

**EDITORIAL**  
PROTEST

**FEATURE**  
ASI NORTHWEST

**JUST LIKE JESUS**  
THE TOUCH OF GOD

# gleamer

BEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

*A prayerful journey*

**JOHN  
FREEDMAN**

**M A R**  
**2017**  
VOL. 112, N° 3



You, Lord, keep my lamp burning;  
my God turns my darkness into light.  
Psalm 18:28

## NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION



SETH PIERCE

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# gleaner

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### **Gleaner STAFF**

**Editor:** Steve Vistaunet

**Copy Editor:** Laurel Rogers

**Advertising and Production Coordinator:**

Desiree Lockwood

**Digital Media Coordinator:**

Anthony White

**Design:** GUILDHOUSE Group

*"Last Light"  
in Bandon, Ore.,  
by Scott Knight,  
of Battle Ground, Wash.*

## PROTEST

**O** wasn't the only one. Countless children through the centuries had tried it and failed. I was ignorant of such odds.

As I recall, my mother had refused to grant some childish request, and I was as furious as a 4-year-old can be. But instead

---

**Am I willing at this moment to stand for the right though the heavens fall?**

---

of throwing a useless tantrum, I stomped purposefully to my room and began to plan my escape from totalitarianism. Into a bag went several items of clothing, a harmonica and a stuffed animal.

"Where are you going?" asked my mother, who had quietly been watching from the doorway.

"I'm leaving," I retorted. "I'm going away." This would cause her to retract her harsh stance, I reasoned. She would be crushed with remorse and grant my wish.

Instead, she calmly said, "Aren't you going to take some soap or a toothbrush?"

Faced with maternal wisdom and a bleak life out on the road devoid of toasted cheese sandwiches and tomato soup, I stayed.

Some protests are far more worthy than my short-lived effort. They confront us with moral choices that cannot be compromised. Such is the challenging climate in which we now live — both in our nation and in our church.

In her book *The Great Controversy*, Ellen White describes "The Protest of the Princes." These faithful followers of the Protestant movement were called to appear at the second Diet of Spires in 1529. They faced a hostile church-state alliance that had at one point exclaimed, "If we must choose between the Holy Scriptures of God and the old errors of the church, we should reject the former." Rejecting compromise, the princes instead drafted a solemn response that declared they would not "consent nor adhere in any manner whatever to the proposed decree in anything that is contrary to God, to his Word, to our right conscience, or to the salvation of souls" (p. 202).

Sometimes we think to ourselves, "If I had been alive then, I would've . . . . If I'd been in Herod's palace when he called for the head of John the Baptist . . . if I had stood along the road as Jesus struggled past with the cross . . . if I had watched the proceedings at the Diet of Spires when the

organized church confronted the princes . . . if I'd watched Nazis rounding up my Jewish neighbors . . . ."

But beyond all those hypotheticals here's a better question. I'm living now. On what principles will I act now? On what matters of conscience will I speak up now? What hill is high enough for me to die on now? Am I willing at this moment to stand for the right though the heavens fall?

Even as we ponder the health of the nation, our church also stands in the need of prayer. Union conference presidents in North America have been summoned by world church leaders to seek a way through a maze of principles, politics and policies. The health of our collective unity is being weighed in the balance.

What could the princes of long ago teach us by example? What heavenly core values could your testimony or mine now share to encourage the church to move beyond the status quo and be fully re-engaged with our Father's business?

*Steve Vistaunet, Gleaner editor*

Respond to any *Gleaner* topic by emailing [talk@gleanernow.com](mailto:talk@gleanernow.com).



AUTHOR

Steve Vistaunet

going to take some soap or



## LETTERS

### Thanks for the 'Let's Talk' Memories

**I was sorry to read** that you will not be writing “Let’s Talk” in the *Gleaner* in the future. Just wanted you to know that you will be missed. I always look forward to your column every time I receive an issue. While I know your replacement and look forward to reading his thoughts, I have really enjoyed your pieces because they are always based on some very practical and down-to-earth ideas. Thank you for making the *Gleaner* a great publication.

*Myron Whiting, College Place, Wash.*

**No, no, no!** Dick Duerksen is a wonderful writer, but add him, don’t ax yourself! I don’t have time to read much of the *Gleaner* or even the *Review*, but I always get your editorial read (and Seth’s and almost always Martin’s) and feel like I’ve gotten food for thought! Could you at least write something every other issue? Please?

*Liz Trupp, Battle Ground, Wash.*

**I just read** your “farewell article” in the *Gleaner* — and I do remember your first one about the stinky paper! I have very much enjoyed your articles, and I am sad you are handing over the reins. But I know Dick will do a great job as well, and I look forward to hearing from him. Thank

you for the thought-provoking articles for the past many years — and for the quality paper you do every month for us.

*Lara Dowie, Vancouver, Wash.*

**I have been enjoying** your column “Let’s Talk” for nine years. I look forward to it with every issue. Now you tell me it is not going to be there anymore. That makes me sad. Why can’t we have [Dick Duerksen’s articles] in addition to your column? We need your insight, Steve, and your special way of showing us the importance of different issues. Thank you so much for your guidance and please consider continuing your column.

*Dennis J. Whitted, Gresham, Ore.*

**The final words** in Steve Vistaunet’s January “Let’s Talk” — “Consider it, instead, a free upgrade,” in regards to Mr. Vistaunet’s “retirement” from his column — is not true in my estimation. I will think of it as only a change. Please let Steve know how much I will miss the tenets of his articles so wittingly woven in his entertaining stories. It is his page that I would save for last to read — not because it was last, but because I enjoyed it the most.

*Adria Hay, Hoquiam, Wash.*

**I’ve only written in once before**, and that was to complain/point out an error. And yet for the past eight years I’ve enjoyed reading your column, your humility, honesty and humor. So when I just read you are turning your back page spot over to someone else, I have to say I am sorry and have very much appreciated your contributions. Thank you!

*Loy Dixon, Great Falls, Mont.*

**Just read** that you are turning over your back page to another. I wanted to let you know that I am jealous

over my time and extremely picky when it comes to reading material (I rarely read the cover articles for any Adventist publication). Perhaps that is a curse of a theological education; nothing seems subtle enough to hold my attention. But I always found time to take in your thoughts. Thank you for sharing with and investing in your readership. I’m sure that I am one of many who appreciates your ministry.

*Joseph Olstad, Whitefish, Mont.*

**STEVE VISTAUNET RESPONDS:** *Thanks to all for such kind words. You’ll love Dick Duerksen’s column this month on that back page, and I’ll continue to put in my two bits from time to time in editorials.*



# + PICTURE THIS



40 days of prayer ended with this.

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*A prayerful journey*

JOHN  
FREEDMAN





JOHN FREEDMAN HAS BEEN PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE (NPUC) SINCE SEPTEMBER 2016. SINCE THEN, WORLD CHURCH AND DIVISION MEETINGS, VARIOUS COMMITTEES, HOLIDAYS, AND WINTER STORMS HAVE OFTEN KEPT HIM AWAY FROM HIS NPUC DESK. HE AND HIS WIFE, MALINDA, HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO RELOCATE LOCALLY. SO THE *GLEANER* WAS FORTUNATE TO CATCH HIM RECENTLY FOR AN INTERVIEW TO SHARE SOME OF HIS PERSONAL JOURNEY AND HIS HOPES FOR NORTHWEST MEMBERS.

### **WERE YOU BORN INTO AN ADVENTIST FAMILY?**

Well, it's an interesting, somewhat complicated story. My Adventist roots go back to my dad's grandfather, who bought some books from a colporteur. As a result of their reading and studying those books, the whole family became Seventh-day Adventists. My dad was baptized at an early age but joined the Air Force and gradually drifted away from the church. He married an Episcopalian, and when I and my two brothers came along, we weren't raised to embrace or participate in any particular religion around our home in New Jersey. My grandmother, though, began sending Adventist books and magazines to us. We'd sometimes go with her to church and Sabbath School. But Saturday morning cartoons were tough competition, and there were long periods of time when we didn't darken the doors of any church.

### **SO YOU HAD PLENTY OF "INFLUENCE" TOWARD ADVENTIST BELIEFS, BUT NO PERSONAL COMMITMENT THROUGHOUT YOUR EARLY AND TEENAGE YEARS?**

That's right. When I was about 13, some evangelistic meetings were being held in our area, and my grandmother took my brothers and me to one of the meetings. The speaker got me thinking, and suddenly I was aware of an incredible conviction to publicly accept Christ. My brother David and I went up front in response to the preacher's call. This was after just one meeting. We didn't

have much background in scriptural teachings. So you can imagine our discomfort when we were put directly into baptismal preparation class. We had no idea how to adequately answer all the prophecy questions to "qualify" for baptism. I remember the teacher throwing up his hands and exclaiming, "You guys shouldn't even be in this class!" Well, I walked away from that experience and didn't go back to an Adventist church until I was nearly 20.

### **WHAT DREW YOU BACK?**

Interestingly enough, when I began attending Rutgers University, I started working as a custodian at a large Methodist church nearby. After a while, I also began attending the church. They helped me recommit my life to Christ and encouraged me to become involved in ministry. I asked one of their pastors, "How do you know when you've been called to ministry?" He replied, "When you can't do anything else and be happy." They saw potential in me, even voting me a full scholarship to Drew University, which had a Methodist seminary attached, with a guaranteed job during and after.

### **BUT YOU WERE STUDYING BUSINESS AT RUTGERS.**

Yes, in fact, I had thought of several different areas of interest, including teaching and law. And now, the idea of ministry was stirring inside of me.

When I asked my dad, who was not then an active church member, about it, he responded, "How in the world will you make a living with that?" And then he asked, "What about the Sabbath?" Well, that was indeed a twist, coming from someone I'd never seen go to church. But his question caused me to think. I picked up a Bible and began studying it for the first time in my life. I was weighing the generous offers of my Methodist pastors but considering a possible change of direction. I took a leave of absence and went to Colorado to cut trees with my uncle, who happened to be an Adventist. While there, I woke up one morning with an unmistakable conviction that I was fighting God. It was sort of my own personal "Saul on the road to Damascus" experience, and I knew what I had to do.

### **SO HOW DID YOUR NEW DIRECTION GO OVER WITH YOUR METHODIST MENTORS?**

One of the hardest things I've ever done was to go back to them and tell them I couldn't accept their offers. They were truly instrumental in keeping my faith alive and giving me active things to do within the call of spiritual ministry. I am grateful to them and know the Lord worked through them on my behalf.

### **WHEN DID YOU FINALLY COME BACK FULL CIRCLE TO BE BAPTIZED?**

I became a new man in baptism when I was 21. I didn't know everything about

*When our whole desire is to minister to people like Jesus did, our differences will melt away.*

the Bible (and still don't!), but I followed my convictions. I began going to the little church in New Jersey that my grandmother attended. Soon after, an evangelistic series began, and I encouraged my brothers, who were still close by, to attend. I placed flyers on their beds, on their desks and tables — anywhere I could. I was probably insufficient, but I was excited about my new faith journey and wanted them to experience it too. They went and were baptized! During those meetings I also saw for the first time how the prophetic messages of Scripture provide the connective tissue to our Adventist beliefs. I still believe in the important role of prophecy as we carry out our gospel commission.

■

### **YOU GOT MORE FROM THAT LITTLE CHURCH THAN YOU ORIGINALLY THOUGHT.**

That's right. Not only did Pastor Orville Baer teach me how to give Bible studies, he also had a daughter named Malinda who became an increasingly important part of my life!

■

### **YOUR UNCLE AND AUNT WERE QUITE INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING YOU FOLLOW YOUR PASSION AND CALL TO MINISTRY.**

Indeed. They helped me to go to the seminary at Andrews University in January 1979. The funny thing was, when I applied, all my pastoral references were from Methodist pastors! You can imagine the questions from the admissions committee. In fact, Bill Johnsson (later *Adventist Review* editor), who was then at the seminary, called and asked if I was applying to the right school! He and others there were so kind to me, helping me catch up with others who had a lifetime of experience in Scripture. My brother David followed me to the seminary. Both of us were eventually taken on as pastors by Don Schneider, then president of the New Jersey Conference. And Malinda and I were married in August 1980.

### **DID YOU EVER RECONNECT WITH YOUR METHODIST CHURCH FRIENDS AFTERWARDS?**

Actually I did go back to thank them for their support and prayers. Amazingly they once again offered me a pastoral position — even after I'd been further grounded in our Adventist beliefs. I was humbled by their invitation and gratified that they saw in me a commitment to Christ and His gospel above all. But my course was already set. God's call to me was clear. I wanted to be part of sharing this Advent message of a soon-coming Savior, of the gospel woven through Bible prophecy, of the hope we have of a Sabbath rest now and forever. This was and still is my commitment to His call.

