

EDITORIAL
YOUNG ADULTS,
YOUNG LEADERS

PERSPECTIVE
WHATABOUTISM

YOU SAID IT
WHICH ONE DO YOU
BELIEVE?

gleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION



THE ESSENTIAL

WWU GUIDE

**FOR PARENTS OF HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENTS**

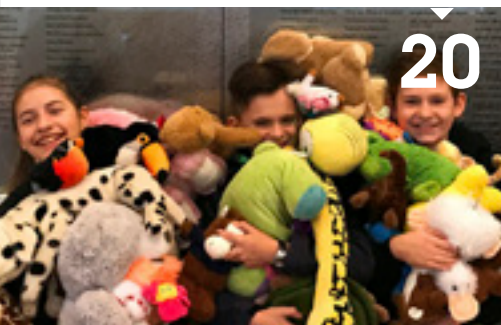
**MAY
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The Lord does not *see* as man sees; for
man looks at the outward appearance,
but the Lord looks at the heart.
1 Samuel 16:7 NKJV



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YOUNG ADULTS, YOUNG LEADERS



I'm writing some thoughts here from the South Guatemala Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. By the time you read this, more than a month will have passed, but now, during the final few days of March, it's hot and humid here. Amidst the humidity, though, the songs and colors of a myriad species of birds are enchanting, and the local church members are amazing — kind and gracious to our group of Northwest pastors and students. We have joined with them to bring hope and wholeness to a community of several towns and villages in a largely Roman Catholic area of southern Guatemala.

The mission of the North Pacific Union is to REACH the Pacific Northwest and the world with the distinctive, Christ-centered, Seventh-day Adventist message of hope and wholeness. We recently established four strategic priorities to effectively accomplish this mission: young adult engagement, unity in Christ, total member involvement and leadership development.

In planning this mission trip, we intentionally focused on two of those priorities: young adult

GROWING YOUNG

“Growing Young” is a term being heard frequently around some Northwest Adventist churches.

It tops the list of current priorities for the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC). In last month's *Gleaner* feature, John Freedman, NPUC president, said, “Our churches are growing older. Let's stop . . . kicking this down to some future spot in the road. It's possible to make decisions today that will proactively engage our young people with Christ and the church.”

Adventist realities have been clearly represented in studies such

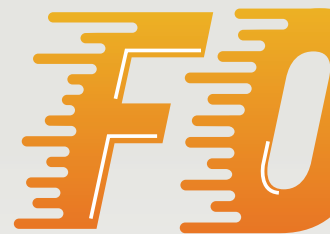
as Valuegenesis and the Barna Group's You Lost Me comparative project, which have accurately pointed out the challenges of youth and young adult disengaging. And now California's Fuller Youth Institute has created six essential strategies as a pathway toward reengagement. This Growing Young process is based on solid research, is consistent with the earlier Adventist findings and promotes a scripturally solid map for intentional progress. It does not introduce new theology, but rather seeks to draw every member together on a gospel-centered mission.

“It's not about moving our seasoned members out so young

people can move in,” says Ben Lundquist, who in addition to serving as young adult director for the Oregon Conference is also coordinating the Growing Young initiative throughout the NPUC. “The wisdom of experienced members and the creative energy of younger members are both essential for these efforts to be successful.” In a very real way it's a journey of prayer, asking the Holy Spirit how every generation can be engaged in living the principles of the kingdom.

Ten churches in various conferences around the NPUC are currently working on this together: Anchorage Samoan in Alaska, Cloverdale and Meridian church-

es in Idaho, Beaverton and Meadow Glade churches in Oregon, Spokane Valley Church in Upper Columbia, and the Emerald City, Port Orchard and Volunteer Park churches in Washington. Under Lundquist's guidance, they have formed a cohort for ongoing learning and support. Once they have completed the initial year of this journey, they may become the training centers for a second wave of Northwest churches





engagement and leadership development. We strategically chose a group of Walla Walla University theology students and several local conference pastors from the Idaho and Washington conferences who are young adults and relatively new to pastoral ministry. The presidents from both conferences, David Prest and Doug Bing, graciously assisted these efforts. Our team of 21 is composed of 75 percent young adults.

These young adults are inspiring to be around, filled with what seems like an unlimited amount of enthusiasm, energy and resiliency. They are even witnessing to people in the hotel, some even getting up early to play football with some of the guests. I'm especially impressed with the deep desire they possess

to share Jesus Christ authentically in the churches they are assigned to preach in. They really love the people they are ministering to, and people are responding.

This mission outreach is not only engaging young adults in ministry but also providing an opportunity to strategically develop their leadership skills. Our newest priority, leadership development, encompasses three strategies: 1) identifying potential new leaders, 2) coordinating leadership resources and 3) providing leadership opportunities.

Like any mission adventure, we've encountered several challenges that provide real-time leadership lessons. Many of our young adults have been on mission trips where they built churches and

schools as well as conducted Vacation Bible School. This is the first time many have been given the responsibility to present the gospel to large groups of people and to offer a nightly invitation to follow Jesus. All are wrestling with how to give effective evangelistic calls in this culture. They are learning to ask the local church leadership what works best.

Still, doing something for the first time is always awkward. Daily, we are sharing what things are going right, but also the things that did not work. The evil one has tried to disrupt several meetings with inebriated visitors. Several of our students are making house to house visits with those who have already been given Bible studies by local members. All are praying fervently for a baptism of the Holy Spirit.

I am watching a new fire being lit in the hearts of these

young adults. I invite you to pray with me that it will never go out. Soul-winning is contagious, and I'm sure these young adult leaders — men and women, children and grandchildren of our faithful Northwest members — will never be the same.

Having the opportunity to share life with and coach these amazing young adults in a different setting is very encouraging. I am thankful the Lord is raising up a new generation of committed Seventh-day Adventist young people to lead our church forward until the soon coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

John Freedman, North Pacific Union Conference president

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

M O V I N G

FORWARD

T O G E T H E R

who have caught the vision for Growing Young.

Each Growing Young church is learning to adapt and intentionally practice six essential commitments.

- » Unlock keychain leadership: Instead of centralizing authority, empower others — especially young people.
- » Empathize with today's young people: Instead of

judging or criticizing, step into the shoes of this generation.

- » Take Jesus' message seriously: Instead of asserting formulaic gospel claims, welcome young people into a Jesus-centered way of life.
- » Fuel a warm community: Instead of focusing on cool worship or programs, aim for warm peer and inter-

- » generational friendships.
- » Prioritize young people (and families) everywhere: Look for creative ways to tangibly support, resource, and involve them in all facets of your congregation.
- » Be the best neighbors: Instead of condemning the world outside your walls, enable young people to neighbor well locally and globally.

It's important to note these commitments intentionally avoid superficial efforts to create a "cool" factor around worship styles, entertainment, big budgets or drifting standards. Instead, the Growing Young journey calls every age toward faithfulness to Jesus and His way of approaching the message of the kingdom.

Northwest Adventists of all ages can learn more by picking up a copy of *Growing Young* from AdventSource. We also encourage each member to watch this newly created video from Benjamin Lundquist, John Freedman and others on the essence of the Growing Young journey, at gleanernow.com/growingyoung.



A YEAR OF ACTION FOR NORTHWEST STUDENTS

A

Adventist schools across the Northwest, more than 100 of them, created active opportunities for Christian growth, learning and outreach for more than 6,100 students during this current school year. Nearly 1,000 young children have also benefited from Christian care and nurture at 48 early childhood education centers. Parents from a variety of backgrounds and beliefs have valued the principled focus of Adventist education in helping to raise their children “in the way they should go.”

Every member throughout the North Pacific Union Conference should say a prayer of thanksgiving for the more than 470 dedicated educators who make the wheels of Adventist education go round each year in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Upper Columbia and Washington conferences.

Following are several images that represent the active impact Adventist schools throughout the Northwest have made at home and abroad during the current school year.



107
SCHOOLS
in the North Pacific Union

14 academies
93 elementary schools





C

6,159

students

4,591 ELEMENTARY STUDENTS
1,568 ACADEMY STUDENTS



E

DONATE
\$  \$
WARMING CENTER
Keep our Homeless
WARM



D

954

EARLY
CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION
CENTER
CHILDREN



F

476 ADVENTIST EDUCATORS

331 elementary educators

145 academy educators



G

361

2016-2017
ACADEMY GRADS

A GEM STATE ADVENTIST ACADEMY (Idaho)

Gem State Adventist Academy student volunteers aided the setup and three-day ministry of the Adventist Medical Evangelism Network (AMEN) Clinic held in Boise, Idaho.

B AMAZING GRACE ACADEMY (Alaska)

Two seniors, one junior, a sophomore and two freshman from Amazing Grace Academy in Palmer, Alaska, packed into a small airplane headed to the village of Togiak, Alaska, for a week of prayer for grades six through 12. The week culminated in 13 children's requests for baptism and many more asking for additional Bible studies.

48 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTERS



Adventist Education
A JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

Adventist schools across the Northwest, more than 100 of them, created active opportunities for Christian growth.



G AUBURN ADVENTIST ACADEMY (Washington)

Auburn Adventist Academy students — 48 of them — worked to provide hope and healing to the town of Pagudpud in the northern Philippines. They assisted with a medical clinic, dug drainage ditches, built fencing and helped plan a nightly Vacation Bible School.

D UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY (Upper Columbia)

The first Friday of the Upper Columbia Academy school year culminated in a communion service and agape feast. Many chose partners and selected a spot on the lawn to participate.

E MOUNT ELLIS ACADEMY (Montana)

Mount Ellis Academy students raised more than \$12,000 to aid a warming center run by the Human Resource Development Council of Bozeman, Montana, during the

winter months. The center depends on donations to continue operation.

F WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY (North Pacific Union)

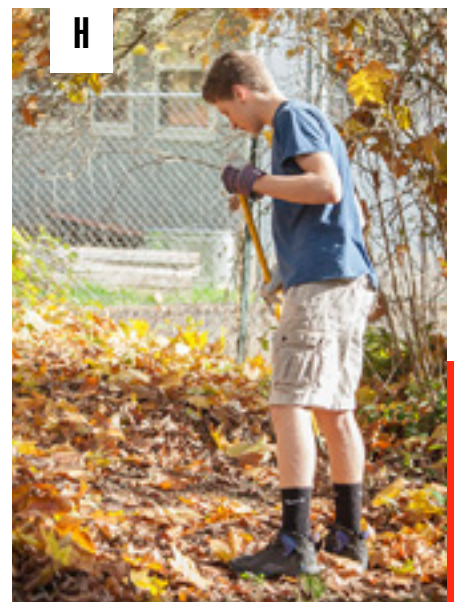
The Walla Walla University Engineers Without Borders (EWB-WWU) chapter — a multidisciplinary group comprised of WWU students and faculty — has spent the past four years working in Japura, Peru, a remote community in the Peruvian Andes. They have completed potable water systems and helped bring electrical services to the community.

G COLUMBIA ADVENTIST ACADEMY (Oregon)

Columbia Adventist Academy students presented a week of prayer for the elementary school on the Navajo Nation Reservation in Chinle, Arizona. Each CAA student adopted a little brother or sister who became the primary focus of their attention during the week.

H MILO ADVENTIST ACADEMY (Oregon)

Students at Milo Adventist Academy have made community service a part of each year. This school year, they trimmed blackberry bushes, raked leaves, chopped wood, cleaned windows and picked fruit for residents of the local Days Creek community.



THE ESSENTIAL

WWU GUIDE FOR PARENTS OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

High school is an important time to help your son or daughter think about their interests and motivations — and to explore how college will fit into their future. Your child has an amazing journey ahead of them, and they will need your guidance and support. Start by asking — and really listening to — what your son or daughter thinks about their talents and preferences. What do they think they do well? What do they enjoy? What are they curious about?

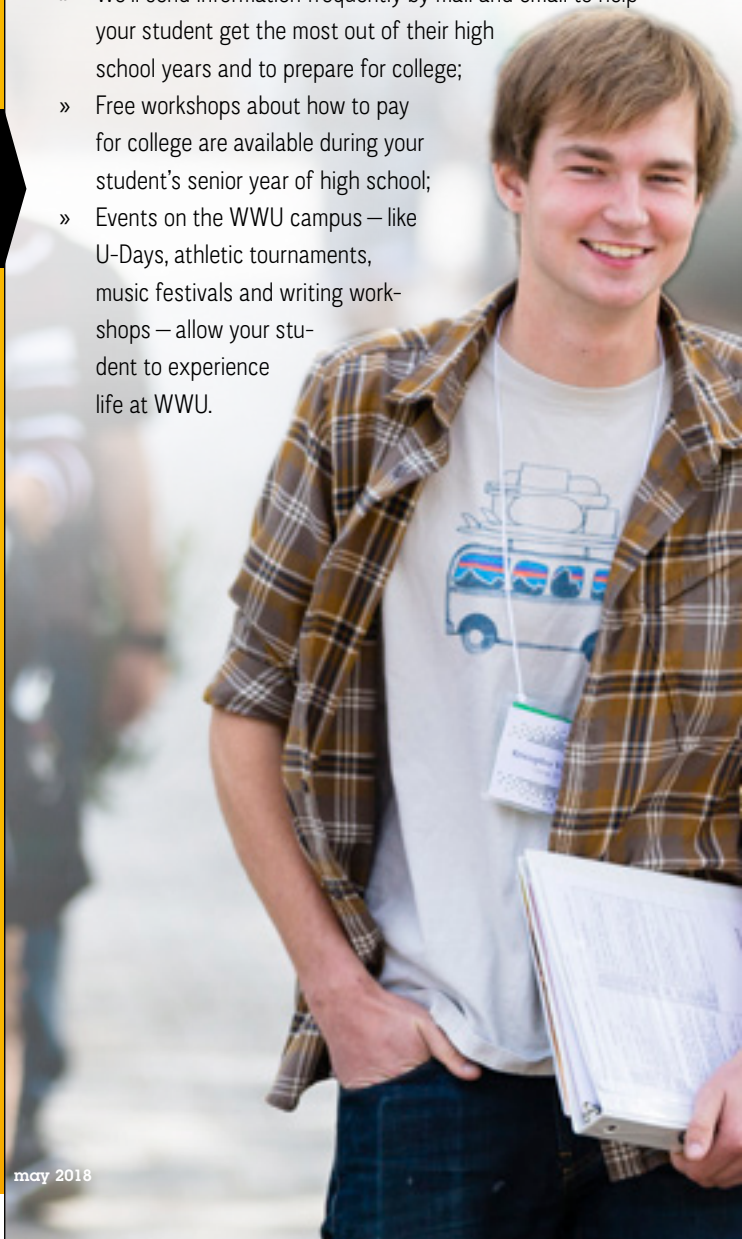
College is about more than preparation for a lifetime of work. Education brings value not only to your child, but to society as well, as it helps your son or daughter become a productive citizen, charitable neighbor and wise steward. Christian education adds yet another level of value by promoting the thoughtful development of a Christian worldview; the formation of character, purpose and faith; and a calling to a life of service. College can be a priceless investment and one with life-changing opportunities.



MAKING THE RIGHT COLLEGE CHOICE

HERE'S HOW WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY can help your family choose the right college for your son or daughter:

- » We provide free career testing for help choosing a major and career;
- » A personal recruiter will be a guide through the college-selection process — even if it doesn't end up being WWU;
- » Visits to campus provide an opportunity to explore the area and to talk with professors, recruiters and financial aid counselors;
- » We'll send information frequently by mail and email to help your student get the most out of their high school years and to prepare for college;
- » Free workshops about how to pay for college are available during your student's senior year of high school;
- » Events on the WWU campus — like U-Days, athletic tournaments, music festivals and writing workshops — allow your student to experience life at WWU.



