

CONSTITUENCY
FAQ

PERSPECTIVE
SERMONIC BINGO

LET'S TALK
GOATS

gleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION



2016 CONSTITUENCY REPORT

*Living His Mission:
A brief review of
the past five years*

**SEPT
2016**

VOL. 111, N° 9



**My son, give me your heart and let
your eyes delight in my ways
Prov. 23:26**

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION



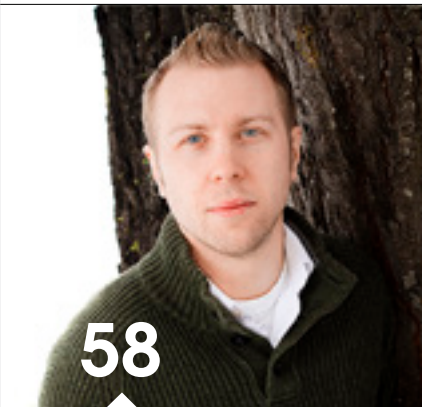
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FAQ

With the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) constituency session coming up Sunday, Sept. 25, here are some questions and answers in an attempt to demystify the process. Submit a question of your own on the comment section of the *Gleaner* website at GleanerNow.com/2016FAQ. But here, at least, are some answers to some Frequently Asked Questions.

How many delegates are involved in the NPUC constituency session?

As we go to press, the official listing of delegates includes about 346 names. The actual number present and voting at the Sept. 25 session will be somewhat less. A delegate must be present to vote. There are no proxy options.

How are they selected?

The majority directly represents and is proportional to local conference membership. Each conference, regardless of its size, is allowed three delegates “at large.” In addition, their executive committees must elect an additional delegate for every 400 members. For instance, the Idaho Conference, with approximately 6,592 members, has three “at large” delegates plus 16 additional delegates who represent the membership formula. A majority of these delegates must be lay members without direct ties to church employment. According to the NPUC bylaws (see p. 30), there are also “ex-officio” delegates who represent specific institutions or groups. You can read the exact wording of the bylaws on delegate selection and view a complete listing of all delegates in this issue.

Why is the Walla Walla University constituency session held at the same time and place?

The university’s constituency and delegates are essentially the same as the NPUC, with one small difference: the addition of WWU board members who are not already NPUC delegates. At some point during the day on Sept. 25, the NPUC session will adjourn and the WWU session will convene.

What do the delegates actually vote on?

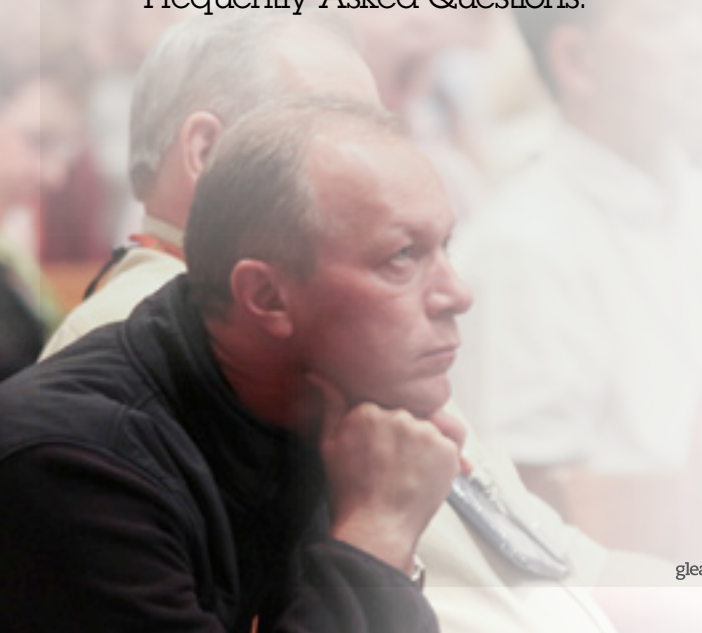
Delegates will vote on the names for executive officers (president, executive secretary and treasurer) recommended by the nominating committee. According to the NPUC constitution, only the three executive officers are voted into office at the main constituency session. Vice presidents, departmental directors and their associates are selected and approved at the executive committee meeting following the session (in November this year). During lunch, delegates will be grouped by conferences to choose recommended names to be presented for a vote later in the afternoon to select the executive committee for the next five-year term. They will also vote on any changes to the bylaws and upon other legal and financial matters.

