

EDITORIAL
CREATOR

YOU SAID IT
FULL CIRCLE

JUST LIKE JESUS
THE WALRUS HUNTER

gleamer

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION



2017 *Images of Creation*

A GLIMPSE OF OUR
NORTHWEST BOUNTY
OFFERED IN PHOTOS

FEB
2017
VOL. 112, N° 2



Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory
Ephesians 3:20-21

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gleaner

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CREATOR

I

t was an image I'll never forget, though it harkens back more than four decades. The sun was riding low in the west as I neared the iconic overlook to Yosemite Valley.

God through His creation never runs out of things to say.



AUTHOR

Steve Vistaunet

On a clear day, the view stretches east from Bridalveil Fall in the foreground to the granite monolith of El Capitan and onward to the unmistakable wall of Half Dome.

This was not that sort of day.

Storm clouds had moved in, with thunder rolling its cadence among the rocky heights. As I parked at the viewpoint, the worst of the weather closed in about the end of the valley, hiding any hint of Half Dome behind an impenetrable black curtain. What a disappointment. I had hoped to see an

idyllic postcard scene.

But then something amazing happened, as it often does with God's creation when we are patient enough to watch and wait. Behind me the setting sun broke through a rift in the

clouds, sending a yellow shaft of light down the length of the darkened valley. Suddenly El Capitan stood out in gold relief against the black backdrop of the storm. Bridalveil transformed into a glistening filament of diamonds. And with the divine magic of sunlight and raindrops, a brilliant multihued rainbow drew an arch from the heavens to the valley floor and took my breath away.

It lasted less than a minute, but in those few seconds, my disappointment was forgotten, replaced with a holy awe, an amazed gratitude for the unexpected. I didn't take a photograph — I doubt my Kodak Instamatic would have captured anything like what I still recall in vivid memory.

If indeed a picture is worth a thousand words, God through His creation never runs out of things to say.

This February issue kicks off another year of our Images of Creation. It's more than a *Gleaner* tradition. Popped down in the midst of stupendous scenery, our Northwest members recognize that mountains, flowers, birds, waterfalls or waves have much more to offer than just a pretty face. These images remind us

humans exist as part of a much bigger plan. There is a Creator, and He is not us. We are His children, part of His plan, made in His image, with a thoroughly divine and thoroughly human brother who understands our journeys firsthand.

And if, as you look out on the landscape of 2017, darkness has closed in and the thunder is deafening, take heart. Look and listen for signs of the Creator. He is there in the dark, in the midst of your questions, doubts and fears. The rich spectrum of light sometimes shows best through the refracted prism of rain. Your story of survival or recovery may in God's timing become the catalyst of redemption for a fellow traveler.

Honoring our Creator is not just a two-hour stint on Sabbath. Throughout this year, whether our journeys be difficult or delightful, we will have countless opportunities to share Him with a world that needs its Creator now more than ever.

Steve Vistaunet, Gleaner editor

Respond to any *Gleaner* topic by emailing talk@gleanernow.com.



LETTERS



Selfless Passion

I appreciated Gene Heinrich's article ["Everyone Knows One," December 2016] for its lack of "you," "they" and flagellation of church members. Yes, each is responsible for their own choices, and selfishness is the bottom line in most decisions for exiting — and, as he observed, in those staying. Yet I suggest that the latter is a common contributing factor in many leaving. They don't see, nor are bringing, the selfless love empowering, lifting, lighting the church. Thus the hearts of the young are not drawn to a passionate purpose — the fodder of the young. We all need to selflessly arise and shine for the light — our light — has come.

G.R. Wilson, Dallas, Ore.

Coercive Policies

My roots "sprouted" in Idaho a long time ago; my favorite union paper is still the *Gleaner*. I am blessed to have a friend pass her copies to me. To one

who lives under the "coercive policies" cloud, Martin Weber's December 2016 "And on Earth Peace" was especially appreciated. Real peace in our lives, the church or the world is the fruit of an uncompromising, ongoing surrender to the truth as it is in Jesus whatever the subject. God is pouring out His Spirit, and over 120 years ago Ellen White warned leadership that "... rules are being made at the centers of the work that will soon be broken into atoms ... many will be stirred by the Spirit of God to break every shackle, and assert their liberty in Christ" (*Review & Herald*, July 23, 1895). Have we forgotten that Jesus ignored man-made rules? It is critical to be guided by inspired words such as these: "Honesty and policy will not harmonize; either policy will be subdued, and truth and honesty hold the lines of control, or policy will take the lines, and honesty cease to direct. Both cannot act together; they can never be in agreement. When God makes up His jewels, the true, the frank, the honest, will be His chosen ones, His treasures. Angels are preparing crowns for such ..." (*3 Bible Commentary*, p. 1159). Compulsive or coercive policies are not part of His kingdom.

Esther McCluskey, Loma Linda, Calif.

In Appreciation

Thank you for the work of love you do for our church members in the North Pacific Union Conference. I really appreciate the *Gleaner* keeping us informed about what is happening in our union and how God is blessing us. I especially enjoyed the Let's Talk article "Gift" by Steve Vistaunet in the December issue. What a precious family Christmas story about the kindness of others and Jesus' love for each one of us! It really touched me.

Roxanne Stevenson, Salem, Ore.

So Sad

I am very saddened that Steve Vistaunet will not be writing his "Let's Talk" column any longer. He will be sorely missed! I so look forward to his articles each month and have been moved deeper in my faith for them. Thank you, Mr. Vistaunet, for your spirit-filled words these past years. I hope you will still continue to write for us in some form as you leave this particular platform.

René Painter, Puyallup, Wash.

Gleaner responds: He will, with periodic editorials, as you can see on Page 4.



PICTURE THIS



WWU flies high.

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Opportunity in Fairbanks.

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JOHN LEE CORBAN

The Creator unmatched.

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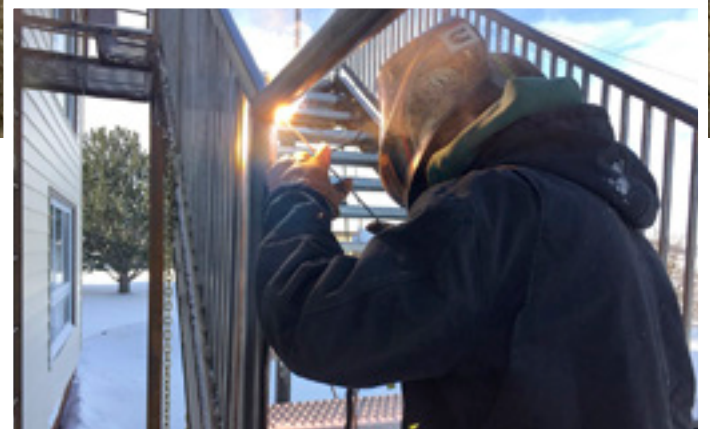


What's going on at Long Creek?

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Hot and cold at MEA.

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Images of Creation

Few areas of the world are as rich with the Creator's handiwork than here within the Pacific Northwest.

FIND IN THE NEXT FEW PAGES A GLIMPSE OF OUR NORTHWEST BOUNTY OFFERED IN PHOTOS SUBMITTED FOR **THE 2017 IMAGES OF CREATION CONTEST**. ALONG WITH THE PHOTOGRAPH FEATURED ON THE INSIDE COVER OF EACH PRINTED *GLEANER* THIS YEAR, WATCH FOR THE ONLINE PHOTO OF THE WEEK AND MANY MORE IMAGES IN THE GALLERY AT **GLEANERNOW.COM**.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF OUR 2017 IMAGES OF CREATION CONTEST. SEE WHO WON ONLINE AT GLEANERNOW.COM/CREATION2017.

LYNNE MCCLOUD





DAVID WILLIAM DELPOZZI



DICK DUERKSEN

“Let the heavens rejoice,

LET THE SEA RESOUND, AND ALL THAT IS IN IT. LET THE FIELDS BE JUBILANT, AND EVERYTHING IN THEM; LET ALL THE TREES OF THE FOREST SING FOR JOY.” PSALM 96:11-12

MARY LANE ANDERSON



“How many are your works, Lord!

IN WISDOM YOU MADE THEM ALL; THE EARTH IS FULL OF YOUR CREATURES.
THERE IS THE SEA, VAST AND SPACIOUS, TEEMING WITH CREATURES BEYOND
NUMBER — LIVING THINGS BOTH LARGE AND SMALL.” PSALM 104:24-25



PETER HERNANDEZ



GARY HAMBURGH



GARY LEE JACKIE

LA IGLESIA HISPANA DE KENT HACE AMISTADES PARA EL REINO DE LOS CIELOS

Los miembros de la Iglesia Hispana de la Comunidad de Kent, Wash., salen todos los sábados en la tarde en grupos de cuatro a seis personas a hacer visitas en el vecindario. La primera visita solo es para establecer una amistad, la segunda para presentarle una persona que estará orando por su hogar, en la tercera visita se le lleva un pequeño regalo y la cuarta visita incluye una encuesta y una invitación a una actividad en donde la persona pueda conocer otros miembros de la iglesia. “Casi siempre, después de la cuarta visita, las personas piden estudios bíblicos,” dice el pastor Wagner Cilio, coordinador de la obra hispana de la conferencia de Washington.

“En cada visita nuestra misión es traer esperanza. Durante las visitas oramos y le decimos palabras de bendición. Con nuestros nuevos amigos celebramos sus cumpleaños y algunos días festivos. Los invitamos a las actividades sociales de la iglesia, especialmente aquellas que se llevan a cabo en parques. Allí jugamos voleibol, reventamos piñatas y disfrutamos de nuestra rica comida hispana,” dice el pastor Wagner Cilio. Al inicio de la amistad, nuestros nuevos amigos no conocen



Miembros de la Iglesia de Kent.

como funciona nuestra iglesia, dice el pastor, sin embargo mientras la amistad crece nuestros nuevos amigos aceptan con más facilidad estudiar la Biblia y nuestra invitación a asistir a la iglesia.

Este método ayudó a la iglesia de Kent a crecer de 37 miembros que tenía hace tres años atrás a 150 miembros actualmente, con una asistencia de cerca de 170 personas casi todas las semanas. Solamente este año 50 de nuestros nuevos amigos aceptaron a Jesús a través del bautismo y ahora son nuestros hermanos en Cristo.

El 29 de octubre cambiamos de status; dejamos de ser compañía y nos convertimos en iglesia.

“Ustedes están aquí por su persistencia en la oración,” dijo el pastor Doug Bing, presidente de la conferencia de Washington, cuando le dio la bienvenida a la nueva iglesia. Les desafío a nunca perder la

presencia del Espíritu Santo en sus vidas, a seguir trabajando con nuestros talentos y habilidades y a estar dispuestos a obedecer el llamado que Dios nos ha hecho de amar a todos aquellos con quienes nos relacionemos.

Debido al rápido crecimiento y con la ayuda de Ministerio Hispano de la Conferencia de Washington la iglesia de Kent ha iniciado

un nuevo grupo en la vecina ciudad de Auburn, Wash. Cada sábado se reúnen allí cerca de 50 hermanos y visitas. La iglesia de Kent y el grupo de Auburn sueñan con que cada hogar en esas dos ciudades llegue a conocer del amor de Jesús y del mensaje especial que Dios ha dado a la iglesia Adventista. Los pastores Wagner Cilio y Francisco Brito continúan instruyendo la iglesia de Kent y el grupo de Auburn en cómo hacer un trabajo efectivo en la obra misionera para que este sueño llegue a ser una realidad.

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists communication director, y Pastor Francisco Brito, pastor de la Iglesia de Kent, Wash.



El 29 de octubre cambiamos de status; dejamos de ser compañía y nos convertimos en iglesia.

FAIRBANKS CHURCH TURNS HACKSAW RIDGE INTO MINI-EVANGELISM EVENT

A new movie about Private Desmond Doss' life called *Hacksaw Ridge* was released last fall. Quite a few people in the Fairbanks Church were excited about the ministry opportunities the movie release provided.

