

Gleaner



NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

OCTOBER 2012
Vol. 107, No. 10

LivingWell Bistro Inspires Healthy Choices

ADVENTIST HEALTH: WORKING
TOGETHER FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE.

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IMAGES OF CREATION



The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.
PSALMS 85:12 (NIV)

'Autumn Color in Eastern Idaho' by Mary Lane Anderson of Forest Grove, Oregon.



LivingWell Bistro Inspires Healthy Choices

ADVENTIST HEALTH: WORKING
TOGETHER FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE

FEATURE

6

4 FYI / LETTERS

EDITORIAL

5 *A Stronghold Through Change*

ACCION

12 *Organización de Kennewick*

CONFERENCE NEWS

13 *Alaska*

14 *Idaho*

15 *Montana*

16 *Oregon*

20 *Upper Columbia*

24 *Washington*

27 *Walla Walla University*

28 *Northwest*

30 **FAMILY**

34 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

36 **ADVERTISEMENTS**

LET'S TALK

42 *Unity*

Gleaner

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GLEANER STAFF

Editor: Steve Vistaunet
Copy Editor: Laurel Rogers
Advertising and Project Manager:
Desiree Lockwood
Design: GUILDHOUSE Group

CORRESPONDENTS

Alaska: Butch Palmero, butch.palmero@ac.npuc.org
Idaho: Don Klinger, idconf@idconf.org
Montana: Archie Harris, info@montanaconference.org
Oregon: Krissy Barber, info@oc.npuc.org
Upper Columbia Conference: Jay Wintermeyer, ucc@uccsda.org
Washington: Heidi Martella Baumgartner, info@washingtonconference.org
Walla Walla University: Rosa Jimenez, rosa.jimenez@wallawalla.edu
Adventist Health: Brittany Dobbs, info@ah.org

How You Give Online Matters

More than ever before, Northwest Adventists are skipping the paper tithe envelope and contributing through their church's online AdventistGiving portal. But those who use their credit cards in such a transaction may not be aware of the costs involved. Ruth Harms, a Richland (Wash.) Church member, recently wrote:

"When the owner of a local convenience store told us he paid \$93,000 last year in credit and debit card merchant fees, I wondered again why the NAD [North American Division], union and/or conference treasury departments are not spreading the word that churches can choose to opt out of the credit/debit card online giving and offer only electronic funds transfers (EFT). EFT costs only pennies per transaction instead of a percent of the total gift, which is how credit/debit cards work. The difference in costs to the church is significant. Conference and union officers have told me that their budgets have to be adjusted to allow for the very large outlay of funds the church must pay because people are giving tithes and offerings on credit and debit cards."

Ruth makes a good point. Here are the facts as we understand them.

- Any fees incurred by gifts sent through the online AdventistGiving service are shared by your local conference (70 percent), North Pacific Union Conference (10 percent), NAD (10 percent) and General Conference (10 percent). Your local church is not impacted by these expenses.
- Any gift given through a credit or debit card incurs, on average, an additional fee equal to 1.8 percent of the donation.
- Gifts contributed through an EFT or other automated clearinghouse transfer cost, on average, 16 cents per transaction.

For example, a member who shares an online gift of \$1,000 through his or her credit or debit card also passes on additional fees of nearly \$20 to the church organization. By contrast, that same \$1,000 through an EFT payment adds only 16 cents. As the amount goes up, the difference becomes more dramatic. A \$10,000 credit or debit card gift would add almost \$200 in fees — an EFT, still only 16 cents. The EFT is the same no matter what the amount, whereas a credit/debit card payment adds fees proportional to the gift.

While online giving is overall a tremendous blessing to the mission of our church, the impact of credit and debit card transactions should not be ignored. Local and union conferences throughout North America (as well as the division and world church corporate offices) together absorbed more than \$600,000 in transaction fees during 2011 — the vast majority of that due to credit and debit card use.

The North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) and its six local conferences had to factor nearly \$80,000 of combined fees into their 2011 budgets. In the report from first quarter 2012, NPUC members led all others throughout the United States in an average online gift of \$572. But out of 5,336 NPUC-member online transactions during the quarter, 2,071 were credit or debit card payments, representing potential additional fees of more than \$21,000 if multiplied by the average online gift. In contrast, the remaining 3,265 EFT transactions resulted in little more than \$500 in fees. EFT transactions average about 60 percent of the total online gifts in the NPUC. As more Northwest churches and members choose EFT-only giving, overall transaction fees will significantly decline.

Ruth's church has opted to offer EFT as the only option for online giving. EFT enables more, much more, to be saved for our God-given mission. We are encouraging members and churches who wish to put their full support toward the Adventist mission to make EFT a priority.

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A Stronghold Through Change

As I look at the world around me, it is hard to miss how so many things are constantly changing. Change is inevitable. In fact, author Stephen Covey once described the shifting environment around us as “permanent whitewater.” Sometimes it can certainly feel like that — with a struggle just to stay afloat.

Perhaps you are experiencing some of that “whitewater” in your life right now. Change can be exciting, but it can also be frightening. Sometimes it leaves us full of questions. I’ve had to personally wrestle with how to face these constant changes without being overwhelmed by fear or apprehension. I’m glad the Bible provides a core principle that can help each of us with this challenge.

Psalm 18:2 says, “The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

Stronghold. That word fills me with hope. In a constantly changing world full of uncertainties, God is a solid rock — our stronghold who will not be moved.

I think of Peter, full of self-confidence, who wanted to walk on water like Jesus. So he tried it, on his own, and you remember the rest of the story. Looking down at all the “whitewater” around him, Peter lost sight of Jesus. Sinking down into those blustering waves, he called out to Jesus and was lifted up by the strong and loving hand of his Friend. Jesus was Peter’s stronghold in that frightening moment and through many more.

And sometimes our stronghold is a still, small voice in the midst of the storm. The prophet Elijah discovered that when he ran from Jezebel’s threats. After looking for God in the fire, wind and earthquake, Elijah finally heard what he had been seeking — a calm, clear and quiet set of divine directions that set his feet back on the right path.

Our Adventist Health team is also seeking divine direction in this constant world of change. As the vice chairman of Adventist Health’s board of directors, I regularly witness firsthand the many adjustments that health care reform is bringing to our medical ministry work. Some of those changes are pretty intimidating, some are exciting, but all bring opportunities that allow Adventist Health to better serve the communities within our circle of influence.

I pray that each of our church outreach centers — Adventist Health hospitals and clinics included — will keep the vision clearly focused on Jesus as our stronghold. He is well able to chart our course through the “whitewater” to a destination that is honorable to Him.

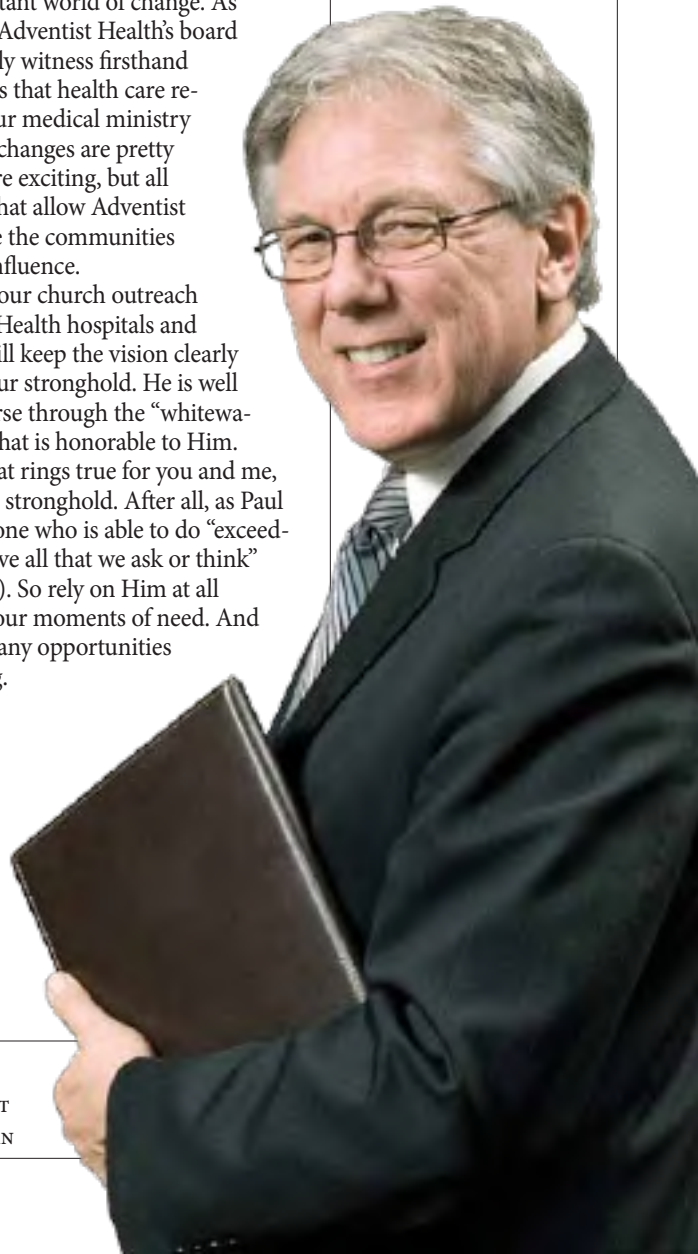
It’s a core lesson that rings true for you and me, too. Let Jesus be your stronghold. After all, as Paul reminds us, He’s the one who is able to do “exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20, KJV). So rely on Him at all times, especially in your moments of need. And praise Him for the many opportunities that change can bring.

“The greatest of all miracles is that we need not be tomorrow what we are today, but we can improve if we make use of the potentials implanted in us by God.”

— Samuel M. Silver

MAX TORKELSEN II

NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT
AND ADVENTIST HEALTH BOARD VICE CHAIRMAN



Working Together for a Bright Future

A LETTER FROM ADVENTIST HEALTH'S PRESIDENT AND CEO



As we all know, health care is undergoing significant transformation. With those changes come opportunities to progress, grow our services and enhance our vision for a bright future.

Adventist Health's mission motivates us to seek the best for our communities and to deliver the best value to our patients. It's Adventist Health's obligation to provide optimal and affordable health care to the communities we serve.

Throughout this period in health care, our leaders, physicians and devoted employees are working together to remain focused on and dedicated to patient safety, quality, innovation and stewardship, as we each aim to be living examples of our mission.

Throughout this special issue of the GLEANER, you will read stories from across our four-state system about how Adventist Health is working to make futures brighter for our community members — from one hospital's efforts to share a plant-based diet with the community to another's program that partners with churches to provide in-home volunteer services for the elderly. You'll also read about our hospice services in the Pacific Northwest and the gentle care that is provided at the end of life.

I don't want to give anything away, so read the following pages for yourself. I hope you enjoy this spotlight on Adventist Health. If you wish to know more about us and how we are working toward a bright future, please visit AdventistHealth.org.

Robert G. Carmen, Adventist Health president and CEO



FACTS ABOUT ADVENTIST HEALTH

- » 19 hospitals in California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington
- » More than 150 rural health clinics, physician clinics and outpatient centers
- » 14 home-care agencies
- » Six hospice agencies
- » Four joint-venture retirement centers
- » Headquartered in Roseville, California
- » Workforce of more than 28,500 — including 21,000 employees, 4,500 physicians and 3,000 volunteers
- » More than 2,800 beds

IN 2011 THERE WERE ...

- » 126,376 admissions;
- » 485,356 emergency department visits;
- » 2,461,423 outpatient visits;
- » 226,637 home-care visits;
- » 86,528 hospice days;
- » 800,447 rural health clinic visits;
- » Nearly \$400 million provided in free and low-cost services to the community.



Adventist Health Hospital Provides Unique Plant-based Dining

THE LIVINGWELL BISTRO FEATURES FRESH, HEALTHY INGREDIENTS MADE FROM SCRATCH AND SERVED WITH A SMILE.



a dining experience like it. The bistro serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. With menu items such as the tofu breakfast scramble, black bean veggie wrap and portobello pizza, patrons are sure to go home satisfied.

“We want to show people that eating in this manner can be really flavorful — it’s just good food,” says Lyndee Lawrence,

If you are visiting or living near Portland, Oregon, the Adventist Medical Center (AMC) LivingWell Bistro should be on your “to-do” list. This plant-based eatery on the hospital campus offers an array of delicious, mostly raw dishes

made of local, organic and sustainable foods. The bistro has received many accolades recently, and AMC has been praised for its efforts to offer this type of dining experience for patients and visitors alike.

“The casual dining atmosphere, vibrant healthy food choices and a wide selection of menu options [provide] a place where people can eat well and be well,” says Bo Rinaldi, restaurateur and collaborator on the LivingWell Bistro project.

AMC doesn’t know of any other medical facility that has

tist health message and belief system. The bistro has received a lot of press coverage in the Portland area, much of which explains that a vegetarian diet is part of the Adventist health message.

The LivingWell Bistro has been at the center of promoting plant-based dining to the local community. Earlier this year, several events, including the Delicious Fair of the Heart, promoted a plant-based diet and brought hundreds of community members to the hospital to try out the bistro’s unique dining experience, meet local health-food vendors, and access other health and lifestyle resources.

