91st percentile and in 2014 the 92nd percentile.

The WWU School of Business has seen a steady increase in the number of students enrolled in its program since 2012. From the 2014–15 to 2015–16 school years alone, the school experienced a rise of 19 students in business majors.

Providing opportunities for students to learn how to work as part of a team is one particular area of focus for the school. “Business today is collaborative. If you can’t learn to work in a team, it’s extremely hard to be successful in business,” says Montes.

Amanda Eldevik, a 2015 graduate from the WWU School of Business, says, “The things I learned, I now apply in the workplace — how to communicate, how to work with others and how to effectively lay out ideas while combining them with other ones. Without group projects, my learning experience would have been completely different. I learned so much about myself and about others in many different ways. What you learn in your group and with your group is as equally important as everything else being taught to you.”

Learn more about the WWU School of Business at wallawalla.edu/business.

Libby Knapp, Walla Walla University university relations student writer

Seniors in the Walla Walla University School of Business scored in the 96th percentile on the Major Field Test in Business in 2015.



ADVENTIST HEALTH HONORS PHYSICIANS FOR EXCEPTIONAL CARE

Read more online at glnr.in/110-12-ah_honors



Adventist Health physicians spend each day living our mission — to share God’s love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing. Out of more than 4,800 medical staff physicians, 18 were selected based on their commitment to remarkable patient care for the Physician of the Year Mission Awards, given at the Adventist Health Physician Leadership Symposium in October. The awardees came together from four states, 18 facilities and many different specialties, yet they all had in common their absolute commitment to the Adventist Health mission.

“Our mission attracts some of the most compassionate people on the planet who dedicate their lives to providing hope and alleviating suffering,” says Paul Crampton, master of ceremonies for the award dinner and Adventist Health assistant vice president for mission and spiritual care. “The Physician of the Year Mission Award recognizes these extraordinary individuals who are God’s hands of healing and work each day to make the world better.” Three of the awardees who are working to make the world better are from the Northwest.

Wesley Rippey is recognized at Adventist Medical Center in Portland, Ore., as



RYAN GREENLEAF PHOTOGRAPHY

(From left) Joyce Newmyer, president and CEO of Adventist Health’s Northwest Region; Wesley Rippey, a surgeon; Bill Wing, Adventist Health executive vice president and chief operating and strategy officer; and Keith Doram, a physician, vice president and chief medical officer at Adventist Health, celebrate Rippey’s award for his life of service.

an exceptional surgeon and extraordinarily hard worker. In addition to running his surgical practice, he serves as chief medical officer for the hospital and as board chairman for both Healthcare Resources NW and the hospital foundation. Beyond his commitment to his duties, Rippey’s life of service is a true demonstration of the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.

“As a fourth-generation surgeon in practice at the hospital, the mission of Adventist Medical Center is in my blood,” says Rippey.

Glen Saylor has been caring for Tillamook, Ore., families for 37 years in his career as a family practice physician — often delivering care to multiple generations

of the same families. A trusted and admired diagnostician in the community, Saylor develops lifelong relationships with his patients. They recognize him for remaining calm in difficult situations and providing kind and nonjudgmental care to all he serves.

“I love helping people,” says Saylor. “To share God’s

love ... is my life philosophy. I am living it.”

Robert Betz is known for his excellent and thorough work in providing care to mothers and babies at Walla Walla General Hospital in Walla Walla, Wash., for nearly 30 years. His bilingual skills in English and Spanish have provided Betz the opportunity to serve more patients in the growing Hispanic community of the area. He also assists with the INK-OUT program, a community project that removes tattoos from local youth and adults who wish to change their appearance and lifestyle.

“I believe this service will enable young people to overcome the effects of past choices [that] do not reflect where they want their lives to go now,” says Betz. “I’m glad to play a part in helping them change the direction of their lives.”

Shelby Seibold, Adventist Health communication specialist

(From left) Mary Betz, Robert Betz, Patty Knittel and Monty Knittel, president and CEO of Walla Walla General Hospital.



RYAN GREENLEAF PHOTOGRAPHY

FAMILY MILESTONES

Casebolt 90th

Gerald Casebolt celebrated his 90th birthday on July 26, 2015, at the Better Living Center of the Roseburg (Ore.) Church. His siblings, children, a daughter from Australia, a grandchild, great-grandchildren and many friends from the church attended. Gerald has been a member of the Roseburg Church for 57 years. He took an active part in church activities and helped make the church's stained glass windows.

Gerald was born on July 22, 1925, in The Dalles, Ore. He is the second of six children. He graduated from Yakima Valley Academy in 1943, then attended Walla Walla College where he was a pre-med student, before heading to medical school in Loma Linda, Calif. He graduated in 1948.

He then married Anna Jean Jennings, a nursing student at White Memorial Hospital in Los Angeles, Calif. They had four children, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Gerald was a general surgeon in Oregon for 25 years. He also served in the Army for two years and was the doctor on a Himalayan expedition in 1978.

He was a world traveler and has been on all seven continents. He was also a serious birder.

Anna Jean died in 2008. Gerald married Shirley Lockard in 2009. Shirley and Gerald are living a "snowbird" lifestyle.

Casper 65th

Kenneth and Joyce Casper recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with friends and family. They were married Aug. 27, 1950, at a small Adventist church in Corning, Calif.