■

### **YOU WERE A PASTOR FOR ABOUT 17 YEARS BEFORE STEPPING INTO AN ADMINISTRATIVE ROLE IN THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE. DO YOU MISS BEING A LOCAL CHURCH PASTOR?**

Every day. Since my original calling, I've been a pastor at heart and always will be. I have to work hard at being an administrator, by reading books and absorbing advice from those more experienced. I guess I approach leadership of a conference or of this union as if I were the pastor of a very large church. But I do miss being an active integral part in a local church family. Leading someone to Christ and watching them confirm the conviction of the Holy Spirit in baptism is one of the most wonderful experiences. One of my great joys as a pastor was baptizing both of my parents and watching them become active, enthusiastic members of our church. To be an effective pastor you've got to love people. You've got to take the good and bad. You don't walk away from people even when things are dysfunctional. Why? Because "love never fails" (1 Cor. 13:8).

### **AFTER NEARLY TWO ADDITIONAL DECADES IN LOCAL CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION, YOU ACCEPTED THE NPUC PRESIDENCY THIS PAST FALL. WHAT NEW CHALLENGES DOES THIS BRING?**

How we interact in this leadership journey speaks volumes — perhaps even more so than what we actually do. I want both my actions and attitudes to be led by the Holy Spirit. Within my new role here at the NPUC, I'm increasingly mindful that people are watching. They'll know if I'm kind and understanding or not. They will know if my attitudes conflict with my words or actions. They will know if I'm willing to listen before I speak. They will be watching to see if I use whatever influence I have in this role to help support the core values and principle of God's kingdom. I'll pray every day that the Lord will enable me as an administrator to carry a pastor's heart into every experience I have with varied elements, interests and concerns around our Northwest field.

■

### **SO WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES AND VISION FOR THE ADVENTIST WORK IN THE NORTHWEST?**

During the next several months I plan to visit and listen to stakeholders in every major field within the Northwest. I want to hear from their hearts before we cast a collective vision and focus for Northwest ministry. At some point this year, I hope we can prayerfully embrace some of those ideas for a unified vision through an additional feature in the *Gleaner*. But every decision and action we eventually endorse must be centered on Christ and the everlasting gospel. My personal priorities are in several areas: establishing a firm spiritual and scriptural foundation to our lives and our work; making the gospel of Jesus Christ and the critical role of the Holy Spirit real in our daily lives; and being mission-minded in the areas of evangelism, Adventist education, and connections with our youth and young adults. Everywhere I go, I hear con-

cerns about how to get every element of our membership, including youth and young adults, involved as full partners in our common mission.

■

### **YOU HAVE STEPPED INTO THE NPUC ROLE AT A COMPLICATED TIME FOR NORTH AMERICAN AND WORLD CHURCH LEADERSHIP, GIVEN THE DIFFERENCES WE HAVE EXPERIENCED REGARDING CHURCH UNITY AND GOVERNANCE. HOW HAVE YOU ADDRESSED THE CONCERNS OF YOUR NORTHWEST CONSTITUENTS ABOUT THESE ISSUES?**

I'm working closely with union presidents from around the North American Division (NAD) and our NAD leadership to determine how we can most effectively support our world church structure. We had a thoughtful meeting with world church leaders on January 19. We hope to draft our vision for a suggested way forward to deal productively with the issues of governance that will be reviewed by the NAD administration and approved by the NAD executive committee before being presented to General Conference officers. These are important steps. Our church is not designed to be run by a few people at any level. It is a collective effort involving the priesthood of all believers in doing God's will in every corner of our world. I hope we'll soon be able to move beyond these current concerns so that all of us — male, female, young and old — can fully be about our Father's business.

■

### **WITH OUR POLARIZED CULTURE TODAY, HOW CAN OUR MEMBERS EXPERIENCE TRUE UNITY IN PURPOSE AND MISSION, DESPITE OUR DIFFERENCES?**

Only the Holy Spirit can bring true unity. Ellen White talks about receiving the Holy Spirit through reading the Word, prayer and active gospel ministry. When we are actively out on mission, we become partners with the Holy Spirit. If we're praying and ministering



within and for our communities, we're busy on the Lord's mission — too busy to fight over sideline differences. The disciples were all different. What bound them together was Jesus. They had to be converted, but the Holy Spirit brought them into mission together. I believe it's the same today. The only way we'll become united as a group is focusing on Jesus and allowing the Holy Spirit to take possession of our hearts. When our whole desire is to minister to people like Jesus did, our differences will melt away. When we place Him front and center, our disputes will fade into the background. If Jesus is controlling my life, He gives me love for others no matter what they believe. Is it possible to be kind and loving with someone who holds a different opinion than yours? Yes! In fact, we've been commanded by Jesus to "love one another as I have loved you." So, actually, it's not an option.

■

### **WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS FOR NORTHWEST CHURCH MEMBERS AND OUR COLLECTIVE OUTREACH?**

That we'll find prayerful unity through the Holy Spirit — not uniformity, but unity in our God-given mission empowered by the Holy Spirit. The scriptural injunction in Zechariah 4 reminds us that progress happens, "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit." Ellen White challenges us in *Steps to Christ* to be people of prayer. "We need to ... pour out our hearts to Him" she says. "In order to have spiritual life and energy, we must have actual intercourse with the Father." She goes on to say that prayer "does not bring God down to

us, but brings us up to Him." I firmly believe that lack of prayer causes the death of many of our churches and our disunity. If we could awaken our churches through active, earnest prayer, we would experience revival.

■

### **PRAYER HAS INDEED BEEN A VERY IMPORTANT FOCUS FOR YOU. WHAT ROLE DO YOU SEE IT PLAYING FOR OUR NORTHWEST CHURCH?**

My personal testimony is one of life transformation. When I really began to understand how the Holy Spirit can transform us from the inside out, when I saw how prayer is integral to that process, something dramatic changed. At one point, I was burned out spiritually as a pastor. A church member came up to me and said, "Your prayers are becoming very stale. Can I pray for you?" Her perception shocked me — that my spiritual dryness was so obvious. I realized I needed to reengage with prayer. Prayer changes people. It changed me. So for us as Northwest members ... I believe we are all on common ground when we kneel at the foot of cross — and prayer brings us there. It's hard to be full of pride on your knees. In fact, it's pride that keeps us from getting on our knees for prayer. Our divisions are often spiritual issues. We need God's wisdom. If we lack wisdom, James tells us to ask God for it. We need humble leaders, people of prayer to lead us through some of these issues. God will work in answer to prayer in ways He could not or would not without prayer. It is not an optional exercise for me, and I don't believe it should be so for us as God's church.

# ASI NORTHWEST:

## FRESH DIRECTION, EXPANDED VISION

Fred Cornforth, pictured here with his wife, Jill, serves as the ASI NW vice president for communication.

James Rafferty, ASI NW president



Do you know you've arrived at an organization when everyone recognizes you by an acronym. Read NFL, CSI, FBI or NASA in a sentence, and you're likely to know exactly what's meant without any further ado. In Adventist circles, of course, we quickly recognize GC, EGW, ADRA and ... ASI. But what does ASI really stand for, and what does it do?

ASI's history is rooted in Madison College, an Adventist self-supporting institution established in 1904 near Nashville, Tennessee, by E.A. Sutherland and Percy Magan. As Madison expanded, it began to plant satellite schools and institutions around the country. These self-supporting

entities formed the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Self-Supporting Institutions, or ASI, in 1947.

At the time, ASI emphasized educational or health groups, but it later began to include businesses and Adventist entrepreneurs and professionals. To better reflect ASI's growing diversity, the organization's name was changed to Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries in 1979. An annual convention for the national organization is typically held every summer.

The Northwest chapter for ASI, which covers the territory within the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC), exists to inspire and support lay member efforts in sharing the Adventist message and mission. It also convenes an annual meeting — the next one is coming to Boise, Idaho, April 21–23.

More about the vision for ASI Northwest (ASI NW) was recently shared by three integrally involved leaders: Fred Cornforth, ASI NW vice president for communication and Boise-area businessman; James Rafferty, ASI NW president and Light Bearers Ministry co-founder/co-director; and Rick Westermeyer, ASI NW executive vice president

and a Portland-area physician. We've excerpted a few of the questions and answers here. The full interview is available online at [gleanernow.com/112-03-asi](http://gleanernow.com/112-03-asi).

### WHY ARE YOU PERSONALLY INVOLVED WITH THE MISSION OF ASI?

**RW:** A few years ago several lay friends and I started a nonprofit organization to support orphans at a children's home in Zimbabwe. ASI members have been extremely valuable in helping us reach several objectives for that project. Garwin McNeilus of the ASI-sponsored One-Day Church project shipped us two containers of building materials for a chapel and vocational training buildings and sent some of his builders to help put them up at no cost. Light Bearers Ministry included a stained-glass window for the chapel in a container full of literature to Zimbabwe. We have greatly benefited from the collaboration and networking with ASI.

**FC:** Being an entrepreneur is, I believe, a type of spiritual gift, something God can really use in the marketplace for His purposes. I want to be part of anything we can do there to fulfill the potential of reaching others. And, I believe we can do more for Him when we work together.

Rick Westermeyer, ASI NW executive vice president





## WE NEED EACH OTHER, AND WORKING TOGETHER MEANS A STRONGER, GREATER IMPACT FOR REACHING OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS FOR WHOM CHRIST DIED.

### IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NATIONAL ASI ORGANIZATION, WHAT IS THE UNIQUE ROLE FOR THE NW CHAPTER?

**FC:** This is where the proverbial rubber meets the road, where we can enhance personal relationships on a local level to flesh out the structure of our national efforts.

**RW:** It also allows more direct contact with Northwest-based lay-run ministries of global impact such as Gospel Outreach, Light Bearers and Caring Hands, just to name a few.

**JR:** This gives us an opportunity to raise the vision of our general membership. We locate our annual Northwest meetings in different spots throughout the NPUC each year, to allow local laypersons in each area to get a taste for what ASI offers.

### WHAT AREAS OF CRITICAL GROWTH DO YOU ENVISION AS ASI NW MOVES FORWARD?

**FC:** We need to increase our connection with a younger age group. We are laying the ground work to work more closely with Walla Walla University and other Northwest schools to raise the vision of our youth and young adults to encourage them to share Jesus in whatever vocation they choose. We'd also love to have a more active presence in regional rally's and at NPUC-area camp meetings,

where we can learn from each other how to more effectively share the good news.

**JR:** One of our current goals is to provide support to every Northwest ASI ministry actively engaging the world for Christ. In the past some ministries have gone without support while others have received support again and again. We are presently experimenting with a rotation process. Last year we were able to give \$5,000 donations to seven ASI ministries, and this year we hope to do the same for seven more ASI NW ministries.

### IS ASI MEMBERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT LIMITED TO MEMBERS AND MINISTRIES WITH A PARTICULAR VIEW OF ADVENTIST BELIEFS AND PRACTICES?

**RW:** Traditionally, many of our members have come from the more conservative side of Adventism. Yet the vast majority have a focus beyond broad labels. They are sincere, dedicated laypeople who want the mission of the church to go forward.

**FC:** I see ASI eager to bring all hands on deck, to empower and encourage them to reach out to others, to respond to the Lord's call to serve others as He did, always desiring their best good. A spirit of grace and wisdom will guide us to avoid reducing people to mere

labels of left, right, liberal or conservative. In my opinion, if we have clarity on our core values and beliefs, diversity in practice becomes a strength. If our focus is on Him, we will find unity in a common mission. This is a necessary area of growth for us, both within ASI NW and in our varied church congregations.

**JR:** Let's remember too that ASI is first and foremost a church entity headquartered at the General Conference, and as such it lines up with the specific beliefs of our beloved church — as does each regional chapter, including the Northwest. Within these borders there is lots of wiggle room for diversity, and ASI, like most of our church institutions, wrestles with that diversity. Yet for most ASI members the mission of the church takes precedence over these ongoing challenges.

### SO EVENTS THAT BRING A WIDE RANGE OF MEMBERS TOGETHER IN SERVICE SUCH AS IMPACT YOUR HEALTH ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF ASI'S PLAN?

**RW:** Yes, the Impact Your Health Portland event last year, to be repeated this year for Boise just before our Northwest chapter convention in April, has borne this out. ASI and community members joined together to make a major impact for good.

**JR:** One key way we can represent this unity is through shared support for the various lines of ministry that make up ASI NW. Nobody gets left out. Nobody is marginalized. We need each other, and working together means a stronger, greater impact for reaching our brothers and sisters for whom Christ died. Joining ASI means uniting with an organization that receives to give. Together in ministry our God-given talents go further to reach more.

Our ASI NW leaders are eager to meet as many new faces at this year's convention as possible. Fred Cornforth says, "The testimonies each night at both the regional and national events are nothing short of amazing — a dramatic demonstration of how God is working in our communities and around the world. Old and new members will be inspired." The ASI Northwest Spring Conference is April 21–23 at the Grove Inn in Boise, Idaho. More information on registration is readily available online at [asinw.netasi.org](http://asinw.netasi.org).

"Come join us," says Cornforth. "We will all put our heads together and prayerfully determine what God wants this organization to be and where He wants us to go in the months ahead."

## BANQUETE HISPANO MINISTERIAL NAVIDEÑO DE LA NPUC

**E**l martes 13 de diciembre del año pasado los pastores de la obra Hispana, sus cónyuges y sus hijos, fueron agasajados y honrados al ser invitados al primer banquete Hispano navideño de la Unión del Norte del Pacífico. Junto a

vista en las cosas que no se ven. El ministerio entonces puede convertirse en una vocación no muy popular que tiene el potencial de crear un agotamiento espiritual, mental, físico y espiritual. Mientras que los pastores cuidan a sus ovejas, las escuchan y las animan, pocas personas están habilitadas o capacitadas para hacer lo mismo por ellos.

