

EDITORIAL
HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

PERSPECTIVE
ESSENTIAL SUFFERING

JUST LIKE JESUS
SALVATION FOR DUMMIES

gleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

*THE
TEMPTATION
OF*

POWER

**MAY
2017**
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Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."
Matthew 28:18

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION



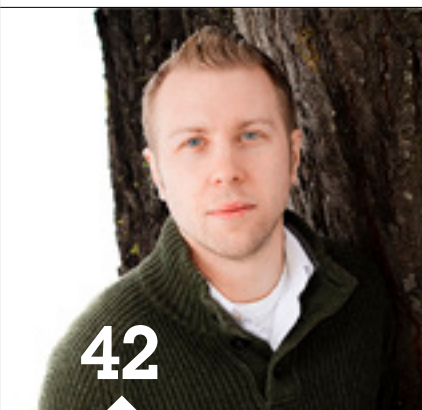
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at Crater Lake, Ore.,
by John Dale,
of Grants Pass, Ore.

gleaner

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HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

O never tire of experiencing life-changing, Holy Spirit-inspired miracles. And miracles are what I witnessed as Shawn Boonstra, Voice of Prophecy speaker and director, presented Jesus Speaks Peace recently at the Washington State Fairgrounds. God moved powerfully during these meetings. Several hundred good interests responded positively, undergirded by many volun-

Jesus is not just the author of our blessed hope; He is the only hope.

teer prayer partners. During the short time I was there, I watched three joyful baptisms.

Boonstra is not the only one with this important and prophetic message. We have all been tasked with preaching the gospel message. We all have the opportunity to draw our communities to Christ and to watch Him transform lives in real time. Jesus is not just the author of our blessed hope; He is the only hope — for us and our neighbors.

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ is at the core of our fundamental biblical beliefs. It is a major part of our Seventh-day Adventist identity — the source of our blessed hope. Yet in Matthew 24, Jesus also challenges us with a dose of reality — the world will be a dangerous

place, a mess, until He returns. There will be “wars and rumors of wars ... nation will rise against nation ... famines, pestilences, earthquakes ... tribulation ... persecution ... false prophets.” Because of lawlessness “the love of many will grow cold” (Matt. 24: 6–12).

That doesn’t sound at all like good news. Must we postpone our hope until Jesus comes again?

No. There is good news now. Jesus — His death for our sins, His burial and His resurrection — is our hope. We hope in the good news of the gospel because Jesus took upon Himself our sin, guilt and shame. His burial buried our sin, shame and guilt, forever separating them from us.

There is now no condemnation to those who believe in Jesus. His victory became our victory. We have been set free from bondage to sin and now live an abundant and victorious life in Christ.

We can never hear or share this hope, this truth, too often.

Jesus knew His followers would be anxious for the ultimate resolution of this hope. He told stories such as the parable of virgins who wait for a bridegroom who tarries. His transparency of a delay in His return is refreshing. And, the apostle Peter reminds us: “Scoffers will come in the last days ... saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming?’ ... The Lord is not slack concern-

ing His promise ... but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:3,4,9). The purpose of the delay is our opportunity to share the gospel for the salvation of as many people as possible!

Matt. 24:14 challenges us to live out the gospel commission as a God-breathed desire for all to make an eternal choice for His kingdom. Sharing the gospel is our God-given mission! Reaching out with this invitation to those without Jesus is where we will personally find purpose, peace and joy. And, by sharing hope, we will find it growing ever more deeply in our hearts as well.

I’m grateful for the hundreds of volunteers, pastors and Bible workers who have assisted the Boonstra meetings — and all other evangelistic efforts throughout the Northwest. We are all working together to share Jesus Christ as the only hope beyond this crazy, messed up world.

It’s more than just an old adage. Hope does indeed spring eternal when matched to an eternal God, an eternal home and a love that never dies — for you, me and our neighbors down the street.

John Freedman, North Pacific Union Conference president

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



AUTHOR

John Freedman



LETTERS

ASI NW

Thank you for the valuable real estate afforded ASI NW in the [March] *Gleaner*. Know that the Lord will bless this revitalized effort in many ways, with more people touched with the good news!

Fred Cornforth, Boise, Idaho

Relevant Prophecy

I want to thank Martin Weber for his article “A Prophetic Question.” I agree completely that we Seventh-day Adventists need relevance in our prophetic proclamation in these turbulent times. People are wondering and asking why. We must be able to relate current events to Bible prophecy and the soon return of Jesus.

Phyllis Eckler, Spokane, Wash.

Beyond the Adventist Bubble

My husband and I have been teaching a seeker’s class for nearly six years, which includes many non-Adventist members and a few who don’t trust organized religion. Martin Weber’s insight and open-minded logic is a gift from God and a reminder for us to not become so insulated we lose the ability to connect with those outside the Adventist bubble. Thank you *Gleaner* for publishing his articles, as well as Seth Pierce’s, to keep us balanced!

Maureen OKane Dowling, Sequim, Wash.



Ripped It to Shreds

I tore the last edition [March] of the *Gleaner* to shreds. It was SO good that I had to cut and paste a large portion of the articles into my scrapbook. Priceless ... I find myself wondering how to connect as a mentor to our precious new leaders (the youth), such as a summer camp grandma figure. Thank you for the many well-chosen words of encouragement you sprinkle on us from God.

Janice Berman, Northport, Wash.

Acts 15 a Better Model

The editorial, “Protest” [*Gleaner*, March 2017], references the issue of the continued opposition to the vote taken by delegates of the worldwide Adventist Church regarding the ministerial ordination policy. While the protest of Germany’s princes

(state leaders) to the mandate of Charles V (monarch) was used as a comparison, I suggest that Acts 15 offers a more accurate and instructive model to addressing differences between religious entities. To solve the early Christian church’s disputations, an assembly made up of “delegates from the different churches” and “apostles and elders” met to discuss and decide the matter.

(Commendably, this has been done.) “This decision was then to be universally accepted by the different churches throughout the country” (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 190). (We are still working on this part.) As an invested member I intend to pray (as Editor Vistaunet recommended) for the GC, NPUC, NAD and affected worldwide leaders to demonstrate similar submission to God and one another to work through our present-day impasse as the early church did.

Cathy Law, Kamiah, Idaho

Like It or Leave It

It is clear that Mr. Vistaunet [sic] has a problem with authority and history [March 2017 editorial, “Protest”]. Authority coming from her [sic] mother or the church leadership. He considers both totalitarian. ... He is more than welcome to join another

church denomination that suits his views when it comes to our Father’s business. Best wishes finding another church.

Carlos Antuna, Oroville, Wash.

Protesting the Protest

I found the article “Protest” by Steve Vastaunet [sic] reprehensible. ... That it has been printed in an official church publication shows just how incredibly disjointed church leadership is in the NAD. ... If the editor of the *Gleaner* wants us to learn something from history, I suggest we begin with the editor’s own history as a 4-year old and learn that a duly authorized “No” means “No.”

Bill Corrigan, online submission

The Gleaner Responds

Healthy Adventist churches find unity in mission even when members may differ in some perspectives. When we express our differences with thoughtfulness and respect, unity often flourishes. We pray that our members and church leaders will reflect the apostle Paul’s counsel to the Colossians: “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another ...”

+ PICTURE THIS



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CAA investigates Europe.

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NPUC Pathfinder Bible Experience.

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JUSTIN MOCK

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Moses Lake reaches around the world. SEE PAGE
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*THE
TEMPTATION
OF*

*by Gregory Hamilton,
Northwest Religious Liberty
Association president*

DOWNER

**HOW REPEALING THE JOHNSON
AMENDMENT WOULD HARM
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

■

The legislative and executive branches of the U.S. government are currently seeking to repeal the Johnson Amendment, the 1954 provision in the U.S. tax code that prohibits all 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations from endorsing political candidates.

■

WHAT IS THE JOHNSON AMENDMENT?

The Johnson Amendment was an IRS tax reform bill that was successfully passed in Congress by Senator Lyndon Johnson in 1954, the same man who would later become president in 1963 following the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Churches can invite a candidate to speak at their local church if it invites the opposing candidate. Ministries, houses of worship, denominations and religious individuals can speak out on the moral and spiritual issues of the day, including getting involved in ballot referenda. But the Johnson Amendment is a prohibition on churches and nonprofit religious interest groups publicly favoring or endorsing one candidate over another. This includes the strict prohibition on financing them or organizing to campaign for them.

ADIVISIVE PROPOSITION

Just to be clear, repealing the Johnson Amendment by Congress with H.R. 172 is not about restoring “free speech” but about politicians receiving tax-deductible campaign financing from churches in return for giving churches unprecedented political power. As I explain below, I believe repealing this amendment will

be instrumental in creating the prophetic combination of church and state Adventists have been warning about for many years, and I am extremely concerned about where this is heading.

If you donate money to your favorite candidate for public office, that donation is not tax-deductible. But under H.R. 172, churches could use up to 25 percent of their church budget to endorse candidates and campaign for them. That means if your church decided to campaign for a candidate, a significant portion of your offerings could go straight to a political candidate your pastor or church board decided to support.¹

While many organizations, including the Seventh-day Adventist Church, speak out boldly on the issues of the day and get involved in ballot referenda related to policies that could affect us, the repeal of the Johnson Amendment crosses the line because it involves endorsing or opposing particular candidates for office. These are the people who need more money than ever before to run their campaigns and who will come knocking on the door of your church asking for an endorsement.

CUTTING CHURCH COFFERS

Tim Delaney, National Council of Nonprofits

president and CEO, recently released the following statement:

“Nonprofits are already free to exercise their First Amendment rights to advocate for their missions. Allowing political operatives to push for endorsements would put nonprofits in a position where they become known as Democratic charities or Republican charities and put missions at risk.

“Furthermore, those who donate to nonprofits want those contributions to go toward advancing the mission, not toward advancing the careers of politicians or lining the pockets of political consultants. Getting involved in supporting or opposing candidates will have a chilling effect on contributions on which many nonprofits rely.”²

The repeal of the Johnson Amendment is now on the table — either by congressional action or a presidential executive order to the IRS not to enforce it — and the Adventist Church opposes this move. The church in North America will continue to follow Ellen White’s counsel to remain politically neutral and steer clear of divisive political endorsements if the Johnson Amendment is repealed.

The irony is that 71 percent of Americans are against repealing the 1954 Johnson Amendment, which forbids churches and religious interest groups from endorsing,

“Whenever the church has obtained secular power, she has employed it to punish dissent from her doctrines.” — Ellen White

campaigning and contributing finances to political candidates. This includes 56 percent of white evangelical Protestants, who oppose allowing houses of worship to officially endorse and financially support political candidates while retaining their tax-exempt status.³

THE TEMPTATION OF POWER AND A PROPHETIC WARNING

While many good Christian people think it would be wonderful if their church had more pull in Washington, D.C., this movement has serious prophetic implications. Note Ellen White’s prophetic observation in *The Great Controversy* regarding Revelation 13:11–15:

“In order for the United States to form an image of the beast [that is, in the likeness of papal Rome], the religious power [or ‘powers’] must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends” (p. 443, commentary added).

The ability to use tax-free donations to endorse candidates will give the churches huge amounts of political power and will manipulate, dominate and eventually control the government at all levels through the electoral and policymaking processes.

And what happens when the church gets this kind of power?

Ellen White has thoughts on that too: “Whenever the church has obtained secular power, she has employed it to

punish dissent from her doctrines. Protestant churches that have followed in the steps of Rome by forming alliance with worldly powers, have manifested a similar desire to restrict liberty of conscience. . . . The founders of the nation wisely sought to guard against the employment of secular power on the part of the church, with its inevitable result — intolerance and persecution” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 443, 442).

Could that happen in America? Will churches seek to use the power of the state to punish those who dissent from their doctrines? We can already see some churches would love to have this power, and White warns that we will one day experience persecution in America. That is why this matters and why we need to work now to preserve liberty of conscience.

AN APPEAL TO CHRIST’S KINGDOM

Before 1954, religious organizations had the good sense to remain focused on their gospel missions. American churches were fairly disparate, disunited, and pretty much politically and socially isolated. But today evangelical Protestants and Catholics are very much united on many issues — issues even we can and do agree with regarding shared concerns. If we fail to ascertain the larger picture, we will fail to be the voice of prophetic warning in our otherwise well-meaning

attempts to champion and preserve religious freedom. That freedom includes not only the constitutional guarantee to the free exercise of religion, but also the constitutional guarantee church and state will remain separate.

Once the Johnson Amendment is gone, politicians who want to maintain power will be asking large churches to commit their resources to their elections, and church members will feel religiously compelled to support them. The resulting centers of combined religious and political influence will become the most powerful entities in America, capable of calling on politicians to enforce their plans just as White predicted in *The Great Controversy*.

Do not fall for the hype that the Johnson Amendment is necessary to restore your pastor’s freedom of speech, and do see the attempt to repeal it for what it is — a plan by politicians to grab your tax-deductible offering money. Pastors are already able to speak to issues. Politicians would love to be able to claim a church’s

stamp of approval as “God’s favorite candidate” in return for giving churches more political power. And yes, I believe we are watching the seeds being planted in America for the combined church-state power we have been warned about in Revelation 13.

