

EDITORIAL
HOME

PERSPECTIVE
OH, THE HUMANITY!

LET'S TALK
GIFT

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NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

everyone

KNOWS
ONE



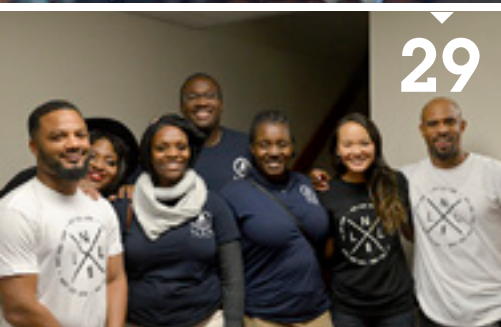
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2016
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**"Glory to God in the highest
heaven, and on earth peace to
those on whom his favor rests."**

Luke 2:14

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION



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“Early Winter”
in Snoqualmie Pass, Wash.,
by Ulrich K. Tutsch,
of Tacoma, Wash.

gleaner

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Home

Over the river and through the woods, the holiday rush is on. In the midst of shopping-mall crowds, jam-packed airports and bumper-to-bumper traffic, many look forward to one thing: going home for Christmas.

The song “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” was first made popular by crooner Bing Crosby and released in 1943 during the height of World War II. It captured the longing heart of the soldier to be beyond the fray, back home, warm, and safe from harm or danger.

This is not a new phenomenon. It springs from a seed planted at the beginning of humankind. Adam and Eve felt this urgency of togetherness as the Creator eagerly sought them out to walk together throughout the garden in the cool of the evening. And when sin pierced that perfect picture, it not only brought death and disease but suspicion and separation.

Left to themselves, the children of the garden would have drifted from all memory of the place where trust is treasured and relationships

rejoice. But deep in the heart of heaven, the divine Shepherd initiated a plan to seek out His wandering sheep. In the fullness of time, Immanuel stepped over the edge of space and became God with us. He took the initiative, paid the price and began the godly work of restoring the connection between heaven and earth.

His divine intervention renews the divine spark that first placed the concept of “home” in our consciousness. What sin has displaced, heaven has replaced. Our commemoration of the incarnation can never be summed up in a pretty picture or cute concept. Like the eternal paradigm shift of Easter, it is an anchor point, an “Ebenezer” spot in each year that reminds us of our Father’s initiative and His love.

This vertical reminder also has a horizontal mandate, especially in the midst of our country’s political morass. Where disagreements or discord have damaged, where difficulties or disease have distracted, we can take the initiative in restoring disconnected relationships. No one truly feels at home unless peace on earth and goodwill moves beyond the catchy card or carol into the very fabric of life.

Yet home is more than what we can ever presently experience. Its meaning is more than that woven into a Bing Crosby melody. Engrained in our DNA is a vestige of truth that this world is not our home. This truth is what draws us to the central message of our faith. The Creator God came to bring us the keys to His home, so that where He is, there we may be always — finally home forever.



*Merry Christmas from the
Gleaner staff: Anthony White,
Desiree Lockwood and
Steve Vistaunet.*

gleanerweekly⁺

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RAENA BAHNSEN

KAREN MURCIA

everyone

KNOWS ONE



There is someone everyone in your church knows. Not the pastor, not the secretary, not the piano player, not even the church gossip. Everyone in your church knows someone who no longer attends church.

by GENE HEINRICH



Recently I asked a room filled with more than 300 church leaders to stand if they had a child or knew someone with a child who had given up on church. There wasn't a single person sitting down.

As a pastor, but more importantly as a father, I am very interested in the church's ability to keep young adults engaged in a relationship with Jesus Christ and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In my immediate family, I'm a third-generation Seventh-day Adventist. I was also the first to leave the church. I believed in what my church taught. I even believed my church needed me. So why did I leave?

I believe I left for the same reason many if not most teenagers and young adults leave the church. You might be surprised to find out this is actually the same reason many of your church members stay in the church. Selfishness.

That is right; I am selfish. I wanted to get something out of my participation in the church. As a teenager I was surely getting something out of being a junior deacon and out of my performance of special music on a regular basis. I was getting something out of Sabbath School, and I know for sure I was getting something out of potluck.

However, I wasn't getting what I wanted most at the time. In fact, if you would have asked me, I think I would have said the church did not have anything to offer me, at least not anything of current value to an 18-year-old. So I left.

I left because I was selfish. And guess what? Many of the people sitting in church pews and padded chairs today are there for the same reason — because there is something in it for them. Is that bad? I do not think so. After all, doesn't God want us to get something out of our membership in the body of Christ? Your selfishness may be keeping you in the church, while for many young adults it is leading them away from church.

I disengaged with the church gradually between the ages of 16 and 18. Then for the next 10 or 12 years, I lived what I thought was a pretty good life. I was happy, healthy and successful. I was living the American dream. Yet all the while my family was praying for me because, as happy, healthy and successful as I was, I was lost.

PRAYERS ARE NOT ENOUGH

Many people with young adult children are praying that they will re-engage with the church just as I have. Unfortunately, I must warn you. Your prayers are not enough.

Yes, my family's prayers were enough to eventually get me to step through the doors of the church, so don't stop praying. However, their prayers were not enough to keep me in church, and your prayers are not going to be enough to keep your young adults in church if they come back.

Why? Because just like you, just like me and just like every other human being, our children are selfish. Your prayers may get your children back to the doors of the church, but it will not get them re-engaged with the church. What will it take? It will take someone in the church they visit making sacrificial investments in their lives. Now there is something new to pray for.

People come back to church because they have a need, even if they do not realize it. For people to become engaged in the body of Christ, church people must sacrificially invest in their lives and meet their needs. At least that is how it worked for me.

The Holy Spirit led me to an Adventist television ministry, and there I discovered my deepest need. That realization took me to the doors of the Little Rock Adventist Church in Arkansas on the second Sabbath of February 1999.

Over the course of the previous 10 years, I had walked through the doors of a few Adventist churches. However, this time it was different. The investments of the people in the Little Rock Church kept me coming back, engaged me, and eventually led my wife and me to surrender our lives to Jesus.

They invited us into their homes for meals, took risks and got to know us. Almost instantly people made room for us at their family events, set aside their personal agendas and even sacrificed some of their traditions — they were loving us into their church.

Because of their sacrificial investment in my life, three years later, I walked away from a multimillion-dollar business opportunity (and virtually every other material possession I owned) to enroll in the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. Don't stop praying for the wanderers!

IT TAKES A SACRIFICIAL INVESTMENT

We cannot stop praying for all the people who have walked away from the church, but it is going to take more than our prayers to engage them in the life of the church and a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. It is going to take someone making sacrificial investments in their lives.

If the salvation of the lost is truly a priority of the church, we must change our culture and our attitude toward the wanderer — especially when it comes to young adults. It is going to take members in every church sacrificially investing in the lives of others if we are to engage them in the life of the church and more importantly a relationship with Jesus Christ.

A sacrificial investment means we are going to have to give something up. What are we willing to sacrifice to see your children develop a saving relationship with Jesus and His church? What are we willing to sacrifice to see our children maintain a saving relationship with Jesus and His church? What are we willing to sacrifice to see our friends and neighbors develop a saving relationship with Jesus and His church?

In Acts 15:19, during the Jerusalem Council, the leaders of the early church determined they would not let anything of human contriving stand between the lost and the Savior or His church. They were willing to do whatever was necessary to break down barriers so people could connect and engage. They set aside traditions and agreed to take risks and make sacrificial investments in people's lives — even for people who looked, thought and acted differently.

As you consider the people you know who have walked away consider this: Is there any tradition too important, any sacrifice too great, that you would hold onto them at the cost of someone else's salvation?

The only way we are going to turn the tide of young adults (and not-so-young adults) leaving the church is by making sacrifices. If we are going to re-engage missing members and keep our children engaged into their young adult years and beyond we are going to have to sacrificially invest in their lives. This will cost us something. The price could be high. It may even cost us some of the things we selfishly think have to be our way when it comes to how we do church. It will be costly, but is any cost too high?

IMAGINE WHAT COULD HAPPEN

We may have to do some things that are uncomfortable. We may have to give up some human traditions, even some things we think are sacred. But imagine with me for just a moment. ...

Imagine the smile it will put on Jesus' face to see you and me, people Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for, demonstrating a willingness to sacrifice of ourselves and our traditions for the salvation of others.

Imagine what could happen, what will happen, when we begin to make decisions that make it easier for young adults, for our children, for the lost, to engage, stay engaged or re-engage with our churches. Imagine us being willing to sacrificially invest in making our churches safe places for young adults to fully participate in the body of Christ.

Imagine the difference it will make in heaven when your children, my children, your friends and neighbors come up to you and say thank you! Thank you for sacrificially investing in my life. Thank you for sacrificially giving up your traditions to create a church we could call "ours." Thank you for sacrificially giving of yourself to create a church we were able to invite our friends and family to call home.

Imagine what heaven will be like if we determine to do that. Imagine what heaven will be like if we don't!

Gene Heinrich, lead pastor of Rockwood Church in Portland, Ore.

If the salvation of the lost is truly a priority of the church, we must change our culture and our attitude toward the wanderer – especially when it comes to young adults.

Gene Heinrich chairs an ad hoc committee for the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) on the topic of member re-engagement. The committee hopes to report findings and recommendations to the NPUC executive committee in the spring of 2017.

UN SUEÑO HECHO REALIDAD



Nuevo templo en Eugene, Oregon.

La Iglesia Hispana de Eugene se plantó hace 30 años. Y aunque durante todo éste tiempo el Señor ha dirigido y sostenido su iglesia en la obra de testificar y proclamar el evangelio en éste lugar, los hermanos se encontraron con el desafío de que durante estos largos años, la iglesia tuvo que ser cambiada de un lugar a otro, lo que trajo como consecuencia pérdida de miembros en cada movimiento debido a la inestabilidad y falta de residencia permanente.

El sueño de los hermanos de la Iglesia de Eugene era muy sencillo y claro a la vez, “Queremos un lugar permanente y digno para adorar a nuestro Dios.”

Con la Iniciativa “Juntos Podemos,” todas las iglesias hispanas de la conferencia de

Oregon, la Administración, el Departamento Hispano y la NPUC, sumamos esfuerzos en el Campesre 2016 con un gesto conmovedor de unidad para entregar ofrendas de amor y sacrificio dirigidas al proyecto de proveer un templo a los hermanos de Eugene.

El sueño se hizo realidad el pasado 30 de septiembre, cuando junto con su pastor, los hermanos de la iglesia recibieron las llaves de su templo, al que inmediatamente empezaron a embellecer para el Señor.

A través de éste espacio, además de dar gloria a Dios, expresamos nuestro más profundo agradecimiento a todos los hermanos que participaron para que este

sueño se hiciera realidad, a nuestra unión, a los líderes de la Conferencia de Oregon y por supuesto al Pastor David Verastegui, quien estuvo dispuesto a soñar y a trabajar arduamente con nuestros hermanos. El espíritu de los hermanos en Eugene al ser beneficiarios de ésta Iniciativa es: ¡Vamos por el que sigue! Esperamos juntos seguir soñando y trabajando para que cada iglesia tenga su templo.

Vale la pena decir que con la Iniciativa Juntos Podemos, no sólo se ha logrado adquirir dos templos Hispanos en la Conferencia de Oregon en 3 años, sino que se ha logrado

despertar un espíritu de unidad y propósito en la comunidad hispana. Es muy inspirador y conmovedor ver como las iglesias grandes y pequeñas, con dinero y sin dinero, se unen para realizar el sueño de una iglesia hermana y así despertar en las iglesias que aún no tienen su edificio, la posibilidad de también soñar.

Ésta es la dirección de nuestra iglesia de Eugene: 3455 County Farm Rd., Eugene, OR 97408.

Será un placer que nos visiten.

Maricela Paczka, coordinadora asistente en la Conferencia de Oregon

Los hermanos de la Iglesia Hispana de Eugene.



ANCHORAGE JUNIOR ACADEMY FOSTERS STUDENT REFLECTIONS

David Shin, pastor of the Hillside O'Malley Church in Anchorage, shared thoughts about eternal life with Anchorage Junior Academy for its fall week of prayer. He carefully contrasted the extreme difference between living for a lifetime on this earth and living forever.

"It's like a penny versus a million dollars," Shin suggested. "Which one would you choose?"

He further questioned, "Which resurrection do you want to wake up at? The one with Hitler, Satan, and all the other mean and evil people or the one with Jesus and all those who are good?"

That same week, the world history students in grades five through eight were learning about the American judicial system in preparation for a tour to the Anchorage courthouse. After learning about civil and criminal courts, they wrote essays on one question: "If you were to offer advice to the president of the United States for a plan to have the country crime-free by the year 2050, what would it include?"