2

PLANNING NOW SAVES TIME AND MONEY LATER

REVIEW YOUR CHILD'S HIGH SCHOOL transcript now and make sure that college requirements are being met. Walla Walla University recommends:

- » Four years of high school English, plus one year of a foreign language;
- » Four years of mathematics, including algebra 1 and 2, geometry, and, if possible, precalculus or statistics;
- » Three years of science, including at least two from biology, chemistry or physics;
- » Three years of social studies;
- » As many advanced placement classes as possible.

Taking these classes in high school will cost you less than having to take them in college and paying college tuition rates for them.

3

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

HEADING INTO THEIR FINAL YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL, many students are tempted to relax a little and coast into graduation. Working hard through their senior year helps them keep their study habits fresh and sharp as they head into college. Eligibility for scholarship money is another reason to finish strong.

WWU offers generous scholarships for grades and test scores. For instance:

- » A high school GPA of 3.9 or above earns a \$12,000 award. That's a total of \$48,000 over four years of college. Scholarships are also offered for GPAs from 3.0 to 3.89.
- » ACT scores of 31 and above or SAT scores of 1440 and above also earn a four-year renewable scholarship of \$12,000. (Students can receive awards for either grades or test scores, but not for both.)
- » National Merit Finalists receive a full-tuition scholarship for the first two years and a 50 percent tuition scholarship for the following two years. Semi-finalists and commended students also receive awards.
- » See a full list of scholarships available at WWU and a scholarship calculator at wallawalla.edu/calculators.

Every year, WWU students qualify for an average annual financial-aid award of \$23,116. This includes grants, scholarships, work study funds and loans. Approximately 90 percent of WWU students qualify for financial aid, and 29 percent graduate debt-free.

An investment in a college education pays off in job security and wages. Unemployment rates are almost double for those who have a high school diploma versus those with a college degree, and, over a lifetime, graduates with a four-year degree earn an average of \$964,000 more than high school graduates.

A Christian college education is one of the best investments you will make. And at Walla Walla University, you will find exceptional academic programs in a friendly community where your child can thrive among lifelong friends.

Now is the best time to see for yourself. You and your student are invited to visit and experience WWU firsthand. The university will even help cover part of your travel expenses. To learn more or to schedule a visit, call 800-541-8900 or visit wallawalla.edu/visit. Your visit will kick-start your child's amazing journey and will give you the information you need to support them every step of the way.



LLAMADOS A SER COMO JESUS

Este retiro anual es para hermanos y hermanas en posición de liderazgo eclesiástico voluntario en nuestro territorio. Se realiza en Camp MiVoden el tercer fin de semana de marzo y tiene por objeto congregar líderes en servicio.

Los pastores motivan a sus líderes a apartarse para motivar el espíritu, unificar criterios bíblicos, orar y buscar sabiduría en la multitud de consejo a fin de planificar estratégicamente las diferentes formas en que llevaremos a cabo la misión en nuestro territorio.

Venimos con la esperanza que Dios edifique nuestro “espíritu, alma y cuerpo” (1 Ts. 5:23) “a fin de que el hombre de Dios sea ... enteramente preparado para toda Buena obra” (2 Ti 3:17). Sabemos que la verdad triunfará

gloriosamente y todos los que decidamos colaborar con Dios triunfaremos juntamente con ella.

El énfasis del evento es ayudar a nuestros hermanos en el ministerio a desarrollarse como presentadores poderosos de la Palabra: Predicadores de pulpito, evangelistas públicos, maestros de escuela sabática, predicadores de grupos pequeños y maestros en la testificación personal, así como consejeros, mentores y entrenadores.

A diferencia de otros años, en esta oportunidad, nos aventuramos a no invitar un predicador visitante. En cambio, decidimos dar la oportunidad a presentar las diferentes disciplinas a los pastores y líderes locales. Dedicamos significativo tiempo al diálogo y los testimonios a micrófono abierto. La diversidad de actividades y



presentadores nos permitió identificar talentos valiosos que enriquecerán el ministerio Hispano y ayudarán a la misión en nuestro territorio.

Agradecemos a aquellos que participaron y nos ayudaron a admirar el costo de la cruz de Cristo en magnitud. A comprender con mayor claridad las causas que llevaron a JESUS a semejante martirio y entrega en el cielo y en la tierra. A analizar detenidamente las expectativas que Jesús tiene de los que aceptamos el llamado a ser testigos de su gloria y majestad y crecer en la esperanza de su

pronto regreso.

Dios habló, desde la complejidad de séptima trompeta; la salvación resumida en cuatro palabras; la exegesis de la iglesia bíblica, la relevancia humana en los milagros de Jesús, así como testimonios, diálogos y enseñanzas de gran riqueza como el simple valor de la misión descrita con un Penny.

El próximo retiro de líderes se llevará a cabo del 15 al 17 de marzo del 2019; tendremos tres presentadores y varios seminarios diferentes; si te interesa habla con tu pastor.



TOGIAK PUTS LOVE IN ACTION

The Togiak Church gave away warm clothes on Sunday, Feb. 18. Clothing prices in Togiak, a small village in southwest Alaska, are high. The only route to a larger shopping area is by plane.

New and gently used warm coats and snow gear were donated and shipped to the church by friends in the Portland, Ore., area. The Togiak community responded as well. On Feb. 18, the church was ready with more than 40 boxes and totes of clothing and household items for the giveaway.

John and Lynette Goude, lay leaders for the Togiak Church, have developed a strong relationship with teens in the community who, along with church members, helped wash, fold and prepare the clothes for distribution. The morning of the giveaway, the teen helpers arrived early and



(From left) Brothers Kingston and Evon Togiak were happy to receive their new coats.

people found items to add to their sacks to take home. Two young brothers, Kingston and Evon Togiak, were excited to receive new matching coats. They and many others are warmer thanks to the hard work and donations from Adventist members near and far.

Lynette Goude, Arctic Mission Adventure volunteer



Read more online at glnr.in/113-04-ak_togiak



Youth leader Jeremiah Pasi coordinated the outreach effort.

ALASKA YOUTH FEED HOMELESS

Anchorage's Alaska Samoan Church youth have been active in past outreach programs such as visiting the sick, donating clothes and necessities for those in need. They also come together to build each other up individually.

On Feb. 10, the youth ventured further into Jesus' promise in Matt. 25:40 — "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" — when they collaborated for a community project.

Disregarding the 25-degree weather, the group prepared and distributed lunch bags with reading materials to the homeless people residing temporarily at the Brother Francis Shelter, an emergency shelter for men and women in Anchorage. The residents received the Samoan youth warmly, their faces radiant with joy and hope as they were being ministered to through music, food and Scripture.

Despite the limited time

and the shelter's rule against taking photos and videos, the mental images and personal experience remembered by the youth can only be described as "priceless." Understanding the command to "go ye therefore and teach all nations" can only begin when we step out of our comfortable church pews and go out in the cold to give ourselves in service for those in need.

Tupai Papafo Loitua, Samoan Church communication leader



Nerisa Tupa'i Mamea helps prepare food for the youth outreach.



Online Registration Now Open!

July 8–15 Tukuskoya Junior Camp (ages 8-12)
 July 22–29 Tukuskoya Teen eXtreme Camp (ages 13-17)
 Aug. 5–12 Lorraine Base Camp (ages 8-16)
 Aug. 5–12 Polaris Base Camp (ages 10-16)



www.alaskacamps.org

BOISE VALLEY ADVENTIST SCHOOL BECOMES DEBT-FREE

Several years ago, Boise Valley Adventist School (BVAS) accumulated a debt to the Idaho Conference.

The debt came during a recession in the economy, and the Idaho Conference was generous enough to carry the school through hard times. Once the school was back on its feet, the school was encumbered with a large debt.

In addition to keeping up with the monthly bills, the BVAS treasurer applied a little extra each month to whittle away at the old debt. Through diligence and mindfulness, by December 2017 the debt had decreased to \$41,000. During the month of December, through the combined efforts of the nearby Cloverdale Church, and a few generous donors, the debt was paid in full.

School treasurer Terry Day recounts, “When I mentioned the need of BVAS to a personal donor, I stated that a gift of

\$10,000 would be incredibly beneficial to the school. The donor inquired as to the history of the debt, and I explained when the debt arose, what the debt consisted of and the current balance. The donor said thank you and went on his way. For whatever reason, he felt impressed to give \$35,000. I gulped when I found out, and I praised our Lord.”

Church member Fred Cornforth says, “As 2017 drew to a close, the Lord put the idea of paying off the school debt on several [hearts], and what a miraculous thing to see several people responding to the promptings of the Spirit to retire this debt. I’m still in awe of what He’s done among us.”

The BVAS staff, students and parents are grateful to everyone involved who has taken a vested interest in their school and in seeing it succeed. It is such a blessing to have the finan-



cial burden lifted. The staff also appreciates continued prayers as they minister to their students. Daily they see God working in their lives and are equally touched by what they witness.

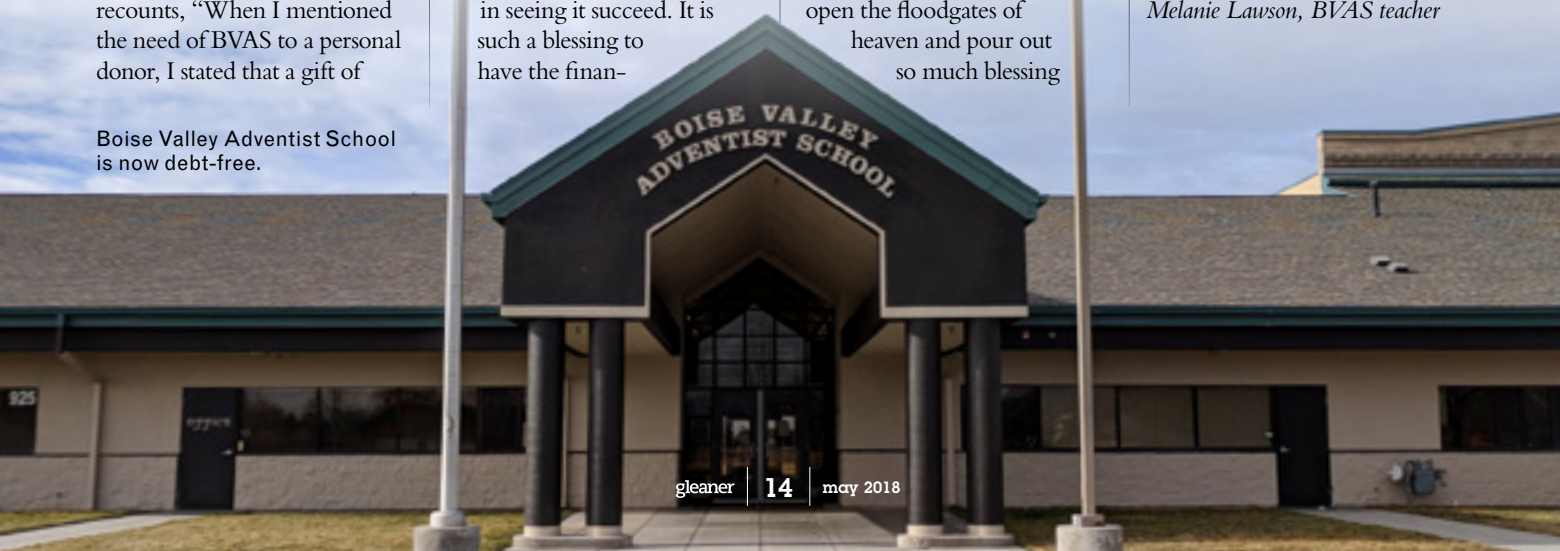
As members of the school board reflected on the generosity of this community effort, they were reminded of the Lord’s words in Mal. 3:10: “... See if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing

that there will not be room enough for it.”

“For the last six years this debt has hung over our heads, and, as long as I serve on the school board, any debt situation will not repeat itself,” says Day. “We, as an institution, have been extremely blessed by our Lord, and this should never be forgotten as we move forward.”

Melanie Lawson, BVAS teacher

Boise Valley Adventist School is now debt-free.



BVAS RALLIES TO SUPPORT FAMILY



Romans 12:13 was a continuing theme for the students, staff and families of Boise Valley Adventist School (BVAS) and

members of the Cloverdale Church in Boise after learning the needs of one school family.

“Kyle* is never absent, and I worried that something might be wrong when he didn’t show up for school,” recalls Kyle’s teacher, Stacey Campbell.

The school quickly learned Kyle and his family had been in a car accident that totaled the vehicle and sent his parents to the hospital. Kyle’s mom

suffered a concussion, and his dad suffered a heart attack that required open-heart surgery and an extended stay in the hospital.

Adding even more stress and sadness, Kyle’s grandma passed way unexpectedly.

The school staff, families and church members instantly rallied to support the Smiths.* Carpools were organized to transport Kyle to and from school, two area pastors visited the family while in the hospital, donations were made to cover hot lunches and tuition for the remainder of the school year, and prayer groups were formed.

Only a week and a half later, a church member and school staff were able to present the Smiths with a vehicle during a school assembly. The vehicle was obtained through a new church ministry that provides vehicle maintenance and repair for those in need.

In Romans 12:13, God commissions, “Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” That is what BVAS students, staff and families and Cloverdale Church members did.

The Smith* family was presented with a vehicle from the Boise Valley Adventist School and the Cloverdale Church car ministry.

View the car presentation at glnr.in/113-04-id_bvas.
*Names have been changed.

Melanie Lawson, Boise Valley Adventist School teacher

More online at glnr.in/113-04-id_bvas



Engaging in Service Training for Leadership Preparing for Eternity

Gem State Adventist Academy provides a safe haven where young people can learn and grow...and most importantly can experience the unconditional love of Christ. Come experience the GSAA family!

www.gemstate.org

What students are saying about GSAA...

“I love that Gem State challenges my mind and my beliefs. It pushes me to ask hard questions like: why do I worship the way I do and what do I believe is my purpose on this earth? GSAA has given me a new perspective on God and my own life.” **Kelton Turner**

“I love the family I have found at Gem State. I have found staff members who act more like parents, aunts and uncles, and friends that act more like cousins and siblings. Like a typical family we have drama and disagreements, but with God’s love as the focus, we work together to grow.” **Karalee Sutton**

MEA DONORS CHANGE LIVES THROUGH GENEROUS FINANCIAL SUPPORT

For the past three years, I have been witness to God’s incredible blessings at Mount Ellis Academy (MEA) in Bozeman. I have seen blessings in the form of many people who support our school, sacrificing financially for those who might not otherwise be able to send their kids to MEA.

I will admit that sometimes my faith is not strong enough. Doubt had crept in this year after registration, while facing the challenge of raising \$155,000 to help students attend. Yet my doubt has been replaced with joy. We have raised \$115,000 and are well on our way to covering those unclosed financial plans.

I was given permission to share with you a letter from a MEA parent:

“Dear financial supporter of Mount Ellis Academy,

“I woke up early this morning thinking again about how much I appreciate you. Years ago I borrowed a large sum of money to invest in real estate. Shortly after that, the economy tanked, and I was left with a tremendous amount of debt.