Is the Sept. 25 session a closed meeting, or can anyone attend?

This is an open meeting, but to ensure equal representation, only the official delegates are allowed to participate and vote. Between now and Sept. 25, each member has an opportunity to find someone on the delegate list with whom to share opinions and concerns.

Do you have a question?

Join the dialogue at GleanerNow.com/FAQ.



LIVING HIS MISSION

INTRODUCTION

The North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) was organized 110 years ago to help members and local conferences share our Adventist message in the Northwest. That mission still binds us together toward a common purpose in preparing others for our Lord's return.

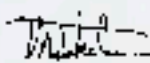
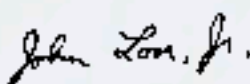

Delegates will gather at the Sunnyside Church in Portland, Oregon, on September 25 for the 28th constituency session of the North Pacific Union Conference. They will act on your behalf to elect NPUC officers and executive committee members charged with leading our church's mission in the Northwest for the next term.

We invite you to review the following reports and evaluate this partnership in our church's mission for yourself. We encourage you to share your thoughts or concerns with any of the delegates listed in this *Gleaner* issue before the session.

We are so thankful for each one who has faithfully served this past term on our executive committee — those listed on this page. But each of our members, each of our delegates, has an important part to play, as important to our Northwest mission as any officer, director or pastor.

We are grateful for your partnership in this mission during the past five years. The days ahead will be both challenging and exciting. We all need the mind and spirit of Jesus to enable us toward Spirit-led mission and ministry. Let's unite in prayerful commitment to "Living His Mission." Let's join in sharing our love for Jesus and hope in His soon return with each of our Northwest communities.

Sincerely,

Max Torkelsen II
PRESIDENT

John Loor Jr.
SECRETARY

Mark Remboldt
TREASURER

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2011-2016

Altman, John *	McVay, John *
Berglund, Jim *	Mead, Don *
Bowers, Gretchen *	Meharry, Zendi *
Bryson, Dale *	Montgomery, Donna *
Canals, Ramon	Payne, Aaron
Clark, Dick *	Plubell, Dennis *
Corder, Jon	Pozos, Pedro *
Crawford, Ken (July retired)	Prest, David *
Cromwell, Phil	Pyle, Glenda
Currier, Allee *	Rasmussen, Paul *
De León, César *	Reimche, Al *
Dunbar, Colin *	Remboldt, Mark *
Evenson, Steve *	Rogers, John *
Fogelquist, Gary *	Russell, Jerry *
Folkenberg, Bob	Russell, Tom
Flower, Danny	Sanders Keymer, Julie *
Freedman, John *	Sauza, Alvaro
Galusha, Dale *	Schroeder, Kimberley *
Haeger, Eric *	Scott, Jennifer
Harris, Katie *	Siapco, June
Heinrich, Gene *	Staddon, Sharon
Hernandez, Kathy	Terry, Randy
Hixson, Rollin *	Thomas, Christy
Hoover, Paul *	Thomas, Conrad *
Huether, Tanya	Thorward, SR *
Hurlbert, Alan	Torkelsen, Max *
Knowles, Merlin *	Wang, Andre
Kyle, Shaya	Wibberding, Jim
Lee, Marvin	Wold, Rory *
Loor, John *	Woodward, Paul *
Lopez, Maria *	Woodsley, Jack *
McCarthy, Alphonso *	

* CURRENTLY SERVING

PRESIDENTIAL

MISSION

The mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) is to prepare people for the imminent return of Jesus Christ by nurturing, educating and motivating its membership. We will empower our conferences to help each member demonstrate God's character of love through the power of the Holy Spirit and share the gospel message with other people through the development of individual spiritual gifts.

SUMMARY

The office of the president articulates the vision that keeps Adventist work in the Northwest unified. Typically, the union conference president represents the church at various meetings, advises local conference administrators, and provides leadership or input to the committees of local conferences, the North American Division and the General Conference. This office seeks to make sure that leadership is accountable to membership.



CINDY STEWART
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

WHAT'S BEEN ACCOMPLISHED

Our 2011 constituency session called us all to a "Power Surge of Spirit-Led Ministry." At that time, we noted several important challenges ahead and have sought to follow the Spirit's leading to address these areas.