One student, Roland, wrote, "I would tell criminals to stop because they're doing wrong. People should quit doing crime because they go to prison and even die for eternity. Also, we should help them to learn about the Lord

and do the right thing, so when we all wake up at the Second Coming, we'll be on the

side of the Lord, not after the thousand years!"

Other students made practical suggestions. Nayelis suggested getting rid of drugs and making sure everyone is employed and has insurance. To help the hungry who are tempted to steal, Elysha commented that prices should be lower.

Trace wants poverty to be eradicated and more programs to help the mentally ill. Whitney and Nikolai feel that "bad people" should be isolated to one part of the country or an uninhabited island where they have to work and can't bother the rest of the citizens.

Most of the students concluded Jesus is the answer. Sumin and Eugene want the judges to pray in the courtrooms. "Give all the prisoners Bibles," Michael and James suggested. Jasminne wants to tell the president, "Jesus would not kill the prisoners. He would try to save them."

Members of the Anchorage Northside congregation, Alex and Nadia, remarked we need to feed and clothe the homeless and

criminals and invite them to church. One student wants to give the GLOW (Giving Light to Our World) tracts to the president.

Haley wrote, "I think what we really can do about this is pray and have faith that God will change murderers' and thieves' hearts. People usually do crime because of anger or hatred. I think we should listen and find out why they rob or kill and try to fix it."

Christian education is fostering these reflections. During week of prayer, pastors inspire decisions. Even the judge at the courthouse impacted the students' understanding of justice and living by the law.

Daily, students are growing in faith and understanding of how to make their lives right with God in Bible and other classes. Now, they are applying this knowledge to solving society's problems. The children are putting the pieces together and preparing to serve. Praise God for a Christian school and churches in Anchorage that are active in prison ministry, food banks and the Discover Bible School.

Janice Enquist, Anchorage Junior Academy teachers aide



Anchorage Junior Academy students visit a local courthouse.



Anchorage Junior Academy students visit Judge J. Patrick Hanley's courtroom to aid their understanding of justice and living by the law.

ANCHORAGE MEMBERS BEGIN NEWSTART

The Hillside-O'Malley Church health ministry greatly appreciated Paul Volk's willingness to present a three-day NEWSTART (Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunshine, Temperance, Air,

educator, along with Dave Hall, founder of the Center for Cellular Health, shared their enduring passion for the gospel of Jesus Christ and the value of a healthy lifestyle. Volk inspired confidence in God's willingness to instill the principles of healthy living into our lives daily. Volk reminded attendees physical health impacts every facet of life. Everyone is responsible for making healthy choices.

Dozens signed up for a two-week challenge of spending time alone in Bible study and prayer daily. Others signed up to "tithe" their time alone with God during the two-week period by pledging to spend 144 minutes (10 percent of 24 hours) with Him.

After the seminar, attendee Tony Pouesi told Volk, "I just wanted to thank you for your seminar. It was brilliant and a huge blessing to me."

Nafeesa Abdel-Aziz, Hillside-O'Malley Church health ministry coordinator

Presenters (from left) Dave Hall and Paul Volk serve a meal to NEWSTART attendees.

Rest and Trust) Plus health seminar this fall. The biblically based seminar included study, cooking demonstrations and practical applications. Members from the Hillside-O'Malley, Northside and Eagle River churches gathered to hear ways to improve both their physical and spiritual health.

Volk, an ordained elder and international health

Anchorage Church members gather to learn more about a healthy lifestyle.



Attendees from around the state, including from Palmer, Anchorage, Selawik, Bethel and Togiak, gather to learn more on effective Native outreach.

More online at glnr.in/111-12-ak_native

ALASKA HOLDS NATIVE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Alaska Native Adventists gathered Oct. 7-9 at the Alaska Conference headquarters in Anchorage for the first of what is planned to be a semiannual meeting with the goal of establishing and empowering Alaska Native people in church leadership. Attendees came from St. Lawrence Island, Selawik, Dillingham, Togiak, Mekoryuk, Bethel and the Interior.

After more than 100 years of Adventist presence in the state, a definitive plan to train, mentor and empower Native people to leadership in the local church has eluded the church. Contributing to this context are the results of the limited training of non-Native volunteers who have staffed remote village locations, the lack of continuity in staffing, the short tenure of conference leadership in the past and overall funding to address such a need.

However, more than a decade of committed, long-term conference administration has been a boon not only to the work for Native people but for the conference as a whole.

One goal of this more

intentional approach is to not only train and empower Native people in church leadership, but to educate and train non-Native volunteer staff to implement this same concept in their own villages

The workshop covered topics like giving Bible studies, Bible study resources, dealing with problem people, working with conference leadership and helpful insights on leading worship. Presenters included Monte Church, North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) Native ministries coordinator; Steve Huey, NPUC Native ministries assistant; Melvin Geyschick, Bible worker from Plummer, Idaho; Joe Chythlook, Native leader from Dillingham; Kevin Miller, Alaska Conference president; Quentin Purvis, Alaska Conference secretary; and Jim Jensen, Alaska Conference treasurer.

The participants seemed thankful for this new direction to help strengthen God's kingdom.

Jim Kincaid, Alaska Native ministries director



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADERS LEARN TO EMPOWER YOUNG HEROES

More photos online at glnr.in/111-12-id_children



Children's ministries leaders in the Idaho Conference came for a weekend of learning to "Empower Our Young Heroes" in early October. Gem State Adventist Academy in Caldwell played host to the group, providing meeting space, lodging and meals.

taught in Spanish. Between 20 and 30 church leaders participated at various times in the weekend training, which began on Friday evening and finished on Sunday morning with a graduation ceremony and presentation of certificates. Attendees were able to complete the first track, Understanding Children, in the NAD Children's Ministries Certification.

The courses included Understanding 21st-Century Children, Learning Styles (which covered the four different ways children learn), Understanding Child Development, and Faith Development and Life Stages. Saturday night's activity was a superhero party, complete with costumes and crafts. Leaders learned new crafts and new ways to use crafts in their teaching.

Pam Day, primary Sabbath School leader at the Nampa (Idaho) Church, posted about the event on her Facebook page: "Had a wonderful learning time at the Idaho Conference children's ministry workshop this weekend. Completed track one of eight tracks where you can be certified in children's ministry. Got to experience an amazing lunch at Gem State



JASON WILLIAMS

Coming to a Sabbath School, Vacation Bible School and Adventurer Club near you: super leaders.



JASON WILLIAMS

The Spanish language track draws many leaders from the churches in Idaho's Treasure Valley.

The conference covered the cost of the weekend, including lodging and meals. Providing this opportunity is part of a vision of creating "a cutting-edge, equipping, lay-driven conference that is growing in personal spirituality and soul-winning."

The North American Division (NAD) sent four individuals: Robin Galgon and Rocio Rojas, who provided the training in English, and Justo and Rosa Morales, who

Adventist Academy with their new professional chef that is now at the academy! What a wonderful blessing. Got some good information that I can use in my primary class."

"This post from Pam is the reason we provide training for our members," says David Prest Jr., Idaho Conference president. "Leading and teaching our children is one of the greatest jobs in the church.

In nominating committee meetings, what if, instead of filling the offices of elders and deacons and other adult ministries first, we consider filling our children's Sabbath Schools, Vacation Bible School, Pathfinders and Adventurer positions with the cream of the crop?"

Eve Rusk, Idaho Conference communication director

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MONTANA MEN GATHER FOR FELLOWSHIP, RENEWAL

Men's Summit 2016 was a tremendous opportunity for men from all across Montana to get together for fellowship, prayer and spiritual renewal. Featured speaker Lincoln Steed, *Liberty* magazine editor, shared many stories and experiences from around the world about what religious freedom really means and how it has impacted and continues to impact thousands of lives every day.

Throughout the three-day event, a group of talented musicians led inspirational music, some of which they wrote and composed.

The Men's Summit is looking for those who would join the leadership team in planning like events in the future. In addition, ideas for improvement or suggestions for future potential men's



ministry venues and formats can be sent to Steve Schwab, Men's Summit leader, or Barry Taylor, Montana Conference church ministries director.

Barry Taylor, Montana Conference ministerial director



MONTANA CONFERENCE CONVOCATION EXPLORES CHURCH TRANSFORMATION

This year's annual Montana Conference Convocation was held on Sabbath, Oct. 1, at the Great Falls Church. Attendees from at least seven church districts were represented.

The theme for the weekend was mission-driven: "Keys to Church Transformation." Paul and Lenore Brantley led with powerful examples of how churches can be light and salt, pervading and influencing the world around them.

Significant time was spent in the afternoon with church members gathered in groups to discuss the topic of mission and what that might look like in the context of their various church settings and communities.

What would happen if every church in the Montana Conference rediscovered the tremendous mission in which we are so privileged to participate? God's church has a mission: "But you are a chosen generation ... that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:10, NKJV). With prayerful intention, planning and purpose we are called; "We must live a twofold life — a life of thought and action, of silent prayer and earnest work" (*Ministry of Healing*, p. 512).

Is God about to do a new thing in and through His people here in Montana?

Barry Taylor

HAVRE CELEBRATES BAPTISM



Sara Damson commits her life to Jesus through baptism.

It was party time again in heaven and Havre on Sept. 3 when Sara Damson made public her commitment to Jesus.

Damson had been invited to attend church and church functions by her friend, Sheila Forshee. Damson eventually requested Bible studies from Norman Johnson, Havre Church pastor, and his wife, Dawn.

After studying for some time,

Damson requested baptism. She shared with the congregation recent answers to prayer that further convinced her God has a plan for her and is personally interested in her life and future. The Havre Church members are thrilled to add a new member to their family.

Leo Beardsley, Havre Church communication leader

MILO OPENS NEW SCREEN PRINTING INDUSTRY

Having spent years as a business owner before entering the field of education, Randy Thornton, principal of Milo Adventist Academy in Days Creek, always has an eye out for opportunities that can provide additional campus jobs for students to help finance their tuition.

When a Christian screen printer in Grants Pass, Ore., had screen-printing equipment for sale, Thornton immediately



saw the possibilities. He says, “We spend \$5,000–6,000 in screen printing every year, and I thought we could pay for the equipment in less than two years, just based on our business alone.”

Principal Randy Thornton prints T-shirts for the Pathfinder camporee.



The screen printer who sold the equipment also taught Milo staff the screen-printing process and provided valuable support to get the business up and running.

Thornton reports that, in addition to providing student labor, the new screen-printing business is supporting the needs of Pathfinder clubs, churches, schools and community groups. Milo Screen Printing has completed dozens of jobs with hundreds of T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, jackets, sweatpants and even blankets.

Milo Screen Printing manager Ashley Birth says she has really enjoyed learning the screen-printing process and working with all the different churches and schools on their projects.

For more information about Milo’s screen-printing services, contact screen.printing@miloacademy.org.

Kathy Hernandez, Milo Adventist Academy teacher and recruiter



More online at glnr.in/111-12-or_deaf

MILO HOSTS WESTERN DEAF CAMP MEETING

The annual Western Deaf Camp Meeting was held at Milo Adventist Academy in Days Creek July 10–17. This camp meeting (all done in American Sign Language) is completely organized and run by deaf Adventists in the Portland area. Deaf members from North Pacific Union and all across the United States attend with family and friends.

The days are full with wonderful presenters (most of whom are deaf), Bible study, rafting, crafting, hiking, swimming and volleyball games.

The Holy Spirit never seems closer and more powerful than during the Lord’s Supper on Friday evening. It’s not often that deaf people get to participate in this way.

Francie Naiman from Portland was baptized. She is a Jew who fellowshiped with deaf Adventists from the Tabernacle Church in Portland for a while. She appreciated greatly Sabbath worship services but was not a believer in Jesus as the Messiah.

Robert Fishbein, a deaf member and half-Jewish



himself, shared with Naiman why he came to accept Jesus as his Savior. After studying with him and George Belsler (a former stipend pastor for the deaf), Naiman decided to accept Jesus as her personal Savior and was baptized.

The Seventh-day Interpreters Workshop was held simultaneously. Their sessions were held separately but frequently joined the camp meeting attendees for activities, meals and Sabbath meetings.

Plans are being laid for next year’s 40-year anniversary camp meeting, which will again be in July at Milo. Growing together in Jesus over the last 39 years has been filled with fond memories as many people were brought into a closer walk with God.

Esther Doss, North American Division deaf ministries coordinator



Columbia Adventist Academy photography students (from left) Katherine Mei, Ruby Kang, Hao Yang and Melanie Quinones meet with Paralympian Will Groulx.

CAA PHOTOGRAPHY STUDENTS WELCOME PARALYMPIAN

Photography students at Columbia Adventist Academy (CAA) in Battle Ground, Wash., joined a crowd of friends, family and news cameramen at Portland International Airport to welcome Paralympic medalist Will Groulx home to Portland. Groulx returned from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Sept. 21 with two silver medals in individual and U.S. team trial events in cycling, plus a gold medal in the road race.