Con esto en mente, se escogió un salón de gala en la ciudad de Vancouver, Wash.; y se planificó un programa variado, ameno y Cristo céntrico. Momentos memorables y acogedores fueron compartidos entre las familias ministeriales. Tuvimos la participación de varios pastores honrando el nombre

Familias ministeriales escuchando una pieza musical durante el banquete.

El Pastor César De León extendiendo palabras de aprecio a sus coordinadores Hispanos.

mi esposa Carolann y Sandra Osorio asistente administrativa del departamento, se planeo cuidadosamente cada detalle del evento. El deseo era que nuestras familias ministeriales se sintieran apoyadas, amadas y apreciadas.

Ser pastor en estos días no es fácil. Mientras que el amor se enfría, el aprecio a las cosas espirituales decae y la mayoría de personas buscan lo material y lo temporal; los pastores son llamados a mantener viva la llama de la fe, el amor y la



Carolann De León honrando a las parejas ministeriales.

de Dios con sus talentos y dones; al igual que varios de sus hijos, participaron tocando instrumentos musicales y cantando. Escuchamos lindas poesías, historias, testimonios y nos reímos con los momentos ocurrientes que se crearon entre colegas y amigos.

Ojalá que como miembros podamos tomar el tiempo de expresar nuestro aprecio sincero por el ministerio

pastoral que gozamos en nuestras iglesias. No esperemos que llegue el mes del pastor (Octubre) para decirle al pastor gracias por su dedicación, su fervor, su visión y su fidelidad. El pastor es un ser humano que va a apreciar saber que su vida y ministerio está haciendo la diferencia en su vida.

Jesús declaró que entre sus discípulos, el amor fraternal era fundamental, que la unidad era requerida y que la socialización llena de gracia era un sello del corazón de sus seguidores. Dios quiera que el vínculo del amor cristiano visto entre los pastores de nuestra Unión del Norte del Pacífico pueda ser emulado entre nuestros hermanos en cada iglesia.

*César De León, Unión del Norte del Pacífico vice presidente del departamento de ministerio Hispano*



# ANCHORAGE WOMEN REACH OUT TO ELDERLY

**T**here are many ways we can reach out to make a difference in the lives of others. During December, Anchorage Community Seventh-day Adventist Church women's ministries seized the opportunity to be involved in their local community by becoming the eyes, heart and feet of Jesus outside the walls of their church.

These amazing women

are part of the Anchorage Community Seventh-day Adventist Church family. They created community connections as they took the time out of their busy schedules to visit with the elderly at Prestige Nursing Home.

This has become a monthly event for the women. Every fourth Saturday of each month, they spend at least

one hour with the residents at the Prestige Nursing Home, fellowshiping and praying with the residents.

On Christmas Eve, the women did not go empty-handed. They brought with them 48 pairs of stockings filled with special gifts, including Scripture inserts, which they distributed to the residents. With the help of the church choir, the ladies

sang Christmas carols to the residents to cheer them. This was a memorable time for the residents, as evidenced by some saying how grateful they were for the monthly visits.

*Loren Mangena, Anchorage Community Church women's ministries leader*



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# 2017 GEM STATE ADVENTIST ACADEMY HOMECOMING

**A**lumni, former students, staff and faculty will converge on the campus of Gem State Adventist Academy (GSAA) in Caldwell March 31–April 2, 2017, to celebrate homecoming. Make your plans to be there.

Featured speaker for Sabbath morning is Darold Bigger, author of the book *A Time to Forgive*, a chronicle of the experience shared by Darold and his wife, Barbara, following the death of their daughter, Shannon.



Darold Bigger, featured speaker

After college, the Biggers joined Glen and Barbara Aufderhar as the Idaho evangelism team. They held meetings in the Treasure Valley and eastern Oregon and spent time



Terry Mace, GSAA alumni association president

supporting camps at Camp Ida-Haven in McCall and youth meetings at camp meetings. They presented a week of prayer at GSAA and pastored in eastern Oregon before and after seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. They remain loyal to their Idaho Conference friends.

Their daughter, Shannon, came to camp meeting with her parents when she was 1 week old. Years later, she was hired by GSAA to coordinate alumni and development activities, but was killed two weeks before she was to begin. A plaque remembering her is located on the west side of the Administration Building.

Darold Bigger will share “Panic or Polish the Silverware.” Rochelle Hauser, class of 1967, will share her life experience on Friday eve-

ning. Dan Matthews will host the Missionary Showcase, a program that recognizes the positive impact GSAA graduates have made both here and around the world to bring Christ’s love to thousands.

The roll call of classes, military appreciation, Family Loyalty Award and afternoon sharing are staples of homecoming. Stay by for the annual basketball game on Saturday night and the Soles for Heaven Fun Run 5K on Sunday morning.

Terry Mace, GSAA alumni association president

## MIDTERM TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Some areas have already had meetings in February. Those coming in March:

- » **March 5:** Cloverdale Church, 1115 N. Cloverdale Rd., Boise, at 7 p.m.;
- » **March 12:** Caldwell Church, 2106 E. Linden St., Caldwell, at 7 p.m.;
- » **March 15:** McCall Church, 3592 Long View Rd., McCall, at 6 p.m.;
- » **March 16:** Spanish-language, Nampa Spanish Church, 2865 Caldwell Blvd., Nampa, at 7:30 p.m.

## CAMP MEETING

**Save the dates:** June 13–17, at Gem State Adventist Academy (both English and Spanish). Alex Rodriguez, Voice of Prophecy evangelism director, will speak for the English-language meetings. César De León, North Pacific Union Conference vice president for Hispanic ministries and global missions, will speak for the Spanish-language meetings.

Find us in familiar places



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# HELP NEEDED FOR ADVENT GULCH HISTORY PROJECT



The Cambridge Museum in Idaho has been researching and recording history of Advent Gulch and will be releasing a book about those homesteaders, their church and school, plus items of interest.

A reunion was held in 1990 at the Cambridge Church, and materials were gathered at that time. Since then church members have continued to gather materials. People have been generous in sharing their pictures and stories.

More is better though, and the museum needs pictures of the following families: Dick, Meeker, Barclay and Shield. Pictures and stories of the gulch, homes, animals and social gatherings are also welcome, especially from the 1900–1940 era.

These items can be emailed to [shansen@ctcweb.net](mailto:shansen@ctcweb.net) or mailed to the Cam-

bridge Museum, P.O. Box 35, Cambridge, ID 83610. Pictures will be most important to the success of the book. Members

concentration of Adventist children in the conference. They decided the gulch was too remote and small for an



The school/church in Advent Gulch.

of the Cambridge Church are part of the volunteer group working to make this book as interesting as possible.

Before the Idaho Conference built the first academy in Caldwell, the conference committee came to Advent Gulch to check out the lay of the land, as this was the largest

academy. At the time, the gulch school offered 10 grades.

The first homesteaders to arrive came in 1900. The first school was held in a tent. In 1909 the school was built halfway between the edges of the settlement. Water was brought several miles across the hills and through rimrock

to provide irrigation water as well as household water for the homesteaders.

Advent Gulch was accurately named, as there were rolling hills on either side, some very steep. The men transported green lumber from a mill on Cuddy Mountain to the town of Cambridge to augment their income. The homesteaders raised horses and cattle and planted orchards.

Generally the families of the Advent Gulch were a happy people and usually good neighbors. Many went on to serve in the mission field and to be teachers and pastors. One of the men was a conference officer.

Any help you can provide through stories and pictures would be greatly appreciated.

*Sandra Hansen, Cambridge Church member*

## MONTANA WELCOMES NEW OUTREACH, YOUTH RUSH LEADER

**C**arsten Moutray is the new outreach coordinator and Youth Rush director for the Montana Conference. He studied at SOULS (Seventh-day Adventist Outreach and Leadership School) West as a Bible worker and Youth Rush leader.

After his studies, Moutray worked with SOULS Northwest for two years as the industry director and has traveled all across the North Pacific Union Conference doing literature evangelism, including in areas of Montana. Moutray is passionate about evangelism and is excited to serve and see what God has in store for the literature work in the Montana Conference.

### WHAT IS YOUTH RUSH?

Youth Rush is a summer literature evangelism program. Students work Sunday through Thursday for 10 weeks during the summer. After breakfast, worship and training, they hit the streets, going door to door offering people books on a



Carsten Moutray

donation basis and free community services. These books will nurture and challenge the people physically, mentally and spiritually.

Teams go out together, each with their own trained leader. On days off they relax, do laundry and have fun. Sabbaths are for resting with God and sharing experiences with the local church. Youth Rush is a spiritual and life-changing experience. Meeting people at their homes gives these missionaries incredible opportunities to touch lives.

For more information and to apply for this experience, visit [montanaadventist.org/youth-rush](http://montanaadventist.org/youth-rush).

*Carsten Moutray, Montana outreach coordinator/Youth Rush director*



## VALLEY VIEW STUDENTS HUNT DINOSAURS

**V**alley View Adventist Christian School (Glendive, Mont.) students and teachers spent two half-days on a dinosaur dig last fall at nearby Baisch Ranch. They were instructed to “look low and slow as you go.” Soon after beginning their search, a bone was discovered. It took hours to slowly remove it from the ground. The students were

excited to be allowed to keep it. Though the bone was probably from an Edmontasaurus, the students immediately named it “Christiansaurus.” They are working at school to preserve the bone so it can be displayed for years to come.

*Joyce Freese, Valley View Adventist School teacher*

## 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 Bylaws Committee, to consider amendments to the bylaws, 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*





## MINISTERING TO TOMORROW'S LEADERS

More online at [glnr.in/112-03-or\\_orya](http://glnr.in/112-03-or_orya)



**T**he June mountain air was charged with a contagious energy of enthusiasm and anticipation as 100 young adults filled the carpeted upstairs lounge of the Big Lake Youth Camp (BLYC) lodge. Introductions were made of veteran and new staff alike. From where I sat, elbow to elbow with fellow staff for what would be my eighth summer of youth camp work in central Oregon, my soul was filled with the same sort of anticipation I had when I first stood in the Sunday registration line as a 12-year-old camper signing up for sailing class.



minister to campers who come from broken homes.

The idea of having a pastor at camp whose role was to solely support the staff was a welcome addition to Big Lake's ministry. Lundquist's presence and encouragement painted a bigger picture of belonging and the feeling that someone believed in us as young-adult leaders in Oregon.

Lundquist, along with his wife, Kimberly, and their two children, moved to Oregon in June to not only support the staff at BLYC but to love the young-adult generation of Oregon better, a movement that has long been in the hearts of those working in the Oregon Conference youth department.

Now, the Oregon Conference has devoted an entire department to young-adult ministry (OCYAM) with Lundquist as its prayerfully considered leader. The purpose behind the OCYAM is to be "a growing network of leaders using their energies and influence to love young adults better."

Looking forward at the role of local churches in loving young adults better, Lundquist is convinced it's not something "that we need to do; it's something we *must* do." The mission of OCYAM is to inspire young adults to become committed followers of Jesus and leaders for His cause.

Loving better isn't complicated. Loving better is

laughing over funny stories at the picnic table, bringing Taco Bell burritos after a long day, sitting in the hard places of grief and playing softball with other staff members. But, most of all, loving better looks a lot like being a friend.

Learn more about young-adult ministry in the Oregon Conference by visiting [oregonyoungadults.com](http://oregonyoungadults.com) or [facebook.com/oregonyoungadults](https://www.facebook.com/oregonyoungadults).

*Mackenzie Thompson serves as a chaplain at Walla Walla General Hospital and was part of the Big Lake leadership team last summer as the girls' village director. She has a passion for leadership development and sharing Jesus creatively with today's generation.*

**Want to work at Big Lake this summer?**

**Want to volunteer on a project at Big Lake?**

**Want to send your kids to camp at Big Lake?**

Get in touch with us! Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/biglakeyouthcamp](https://www.facebook.com/biglakeyouthcamp), visit [biglake.org](http://biglake.org), email [office@biglake.org](mailto:office@biglake.org) or call us at 503-850-3583!

## LOG TRUCK MAKES CHRISTMAS EVE VISIT TO MCMINNVILLE CHURCH

**I**t's not surprising that Sabbath, Dec. 24, 2016, was full of festive activities at the McMinnville (Ore.) Church, since it was Christmas Eve. One of the highlights was

As God opened doors, the Browns walked through. They saw His hand at work in providing ideas, financial aid and parts. They decided it was only fitting to name their new business venture "GWD8, LLC" to represent God, Willie, Daphne and the 8 acres God had provided, complete with a home and a shop where Willie could work on his truck.

When the truck was finished at the end of December, the Browns brought it to church so their pastor, Jerry Joubert, could dedicate and anoint it — and them — to God's service. The following week it was put to work carrying its first load.

*Michelle McMillen, McMinnville Church communication leader*



Daphne and Willy Brown hold up the name of their business, which will be painted on the door of the truck.

