

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

Gleaner

SEPTEMBER 2012
Vol. 107, No. 9

A QUESTION OF IDENTITY

ONE MAN'S TESTIMONY

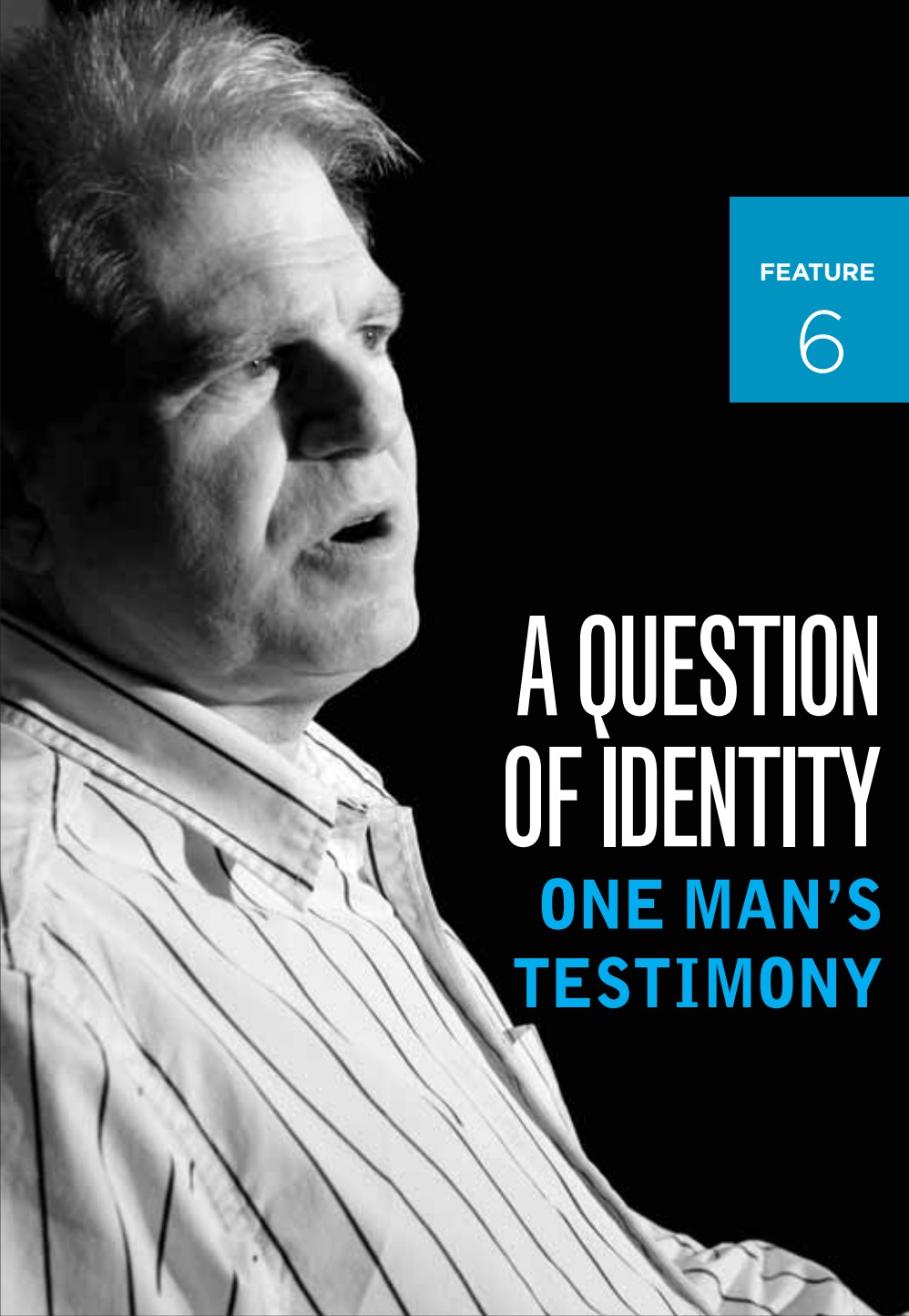
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IMAGES OF CREATION



The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in His love He will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.
ZEPHANIAH 3:17 (NIV)

'Nature's Delight' by Gary State of Gaston, Oregon.



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“I have no regrets for pursuing Adventist Christian education all the way from first grade through college.”

Edwin Karlow, Walla Walla, Washington

Letters

Entertaining Angels

My work the last three years has been transient, 4–6 months in a place, then on to the next one. This has given us an opportunity to visit quite a number of churches. There is always a greeter and a guest book to sign as well as a dog-and-pony show to “welcome” the visitors. But, generally, you come a stranger and leave the same. We have sat in numerous Sabbath School classes where neither the teacher nor one of the members noted us as visitors. If we had been neighbors from across the street, what would we have thought?

Or visitors sent to check things out as those who visited Abraham, what report would we have written upon returning?

David Schumacher, Inchelium, Washington

Education Issue a Blessing

Your three leading stories in the July *GLENER* were exceptionally well-written and inspiring, and I appreciate an issue featuring Adventist schools in the union.

Marilyn Morgan, Kettle Falls, Washington

warming. Would that all our schools had students who were as accepting and inclusive as Amanda found at GSA. That was not the case for many of my peers. But I have no regrets for pursuing Adventist Christian education all the way from first grade through college.

Edwin Karlow, Walla Walla, Washington

A Personal Witness

I always look forward to reading Let’s Talk, the one entitled “Education” [July 2012] especially. I was on some of those high school band tours with Steve Vistanaet. Although I missed the “wet awakening,” I do remember starting the wrong song. Steve, all you had to do was look over at my music stand to see what we were playing next. Memories of friends, good times and bad, from those days will always stay with me and my wife. She was also in the band during those year, standing behind Steve and I, playing percussion. The quality of education learned and friendships made are still some of the leading principles and fond memories in our lives.

Ken Krenzler, Aloha, Oregon

Happy Recollections

The recollections of academy days [Let’s Talk, July 2012] were a great trip down memory lane! The Sprinkler Revenge and the Brahms Blast really tickled my funny bone!

I attended Glendale Adventist Academy (Glendale Union Academy, back then) in Glendale, California, all 12 years. My only claim to fame is that I rode the school bus nearly 100,000 miles! We were rarely late for school except in very rainy weather when the streets leading up to the school flooded and filled with mud from the hills above the school. The story about Amanda Carrithers and Paige Jansen at Gem State Academy (GSA) was heart-



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Send letters, stories, photos
to talk@gleaneronline.org.

Jane Meets the Adventists

She awoke one morning with the sense that something was telling her to go to church. The problem was that it was Saturday; it seemed churches were all closed. She found one that answered and was told to call on a Seventh-day Adventist church. Never heard of them before. She went, was dearly loved and kept coming.

Eventually she asked to join. Should be no problem. Except one. Jane* was in a committed partnership with another woman and had been for years. Having been molested by older men in her childhood family and raped at age 16 with a corresponding pregnancy, Jane wanted nothing to do with men and found sexuality rather disgusting. That is, until one day when a loving woman reached out to her.

I remember meeting Jane. Sweet. Honest. Unpretentious. I still recall the group discussion when Jane, knowing some were tempted with a revisionist approach to Scripture on this topic, said, "Listen, the Good Book says what the Good Book says. You are not helping me by trying to make it say something it does not when I know better."

No subject is currently quite as divisive in American society, families and churches. And, for Adventists, this is not a discussion that will simply go away. Same-sex attractions do exist among us, and they will continue.

One thing is for sure: Misinformation can be very hurtful and offensive. It can also put unnecessary burdens of guilt upon parents and families. So, what have I learned while studying this for myself?

- › Researchers have not found a biological basis for homosexuality. There is no gay gene.
- › There is no consensus among scientists about the exact reasons that an individual develops a heterosexual, bisexual, gay or lesbian orientation.

- › Most people experience little or no sense of choice about their sexual orientation.
- › People are not simply born homosexual. Instead, homosexual attractions are most likely a complex combination of factors, just as is the case with any other developmental issue.
- › Trying to force, shame or coerce someone to change same-sex attractions will always be counterproductive.
- › People do come out of same-sex attraction lifestyles. However, when they do, they come out on their own terms.

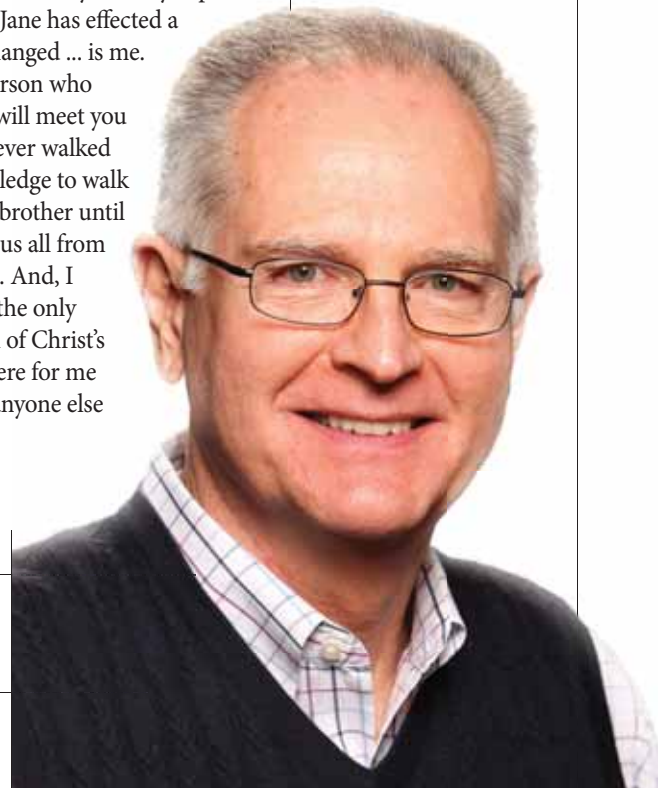
The political/religious divide here can be strident. But what too often gets lost in the debate are the people for whom Jesus died. So, let me now speak from my heart, and hopefully for other Adventists as well. I humbly apologize to every person with same-sex attractions whom I have derided, ignored, looked down upon, labeled, judged and burdened.

I have prayerfully pored over Scripture for guidance on this subject. I have pondered Christ's own interaction with those marginalized by society or the church. My view of what the Bible says on this subject has not changed — it still says what it has always said about human sexuality. But my experience with both Jesus and Jane has effected a change. And, what has changed ... is me.

Should you be a gay person who comes into my church, I will meet you with open arms. I have never walked in your shoes, but I will pledge to walk along side of you as your brother until Jesus comes and changes us all from our shared, fallen natures. And, I promise that between us the only shame will be the scandal of Christ's blood on the cross! It's there for me and Jane and you ... and anyone else who is seeking a Savior.

"Should you be a gay person who comes into my church, I will meet you with open arms."

*"Jane" is a pseudonym. Her true story took place while LeMert served as the Oregon Conference special assistant to the president, 1997–2010.



SCOTT A. LEMERT
SUNNYSIDE CHURCH PASTOR
IN PORTLAND, OREGON





EDITOR'S NOTE

Wayne Blakely's testimony is one of redemption. After nearly 40 years in an actively gay lifestyle, he found saving grace in a new relationship with Christ.

Since then, Wayne, as a same-sex attracted Seventh-day Adventist in the Northwest, has sought to make a daily choice to abide in Christ according to his conviction from God's Word. In contrast with the increasingly political stridency of many who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered (LGBT), his testimony is important for Northwest Adventists to consider.

Wayne's perspectives may not match your journey or that of a loved one who has come to a different view of Christ's call to believers. But some things we all hold in common: the desire to love and be loved; the sense of safety and acceptance; and a desperate need of a Savior.