The bistro supports local businesses and farms by using their products. From farm to table, the LivingWell Bistro supports an estimated 14,000 jobs in Oregon by using locally sourced ingredients and products.

For more information about the LivingWell Bistro, including a menu and directions, visit livingwellbistro.com.

Brittany Dobbs, Adventist Health GLEANER correspondent



AMC hospitality services director. “Health is so important in terms of preventing the need for treatment, and eating a largely (if not completely) plant-based diet is a major step towards health.”

While the LivingWell Bistro specializes in offering a healthy, plant-based menu, it also serves as a springboard for questions from visitors and patients about the Seventh-day Adven-

Community Spiritual Partnerships Add Value



A holistic approach to ministry has been the hallmark of the Adventist Church since its very beginning. Human beings are complex creations of God. In order to minister to human need effectively, we must consider the whole person — mind, body and spirit. Adventist Health takes a great deal of pride in our Seventh-day Adventist heritage. For more than 150 years this whole-person approach has guided our growth and has been the staple of our mission to “Share God’s Love.”

Ellen White said, “We have an individual accountability to God, an individual work which no one else can do for us. It is to make the world better ...” (*My Life Today*, p. 212). While each of us must be convicted of this responsibility individually, it is through collaboration that the world is truly changed. As a church, we have been very effective at combining individual passion and collective effort by

developing ministries that focus on the whole person: education (mind), health care (body) and the local church (spirit).

Through the years, however, as these viably relevant ministries have grown in individual complexity, a new challenge has emerged — how to work effectively together. Meeting this challenge has never been more important. More than any other time in history, our communities and the world are hungering for our message of wholeness. It takes creativity, innovation and the realization that we are more effective *together* than apart. We are all working to achieve the same goal: reveal the love of Jesus, our source of salvation.

PARTNERING WITH STUDENTS AT WALLA WALLA GENERAL HOSPITAL

Andrew Abbott, a Walla Walla University senior, interned last summer at Walla Walla General Hospital’s chaplaincy department, headed by Mario DeLise, the hospital’s



Faith in Action volunteer Marjorie helps Doris with errands around the house, while also providing companionship.

spiritual care director. According to DeLise, the spiritual care internship is a chance for students interested in ministry to get hands-on experience in the hospital.

“It’s a chance for students to understand and get the feel for hospital visits and working with people of different faiths,” says DeLise. “It provides great experience and helps the student know whether [he or she]

would like to pursue chaplaincy in the future.”

The year-long or summer-long internship (depending on which track the student chooses) is comprised of mostly patient visits and one-on-one coaching sessions with DeLise to improve listening and communication skills.

“I decided to apply for the internship because I wanted specific mentoring in the area



The group enjoys a sing-along at WellSpring.



The spiritual care internship allows students to interact with patients one on one.

WellSpring services include craft time to add variety to the normal routine of caregivers and those for whom they care.

of visitation and counseling,” explains Abbott. “These two areas of ministry draw upon many different skills including reflective listening, supportive presence and effectively intervening when the patient’s emotional and spiritual situation calls for it. All of these abilities came into play during the internship, and I felt myself gaining a greater depth, focus and proficiency as a minister-in-training.”

The internship brings together two Adventist organizations in the Walla Walla, Wash., area to provide meaningful experience for the student and a spiritual outlet for the patient. Often patients are going through a very difficult time, and a caring individual willing to listen can change their entire outlook. As for the student, whether he or she chooses to become a chaplain or a pastor, the visits provide experience in an essential area of ministry.

“Listening attentively and carefully following the conversation, catching a glimpse of the

patient’s view of the world, can take focus and discipline,” says Abbott. “But it is a very rewarding experience that not only lends spiritual support to the patient, but also helps the chaplain grow spiritually as well.”

CONGREGATIONS COME TOGETHER TO OFFER RELIEF

Faith in Action (FIA) is a volunteer program serving the chronically ill, disabled and elderly in Oregon’s Tillamook County through Adventist Health’s Tillamook County General Hospital. But FIA wouldn’t be possible without the 18 local churches that support it. Many faiths are represented, including Seventh-day Adventist, Nazarene and Catholic, but all come together for the same worthy cause. These churches provide funding, volunteers and use of their buildings, all for the sake of FIA.

“Our volunteers are faith-based people who want to lend a hand,” says Mollie Reding, FIA volunteer coordinator.



“Whether offering respite care for a caregiver, running errands, offering rides, doing odd jobs or just conducting a friendly visit, these volunteers are making a positive difference in many lives.”

WellSpring is a branch of FIA that offers respite care for caregivers who spend most or all of their time caring for a loved one. Through WellSpring, four area churches offer two adult daycares a week, allowing caregivers to get relief, while the receiver of the care engages in outside stimulation through

music, games and fellowship. This wonderful service would not be available without the churches that provide the space in their buildings for the daycare.

Paul Crampton, Adventist Health assistant vice president of mission and spiritual care, and Brittany Dobbs, Adventist Health GLEANER correspondent

Adventist Health Hospices Light Up Lives



Lighting a candle in honor of those who have passed is an old tradition that allows us to express what we often cannot communicate with words. By lighting a candle for our loved ones we honor their lives and memory. The flickering flame of the candle helps to remind us of the departed and their impact on our lives.

Each patient is special to Adventist Health's hospice care teams. In small communities like Tillamook, Oregon, the hospice patients are often well-known friends and long-time members of the community — even extended family members. When a patient passes, we pause to remember. During the holiday season — often the most difficult time for those who have lost a loved one — holding the “Light Up a Life” ceremony is one of the many ways Adventist Health hospice teams celebrate life.

Hospice is a distinctive service of Adventist Health, designed to provide sensitive and supportive care for those with terminal illnesses. Hospice care seeks to enable patients to carry on alert, pain-free lives and to manage other symptoms so their end-of-life time may be spent with

dignity and quality at home.

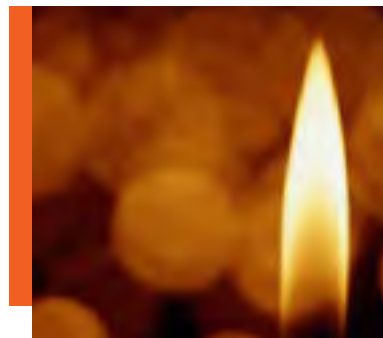
Adventist Health has six hospices in Oregon and California. In the Pacific Northwest, we serve patients and families in the Portland and Tillamook areas. A hospice patient receives care from a multidisciplinary team of professionals including doctors, nurses, social workers, therapists, chaplains and volunteers. The hospice team provides guidance and encouragement to the patient as well as to family and friends so they can better handle situations or problems while caring for the patient at home.

Though hospice services are often covered by insurance, such payments rarely cover the full cost of care. Adventist Health Hospice is able to care for all who need and seek our care, regardless of age, diagnosis or ability to pay. Hospices must therefore rely on donations and community support to provide treatments, medical supplies, comfort medications, grief support and respite relief for family members caring for loved ones.

These services have a deep and lasting impact on those struggling with the death of a loved one. A caregiver recently shared her experience with the Adventist Health Hospice in Portland: “Every interaction that we’ve had with the hospice team members has been pleasant and

peace-filled. Hospice is a gift to those of us in need and appreciated even when we are too caught up in our caregiving to pause and thank you. ... You are truly God’s angels here on Earth and are simply masters at tucking those beautiful wings away out of sight.”

*Peggy Martin, Adventist Health
marketing/communication
manager in Roseville, California*



ADVENTIST HEALTH HOSPICE LOCATIONS

- » Adventist Health/Home Care Services — Serving Adventist Medical Center in Portland, Oregon
- » Adventist Health/Home Care Services — Serving Tillamook County General Hospital in Tillamook, Oregon

Adventist Health also has four hospices serving Northern and Central California. For more information, visit AdventistHealth.org/hospitals-and-services/home-care-services.



Making Health a Reality

Tom Osborn hadn't been feeling his best. His health was at risk, with Type 2 diabetes, sleep apnea and high blood pressure. The number of pills he was taking daily was a sign that something had to change. Tom didn't know what to do or where to turn. All he knew was that he couldn't do it on his own.

After consulting with medical friends and doing his own research, Tom discovered TakeTEN at the St. Helena Center for Health — a program of Adventist Health's St. Helena Hospital Napa Valley.

This 10-day retreat combines medicine, lifestyle, fitness and nutrition designed around each person's needs. TakeTEN follows a holistic approach and aims to encourage weight loss and lifestyle change by balancing participants' physical needs with their social, emotional and spiritual needs. The medically based program is backed by proven results from hundreds of thankful participants. The program is also a health benefit for Adventist Health employees, demonstrating the organization's commitment to employee wellness.

When Tom arrived at the St. Helena Center for Health, he was shown to a beautiful room with sweeping views of Napa

The view from Tom's room at the St. Helena Center for Health in Napa Valley gave him an opportunity to reflect about making life changes.



James and Cheryl Peters are the husband-and-wife medical team that leads the TakeTEN program.

healthy — and what it means for me to be healthy.”

This life-changing program is open to anyone who would like to experience a 10-day retreat for the whole person. For more information about TakeTEN and the St. Helena Center for Health, visit sthelenacenterforhealth.org or call 800-920-3438.

Brittany Dobbs, Adventist Health GLEANER correspondent

Valley, California. This would be his home for the duration of the program. According to Tom, the view was therapeutic and helped him process the changes that were taking place at the program.

“At the end of the day I loved to sit on the porch and feast on the view,” recalls Tom. “I had lots to contemplate, and the beauty of the scenery was very impactful, as I was going through some important issues. It was the ultimate vacation of the soul.”

The view isn't all the program has to offer however. Probably the most valuable aspect of TakeTEN is time spent with the physicians and staff. According to Tom, James Peters, the center's medical director and a board-certified prevention medical physician, spent two

hours with him during one session alone. He went through Tom's test results and laid out for Tom where he was and where he needed to be.

Not only did Tom learn about himself, he gained valuable lifestyle lessons. The program is packed with informative lectures about nutrition, exercise, well-being and how to implement this new knowledge at home. There are even cooking classes taught by TakeTEN chefs from the Culinary Institute of America. One of Tom's favorite parts of TakeTEN was the personalized meals to meet each person's specific health needs.

“I came away feeling like it was the beginning of the rest of my life,” Tom says. “I now have a complete understanding of what it means to be

ACCION

Organización de Kennewick



Esposos Peterson alabando a Dios con una música especial.



En el banquete celebrando la organización de la iglesia.



La decoración del comedor de la iglesia de Kennewick.

El día 9 de Junio del 2012, a las 4 p.m. fue organizada Kennewick (Wash.) Spanish Company como iglesia. La ocasión tuvo la concurrencia de más de doscientas personas. La iglesia se gozó de la predicación de Bob Folkenberg Jr., presidente de la Upper Columbia Conference, y de su llamado a no salir sin Cristo a ningún lugar.

La iglesia apreció altamente la presencia de Audry Folkenberg y sus hijos. También, el coordinador, Walter Pintos, estuvo presente para inspirar a la nueva iglesia y hacer el llamado para firmar la carta de membresía. Además, como invitado especial, estuvo David Paczka, zapador de la obra en Kennewick.

Cincuenta y ocho personas firmaron la carta de membresía. La ocasión fue amenizada por un dinámico servicio de canto y música especial muy selecta dirigida por los esposos Peterson. Enseguida después de la ceremonia, todos participamos de un exquisito banquete en el comedor de la iglesia.

Jaime Flores, Kennewick/Richland/Pasco District pastor



Decoración de las mesas para el banquete.



(De izquierda) Jaime Flores, José Flores, Bob Folkenberg, David Paczka y Walter Pintos (de pie) durante la organización de la iglesia de Kennewick.



Firmando la carta de membresía.



Celebrando la organización de la iglesia con un banquete.

Alaska Campers Go Under Construction



Flat Lake, northwest of Anchorage, provided the perfect backdrop for the spiritual atmosphere at Camp Tuskoyka this year. Between games of capture the flag and worships around the campfire, 47 junior campers experienced the Under Construction theme of this year's Alaska Camps program.

While learning to measure buildings and how to use a level, the campers discovered they can't measure God's love and being level-headed requires using the Bible as their manual. Through classes, skits and songs the campers experienced the truth that God is still working on all of us.

With only 22 teen campers at Camp Tuskoyka this year, the youth and staff became a close-knit family. Discussions about God, life, death and salvation grew profound as kids searched for truth and guidance. Questions poured out as campers opened up to the staff, who did their best to point each one toward God and His advice.

At Camp Lorraine in

Wrangell, 68 campers enjoyed a week of tubing, rocketry and campfire songs. The staff used improvisational comedy to portray that salvation cannot be bought or earned, but must be received as a gift from our loving Savior. Campers created model houses and airplanes in the craft room, while canoeing classes explored the cove. Skits were

written and performed by the music, drama, life skills and hands in motion classes. A few even braved the heights of the newly built rock wall.