Kenneth grew up near the rural hamlet of Gravelford, Ore., while Joyce Lewis spent her youth between southern Oregon and northern California. Initially working in the timber industry, Kenneth then developed his general contracting business in the mid-1950s while Joyce worked at home. They met at Laurelwood Academy in Gaston, Ore., and later married while attending Walla Walla College.

Through their journey together, they've enjoyed camping and traveling, bird watching, water skiing, Pathfinders and the raising of four children. For most of their 65 years together, they lived in the southern Oregon area of Coquille and later moved to Oregon's Rogue Valley, where they still reside.

In the early 1980s, they became heavily involved in Maranatha Volunteers International, building churches, schools and clinics on five continents. Kenneth serves on the Maranatha board of directors.

The Casper family includes Dennis and Marjo Casper of Seattle, Wash.; Rhonda and Greg Ford of Battle Ground, Wash.; Martin and Judy Casper of Eagle Point, Ore.; Kakule and Cheryl Kisunzu of Dallas, Texas, and Takoma Park, Md.; and 7 grandchildren.

FAMILY BIRTHS

ADAMS — Cricket Faith was born June 14, 2015, to Michale David and Twinkle Ann (Schutt) Adams, Liberty Lake, Wash.

HILTON — Adelaide Marie was born July 7, 2015, to Hughes and Laura (David) Hilton, Beaverton, Ore.

LIMA — Adelyn Grace was born Oct. 9, 2015, to Jarrod and Kari (Nordgren) Lima, Olympia, Wash.

SALDIVAR — Jasmyn Ellena was born Sept. 16, 2015, to Daniel and Deysi (Lopez) Saldivar, Boise, Idaho.

SCHUTTE — Israel Judah was born July 15, 2015, to Adam and Brianna (Stricklin) Schutte, Lincoln City, Ore.

WYTCHERLEY — Wyatt David was born May 9, 2015, to Eric Joseph and Danica Wytcherley, West St. Paul, Minn.

YANKE — Braelyn was born July 24, 2015, to Royce and Arian (Ladd) Yanke, Gresham, Ore.

YANKE — Eden was born July 24, 2015, to Royce and Arian (Ladd) Yanke, Gresham, Ore.

FAMILY WEDDINGS

CHOI-WILHELM-PERFECT Sarah Choi and James Wilhelm-Perfect were married Nov. 23, 2014, in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. They are making their home

FAMILY WEDDINGS

in Loma Linda, Calif. Sarah is the daughter of K.C. and Soon Choi. James is the son of Jack Wilhelm (deceased) and Carol Perfect.

JONES-WYMAN

Aubrey Nicole Jones and James David Wyman were married July 4, 2015, in Woodland, Wash. They are making their home in Milwaukie, Ore. Aubrey is the daughter of Jerry and Glenda (Dimmick) Jones. James is the son of David and RuthAnn (Moor) Wyman.

KARMISHOLT-KILMER

Jena Karmisholt and John Paul Kilmer were married Oct. 29, 2015, in Mount Hope, Wash. They are making their home in Spokane, Wash. Jena is the daughter of Erik Jorgensen and Lis Karmisholt. John Paul is the son of James and Frances (Williams) Kilmer.

LUKE-SANDIDGE

Alexa Morgan Luke and Travis Allen Sandidge were married Sept. 19, 2015, in Boring, Ore. They are making their home in Boise, Idaho. Alexa is the daughter of Larry Jr. and Twyla (Grant) Luke. Travis is the son of Greg and Glenda (Christensen) Sandidge.

PIERCE-FLORY

Corallyn Pierce and Tanner Flory were married Aug. 15, 2015, in Pleasant Hill, Ore. They are making their home in Springfield, Ore. Corallyn is the daughter of Rick and Sherri Wells. Tanner is the son of Kevin and Cathy Flory.

BARNETT — Claude C., 86; born Nov. 8, 1928, Woodinville, Wash.; died July 12, 2015, Oak Harbor, Wash. Surviving: wife, Betty (Hassing); son, Gerald; daughter, Jeanie Barnett; sister, Joan Riggs; and 3 grandchildren.

BOLDEN — Franklin D., 80; born Jan. 2, 1935, Wilcoe, W.V.; died Aug. 17, 2015, Tangent, Ore. Surviving: wife, Cleona (Powers); son, David, Tangent; daughters, Sheryl Rediger, Salem, Ore.; Becky McConnell, Tangent; and 3 grandchildren.

BOLSTER — Ruby “Gladys” (Flakne), 95; born Feb. 16, 1920, Archer, Mont.; died July 22, 2015, College Place, Wash. Surviving: sons, Lloyd Jr., Eastlake, Ohio; Gary, Waitsburg, Wash.; sisters, Mable McGregor and Alma Vance, both of Great Falls, Mont.; 2 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

CROSBY — Jonathan Ross, 34; born Oct. 31, 1980, Walla Walla, Wash.; died June 24, 2015, Portland, Ore. Surviving: father, Bruce Crosby, Portland, Ore.; mother and stepfather, Susie and Ken Crain, Goldendale, Wash.; brother, Steffan Crosby, Walla Walla; sister, Natalie Crosby, Portland; stepsister, Carie Crain, Damascus, Ore.; and stepbrothers, Jason Crain and Corey Crain, both of Vancouver, Wash.