Corporately, we pray for the grace of Christ to infuse our Northwest churches with a welcoming spirit to all God's children who seek the Savior.

We invite your comments about this interview or your own particular journey at talk@gleaneronline.org.

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A QUESTION OF IDENTITY

ONE MAN'S TESTIMONY

Wayne, your journey has led you to proclaim a different message than what we often hear from popular culture. Why is that?

For years, feelings were my truth, including intense feelings for the same sex. So I lived according to those feelings for nearly 40 years.

One day I sat contemplating my life and destiny. And it suddenly dawned on me that the life Jesus has designed for His children isn't all about us and our feelings. It's about Him ... Jesus Christ. He wants an intimate relationship with us where He is King.

The realization of this broke my heart and led me to give myself over to Him. And when I did, life changed forever. That sounds like a broken cliché, but it's not. I have decided that my life is not my own. It's been granted as a gift for a purpose. Everywhere we go today, people say, "Be yourself. Accept yourself." But the core of what God has asked me to share is self-denial and complete surrender to my Creator. He owns my life.

After all those decades away, you are now active in your local Adventist church. In your opinion are the terms "gay" and "Adventist" compatible?

There are many who consider themselves gay and Adventist. But I have come to the conclusion that, as children of God, our identities should not be tied to our sexual inclinations, but rather to Him. In my opinion, the term "gay" is a worldly term that indicates a sexual preference. When I surrendered my life to Christ, I accepted the new identity He promised in 2 Corinthians 5:17. As it says there, the old is gone and the new has come, and I am a "new creation." If I am not practicing gay behavior, it makes no sense to claim it as my identity. I am tempted by that old behavior, but God calls me to identify with Him, not with my temptation. I have not turned my back on my gay friends or become suddenly heterosexual. I've turned my heart toward the One who draws each of us to Him.

At times Adventists have been uncertain how to act, and, as a result, those with same-sex attractions have felt shunned. **This is not the way Jesus would respond.**

So are you suggesting that affirmation of those who claim LGBT identity can be counterproductive?

I understand the need we all have to be accepted as we are. In truth, no matter what our past or present issues are, we are all sinners in need of a Savior. Jesus accepts us as we are, but He doesn't leave us to fend for ourselves. He calls us to something higher. He provides us with other believers and His Holy Spirit to help us grow.

If affirmation leads to a pathway of discipleship, then I'm all for it. But, if affirmation implies change is not necessary, then we are short-circuiting the very plan that God intends for our spiritual growth. It can lead instead to stagnation, which is dangerous and counterproductive to the Christian journey.

But affirmation has not typically been the norm in Adventist churches. Wouldn't you agree that the opposite has more often been true?

Yes, we have a tendency to look with judgment. And we have made the mistake of putting anyone who identifies as LGBT in the same camp as pedophiles or other "perversions." Those people are also in need of God's grace and forgiveness but should not be lumped in with the issue of homosexuality.

At times Adventists have been uncertain how to act, and, as a result, those with same-sex attractions have felt shunned. This is not the way Jesus would respond. Failure to see gays as human beings with feelings, likes and dislikes, valuable knowledge, and fascinating personalities has paralyzed many and prevented an opportunity for the love of Christ to be seen. We desperately need to stop distancing ourselves from gays, but engage with them in cultivating an atmosphere for the Holy

Spirit. Our church members need to be educated and encouraged to love every person as a child of God. Anyone open to the leading and discipleship of the Holy Spirit in biblical truth should have a warm welcome to ongoing fellowship in our churches. If someone is openly living in sin, homosexual or heterosexual, it is time for a Spirit-led combination of discipline and discipleship. Holiness is what God calls us all to — His holiness. There is no good thing in us. But we can invite Him in and allow Him to change our lives. I believe that applies to anyone — gay or straight.

What are some key passages of Scripture that inform your own beliefs, your journey of discipleship and your current testimony?

Several come quickly to mind. I love Revelation 12:11, which encourages me to speak up, for it says we will overcome the devil by the words of our testimony. Jeremiah 17:9 cautions me about depending on feelings: The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked. I find the importance of growth and discipleship in 1 Corinthians 6:9–11, which points out the kinds of sinners who will not be in heaven, but then beautifully states "and such were some of you." I constantly claim 2 Corinthians 5:17: The old is gone, the new is here, and I am a "new creation." Romans 8:1 provides the anchor point that there is now no condemnation in Jesus. And the godly reminder in Galatians 1:6–9, to beware of listening to and adhering to a different gospel, is something we all need.

These passages are supportive of any sin struggle. They are not intended as condemnation, but as promises and instruction to any who are willing to let God fully into their lives. Jesus has provided us with so much wisdom, and His generous redemptive gift is available to all sinners. We are in this together. There is nothing that cannot be conquered through Jesus.



But Scripture that seems critical of homosexuality is not very politically correct. Some passages have been used as “clobber texts.” Many in our culture today consider biblical injunctions about this topic to be “hate speech.”

Well, in fact, a gay couple recently wrote me and referred to the nine references to homosexuality in the Word of God as the “hate verses.” I found that interesting, sad and perplexing. Our heavenly Father does not seek to gain our obedience and dependence upon Him with hate. There is nothing but pure love in our God. Pure love will eventually destroy evil because it will self-destruct in the presence of such a force of love and light. The texts about moral sexuality are there for a reason. They are a guide. Helpful instruction for our good isn’t always pleasant to the ear. It may not seem logical or practical to the human mind. But the Bible isn’t all about our immediate pleasure. It’s all about our eternal salvation.

Is there a “gay agenda” within certain circles of Adventists that in your estimation does not match Christ’s ideal for His church?

Absolutely. In the church’s silence, the pendulum has swung another direction. Many parents, brothers, sisters and friends react much differently today when someone declares that they are “gay.” Many don’t even flinch. They say, “That’s cool ... God loves you just the way you are.” Well, yes indeed, He does. But as in any sin temptation combined with someone who is in Christ, He wants us to grow in His love, accept His truth and trust the wisdom of His laws. It sounds like a simple formula. But I am well aware of the constant struggle to focus away from self and on Him. My efforts can never make me holy — but I continually claim Him, and He is holy.

I don’t need to parade my temptation as my identity. To continually identify with temptation, rather than who I am in Christ, anchors me to the world. We are Adventists. That term makes a statement about our beliefs and foundations in the truth we believe in through Christ. Jesus saves us from our sin, not in our sin. When I identify in the victory of Jesus, my healing is advanced. I’m no longer weighted down in sin.

There are a growing number of people who want to push against God’s Word and the beliefs of the denomination by insisting upon actions and lifestyles that are not biblical. In my opinion this is a delicate danger. I believe we should neither condemn or condone, but love and engage while we together seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We should determine never to misrepresent Christ and His Word.

Adventist parents often struggle with the reality of a LGBT child.

Mine certainly did. But they always loved me, and I knew that. There are a number of parents today who think that unless they approve of their son’s or daughter’s sinful behavior, their child will not recognize or believe their love for them. They worry the child might even commit suicide if they are in question of a parent’s acceptance. They are in agony because they feel ultimately responsible.

This again is where we must each hold on to Jesus, trust and believe in Him, at any cost. We cannot take on the responsibility for our children’s choices. Behavior is a choice, not the feelings. Jesus asks us to bring our feelings to Him and trust Him apart from our feelings. So this rings just as true for the parent as it does for the one struggling with same-sex attraction. Of course, I know this is much easier said than put into practice.

ADVENTIST POSITION ON HOMOSEXUALITY

This statement was voted during the Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee on Sunday, October 3, 1999, in Silver Spring, Maryland.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church recognizes that every human being is valuable in the sight of God, and we seek to minister to all men and women in the spirit of Jesus. We also believe that by God's grace and through the encouragement of the community of faith, an individual may live in harmony with the principles of God's Word.

Seventh-day Adventists believe that sexual intimacy belongs only within the marital relationship of a man and a woman. This was the design established by God at creation. The Scriptures declare: "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh" (Gen. 2:24, NIV). Throughout Scripture this heterosexual pattern is affirmed. The Bible makes no accommodation for homosexual activity or relationships. Sexual acts outside the circle of a heterosexual marriage are forbidden (Lev. 20:7–21; Rom. 1:24–27; 1 Cor. 6:9–11). Jesus Christ reaffirmed the divine creation intent: "'Haven't you read,' he replied, 'that at the beginning the Creator "made them male and female," and said, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?" So they are no longer two, but one'" (Matt. 19:4–6, NIV). For these reasons Adventists are opposed to homosexual practices and relationships.

Seventh-day Adventists endeavor to follow the instruction and example of Jesus. He affirmed the dignity of all human beings and reached out compassionately to persons and families suffering the consequences of sin. He offered caring ministry and words of solace to struggling people, while differentiating His love for sinners from His clear teaching about sinful practices.

What sort of steps should church members take to be positively engaged with these issues and ready to welcome a gay seeker to their services?

Well I hope you are referring to a gay person who is seeking truth and guidance. This is a huge area of opportunity. The first step I recommend is to invite a redeemed homosexual/gay person to speak at their church. This opens the dialogue and is the first step in developing an outreach to the gay community at large.

Then make sure to integrate these individuals in your "small community groups" that exist in many churches that meet, eat, study and pray together on a night during the week in between Sabbaths. I have been part of such a group for the last three years. I have been so blessed, and my church family has been a backbone of support.

So if you are still same-sex attracted, but seeking to live according to biblical counsel, are you espousing celibacy for anyone not married to someone of the opposite gender?

I believe that is the biblical counsel — that sexual relations can only be blessed within a committed, marriage relationship. I can only share the experience and truth that God has revealed to me. This is not a new concept or belief. He promises to provide us with His strength, and He will.

Easy for you to say at your age.

Aha [smiles] ... Let me assure you that I long for physical intimacy like anyone else. But I am determined to remain dependent upon Jesus and His strength. And that is the same method regardless of who we are, how old we are or what sexual persuasion we are. Of course I know of men in their 20s who are sorely tempted. Some have found victory, and some are still struggling. But it is theirs if they choose it. It is nothing that we conjure up or white knuckle our way through. The only good in us is from Jesus.

How should Adventists relate to efforts that attempt to "cure" gay people? Does redemption necessitate denial of who they inherently are?

The so-called "cures" some have promoted over the years have at times done more harm than good. Someone who is a babe in Christ needs to be nurtured. It is not helpful for them to face demands or expectations of instant performance.

My experience is not focused on a "cure" for my same-sex attraction. In Christ, I am not straight, I am not gay. I don't even identify as ex-gay. I am a "new creation" in Him. I live to

In Christ, I am not straight, I am not gay. I don't even identify as ex-gay. I am a "new creation" in Him.

serve Him and do His will instead of my own. Even heterosexual Christians don't go around saying ... "Oh, by the way, do you know I'm a 'straight Christian?'" We should seek to be all that we can be in Christ, which is of far greater scope than our sexual inclinations.

As 1 Peter 1:13-16 says, "Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled, set your hope on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all that you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'"

In your opinion, is the *Seventh-Gay Adventists* movie being screened now around the country a helpful tool to build better understanding?

A film drawing attention to our need to talk about homosexual issues in our church has been long overdue. It portrays stories from members who have struggled to gain acceptance within the Adventist Church. These stories are indeed heart-breaking. We need to pay attention and learn from them. But we shouldn't stop there. We should look to God and His divine Word before letting ourselves be reshaped by stories of heart-break. I have a story of heartbreak as well. But in my heartbreak God brought me to Him to kneel at the cross in my brokenness and receive the healing He freely offers any sinner. Let's not allow our emotions to affirm what God's Word clearly calls destructive. Jesus calls us to follow Him, no matter what our story, no matter what defines our personal struggle with self.

In this, as well as many other issues, how do we discern what is an emotional response versus an informed, biblical response?