BIBLE WORK TRAINING — Successfully established our SOULS Northwest lay training programs to equip our young people and other church members to do Bible work in their local churches and communities.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS — Implemented our trade show book project to create a witnessing tool that members can use at fairs and targeted audiences at trade shows. The first book, with a motorcycle theme and entitled

Live to 101: Escaping to a Long and Healthy Life, has had 100,000 copies printed and distributed. The second book is entitled *Living a Long and Beautiful Life*. Our women's ministries organizations are in the process of utilizing this tool for successful personal witnessing.

CREATION STUDY CENTER — Established a Creation Study Center at our NPUC office. Through the direction of Stan Hudson, this is providing credible resources and presentations to students and churches, as well as hands-on experience in support of the biblical account of creation and a worldwide flood.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS — Provided matching funds in conjunction with local schools and

conferences to encourage increased enrollment of Hispanic and African-American students in Northwest Adventist education.

FRONTLINE MINISTRY — In response to previous recommendations by our NPUC ad hoc mission advisory committee (convened during the last term), we have trimmed staff and contained our own office-related expenses in order to increase by 30 percent our subsidies to our local conferences earmarked for frontline evangelism.

FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP — Faithful response to God's blessings coupled with careful financial management by our NPUC treasury team has led to tithes and offerings above budget and

FAST FACTS

1

After **44 years** of ministry for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Max Torkelsen is retiring, effective September 25, 2016, at the NPUC constituency session.

2

During his role at the NPUC, Torkelsen has served as **vice chairman** of the Adventist Health corporate board and **chairman** of the Walla Walla University board of trustees.

3

He has particular interests in furthering the Lord's work through international communication strategies, including **Adventist World Radio** and **LifeStyleTV**.

MAX TORKESEN II
PRESIDENT



THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

Here are several important areas of focus for which new NPUC leadership may wish to prayerfully develop ministry plans and strategies.

INACTIVE MEMBERS — Total church membership numbers can be misleading — it's the attending and involved members who actively cooperate with the mission. Our implemented reports of attendance show an average of about 43 percent of members who regularly attend church services. We have established a focus group to study ways of reconnecting with inactive members of all ages, including young adults.

ADVENTIST EDUCATION — We must productively deal with overall enrollment concerns and restore Adventist education as a valuable, irreplaceable service to our members.

WOMEN IN MINISTRY — While the NPUC has determined to be in harmony with the world church decision on women's ordination, we must still increase opportunities for women who are called to minister to find open doors for their gifts within our Northwest mission.

YOUNG ADULTS — We must foster efforts within our local conferences to embrace opportunities for collegiate graduates and other young adults to effectively use their talents in multigenerational church mission.

office and ministry expenses below budget — a net blessing.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH — While our growth rate has been below targets (see the challenges section, above), total NPUC area members now number, for the first time, more than 100,000.

SPIRIT OF PROPHECY — Organized a Spirit of Prophecy weekend emphasis at Walla Walla University in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Ellen White's death.

CONNECTED MEMBERS — Our *Gleaner* communication efforts through print, web and social media have recently been voted Best in Class by the Society of Adventist Communicators.

Coupled with grassroots efforts by our members and local conferences, our Northwest membership is better connected and informed than ever.

ETHNIC DIVERSITY — Our vice president for regional affairs and multicultural ministries has greatly expanded our ministry to new emerging ethnic groups including Kenyans, Ugandans, Eastern Europeans, Russians and Ukrainians.

SECRETARIAT



JOHN LOOR JR.
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

MISSION

To provide fair, honest and consistent processes of accountability for church members throughout the Northwest.



SUE PATZER
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES
DIRECTOR (PART TIME)



KRISTINA LOPEZ
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT



JANETTE REMBOLDT
RECEPTIONIST (PART TIME)



DEANNA WATERS
RECEPTIONIST (PART TIME)

SUMMARY

The executive secretary's office deals not only with the infrastructure and policies of our church organization, but also coordinates the record keeping that ensures fair and accountable processes for each employee and member. This office also oversees health ministries, women's ministries, Native ministries and the disaster response committee.

WHAT'S BEEN ACCOMPLISHED

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE FIGURES — Accurate attendance figures have been taken for 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 in all six conferences in the North Pacific Union. The total average church attendance figures on any given Sabbath for the four years combined is 42.5 percent of NPUC church membership (see graph above).