“I went to talk to the principal at Mount Ellis and told him that I could not send either one of my sons because of this overwhelming debt. I was told that there were people that he knew that would help my boys, and he convinced me to leave them at Mount Ellis.

“I promised God that I would work earnestly to make my payments even though it would have been easier to declare bankruptcy. Time and time again during this period

of financial difficulty, people who we did not even know stepped up and helped keep our children in an Adventist academy.

“... Thanking someone during those years seemed fruitless as I did not want to be seen as asking for more. So, my friends, I have gone years without thanking you. I am sorry for that. This morning I was thinking about how I could show my thankfulness. Since my words cannot convey my thoughts, I felt that I could give back in the same way that was given to me.

“Today I have donated to the Mount Ellis Academy Student Aid Fund. It in no way pays back what you have done for my family and me, but is a just a small token of my appreciation.



Junior Tankam from Cameroon speaks for International Sabbath.

“Thank you for sacrificing so that my children could attend Mount Ellis Academy. I will never forget what you have done. I am very thankful that my kids were able to attend a Christian school like Mount Ellis Academy, where they interacted with Christian faculty.”

Anonymous parent of MEA graduates

Stewardship is our calling, according to Matt. 6:20–21. Mount Ellis Academy has for the past 20 years admitted students regardless of financial need. For more information on how you can help, contact mtellis.org/give.

Brian Schaffner, Mount Ellis Academy development director



Students enjoy the Glacier Outdoor School Science Classroom with James Stuart.

More online at glnr.in/113-04-mt_mea

Learn more: mtellis.org

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SKI THE SUMMIT: A UNIQUE COMBINATION OF YOUTH OUTREACH AND ADVENTURE

Boom, thud, boom. The wind was howling, and the thermometer in my house said it was -12 degrees outside. I woke to the muffled pounding of the Bridger Ski Bowl avalanche crew dynamiting their slopes 20 miles away.

I was looking forward to having 70 excited guests at Mount Ellis Academy (MEA) in Bozeman for our annual Ski the Summit — a combined effort between the Montana Conference and MEA to bring students from all over the state and beyond to worship together and enjoy what nature brings in abundance to Montana: snow.

MEA is located at the base of the Gallatin Mountain Range, close to several ski areas. During good snow years, students at MEA have the opportunity to ski many Wednesday and Saturday evenings under the glistening lights of the school's Bear Canyon Ski Area.

From as far away as New York, students started arriving

on campus Feb. 18. After a full day on the mountain, we gathered for singing and worship. Elden Ramirez, Montana Conference president, led a spiritual journey through the Bible.

Students soaked in steaming pools at the Bozeman Hot Springs after worship to relax sore muscles and prepare for more adventure the following day.

Those who did not ski learned other fun skills and engaged in an expansive mini-course program, offering classes in art, cooking, rock climbing and more.

Please join us for next year's Ski the Summit. Just contact Mount Ellis Academy at 406-587-5178 or preregister at mtellis.org/ski-the-summit.

Brian Schaffner, Mount Ellis Academy development director



More online at
glnr.in/113-04-mt_ski

Freshmen Hope Nystrom and Cayden Frazier enjoy the fresh powder.





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CAA EXPERIENCES OLD MEMORIES, NEW GYM AND ANSWERED PRAYERS

Learning” and “meeting the mission of Seventh-day Adventist Christian education” are not isolated to classroom experiences but can take place wherever intentional effort has been planned. At Columbia Adventist Academy (CAA) in Battle Ground, Wash., that intent extends from the classroom to the athletic and music facilities and out to the broader community.

Almost 60 years ago, a combined gym and music facility was built where teamwork, endurance and grit were learned in physical education, intramurals and varsity sports. Rhythm, reading music and how to perform musicals as fundraisers for music tours were learned in band, choir and hand bells. Additionally, roller skating, floor hockey, marching, skiing per Warren Miller’s instructions and hold-

ing hands while faculty weren’t looking were also learned in this facility.

That was long before leaks in the roof, mold in the locker rooms, insect-eaten floors and walls that allowed you to see light from the outside while you were on the inside.

After much discussion about what should be done to provide a better and safer environment for students, staff and visitors alike, God-inspired stewards stepped forward and offered the funding needed to provide a new home for athletic and music ministry at CAA — answer to prayer No. 1.

Talk began with the county about renovating and/or rebuilding, and the county said they would fast-track the permitting process, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars, if a new gym was built on the same footprint — answer to prayer No. 2.



A depiction of the new CAA gym.

This facility will be key to the mission of CAA as students develop their physical bodies in a way that contributes to their physical, mental and social health. Athletic director Jay Pierce and the coaches have intentionally focused on Christ-like sportsmanship and prayer.

Last fall CAA’s soccer team played a team from the community and invited them to the center circle for prayer. All the other teams had turned CAA down, but this coach paused, said yes and marched his team into the prayer circle. One CAA student prayed that, if they never saw these new friends again on Earth, they hoped to see them again in heaven.

Leaving the field, the visiting coach told CAA’s coach he was coaching for his son who died in the spring. The coach said when the student had said “we will see each

other again in heaven,” it had reminded him that he would see his son. He stopped, then asked, “Having Jesus in your life is important, isn’t it?”

At the beginning of a girls’ varsity basketball game, an athletic director who knew of the team’s prayers, approached Pierce and asked if the CAA team would pray for their school, as one of their teachers had just died in a diving accident.

What will a new facility do? Provide more opportunities for introducing Jesus to people who will never come into our constituent churches. And that will be the answer to prayer No. 3.

Larry Hiday, CAA Gleaner correspondent

+ More photos online at glnr.in/113-04-or_cca



The CAA girls basketball team went to state this year, their team captured here at the last game in the old gym.

DAWNE WRIGHT

MGAES STUDENTS ENJOY LEARNING, OUTREACH

At Meadow Glade Adventist Elementary School (MGAES) in Battle Ground, Wash., students have many opportunities to participate in unique and cutting-edge education while serving the Savior in the local community.

STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education has been at the forefront of curriculum planning at MGAES. Students are encouraged to search for answers by thinking critically, communicating with fellow classmates, collaborating with each other and always being creative.

In fifth and sixth grades, students have had lots of fun discovering how electricity works, but the biggest hit has been the individual experiments they get to design themselves. As Adam Dovich, fifth- and sixth-grade teacher, says, “I have kids doing individual and group experiments. They have to come up with the experiment idea and follow the scientific process. They have to collaborate with their partner or partners and demonstrate their experiments for the class and communicate and document the scientific process. It has been a great learning experience for all of us.”

In addition to participating in cutting-edge learning, students at MGAES get to serve their community in a number of ways. One of the ways the fifth- and sixth-graders participate in community outreach is through Family Groups. Each of the three fifth- and sixth-grade classrooms is split into groups of four or five students each. Students identify the needs they see in the community — whether that be the local church, the school, the community at large or even the world community. Once the group identifies a need, they focus on developing and implementing a plan that will impact that person or group.

Serving the community meant something different for each group. Group outreach included gathering the lunch lists for Christina Heinrich, the school secretary; collecting stuffed animals for the children of Doernbecher Children’s Hospital in Portland; and helping teacher Kiley Thompson sort papers. Students were able to see the impact they had when they helped within their own community.

As a result of choosing their own outreach projects, students took ownership of what they did. They became better friends within the



Life Flight nurse Duane Sherrill helps fifth- and sixth-graders intubate a dummy and gets them excited about the prospect of providing medical care in a helicopter.

groups, but most importantly they practiced community involvement.

Between collaborative learning and mission-focused education that benefits the community, MGAES students continue to strive toward their goal: “We learn, we serve, we love.”

Malaiika Childers, Meadow Glade Adventist Elementary School fifth- and sixth-grade teacher



Family Group members Sophia Schafer, Ethan Heinrich and Denton Dearborn pose with some of the new animals they collected for the children hospitalized at Doernbecher.

More photos online at glnr.in/113-04-or_mgaes

MEDIEVAL ADVENTURE COMES TO TUALATIN VALLEY ACADEMY

More photos online at glnr.in/113-04-or_tva



Students in Kimberly Clifton's fifth-grade class at Tualatin Valley Academy in Hillsboro got to combine learning with a lot of fun this school year thanks to her innovative teaching style.

This spring, Clifton's students read *The Door in the Wall*, a book set in medieval England. It is the story of a young boy named Robin who overcomes adversity and finds strength in his weakness throughout his quest to be recognized by the king.

Using the book as a jumping off point, Clifton took her class on a medieval adventure for a week, tapping

Kimberly Clifton explains the catapult project.



◀ Students launch their catapults.

Students collaborate on how to build a catapult.

into the areas of social studies, math, science, engineering and art.

The classroom was turned into a castle, complete with a coat of arms. Groups of students also designed their own coats of arms for their desks. Students studied medieval social structure, were assigned a position in that structure and then made hats to go along with that position.

Clifton had students apply their knowledge of fractions to set a banquet feast table. Her class also learned about how disease spreads by doing a Black Death simulation.

The week ended with one last activity that was truly a blast: building catapults from popsicle sticks, rubber bands and plastic spoons and seeing which would fire a pom-pom the farthest. This STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) activity challenged students and taught physics skills in a fun, new way.

Clifton makes learning fun and full of lasting memories.

Rachel Blackburn, Tualatin Valley Academy Gleaner correspondent



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



WHY MILO?

Kaitlin Walters, a Milo Academy freshman, writes:



Before I came to Milo, I was depressed and I really just felt unfulfilled. My grades were bad, and my spiritual life was nonexistent. I felt useless, and it seemed I didn't have a purpose in this world.

Since coming to Milo, I feel much more full of life, and I have grown physically, mentally, academically and

spiritually. I am no longer depressed, and I am learning new things every day and how to deal with my feelings, time and grades more effectively.

Many things at Milo have helped me along my path, but what helped me the most is definitely the family of staff here to support me and help me along my way.



Noahnna Fullmer, a Milo Academy senior, writes:

Before I came to Milo I was a shy, timid girl. I loved to sing, but I never had the confidence to sing in front of people. Doc Carter, the music director my freshman year, helped give me the confidence to sing. Pastor Chad helped show me what God was really like and that God has a real and evident impact on our lives. But God has worked on me the most; He has helped me grow and become more like the person He made me to be.

Xavier Alarid, a Milo Academy junior, writes:

Before I came to Milo, my relationship with God was struggling because I disagreed with things that I was taught to believe. But since I came to Milo, I have been able to look deeper into these subjects. And thanks to help from my mentors and friends I have been able to strengthen my relation-

ship with God.

My teachers have actually helped me with my discovering Christ, while giving me a good education. And our pastor and student chaplains have been there for me so many times when I needed guidance.



Carlos Lopez, a Milo Academy senior, writes:



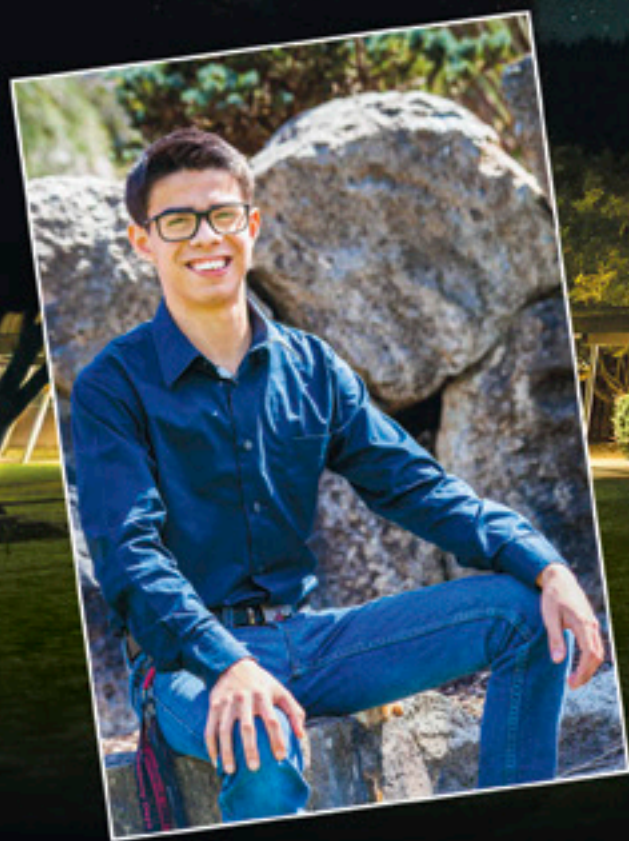
I've always been a Seventh-day Adventist. However, with the many problems the enemy started throwing at my family I started doubting the kind of loving God that was introduced to me — doubting to the point I started high school wanting nothing to do with God.

Then God hit me in the spot where it was most com-

fortable: sports. I felt the God that I wanted to stop believing in was all of sudden planning something else for me. This was around the time when the opportunity for me to attend Milo Adventist Academy was presented. All of a sudden the God I wanted no business with was indicating and providing through the means of generous donors for me to attend Milo.

I went from a 1,500 student body school to only 80 back in 2014. Milo was different; people accepted you just the way you are. I finally recognized that by myself everything is impossible, but with God all things are possible (Matt.19:26). I thank God and the generous donors who gave me and others the chance to attend Milo.

Reach for the stars at Milo



"Now I have the assurance that God is with me and that I am here for a purpose. I realized how much I needed God in my life. I finally recognized that by myself everything is impossible for me to accomplish, but with God all things are possible."

~Carlos Lopez, Class of 2018

PAA RESPONDS TO GEN Z RESEARCH

Today's teenagers are being called the first "post-Christian" generation in America. That's according to a new Barna Group research study, which reports the percentage of Generation Z (current 13- to 18-year-olds) that identify as atheists is higher than any other previous generation.

But the study wasn't all doom and gloom. It also showed that, of the teens who do attend church, more than 80 percent feel positive about their experiences. They say they can be themselves in church, church is relevant to their lives, and church is a place to find answers to live a meaningful life.

Monte Torkelsen, Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) chaplain, has been a youth minister for Gen Xers, millennials and now members of Generation Z. Torkelsen says one thing has always been true about teens, no matter the generation. "They want to belong," he says. "They want to be heard. They want to be together. And they have a deep longing for meaning."

PAA is committed to meeting teens' spiritual needs, no matter the generation. While the school has always held weekly chapels and prayer in classes, the modern approach includes Bible classes that encourage open dialogue



During one special Friday night Community worship, PAA students participated in an agape feast communion.

about sincere questions as well as student-driven worship events.

One such event is an optional Friday night worship called Community, which is organized by students and supported by parents who open their homes as hosts.

"My son and daughter have both, at separate times, expressed how much Community has meant to them," says Emma Slabbert, a PAA mother. "Both of them felt like they had meaningful and deep, thought-provoking conversations."

Community is optional but often attended by nearly half the student body. Its popularity is likely due to its organic ability to meet those very core needs Torkelsen noted earlier: belonging, being heard and fostering friendship.

Olivia Slabbert says Community is more interesting because friends are leading it. "I actually pay a lot more

attention at Community than I do during chapel," she admits. "It's just more relatable."

Student-planned events have the added benefit of bringing teens to the leadership table. "When youth see that their efforts to make a difference can actually be productive and helpful, it can ignite a passion for continuing that journey," says Torkelsen.

Giving teens leadership roles also strengthens the foundations on which young

people stand. "We know from research that the strongest nonparent voice in a young person's life is the oldest person who gives them respect and love," says Torkelsen.