Well, emotions are indeed a God-given gift, critical to our quality of life. But we must guard against letting our emotions become a weak link in our Christian walk. Satan's introduction of sin into our world was through an emotional draw.

We have many examples in the Bible that show us where people made choices based on their feelings, lusts and selfish desires. They did not temper their decisions even when God directly cautioned them. They let their emotions act as their truth. When we are not willing to submit ourselves to Christ and let His will be done, we are re-enacting the very attitude

that got Lucifer cast out of heaven and Adam and Eve thrust from the Garden of Eden. Why would we want to follow that path?

So what can you say to a gay person who is seeking today to live according to God's way of life as portrayed in Scripture?

If there were one single thing I could say to a person struggling with same-sex attraction, it would be this assurance: God will send all the resources of heaven for you to experience the freedom He offers. I know because each day He continues to do so for me.



Watch, Listen and Learn

Watch Wayne share his testimony and respond to questions on YouTube. Search YouTube for "Wayne Blakely's Personal Journey."

Wayne has joined with four other individuals who represent three additional ministries regarding same-sex attraction to form Coming Out Ministries. Wayne actively presents weekend seminars in churches around the Northwest and beyond. More details, available seminars, and contact information are available at KnowHisLove.com.

For more information about the *Seventh-Gay Adventists* full-length documentary mentioned in this interview, go to sgamovie.com.

ACCION

Campestre Familiar Hispano en la Conferencia de Washington

El Sorprendente Privilegio de la Familia

La Conferencia de Washington se alegra por haber tenido otro exitoso Campestre Familiar Hispano. Se llevó a cabo durante la semana del 3 al 9 de junio en las escuelas Adventistas de Auburn, Wash. Como invitados especiales estuvieron Carlos Rando y su esposa, María Feliza. Con su amplia experiencia denominacional y años de trabajo llevando adelante la obra de Dios en diferentes países, trajeron a nuestros miembros Hispanos



Pastor Carlos Rando y su esposa Maria Feliza Rando durante el Campestre de la Conferencia de Washington. un rico material para la familia, con extensos consejos espirituales y prácticos. La asistencia general llegó a 1,100 miembros el sábado por la mañana para honra y gloria de Dios.



Pastor Omar Grieve bautizando a los esposos Mota de la Iglesia de Federal Way.

El renombrado cantante cristiano, Joel Nieves, trajo música selecta que inspiró a la congregación elevando alabanzas para honrar el nombre de Dios. También alabaron al Señor, Cynthia Villegas, José Castro, Juan Carlos Cordero y por primera vez cantó el Coro de la Iglesia de Federal Way (Wash.), liderados por su director, Alexis Sandoval.

Los niños participaron de una programación especialmente organizada para ellos por Abigail Pozo, directora del departamento de niños de la conferencia, y su equipo de voluntarios dedicados. El sábado, hubo división de menores para las edades de 3-6 y 7-12 y para los adolescentes de 13-16.

Con especial toque espiritual estuvieron las 21 almas que con

gozo entregaron sus vidas en las aguas bautismales. El sábado se bautizaron los esposos Mota, quienes conocieron la verdad a través de una campaña laica dirigida por Israel Cárdenas de la Iglesia de Federal Way.

El sábado por la mañana estuvieron en nuestro medio, Ramon Canals, director del ministerio Hispano de la Unión

Pacífico Norte; John Freedman, presidente de la Conferencia de Washington; y Doug Bing, vicepresidente de la Conferencia de Washington.

Nuestra hermandad y los pastores seguían animados, luchando para llevar adelante la obra, mientras nos preparábamos para la gran campaña evangelística, en la última semana de Julio 2012, con Pastor Alejandro Bullón en el área de Everett, Washington. Estuvimos orando para que Dios derramase sus bendiciones sobre los esfuerzos evangelísticos de la hermandad Hispana en esta área del estado de Washington. Vimos la bendición de Dios y fuimos grandemente bendecidos.

Nessy Pittau, Conferencia de Washington directora de ministerios de salud y asistente de ministerios Hispanos



Sábado por la mañana en el Campestre Hispano 2012.

Palmer Church Celebrates Humble Beginnings and Marvelous Miracles

The Palmer Church dedicated its debt-free church complex and school, Amazing Grace Academy (AGA), during a special Sabbath on April 14 attended by excited members, visitors and former pastors. This celebration of God's miraculous blessings is anchored in the pioneer spirit that claimed His blessings decades ago.

Established during the Great Depression of the 1930s, the Palmer Church was the first denominational church in Alaska's Matanuska Valley. It was completed in January 1936 by 15 believers who defied sub-zero temperatures to construct "God's House" out of cut spruce trees in the teeth of Matanuska winter winds. A church school, which later began with four students, was also the first of its kind in the area.

A new church building on Beaver Street was completed in 1975. The congregation grew and thrived there until, as Neil Biloff, former pastor, recalls, some members would come to church only to leave, unable to find parking spaces.

After prayerful consideration, they sold the church to build a new one on approximately 15 acres offered at a reasonable price by senior member Marjorie Hoskins. Church member Dan Shaul designed the church with an expansion plan to add a church school in the future. By 1998, services were held in the present church, which was

largely completed by volunteers, including Maranatha groups. In time, school construction began. In the spring of 2006, the local Head Start program offered to rent a section of the school for \$7,000 a month — God's answer to a huge debt problem.

The church experienced a severe budget crisis in 2008 that prompted members to develop a faith-walk with the Lord through meaningful prayers and action. In time, the church's financial health significantly improved.

In the fall of 2009, the pastor, Aaron Payne, challenged his members to pay off the church

and school debt. Months of prayers, planning and spirit-filled sermons followed. As a result, the church launched its Partners in Faith campaign of "not equal giving but equal sacrifice" in February 2010. An added goal upon being debt-free was to build a school gym to serve the church, school and community. The church held a continuous 24-hour prayer vigil followed by a banquet heralding the three-pronged campaign.

In fact, the church board ultimately decided to send \$1,500 to Maranatha's One-Day Church program for every \$100,000 eliminated from the church debt. To date, four such

checks have been sent.

Now, with the church and school dedicated and debt-free, the goal of building the school gym to serve the church, school and community is taking center stage. With a record 75 students enrolled this past school year, AGA has created an informational video at amazinggraceacademy.org that illustrates the opportunity for more miracles to happen and more prayers to be answered.

An expanded story is available at gleaneronline.org.

Mary LaVarnway, Palmer Church member

KENNETH ALBERTSEN



Idaho Conference Welcomes *New Education Director*

Patrick Frey accepted the Idaho Conference call to be its next education director as of July 1. Frey finished his master's in educational administration at Walla Walla University in July. He and his wife, Mary Kay, arrived in Idaho in August.

Frey comes well-qualified to lead the conference education department. His teaching experience ranges from rural one-teacher schools in Wyoming to a 110-student junior academy in Yakima, Wash. Idaho has several one-teacher schools and two larger schools, plus

Gem State Adventist Academy in Caldwell. A go-getter from the start, Frey has teaching endorsements in general science, biology, chemistry, English, health, religion, algebra and photography. He enjoys bringing technology into the classroom to help make learning fun and relevant.

The third of four boys, Frey was raised in Nevada, Iowa, in a mostly non-religious home. During his freshman year in college, a student of Oak Park Academy (now closed) in Nevada, Iowa, shared her

faith with him, which sparked an interest in the God of the Sabbath. Frey's college days were interrupted by a stint in the Army. But, while in the military, he accepted Christ as his Savior and met and married his wife.

After leaving the service, Frey attended Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Mass., where he gained a Bachelor of Arts in education and two children, Todd and Katie. The Freys enjoy camping, sailing, remodeling houses and horses (especially Mary Kay), and they are the proud grandparents of Patrick and Jake, sons of Todd and Sarah, who live in Spokane, Wash. Katie is

married to Bruce Beerman, and they also live in Spokane.

Frey's initial goals in the Idaho Conference are to help young people to develop a saving relationship with Jesus, to give them an intelligent understanding of the role of the Adventist Church, and to help them acquire a quality Christian education. Knowing that school and church are only part of the equation, he would like to focus on the families of the students, to minister to their needs as parents in a challenging world.

Eve Rusk, Idaho Conference assistant communication director



Patrick and Mary Kay Frey are enjoying their new assignment to the Idaho Conference, where Patrick now serves as education director.

Gleaner

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Belgrade Blessing Jar Inspires Special Sabbaths

When I became the pastor of Montana's Belgrade Church in May 2011, my wife and I were graciously given a welcome gift called a "Blessing Jar." We were instructed to write down blessings we received from God and drop them in the jar. Then, from time to time, we were to empty the jar and review how God had blessed us. We loved the idea and began collecting little notes of blessings.

A couple of weeks later I was reading *Desire of Ages* and discovered this statement: "It is for our own benefit to keep every gift of God fresh in our memory. Thus faith is strengthened to claim and to receive more and more. There is greater encouragement for us in the least blessing we ourselves receive from God than in all the accounts we can read of the faith and experience of others" (p. 348). I immediately decided

that we needed a blessing jar for the whole church.

Now we have "Blessing Sabbaths" several times a year. On those Sabbaths we do not have a sermon, but take the worship service to praise and thank God for the blessings He gives. As this idea was developing I also remembered something I had read a few years previously:

"... The church members are not to expect a sermon every Sabbath. ... Let church members, during the week, act their part faithfully, and on the Sabbath relate their experience. The

meeting will then be as meat in due season, bringing to all present new life and fresh vigor" (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 19).

We believe that God is adding "new life and fresh vigor" to our church family through our "Blessing Sabbaths."

Note: Blessing jars are produced by a local Christian potter in the Bozeman, Mont., area. If you are interested in a jar, you may contact Rollin Hixson at rollinhixson@gmail.com.

Rollin Hixson, Belgrade Church pastor



ROLLIN HIXSON

Montana's Belgrade Church members write down their blessings in a church "Blessing Jar" and share the notes during special Sabbath services.

Montana Conference Convocation Weekends



DATES:

- Missoula - Oct. 26 & 27
Speaker: Kevin Wilfley
- Billings - Nov. 2 & 3
Speaker: Dan Serns



Friday 7:00 pm
Sabbath 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

Camp Meeting When You're 10

It's a good day to be 10 years old. You're at Gladstone Camp Meeting, outside Portland, Ore., and tonight the Reptile Man will be here!

Yes, the adults are having a good time too. You see them standing in line for a Pronto Pup from the Pathfinders who run the Snack Shack; they're catching up on news, comparing photos of their grandchildren, and talking about the classes they took on prayer, preaching or food safety. (Some even carry chainsaws; this makes you wonder if adults do craft projects too.)

What's more, some of the adults are pretty excited about the evangelism offering; that's why they gave more than \$78,000 to tell people about Jesus.



Elizabeth Talbot speaks in the Plaza Pavilion during one of her evening presentations.

And even in the Children's Amphitheater, you hear the adults as they worship — the loud strains of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" coming through the trees from the Plaza Pavilion, or Elizabeth



The Reptile Man is a big hit at Gladstone Camp Meeting.

Talbot leading the crowd in a shout of "woohoo!" And on Saturday night, you can hear the Oregon Adventist Men's Chorus no matter where you are on the campground.

Then there are all the other things the adults do at camp meeting — the blood drive, the Evangelism Training Camp, the Fun Run on Friday morning. (You'll join them for the Fun Run — in fact, you'll finish the five-kilometer course in just 31 minutes!)

But even though the adults are having fun ...

Do they have a water slide?

Do they get to hear the Mud Man (aka Rich Aguilera) talk about creation?

Do they go on hayrides, wave at people and count the number of people who wave back? (Double points if it's a teen.)