The students and their teacher, Larry Hiday, were invited to attend by Craig Blanchette, a bronze medalist from the 1988 Paralympics in Seoul, Korea, and a good friend of Hiday's.

While waiting for Groulx's plane, students had

the chance to photograph the news cameramen and talk with Blanchette. When Groulx arrived, students enjoyed meeting him and seeing his medals.

Paralyzed from the chest down after a motorcycle accident in 2001 that ended his Navy career, Groulx has been on the U.S. Paralympic team three times for rugby, became the 2016 national and world road hand-cycling champion, and won the U.S. Paralympics Trials road cycling qualifier.

CAA hopes to be able to bring Groulx to campus to share with students his story of overcoming difficulty and remaining positive through challenges and changes.

Stacy Knight

CAA SAYS 'YES'

Thirty girls sat in small groups around tables, laughing, talking and doodling during the YES Project at Columbia Adventist Academy (CAA) in Battle Ground, Wash. The project, funded by a North Pacific Union Conference Don Keele Award, aimed at helping students see God's role in their relationships.

Wanting to offer something different from the usual "don't" messages teenagers hear regarding relationships, staff worked to plan out a weekend devoted to saying "yes" — yes to God's plan, yes to forgiveness, yes to their own self-worth.

"At the YES project, we wanted to talk about relationships and making good choices, despite the cultural pressures that surround us, realizing that saying no to these pressures is really saying 'yes' to God's plan for our lives," says Aimee Johnson, one of the lead staff involved in the planning.

The program replaced Friday morning classes and

concluded Sabbath afternoon. The girls met off campus for small-group sessions, whole-group sessions and video presentations. They also enjoyed some pampering and playing — and plenty of good food. "It was nice to come together as one with all the girls," shares CAA junior Rachael Reed.

Meanwhile, the boys remained on campus for team-building activities and inspirational talks from Chuck Hagele, the executive director of Project Patch, a program for at-risk youth. "Having to work together helped me realize I don't have to face problems alone," says Quinlan Boney, a CAA junior.

Students and staff alike enjoyed the chance for an open dialogue. "I learned more about God and myself," says sophomore Macey Pearson. "I'm glad I have amazing staff who care enough to put on this project for us students."

Stacy Knight, Columbia Adventist Academy Gleaner correspondent

CAA girls enjoy time together on Sabbath afternoon during the YES Project.



More photos online at
glnr.in/111-12-or_grantspass

GRANTS PASS MEMBERS FOLLOW ROAD TO 'UNLOCK REVELATION'

Following months of preparation by multiple churches in Southern Oregon, the Unlock Revelation series began as planned Oct. 3 at the Grants Pass Church. God's message was delivered despite some minor setbacks. Clogged toilets and illness created disruption, but the seminars proceeded uninterrupted.

The road to the Unlock Revelation Bible prophecy series began in the early months of 2016. In March, members attended a two-day Harvest Is Great Lay-Bible Worker Training at the Grants Pass Church. Then they went to homes in the community, touching lives and hearts of people who requested a free DVD. The

timing of these studies directly led into Unlock Revelation.

Cheri Peters returned to Grants Pass in May, sharing her testimony of being a "Miracle From the Streets." She also provided training in preparation for a Celebrate Life in Recovery program, which launched in June and ended

Charles Byrd leads "Thunder in the Holy Land" training at the Grants Pass Church.



in September. Graduates were invited to Unlock Revelation.

The church participated in the second annual Healthy Food Festival on Sept. 17 at the Josephine County Fairgrounds with cooking demonstrations, whole-plant foods, free literature and invitations to the upcoming Unlock Revelation series.

A few days before Unlock Revelation, the Grants Pass Church hosted a special weekend. First was Dinner With the Doctor, during which valuable health information was provided while enjoying a healthy dinner. The weekend continued with a free concert provided

by the Fountainview Academy Orchestra and Singers.

The highlight of this weekend was the Health Expo at the Josephine County Fairgrounds. About eight different booths provided health information. About 80 people received free health assessments and screenings.

As Unlock Revelation began, many in attendance were not regular church attendees. The Grants Pass Church is realizing that success in public evangelism is in proportion to the time invested in both friendship evangelism and community services.

As a result, Revelation's end-time message is being shared with an enthusiastic group. One Unlock Revelation attendee from the Grants Pass community recently shared, "[Unlock Revelation] has taught me and changed my life in a very short amount of time."

Jennifer Burkes, Grants Pass Church communication leader

THREE SISTERS SCHOOL HELPS LOCAL FOOD BANK

The first through fourth grades from Three Sisters Adventist Christian School (TSACS) in Bend visited Neighbor Impact, a community service organization in Redmond, on Friday, Sept. 30.

Students helped with a garden project that provides fresh food choices for families in the community. The students picked chard, carrots and radishes; planted garlic; and weeded the garden. Students

also toured the warehouse and learned how food boxes are packed and supplies given out.

Fifth- through eighth-grade students took a turn at Neighbor Impact on Oct. 29 to help pack food boxes for distribution. TSACS students are collecting canned and nonperishable food items for the food boxes as well.

Lorene Ferguson, Redmond Church communication leader



More photos online at
glnr.in/111-12-or_3sisters

PAA SCHOLARSHIP BRINGS STUDENT TO SAFETY

During the recession, we lost our home,” says Sharon,* mother of a Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) student. “We had to move, and my son Tim* had to attend new schools. It was hard on him. He lost confidence. He was bullied, and he came home discouraged nearly every day.”

Sharon looked for ways to help Tim. They eventually found a community in an Adventist church, and Tim was welcomed as a friend. “Church friends seemed to make a difference for him,” Sharon explains.

The years went on, and eventually Tim was at a public high school with more than 3,000 students. “I had friends there, but they weren’t like my church friends,” says Tim. “I didn’t feel comfortable, and I wanted a different life.”

Family friends from church encouraged Sharon and Tim to visit PAA for an open house. “After I visited PAA, I didn’t ever want to go back to my old school,” Tim says.

“Tim became persistent about attending PAA,” recalls Sharon. “But it was impossible for me to afford tuition. And because I didn’t want to dis-appoint Tim, I told him if he wanted it so bad, he needed to pray about it and take the steps to make it happen.”

Normally shy and reserved, Tim mustered the courage to call PAA.

“I was a little surprised,” says Jason Bibb, PAA’s vice principal of finance. “I’ve never had a student call me to ask how he could become a student. I could tell he really wanted to be here. I knew we had to find a way to make it happen.”

Just days before school started, Sharon found herself in Bibb’s office shedding tears of gratitude. Through the

compounding gifts of their Adventist church family’s tuition support, the Oregon Conference’s Every Child Deserves to Know Christ Scholarship and the Portland Adventist Academy Student Scholarship (PAASS), Tim would attend PAA.

“Being at PAA is so different,” says Tim, now a junior. “It’s just out of the park for me. Honestly, it’s been hard to get used to because I never knew the world was like this. People are so nice. Right off the bat, I made friends. And I’ve realized that being around people who are nice all the time inspires me to be better.”

“It’s a miracle to me,” says Sharon. “He comes home more confident, outgoing and positive.”

Tim is one of 99 PAA students who attend PAA because of

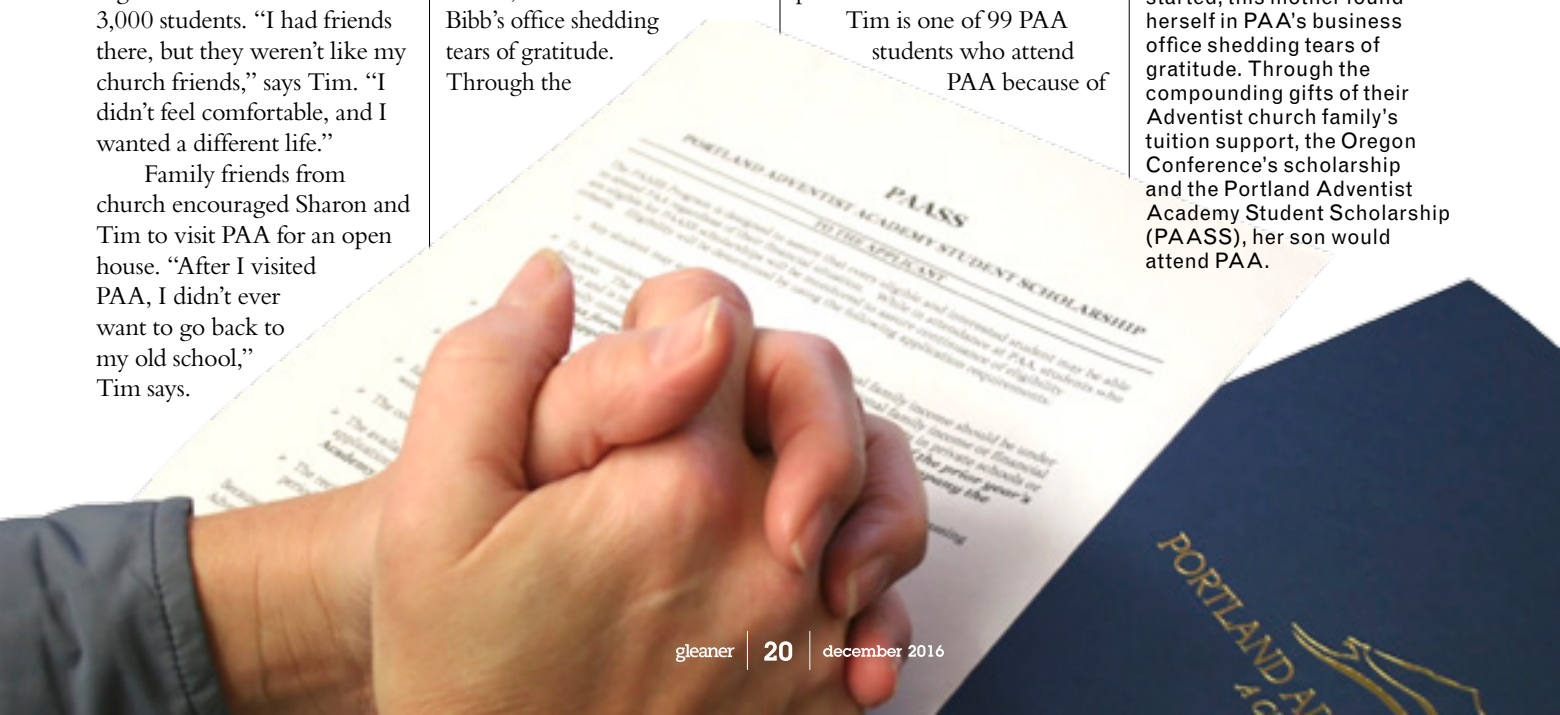
tuition-supporting scholarships like PAASS. Lives are changing because of the people who want to make miracles happen for students like Tim and parents like Sharon.

Sharon sheds tears as she expresses her thanks to those who support Adventist education. “God is working through you to bring students to a safe place where they can be supported in their faith and love of Jesus.”

*Names have been changed to support privacy.

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA Gleaner correspondent

Just days before school started, this mother found herself in PAA’s business office shedding tears of gratitude. Through the compounding gifts of their Adventist church family’s tuition support, the Oregon Conference’s scholarship and the Portland Adventist Academy Student Scholarship (PAASS), her son would attend PAA.





COMING SOON: GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP

Coming up spring break 2017 is our annual UCC Youth Mission Trip to San Luis, Guatemala. We will be traveling down for about two weeks to witness to the people of a small village nearby by building a church, spending time with the children by putting on a Vacation Bible School program and visiting the other churches built on previous mission trips.

Sabbath will be an especially blessed day as we will be consecrating the church we will have built. This is a wonderful opportunity for all who join us to see another culture and grow in Christ as well as provide for a need that the people have. We look forward to the time we will have to spend with the young people who join us, and we are eager to go and serve those who we can help.

This is a tremendous opportunity for young people who are interested in serving, as well as anyone who wants to support them and this ministry. There are a few ways you can support us on this trip.

The first is to pray. We ask that you pray for the people of Guatemala who we are going to serve and for all those who are going, that they would have their hearts and minds open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. There is no work we can do on this earth without the intervention of the Holy Spirit; God alone can change the hearts of men. It is our privilege to be a part of that process.

The second way that you can help is to give your financial support to an individual you know who is going along on the trip. If you do not know anyone in particular, we would still greatly appreciate your

support. It costs \$1,900 for each person going on this trip, and most of the people going have to raise much or all of these funds. We appreciate any financial help you can give us as a whole or to an individual member of the team.

If you would like to donate, you can find the information you need online at

uccsda.org/Guatemala, or call the UCC Youth department at 509-242-0506.

Thank you for your prayers and support as we continue in the service of our Lord.