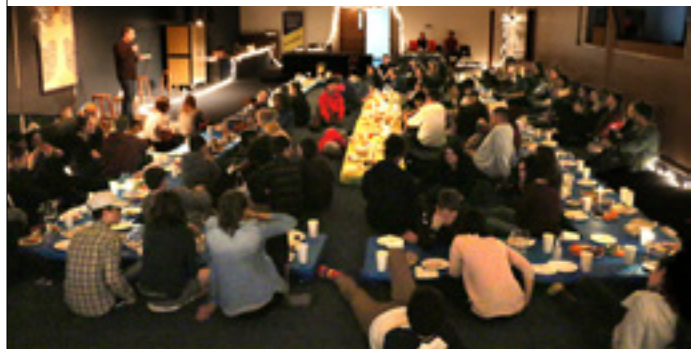
Adventist education has the unique ability to open doors to lifelong relationships grounded in spiritual experiences and guided by loving adults.

"PAA is surrounding kids with adults who love them," says Torkelsen. "We're affirming their growth and opinions and helping them to love and cherish the story of God and Jesus, questions and all."

"And this is the reason I send my kids to a Christian school," says Emma Slabbert. "[It's] the venue in which my kids can grow deeper spiritually."

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA Gleaner correspondent

Community worship is an optional Friday evening event offered weekly. It is one of the most popular spiritual programs at PAA.



“This is the reason I send my kids to a Christian school. Thank you for providing the venue in which they can grow deeper spiritually.”

*Emma Slabbert,
PAA mother*



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ROSEBURG JUNIOR ACADEMY STUDENTS SEE GOD THROUGH EACH OTHER

Roseburg Junior Academy began its student week of prayer on March 19 with second-grader Grace Jackson posing the question to her school, “How do you see God?”

Students then gathered and shared how they see God by creating an artistic mural. Students and staff could keep adding pictures of family, family, pets and more to it as the week progressed.

Each day brought with it more student messages about God. Seventh-grader Esmé Maritz spoke about her personal experience of seeing God through her cat

being lost and then found. Fourth-graders Genevive Polson and Cassidy Valenzuela worked with eighth-grader Cailyn Berkhemer to show God through science by creating “slime.” The three girls explained that when you add diverse and different ingredients, God can create something extra cool, just like when a school is filled with diverse students.

Fifth-grader Aaron Worley shared how God kept him alive during his difficult birth. Different students contributed music and led praise songs each day.

Principal Jeff Jackson concluded the week by sharing with the students that he sees God every day at school through them — through the way the older students help and play with the younger students; through the way the students interact with the teachers, staff and volunteers; and through the music students perform.

Roseburg Junior Academy is blessed to have students who don’t just see God around them but want to share the love of God with everyone.

Andrea Jackson, Roseburg Junior Academy volunteer



Roseburg Junior Academy students create a mural of how they see God.

More online at
glnr.in/113-04-or_rja



THREE GRANTS PASS TEACHERS RECEIVE EXSEED GRANTS

The Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist School and community are proud of the school's three EXSEED grant recipients. Amy Whitchurch, Bridget Cline and Sheryl Shewmake each received \$2,000 for classroom improvements. Funds are for projects based on EXSEED principles.

Excellence in STEM Experiential Education (EXSEED) is an innovative, collaborative program between K-12 educators, schools and higher education institutions across the North American Division. Facilitated by Loma Linda University in California, EXSEED is designed to enhance integrated science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education.

Last summer, educators from Adventist K-12 schools attended a weeklong class in Loma Linda. The class focused on project-based learning (PBL) and mission-focused



AMY WHITCHURCH

Amy Whitchurch and two of her students stand before items purchased with EXSEED grant funds.

learning (MFL). Educators then were able to apply for grants to implement classroom projects.

In Grants Pass, these teachers involved the students in the grant writing process with discussion and voting. Teachers were required to submit hands-on lesson plans, as well as a video showing how they will meet requirements of

the grant. Early in November, they excitedly received notification of the grant approval.

Cline, who teaches kindergarten through second grade, developed a "Maker Fun Space" with several small sewing machines and kits to build circuits. She plans to reach out to the community with projects created in this space, such as creating quilts for Project Linus. Additionally, students have learned to use Skype to discover more information about other countries. They will be communicating with a scientist working with sea turtles in Costa Rica.

Shewmake, who teaches third and fourth grade, used grant funds to develop a science lab. Part of the art room has been devoted to this lab space for use by students in third through sixth grade. It is now stocked with supplies and

became functional just in time for the STREAMS Science Fair.

Whitchurch, a fifth- and sixth-grade teacher, also used her grant funds to develop a "maker space." This included an assortment of supplies to help students create, problem-solve and learn. Additionally, the class recently received a small 3-D printer and pen. The creative opportunities are limitless.



SHERYL SHEWMAKE

Sheryl Shewmake's class celebrates news of winning an EXSEED grant.

These dedicated teachers have been successful by using a STREAMS approach to education — along with the principles of STEM, STREAMS adds art, religion and service as vital elements of their teaching, incorporating much more than technology. God and service are also very prominent in each classroom.

Jennifer Burkes, Grants Pass Church communication leader



BRIDGET CLINE

Bridget Cline's class of kindergarteners through second-graders is excited about their new opportunities for learning thanks to the EXSEED grant.

HARRIS JUNIOR ACADEMY GIVES BACK

The 2017–2018 school year has been a year of giving back at Harris Junior Academy (HJA) in Pendleton, Ore. In the fall, the students collected items and filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, which provides shoebox gifts to children around the world. The students filled more than 20 boxes for this worthy cause.

The theme of the annual HJA Christmas program in December 2017 was “Christmas Around the World.” The students sang, played chimes and rang bells to songs from around the world. They also shared parts of the program at a local retirement home.

The three weeks before Christmas vacation, HJA students gave back to the local community by doing a 12 Days of Giving food and clothing drive. Every day for 12 days, the students brought in a different food or clothing item to fill a big box in the school lobby. The items were then given to the local Salvation Army. The students really enjoyed giving back to their community.

The third annual HJA Church at the School took place in the school gymnasi-

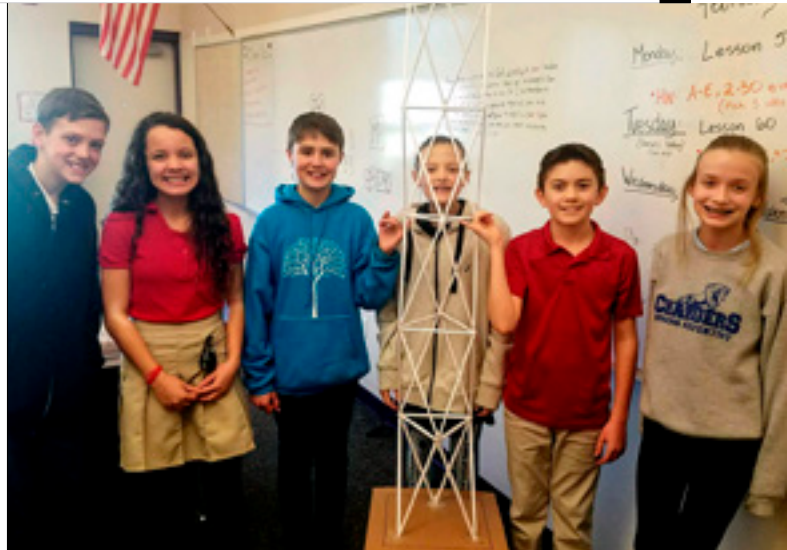
More photos online at glnr.in/113-04-uc_hja

um. The entire service was given by the students for members of their three constituent churches — Pendleton, Pilot Rock and Pendleton Spanish churches. The theme was “28 Gifts” (the fundamental beliefs of the Adventist Church). The entire service focused on a different fundamental belief of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Again the students sang, played chimes and rang bells.

Five students in grades seven and eight gave sermons, each focusing on a fundamental belief. The five sermons were about spiritual gifts and ministries, the gift of prophecy, the Lord’s Supper, the Great Controversy, and the Sabbath. The students did a wonderful job giving back to their church family during this service.

The HJA family exists to show children Jesus, nurture their love for Him and others, teach them to think, and empower them to serve. This mission is being fulfilled through a loving staff, willing volunteers and a wonderful student body.

Dana Martin, Harris Junior Academy marketing assistant



ROGERS SEVENTH-GRADERS WIN ENGINEERING CHALLENGE

You have 100 sheets of regular-weight copy paper and one roll of scotch tape. Can you create a tower that independently stands at least 60 inches tall and can bear the weight of six tennis balls?

Students at Rogers Adventist School (RAS) in College Place, Wash., can. In junior high science, students had time in class to construct their towers for a districtwide building competition. Then, during a special assembly, engineers from the nearby Walla Walla Army Corps of Engineers came to not only judge the student towers but also give tips and pointers on weight distribution, balance and more.

The winning team, not only of the RAS competition but also of the entire districtwide competition (beating out

local-area high schools as well), was a team of seventh-graders: Owen Oetman, Naomi Cueto, Ben Busby, Mya Adams, Jordan Butcher and Kasi Irvine.

In addition to their engineering accomplishment, another achievement was noted by Brigida I. Sanchez, one of the visiting engineers: “We toured many schools in the valley, but your students were by far the most respectful and polite.”

Holley Bryant, Rogers Adventist School principal



GOD'S GOT HIS RUNNING SHOES ON

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord ... will not grow tired or weary ... but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength ... they will run and not grow weary" (Isa. 40:27). Have you ever thought of God as a runner, running after His children, longing for them to run with Him, to be with Him, to be changed by Him? Students at Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) in Spangle, Wash., have.

When students speak about God to their fellow students, He shows up and changes lives. Each year UCA students are asked to nominate

speakers for Student Week of Prayer (SWOP). This decision is not taken lightly, nor is the responsibility the student body has placed on the SWOP speakers.

Two juniors and 10 seniors, along with their sponsors Fred Riffle, Misa Barba, and Kyle and Stephanie Gladding, "went away to a quiet place to pray" as their Example did so long ago. Following this intensive retreat, these student delegates met regularly with their sponsors to study, pray, select topics and refine their talks. The soul-searching the SWOP speakers did was significant and life-changing for them, and they hoped their talks would be life-changing to their classmates.

The SWOP meetings began each evening with songs and prayer. Then the students presented their heartfelt messages, two each evening. Significant thoughts from the student speakers included:

» "I don't know about you, but I don't want to be fake happy. I don't want to have a fake purpose. I don't want to live a fake life."

» "God is not limited by the walls we put up."
» "He doesn't force Himself on us. All we have to do is stand in front of Him."
» "Imagine all of us as UCA, as a church, all our flickers together, becoming a blaze!"

Shine Alvarado's talk ended with a quote from Isaiah 40:27. "Life, it's like a race," she said. "Keep putting one step forward, because God is ready to renew your strength. He's here. Now. He's ready. Jesus, He has His running shoes on. Do you?" At that, she took off her dress shoes and put on sneakers. The other SWOP speakers followed suit, standing shoulder to shoulder and arm in arm while singing the theme song, written by SWOP speaker Danny Stratte.

Then the baptistry curtains opened, and junior Sasha Paago was baptized by Sid Hardy. Following Paago's "resurrection" from the watery

"grave" and enthusiastic applause, two freshmen responded as Hardy asked if anyone wanted to follow Jesus' lead and give their all to Him through baptism.

God showed up at UCA and changed lives when students boldly spoke for Him during SWOP.

Shelley Bacon, Upper Columbia Academy recruiter

More photos online at glnr.in/113-04-uc_uca



Each evening began and ended with the SWOP speakers and others leading the UCA students in song.



Ten seniors and two juniors spoke for UCA's Student Week of Prayer.

GOD'S OIL STILL FLOWS IN LA PAZ

It was just a small bottle of oil. But it was all they needed. Land had been secured in La Paz, Baja California, Mexico, and plans were underway to construct a Center of Influence in this little neighborhood where free medical care, classes, fellowship and worship could be offered.

So on this Sabbath afternoon three years ago, spirits ran high when the small group of Adventist worshippers gathered in the spot where one day they hoped to worship God in their own church. Each family brought a stone to place on a little altar they would build.

And then came the little bottle of oil. It wasn't much, but they remembered the oil from the widow that multiplied so many times. Did they dare to hope their symbolic oil would multiply many times?

All churches need a good foundation.

They didn't just hope. They had faith. God would bless their efforts, and the oil would multiply.

As the elder prayed, he poured some oil on that little altar. A little oil remained in his small jar, and he passed it to the next person. Oil flowed out of that little jar from the next and the next person until the rocks were wet with oil. Certainly there couldn't be any oil left!

But it still flowed. And when each person had poured their oil, still a little oil remained. It was God's oil, God's miracle and God's promise.

How could a few believers build a community center and a church? It wasn't likely, not unless you remember the oil that multiplied over and over. They saved. They bought cement and blocks, dug holes, and prepared.



On that same spot where the oil had freely poured upon an altar asking God to bless the land, God's grace provided two baptisms.

The Mission Adventure group based out of the Moses Lake (Wash.) Church lay foundations. The walls and roof went up — the oil kept flowing.

The people in La Paz saved for more supplies and again asked the Mission Adventure team to come help. The oil once again multiplied, and the Moses Lake group arrived again on Feb. 1 to create a church building on the very spot where the little altar, the little oil and sincere prayers had dedicated the land to the Lord.

The team painted the community center inside and held a six-day dental clinic. Toilets were installed, floors were poured, and the church foundation was poured.

The oil kept flowing, and the walls went up. And then

on that same spot where the oil had poured so freely, God's grace poured out again as two people were baptized right where God's altar had stood.

Now the La Paz members keep praying for their little jar of oil to continue its multiplication. They'll need a roof, floor, windows and doors, but God's oil never runs out as long as it is needed. Just ask them — there's still oil in the jar.

Sandy Larsen, Moses Lake Church communication leader



A lot more online at glnr.in/113-04-uc_oil



WWVA FOCUSES ON COMMUNITY CONNECTION AND SERVICE

One of the core values students at Walla Walla Valley Academy (WWVA) in College Place, Wash., embrace is connecting and serving their community. It is exciting to see students discover how their talents can be used to share the story of Jesus to others.

For WWVA senior Jennifer Rau, Christmas has always been a magical time. One of the things she loves about it is the opportunity to be in the Walla Walla (Wash.) City Church Christmas pageant. “I really enjoy being part of making the Christmas story come alive,” says Rau. “It makes it easier to really understand what a miracle it is.”

As she grew up, she became more involved, savoring the opportunity to work with every aspect of the production. As a seventh-grader, Rau was asked to become the assistant writer for the production. She was hooked.

“Getting to write the play was an eye-opening experience for me,” Rau says. “Not only did I enjoy the writing process, but I learned so much more



Jennifer Rau, Walla Walla Valley Academy senior, has been integral to the success of the annual Christmas pageant presented by Walla Walla City Church.

about the Christmas story I was surprised.” The following year, she was asked to be the primary scriptwriter.

This Christmas, Rau had the opportunity to write and direct a musical focused on a wise man’s search for God.

“I was quite astonished by what Jennifer created and the expertise of the student actors,” says Teri Foote, WWVA academic and financial associate and Rau’s supervisor. “The most impressive part is how well they communicated how life-changing it is to constantly search for God.”

Elaine Blake Hinshaw, Walla Walla Valley Academy marketing and recruitment director

More online at glnr.in/113-04-uc_wwva



AMEN CHAPTER OPENS IN UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

Health ministry in Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) continues to be influenced by former health director and obstetrician Jay Sloop. His untimely death in Kiev, Ukraine, in May 2013 was a sad time for many in UCC. It was his plan that with every health seminar or ministry the question should be asked, “How does this connect the physical and the spiritual together?”