Jackknife Mountain was framed by fog at Camp Polaris in Dillingham this year as 44 campers polar-dipped in Lake Aleknagik. Between turns in the maccai (sweathouse) and chasing ground squirrels, the

campers learned about the healing love of Christ. Staff testimonies and skits on self-esteem and bullying reminded campers to build each other up and that God would rather die than live without them — in fact, He already did.

Cheryl B. Simpson, Alaska Camps communication director and assistant spiritual director

Missionary Healthcare Workers Needed!

Why not combine your healthcare skills with the high calling of being a missionary in Alaska?

Alaska has one of the finest healthcare systems in the United States and there are numerous job openings in the healthcare sector throughout the state.

WE NEED MISSIONARIES!!

Visit www.alaskaconference.org where you will see openings for missionary pastoral couples. Take a look at such villages as Gambell, Savoonga, Selawik, Bethel, Barrow, Kotzebue, Togiak and Aleknagik, Alaska.

Or go to <http://www.jobs.state.ak.us/> and find the job that suits you. *We would love to have you in Alaska!*



Promoted by the Alaska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 6100 O'Malley Road, Anchorage, AK 99507 Phone: 907-346-1004

Jessie Clark Christian School Hosts Outreach Booth

Jessie Clark Christian School (JCCS) participated in the local Family Living Fun Day in Pocatello, Idaho, early this summer. Staff and volunteers told Bible stories, made crafts, and shared information about the school and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Hosted annually by the *Idaho State Journal*, the Family Living Fun Day gives local families a chance to discover community resources they might otherwise overlook.

This year, more than 5,000 community members came to OK Ward Park, within sight of the school, to participate in the event. The school's booth was one of 50 and featured a design-your-own-butterfly craft. With help from the school staff and Pocatello Church children's division leaders, children colored butterfly drawings they could take home. Information about JCCS and the church's Vacation Bible School program was handed out to those who came by the booth.

JCCS hosted one of 50 booths at the Family Living Fun Day in Pocatello, Idaho.



BECKY CONNELL

Attendees at Pocatello's Family Living Fun Day color butterflies at the Jessie Clark Christian School booth.

This is the second year in a row that the school has participated in the event — which was even better attended than last year. “We are always looking for ways to be better known in the community,” explains Ella Dingman, school board chairwoman. “We made contact with about 400 children. They were interested to find out what our school has to offer.”

At one time, JCCS had about 60 students, half of whom were from the community. When the school moved to the church

building in the 1980s, the community students left. Since the school reopened last year, events like the Family Living Fun Day provide a way to reconnect with old friends and

to make new impressions on the community.

Craig Connell, Pocatello Church communication leader



BECKY CONNELL

Gleaner

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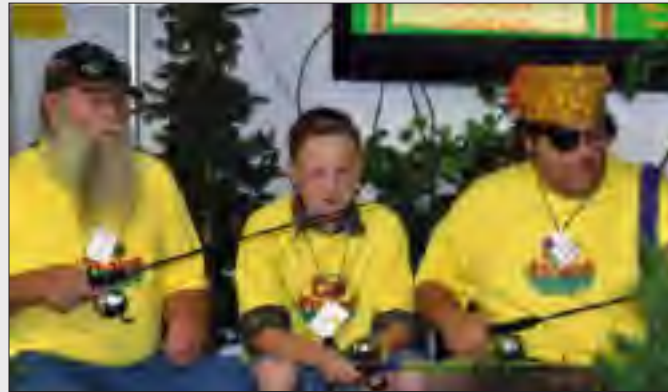
Sign up online at www.gleaneronline.org.

Hamilton Hosts Fishing-themed VBS

The Hamilton Church Vacation Bible School was filled with excitement, Bible stories, games and activities as a total of 42 “fishermen,” with a daily attendance of 32 to 35, learned how to go fishing for men just like Jesus did.

With cattails, a boathouse and “boat” as props, the opening and closing exercises and skits were daily highlights. And those fishermen produced lots of energy for singing!

Bill Whitney, Hamilton Church pastor, and his son, John, told riveting Bible fishing stories. Even the games



Keith “Gramps” Liss Jr., Chase “Ramsey” Veldboom and Jake “Cap’n Goober” Pedersen present a fishing skit during Hamilton’s Vacation Bible School.

and snacks related to fishing. Art Andreasen led the games, which included fly

fishing, folging (Frisbee golf), skip rope and water balloons. The Snack Shak, operated by

Joan Schwarz and Ron Wood, offered fruit and crackers in the shape of fish and other goodies.

Each morning the staff gathered for prayer and sharing time. Other church members joined them in praying daily for the VBS. As just one of many answered prayers, two of the fishermen have decided to go to the local Adventist school, Blodgett View Christian School, this year.

Joanne Jones, Hamilton Church VBS coordinator

Float Adds Refreshment to Fourth of July Parade

Montana’s Highland View Christian School (HVCS) students and Butte Church members created a float for the local Fourth of July parade. During the parade, students sitting in the float handed bottles of cold water to the adult members, who distributed the much-appreciated drinks to parade attendees. Each of the 1,000 bottles featured a sticker displaying the school’s name, contact information

and “Preparation for Life and Eternity” motto.

Andrew Crowe, one of the students, said he enjoyed getting the bottles of water ready and he really liked riding in the float. The excited participants plan to enter a float in next year’s parade and provide an even greater number of water bottles.

In March, 18 Butte Church members gave away hand warmers during the local St.



Highland View Christian School students and Butte Church members put together a float for the annual Fourth of July parade.

Patrick’s Day parade. Business-size cards with the church’s information and “Sharing the warmth of Jesus’ love” were attached to the hand warmers. The parade goers were thankful for the extra warmth on a damp, cold day. Some of the parade attendees asked how much the hand warmers were or if members wanted a donation. They were assured these

were free gifts just to help them stay warm.

The church and school members use these and other little ways to show they care for their community.

HVCS just completed a new school building and opened the new school year on Aug. 20.

Lori Flower, Butte Church communication leader



Eugene and Springfield Hold 'Church in the Park'

More than 250 people gathered for Church in the Park on the Fall Creek Church acreage nestled in the woods along the river.

Churches from the greater Eugene/Springfield, Ore., area meet there once a year for outdoor fellowship. Roger Beltran, Veneta and Santa Clara churches pastor, hosted **A special prayer circle surrounds Roger Beltran's family.**



TAWNY SPORTSMAN

the Sabbath morning service. Lutz Binus, Springfield Church pastor, led Sabbath School, and Steve Chinn, Portland's Mt. Tabor Church senior pastor, had the message, Who's Afraid of the Holy Ghost?

Santa Clara Church hosted the fellowship dinner and led the singing. People lingered for hours in the shade along the river, reluctant to let go of the sweet blessings the Sabbath held in this special place.

Attendees Chris Sittig and Douglas and Eveleen Briggs were recently baptized as a result of outreach by the Oakridge Branch Sabbath School, which was planted by the Fall Creek Church.

Fall Creek Church is con-



TAWNY SPORTSMAN

Designed for local and global ministry, the new Fall Creek Church is under construction.

structing a new facility designed for global Internet outreach as well as local ministry. It will be available in 2013 for CHIP (Complete Health Improvement Program) events, evangelistic series, programs to be taped and aired worldwide, and church services. Many attending Church

in the Park toured the new facility, which will seat 150 and reflects the historic look of the 108-year-old sanctuary where the Fall Creek Church currently holds worship services.

Tawny Sportsman, Fall Creek Church member

Grants Pass Holds Church in Vineyard

Grants Pass Church members brought to life "I am the vine, ye are the branches..." (John 15:5) on July 28 during an all-day Sabbath event held 20 miles away at Draper Valley Vineyard, which produces premium nonalcoholic grape juice.

Members brought chairs, umbrellas, sunblock and coolers of food for the day's events. Sabbath School included a skit performed by some of the youth. Adults and children were invited to craft "pledge cards," which were later tied to a few vines as reminders of their promise to their Savior and why they call themselves Adventists.

Everyone had a spectacular view of the vineyard during the worship service. Lunch was served immediately afterward, and everyone was invited to stay and celebrate three baptisms in

the afternoon. Members took a short hike across the vineyard to witness the event.

The three young people baptized in the nearby creek included Jenna Greene, youngest

daughter of David and Tracey Greene; Kayla Herndon, daughter of Bill and Kathy Herndon; and Marcus Wiggers, oldest son of Marcel and Heidi Wiggers. These three 12-year-olds have been students at Grants Pass Adventist School.

Special songs were sung in honor of each baptism, with Wiggers choosing to sing his own song. Spiritual guardians were assigned to each child to aid his or her walk with Jesus.

Jennifer Burkes, Grants Pass Church communication leader



The Grants Pass Church held a day-long Sabbath event at the Draper Valley Vineyard.

Sunnyside VBS Kids Dare to Be Daniels

Portland's Sunnyside Church was taken back to the time of Daniel during the week of June 25–29. Dozens of volunteers donated hours of their time to help plan, decorate, set up and provide an amazing experience for more than 100 children who joyfully came every evening to Babylon Vacation Bible School.

The kids were divided into 12 tribes, each with a leader

who gathered them together after they sang and celebrated at the beginning of each evening. They worshiped in small groups and learned a new memory verse with every lesson they studied. Then off they went to the myriad activities prepared for their enjoyment.

The kids rejoiced as they listened to Daniel's story at the synagogue, interacted with him at Nebuchadnezzar's palace,



The main sanctuary at Portland's Sunnyside Church featured a realistic set depicting Babylon in Daniel's time during this summer's Vacation Bible School.



wore garments customary in that time, played outdoor games, made crafts, sang catchy songs and had lots of fun at the marketplace.

The week was a magical time that brought together children of all ages. Adults were also caught up in the whirlwind of

joy and glee that permeated this VBS. They all shared a wonderful experience that will likely be remembered for many years to come.

Ivonne Allen, Sunnyside Church communication leader

Madrone Students Set Sail

Madrone Adventist Elementary School in Cave Junction, Ore., had the unique privilege of accepting a ship captain's invitation to visit the Windjammers tall ships in the Crescent City, Calif., harbor. All the students, their parents and

some school board members accepted the offer to sail on these high-masted, educational ships.

The students were given a short orientation and then positioned as part of the crew as they set sail for the open waters.



Madrone Adventist Elementary School students set sail the old-fashioned way aboard a traditionally rigged tall ship.

The students were commended for their seamanship, but several of the adults "fed the fish" over the starboard side, as the waves were high and choppy.

Being aboard the ships was a fantastic experience. One student said they wanted to

grow up to be a captain on an educational tall ship, so they too could help children learn about the joy of sailing in the ocean.

Patty Hyland, Cave Junction Church communication leader



PAA Welcomes New Staff Members

Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) welcomed two new staff members for the new school year.

Mary Sperl is PAA's new part-time librarian. Sperl will help facilitate study hall and tutoring while maintaining library records and a quiet place for students to study. Sperl and her husband, Mike, have been married for 25 years. They have three children — Ellen will be a junior at PAA, while Anita and Isaac will continue attending Scappoose Adventist School (SAS). Besides being



PAA welcomes a new librarian, Mary Sperl (left), and accountant, Herfa Zimmerman.

a busy mom, Sperl also holds a part-time position at SAS. In what free time she has left,

she enjoys spending time with family.

Herfa Zimmerman is PAA's

new part-time accountant. She'll be assisting with payroll, student labor and purchasing. She is married to David Zimmerman, who is an asset manager. Their two children, Nathan and Salena, attend Meadow Glade Elementary School in Battle Ground, Wash. Their family attends Your Bible Speaks Church in Portland. Herfa enjoys cooking and taking care of her family.

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA GLEANER correspondent

Principal's Partnership Promotes Professional Professors

His upbringing as a "Brit" with all of the traditions that carries, has not prevented Matthew Butte, principal of Columbia Adventist Academy (CAA) in Battle Ground, Wash.,

Matthew Butte, Columbia Adventist Academy principal (right), brought a ripple effect to the entire academy staff when he partnered with George Fox University's mentorship program.

from being an innovator when it comes to education. His arrival 16 years ago via public transportation bus heralded that a new era at CAA had begun.

Networking, leadership skills and the highest quality of instruction were important in Butte's role as chaplain, and those values have remained a top priority in his present role as administrator. So when Butte saw that George Fox University, headquartered in Newberg, Ore., had received a grant from the Murdock Foundation and was soliciting principals for a mentorship program, he immediately applied.

Gary Kilburg, George Fox Mentoring Institute director, began working with Butte and was excited about partnering with CAA. This partnership has had a huge ripple effect as it led to strengthening and improving the professional development opportunities for all CAA faculty and staff. It also led to the

funding of technology and differentiated learning seminars, team-building and social activities, national conventions, and even a staff field trip to Powell's Books (with books included) in Portland, Ore.

Butte realizes that the benefits of applying for the mentorship have far exceeded the immediate expectation of improving his own leadership skills. "We are blessed to have this partnership with the George Fox University and hope that it has also been a blessing for them," Butte says. "We trust this partnership will be long lasting like the Queen of England's rule. Long live the queen!"