With tremendous events happening around us on a daily basis, we are the front row of history. We also have the benefit of Bible prophecy, and we know where this is going. But that knowledge is not enough. We need to work to preserve liberty of conscience so we can continue to preach — not a message of political power, but the gospel of Jesus Christ who taught us that His kingdom is not of this world.

1. 115th Congress, H.R. 172, “To restore the Free Speech and First Amendment rights of churches and exempt organizations by repealing the 1954 Johnson Amendment,” <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/172>.

2. Tim Delaney, “National Council of Nonprofits Opposes Latest Efforts to Politicize Charitable Nonprofits and Foundations,” February 2, 2017. See more at <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/article/national-council-of-nonprofits-opposes-latest-efforts-to-politicize-charitable-nonprofits-and#sthash.HDJ334id.dpuf>.

3. Maggie Garrett, “A Vast Majority of Americans, Including White Evangelicals and Republicans, Believe Houses of Worship Shouldn’t Endorse Political Candidates,” Americans United for Separation of Church and State, March 22, 2017, <http://au.org/blogs/wall-of-separation/a-vast-majority-of-americans-including-white-evangelicals-and-republicans>.

Gregory Hamilton, Northwest Religious Liberty Association president

LISTEN

to three short interviews on current religious liberty issues with Greg Hamilton at CleanerNow.com/2017nrla#audio.



MY PHILOSOPHY

I believe in freedom of religion but not the freedom to enforce religion, particularly acts of worship, nor the freedom to purge society of religion.

This means upholding both the establishment and free exercise clauses of the First Amendment to a high constitutional standard against powerful forces.

Using this standard, government neutrality means religion and religious institutions must be allowed to thrive freely, but without its official endorsement.

The First Amendment, in part, states, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof”

Today, some seek to reinterpret the no establishment provision separating church and state in ways that would require government to financially support their institutions and enforce their dogmas so as to solve the moral ills of the nation.

Others seek to marginalize the free exercise of religion by failing to recognize that government must have a sufficient compelling interest when lawfully denying or restricting the constitutional right of individuals and institutions of faith to exercise and maintain their religious mission and practices.

Both are harmful to our constitutional health. We believe the nation’s founders anticipated this tension. That is why they created an internal check and balance within the very wording of the First Amendment in order to prevent the country from being overrun by either extreme in the great church-state debate (a puritanical vs. godless society).

Remove this balancing safeguard, and our nation’s constitutional guarantees will be lost and with it our civil and religious freedoms.

Sandra Day O’Connor, retired Supreme Court justice, summed it up best: “The religious zealot and the theocrat frighten us in part because we understand only too well their basic impulse. No less frightening is the totalitarian atheist who aspires to a society in which the exercise of religion has no place.”

Gregory Hamilton, Northwest Religious Liberty Association president

NPUC LITERATURE MINISTRIES TO REFOCUS

SOULS Northwest, the Bible worker training and literature ministries program sponsored by the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) and local conferences within the union since 2012, will be phased out of operation this June with the completion of the current term.

The March 8 decision by the NPUC executive committee to close the program comes after much discussion and prayer. It factors in trends toward an insufficient number of paying students recruited to adequately maintain the program's budget, in addition



Jason Worf

Jason Worf, program director, shared at that point more than 235,000 books and 1.3 million pieces of free literature had been distributed during

2 million home visits within the Northwest. Since its inception 58 students have attended the

SOULS Northwest program, with 36 graduates, not including this June's expected graduation.

After wrapping up things in June, Worf will move with his family to College Place, Wash., to begin duties on the pastoral staff of the Village Church.

"God is not encumbered by our human limitations," says Worf. "The opportunity to have used this training program for His glory during the past five years has been amazing. I have no doubt that



Vincent Onkoba

we will see more evidences of how He has blessed and will continue to bless the efforts of our students as they transition to other opportunities in the months ahead."

Vince Onkoba, who has served as Worf's associate, and four additional stipend workers for the program will also be seeking new tasks once SOULS Northwest closes in June.

The NPUC is committed to a strong and growing Youth Rush literature ministries program in each Northwest conference. Union conference leaders will collaborate with each conference leadership team to consider ways literature ministry, with strong youth leadership components, can be strengthened in the months and years ahead.

The NPUC is committed to a strong and growing Youth Rush literature ministries program in each Northwest conference.

to increasing redundancy with other regional or conference-led efforts. The NPUC decision will refocus union-wide efforts toward encouraging the Youth Rush programs of literature ministry in each local conference.

Five students plan to graduate this June from SOULS Northwest. Eleven others, who are completing the first year of the two-year program, will determine what alternate directions to take.

In a report for the 2016 NPUC Constituency Session,

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NORTHWEST PATHFINDERS TEST THEIR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE IN COLLEGE PLACE

Pathfinders from 11 clubs across the Pacific Northwest gathered in the Walla Walla University Church in College Place, Wash., on March 11 to test their knowledge of the Bible.

The regionwide gathering of Pathfinders was part of the Pathfinder Bible Experience, a team challenge that focuses on immersion in the Word of God. Four levels of play each year culminate in an official North American Pathfinder event held on the third Sabbath of April. This year's divisional event was held in Chicago, Ill.

While it was a rainy afternoon outside, inside the church papers rustled and young people whispered in hushed voices, excited for the challenge about to start. This year's challenge covered six New Testament books by Paul: Galatians, Ephesians, Philip- pians, Colossians, and 1 and 2 Timothy.

Each group of Pathfinders faced the formidable task of learning these books by heart so they could answer 90 very

specific questions from any part of these books. Pathfinder coaches and parents spent more than 1,000 hours preparing questions, teaching study and memorizations skills, and studying with the teams.

When asked what was the most impactful thing learned, one Pathfinder said, "God never gave us a spirit of fear so we have no reason to fear anything."

Participating in Pathfinder Bible Experience makes a difference in the Pathfinders' lives. One of the coaches shared how they had a team member who had trouble reading. They encouraged all their team members to read, and that young person's reading level and comprehension went way up from reading the Bible.

It also makes a difference for other family members. One of the judges for the event shared a story about a younger sibling who memorized Scripture just from hearing her older sibling practice. When the same verse came up as a memory verse in school, she didn't have to learn it because

she already knew it.

So what did kids say was their favorite part of Pathfinder Bible Experience? Many of the young people said they enjoyed spending time with friends and learning the Bible together.

"It's a great way to memorize Scripture and see what God has to say to us," says one Pathfinder from the Sunrise Pathfinder Club in Walla Walla, Wash.

Of the 11 clubs present at the union-level event, eight placed high enough to move to the final divisional challenge in Chicago.

Randy Hill, Oregon Conference, Pathfinder director, says, "I derive much joy watching the kids give each other high-fives after getting a really hard question right. The impact of this event today won't be felt immediately. The real impact of this event will be seen in the long haul as the kids become adults. Suddenly these texts will come back to guide them."



NOW FOR THE RESULTS:

- » Cascade Eagles — 1st Place
- » Chehalis Messengers — 1st Place
- » Chehalis Pauliticians — 1st Place
- » Evergreen — 1st Place
- » Fort Vancouver — 1st Place
- » Hayden Ponderosa Pathfinders — 1st Place
- » Pleasant Valley Faithful 5 + 1 — 2nd Place
- » Pleasant Valley The Truth Travelers — 1st Place
- » Vale Explorers — 3rd Place
- » Walla Walla Sunrise — 1st Place
- » Wind Valley Arrows — 2nd Place

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

UN MINISTERIO COMPARTIDO

H

ace un año, justamente en el mes de febrero del 2016, mi esposa, la Pastora Belinda Rodríguez fue llamada a ministrar junto conmigo en el distrito de Vancouver, Wash., en la Conferencia de Oregon.

¡Así es mi esposa es una mujer Pastor!

Pero ... ¿qué ha pasado durante éste año? ¿Cómo estamos manejando nuestra vida ministerial y al mismo tiempo un hogar con dos hijos?

Gracias a Dios, hemos sido bendecidos desde nuestra llegada a este país y mis tres iglesias han sido fundamentales para nuestra adaptación.

Las servimos en equipo y con mucho amor, siendo estimulados por éstas palabras de la sierva del Señor: “Es el acompañamiento del Espíritu Santo de Dios el que prepara a obreros, hombres y mujeres, para llegar a ser pastores del rebaño de Dios”.¹

Después de que Belinda recibió su llamado, dedicamos unos meses a estar juntos en los mismos lugares, pues, aunque ella había sido esposa de pastor por 19 años, el rol ministerial vino a ser nuevo para ella. Hoy, cada uno cumple con sus propias agendas y compromisos. El trabajo entre semana consiste en visitación, predicación, estudios bíblicos,



administración y preparación de materiales. Además de esto, la pastora Belinda dedica un día a la semana para servir en el Centro Comunitario Adventista y es directora del Ministerio de la Mujer para las Iglesias Hispánicas. Un texto que le es de inspiración para lo que hace es éste: “En la gran obra de predicar la verdad se necesita la influencia refinadora y delicada de mujeres cristianas”.²

Los fines de semana hemos tenido que romper paradigmas. Las iglesias requieren ser ministradas, y mucho tiene que ver la presencia pastoral. Así que, mientras mi esposa y mis hijos van a una iglesia, este servidor hace presencia en otra congregación. Aunque fue difícil al principio, pienso que nos hemos acoplado, entendiendo que Dios nos ha llamado a ambos y que nos debemos a la iglesia pero sin descuidar nuestra relación ni a los hijos. Después de un año de trabajar muy duro, donde

mi familia no está a mi lado como muchos lo disfrutaban, el saber que estamos atendiendo a la grey, que mis hijos Ashley y Abdiel son la mano derecha de su mamá, y lo más importante, que Belinda está cumpliendo su llamado; puedo decir que nos gozamos y damos gracias a Dios cada día.

Que gozo es aceptar el desafío de ministrar en Norteamérica. Tenemos numerosos retos, la compra de un templo en Vancouver entre ellos, pero más aún, aprender a servir con una “asociada” y experimentar un “Ministerio Compartido” como Pastor-Pastora.

Oren por nosotros.

1. White, Elena. *Review and Herald* (Enero 15, 1901).

2. White, Elena. *Review and Herald* (Enero 2, 1879).

Samuel Castro, senior pastor de las iglesias de Vancouver, Woodland y Kelso-Longview, Wash.



WRANGELL YOUTH EVANGELIZE FOR GOD

God has grander plans than we can ever imagine. A 2014 conversation led to Wrangell Church doing a Vacation Bible School in Bethel. Little did Wrangell members know where this would lead.

Fast forward to 2017 and five VBS programs later (three in Bethel, one in Wrangell and one in Ketchikan), and the church is considering doing three more this year — in the communities of Craig, Bethel and Wrangell.

How did they get here? Their story began as a small church youth group looking for something to keep the youth active and serve the Wrangell community. Starting in 2010, church members began using sign language, drama and music to connect the youth with Bible characters through performance. God grew that, and the Wrangell youth are invited every year to perform at community programs.

As the youth group is starting to get older, God has

taken those talents and skills and asked the team to use them outside their community to promote His Word.

They are still a small group from a little town, but these youth have learned God is not limited by size. They have seen Him work in wonderful ways. Last year they had just enough funds to go on one VBS trip in June, but God provided enough money for two other trips — one for VBS and one to join friends in Petersburg to provide a church service.

This year the theme for Vacation Bible School is “God Leads His People,” through which Wrangell youth will share about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and more. These young people believe God has more plans for them. If you’d like to donate to Wrangell’s Vacation Bible School fund, you can go to gofundme.com/wrangellsda.

Brooke Reynolds, Wrangell Church member



The gospel is being spread in many communities thanks to Wrangell young people like (front, from left) Brooke Reynolds, Tiffany Eilertsen, Stephanie Eilertsen, April Eilertsen, Jackie Eilertsen, (back, from left) Kym Rohrer, Samantha Eilertsen, Dena Meigs, Debbie Reynolds and Charlie Meigs.

ARCTIC WOMEN'S RETREAT OFFERS 'A HEALTHIER YOU'

As part of a community initiative to foster improved health and wellness among the women of southwest Alaska, the local women’s ministry team in Dillingham marked the beginning of 2017 by sponsoring a full-day retreat in January.

Coordinated under the direction of Anita Alers,



(From left) Marian Small, Bertha Shade and Variety Downs enjoy the retreat.



Anita Alers speaks during the Dillingham Women's Retreat.

women’s ministry leader, this is the second consecutive year that a special event “A Healthier You” has brought together congregational and community volunteers dedicated to advancing positive physical, emotional and spiritual health throughout Bristol Bay communities.

Building upon biblical principles of whole-person health, the retreat provided a variety of instructional seminars and activities on the multiple aspects of mental, physical and spiritual health. Seminars covered fostering healthy relationships, responding to abuse and

domestic violence, overcoming substance abuse, dealing with grief and loss, advancing physical health, and developing spiritual maturity.

While enjoying an elegant midday brunch, retreat participants connected with and supported each other. Everyone received specially crafted “faith boxes” containing church-sponsored information on having a relationship with Christ and additional items of encouragement.

As a final highlight to the day, the women were pampered with on-site complimentary facials and manicures.

As part of a vibrant, rural Alaskan community, the Dillingham congregation is embracing the biblical commission to share Christ’s love through service with and for others.