Already committed to the physical and the spiritual is the AMEN (Adventist Medical Evangelism Network) organization. AMEN Northwest is a new chapter in UCC formed in May 2017 with a focus to provide medical education and give people the tools they need for medical ministry.

AMEN’s core call to action is to “join a movement of likeminded medical professionals who are committed to restoring the body and reclaiming the heart.” With that in mind, AMEN Northwest is active in hosting a conference

on Optimizing Brain Health by Neil Nedley May 10–12 at the conference headquarters in Spokane, Wash. Michael Robinson, president of AMEN Northwest, says, “What I’m really hoping is that this conference can help us lay plans for how we are going to make this work.” Attendees can join AMEN and become part of this ministry.

“It is wonderful to see that those dreams of Jay Sloop are being fulfilled through collaboration between health work and the gospel,” says Cindy Williams, AMEN Northwest board member and a UCC health ministries coordinator.

While AMEN Northwest was birthed in Upper Columbia Conference, the plans are to expand throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Kathy Marson, Upper Columbia Conference communication administrative assistant



Read more online at glnr.in/113-04-uc_amen



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Hearts of Gold Dinner Auction set a record-breaking attendance level and raised \$201,185 for Auburn Adventist Academy student scholarships.



FUNDRAISING INTENSIVE

Twenty-five individuals with a vision of bigger and innovative ministry joined a growing cohort of leaders who are committed to funding innovative and effective ministries in the Washington Conference.



CHILDREN'S LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Abby Pozo, children's ministry director, held a children's ministry training and Vacation Bible Xperience (VBX) preview for leaders. Leaders are going through an eight-part certification program, and this year's theme is child evangelism. VBX leaders also learned more about summer neighborhood ministry curriculum options.

BUENA VISTA GROWS 'BEE' SCHOLARS

Buena Vista Seventh-day Adventist School in Auburn has participated in regional education competitions for spelling and geography bees for nearly 20 years and is now adding participation in a history bee.

This year, the school is excited to be sending two students to the King-Snohomish Counties Regional Spelling Bee and National Geographic State Geography Bee and also will be sending its first student to the National History Bee.

Max Kiger, a fifth-grade student and first-time qualifier, was excited and nervous to compete in the Regional Spelling Bee in Seattle.

"It's a new experience for him," says Vicki Rutherford, Buena Vista teacher. "The Regional Bee is always held on Sunday, rather than Saturday, partly for our school and for several Jewish schools. We are grateful."

Kiger's family proudly watched as he made it to the third round of the spelling bee on March 25, where the word "intaglio" gave him a struggle.

Max Kiger focuses on a school project during class.



Additionally, Justin Taina, eighth-grade student, qualified for the National Geographic State Geography Bee in Tacoma for the second time.

"He is a walking geography book complete with world maps," says Rutherford. "We have never had a student qualify for the national competition in geography ... yet. We'll see how Justin does at state level this year."

Taina is also the first student from Buena Vista to qualify as a finalist for the National History Bee in Atlanta, Ga.

"He's self-motivated and highly intellectual. I encourage him to read more kinds of genres to be able to branch out in his knowledge," says Connie Mitzelfelt, eighth-grade teacher. "He'll be reading four to five books at a time, and it's good to see him branching out."

As the day of the National History Bee falls on graduation day at Buena Vista, the school will be holding a special graduation ceremony for Taina.

"Justin has to report to Atlanta the very day of his



Justin Taina is the first student from Buena Vista Seventh-day Adventist School to participate in the National History Bee in Atlanta, Ga.

eighth-grade graduation, so we are holding a special ceremony to graduate him the day before," says Rutherford. "He will march in cap and gown with his class and give his class historian address, which will be recorded for presentation at the actual graduation."

Buena Vista also held its first Art Walk in March. Every student had an opportunity to show off their artistic talent. The gym was set up to look like a museum, and several parents and community members turned out to see the works of the students. Amber Nelson, first-grade teacher, is looking forward to hosting the Art Walk next year.

Katie Henderson, Washington Conference communication intern

+ Read more online at glnr.in/113-04-wa_bee



The KSDA team created a website to go with their Lego project.

KIRKLAND STUDENTS 'STOP THAT DRIP'

Nine students in grades five, six and eight from Kirkland Seventh-day Adventist School (KSDA) placed first in the annual regional robotics competition for First Lego League in February.

After much practice and preparation with their sponsors Dawn Campanello, Verna DeLuna, Corl DeLuna and Steve Mantle, the team made their way to Walla Walla Valley Academy in College Place to showcase their technical skills, innovation and teamwork.

This year's league competition focus was hydrodynamics. Teams were judged by performance in three categories: project focus, core values and robot design. The KSDA team created a website with a short video called "Stop That Drip!"

The team did a lot of research about water and then asked 135 kids in their school what they knew about water conservation. From the results, the team decided to find a fun way to show kids how they could save water.

For the category of robot design, students presented a rationale for their robot concept and design to the judges. Then the kids demonstrated the robot missions programmed in 2.5-minute rounds.

KSDA placed first in each category of project focus, then placed second in robot missions. Their performance qualified them for the North American Division competition coming in May.

"The best part is seeing how the team has changed their water-use habits to help out the environment," says Campanello.

KSDA is proud to support the genuine spirit of hard work, collaboration and ethical engagement the team has exhibited.

Anika Zebron, Puget Sound Adventist Academy teacher

+ Read more online at glnr.in/113-04-wa_kirkland

SKY VALLEY STUDENTS EXCITED TO SERVE

More photos online at glnr.in/113-04-wa_skyvalley

The last Friday of every month, students at Sky Valley Adventist School in Monroe, come together to make 60 lunches for Take the Next Step, a local organization that offers assistance to low-income families by providing them with food, clothes, gas cards and other basic necessities.

Sky Valley Adventist School has been participating in this service project for two years, and it is one of the students' favorite activities. Food for the lunches has been graciously donated by school

families and volunteers.

While the students do not deliver the meals directly to the families, they always write encouraging cards and pray over the lunches before they're taken by a volunteer.

This project gives students the opportunity to share Jesus' love in a practical way, and they are always enthusiastic to do so.

Crysti Wallace, Sky Valley Adventist School head teacher

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ADRIA HAY

Lower-grade students from Grays Harbor Adventist Christian School make peanut butter sandwiches for their local homeless community.

GRAYS HARBOR STUDENTS SERVE HOMELESS COMMUNITY

Grays Harbor Adventist Christian School students prepared meals for the homeless in their county this past winter.

With the coordination and assistance from their teach-

Upper-grade students make lentil soup for homeless members of their community.



ADRIA HAY

er, Adria Hay, and classroom aides Michelle Schneider and Katrina Kurtz, students prepared peanut butter sandwiches and lentil soup.

Grays Harbor Adventist Christian School was recently awarded a Don Keele Award for home economic supplies. With the new supplies, the school will be able to extend their community outreach projects.

Students hope to do more outreach projects for their community in the future.

Adria Hay, Grays Harbor Adventist Christian School principal

Read more online at glnr.in/113-04-wa_homeless

AUBURN STUDENTS SERVE DURING SPRING BREAK

Auburn Adventist Academy (AAA) sent two student groups during spring break around the world to serve in Belize and the Philippines.

The first group of 30 students spent 12 days in Belize at the King's Children's Home to help improve the facility and build relationships with the staff and children.

"The kids inspired us with their capacity to learn so much from their limited resources," says Lauren Richert, a junior.

The students started the day with worship before beginning their daily assigned projects. The team poured a 10-foot by 70-foot sidewalk leading to the church, dug a 9-foot square for the church's septic tank, collected campus trash, helped with laundry, prepped food and worked with children in the home.

"I went there feeling sorry for myself and left appreciating the many opportunities I have, and I am especially thankful for my family," says Chelsea Rachal, a junior.

The second group of 20 students traveled to the Philippines for two weeks helping with construction projects, making house visits with pastors and providing medical services with In His Service Amianan (IHSA).

The medical mission team went out to different barangays (villages) to give free medical care to local residents. Students

were able to assist doctors and nurses with taking blood pressure, vitals, issuing medication and pulling teeth.

"I helped the dentists, and I really enjoyed it," says Sooji Kim, a senior student. "Before the mission trip I never considered dentistry as a career, but now I want to go into dentistry."

Students also had the opportunity to do a Vacation Bible School program for the kids with singing, skits and games.

AAA students served in the Philippines during spring break.



KONTESSA KLETKE

"For me, the mission is our students gaining greater ministry insight and opportunities in service," says Jay Coon, AAA vice principal for growth and development. "Connecting with another culture while experiencing medical service is life-changing."

Sienna Hubin, Derek Slavens, Amber Petty-Torres and Lindsey Reed, AAA media literacy class students

Read more online at glnr.in/113-04-wa_auburn






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EDDIE GENERAL

The line stretches long as many await treatment during the Greater Seattle Fil-Am Church medical church mission trip.

FIL-AM MEMBER FULFILLS MISSION DREAM

Bernadette Polinar has been a baptized member of Greater Seattle Filipino-American (Fil-Am) Church for nearly four years. Since hearing about the mission trips Fil-Am would take every couple of years, she had been dreaming of bringing a mission group to her hometown of Batuan, Bohol, Philippines.

Polinar's passion for Jesus and sharing God's love and truth with her extended family convinced her to ask Grace Gamponia, medical mission team coordinator, if the Fil-Am Church would be interested in going to Batuan.

"When Bernadette requested to have a mission in Bohol," says Gamponia, "we did not think twice."

A year after Polinar's request, a team of medical and evangelistic people were recruited to form the medical evangelism group going to the Philippines. The team prayerfully prepared for the pioneering work in the Roman Catholic community of Batuan where there is no Adventist church.

When the time arrived two years later in the Philippines, the team warily watched the progress of a typhoon threatening the island of Bohol. But God intervened, stopping the rain that had been pouring the week before and holding off the rain during the mission trip until after the baptisms on the last day.

By the end of the week, the group from Fil-Am served more than 2,300 people in Batuan and an additional 2,200 people in the neighboring town of Tubigon. They also baptized 52 people and helped 30 more study the Bible for future baptism.

"I praise and thank God who called me to join His Advent movement here in Seattle and for the privilege of sharing His love and truth with my extended family and countrymen," says Polinar.

Eddie General, Greater Seattle Filipino-American Church pastor

Read more online at glnr.in/113-04-wa_fil-am

FOREST PARK STUDENTS BUILD TO LEARN

Intense concentration — interrupted by bouts of discussion, redesign and testing — took over the Forest Park Adventist Christian School (FPACS) gymnasium in Everett on March 30 as students built projects for STEM Day.

STEM education is a focused emphasis on science, technology, engineering and mathematics that helps students understand new concepts of learning through a hands-on approach. On the last Friday of the month, students in kindergarten through eighth grade gather together to utilize the STEM skills they've learned in their classrooms to build a working project.

During STEM Day, students were given a project with a list of available materials and the time constraints for building and testing a wheeled vehicle powered by a balloon.

Although the projects are individual, students are

encouraged to collaborate with one another about design issues and sometimes may need to work cooperatively in groups of two or three.

Once the projects are completed, students demonstrate what they have accomplished and share their findings with others.

Experts in education say that STEM helps develop critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, innovation and problem-solving. These are skills needed in everyday life, and they help prepare students for potential careers in STEM areas. While the teachers at FPACS value the many educational benefits of STEM Day, the students enjoy having fun learning.

Linda Taber, Forest Park Adventist Christian School teacher

Read more online at glnr.in/113-04-wa_forestpark



Forest Park students use everyday objects to build their science, technology, engineering and math skills.

Through the Maasai Development Project, Tomonik fell in love with baking and wants to open her own bakery.

VOLUNTEER PARK ENTREPRENEUR SHARES PASSION FOR MISSIONS



unice Reyes, a local entrepreneur and member of Volunteer Park Church in Seattle, knew from an early

age she wanted to one day be a part of the fashion industry. In 2015, Reyes and her cousin, Melissa Reyes, co-founded Le Foodie/The Food Tee, a fashion T-shirt line that allowed the two cousins to share their love of food and fashion.

“I found myself searching for more when I stumbled upon a touching story about a Lebanese woman who designed handbags to provide underprivileged women with work,” says Eunice Reyes.

The act of charity through work is what motivated Reyes to pray that day and ask God to give her an opportunity to one day use her fashion skills toward a similar cause. With her co-founded company, she decided she would give 10 percent of profits to charities such as Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and Cooking Matters, which works to ensure kids have the healthy food they need each day.

“Honestly, tithe was the first thing that came to my mind. I figured if it’s a good number for God to reference, then it should be a good

reference when giving back,” explains Reyes.

Reyes most recently partnered with the Maasai Development Project (MDP), an Adventist nonprofit that rescues Kenyan girls from early circumcision and other difficult circumstances. For the girls in their program, MDP offers schooling and development so that they can further their education.

Tomonik is one such girl in the MDP who inspired

Reyes because she too is an aspiring entrepreneur. After graduating from secondary school, Tomonik began baking bread in a coal oven MDP had in its center.

Her passion for breadmaking grew with her skills, and she began selling bread in her village and has since gained popularity. Tomonik has fallen in love with the business of baking and now wants to open a bakery.

“Le Foodie identifies with

Eunice Reyes is passionate about raising awareness for missions through her foodie-focused T-shirt company.



Tomonik’s aspiration to start a business, and we understand that it comes with challenges, especially financial challenges,” says Reyes. “We wanted to help her in the small way that we can.”

In partnership with MDP, Le Foodie started the “Baker’s Delight” campaign, through which 20 percent of profits will help Tomonik start her bakery.

“So far, I have paired up with some popular bakers in Seattle, such as Hello Robin and Raining Cookies,” says Reyes. “When I reached out to them about the project, all of them loved the idea and were happy to get on board with raising awareness and funds in any way they could.”

Reyes is passionate about organizations committed to teaching healthy cooking and nutrition to children and low-income families and looks forward to more opportunities to help nonprofits raise awareness of their mission all while financially partnering with God.

Katie Henderson, Washington Conference communication intern

Read more online at glnr.in/113-04-wa_bake



A VALUABLE AND SIGNIFICANT JOURNEY

The Walla Walla University community gathered last month in our campus church sanctuary in a challenging context. A few days before, university administrators began exploring reports of a social media post that featured a small group of WWU students, one that seemed to be a clear example of blackface, a symbol of racism and oppression. The pain of the incident touched

John McVay



the full spectrum of our campus family represented in that space — faculty, staff and students from nearly every ethnicity.

How does a Christian institution of higher learning — one that espouses high ideals and is founded on an incredible idea that every person is created in the image of God as a being of inestimable value and worth — process an incident such as this?

One way is by turning to our identity as a community of faith. The Bible casts an unbelievably high vision for how we are to treat each other as members of different racial and cultural groups. In a central case study offered in the Bible, the risen Lord strikes down a persecutor named Saul and announces to him that he, Jewish rabbi that he is, is now the apostle to the Gentiles. The goal of his ensuing career is to actualize the reconciliation that Christ creates at Calvary. He is to bring together two disparate cultural groups as divided as any two groups on the planet

today: Jews and Gentiles. Near the end of his career, Saul-turned-Paul thinks about all of this in his epistle to the Ephesians, where he says four things about why reconciliation between and among races is worth sustained effort.