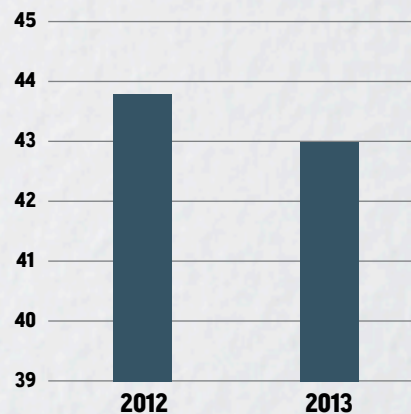
eADVENTIST — eAdventist has received a fresh look designed by the German Media Center team, and "church management" features have been added to help pastors and congregations.

CONFERENCE CONSULTATION — Continued support to local conferences has been given to help with procedural issues and to provide continuity during administrative transitions.

ACCOUNTABILITY ASSURANCE — This office has maintained files and policies that ensure accountability to each member, should questions arise.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT WITH HEALTH — The NPUC has been involved with and is a member of southwestern Washington's Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania and Wahkiakum counties'

2012–2015 NPUC Average Church Attendance Comparison (PERCENTAGE)



FAST FACTS

1

Broke the **100,000** membership mark on June 30, 2016.

2

Is the only union in the North American Division that has taken average church attendance figures from all churches during the past **four years**.

3

Held one conference **clerk training session** and one **retirement training session** for conference clerks during the past five years.

4

Sponsored **10 preretirement** seminars at five different sites over the **past five years** for church employees who are nearing retirement.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH — North American culture has proved more challenging to church growth than other parts of the world. Here in the Northwest, we must find the balance between nurturing existing members and attracting and keeping new believers.

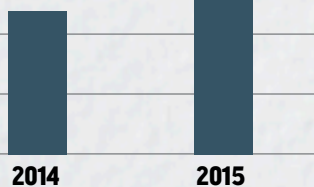
CHURCH ATTENDANCE — With average church attendance standing at 42.5 percent of actual church book membership, we must do something to address this problem. The North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) has formed a special ad hoc committee called “Member Re-Engagement” to study what can be done to re-engage members and increase average church attendance.

ETHNIC DIVERSITY — Ethnic ratios are changing. We must adapt our focus and priorities to respond to a growing number of Hispanics and to different immigrant groups in our church.

YOUTH EMPHASIS — Along with the growth of different cultures in the NPUC, emphasis still needs to continue being placed on the youth being more involved in the governing bodies of the church.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT — With so many denominational leaders retiring in the next 10–15 years, it is incumbent that the church mentor and develop leaders to take the place of those who are currently leading out in our conferences, churches and schools.

CONFERENCE SUPPORT — This office will continue to support local conference administrative teams with support and consultation. We will also continue to provide support and resource materials in health education to NPUC conferences.



Regional Healthy Living Collaborative Coalition. This coalition works to reduce and prevent chronic disease and associated risk factors among underserved populations.

HEALTH TRAINING EVENTS — Over the past five years, the NPUC has held three health training events for local churches: a Health Ministries Training Symposium co-sponsored by NPUC and the North American Division, a CHIP (Complete Health Improvement Program) Leadership Training Conference co-sponsored by NPUC and

Meadow Glade Church, and an Adventist Recovery Ministries Training program for addiction recovery co-sponsored by the NPUC, the NAD and Adventist Health.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES — During this quinquennium, the NPUC women's ministries leadership participated in many conference women's ministry programs as well as the Festival of the Laity, Ministering Hope to Hurting Hearts, NAD Adventist Ministries' Convention, NAD Women's Conference and NAD Summit on Abuse. In 2013, NPUC and

conference women's ministries leadership directed evangelistic outreach at seven church sites in Costa Rica as well as two one-day women's conferences.

TREASURY



ROBERT SUNDIN
UNDERTREASURER



ANNE VU
ASSISTANT TREASURER



PENNY FORD
ACCOUNTING CLERK



LYNN HORSCH
MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR

MISSION

Our mission is to be honest and accountable stewards of the funds God provides for the fulfilling of His mission through his church.

SUMMARY

As we review the past five years, the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) is grateful for the faithful stewardship of its members and friends as we wait for the return of Jesus. Each year, with the exception of 2012, there has been a positive increase in tithe donations and an increase in the operating net assets.

The treasurer and the entire treasury department ensure that financial policies and practices at the NPUC are consistent with general church guidelines and ethical financial principles. The treasurer provides monthly financial statements and reports to the executive committee members and departmental directors. He also acts as a counselor to local conference, university and academy treasurers. Personnel in this department take care of human resource issues, personnel records, and payroll and health benefits.