After some discussion, the church board decided to purchase 2,500 copies of *Hero of Hacksaw Ridge*, a book written to complement the movie, to distribute at the theater after the movie's showing.

The church didn't know exactly what it was getting into. Shipping to Alaska turned out to be about the same price

as the books, and the theater wouldn't allow members to hand out the books unless they paid \$850. What should the church do when the whole project's cost had doubled or worse?

God provided the answer. Ultimately the church was able to purchase and ship 1,500 books within its budget. God also open the door so the church was able to rent one of the theater's 162-seat auditoriums and hand out the books for free.

A full-color ad in the local paper invited the community to see the feature release of the movie for free, one night only,

first come, first served. Quite a crowd showed up, and not everyone was able to get in because the auditorium filled so quickly.

Members gave out almost 900 books that night; even people who didn't come to the theater to see *Hacksaw Ridge* stopped by to get a copy. Within a few weeks after the event, nearly all the books had been given away. Please pray the seeds planted will grow into fruit for the kingdom of God.

Steve Evenson, Fairbanks Church pastor



(From left) Leola Gillete, Mallory Weatherington, Matthew Weatherington, Ruth Prato and Nan Thierheimer help distribute books to complement a showing of *Hacksaw Ridge*.

BETHEL COMPANY GAINS NEW MEMBERS

Bethel Adventist Company celebrated the baptisms of local Bethel high school teacher Aiden Keller and his fiancée, Deonna Graham, on Nov. 19, 2016. This baptismal ceremony was not an ordinary one because it was done at the Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Aquatic Health and Safety Center.

A few months earlier, Keller, previously a teacher in Hong Kong, and Graham

moved to Bethel. They expressed their desire to be members of the church.

Consequently, they were engaged in Bible studies in preparation for their baptisms. As there is no baptistery at the Bethel Church, members started arrangements for the baptism to take place at the Anchorage Korean Adventist Church. Because of financial challenges, plans were changed, and God opened

another door so the baptism could be done at the local public pool.

Once everyone was settled at the pool, songs, Scripture, and the bold declaration of Keller and Graham responding to their baptismal vows was heard. The swimmers stopped swimming and joined the members and visitors to witness Keller and Graham being immersed and coming out of the water with their

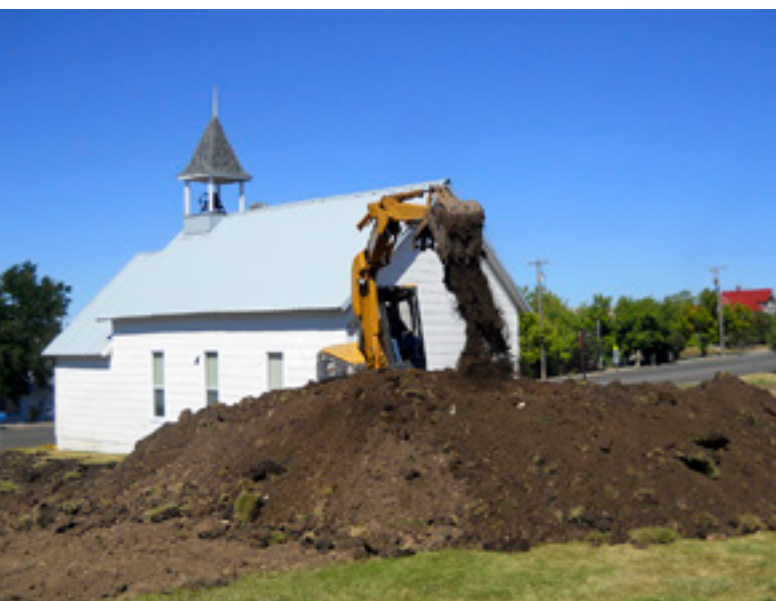
faces glowing, expressing new life in Christ. God's presence was felt all through the fitness center.

The newly baptized members have quickly become witnesses of the hope we have in Christ, and Keller is assisting in the newly formed Pathfinder club.

Vecous Waite, Bethel Adventist Company arctic missionary volunteer

Read more online at glnr.in/112-02-ak_bethel





CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON LONG CREEK CHURCH

The new Long Creek (Ore.) Church construction seemed more real on Aug. 2, 2016, than any time during the preceding months of preparation and discussion. Kelly Kilby at the controls of his Caterpillar excavator took the first bite of dirt for the digging of the foundation.

Several were on hand to witness the event. As the digging progressed, local citizens and church members have come by to cheer on the work and assist with building concrete forms and free advice.

With the efforts of the building committee chairman, Dan Rotthoff, Maranatha Volunteers International workers were scheduled to work during September. Maranatha is directing the initial construction and has been instrumental in helping to get the project underway. Local members are grateful for their efforts and timely expertise and counsel.

Leland Spencer, Long Creek Church member

EAGLE CHURCH BRINGS NATIVITY TO LIFE

Nearly 1,600 guests toured the town of “Bethlehem” when the Eagle Church portrayed a live nativity the first weekend in December 2016. Sixty-seven costumed actors told the Christmas story as visitors progressed through the guarded gate and on toward the tax collector’s tent, where many chose to pay “taxes” with canned goods, thereby contributing 369 pounds of food to the Idaho Food Bank.

As the visitors moved into the village, they encountered a potter shaping pots on her wheel; a prophet foretelling the Messiah; a woman dipping water from a well; vendors selling baskets, carpets, produce and bread; a scribe distributing scrolls of Scripture; wool spinners making yarn; a carpenter contending with customers; and a café serving hummus and pita bread.

With both inns filled to capacity, the travelers found their way out to the shepherds, where a holographic angel announced the glad news and sent them to the stable. After visiting Mary, Joseph and Baby



Wool spinner Sharon Kindopp pauses in the streets of “Bethlehem” with scribe Dallas Kindopp and Nathaniel Thomas, one of the town children.

Jesus, everyone was greeted by a wise man and several child-friendly animals.

Inside the church, visitors listened to live Christmas music, attended a puppet show, made crafts and enjoyed hot soup. Members of the community, some of whom have made the live nativity a Christmas tradition, expressed their appreciation for the event’s focus on the Savior.

JoAnn McKey, Eagle Church communication leader



Stay in touch with the latest news, video links, calendar events, photo galleries, past issues and more at gleanernow.com.



ALUMS GIVE BACK TO MEA

Students seeking a quality education with a distinctly Adventist focus have come to the Gallatin Valley of Montana for 115 years and enrolled in Mount Ellis Academy (MEA) in Bozeman. Countless numbers of MEA graduates have left these halls to dedicate their life's work to mission service and outreach. Many have found that purpose back at Mount Ellis.

This past summer MEA alums from the 1960s and 1970s brought their energies to bear on a sidewalk replacement project. For 10 days in July 2016, a handful of lifelong friends labored on campus, tearing out original broken sidewalks, placing forms and doing other pre-pour prep work. Their efforts are just one example of the time and support given by so many others, including some from a much younger era.

Twelve of MEA's 24 staff are alumni this year. Five are full-time employees led by principal and 2001 graduate Michael Lee. He is joined by registrar Erin Tungesvik, development director Kevin Emmerson, chaplain Barry Curtis and athletic director Briana Jenkins. While these five combine their skills with

the rest of the faculty and staff, an impressive number of alums contribute to Mount Ellis' well-being in equally significant ways.

A recent safety audit of the campus brought the need for new fire escapes to the forefront. Young alum Randy Binder, a 2009 graduate of MEA who recently began



Marvin Herbel, class of 1965, checks a form for levelness before new sidewalks are poured.

his own welding fabrication business, won the project bid in part because he was willing to give back to the school, donating a significant discount on his labor.

Binder says helping MEA in this way was an easy decision. "MEA changed my brother's and my whole life. It was a complete 180-degree turn. It really is the thing that got us going on the right path ... and so I feel obligated



Josh Allen, class of 2010, coaches future MEA alums Jonathan Schaffner (class of 2024) and Zane Tungesvik (class of 2023) in the finer points of basketball.

to help the school and give back to it because it was a total life-changer for us."

The brother he refers to, Rick Binder, graduated in



Randy Binder works on MEA fire escapes despite frigid temperatures. The fabrication project is scheduled to be complete by Alumni Weekend, April 14–16.

2010 and returned to MEA as a taskforce boys' dean for the 2012–13 school year. He agrees with his elder sibling regarding

MEA's import and adds, "Mount Ellis gave me a community I never would have had. It has stayed in my heart and become part of who I am, and so making the decision to be a part of that community as a staff member was easy."

The list of alums, both young and young at heart, who continue to contribute to the community at Mount Ellis is lengthy and actively growing. The school family is grateful for their assistance and the constant realization of this third element of the school's mission to "discover, develop and serve."

Kevin Emmerson, Mount Ellis Academy development director

LINRUD ACCEPTS OREGON PRESIDENCY FOLLOWING REIMCHE'S RETIREMENT

Dan Linrud has been elected president for the Oregon Conference with the approval of the conference nominating committee on Monday, Dec. 19, 2016. Linrud has served as assistant to the president for the 36,000-member conference since 2013. He fills the role left vacant by Al Reimche, who officially retired Dec. 5.

Bellingham-born and a fifth-generation Adventist, Linrud holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., and a Master of Divinity from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich.

With more than 23 years in local church pastoral ministry, he has honed leadership skills with more than seven years of experience in conference administration. Prior to his role at the Oregon Conference, Linrud served as the executive secretary of Canada's Ontario Conference.

He served for a number of years in the Washington

Conference as district pastor of the Issaquah and Snoqualmie Valley congregations and lead pastor at the North Creek Adventist Fellowship in Bothell. Further experience in Ontario led to diverse roles in development and mentoring of other pastors, oversight of personnel, resolution of human resource and other legal matters, and promotion of Adventist education, in addition to church growth and evangelism.

Linrud's wide experience, combined with relationships he has fostered throughout the conference, brings a high level of confidence in his readiness to take over the presidential reins following Reimche's retirement. He and his wife, Verlaine, who is an Adventist elementary school teacher, have two young-adult daughters and a son-in-law.

Linrud's stated objective is "to lead others in knowing, loving, serving and sharing Jesus, as members in ministry advancing His kingdom for His glory in Oregon Conference and beyond."

As part of his response in accepting the nominat-



Dan Linrud, newly elected Oregon Conference president, and his wife, Verlaine, feel blessed to continue to serve Oregon members.

ing committee's invitation, Linrud said, "Thank you for the opportunity to serve. It is truly humbling and sobering. No human deserves to lead in God's Church. We have one Leader — Jesus Christ — and we all are blessed to be called to our respective roles as members in ministry."

North Pacific Union Conference administrators led the search process, vetting and referencing all individuals willing for their names to be considered. Those names were brought to Oregon nominat-

ing committee members who were able to examine each resume, referencing scores and comments before the final vote. The nominating committee is the executive committee with several additional members who represent the various regions throughout the conference.

Reimche retires after 18 years of service to the Oregon Conference, beginning as ministerial director in 1998, then serving as vice president for administration in 2001. He was president of the conference since 2009. Reimche was instrumental in leading the conference in embracing its current slogan of "Called by God to Go ... Members in Ministry."

Steve Vistaunet, Gleaner editor

OREGON WOMEN'S RETREAT REACHES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

More online at glnr.in/112-02-or_retreat

October 2016 marked the 30th anniversary of the Christian Women's Retreat in the Oregon Conference. Women from Oregon, California and Washington met at Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond, Ore., to fellowship and celebrate women's ministries.

Friday night opened with



Dozens of women participate in the Sunday morning 5K run/walk.



Two young women from the Rockwood Church in Portland attend the retreat for the first time after watching it online the previous year.

a video message from Ruthie Jacobsen, who named and founded Oregon's women's ministries by holding the first retreat in Oregon — a ministry that has spread nationwide.

This year Loretta Bacchiocchi, who passionately promotes CREATION (Choice, Rest, Environment, Activity, Trust, Interpersonal relationships, Outlook and Nutrition) Health, was the keynote speaker. She shared her heartfelt passion throughout the weekend through her vulnerable and relatable per-

sonal experiences in her walk with Christ.