No, you're pretty sure that none of these things make up camp meeting for most adults — and you're really sure

the Reptile Man doesn't go to the Plaza Pavilion and let adults hold a giant Burmese python.

Then again, there's one thing you can always get from camp meeting, no matter how old you are. "I want everybody to go home with a passionate love for Jesus," says Al Reimche, Oregon Conference president. "I want them to go home with a love

that leads them to share His love with others."

If you go home with that, then you had a good camp meeting ... even if you're not 10 years old.

Greg Brothers, Lincoln City Church pastor, who interviewed 10-year-old Michael Mancina for this article.

This year's Snack Shack was run by Oregon Conference Pathfinder clubs. The money they made will help them go to Oshkosh in 2014.



Ohana Sends Team to Tanzania

Ohana Christian Fellowship in West Linn, Ore., recently sent a mission team to Mbeya, Tanzania, where the team preached the gospel at five different sites daily and held a Vacation Bible School for more than 325 children.

Team members also staffed medical and dental clinics and helped to add a multipurpose room, ultimately named Ohana Hall, to the existing Adventist school. The team included members from Ohana, Rockwood and Canby churches, all in the Portland, Ore., area, as well as a few from California.

“I was really proud of our team members,” says Doug Franzke, Ohana pastor. “All

of them stepped out of their comfort zones at one point or another and did things that they had not done in the past. As a result, many people were blessed as well as the team members themselves.”

Bible workers from the Tanzania Conference had been sent to the area two months before the team’s arrival to lead individual baptismal students and train other members to give Bible studies. A fundraising campaign provided a Swahili Bible for each baptismal candidate. Hundreds of individual studies continued as the Bible workers stayed by for more than four months after the Ohana team’s departure.



The Ohana Christian Fellowship mission team preached at five different sites each day and presented a Vacation Bible School for more than 325 children in Mbeya, Tanzania.

“We had over 300 people give their hearts to Jesus and be baptized just while we were there. Many more are preparing for baptism with the Bible workers and local church members,” says Franzke. “The medical and

dental teams treated a great number of patients, and I know that the work done in VBS will have eternal results.”

Sue Washinger, Ohana Christian Fellowship secretary

PAA Serves Greater Portland Area

More than 250 Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) students, staff and volunteers joined together for the school’s fourth-annual service event, Inside Out. The event further invests in PAA’s mission to instill in its students a passion for service.

This year, PAA joined Loaves & Fishes, Love Inc., People of the Street Ministries, Lift Urban, Shepherd’s Door, the Portland Rescue Mission, Portland Adventist Community Services and local Adventist churches to serve people in the greater Portland, Ore., area.

Student groups of five to 10 helped with yard work and landscaping, distributed



Kira Rasmussen (left) and Ellen Bakira, both PAA juniors, helped prepare and package more than 5,000 meals for Meals-on-Wheels during PAA’s annual Inside Out service event.

meals, assembled hygiene kits for the homeless, and built and prepared garden beds for a neighboring community

garden. When one group had trouble finding homeless people downtown, they took meals to major intersections where

people were asking for work, food and money.

“The students made 5,000 meals [for Meals-on-Wheels],” says Stacey Myhrvold, Loaves & Fishes volunteer resources director, “and we hope they’ll volunteer again next year.”

Sophomore Lanessa Long realized Inside Out helps students be more aware of the world around them. “Inside Out really makes you aware that everyone has a story,” she says. “It gives us a chance to hear those stories and help others out in whatever way we can.”

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA GLEANER correspondent

Blessings for Belize Team

Brings Multifaceted Ministry to Central America

Heaven provided the blessings and the people of Sunnyside Church in Portland, Ore., provided the financial resources for Blessings for Belize (B4B), a mission endeavor to the northeastern coast of Central America.

The mission included meetings, dubbed “The Dynamic Bible — Twelve Revelatory Messages” and conducted by Scott LeMert, Sunnyside Church senior pastor, and Richard Fenn, Sunnyside Church mission leader, that ran April 6–22. In addition, there were three children’s festivals with wonderful stories, lively music and hands-on activities held each Sabbath.

Adventists make up more than 10 percent of Belize’s population. The country’s capital, Belmopan, a city of nearly 13,350 residents, was chosen



Arnold Petersen (left) works with a physician from the La Loma Luz Adventist Hospital during surgery.

for Sunnyside Church’s Big Tent series.

Fenn led two teams totaling 41 participants who planned, traveled and provided much-needed spiritual, physical and moral support to people in several locations in Belize. The evangelistic program included the Big Tent series, children’s ministries led by Bonnie Mackett and women’s ministries led by Kathy Pruitt.

The B4B medical team, led by Arnold Petersen, performed 21 surgical operations at La Loma Luz Adventist Hospital and provided specialized nursing education in obstetrics, CPR certification and health education.

Construction projects included improvements to two churches and a community basketball court. B4B gifted money to the Belize Union for

the installation of a roof on one of the churches. On the hospital campus, B4B builders enlarged a parking area.

Jim and Linae Moor from the Meadow Glade Church in Battle Ground, Wash., joined the Sunnyside team and had a special opportunity to visit with two Mennonite families who had recently lost children in drowning accidents. The Moors, having lost a child themselves, had special empathy for these families, and their visit was much appreciated.

Angelo Dominguez, Belmopan Church pastor, baptized 21 people on the final Sabbath of the mission. Everyone agreed the blessings went both ways and made the whole experience special.

Phyllis Foster Woods, Sunnyside Church communication leader

Molalla Hosts Bible Buckaroo VBS

The Molalla Church hosted the Bible Buckaroo Vacation Bible School in June. Cindy Hepler, Molalla VBS director, chose this theme again after its popularity four years ago. This year 47 children attended, most of them from the community.

During the VBS everyone wore cowboy hats and western scarves, which the children got to take home at the end. They made hat bands, horse name tags and bookmarks, and they painted wooden crosses. Each day they worked on a poster about what they learned or the

activity they liked the best. The games revolved around a daily story or theme and included putting words together for that day’s Bible verse.

The children presented a small program for their parents on the last day and another for the church service that Sabbath. The VBS brought together many church members, young and old, to help in this wonderful outreach.

Helen Shreve, Molalla Church communication leader



Nearly 50 children attended the Bible Buckaroo Vacation Bible School in Molalla, Ore.

Youth Group Touches Lives at Local Mission

The Gospel Rescue Mission (GRM), which shelters more than 120 homeless men, women and children in Grants Pass, Ore., has shown remarkable vision, godly dedication and unconditional love. It has also made an incomparable impact on the Grants Pass Church youth group. Nine young people, ages 12–19, along with seven adults took on a mission trip to their very own city on Sabbath, April 14.

The youth group quickly welcomed the task of serving supper at the GRM and visiting with shelter residents.

Following supper, the boys and men led a worship service at the men's residence, while the girls and ladies played with

children at the Fikso Family Center. "The kids absolutely loved playing and reading with us," recalls Lexie Wheeler, one of the youth.

Then the group grabbed sleeping bags and began a most unique experience — spending a night at the mission. "I realized how fortunate I am to still have a home," says Darla Day, youth leader.

The next morning, they prepared breakfast for the residents.

Throughout the visit, the youth listened to hurting women, played with love-thirsty children and prayed with searching men, but all along they were ministering to Jesus Christ Himself.



Youth and their leaders enjoy a blessing as they help at the Grants Pass Gospel Rescue Mission.

The homeless residents did not receive the only blessing. "Our prayers with them moved us to tears," says Christian Martin, Grants Pass associate pastor. "We were deeply blessed." "Can't wait to go back!" Day

declares — a sentiment shared by the entire Grants Pass youth group.

Christian Martin, Grants Pass Church associate pastor

Oregon Women Enjoy Klamath Falls and Lakeview Retreats

Two May retreats have blessed and inspired women in Lakeview, Ore., and Klamath Falls, Ore.

Corleen Johnson, North Pacific Union Conference prayer coordinator, presented the theme "Connected" at the Women's Ministries Retreat in Klamath Falls, held May 5–6. She urged each one present to spend quality time connecting with Jesus in order to be equipped to serve Him and His children.

Small prayer-groups were formed, and many people expressed the benefits they



The Klamath Falls Church women's ministries team was an integral part of the retreat held May 20 in Lakeview, Ore.

received from what was shared throughout the meetings.

Those who attended the May 20 Women's Retreat in Lakeview were challenged to seek a closer walk with Christ by the

power of the Holy Spirit. The music and the messages were given by five ladies from the Klamath Falls Church: Donna French, Kathy Davis, Patty Stimpel, Gretchen Bowers and

Marcia Mollenkopf.

Mollenkopf stressed the importance of daily prayer to commune with Jesus, learn from Him, find strength to follow Him, lead others to Him and glorify Him.

At each of these retreats, the women who attended were drawn to seek a closer relationship with Jesus, a more intimate prayer life and an open heart toward the Spirit's leading.

Marcia Mollenkopf, Klamath Falls Church assistant communication leader

Project Volunteers Make a Difference at UCA

This marked the 13th summer that volunteers have been on the campus of Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) in Spangle, Wash. Each summer a group of volunteers comes to UCA to work on special projects. Organized by Jim Mann, UCA maintenance director, they help keep the campus up and running. "These people are an amazing asset to our church and school," says John Winslow, UCA principal.

This summer 17 volunteers from throughout the Northwest and Canada came to campus for two weeks to work on projects

such as painting, replacing siding and windows on staff housing, and tearing down and rebuilding an old garage. "It is an amazing amount of help to have a group with us for two weeks," Mann says.

Many of the volunteers come back year after year and can point to numerous things on campus they have been a part of fixing, renovating or replacing. "The biggest project we have done with the volunteers would be the church," says Mann. "One summer they helped us remodel the whole interior."

Mann plans to continue the

volunteer program in an effort to keep up with improvements on the UCA campus. A majority of this year's volunteers are planning to return again next summer. "Most importantly, the

work they do has a positive impact for eternity," says Winslow.

Joe Hess, UCA GLEANER correspondent



For 13 years, volunteers have teamed up with the Upper Columbia Academy maintenance department to help with special projects on campus.

Richland Pastor Rides for Diapers

Eric Shadle began a cross-country bike ride July 8 to help raise awareness of the need for diapers all across America. Beginning from the Adventist church in Richland, Wash., where he is the pastor, Shadle has been riding a route mapped through 10 states, with plans to

arrive in Silver Spring, Md., on Sept. 5.

The send-off ceremony included Richland's mayor making a tribute to Adventists, a group of roller-derby girls breaking through a wall of stacked diaper boxes, and the motorcycle group Bikers

Against Child Abuse showing their support by leading Shadle on his way.

At scheduled stops along the way, Shadle is speaking at community centers, churches and other locations about the lack of diapers for low-income families. His ultimate goal is to raise \$250,000 to purchase 1 million diapers for organizations across the country involved in this effort, including the Tri-Cities Diaper Bank operated by local Adventist churches. Shadle is having ongoing conversations with people in towns across America through churches and hospitals as well as service clubs like Rotary and Kiwanis.

Shadle has blogged daily, shot video weekly and spoken at any venue where people would like to know more about this need



A prayer for Eric Shadle was part of a send-off ceremony as he began a cross-country bike ride to raise awareness of low-income families' need for diapers.

and what diapers have to do with church.

You can follow Shadle's ride online at ride4diapers.org, which updates his progress every few minutes.

Jon Dalrymple, Upper Columbia Conference communication assistant



Eric Shadle waves to a cheering crowd on his way out of the Richland Church parking lot as he begins his ride across America.

Centenarian Still Serves Church



Bessie McGuire celebrated her 100th birthday doing what she does every Thursday: photocopying and stuffing inserts into 150 worship service bulletins for the Milton Church in Milton-Freewater, Ore.