Wendi Kannenberg, Dillingham Church communication leader

IDAHO CAMP MEETING UPDATE

We have an inspiring lineup of speakers for camp meeting, June 13–17, 2017, at Gem State Adventist Academy in Caldwell, Idaho! Alex Rodriguez, Richard and Jo Ann Davidson, César and Carolann De León, Jennifer LaMountain, and Stan Patterson are preparing their presentations to share with each of you.

Stan Patterson is new to the list, taking the seminar and 11 a.m. weekday meetings in place of Russell Burrill. Change happens, and we are excited to find a quality speaker in Patterson. Troy Haagen, pastor of the Cloverdale Adventist Church in Boise, Idaho, highly recommends Patterson, who will share on “Every Member a Minister.”

Patterson currently teaches and mentors ministry professionals at the Seventh-day



Stan Patterson

Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. He serves as chairman of the Christian

ministry department and teaches classes in Christian leadership and pastoral practices. He also serves as executive director of the Christian Leadership Center of Andrews University, which provides Christian leadership development and guidance to organizations and ministry teams around the world.

Camp meeting will be livestreamed! During camp meeting, find the Camp Meeting Live link at IdahoAdventist.org.

IDAHO CONFERENCE MOVES FORWARD WITH MISSION, VISION

How does an organization like a conference move forward in growing as good stewards of the resources God has gifted to us? One way

biblical the presentations were and how the emphasis is on developing the freedom to give ... freely. It wasn't about deprivation but learning to manage money to achieve shared goals.”

Another said, “I've never developed a budget before. I find myself spending less because I use cash, and I think more about what I have left to spend.”

One spouse expressed appreciation to conference administration for providing this

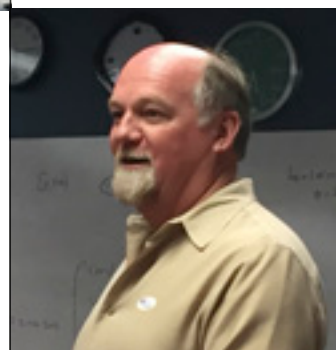


Vontress Cockrum

Idaho Conference administration felt would be helpful to provide employees with resources to be good stewards.

For nine weeks in January through March, several employees took advantage of Financial Peace University, facilitated by Ed Schultz and Vontress Cockrum, members of The Experience, an Adventist Church in Meridian, Idaho. They are trained facilitators and have guided many classes through the curriculum. The class met at Gem State Adventist Academy in Caldwell in the late afternoon.

One class member shared, “I was delighted to see how



Ed Schultz

training for employees. John Rogers, Idaho Conference vice president, says, “If we want our church members to be good stewards of God's gifts to us, we need our employees to model what that looks like. We need to provide our employees with the tools they need to lead by example.”



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



MERIDIAN CHURCH MEMBERS TACKLE DEPRESSION IN THEIR COMMUNITY

To address the rising rate of depression and suicide not only in the nation but also in their community, members of the Meridian Church hosted and sponsored a nine-part weekly Depression and Anxiety Recovery video seminar, featuring Neil Nedley, internal medicine physician, Jan. 19–March 16 at the church. Average weekly attendance held strong at about 50, half of whom were visitors.

“Jesus’ method to reach people was to mingle with them, sympathize with them and tend to their needs,” says Ishmael Ramos, program organizer and a Meridian Church elder. “We wanted to do something that tended to people’s needs; we wanted to follow the blueprint.”

In 2015, Idaho “had the fifth highest suicide rate, 57 percent higher than the national average,”¹ and suicide was the second leading cause of death for Idahoans ages 15 to 34.²

The weekly two-hour seminars included a video presentation by Nedley on topics such as identifying depression and its causes, lifestyle choices and treatment, ways nutrition affects the brain, the results of positive thinking, dealing with



CALEB RAMOS

Several attendees of the depression recovery seminar learn healthful cooking tips at a follow-up cooking school held at the Meridian Church.

stress, and living with loss. This was followed by group discussions and workbook assignments led by church members trained as facilitators. A total of about 15 church members helped in various ways each week with the program.

“One of the most important things was creating a safe place for the group members to talk and share and build community,” says facilitator Kathy Beagles. “In my group there were three or four people who had lost sons, so they could share their experiences of dealing with grief.”

Nedley is a practicing physician with emphases in gastroenterology, mental health and lifestyle medicine. He focuses on natural methods to tackle depression.

“Brain chemistry can be changed through nutritional, lifestyle and biblical therapies,” Nedley says. “These may include eating a plant-based diet; regular physical exercise; light therapy to correct circadian rhythms and sleep disturbances; and the elimination of nighttime screens of the TV, the Internet, computers and video games, which can result

in boosting melatonin levels. Teaching the person to analyze their thoughts for distortions and correct those thoughts also can make a big difference.” He adds, however, that individuals with dysfunctional or dangerously severe depression need help from trained medical professionals.

When Michael Pearson, Meridian Church pastor, and local church elders met with Tammy de Weerd, Meridian mayor, in 2016, they garnered support from the mayor and her aides for the depression-recovery seminar. “The mayor felt this would meet a need in the Meridian community,” says Pearson. “And the response has been very positive. . . . At this point we plan to hold a depression recovery seminar once a year.” Pearson also noted that follow-up programs include a cooking school and Bible studies.

To learn more about the Neil Nedley Depression and Anxiety Recovery Program, go to nedleydepressionrecovery.com.

1. <http://www.spanidaho.org/idaho-suicide-facts>
2. *Ibid.*

Sandra Blackmer, Meridian Church communication leader

RONAN CHURCH SHARES THROUGH 'SOUP-ER' BOWL

The Ronan Church “Soup-er” Bowl No. 8 was as exciting as Tom Brady’s performance in the 51st NFL Super Bowl.

To create some friendly rivalry the Ronan Church divided the drive into two separate teams. With the same goal in mind, teams set out to collect as many cans of soup for this worthy cause. After all cans were counted and the final tally was in, the Jackson

Jackies — for the second year in a row — defeated the Adam’s Anteaters.

A total of 4,650 units of soup were collected for the Ronan Bread Basket and the Polson Loaves and Fish this year. This drive is estimated to help supply the above charities enough soup to last about six months, according to food bank personnel. The two Mission Valley food banks have received more than 20,000 units from the church over

the past eight years.

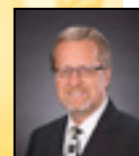
With amazing support from the communities, the plan is to keep on helping these great charities, which provide an invaluable service to the needs of their communities. Polson Wal-Mart helped Ronan members obtain the soup for “Soup-er” Bowl No. 8.



The Ronan Church feels truly blessed to be able to share with those in need and pray God’s blessing on each and every one receiving the soup.

Russ Jenkins, Ronan Church member

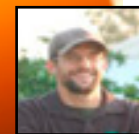
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Main Speaker
Randy Roberts
Loma Linda University
senior pastor



Seminar Speakers
Brant Berglin
Walla Walla University
Topic: Revelation



David Obermiller
Fresno Academy
Topic: Gardening,
Mission & The End

Young Adult Speaker
Anthony Handal

For more information
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L  **VING GOD,**
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Camp Meeting 2017, Montana Conference

THE WAY FORWARD



he crowd had been watching Jesus perform miracles, preach messages, feed thousands, raise the dead. There was a crush of people on every side of Jesus. There were those who were looking for something more for themselves, some who were looking to discredit the Nazarene rabbi, and those who were earnestly seeking to better know Him and His will for them.

Perhaps thinking to entrap Jesus with another impossible political-religious riddle, Jesus was asked, “Of everything He would have us to do for Him, what is most important?” In other words, what really matters most to Jesus? What does He want from us?

As the question hangs out there for a moment, you can’t help but lean in and almost hold your breath to hear the Master’s response, which we find in Mark 12:30–31: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind and with all your strength.” The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

This was a radical departure for the devout Jews of Jesus’ day. The common belief was that someone who truly loved the Lord must demon-

strate it through the obedience and practice of a multitude of laws and religious standards. There were so many things to do in God’s name it had become complicated for followers of God to figure out what to do. It can get like that sometimes today too.

In response to the query of the Pharisee, Jesus refers back to Deuteronomy in order to point the way forward. Deut. 6:5–7 instructed: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”

This was the lost mission for God’s people. Sadly, they had not continued to teach and

practice this simple missional mandate. So Jesus brought the people back to His ancient mission, and His words for His followers then are His words for us now.

May our Oregon Conference church family fulfill Jesus’ great commandments by:

- **Knowing** Jesus and others intimately — connecting in authentic relationship;
- **Loving** Jesus and others passionately — connecting in transformational community;
- **Serving** Jesus and others actively — connecting with Jesus’ call and peoples’ needs;
- **Sharing** Jesus with others enthusiastically — connecting others with Jesus.

Let us ask of everything we do — how are we doing at accomplishing Jesus’ mission, and how can we glorify Him by doing it even better? We can be sure He will continue to show us the way forward.

Dan Linrud, Oregon Conference president

GRANTS PASS SAYS 'SEE YOU LATER' TO MARTINS

Christian Martin performed his final eight baptisms March 25 as leader of the Grants Pass Church. He also offered a prayer of dedication for four children before preparing to transition to a church in Colorado.

Martin's final sermon in southern Oregon contained the same passion and energy he brought to Grants Pass only five years earlier. Through times of joy and of sorrow, he slowed down just once in five years — when he sustained two cervical spinal fractures in a tractor accident in June 2015.

After facing paralysis and nearly dying, Martin returned to the pulpit just weeks later. He returned with renewed zeal to deliver God's message. His passion, energy and zeal for God's Word will be a blessing for the Denver South Church in



CARRIE HISE

Guests enjoy the farewell party for the Martins at the Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist School.

Colorado. Martin described this church as "... a multicultural and metropolitan church with amazing evangelistic potential."

Martin and his wife, Heidi, arrived in Oregon from Michigan with their kids, Elijah and Moriah, in February 2012. The "Martin4" quickly became a blessed part of the church family in Grants Pass. Martin served first as an associate pastor with emphasis on youth ministry for 10 months.

His ministry also included the Cave Junction Church. When senior pastor Marvin Clark announced his retirement to the two saddened congregations and after much prayer and discussion, Martin was named senior pastor.

The Martin family was present for five years during many important events within both congregations. There were a number of evangelistic series, more than 100 baptisms, a handful of weddings and several memorial services. There were graduation celebrations, youth events and church socials. The Martins effectively supported and comforted their church family during tragedy and rejoiced during celebrations and victories.

Martin expressed his wishes for the congregation as he concluded his sermon. His final appeal to the Grants Pass

Church was to "continue to be the best." He urged each person to be the best they can be in Christ. When speaking, and (later) in writing, he explained that being "**BEST**" means you "... **believe** in each other and in His promises, **encourage** one another and lift each other up, **share** your hearts with one another, [and] **trust** always in God with all your heart, soul and mind."

A farewell celebration and game night was held at the Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist School. The Martin family was presented with an Oregon state-shaped picture collage. Pictures of the Martins and various church members are an abridged record of their time in Oregon.

There were tributes, song, prayer, laughter and tears to close five years of ministry. Instead of saying goodbye, many chose to say, "See you later."

Soon a day will arrive when there will be no more sorrow or separation. God never calls someone away without a plan. He has great plans for the Grants Pass and Cave Junction churches. He also has great plans for Denver and the Martin family.

Jennifer Burkes, Grants Pass Church communication leader



KIM WAGNER

Christian Martin performs eight baptisms as part of his final sermon in Grants Pass.

SHARON CHURCH HOSTS 17TH 'LIFT EVERY VOICE' CONCERT

About 300 members and individuals from the surrounding community enjoyed the 17th annual Lift Every Voice (LEV) concert, hosted by the Sharon Church in Portland on Saturday, March 4.

LEV's mission is to strengthen relationships and increase awareness and understanding of the Sharon Church through fellowship and the celebration of various styles of African American music. This annual choir workshop begins the last week of February and culminates in a free concert the first Saturday in March.

J.W. Matthew Hennessee, Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church senior pastor and godson to the late Coretta Scott King, acted as the master of ceremony. Participants from the community, churches of various denominations, and gospel music groups throughout Oregon and Washington created the more-than-70-member choir.

Linda Foxworth, Sharon Church director of music and co-creator of LEV, was one of five workshop and concert directors. With each new song the choir performed, the audience was uplifted higher and higher and brought to their feet with hands raised in prayer and praise.

Special music was provided by Jarrell Hosley and Perpetual Prayze, followed by the LEV choir singing an amazing medley directed by Michael Dean, Imago Dei Community Eastside campus director of worship and arts. During the medley, Dean's 6-year-old daughter, Michaela (LEV's youngest participant to date), sang a memorable solo.

Comments from choir participants included "I look forward to this event every year" and that the experience was "simply powerful."

Jann Stowe, Lift Every Voice marketing coordinator

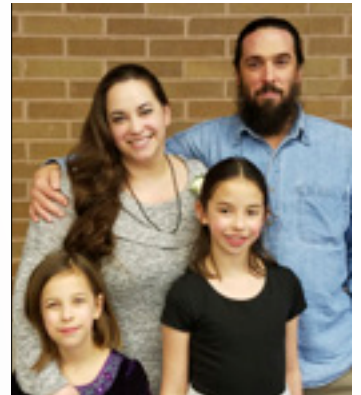
Six-year-old Michaela Dean sings a solo during the Amazing Medley.