DOBIAS — Anna L. “Lou” (Fisher), 92; born Sept. 24, 1922, Mexico, Ind.; died July 7, 2015, Auburn, Calif. Surviving: son, Robert, Forest Falls, Calif.; daughters, Anita Carroll-McKown, Olympia, Wash.; Melissa Litchfield, Auburn; sister, Mary Randolph, Coquille, Ore.; 10 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

GEHNERT — Charles “Chuck” F., 57; born March 13, 1958, Bellflower, Calif.; died Aug. 8, 2015, Brookings, Ore. Surviving: parents, Charles F. and Celia Gehnert.

GILLASPY — William C., 86; born July 26, 1929, Eureka, Calif.; died Aug. 13, 2015, Eagle Point, Ore. Surviving: daughter, Patti Stoerrie, Shady Cove, Ore.

HUTCHINS — Frank Clarke, 93; born Sept. 1, 1921, Seattle, Wash.; died Aug. 3, 2015, Port Orchard, Wash. Surviving: sons, Frederick A. and Douglas F., both of Lynnwood, Wash.; daughters, Margaret Elaine Bennett, Monroe, Wash.; Mariann Jean Walker, Oroville, Wash.; and a grandchild.

KAMMER — Evelyn “Evie” Denise (Edmister), 49; born Aug. 20, 1965, Walla Walla, Wash.; died July 13, 2015, Madera, Calif. Surviving: husband, Wade; parents, Ted and Carol Edmister, Shelley, Idaho; brother, Ted Edmister Jr., Vancouver, Wash.; and sister, Jackie Fullerton, Paradise, Calif.

LEE — Darla Ann (Jahn), 65; born May 2, 1950, Prairie City, Ore.; died July 2, 2015, Bend, Ore. Surviving: father, Melvin Jahn, Bend; brother, Scott Jahn, Bend; and sister, Linda Miller, Medford, Ore.

LOFFTUS — Walter Edward, 87; born March 31, 1928, Medford, Ore.; died Aug. 6, 2015, Vancouver, Wash. Surviving: wife, Annette (Kinney); daughters, Judy (Drake) Worley, Eastsound, Wash.; Denise (Lofftus) Kidder, Berrien Springs, Mich.; Lucinda Lofftus, Santa Rosa, Calif.; 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

MCDUGAL — Ione Lennie (Jenkins), 96; born May 13, 1919, Sheridan, Wyo.; died June 15, 2015, Salem, Ore. Surviving: sons, Rick, Salem;

Johnny, Albany, Ore.; daughter, Wilma Fast, Dallas, Ore.; brother, Blain Jenkins, Phoenix, Ariz.; 8 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren.

MELLING — Myrna Dell (Melling) Middlestetter Fast Forrest, 82; born Feb. 6, 1933, Upland, Calif.; died Aug. 18, 2015, Bakersfield, Calif. Surviving: sons, Greg Middlestetter, Springfield, Ore.; Doug Middlestetter, Silverton, Ore.; daughter, Laura Tomanaka, Scappoose, Ore.; brothers, Duane Melling, Post Falls, Idaho; Dean Melling, Rhonert Park, Calif.; 4 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

ORSBURN — Joyce M. (Russell), 90; born Jan. 6, 1925, Walla Walla, Wash.; died May 30, 2015, Rochester, N.Y. Surviving: sons, Michael Orsburn, Fairport, N.Y.; William Orsburn, Ontario, N.Y.; stepson, Donald Orsburn, Apple Valley, Calif.; daughter, Phyllis (Orsburn) Foote, Jefferson, Mass.; stepdaughter, Donna (Orsburn), Sun Valley, Nev.; 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

REITZ — Gail (Butterfield), 72; born July 25, 1942, Wenatchee, Wash.; died April 10, 2015, Hayward, Calif. Surviving: husband, Norman; stepson, Daniel Reitz, Centennial, Colo.; sisters, Gay Wilson, Corning, Calif.; Gina Lasher, Koloa, Hawaii; and 2 step-grandchildren.

THOMPSON — Eugene “Gene” L., 87; born Nov. 24, 1927, Williamsville, Mo.; died Aug. 18, 2015, Harbor, Ore. Surviving: daughter, Nona Meyers, Eagle Point, Ore.; stepdaughter, Breanna Rodriguez, of Idaho; brother, Ralph Thompson, Oroville, Calif.; half-brother, Bob Meyers, Oroville; and 6 grandchildren.

WALKER — Samuel B., 28; born Dec. 26, 1986, Eugene,

Ore.; died Aug. 23, 2015, Gulfport, Miss. Surviving: father, Steven D. Walker, Mapleton, Ore.; mother, Deborah S. (Silver) Walker, Madras, Ore.; grandmother, Patricia (Rappy) Walker Kaehn, Eugene; brothers, Steven G. Walker, Moxee City, Wash.; Trevor Walker, Creswell, Ore.; Josh L. Walker, Portland, Ore.; and sister, Sandra K. Walker, Eugene.