Not every 100-year-old celebrates her birthday doing “business as usual,” but Bessie Obert (Freeman) McGuire was at her volunteer post at the Milton Church, in Milton-Freewater, Ore., on her 100th birthday May 10, photocopying and stuffing inserts into the 150 worship service bulletins she runs every week. For McGuire, this job is a service of love and represents her strong desire to be actively involved in her community.

Nearly 100 family and friends from across the country and overseas celebrated her birthday a few days later in the church fellowship hall. Many of the colorful and unique quilts McGuire has made and shared were on display during the event.

McGuire doesn’t sit at home bored. More than 35 years ago she began hand-stitching quilts and has hand-stitched about 50 full-size bed quilts, including many for family members. She sent 40 tied quilts to an African orphanage, and she has given eight quilts to her local Blue Mountain Television to use as fundraising gifts.

Through an employee and friend at a cancer center, McGuire has donated about 10 of her quilts each year for especially needy patients. She and a couple of friends have knitted or crocheted about 90 lap warmers for sick people. A few children at the Portland Shriners’ Hospital have also received quilts.

Born on the north fork of the Walla Walla River in 1912, Mc-

Guire grew up in Baker County, Ore., where her father worked their homestead near Sparta. At age 13, while living on the homestead, she was in charge of three siblings and the necessary chores for almost a month while her parents were away on an emergency. Later, while working at a dairy in Lincoln City, Ore., she hand-milked 11 cows twice a day, every day — a true pioneer.

McGuire worked for the Harris Pine Mills organization for nearly 40 years in various capacities, including manager of Harris Building Supply in Pilot Rock, Ore.

She recently told a friend, “I never have time to get bored.” When she easily renewed her eight-year driver’s license at age 92, she told her friends, “I don’t think I’ll renew this next time.” Though she only drives the few blocks back and forth to the church on Thursdays, she recently changed her mind and had her unrestricted driver’s license renewed. She is proud of the fact that she is still alert enough to safely make the short journey each week.

One of her greatest delights is to have members of her Bible study class to her house for a potluck from time to time. McGuire enjoys living life to the fullest and still enjoys reading about current events and other items of significant value, especially those dealing with Bible prophecy.

Harold Rich, Milton Church member

Traveling for God's Children

Brings Blessings Across Conference

If you live in Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) there is a good chance you will catch a glimpse of a His Travelers team trekking through your area to a nearby Vacation Bible School or day camp. The summer of 2012 marked three years for these energetic and Spirit-filled teams. Their assistance to churches with VBS and community outreach projects has been so successful that three teams served 23 churches throughout the conference.

Patty Marsh, UCC children's ministries director, recently shared inspirational stories from the teams.

One team was leading the first VBS the Otis Orchards (Wash.) Church has conducted in a number of years. More than 20 kids and older teens were attending. When asked to name Bible characters, only one child could name any. One girl knew people by the name of Mary and Joseph, but



This year's His Travelers teams include (from left) Cedric Clendenon, Desiree Andrews, Shalise Gross, sponsor Patty Marsh, Brenna Nakamura, Sierra Walley, Raimona White, John Wilson, Rebekah Rogers and Shannon Fujimoto (not pictured).

no other child could recall any Bible stories. None knew of Jesus. Team member Rebekah Rogers says, "I had to explain to them about the Bible, that there is an Old Testament and a New Testament." None

attended church. So imagine the surprise of the team when one morning, during the pre-program prayer and worship, a group of the older teens arrived early, asking, "Could we come in and join you?" Of course they were welcomed, and all were richly blessed. It was clear that God was working in the lives of His children.

On the other side of the conference, in Condon, Ore., another His Travelers team was also working in the lives of children. One day team member Desiree Andrews was about to pray with the group when a 5-year-old stopped her and asked, "Will you teach me to pray?" Andrews quickly obliged and led him as he said the prayer. As the prayer finished his twin brother asked sweetly, "Now will you teach

me to pray also?" Without hesitation, Andrews began the prayer session again.

During a week spent in each location, team members also share in community outreach, door-to-door visitation and youth ministries. In several locations, balloon artistry with hand-delivered invitations to homes near the churches greatly increased the VBS attendance. Please pray for these children to continue to grow in their relationship with their newfound Savior and King.

If you'd like to book His Travelers for 2013, contact Patty Marsh at 509-838-2761. Visit "His Travelers" on Facebook to read stories and see pictures from this summer.

Diana Burns, UCC children's ministries executive assistant



Team members practice music for a VBS program.

Campers' Lives Spared in Severe Storm

Vehicles and RVs were crushed by falling trees, and yet miraculously no lives were lost as a windstorm swept through the Sheridan Meadows campgrounds near Republic, Wash., during camp meeting in July.

Campers from across the Northwest had gathered for the Northeast Washington Camp Meeting, held July 17–21, at the Sheridan Meadows Retreat Center. Campers say people were relaxing and visiting Friday afternoon when the storm hit. Suddenly there was heavy wind, and trees started falling. The main meeting tent lifted but did not blow away. One smaller tent used for children's meetings was demolished.



An RV was crushed when a tree fell on it during the sudden windstorm.

Four vehicles were reported totaled, and others sustained damage. Even with the destruction, only one injury required medical attention. A man suffered a broken leg when the RV he was in was crushed by a falling tree.

In spite of the storm damage, the camp meeting continued Friday night as planned with

the featured speaker, John Bradshaw.

"Angels were certainly on duty," says Bob Folkenberg Jr., Upper Columbia Conference president. "We're so thankful for God's protection and that no one was severely injured."

According to emergency response personnel in the region, the storm knocked down a

number of trees and power lines in Ferry County. As a result, county commissioners declared a local state of emergency and requested the support of the Washington State Emergency Management Division.

Jay Wintermeyer, Upper Columbia Conference communication director



Falling trees totaled four vehicles and damaged others during the Northeast Washington Camp Meeting, near Republic, Wash., in July.



"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."
—3 JOHN 4

DiscipleShip

A Children's and Youth Ministries Event

September 29, 2012
Upper Columbia Conference Office

Parents, teachers, youth and children's leaders, find tools, ideas, programs, principles, and simple hints to help you navigate, with Spirit-filled power, today's challenging world of children and youth.

Speakers for Beginners through Earliteen:
Troy Fitzgerald, Mark Weir, Becky Barts and others

Youth & Young Adult Speaker
Wendy Eberhardt

Mission Lifeguard training—How to connect with drowning or missing young people. Visit: missionlifeguard.ning.com

For more information visit:
www.uccsda.org/children

Camp Meeting Offers Triple Focus

Washington Adventist Camp Meeting, held June 14–23 in Auburn, Wash., had a triple focus this year: ministry training, evangelism and education.

“We believe strongly in the power of church members led by the Holy Spirit to reach out and help their friends and neighbors grow in their knowledge and walk with Jesus,” says Doug Bing, Washington Conference vice president for administration.

A new programming feature was the Day of Ministry Training on Sunday morning. Ministry leaders selected from



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

Adrian Quichocho (center) is surrounded by part of his spiritual growth team. He chose to be baptized at the Washington Adventist Camp Meeting before he embarks on a military career.

both sessions, included great dialogue and interaction.

Three sets of weekday workshops also addressed spiritual growth, ministry opportunities and personal development.

FOCUS ON EVANGELISM

Washington Adventist Camp Meeting continued to focus on evangelism with nightly reports, frequent baptisms and moving stories of transforming faith.

A Sunset Lake Camp staff member shared how she first attended camp from a non-religious home and how God nurtured her heart to accept Jesus Christ into her life. She was baptized July 7.

Morton Church members, who wondered if evangelism could be done in their small Washington town, prayed for 10–15 guests and ended up with 60 people attending.

A lady from Sequim, Wash., had struggled for years with alcoholism when church members met her and pro-

vided mental, physical and spiritual nurturing. She was baptized in early June and says, “I’ve exchanged one spirit for another; now I am spiritually intoxicated.”

And the stories continued. “Numbers used to mean a lot to me,” says Bob Paulson, Puyallup Church member and Washington Conference executive committee member. “Now I understand the importance of one person and one changed life.”

By the conclusion of camp

meeting, Washington Conference members raised \$485,039.40 toward a \$500,000 evangelism offering goal.

FOCUS ON EDUCATION

Adventist Christian education formed the final focus of camp meeting. Students, teachers and education leaders presented a Sabbath afternoon program featuring Early Childhood Education Centers (ECECs), Personalized Adventist Christian Education (PACE) branding, mission trips and education stories.

“Our teachers have the love of God and the love of teaching,” says Lori Jessop, board chairwoman at Forest Park School in Everett, Wash. “Education is every bit [a] part of evangelism. It is the other ‘E’ of evangelism.”

Washington Adventist Camp Meeting will next convene June 20–29, 2013, in Auburn, Wash.

Heidi Martella Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER



Washington Adventist Camp Meeting provides three sets of weekday workshops. In one of the workshops, Bob Moore, Washington Conference pastor, shares insights about prayers of revival.

training intensives in health ministry, deacon/deaconess ministry, elder ministry, communication, adult Sabbath School facilitation, treasury ministry, outreach ministry and more. These training sessions, which were at capacity for

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER



Adventist Camp Meeting programming for children, youth and young adults focuses on spiritual growth through a variety of creative themes.

Green Lake Youth Orchestra

Enriches Sabbath Services

The Green Lake Youth Orchestra, formed eight years ago, began with a handful of young string players and three adults.

Those little ones are now accomplished young musicians. They rehearse weekly, conducted by Alex Gagiou, a Julliard graduate and conductor of the

Cantamus Seattle Girls' Choir.

The ensemble continues to welcome youthful, aspiring musicians who bless and are blessed through their regular participation in the music of the Green Lake Church in Seattle, Wash.

In recent months the orchestra played for the Walla



Orchestra members were treated to a potluck luncheon during their visit to the Chehalis Church.



Green Lake Youth Orchestra performs for church services throughout the year and capped off this season by playing for the first Sabbath of the Washington Adventist Camp Meeting.

Walla University Church worship service, the Chehalis Church worship service and the Kirkland Church service. The highlight of their season was playing numerous hymns and special music selections for the Sabbath morning worship service at Washington Adventist Camp Meeting on June 16.

The orchestra has a repertoire of more than 100 hymns, all with original orchestral ar-

rangements, and more than 100 mostly classical selections — a surprising choice for most contemporary Adventist churches.

See a recent orchestra performance of “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” at youtu.be/N2m1GEQV6iE.

Roy Naden, Green Lake Church member

Five Auburn Seniors

Complete 12 Grades Together

Amid the goodbye hugs and well-wishes of graduation this year stood a few Auburn Adventist Academy (AAA) students who had a bit more history than the rest of their class — 12 years of history in fact.

Michael Hanek and Rachel Kim first attended Buena Vista Elementary School in Auburn, Wash., and then AAA together. Olivia Hall, Hana Kramer and Scott Pugh attended Northwest Christian School in Puyallup, Wash., together since first grade before

transferring to AAA.

“Being together for 12 years is a cool experience,” says Kramer, a graduate from Puyallup. “You get to see people grow and change, and it is easy being around them. You know how to act, and you know where you fit in. And you don’t have to be shy or nervous around them.”

Graduation is always a special moment whether you have been with your classmates for one year or 12. But the goodbyes might be just a little bit harder for those who

have been sharing pencils and playing together at recess for so long.

“High school has been a really cool experience, being able to spend a good, solid chunk of my life growing in the Adventist community,” says Hanek, a graduate from Bonney Lake, Wash. “The friends I have made have been nothing but an awesome impact on my life.”

Lauren Epperson, AAA student writer, with Jessi Turner, AAA GLEANER correspondent



Auburn Adventist Academy graduates Hana Kramer, Olivia Hall and Scott Pugh (center) attended 12 years of school together.