Most recently, Bacchiocchi lost her mother in a tragic accident within a few months of the retreat. When Terrie



Mindy Thygeson from Impact Hope shares with Terrie Leen-Griebel and retreat attendees the plight of school girls in Rwanda.

Leen-Griebel, Oregon Conference women's ministries coordinator, heard this, she called Bacchiocchi and gave her the option to cancel speaking. Bacchiocchi responded, "No, I feel God wants me to come to Oregon."

For the last three years, the Oregon Conference Women's Retreat has been streamed live, allowing those unable to attend the retreat to have a blessing as well. "Loving these meetings. I am coming back to the Adventist church ... and so grateful for the inspiration," commented a viewer at home. Several women's groups hosted the event in their churches or homes.

The many weekend activities included gifted speakers and musicians. Rise Rafferty spoke about nutrition, and Peggy Casebier presented about stress. Rachel Griebel covered motivation, while Elise LeBlanc worked with the teens who attended. Lisa Marie Buster gave a concert.

Following the health tips, 30 women participated in the 5K Walk/Run for God on Sunday morning and received a ribbon with a medal for

participating.

Weekend offerings supported Impact Hope Ministries. Mindy Thygeson told how 98 young women in Rwanda walk 8 kilometers each way to the nearest high school from their refugee camp, risking attack and abuse daily. Retreat attendees donated \$9,300 for these young ladies to go to an Adventist boarding academy. Attendees also reached out by bringing donations for the women's shelters of Redmond and Bend.

Many women expressed how they were blessed and felt the retreat was just what they needed. They shared a renewed love and spiritual refreshing. Lives were changed, and new friendships were formed. One participant said, "I have been blessed beyond words. I didn't know anyone when I came. I have been prayed for by women I just met, who are now my friends ... I have new friends, new prayer warriors, and a peaceful mind and love in my heart."

Watch the 30th anniversary Christian Women's Retreat on YouTube at glnr.in/112-02-or_WRvideo.

Terrie Leen-Griebel, Oregon Conference women's ministries coordinator

Read more online at
glnr.in/112-02-or_hacksaw

THEATERS GIVE GOD AN OPPORTUNITY

This past November's showing of *Hacksaw Ridge* in theaters across the country featured the story of World War II hero Desmond Doss and offered God's character a unique opportunity to shine. People were inspired by Doss' unwavering allegiance to the seventh-day Sabbath and in refusing to carry a gun or take a life.

Lathern Seeber of the Gaston Church was compelled to use this opportunity as a door to witnessing. By faith he ordered 200 copies of the *Hero of Hacksaw Ridge*, published by Remnant Ministries, and asked permission to hand them out at a couple local theaters.

Robert Perkins, owner of the Cornelius Act V Theater, was very willing to accommodate the effort. Seeber and his wife, Linda, set up an attractive display table with signs reading, "Free books: Hacksaw Ridge."

More than half the books were gone in just a couple hours. The next time the Seebers went, they only had about an hour to devote to the project. With 38 books left, they packed up and headed home to get ready for the approaching Sabbath hours.

No sooner had they

walked in the door than the phone rang. Perkins, the theater owner, asked if there was any way they could bring the books back, for he had advertised the free books on Facebook and Twitter. The Seebers immediately returned to set the books out so people could help themselves.

When the Seebers reported their experiences at church the next day, people began to see the wonderful opportunity to witness. Others from both the Gaston Church and nearby Laurelwood Church wanted to join them and buy more books.

Dick Hoey ordered more from Better Life Broadcasting. Miraculously, through three different human "angels," the books were transported

to Gaston with no shipping charges.

This time the Seebers set 300 books on the display table. Within a couple days they disappeared, eagerly snatched up by theater goers.

Managers and workers in the theater were spotted getting books for themselves, grabbing more books for friends and even reading on the job when business was slow. When a book was presented to the lady in the booth, she smiled and held up her already-procured copy.

At times people lingered to talk about the movie and described how moved they were with Doss' strong character and commitment to God. The theater owner was

impressed and came by to talk for a time about the movie. He expressed a willingness to watch the DVD documentary of Doss' story, *The Conscientious Objector*, and also to show another movie, *Hell and Mr. Fudge*, which brings out the loving character of God.

As books continued to show up and the movie continued to play, more than 600 books were shared with willing hearts. Only in the end will we know how many lives were turned to God because of this event.

Linda Seeber, Gaston Church communication leader

Church members gave away more than 600 books while *Hacksaw Ridge* played at a local theater.



Read more online at
glnr.in/112-02-or_cgcs

PARENT BRINGS ELLIS ISLAND TO LIFE FOR CGCS STUDENTS

BRUCE KELSH, COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL NEWSPAPER



Students receive naturalization certificates after saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Inspired by Ps. 146:9 and the ongoing political campaigns that have dominated our country this year, parent Kate Moreland set out to bring a bit of history to the students of Cottage Grove Christian School in a special way.

With the help of Cottage Grove Church members, parents and volunteers, students were transported back to November 1916 and discovered what it may have been like to come through New York's Ellis Island to escape political persecution and economic hardship.

Two weeks before their journey began, the students studied about people who emigrated from Europe during that time period. Each student chose a European country, an American city, a new occupation and clothes they would wear on their travels.

Students arrived excited for their new journey. Many rooms of the church had been incredibly transformed by Moreland and her team. The students were divided into first class and steerage accommodations and given food appropriate to their class.

Other experiences of the students' journey included a medical exam, checkpoints to go through to become U.S. citizens, meeting with immigration officials and more.

"We prepared the students in advance on the importance of passing all the tests and the terrible consequences for those who didn't and had to be deported back to the country they came from," notes Moreland.

Thanks to the help of church member Walter Koehn and school parent Ness Buffington, the students were able to hear the immigration official speak German and the currency exchange official speak Filipino. "We did this to simulate how difficult it was for the immigrants to accomplish what was required when they had no idea what they were being asked to do," explains Moreland. After saying the Pledge of Allegiance the students were given a naturalization certificate with a golden seal.

"[It was] a teachable moment for each of us," says Kevin Miller, Cottage Grove Church pastor.

Carrie Miller, Cottage Grove Church communication leader



About 70 people filled the Better Living Center to enjoy a holiday-themed "Vegetarian Tasting Affair."

More online at
glnr.in/112-02-or_tasting

BETTER LIFE CENTER HOSTS HEALTHY HOLIDAY TASTING

About 70 people filled the Better Living Center of the Grants Pass Church on Sunday, Dec. 4, 2016, to enjoy a holiday-themed "Vegetarian Tasting Affair." Several stations let guests fill their plates with healthy and flavorful foods.

The tasting menu included a broccoli and cranberry

pie with a tofu cream/dessert topping, as well as no-bake energy bites. Guests took home the recipes.

This event showed it is possible to prepare healthier holiday foods. God wants us to have the healthiest bodies and clearest minds, so we may be closer to Him. That begins with healthier eating.

The Better Living Center has more health and wellness programs coming up, including free cooking demonstrations and a tasting in April.

Jennifer Burkes, Grants Pass Church communication leader



Cashew nut loaf, gluten steaks and holiday meatless loaf were a few more of the main dishes sampled. Stuffing, tofu phyllo pastries and stuffed pasta were popular with guests.

salad, a carrot roast, and holiday barbecue "meatballs" with sweet and sour sauce. Cashew nut loaf, gluten steaks, stuffing, stuffed pasta and holiday meatless loaf were also sampled. Dessert included a pumpkin



A broccoli and cranberry salad was served, guaranteed to please the pickiest eater. This was offered with a carrot roast and holiday barbecue "meatballs" with sweet and sour sauce.

Bob Wilkening and Dwayne Harvey relate the ups and down of building the Lents Activity Center.



LORD LEADS TO DEBT-FREE LENTS ACTIVITY CENTER

More online at glnr.in/112-02-or_lents

Lents Church members, former pastors and official guests spent time Dec. 10, 2016, recalling the process involved in building their Lents Activity Center (LAC) in Portland and how the building loan was paid off five years early.



Vern Henry; Denise McDonald; Dwayne Harvey; Charles Smith, Lents Church treasurer; David Freedman, Oregon Conference vice president of finance; Steve Madsen, Lents Church pastor; Bob Wilkening; and Dave Specht participate in burning the LAC mortgage.

David Freedman, Oregon Conference vice president of finance, told those gathered, “This was not typical of such loans.” Dan Linrud, Oregon Conference president, and Gary Parks, Oregon Conference trust services associate director, took part in the service and observed the mortgage-burning ceremony.

The church board began exploring the possibility of replacing their 1,700-square-foot prefab three-bedroom home serving as a fellowship hall with a 5,700-square-foot building. Warren Dick, a retired conference worker, had experience with church building projects and financial matters dealing with these endeavors. He informed the Lents Neighborhood Association of the church’s desire for a larger building to accommodate neighborhood activities.

The neighborhood association wanted a permanent place to have their meetings. They agreed to help the church with the permit process. With joint cooperation, the church gained approval for their building proposal, including an expanded parking lot the city previously rejected.

The building had to have windows because the city did

not want it to look like a warehouse. The church didn’t want windows because they wanted the youth to be able to use the building to play basketball and volleyball. Dick pursued solutions to this dilemma.

A steel fabrication company agreed to make window-sized, laser-cut metal signs along the two street-facing walls. For example, the words, “Spiritual, Mental, Physical and Social” were written out with graphics on one wall. Faux windows were also fabricated for the walls higher up. Portland accepted this compromise.

Construction began in April 2002, and the building was dedicated in September 2003. The LAC is used for Bible and health evangelism efforts. Unlike the old fellowship hall, the LAC accommodates the whole church membership at one time. The Lents Neigh-

borhood Association uses the space for their meetings.

The LAC’s debt was a financial burden for 13 years. The church was not meeting their payments in 2004. One church member’s estate planning helped the church with two LAC payments. Pastor Paul Cole wrote in August 2005 the church was paying more interest than principal each month. He suggested ways to contribute to this project.

With greater attendance, the church met its obligations. One church member gave a sizable one-time donation. Church congregations of other denominations have rented and are renting the church and appreciate the LAC.

Church members gave both monetarily and of their time with fundraising activities. Warren and Becky Dick had the LAC in their estate plan, which recently paid the balance of the outstanding loan.

The Lord deserves credit for moving the project through the challenges that threatened its accomplishment. As a result, members’ faith increased.

Carol Specht, Lents Church communication leader

Artwork replaces windows to create a safe, beautiful activity center façade.



UCA PLANS FULL CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS

April is an exciting month for Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) in Spangle, Wash. In addition to regular events happening around that time — like Grandparent Weekend (March 31–April 1), Spring Arts Festival (April 1) and spring week of prayer (April 17–22) — there is Academy Day (April 6) and an exciting trip to Canada (April 12–16) for some of the music groups. A new event to the calendar is a Spring Gala, featuring Steve Green and scheduled for Sunday, April 23.

UCA's gymnasium will be transformed into an elegant banquet hall where guests will be treated to an amazing dinner along with a wonderful concert featuring four-time Grammy nominee and seven-time Dove Award winner Steve Green. As a special treat, UCA's Choraliers will join him on several songs.

Tables are limited and available for several sponsorship levels. Each table will seat eight people. The individual or business sponsoring the table will be given eight tickets to share with family, friends and associates.

Some families may choose to partner with friends and sponsor a table together. Table sponsorships may also be divided and paid monthly. To be credited for this school year, sponsorships should be paid before the fiscal year ends on June 30, 2017.

This is an exciting time for our students and our school, and several tables have already been sponsored. If you would like to sponsor a table or need more information, please contact Eric Johnson at eric.johnson@ucaa.org or 509-245-3692.

Please keep this event in your prayers. Our goal is to raise \$150,000. With your help and God's blessing, we can do it. At the end of the evening, guests will be given the opportunity to give to UCA through a pledge or gift. All proceeds will help students attend Upper Columbia Academy.