Larry Hiday, CAA GLEANER correspondent



Southern Oregon Women Share Inspiration at Milo

More than 70 women from Ashland to Florence, Ore., and everywhere in between attended the Southern Oregon Women's Retreat at Milo Adventist Academy in Days Creek, Ore. The women

enjoyed encouraging workshops and a five-part series presented by Risé Rafferty during the three-day retreat, themed In Pursuit of Intimacy.

The workshops included Healthy and Happy for a Holy

Purpose presented by Rosalie Hurd, a nutritionist and co-author of the *Ten Talents Cookbook*. How Soon Is Soon was presented by Donna Griffith. Both Hurd and Griffith are Grants Pass Church members. Tawny Sportsman, Sweet Home Church member, presented The Weight of Our Words.

Activities kept the ladies busy between presentations. Some walked down the lane, while others went on an edible nature walk with Sandy Burns, who showed the difference between edible and non-edible plants. Many ladies were anointed during the retreat's anointing service, and healing

was evident, physically and in the heart.

The women enjoyed vocal performances by several women, and gifts were given out during special drawings. Every aspect of the retreat blessed the women, many of whom developed new and lasting friendships.

Not everything was business at the retreat, as the ladies found out during the pajama party when they stayed up late enjoying popcorn, soda and sweets. The party included games, singing and a great night of fun.

Starla Glassel, Grants Pass Church communication team

Starla Glassel, Tawny Sportsman, Teresa Dutton and Shelly Stewart enjoy special gifts during the Southern Oregon Women's Retreat at Milo Adventist Academy.



Sharon Church Hosts Active Summer

The saying "the lazy days of summer" does not ring true at the Sharon Church in Portland, Ore. This summer proved to be anything but lazy, starting with Vacation Bible School in June.

Sixty children, including 45 from the community, participated in the Beyond the Gold VBS program. With the Summer Olympics approaching, the theme echoed what people around the world were focused on to demonstrate how a Spirit-filled life with Jesus Christ is "beyond the gold."

Sharon Church members attended seminars, the

women's breakfast, youth programs and children's activities during the Oregon Conference Gladstone Camp Meeting in July. Sharon's Seniors in Action didn't stop just because they were at camp meeting — they held their regular meeting right there on the campgrounds.

The annual church picnic, also in July, was held at Columbia Park. The church family came together to share and fellowship through prayer, praise and power — with good food, good conversation and flag football.

The Sharon Church rolled right into August with the

Community Health Fair. Sharon Church partners with community businesses and organizations annually to host the fair, which assists families in the community with back-to-school supplies and provides healthy lifestyle information and good fellowship. About 130 people attended this year's fair, and 75 backpacks filled with school supplies were given away.

To discover what's next, visit Sharon Church in person in Portland or online at sharonsda.net.

Denise Williams, Sharon Church communication leader



Away from video games and television, children get their circulation going for good health during the Sharon Church Vacation Bible School.

SonBridge Community Center Receives Grant

SonBridge Community Center in College Place, Wash., received a \$170,000 matching grant from the Donald and Virginia Sherwood Trust to complete construction of new medical and dental clinics and to upgrade its parking. Supporters donated more than \$225,000 in order to meet the requirements of the grant.

The medical clinic, operated by SOS Health Services, will open in its new space later this year. This space is provided rent-free by SonBridge. The dental clinic will open after dental equipment and supplies are procured and installed. Upgraded and expanded parking will also be available.

SonBridge is now debt-free through the generous support

of the community and businesses, and it is more than halfway through a \$2.8 million campaign to complete construction inside its current building. A conference and education center will follow the completion of the clinics and the parking expansion.

“It is a joy to experience the generous financial response of both individuals and busi-

nesses,” says June Christensen, SonBridge executive director. “We are thankful to our community and to the Donald and Virginia Sherwood Trust for demonstrating their level of commitment to helping care for the unmet needs of others. We have been inspired.”

SonBridge is a nonprofit community center founded in 2004 to meet the needs of

Walla Walla Valley’s underserved residents. SonBridge and its partners provide medical, dental, education and social connection services through the support of donors, a thrift store and more than eight churches.

Norman Thiel, SonBridge Community Center campaign manager

SonBridge Community Center in College Place, Wash., received a grant to complete its new medical and dental clinics and upgrade its parking area.



Children Enjoy Newport VBS Gardening Adventure



Children build a hanging cedar planter during Newport’s garden-themed Vacation Bible School.

Vacation Bible School 2012 in Newport, Wash., was an exciting time for 30 children, including 15 from the community, as they came together daily for breakfast and a variety of interesting gardening activities.

Bev Mayfield, VBS director, chose the Gardens for Jesus program from Feeding His Lambs Ministries in Kettle Falls, Wash. Mayfield, along with approximately 30 volunteers and group leaders, focused on five garden topics: planting and preparing the garden, choosing and planting seeds, growing

seeds, harvesting the produce, and garden pests and helpers.

One learning opportunity included worship in the garden, during which the children learned memory verses by singing, used clues to discover items fitting the day’s theme and looked at pictures of a farm family with a spiritual application. Stations were set up so the children could rotate between making a craft book daily, doing exercises that reinforced the garden theme and learning Jesus’ parables through “digital felts.”

Other fun activities included making a bean soup mix, dehydrating apples and bananas, building a cedar planter, and planting strawberry plants and marigolds using materials donated by Newport-area businesses.

Mayfield reports that they are already seeing positive spiritual results from their week-long gardening adventure.

Earl Brockman, Newport Church communication leader

Center Feeds the 5,000 in Spokane

It's Thursday morning, and the lobby at the Better Living Center (BLC) in Spokane, Wash., is coming alive. Families in need of assistance have come to know the BLC as a refuge of care and compassion. Ruth Sheidler, director, works with her team of volunteers to serve up to 600 families and distribute more than 62,000 pounds of food each month. In theory, the BLC serves the central portion of Spokane, but as other food banks have struggled to stay open, the center has expanded its service area to the entire city. Despite this added challenge, it has never been forced to shut its doors due to food shortage.

Second Harvest, the regional organization overseeing 21 food banks, recently recognized the BLC for its work in the community and service to 5,500 families in 2011. With a continued increase in need, Sheidler estimates the center is serving 30 percent more families in 2012.

So how do you feed so many



Gary changes temperature many times each day as he works in and near the new walk-in refrigerator at Spokane's Better Living Center.

from a small building with a tiny lobby? On an average day you will find anywhere from 12 to 22 volunteers manning the center. Each volunteer is given a responsibility and is left to carry it out with expertise.

In the large walk-in refrigerator, Gary sorts and washes

produce for distribution. Russ manages the federal food program boxes for seniors and pregnant moms, while Mary creates meals from the dry-goods pantry. Finally, Donna loads and delivers a cart to families waiting in the lobby, where Joy greets and registers families.

A basic cart is stocked with fresh produce, dairy and meat items, dry and canned goods, and bread. A family of four receives 80 pounds of food, and on birthdays they even receive a birthday cake or pie. Food comes from various sources including federal programs, local grocers and the BLC community garden.

Sheidler notes that God always provides, even equating their blessings to the story of the loaves and fishes. These miracles are manifested in the provision of food or in simply having just the right size when a family mentions they need clothes. "If somebody comes in and needs something we don't have, within 10 minutes we will receive it," says Sheidler. "There is no way to explain it, except that it's a God thing."

Diana Burns, Upper Columbia Conference Adventist Community Services administrative assistant



Donna brings a cart full of food to the waiting area to give to a family in need.



Mary sorts with finesse so that the cans are easily bundled into complete and nutritious meals.

Daniel VBS Braves Fiery Furnace Heat Wave

The week of July 9–13 found the outdoor VBS program at Moses Lake (Wash.) Church colliding with an unexpected heat wave, with temperatures soaring above 100 degrees. Prayers for clouds or breeze were answered on several nights, and that, coupled with extra shade canopies, water



The outdoor VBS is enjoyed despite the heat.

misters and drinking water, enabled the children and staff to enjoy Daniel's Courage in Captivity program.

"Using the story of Daniel was really great," says Bonnie Trammel, one of the group leaders. "There are many parts of the story that kids can identify with, and I had a lot of very personal prayer requests." Throughout the week children learned that when they are afraid, need help, or are lonely or thankful, God is with them.

Favorite crafts included making fresh barley loaves with dried cranberries, glow globes from papier-mâché, and Babylonian hanging gardens with real, sprouting grass seed.



Moses Lake Church outdoor VBS was a true success in spite of a heat wave that sent temperatures soaring into triple digits.

In the Palace Playground kids enjoyed making catapults and ox cart tags.

During daily skits, the character of Ashpenaz (played by Matt Roberts) spent the week watching Daniel and learning about his faith. During the Sabbath morning closing program, Roberts gave a sermonette encouraging people to live so that

others see God in their lives.

The Moses Lake Church VBS leaders hope that people remember when things change God is with them, so they can pull together and continue in faith.

Marta Beaubien, Moses Lake Church VBS director

Better Living Center Opens in Goldendale

Sunday, July 8, was especially hot as the Goldendale (Wash.) Church family dedicated the new Better Living Center after more than a year of construction. The ribbon-cutting ceremony included Clint Baze, Goldendale mayor; Randy Terry, Upper Columbia Conference treasurer; Tim Gray, Goldendale Church pastor; and Carlyle Mason, construction manager.

After the ribbon cutting, thanks were in order to many of the attendees, including volunteers who did most of the construction. Then the group enjoyed finger foods

prepared by church members.

The building offers an attractive interior with wood on the ceilings, a tile floor and the walls beautifully done. To allow organizations such as the Red Cross to use the building in emergency situations, the center includes showers for people who have had to leave their homes. Other planned uses include community events, spiritual programs and health classes. Learning opportunities planned for the center include classes covering CHIP (Complete Health Improvement Program), cooking, exercise, stress reduction, depression



Attendees enjoy a reception and being able to inspect the new center after the dedication ceremony.

recovery, weight management, family life, marriage and parenting.

Elaine Kubler, Goldendale Church communication leader



Cutting the red ribbon to officially open the Better Living Center are (from left): Tim Gray, Goldendale Church pastor; Randy Terry, Upper Columbia Conference treasurer; Clint Baze, Goldendale mayor; and Carlyle Mason, construction manager.

Roofing Evangelism Pre-empts Kayak Trip

This summer Patty Marsh received an unusual request. Her phone rang, and a Marilyn from Maine was on the line. "In my four years as Adventist Community Services director, this is the first time I've received a request like this," says Marsh.

Marilyn's friend, Bev, in Spokane, Wash., needed a roof on her home. Neither woman is a member of the Adventist Church, but Marilyn saw Community Services and Disaster Response in the church name, and she thought it might be a caring church.

After chatting with Marilyn, Marsh sent the request out to the Spokane-area pastors. Roger Rudd, Linwood Church head elder, drove over to see Bev. She had been working on her roof herself, and she is disabled. He gathered four members from his church to help by clearing off the old shingles. They canceled an upcoming canoe/kayak trip on the Little Spokane River to allow the time to do some "roofing evangelism."

Rudd laid tarps on the roof because of the chance of rain, and Ted, South Hill Church member, was able to help finish the removal of the old roof and lay roofing felt.

Other local pastors also



Spokane-area church members help remove shingles from the roof of a community member needing help.

contacted Marsh to volunteer their church members' help. With all the help al-

ready, Bev was able to accept a bid from a contractor to finish the roof.

She is so appreciative of all the help that she would like to give back to the church by telling a children's story about her dogs. She raises service animals and has two trained springer spaniels that may accompany her to the Linwood Church soon.

Perhaps Matthew 25:35 could be paraphrased to say, "for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you put a roof on My house."

Kathy Marson, Upper Columbia Conference communication administrative assistant

Simple • Powerful • Life Changing Upper Columbia Conference Christian Women's and Young Women's Retreat



Gail McKenzie
Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Women's Ministries Director. Gail is a Christian speaker who dynamically and enthusiastically draws her hearers to the life-changing words of Jesus. You will be blessed by the insight in her messages.



Jennifer (Halverson) Woody
Auburn Adventist Academy Chaplain. Jennifer shares two passions – teenagers and the Gospel. In her words, "I'm blessed beyond measure to be doing what I'm doing!" Don't miss her exciting and inspiring messages at this year's retreat.

October 26-28, 2012
Camp MiVoden, Idaho

Registration begins at 4 p.m. Friday afternoon. Keynote messages begin at 7 p.m. Enjoy a full weekend we've prayerfully designed for you.

Retreat Prices:
Bunk: \$115.00
RV: \$80.00
Teens: \$65.00
Group (5 or more): \$105.00

For more information and to register visit:

www.uccsda.org/women

VBS Fosters Spiritual Growth

Vacation Bible School offers an opportunity for churches to foster children's spiritual growth and meet new community families.

NEW CONNECTIONS

It's been at least 20 years since Willapa Harbor Church held a VBS program. Early estimates placed attendance at 15 children — a number shattered when 35 children registered and 50 attended. Many children came from Hispanic homes, representing a major connection for the church.

"VBS puts us in touch with families that would not normally let us in the door and [establishes] friendships that the Lord can use later for different programs," says Gloria

Farley, Willapa Harbor Church VBS leader.