HOCKINSON MEMBERS JOIN '10 DAYS OF PRAYER'

The Hockinson Heights Church in Brush Prairie, Wash., participated in "10 Days of Prayer" March 5–14, coming together each evening lifting their voices up in praise, confession, request and thanksgiving. Their emphasis in this time in prayer was for unity in the church family, forgiving spirit in the church, reaching out as a witness for Jesus and seeing souls come to the Lord.

More than 100 people attended the Sabbath morning worship on March 11 during the 10 Days of Prayer. The entire service was spent celebrating the baptism of Delaney Henderson, a girl in the church family who is a fourth-grader at Meadow Glade Adventist Elementary School in Battle Ground, Wash.

The Hockinson Heights Church wrapped up their



A high day of Hockinson Heights' 10 Days of Prayer was the baptism of Delaney Henderson (pictured here with her parents, Jason and Katrina, and sister, Daphne).

special season of prayer with an agape feast and communion service on Friday, March 31 — including cross-shaped communion bread.

Marty Jackson, Hockinson Heights Church pastor

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PATHFINDER SCHOLARSHIP CHANGES LIFE

Read more online at
glnr.on/112-05-or_milo



I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” Ever since I was a little girl, I’ve always wanted to say that phrase with no doubt in my mind it was true.

But the experience of being bullied, being called fat and living with problems at home all sent me the message that the opposite was true. The pain was overwhelming. I screamed at my Creator for all the pain in my life and asked Him why it was happening to me.

At the age of 11, I became

Abigail Alcantara

a mean, rude and hateful person to almost anyone I met. I degraded myself, calling myself names I knew broke God’s heart. Every time I looked in the mirror, I saw this disgusting, ugly girl staring back at me.

My life changed when I attended the Oregon Conference Pathfinder Fair at the end of eighth grade. I had a strong desire to attend Milo Adventist Academy in Days Creek. I was about to be a high schooler, and, quite frankly, I wanted to get away. I entered my name at

the Milo booth for a scholarship.

When it was time for the awards to be handed out, I sat with my club, rocking back and forth as the Milo people walked up with their box of papers. They pulled out a name, and the kid received his paper and then sat back down. Another name was called that wasn’t mine, and my head hung down. There went my chance.

But no one claimed the scholarship. I quickly shot a prayer up to God, saying,

“OK, God. If you want me to go to Milo, then they will pull my name.” I had no doubt, only pure belief it would happen.

I watched as a piece of paper was pulled out, opened and my name was read. My heart stopped, and I jumped up. My prayer had been answered. I was going to Milo.

I was worthy in the eyes of Someone greater than my fears.

During the past four years, Milo has become my safe place, my haven. I’ve made some great friends, and I could feel my relationship with God strengthen over time.

Even with this new fresh start, I still fought with the darkness that ate at my heart.

My junior year I started to know my gifts and my personality. I began to love me for who I was, knowing that my true beauty came from my heavenly Father.

God took my mess and created a message. Because of Him, I can look in the mirror and tell myself: I am fearfully and wonderfully made. I am worthy. I am a child of the one true King.

Abigail Alcantara, Milo Adventist Academy senior class president

For more information about Milo Adventist Academy, visit miloacademy.net.

Listen to Abby’s complete testimony at glnr.in/112-05-or_milo.



ZACH ALCANTARA

CAA STUDENTS SEEK ADVENTURE AT HOME AND AWAY

More online at glhr.in/112-05-or_caa +

For Columbia Adventist Academy (CAA) students in Battle Ground, Wash., spring break means adventure. With two exciting school trips to choose between, nearly half of the student body took advantage of the chance to travel and experience new things.

Twenty-two students hadn't yet had enough of winter's chill and packed their warmest clothes to head off to Alaska's Matanuska Valley for a mission trip. The main project was building a bunk cabin for Camp Tukuskoya summer camp, along with completing some building repairs and clearing trees and brush.

They also took time to visit a veterans' retirement home in Palmer, Alaska. For sophomore Mitchell Powers, this was the high point of the

trip. He enjoyed this time of fellowship and singing and shared the pure joy of seeing one of the residents, an elderly man, dancing with one of the workers at the home.

During their breaks from work, students went sledding, tried ice fishing, and enjoyed time to bond with one another and worship together. Hayden Sherrill, a junior, found the mountains "impossible to describe," while Lauryn Farnsworth, a sophomore, said Alaska was "the most beautiful place [she's] ever been."

Others will never forget getting to see the northern lights. A trip to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center gave a chance to see bears, moose and other wildlife up close.



The Alaska group with their Camp Tukuskoya cabin project.

Another 17 students, along with several staff and parents, took off for Europe for a 12-day tour of London, Paris, the Alps and Prague. They enjoyed guided tours of the cities, learning about the local culture and history from the tour guides.

Sophomore Katherine Westcott loved "seeing all the things [she's] heard so much about," such as Big Ben, the Eiffel Tower and the Alps. "I learned that you never really know the value of things until you see them for yourself," she explains. Gaby Irias, a senior, was especially impressed with the Louvre and its collection of beautiful artwork.

Switzerland's chocolate was a particular favorite and would be "worth another trip," according to sophomore Cassy Koller. Some students even took time to play golf in Prague.

It wasn't just CAA's traveling groups that got to try out a few new things. When the groups left with two days of school still remaining before spring break, the rest of campus took a break from the normal routine. They made "ice cream in a bag," built craft-stick buildings and tested their strength on an earthquake simulator, built and launched soda bottle rockets, and competed in an egg-drop contest with their intricate and unique egg vessel designs.

Whether enjoying Alaska's beauties, Europe's monuments or something different in CAA's own familiar setting, CAA students found a taste of adventure and excitement during this year's spring break.

Stacy Knight, Columbia Adventist Academy Gleaner correspondent



European travelers from CAA visit Versailles.

UCA WELCOMES NEW PRINCIPAL FOR 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR

When Eric Johnson accepted the call to be vice principal for development and alumni relations for Upper Columbia Academy (UCA)

the Lord in a pastoral role.

The search for a new principal ended when Paul Hoover, Upper Columbia Conference president and chairman of the UCA board, announced Eric Johnson had been voted to serve as the next principal.

Q. Congratulations on your appointment as UCA principal for the 2017-2018 school year. This is not your first time as a principal. Share a little bit about your previous experience and background.

A. I served as principal of Fresno Adventist Academy [in California] before transitioning to UCA this past summer. I have also served as principal of Palau Mission Academy. While my children were young, I owned a real estate development and mortgage company in Chattanooga,

Tenn. I feel the lessons and experiences I gained while owning my own business have been of great value in leading a school.

Q. What goals/dreams/visions do you have for UCA?

A. My vision is for UCA to be known as a school that intentionally discipled students to Jesus Christ. We are blessed with an amazing group of faculty and staff that are dedicated to making this a reality. UCA is also blessed to have a rich history and strong alumni support. I hope to build on that. One of the first things we will address is our physical plant, specifically the dormitories. They have served students well for many years, but the time has come for renovation and upgrading

Q. What makes UCA special?

A. The students and staff, of course. When we moved here, everyone told me how UCA is like a big family. It did not take me long to see that is true. I have seen firsthand teachers go out of their way to mentor kids outside the classroom. I have seen students intentionally reach out to another student who is hurting or having a bad day. Sometimes this is done through a prayer and other times through a hug



Eric Johnson

and smile. Without a doubt, UCA is special because of the people that are here.

Q. Is there anything else you would like to share?

A. Please keep us in prayer. I know Satan would like nothing more than to destroy what is happening on our campus. I know he will attack using any available method. I also know that we serve a mighty God who will serve as our fortress and protection. If you feel convicted that UCA is where God is leading your child or grandchild this coming fall, I welcome the opportunity to meet with you and share what God is doing on our campus.

For more information, visit ucca.org, email info@ucca.org or call 509-245-3600.

*Tamara Michalenko Terry,
Upper Columbia Academy
communication coordinator*



Eric Johnson and his wife, Trish, have two children: Brianna, a freshman at Walla Walla University, and Blake, a sophomore at Upper Columbia Academy.

in Spangle, Wash., this school year, he had no idea what the Lord had planned. John Winslow, current UCA principal, announced earlier this year he felt called to serve



Eric and Trish Johnson



CHERYL WALLACE

The Desert Praise Quartet, three of whom are pictured, provide music for the summit.

UCC MEN'S SUMMIT DISCUSSES YEAR-ROUND MINISTRY-BUILDING

Richie Brower, keynote speaker at the Upper Columbia Conference Men's Summit says, "Let's build a ministry, not just an event, an annual summit. I want to see a ministry that is making an impact in the lives of men throughout the year."

The weekend talks resonated with the men who felt the call to make warriors for the Lord because they see firsthand in their home communities and churches how leaders are needed. The weekend, themed "Last Day Warriors" and held March 3 to 5 at Camp MiVoden in Hayden, Idaho, even brought two men dressed like warriors.

Jason Ing from Spokane (Wash.) Central Church says, "Our churches should be safe places for men to tell their stories and prepare for the battles facing us." Many of the men took action toward as they explored ways to build and strengthen men's ministry in their local churches.

Throughout the weekend, there were breakout sessions designed to answer men's questions. Topics included

"Giving Bible Study Made Easy," by Dusty Borders; "Speaking of Sexuality," by Jayme Koerselman, a Washington mental health counselor; "Good Health Equals Good Leaders," by Jon Mundall, a physician; and "Saved to Serve," by Kenley Sorenson, a Vietnam veteran committed to serving vets.

The weekend was punctuated by times of worship with the Desert Praise Quartet from the Tri-Cities area of southeast Washington.

David Estrada from Hermiston, Ore., says, "God's warriors take the hits and the criticism, not in their own strength, but in the strength from the Lord. He comforts so that His man may comfort others."

"My prayer is, 'Lord, make me a servant in my home and church,'" adds Scott Chapman of Heppner, Ore.

David Wallace, Spokane Central Church member

More online at glnr.in/112-05-uc_men

GOLDENDALE HOSTS JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

The first weekend in December found nearly all the members of the Goldendale (Wash.) Church actively involved in its third annual Journey to Bethlehem as a gift to its community.

Guests are divided into groups with a guide that takes them on the "journey." If they have to wait awhile for their turn, there is live music for their enjoyment. The trip begins in Jerusalem with stops at King Herod's palace and at the temple, where the priest gives them a brief description of the temple ceremonies. They also see Simeon and Anna. A soldier makes sure everyone stops at the tax collector's booth.

At the outskirts of Bethlehem, they find the inn is overflowing with travelers, so they push on to find lodging. At the

stable they hear the story told by the excited shepherds and see the babe in the manger as the angels sing.

The wise men meet them along the road as they head into the street of Bethlehem. Everyone is excited over the baby, whom many believe to be the looked-for Messiah. The journey ends at the dining room, where guests are invited to enjoy a sample of authentic Bethlehem cuisine.

Lori Gray directs the event, prepares the script and keeps volunteers focused on presenting the story in a way that is appealing and is a teaching experience to those who may not be as familiar with the story of our Savior's birth.

Delmarie Null, Goldendale Church communication leader



Going back in time to the carpenter shop.

HEART HEALTH OFFERED HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD

Stan Orser and his son, Taylor, went to India in January for Healthy Heart India Ministries. Stan Orser gave a report on March to the Post Falls (Idaho) Church about their experiences — and the church was filled to bursting, as so many were eager to hear about this ministry. Even Orser's parents, Del and Bonnie Orser, were in attendance, after just returning themselves from their own two-month mission trip to India.

This is Stan Orser's third year going to India after being recruited by Jim Reynolds for Healthy Heart India. Three years ago, Orser was part of teaching eight women to go into villages to teach the people there about simple sanitation and other common-to-us health principles. Last year Orser brought his stepson Ashton (an aspiring physical therapist) with him, and they taught 43 women basic health issues, along with practical medical training.

This year the venue for the teaching was Hope Academy in Ongole, where they instructed 70 women in issues such as the use of charcoal, blood pressure, the use of lemon water (citrus is so plentiful there), the benefits of brown rice compared to white, the necessity of having good pos-



Stan Orser visits with a local woman, holding the tract "Your Free Gift" that Orser had printed with painting of Jesus by Loretta Jenkins.

ture, staying hydrated, water purification, physical therapy and hospice care. They also gave them obstetrics and delivery capabilities.

With four groups of women being taught in the morning and instructors rotating between them, each afternoon the women went into nearby villages, visiting door to door and keeping notes of the needs of the village. Once fully trained, as each woman takes down the medical information in the village for which

she's responsible, she has a chance to earn an income and to have her husband accompany her.

The women are paid monthly for their work, for which they receive \$45 a month. The requirement is to go to eight homes in a day, in an area encompassing three villages.

To continue further nursing training is about \$500 each. The Post Falls Church sponsored four Healthy Heart India women for a year through donations prior to Orser's life-changing trip.

This Healthy Heart India

ministry has touched many, many lives. Orser and his wife, Jodi, own and manage Action Printers in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and were able each year to print and distribute (over many square miles in India) 20,000 fliers with a picture of Jesus, from a painting by church member Loretta Jenkins. That's 60,000 beautiful pictures of Jesus, who has become the Best Friend for many in the area of this vibrant and growing health ministry.