Pastor Jerry Joubert (on the left) addressing those in attendance with Willy Brown standing next to him.

hanging gifts on the Giving Tree, and this year Project Patch was the recipient.

After the service there was another — and unusual — highlight: the dedication and anointing of a log truck, along with its owners, Willie and Daphne Brown.

Willie has been employed as a log and pole hauler for the past 24 years. With prompting from family and friends, he looked into what it would cost to go into business for himself, starting with buying and rebuilding the requisite truck and trailer.

## ALBANY CHURCH GATHERS 'COATS FOR FOLKS'

**T**welve years ago Albany Church members Curtis and Joy Miller founded a local mission outreach program, which they named Compassion in Action (CIA), providing necessities for the less fortunate citizens of the Albany community. Diapers, formula, receiving blankets and clothing have been provided for babies, especially those with single mothers.

This program flourished and over the years has provided a service for hundreds of the needy in the Albany area.

A spinoff program, coined Coats For Folks, was started and provides coats, hats, gloves, socks, blankets and sleeping bags, particularly for children. Much of the supplies are distributed to the indigent population, homeless shelters, Department of Human Services and the Linn County Jail.

Quite often people incarcerated for vagrancy have no place to go when released and have a need for basic necessities. This is where CIA and Coats For Folks come into play.

During 2016 members of the Albany Church donated 90 quality coats as well as hats, gloves and socks. One family donated two large boxes of new emergency blankets for distribution.

The Bible tells us it is our obligation to care for the poor, widows, sick and needy. The Lord has richly blessed the members of the Albany Church, and members gladly share their blessings with those less fortunate.

*Wayne Clark, Albany Church communication leader*



Joy Miller (left) and a Linn County Jail psychologist receive blankets donated by Albany Church members.

## TVA STUDENTS LEARN TO HAVE SERVANT HEARTS

More photos online at [glr.in/112-03-or\\_tva](http://glr.in/112-03-or_tva)



# K

ids have big hearts — hearts much like Jesus’ heart. Their compassion, generosity and love for others knows no bounds. That made the first- and second-grade students at Tualatin Valley Academy (TVA) in Hillsboro the perfect match for a Christmas service project benefiting Randall Children’s Hospital in Portland.

Every month, first- and second-graders at TVA are assigned a homework project. In December 2016, that project was service to others — earning money to purchase toys and fun Band-Aids for kids in the children’s hospital at Christmas.

Teachers Jennifer Wendt and Darby Granberry led their students through a project-based learning exercise, which teaches students multiple skills in the context of one overarching project. This in turn helps them understand math skills, writing, money management and more within a common theme of service.

“We started this project as a way to integrate STEAM [Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math] learning with project-based learning and help others, but it became so much more than we

expected,” says Wendt.

Students did chores for friends, family and neighbors to earn money. They used the money to purchase toys to donate to the children’s hospital. They were also tasked with buying a pack of fun Band-Aids with their earnings to donate to the hospital.



Holly peels potatoes to raise funds for Randall Children’s Hospital.

How did the kids receive the project? Excited and eager is an understatement. They wanted to work as hard as possible to earn as much as possible.

Often service projects at a first- or second-grade level involve the parents doing much of the work or purchasing needed items, but this was

all about the kids independently earning money to donate. They learned what it meant to truly give of themselves through their own actions and hard work in order to brighten someone else’s day. And they were earning money for someone and something they could relate to: kids in the hospital at Christmas who might like a new toy.

Students did a range of chores from hanging Christmas lights and doing laundry to sorting shoes and peeling potatoes. They were proud to take their hard-earned money to the store and pick out just the right Band-Aids to donate.

At the end of the project, each student gave a presentation to their class about what they did and how much they earned after buying the Band-



The funds raised by students provide Christmas surprises for kids at Randall Children’s Hospital.

Aids. They then gathered the gifts to be donated and sent them on their way to the children’s hospital.

More than \$520 was raised to purchase toys, but the intrinsic value of teaching kids to serve others from such a young age is something that will stick with these students for a lifetime.

*Rachel Blackburn, Tualatin Valley Academy Gleaner correspondent*



Jennifer Wendt and Darby Granberry lead their first- and second-grade classes in learning to serve others.



+ CONFERENCE // CALLED BY GOD TO GO, MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

## MEMBERS OFFER HOT BREAKFAST DURING RECORD COLD

**M**embers of the Beit Shalom Balevav Jewish-Adventist Congregation expressed amazement as they met on Jan. 14. Plans laid months earlier seemed providential as record-breaking cold weather descended on Vancouver, Wash.

Road conditions and 12 inches of snow had forced cancellation of services for the weekend; however, those with four-wheel and all-wheel drive still made their way down to the homeless camp along 12th and King streets in downtown Vancouver.

Hot oatmeal disappeared quickly, along with pancakes, hash browns, scrambled eggs and hot chocolate. Most of the nearly 50 people who went through line expressed gratitude and commented on how delicious the food was — ample reward for braving the cold.

Several tents found new owners — one being special-

ly appreciated by a man who had snow blowing in through a tear in his old tent. Fleece blankets, sleeping bags, wool socks and personal care items went quickly as well.

When a deaf man wrote a note asking if he could have one of the partially used propane canisters, the team smiled. He left with all his empty canisters refilled. What pleasure to see the surprise and joy on his face.

Every volunteer's feet may have been aching with cold, yet everyone's hearts glowed with joy in sharing Jesus' care for the downtrodden. The congregation looks forward to their next opportunity for bringing fresh food along with encouragement to this group within its community.

*Denise Rutledge, Beit Shalom Balevav Jewish-Adventist Congregation communication leader*

Members of Beit Shalom Balevav Jewish-Adventist Congregation prepare and serve a hot breakfast to the homeless camp in downtown Vancouver, Wash.



Daniela Quiroz went to Milo for the weekend, became completely captivated and stayed.

## UNEXPECTED ADVENTURE LEADS TO MILO

**D**aniela Quiroz, a senior at Milo Adventist Academy in Days Creek, had many wonderful memories growing up in an Adventist Christian home, but as she grew older she began to drift away.

"I began to reject the guidance that my parents and church provided," she says.

Quiroz decided she would live the way she chose instead of what others chose for her. "I knew that the church and my family would not approve," she says, "but that was the point. I was free. Or so I thought."

Eventually things started spiraling out of control. "I was lost but didn't know it," she remembers.

Finally, when everything seemed to be going wrong all at once, Quiroz says she faintly heard God calling her to turn her life around, but she thought she was already in too deep. Since she didn't know where to start, Quiroz decided to leave it up to God.

Quiroz's younger sister

had been accepted to attend Milo Adventist Academy, and the family drove up from California to help her get settled in. Having no intentions of enrolling, Quiroz only brought clothes for the weekend.

"That weekend when I was up there, God transformed my life," says Quiroz. "The environment was gorgeous, and the people so, so nice, nicer than anyone I had met, and I was completely captivated by the heartwarming environment. It was so clear to see that God wanted me at this school."

Milo staff pulled together to expedite the admissions process over the weekend, and Quiroz started classes on Monday, wearing borrowed clothes but secure in the knowledge she was right where God wanted her to be.

For more information about Milo Adventist Academy, contact [kathy.hernandez@miloacademy.org](mailto:kathy.hernandez@miloacademy.org).

*Kathy Hernandez, Milo Adventist Academy teacher and recruiter*

## PRINEVILLE REACHES OUT TO HOMELESS, NEEDY

Read more online at [glnr.in/112-03-or\\_prineville](http://glnr.in/112-03-or_prineville)



**F**riendship Meals, a sack-lunch ministry aptly named by Tifonna Wilson, was launched in June 2016 to serve the homeless and the needy in the Prineville community. The team prepares sack lunches and occasionally a hot meal on the last two Sundays of the month for those in need.

For many years Walt Madsen had felt God tugging at his heart to do something to help the homeless and the needy. “I just did not listen, nor did I act on what He bade me to do,” Madsen says. “However, I continued to think about people and their needs. I thought that if God really wanted me to do something, He would push me in that direction.”

Two years ago, Madsen started networking with the people who run a shelter in town and a handful of people who were feeding the needy and the homeless on Thursdays and Saturdays. He and his wife, Linda, began donating groceries to this group so they could keep their ministry going.

Linda also made birthday cakes for people having birthdays. One man she made a birthday cake for just sat there and stared at the cake. They asked him if he was going to

cut the cake. He started getting emotional and said, “No one had ever made me a birthday cake before. I just want to admire it a while longer.”

By mingling with the needy, Madsen found out no one provided a meal for them on Sundays since the usual volunteers were at church. This opened a huge opportunity for the Prineville Church.

He talked to Nate Hellman, the Prineville Church pastor at that time, about the need and his burden to fill that need. One day, in the spring of 2016, Hellman told Madsen it was time to get the homeless ministry started.

To Madsen’s pleasant surprise, 19 church members



The Prineville Friendship Meals team provides food to the homeless and needy two Sundays each month.

volunteered to help in various areas. Wayne and Linda Spregher, members of the crew that provided the meals on Thursdays and Saturdays, extended further help by providing information necessary for Madsen’s planning and preparation. The Spreghers came to give moral support to the Prineville Church group when they distributed the first

meal on June 26, 2016.

With the Madsens’ leadership, and starting with donations from both members and nonmembers, the Friendship Meals ministry is growing. A company called Hayden Homes donates cash and goods towards the ministry. Althea Roberts made “blessing bags” with needed items to share with the homeless. She and Cheryl Gratreaks crocheted beautiful winter hats to give away as well.

The original plan was to hand out Friendship Meals one Sunday a month. The crew now operates at least two Sundays a month due to the need.

“We all need to be in tune with God and listen to what He is telling us to do. We need to learn to be the answer to other people’s prayer,” says Madsen.

*Yollie Jahn, Prineville Church member*



(From left) Walt Madsen and Jeff Walker at the distribution site.

## VOICES JOIN TOGETHER FOR UCA CHORAL CLINIC

**I**t was well worth the drive on snowy and icy roads to hear the Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) Choral Clinic finale performance on Jan. 19 in Spangle, Wash. Students from around the Pacific Northwest joined the

er seen such great participation and school spirit. Some Spirit Week pictures are available on Upper Columbia Academy's Facebook page.

UCA music department chairman and vocal director Curtis Anderson has directed

the biennial choral clinics in the past, but he knew Mohr was in Washington getting her doctorate in music so he invited her to be the guest clinician. Anderson met Mohr many years ago when he was teaching in San Diego and Mohr and her husband, a band instructor, were

teaching at Glendale Adventist Academy in California.

Most major events at Upper Columbia Academy are streamed live and then uploaded and archived on the UCA website. You may watch this program and many others at [uccaa.org/live](http://uccaa.org/live).

If you or any student you know might be interested in learning more about the music department at UCA or about attending UCA, please contact Shelley Bacon, UCA recruiter, at 509-245-6400 or email her at [info@uccaa.org](mailto:info@uccaa.org).

*Shelley Bacon, Upper Columbia Academy recruiter*

Students from around the Pacific Northwest join the UCA choir to create a mass choir of beautiful voices for the Upper Columbia Academy Choral Clinic.

UCA choir to create a mass choir of beautiful voices.

Guest clinician Brenda Mohr took these students through a series of fun warmup exercises, and then they were off and running, learning then polishing six songs of various genres over the clinic's two days.

Mohr arrived in the gymnasium Thursday before noon, just in time to witness an assembly for the Associated Student Body Spirit Week, during which kids in crazy hair and clashing clothes demonstrated their school and class spirit. Mohr commented that, in all her years of teaching in Adventist schools, she had nev-



Kids enjoy ringing bells of many colors.

## SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS FILL HAYDEN LAKE CHURCH

**T**he sounds of Christmas were in the air Dec. 17, 2016, at the Hayden Lake Church in Hayden, Idaho, as members hosted their annual Christmas musical program for the church and community. A large bell-choir featuring 37 bells and a combination of four different choirs, from young children's to adult choirs, celebrated the Christmas season with beautiful musical pieces.

Various men's and women's choruses, instrumental ensembles and vocal numbers added variety to the program. Local musicians had been preparing for weeks under the direction of Sue Johnson, and the program was well-attended



The congregational men's chorus adds their voices to the Hayden Lake Church Christmas program.

by family and friends from the community.

Jorge Baute, Hayden Lake Church pastor, and several others provided narration between musical numbers, drawing minds back to the First Advent of Jesus to this earth and how He came to wrap us up in His own righteousness, providing the way of salvation. In closing, the invitation was given to look to Jesus' Second Advent and to accept His offer of eternal life in heaven with Him — Jesus, the King of Kings. Appropriately, the lovely musical service culminated with a choral rendition of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus."

*Loren Starr, Hayden Lake Church communication leader*



(From left) Sue Johnson, Daniela Neacsu, Pam Backman and Lana Young form a ladies' quartet for the Christmas program.



## 40 DAYS OF PRAYER ENDS IN CAMP MEETING

More photos online at  
[glnr.in/112-03-uc\\_40days](http://glnr.in/112-03-uc_40days)

**C**an you imagine an outreach event that lasts for more than 40 days? That's exactly what happened with the 2017 Upper Columbia Conference Hispanic Camp Meeting this year, but it probably isn't exactly what most people might imagine.