WILKINSON — Mary June (Flaiz), 92; born Sept. 8, 1922, Narsapur, India; died Aug. 17, 2015, Yakima, Wash. Surviving: sons, Richard, Yakima; Randall, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho; Ronald, Walla Walla, Wash.; Russell, Yakima; daughter, Jennie Wilkin-son, Yakima; brother, Ted Flaiz; 16 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

WOLFE — Rosalee Kathleen (Smith), 87; born July 29, 1927, Mount Vernon, Wash.; died June 16, 2015, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: daughter, Melissa Lu Wolfe, College Place, Wash.; brothers, Warren M. Smith, Lodi, Calif.; Merlin Smith, Spokane, Wash.; sister, Gloria A. Lewis, Milton-Free-water, Ore.; and a grandchild.

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 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

Dec. 5 — Local Church Budget;

Dec. 12 — Adventist Community Services;

Dec. 19 — Local Church Budget;

Dec. 26 — Local Conference Advance.

More events listed at GleanerNow.com/events.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

Dec. 11 — The WWU Department of Music Christmas Concert, "Infant Holy," will take place Friday, in the University Church with performances at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. The concert will feature *Gloria in D Major* by Antonio Vivaldi and will include performances by the University Singers, *I Cantori* and the WWU Symphony Orchestra. If you are unable to attend in person, we welcome you to watch via live stream at wallawalla.edu/concert.

OREGON

Beaverton Church/FETCH International India Mission

Dec. 5 — You're invited to an international event featuring international food, a bazaar and entertainment on Saturday evening from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., at the Beaverton Church, 14645 SW Davis Rd., Beaverton, OR 97007. All proceeds will go toward evangelism during the mission trip to Hyderabad, India, which will take place during Jan. 24–Feb. 7, 2016. Anyone interested in going on the mission trip, please contact Franklin Moses at 503-533-0409 or at franklinmoses@gmail.com.

Enjoy Music of the Season!

Dec. 26 — Stone Tower Church, 3010 NE Holladay, Portland, Ore., at 5:30 p.m.

Missing Members

The Santa Clara Church is looking for the following people: Jim Anderson, Chereen Andrews, Bartolo Garcia, Horacio Garcia, Maria Guadalupe, Candido Gutierrez, Silvia Torralba Guzman, Francisco Hernandez, Benny Lemos, Estella Lemos, Jesus D. Martinez, Juliana L. Martinez, Irene L. Martinez, Marco Antonio Mejia, Maria Estela Mejia, Alicia M. Mendez, Judy E. Miller, Marli M. Miller, Sergio Navarrete, Antonio Pacheco, Rosalino Ramirez, Guadalupe Ramirez, Alfredo Santander, Cipriano Vasquez and Oscar A. Vigil. If you have any information about these people, please call 541-688-5081 or email clsteingas@gmail.com. You can also send mail to 750 Wilkes Dr., Eugene, OR 97404.

UPPER COLUMBIA

Reformation Tour With Richie Halversen

April 13–25, 2016 — Join with other pastors and lay members from across the North American Division to enjoy an exciting Reformation Tour. Trace events in the life of Martin Luther from Berlin to Rome and gain new perspectives on the conditions and events that caused the Protestant breakaway. There will be stops

in Berlin, Lutherstadt Wittenburg, Eisenach, Schwangau, Torre Pellice in the Waldensian Valleys and Rome. To see the exact sites and complete itinerary, go to starmountaintravel.com. Gerald and Kathleen Martin, Adventist retired educators and owners of Star Mountain Travel, will serve as your hosts. Richie Halversen, pastor of the College Drive Church in Jackson, Miss., will provide the theme narrative. Reformation history is Halversen's special interest. For more information, contact Sharon Seanson at sharons@uccsda.org. Or contact Gerald Martin directly at gerald@starmountaintravel.com or 601-845-6731.

WASHINGTON

Missing Members

Washington Conference Church is looking for the following missing members: Toavalu Tupua, Tofu Tupua, Tofuinuu Tupua, Jose Valderama, Nancy Valderama, Blanca E. Vargas, Migel A. Vargas, Miguel Vargas, Nancy V. Vargas, Pedro A. Vargas, Pedro L. Vargas, Agustine Vasques, Franklin Vasquez, Jose A. Vasquez, Jose Manuel Vasquez, Montecino J. Vasquez, Gomez O. Vazquez, Juan R. Vazquez, Mario C. Vazquez, Nuria Vazquez, Ricardo Vega, Anita Velasquez, Raul Reliz, Alicia L. Ventler, David Villalobos, Manisol Villalopango, Adolfo Villanueva, Maria C. Villareal, Tisha Vicent, Gail M. Walker, Reginald A. Walker Sr., Chad D. Waters, Isolina White, Rose V. Whitfield, Laura Williams, Michael J. Wilson, Gloria J. Wright, Dennis Yates and Connie L. Young. Please contact Elida Jerez at 253-681-6008 with any information.

WORLD CHURCH

La Sierra Academy Alumni Weekend

April 22–23, 2016 — La Sierra Academy alumni weekend on LSA campus. Please update your mailing address and contact information by emailing JNelson@lsak12.com or calling 951-351-1445 ext. 244. Honor classes include 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2006 and pre-50 year classes. More information at lsak12.com.

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Classes

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Employment

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S business department seeks finance

faculty to begin spring or fall term 2016. Successful candidate will possess proficiency in previous teaching experience. Candidate should hold earned doctorate in finance or related field. Master's candidate with minimum of 18 graduate hours in finance considered. Instruction in multiple areas preferred. Send cover letter and CV to Dr. Aaron Moses at mosesa@swau.edu.

LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY (Riverside, Calif.) is seeking candidates for the position of director of institutional research / data analyst. See job posting at glnr.in/lasierrajob.

NEEDED Adventist physicians to join large multispecialty group in Mankato, Minn.: OB/GYN, dermatologist, endocrinologist, otolaryngologist, pulmonologist, psychiatrist, internist and family practitioners. Comprehensive relocation, profit sharing and excellent health benefits. Call/text Priscilla at 406-579-6395.

PROJECT MANAGER Would you like to be part of a technology team working to empower Adventist ministries to fulfill the gospel commission and proclaim the Three Angels' Messages? Are you a detail-oriented person with leadership skills? Learn more about K3 Integrations' opening for a project manager at bit.ly/k3pm.

PROGRAMMER WITH A PURPOSE Empower Adventist ministries to fulfill the gospel commission and proclaim the Three Angels' Messages using Web and mobile technologies. Openings for experienced Ruby on Rails and/or AngularJS

developers. Learn more about K3 Integrations, our career opportunities and the other technologies we use at bit.ly/K3-dev.

DO YOU LIKE LEARNING about other cultures and working with teenagers? Seeking motivated, organized, people-friendly individuals to place and supervise foreign exchange students in Washington, north Oregon, and north Idaho. Prior experience a plus, but not required. This is a contract job. Bonuses available, including international travel. Call Shelley Bacon, Cultural Academic Student Exchange (CASE) regional manager, at 877-545-7601 or 509-684-1005 for more details. shelleybacon.com/Exchange.pdf. Potential host families are welcome to inquire also.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS seeks dean for the School of Business. This individual is responsible for the operation of the Andrews University School of Business Administration and will report to the provost. The candidate must be dedicated to excellence in teaching, research and service and is expected to cultivate strong alumni and external relationships to support and grow the School of Business Administration. Candidate must have a terminal qualification in business or educational administration and have administrative/ mid-management experience in higher education or in a business setting. The candidate should also have experience in teaching/scholarship, as well as some knowledge of accreditation processes. For more information and to apply, visit andrews.edu/admres/jobs/900.

UNION COLLEGE seeks senior vice president for academic administration beginning June 2016. The VPAA leads out in the vision, strategy and execution of the college's academic goals. Doctorally qualified Adventist candidate will be an experienced leader, innovative thinker and excellent communicator. See ucollege.edu/faculty-openings. Send CV to Dr. Vinita Sauder, visauder@ucollege.edu.

UNION COLLEGE seeks a Seventh-day Adventist master's-prepared PA faculty member. The ideal candidate will have clinical experience in family practice and emergency medicine. Prior teaching experience is desired but not necessary. Start date June 1, 2016. Send CV and references to Jodi Chewakin, jochewak@ucollege.edu.

ADVENTIST HEALTH MINISTRY/ free community clinic in Wyomissing, Pa., seeks nurse practitioner. Full-time position with benefits. Salary based on community wage and experience. Please send resumes to AHollingshead@AWHN.org or Alysha Hollingshead, 1025 Berkshire Blvd., #700, Wyomissing, PA 19610, or call 610-685-9900 ext. 24, for more information.

For Sale
WORTHINGTON, LOMA LINDA, CEDAR LAKE, AZURE PRODUCT, ETC. Low prices. Auburn Enterprises, Bill and Judy Hoard, 4192 Auburn Rd NE; PO Box 13757, Salem, OR 97309-1757; 503-585-9311; fax 503-585-1805; auburnent@hotmail.com.

Miscellaneous

SOULS NORTHWEST students need cars for canvassing and Bible work ministry. If you have a car that you could lend or donate, please contact SOULS Northwest at 360-857-7062 or email info@soulsnorthwest.org.

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GUIDE MAGAZINE wants to reach readers ages 10–14 with your true, character-building story. Visit guidemagazine.org/writersguidelines to learn more. To subscribe, call 800-447-7377 or go to guidemagazine.org.

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Anchorage	3:48	3:42	3:41	3:44
Fairbanks	2:56	2:44	2:39	2:42
Juneau	3:10	3:05	3:04	3:07
Ketchikan	3:20	3:16	3:16	3:19

IDAHO CONFERENCE

Boise	5:09	5:08	5:09	5:13
La Grande	4:11	4:09	4:11	4:14
Pocatello	4:56	4:56	4:57	5:00

MONTANA CONFERENCE

Billings	4:31	4:30	4:31	4:34
Havre	4:25	4:23	4:24	4:27
Helena	4:42	4:40	4:41	4:45
Miles City	4:18	4:16	4:17	4:21
Missoula	4:49	4:47	4:48	4:52

OREGON CONFERENCE

Coos Bay	4:42	4:41	4:42	4:45
Medford	4:39	4:39	4:40	4:43
Portland	4:28	4:27	4:28	4:31

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

Pendleton	4:12	4:11	4:12	4:15
Spokane	3:59	3:58	3:59	4:02
Walla Walla	4:09	4:08	4:09	4:12
Wenatchee	4:12	4:10	4:11	4:15
Yakima	4:16	4:14	4:16	4:19

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

Bellingham	4:15	4:14	4:14	4:18
Seattle	4:19	4:18	4:19	4:22

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PORTLAND

KATU (ABC), **Channel 2**
December 24 at 6 p.m.