Justin Walker, UCC youth department taskforce worker

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CAMP MIVODEN IMPACTS CAMPERS, STAFF

Read more online at
glnr.in/111-12-uc_camp



Camp MiVoden in Hayden, Idaho, has an impact on staff and campers for Christ all summer. This year's theme, "Made for More," was chosen to help all find or rediscover that God has made each of us for a special purpose.

Darin Headley, a staff member, was baptized during staff training week. A former camper himself, he met God at camp and felt His acceptance, so he decided to give his life to Christ. He wanted to begin his summer with the ultimate



Alyssa Davidson, Isaac Farnsworth, Katie Kazanis, Marilyn Kriger, Teague Lowe and Alexandria Mors are baptized during Teen Camp at Camp MiVoden in 2016.

Camp campers decided to be baptized.

At the end of the season, Michael Smith, assistant camp director, asked to be baptized. He had served as staff for five years and had been baptized at a young age. He wanted to make this decision again as an adult. Jeff Wines, camp director and Upper Columbia Conference family life/youth director, baptized Smith in Hayden Lake.

Camp MiVoden and many other Adventist camps have changed thousands of lives through the years. Have you ever wondered how Adventist summer camps got started?

Eighty-nine years ago, two teenage boys had a vision

for ministering to other young people in their home state of Michigan. Luther Warren, 14, and Harry Fenner, 17, recognized the need for boys to have some kind of a ministry to help them grow in their relationship with Jesus. One day the two walked down the road talking about this, and they decided to kneel down and pray to God, asking Him to lead in their dreams and plans.

Not too far away, Grover Fattic, a volunteer conference Missionary Volunteer secretary, had similar dreams for a wider ministry to young people. He presented his summer camping program ideas to the East Michigan Conference leadership. He received approval but no funding. He

found the Townline Lake site — a Boy Scout camp. And the boys' prayers were answered.

The next summer, Fattic organized a similar camp for the girls. Then this idea spread to Wisconsin, California, New England, and across the nation and world. Those humble beginnings grew into Adventist youth ministries, which includes Pathfinders, Adventurers and Adventist camp ministries.*

For Camp MiVoden, this summer (2016) marks 76 years of summer camps. It is a place where young people make friends with Jesus. With six campers and two staff baptized and hundreds of decisions to be baptized, all during one camping season, thousands of lives have been touched by Camp MiVoden, not to mention the other 66 camps across North America.

Visit vimeo.com/188916357 to see the Teen Camp campers' baptisms.

*Information for this article gleaned from the story by Kimberly Luste Maran at buff.ly/2dUoj0.

Kathy Marson, Upper Columbia Conference communication administrative assistant



Jeff Wines, camp director, baptizes Michael Smith at the end of summer camp 2016 at Camp MiVoden.

decision for Christ — baptism.

During Teen Camp, Eric Chavez served as camp pastor and helped campers see they were made for more than just this world; they were made for more in Christ. Six Teen

PATHFINDER CAMPOREE ASKS 'WHERE'S THE BEEF?'

More online at
glnr.in/111-12-uc_pathfinder

The primary focus of Pathfinders is supporting youth as they develop a personal relationship with Jesus. With that goal in mind, almost 700 Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) Pathfinders and staff gathered at Farragut State Park in Idaho for the UCC Pathfinder Camporee.

The camporee is the big kickoff for the Pathfinder year and sets the stage for the activities to come. It included spiritual refreshment, recognition of accomplishment, acts of service and outdoor adventure.

Ron Whitehead led the group through a series of talks challenging the Pathfinders to develop a strong faith and trust in God. Whitehead summarized his talks for the weekend with a challenge for the Pathfinders by asking, "Where's the beef in your relationship with Jesus?" He told about

the old TV commercials that showed a woman looking at a very empty hamburger bun and asking, "Where's the beef?" Like empty sandwiches, many people have a very superficial or shallow relationship with Jesus.

Whitehead shared three things critical to developing a "meatier" walk with Jesus:

- » Prayer: Never compromise prayer time with God because of who's around you and instead follow the example of Jesus and His prayer life;
- » Bible study: If you are struggling to read the Bible it may be because you need to get reacquainted with the Author, so listen to Scripture while you are doing other things, put Scripture in your mind to fortify you, and look at the example of Jesus, who responded "it is written" every time Satan threw

something at Him;

- » Your testimony or witness: There is a right time and wrong time to share your testimony; be guided by the Holy Spirit — Jesus was a testimony by just living the life.

Pathfinders experienced all three points of the message during camporee. They had a prayer wall where they could add requests and thanks. They prayed together at each session and throughout the day. They spent time in the Scriptures both during the talks and during activity times.

They also had the opportunity to share their witness through service to the local community. One of the biggest needs in the nearby community of Athol, Idaho, is supplies for the local food bank. For the act of service, the Pathfinders and staff collected donations of nonperishable food items and

brought them to the camporee — enough to fill an entire pickup bed. They presented these donations to a representative of the food bank.

How will you answer the question "where's the beef" in your relationship with Jesus?

At the end of the challenge, Pathfinders were given the opportunity to complete commitment cards, expressing their desires for their personal walk with Jesus. Through that activity 105 Pathfinders indicated they were interested in preparing for baptism, and 82 indicated they were ready to be baptized. There were 330 Pathfinders who, though already baptized, wanted to recommit their lives to Jesus.

Are you surprised? You should not be because Pathfinder ministry is evangelism.

Anita Lebold, South District Adventurer coordinator

Pathfinders listen to the message by Ron Whitehead at Farragut State Park.



WOMEN FIND JOY AT UCC RETREAT

The annual fall Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) Christian Women's and Young Women's Retreat provides a wonderful opportunity for women of all faiths to gather together with similar goals of fellowship and encouragement.

In today's fast-paced world, Camp MiVoden in Hayden Lake, Idaho, provides a beautiful respite from deadlines, carpools and family needs. It's easy to get lost in life if one doesn't take a break every once in a while to realign priorities.

Following a simple schedule, this retreat offers a keynote speaker, a variety of music and breakout sessions, and an array of topics from health to Bible study, parenting tips and divorce support.

Brenda Duerksen, the keynote speaker for this year's retreat, shared her story and encouraged others to embrace their stories. Her husband, Dick, shared lessons he learned in photography as well as tips for understanding men.

This year's attendees enjoyed a special breakout: water aerobics. The class was suggested by attendees, and Patricia Benjamin definitely delivered. She teaches classes at the Spokane Valley, Wash., YMCA and started a tradition many talked about continuing.



Women of all ages pause for prayer and a photo before they provide 70 retreat attendees paraffin hand dips and 10-minute neck massages. Margie Wilfley has organized this lovely treat for several years.

Merlene Olmsted taught a stretching class. She teaches SAIL (Stay Active and Independent for Life) classes in Airway Heights, Wash. One attendee enjoyed it so much she wants to see about teaching similar classes in her area.

The breakouts with Patty Marsh (Finding Joy), Katie Miner (Sweeter Than Honey), Marilyn Salmon (The Battle Plan) and Hope Vasquez (Staying Connected) gave attendees something to think about. Vasquez also provided special music for the weekend.

Natalie Patzer organized the praise time with beautiful hymns and praise songs led by her, Heather Benado and Kristi Browning, with Bruce Christensen on guitar and Olivia Schrock on piano. Teen

Lorelei Harbour played her guitar for some songs as well.

Rhonda Backman provided breakouts for the teen girls. Sheryl Janke cut lots of paper for attendees to make beautiful cards. More than 90 cards were created during the Saturday evening activities.

Another special activity available Saturday evening for 70 of the attendees was a mini spa treatment with a paraffin hand dip and 10-minute neck massage. Margie Wilfley has organized this activity for several years now with the help of a magnificent team of dedicated women who simply want to provide a wonderful experience for the attendees.

One special treat through the years is how many families have utilized this retreat for a

mother/daughter reunion. It is wonderful to see their joy in attending the meetings as well as just being together.

A lot of prayers are said while planning this women's retreat, and retreat planners are always amazed at how God blesses in so many ways.

Currently, the UCC women's ministries offers two retreats: a one-day spring retreat at the Upper Columbia Conference office in Spokane and the fall retreat at Camp MiVoden.

For more information on UCC Women's Retreat, visit uccsda.org/women.

Tamara Michalenko Terry, Upper Columbia Conference children's and women's ministries, Adventist Community Services and Disaster Response assistant director

UCA WELCOMES ALUMNI AND FRIENDS HOME

Alumni Homecoming Weekend 2016 welcomed Yakima Valley Academy and Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) alumni to the campus in Spangle, Wash., this past October. Former students from the academies fellowshipped together at the annual reunion, during which classes ending in 1 and 6 were honored.

The weekend included stories from various alumni.



John Winslow, UCA principal, enjoys a laugh with former principal Eugene Rau.

The keynote speaker was Kerry Heinrich, CEO of Loma Linda (Calif.) University Medical Center and a 1976 UCA alumnus.

An offering was taken for the worthy student fund. “We truly appreciate the generosity of everyone who gives to allow so many of our students to be here,” John Winslow, UCA principal, told attendees. “This

school would not be possible without you.”

This year, there were some unique features for the weekend. Friday evening, the digital senior composites were unveiled and dedicated. Linnea Torkelsen, former UCA alumni director, shared how the senior composites were once displayed in a case attached to the wall almost like a book.

“Over the years, the collection was moved through different buildings as it became larger and more difficult to display in book form. Finally, decades later, one can wander through the halls and enjoy the entire collection,” she explains. The digital senior composites can be viewed online at uca.org/alumni-composite-pictures.

Kaelyn Plata, from the class of 2016, shared a Revelation-themed canvas oil painting on Sabbath that she created to hang in Fred Riffel’s Bible classroom. “Something that makes this gift so remarkable,” Eric Johnson, vice principal of development and alumni relations, shares, “is that this was her first oil painting ever. God has given Kaelyn a great gift, and we’re thrilled that she’s chosen to share this gift with our school.” You can view Kaelyn and her painting at glnr.in/111-12-uc_painting.



Eric Johnson, UCA vice principal for development and alumni relations, welcomes Brenda Robinson (left) and Clyde and Lou Sample to the alumni homecoming weekend.

UCA’s band and orchestra shared a number of selections under the direction of Dean Kravig. Curtis Anderson, UCA music department chair, directed a reunion choir that included both past and present Choraliers members.

The final alumni homecoming weekend event happened Sunday morning with an alumni/current student flag football game. “It was nice seeing everyone playing together and having a good time,” says Joe Hess, UCA mens’ dean and vice principal for student life.

Alumni Homecoming Weekend 2017 is scheduled for Sept. 29 to Oct. 1. The honor classes will end in 2 and 7.

For more information about UCA or alumni programs, visit uca.org.

Timmy Kosaka, Upper Columbia Academy communication taskforce worker

Don Casebolt, class of 1944, and his wife, Donna, view his digital senior composite now hanging on the wall of the Campbell Administration Building.



TIM KOSAKA PHOTOGRAPHY

KENT SPANISH BUILDS KINGDOM RELATIONSHIPS

Spanish-speaking members in Kent go out in their community every Sabbath afternoon in groups of four to six people for neighborhood visits.

The first visit establishes a friendship, the second visit introduces a prayer partner, the third visit offers a small gift (typically fruit, flowers or cookies), and the fourth visit includes a survey and an invitation to a lunch where the neighbor will meet even more new friends from church.

“Most of the time, after the fourth visit people request Bible studies,” says Wagner Cilio, Washington Conference Hispanic ministries coordinator. “With each visit, we want to bring hope. We end each visit with prayer and palabras de bendición (words of blessing).”

The visiting group

celebrates birthdays and holidays, invites their neighbors to church-sponsored activities, and participates in a church social at the park where there are games like volleyball and piñatas, plus food.

“We just have fun, and 50 people show up,” Cilio says.

Most of the time, the new friends don’t know anything yet about the church, he says. As friendships develop, the new friends are more willing to join a Bible study and come to church.

This approach helped the newly formed Kent Spanish Church grow from 37 members three years ago and a church plant four years ago to 150 members today — with 170 people typically attending each week. Just this year, 50 people joined the church family.

On Sabbath, Oct. 29, the congregation moved from “company” status to a full



The church planters of Kent Spanish Church stand in the congregation. These individuals are actively sharing their faith and forming new friendships in the community.

church. The celebration started with eight baptisms and testimonies from the congregation about how members had first made contact with the church.

“You are here because you prayed,” says Doug Bing, Washington Conference vice president for administration, in welcoming the congregation into the western Washington church family. “I challenge you to never lose the Holy Spirit. Continue to work in harmony with God’s calling. Be willing to be used by God to love people.”

Kent Spanish Church has so many new members that pastoral leaders — Cilio and Kent’s associate pastor, Francisco Brito — are training their members to serve in local church leadership roles and how to relationally share their faith.

Hispanic ministries in western Washington started six new church plants in the last four years: Kent, Everson, Elma, Lynnwood, Bremerton



Pastor Wagner Cilio addresses his church family in Kent. Many of the Kent Spanish members will be helping grow the next church plant.

and Auburn. Many groups, Cilio reports, have 40–50 people. While Kent received the church-growth focus this year, Auburn will be the focus for next year.