UCA SPRING GALA

APRIL 23



with Steve Green

More photos online at glnr.in/112-02-uc_uca

BIOLOGY TEACHER EXPANDS CLASSROOM LEARNING

Students learn a lot through textbooks, lectures, experiments and homework. But Judy Castrejón, Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) science and biology teacher, has a passion for making a difference for her students and for her local Spangle, Wash., community.

She invited Kat Hall, the financial administrator of the Washington State Lands Council, to educate UCA students about water pollution and the negative effects created if no action is taken.

“We are not just a school in the community. We want to educate our kids and help them to get involved,” says Castrejón. Most recently, she involved her class in a project that, when completed, will have widespread and long-lasting effects. “In this project, they’ll be bringing about healing to the ecology, but also



(From left) Lupe Hernandez-Knapp, Brianna Hershey, Marcel Nichols and Michael Bowe collect and test water samples.

to the community,” Castrejón adds.

That project is part of Washington state’s Riparian Establishment conservation project. It will help prevent pollutants from entering the Hangman Creek Watershed, a network of streams that runs right through the town UCA calls home.

To help with the restoration, Castrejón, her colleagues and many UCA students will plant bushes and trees around the creek, building a buffer to prevent pollutants from running into the creek and thus improving the quality of the water.

“The opportunity that we have been given to better our environment and community is a great and humbling experience,” says Blake Johnson, UCA sophomore.

Timothy Kosaka, Upper Columbia Academy communication taskforce worker



Davis Wiggins is waiting in the stream to see if another sample is needed, while William Frohne and Emily Perkins analyze the sample.



KATHY MARSON

Merlene Olmsted, a member of the Otis Orchards Church is named Volunteer of the Year for Airway Heights, Wash.

OTIS ORCHARDS MEMBER NAMED VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Merlene Olmsted was awarded Volunteer of the Year by the city of Airway Heights, Wash. She was nominated by the parks and recreation department for her involvement in various outreaches including SAIL,* eldercare meals and excursions, a walking group, city council, gardens, and West Plains Support Network community classes.

Olmsted lives in Airway Heights and would also like to start a SAIL class in Otis Orchards, Wash., where she is a member of the local

Adventist church. She enjoys keeping active and was surprised by the award, which was given to her at a city dinner. She received a plaque and a \$100 gift certificate.

*SAIL (Staying Active and Independent for Life) is a strength, balance and fitness program for adults 65 and older. The curriculum is offered through Washington State Department of Health and is a public-domain program. Any group can utilize this program in their church, school or grange to benefit their local community.

Kathy Marson, Upper Columbia Conference communication administrative assistant

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UPPER COLUMBIA YOUTH AND FAMILY LIFE GROWS

Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) has welcomed several new additions to its youth and family life staff.

Beth Gimbel is the new guest services coordinator for the retreat center at Camp MiVoden in Hayden, Idaho. Gimbel came on board less than a year ago and is the daughter of Clayton and Audrey Child. Clayton was a former Camp MiVoden director from 1975 to 1985. Gimbel has two grown sons, Blake and Hayden. She loves creating an environment for groups that helps them make their retreats successful. She remembers many years growing up at camp. To schedule a church or youth retreat at Camp MiVoden, contact Gimbel at 509-242-0553.

Also new to Camp MiVoden is Ashley Silva and his family, where Silva is the new associate operations director for the camp. He grew up in the Walla Walla Valley. He graduated from Oregon State University in Corvallis, Ore., with a Bachelor of Science in outdoor recreation and leadership tourism. He and his wife, Laura, are excited to begin their ministry at Camp



JAY WINTERMEYER

Beth Gimbel is the new guest services coordinator for the retreat center at Camp MiVoden.



JAY WINTERMEYER

Ashley Silva (top), surrounded by his family (from left) Laura, Liam and Sierra, serves as the associate operations director at Camp MiVoden in Hayden, Idaho.

MiVoden with their children: Sierra, 5, and Liam, 3.

Newly hired as the associate director of youth and family life department is Richie Brower. He will be primarily responsible for Pathfinders, Adventurers and family life but will also work with the director Jeff Wines in youth ministry. Brower and his wife, Timari, have three sons: Caleb, 11; Micah, 7; and Levi, 5.

The Browsers have years of experience in family life. They

have traveled across the United States through their ministry, Elijah Now, encouraging couples and strengthening marriages. Brower has also served as pastor of six churches, camp director in Alaska and chaplain of a local Christian radio station. Brower also developed a love for youth ministry as a taskforce worker in UCC serving two terms in the early 1990s.

Kathy Marson, Upper Columbia Conference communication administrative assistant



Richie Brower, the associate director of youth and family life for Upper Columbia Conference, is joined by his wife, Timari, and kids (from left) Micah, Levi and Caleb.

OMAK MEMBERS RING BELLS, RAISE MONEY

Every Sunday, between Thanksgiving and Christmas, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Omak (Wash.) Church members are standing outside the door of Wal-Mart, ringing bells and playing or singing music as they collect donations for the Salvation Army. These funds are distributed monthly through gospel-based Manfisher Ministry.

The church's bell-ringing participation has been a rewarding experience for those involved, making members more visible in the community, widening their involvement with the homeless and strengthening their relationships with other churches.

Daryl Jacobson, Omak Church member



Ethan Hartzell, with his parents Derek and Sara Hartzell, rings the bell for the Salvation Army.

More online at
glnr.in/112-02-uc_omak

COMMUNITY ENJOYS THANKSGIVING IN HAYDEN LAKE

More online at glnr.in/112-02-uc_thanksgiving



The community service department of the Hayden Lake Church in Hayden, Idaho, held its annual Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, Nov. 20, 2016. All those who had received help from community services during the year were invited to join church members for the event.

Leading in planning the event was Rosemarie Shevitz, Hayden Lake Church community services director, supported by a team of church members echoing her passion to serve others by providing this special holiday meal.

Seniors and teens alike put finishing touches on the meal and served about 130 people. Chuck Stilwell, Hayden Lake Church personal ministries director, gave his own testimony of how God lovingly brought him back to church and totally changed his life.

Guests were invited to share what made them thankful. One person shared how God had led in her life, and another expressed gratitude for help received with major medical expenses.

The serving line provides a chance for church members and community guests to visit.



Rose Shevitz, Hayden Lake Community Services director, reaches out to Thanksgiving dinner guests.

Community services is open to the community every Tuesday. Eight or more staff members open the doors at 12:30 p.m. to start the weekly program with registration, devotions and Bible study, as well as a hot meal. Nonperishable food and clothing are provided as needed.

“Win their confidence, build relationships, meet their needs and be a friend” is the motto Shevitz and her team espouse. Shevitz believes everyone can share the blessings God has given them — like the kindness, love and encouragement many may lack in their lives. She believes “people are looking for a practical religion. Unless they see the practical application of Bible principles fulfilled in our lives, they don’t want to hear about our religion.”

Loren Starr, Hayden Lake Church communication leader



Audrey Child wraps one of many gifts.

GIFTING MORE THAN FOOD AT SPOKANE'S BETTER LIVING CENTER

What happens when you see a need and decide to fill it? Jane Williams, board member of the Better Living Center (BLC) in Spokane, Wash., decided to find out.

The BLC runs a food bank that serves some of the neediest families in Spokane



Jane Williams and Ubon Smith work on gifts.

County. Williams saw a community need for more than food. She invited her local Linwood Church family to help provide Christmas presents for the children of the families who come to the BLC for food.

These church members raised well over \$2,000 to purchase nearly 400 gifts. They spent hours wrapping and many, many hours shopping. “Jane shopped late at night to avoid the crowds,” says Gayle Haeger, urban ministries coordinator for Spokane.

One mother of four children was appreciative to the point of tears. “We’ve been struggling so hard, and this will make such a difference,” she told the staff.

When Patty Marsh, Upper Columbia Conference community services director, heard about the Christmas presents, she said, “I love the synergy behind this story — the BLC working hard to fill hungry stomachs, and quietly Linwood supporters lift this ministry in a totally unexpected way filling grieving hearts.”



Clayton Child arranges special groups of gifts to wrap.

BLC supporters hope this generous spirit dominoes into even more avenues to share the love of Jesus with others this year.

Kathy Marson, Upper Columbia Conference communication administrative assistant

BLESSINGS COME IN WHISPERS AT WWVA

The biggest blessings often come in the form of whispers, rather than yells.

Five years ago, the parking lot of Walla Walla Valley Academy (WWVA) in College Place, Wash., was deemed unsafe. For years, cars backed out of the front lot directly into traffic. Once a remote and lazy road, Academy Way had become increasingly busy with the addition of Rogers Adventist School next door and continued housing development nearby.

After nearly 50 years in this location, the time had come to refresh and update the campus — and the school family dipped a toe in with a new parking lot with the investment of donors committed to Seventh-day Adventist education.

In the past five years — spurred on by the functional yet beautiful new parking lot — alumni, community, students, families, faculty and donors have pulled together to tackle project after project. Contributions included financial gifts, which facilitated the updates to the auditorium, main foyers, gym, dining hall, bathrooms and lodge. Gifts of time created a beautiful new



Students gather in the updated dining hall for vespers and other events, as well as enjoy lunch together each day inside and on the adjoining patio.

baseball diamond for the fledgling team.

The WWVA facility looks fresh, bright and modern, with spaces developed for the way students learn today. It has clearly impacted learning and academic pursuits. But the biggest impact has been on the connection students have with each other and the community. The refreshed spaces provide places for them to learn togeth-



Students enjoy the opportunity to connect after class in the main lobby.



The Blessed Hope by Nathan Greene greets guests and students as the centerpiece of the WWVA auditorium lobby.

er, meet with their community and walk with Christ.

“We are seeing the impact of students feeling supported and valued,” says Amy Underhill,

WWVA alumni and development director. “They can see how many people believe in them and are working for them to have opportunities. It inspires them to work hard. The impact on individual lives

goes way beyond what can be measured.”

There are still projects to tackle, improvements to make and students to invest in. WWVA is committed to empowering students for Christ. Staff and students alike are grateful for the many whispers of support invested in this next generation to fulfill that mission. What a blessing this quiet conversation has been and will continue to be.

WWVA staff and students

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WASHINGTON CONFERENCE ELECTS A NEW PRESIDENT

A new president for Washington Conference was nominated and elected on Dec. 13, 2016, after a day of evaluating the ministry needs of Washington Conference and reviewing a list of candidates.

Douglas L. Bing transitions from serving as vice president for administration to president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in western Washington.

"This is a seamless transition with the ability to focus on mission and creating a new vision for the conference," says John Freedman, North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) president, who chaired the meeting with NPUC leaders John Loor and Mark Remboldt in attendance.

In the course of the election decision, leaders on the conference's executive committee spent several hours defining present and future needs, reviewing a lengthy list of candidate names, and determining the best leadership fit to carry out the desired vision for ministry. Prayers were offered at every decision point as there were many good names submitted by conference constituents.

Bing is regarded as a visionary, relational, con-

sensus-building leader who enjoys working with teams and prayerfully seeking God's guidance. He is experienced in church growth, church planting, outreach, young-adult mentoring and education.

Bing began his pastoral ministry in Omaha, Neb., as a youth and young-adult pastor. He went on to pastor an academy campus church and a large metro church in Kansas before coming in 2001 to Washington Conference as ministerial director. He was elected vice president for administration in 2002 and functioned as an active part of the administrative team.

Bing earned a Master of Divinity degree from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. He also earned a Bachelor of Arts in theology and a Bachelor of Science in accounting from Union College in Lincoln, Neb. As a student at Union College, he spent a year in Indonesia as a student missionary.

Bing is supported in ministry by his wife, Wilma, and their three young-adult children.

"I look forward to implementing ministries to disciple our children, grow our leaders, involve members in ministry and spiritually grow in Jesus,"



Doug and Wilma Bing

Bing says. "We want to move forward with prayer as we reach western Washington with the love of Jesus."