The church plans to follow up their successful VBS with an evangelistic series for children.

Elsewhere, Auburn City Church reconnected with older siblings who brought their younger siblings to experience VBS, and Kent Church invited parents to upcoming life-management seminars.

CHURCH PARTNERS

Three churches in Whatcom County — Bellingham, Open Door and Ferndale — collaborated in July to present Sonrise National Park VBS and then repackaged all the supplies for a sister church to use next year.

Sixty children, ages birth to 12, learned how peace, love and hope come from Jesus. Forty-five reading-aged children received a Bible and discovered how to find Bible treasures.

"It was a Christ-centered time, and it was evident in the pure joy the kids ex-



W. KEITH LINDSEY

Children express pure joy when singing, listening to Bible stories and enjoying their Bibles at Vacation Bible School.

pressed when singing, listening to the Bible stories, and enjoying their Bibles," says Allison Purdy, tri-church VBS leader.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Graham Church once again developed an original VBS curriculum about Moses from his birth to the Passover. This two-part curriculum will continue

next year with the journey from the Red Sea to the Promised Land.

Sixty children ages 4–11 attended, with a high percentage of children from community homes. A Christian daycare in the neighborhood also brought children to the program for the third consecutive year.

Children went home with a Bible challenge question (complete with a reference verse). One question stumped a father who was helping his child, and he turned to the Bible to find the answer.

"This is the evangelism we are so excited to see — children and their parents going to the Bible to read the stories for themselves," says Kristi Candler, Graham Church VBS leader.

Heidi Martella Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director



W. KEITH LINDSEY

Forty-five reading-age children in Bellingham, Wash., each receive a Bible and learn how to find and highlight Bible promises at a tri-church Vacation Bible School.

the **BIG**
PICTURE
of ministry

To "Reach Washington," 60 western Washington churches are presenting Bible prophecy seminars beginning Oct. 5. Thanks for your prayers!

DISCOVER MORE:

WASHINGTONCONFERENCE.ORG

Celebrity Chef Tours Western Washington

Celebrity chef Mark Anthony toured the Pacific Northwest this summer to present free, live vegan cooking shows.

“His presentation was high energy, professional, with lots of laughter. The time went by quickly,” says Wayne Hurley, from Bonney Lake, Wash. “He packed a lot of information — about disease prevention, the food industry, food packaging deceptions and how plant-based meals benefit health — into 90 minutes of his ‘one-man show.’”

Anthony prepared vegan culinary treats while sharing transforming health secrets at Lacey, Yelm, Bonney Lake, Tacoma Central, Tacoma South

Side, Auburn City, Kent, Forest Park (Everett, Wash.), Breath of Life (Seattle, Wash.), Sequim, Forks, Port Angeles and Port Townsend churches and other locations in July and August.

Anthony, who personally adopted a plant-strong lifestyle to lose significant weight and lower his cholesterol, encouraged participants to take small, positive steps while making food and nutrition changes. “The ultimate reason to foster optimal health is to better serve our Maker plus other people,” he says.

Churches enjoyed interacting with community guests who were attracted by local advertisements for a free meal by a



Celebrity chef Mark Anthony tours the country giving live vegan cooking shows. He was recently in western Washington.

celebrity chef. Guests went back for refills of the freshly made healthy food while teenagers in the audience raved about gluten “steaks.”

“His recipes are healthy and tasty,” says Mirna Selby, Lacey

Church member, “but his love and fire for the Lord [are] the best part.”

Heidi Martella Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director

North Cascade Primary Class Focuses on Mission

Children in grades one through four who attend Sabbath School classes at North Cascade Church in Burlington, Wash., raised funds to provide chicken flocks for caregivers of orphaned children in Tanzania.

This was part of the primary Sabbath School’s mission focus and represented an active partnership with Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

“My sister and I helped my mom babysit,” says Makena VonBergen, a first-grader. “We raised \$80 for the chicken flocks.”

Leili VonBergen, a fourth-grader, worked with a friend to make hand-knit scarves and asked for permission to sell



The North Cascade Church primary class holds nests of plastic eggs representing the average amount of eggs their five Tanzanian flocks of chickens could lay in a week.

the scarves at Skagit Adventist School. “We told our classmates and teachers about what ADRA is doing to help orphans in Tanzania with the chicken flocks,” she says.

In order to learn about ADRA’s world impact, the students received geography lessons, studied ADRA’s different focuses in various countries and tasted ethnic cuisine. They also gained

knowledge of culture through viewing collections and clothing lent by church friends.

Altogether, the children earned more than \$750 — enough for five complete chicken flocks, including coops, setup and education. Their enthusiasm for this project was at its height as they participated in creating a DVD of their accomplishment for their church family.

“It’s fun thinking of the kids’ happy faces when they get our chicken flocks,” says Madisen Argueta, a fourth-grader.

Loni Carambot, North Cascade Church primary class teacher

Youth Rush Knocks on 200,000 Western Washington Doors

Two Youth Rush participants knocked on a Bellevue, Wash., door this summer and began talking with a lady who wasn't initially interested in buying anything. When she found out they had Christian books, they began a longer conversation.

Midway through the canvass, she turned and picked up from her desk a very old copy of *The Desire of Ages* that she bought 30 years ago at a garage sale and had read countless times since then. She selected *Steps to Christ* and *Christ's Object Lessons* to add to her library and welcomed prayer for her spiritual growth.

Youth Rush is a student lit-



Youth Rush expanded this year to two groups involving 46 young people in door-to-door literature ministry.

erature ministries program that has been a part of Washington Conference since the summer of 2010.

Each summer young people experience the power of God

as they go from door to door in the cities and towns of western Washington. The books, and now three DVDs, students carry cover a range of topics including health, spiritual growth and

moral values for children.

Made possible by a generous donation, Youth Rush expanded this summer to include two locations involving 46 young people. Youth Rush teams visited 153 towns and knocked on 200,000 doors. The teams distributed more than 76,000 pieces of literature, left 22,210 books in homes for donations and received \$190,000 in donations (with \$130,000 applied to funding Adventist education).

Read the full Youth Rush 2012 report online at issuu.com/washconf.

John Miller, Washington Conference literature ministries coordinator

Auburn Campus Ministries Team Plans Year

Campus ministries at Auburn Adventist Academy spent the summer planning, preparing and praying for a new school year, and rolled out new ideas while continuing to support spiritually successful activities.

The leadership team began by expanding to include two chaplains: Jeff Carlson and Jennifer Woody. As spiritual leaders, Carlson and Woody are focused on helping students learn to be thinkers in the Word instead of mere reflectors of what others tell them to think.

"This year is a call to be focused and united in Christ —

a call to claim the victory in Christ, to let others see that Christ is in us changing our lives, and to be intentional about praying for our school," says Woody.

New ideas include Sabbath School integration with the local church. This gives students a chance to feel a part of the local church community while giving the community an opportunity to get acquainted with students.

Power-packed weekends will combine powerful speakers with contemporary Christian artists to lead the school in spiritual growth and revival.

The academy is continuing to include a 10-minute daily worship period during which students, teachers and staff take time to intentionally pray for the school and spiritually connect with one another.

Campus ministries works throughout the year to facilitate ways to meet Jesus daily to help unite the campus in Christ.

Jessi Turner, AAA GLEANER correspondent

The campus ministries team at Auburn Adventist Academy — composed of students and faculty — facilitates ways to meet Jesus daily throughout the year to help unite the campus in Christ.



CALEB RISTON

University Church Celebrates 50 Years of Worship

On Oct. 20, 1962, to the sounds of trumpets and with the choir leading the way, Walla Walla campus church members marched from Columbia Auditorium (now the location of Havstad Alumni Center) to the new College Church, built on the site of the old college barn. After 23 years without an adequate church sanctuary, the college campus finally had a house of worship.

In the university's early years, Village Hall served as the church for community members and for the college. It burned down from an act of arson in 1912 and was rebuilt in 1920 to accommodate 700 people. However, by 1939, the building no longer had the capacity to serve the college's needs, and services were moved to Columbia Auditorium, which also served as the campus gymnasium and a major event venue.

Paul Heubach, College Church pastor from 1952 to 1963, and other planners desired a substantial church that inspired reverence — some-



Worship and other campus services in the sanctuary are an integral aspect of student life at Walla Walla University.

thing that the crowded, noisy services in Columbia Auditorium could not achieve. Twenty Sabbath School classes were held in the auditorium each week. The new church was also designed to highlight the role of music in worship, as evidenced by the Casavant pipe organ in the front of the sanctuary.

Now at its half-century mark, the University Church has a six-

member pastoral staff serving 2,400 members, which include both church and community members. "Walla Walla University is a Seventh-day Adventist learning community," says Alex Bryan, senior pastor. "We work and play, study and worship on this Christian campus. And so, both symbolically and in reality, the church building is the center of campus. This sacred space defines who we are."

To celebrate its 50th anniversary, the Walla Walla University Church will commemorate this event at the second church service on Oct. 20, with reflections from church members who made the original march and with music from the 1962 service. A special Sabbath School in the Melvin K. West Fine Arts Center Auditorium at 10:30 a.m. will highlight the history of the church. From there, members can join a procession

to the church, where they will be greeted with trumpets just as the original marchers were. In his 11:45 a.m. service sermon, Bryan will discuss why history and traditions matter.

Camlynne Waring, Walla Walla University Relations writer

The University Church, with the "Jesus Among Us" sculpture in the foreground, serves as the heart of WWU campus.



The church was constructed on the site of the college's barn.



Dan Jackson, North American Division president, issues a challenge to teachers during the final commitment service.

“It feels like a mini General Conference,” someone said while watching people hurry across the room to hug friends they had not seen in awhile. Others commented on the fun of seeing students they had taught who were now teachers.

George Johnson, NAD communication director, says

plete a separate form.

The convention’s theme, Moving Hearts and Minds Upward, was a reminder of the eternal mission behind every teacher. Ric Peinado, Mount Ellis Elementary School principal, says, “It reminds me that we are not only to teach our students to be outward-focused but

2012 NATIONAL

INFORMS AND

Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, Tenn., was a buzz of activity Sunday, Aug. 5, as hundreds of Northwest teachers and 6,000 of their colleagues from 15 countries gathered for the third North American Division (NAD) Teachers’ Convention.

this convention utilized almost every aspect of communication and social networking. For example, teachers had QR codes on their name badges. “Instead of exchanging business cards,” Johnson says, “they could just scan a QR code and have the information added to their contacts.” The exhibit area also utilized the QR codes to send information teachers requested without requiring them to com-

upward-focused on [the One] who loved us first.”

Larry Blackmer, NAD vice president for education, shared two main goals for the convention. First, he explained, “I believe in order to represent that relationship, each teacher must personally have a daily relationship with Christ, so I want to infuse the vision of Adventist education in every single one of our teachers.”

Carlton Byrd, Oakwood University Church pastor, prays with the entire assembly during August’s North American Division Teachers’ Convention.





Rod Rau (left), Dillingham Adventist School teacher from Alaska, accepts prayer and anointing from a colleague in a special commitment service held at the close of the convention.

the Seven Campaign: Stop Child Abuse Now at the convention. The Seven Campaign is a clear stand taken by the Seventh-day Adventist Church to end all forms of child abuse including bullying, neglect, and physical, emotional and sexual abuse worldwide.

Keith Waters, North Pacific Union Conference associate education director, says, "This convention was a spiritual and professional stimulus for our teachers. It provided a plethora of exciting breakouts with ideas to take back to their classrooms, as well as ample opportuni-

CONVENTION

INSPIRES TEACHERS

The Isaacs, an award-winning bluegrass gospel group, provides a musical highlight during the convention.

"The second goal," Blackmer added, "is to say 'thank you' for what they do. They spend a lot of hours. They really work hard. Many times they are not appreciated as well as they could be so I want to say 'thank you' to each teacher who is here."

Attendees had a lot of opportunities to be infused spiritually as well as academically with three morning worships, three general sessions, two evening programs, more than 550 breakout sessions and a commitment service to close the event.

The music included performances by country and bluegrass gospel music group The Isaacs and by Committed, NBC's *The Sing-Off* season two a capella winners.

Featured speakers included Carlton Byrd, Oakwood University Church pastor; Dwight Nelson, Andrews University Church pastor; and Ken Davis, a Christian comedian and motivational presenter.

Adventist Risk Management, in partnership with several other Adventist organizations including the NAD, launched



DAN WEBER

Teachers were also introduced to an Olweus Bullying Prevention Program offered in elementary and secondary schools and received the latest ValueGenesis and CognitiveGenesis updates.

Dan Jackson, NAD president, shared 12 lessons from the story of Moses during the commitment service. "The minute you accepted the call of Jesus you became a minister of the gospel," he said.

ties for networking with fellow teachers. God was uplifted and praised throughout the convention."

The NAD Teachers' Convention is scheduled every six years.

Adapted by the GLEANER from an article by Tamara Michelenko Terry, a freelance writer in Spokane, Wash.



Much collaboration happened beyond the ballroom and seminar rooms, even out in hallways and general areas.