The annual gathering of



The church venue for camp meeting is packed as José Rojas preaches.

The camp meeting may have been held in winter, but the frigid weather didn't keep people away. More than 1,200 members and guests packed the Pasco venue. Walter Pintos, Upper Columbia Conference Hispanic ministries coordinator, says, "I'm thankful for God's blessing at camp meeting this year. I praise God for how He worked to bless people and bring souls closer to Jesus Christ."

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

Following the weeklong meetings, members from across the region gathered in Pasco, Wash., for the annual Hispanic Camp Meeting, held Jan. 28, 2017. In spite of the snow and cold temperatures outside, the special day encouraged all who attended.

As is always the case, powerful preaching accompanied the elevating music and joyful fellowship. This year, Hispanic camp meeting featured four main speakers:

Alejandro Bullon, José Rojas, Cecilio Clayton and Liz Enid Polanco. Members were deeply blessed as the speakers touched on the key areas of this year's theme, "Following the Lamb."

Not to be left out, the children enjoyed an amazing program that transported them back to Bible times and taught them about the fruits of the Spirit. In addition to the important spiritual lessons, the children enjoyed lively music, crafts, snacks and Bible games.

Paul Hoover, Upper Columbia Conference president, presents Walter Pintos, Upper Columbia Conference Hispanic Ministries coordinator, with a special card of recognition for his faithful service.



Cecilio Clayton leads a power-packed Bible study on following Jesus regardless of personal feelings.

Pastors José Rojas and Liz Enid Polanco sing an invitation for people to come forward to make a public stand for Jesus.

Adventist members from across the Inland Northwest began in December with a special 40-day season of prayer and fasting. During the lead-up time, members prayed and fasted for specific people — people they wanted to reach for Christ.

At the end of the 40 days, these prayed-for individuals were invited to attend special meetings in the local church districts. Seven leading Hispanic evangelists held meetings for one week in every Hispanic church district in the conference.

## KAMIAH COMES TOGETHER FOR 'TEN DAYS OF PRAYER'

**T**hough some of the worst weather conditions of the winter occurred in Kamiah, Idaho, during the Ten Days of Prayer — with record snowfall, subzero temperatures and ice — members of the Kamiah Church came together for prayer each night.

After sundown on the first Sabbath meeting of the Ten Days of Prayer, a light fellowship meal and games had been planned. But during supper, as members shared the spiritual burdens they were wrestling with, they found themselves praying together again for victory over specific struggles instead.

On the final Sabbath members shared highlights of how God had worked during the course of Ten Days of Prayer.

“My husband doesn’t even know what I’m going to say,” one member smiled mysteriously at the microphone. She described how God had given her victory over certain fears.

One member explained that, as a result of trying to protect himself against hurt, his heart had become cold. But he had claimed the promise in Deut. 30:6: “And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest

live.” The Holy Spirit had warmed his heart again.

Another member described God’s protecting mercy. During the week, he had left his aging wife, who has experienced memory loss, on the sofa with specific instructions to “stay right here” while he went to help clear the snow from their friends’ driveway. When he had returned, the door to the house had been locked. Knocking on the door, tapping at the window and finally pounding brought no response.

At that moment, his cellphone rang. It was his neighbor. While the member had been gone, the neighbor’s son had come to the house to deliver some home-baked bread. Finding this member’s wife outside in the frigid weather, confused and sitting in the snow, the boy had led her back to their home. What a relief to know his dear wife was safe.

Other testimonies of providential guidance, healing and God’s intervention brought a joyful ending to 10 special days that reminded of Ps. 133:1: “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity” (KJV).

*Cathy Law, Kamiah Church member*



With much love, Richard Lafferty was accepted in membership at the Post Falls Church.

## POST FALLS CHURCH HOSTS SPECIAL SABBATH

**I**t was an exciting Sabbath at Post Falls (Idaho) Church on Jan. 21, with a baby dedication and a member joining by profession of faith during the morning service.

Baby Patrick Scott was smiling as Moises Ramirez, Post Falls Church pastor, dedicated him to God, with his parents, Cody and Felicia Scott; his grandmother, Ari Buntain; and his great-grandmother, Barbara Utecht, proudly standing by.

Another heartwarming moment was when Richard Lafferty was accepted into membership, after having studied with Ray and Jill Judge for years. Lafferty’s wife, Alice, was a member of Post Falls Church but died last year in a tragic accident — and she would have been excited her husband finally took the step to membership.

*Jeanne Barrett-Usher, Post Falls Church communication leader*



Cody and Felicia Scott dedicate their baby, Patrick Scott, to God.

## YELM YOUTH SHARE ACTS OF KINDNESS

**C**ara Hilde had a customer come to the fuel station kiosk window to set a fuel prepay. Before he could say an amount, a group of five young people approached, said they were from the local Adventist church, explained they were sharing random acts of kindness and offered to pay for the customer's gas.

"I had goose bumps from head to toe," Hilde writes. She was so moved by the experience she wrote an email to Yelm Church.

"Even though it wasn't for me, I just had to ... tell them 'thank you,'" Hilde says. "Your group of five made my day so much brighter ..."

### CATCHING THE VISION

The youth group at Yelm Church returned home from Washington Adventist Camp Meeting in 2016 inspired by the introduction of the Dollar Club.

"When we saw the video at camp meeting, we felt inspired by the Holy Spirit to reach out to our community by paying forward simple, random acts of kindness," the Yelm youth group says in an email. "We, as young people of our church, felt the need

to be out there to share God's love to our local people and to grow together with them. Our world seems to be so out of place right now, and we as a youth group will take a stand for Jesus because action speaks louder than words."

The very next week, the Yelm youth group — including Ena Uelese, A.J. Uelese, Shelley Uelese and



LUA UELESE

Yelm Church youth surprise a shopper with a random act of kindness. The youth group saved up their dollars for nearly six months for their Dollar Club to help the community.

Isabel Groves — presented the church service and showed their church family the value of getting outside comfort zones to share God's grace in the community.

They told their church family, "We want to introduce Jesus to those that do not know Him and to bring those who already know Him even closer



LUA UELESE

The Yelm Church youth group feels like God led them to the right people to help during their afternoon of sharing kindness in the community.

to Him. We want to plant a seed and trust God to do the rest. We don't have what it takes, but we have Jesus."

Between July 2016 and January 2017, Yelm youth raised \$1,135 for their Dollar Club experience. In early January, Yelm youth went to a laundromat, Walmart, the Dollar Store and gas stations.

"People in our communi-

ty were shocked and said they heard about these random acts of kindness in other states, but they never thought it would happen in Yelm," says Lua Uelese, Yelm youth leader. "God sent us to the right people who were really in need in the time right after the holidays."

*Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director*

More photos online at  
glnr.in/112-03-wa\_lee

## RETIRING PASTOR CELEBRATED

**C**hoon and Bung Lee bowed and greeted guests at the front door of Seattle Central Korean Church. They made sure each guest received a friendly smile, handshake and a copy of the printed program.

But the Lees weren't just church greeters; they were the guests of honor. This gathering was their pastoral retirement celebration.

The Sabbath afternoon program started promptly and

nity through loving people. He spent time working with young people, serving for a time as a colporteur, planting churches, and pastoring in places such as Los Angeles, Calif.; Vancouver, Wash.; and Seattle, Wash.

"Pastor Lee influenced many people's lives," says Doug Bing, Washington Conference president. "He effectively ministered to people one on one. I've heard just a sampling of the stories of how he has responded to God's call. With all the ministry stories in his career, he could write a book. Pastor Lee has a wealth of information and experience."

More than 200 people — including the Lees' three sons, their daughters-in-law and their grandchildren — attended the two-hour retirement celebration. The program featured musical performances, ministry stories and testimonies punctuated with laughter, a slideshow of family and ministry memories, presentation of gifts, and remarks from guests of honor.

Lee closed the program with a message of gratitude and a call to action: "I ask one thing, brothers and sisters: to join together in following Christ. Keep talking about the Second Coming of Christ. Make this your first priority. It adds meaning and purpose in life. Let us hold the hope of the Second Coming in our hearts."

*Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director*

Washington Conference officials congratulate Choon Lee on his retirement from ministry and note how he influenced many people's lives for God's kingdom.

featured a Korean worship service praising God with thanksgiving. The focus on God's providence is purposeful.

"It was God's grace that led me here and made me what I am today," Lee said through a translator. "My 33 years of ministry wasn't always fancy. I knew my knowledge and theology [weren't] always as strong as others, yet God provided."

Through his ministry and God's guidance, Lee built up the Korean church commu-



PIETER DAMSTEEGT

J. Alfred Johnson II (middle), North American Division adult ministries director, presents a Lifetime Achievement Award to Richard Bland (left) and an Excellence in Ministry award to Byron Dulan (right).

## DULAN'S PASSION FOR PERSONAL MINISTRIES RECOGNIZED

**W**hen Excellence in Ministry awards were distributed at the North American Division's Adventist Ministries Convention in Tucson, Ariz., Byron Dulan's name was among the recognized ministry leaders.

Dulan, who serves as Washington Conference outreach ministries director, was recognized for Excellence in Ministry in the "Adult Ministries — Personal Ministries" category.

Dulan is active in involv-

ing, equipping and empowering local leaders to minister for God by reaching their communities.

"Pastor Dulan is recognized here in the Pacific Northwest and across North America as an expert in personal ministries, and he is deserving of this award," says Doug Bing, Washington Conference president. "He is well-known for his passion for training people to witness for Jesus Christ."



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

Byron Dulan and other leaders from across the North American Division receive recognition at the Adventist Ministries Convention for their contributions to ministry.

## KIRKLAND SUPPORTS FOSTER FAMILIES WITH FOOD

**G**rades kindergarten through eighth at Kirkland Seventh-day Adventist School (KSDA) joined together this winter to gather donations for Hand in Hand, an organization that “provides critical care and support for children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect ... and are entering foster care.”

Hand in Hand supports foster families in Washington state in many ways, and KSDA’s involvement with collecting emergency food is an



Dawn Campanello’s seventh-grade students help sort and box food for delivery to foster families.

impactful one. Coordinated by seventh-grade instructor Dawn Campanello, classes collected canned and dry foods for boxes that will provide a family of four with food for one week. In total, KSDA students, families and staff collected enough food for six families.

Seventh-grader Matthew Dominguez says, “I was impacted by seeing the need that people have in our own neighborhoods, and sometimes we don’t notice and don’t help. By bringing food to the school to be taken to families who need

it, we are filling a need of people who don’t have the same privileges we have. When we think of donating food we may think about the people [abroad] ... do we think about the people who need things in our own neighborhoods?”

Hand in Hand abides by the mission statement of James 1:27: “Pure and genuine belief in the sight of God means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.” Connecting with and supporting the local community, especially those in need, is important to the KSDA family, following Jesus’ ministry on Earth.

“I was overwhelmed by how much food came in, especially as I tried to load it into a pickup truck,” says Campanello. “I also had the privilege of delivering it and saw how others were amazed at how much food I had for them. The appreciation just flowed from the building. I love projects that help us learn unselfishness.” KSDA staff and students look forward to many more diverse opportunities to interact with and serve in their community.

For more information about Hand in Hand, visit [handinhandkids.org](http://handinhandkids.org)

*Anika Zebon, Puget Sound Adventist Academy English and art teacher, with Dawn Campanello and students*



## BIBLE WORKERS STUDY WITH SOUTH SOUND RESIDENTS

**T**his last winter a team of outreach coordinators — evangelism-trained individuals from SOULS Northwest, SOULS West, Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism (AFCOE), Costa Rica and even Egypt — stepped in to help fill a need in western Washington.

Washington Conference received 1,800 Bible study requests from residents in the South Sound region. Even with more than 200 volunteers assisting in the response, more help was needed. The outreach coordinators are helping 10 of the 19 partner churches who most need Bible study response assistance.

The outreach coordinators are giving Bible studies, helping people grow in their spiritual journey and growing

the team of volunteers in their outreach efforts.

Revelation Speaks Peace with Shawn Boonstra will begin March 10 and run most nights, except Mondays and Thursdays, through April 8. The entire series will be presented at the Washington State Fair Events Center’s AgriPlex in Puyallup and will include programs for adults and children. Find more details at [revelationsspeakspeace.com](http://revelationsspeakspeace.com) and [washingtonconference.org/peace](http://washingtonconference.org/peace).

*Tyler Long, Washington Conference evangelism coordinator*

## SAN JUAN MEMBERS SHARE CHRIST'S LOVE

More photos online at [glnr.in/112-03-wa\\_sanjuan](http://glnr.in/112-03-wa_sanjuan)



Church members of the San Juan Islands in Washington's Puget Sound have been busy sharing the love of Christ with their communities through warm drinks, hot meals and helpful hammers.

During the holiday season, the Friday Harbor Church congregation took part in their community's winter market. Church member Virilinda Foster, who organized the church's booth, says she felt it was important to spread kindness to the community through providing free warm drinks as a means of meeting people where they are at and creating an opportunity to share God's free gift of salvation through Jesus. Along with more than 500 cups of cocoa and cider, members handed out many Christmas-themed *Signs of the Times* magazines. The event organizers and attendees alike were thankful for the free warm treats and kind smiles shared.