SEATTLE

KOMO (ABC), **Channel 4**
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It is beyond the power of the human mind to estimate the evil, which has been wrought by the heresy of eternal torment. The appalling views of God have made thousands, yes, millions, of skeptics and infidels.¹

T

he teaching of hell has the potential to scare people away from God; it's a dangerous substance to handle, and people can burn themselves or the ones to whom God wants to reveal His love.

When an author creates a story they make an agreement with the reader. The agreement says no matter how dark or twisted or frightening the story seems — all will work out the way it is supposed to in the end. Storytellers narrate tales while holding the trust of listeners. Violating that trust makes for bad endings (and bad scores on Rotten Tomatoes and Amazon.com), meaning it's in the best interest for everyone involved in the story to honor the covenant.

So, once upon a time, God created a world of beauty and love and placed the power to choose the way of love within His creations. No one fought in the backseat or wondered where the next paycheck was coming from.

Computers never crashed with unfinished term papers, and people never brought guns to school. Everything worked in perfect harmony ... and then the Liar appeared.

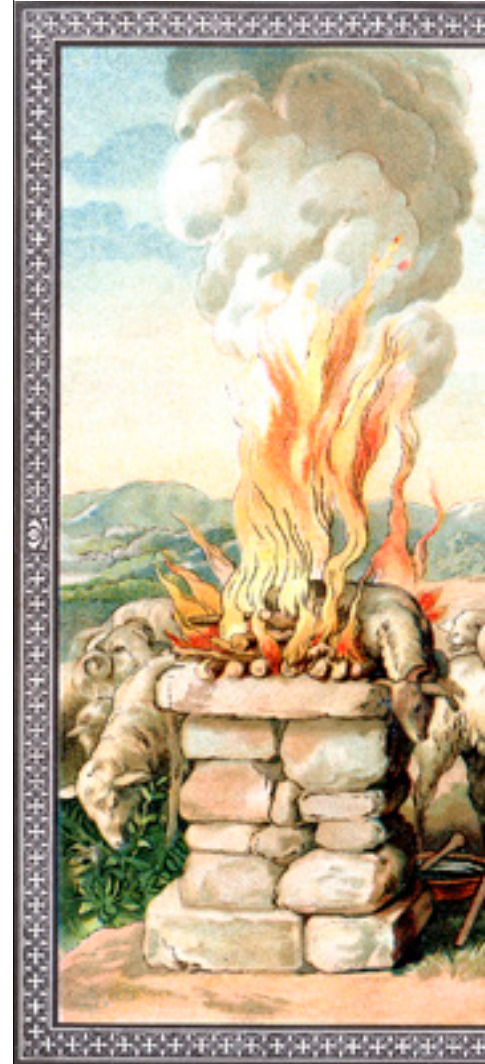
The Liar convinced creation that God was a monster, hiding secrets, and that everyone would be better off becoming their own gods and creating their own worlds; and the way to become your own god involved tasting the fruit from a forbidden tree with the knowledge of good and

evil “to help you know as God knows.” But his plan was independent of participation with the divine order of creation. It was the way of demons, devouring everything for selfish purposes. Adam and Eve’s eyes *were* “opened,” ironically to see darkness.



AUTHOR

Seth Pierce



Jesus coaxes people out from their hiding spots by revealing the love of God with nail-scarred hands.

“And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths ... and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God ...” (Gen. 3:7–8). The first cover-up — and creation has been covering itself up in a

blanket of darkness ever since, hiding from God — turning the beautiful creation into a world of shadow and pain.

Adam’s son murders his brother and tries to hide the body; Noah’s neighbors only think with dark inten-

tions; Joseph’s brothers bury his divine dreams in a pit of slavery; Abram says his wife is his sister; Delilah — whose name can’t be spelled without “lie” — plots her husband’s downfall; Eli covers up his sons’ mockery of God; David covers up his affair with assassination; Peter makes an oath only to deny it under a pile of swears; and Judas betrays God ... and the list goes on.

Embezzlers, adulterers, liars, assassins, schemers, blamers, perpetually smiling profile pictures convincing everyone they are always at the gym or on vacation or happy. Humanity has been in hiding for a long time. Hiding has become some people’s habitat — moving far away from the beautiful beginning into chapters permeated by gloom. What remains is hope that a plot twist will happen. We sense something off and cry out in Psalms churches seldom elevate to memory verse status or write on sympathy cards with floral backgrounds.

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Ps. 22:1). Other Psalms call on God to break the teeth of evil, take the bite out of crime. And God hears those who are willing to cry out for something — so He gives the Revelation (John 1:1–5).

Jesus coaxes people out from their hiding spots by revealing the love of God with nail-scarred hands that clung

to shadow and pain and death so closely sin didn’t realize it was committing suicide by killing the Son of God. But no sooner does Jesus emerge from the tomb than the Liar continues his work. Matthew 28 says powerful people paid money to circulate stories denying Jesus rose again. Revelation is covered up. And human history becomes a game of hide and seek, with God giving grace to those who are trying to see Him through shadow and pain.

Paul notes, “For now we see in a mirror dimly ...” (1 Cor. 13:12). Everything people do is an act of interpretation. It’s why adults will use a stick to help them walk, but 9-year-old boys use them as rifles to shoot a bus that is actually a bear. It’s why humans don’t always realize what they are doing, or saying, or thinking, so when the pages of *this* story promise Jesus will end shadow and pain, and give creation a good ending, it can be hard to imagine how since there have been so many bad ones.