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director



Kent Spanish members sign a roster to join the brand-new church organization.



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

The Southside Samoan groundbreaking ceremony includes singing "To God Be the Glory" (in Samoan, "la Viia Le Atua").

GRAYS HARBOR SERVES DURING STORM

Read more online at glnr.in/111-12-wa_storm

SAMOAN LEADERS BREAK GROUND ON LONG-TERM DREAM

More photos online at glnr.in/111-12-wa_samoan

It's a high-traffic, east-west crossroad between South Hill and Spanaway, Wash., and now it's the perfect location for the new Southside Samoan Adventist Church.

"We praise God for this location," says Doug Bing, Washington Conference vice president for administration. "We looked at lots of locations and prayed for God to open the right option."

Samoan elders and guests gathered on Oct. 2 to break ground for the church at 401 176th St. E. in Spanaway.

"It's been a dream for Samoan members to have a church home for community ministry," says Nevile Neville, Tacoma Samoa Tokelau Church pastor.

Samoans value large family gatherings, and there are a limited number of locations in western Washington to hold these special occasions, according to Fred Toailoa, Southside Samoan Church pastor. With Southside Samoan's two-phase building project, church leaders plan to first build a multipur-

pose ministry center and then build a sanctuary. The facility will be open and in use seven days a week.

"This site will be a real jewel in this community," says Don Kirkman, architect.

The chief council of the Samoan community attended the groundbreaking to express the council's interest in utilizing the building in the near future. Right now, for example, the council hosts their meetings in a local fast-food restaurant.

The ceremony included prayers of dedication, a seven-shovel breaking of ground, a property tour, a luncheon, remarks and financial gifts from community leaders, plus a chief-to-chief response from the church.

"This is a momentous day for Samoan work in Washington Conference," Toailoa says.

Construction is expected to start in spring 2017.

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director

With the threat of major destruction from hurricane-force windstorms predicted on the Washington and Oregon coasts in October, Tom Davis, the Grays Harbor Church emergency response coordinator, and Mike Watson, the local Adventist Community Service (ACS) director, considered how best to respond.

Davis met with the Grays Harbor Emergency Response director and kept the Grays Harbor Church in Hoquiam apprised of the storm's progress through email updates. Watson, building on the resources accumulated by former ACS directors Bob and Wilma O'Day and Wanda Dooley, clothing director, decided to dial the response up. Other church members and community people provided some supplies and helped round up and serve needy people.

Watson sought approval of the church to open the fellowship room to some homeless people who could be seriously impacted by the storm. Watson and Jake Wygal provided sleeping bags, blankets, clothing, showers and food. Watson took their visitors' wet and dirty clothing and washed it at the church food bank. He ministered to any health needs he could.

One man, who had no socks and had been walking in wet boots, had terrible sores on his feet. Watson provided socks and treatment to promote healing.

Even though the storm was not as intense as was predicted, lives were protected



Newly baptized Grays Harbor Church ACS director Mike Watson (center) is congratulated by Bob and Wilma O'Day, former ACS directors.

and even saved. Some of the folks served were on the edge of existence. The help they received strengthened them and gave them a glimmer of hope and encouragement.

Watson demonstrated to a new paradigm of community service to his church family.

Howard Brenton, Grays Harbor Church elder



More photos online at glnr.in/111-12-wa_art

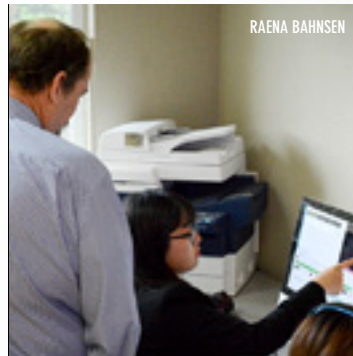
ART FINDS NEW HOME AT AUBURN

Auburn Adventist Academy's art classes have a new home for students to learn artistic expression. The new and improved space is located in the former day care center. The wide open spaces are turning out to be the perfect place to have an art class.

Fine arts such as painting, sketching and printmaking are taught by Robert Renfroe. He also teaches graphic design, starting on paper and advancing to using Mac computers.

Film production, a class taught by Chris Williams, is also benefiting from this space. A green screen is available for school video announcements, live broadcast productions and podcasting. A "spotlight" section in the art building features student work.

Both Renfroe and Williams are excited to have a Mac lab in the art building for students who want to learn more about media and digital arts.



RAENA BAHNSEN

Chris Williams, film instructor, walks Auburn student Sooji Kim through a film production procedure.

They are aiming to expand to 15 Macs and an additional computer for the teacher. These computers are equipped with Adobe Creative Cloud software.

Student worker Jordan Hauge appreciates the new building for multiple reasons. In the previous classroom space in Spady Hall, Hauge remembers how supplies had to be constantly moved around between classes. "There was no room at all. It always felt cramped," Hauge says. "In the new building, we have space, and it's great."

Students and faculty agree: The new art building will allow students' creativity to flow and expand with colorful goals and dreams to be achieved.

Nadia Diaz, AAA media literacy student



RAENA BAHNSEN

Auburn students film a fun video announcement using mobile videography and a green screen in Auburn's new art studio.



KAREN MURCIA

Puget Sound Adventist Academy and Kirkland Adventist School students create together in the Maker Space.

MAKER SPACE ENCOURAGES EXPLORATION

A new Maker Space opened this school year for Washington's Kirkland Adventist School (KSDA) and Puget Sound Adventist Academy (PSAA) students to use in creative exploration and expression.

Utilizing the old library space in the elementary building, this project has been made possible by private donations and by two grants awarded to Karen Murcia, the founder of the dual-campus Maker Space. Murcia received an EXSEED (Excellence in STEM Experiential Education) award from Loma Linda University, which is granted for STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) projects, and the Don Keele Award, granted for educational enhancement in the North Pacific Union Conference.

The colorful space holds diverse and unique student tools — including sewing machines, a 3-D printer, Lego tables, peg boards, art supplies and a pottery wheel — for making and inventing projects.

So far students have learned sewing, crafting and art techniques.

During a new after-school program on Tuesdays and Thursdays, elementary students are mentored by adults from the community in learning how to use tools for various projects ranging in nature from crafting to engineering.

Murcia says she looks forward to seeing "where students will take the Maker Space," as they are the ones who will create its future, according to their interests. The opportunity for community collaboration in the space is also exciting.

For now, watching students potentially translate their curiosity into skilled pastimes and beyond to creative careers is a worthy, uplifting process KSDA and PSAA staff are eager to see develop.

Anika Zebon, Puget Sound Adventist Academy teacher

GRACE TOUR VISITS EMERALD CITY

The Emerald City Community Church in Seattle was blessed to end the third quarter of 2016 with a visit from the Grace Tour on Sabbath, Sept. 24. Formed by



While in Seattle, visiting members of NAPS (National Association for the Prevention of Starvation) attend the afternoon Grace Tour program.

young Adventists with unique, redeeming life experiences, the tour brings a thrilling message on the power of God's grace to cities throughout the United States and to foreign countries.

The morning service opened with personal testimonies by church members and a song service featuring Jill Monet before a sermon on perspective by tour leader Jeremy Anderson. Reflecting



(From left) Chasati Chambers, Jeremy Anderson, Kelly Lin, Javan Cornelius and Jill Monet form the Grace Tour panel to share and discuss questions posed by the audience.

More online at glnr.in/111-12-wa_grace

on Peter's experience walking on water in Matt. 14:28–31, Anderson emphasized we are safe if we avoid distractions and stay focused on Jesus.

Following lunch, a five-person panel of tour members provided answers to questions from the congregation such as how to become more active in church, how to deal with haters, how to combat fear and doubt, how to stay connected to God throughout the day, how to make church



Jill Monet leads in worship, preparing for the sermon.

more interesting to young people, how to worship when we are overcome with the world's tragedies, and how the church should respond to social issues involving racial tension.

Monet, Anderson and Kelly Lin then provided powerful personal testimonies to reveal how God's grace transformed their lives.

Information on Next Level Living, the nonprofit organization formed by the tour, can be found at jeremyanderson.org.

David McClelland, Emerald City Community Church communication leader



BELLEVUE REMEMBERS ADVENTIST DISAPPOINTMENT

More online at glnr.in/111-12-wa_belleuve

Bellevue Church observed Adventist Heritage Sabbath on Oct. 22 and paid tribute to the Great Disappointment of 172 years earlier, which led to the founding of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The cover of the day's bulletin featured the William Miller chapel and the Ellen White quote, "We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history."

The story of the Millerites and their fervent and happy belief that Jesus would come back on Oct. 22, 1844, was told by actors in 19th-century costume, interspersed with the singing of early Advent hymns and ending with the bitter disappointment when the day ended without their hopes fulfilled.

Narrators representing Miller, James White and Joseph Bates looked back on that experience, while Ellen White

(played by Kayla Mellon) narrated and looked forward to the unknown date of Jesus' return. Today's relevance of the Great Disappointment, or, as it is called in some circles, the day of theological humility, was summed up by Robert Howson.

Carolyn Howson and Dixie Robinson coordinated the program. Pastor Maylan Schurch portrayed William Miller, and Jim Mellon brought James White to life. Joseph Bates was portrayed by Roger Bookter, Joshua V. Himes by Chris Whittmore, and Charles Fitch and Hiram Edson by Eric Wilson.

The look back at early church history continued in several Sabbath School programs covering the effect of the Great Disappointment, details about James White and how overseas mission work began in the Adventist Church.

Carrol Grady, Bellevue Church communication leader

WWU MARKS DECADE OF MCVAY LEADERSHIP

John McVay became the 23rd president of Walla Walla College in College Place, Wash., in July 2006. With a decade of leadership completed this year, McVay will soon become the third-longest leading president in the history of the university.

Under his leadership, an array of improvements to campus infrastructure have been completed, including construction of the new Administration Building and several new cabins at the Rosario Beach Marine Laboratory near Anacortes, Wash., remodeled facilities for the School of Social Work and the School of Nursing on the College Place campus, a remodeled gymnasium including a new gym floor, and improvements on the front campus related to construction on College Avenue.

McVay implemented long-range budget planning processes, resulting in a WWU Composite Financial Index (CFI) score of 6.4 on a scale of -4 to 10 and tuition increases of not more than 2 percent over the last several years. (A CFI score higher than three is considered very good.)

McVay led the university through the name change from Walla Walla College to Walla Walla University (WWU) and led in the start of the \$35 million “Life. Changing.”



John and Pam McVay have brought energy and thoughtful, prayerful leadership to WWU for more than 10 years.

comprehensive campaign and the 2013–2023 Sabbath Jubilee strategic initiative. Under his leadership, the university welcomed the largest freshman class in 17 years and retention rates have improved, in part due to the new mentorship program for freshmen.

In a recent report to WWU constituents, McVay was quick to credit “God’s amazing blessings over these five years,” adding “God’s blessings have outstripped our efforts, diligent as they have been. He has taken our little and made much of it. ... We invite you to join us in giving thanks to God from whom all blessings flow.”

Kim Strobel, WWU university relations supervisor

UNIVERSITY CHURCH ADDRESSES TOUGH QUESTIONS

The Walla Walla University Church is partway through an innovative sermon series in which students can ask the pastor anything. Sermon topics are determined weekly by a student committee, which sources questions from social media with the hashtag #wwuask.