Jeanne Barrett-Usher, Post Falls Church communication leader

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MISSION ADVENTURE TEAM BUILDS COMMUNITY CENTER IN MEXICO

Winter has become a common season to find a group of volunteer-minded individuals leaving Moses Lake, Wash., for Baja California, Mexico. Feb. 7 this year found all 29 of them meeting at their final destination, La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico.

Spanish-speaking leaders of the group Mission Adventure, Sandy and Darayl Larsen, are from the Moses Lake Church. These former missionaries have been leading mission teams for 20 years, with the last two in La Paz.

This year, headquarters were made at Campestre Maranatha, a nondenominational, nonprofit organization that serves the needs of the underprivileged in Baja California and opportunely and graciously accepted the Mission Adventure group into their camp setting.

Second Hope Ministries from Milton-Freewater, Ore., once again held an eye clinic, provided simple eye tests to 900 patients and distributed donated glasses. The eye care team also joined other health care professionals (dentists, doctors and pharmacists) in Todos Santos to provide free health care for the local residents.

The main project was to build a community center with space for medical, dental and eye clinics, in addition to a hair-cutting area and a health lecture room. On Sabbaths, the auditorium will become a church.

Upon arriving, the group discovered the foundations were not laid, so their focus quickly changed. Gravel, sand, cement and water were carried by hand to the cement mixer. Then the mix was carried in the same way to the foundation site.

Plaster repair and painting walls and doors in the dining hall at Campestre Maranatha also occupied the group. Team members painted the interior of a small church built last year. Funds were donated to buy additional building supplies, and a new projector screen was donated to the community center.



Crew members pour bond beam.

Fun times were had at the local Adventist school as Jackie Vazquez and Darayl Larsen interacted with the kids in an animated week of prayer themed “God Hears Your Prayer.”

The team distributed 90 gift bags to families around the new community center, and already calls have come in inquiring about the new center and church.

One man who received a gift bag said he hadn’t been to an Adventist church in 13 years but had been raised an Adven-

tist and attended an Adventist university. Now he has found his “home.”

By the end of the two weeks all the foundation walls for the community center and perimeter of the property had been completed, rebar cages were in place, forms were built, and cement was poured. Local church members continue the project and will soon be ready for roofing.

Once again time and talent have been sacrificed for this project. Funds were raised, and the call was answered to be a blessing south of the border. But the question remains: Who received the blessing? For the Mission Adventure team the answer is clear: The greater blessing was theirs.

Sandy Larsen, Moses Lake Church communication leader



Darayl Larsen visits with the job supervisor.

SOCIAL MEDIA BRINGS OLD TOPIC TO LIFE

More photos online at glnr.in/112-05-wa_vop



Two days before the event, more than 600 people were preregistered for the Voice of Prophecy's "In Search of Meaning: Archaeology and the Bible" March 3 opening night event in Puyallup. The only problem? The venue had just 300 seats.

In an effort to accommodate the hundreds interested in attending, Voice of Prophecy contacted each registrant and asked if they would be willing to switch to an added time slot. Most were happy to help make room for more visitors.

During the five-night lecture series, more than 800 people came (at least once) through the doors of a local community college to hear archaeologist Tony Moore share his fascinating stories about how archaeological history relates to the Bible today. His presentation piqued interest and kept people coming back for more night after night.



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

Shawn Boonstra hosts In Search of Meaning and begins to get acquainted with guests prior to Revelation Speaks Peace.

"The interest didn't peter out. All the remaining nights, there were still new people arriving," says Tyler Long, Washington Conference evangelism coordinator. "One couple had just received the prophecy series brochure, and that jogged their memory that they wanted to attend the archaeology lecture."

The high level of interest and response was overwhelming. Both time slots for all five nights held steady with attendance and fascination.

"It was exciting to walk in early the second night and see

the continued excitement of a full atrium of guests," says Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director. "People showed up early, chatted with new friends while they waited and had a general excitement about the ancient world lessons they were learning."

Voice of Prophecy worked with SermonView evangelism marketing to promote the archaeology lecture series, which was a pre-event for Shawn Boonstra's Revelation Speaks Peace evangelistic meetings that started one week later.

For the archaeology event, the promotion plan included a viral quiz for social media paired with direct mail, road signs and handouts for local church members to share.

Multiple efforts added up to big results. A Facebook ad campaign for the archaeology seminar reached 74,168 people within the Puyallup area. The social media audience loved the archaeology quiz and shared their results on Facebook with their friends.

At the event before each lecture presentation, Moore allowed guests to come on stage to view and take pictures of a table of artifacts. He also held a nightly drawing, facilitated by Shawn Boonstra and Kurt Johnson, to give away a col-



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

Before each archaeology lecture, guests can view and photograph a table of ancient artifacts.

lection of ancient lamps. The simple program paired with personal interaction helped engage the audience and encouraged them to continue learning at Revelation Speaks Peace.

"Whether guests attended one night or all five nights, they learned something new to add to their understanding of the Bible," says Long. "Our team was pleased with the overall community response. We may offer this lecture series or a similar one again in the near future."

Carrie White, SermonView communication assistant

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AUBURN INTRODUCES ACADEMY DAY RETREAT

Auburn Adventist Academy (AAA) took on a new approach for Academy Day for prospective students this year by including a weekend retreat at Sunset Lake Camp in Wilkeson, Wash.

Fifty-six prospective students from Alaska, Oregon, California and Washington joined 12 current AAA students for a weekend retreat that led into a Monday morning campus-based Academy Day.

The vision was sparked a year prior when two Auburn students, returning from a recruiting trip, discussed ways the Academy Day experience could be enhanced for students coming from smaller schools throughout Washington Conference and beyond. Academy students started envisioning ways Academy Day could be a friendlier event for everyone.

“Because of the comments from the students, our department began discussions and we dreamed up the idea of a full

weekend,” explains Jay Coon, AAA growth and development director. “We wanted it to be a spiritual, interactive event where kids would bond in friendship.”

Twelve AAA freshman and sophomore students were recruited to assist as mentors and facilitators for the small group interactions and other activities that continued throughout the weekend. Sabbath morning guest speaker Anthony Lyder, Anacortes (Wash.) Church pastor, reinforced the theme through personal stories and experiences.

Hearts were touched as kids shared their stories and became very real with each other. “I really enjoyed the weekend because I felt it really brought all us kids closer to each other and we all grew closer to God,” says one potential student. “It felt like I was a part of a great big family, that everyone truly cared about me as I cared for them. That was a great feeling.”

A student from Alaska says, “There were activities that got me out of my comfort zone, which was healthy for me, and I am glad for that. If you want to be somewhere where people are on fire for Jesus and striving to share His Word, then this is the place to be.”

“This weekend at Sunset Lake changed my mind about going to Auburn Academy,” reflects a prospective eighth-grader. “After being with the current academy students and hearing how the academy has impacted their lives and their experience with God, I changed my mind and I really want to go to Auburn Academy.”

AAA sophomore Shannon Miller shares, “To be honest, when I was first asked to go I was worried I would have to drag eighth-graders around and they wouldn’t listen to me, but I was wrong. I had to hustle to keep up with them. The whole weekend was very real; friendships were built so



GINA HUBIN

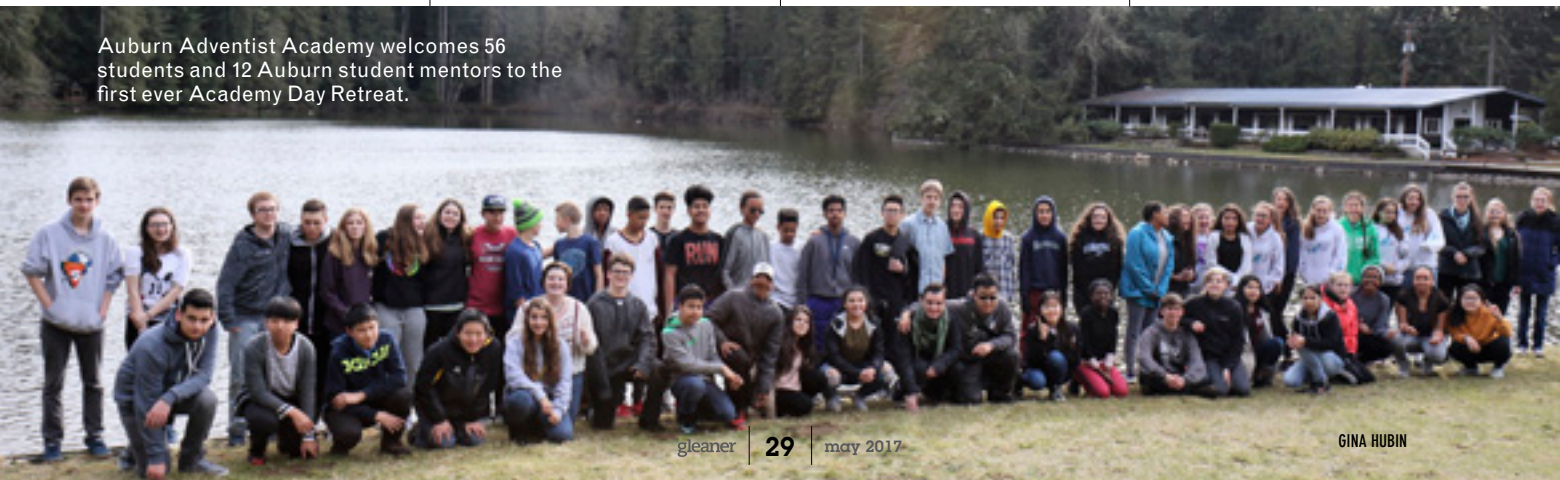
The Academy Day Retreat helps prospective students form friendships with students from other schools before they step on campus.

quickly. The weekend was emotionally, mentally and spiritually very uplifting. I was so glad I got to be a part of the experience.”

The outcome was a complete blessing — both for the current academy students and for the prospective students. Friendships were developed, and Academy Day was noticeably different as all the new kids felt surrounded by a school full of friends.

Josie McKey, Auburn Adventist Academy student

Auburn Adventist Academy welcomes 56 students and 12 Auburn student mentors to the first ever Academy Day Retreat.



More photos online at
glnr.in/112-05-wa_auburn



BRIAN HEATHCOCK

Auburn senior Jarod Heathcock and Auburn sophomore Kontessa Kletke play with local kids.

AUBURN BUILDS 15 YEARS OF PHILIPPINE MISSION SERVICE

For the 15th year over spring break, 48 students from Auburn Adventist Academy (AAA) traveled to the northern Philippines to be missionaries for two weeks. After about 30 hours of traveling, the group arrived on Tuesday night, March 14, excited and eager to serve the community of Pagudpud.

The first AAA student mission trip to the Philippines — in March 2002 — only included four Auburn students. With continuing needs and more student mission interest, student missionaries continue to support ministry efforts to build more churches, baptize more believers and expand medical ministries.

Today more than 475 students have enjoyed a mission trip with In His Service Amianan, a mission organization that coordinates spring break Philippines mission trips. Projects through the years have included building an Adventist church, pavilion and three-story medical facility that make up the campus of the Pagudpud Adventist Wellness Center (PAWC).

PAWC received its license last fall from the health department to operate an urgent care facility with a



RIZAL RIVERAL

Dentist Kelly Butler and Auburn juniors Sienna Hubin and Amber Petty-Torres pull teeth.

modern laboratory, digital X-ray, eye clinic and dental office. There are currently 14 employees who see more than 500 patients a month.

During their recent trip, the Auburn missionaries woke up at 5 a.m. to have time for a two-hour morning worship. “I believe our young people each need an opportunity to do powerful mission trips that are more than just a destination,” says Jay Coon, pastor and mission trip leader. “I’m committed to creating meaningful worships where young

people can grow and experience their faith as they interact together while doing missions. This mission trip is that perfect place for time with God, fellowship with others and plenty of hard work.”

This year students participated, for the first time, in medical missions at the PAWC clinic and in surrounding villages. Depending on their service location, students assisted doctors, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, a lab technician, an X-ray technician and a massage therapist.

“My favorite part of the trip was becoming friends with the medical staff and local church members,” says Juliana Hoffman, a senior student. “Also being able to explore a new place and culture was exciting.”

In addition, AAA students built a wall between the church and the neighboring property, dug drainage ditches,

and painted and plastered walls.

In a village called Pancian, students started building fencing around another Adventist church. Other students went on chaplain visitations or helped plan a nightly Vacation Bible School (VBS).

Every night at 7 p.m., about 100 local kids came to the church and a nearby village for two VBS programs hosted by Auburn students.

AAA junior Sarahi Villegas says, “One of my favorite parts of the mission trip was getting to know the children, seeing what they’re going through and being able to provide somewhat of a safe haven through the Vacation Bible School that we had every night.”