1. Ellen White, *The Great Controversy* (Nampa, Idaho: Pacific Press), p. 536.

*Seth Pierce, Puyallup
Church lead pastor*



The Offerings of Cain and Abel.

PEACE CHILD FROM HEAVEN

H

ome for Christmas is a cherished family tradition. Yet some Northwest Adventists find themselves far away from loved ones this holiday season. Servicemen and servicewomen of the armed forces are keeping the peace in faraway places. Student missionaries from Walla Walla University are scattered around the world, homesick perhaps yet dedicated to their post of duty.

Don and Carol Richardson were Baptist missionaries to the Sawi islanders of what is now Papua New Guinea. They had a lonely and dangerous assignment. The natives had a rude habit of murdering visitors.

Even ferocious neighboring tribesmen feared to set foot on the riverbank along the Sawi village. Yet the Richardsons considered them lovable people — loved by God and therefore to be loved by them, whatever the risk.

Don and Carol managed to befriend the tribe, even earning a welcome to live among them. They learned the native language and began teaching the gospel. However, nothing the Sawi learned about Jesus moved them — until they heard about

Judas, His betrayer!

As recounted in the book *Peace Child*, among the highest values of Sawi society was betrayal. Their favorite saying was “fatten with friendship for the slaughter” (quite a mission statement!). The Sawi deceived unsuspecting visitors into imagining they were welcome, while secretly plotting their murder. Then came a fellowship dinner in which they feasted on their victim.

Learning this, the Richardsons had cause to wonder about their own safety as honored guests of the Sawi. They were willing to sacrifice their own lives, if only they could find a way to reach their hardhearted hosts with the gospel of God’s grace.

Things worsened when war began with a neighboring tribe. Day after day, the battle raged outside the Richardsons’ little hut.

Then suddenly the fighting stopped. A young Sawi warrior ran between the warring armies carrying a bundle. The fighting paused as he ceremonially presented the bundle to the opposing tribe. Immediately hostilities ended.

What was that bundle? His son. In that society, if someone offered his son to the enemy and that gift was accepted, peace would



AUTHOR

Martin Weber



Love in action that responds to God's gift of Jesus is the true Christmas spirit.

reign between the tribes. War was no more as long as that child lived.

And so the war was over — not through defeat of the enemy but through the gift of a peace child. Immediately the Richardsons seized their opportunity to present the gospel of God's Peace Child.

Long ago in Bethlehem, God gave His only Son as our Prince of Peace, so that anyone who believed and received His gift would not perish but have everlasting life. "For Christ himself has made peace . . . by making us all one people. He has broken down the wall of hostility that used to separate us" (Eph. 2:14, NLT). When Jesus hung on the cross, He not only reconciled us to God but to each other. His outstretched

arms welcome us all into sharing God's saving love.

God's Peace Child came to us free, but at infinite cost: "The heart of the human father yearns over his son. He looks into the face of his little child, and trembles at the thought of life's peril. He longs to shield his dear one from Satan's power, to hold him back from temptation and conflict. To meet a bitterer conflict and a more fearful risk, God gave His only-begotten Son, that the path of life might be made sure for our little ones. 'Herein is love.' Wonder, O heavens! and be astonished, O earth! (Ellen G. White, *Desire of Ages*, p. 49).

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift" (2 Cor. 9:15). Nothing we do can

deserve or repay Him. The psalmist asked, "What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me? I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord" (Ps. 116:12–13).

So all we can do is receive God's grace and share it. Some Northwest Adventists will devote their holiday break to a short-term mission trip. Others remain home and minister within their own communities, feeding the homeless or providing Christmas gifts for children with a parent in prison.

If you are wondering how to share God's gift of Jesus this season, look no further than the widows and single mothers of your own congregation. Home-cooked hospitality this

Christmas will bless them with their most memorable day of an otherwise lonesome year.

Love in action that responds to God's gift of Jesus is the true Christmas spirit. Long ago He opened heaven's gates, sending forth His Peace Child to save us from their sins. Soon heaven's gates will open again, welcoming us to our eternal home.

Meanwhile, here below in this terribly troubled world, may God help us all to receive and then share the blessings of this Christmas season.

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

COVENANT

W

hen the Creator stepped over the edge of space into our little world, He initiated a rescue operation. In the clutches of fate, we needed a covenant of faith.

This divine Christmas overture is an example of covenants so critical to our world and our church. Sir Jonathan Sacks illustrated this at a conference several years ago.

The essence of Adventism should reflect Immanuel's heart.

Supposing you had \$1,000 dollars, Sacks observed, and you share it equally with nine other people. How much do you have left for yourself? One-tenth. That's a contract. But now imagine you decide to share, not power or wealth, but love, friendship or even knowledge. How much do you have left? Suddenly, instead of less, you have more — perhaps 10 times more than before. That, said Sacks, is a covenant.

Covenantal relationships have traditionally been the domain of religion. So what happens to a society when religion and covenantal relationships wane? In Sacks' words, "Families become fragile, communities atrophy. And the result is that people feel vulnerable and alone. If they turn those feel-

ings outward, the result is often anger turning to violence. If they turn them inward, the result is depression, stress related and eating disorders, drug and alcohol abuse."¹

Sacks concludes that this spiritual poverty, even in the midst of material affluence, not only leads to a loss of graciousness in our shared and collective lives but, ultimately, a loss of freedom itself.