MILESTONES

Crisp 65th

An open house was held in honor of John and Malinda (Schrenk) Crisp's 65th wedding anniversary. John and Malinda met in 1944, shortly before John was deployed to the South Pacific during World War II. For the next three years, John and Malinda corresponded faithfully, developing a friendship that has lasted these 65 years of marriage. When John was discharged from the Army, they married at the Hilborn Church in Lodi, Calif., on April 2, 1947.

John was a logger by trade and spent the early years of their marriage cutting logs, mostly in Eastern Oregon. This required them to move often from one small town to another. His career progressed to logging equipment operation and finally to truck driving.



John and Malinda Crisp

Malinda completed her degree in elementary education from Eastern Oregon University and spent the next 26 years teaching first grade. She taught in Pilot Rock and Roseburg, Ore. After her retirement she completed teaching a year at Sutherlin Adventist School due to the illness of the teacher. She continued to be active in

the SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) program and did some substitute teaching in the Sutherlin, Ore., area.

Christian education was always a priority for John and Malinda. If the town where they were living had no church or church school, they got together with other believers and raised one or both. In one instance, the newly developed company purchased the old Robinette railroad station. They put it on a lowboy trailer and moved it 20 breathtaking miles from Robinette up the old Halfway grade to Halfway, Ore. When they finished there was a school with 16 students and one teacher. Because of their dedication to Christian education all of their children received Christ-centered education. That dedication is now continuing with their great-grandchildren.

God has blessed John and Malinda with good health and an active lifestyle. They continue to work in the church they love.

The Crisp family includes Jerry and Linda (Thorgersen) Crisp of Bozeman, Mont.; Nancy and George (deceased) Worley of Roseburg, Ore.; Norm and Cheri (Sparks) Crisp of Oakland, Calif.; Wayne (deceased) and Ruth (Yarbrough) Crisp of Sutherlin; 4 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Kyle 65th

Sybil Morrison and Jim Kyle of Darby, Mont., met in 1942 as classmates at Mount Ellis Academy in Bozeman, Mont. Their friendship continued throughout the interruptions of World War II. After graduation from Mount Ellis, Sybil attended Walla Walla College (now Walla Walla University)



Sybil and Jim Kyle

majoring in elementary education. While Jim was working to gain funding for his senior year of academy he received his Army draft call from Uncle Sam. His overseas service was with the occupation Army in Japan as a medic in an Army hospital in Tokyo.

They were married in College Place, Wash., June 8, 1947, by H.E. Westermeyer. The wedding was to have been outside in a friend's garden, but a June thunderstorm came up quickly and they had to move inside.

Before retirement Sybil was an elementary teacher. She also supervised the first Head Start programs in Ravalli County, Mont. Jim worked as a lab technician at the Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Hamilton, Mont.

Their family includes Ken and Robin (Parks) Kyle, Jerry and Patti (Riise) Kyle, Barbara and Conrad Gren, Carolyn and Mark Sturges, 12 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

LeBard 60th

Robert and Nita LeBard celebrated their 60th anniversary on June 1, 2012, with a dinner and vespers at Centralia (Wash.) Church fellowship hall

hosted by children, family and friends.

Robert "Bob" K. LeBard married Nita G. Kingman on June 1, 1952, at the Stillwater (Minn.) Church. Bob taught choir/band, government, history, Bible and physical education and was principal in several Adventist academies across the U.S. He then went on to be pastor of the Winlock, Onalaska and Morton churches in Washington. He is currently retired in the Centralia Church but active in Bible study and outreach. He also has been and is currently a supervisor of student teachers for Western Washington University.

Nita worked in Adventist academies as launderer, school registrar, librarian, work coordinator, secretary and right hand to the principal (her husband). She is best known for "Pie Nite at the LeBards" and her wonderful meals served to homesick kids. She currently supports Bob in his Bible studies and other church related work.

The family includes Rob and Fil (Villorian) LeBard of Merced, Calif.; Kathy and Kerry O'Connor; Bridget and Mark Kern; 7 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.



Robert and Nita LeBard

BIRTHS

BALDWIN — Genevieve “Ginger” Ruth was born Aug. 4, 2012, to Dan and Jael (Barstow) Baldwin, Sweet Home, Ore.

BYERS — Jeston Curtis was born July 24, 2012, to Brani and Shari (Sohm) Byers, Port Angeles, Wash.

COX — Brandon Noah was born June 28, 2012, to Jared and Heather (Severance) Cox, Albany, Ore.

CRAIK — Montgomery was born July 10, 2012, to Mackenzie and Emily (Nickolatos) Craik, Riverside, R.I.

CRAIK — Winston was born July 10, 2012, to Mackenzie and Emily (Nickolatos) Craik, Riverside, R.I.

FLEMING — Enoch Crown was born Aug. 14, 2012, to Ariel and Summer (Bartholemew) Fleming, Kenmore, Wash.

JAMES — Luke Micah was born July 6, 2012, to Matthew and Beth (Kopplin) James, Hillsboro, Ore.

MACK — Adison Jill was born July 5, 2012, to Jonathan and Jill (Dearing) Mack, West Linn, Ore.

NELSON — Emmaline Grace was born Aug. 5, 2012, to Chris and Aubrey (Oliver) Nelson, Tigard, Ore.

ROBERTS — Lane Haskin was born Aug. 2, 2012, to Wade and Carman (Griffin) Roberts, Gresham, Ore.

TA — Analisa Hien was born June 2, 2012, to Mikhail C. and Stephanie L. (Fritz) Ta, Chehalis, Wash.

WILSON — Grace Marie was born July 10, 2012, to Corey and Stephanie Wilson, East Wenatchee, Wash.

WEDDINGS

BRADLEY-ROBBINS-MOOR — Heather Bradley-Robbins and Jonny Moor were married July 1, 2012, in Lincoln, Calif. They are making their home in Gresham, Ore. Heather is the daughter of Scott and Kristi (McCormick) Bradley-Robbins. Jonny is the son of Michael and Deborah (Baerg) Moor.

CURRIER-GIENGER — Kathryn Michelle Currier and Jonathan Thomas Gienger were married Aug. 19, 2012, in Aurora, Ore. They are making their home in Coos Bay, Ore. Kathryn is the daughter of William and Rebecca (Doramus) Currier and Allee (Fromm) Currier. Jonathan is the son of Dean and Carol (Norton) Gienger.

DETTWILER-NAVARRO — Martha Dettwiler and Joel Navarro were married July 15, 2012, in Walla Walla, Wash. They are making their home in Spain. Martha is the daughter of David and Alice Dettwiler. Joel is the son of Juan and Dolores Navarro.

FITCH-VYHMEISTER — Kaitlyn Fitch and Ross Vyhmeister were married July 3, 2012, in Oregon City, Ore. They are making their home in St. Louis, Mo. Kaitlyn is the daughter of Shaun and Jan Fitch. Ross is the son of Walter and Cheryl Vyhmeister.

AT REST

BEDDOE — Aileen (Gibson) St. Clair, 86; born Sept. 23, 1925, Laurelwood, Ore.; died May 14, 2012, Yakima, Wash. Surviving: son, Jack St. Clair, La Grande, Ore.; daughters, Rocelia Holmes, Oregon City, Ore.; Bernice Beddoe, Riverside, Calif.; 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

BETZ — Hazel Harriet (Fischer) Towle, 85; born March 3, 1927, San Andreas, Calif.; died June 12, 2012, Portland, Ore. Surviving: son, Karl Towle, Denton, Texas; stepsons, Fred Betz, Coos Bay, Ore.; Charles Betz Jr., San Francisco, Calif.; 2 grandchildren, a step-grandchild and 2 step-great-grandchildren.

BOLTON — Elaine, 96; born Sept. 11, 1915; died May 1, 2012, College Place, Wash. Surviving: son, Bill Morton; stepdaughters, Norma Wendt and Nita Hamilton; 14 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, 4 great-great-grandchildren and a great-great-great-grandchild.

BROWN — Curtis L., 89; born June 15, 1922, Eureka, Calif.; died June 2, 2012, Sweet Home, Ore. Surviving: wife, Phyllis (Skau); sons, Olaf E., of Canada; Adrian L., Floresville, Texas; Galen V., Sweet Home; Wendell L., Lebanon, Ore.; many grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

CAVINESS — Goldie M. (Raley), 95; born May 10, 1916, College Place, Wash.; died Dec. 18, 2011, Centerville, Ohio. Surviving: sons, Malcolm and Arthur, both of Centerville; daughter, Dorothy Buckman, Hendersonville, Tenn.; and 8 grandchildren.

CHASSON — Alta Mae (Dodge) Jones Baily, 97; born Oct. 8, 1914, Oacoma, S.D.; died March 10, 2012, Battle Ground, Wash. Surviving: daughter, Esther (Jones) Benedict, Kalama, Wash.; 11 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

CHRISTIAN — Noma (Lawrence) Kinkey, 100; born Sept. 22, 1911, San Jose, Calif.;

died May 20, 2012, Medford, Ore. Surviving: son, William J. Kinkey, Bonanza, Ore.; daughters, Joanna (Kinkey) Cardosa, Eagle Point, Ore.; Ginger (Christian) Cramblet-Macklin, Bonanza; Fay (Christian) Lotspeich, Monroe, Ore.; 8 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

CIPPARONE — Annie L. (Reeves), 80; born Nov. 17, 1931, Lemon, Honduras; died Dec. 28, 2011, Canby, Ore. Surviving: husband, John; sons, Glen L. and Gary J., both of Lake Oswego, Ore.

COOK — David B., 82; born Jan. 30, 1930, Kansas City, Mo.; died April 13, 2012, College Place, Wash. Surviving: wife, Virginia (McCoy); son, Gregory, Olympia, Wash.; daughter, Carrie Bennett, Kennewick, Wash.; brother, Leslie, Kettle Falls, Wash.; 4 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

COY — Lillian Rachel (Putnam), 92; born June 17, 1919, Oregon City, Ore.; died April 24, 2012, Medford, Ore. Surviving: sons, Lee, Central Point, Ore.; David, White City, Ore.; Marvin, Central Point; Darryl, Yreka, Calif.; daughters, Sherryl Parliament, White City; Donna Dykes, Spokane, Wash.; Lynell Staten, Trail, Ore.; Jolene Coy, Shady Cove, Ore.; 20 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren.

CUNNINGHAM — James H., 87; born March 6, 1925, Roseburg, Ore.; died May 19, 2012, Central Point, Ore. Surviving: wife, Ruby (Arnold); sons, Chuck, Coalinga, Calif.; Bryan, Yellville, Ark.; daughters, Joyce Tupy, Crescent City, Calif.; Melissa Worden, Central Point; 8 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

AT REST

DEFEHR — John Stanton, 87; born April 14, 1925, Angwin, Calif.; died June 6, 2012, Silverton, Ore. Surviving: wife, Cathey (Wilson); daughters, Lanelle Northrop, Fallon, Nev.; Jan Blom, Silverton; brother, Raymond, Twain Harte, Calif.; 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

DRURY — Omer Harvey, 89; born Oct. 21, 1922, Emmett, Idaho; died May 11, 2012, Troy, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Elaine (Estes); sons, Larry, Spokane, Wash.; Charlie, Vancouver, Wash.; daughters, Joy Gauger, Riddle, Ore.; June Miner, Troy; Becky Bradshaw, Meridian, Idaho; 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

EDGERLY — Beverly J. (Pickens), 71; born Oct. 16, 1940, Porterville, Calif.; died April 22, 2012, Hillsboro, Ore. Surviving: son, Frank Jr., Orlando, Fla.; daughter, Teresa Lyons, Hillsboro; and 6 grandchildren.

ELSTROM — George R., 91; born May 27, 1921, Lincoln, Neb.; died June 4, 2012, College Place, Wash. Surviving: wife, Twila V. (Hoover), Walla Walla, Wash.; son, Thomas M., College Place; sister, Bette Westfall, Mount Dora, Fla.; 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

ERICH — Louis Richard, 83; born Nov. 7, 1928, Shanghai, China; died June 11, 2012, Portland, Ore. Surviving: wife, Lillian (McFeters); sons, Jonathan, Battle Ground, Wash.; Kevin, Paradise, Calif.; Timothy, Boring, Ore.; daughter, Jana Chapman, Paradise; and 10 grandchildren.

FLEMMER — Karen, 53; born July 28, 1958, Jamestown, N.D.; died June 10, 2012, College Place, Wash. Surviving: brothers, Elmer Flemmer, San Antonio, Texas; Clarence Flemmer, Sioux Falls, N.D.; Harry Flemmer, College Place; sisters,

Hilda McClure, College Place; Elsie Flemmer, Walla Walla, Wash.; Lorraine Ferguson, College Place; Gladys Barnes, Battle Ground, Wash.; and Sharon Welch, LaCygne, Kan.

GRAHAM — Stephen D., 51; born July 1, 1960, Portland, Ore.; died Feb. 4, 2012, McMinnville, Ore. Surviving: wife, Patricia (Jones), Show Low, Ariz.; son, Ian, Show Low; parents, Duane and Janice (Ausman) Graham, McMinnville; brothers, Michael, Milwaukie, Ore.; David, Puyallup, Wash.; and sister, Jana Edge, Kailua, Hawaii.