Sienna Hubin, AAA media literacy student



KEVIN RIVERAL

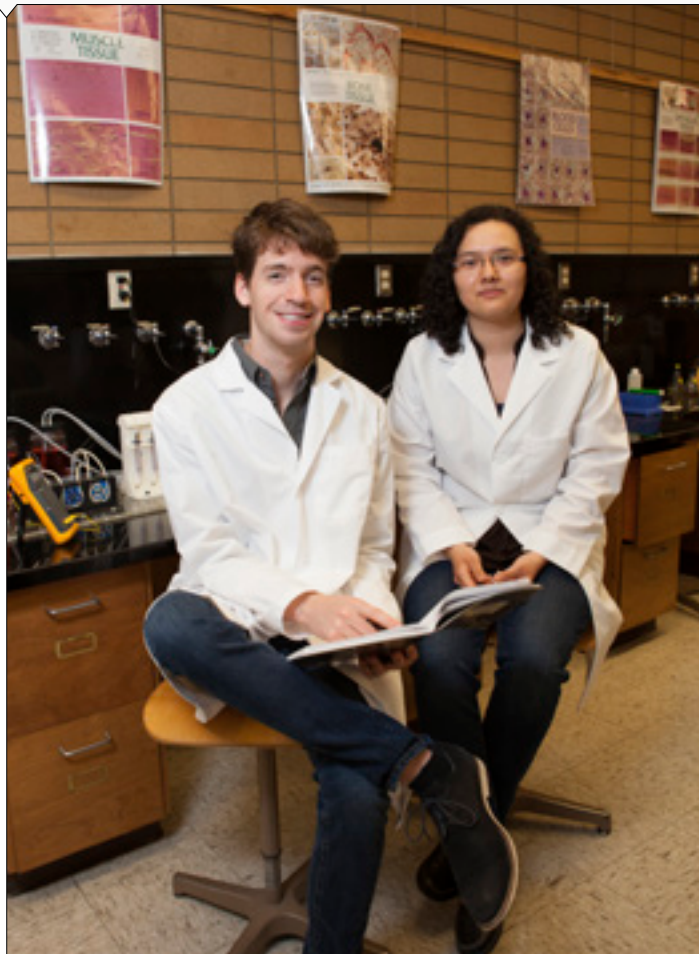
The missionary group from Auburn Academy.

JOURNAL CLUB PREPARES WWU STUDENTS FOR GRADUATE STUDY IN STEM CAREERS

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs are some of the most popular areas of study at Walla Walla University (WWU). Many students use these programs to form a strong foundation in STEM fields before moving on to medical school, dental school or other postgraduate programs. One way WWU prepares these students for future study in science-related careers is through Journal Club, a course in which students read a science research paper each week and then meet to discuss the paper in an informal format.

“It has become increasingly important for students to become comfortable reading primary scientific literature, and not just superficially,” says David Lindsey, professor of biology and one of the founders of the course. “They need to understand why and how the methods were used, how to interpret the data and how the authors used that data to support their conclusions. They need to understand how the literature is organized so they can use it effectively and develop the capacity to critically analyze and evaluate that literature.”

Each 90-minute Journal



Club meeting focuses on one research paper students have read prior to the class meeting. This preparation allows the students to look up the experiments mentioned in the paper and confer with each other to better understand the concepts addressed before they discuss the paper in class. At the meet-

ing, professors review the paper with the students and facilitate discussions about the findings reported in the study.

“For me, Journal Club represents the very best this university has to offer,” says Alex Hartzell, senior biology major. “You learn invaluable skills essential for being a mod-

ern scientist. The small class size allows you to learn directly from an expert in a given field. The personal, discussion-based platform allows you to become better acquainted with peers and professors alike. This is college at its best.”

Lindsey was inspired, in part, to implement Journal Club by feedback from those who teach in medical and dental schools, by medical residents and by attending physicians and also because of changes made to the Medical College Admission Test. Journal Club is a common name used by graduate schools for a group that meets to discuss science journal articles. The group may be formed from members of a lab, individuals from multiple labs that meet informally or a group that meets as a formal class for credit.

“A major component of the first graduate-level course is student-led discussions on peer-reviewed articles,” says Jenna Thomas, a WWU alumnus who is now enrolled in graduate school. “This makes Journal Club probably one of the most useful classes I ever took at WWU.”

Elisabeth Brassington, WWU marketing and university relations student writer

INSPIRING HOPE ACROSS THE GLOBE: A STORY FROM SIERRA LEONE

More photos online at glnr.in/112-05-ah

When your mission is rooted in living God's love, you may find yourself called to cross an ocean to carry out that mission. That's what happened in the lives of five Tillamook Regional Medical Center (TRMC) employees.

The five-member team from Tillamook, Ore., flew to Sierra Leone in West Africa in February to volunteer at Adventist Health System's Waterloo Hospital. For 10 days, they shared their unique set of skills and expertise to provide healing and build relationships with the community.

The trip came to fruition after a doctor, Scott Gardner, and his wife, Bekki Gardner, previous residents of Tillamook who have since taken up residence in Africa, came back to visit their hometown and shared their experiences. They've been living in Sierra Leone since the previous April and noticed a need for chaplaincy training at Waterloo Hospital.

When Danny Parada, TRMC chaplain and spiritual care director, heard this, he took up the call and decided to travel to Sierra Leone himself. Before long, several other employees from the TRMC joined Parada and the team was

formed, including Sonja Bradburn, rehabilitation services director; David Bradburn, family medicine physician; Jonathan Jackson, physical therapist; and Justin Mock, wellness coordinator, who served as videographer. With such a diverse range of skills, the team could meet a wide variety of needs, both spiritual and physical.

Through his chaplaincy training program, Parada was able to create a culture of trust and belonging for pastors, chaplains, evangelists and Bible workers from all over the country of Sierra Leone who had traveled to Waterloo to be part of the program. Sonja and Parada also taught a Spiritual Ambassadors training program for all the hospital staff modeled after the program they lead in Tillamook.

David Bradburn and Scott



JUSTIN MOCK

Gardner and Parada pose with the chaplaincy class members following their class graduation service.

Gardner worked with a local physician to provide outstanding outpatient care for many patients at the hospital. Sonja and Jackson also used their skills as rehabilitation professionals to continue building on the Waterloo physio department. They worked with two physio therapists at the hospital, teaching them new skills and

techniques to use in the future.

The trip was about more than just providing care. Each member of the team developed relationships that will leave a lasting impact on both the staff and patients of Waterloo and the members of the team from Tillamook.

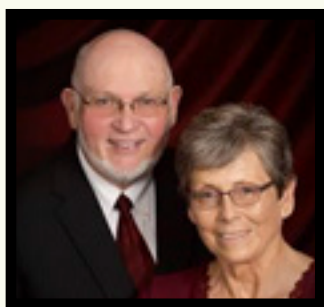
"Unless we feel like we belong to God and to one another, we can't give hope," says Parada. "Hope is given and received by those we belong to and we trust. If we work together for one mission, belonging will come automatically, trust will be given, and then we can share hope."

Learn more about TRMC's Spiritual Ambassador program by watching the video at glnr.in/112-05-ah.



The Tillamook team stands with Bekki Gardner on their last day in Sierra Leone.

Justin Mock, Tillamook Regional Medical Center wellness coordinator



Charles and Marjorie Brown

Brown 50th

Charles and Marjorie Brown celebrated their 50 years of marriage in 2016. Charles “Charlie” married Marjorie Jones in the Caldwell (Idaho) Church on June 9, 1966.

The Browns’ children and grandchildren hosted their celebration in Anchorage, Alaska, in July 2016, where their daughter, Denise, makes her home. Charles and Marjorie cruised to Prince William Sound, Alaska, on the *Island Princess* cruise ship from Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Their son, Eric, and his family flew from Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, to join in the celebration.

Denise and her husband, Gary, have two sons and a daughter, and Eric and his wife, Robin, have a son and a daughter.

Following graduation from Walla Walla University in August 1967, the Browns served in pastoral ministry in several districts in the southern part of the Oregon Conference.

They transferred in 1979 to the Upper Columbia Conference, where they served the Spokane (Wash.) Central and the Milton-Freewater (Ore.) churches. In 1986 they moved to the British Columbia Conference, where Charlie served as ministerial director and Marjorie worked in the

Adventist Book Center and the youth department.

In 1999 Charlie joined the staff of the North Pacific Union Conference. There he created a new department called Adventist Reconciliation Services. In this specialized work of education, mediation and arbitration, Charlie has served the church throughout North America and other parts of the world.

The Browns and several others organized the Adventist Horseman’s Association (AHA) in 1980 to provide opportunities for members to engage in recreational evangelism. The Browns continue to be leaders in the AHA and enjoy attending the Cowboy Camp Meeting held each summer.

The Browns have retired in Canby, Ore., with their three horses and miniature donkey. However, Charlie continues to operate Adventist Reconciliation Services and works with churches, institutions and individuals who are bound up in conflict.

Burden 90th

Ken Burden celebrated his 90th birthday on Nov. 20, 2016, at the Chehalis (Wash.) Church accompanied by 20 family members from all over the country and his church family.

He was born at the old Resthaven Sanitarium on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada, where his dad was a physician. They moved to Denver, Colo., after he finished sixth grade. He graduated from Colorado’s Campion Academy in 1944 and Union College (Lincoln, Neb.) in 1948.

While at Union College he met Clarita Kaufman and mar-

ried her two years later, after she completed her degree.

After graduating from medicine at Loma Linda University, Ken interned at Washington “San” in Takoma Park, Md., and then spent two years in the U.S. Public Health Service, mainly at the Warm Springs Indian Reservation in Oregon.

In 1955, the couple began a 12-year term of mission service in Puerto Rico. They returned to Saint Helena Hospital in Napa Valley, Calif., for six years, and Clarita earned a double master’s in piano performance and music education at Pacific Union College. She taught piano, organ and marimba until her death in 2013.

He worked in countries together, often related to his bird-watching hobby, and also drove through all 3,700 counties in U.S.

In the last 25 years, he did short-term mission stints in Jamaica and Taiwan as well as 13 Maranatha trips.

Ken moved into a retirement duplex after Clarita died and remains very active, walking 3 miles a day and driving about 15,000 miles a year while eagerly awaiting Jesus’ soon coming and reunion with Clarita.

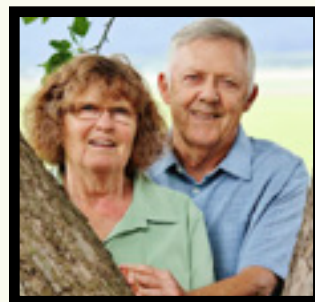
Sather 50th

For 50 years Allan and Judith Sather have been celebrating life together. They brought family and friends together in El Dorado Hills, Calif., to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on July 10, 2016.

Allan met Judith Nickel at Pacific Union College (PUC) and got married Dec. 29, 1966, in Fair Oaks, Calif. Allan

graduated from PUC, earned his master’s at California State University Chico, served in Vietnam in the armed forces and retired after 42 years in Adventist education. He taught and administrated at 10 Adventist schools in California, Oregon, Kansas, Idaho and Washington.

Judith entered the field of newspaper graphics and later graduated from Southern Adventist University (Collegedale, Tenn.), retiring after 10 years in Adventist education.



Judith and Allan Sather

In their life of moving and traveling together they have been in more than 45 states. They have lived in four states and near the equator. Now La Grande, Ore., is their home.

Their family includes Brian and Rachel Sather of Summer-ville, Ore.; Vance and Mandi Sather of Murrieta, Calif.; and 2 grandchildren.

Go to GleanerNow.com/ contribute to submit family announcements.

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

FAMILY BIRTHS

FITZGERALD — Penelope Louise was born March 13, 2017, to Orrin Walter and Kristi Lou (Steingas) Fitzgerald, of Springfield, Ore.

PERSON — Kaleah Faith was born Sept. 26, 2016, to Jessy and Kimberly (Brown) Person, of Roseburg, Ore.

WALSH — Carson John Thomas was born Feb. 5, 2017, to Cody Michael Walsh and Krista L. Dow, of Gaston Ore.

WOLD — Theo Jameson was born Jan. 28, 2017, to Taylor and Noelle (Mailand) Wold, of Medford, Ore.

FAMILY WEDDINGS

CORNWELL-CLARK

Brittany Alyssa Cornwell and Matthew David Clark were married Dec. 17, 2016, in Walla Walla, Wash., where they are making their home. Brittany is the daughter of Warren Scott Cornwell and Linda Marie (Bullock) and James Baker. Matthew is the son of Aron Michael and Karen Hyson and Lisa (Christopher) Clark (deceased) and Tony Clark.

FLETCHER-O'HAIR

Emily A. Fletcher and David C. O'Hair were married March 19, 2017, in Seattle, Wash. They are making their home in Shoreline, Wash. Emily is the daughter of Kevin and Amy (Cate) Fletcher. David is the son of Brian and Michele (Anderson) O'Hair.

LUCAS-COONCE

Ashley Lucas and Levi Coonce were married July 30, 2016, in Sisters, Ore. They are making their home in Denair, Calif. Ashley is the daughter of Rodney and Kerry (Riley) Lucas. Levi is the son of Keith and Cindy (Kramer) Coonce.