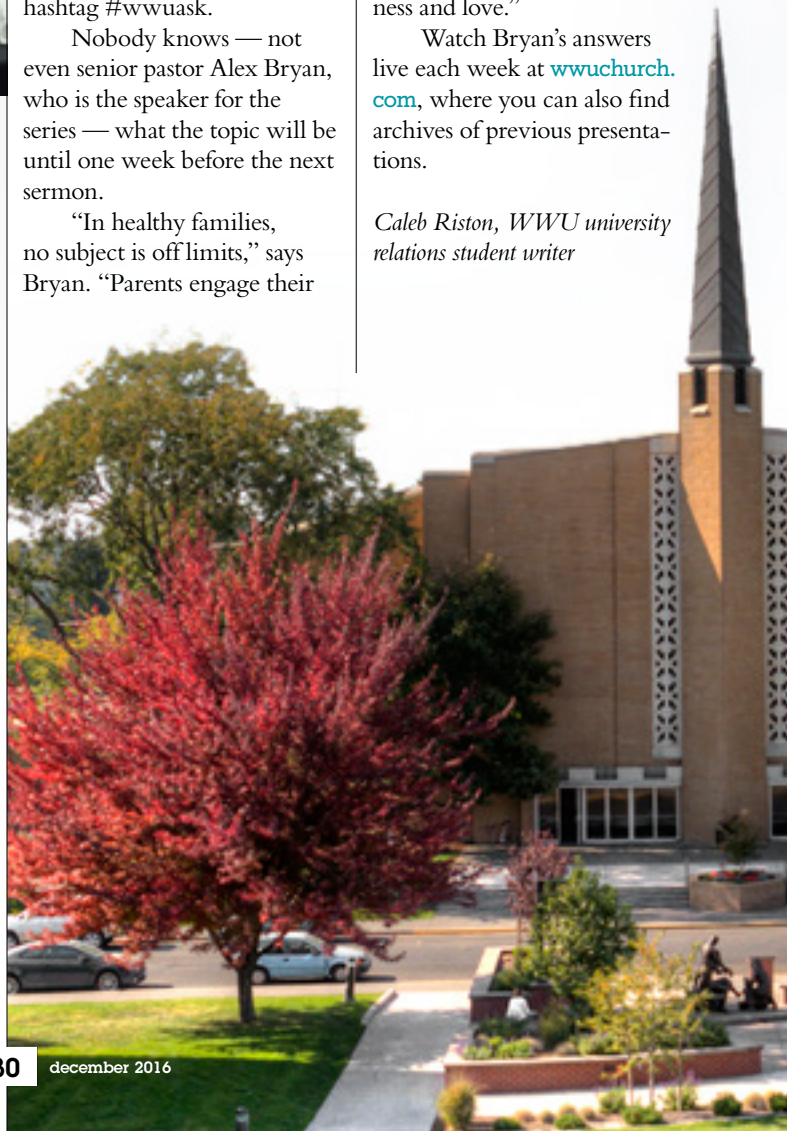
Nobody knows — not even senior pastor Alex Bryan, who is the speaker for the series — what the topic will be until one week before the next sermon.

“In healthy families, no subject is off limits,” says Bryan. “Parents engage their

children in subjects that count, in topics the next generation is curious about. This isn’t just about having difficult or even provocative conversations but about talking and listening to one another with care, with concern, with a desire to move toward places of health, holiness and love.”

Watch Bryan’s answers live each week at wwuchurch.com, where you can also find archives of previous presentations.

Caleb Riston, WWU university relations student writer



ADVENTIST HEALTH HONORS PHYSICIANS' COMMITMENT TO HEALING

E

lizabeth McMurtry has a commitment to healing that extends beyond the care she provides to patients every day in the emergency department at Walla Walla General Hospital in southeast Washington. She's focused on the generations of physicians who will follow in her footsteps and be providing care to her patients' children and grandchildren.

"We are all teachers," says McMurtry, an instructor and mentor with Pacific Northwest University in Yakima, Wash. She loves guiding her students' process of discovery and helping them determine their career path, all while seeking to provide whole-person care to patients who are presenting immediate health needs in the emergency room. Her colleagues agree McMurtry is as caring and dedicated with her patients as she is with medical students, who are the future of medicine.

McMurtry was one of 18 physicians honored with a Physician of the Year Mission Award, given at the 10th annual Adventist Health Physician Leadership Symposium in October. The Mission Awards are given to Adventist Health doctors who are living examples of the health provider's mission of sharing God's love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing. Awardees are exemplary health ambas-



Walla Walla General Hospital's Elizabeth McMurtry (second from right) receives her Physician of the Year Mission Award.

sadors who work tirelessly to further the Adventist Health mission and continue to inspire others to provide remarkable care.

K. Gem Shaker, a physician at Adventist Medical Center in Portland, Ore., and James Rushing, a hospitalist at Tillamook Regional Medical Center (TRMC) in Tillamook, Ore., and primary care physician in Adventist Health's rural health clinic in Manzanita, Ore., were also honored. Rushing, who died in July from complications of a heart attack, was recognized posthumously. His daughter, Jaclyn Rushing, graciously accepted the award on his behalf.

James Rushing was a beloved physician, colleague, community member and friend who lived the Adventist

Health mission in both his professional and personal life. He also practiced whole-person care well before it became a national focus.

"Dr. Rushing impressed me as the best listener I have ever known," says patient and colleague Mary Faith Bell, TRMC communication and marketing director. "He asked thoughtful questions about my life and health, not limited to my current condition. He listened with his full attention and remembered what I said. He cared about me

as a whole person."

The Physician of the Year Mission Awards are just one aspect of Adventist Health's annual Physician Leadership Symposium, which brings

together leaders from across the health care field for two days packed with education, inspirational presentations and panel discussions on topics like innovative care delivery models and partnering with the communities they serve.

MISSION AWARD WINNERS

K. Gem Shaker, a physician at Adventist Medical Center in Portland, Ore.

James Rushing, a hospitalist at Tillamook Regional Medical Center (TRMC), in Tillamook, Ore., and primary care physician in Adventist Health's rural health clinic in Manzanita, Ore.

Elizabeth McMurtry, a physician at Walla Walla General Hospital in Walla Walla, Wash.

Sandra Meyers, Adventist Health physician services



Helen Boyes

Boyes 100th

Helen Boyes celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends on May 1, 2016, in Hayden Lake, Idaho.

Helen A. Madison was born in Harrison, Idaho, on May 1, 1916, to Jim and Alice Madson. When she was 8 years old, the family moved down the river by steamboat to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where she's lived most of her life.

Helen and her husband, Bill, were caretakers at Camp MiVoden for many years. She also was a cook's helper at Walla Walla (Wash.) General Hospital for a short time, before they traveled around the conference repairing parsonages until they retired. She now resides at Wellsprings in Hayden, Idaho.

Her family includes daughter Allis Rickley and Helen's husband, Bill, and son, Jim, who have passed away.

Grady 60th

Bob and Carrol Grady celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a large family reunion at Sunset Lake Camp in Wilkeson, Wash., and a few weeks later with a reception on Sept. 17, 2016, at Bellevue Church, during which they renewed their wedding vows.

Bob Grady and Carrol McBroom met at La Sierra College in January 1955. Pro-

fessor John Hamilton played matchmaker by suggesting Bob ask Carrol to accompany him for his voice practice. That summer Bob talked Carrol into being a colporteur under his student leadership. At the end of the summer, he asked her to marry him. They were married Aug. 26, 1956.

A theology major, Bob began his pastoral ministry in Southeast California Conference, spending the summer at Idyllwild Junior Camp and then in evangelism in Ontario and with Phil Knoche, the conference evangelist, in Orange and Banning. Then it was off to the Adventist Seminary in Takoma Park, Md.

A bad bout of flu precipitated their return to California to serve as first youth pastor in La Sierra College Church for three years before Bob finished his master's at the seminary, which by then had moved to Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. They returned to the California high desert to pastor and build a new church in Victorville.

Five years later were called to the Hawaiian Mission to be Sabbath School, lay activities and public relations director. During these years, their three sons were born.

Bob's next assignment was in Singapore, where he served as Sabbath School and lay activities director for the Southeast Asia Union Mission for six years and Sabbath School director for the Far Eastern Division for nine years, after which he went to the General Conference to be Sabbath School director in the church ministries department for five years.

This was followed by two

years in Lincoln, Neb., as vice president for development at Christian Record Services to the Blind and six years as trust director of the Washington Conference.

Bob has been much loved around the world for his infectious enthusiasm and good humor. During all these years Carrol was an administrative assistant in various departments, editor of numerous newsletters, children's choir director, Sabbath School teacher, accompanist and, in general, the heart of her home. Many a lunch hour during the Singapore years, Carrol could be seen cooking a meal, surrounded by the men of her family all simultaneously demanding her attention.

Since retirement, Bob has been active in SAGE, the senior organization he started, building and painting churches and schools at home and overseas, as well as many fellowship activities. Carrol has carried on a ministry for families of gays and lesbians and made many quilts.

They are blessed with three children, Robert Grady of Santa Rosa, Calif.; David and Karla (Avila) Grady of Dallas, Ore.; Paul and Brandy (Johnson) Grady of Kirkland, Wash.; 15 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

Meier 100th

Church family and friends gathered in Pasco, Wash., for a reception to honor Bernie Meier on his 100th birthday. It was hosted by step-daughter, Suzanne, and her husband, Larry Swisher, of Pasco. In attendance were step-grandsons, Jason and Christopher Swisher, and their families. Bernie is a member of

the Pasco Riverview Church.

Bernie was born on June 27, 1916, in Farmington, Wash. He graduated from Walla Walla College in 1939, with a degree in education.

While at Walla Walla College, he met Clara Roedel, who was also an education major. They were married on Aug. 19, 1939, in Boise, Idaho.

For the next 10 years, they both taught school in the Adventist school system. In 1955, Bernie began teaching in the public school system and continued to do so for the next 22 years. The last 12 years of his teaching career were spent in the Walla Walla, Wash., area.



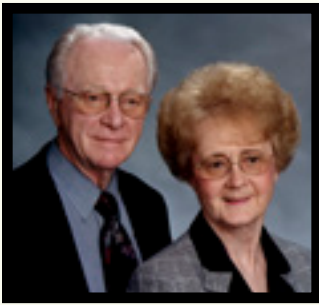
Bernie Meier

Clara passed away in 1990. In 1991, Bernie moved to Pasco and married Thelma Shephard. In 1992, they spent a year teaching English in Taiwan. They both have enjoyed traveling with friends and family.

The Meier family includes Larry Meier of Federal Way, Wash.; Beverly Horton of Alaska; Suzanne and Larry Swisher of Pasco, Wash.; 11 grandchildren, 3 step-grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and 6 step-great-grandchildren.

Opp 65th

LaVern and Doris Opp celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Aug. 27, 2016,



LaVern and Doris Opp

with a family gathering hosted by their sons.

LaVern Opp and Doris Vietz were married Aug. 30, 1951 in McClusky, N.D.

After graduating from Sheyenne River Academy at Harvey, N.D., they attended Union College in Lincoln, Neb., where LaVern pursued religion, history and education, graduating in 1953. He later attended Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., receiving a master's degree in educational administration.

After 12 years in pastoral ministry in Kansas and South Dakota, LaVern served as educational superintendent and youth director in South Dakota and Oklahoma. They later moved to Mount Vernon Academy in Ohio where he was Bible instructor and vice principal, and Doris served as receptionist and secretary to the principal, vice principal and treasurer. After serving as an academy principal in Tennessee, they moved to Idaho in 1977, where they still reside.

LaVern served as superintendent of education in the Idaho Conference while Doris was employed by the state of Idaho as secretary in the disability determination unit of Social Security. During this time LaVern had also served as president of the Idaho Federation of Independent Schools several times, as well as being

appointed a member of the Idaho Public Schools Elementary Approval Commission for a three-year term.

They both retired in 1993 after LaVern had completed 40 years of denominational service. Since retirement however, he was called to be the interim principal of the Adventist schools of Lincoln for one school year. It was also his privilege for nine years to be a member of the Northwest Religious Liberty Association as the government relations representative and the religious liberty secretary in Idaho.

They have enjoyed a tremendous amount of travel, visiting all 50 states, plus 19 countries. This involved five mission trips to Peru. Doris enjoys sewing and has produced beautiful pillowslips as a love ministry for terminally ill or lonely individuals. She has also become an enthusiastic quilter, and LaVern calls her quilts "masterpieces." LaVern has enjoyed woodworking and built such items as cradles or rocking horses for grandchildren as well as toy furniture for their dolls, and pens and pencils for family and friends.

Most of all they have most enjoyed traveling to visit family or friends. The Lord has been a constant companion through the 65 year journey they have enjoyed together. The plan is to join the redeemed of the ages and with family and friends continue the journey for all eternity with the Saviour.

The Opps family includes Mark Opp of Seattle, Wash.; Paul and Sandi Opp of Caldwell, Idaho, and Peru; 7 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Stoddard 100th

Roland Stoddard celebrated his 100 birthday on July 18 with his wife of 69 years by his side and in the company of many friends from the Village Retirement Center in Gresham, Ore.

Roland grew up in Valentine, Neb. The family made a few moves, and Roland graduated from high school in Salem, Ore., in 1935. He was inducted into the Army in 1942 and served three years as a medic. After his discharge



Roland Stoddard

he attended a business program at Walla Walla College (now Walla Walla University) where he met Grace Williamson, who was studying nursing.

After their married on Aug. 12, 1946, they moved to Portland, Ore., where they both worked as nurses at Portland Adventist Sanitarium and Hospital (now Adventist Medical Center) until retirement. When asked about their long and happy marriage, Grace spoke up and declared that trust and respect were the most important elements. In the mid-1980s they moved to the Village Retirement Center and made many friends in Gresham over the next 30-plus years.

Roland has only flown in an airplane once — a small plane while serving in the Army. He rode the train a few times, but preferred the bus.

Both preferred walking to local destinations and were very hard workers.

Ward 60th

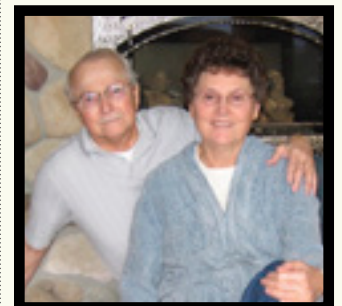
Robert "Bob" and Delores Ward celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Sept. 18, 2016, at the Olive Garden in Spokane, Wash.