Donors Rally for Camp Scholarship Fund

It was Friday morning at Sunset Lake Camp in Wilkeson, Wash., and the camp administration faced a difficult decision. At the end of business hours that day, Sunset Lake would be forced to turn away eight campers because of a lack of scholarship funds.

Since Sunset Lake Camp established its camp scholarship program in 2008, God miraculously has provided up to \$18,000 each summer to fund the program.

David Yeagley, camp director, posted a Facebook update at 6:45 a.m. that Friday explaining the camp's need and requesting pledges. Fifteen

minutes later, he shared the problem with 75 staff members.

One staff member spoke up immediately and said, "We need to pray." By 8:30 a.m., Sunset Lake staff pledged more than \$1,000 for the camp scholarship fund.

The phones began ringing. Pledges poured in from Facebook friends in California, Michigan and Arkansas and from across Washington Conference. By evening, Sunset Lake received more than \$3,400 in pledges, more than enough to cover scholarship needs.

"The phone calls we were

dreeding to make that day turned out to be ones filled with excitement, tears of joy, and campers jumping up and down as we shared the good news of what God had done," says Tammi Baker, Sunset Lake administrative assistant.

But God wasn't done. Several churches collected a special offering, and individual donations added several hundred more scholarship dollars.

Camp administration say they are humbled by what God chose to do through staff and Facebook friends.

David Yeagley, Washington Conference youth director



Sunset Lake Camp provides a scholarship fund for campers who need financial assistance to attend summer camp and experience the Creator in nature. When the Sunset Lake Camp scholarship fund was empty recently, God decided to work a miracle.

Bellevue Partners with SAGE Volunteers

A crew of more than 50 people showed up on a Sunday at the Bellevue (Wash.) Church for a special "tape ministry."

With tape and ladders, they taped off segments of the church building for a huge painting project. Bellevue Church, built in 1966 and expanded in 1979, has 10 major improvements slated for the future.

"Many of the projects are long overdue," says Peter Rampton, church member and head of the Capital Improvement Project's funding committee.

"God has already blessed us in a major way by having



Bellevue Church members and SAGE volunteers work together in a "tape ministry" to upgrade the church facilities.

SAGE members step up and offer to do the painting," says George Nordby, committee member. "We had a bid for \$18,000 to do the entire job, but thanks to SAGE members, we saved about \$14,000. We only had to pay for the paint

and materials."

SAGE members, who are mostly retired, do mission trips all over the world, building and painting schools, churches and other structures. This mission trip happened to be close to home.

This volunteer paint job was coordinated by Bob Grady, a longtime Bellevue Church member and SAGE leader, and Mike Altman, a retired paint contractor from the Portland, Ore., area.

The painting took two days. The church board and members also approved funding for interior upgrades including paint, new carpet, upholstering the pews, some window replacement, new bathrooms, lighting and sound improvements in the sanctuary, and expansion of the platform.

Teresa Joy, Bellevue Church member

Student Employment: An All-around Success

For most Walla Walla University students, entering the workforce and going to college are synonymous. To assist students in securing work to help fund their education, and also to help them gain professional experience, the university offers one of the most active student employment programs in the state. It includes three different areas: the federal work-study program, Washington State's work-study program and campus employment.

The federal and Washington State work-study programs are both designed to encourage businesses and community-service organizations to employ students.

Twyla Kruger, WWU student employment manager, says businesses often use the pro-

gram as a screening tool for future employees. A huge benefit is the affordability for businesses since a portion of the wages will be paid by the work-study programs. Companies such as Baker Boyer Bank, Washington Division of Children and Family Services, and Campfire USA have hired WWU students.

"We're proud that outside entities have recognized our students as outstanding employees," says Kruger.

Campus employment places students on the university's workforce. WWU hired 1,000 to 1,100 student employees during the 2011-12 year, according to the most recent official records. Doug Taylor, student financial services associate director, states that, in comparison to other Adventist univer-



Most of WWU's front-line employees, like sophomore nursing student Erika Romero, are students.

sities, WWU has the highest starting wage. The average total earned by a student last year was \$3,064.32.

Student employment not only helps cover college costs, but the experience helps students enhance their GPAs while giving them job skills such as time management and punctuality.

During WWU's annual National Student Employment week, the university honors student employees and also names a Student Employee of the Year. As this year's honoree, Jason Uren, industrial design major, received a \$750 scholarship for his work as head of the floor-care crew in the custodial

department. "Student employment is learning the inner workings of an organization; every piece, regardless of size, plays a crucial role in its functionality," he says.

Part of the reason why the program is so successful is that WWU student employees are front-line workers and highly encouraged to satisfy customer needs.

"Their voice is the first voice callers usually hear when they call us, and the first face they see when they come to our offices," says Taylor.

Marlena Rebant, WWU writer



Adventist Medical Center Safest Hospital in Portland

At Adventist Health, our mission calls us to demonstrate the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. This means offering safe, quality care to patients who have entrusted us with their lives. Adventist Medical Center (AMC) in Portland, Ore., has taken this calling to a higher level and is getting national recognition for its efforts.

In a recent report released by the state of Oregon, AMC reported zero surgical-site infections in six specific areas: coronary artery bypass graft

surgery, knee replacement, colon surgery, abdominal hysterectomy, hip replacement surgery and laminectomy. This information was recently published in the Oregon Healthcare Acquired Infections Report by the Office for Health Policy and Research and looks at data from as far back as 2009.

This document also shows reported infections from other Portland hospitals in the same categories. AMC is the only hospital to have no hospital-acquired surgical infections in

six major categories.

“This is a major achievement for our team,” says Carolyn Kozik, quality resources director. “We reached this goal because patient safety is at the top of our priority list. Our mission drives us to constantly seek new and safer ways of delivering patient care, while maintaining our focus on following best practices for preventing infections.”

According to Tom Russell, hospital president and CEO, AMC’s goal to be the safest hospital in Portland is based in our Christian tradition. “Adventist Medical Center’s mission calls us to excellence in clinical practice and human relationships — that is our foundation. We deliver the care we would want to provide to our families.”

Several years ago, AMC

began working on an initiative with the Johns Hopkins Quality and Research Safety Group to create a culture of safety. The reduction of ventilator-associated pneumonias was the main goal, as well as implementing staff ideas and input to prevent infections. Since the implementation of this initiative, AMC has reported zero ventilator-associated pneumonias for 40 months.

“Our job is to help patients get better, not worse. That’s not consistent with our mission,” says Cindy Nutter, acute inpatient services director. “A culture of healing and great care comes out of teamwork and safe patient practices.”

Brittany Dobbs, Adventist Health GLEANER correspondent

Adventist Medical Center is the only hospital in the Portland, Ore., area to have no hospital-acquired surgical infections in six major categories.



Four Quick Facts

Adventist Medical Center has been nationally recognized as one of America’s safest hospitals. Find more at www.AdventistHealthNW.com.

- » The only Portland-area hospital to have zero healthcare-acquired infections in six major surgery categories. (June 2012 Report prepared by the Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research)
- » The only Portland-area hospital to have zero central-line associated bloodstream infections in adult medical/surgical intensive care units for three consecutive years (2009–2011). (June 2012 Report prepared by the Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research)
- » Achieved the HealthGrades national Patient Safety Excellence Award two years in a row (2011, 2012).
- » Received the Community Value Index 5-star rating for six years running.

Henry 90th

The beautiful Rose Room and the Historical Rosemont Court provided the setting on Dec. 4, 2011, for a party honoring Edna Henry's 90th birthday. Hosted by her children and attended by family and friends from Oregon, Washington and California, the party included an elegant buffet lunch and a delicious birthday cake.

Edna was born in Burke, S.D., on Nov. 19, 1921, to Georgiana and Fay Smith, the fourth child in a family of six. In 1938, the Smith family moved from Iowa to Oregon, where Edna finished her education at Portland Union Academy and then spent a year at Walla Walla College in College Place, Wash.

Edna was a licensed psychiatric technician and worked at her profession 18 years at Napa State Hospital and two years at St. Helena Hospital in California.

On Dec. 20, 1944, she married Carmon E. Henry Jr., and in time they became the parents of four children. They are Linda and Don Taylor II of Portland, Ore.; Dee Dee and Bernie Phillips of Carlsbad, Calif.; Victor and Sheila Henry of Sunny Valley, Ore.; and Daniel and Lora Henry of Laguna Niguel, Calif.

Holbrook 95th

Clement Holbrook, brother of Ruby Holbrook Snell, turned 95 on May 17. Clement was born in Cul de Sac, Idaho, fourth in a family of seven. He had five brothers, now all deceased, and a sister. He and Ruby are the only remaining siblings.

When he left Idaho, he moved to the state of Washington and became an orchardist. He and his wife, Loyce, raised three adopted children. He moved in with Bob and Ruby Snell in about 1994. He still tends his garden and climbs ladders when his pears need picking.

Roberts 100th

Sabbath afternoon, April 28, Ida Roberts was sitting in the parlor at CherryWood Village, in Portland, Ore., visiting with friends, unaware of what was coming. Quietly, nearly 40 people walked in, single file, to the parlor. Ida's eyes widened as she recognized all her friends from her church in Hood River, Ore., who came to celebrate her 100th birthday. The party moved to her room, where memories were shared, gifts were given, and laughter was heard.

Ida was born in Ira, Iowa, the youngest of 12 children. Her parents, A.P. and Trina Hanson, owned a huge dairy and animal farm. Ida learned to work hard, long hours and says she enjoyed it. Her father was the head elder, and Ida



Ida Roberts

remembers many church members and conference directors coming to visit.

After completing 10 grades at home, Ida attended Union College in Lincoln, Neb. Her plan was to become a nurse. A certain gentleman named Gilbert made a proposal, and she became a bride in 1940.

In 1941, they moved to Hood River, where Gilbert built many beautiful homes and Ida accepted many positions in the church. After six years, their son, Byron, was born. In later years, Ida's mission was to visit retired members as well as non-members.

Byron, like his father, builds and sells beautiful homes. He is never too far away and calls his mother several times a week. He is always available to help or take Ida to doctors, who say she is doing well. Ida has 5 grandchildren.

States 65th

Newton and Esther States celebrated 65 years of marriage Aug. 10, 2011. They were married Aug. 10, 1946, in Boise, Idaho. They both worked at the Portland (Ore.) Sanitarium (now Adventist Medical Center) after their marriage. Newton worked at a variety of jobs until he entered college at age 31 and became a registered nurse. He then worked in the medical field for 32 years. He was administrator of the Emmett (Idaho) Hospital for 25 years, and Esther operated a daycare center. They have four sons, 10 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren. They have lived in Emmett, Idaho, since 1968.

VanTassel 100th

Ethel Goodrich VanTassel celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends in Redmond, Ore., on March 11. She was born in Palmyra, Maine, on March 5, 1912. Her parents moved west when she was 2 years old. They took a homestead on the high desert near Wagontire, Ore. After five years, her father moved the family to a ranch in Cloverdale, a community between Sisters and Redmond, Ore.



Ethel VanTassel

Ethel married Glenn VanTassel in 1930. They were married 67 years when he passed away. They had seven children, all of whom were at the birthday celebration.

Ethel's family includes Vonnie and Don Owen of Redmond, Ore.; Lamar and Marlene VanTassel of Scappoose, Ore.; Delmarie and Chuck Null of Goldendale, Wash.; Leland and Eileen VanTassel of Goldendale; Norman and Judy VanTassel of Chandler, Ariz.; Lorraine and Judy VanTassel of Turner, Ore.; Nick and Jan VanTassel of Redmond; 13 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and 7 great-great-grandchildren.

BIRTHS

BURTON — Elliot Dean was born June 17, 2012, to Brian and Jaimie (Abbott) Burton, Seattle, Wash.