GRELLMANN — Friedrich Georg, 90; born April 20, 1922, Falkenstein im Vogtland, Germany; died May 20, 2012, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: wife, Charleene (Riffel); sons, Heinz-Erwin, Beaverton, Ore.; David, Berrien Springs, Mich.; Dietmar, El Dorado Hills, Calif.; Reinhold, Bolton, Mass.; daughter, Evelyn Boyd, Walla Walla; sister, Johanne Lusky, Elstal, Germany; 13 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

GUTSCHE — Roy Erich, 82; born May 10, 1929, Hinsdale, Ill.; died April 15, 2012, Portland, Ore. Surviving: wife, Doris (Anderson); and brother, Richard, Sunland, Calif.

HAMILTON — Lorraine Marie (Sponsler), 75; born April 10, 1937, Boise, Idaho; died May 6, 2012, Salmon, Idaho. Surviving: husband, Eddie; son, Linden, Portland, Ore.; daughter, Michele Becker, Eugene, Ore.; sister, Beverly Rue, Boise; and 5 grandchildren.

HENRY — Maryetta A. (Trusty), 84; born Oct. 12, 1927, Spokane, Wash.; died June 7, 2012, Portland, Ore. Surviving: husband, Imer, Gresham, Ore.; sons, Vernon, Gresham; Norman, Clackamas, Ore.; brother, Ellsworth Trusty, Chattaroy, Wash.; and 2 grandchildren.

HOWARD — Marylene M. (Warner) Horn, 85; born April 13, 1926, Eaton, Colo.; died Feb. 19, 2012, Eagle, Idaho. Surviving: husband, Charles; son, Fred E. Horn, Boise; brother, Lloyd Warner, Boise; and sister, Irene Itschner, Pendleton, Ore.

HUTCHINS — Esther R. (Allison), 89, born Sept. 27, 1922, Canon City, Colo.; died May 10, 2012, Monroe, Wash. Surviving: husband, Frank; sons, Frederick and Douglas, both of Lynnwood, Wash.; daughters, Margaret Elaine Bennett, Monroe; Mariann Jean Walker, Tonasket, Wash.; and a grandchild.

JONES — Ralph D., 75; born April 17, 1936, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; died March 6, 2012, Battle Ground, Wash. Surviving: wife, Beatrice Darlene (Blehm); sons, Delvin, Battle Ground; Darrell, Mill Creek, Wash.; daughter, Della Emerick, Forest Grove, Ore.; and 7 grandchildren.

KATTENHORN — Lowell Dean, 96; born May 6, 1916, Merrill, Ore.; died May 17, 2012, Grants Pass, Ore. Surviving: wife, Oma (Radford); sons, Dick, Lafayette, Colo.; John, Boise, Idaho; daughter, Anne Richman, College Place, Wash.; 9 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

LAIR — Gladys M. (Robertson), 99; born July 29, 1912, Draper, S.D.; June 14, 2012, Port Orchard, Wash. Surviving: sons, Earl, Visalia, Calif.; Robert, Exeter, Calif.; daughters, Dorothy Sullivan, Port Orchard; Betty Edwards, Warsaw, Mo.; Jean Ray, Cicero, Ind.; Karen Lake, Kent, Wash.; 19 grandchildren, 45 great-grandchildren and 9 great-great-grandchildren.

LANG — Donna (Albertsen), 51; born Jan. 17, 1960, Watervliet, Mich.; died Dec. 27, 2011, Caldwell, Idaho.

Surviving: husband, Bob; sons, Ben Leake, Bremerton, Wash.; Tyler Lang, Boise, Idaho; Matthew Leake, Colorado Springs, Colo.; daughter, Bethany Lang, Pullman, Wash.; mother, Elsie (Sande) Prohaska, Boise; brother, Ken Albertsen, Loveland, Colo.; sisters, Mary Jane Zollbrecht, Oregon City, Ore.; Carol Ann St. Clair, La Grande, Ore.; and Linda Gault, Eagle, Idaho.

LINKER — Eleanor (Wolf), 91; born Jan. 17, 1921, Dickinson, N.D.; died May 31, 2012, Yakima, Wash. Surviving: daughter, Ruellan Aichek, Yakima; brothers, Ralph Wolf and Edward Wolf, both of Yakima; sisters, Leona Evans, Yakima; Magdalene Frazey, Rathdrum, Idaho; a grandchild and 4 great-grandchildren.

MAAS — Albert Leonard, 88; born Sept. 25, 1923, Berthoud, Colo.; died March 13, 2012, Eugene, Ore. Surviving: daughters, Cynthia Tripp, Laguna Niguel, Calif.; Carol Fichtner, Tigard, Ore.; Colleen Maas, Springfield, Ore.; 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

MAY — Rosemary Frances (Nelson), 50; born Aug. 4, 1961, Yakima, Wash.; died March 14, 2012, Yakima. Surviving: husband, Leonard; mother, Patricia (Harper) Nelson, Yakima; brother, Willard Nelson, Yakima; and sister, Tammy Elmo, Tri-Cities, Wash.

MCGUIRE — Ruth Helen (Paulson) Linden, 99; born Oct. 14, 1912, Riverside, Mont.; died March 26, 2012, Port Angeles, Wash. Surviving: son, Larry Linden, Colfax, Calif.; daughter, Rosemary (McGuire) Schoville, Port Angeles; 9 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

MCKINNEY — Lillian Grace (Gray), 80; born Feb. 16, 1932, Hammond, La.; died

May 15, 2012, Gresham, Ore. Surviving: husband, William M.; sons, Bruce, Silver City, N.M.; Charles, Austin, Texas; daughter, Kandace McKinney, Gresham; 6 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

MOORE — Olive L. (Ventling), 91; born April 29, 1921, Lincoln, Neb.; died May 11, 2012, Hermiston, Ore. Surviving: sons, Kevin, of Washington; foster sons, Larry Moore, Milton-Freewater, Ore.; Donovan McCaleb, of Washington; daughters, Janet Casareale, Pendleton, Ore.; Ginger Williams, Echo, Ore.; Peggy Roland, Hermiston; 11 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

MORGAN — Lillian M. (Larson), 82; born June 6, 1929, Seattle, Wash.; died April 26, 2012, Spokane, Wash. Surviving: daughters, Julie Pflugrad, Waverly, Wash.; Rebecca Reardon, Spanaway, Wash.; 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

NESBIT — Mary Lillian (Oium), 92; born Dec. 15, 1919, Eckville, Alberta, Canada; died May 7, 2012, Longview, Wash. Surviving: sons, Joseph S. and C. James II, both in Kelso, Wash.; daughters, Anita M. Martinez, Kelso; Amanda E. Nesbit, Longview; Sharon D. Guerra, Ellensburg, Wash.; 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

NEVES — Edward N., 82; born Jan. 7, 1930, Ride, Calif.; died June, 14, 2012, Springfield, Ore. Surviving: wife, Helen (Spiklemier) King; sons, Edward Burns and Edward Neves Jr., both of Springfield; stepson, Gordon King, Lodi, Calif.; daughter, Cecilia (Neves) Hatley, Las Vegas, Nev.; step-daughters, Susan (King) Tigie, Lincoln, Calif.; Debra (King) Alford, Pasco, Wash.; Rhonda

(King) Garner, Caldwell, Idaho; brother, Tony Neves, Yuba City, Calif.; sisters, Adaline (Neves) Landaker, Orangevale, Calif.; Maimie (Neves) Smith, Oroville, Calif.; 13 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

NOAH — Mary (Cleveland) Nieman Acton, 93; born July 23, 1917, Lewiston, Idaho; died June 4, 2011, Spokane, Wash. Surviving: daughters, Narlita Klein, Spokane; Wanita Marney, Deer Park, Calif.; 4 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and 6 great-great-grandchildren.

NUTTER — Eileen Mae (Jones), 86; born Dec. 31, 1925, Loma Linda, Calif.; died April 30, 2012, Vancouver, Wash. Surviving: sons, L. Dennis and David L., both of Washougal, Wash.; 7 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

PARR — Judith "Judy" May (Coss), 68; born Oct. 16, 1943, Canandaigua, N.Y.; died April 15, 2012, Canyon City, Ore. Surviving: husband, Clarence; sons, Timothy Shafer, of California; Richard Shafer, Childress, Texas; and daughter, Debbie Piburn, Coquille, Ore.

PERRY — Imogene (Davis), 87; born June 19, 1924, Kimball, Neb.; died May 25, 2012, College Place, Wash. Surviving: sons, Max, Malibu, Calif.; Mark, Vancouver, Wash.; daughter, Gail Rittenbach, Walla Walla, Wash.; twin sister, Genie Anderson, Loma Linda, Calif.; 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

PETERSEN — Margarete Frances (Seilaz), 96; born June 29, 1915, Knoxville, Tenn.; died May 7, 2012, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: daughters, Beverly Scott, College Place, Wash.; Glenda Merklin, Skokie, Ill.; 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

REIBER — Robert F., 79; born May 9, 1932, Granger, Wash.; died April 24, 2012, Vancouver, Wash. Surviving: wife, Marian (Smith), Woodland, Wash.; sons, Gary L., Walla Walla, Wash.; David E., Kailua, Hawaii; daughter, Susanne A. Sharp, Marysville, Wash.; 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

SCHWAB — Marey E. (Murray), 82; born July 13, 1929, Cary Ranch, Colo.; died May 14, 2012, Rialto, Calif. Surviving: husband, Ernest R.; sons, Ernest R. III, Redlands, Calif.; Michael I., Carthage, Ill.; Jon M., Rialto; brothers, Fred Murray, Lincoln, Neb.; Jim Murray, Weatherford, Texas; sisters, Peggy Terry, Sheridan, Wyo.; Beth Irons, Calimesa, Calif.; and 3 grandchildren.

SEIBERT — Leland G., 72; born March 6, 1940, Atascadero, Calif.; died April 19, 2012, Vernonia, Ore. Surviving: wife, Loretta (Sullivan); son, LeMel, Vernonia; daughter, LaRhonda Wheeler, Santa Monica, Calif.; brother, David, Moab, Utah; sisters, Laura Mae Zollinger, Dayton, Tenn.; Ruby Eaton, Gentry, Ariz.; Jenny Enoch, Montrose, Colo.; and 3 grandchildren.

SULLIVAN — Beatrice G. (Moore), 92; born Feb. 25, 1919, Paris, Tenn.; died Aug. 17, 2011, Vernonia, Ore. Surviving: husband, Paul, McAlester, Okla.; son, Ronny, Yucaipa, Calif.; daughter, Wynn Sullivan, Royal Palm Beach, Fla.; brother, Roger, Nolensville, Tenn.; sisters, Loretta Seibert, Vernonia; Jesse Nicholson, Palm Springs, Calif.; Mary Hooper, San Jacinto, Calif.; 15 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

VANDERZANDEN — Ollie Mildred "Millie" (McKin-

ney), 97; born July 25, 1914, Arkansas; died May 13, 2012, Forest Grove, Ore. Surviving: son, Steve R., Forest Grove; daughters, Hazel "Delores" Gard, Hillsboro, Ore.; Bonnie "Carol" Stegmeier, Kitchener, British Columbia, Canada; 7 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

VOTH — Olga (Krenzler), 92; born Aug. 15, 1919, Leola, S.D.; died Dec. 31, 2011, Centralia, Wash. Surviving: husband, Vernon; son, Larry, Kent, Wash.; 2 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

WALDE — Esther (Klasen), 92; born Sept. 25, 1919, Madison, Ohio; died May 31, 2012, Sonora, Calif. Surviving: daughters, Donna McGinnis, Milwaukie, Ore.; Carole Breckenridge, Meadow Vista, Calif.; Colleen Tillay, Walla Walla, Wash.; 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

WESTERBECK — Glenn, 98; born April 26, 1914, Burlington, Iowa; died May 18, 2012, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: son, Terry, Walla Walla; daughter, Suzanne Mitchell, Alvarado, Texas; 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

WILTON — Herbert C., 85; born Oct. 2, 1926, Long Beach, Calif.; died May 20, 2012, Portland, Ore. Surviving: son, Herby D. Wilton, Troutdale, Ore.; daughters, Claudia Carver, Grants Pass, Ore.; Catherine Lee Colley-Dominique, Portland; 9 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

WINER — Shirley L. (Hunting), 66; born July 19, 1945, Salem, Ore.; died Feb. 4, 2012, Richland, Wash. Surviving: brother, Ken Hunting, Phoenix, Ariz.; and sister, Peggy Braxton, Pasco, Wash.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

North Pacific Union Conference

Offering

Oct. 6 — Local Church Budget;

Oct. 13 — Voice of Prophecy - North American Division World Budget;

Oct. 20 — Local Church Budget;

Oct. 27 — Local Conference Advance.

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

Oct. 1-6 — Week of Worship, The One Project speakers.

Oct. 4-6 — Fall Classic academy soccer and volleyball tournament. More information at wallawalla.edu/fallclassic.