Bob married Delores Watson on Sept. 8, 1956, in an outdoor evening wedding at the home of the bride's parents. Bob completed his service with the U.S. Army in October 1956, and the couple moved to Bob's home town of Dayton, Ohio.

In the spring of 1957, they returned to the Yakima Valley, where their two children were born and raised. In 1973 the Lord provided an opportunity for Bob to secure better employment, and the family relocated close to Auburn Adventist Academy, where both children graduated.

The couple retired and moved to Chewelah, Wash., in 1999 to be close to their children. Bob retired from Young Corporation as a machinist after 26 years, and Delores retired from Payless Drugs after 27 years in accounting.

The Ward family includes Anthony and Lisa (Garvin) Ward of Colville, Wash.; Pam (Ward) and Tim Holmes of Addy, Wash.; 5 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.



Bob and Delores Ward

FAMILY BIRTHS

FOWLER — Alden Waters was born June 2, 2016, to Alexander Stephen and Allison Heather (Waters) Fowler, Wenatchee, Wash.

GEORGE — Ellis Paul was born July 4, 2016, to Ben and Christina (Perry) George, Camas, Wash.

GEORGE — Levi Zaia was born July 4, 2016, to Ben and Christina (Perry) George, Camas, Wash.

McMILLER — Ronen Josiah was born Aug. 14, 2016, to Ryan and Kristin (Hohensee) McMiller, Sandpoint, Idaho.

NIELSEN — Jonah Gregory Wat was born Sept. 14, 2016, to Erik and Karyelle (Fleck) Nielsen, Anacortes, Wash.

RICHARDS — Ainsley Iva was born Aug. 9, 2016, to Billy and Jessy (Spreadborough) Richards, Portland, Ore.

FAMILY WEDDINGS

DAVIS-DUNN

Jolene Davis and Andrew Dunn were married Oct. 23, 2016, in Gladstone, Ore. They are making their home in Oregon City, Ore. Jolene is the daughter of Anthony and Linda (Harris) Davis. Andrew is the son of Daniel Sr. and Kitty (Pooley) Dunn.

NASH-LEEK

Kira Nash and Trevor Leek were married July 17, 2016, in Snohomish, Wash. They are making their home in Berrien Springs, Mich. Kira is the daughter of Lyndon and Claudia (Thomspen) Nash. Trevor is the son of Jim and Shirley (Walters) Leek.

FAMILY AT REST

APT — Elsie S. (Rivinius), 93; born Feb. 4, 1923, Coleharbor, N.D.; died July 4, 2016, Albany, Ore. Surviving: son, William, Portland, Ore.; daughter, Gloria Rasmussen, Corvallis, Ore.; brothers, Edwin, Denver, Colo.; Fred, Grand Junction, Colo.; Ervin, Phoenix, Ariz.; sisters, Ruth Truaz-Almondine, Moab, S.D.; and Diane Nik, Phoenix; 2 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

GRAHAM — Maurice “Marie” Laverne (Easley), 77; born Feb. 4, 1939, Alsa, Texas; died Aug. 1, 2016, Hermiston, Ore. Surviving: sons, Dan, Hermiston; Wilton, Libby, Mont.; daughter, Cynthia Quinn, Pendleton, Ore.; brother, Wilton Easley, Bonners Ferry, Idaho; 11 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

HILL — Ellen Frances (Venable) Seamount, 98; born Feb. 24, 1918, Eagle, Idaho; died July 1, 2016, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: son, Robert Edwin Seamount II, Milton-Freewater, Ore.; daughters, Marie Roelle Seamount, Milton-Freewater; Karen Lynn (Seamount) Layton, Corsicana, Texas; 11 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and 6 great-great-grandchildren.

HOLBROOK — Pearl Marie (Davis), 93; born June 15, 1923, Oil City, Penn.; died July 14, 2016, Pendleton, Ore. Surviving: son, Glenn, Pendleton; 3 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

KERR — Ann (Kramer), 99; born May 11, 1917, Downs, Wash.; died July 23, 2016, Portland, Ore. Surviving: son, Marvin, Jupiter, Fla.; daughters, Shirley Colley, Othello, Wash.; Sandy Burrows, Pendleton, Ore.; and 18 grandchildren.

MEIDINGER — Duane Alan, 61; born Dec. 21, 1954, Rapid City, S.D.; died Aug. 21, 2016,

Spokane, Wash. Surviving: wife, Margie (Anderson); son, Eric, Loma Linda, Calif.; daughter, Erin Denney, Spokane; and a grandchild.

MELDRUM — William John, 78; born Nov. 8, 1937, Mount Kisco, N.Y.; died Aug. 8, 2016, Greenleaf, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Phyllis (Baker); and brother, David, Andover, Mass.

MINER — Jewelle (Wohlge-hagen), 93; born March 25, 1923, Salina, Kan.; died Aug. 20, 2016, Milwaukie, Ore. Surviving: sons, Ron, Hubbard, Ore.; Duane, Oregon City, Ore.; daughters, Sharen Kingsbury, Show Low, Ariz.; Kathy Nyseth, Boring, Ore.; 11 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and 8 great-great-grandchildren.

PETERSEN — Raina Marilyn (Overton), 92; born June 22, 1924, Chelan, Wash.; died July 12, 2016, Wheat Ridge, Colo. Surviving: sons, Fredrick S., Wheat Ridge; Leslie R., Burlington, Wash.; John H., Glendale, Calif.; daughter, Cynthia Ann Julian, Ravenna, N.Y.; 7 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and 3 step-great-grandchildren.

PURVIS — Benjamin Rollin, 83; born Sept. 15, 1932, Sunnyside, Wash.; died June 20, 2016, Portland, Ore. Surviving: wife, Rita (Baur); son, Donald W., Kalama, Wash.; and a grandchild.

RASMUSSEN — Don, 75; born Feb. 16, 1941, Spokane, Wash.; died July 6, 2016, Spokane. Surviving: wife, Bonnie (Kleinsasser), Spangle, Wash.; sons, Donald Rasmussen, Cheney, Wash.; Ronnie Rasmussen, Glendale, Ariz.; daughters, Teri Rasmussen, Juneau, Alaska; Lori Fields, of Australia; Jeni Strom, Bellingham, Wash.; stepsons, Jeremy Wiedemann, Bozeman, Mont.; Shane Wiedemann, Ridge-

crest, Calif.; stepson, Seth Wiedemann, Berrien Springs, Mich.; 9 grandchildren and 5 step-grandchildren.

RUDEBAUGH — Margaret Jane (Adams), 93; born June 30, 1923, Selma, Calif.; died Aug. 7, 2016, Spokane Valley, Wash. Surviving: husband, John; son, Darrell, Springdale, Wash.; 2 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

SAXBY — Doyle Byron, 91; born Jan. 23, 1925, College Place, Wash.; died Aug. 16, 2016, College Place. Surviving: wife, Lorelei (Pierce); sons, Kent, Whitefish, Mont.; Monte, Burlington, Wash.; brother, Harold, Walla Walla, Wash.; sisters, Elaine Emerson, Walla Walla; Dorothy DeMoss, College Place; 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

SLEETER — Marjorie Jean (Mase), 85; born March 19, 1931, Cocolalla, Idaho; died April 15, 2016, Auburn, Wash. Surviving: daughters, Tamara Mitchell and Juli Tutyko, both of Washington; and 3 grandchildren.

WEIS — Vernon, 93; born Dec. 18, 1922, Shattuck, Okla.; died July 14, 2016. Surviving: sister, Deniese Werner, College Place, Wash.

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

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

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

NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

Offering

- Dec. 3** — Local Church Budget;
- Dec. 10** — NAD Adventist Community Services;
- Dec. 17** — Local Church Budget;
- Dec. 24** — Local Conference Advance;
- Dec. 31** — Local Church Budget.

OREGON

Jaime Jorge Christmas Concert

Dec. 8 — Experience a renewed sense of hope as you discover the joy of Christ in Christmas. Admission is free at the Stone Tower Church, 3010 NE Holladay St., Portland, Ore., at 7 p.m.

Sunnyside Church Christmas Musical

Dec. 23 — The Sunnyside Church will present its 35th annual Christmas musical program, Friday evening at 7 p.m. Invite your friends to enjoy an evening of Christmas music presented by some of Portland's finest musicians. Bring your score and participate in the finale – Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" from *Messiah*. An offering will be received to support feeding Portland's homeless each Sunday morning in O'Bryant Square. Refreshments will be served after the program.

UPPER COLUMBIA

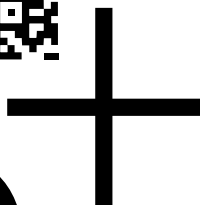
Christmas Cantata

Dec. 17 — The Lewiston Church invites you to its 45th annual Christmas Cantata, "Bringing Christmas Home." This will be the 45th year the cantata has been created and conducted by Delma Baker. The program involves church members and community members from all over the Lewis/Clark Valley and includes special instrumentals, a children's choir, a bell choir and refreshments. Come to this free event at 4:30 p.m. at the Lewiston Church, 1212 19th Street, Lewiston, Idaho. For additional information, please call the church office at 208-743-1981.

Egypt Bible Tour

Dec. 14–24, 2017 — with Dr. Carl Cosaert of Walla Walla University. Visit ancient sites like the pyramids; the Valley of the Kings; the Temple of Hatshepsut, who may have been the princess who rescued baby Moses; and even a Nile cruise, all of which will make the Bible come alive. Wonderful meals, accommodations and guides included. For a complete itinerary and additional information, contact Sharon Searson at sharons@uccsda.org.

MORE EVENTS LISTED AT GLEANERNOW.COM/EVENTS.



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Classes

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

Employment

THE DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION at La Sierra University invites applications for a full-time, tenure-track faculty position. Applicants must hold a Ph.D. degree with curriculum and instruction as the preferred specialization, and must have taught for at least five years in a K-12 classroom setting; be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; and have demonstrated effectiveness as a teacher and scholar. Additional details and application instructions available at lasierra.edu/jobs.

ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS

La Sierra University physics department invites applications for a full-time, tenure-track faculty position in the assistant to associate professor level to begin in Fall 2017. Candidates must have a Ph.D. in physics, biophysics, optics/photonics or a closely related field. ABD candidates will be considered if the anticipated degree completion date is before July 2017. Please send a CV and a statement of research and teaching interests to Dr. Elvis Geneston, chair, physics department, egenesto@lasierra.edu.

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

DENTAL ASSOCIATE WANTED

Looking for an individual of character and skill to join my general family practice. I will mentor and assist a potential new owner with the goal of transitioning out of full-time practice. Our office technology is up-to-date, our patient trust level is high, and the potential income is great. We are a fee-for-service practice with five operatories and a tremendous team located in South Central Pennsylvania, near Gettysburg, Baltimore and Harrisburg. Contact me at drbillwaring@gmail.com.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a nursing faculty. Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to: teach and supervise skills/simulation lab for all student levels. Participate in skills and simulation lab for clinical groups with assistance from course instructors. Review clinical and didactic course syllabi for simulation and skills. Complete students' lab evaluation, grade skills, care plans and concept maps where applicable. Collaborate with department chair for lab budget and acquisition of lab supplies for students' use. Evaluate lab use for continuous improvement. Available to students for skills practice and tests. Teach assigned courses and/or clinical to make up for full-time position. For more information or to apply visit: andrews.edu/admres/jobs/1199.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S English department is seeking applications for a full-time faculty member specializing in British literature of the 18th or 19th century. Preferred candidates will have a Ph.D.; a creative writing background is a plus. Send CV with cover letter to Dr. Judy Myers Laue, lauej@swau.edu.

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	2	9	16	23	30
ALASKA CONFERENCE					
Anchorage	3:51	3:43	3:40	3:42	3:49
Fairbanks	2:59	2:46	2:39	2:41	2:50
Juneau	3:11	3:05	3:04	3:06	3:12
Ketchikan	3:21	3:17	3:16	3:18	3:24
IDAHO CONFERENCE					
Boise	5:09	5:08	5:09	5:12	5:17
La Grande	4:11	4:09	4:10	4:13	4:18
Pocatello	4:56	4:55	4:56	4:59	5:04
MONTANA CONFERENCE					
Billings	4:31	4:30	4:30	4:33	4:38
Havre	4:25	4:23	4:24	4:27	4:32
Helena	4:42	4:40	4:41	4:44	4:49
Miles City	4:18	4:16	4:17	4:20	4:25
Missoula	4:49	4:47	4:48	4:51	4:56
OREGON CONFERENCE					
Coos Bay	4:42	4:41	4:42	4:45	4:50
Medford	4:40	4:39	4:40	4:43	4:47
Portland	4:28	4:27	4:28	4:31	4:36
UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE					
Pendleton	4:13	4:11	4:12	4:15	4:20
Spokane	4:00	3:58	3:58	4:01	4:06
Walla Walla	4:09	4:08	4:08	4:11	4:16
Wenatchee	4:12	4:10	4:11	4:14	4:19
Yakima	4:16	4:15	4:15	4:18	4:23
WASHINGTON CONFERENCE					
Bellingham	4:16	4:14	4:14	4:17	4:22
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OH, THE HUMANITY!