Additionally, the Friday Harbor Church has been busy with their growing home-repair outreach ministry. Members saw a community need for skilled builders to help those who could not afford traditional contractors. They knew they could fill this through the

talents of the church family.

Members organized the ministry to receive referrals from the island's Family Resource Center for low-income, elderly or disabled community members in need of minor home repairs. In January 2017, the church finished up their first major project: building a wheelchair ramp for a lady with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome.

On the day of the ramp's completion, Dani Davis-Robeson was able to finally



Barb Low, Friday Harbor Church member, talks with community members as they receive warm drinks.

pull her wheelchair out of her van and drive it up the ramp into her home. She was so excited, she made several trips up and down the ramp with her service dog, Kaylee, by her side.



Friday Harbor Church members surround Dani (in wheelchair) and Laura Davis-Robeson, for whom they built a wheelchair ramp.

Dry eyes were scarce as the project was celebrated and blessed. Dani and her partner, Laura, said they were surprised to find people who cared so much. They shared they had looked up the Seventh-day Adventist denomination online and planned to come to a church service soon.

The Orcas Adventist Fellowship has also been spreading Christ's love through good food. For more than 15 years, during January, February and March, the church has hosted a monthly free community dinner for anyone who needs a healthy, warm meal. January's dinner kicked off 2017 with an Asian-themed meal provided to more than 300 island residents.

Community and church members, young and old, shared conversations, good food and laughs as they built new friendships and deepened old ones.

The islands' pastor, Don Bryan, says, "Meeting the tangible needs of people through common avenues such as good food or shelter is such a powerful way of coming alongside those we are seeking to reach, sharing the love of Christ through our actions. These interactions build the relationships that are crucial as we walk with people towards their Savior."

*Brittini Bryan, Friday Harbor Church member*

## COSAERT NAMED PRESIDENT OF ADVENTIST THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

**C**arl Cosaert, Walla Walla University professor of biblical studies, was named president of the Adventist Theological Society (ATS) in November 2016 following a two-year term as president-elect. He will serve two years as president.

“What interested me in helping out with ATS is their global outreach to the world church,” says Cosaert. “I’ve traveled for ATS internationally and have seen the blessing this organization has been in helping to educate church leaders as they grow in their understanding of the biblical basis of our Adventist beliefs.”

ATS resources are available by request from church leaders and seminaries for theological assistance, training for workers, Bible symposia and camp meeting speakers. The ATS regularly touches Adventist leaders, pastors,

theologians and laypeople with the inspiration, power and depth of God’s Word.

In his work with ATS, Cosaert has traveled to Africa, Australia and other international locations. On an ATS trip to Mexico, he helped with the recording of a video series, *Faithful to the Scriptures*, which was prepared as a gift from ATS to the Adventist Church. The series consists of 26 programs, each 30 minutes in length, that introduce viewers to the books of the Bible and what it means to be faithful to them. The series is available at [ATSacademy.org](http://ATSacademy.org).

In 2014, Cosaert also completed a term as president of the Adventist Society for Religious Studies (ASRS). He is the first individual to serve as the president of both the ATS and the ASRS.

*Kim Strobel*



Senior officers for the College Place campus.

## 2017 SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS

**T**he Walla Walla University senior class of 2017 has elected officers for the main campus and the nursing campus in Portland, Ore.

### COLLEGE PLACE CAMPUS

(Front row, from left) Paul Dybdahl, professor of mission and New Testament, sponsor; Bryndilynn Goodlin (Boring, Ore.), humanities/premedicine major, secretary/historian; Joseph Ausmus (College Place, Wash.), physics major/premedicine, social vice president; Erick Juarez (San Bernardino, Calif.), business administration major, treasurer; Emily Tillotson, assistant professor of social work and sociology, sponsor; (back row, from left) Foluwasomi Oyefeso (Fontana, Calif.), bioengineering major, vice president; Gregory Ringer (Wenatchee, Wash.), mathematics major, president; Jonathan Spracklen (Cove, Ore.), industrial design major, marketing and public relations; and Andrew Barcenas (Salem,

Ore.), health science major, spiritual vice president.



Senior officers for the Portland campus.

### PORTLAND CAMPUS

(From left) Kelsey Bissell, clinical instructor for advanced acute nursing, sponsor; Michaelynn Paul, associate professor of nursing, sponsor; Amber Aqui (College Place, Wash.), nursing major, co-president; Zoe Foulston (Redlands, Calif.), nursing major, co-president.

*Kim Strobel, WWU university relations supervisor*





## VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE COMFORT, SUPPORT FOR PORTLAND SURGERY PATIENTS

1

2

### A PRAYERFUL COMPANION

The mission of Adventist Health calls each team member to care for patients and guests in unique and personal ways. This emphasis on faith leads team members to serve the spiritual needs of the community as well. A new collaboration between Adventist Health's spiritual care team and dedicated volunteers is making prayer a present and personal part of surgeries at Adventist Medical Center.

Prayer with patients is not a new concept. Hospital chaplains regularly pray with patients during their rounds. But for surgery patients, particularly those having outpatient procedures, the window of opportunity is small, making it difficult for a chaplain to reach every patient before their procedure.

### CALLED TO SERVE

"We wanted to expand our reach," says Marshal

George, chaplain. "Our team recognized an opportunity to involve and train volunteers to better serve our patients."

From that discussion has grown a dedicated team of volunteers who visit our surgery patients and offer to pray with them before their procedure. In addition to prayer, these visits help ease the loneliness and uncertainty patients may be feeling as they wait. These volunteers know that experience well.

### PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, PERSONAL MINISTRY

"I have a lot of faith, but when I had my own surgery I still got nervous," says Lillian Shannon, one of the spiritual care volunteers. "I love being there to provide a little peace

and to help patients find their comfort zone."

Every Tuesday, Shannon visits patients with David Tupper, another volunteer, who also brings his own surgery and faith experiences to the job.

"I love being involved with this program," Tupper says. "We get to witness how the nurses and clinical staff care for patients and be a part of that process."

### GROWING IN FAITH

Tupper and Shannon were prepared for this opportunity though training from the spiritual care team, and, like all volunteers in the program, they receive ongoing mentoring.

"We're constantly coached on how to listen and support what the patient needs in that

moment," says Sandi Dykes, volunteer and program coordinator. "When we walk into a patient's room, it's not our agenda. It's theirs."

This presence, listening ear and voice of comfort are welcomed by Adventist Health patients. The spiritual care volunteers report they are rarely turned down when they ask to pray with a patient, and, in the rare instance where a patient says no, they usually want the volunteers to pray for their surgeon and care team.

If you'd like to join this prayer ministry, contact Adventist Health Portland's spiritual care team at 503-251-6105.

*C.J. Anderson, Adventist Medical Center—Portland marketing specialist*

**1** Lillian Shannon and David Tupper share a prayerful moment before meeting with a surgery patient. Each draws on their personal faith and health care experiences to serve patients and team members on the surgery units.

**2** Though retired from her role with the cardiac rehabilitation team, Sandi Dykes is supporting the spiritual mission of Adventist Health by coordinating the team of volunteers who offer prayer and comfort to patients before surgery.



**Jenicke 95th**

Irene Beatrice Schmechel Jenicke had a 95th birthday on Sept. 22, 2016. She was born in Granite Falls, N.D., the third of five children born to Martha and Arthur Schmechel. When Irene was 5, the family moved to Twin Falls, Idaho, and there Irene began her elementary education.

When she was in fourth grade, a beau named Bobby brought her a gift of marbles and laid them on the pencil track of her desk. At age 16, she went away to Lodi Academy in California with a friend, El Marie, and there she met Eldon Jenicke. She married him a year and a half later. From that marriage came two daughters, Barbara and Sandra, and a son, Donald Eldon.

Married life began in California for about four years, then they moved north to Washington, where they spent many years, mostly in Spokane. Irene worked hard as a domestic engineer to help supplement the education of her children.

Retirement ended the hard work, and she and Eldon enjoyed being snowbirds and enjoying winter in Desert Hot Springs, Calif., and summers in College Place, Wash.

They moved to Sun City, Ariz., in 2005 with their daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and Jim Morphis. Irene lost her husband Eldon in 2008 after 68 years of marriage and now awaits the Second Coming to see him again.

Irene has two grandsons, a granddaughter, 5 great-grandsons and a great-granddaughter.

**Stafford 60th**

Recently Tom and Brooke Stafford celebrated their 60th anniversary by climbing the

Sydney Harbor Bridge in Australia. Besides touring east Australia, they enjoyed several fun-packed days with their family on the Puget Sound in Washington state.

Their courtship began the spring of 1956 due to Tom receiving a suggestion from Nellie Sharmon, Walla Walla University dean of women, that he should date Brooke Huntington, a nursing student. They received tremendous support from faculty, friends and family. They were married on Sept. 30, 1956, by Brooke's father, L.L. Huntington.

Immediately, Tom took up pastoral duties in the Washington Conference. Later he served in the Oregon, Southern California, Idaho and Colorado conferences as pastor, evangelist and conference personal ministries director for 40 years. He completed his Doctor of Ministry degree at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif.

Brooke was always eager to make people feel welcome in the churches they served. As a registered nurse she taught in several schools of nursing, developed a hospital health education department and was a hospital nursing education director. Before retiring she was an ICU nurse at Adventist Medical Center in Portland, Ore. Brooke received her Master of Science in Nursing degree from California State University, Los Angeles.

During recent years they have conducted evangelism, health teaching and in-service training in how to share about Jesus' salvation. Much of this has been in overseas mission trips to India, Africa, Dominican Republic, Mongolia, Belize and Bolivia.

Their greatest joy is to

spend time with their children, Sid and Janell Stafford, and grandchild, Abby, of Vancouver, Wash., as well as Jerry and Nelda Stafford of Sausalito, Calif.

Tom and Brooke live in Vancouver. They are looking forward to their 70th anniversary by actively seeking good health with walking, biking, skiing, connecting with friends and attending the Sunnyside Church in Portland, Ore.

**Summerton 65th**

Bill Summerton and Enamarie Pyke were married on Nov. 4, 1951, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. After two years of living here and there, the couple moved to Tennessee to complete their schooling at Madison College before finally settling in Sequim, Wash.

Bill supported his growing family by working as a medical technician, while Enamarie enjoyed teaching preschool part time and caring for their three children: Larry, Jim and Darilee.

Bill traded his stethoscope for work boots in 1992 and became an avid Maranatha enthusiast. Both Enamarie and Bill greatly enjoyed volunteering with Maranatha and the added bonus of traveling around the world to help those in need. Some of their fondest traveling memories include seeing the Punjab territory in Pakistan, the beaches of the Bering Sea, a working coal mine under the ocean surrounding Nova Scotia, and the other side of the moon in Chile.

Their greatest sadness was later losing their son Jim in 2013. Through it all Bill and Enamarie stuck with the motto

“it is not about what you know, but rather whom.” They learned through their years of life and love together that knowing Jesus is everything and through Him all things are possible.

Bill and Enamarie look forward to many more years together supported by their loving family, which now includes 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren ... and counting.

**FAMILY BIRTHS**

**BROOKS** — Granger Kentry was born April 6, 2016, to Greg S. and Kristin (Smith) Brooks, Walla Walla, Wash.

**ROUTT** — Penelope Anne was born Nov. 25, 2016, to David and Erin (Lee) Routt, Meridian, Idaho.

**FAMILY WEDDINGS**

**FLETCHER-FORTUNA** Hannah Joy Fletcher and Huridis Fortuna were married Dec. 22, 2016, in Medford, Ore., where they are making their home. Hannah is the daughter of Rose Fletcher. Huridis is the son of Guillermo and Bethania (Vicente) Fortuna.

**WHITLOCK-ERICKSON** Aurie Cerese Whitlock and Phillip James Erickson were married Aug. 27, 2016, in Newberg, Ore. They are making their home in Gaston, Ore. Aurie is the daughter of Paul Whitlock (deceased). Phillip is the son of Alvin and Shannon (Black) Erickson.

## FAMILY AT REST

**ENTZE** — Beth L. (Karr), 96; born July 20, 1920, Moscow, Idaho; died Aug. 12, 2016, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: sons, Dan and Fred, both of Walla Walla; 5 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

**EPPERLY** — Frank, 66; born Oct. 10, 1950, Enumclaw, Wash.; died Oct. 16, 2016, Belfair, Wash. Surviving: wife, Susan, Belfair; brothers, Vernon, Hollister, Calif.; Troy, Port Orchard, Wash.; and sister, Jean Rademacher, Westphalia, Mich.

**GRIFFIN** — Delbert Eddy, 63; born Feb. 5, 1953, San Francisco, Calif.; died Sept. 12, 2016, Pendleton, Ore. Surviving: wife, Donna (Porter); mother, LaVonna (Kruse) Griffin, Pendleton; daughters, Carman (Griffin) Roberts, Hermiston, Ore.; Laurie (Griffin) Halversen, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; Erin Griffin, Troutdale, Ore.; Trisha (Parker) Lagao, Pendleton; stepson, Shane Parker, Walla Walla, Wash.; brothers, Keith Griffin, Pendleton; Dan Griffin, Kuna, Idaho; and 13 grandchildren.