First, we are all by nature racists and egomaniacs, dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2). That selfishness magnified is racism, bent by sin to appreciate mostly people who look and act like me. The idea of a master race is but the reflection of myself as my own lord and master writ large. What this means is that when a race dominates in power and numbers, it will almost inevitably dominate, subjugate and enslave under the sway of its corporate sin. The result is a fractured, fighting, bloodthirsty, self-serving, racist world.

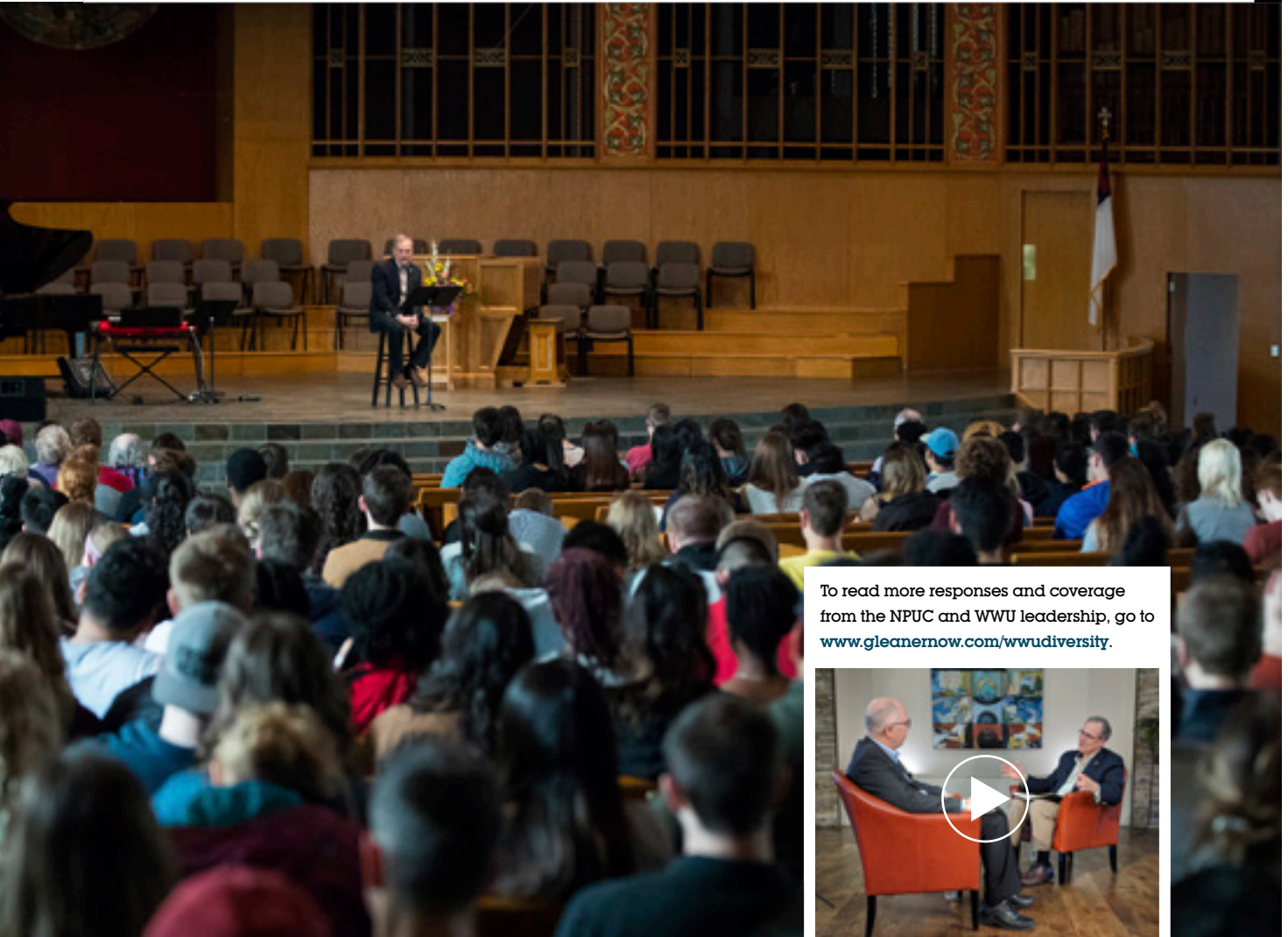
In the mercy and grace of God, the news gets better. The second point Paul makes in Ephesians is that, astoundingly, the races are already reconciled. Paul argues that



the atonement of Jesus is not just about my relationship to God, but also is crafting one new humanity in Christ Jesus (also in chapter 2). We do not have to create reconciliation. Instead, we have the privilege of acknowledging, actualizing and working to foster it.

Third, God has a strategic plan for the cosmos to unite all things in Jesus — things in heaven, on Earth and beyond (chapter 1). His ultimate plan, already underway, is to unite everything and everyone in Christ.

Fourth, we have an important part to play in God's



To read more responses and coverage from the NPUC and WWU leadership, go to www.gleanernow.com/wwudiversity.



plan. He intends to signal His plan for unity and reconciliation by first actualizing it among believers (chapter 3). We have an opportunity to demonstrate the good news of Christ's reconciliation.

If we wish to heal, impact and repair the damage from an incident such as we have experienced recently, it will take sustained effort as well as challenging education and sometimes difficult conversa-

tion. We have already begun that work, and we know it will take a dedication to being in it for the long haul.

You have the right to expect the highest and best from us at Walla Walla Uni-

versity and to believe we will ferret out anything that fails to resonate with our mission to be a community of faith and discovery, committed to excellence in thought, generosity in service, beauty in expression and faith in God. I am committed to this important work and appreciate your support in this valuable and significant journey.

To read more responses and coverage from the NPUC and WWU leadership, go to gleanernow.com/wwudiversity.

John McVay, Walla Walla University president

You have the right to expect the highest and best from us at Walla Walla University and to believe that we will ferret out anything that fails to resonate with our mission.

LOCAL HEROES INSPIRE HEALTH, WHOLENESS AND HOPE

E

ach year the Adventist Health Foundation recognizes people in the Portland, Ore., community who

give of themselves to meet the needs of others and name them Heroes of the Heart.

Proceeds from this year's foundation gala benefited the lifesaving services at Northwest Regional Heart and Vascular. The generous gifts shared by attendees and the Adventist Health Foundation's key partners will have an immediate and lasting impact on friends, family and loved ones in the local community.

Guests at the gala enjoyed a special experience with six-time Grammy Award-winning artist Amy Grant. Through stories and songs, Grant took guests on a journey through peaks and valleys from her personal life. By listening to the Holy Spirit and stepping out in faith, she has found renewed purpose by developing a summer camp that serves children in need. Grant says these experiences have revealed to her what is possible when, like the Heroes of the Heart, we seek to help others and answer a calling greater than ourselves.

At the Heroes of the Heart Gala, team members



Amy Grant (center) helps celebrate the 2018 Heroes of the Heart, including (from left) John and Anna Canzano, Grace-Ann Pagnone, and Abby and Sally Egland.

and key community partners met with three 2018 heroes and learned their inspirational stories.

Abby Egland, Abby's Closet founder

Abby's Closet started with a pink prom dress and the desire to let it dance again with someone who might not otherwise have the opportunity. The nonprofit has hosted more than a decade of prom gown giveaways for students from more than 250 schools in Oregon and southwest Washington.

Beyond giving away more than 24,000 dresses, Abby's Closet empowers high school students to learn leadership skills through their student advisory board. They award a college scholarship each year.

The goal of Abby's Closet is to make every participant feel special, beautiful and confident.

Anna and John Canzano, The Bald Faced Truth Foundation co-founders

Founded in 2009 by KGW-TV sports commentator John Canzano and his wife, KOIN-TV weekend anchor Anna Canzano, the foundation provides opportunities and experiences for Oregon's youth.

The Bald Faced Truth Foundation has made a significant difference in the lives of more than 14,000 area children by providing enriching opportunities and life experiences. Grants are also awarded to organizations, schools, clubs, leagues and teams needing financial assistance.

Grace-Ann Pagnone, Pamplin Media's 'Amazing Kid'

Canby High School sophomore Grace-Ann Pagnone has found the secret to enjoying life: serving others. Her service activities and leadership in Oregon State University Extension's 4-H program highlight her kindness, good citizenship and willingness to provide hundreds of volunteer hours to benefit others in need.

For the past five years, Pagnone has organized a toy drive for the Clackamas County Department of Health and Human Services. By distributing gift tags to churches and local businesses, she collects hundreds of gifts and coordinates distribution through a holiday party for foster children and their parents.

Pagnone says, "I am not able to solve the larger issue of why a child is in foster care, but I can help them create positive memories with their parents at the holidays."

C.J. Anderson, Adventist Health—Portland marketing specialist

Klein 60th

Darrell and Narlita (Niemann) Klein are celebrating 60 years of marriage.

They met one summer day in 1956 at the Youth Center in College Place, Wash., and were married at the Greenlake Church on Nov. 9, 1957.

Darrell went to work for the Vernon Robison ranch near Walla Walla until their first daughter, Julie, was born. Then they moved to Lebanon, Ore., to work at the Wah Chang Corporation and later at the Willamette National Plywood mill.

With the additions of two little girls, Connie and Diane, they moved to Lewiston, Idaho, for a short while and then moved to Spokane, Wash., to work for Hylond Inn for a couple of years. Then they transferred to Shelton, Wash., where both Darrell and Narlita managed the Hylond Inn Retirement Home there.

They spent 14 years in Shelton while Narlita managed a GNC store in Aberdeen, Wash.

An opportunity came up to manage the San Marcos Apartments for Wells & Co. in Spokane, where Darrell managed 180 apartments. Narlita continued being manager of the GNC store at the Franklin Mall and retired after 25 years with that company. Later Darrell worked 10 years for Laidlaw School Bus Transit.

From 1987 to 2014, Darrell was the Santa Claus at the Valley Mall and later for the North Town Mall, also in Spokane.

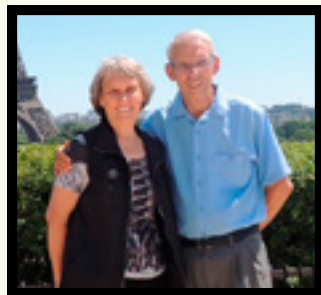
In his retirement, Dar-

rell enjoys making wooden projects on the lathe and is an avid collector of Western memorabilia. Narlita volunteered four years at the Better Living Center and enjoys cooking. Besides their three daughters, they also have 9 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

Wearner 50th

Ron and Jeanine were in Paris on their 50th anniversary, June 18, 2017, on their way home after a concert tour/mission trip with the Oregon Adventist Men's Chorus to Ukraine.

They got married June 18, 1967, after Ron graduated from theology at Pacific Union College in Angwin, Calif., and Jeanine was working on her Bachelor of Science in nursing at Loma Linda University in Califor-



Ron and Jeanine Wearner

nia. Ron pursued a degree in public health while Jeanine finished her last year of nursing.

After both graduated they got a call to serve in a district out of Manaus, Brazil, on the *Luzeiro III* and later the *Luzeiro IV* medical and evangelism boats. Their assignment was a circuit of 200 kilometers on the Amazon River, serving more than 30

churches and groups.

During their five years on the river, two of their children, Ken and Jody, joined their family. During furlough, Eric was born. At that point they moved off the boat. They served several schools then taught at Northeast Brazil College. Jeanine taught nursing, and Ron helped prepare future pastors.

On returning to the U.S. on permanent return they were invited to serve the Baldwin Park and Rolling Hills churches in Southern California. Next came an invitation to pastor in the Oregon Conference in the Medford area, then Woodland and Cedar Creek in southwest Washington, and finally in Sheridan and Grand Ronde, Ore. Ron also enjoyed ministering as a volunteer chaplain for the fire and police departments in Woodland and Willamina.

Jeanine worked in hospitals, doctor's offices and then home care. After earning her master's in community nursing she worked as a school nurse and public health nurse.

They retired close to their daughter's home out in the country in Banks, Ore. They are enjoying their 11 grandchildren. They are also helping care for Ron's 99-year-old father, who was also a missionary in South America.

They praise God for the 50 years of marriage and all the adventures and memories they share. They are thankful for their children and grandchildren. They are thankful God has helped and guided them throughout their lives

and used them in His field to bring the gospel to many people over the years.

FAMILY BIRTHS

DUNKS — Easton William was born Nov. 30, 2017, to Eric and Carrie (Lysinger) Dunks, Springfield, Ore.

HILLIARD — Daphne Rose was born Jan. 11, 2018, to Jonathan and Jenee (Gifford) Hilliard, Portland, Ore.

MINTON — Daxton Wyatt was born March 1, 2018, to Rich M. and Ashley N. (Pooteet) Minton, Medford, Ore.

OWUOR — Olivia Grace Achieng was born Nov. 27, 2017, to Steve B. Owuor and Sylvia Achieng Dande, Portland, Ore.

PARDEE — Ezra Matthew was born Jan. 2, 2018, to James and Megan (Eklund) Pardee, Beaverton, Ore.

FAMILY AT REST

AMES — Evelyn Deloris (Zundel), 92; born July 25, 1925, Ruff, Wash.; died Dec. 17, 2017, Brush Prairie, Wash. Surviving: son, Anthony, Battle Ground, Wash.; daughters, Connie Ames, Portland, Ore.; Yvonne House, Vancouver, Wash.; Shirley Davis, Tacoma, Wash.; Rebecca Parker, Bonney Lake, Wash.; Roberta Ewert, North Logan, Utah; 9 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

BLACKMON — Gwendolyn "Gwen" (Miller), 77; born May 3, 1940, Portland, Ore.; died Dec. 14, 2017, Longview, Wash. Surviving:

husband, Alton "Al"; son, Alan, Longview; daughter, Debra "Debbie" Guzman, Longview; 4 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

BOOSE — Richard Bradshaw, 89; born June 12, 1928, Red Lodge, Mont.; died Jan. 5, 2018, College Place, Wash. Surviving: son, John, Walla Walla, Wash.; Tim, Big Fork, Mont.; daughters, Rebecca Cason, San Diego, Calif.; Michalle McMillan, Olney, Mont.; Teresa Bodle, Waldport, Ore.; 23 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

CAMPBELL — Alvin C., 94; born March 7, 1923, Maurice, La.; died Jan. 6, 2018, Portland, Ore. Surviving: son, Alvin C. Jr., Portland; daughters, Bonnie Jones and Brenda Campbell-Johnson, both of Anchorage, Alaska; 7 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

DAVIDSON — Jeanette Elaine (Sievers), 88; born Jan. 5, 1929, Kalispell, Mont.; died Dec. 27, 2017, College Place, Wash. Surviving: sons, Clyde, of Kansas; Mark, Chicago, Ill.; Dan, Turlock, Calif.; Glen, College Place; daughters, Sherrie Davidson, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; Bonnie Davidson, of California; and Kami Davidson, Sioux Falls, S.D.

GRYTE — Norval D., 90; born Aug. 14, 1927, Los Angeles, Calif.; died Sept. 8, 2017, Portland, Ore. Surviving: wife, Lucille (Johnson); sons, Ken, Albany, Ore.; Don, San Leandro, Calif.; Jim, Cottage Grove, Ore.; 4 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

HOOPER — Irmgard Auguste (Siemsen), 100; born June 29, 1917, Roundup, Mont.; died Dec. 29, 2017, Albany, Ore. Surviving: daughter, Jeanie

Reed, Albany; 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

JOHNSTON — Edmund Lee, 95; born Aug. 15, 1922, Watertown, S.D.; died Dec. 1, 2017, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: son, Calvin, Walla Walla; daughter, Colleen Prouty, McMinnville, Ore.; sister, Jessie Warden, Vancouver, Wash.; and 4 grandchildren.