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director



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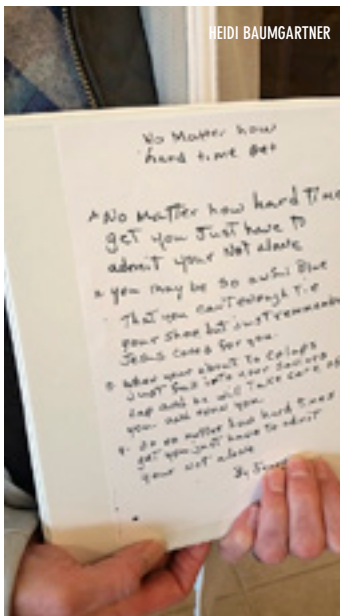
ANGRY TEXTS TURN INTO BIBLE STUDY CONNECTION

No name. Just a phone number, and an angry message late at night. “Don’t visit” read part of the text message.

Muriel Hrbek, Voice of Prophecy regional Bible instructor, knew this was a response from a personal Bible study cover letter and went through the stack of Bible study requests trying to figure out the sender so she could respect the request. She even sent a friendly text message reply to



Carrie Stitt and Muriel Hrbek were sure they would meet the source of the angry text messages as they went home to home responding to 20 Bible study requests. But they never did. Or did they?



Carrie Stitt holds a copy of a poem written by the “Soul for Jesus.”

determine the person’s identity. No response.

A few days passed, and Hrbek was ready to head out with newly recruited Bible instructor Carrie Stitt to visit 20 homes in Federal Way. Hrbek sent another text message and received another angry response, still with no identification. Hrbek saved the number in her phone under the name “Soul for Jesus.”

Hrbek and Stitt went ahead with their visits, sure they would likely meet this angry person. They visited all 20 homes and had positive interactions at each home. Even

one lady who was initially hesitant eventually accepted the Bible study and offered a gift of handmade Bible bookmarks.

Hrbek and Stitt still hadn’t figured out the source of the angry text messages. They were sure the messages came from this particular neighborhood in Federal Way, but they hadn’t found the person.

A few rounds of neighborhood Bible studies later, Hrbek received another text message from “Soul for Jesus” that read, “I’m so glad I changed my mind about Bible studies with you ladies.”

Still stumped on identity,

Hrbek went through the cards again. It was time to leave for the next Bible study appointment with the bookmark lady, so she didn’t have too much more time to sleuth out the identity of “Soul for Jesus.”

At the Bible study with the bookmark lady, Hrbek and Stitt asked for her phone number so they could call and set up future appointments. The bookmark lady gave them a funny look and said, “You have it already.”

Hrbek checked her phone and sweetly said, “I really don’t have your number.” To finish exchanging numbers, Hrbek called the bookmark lady’s phone. The ringtone of “Because He Lives” began playing, and Hrbek’s phone number was already in the bookmark lady’s phone. This was “Soul for Jesus.”

God worked through four “no” responses (two by text message, two at the door) to make this Bible study connection and new friendship.

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director

PROPHECY SEMINAR CHANGES CHURCH YOUTH

The Russian-Ukrainian Parousia Church decided to do something to help educate their friends in the South Sound region of western Washington about what the Bible teaches about prophecy.

The church discovered something else during the Unhidden Mysteries of Revelation program they presented: Many of their own church youth had limited knowledge of end-time events and the Second Coming of Jesus. At the end of the meetings, seven church youth were baptized.

One such youth, Vasily Svirida, wanted to be better but kept failing. He heard at church how people were reading their Bibles and praying, and he thought he would try it too. The more he read and the more he prayed, the more he

realized over time how he was changing.

"I began to realize that we are living in the very last time, and there is not much time to delay with baptism," says Svirida. "After baptism, Jesus is helping me make better decisions and live my life for Him, not for me. I pray often to God and read my Bible more."

Svirida also brought his mother, Helen, with him to the meetings. When she saw her son make a decision for baptism, she reports how her heart beat quickly. "We had some prayers and serious conversations in our family," she says. "I am thinking over the decision to be baptized soon."

Sergey Kuzmin, Russian-Ukrainian Parousia Church pastor



The Russian-Ukrainian Parousia Church set out to educate their community about Bible prophecy and ended up training their own youth in a better understanding of last-day events.



RAENA BAHNSEN

Auburn Adventist Academy students, like seniors Juliana Hoffman and Julianna Flores, find creative ways to help the neighboring community.

AUBURN HONOR SOCIETY HOSTS CREATIVE FOOD DRIVE

While the need for food is present year round, it is particularly felt during the holiday season. At Washington's Auburn Adventist Academy (AAA), the student-led National Honor Society (NHS) thinks they have found an answer in a food drive — one that invites class competition spurring the students to give food to show the school that their class is the best.

"Not only does it promote the ministry of outreach to the community from AAA, but it shows our community that we care and spreads the love of Christ," says Julianna Flores, AAA senior.

The drive is set up as a competition for yearly Associated Student Body class points. Each canned item is counted as one point in favor of their class, and each boxed or plastic-wrapped item donated subtracts two points from the

class the donor chooses. The donations go to the Auburn Food Bank.

Mary Kobberstad, AAA English teacher, says, "I am always inspired by the how caring and giving our student body is, and it is fun to see what creative ways they will come up with to serve our community."

"The Christmas season is a time for joy, and I believe we should share that joy with others by giving," says Juliana Hoffman, a senior and vice president of Auburn's NHS chapter.

The students believe one of the best ways to share God with the community is by showing the love and service He shows to humanity. Auburn is living out its goal of "enhancing relationships while serving others."

Christopher Ziegele, AAA media literacy student

MISSION CREEK SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT ON OUTREACH

Mission Creek Christian School is the only Christian private school in Washington's Pacific County. This school year, the school is trying a unique approach to community outreach in the coastal towns of South Bend and Raymond. The students are going door to door with community needs surveys, asking individuals what kind of services Mission Creek could provide to meet the needs of the community.

This innovative method of outreach was adopted after a less-than-optimal turnout for an evangelistic series held in September at the Willapa Harbor Church in Raymond. Church members who work closely with Mission Creek suggested the school ascertain the needs of the community before planning a new event — actions they believe to be in line with the methods of Jesus, as explained by Ellen White: "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me'" (*Ministry of*

Healing, p. 143).

"It helps us understand what people are needing before we try to help them," explains Mary Nell Ellingsen, Mission Creek Christian School administrator and principal. "I am excited that we are using Christ's method in reaching the people."

After about 10 hours of knocking on doors offering services like depression recovery, healthy cooking classes and community music lessons, they have compiled a list of more than 60 people requesting specific services. Student Abbie McAdams, a freshman at Mission Creek, comments, "I really like getting to know people face to face. It helps me feel that we are connected to the people around us."

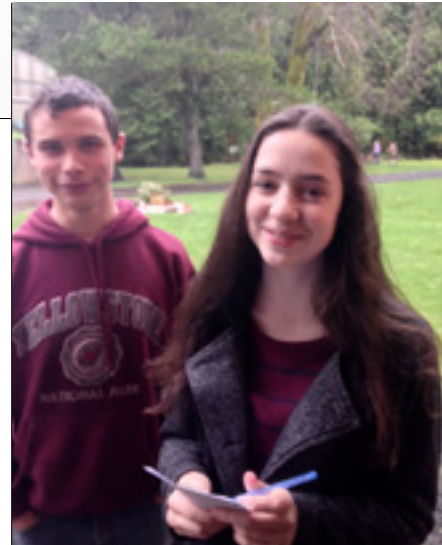
The most requested service is community music lessons, followed by a tie between healthy cooking classes and a young mothers' support group. The third most-requested service is a depression recovery seminar.

These results will inform church members how they can best help their community. Planning for seminars and events is underway.

Whatever happens, Mission Creek Christian

School students and staff believe God is leading them to make long-lasting relationships with those in their community.

Michael Trethewey, Mission Creek Christian School evangelistic coordinator



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Technology is the tool. You are the mastermind.



Jonathan Duncan, chair
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

When most people think of a computer scientist, they likely envision a socially awkward person who spends most of his or her life sequestered in a dimly-lit room hunched over a glowing screen “hacking” away at the keyboard. Okay, there may be some truth to that stereotype at times. But the field of computer science offers has much broader appeal. Anyone who enjoys creatively using technology to solve real-world problems has the potential to succeed as a computer scientist.

Just about every industry in our modern economy needs computer scientists. Our graduates don't just become software developers writing applications for a large company. They also wind up as freelance web developers who create intuitive websites, data scientists who sift through vast amounts of data to help businesses or government entities make better

decisions, support personnel who maintain the large networks of computers that make up the “cloud,” researchers who develop new algorithms for safer medical imaging, or even professors who teach others how to make computers do all of these exciting things.

Because the applications are so broad, well-trained computer scientists are needed now more than ever. We've updated the computer science curriculum at WWU to better meet these needs. Our new program covers everything from programming essentials to digital ethics, all within the context of the service-minded Christian worldview which makes WWU unique. We endeavor to prepare well-rounded computer scientists who are ready to be not only technically proficient technology professionals, but thoughtful citizens as well.

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For more information about studying computer science at Walla Walla University visit wallawalla.edu/cs.



WWU AVIATION PROGRAM CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

The Walla Walla University (WWU) aviation program is celebrating 50 years of flight this year.

The program has come a long way since its beginnings in 1967. The fleet of airplanes has expanded from two planes — a Cessna 150 and a Cessna 182 — to the current ideal training fleet of four Cessna 172s for general purpose aviation, a Cessna 182 for bush and high-performance training, a retractable-gear Piper Arrow, and a Beechcraft Duchess for multiengine certification. The program offerings have expanded through the years as well and now include Bachelor of Science degrees in aviation and aviation management.

“We are attracting people nationwide to our aviation program — even from outside the Adventist community — who can see how incredible our program is and the opportunities it allows,” says Michael Gref, aviation operations manager.



Gref explains that, within the aviation world, regulatory changes combined with recent high rates of retirement for pilots have created many opportunities for young pilots. WWU aviation graduates fly planes for airlines around the world, including Mountain Aviation, Skywest and Qatar Airways.

Handel Wellington, 2005 WWU aviation graduate, started his career in aviation as a load master and then became a flight instructor. Now, 12 years later, he is captain of a Boeing 777 for Qatar Airways.

“The Walla Walla University aviation program puts more responsibility on the student than most other schools,” says Gref. “Our students can take an aircraft on weekends, holidays or quiet afternoons and go fly to different locations.”

That flexible learning approach is one of Gref’s favorite

or Portland [Ore.], and east in Montana or Utah. Some trips have gone as far as Chicago, New York and Florida,” Gref says. “This is very unique to Walla Walla University and builds a student’s decision-making and responsibility in the aircraft.”

In honor of the 50-year anniversary of flight at WWU, a variety of events are planned to celebrate the accomplishments, aircraft and operations of the flight program, including an open house and alumni dinner during 2017 homecoming weekend, April 27–30.

Read more about the WWU aviation program at fly.wallawalla.edu or on Facebook at [facebook.com/wwuaviation](https://www.facebook.com/wwuaviation).

Caleb Riston, WWU university relations student writer



features of the program. “On any given Sunday our aircraft can be found as far north as Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, south to Loma Linda [Calif.], west in Seattle [Wash.]



NEWS NOTES

BOCKMANN NAMED CEO OF WALLA WALLA GENERAL HOSPITAL

Rick Bockmann has been named president and CEO of Walla Walla General Hospital in Walla Walla, Wash., according to Joyce Newmyer, president and CEO of the Pacific Northwest Region of Adventist Health. Bockmann, who has served as CEO of Howard Memorial Hospital in Willits, Calif., since 2011, began his new role on Dec. 12, 2016. He replaced Bob Beehler, who has served as interim CEO of Walla Walla General for the last several months.

"I am grateful that we've found someone with Rick's depth of experience, strong leadership and operational expertise," says Newmyer. "I'd also like to thank Bob for his service to the hospital and community for the past few months."

Bockmann is a seasoned health care executive and has held a number of leadership positions within Adventist Health. Before joining Howard Memorial, he was vice president of physician services at St. Helena Hospital in northern California. He's also been a leader with Centura Health and the Portercare Adventist Health System in addition to running his own health care consulting firm.