**HANSON** — Mona Loreen (Groom), 84; born June 28, 1932, Peagram, Idaho; died July 23, 2016, Rush Center, Kan. Surviving: son, Robert, Eagle Point, Ore.; daughter, Susan Scherencel, Rush Center; brother, Ralph Groom, Nampa, Idaho; 9 grandchildren, 4 step-grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

**KITE** — Veda (Stoops), 96; born Aug. 20, 1920, Yuba City, Calif.; died Nov. 1, 2016, Eugene, Ore. Surviving: daughters, Debbie Kite, Portland, Ore.; Stephanie Bratton, Eugene; 3 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

**LANG** — Alonzo “Lonnie” Bowhay, 85; born March 10, 1931, Portland, Ore.; died April 7, 2016, Paradise, Calif. Surviving: wife, Barbara (Scott); sons, Nick and Chris, both of Paradise; daughter, Wendy Wright, Redding, Calif.; brother, Edward Lang, Madera, Calif.; sisters, Marlene Gaede, Rockaway Beach, Ore.; Sharon Haeckl, Napa, Calif.; 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**MELL** — Raymond Leon, 77; born Nov. 9, 1938, National City, Calif.; died Oct. 28, 2016, Phoenix, Ariz. Surviving: son, Raymond Wendal, Phoenix; and daughter, Lorena Anne, Phoenix.

**MONEY** — Kenneth L., 92; born Sept. 19, 1923, in North Dakota; died July 23, 2016, Yakima, Wash. Surviving: wife, Joan; son, Larry, Aberdeen, Wash.; daughters, Shirley Gough, Seattle, Wash.; Karen Herr, Shelton, Wash.; sister, Lucille Eastham, Juneau, Alaska; and 4 grandchildren.

**OPP** — Doris Vietz, 83; born March 22, 1933, McKlusky, N.D.; died Oct. 17, 2016, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: husband, LaVern; sons, Mark, Seattle, Wash.; Paul Opp, Caldwell, Idaho; 7 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**RITTENBACH** — Barbara “Jean” (Hays), 81; born Sept. 14, 1934, in Washington; died April 21, 2016, Milton-Freewater, Ore. Surviving: husband, Emanuel; sons, Rod, Honolulu, Hawaii; Sid, Umattilla, Ore.; daughters, Melodie Rittenbach, Roseville, Calif.; Tracey Rittenbach, College Place, Wash.; brother, Michael Hays; sister, Patricia (Hays) Randall; and 2 grandchildren.

**SMITH** — Ardis A. 97; born June 27, 1919, Centralia,

Wash.; died Nov. 6, 2016, Springfield, Ore. Surviving: wife, Ila (Fristad); sons, Gary, Creswell, Ore.; Ron, Springfield; Tracy, Denver, Colo.; 13 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

**SMITH** — William “Bill” T., 78; born Aug. 21, 1936, Dillingham, Alaska; died March 10, 2015, Portland, Ore. Surviving: wife, Evelyn; son, Brian; daughters, Karen Forss, Rosalie Donley and Laurie Tewel; and 14 grandchildren.

**SOULE** — Milton Forest Jr., 86; born Aug. 11, 1930, Portland, Ore.; died Sept. 23, 2016, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: son, Terry, Caldwell, Idaho; daughters, Robin Brown, Caldwell; Kimberly Soule, Fairbanks, Alaska; 8 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

**SPOMER** — Charles “Chuck” Conrad, 75; born Nov. 11, 1941, Portland, Ore.; died Nov. 25, 2016, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: son, James, Citrus Heights, Calif.; daughters, Brenda Baxter, Frisco, Texas; Kelly Krenzler, Milton-Freewater, Ore.; sister, Sandra Eichmann, Berthoud, Colo.; and 4 grandchildren.

**TRESENRIER** — Earl “E.T.”, 81; born March 19, 1935, Catarina, Texas; died Oct. 14, 2016, Grants Pass, Ore. Surviving: wife, Rosie; son, Wesley M., Modesto, Calif.; daughters, Earlanda Faye Davis, Placerville, Calif.; Briana Renee Tresenrier, Portland, Ore.; sister, Edna Mason, Merced, Calif.; and 2 grandchildren.

**WALL** — Ernest G., 94; born Oct. 25, 1921, Grandview Bench, British Columbia, Canada; died April 8, 2016, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: sons, Ernest, David and Gary; daughters, Marie, Valerie and Elizabeth; sister, Marian Sharpe, Washington, N.C.; and 13 grandchildren.

**WEBB-STICKA** — Dorothy Ann (Hoefler) Sizer, 79; born June 20, 1937, Lincoln, Neb.; died Sept. 24, 2016, Forest Grove, Ore. Surviving: husband, Gerald Sticka; sons, Jeff Sizer, Aloha, Ore.; Joe Sizer, Forest Grove; daughters, Jackie Sizer, Gaston, Ore.; Julie Sizer Cox, Forest Grove; 7 grandchildren, 17 step-grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and 7 step-great-grandchildren.

**WILSON** — John E., 83, born Jan. 27, 1933, Madison, Tenn.; died Oct. 14, 2016, Kimberly, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Allison (Miranda); son, John, Hayden, Idaho; daughters, Jonalie Nelson, Apple Valley, Calif.; Joylyn Blommer, Kimberly; Jonette McCloud, Apple Valley; and 9 grandchildren.

**WOITT** — Erivin Edware, 80; born July 3, 1936, Yakima, Wash.; died Oct. 18, 2016, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: wife, Beverly J.; sons, Eddie, Orting, Wash.; Jim, Eugene, Ore.; daughters, Elizabeth Ewing, Shelton, Wash.; Martha Kramer, Touchet, Wash.; Sarah Woitt, Tacoma, Wash.; 15 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

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

### GO TO [GLEANERNOW.COM/](http://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.

## NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

### Offering

**March 4** — Local Church Budget;

**March 11** — World Budget, emphasizing Adventist World Radio;

**March 18** — Local Church Budget;

**March 25** — Local Conference Advance.

## WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

**April 2–4** — WWU April U-Days, register by March 17 at [wallawalla.edu/udays](http://wallawalla.edu/udays);

**April 20–21** — WWU Donald Blake Center Academic Conference. Keynote speaker: George Yancy, professor of philosophy, Emory University. Learn more at [wallawalla.edu/DBC-conference](http://wallawalla.edu/DBC-conference);

**April 27–30** — WWU 125th anniversary celebration at Homecoming Weekend. Details at [wallawalla.edu/homecoming](http://wallawalla.edu/homecoming).

## OREGON CONFERENCE

### PVC Hosts Matt and Josie Minikus in Concert

**March 4** — Matt and Josie Minikus are a husband-and-wife team based in the Eugene, Ore., area. Since beginning ministry as full-time touring musicians in 2010, they have had the opportunity to travel and sing extensively throughout North America, as well as Europe, the United Kingdom and Australia. Their music is a reverent contemporary-folk blend of vocals, guitar, piano and a variety of other instruments. As singer-songwriters, they are passionate about writing meaningful, thought-provoking lyrics and beautiful melodies. Through music and stories, they seek to help others peer a little deeper into the unfathomable love of God — a love they have personally encountered and been drawn to. They'll perform at 6 p.m. at the Pleasant Valley Church, 11125 SE 172nd Ave., Happy Valley, OR 97086.

### 'Hands-On' Gardening Workshop

**March 5** — Parents, bring the kids to their very own classes at the "Hands-On" Gardening Workshop. Learn from Lynn Hoag of [SunCountryGardens.com](http://SunCountryGardens.com) how to grow the most nutritious, healthy, healing and tasty produce ever. Healthy food begins with healthy soil. Help plant the garden and a fruit tree using methods given by inspiration. The greatest way to get kids to love their veggies is when they can grow their very own. Separate class for kids with follow-up classes all summer. Bring a brown-bag lunch, garden rake and shovel. Handouts provided. Donations welcome. To reserve your spot early and for more information, email [Marilyn.puccinelli@gmail.com](mailto:Marilyn.puccinelli@gmail.com) or call 360-609-1461. Please tell your friends. Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Vancouver Community Adventist Church, 9711 St. Johns Rd., Vancouver, WA 98665.

### Arts and Technology Camp at Milo Adventist Academy

**March 5–7** — Arts and Technology Camp at Milo Adventist Academy is a fun enrichment event geared toward students

in grades five through eight at small church schools or home schools. For more information, contact Kathy Hernandez at [kathy.hernandez@miloacademy.org](mailto:kathy.hernandez@miloacademy.org).

### Experience the Meaning of Purim for Today

**March 17–19** — Beit Shalom Balevav Jewish-Adventist Congregations invites you to experience the meaning of Purim for today. Friday at 7 p.m.: The Book of Esther and Its Place in Biblical History; Saturday at 4 p.m.: Mordecai: Hero or Villain? and 6 p.m.: Purim Party; Sunday at 7 a.m.: Pancake Breakfast for the Homeless, and 7 p.m.: The Jews in Exile and the Restoration of the Temple. Learn more at [vancouver-jewish.com](http://vancouver-jewish.com). Beit Shalom Balevav Jewish-Adventist Congregation, 7902 NE St. John's Road, Suite 104, Vancouver, WA 98665.

## UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

### Missing Members

The Sandpoint (Idaho) Church is looking for the following missing members: Timothy Buhler, Garry Bullock, Marlene Burton, Jeff and Karen Brown, Judy Carpenter, Tim Herrmann, Sidney Landis, Adam Lombard, Darren Nunn, Gerry and Heidi Peterson, Priscilla Schults, Shannon Syth, Bernita Williams, and David Williams. If you have contact information on any of these members, please contact Lynda Bailey at 208-263-3648 or at [sandpointdachurch@frontier.com](mailto:sandpointdachurch@frontier.com).

## WORLD CHURCH

### 110th John Nevins Andrews School Anniversary Celebration

**April 1** — Join us for an anniversary celebration at the Takoma Park Church and at John Nevins Andrews (JNA) School, 117 Elm Ave., Takoma Park, Md. Everything begins with registration at 10 a.m., followed by worship service, fellowship luncheon, class reunions, JNA school tours, a 4:30 p.m. musical concert and JNA memories, light supper, and an alumni basketball game. RSVP by emailing [mrevollo@jna.org](mailto:mrevollo@jna.org) or by calling 301-270-1400. This is the last anniversary and alumni celebration before school closes and moves to the new Takoma Academy Preparatory School site. More information to come at the school's Facebook page (John Nevins Andrews School Alumni and Friends).

### Enterprise/Great Plains Academy Alumni Weekend

**April 14–15** — Alumni weekend at the Enterprise Church in Enterprise, Kan. Come renew your friendships. Honor classes include graduating years ending with 2 and 7. For more information, email [ea.gpa.alumni@hotmail.com](mailto:ea.gpa.alumni@hotmail.com) or call 620-640-5740.

### Six-day Natural Remedies and Hydrotherapy Workshop

**Aug. 6–11** — at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. Get the details at [Andrews.edu/go/nrhw](http://Andrews.edu/go/nrhw) or email [janinec@andrews.edu](mailto:janinec@andrews.edu) or call 269-471-3541.

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### Employment

**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](mailto: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, [arosenal@swau.edu](mailto:arosenal@swau.edu).

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### Events

**LOMA LINDA ACADEMY HOMECOMING**, April 8, 2017. Honoring all classes ending in 2 or 7. Special honored 50-year class of 1967. For more details, visit [lla.org/alumni](http://lla.org/alumni) or email [jwoodhouse@lla.org](mailto:jwoodhouse@lla.org).

**JOIN US FOR RESTORATION INTERNATIONAL'S** 20th NW Family Retreat, held this year at Upper Columbia Academy, Spangle, Wash., July 5–9, 2017. Visit [restoration-international.org](http://restoration-international.org) or call Vernon and Karina Pettey, 406-890-1195.