It is what we face today in our midst. Terrorism, human trafficking, domestic abuse desecrate the sanctity of human life. Environmental disregard endangers the very integrity of God's creation and the sustenance of life itself. Globalization obscures values once thought self-evident. Personal and corporate integrity are becoming increasingly rare treasures.

Our familiar world is in an unfamiliar crisis, and crises often compel humans towards covenants of "fate." History is replete with examples. As in the immediate aftermath of the 9/11 tragedies, a common foe or famine can easily bring adversaries temporarily together — until the fear subsides.

But all along we wish for something more permanent, something to endure beyond the crisis. And that depends not on fate, but on faith. A "covenant of faith" is inherent in Abraham's decision to leave Ur for an unknown

destination. It's embedded in Joseph's recognition he could not change the past, but instead could redeem it by forgiving his brothers. It describes God's own everlasting covenant, the divine story of human redemption.

It is at the core of the Incarnation, the very heart of Immanuel.

The essence of Adventism should reflect Immanuel's heart. As people of hope, the covenant of faith we hold in our hearts is anchored in the beginning Sabbath of creation and the promised future return of the Creator who said, "Let not your hearts be troubled . . ." This is indeed a covenantal relationship of trust that lasts beyond immediate needs and transitory crises.

Our mission is to help recreate covenants of faith with those in our circle of influence, many who have become prisoners to fate, who see no better day ahead. If we indeed "have this hope," it is too good, too important not to share.

1. Address to the 2008 Lambeth Conference (July 28, 2008), <http://rowanwilliams.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/1063/the-relationship-between-the-people-and-god>.

Steve Vistaunet, Gleaner editor

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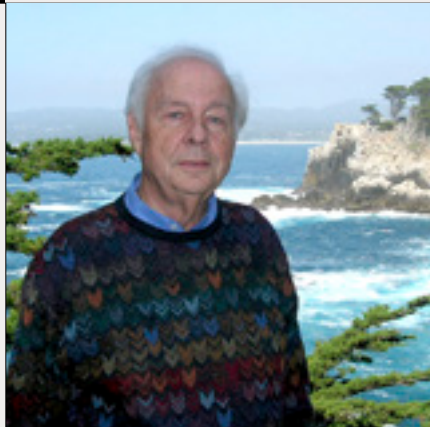
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The name Joe Wheeler has become synonymous with stories. More specifically, with Christmas stories, lots of Christmas stories. And Kleenex. Lots of Kleenex.

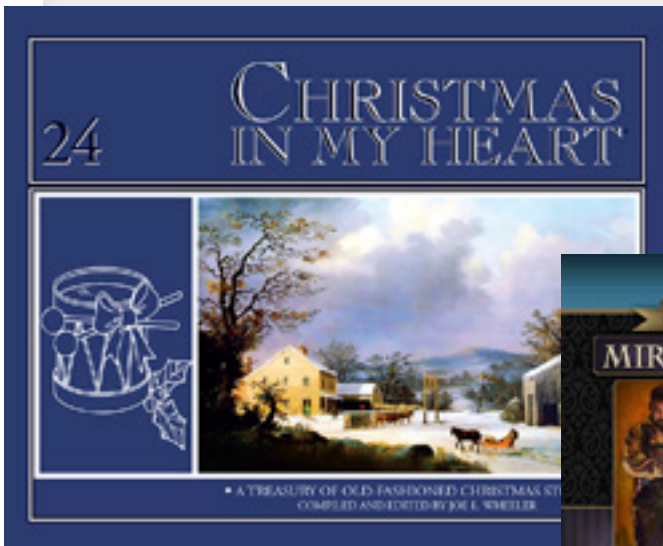
Drawing from his extensive story collection, the new *Christmas in My Heart* is the next book in a series that happened almost by accident. When acquisitions editor Penny Webster asked Joe what he'd been working on, Joe's casual response was, "Oh, I've recently written a couple of Christmas stories. You know, Christ-centered, rather than Santa Claus-centered." That was 24 years ago. And the rest, as they say, is history.



James Dobson calls Joe "America's Keeper of the Story." Joe describes it as a calling to a story ministry. "Our

task is not an easy one," he says. "Out of untold thousands of stories about Christmas, where can we go to find the precious few that so incorporate the spiritual dimensions of Christmas into the storylines that they revolutionize all that we do, say or think? That is our ever-daunting task."

Joe Wheeler has been published by 12 publishing houses, and *Christmas in My Heart, Vol. 24*, is his 76th story anthology and his 91st book. His other series include *Great Stories Remembered*, *Heart to Heart*, *The Good Lord Made Them All* and the newest, *My Favorite Stories*.



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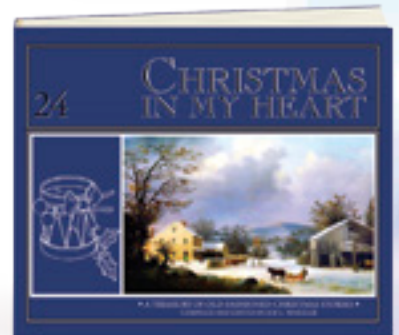
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