Bockmann has served on boards of several community organizations throughout his



Rick Bockmann

career, including the Colorado Medical Society Foundation, the American College of Health Care Executives and Campion Adventist Academy in Loveland, Colo. He earned a bachelor's degree in theology from Loma Linda University in California and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix.

POOLE NAMED CFO OF ADVENTIST MEDICAL CENTER

Aaron Poole has been named chief financial officer for Adventist Medical Center in Portland, Ore. Poole begins his role on Feb. 1. Prior to joining the team in Portland, he was the chief financial officer for Ukiah Valley Medical Center, an Adventist Health facility in northern California. He has an Master of Business Administration from University of California, Davis and is a certified public accountant. He began his career at Adventist Health at Oregon's Tillamook Regional Medical Center and has also worked at the Adventist Health corporate office, playing an integral role in budget and reimbursement. Poole and his wife are excited to be



Aaron Poole

back in the Pacific Northwest.

Don Welch will remain the chief financial officer of Adventist Health's Pacific Northwest Region, a role he has held while also serving as CFO of Adventist Medical Center.

Adventist Health
Northwest Regional Heart & Vascular

FREE EVENT!

A FAIR OF THE HEART

Adventist Health wants you to take control of your heart health. A Fair of the Heart is the perfect place to start, with healthy heart activities, giveaways and presentations by top regional cardiologists.

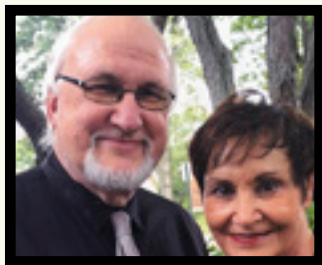
Sunday, February 19, 2 p.m.
Adventist Medical Center
10123 SE Market Street, Portland

Register at 503-256-4000 or AdventistHealth.org/NW.

Schwantes 50th

Carlos and Mary Schwantes celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family on Oct. 28, 2016, in White Sulphur Springs, W.V., at the historic Greenbrier Hotel. The celebration was a little later than their actual wedding anniversary of Sept. 4 so their children living in Singapore could return to the U.S.

Carlos Arnaldo Schwantes met Mary Dassenko at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., where Carlos



Carlos and Mary Schwantes

was studying history and Mary was studying home economics education. They married two years later in Nevada, Iowa, on Sept. 4, 1966.

Their careers took them first to Ann Arbor, Mich., for graduate school, where Carlos earned a Doctor of Philosophy and Mary a master's degree in science, and later to Walla Walla University, where they both taught between 1969 and 1984. Both their sons were born while the couple lived in College Place, Wash.

After 14 years of teaching at Walla Walla, the pair moved to Moscow, Idaho, and the University of Idaho, where Carlos had an active research and writing phase for 19 years. Mary started the first nutrition counseling service for University of Idaho students and staff and organized campus and community health fairs.

Their most recent move

was to Missouri, where Carlos served as the first St. Louis Mercantile Library Endowed Professor of History at the University of Missouri—St. Louis from 2001 until May 2016. His teaching career spanned exactly 50 years.

Now retired, they travel the world and enjoy spending time with their granddaughter. The Schwantes family includes Benjamin and Elizabeth Schwantes and their daughter, Magdalena, of Baltimore, Md.; and Matthew and Nadira Schwantes of Singapore.

States 70th

Newton and Esther States celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Aug. 21, 2016, with a reception in Emmett, Idaho.

Newton States married Esther Pack on Aug. 10, 1946, in Boise, Idaho. Newton worked as a laborer for several years then became a registered nurse in 1961. He worked in health care for 32 years, serving as practical nurse instructor, director of nursing and respiratory therapy instructor. He retired after 25 years as administrator of the Walter Knox Memorial Hospital in Emmett, Idaho.

Esther raised their four sons, planted a garden and canned at least 2,000 quarts of food each year. She also operated a day care center for 25 years.

The States family includes Tim and Nancy States of Payette, Idaho; Newt and Karen (Mabee) States of Cocolalla, Idaho; George and Mary (Rivers) States of Emmett, Idaho; Tom States of McCall, Idaho; 10 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.



Newton and Esther States

Thomas 60th

Griffith Lloyd Thomas arrived at Walla Walla College (WWC, now Walla Walla University) from Prentice, Wis., as a freshman engineering student. Griffith became a Seventh-day Adventist during high school when his mother and his brother, James, also joined the church. During his sophomore year of college, he ran out of money and dropped out to work. Then he was drafted into the Army. It would be December 1954 before he could return and continue his engineering education.

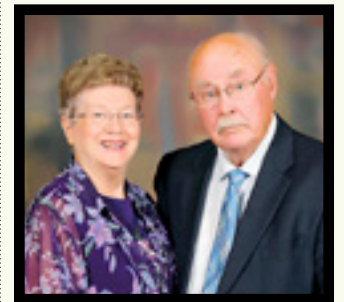
In January 1955 he met Shirley Anita Brane, a freshman pre-nursing major from Indiana. They were married on Aug. 26, 1956, in the Walla Walla (Wash.) City Church by Paul Heubach. Griffith graduated from WWC in June 1957 and began his first engineering job at Hyster Company, which had never heard of Walla Walla College. After nine months of employment, Hyster Company wanted to recruit more WWC engineering students.

Griffith started night graduate school while Shirley finished her nurses training at Portland Sanitarium and Hospital (now Adventist Medical Center). Griffith graduated from the Loma Linda School

of Medicine in California in 1964. He set up his family practice office in his hometown of Prentice. The nearest hospital was 31 miles away, and the nearest pharmacy was 13 miles away. He made house calls, sometimes took patients to the hospital himself and carried snowshoes in his trunk.

When the children were ready for school, the family decided to move to Forest Grove, Ore., in 1968. After three and a half years, Griffith returned to Loma Linda for a residency in diagnostic radiology. Griffith returned to Oregon as a radiologist in 1976. He became the first full-time radiologist at Tillamook County General Hospital on the Oregon coast in 1981 and retired in 1996.

Shirley graduated from Walla Walla College in June 1960. She has worked predominantly in labor and delivery in hospitals in Oregon and California.



Griffith and Shirley Thomas

The Thomas family includes six children: Marcene of Keizer, Ore.; Delbe Meelhuyzen of Clebourne, Texas; Lloyd Thomas of Keene, Texas; Jill Walcker of Spokane, Wash.; Joseph Thomas of Lake Jackson, Texas; and Hugh Thomas of Moses Lake, Wash. Delbe took them to Japan to celebrate their anniversary.

FAMILY BIRTHS

BUTLER — Leilani Elizabeth was born July 22, 2016, to Joseph E. and Marni M. (Klatt) Butler, Silverdale, Wash.

LEAKE — Daphne Jean was born Nov. 1, 2016, to Benjamin J. and Emily A. (Perri) Leake, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

FAMILY WEDDINGS

BEDDOE-NEIL

Alyssa Beddoe and Daniel Neil were married Aug. 7, 2016, in Milton-Freewater, Ore., where they are making their home. Alyssa is the daughter of Kent and Julie (Bellchambers) Beddoe. Daniel is the son of Don and Bev (Price) Neil.

FAMILY AT REST

BLANKENSHIP — Lowell Dean, 66; born Dec. 13, 1949, Seattle, Wash.; died May 16, 2016, Wentachee, Wash. Surviving: brothers, David, Tonasket, Wash.; Michael Allen, Troutdale, Ore.; sisters, Sherry Lee Blankenship, Shelton, Wash.; and Michelle Ann (Elison) Blankenship, Shelton, Wash.

CAMPBELL — Julie Dianne (Reynolds), 56; born April 7, 1960, Washington, Penn.; died Oct. 18, 2016, Puyallup, Wash. Surviving: husband, Terry, Auburn, Wash.; son, Jonathan, Berrien Springs, Mich.; daughter, Katelyn Campbell, Berrien Springs; father, James Reynolds, Simi Valley, Calif.; and mother, Barbara (Woods) Reynolds, Simi Valley.

DICK — Warren Henry, 93; born Feb. 2, 1923, Hillsboro, Ore.; died Sept. 20, 2016, Gladstone, Ore. Surviving: sons, James, Angwin, Calif.; Bill, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; daughters, Carol Sellards, Oregon

FAMILY AT REST

City, Ore.; Mary Lou Van Laanen, Boulder, Colo.; Bonnie Dick, Coeur d'Alene; and 4 grandchildren.

ENGELHART — Ardell Calvin, 89; born July 15, 1926, Brainerd, Minn.; died Dec. 20, 2015, Hermiston, Ore. Surviving: wife, Margaret (Peterson); sons, Kevin and Andrew, both of Hermiston; daughter, Linda Johnson, Hermiston; 10 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

HANSEN — Barbara J. (Coddington), 86; born Oct. 24, 1929, Buffalo, N.Y.; died Sept. 16, 2016, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: husband, William "Bill" Hansen; son, Terry, St. Helena, Calif.; daughter, Debbie Bullock, Spangle, Wash.; 3 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

HAUGHTON — Linda May (Gates), 64; born Oct. 16, 1951, Ephrata, Wash.; died Sept. 2, 2016, Yakima, Wash. Surviving: son, Dan, Yakima; daughter, Lauralee Jimenez, Yakima; sister, Jeannie Jesseph, Spokane, Wash.; 7 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

LITCHFIELD — Luella (Smith) Ramsdell, 88; born April 1, 1928, Humptulips, Wash.; died Aug. 17, 2016, Williams Lake, British Columbia, Canada. Surviving: daughter, Wanda (Ramsdell) Nelson, College Place, Wash.; stepsons, Sid Litchfield, Milton-Freewater, Ore.; Andrew Litchfield; stepdaughters, Diane Bachelor and Janice Perret.

ODELL — Donald Elmer, 94; born Jan. 9, 1922, Monroe, Wash.; died Oct. 15, 2016, Rialto, Calif. Surviving: son, Laurence Edward Odell, Rialto; daughter, Karen Lu Clements, Yucaipa, Calif.; 2 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

PONOZZO — Gloria Jo (Lytle), 72; born March 18, 1944, Boise, Idaho; died Oct. 18, 2016, Ephrata, Wash. Surviving: sons, Scott Ponozzo, Ephrata; Dave Ponozzo, Stratford, Wash.; Joe Ponozzo, San Antonio, Texas; William Bird, East Wenatchee, Wash.; daughters, JoEllen Krone and Toni Ponozzo, both of Kennewick, Wash.; sister, Debbie Barbee, Beaverton, Ore.; 17 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

STANGER — Harold Andrew Jr., 86; born Feb. 8, 1930, Taylor, N.D.; died Oct. 4, 2016, Everett, Wash. Surviving: wife, Darlene (Jacobs); sons, Wes and Gary, both of Arlington, Wash.; daughter, Karen Colburn, Arlington; sisters, Vi York, Arlington; Marian McGhee, Sun City, Ariz.; 8 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

STONE — Joseph Marion, 91; born Aug. 27, 1925, Parma, Idaho; died Sept. 3, 2016, Portland, Ore. Surviving: wife, Jane Carol Stone; sons, Thomas E., Portland; Kenneth I., Burlington, Wash.; Donald W., Portland; daughter, Carolyn E. Reed, Portland; 5 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchildren.

UPDEGRAVE — Aaron James "Bud," 95; born Jan. 1, 1921, Sandy, Ore.; died Oct. 3, 2016, Vancouver, Wash. Surviving: wife, Maymie (Osborne); daughters, Laurie Knittle, Vancouver; Darla Myers, Bozeman, Mont.