FAMILY AT REST

COLLMAN — Berniece Virginia (Stephenson), 94; born July 7, 1922, Mitchell, Ore.; died Dec. 1, 2016, Klamath Falls, Ore. Surviving: sons, Ronald, Bend, Ore.; David, Klamath Falls; daughter, Ronella Mills, Nyssa, Ore.; 6 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

HERZBERG — Nobel "Fred" Wilbert, 95; born Aug. 19, 1921, Paynesville, Minn.; died Dec. 16, 2016, Tigard, Ore. Surviving: wife, Margie (Harwood); sons, Dan, Winston, Ore.; David, Tigard; daughter, Colleen Hoffman, Hernando, Fla.; 4 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

JONES — Beulah J. (Helmer), 94; born Dec. 24, 1922, Emmett, Idaho; died Jan. 4, 2017, Springfield, Ore. Surviving: son, Jerry, Eugene, Ore.; daughter, Linda Stedman, Boise, Idaho; brother, John Helmer, of Colorado; and 2 grandchildren.

LOSEY — Susan Lucille, 67; born May 23, 1949, Walla Walla, Wash.; died Dec. 28, 2016, Walla Walla. Surviving: brother, Lawrence J., of Maine.

MABLEY — Elwood Lenoir, 93; born July 14, 1923, Roseburg, Ore.; died Dec. 31, 2016, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: son, Gary, Walla Walla; daughter, Jeannie Mabley, Spokane, Wash.; sister, Dorothy Paul, Long Beach, Calif.; and 4 grandchildren.

MARTIN — Larry Leroy, 73; born June 6, 1943, Caldwell, Idaho; died Jan. 17, 2017, Pendleton, Ore. Surviving: wife, Sharon (Marshall); sons, Steve, Pendleton; Jerry, Tigard, Ore.; and 4 grandchildren.

MESKE — Bonnie C. (Ross), 85; born Oct. 21, 1931, College Place, Wash.; died Nov. 6,

2016, College Place. Surviving: husband, Walt; son, Clair, Riverside, Calif.; daughter, Judy Ashlock, College Place; brother, Jim Ross, Billings, Mont.; 5 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and a step-great-grandchild.

NASH — Alice Julia (Osborne), 90; born June 6, 1926, Lake Worth, Fla.; died Jan. 3, 2017, Peoria, Ariz. Surviving: son, Sid, North Bonneville, Wash.; daughter, Carol Trujillo, Sun City, Ariz.; 6 grandchildren, a great-grandchild and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

PARKER — Wesley L.; born 1927; died 2016, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: son, Ken, Buckley, Wash.; daughter, Jan Roberts, College Place, Wash.; 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

PERRY — Velda "Genevieve" (Blue), 85; born Nov. 7, 1931, Baker, Ore.; died Dec. 12, 2016, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: son, Ed, Walla Walla; daughter, Melody Mierop, Clarksville, Ark.; sisters, Cora Preston, Franklin, Tenn.; Maida Page, Walla Walla; a grandchild and 2 great-grandchildren.

QUALLEY — Reed Andrew, 72; born Jan. 4, 1945, McMinnville, Ore.; died Jan. 9, 2017, Vancouver, Wash. Surviving: wife, Linda (Blake); son, Geoff, Vancouver; daughter, Marci Henry, Bend, Ore.; sisters, Dianne McBurnett, Portland, Ore.; Carol Strandley, Tualatin, Ore.; and 4 grandchildren.

RICHMAN — James "J.W.", 80; born July 6, 1936, Midland, Texas; died Dec. 25, 2016, College Place, Wash. Surviving: wife, Anne (Kattenhorn); sons, James, Spokane, Wash.; Jeffrey, Charles Town, W.V.; daughter, Julie Pumphrey, Murrieta, Calif.; sisters, Katheryn Qualls, Kennewick, Wash.; Ann Gearhart, College Place; Sharron

Pearl Miller, Silver Springs, Fla.; 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

ROSA — Bill, 94; born Sept. 18, 1922, Independence, Ore.; died Nov. 19, 2016, Albany, Ore. Surviving: son, Terry, Albany; a grandchild and a step-grandchild.

SAXON — Virginia Marie (Nichol), 96; born Nov. 27, 1920, San Jose, Calif.; died Jan. 4, 2017, Newberg, Ore. Surviving: sons, James N., Astoria, Ore.; Lawrence, Ooltewah, Tenn.; David, Dickinson, N.D.; daughter, June Longway, Hillsboro, Ore.; 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

VAN EPPS — Roy L., 68; born Aug. 4, 1948, Lebanon, Ore.; died Nov. 26, 2016, Lebanon. Surviving: wife, Cathy Ann; daughters, Jennifer Ann Gagneaux, Tangent, Ore.; Sarah Lyunn Chytka, Albany, Ore.; sister, June Dickson, Lebanon; and 2 grandchildren.

VAN HEES — Carolyn (Merrill), 74; born in Pendleton, Ore.; died July 2016, Meridian, Idaho. Surviving: husband, Larry; daughters, Tonja Kromrei and Tricia Henderson, both of Meridian; 3 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

WARREN — Ralph, 94; born Sept. 14, 1922, Jackson County, Minn.; died Oct. 13, 2016, Yakima, Wash. Surviving: wife, Phyllis (Dobyns); daughter, Kathy Scheib, Rathdrum, Idaho; stepsons, Harold Beebe, Moses Lake, Wash.; Archie Beebe, Soap Lake, Wash.; stepdaughters, Connie Goltz, Ledue, Alberta, Canada; Carol Manson, Yakima; Janice Garvin, Vancouver, Wash.; brother, Elmo Warren, Eltopia, Wash.; 3 grandchildren, 10 step-grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, 11 step-great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

Offering

May 6 — Local Church Budget;

May 13 — World Budget: Disaster and Famine Relief Emphasis;

May 20 — Local Church Budget;

May 27 — Local Conference Advance.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

May 12-14 — The WWU women's club, Aleph Gimel Ain, will host a Mother's Day weekend celebration on campus. Events include a special vespers program Friday evening and a reception Saturday afternoon. wallawalla.edu/AGA.

IDAHO CONFERENCE

Heritage Singers in Concert

May 6 — Heritage Singers are live and in concert. This group of professional Christian musicians has dedicated themselves to using their talents in service for Christ. Known and loved all over the world, these singers will thrill your hearts with their powerful testimony and unique vocal sound. Take this opportunity to invite your friends and family to join you in an unforgettable time of inspiration and praise. Free admission. Concert starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Cloverdale Church, 1115 North Cloverdale Rd., Boise, Idaho.

MONTANA CONFERENCE

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given that the 62nd Regular Session (quadrennium) of the Montana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Inc., under the laws of the state of Montana, will be held in the gymnasium/auditorium on the campus of Mount Ellis Academy, Bozeman, Mont., June 18, 2017, beginning at 9 a.m. This session is called for the purpose of electing officers and departmental staff for the ensuing term, to elect a Board of Directors, to elect an Articles and 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

OREGON CONFERENCE

PVC Hosts Chef Mark Anthony

May 16 — Save the date for a free dinner and message. A vegetarian live performing-arts cooking show will be held for one night only. Don't miss this exciting event. Chef Mark Anthony has done these events in every single state in the country for free. He has been on ABC, NBC and ESPN and appears regularly on 3ABN (Three Angels Broadcasting Network) television. Learn about plant-based health and nutrition along with information about weight loss, lower cholesterol and increased energy. Seating is limited, so reserve your seat today. Tuesday at 6 p.m., at the Pleasant Valley Church, 11125 SE 172nd Ave., Happy Valley, Ore.

Albany Church Seminar

May 17-20 — The Albany Church is presenting Darwin Whitman, founder of The Sanctuary Crusade Inc. His fascinating presentation will lead us down through history from the wilderness sanctuary to the cross of Calvary and how the various symbols have an important meaning even to us today. 3085 Grand Prairie Road SW, Albany, OR 97322. May 17-19 at 6:30 p.m., and Sabbath, May 20, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. A delicious lunch will be provided.

Oregon Adventist Singles Adult Ministries Spiritual Retreat

July 7-9 — Oregon Adventist Singles Adult Ministries Spiritual Retreat for ages 18 and up. "Metamorphosis: God's Transforming Power" with Bob and Susie Ratcliff at Grove Christian Camp in Dorena, Ore. Activities include biking, hiking, canoeing, kayaking and boating on Dorena Lake and a swimming hole at Grove Christian Camp. The cost includes two nights' lodging and five meals. To register and for more information, go to orgcfamily.netadvent.org/singles.

Missing Members

The Klamath Falls Church is seeking contact information on the following missing members: Audra Allen, Lisa Harvey, Victor Haskins, Daniel Mozingo, John Mozingo Jr., Don Weeks and Shaylea Weeks. Please contact the church at kfsdachurch@yahoo.com or 541-882-2466 if you have any information on these missing members.

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

Missing Member

The Inchelium Church is looking for missing member Lielani Tolley. If you have any information about this missing member, please contact Cynthia Clark at 509-690-2182 or at the Inchelium Church, P.O. Box 324, Inchelium, WA 99138.

Missing Members

The Spokane Central Church is looking for the following missing members: Martin Acosta, Betty Albright, Carol Allen, Nina Alvarez, Victor Arellano, Johnny Black, Levi Calderon, Jose Campusano, Alex Carrion, Doyle "Dusty" Chenowith, Gabriel Church, Jason Collins, Rosella Cyrus, Nicholas and Tonya Daimler, Brittnee Desbouillons, James L. Desbouillons, Rebeka R. Desbouillons, Jazmin Franco, Steven J. Frost, Ansel Galvan, Angela Gonzalez, Felipe Hernandez, David A. Huebner, Carlos Ibanez, Elias Ibanez, Jafre Caesar, Sharee L. Kempton, Jeffrey D. Lale, Dorothea "Deb" Lauterbach, Marilyn Locke, Leeann H. Logan, David and Faith Lopez, Jose and Rana Lopez, Jessica Lujan, Gwendoline Matheson, Elmy Mazariegos, Sara N. Montano, Sara Noemi, Diane O'Shane, Julie Marie Paggett, Israel Perez, Janice Perron, Abel Portillo, R. Austin Powell, Rex Reeves, Joanne Ricks, Richard Runeberg, Enrique Sanchez, Alberto Soliz, Jose Sotelo, Kristina Kay Thomas, Kevin Wilson, Mabelle Lynn Winn, Andrew Wolfe, Mary Wood, and Elbergene Zodulua. If you have any information about these missing members, please contact Elaine McGee at 509-468-7572 or spokaneadventist@gmail.com.

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Fairbanks	10:32	10:56	11:20	11:45
Juneau	8:55	9:10	9:25	9:38
Ketchikan	8:30	8:43	8:56	9:07
IDAHO CONFERENCE				
Boise	8:51	8:59	9:07	9:14
La Grande	8:03	8:11	8:19	8:27
Pocatello	8:34	8:42	8:49	8:56
MONTANA CONFERENCE				
Billings	8:26	8:35	8:43	8:50
Havre	8:38	8:48	8:57	9:05
Helena	8:42	8:51	8:59	9:07
Miles City	8:17	8:26	8:34	8:42
Missoula	8:51	9:00	9:08	9:16
OREGON CONFERENCE				
Coos Bay	8:23	8:30	8:38	8:45
Medford	8:15	8:22	8:29	8:36
Portland	8:22	8:30	8:38	8:46
UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE				
Pendleton	8:07	8:15	8:24	8:31
Spokane	8:06	8:16	8:25	8:33
Walla Walla	8:06	8:15	8:23	8:31
Wenatchee	8:17	8:27	8:36	8:44
Yakima	8:16	8:25	8:33	8:41
WASHINGTON CONFERENCE				
Bellingham	8:30	8:40	8:49	8:57
Seattle	8:26	8:35	8:44	8:52

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OREGON ADVENTIST SINGLES ADULT MINISTRIES
Spiritual Retreat
JULY 7-9, 2017

JULY 7-9, 2017

The Oregon Adventist Singles Adult Ministries is hosting a spiritual retreat at the beautiful Christian Grove Camp by Dorena Lake.

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ESSENTIAL SUFFERING

N

othing heralds a holiday like stores loading their shelves with celebration-specific sweets three months prior to said holiday. The day after Halloween, Christmas candy is placed on display, the day after Christmas we are treated to Valentine's Day candy, and after V-Day sugary Easter goodness glistens and beckons for us to consume it.

My personal favorite is Cadbury's chocolate eggs. The bite-sized chocolate covered in a crisp candy shell. The texture of that candy shell crunching in my mouth is a delight I wait the entire year for.

However, in the past couple years my Easter sweets shopping binge has been bothered by a bon-bon from the factories of Hershey.

The chocolate cross.

This cruciform confection bothers me every year as I hoard mounds of Mounds in the shopping cart.

It took some reflecting to unpack why this specific sweet created angst in my soul. Initially it was the obvious — it's a chocolate version of a torture device. I wondered why Target and Wal-Mart don't carry a whole line of cocoa cruelty devices to serve for dessert: chocolate electric chairs, guillotines and nooses. *Chocolate noose, anyone?* However, another thought struck me as I read the crucifixion account in the Gospels.

From historical records, including the New Testament, we know Jesus would have had large spikes driven through His hands and feet. We know that a crown of thorns gouged the flesh around His skull. We know the design of the cross was meant to not only inflict extreme pain but also asphyxiate the one brought crucified. Naturally this was all done in front of an onlooking crowd who could taunt and yell a variety of helpful things like, "Why don't you save yourself?" Doesn't make me think of chocolate.