YEAR	TITHE RECEIVED	PERCENTAGE INCREASE	TITHE PER CAPITA
2011	87,207,844	2.85%	897.82
2012	86,841,919	-0.42%	883.75
2013	87,930,850	1.25%	892.52
2014	91,015,332	3.51%	919.48
2015	93,767,370	3.02%	939.66
	446,763,315	2.51%*	6.71%**

* Total compared to prior quinquennial tithe total

** Total per capita compared to 2010 tithe per capita

WHAT'S BEEN ACCOMPLISHED

EVANGELISM FUNDING — The North Pacific Union Conference is committed to providing increased evangelism funds to our local conferences each year. With the basic amount given each year, the NPUC has provided an additional 30 percent of evangelism funds to local conferences:

- Alaska Conference received a combined total of \$418,936.
- Idaho Conference received a combined total of \$483,982.
- Montana Conference received a combined total of \$437,286.
- Oregon Conference received a combined total of \$1,570,114.

- Upper Columbia Conference received a combined total of \$1,187,986.
- Washington Conference received a combined total of \$1,081,442.

EVANGELIST FUNDING — In addition to conference-directed subsidies, the NPUC is committed to staffing union evangelists to assist and provide evangelism meetings within our local conferences. Two teams of evangelists are employed within the NPUC — the only union in the North American Division to do so.

EDUCATION SUPPORT — The NPUC receives 2.35 percent of tithe from the North American Division for use within the K-12

education program. In addition, the NPUC contributes another 0.9 percent of tithe received for this function. Total allocation for the K-12 education program for this quinquennium was \$13,764,491. During this time, \$19,223,642 has been appropriated to Walla Walla University — \$5,473,383 from the NPUC and \$13,750,259 from local conferences.

TREASURER RELATIONS — During the past five years, we have assisted all of our six local conferences in converting to a new and efficient accounting and payroll software package from the North American Division office. We have annually conducted

FAST FACTS

1

\$678,022 was given by the NPUC for Hispanic scholarships within the K-12 educational program.

2

A total of \$19,223,642 was given by the NPUC and its conferences to Walla Walla University.

3

The NPUC received a **clean, unqualified audit** opinion for each year during this quinquennium.

4

In 1915, the NPUC received \$130,909 in tithe donated. One hundred years later, in 2015, the NPUC received \$93,767,370 in tithe donated.

MARK REMBOLDT
TREASURER



THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

FUNDING DIVERSITY — Provide additional funding for ethnic group ministry and the growing diversity within our territory.

INTERNSHIPS — We need to encourage our young graduates to add their talents to the church mission. We must provide additional funding for business interns to be employed within our conferences and academies.

WOMEN IN MINISTRY — We are committed to foster more opportunities for women to minister and to support them with additional funding.

TITHES TRENDS — During the past five years we saw the lowest quinquennial tithe increase (2.51 percent) since 1935. This compares with former quinquennial increases of 20 percent or more.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT — We must provide funding for local capital needs. The physical plants and campuses of our churches and schools are aging and in urgent need of renovation.

EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS — With the challenging costs of Adventist education, we must find ways to provide for the increasing need of educational scholarship funding.

ECONOMIZE — We must prayerfully find ways to decrease expenditures without undermining essential programs and support services.

a treasury council for all conference treasury personnel and academy vice presidents for finance. In this setting, we have discussed changes and developments of accounting practices and policies of the church and created a forum for interactive training. The NPUC is a mentor to its local financial leaders in how to communicate financial data clearly and distinctly to its constituents.

COMMUNICATION



**STEVE
VISTAUNET**
ASSISTANT TO
THE PRESIDENT,
GLEANER EDITOR



**ANTHONY
WHITE**
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,
DIGITAL MEDIA
COORDINATOR



**DESIREE
LOCKWOOD**
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT,
GLEANER PRODUCTION
COORDINATOR

MISSION

To foster a sense of Northwest church community and support conferences in helping members share their stories of Adventist message and mission.

SUMMARY

North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) communication personnel are focused partners with local conference colleagues in “telling the story” of Northwest Adventists in Action to members and the public through print, broadcast, video and social media technology.

FAST FACTS

1

More than **2 million pages** are printed each month to provide the *Gleaner* to Northwest Adventist homes.