CANFIELD — Jacob Robert was born April 8, 2012, to Randy and Karalee (Wagner) Canfield, College Place, Wash.

COLE — Addison Kaylynn was born June 27, 2012, to John and Angie (Lull) Cole, Kennewick, Wash.

DAVIS — Rian Addyson was born March 23, 2012, to Ty and Lisset Davis, Nampa, Idaho.

HENTON — Nina Elise was born April 27, 2012, to Gabriel and Ania (Plotnikova) Henton, Springfield, Ore.

HUBBARD — Lilly Anne was born May 30, 2012, to Devin and Anna (Walbrun) Hubbard, Chehalis, Wash.

KNOLL — Jakob Thomas Russell was born June 4, 2012, to Thomas and Deanna (Marsh) Knoll, Tumwater, Wash.

KNOPP — William Prescott was born April 24, 2012, Jason and Katherine (Kilbourn) Knopp, Pasco, Wash.

LINFOOT — Gavin Marcos was born June 10, 2012, to Aaron and Kelly (Kendall) Linfoot, Lincoln City, Ore.

LITTMAN — Hannah Rachelle was born June 18, 2012, to Travis and Renee (Fitzpatrick) Littman, Eugene, Ore.

WHITAKER — Morgan Dale was born April 6, 2012, to Jeremy and Mollie (Tachenko) Whitaker, Culver, Ore.

WEDDINGS

ERICKSON-ANDERSON — Avery Erickson and Jonathan Anderson were married June 24, 2012, in Welches, Ore. They are making their home in Loma Linda, Calif. Avery is the daughter of Russell and Kathy

(Piper) Erickson. Jonathan is the son of John and Shirley (Wilson) Anderson.

KIRKWOOD-LONG — Meilani Kirkwood and Jonathan “Jonny” Long were married July 14, 2012, in Ridgefield, Wash. They are making their home in Boring, Ore. Meilani is the daughter of Steve and Colette (Smith) Kirkwood. Jonny is the son of Lee and Sue (Becraft) Long.

MARTELLA-BAUMGARTNER — Heidi Martella and Jonathan Baumgartner were married July 15, 2012, in Molalla, Ore. They are making their home in Auburn, Wash. Heidi is the daughter of Daniel B. and Linda (Sears) Martella. Jonathan is the son of Paul Michael and Karen (Brown) Baumgartner.

MOOR-VANGRENSVEN — Evelyn Moor and David VanGrensven were married July 22, 2012, in Gales Creek, Ore. They are making their home in Prineville, Ore. Evelyn is the daughter of Ron and Carolyn (James) Moor. David is the son of Ken and Renita VanGrensven.

AT REST

AINSWORTH — Alberta M. (Munkelt), 94; born Nov. 1, 1917, Tuckahoe, N.Y.; died March 22, 2012, Baker City, Ore. Surviving: sons, Bruce, Euleess, Texas; Guy, Whitehouse, Texas; and daughter, Marcy Ainsworth, Nampa, Idaho.

BACSO — Harriet Lenore (Berggren), 69; born in Stillwater, Minn.; died Sept. 5, 2011, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: sons, Joe B., Snohomish, Wash.; Kenneth J., of Germany; and 4 grandchildren.

COOK — Janet L. (Hecken-dorn), 77; born Aug. 18, 1934,

Puyallup, Wash.; died April 9, 2012, Auburn, Wash. Surviving: son, Kevin, Arlington, Wash.; daughter, Denice Volk, Buckley, Wash.; sisters, Marjorie Langdon, Graham, Wash.; Sarah Brown, Sumner, Wash.; and a grandchild.

CRAIN — Joseph W., 90; born Jan. 30, 1922, Rock Elm, Wis.; died March 3, 2012, Buckley, Wash. Surviving: wife, Betty J.; sons, Joe Jr. and Larry, both of Buckley; 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

DAVIS — Anne (Will), 96; born Sept. 12, 1915, Fox Valley, Saskatchewan, Canada; died March 2, 2012, Kettle Falls, Wash. Surviving: son, Dennis R., Walla Walla, Wash.; daughters, Janice Enquist, Kettle Falls; Carol Anne Davis, Sunnyside, Wash.; brother, Albert Will, College Place, Wash.; sisters, Bertha Grabo, Strathmore, Alberta, Canada; Esther Claridge, College Place; 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

DIMOCK — Norman W., 90; born July 12, 1921, Vale, Ore.; died Feb. 29, 2012, Portland, Ore. Surviving: wife, Caroline; son, David, Sunny Valley, Ore.; daughter, Barbara Scardi, Roseburg, Ore.; stepsons, Barry Lutz, Camas, Wash.; Alan Lutz, Gentry, Ariz.; brother, Cecil Dimock, Portland; sisters, Myrtle Bartlett and Vera Woodruff, both of Vancouver, Wash.; numerous grandchildren, step-grandchildren, great-grandchildren, step-great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

HOLWEGNER — Copel L. (Morrow), 87; born May 11, 1924, Red Boiling Springs, Tenn.; died April 10, 2012, Yakima, Wash. Surviving: sons, Gary, Grandview, Wash.; Michael, Yakima; daughters, Darlene Robillard, Terrace Heights, Wash.; Vickie Tebb, Prosser, Wash.; 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

JOHNSON — Alice A. (Stephens), 93; born April 26, 1928, Drift Creek near Taft, Ore.; died March 21, 2012, Goldendale, Wash. Surviving: sons, Bill, Tillamook, Ore.; Dan, Goldendale; Bo, Falls City, Ore.; daughter, Carol Johnson, Haines, Ore.; brothers, Ard Stephens and Alva Stephens, both of Falls City; sisters, Eola Parmele, Napavine, Wash.; Esther Daniels, Roseburg, Ore.; 11 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

KUHNT — Irmgard (Rosbigalle), 89; born July 27, 1922, Laskowitz, Germany; died March 7, 2012, Lynnwood, Wash. Surviving: sons, Harry Kuhnt, Snohomish, Wash.; Steve Miller, Redmond, Wash.; daughters, Rita Aqui, College Place, Wash.; Diane Hefley, Stanwood, Wash.; and 3 grandchildren.

LAMBERTON — Thelma (Grove), 98; born Feb. 3, 1914, Endicott, Wash.; died May 20, 2011, Salem, Ore. Surviving: son, Jack, Raleigh, N.C.; sisters, Vera Ruud, Walla Walla, Wash.; Evelyn Magnuson, Wenatchee, Wash.; Roberta Schoepplin, Corvallis, Ore.; 2 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

LEITHNER — Mary B. (Meehan) Floyd, 68; born Aug. 6, 1943, Inglewood, Calif.; died April 22, 2012, Hot Springs, Mont. Surviving: son, John B. Floyd, Arlington, Texas; daughters, Jeanne B. (Floyd) Lopez, Arlington; Christine Renee Floyd, Hot Springs; and 3 grandchildren.

LYMAN — Howard G., 92; born Nov. 13, 1919, Vulcan, Alberta, Canada; died Nov. 27, 2011, Seattle, Wash. Surviving: wife, Twila (Holm); son, Steven H., Auburn, Wash.; brothers, Arthur, Leominster, Mass.; Oren, Vulcan; sisters, Mary Kent, Kent, Wash.; Laura

AT REST

Engbrecht, SeaTac, Wash.; 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

LYMAN — Lewis E., 104; born May 9, 1907, Stockton, Calif.; died March 8, 2012, Santa Barbara, Calif. Surviving: son, George, Santa Barbara; daughter, Nona Nordby, Redmond, Wash.; 6 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

NORD — Vivian June (Jorgensen), 84; born June 13, 1927, Frazee, Minn.; died April 5, 2012, Spokane, Wash. Surviving: sons, John, Spokane; Don, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; daughter, Connie L. Fletcher, Airway Heights, Wash.; sisters, Mabel Crouch, Walla Walla, Wash.; Esther Castle, Walla Walla; 12 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

PATTEN — Harry J., 67; born June 19, 1944, Spencer, Iowa; died April 11, 2012,

Gresham, Ore. Surviving: sons, Tage Jasick, Oregon City, Ore.; Lonnie Patten; daughters, Kitty Jones, Oregon City; Deb Trubenbach, Mankato, Minn.; brothers, Johnnie, Gresham; Mike Moore, Minneapolis, Minn.; sisters, Elsie Smith, Gresham; June Goodson, Dayton, Tenn.; Shirley Jordan, Gresham; Norma Richard, Gallup, N.M.; 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

PETERSON — Ana (Riviera), 73; born June 24, 1938, Ponce, Puerto Rico; died March 21, 2012, Tiller, Ore. Surviving: husband, Leonard; daughter, Denise Hoyt, Gold Hill, Ore.; and a grandchild.

SALISBURY — Gene "Emil" Jr., 64; born Dec. 3, 1946, Toledo, Ohio; died Feb. 20, 2011. Surviving: wife, Sharon, Glendale, Ariz.; sons, Eugene III; Kurt, Glendale; sister, Yvonne

Mille; and 6 grandchildren.

STANLEY — Emma "Fae" (Smith) Crew, 88; born May 29, 1923, Taylorsville, Calif.; died March 29, 2012, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: sons, Jim Crew, Stirling City, Calif.; Joe Crew, Nampa; daughters, Judy McIntosh, Alturas, Calif.; Larie Morgan, Little Rock, Ark.; 8 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

TURPEL — Thomas Alan, 51; born Dec. 30, 1959, San Jose, Calif.; died July 22, 2011, Gig Harbor, Wash. Surviving: parents, W. Paul and Lois Ann Turpel, Moses Lake, Wash.; and sister, Lori Ann Diaz, Moses Lake.

WILBER — Marie (Kelly) Pilon, 92; born April 21, 1920, Detroit, Mich.; died April 22, 2012, Eugene, Ore. Surviving: sons, Myrlin Pilon Jr., Springfield, Ore.; Vernon

Pilon, Glenmont, N.Y.; stepson, Charles Wilber, Milo, Ore.; stepdaughter, Pat Brown, Redding, Calif.; 16 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

WILLIAMS — David Ian, 56; born Sept. 12, 1955, Georgetown, Guyana; died Feb. 17, 2012, Sagle, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Becky (McClure); daughter, Tabitha (Maxwell) Umali, Mill River, N.C.; stepdaughter, Jenny Maxwell, Greensville, N.C.; mother, Mary Williams, Hendersonville, N.C.; brothers, Mike and Andy, both of Hendersonville.

WILLIAMS — Vivian J. (Mirick) Williams, 95; born in Bruceville, Texas; died Feb. 27, 2012, Portland, Ore. Surviving: husband, Clyde "Bill" Williams; daughter, Twyla Pentecost, Tacoma, Wash.; a grandchild and 2 great-grandchildren.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

North Pacific Union Conference

Offering

- Sept. 1** — Local Church Budget;
- Sept. 8** — Fall Mission Appeal World Budget;
- Sept. 15** — Local Church Budget;
- Sept. 22** — Local Conference Advance;
- Sept. 29** — Alaska Conference.

NPUC Association

Official notice is hereby given that a Regular Membership Meeting of the North Pacific Union Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists is called for 2 p.m., on Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2012, at the North Pacific Union Conference in Ridgefield, Wash. The membership is comprised of the members of the North Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee. The purpose of the Regular Membership Meeting is to hear reports and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Max Torkelsen II, president
Kimberley Schroeder, secretary

Walla Walla University

- Sept. 7-8** — University Church Camp Meeting www.wwuchurch.org;
- Sept. 15** — Hispanic Heritage Month begins;

- Sept. 15** — Women's volleyball at 7 p.m.;
- Sept. 16-21** — JumpStart university orientation;
- Sept. 24** — Fall quarter classes begin;
- Sept. 29** — The Longest Table, University Church potluck at 1:15 p.m.