KELLEY — Debbie D. (Lee), 61; born July 8, 1956, Seattle, Wash.; died Dec. 28, 2017, Olympia, Wash. Surviving: husband, Les; son, Dustin, Westmont, Ill.; and brother, Doug Lee, Seattle.

ONJUKKA — Lauri, 97; born Aug. 12, 1920, Mantsinsaari, Finland; died Dec. 21, 2017, La Grande, Ore. Surviving: sons, Sam, Imbler, Ore.; Rolf, Arlington, Texas; brothers, Veikko, Pisgah, Ala.; Johannes, Aitolahti, Finland; 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

PIKE — Marguerite Ann, 78; born March 22, 1939, Manchester, N.H.; died Dec. 20, 2017, Union, Ore. Surviving: brother, Raymond C. Pike, Woodland, Wash.; sisters, Elizabeth Pike, Spokane, Wash.; and Ruth Wilcox, Gresham, Ore.

ROCHAT — Charles, 91; born Dec. 15, 1926, in Switzerland; died Oct. 8, 2018, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: sons, Benjamin, Gerald, Chuck, Scott, David; and daughters, Josette and Michelle.

ROSSIER — Morris, 88; born March 27, 1929, Canandaigua, N.Y.; died Dec. 19, 2017, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: son, Anthony Rossier-Hanyon, Prescott, Ariz.; daughters, Jenny Fuch, College Place, Wash.; Connie Rossier, Walla Walla;

a brother and 3 sisters in New York; 7 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

SALTER — Gary D. Sr., 81; born June 9, 1936, Eugene, Ore.; died Dec. 14, 2017, Yakima, Wash. Surviving: wife, Patty (Elsom); son, Gary "Don" Salter Jr., Walla Walla, Wash.; daughters, Vicky Larabee, Clarkston, Wash.; Debbie Sewell, Touche, Wash.; Pam Achabal, Spokane, Wash.; stepson, Daniel Elson, Walla Walla; stepdaughters, Debbie (Elsom) Shaffer, Selah, Wash.; Dede Anderson, Simi Valley, Calif.; sister, Barbara Aufderhar, Lopez Island, Wash.; 8 grandchildren, 4 step-grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

SAYLER — Julianna Lyn, 8; born Oct. 31, 2008, South Bend, Ind.; died Aug. 18, 2017, Monterrey, Mexico. Surviving: parents, Eric and Stacie Sayler, Walla Walla, Wash.; brother, Joshua, Walla Walla; sister, Jillian, Walla Walla; paternal grandparents, Glen and Irene Sayler, Tillamook, Ore.; maternal grandfather, Glenn Silver, Waitsburg; maternal grandmother, Colleen Compston, Walla Walla; and maternal great-grandparents, Ken and Viola Silver, College Place, Wash.

SCHLAMAN — William "Bill" Carl, 81; born Feb. 10, 1936, Portland, Ore.; died Aug. 25, 2017, Roseburg, Ore. Surviving: wife, Barbara (Thacker); son, Donald William, Yakima, Wash.; daughter, Terri Behrens, Nipomo, Calif.; brothers, Jack, Lake Havasu, Ariz.; Duane, Bothell, Wash.; sister, Joni West, La Quinta, Calif.; 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

STRICKLAND — Joy Marie (Heard), 31; born Oct. 4,

1985, Aberdeen, Wash.; died Sept. 30, 2017, Hoquiam, Wash. Surviving: son, Peyton, Hoquiam; daughters, Savannah Strickland and Madelynn Strickland, both of Hoquiam; father, Max Heard, Ocean Park, Wash.; mother, Carol Daitey, Aberdeen, Wash.; brothers, Paul Heard and Clint Heard, both of Aberdeen; sister, Tovi Barclay, Hoquiam; and fiancé, Brian Jasper.

WORDEN — Paul Leland, 91; born Aug. 4, 1926, Blaine, Wash.; died Dec. 16, 2017, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: wife, Bonita "Bonnie" Carol (Rouse); sons, Duane, Walla Walla; Brian, Hagerstown, Md.; daughters, Renee Mackin, Walla Walla; Elaine Smith, Hagerstown; brothers, Donald, Enterprise, Ore.; Bruce, Custer, Wash.; 3 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

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

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

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

NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

Offering

May 5 — Local Church Budget;

May 12 — World Budget: Disaster and Famine Relief;

May 19 — Local Church Budget;

May 26 — Local Conference Advance.

Save the Date!

July 3–7 — Planning your summer activities? You've heard of old-fashioned camp meetings that are held outdoors, in a meadow, under a big tent? There's nothing better than meeting with other Christians in a setting that God designed. This year the Adventist Horseman's Association Camp Meeting is at Cabell Meadow, Ore. Come camp for the whole time or come just for Sabbath services and potluck. (You don't need to bring a horse to enjoy the fun and fellowship). This association includes northern California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Alaska and southwest Canada, but anyone is invited. Just bring a lawn chair. Go to adventisthorsemansassociation.weebly.com for information and directions to Cabell Meadows.

OREGON CONFERENCE

'Food for Life' Plant-Based Cooking Class

May 3 — You're invited to the Food for Life plant-based cooking class Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Abundant Life Center, Castle Rock Church, 7531 Old Pacific Hwy N., Castle Rock, Wash. Deana Snyder is the presenter. Everyone is welcome to this free class; you will enjoy the samples and the health lecture. God desires that each of us be our healthiest best for His service, so bring yourself and a friend. Questions? Call Wanda at 360-967-2165.

The Stones That Cry Out Seminar

May 7–12 — Join us for a seminar about the Old Testament with Daegeuk Nam, who has taught the Old Testament and biblical archaeology for more than three decades at Sahmyook University in Seoul, Korea. This seminar begins Monday night at 7 p.m. and continues every night at 7 p.m. through Friday with the last seminar on Sabbath, May 12 at 11 a.m. Location: Stone Tower Church, 3010 NE Holladay St., Portland, Ore. More information online at glnr.in/113-04-or_stonetower.

Jaime Jorge Concert

May 12 — Jaime Jorge will be in concert at Rockwood Church on Sabbath for the 11 a.m. worship service. Rockwood is located at 1910 SE 182nd Ave., Portland, OR 97233. Jorge's expressive mastery of the violin has delighted audiences around the globe. From high school auditoriums to magnificent cathedrals, from simple church programs to Carnegie Hall, his music has touched the lives of millions. It can touch yours too.

Singles Emphasis Sabbath

May 19 — Come join other singles for a day of worship

and activities with Karl Haffner as the special guest speaker presenting "Created in Jesus to Do Good Works." Held at the Holden Center in Gladstone, Ore., from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Register by May 15 at orgcfamily.netadvent.org/singles.

His Praise Men's Chorus Concerts

May 19 — His Praise Men's Chorus will be presenting two gospel concerts on Sabbath: one during the 11 a.m. church service in the Salem Central Adventist Church, 1330 Summer St. NE, Salem, OR 97301, and a second one at 4:30 p.m. in the Pleasant Hill Adventist Church, 35549 Zephyr Way, Pleasant Hill, OR 97455. His Praise is a group of about 25 men drawn from the Portland, Ore./Vancouver, Wash., area and from all walks of life, directed by Charlie Drury, who have one thing in common: They love to sing gospel music. For information, call Jerry Irvine, His Praise scheduling coordinator, at 206-261-6452 or Wes Wilbur, His Praise president, 360-936-1401.

Orchards Church 40th Anniversary Celebration

June 2 — The Orchards Church is turning 40, and they want to celebrate with all who have enjoyed their church during the last 40 years. Catch up with your old friends with music playing a major part in the programs. John Freedman, North Pacific Union Conference president, will present the homily, plus former Orchards pastors will have the opportunity to share their memories. With lunch and supper provided, don't miss this opportunity to spend the day with your old friends. For more information or to RSVP, go to the website orchardsadventist.com, or contact Shelly Hillman, church secretary, by phone at 360-892-2925 or email OrchardsAdventist@gmail.com.

Better Life Broadcasting Camp Meeting

June 8–9 — Better Life Broadcasting Camp Meeting will be held at Milo Adventist Academy in Days Creek, Ore. The keynote speaker will be Terry Johnsson. There will be special musical guests and more. For additional information or to register, visit BLBN.org or call 541-474-3089.

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

Reunion of Dakota Adventist, Sheyenne River and Plainview Academies

May 19 — Alumni and friends of Dakota Adventist, Sheyenne River and Plainview academies are invited to a potluck luncheon on Sabbath at 1 p.m., at the home of Ken and Linda Seibold, 2890 Williams Rd., Walla Walla, Wash. In case of inclement weather meet in the Village Church youth fellowship room. For more information email sharonlheinrich@yahoo.com.

MORE EVENTS LISTED AT GLEANERNOW.COM/EVENTS.

Classes

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

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Employment

THE EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT at Southwestern Adventist University invites applications for a full-time faculty position. Preferred candidates will hold a doctorate in educational psychology or secondary education and have university teaching experience. Master's degree considered. Must have or be able to obtain a Texas teaching credential. Send CV and cover letter to Dr. Donna Berkner, dberkner@swau.edu.

taas-taiwan.com. You may also see our postings on the NAD Education website under K-12 world.

RICHARDSON, TEXAS, FAMILY is looking for an Adventist live-in house manager/nanny who shares our beliefs, values and dietary preferences. If interested, contact Tiffany Capeles at tiffany.capeles@gmail.com or 301-525-7892. Valid driver's license required. English/Spanish speaking.

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Holden Center Oregon Conference Gladstone, OR

Registration fee includes lunch. Register at orgcfamily.netadvent.org/singles

ADVENTIST TEACHERS NEEDED IN TAIWAN Taipei Adventist American School is an elementary school serving students in grades one to eight. If you are interested in teaching overseas at a mission school and have a four-year degree, please send your resume and 3 references to secretary@taas-taiwan.com. For more information on current openings and benefits, please see

SECRETS UNSEALED is seeking a full-time accounting manager to join our 501(c)(3) ministry in Fresno, Calif. See position details at secretsunsealed.org/employment/.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY is hiring! To see the list of available positions, go to jobs.wallawalla.edu.

THE OFFICE OF THE PROVOST at La Sierra University invites applications for a half-time position as the dean of the Division of General Education to begin in July 2018. For more information, please see goo.gl/JmSuQX.

OB-GYN, pediatrician, psychiatrist and psychologist needed for Adventist-owned/operated Rural Health Clinic on the campus of Weimar Institute at Weimar, Calif. Competitive pay. Call Dr. Randall Steffens at 615-604-0142.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks School of Visual Art and Design productions/equipment and facilities manager. Full-time position combines two

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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a director of human resources. The director of human resources is the chief human resources officer of the university and serves as an advocate regarding benefits, policies and practices that would have a positive impact on employees and as an advisor and strategic partner to university administration. Provides leadership through the management of a comprehensive human resources department, ensuring that all HR programs and initiatives are integrated and effective in supporting the overall mission, goals and objectives of the institution. andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_salary#job_6.

Events

JOIN US FOR THE 21ST NW FAMILY RETREAT held this year at Upper Columbia Academy, Spangle, Wash., July 4–8, 2018. This year, we will be hosting special breakout meetings for parenting and young adults! For information, please visit restoration-international.org/nwfr or call Vernon and Karina Pettey, 406-890-1195.

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May 4 11 18 25

ALASKA CONFERENCE

Anchorage	10:10	10:28	10:46	11:03
Fairbanks	10:27	10:51	11:16	11:40
Juneau	8:52	9:07	9:22	9:36
Ketchikan	8:27	8:41	8:53	9:05

IDAHO CONFERENCE

Boise	8:50	8:58	9:05	9:12
La Grande	8:01	8:10	8:18	8:26
Pocatello	8:33	8:41	8:48	8:55

MONTANA CONFERENCE

Billings	8:24	8:33	8:41	8:49
Havre	8:36	8:46	8:55	9:04
Helena	8:40	8:49	8:58	9:06
Miles City	8:15	8:24	8:33	8:40
Missoula	8:49	8:58	9:07	9:15

OREGON CONFERENCE

Coos Bay	8:21	8:29	8:37	8:44
Medford	8:13	8:21	8:28	8:35
Portland	8:20	8:29	8:37	8:45

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

Pendleton	8:05	8:14	8:22	8:30
Spokane	8:05	8:14	8:23	8:32
Walla Walla	8:04	8:13	8:21	8:29
Wenatchee	8:16	8:25	8:34	8:42
Yakima	8:14	8:23	8:32	8:40

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

Bellingham	8:28	8:38	8:47	8:56
Seattle	8:24	8:34	8:43	8:51

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M–Th 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
F 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Sun 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

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'SO WHICH ONE DO YOU BELIEVE?'

F

or the last two years I've had the privilege of teaching Bible to a 90-percent non-Adventist student population. Last year I discovered the children didn't really know the story of Joseph, so we dove into Genesis and put the textbooks on the shelves. Watching their eyes light up with wonder and awe as we read about our patriarchs was my biggest joy. Bible class was full of ques-

tions. They were engaged, and one student literally sat on the edge of her seat as I read aloud. They couldn't believe this was in the Bible; I couldn't believe they didn't know it was there.

This year we studied more stories and discussed how even these wonderful people (insert Abraham, Joseph, Adam, the Israelites, etc.) made mistakes, but God still loved them SO MUCH. We talked about the two kingdoms of this earth over and over — how there are only two: the kingdom of good, light and love and how God is that King; and the kingdom of evil, hate and envy, and how Satan is that king. We noted when Bible characters chose kingdom sides, and we related how we too daily choose our side.

When we got to Matthew and read the Christmas story, one of the children noted it didn't sound right. We turned to Luke, and they agreed that sounded more traditional. I mentioned that the four gospels are all the story of Jesus, told from different perspectives. One attentive student raised her hand and sincerely inquired, "So which one do you believe?"

I was stunned. I explained how each person notices different things more than another, just like they would write different things if I asked them all to write about their school year. They understood.

But the simplicity of the question continues to resonate

in my mind. If our school wasn't here in this community, there wouldn't be a single Christian school in the county. We wouldn't be there to give them Bibles. Even though several of these kids say they go to church at least once a month, they have no sense of the timeline of the Bible or even the major stories (like Joseph).

Not only do I get to share exciting stories like the Red Sea parting, I get to tell them that Jesus is always in our boat (Matt. 8:23–27) even in the middle of the storms of life. I get to tell them about daily manna and water from a rock, and I get to show them that Jesus is who sustains us every day.

I know the harvest is ripening at Lincoln City Adventist School this spring. Pray for my students as Jesus works in their hearts. The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Karie MacPhee, Lincoln City Adventist School principal

As space allows, the *Gleaner* provides the You Said It section for Northwest Adventist members to share their personal testimonies or inspirational thoughts. The views expressed are those of the writer and may not fully reflect those of the North Pacific Union Conference or its leadership. We welcome submissions of 500–900 words for You Said It.

Editor's Note: This perspective from Lincoln City, Ore., no doubt echoes the sentiments of Adventist teachers all across the Northwest. It is yet another reason why we honor and respect dedicated Adventist educators who understand their mission is the Great Commission.