WHEELER — Eva "Mike" Rosella (Pearles) Keller, 80; born Dec. 3, 1935, Martinez, Calif.; died Oct. 25, 2016, Enterprise, Ore. Surviving: husband, Dick; son, Lloyd Lee Keller, Modesto, Calif.; daughter, Diana Keller, Enterprise; brother, Joe Pearles, Nashville, Tenn.; sister, Luella Joan Rogers, St. Helena, Calif.; 10 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

WILBANKS — Elva Joyce (Osborne), 82; born Oct. 7, 1933, College Place, Wash.; died Aug. 10, 2016, Roseburg, Ore. Surviving: sons, Dan L. and Jeffrey W., both of Roseburg; daughter, Lisa G. Welding, Roseburg; and 5 grandchildren.

WILLIAMS — Chuck, 70; born Feb. 12, 1945, Port Angeles, Wash.; died Nov. 5, 2015, Bend, Ore. Surviving: wife, Bunny (Jackson); sons, Dean, Troutdale, Ore.; Roney, of Indiana; Larry, Prineville, Ore.; sisters, Doris Brownhill, Sheridan, Ore.; Norma Stiles, Sandy, Ore.; Fran Kilmer, Spangle, Wash.; Cathy Garrett, Portland, Ore.; Lela Markwell, Karen Rathjen and Mari Nielsen, all of Sandy; and 8 grandchildren.

ZIEGELE — Ellen Aleta (Ogren), 99; born July 19, 1917, Mizpah, Mont.; died Aug. 11, 2016, Yakima, Wash. Surviving: sons, Calvin, Princeton, Idaho; Richard, College Place, Wash.; daughters, Alice Laabs, Yakima; Jeanne Sudduth, Cleveland, Tenn.; Kathy "Kit" Case, Yakima; 15 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

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

GO TO GLEANERNOW.COM/ CONTRIBUTE 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

Feb. 4 — Local Church Budget;

Feb. 11 — World Budget, emphasizing Adventist Television Ministries;

Feb. 18 — Local Church Budget;

Feb. 25 — Local Conference Advance.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

Distinguished Faculty Lecture

Feb. 12 — Paul Dybdahl, professor of mission and New Testament, will speak about “Barricades or Bridges: Adventism and the World Religions” for the Walla Walla University Distinguished Faculty Lecture on Sunday at 7 p.m., in the Fine Arts Center auditorium. Join us on campus or watch via live-stream at wallawalla.edu/DFL.

U-Days at WWU

April 2-4 — This is a great time for students to check out the WWU campus, talk with teachers, learn about financial aid and discover what life at WWU is like. Learn more about events and registration at wallawalla.edu/udays.

MONTANA CONFERENCE

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given that the 62nd Regular Session (quadrennium) of the Montana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc., under the laws of the state of Montana, will be held in the gymnasium/auditorium on the campus of Mount Ellis Academy, Bozeman, Mont., June 18, 2017, beginning at 9 a.m. This session is called for the purpose of electing officers and departmental staff for the ensuing term, to elect a Board of Directors, to elect an Articles and By-laws Committee, to consider amendments to the by-laws, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the session. Each church in the conference is entitled to one delegate plus one delegate for each 17 members or major fraction thereof.

Merlin Knowles, Montana Conference president

OREGON CONFERENCE

Annual Singles Big Lake Snow Retreat

March 24-26 — Come enjoy a winter weekend at Big Lake Youth Camp. Bring snowmobiles, cross-country skis, snowshoes, sleds and warm clothes. (Pack in a snowproof bag.) Snowmobile rides available for all. Cost goes up after March 5. Fee includes a 5:30 p.m. snowcat ride from Ray Benson Snow Park to camp, two nights' lodging and five meals. Make checks

payable to Jerry Walter (write Big Lake in the memo). Mail to Big Lake Weekend, c/o Jerry Walter, 92395 Territorial Hwy., Junction City, OR 98448. For more information, call Jerry 541-998-3593 or cell 503-789-8911.

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

Touchet Church Celebrates 100 Years

March 25-April 1 — The Touchet Church celebrates 100 years of ministry and invites guests, former members and theology students who delivered sermons while attending WWU. Former Touchet School attendee Melvin Johnson will be the speaker on Sabbath, March 25. Matt and Josie Minikus will provide a sacred concert at 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 29. A Friday vespers will take place at 7 p.m. on March 31. Sabbath, April 1, will feature Paul Hoover, Upper Columbia Conference president.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

Fundraising Intensive

Feb. 18-21 — Washington Conference outreach ministries presents a Fundraising Intensive at Rosario Beach Camp and Conference Center. Do you have a vision for ministry but not enough resources? This weekend retreat can help. Presenters include Michael Brown, Colette Newer and Byron Dulan. Space is limited, so register by Feb. 6 at FundMinistry.eventbrite.com.

WORLD CHURCH

Loma Linda Academy Homecoming

April 8 — Honoring all classes ending in 2 or 7. Special honored 50-year class of 1967. For more details, visit lla.org/alumni or email jwoodhouse@lla.org.

Adventist WestPoint 2017

April 16-19 — Adventist WestPoint is the premier training event focusing on innovative strategies and training for church growth. Recharge your spiritual batteries through uplifting worship, challenging messages from Scripture, prayer and networking with others who think that God is ready to do a “new thing” in our world. You will leave with a ministry toolkit for God to move your congregation from the sideline to the frontline of kingdom growth. Experience three days of inspiration and training, designed to strengthen your calling to connect your community with Christ and grow your congregation. Early-bird discount available until Jan. 31. Lions Gate Hotel, 3410 Westover St., McClellan Park, Calif. (Sacramento area).

[MORE EVENTS LISTED AT GLEANERNOW.COM/EVENTS.](http://GLEANERNOW.COM/EVENTS)

Classes

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OFFERS MASTER'S DEGREES in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit southern.edu/graduatestudies.

Employment

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S English department is seeking applications for a full-time faculty member specializing in British literature of the 18th or 19th century. Preferred candidates will have a Ph.D.;

a creative writing background is a plus. Send CV with cover letter to Dr. Judy Myers Laue lauej@swau.edu.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY has faculty openings in the School of Education and Psychology, the department of computer science and the department of chemistry. For details and to apply, please visit jobs.wallawalla.edu. We invite you to share this announcement. To learn more about Walla Walla University, please visit wallawalla.edu.

UNION COLLEGE seeks an art and graphic design professor, beginning June 2017. Master's degree in art or graphic design required; MFA preferred. Responsibilities include teaching art and graphic design courses,

academic advising, recruiting, and program development. Further information, ucollege.edu/faculty-openings. Submit CV to Bruce Forbes, Fine Arts Division chair, at b2forbes@ucollege.edu.

PROFESSOR (assistant/associate/full), Loma Linda University School of Religion is seeking a tenure-track professor to begin in 2017. The candidates should possess ethics training and a completed Ph.D. (ABD accepted). Please email a cover letter, curriculum vitae, writing sample and three professional references to Dr. Zack Plantak, Ethics Area Chair, zplantak@llu.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a director of

academic support and advising. Master's degree in higher education, developmental learning or related field required; doctoral degree preferred. Must have higher education experience. Send CV and cover letter to Dr. Amy Rosenthal, arosenthal@swau.edu.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY is hiring! To see the list of available positions, go to jobs.wallawalla.edu.

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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.

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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360-857-7000 • fax 360-857-7001 • npuc.org
Monday–Thursday 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

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- Communication Steve Vistaunet
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Local Conference Directory

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907-346-1004 • alaskaconference.org
Kevin Miller, president; Quentin Purvis, v.p. secretariat; James W. Jensen, v.p. finance

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Boise, ID 83704-8418
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David Prest Jr., president; John Rogers, v.p. finance

MONTANA CONFERENCE

175 Canyon View Rd.
Bozeman, MT 59715
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503-850-3500 • oregonconference.org
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503-850-3300
M–Th 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
F 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Sun 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

UPPER COLUMBIA ABC

3715 S. Grove Rd., Spokane, WA 99224
509-838-3168
M–Th 9 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Sun 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

COLLEGE PLACE ABC

505 S. College Ave., College Place, WA 99324
509-529-0723
M–Th 9:30 a.m.–6 p.m.
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AUBURN ABC

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Sunset Schedule

February	3	10	17	24
ALASKA CONFERENCE				
Anchorage	5:11	5:31	5:50	6:09
Fairbanks	4:38	5:02	5:26	5:49
Juneau	4:24	4:41	4:58	5:15
Ketchikan	4:25	4:40	4:55	5:10
IDAHO CONFERENCE				
Boise	5:58	6:08	6:17	6:26
La Grande	5:01	5:12	5:22	5:32
Pocatello	5:45	5:54	6:03	6:12
MONTANA CONFERENCE				
Billings	5:22	5:32	5:43	5:53
Havre	5:20	5:31	5:42	5:54
Helena	5:34	5:45	5:55	6:06
Miles City	5:10	5:20	5:31	5:41
Missoula	5:41	5:52	6:03	6:13
OREGON CONFERENCE				
Coos Bay	5:31	5:40	5:49	5:59
Medford	5:27	5:36	5:45	5:54
Portland	5:19	5:29	5:40	5:50
UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE				
Pendleton	5:04	5:14	5:24	5:34
Spokane	4:53	5:04	5:15	5:26
Walla Walla	5:01	5:11	5:21	5:32
Wenatchee	5:05	5:16	5:27	5:38
Yakima	5:08	5:19	5:29	5:40
WASHINGTON CONFERENCE				
Bellingham	5:10	5:22	5:33	5:44
Seattle	5:13	5:24	5:35	5:46

GleanerNow.com/sunset

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GIVING JESUS AWAY



F

irst, let me acknowledge that this is a Christmassy article that does not appear in the December issue of the *Gleaner*. This is because the story itself happened over the holiday, meaning there was no time to submit it to the appropriate issue. And, second, I enjoy annoying people who don't like Christmas.

It happened in late November when my wife tried to get rid of — actually “give away” is a better term — a nativity set.

Since we possessed two nativities, we felt we could bless someone else with the holy family. Our neighborhood has a residents' page on Facebook, so she posted a picture of the set with the word “FREE.”

We didn't have to wait long until someone posted a message that they would like to receive the nativity. A time for pick up was worked out, and Joseph, Mary and Baby Jesus, along with the stable menagerie, were placed out on our porch in their box.

The person never showed. No matter; advertising on the

residents' page was free, and so we posted our ad again.

A second taker offered to come and take the nativity home for the holiday, but they too backed out — which started a trend. A third, fourth and fifth individual offered to take Jesus' family home, but also never followed through.

This bizarre routine morphed into a living metaphor I sermonized off of around the house — much to the delight of my missus. “See, Jesus is presented as a free gift to the world, and yet no one wants to receive Him.” Eye roll. “It's like, He waits there, hoping that someone will receive Him into their home, and people pass Him by and don't get the blessing of His presence.” Shakes her head. “You can't just say you want Jesus; you need to receive Him!”

As you can tell, living with a preacher clearly has benefits.

As we began to abandoned hope of giving Jesus to our neighbors, it so happened a holiday party brought us an unexpected blessing. The members of our



AUTHOR

Seth Pierce



For
 God
 so
 loved
 the world that he gave his
 only Son, that whoever
 believes
 in him
 should not
 perish
 but have
 eternal
 life.

John 3:16 (RSV)

church staff came over to our house for Christmas snacks and a classic movie. Upon entering, my administrative assistant noticed the lovely box housing the nativity freezing on the porch.

An excited conversation ensued in which it was revealed that not only was that nativity being given away, my assistant and her family had need of such a nativity. We gladly handed the box to her family and rejoiced that someone had found and received Jesus.

Now, I don't mean to imply my administrative assistant, or my neighbors for that matter, haven't received Jesus — but the metaphor still stands. John 1:11–12 states, "He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his

name, he gave the right to become children of God." Merely claiming you desire Jesus, without a deeply personal invitation of

receiving him to be a part of your life, won't amount to much.

Another lesson that struck me is how often we try to share Jesus with people we may not know and assume those around us have no need of Him. This isn't an argument for becoming insular but more aware.

Ellen White, while discussing the divided interests of people in church in 1892, wrote, "It is a solemn statement that I make to the church that not whose names are registered upon the church books are prepared to close their earthly history, and would be as verily without God and without hope in the world as the common sinner" ("Letter 16e"). Ouch.