R

Recently I watched a sermon on YouTube in which the speaker made the grand pronouncement he could solve all the issues facing the Adventist Church by doing a few simple things. He stated, “We need to get rid of human experience, human scholarship and human tradition and get back to the Word of God!”

Naturally, all God’s people said “Amen!” I mean, you kind of have to when the speaker ends his line with a bold “... the Word of God!” right?

Sadly, they “amen’d” an impossibility and a heresy.

First let’s examine this idea of somehow being able to step outside of our own humanity. The fact the speaker stood at a pulpit in a sanctuary reading from the KJV Bible means he actively participated in tradition. The Bible he held was translated into English, meaning it involved human scholarship.

The English he spoke is governed by grammatical and linguistic rules created by humans to convey meaning. The suit and tie he wore, considered appropriate dress in this context, is a culturally conditioned reality produced by, you guessed it, humans. Experience informed his decision on what to say, how to say it, what to wear and where to wear it.

Sadly, while it sounds spiritual, jettisoning our humanity is not what we have been called

to do. While sin and selfishness requires God’s empowering grace, the end result isn’t being less human — it’s being more human.

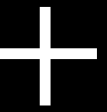
Among Protestants the primary authority is Scripture, and we recoil at the mention of “tradition.” However, if we can have an honest moment, let’s admit to ourselves that being like Jesus does not mean becoming less human or abandoning human experience, tradition or scholarship. Jesus created us in His image to be sure, but we were still created human (see Gen. 1–2). We have fallen, but we are seeking restoration to become fully human in the sense that God created us to be back in Eden — even Jesus, our example, is referred to by Ellen White as the “second Adam” (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 8, p. 39). To leave our humanity behind, to somehow transcend our bodily experience, is a New Age concept, not a biblical one.

Secondly, in the plan of redemption God has chosen to work within human experience and with human beings. The process of inspiration and recording of revelation is both a human and divine enterprise. The incarnation involved Jesus becoming fully human while remaining fully God. Jesus ate, drank, slept, bled and died as a human — which makes Him a High Priest who understands (see Heb. 4:15). Jesus worked through mighty men and women in history



AUTHOR

Seth Pierce



We have been entrusted with eternal truths, despite our being “earthen vessels” — or, to paraphrase, “cracked pots.”

to preserve truth, discover new truths, rediscover truth and hand down truth to young generations (aka tradition). Jesus explicitly tells us, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind” (Matt. 22:37). Sounds like Jesus intends to work through humanity despite its

shortcomings.

All that said, I understand why the speaker, and the congregation, felt impressed by those sentiments. Not every tradition is helpful, not all human experience is trustworthy, and not all scholarship is scholarship. Sin has rendered humanity terribly biased, selfish and individually

incomplete to see all the nuances of reality. At times the confusion of disagreements, disunity and apparent disregard for old ways of doing things (tradition even) alarms us, and we search for a voice that can speak *ex cathedra* for us and give us the right interpretation of God’s Word.

While I believe Jesus

gives us enough to understand His character and the plan of salvation, we will always have questions, discussions and even disagreements this side of the Second Coming. As Paul indicates, we now see “through a glass darkly” (1 Cor. 13:12).

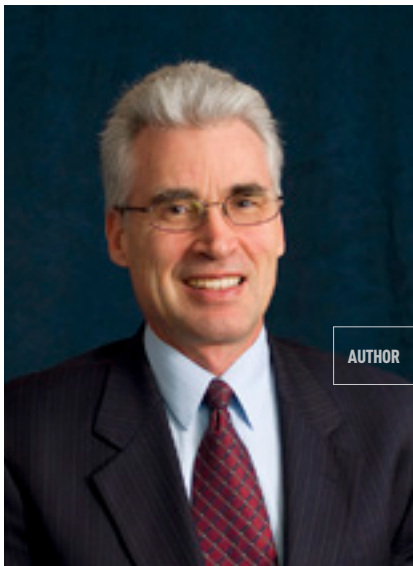
Ironically, as irritating as it can be to dwell among disagreeing disciples, there is a value in it. Proverbs tells us that “iron sharpens iron” (27:17). We should not give up meeting with each other (Heb. 10:25). Gathering with others reminds us ours is not the only perspective. It also challenges us to proceed with our sermons, teachings and writings with greater humility.

We have been entrusted with eternal truths, despite our being “earthen vessels” (2 Cor. 4:7) — or, to paraphrase, “cracked pots.” Sometimes we miss things, sometimes we leak, and sometimes we break. Yet Jesus still chooses to work through our experience, scholarship and even traditions. This doesn’t mean we must be less passionate for the truth, just more humble in our presentation of it.

*Seth Pierce, Puyallup Church
lead pastor*



AND ON EARTH, PEACE



AUTHOR

Martin Weber

It's been a brutal year. Terrorists mingling with refugees violated Europe's welcome, wreaking carnage. Christians residing in radical Islamic territories have been beheaded, crucified or displaced from ancient homelands.

Meanwhile, the Cold War is heating up as America's resurgent enemies challenge our cherished status as the land of the free and home of the brave. Our cities seethe with unresolvable rage. Even high school restrooms have become a war zone as common decency is denounced as phobia and even hatred. Voters desperate for trustworthy national leadership had to choose between discredited and scandalized candidates.

What an opportunity for Seventh-day Adventists to rise up and shine for Jesus! Many Northwest Adventists are doing just that with the glorious message and mission of grace and truth entrusted to

us. Our global denominational structure struggles to provide oversight. Wary pastors and lay members lament about paternalistic committees that confuse unity with uniformity. Trusted veteran leaders express concerns that coercive policies are counterproductive in the elusive quest for revival and reformation.

Whatever our ongoing disagreements about such matters as women's ordination, there is one thing about which we all can agree



this Christmas season: We need Jesus! Santa Claus can't save us. Holiday parties or manic shopping sprees won't bring peace on Earth and goodwill toward fellow humanity. We need to glorify that Baby born in Bethlehem as the risen Lord of our churches.

Let's make this practical. How can we experience good tidings of great joy, as the angels and shepherds did on that holy night so long ago and far away? How can God's amazing grace revitalize your congregation? Remember — it's within local church families we are dedicated as babies, baptized, married and ultimately



We need to glorify that Baby born in Bethlehem as the risen Lord of our churches.



memorialized. It's where we hear the Word every Sabbath and learn how to share it in the marketplace and classroom.

Healthy, thriving congregations don't fight over having a Christmas tree on the platform upon which to pin dollars for the poor. Disputes are resolved in mutual respect through prayerful discussion. There's no brawling in a boardroom sandbox about trinkets and trivia.

And what about our homes? Will the Spirit of Christmas make room at your table for lonely people from

the church and the community — widows, homesick students, single moms and their restless kids? Back in Bible times, hospitality was a sacred duty. It still is. You've got two options: Christmas Eve or Christmas dinner. Suppose you reserved one of those occasions for private fellowship with your relatives and then enlarged your family circle for those who might have a blue Christmas without you?

My mom was a single mother. Childhood in Germany meant joyous holiday fellowship, but parenting in

America became a lonesome holiday experience. The war hero she married turned out to be an abusive father from whom she had to flee to save her three boys. For many years, the only outside activity she had on Christmas was overtime work as a nursing home aide.

One year near the end of her life brought a different Christmas experience, thanks to Candy Carson (wife of the popular, now-retired surgeon). The Carsons might have enjoyed exclusive fellowship with other celebrities, but one Christmas Eve they invited my anonymous mother and her pastor son to come over with my wife and our college-aged children. Others from various backgrounds were there too. The Carsons' basement rec room resounded with our laughter and singing. The food was tasty but not fancy.

That wonderful evening culminated with Ben's poignant Christmas devotional. The next day, as I recall, the Carsons had their own family dinner alone with beloved grandma Sonya.

Will you follow the Carsons' unselfish example this holiday season? Many of you already do and always have. Some of the rest of us don't always do what's stirring in our

hearts and consciences. Perhaps we imagine the need to pull off some big and expensive dinner event. We want to make everything completely perfect. (Full disclosure: Many things I could/should have done in my life haven't happened because I'm still paralyzed by perfectionistic standards — after decades of theologizing about grace. One graduate professor advised me that anything really worth doing is worth doing poorly, if that's the best I can do.)

Thank God, my good wife, Darlene, has been a wonderful hostess amid her other responsibilities throughout our 42 years together in ministry. Many otherwise lonesome Sabbath lunch guests have enjoyed our hospitality fellowship because of her.

Jesus promised, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matt. 25:40 NSRV). Maybe there wasn't room at the inn for Jesus in Bethlehem, but there can be room in our homes and peace in our hearts this Christmas.

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

GIFT

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atience is not typically a childish virtue when Christmas presents are in sight. In my recollections of seasons past, it wasn't for me either — especially when my father made Rømmegrøt.

His dedication to Scandinavian tradition was partially to my advantage. Presents in our

Divine gifts are intended to begin a circle of blessing in which we have a part.

home were opened on Christmas Eve, while my friends had to cool their jets until Christmas morning. But to my singular disadvantage was my father's insistence that all presents should wait in their wrappers until the Rømmegrøt was done.

"Rømme-what?" you say? Rømmegrøt is a sour cream, milk and flour porridge. I understand if that triggers an involuntary gag reflex in some. To the uninitiated it may sound disgustingly on par with the infamous lutefisk. But when brown sugar is sprinkled with a pat of real butter melting on top, it's a pretty tasty journey toward a cardiologist's nightmare. It takes time and patience to make, two ingredients I had little regard for as a child on Christmas Eve.

AUTHOR

Steve Vistaunet

It wasn't that presents were particularly plentiful. My father was working extra hours and jobs to keep three boys in Adventist schools. For years he had gone without a heavy winter coat. The thin jacket he wore was increasingly threadbare. Rich with love and care, our home was nevertheless more akin to Bob Cratchit's than that of Ebenezer Scrooge.

So imagine my wonder when one Christmas Eve, in the midst of Rømmegrøt preparation, heaven intervened with a knock at our door.

Putting his utensils down, my father crossed the room and cautiously opened the front door. There stood a stranger with a large package. "It's for you," he said. "Merry Christmas!" And handing the box to my father, he turned without further word and vanished into the night.

The Rømmegrøt was temporarily forgotten while we all gathered around the box. Carefully slitting the seams, my father opened the flaps and reached inside. With an almost reverential gasp, he pulled out a heavy winter coat, size large. My mother burst into tears as the rest of us looked on with amazement at the coat and my father — a perfect fit. Something beyond us had just happened, and I, for one, was happy the Rømmegrøt had been temporarily forgotten.

We never did learn the origin of that coat. Was it from a friend who guessed our need? A supernatural delivery? Whatever the source, it was indeed an answer to prayer — a gift that kept on giving year after year of warmth; the only gift, in fact, I ever saw that interrupted my dad's Rømmegrøt! In my opinion, that alone tipped the scales to divine intervention.

God's gifts rain down on us every day. He is no respecter of seasons. Scripture reminds us that His bounty is lavished equally on the just and the unjust. But if we receive without gratitude, we will fail to reap the full measure of the gift. Divine gifts are intended to begin a circle of blessing in which we have a part.

Our opportunity throughout this season and beyond is to show our gratitude by paying forward the blessings we receive. Who knows? Perhaps your attention to the need of a friend or neighbor might lead you to a porch this Christmas Eve with a heaven-sent gift and an answer to someone's prayers.

Steve Vistaunet, Gleaner editor

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PERIODICALS

Our Wish for a Christ-Centered Christmas

— *Gleaner Staff*

A
glowing
fireplace
with yuletide
log, children
caroling in the
streets, brightly
wrapped packages
— these are images of

Christmas so many
hold dear.

But when the Word became flesh,
there was little celebration, no red
carpet, not even a welcome mat. If

not for the *heavenly choir*
or star in the sky, even the shepherds and
wise men would have skipped the occasion.

The **Son of God**, considering the plight
of His creation, took a long look at the glories of
heaven, stepped into His jeweled chariot and swept
over the edge of time and space to become one with us,
so we could become one with Him. That great leap of faith
brought Him here the first time. His unqualified love will bring
Him back.

Those who welcome Him back will be those who have chosen to
take the priorities of **HIS KINGDOM** to heart: "Inas-
much as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to
Me" (Matthew 25:40).

Looking from self to the needs of others, may *His values* be at the
centerpiece of your holidays this year.