Oct. 20 — Walla Walla University Church 50th Anniversary. Sabbath School at 10:30 a.m., worship service at 11:45 a.m.

Oct. 25 — Public School Preview Day, public high school students invited for campus visit. For more information, call 509-527-2615.

Oct. 26-27 — Families of Walla Walla University students are invited to the main campus for Family Weekend. Come participate in worship services, watch sporting events, listen to musical performances, and even attend a class or two. Families are also invited to join university administrators for a special complimentary Sabbath lunch during the weekend. RSVP for the lunch by Oct. 22 to parents@wallawalla.edu or by calling 800-377-2586. A complete schedule of weekend events is available at wallawalla.edu/family-weekend.

Oregon

His Way of Hope

Oct. 5-Nov. 3 — A comprehensive series covering critical Bible themes will be presented at the Castle Rock (Wash.) Church. Local pastoral and lay ministers will present a 26-part series. Sessions will include music, health nuggets and group interaction. For

schedules, information and to pre-register, contact Wanda at 360-967-2165 or Ron at 360-274-7762.

Sharon Church Homecoming

Oct. 12-13 — Save the date for the Sharon Church's 66th anniversary homecoming event. The seed was planted ... the legacy continues. Details at www.sharonsda.net or 503-287-7649. Sharon Church, 5209 NE 22nd Ave., Portland, OR 97211.

Pleasant Valley Church Celebrates 30 Years

Oct. 26-27 — "Homeward Bound!" PVC invites you to join with us in celebrating 30 years of God's blessings. The event starts with a "Welcome Home" dinner at 1125 SE 172nd Ave., Happy Valley, OR 97086, at 6 p.m. on Friday. Sabbath services are at 9:10 and 11:40 a.m., with memory sharing at 10:30 a.m. Stay for potluck lunch. Vespers starts at 5 p.m., followed by a reunion social and dinner. For more information, call 503-658-2248, email info@pvcsda.org, or go online at pvcsda.org.

'God Is Alive' His Work Throughout the World

Oct. 27 — You're invited to the Laurelwood Church to hear Jim Ayer from Adventist World Radio, Sabbath, at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. For more information, call 503-985-7384.

Walla Walla University School of Theology Seminar

Nov. 2-4 — CBFM (Center for Bible, Faith and Mission), the outreach branch of the WWU School of Theology, presents a weekend seminar, Spirituality: Doing It Right, at the Sunnyside Church, 10501 SE Market St., Portland, OR 97216. Seminar times: Friday, 7-8:30 p.m.; Sabbath, 3-5 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. For further information, contact WWU School of Theology at 509-529-0321 or Sunnyside Church at 503-252-8080.

Missing Members

The Klamath Falls Church is seeking contact information on the following missing members: Suzanne Dudek, Stephanie Lopez, Michael Lynch, Guiseppe Monaco, Dustin Starr and Kristie Starr. If you can help, please call the church at 541-882-2466 or email kfsdachurch@yahoo.com.

Missing Members

The Albany Church is trying to locate the following missing members: Karen Baker, Cassie Hansen, Barbara Johns, Sharon Johnson, Carlos and Susana Olivera, Raul and Sandra Rodriguez, Janie Salmon, Myrna Schuler, Debbie and Pete Scott, Bonnie and Harold Wieden, and Primitivo Espindola. If you have any information about these missing members, please contact the Albany Church, 3085 Grand Prairie Rd. SE, Albany, OR 97321 or call 541-928-9555.

Oops!

The Sutherlin Adventist Christian School was mistakenly not included in our August *GLEANER* North Pacific Union Conference school list. We apologize for this error. Sutherlin Adventist Christian School is located at 841 W. Central Ave., Sutherlin, OR 97479. Dianna Mohr is principal of this preschool through eighth-grade school. For more information, you can call 541-459-9940 or visit sutherlinchristianschool.org.

Upper Columbia

UCC SAGE

Oct. 7-10 — Camp MiVoden fall work bee. Please join the fun for Sunday evening meal. We'll start work Monday morning. For more information, call 509-522-0440.

UCC SAGE Annual Convention

Oct. 19-21 — Join us at Milton-Freewater Stateline Adventist School at 53565 W. Crockett Rd., Milton-Freewater, Ore., for a weekend of mission emphasis. Braden Pewitt, former missionary to Cambodia, will be guest speaker, with music by the Abbott family. For more information, call Larry at 509-522-3487 or Roger at 509-522-0440.

Albanian Benefit Concert by Tommy Mayhew

Oct. 20 — Tommy Mayhew, 12, will perform music from

the *Adventist Hymnal* with his own arrangements on violin. This concert will feature songs from his new CD, *He Leadeth Me*. It will be an evening to remember. Mediterranean appetizers are available with an RSVP to 509-545-5440. The appetizers begin at 5:30, and the concert starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Kennewick Church, 7105 W. 10th Ave., Kennewick, WA 99336. The concert is free, and an offering will be taken to support missionary work in Vlore, Albania.

Washington

SAGE Reunion Day

Nov. 3 — A time for all seasons. A time for gathering together. It's a bountiful SAGE Reunion Day. No matter what the weather. You are invited to attend a delightfully special SAGE Sabbath for a warm and wonderful time of worship, fellowship, food, singing and reminiscing. Guest speaker will be Alden Thompson, Walla Walla University biblical studies professor. Topics for the day: Assurance of Salvation for Seniors and The Great Reunion in Heaven. Come to the Washington Conference office auditorium at 32229 Weyerhaeuser Way S., Federal Way, Wash., from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring your favorite salad or dessert, and SAGE will provide the rest. Call 253-681-6008, email joan.libby@wc.npuc.org or go online to washingtonconference.org/sage.

The advertisement features a background of nature photos. On the left, three photo frames are shown, each with the text "IMAGES OF CREATION" at the top. The top frame shows a cloudy sky, the middle one shows a forest scene, and the bottom one shows a close-up of colorful foliage. On the right, the title "Images of Creation" is written in a large, elegant cursive font. Below the title, the text "No Photo Contest for 2013" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Underneath this, a paragraph explains that while each 2013 *GLEANER* will still feature a nature photo, the annual photo contest is taking a year-long break. It concludes by saying, "Look for revised contest rules in the October 2013 *GLEANER*." At the bottom of the advertisement, there are two small text boxes with religious quotes: "The LORD is with you, the Almighty; He will not forsake you, and He will be your strength." and "The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest."

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Walla Walla University

John McVay, president; Bob Cushman, v.p. for academic administration; Steven G. Rose, v.p. for financial administration; _____, v.p. for student administration; Jodeene Wagner, v.p. for marketing and enrollment. 204 S. College Ave., College Place WA 99324-1198; (509) 527-2656; www.wallawalla.edu.

Local Conference Directory

ALASKA

Ken Crawford, president; Quentin Purvis, v.p. secretariat; Sharon Staddon, v.p. of finance; 6100 O'Malley Road, Anchorage, AK 99507-7200; (907) 346-1004; www.alaskaconference.org.

IDAHO

David Prest Jr., president; Donald A. Klinger, v.p. for administration; John Rogers, v.p. for finance; 7777 Fairview, Boise, ID 83704-8418; (208) 375-7524; www.idahoadventist.org.

MONTANA

Merlin Knowles, president; Ray Jimenez III, v.p. for administration and finance; 175 Canyon View Rd., Bozeman, MT 59715; (406) 587-3101; www.montanaconference.org.

OREGON

Al Reimche, president; Dave Allen, v.p. for administration; David Freedman, v.p. for finance; 19800 Oatfield Road, Gladstone, OR 97027-2546; (503) 850-3500; www.oregonconference.org.

UPPER COLUMBIA

Robert Folkenberg Jr., president; Doug R. Johnson, v.p. for administration; Randall Terry, v.p. for finance; 3715 S. Grove Rd., Spokane, WA 99224; (509) 838-2761; www.uccsda.org.

WASHINGTON

John Freedman, president; Doug Bing, v.p. for administration; Jerry S. Russell, v.p. for finance; 32229 Weyerhaeuser Way S., Federal Way, WA 98001; (253) 681-6008; www.washingtonconference.org.

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Sunset Schedule

October (DST)	5	12	19	26
Alaska Conference				
Anchorage	7:20	6:58	6:37	6:16
Fairbanks	7:06	6:41	6:16	5:51
Juneau	6:20	6:00	5:41	5:23
Ketchikan	6:13	5:55	5:38	5:22
Idaho Conference				
Boise	7:20	7:07	6:56	6:45
La Grande	6:26	6:13	6:01	5:49
Pocatello	7:05	6:53	6:42	6:31
Montana Conference				
Billings	6:48	6:35	6:22	6:10
Havre	6:50	6:36	6:23	6:10
Helena	7:01	6:48	6:35	6:23
Miles City	6:36	6:23	6:10	5:59
Missoula	7:09	6:55	6:42	6:30
Oregon Conference				
Coos Bay	6:52	6:40	6:28	6:17
Medford	6:47	6:35	6:24	6:13
Portland	6:44	6:31	6:19	6:07
Upper Columbia Conference				
Pendleton	6:29	6:16	6:03	5:52
Spokane	6:22	6:08	5:55	5:42
Walla Walla	6:27	6:13	6:01	5:49
Wenatchee	6:34	6:20	6:07	5:55
Yakima	6:35	6:22	6:09	5:57
Washington Conference				
Bellingham	6:41	6:27	6:13	6:01
Seattle	6:42	6:28	6:15	6:02

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Unity

Are imperatives of racial or gender equality, or those of moral purity, a cultural anomaly or Scriptural mandate?

I easily recall my initial effort at waterskiing when I inexplicably got up the first time — wind whipping by, folks on shore yelling approval. But, after a couple hundred yards of “wetted bliss,” the two skis decided, without consulting me, to go their separate ways. The resulting splash, witnesses confided later, was spectacular. The rooster tail I created from holding tight to an apparent lifeline was even more impressive.

One body, but two feet: Amazing, amusing, sometimes awful things can happen, when all the elements don't work together. Unity is an elusive thing, after all, whether it involves two skis or two people.

It's why in that upper room Jesus knelt in servant humility to wash the feet of His bickering disciples and then prayed that “they may be one” in reflecting the unity of the Godhead. And, amazingly, those mumbling, milquetoast believers responded as the seed of a church soon described as “turning the world upside down” — their own unity ironically creating dis-unity with the world.

Throughout Scripture, I find unity as a byproduct of prayer and humility. And when God's people work together with Him on a common mission, when they don't care who gets the credit, the divine blessings can be astounding. Yet the absence of conflict does not automatically signal unity. Neither does the presence of unity provide a reliable indicator of right and wrong. Indeed, taking a page from the experience of Paul and Peter, conflict can be the beginning of unity, if it drives us to our knees for God's solution.

Unity is an unreliable measuring stick. Mobs thrive on unity. Regimes and revolutions have rallied the rabble to a course of common action. But we need look no further than recent genocides or even the Holocaust as simple, sober examples of unity valued above understanding or principle. In some not-too-distant-future, unity will be arrayed against God's remnant believers, ironically played in prophetic parlance by a woman.

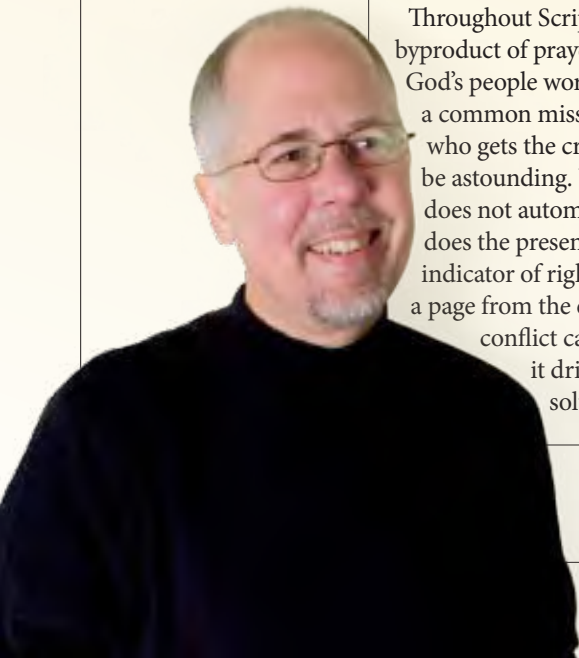
I wonder if a single-minded focus on unity blinds us to core values, Scriptural values, that rise to an even higher priority. Are imperatives of racial or gender equality, or those of moral purity, a cultural anomaly or Scriptural mandate?

Is it time, in our church history, for another upper room experience? Or would we benefit from a Paul/Peter confrontation? One thing seems certain to me: Our search for corporate togetherness must never trump principled action or the influence of the Spirit.

When the prophet Nathan confronted David, when Gamaliel stood up in the Sanhedrin, when Rosa Parks took her seat on that bus, status quo shuddered. Were they impertinent or courageous? Deceived or inspired? Right or wrong?

The challenge of guiding this increasingly diverse church along a common path is indeed no cakewalk. But, like happiness, unity cannot be demanded. It comes as a Spirit-bequest from the One who started it all ... in that upper room.

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