Karie MacPhee

WHATABOUTISM

S

everal years ago, I preached a sermon on grace at one of our colleges. After the message a concerned student approached me and said, “I really appreciated your talk on grace. But, if time would allow, you’d share more about the law, right?”

In essence, he was saying, “I mean, grace is important, but what about the law? Isn’t it just as important?” It was kind of a strange moment. The message I had shared, which simply noted God’s willingness to forgive sins from our past that haunt our present, in no way suggested that living a lawless life would lead to happiness. Yet, a zealous young man felt that by preaching a message on grace I was at risk of automatically minimizing the law.

I have experienced this phenomenon in a variety of other contexts. If I preach that men shouldn’t excuse their lustful behavior based on women’s clothing choices, then I will likely hear, “But what about women? Should they just wear whatever they want,

whenever they want, wherever they want?” It’s as if my

challenge for men to acknowledge their own lust, an exhortation rooted in the teachings of Jesus (see Matt. 5:27–30) is somehow a license for women to parade indecently in any social setting they please. It isn’t. It also suggests a healthy number of women are naturally immodest by nature, just waiting for a chance to expose themselves. Granted, there are real pressures for women (and men) to objectify themselves, but my em-

phasis on one side the coin doesn’t nullify the opposite challenges.

If someone says something in defense of Black Lives Matter, the response comes, “But what about everybody else?” If someone expresses concerns about keeping their gun rights, “But what about stopping violence in schools?”

If someone suggests teens have a voice that needs to speak truth to power, “But what about the adults pushing kids to speak on behalf of their agendas?”

Pick the scenario, and no matter what issue you comment on, no matter what side to which you say a word of support/criticism, someone else will ask, “What about ... ?”

It isn’t a new problem. “Whataboutism” (as it is known) is historically rooted in Russian propaganda and is used to deflect criticism back on the one making the critique. If I express a point, it is countered with a “what about ... ?” statement.

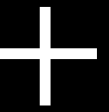
There is a form of this in the Bible when David goes out to check on his brothers and Eliab changes the subject:



AUTHOR

Seth Pierce





We need a “hermeneutic of charity” that patiently strives to believe the best about each other.

empower you as well. The law is important to God (but so is grace!) because it helps us live a life free from sin (but we still need grace!). You get the point. We would never finish a conversation.

We live in a culture with a “hermeneutic of skepticism” — meaning we are suspicious of everything and everyone. To some degree this is healthy. We do need to be sure of what is true or false. But taken to extremes we create a world where everyone, by default, believes the worst about each other. Instead, we need a “hermeneutic of charity” (rooted in verses like Prov. 15:1 and Matt. 7:12) that patiently strives to believe the best about each other until we have evidence otherwise.

So put your “what about ... ?” away and take time to listen to others. After they feel heard, then see if they are open to some questions — which will be far better questions once you’ve actually heard what the other person is saying.

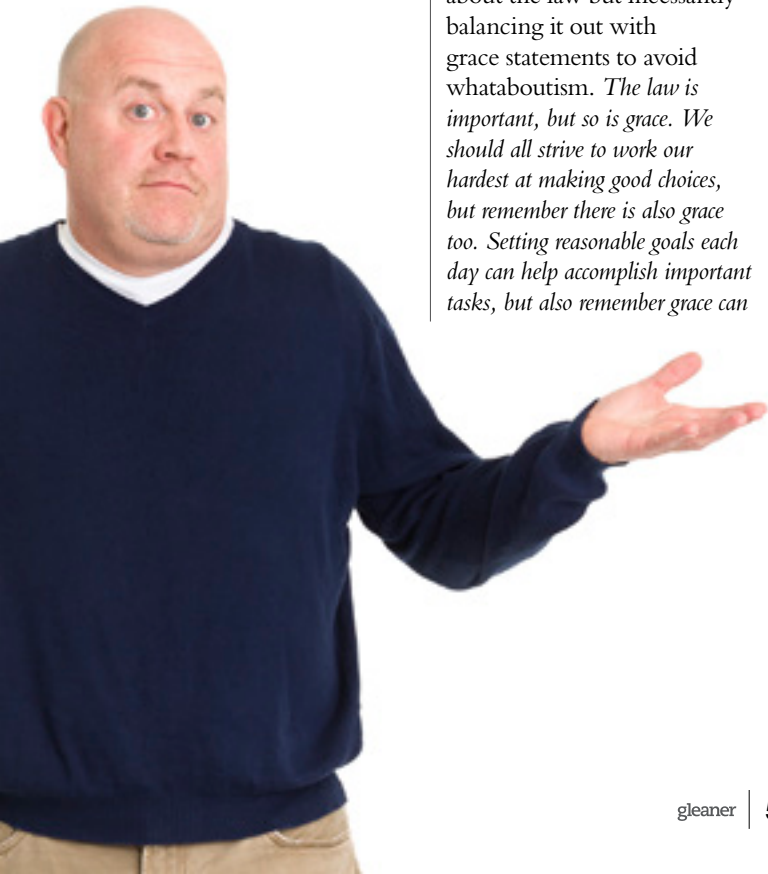
Seth Pierce, Puyallup Church lead pastor

“David said to the men who stood by him, ‘What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?’ And the people answered him in the same way, ‘So shall it be done to the man who kills him.’ Now Eliab, his eldest brother, heard when he spoke to the men. And Eliab’s anger was kindled against David, and he said, ‘Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart, for you have come

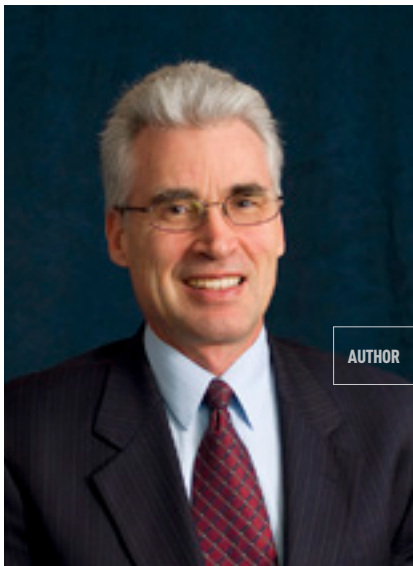
down to see the battle.’ And David said, ‘What have I done now? Was it not but a word?’” (1 Sam. 17:26–29).

Not only is this form of response a distraction, it implies that if you did something wrong, or another group did something wrong, then it shouldn’t matter. It is the ethic of “two wrongs make a right.” And ... in spite of the polarized culture all around us, that’s not right. Finally, it’s annoying to have a conversation about something you constantly have to qualify out of fear the other person will assume you are ignoring or minimizing other important issues.

Imagine trying to talk about the law but incessantly balancing it out with grace statements to avoid whataboutism. *The law is important, but so is grace. We should all strive to work our hardest at making good choices, but remember there is also grace too. Setting reasonable goals each day can help accomplish important tasks, but also remember grace can*



ALMOST KILLED ... AGAIN



AUTHOR

Martin Weber

Forty-seven years ago, a car accident almost killed me. Last week that happened again.

What lessons are there for survivors of such close calls?

The summer of 1971, as a student missionary in Pennsylvania, I was running late to a Bible study. While rounding a curve on a narrow rural road, my little Volkswagen encountered a big Buick. Swerving right, I avoided the Buick but struck a dirt bank diagonally. My VW flipped end over end back toward the road. The door opened, and the tumbling car spilled me out. Skidding on my back, I ended up with the car upside down beside me, an arm's length away.

A nearby farmer watching from his front porch knew I must be dead. But by God's grace I jumped up uninjured with only scrapes on my back. The farmer helped me flip the VW right-side

up and push it into the weeds. Its roof had been bashed in so much that my head would have been crushed had I not evacuated the vehicle.

And that was the end of my car but not of my ministry. God had further plans.

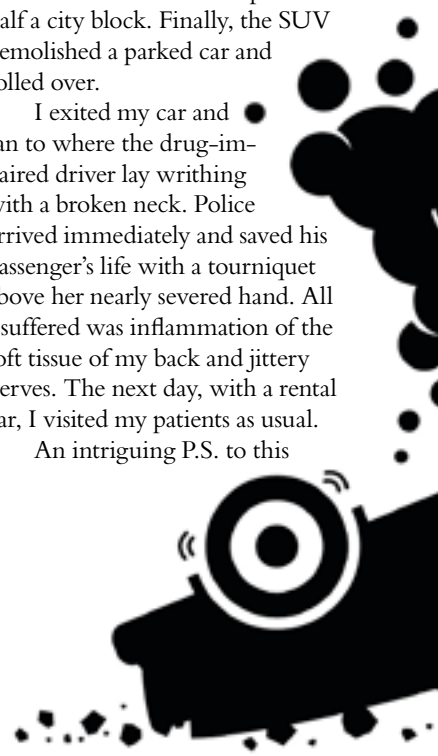
Almost five decades later, last Thursday evening brought another near-death encounter. A hospice family wanted a chaplain. En route, driving away from a

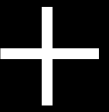
stoplight, I saw a large SUV roar up behind me. I moved to the bike lane on my right, but the driver followed me there. Terrified, I returned to the slow lane — and so did he. Within a second, 5,000 pounds of steel and glass would strike at 70 mph. No way could I survive such size at that speed.

At the last micro-moment, the SUV veered left and clipped my back left fender and door, jostling my Camry but not rolling it over. Next the attacking vehicle struck a streetlamp with a velocity that launched the 20-foot pole half a city block. Finally, the SUV demolished a parked car and rolled over.

I exited my car and ran to where the drug-impaired driver lay writhing with a broken neck. Police arrived immediately and saved his passenger's life with a tourniquet above her nearly severed hand. All I suffered was inflammation of the soft tissue of my back and jittery nerves. The next day, with a rental car, I visited my patients as usual.

An intriguing P.S. to this





I plan to live with the daily assurance His banner over me is love.

story: The evening before the accident, I discussed with my wife, Darlene, on our neighborhood walk what she should do if I died in a car accident. It was our most serious talk on that subject in 43 years of marriage. Next morning, I remarked to my daughter about the possibility of my having a deadly car accident. I had no clue I might die that very day.

Was Thursday, March 15, 2018, “supposed” to be my day of death — but God thwarted that fate because He’s not quite done with my ministry to family and patients (and readers of the *Gleaner*)?

Here are five takeaways that I have pondered in the aftermath:

- » We don’t know which day may be our last on Earth. There is “a time to be born, and a time to die” (Eccl. 3:2) — but God

alone knows that day and hour.

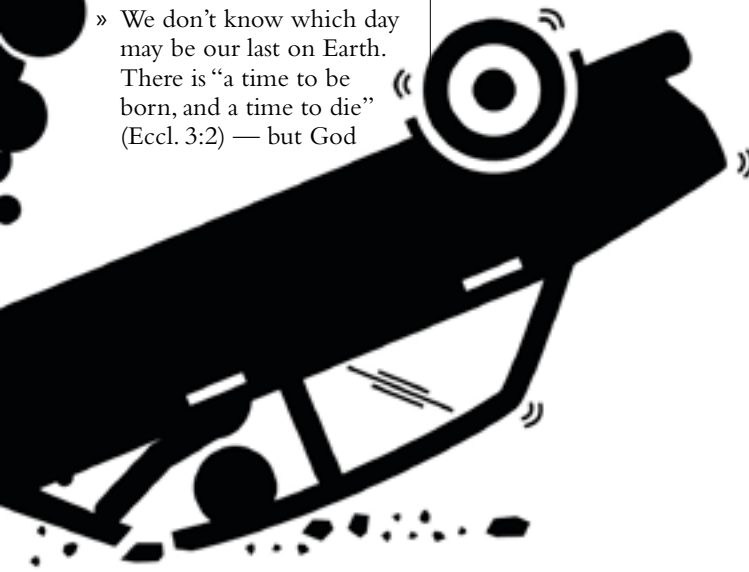
- » Live each day as if it were our last — a familiar admonition, trite but true.
- » God continually protects us from dangers seen and unseen. His angels indeed have charge over us (Ps. 91:11) — a promise Darlene and I have claimed every day for years.
- » We must not condemn anyone, including the drug-addled parolee who almost killed me. Assuming his anticipated recovery, he may face further jail time — yet he is not the antichrist. His Facebook page even speaks of a yearning for God. I hope

he and I can someday do prison ministry together (one reason why I’m not sharing further details about the accident).

- » Heaven is ours in Christ, so we need not fear death. “Where O death is thy sting! ... Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 15:55, 57).

With all the horrific things that could happen in life, some might be tempted to live with a sense of impending doom. I choose otherwise. As Scripture reminds us, “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Tim. 1:7). As long as I am in possession of a sound mind, I plan to live with the daily assurance His banner over me is love and nothing will be able to separate me from His love. “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:38–39).

Martin Weber, retired from denominational service, is a hospice chaplain.





JUST LIKE JESUS

THE PROCRASTINATOR



Life is all about timing, showing up at the right moment, being there when you're needed, not getting things done too early or too late.

If you arrive early, people will begin to depend on you rather than discover creative solutions on their own.

If you show up too late,

rule: sooner ... earlier ... like right NOW!

But He responds slowly, in His time, knowing we would never experience faith if He just responded on cue.

For example:

Alfredo worked with Leo and Jessie Halliwell on the Amazon as pilot, nurse and evangelist for one of their white *Luzeiro* boats.

One rainy evening, after preaching in an Amazon village, he invited folks to come for prayer if they had any

health issues. A young widow rushed forward.

"My children are dying with a terrible disease and fiery fever," she said.

Alfredo guessed that the children had typhoid fever, a disease that was rampant on the river and a disease for which he had run out of medicine. In fact, getting more of the medicine had become the theme of his prayers for many days.

Alfredo discovered both children were unconscious and burning with typhoid fever. He showed the mother how to apply hot and cold compresses to lower the fever and promised to return if he could get the medicine.

His walk back to the hotel was a constant prayer — prayer in a discouraged voice.

"Are you the man from the white boat?" The question came from a well-dressed man in the hotel lobby.

"Yes, I am Alfredo from the *Luzeiro*."

"Come up to my room right now."

Alfredo knew this was a favorite ruse of river thieves. If he went with this man, he might be robbed of all he had and possibly even killed.

Yet, deep in his heart he felt God whisper, "Go." Upstairs, the stranger let him in and then relocked the room door.

"In my office last week," the man began, "I felt a strong urge to go to our warehouse and prepare this package for a man in a white boat. I brought these for you. I have never done anything like this before. I hope the gift will be useful."

The man, who identified himself as the regional manager for the Pfizer drug company, handed Alfredo a package stuffed with thousands of pills, the medicine for treating typhoid.

"I thanked him profusely," said Alfredo, "and then prayed thanksgivings while running back to the woman's house, where we were able to save both children."

God's procrastination (His divine timing) requires great planning by the angels from supply. It also helps to develop the creative relationship of faith God desires to enjoy with us.

Dick Duerksen, Oregon Conference storyteller and storyteller

I've decided God is the world's greatest procrastinator.

people will consider you undependable and turn to others for support.

So, you work on the timing with great care, planning carefully and making every last possible moment count — and then you're called a procrastinator. Others trust you but are nervous about your timing, certain that one of these times you'll forget — and they will fail.

I've decided God is the world's greatest procrastinator.

Follow God, and you'll quickly be over your head. Pray for help, and He will come through — but only at the very last possible second before the dam bursts, the bank repossesses the house, the grasshoppers devour the field or the enemy breaks down your door.

Life would be so much easier if He came on my sched-



AUTHOR

Dick Duerksen



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