Montana

Missing Members

The Montana Conference Church is looking for the following missing members: Ronda Blatter, Ron Brakke, Julie Bramhall, Wynond Breen, Yvette Burns, Angelica Coppolella, Joanne Dallas, Tammy Eliason, Tom Gladden, Vernon Holmes, Sandra Hooker, Jeanne Keenan, Rick Kurek, Lavonne Long, Rich McBride, Peter McNamee, Deborah Morine, Candie Morrison, Maxine Moseley, S. J. Moseley, Tracey Moseley, Veronika Nyigoscisik, Carole O'Donnell, Patricia Reddick, Retta Reitz, Neal Rioux, Eileen Toole and Laura Willis. Anyone with information about these missing members, please contact Ruth Stanton at 406-587-3101.

Oregon

10th Annual Bobby McGhee and Friends Vespers

Sept. 1 — Come enjoy our Sabbath night vesper service with Bobby McGhee and Friends at 6 p.m., at the Sunnyside Church, 10501 SE Market St., Portland, OR. Stark Street pizza follows vespers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Interfaith Service at Hood View Church

Sept. 23 — “How Does Your Faith Practice Social Justice?” will feature speakers and music from Baha’i, Christian, Jewish, Muslim and other faith traditions, followed by refreshments, dialogue and literature sharing. This event starts at 4 p.m. at the Hood View Church, 26775 SE Kelso Rd., Boring, OR. Call 503-663-5611 for more information.

Milo Adventist Academy Homecoming

Oct. 12-13 — Milo Adventist Academy homecoming will honor the classes ending in “2” and “7.” For more information, contact Randy Bovee, principal, at 541-825-3200 ext. 3313 or randy.bovee@miloacademy.org. To update your contact information, go www.miloacademy.net and click on the Alumni tab.

Wayne Blakely at Open Arms Church

Oct. 12-13 — Homosexuality: Feelings, Fact and Fiction — One Man’s Journey of Amazing Grace with Wayne Blakely, Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 13 at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., at the Open Arms Church, 15150 NE Glisan St., Portland, OR 97230. Homosexuality and the long-overdue discussion about it can no longer reside under the church pew. While Christianity has wandered for many years in ignorance, today there is a desire to understand that which has been hiding in the dark for decade upon decade. Wayne says, “I experienced

redemption when God divinely intervened in my life and I gave Him permission to claim me for His kingdom. As a result He has chosen me to serve as living proof of the victory and healing that He offers all. It is my prayer that God will lead you in furthering His love and generous offer of redemption for any sinner.”

Missing Members

The Woodland Church in Washington is looking for the following missing members: Rudy Belasco, Tonya M. Cook, Alicia L. Hanley, Mike Keesee, Bethany Lawrence, Thomas W. Loux and Mary McGalliard. If you have any information regarding these members, please email the Woodland Church at woodlandsdachurch@gmail.com or call Marty Jackson, pastor, at 360-263-1844.

Upper Columbia

MSAS Celebrates 50 Years

Sept. 22 — Milton-Stateline Adventist School (MSAS) will celebrate 50 years of education at its current site on Crockett Road in Milton-Freewater, OR. All alumni and former staff members are invited to attend. Registration begins at 9 a.m., and Sabbath School begins at 9:45 with a missions presentation given by former staff members Beverly and David Waid. Church begins at 10:45 with a roll call of alumni and former staff members followed by the service. A potluck hosted by the MSAS Home and School will be held followed by an open house walk-through of the school and classrooms. An afternoon program of music and sharing begins at 3:45 p.m. For additional information regarding this event and lodging, please visit www.miltonstateline.org, call 541-938-7131 or email brigle@miltonstateline.org.

Upper Columbia Academy Alumni Homecoming

Oct. 5-7 — Honored Classes are 1942, 1952, 1962, 1972, 1982, 1987, 1992 and 2002. All former Yakima Valley Academy and Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) students, faculty and their families are invited to Friday night vespers at 7:30 p.m. to hear Carl and Teresa Wilkens from World Outside My Shoes. Sabbath worship begins at 10 a.m. with Dr. Richard Hart from Loma Linda University as the featured alumni speaker. The alumni office is looking for the following honor class members: Class of 1952, Judy Bower, Rowena Cage, Leroy Crawford, Dorene Davis, Ken Ellis, Bertram Esposito and Dawn Jennings; Class of 1987, Andrew Anderson, Charmine Smith Armstrong, Donna Ellison Canaday, Dennis Canfield, Becky Cronk, James Cummings, Tim Duncan, Shawna Gilliland Hussey, Dan Moore and Tessa Twitchell Simpson. Please contact Linnea Torkelsen, alumni director, at alumni@uccaa.org or 509-245-3692, with any information you might have to help us locate these former students. For additional information, visit the UCA website at www.ucaa.org.

Washington

Missing Members

Please contact the Poulsbo Church concerning your membership: Donald Bailey, Jeffery Banks, Richard and Laurie Hawkins, Edward Heffner, Darlene Hoffman, Jamie and Jessica Jones, John and Mabel Keith, Tamara Love, Julie Rankin, Barbara Raynor, Kathy Schneirla, Audrey Sidley and Kiwana Pitcher. We would love to hear from you. Please call Kathy at 360-697-6085 or email aushome@wavecable.com.

Sunset Schedule

September (DST)	7	14	21	28
Alaska Conference				
Anchorage	8:49	8:27	8:04	7:42
Fairbanks	8:48	8:23	7:57	7:31
Juneau	7:40	7:20	7:00	6:40
Ketchikan	7:26	7:07	6:49	6:31
Idaho Conference				
Boise	8:11	7:58	7:45	7:32
La Grande	7:20	7:06	6:53	6:39
Pocatello	7:55	7:42	7:30	7:17
Montana Conference				
Billings	7:42	7:28	7:15	7:01
Havre	7:49	7:35	7:20	7:05
Helena	7:57	7:43	7:29	7:15
Miles City	7:32	7:18	7:04	6:50
Missoula	8:05	7:51	7:37	7:23
Oregon Conference				
Coos Bay	7:42	7:30	7:17	7:04
Medford	7:36	7:24	7:11	6:59
Portland	7:38	7:25	7:11	6:58
Upper Columbia Conference				
Pendleton	7:23	7:09	6:56	6:42
Spokane	7:19	7:05	6:50	6:36
Walla Walla	7:21	7:08	6:54	6:40
Wenatchee	7:31	7:16	7:02	6:48
Yakima	7:31	7:17	7:03	6:49
Washington Conference				
Bellingham	7:41	7:26	7:11	6:56
Seattle	7:39	7:25	7:10	6:56

Add one minute for each 13 miles west. Subtract one minute for each 13 miles east.

ADULT CARE

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FLORIDA HOSPITAL COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES is seeking applicants for the position of program director for a new physician assistant program. A master's degree is required; doctoral degree is preferred. Florida Hospital College is a faith-based institution which seeks candidates who fit the unique culture and mission of the college. Please email CV to: Dr. Len M. Archer, Associate VP for Academic Administration, len.archer@fhchs.edu.

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EVENTS
COLUMBIA CLASSICS a Columbia Adventist Academy event on Sept. 14-15 at Zull Hall, Gladstone Campground, 19800 Oatfield Rd., Gladstone, OR. Newest Columbia Classics: Class of 1962. Starts Friday evening at 6 p.m., with soups and breads. For further information, contact George Pifer, 503-604-6948.

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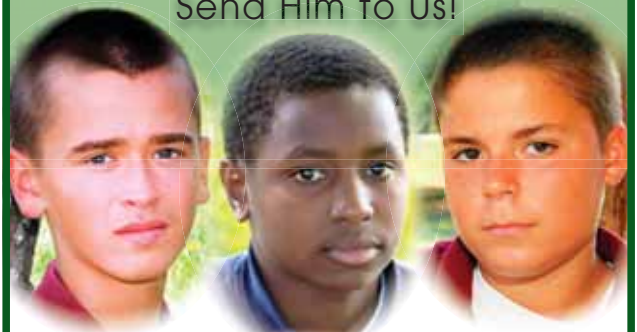
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Dust

What sort of sinners are welcome in our churches? What sins are allowed, and what sins are not? Is an obvious sin more egregious than one cultivated in secret?

“Before you tell me how much you love your God, show me in how much you love all His children.” Cory Booker, Trenton, New Jersey, mayor

The Creator looked down at the dusty ground, pausing in remembrance. Millennia ago He had plunged His hands into the earth to mold a new creature fashioned in His own image.

Now He stooped and pondered the dust once more. Sweaty, filthy feet had through countless months and years trod the dirt into fine powder. At the end of the day, a basin of water would sluice the stains from those feet. Such a simple thing, repeated day after day until no one gave it another thought.

But the Creator did. Arrogant accusers had brought Him a sinner and cast her at His feet, expecting justice. Stones in hand, with a cacophony of demands, they awaited His permission to begin the lawful cleansing. Kneeling there in the dust and dirt, He extended a finger and touched once again the base elements where it had all begun, methodically tracing secrets long suppressed.

“If there is someone here without sin,” said the Creator, “let him throw the first stone.”

In Seventh-day Adventist churches across the Northwest and beyond, this saga of sin and salvation is still a struggle. With satchels filled with stones, we often join that circle around the accused in the dust. There in the rarified air our standards are high, our expectations are lofty, and those who do not measure up are not welcome.

Yet the Creator with the loftiest of expectations is the same One who

stands at the gate with tears in His eyes awaiting the prodigal. He is the same One who kneels, washing the filthy feet of His own disciples. And He’s the One who asks the woman huddled there in the dust, “Who here is accusing you?” “No one,” she sobs. “Neither do I,” He answers. “Go and sin no more.” And in that remarkable moment, justice and mercy find common ground.

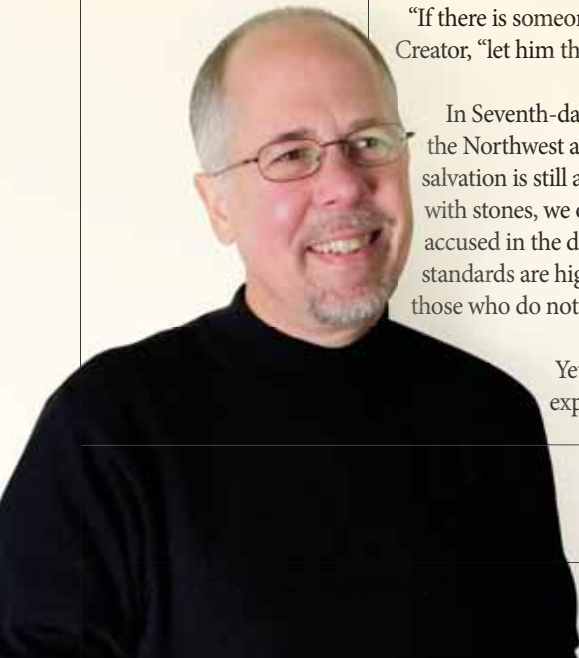
What sort of sinners are welcome in our churches? What sins are allowed, and what sins are not? Is an obvious sin more egregious than one cultivated in secret? Is a Sabbath School leader aka secret adulterer or pastor aka pornography addict less of a challenge to us than someone who smells of smoke or admits to same-sex attraction?

Jesus’ example should give us pause. Those who parse Scripture for definitions of right and wrong should ponder anew what the Almighty can do. We look in the dirt and see sin. Our Creator beholds the dirt and sees sinners in need of reclamation.

Our churches could be that place where righteousness meets redemption. We could be that place where expectations are high but grace, His grace, is sufficient.

For, in truth, we are that woman huddled in the dust, expecting the worst and receiving the best — a gift from the One who fashioned us from that dust and still sees all the potential He placed there in the beginning.

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