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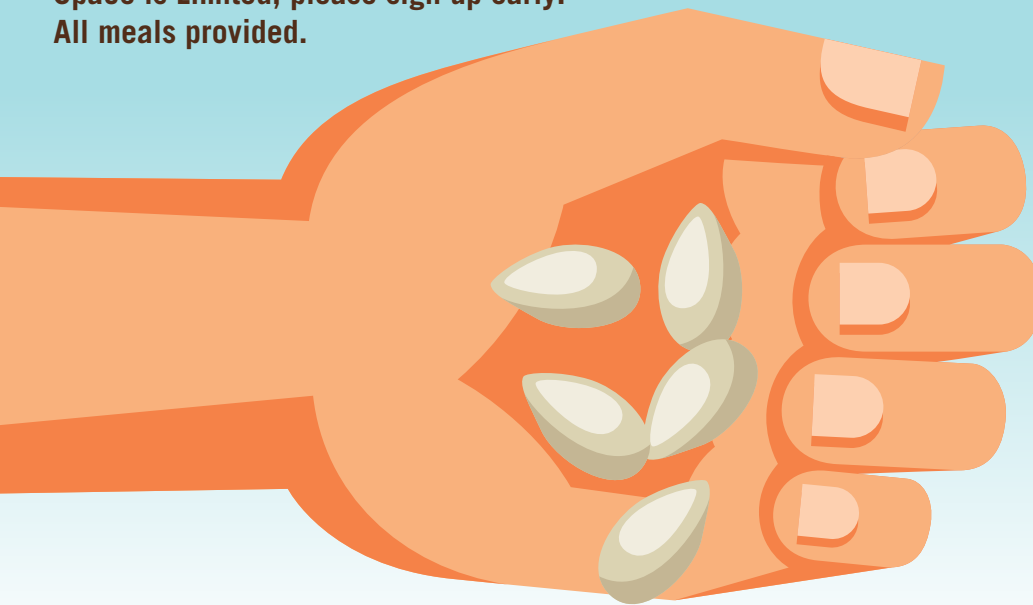
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## Sunset Schedule // DST

March	3	10	17	24	31
<b>ALASKA CONFERENCE</b>					
Anchorage	6:28	6:47	8:05	8:23	8:41
Fairbanks	6:12	6:34	7:56	8:17	8:39
Juneau	5:31	5:48	7:04	7:20	7:35
Ketchikan	5:25	5:39	6:53	7:07	7:21
<b>IDAHO CONFERENCE</b>					
Boise	6:35	6:44	7:53	8:01	8:10
La Grande	5:41	5:51	7:00	7:09	7:18
Pocatello	6:21	6:29	7:38	7:46	7:54
<b>MONTANA CONFERENCE</b>					
Billings	6:03	6:12	7:22	7:31	7:40
Havre	6:05	6:15	7:26	7:36	7:47
Helena	6:16	6:26	7:36	7:45	7:55
Miles City	5:51	6:01	7:11	7:20	7:30
Missoula	6:24	6:34	7:44	7:53	8:03
<b>OREGON CONFERENCE</b>					
Coos Bay	6:08	6:16	7:25	7:33	7:41
Medford	6:03	6:11	7:19	7:27	7:35
Portland	5:59	6:09	7:18	7:27	7:37
<b>UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE</b>					
Pendleton	5:44	5:53	7:03	7:12	7:21
Spokane	5:36	5:47	6:57	7:07	7:17
Walla Walla	5:42	5:51	7:01	7:10	7:20
Wenatchee	5:48	5:59	7:09	7:19	7:29
Yakima	5:50	6:00	7:10	7:19	7:29
<b>WASHINGTON CONFERENCE</b>					
Bellingham	5:56	6:06	7:17	7:28	7:38
Seattle	5:56	6:07	7:17	7:27	7:37

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# THESAURUS



A

couple years ago a man named Tom ruined the game show *Jeopardy* for everyone in the world. The question, or answer as it happens to be in the game of *Jeopardy*, posed to the contestants read as follows: In common law, the age of this, signaling adulthood, is presumed to be 14 in boys and 12 in girls. “What is puberty?” would have secured a correct answer and \$400.

Instead Tom buzzed in and said, “What is the age of consent?” — not only the wrong answer but a **WRONG** answer in so many spectacularly horrible ways that have now made him as infamous as the rest of America is uncomfortable.

Now to be fair, participating on a nationally televised game show where money is at stake is a lot of stress; and when you are under pressure, or having a bad day, sometimes things slip out you would give a kidney to be able to travel back in time in order to prevent from ever escaping into the social atmosphere.

We call them “faux pas” (false steps), steps into steaming piles of socially awkward situations. No doubt some of you reading this are scraping the cringe factors off your reputation because of “oversharing” a current medical ailment regarding bodily functions with complete strangers ... in an elevator. Or perhaps you confused

someone’s wife for their mother, their mother for their girlfriend, their child for their spouse or a nonpregnant lady with a pregnant lady ... soooo awkward.

Stories are endless: asking people in other countries if they speak “American,” trash-talking the person you didn’t know was standing right behind you, sending that text message meant for your spouse to someone else who was delighted to hear you loved them and would be making their favorite meal for supper (happened to me a couple years ago, and I let them know I was personally offended they never made supper for my family).

The ancient Hebrews recorded a proverb in the pages of Scripture that speaking to these



AUTHOR

Seth Pierce



## For where your thesaurus is, there your heart will be also.

A thesaurus? That’s the word Matthew uses for treasure? Sounds like he needed a thesaurus.

When you think of treasure most of us don’t think of a book full of words; but a thesaurus is a valuable treasure for writers, speakers and anyone who communicates (which is everyone). And often our communication shapes the world we live in — making life a jewel or a cruel joke.

Jesus also indicates in Matt. 12:34–37 the words we use reveal what we value, our treasure. Matter of fact, the Middle English word “thesaurer,” which derives from the Greek word, means “treasurer.” Our words have tremendous power and value, which is why we say things like “he’s man of his word.” We say someone’s word carries “weight,” we want to know the “good word,” and we “take people’s word” for it.

When words fail we eat them, or swallow them. We become frustrated when someone takes the words out of our mouth. And when we speak of a person or a group of people without power, we

say they have no voice — no one can hear their words. As believers we desperately want to hear a word from the Lord. Our Lord is even introduced as the Word, and that Word was made flesh and dwelled among us, and dwells in us, and, hopefully, speaks through us.

Our current communicative environment lends itself to misunderstanding and hasty response — and it doesn’t appear it will change any time soon. However, more thoughtful and intentional use of language by believers has the potential to counter some of the toxic cultures in our churches and online communities — without losing truth or power.

May Jesus help us speak words with the skill of an ancient craftsman placing apples of silver in settings of gold.

*Seth Pierce, Puyallup Church lead pastor*

appalling scenarios: “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver” (Prov. 25:11). The point is that carefully crafted, and in the correct setting, words are beautiful, inspiring, captivating, healing, nourishing and powerful — listen to the following phrases, picture their context and their impact:

- » “We hold these truths to be self-evident . . . .”
- » “I think, therefore I am.”
- » “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”
- » “I have a dream.”
- » “For God so loved the world . . . .”

How do you like them apples?

Jesus says, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on Earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:19–21). The words for “laying up” and “treasure” aren’t the usual terms for gold, silver or money. The words are “thesaurizete” and, for yourselves, “thesaurus.” Seriously, “For where your *thesaurus* is, there your heart will be also.”

# A PROPHETIC QUESTION

**I**n his stark and somber inaugural address, President Donald Trump vowed to “unite the civilized world against radical Islamic terrorism, which we will eradicate completely from the face of the earth.” Is this promise a fulfillment of Bible prophecy?

“Better not speculate,” someone warns. “Let’s stick with the safe and sure teaching of Ellen White. She said nothing about Islam related to end-time prophecy — so neither should we.”

Well, Adventists who care about connecting with the 21st century might respond we must not fossilize ourselves in a 19th-century scenario. Ellen White herself warned, “A spirit of Pharisaism has been coming in upon the people who claim to believe the truth for these last days. They are self-satisfied. They have said, ‘We have the truth. There is no more light for the people of

God.’ But we are not safe when we take a position

that we will not accept anything else than that upon which we have settled as truth.”<sup>1</sup>

Twenty-five years ago, Pacific Press published a book that challenged blind traditionalism: “The Seventh-day Adventist Church desperately needs relevance in our prophetic proclamation. We will not impress intelligent minds when we point to the 1755 Lisbon earthquake as



a compelling sign of our times. That was big news in days gone by, but what about the 20th century? Certain prophecies in both Daniel and other Old Testament books, along with Revelation, have much additional light for the end-time church. Despite this, some ministers and church leaders prefer rehash over research.”<sup>2</sup>

## TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY SCENARIO

Let’s open our eyes and the Bible and through them consider the world around us. The book of Daniel predicts end-time tribulation in the context of a colossal struggle between the King of the North and the King of the South.

“In Daniel’s time [the King



AUTHOR

Martin Weber



## End-time prophecy predicts a renewed theocracy in the name of Jesus — a collaboration of church and state to save Western civilization.

spiritual Babylon. While resisting the Protestant Reformation in northern Europe, Rome rallied the armies of Christendom against Islamic invaders from the south.

End-time prophecy predicts a renewed theocracy in the name of Jesus — a collaboration of church and state to save Western civilization from the King of the South. Indeed, ISIS has pledged in a manifesto to fly its black flags in the city of Rome. Militant Islam is inspiring a movement among the nations of NATO to rediscover their Christian roots and unite to eradicate terrorism from the face of the earth.

After 9/11, President George W. Bush initiated a national day of prayer for terror-stricken Americans. Picture the next major jihadist event by ISIS or Al Qaida, followed by bombings in football stadiums, shootings in shopping malls and beheadings on campuses. Will there be more national days of prayer to save America — even a weekly day of prayer?

When religious observance is enforced throughout our nation and beyond, the Lamb of God will raise up a final remnant who will follow Him in grace-based faithfulness.

Next month in this column we will study this further. For now, let's get this clear: The mark of the beast is about false worship — not mistakenly keeping the wrong day. Consider the Pharisees who crucified Christ and then hurried home to light Sabbath candles. *Would these dedicated Sabbatharians receive the seal of God or the mark of the beast if they lived in these last days?*

1. Ellen G. White, *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, p. 34.
2. Martin Weber, *More Adventist Hot Potatoes* (Boise, ID: Pacific Press, 1992), p. 94.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 110–11.

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

of the South] was Egypt. Remember, it was Pharaoh who scorned the existence of God: 'Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord' (Ex. 5:2). The modern counterpart could be Islamic forces allied with leftover communists."<sup>3</sup>

Some would nominate that King of the South alliance as the Antichrist. Well, certainly there is fierce opposition to the Christ who saved us on the cross. But remember that the Bible warns against *deception* in association with the Antichrist: "Let no one *deceive* you by any means" (2 Thess. 2:3, emphasis added). Christians aren't deceived

when Islamic or atheistic powers persecute those who worship Jesus. Thus the King of the South, despite its fierce opposition to Christ as Lord, cannot be the end-time Antichrist. That deceptive power will be the King of the North. Militant expressions of Islam and Christianity have been enemies for most of the past 14 centuries. Why would hostilities cease at the end of time?

### CHRISTIAN CRUSADERS AND THE MARK OF THE BEAST

Five hundred years ago, Martin Luther and other reformers concluded from Scripture that the militant medieval church system was



# JUST LIKE JESUS

## THE TOUCH OF GOD



I was looking for elk hide, enough to make a new set of buckskins for the Fort Bridger Mountain Man rendezvous. A banker friend, who looked like a 1920 fur trapper, recommended I “wander up to St. Maries, Idaho, and see my friend Lars Eidnes. He’s got more leathers than the Hudson Bay Company.”

That’s why I was standing in a fur trader’s warehouse among stacks of every kind of animal skin available in North America.

Awed by where I stood, and by the tall smiling man before me, I mumbled, “I’d like to purchase enough elk leather for a new set of buckskins.” Lars chuckled and began to pull hides from a stack labeled “Elk — garment quality.”

We quickly settled on a hefty hide, and I reached for my wallet.

“Before we finalize this deal,” Lars said, “I have a question for you.”

“Go ahead,” I answered.

“Do you know how leather gloves are made?”

“Not yet,” I laughed.

What Lars told me next has changed my understanding of God’s grace.

“Well, first thing, something has to die.<sup>1</sup> Second thing,

*It’s not easy becoming a glove on His hands. You die. You get split and split again.*

I need to know your hand size. The true size of your fingers and wrist. My gloves must be perfect fits for your hands.<sup>2</sup>

“When it’s thoroughly dead, I skin it and split the hide into the thinnest leather possible, so thin that you’ll hardly know you’re wearing it.<sup>3</sup>

“Then I dump it into one of those fragrant barrels and leave it till every single cell of the hide is filled with the special curing oils I’ve prepared. Sometimes a long time. Sometimes shorter. I do take it out and pound on it some. Depends on the hide.<sup>4</sup>

“Next, I ask what color of glove you’d like to wear. See those vats over there? You want white, that’s vat No. 3. You want black, that’s No. 6. You choose.

“OK. When it’s all split, cured, colored and dried, I place the patterns of your hands on it and cut carefully around each finger and knuckle, leaving just enough extra for a perfect fit. Then I poke holes where the oiled sinew threads will go. And if you want some foofaraw, I drill holes for that too.<sup>5</sup>

“When they’re ready, I hand the gloves to you and watch as you pull ’em on. I want to see the joy come into your face the first time you feel ’em on your hands.<sup>6</sup>

“Now listen up!”

My mind was already at full attention.

“There’s a Bible verse that talks about how we’ve got to die so God can get inside us and touch the world through our hands, right? Like being born again?”<sup>7</sup>

I nodded.

“Well, it’s not easy becoming a glove on His hands. You die. You get split and split again. You get whacked. You get cured in a vat of Holy Spirit oil. You get tinted to His desire, poked and sewed to a perfect fit. And you get the foofaraw of His grace stitched all over you. Then He slips inside you and begins touching the world so as to make it a bigger, safer, happier, better place ... His place.”<sup>8</sup>

My new friend, Lars, waved from the warehouse door as I walked back to the car. I was richer, by far, than when I’d arrived.

1. Col. 3:1–3

2. John 14:1–3

3. Rom. 8:10

4. Matt. 10:20; John 14:17

5. Matt. 5:10,11

6. Col. 3:16

7. John 3:1–16

8. Col. 1:27

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



AUTHOR

Dick Duerksen

made?”

“Not

yet,” I laughed.

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