We don't need a holiday to reflect on the desire of Jesus to dwell in the house of our hearts. Maybe those closest to us are seeking Jesus while we are out seeking strangers who might not be searching. Christ places people in our family circles and spheres of influence

Christ places people in our family circles and spheres of influence for a reason.

for a reason. Even in Acts 1 Jesus instructs the early church to start at home in Jerusalem before moving out toward the ends of the earth. The best part is the risk is much lower, and so is the stress, in casual spiritual conversations with those we know.

Take a few moments to share Jesus with those close to you. You may be surprised at who has been searching for what you have been trying to give.

Seth Pierce, Puyallup Church lead pastor

A SANCTUARY FROM RACISM

E

ach February, Black History Month provides opportunity to take a searching and fearless inventory of interracial attitudes and relationships. Americans of goodwill aspire to make 2017 a better experience than last year's national turmoil.

Seventh-day Adventists can lead the way in our churches and communities. A deeper understanding of one core doctrine could help us. I'm referring to the sanctuary, a fundamental belief fallen into neglect after decades of legalistic abuse.

"Sanctuary" can be summarized as providing a shelter from spiritual despair, danger and dysfunction: "We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever" (Heb. 6:19–20).

Back during the dark days of African-American slavery, some runaways managed to flee bondage of Southern plantations via the Underground Railroad — an escape trail with safe houses that stretched all the way north to Canada. There the liberated slaves found sanctuary.

FOUNDATIONS OF ADVENTIST RACE RELATIONS

Many early Adventist pioneers supported the Underground

Railroad. After Lincoln's great Emancipation, some Sabbatharians became involved in helping former slaves get the education they deserved and attain other benefits of a free society. The most passionate Adventist advocate for racial reform was Sojourner Truth, perhaps the best known African-American woman of the 19th century.

Ellen White was strategically cautious in confronting racism. She recommended temporary concessions regarding integration of evangelistic endeavors among whites and blacks in regions where racism reigned. Yet she relentlessly appealed for interracial fairness and understanding.

White envisioned a strategy her son Edson followed in ministry to ex-slaves and their children in the Mississippi River Valley. He founded several mission schools that led to the formation of what is now Oakwood University in Alabama — still one of America's most respected black educational institutions.

STRUGGLING IN THE 20TH CENTURY

After the death of Ellen White, racial progress suffered among Seventh-day Adventists. In the 1930s and 40s, African-American leaders had to agitate long and hard for the right to provide oversight of their own evangelistic efforts and churches.*



AUTHOR

Martin Weber



After the death of Ellen White, racial progress suffered among Seventh-day Adventists.

Prejudice persisted within the Seventh-day Adventist system. I'll never forget a visit to South Africa in the 1990s at the invitation of denominational leaders there to assist them in pursuing racial unity within congregations throughout that nation. In a restaurant overlooking the ocean in Cape Town, a retired church leader related how, decades ago, someone showed up one Sabbath from global headquarters to enforce segregation. Black members and other members

of color had to migrate to a nearby park and worship under a big tree as white "brothers and sisters" were awarded exclusive use of church facilities.

Here in America, Anglo Seventh-day Adventists were underrepresented (to put it mildly) in the civil rights struggles of the 1960s. Incredibly, the legendary evangelist C.D. Brooks, who baptized my grandfather, initially could not eat lunch in the General Conference cafeteria.

As a college freshman in

Washington, D.C., I joined students every Sabbath afternoon who tutored inner-city kids from neighborhoods destroyed in the aftermath of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination. I learned later that high church leadership worried what we were doing for racial reconciliation amounted to breaking God's holy Sabbath.

The church has made progress. In 1979, the North American Division elected a black president, C.E. Bradford. Current staffing at church headquarters reflects racial diversity. Northwest Adventists of all ethnicities share the same local conferences — but with provision made for each group to supervise its own outreach.

SANCTUARY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Moving forward into the uncertainties of a new year, let us remember that we Seventh-day Adventists are a multiethnic global family. We can and must press together in unity — not uniformity enforced by committees that have too often

failed God's purpose while purporting to speak with His authority. *The real voice of God on Earth is a loving community of believers*, "a letter from Christ ... written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God" (2 Cor. 3:3).

We are on the same team, yet entrusted with different assignments from heaven's sanctuary — the human resource center of the universe. Whatever our ethnicity, age group or gender, together we comprise the royal priesthood of believers under the leadership of Christ, our High Priest. Each of us has a unique experience and testimony to share about "one Lord, one faith, one baptism." "Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession" (Heb. 4:14).

*A transcript of the dramatic discussion between black leaders and white administrators is recorded in *Regional Conference Origins*, available from logos.com/sda.

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



FULL CIRCLE



It never ceases to amaze me how God uniquely works. Mary Klein's story began in 1959, and my memories of my grandmother are still vivid and clear as if it was yesterday. When I would visit her, the aroma of fresh bread and caribou stew would fill my nose.

After she came to hug and kiss me, I'd hear, "Go eat, beebel!" with her thick Native Alaskan accent. Love poured from my grandmother to my mother, Cecelia; her two sisters, Marilyn and Linda; my cousins; siblings; and me.

As Christians, we knew that this love developed through a deep communion with God. My grandmother had a unique love for Jesus, and her walk with Christ affected everyone she came into contact with.

It wasn't always like this though. She grew up with a rough upbringing, surviving sexual abuse, a broken home and numerous tragedies.

How did the love of Jesus overcome and conquer her brokenness? That became her life story.

There were incredible missionary families that came to Dillingham, Alaska: Kenneth and Evelyn Wren, Clarence and Mae Wren, and John and Phyllis Libby, as well as many more who made great sacrifices to spread the Seventh-day Adventist gospel. These

couples were closest to my family and modeled so wonderfully what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Specifically, John and Phyllis Libby supported my grandmother during a really tough transition. An Adventist, with his own agenda, came to Dillingham proclaiming his opinions about the health message. My grandfather grasped his twisted teachings and fanatically threw away the majority of their food, which wasn't easy to come by in those days, especially in bush Alaska. All that hard work of preparing fish and meat for the winter ... out! Unclean! Dirty! These familiar words once beat the Native culture out of my grandmother when earlier (non-Adventist) missionaries came telling the natives they were savages who needed to clean themselves up.

There were some who portrayed Jesus in a terrible light, introducing child molestation and alcohol into our culture. When my grandmother spoke her native Yupik language in school, her hand was hit by a ruler; if they were really *bad* — behaving in a cultural manner — the children were made to kneel on rock salt.

These memories surfaced just as my grandmother was falling in love with the true Adventist gospel that was warming her heart from the brokenness she'd experienced. But fanaticism has a way of destroying that.



Chad baptizes Ellison Libby (left) and Grayson Libby (right).

AUTHOR

Chad Angasan



John and Phyllis Libby

John and Phyllis Libby supported my grandmother during a really tough transition.

great-grandsons, Ellison and Grayson Libby, in July 2016. The two boys were in my primary class at the Southcentral Alaska Camp Meeting for two years before they made their decision to follow Jesus.

compassion for my grandmother's broken heart and in turn God would circle the overflow of that ministry back to the missionary couple's great-grandchildren? The Lord has a beautiful sense of humor.

As she was about to give up on Adventist Christianity, John and Phyllis Libby ministered to her by sharing that Jesus doesn't judge us by what we eat but "looks at the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7). As they continued to disciple my grandmother, a beautiful relationship developed between her and her Savior. As time went on, the love she showed her family was the fruit of what Jesus did through the Libbys.

My grandmother was one of my main spiritual pillars along with my mother, Cecelia Angasan. Through their discipleship the Lord called me into ministry. After graduating from Walla Walla University with a bachelor's degree in theology, I was called to my first church in Togiak, Alaska. I am now a Master of Divinity student at the Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich.

I had the privilege of baptizing John and Phyllis Libby's



(From left) Cecelia Angasan, Linda Meyer, Mary Klein and Marilyn Klein.

The previous summer (July 2015), I made an altar call to these 7- to 9-year-olds, asking, "Who would like to give their heart to Jesus?" Ellison and Grayson were the first ones to stand as the Holy Spirit moved their hearts. In my absence, fellow pastor David Shin gave them Bible studies, and on July 23, 2016, I had the pleasure of baptizing these two wonderful boys.

Who would have thought a missionary couple would come to Dillingham with

The moral of this full-circle story? It all started with compassion: "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you" (Eph. 4:32, ESV).

Chad Angasan, Togiak Church pastor

Editor's Note: As space allows, the Gleaner provides the *You Said It* section for Northwest Adventist members to share their personal testimonies or inspirational thoughts. The views expressed are those of the writer and may not fully reflect those of the North Pacific Union Conference or its leadership. We welcome submissions of 500–900 words for *You Said It*.

+ JUST LIKE JESUS



Carved from fossilized walrus ivory by one of Savoonga's gifted artists, *The Walrus Hunter* sits on Pastor Duerksen's desk — as a reminder of Nathan's commitment and of the power that comes with following God.

THE WALRUS HUNTER



He was a hunter, a Siberian Yupik who lived in the village of Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island in the western half of the Bering Sea. An American, living 30 miles from Russia. A First Nation hunter, dying from the white man's disease, tuberculosis.

Many of the other villagers had also caught the disease. Most had died, leaving only a few healthy people in Savoonga.

Nathan Noongkook, hardly able to breathe, had reconciled himself to a wheezing death.

Then the crew of a passing supply ship met Nathan and offered to take the dying hunter with them to a tuberculosis hospital in the large white-man's village called Seattle.

There was nothing to do in the Seattle Tuberculosis Sanatorium, except play checkers and listen to the radio. Nathan chose the radio and listened most of the day. He especially loved the hope-filled voice of H.M.S. Richards on the *Voice of Prophecy*.

Richards spoke often about how much the Creator God loves His children. Then one day Richards talked about prayer and described it as "our opportunity to speak directly to the God who made us." Nathan loved the message and decided to try talking directly to the Creator God.

AUTHOR

Dick Duerksen

one day Richards talked about

"Please Creator God, heal me of this disease and return me to my people in Savoonga. I will always live as your child, and I will always tell others about you."

The Creator God answered Nathan's prayer and healing began immediately. In a few weeks a very excited Nathan was on a ship for Savoonga.

When he arrived on the island, the Yupik people of Savoonga were in the midst of a terrible winter. The blizzards never ceased, and many were starving.

Nathan went from hut to hut and showed the people how he had been healed of the

white man's disease. Then he told his neighbors about the Creator God. They listened, but the growls of their stomachs drowned out Nathan's words.

Then, one Saturday morning, the sun smiled and the winds ceased. The entire village prepared for a hunt, hoping for a giant walrus or even just a few seals.

Everyone went hunting, except Nathan Noongkook. Nathan told the others he could not go hunting on the holy day of the Creator God. The people laughed at Nathan and told him that if he wouldn't join the hunt they wouldn't share the catch. Nathan smiled and said, "God will provide."

The hunters found only

one small seal — a catch too small to be shared.

The next morning Nathan, his best friend and a young boy named Yuki slipped out to hunt. In moments they discovered a giant walrus sleeping on the ice near the village. They speared it with their harpoons, and Nathan sent his friend to call all the villagers to come and get some meat.

"Why will you share the meat with us?" the villagers asked. "We wouldn't have shared any with you!"

"Because that's what Jesus, the Creator God, would do.

Listen to an audio version of Kenneth Crawford's book *Yuki* read by Dick Duerksen at glnr.in/112-02-yuki.

And I want to live just like Jesus."

Nathan's walrus hunt, and his willingness to share, are legend on St. Lawrence Island. Two Adventist churches celebrate his memory, and the Yupik of Savoonga speak his name with reverence reserved for prophets and disciples.

"Nathan the walrus hunter," they remember, "was just like Jesus."

Dick Duerksen, Oregon Conference assistant to the president for creative communications

EDITOR'S NOTE: Kenneth Crawford's book *Yuki* can be purchased through the Alaska Conference office, some Adventist Book Centers and Amazon.com.





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