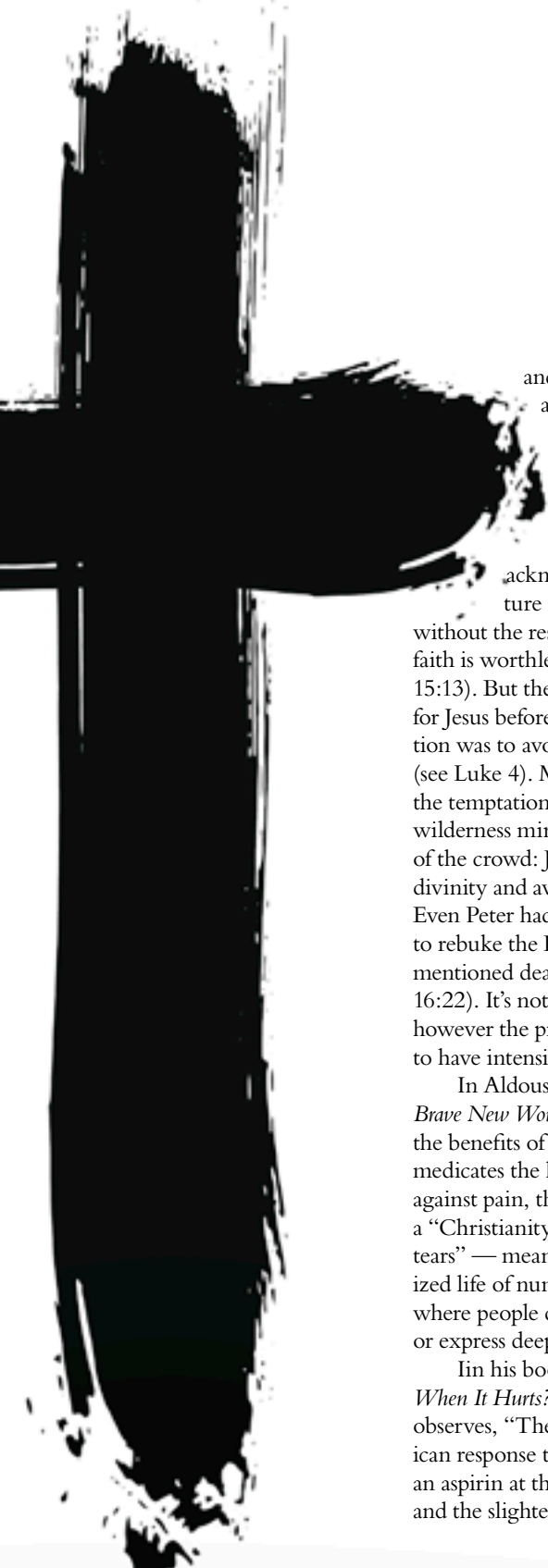
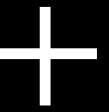
Matthew's Gospel records, "Pilate said to them, 'You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.' So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard" (Matt. 27:65-66). A systematic move by those in power to make sure hope stays dead.

While Jesus is only in the tomb for a few days, time is relative when you are grieving. How long is the day after the funeral of a loved one who dies tragically? When all the well-wishers and ceremonies are over, and you are left with only misery as your companion? A day spent without hope is a never-ending day, yet based on most church mailings around Easter season, you'd think the cross



AUTHOR

Seth Pierce



Our witness suffers when we make no room in the Christian life to acknowledge suffering. Not everyone comes to church glowing with the glory of God.

and the tomb were a breeze — what matters is the resurrection, not what happened before.

Let me acknowledge Scripture is very clear that

without the resurrection our faith is worthless (see 1 Cor. 15:13). But the temptation for Jesus before the resurrection was to avoid the cross (see Luke 4). Matter of fact, the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness mirrors the taunts of the crowd: Just demonstrate divinity and avoid dying. Even Peter had the audacity to rebuke the Lord when Jesus mentioned death (see Matt. 16:22). It's not a new problem; however the problem appears to have intensified.

In Aldous Huxley's novel *Brave New World*, Mond extols the benefits of "Soma," which medicates the human race against pain, thus creating a "Christianity without tears" — meaning a dehumanized life of numbing pleasure where people don't think, feel or express deeply.

In his book *Where Is God When It Hurts?* Philip Yancey observes, "The typical American response to pain is to take an aspirin at the slightest ache and the slightest pain" (p. 40).

Going further, he writes, "We moderns have cut ourselves off from the stream of human history, which has always accepted pain as an integral part of life" (p. 57).

We are so far removed from pain and struggle we turn crosses to chocolate. Our witness suffers when we make no room in the Christian life to acknowledge suffering. Not everyone comes to church glowing with the glory of God. Author Otis Moss says too often the world preaches a "happy Sunday" while the world experiences a "stormy Monday" (p. 4). The danger is not only diminishing the sacrificial love of Jesus, but also removing space for those who hurt. It creates an artificial heaven on Earth with no time for acknowledging grief and pain and diminishes those moments where we experience a desire for the blessed hope that will make the world better than chocolate.

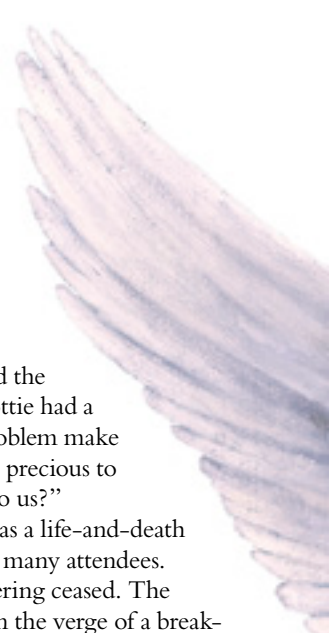
No one likes suffering — including God. Yet, the seasons

of suffering must be acknowledged. They have their own way of helping us be honest with the world and to see those who may not always have a life as easy as ours. They remind us of Christ's sacrificial — a love willing to embrace the ugly parts of existence just to have a relationship with us. And maybe by making room to acknowledge the days we feel crucified or trapped in a tomb, we can create a deeper sense of community as we uplift one another and journey together.

1. Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World* (New York: Harper, 1950).
2. Otis Moss III, *Blue Note Preaching in a Post-Soul World: Finding Hope in an Age of Despair* (Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox, 2015).
3. Philip Yancey, *Where Is God When It Hurts?* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Publishing House, 1997).

Seth Pierce, *Puyallup Church lead pastor*

MY SALVATION ARMY FUNERAL



Y

ou never know who will show up at a funeral. Men who normally didn't attend church listened as I eulogized Scottie, one of the regulars at our daily homeless ministry before he drank himself to death. His buddies were scattered throughout the Salvation Army chapel for the memorial service, along with my clergy colleagues in the community.

Scottie was of infinite value to God and to us, I explained to the group. Suddenly, Sam's drunken hollering interrupted.

"Scottie was nothing but a worthless piece of ...!" The comment was so loud it was impossible to ignore. Could it become a teaching moment?

Praying for that, I stepped around the pulpit and walked down the center aisle to where the commentator was slouched.

"Why would you say that about Scottie?" I asked Sam. His reply was even louder and more belligerent.

"Because he was nothing but a drunken son of a #\$\$%*."

Our summer intern looked at me horrified, her eyes wide with shock. Sam's brazenness caught me unprepared as well. How could God's Spirit turn this demonic distraction into an opportunity to communicate salvation in Jesus? Praying silently

Blessed are the peacemakers.

for that, I pressed on.

"Would the fact that Scottie had a drinking problem make him any less precious to God — or to us?"

That was a life-and-death question for many attendees. Their snickering ceased. The Spirit was on the verge of a breakthrough.

Sam, however, cleverly dodged my question. "I don't believe in God," he snarled.

Instantly the answer dropped onto my tongue: "Maybe you don't believe in God, Sam, but *God believes in you.*"

Sam was stunned. The grace of God hit home with him and others that day at the Salvation Army chapel. What stirred in their hearts was *shalom*.

SHALOM THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

As explored previously in this column,¹ the Hebrew word *shalom* is typically translated "peace." *Shalom* in Scripture seeks more than our own well-being and God's blessings for families and friends. *Shalom* feeds the hungry, visits the lonely and seeks social justice. *Shalom* makes us priests on Earth in the service of our great high priest, who declared, "Blessed are the *shalom*-makers, for they shall



AUTHOR

Martin Weber



The Christian church that survived the ruins of old Jerusalem has likewise failed to experience and communicate shalom.



SHALOM OF THE FINAL REMNANT

Shalom in this world and the age to come was God’s gift through Jesus for Sam, Scottie and everyone at that Salvation Army funeral. Seventh-day Adventists also need *shalom* — now more than anytime before in my lifetime of serving this church. Global Adventism is struggling with doctrinal, lifestyle, gender, racial and relational issues that threaten to divide us.

In this crisis hour, let us trust in God, not in the familiar cheap and cheery platitude: *No matter what we do, the church is going through!* “Once-saved-always-saved” denominational patriotism will not save us. What will ultimately prevail is God’s message and mission for the last days — with or without you, me, or any ordained official or institution.

God will have a final remnant who do more than merely preach God’s commandments. End-time saints will actually keep them, in the spirit of grace and truth through Jesus. “If you love Me,” He says, “you will keep my commandments.” “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you” (John 14:15;

How ironic that Jesus was despised and crucified by religious leaders from Jerusalem, purportedly the “city of *shalom*.” And except for a few fleeting months recorded in the book of Acts, the Christian church that survived the ruins of old Jerusalem has likewise failed to experience and communicate *shalom*.

Finally, in Earth’s last days, a community of priests will arise under the leadership of our great high priest in heaven’s sanctuary. This will be the long-awaited remnant of God’s saints throughout the ages. They will celebrate *shalom* and share it throughout the Earth. At last the work of God will be finished and the Great Controversy ended.

15:12). So if we don’t truly love the Sams and Scotties in our neighborhoods — or fellow church members who believe or dress or eat differently than we do — let’s not pretend to be law-abiding members in good and regular standing.

The end of all things is at hand. God’s New Jerusalem will then descend from heaven, and universal peace on Earth will reign as the Prince of *Shalom* dwells among His people forever.

1. See “After the Ordination Vote, What Now?” *Gleanernow.com*, posted Aug. 1, 2015; accessed March 31, 2017.

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

be called ‘children of God’” (Matt. 5:9).

Heaven’s Messiah is known as “Prince of *Shalom*” (Is. 9:6). On the cross, Jesus took upon Himself the punishment that brings us *shalom* with God (53:5). Such is the gospel of grace and peace with God through Jesus Christ.



JUST LIKE JESUS

SALVATION FOR DUMMIES

T

he “For Dummies” books have made a ton of money for writers and publishers. There are scores of titles, each one describing complex tasks in simple language. They’re the go-to books for those of us who get lost in the 12-page/five-language directions that come with our new purchases.

God’s looking for folks who want to be with Him more than anything else.

Plumbing. Learning Spanish verbs. Doing taxes. Beekeeping. List any subject, and Dummies.com probably has a book for it. There’s even a *Revelation for Dummies!*

However, when I did not find one covering salvation, that set me to writing.

Introduction: This book is for people who would rather look forward to eternity with a caring God in the happiness of heaven rather than living (and then dying) on Earth without hope of something better. It’s also for those who find

“theology” unwieldy and bewildering.

Page 1: The Bible’s most popular salvation words are found in the third chapter of a book written by one of Jesus’ best friends, Fisherman John. He heard Jesus say this to a temple spy:

“God loves you so much that He asked me to come to earth, find you, love you without limits, so that you fall in love with us, and then make sure to get you to your room in our heavenly home — rather than just staying down here and dying forever.” (See John 3.)

Page 17: “There is nothing you can do that will in any way add anything to what God has already done for you.” (Edward Heppenstahl, 1969)

Page 21: You will be tempted (by the devil/Lucifer/his minions) to try to do stuff so God will love you more or at least be awed with your holiness. Don’t fall for his scam. Instead, “Since you have given up on yourself and allowed God to take full control of your life [Christians call this being ‘born again’], focus your mind on God’s heavenly home, rather than on the dusty trash of Earth. And, because salvation takes a ‘whole life’ commitment, focus your heart up there also. With your thoughts (mind) and emotions (heart) connected to God’s power, you’ll become like Him, (changed from the inside out.” (See Colossians 3.)

Page 35: One of the Bible writers, Paul, a man who knew what it was like to

be changed from a murderer to a lover, dictated God’s “salvation formula” in a letter to some friends. The letter is still around: “God’s looking for folks who want to be with Him more than anything else. When He finds them, He lifts them up and shouts to everyone in the universe, ‘Hey, look at Fred and Mary. See the way they live, so kind and loving! They live like this because my Son, Jesus, has graciously forgiven them and filled them with our love!’” (See Ephesians 2.)

Then Prisoner Paul adds, “Remember, salvation is only available to those who trust God to do the saving. If you could do anything to get yourself to heaven, you’d go around boasting about your ‘good works’ rather than remembering that *He’s the only reason* you can be saved” (emphasis added).

Last Page: There’s lots more, but it’s all the same. Salvation’s something God does, for free, for anyone (including you) if you ask.

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



AUTHOR

Dick Duerksen

From last month’s column: What page of the Bible did Eduardo share with his friend? John 14 and 15.



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