2

During 2014–2015, the *Gleaner* received **eight awards** from the Society of Adventist Communicators, including Best Magazine, Best Feature, Best Column, Best Website and Best E-Newsletter.

3

Adventist media touches more than **150,000** listeners/viewers each week in the Northwest.

WHAT'S BEEN ACCOMPLISHED

WEBSITES — The *Gleaner* site has pioneered regularly updated news, articles and opportunities for Northwest member interaction.

ENHANCED CONTENT — A redesign of the print and online *Gleaner* format in 2014 has allowed for more immediate online stories and expanded perspective articles and visual appeal in print.

ACTIVE SOCIAL MEDIA — For its daily e-newsletter, Facebook and Twitter feeds during the 2015 General Conference session in San Antonio, Texas, the *Gleaner* team received a Best in Class award from the Society of Adventist Communicators for effective use of social media.

CENTRAL INFORMATION SOURCE — The NPUC and *Gleaner* websites have provided a common point for immediate information — to the farthest reaches of Alaska or Montana and around the world.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

MEMBER CONNECTIONS — We must evaluate how our communication resources can improve in connecting Adventists of differing ages with the church's mission.

ONLINE UPDATES — The NPUC and *Gleaner* websites must be regularly updated to remain on the cutting edge of effective online communication and 24/7 mobile access technology.

PUBLIC AWARENESS — We must find more productive ways of connecting our church's mission with real needs within our Northwest communities — and sharing these partnerships effectively.

CREATION STUDY CENTER



**STAN
HUDSON**
DIRECTOR



**MARELLA
RUDEBAUGH**
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT

MISSION

To raise the level of education throughout the Pacific Northwest regarding the scientific and scriptural support for a belief in the Genesis account of origins.

Revelation 14:6, 7: "Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth — to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people — saying with a loud voice, 'Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.'"

SUMMARY

The Creation Study Center is designed as a resource center for field trips, school presentations, church seminars and other activities that center on the Creator and His creation.

WHAT'S BEEN ACCOMPLISHED

STUDY CENTER — Space at the North Pacific Union Conference office has been renovated to provide a hands-on study center for members and students to learn more about creation topics.

CREATION PRESENTATIONS — Have presented numerous weeks of prayer for elementary schools and creation seminars to churches throughout the Northwest.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE — We will seek to find a balance in scheduling school weeks of prayer, church seminar weekends, and educational field trips for church leaders to sites like Mount St. Helens and Yellowstone.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT — We will seek to find or produce credible materials useful for churches and schools on related topics.

WEBSITE — We will develop a resource-heavy and highly interactive web presence.

FAST FACTS

1

Our **Creation Study Center** in Ridgefield, Washington, includes two large wall murals (of Mount St. Helens erupting and a dinosaur caught in the Genesis Flood), a gigantic 5-foot dinosaur femur bone, and a hands-on sand area where kids can dig up and keep fossils.

2

We are now scheduling **future presentations** for schools and churches — so find a date and get in touch.

3

Stan Hudson has been involved in creation study for many years and is a host of the **LifeTalk radio** program *Sink the Beagle*.

DISASTER RESPONSE



MISSION

To serve the poor and hurting in Christ's name.

SUMMARY

The North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) disaster response coordinator serves as a liaison with government agencies encompassing the NPUC and responds to requests for donations management, coordinating and supporting conference Adventist Community Services (ACS) leaders and volunteers activated to disasters. He also organizes annual advisories of conference ACS Disaster Response (DR) directors and North American Division leadership, including training events for ACS DR volunteers. He supports relationships with Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster Response (VOAD) and government agencies. The NPUC DR coordinator is a volunteer who is given an expense budget by the NPUC to support training events and travel expenses.

OUR TEAM

LARRY D. MAYS
NPUC COORDINATOR

BARNEY BATEY
ALASKA

DONNA CANTRELL
IDAHO

BARRY TAYLOR
MONTANA

LAURA PASCOE
OREGON

DOUG VENN
UPPER COLUMBIA

BYRON DULAN
WASHINGTON

EAST FACTS

1

Washington Conference ACS aided and consulted in **relief** and **donations** management for the Oso Landslide.

2

Upper Columbia, Oregon and Washington conferences have been involved in donations management, chain saw crews and relief for the Carlton Complex Fires, raising more than **\$70,000** for building recovery.

3

Cindy Cook of Brewster, Washington, operated an **ACS distribution center** for more than a year, aiding in the relief effort, and she is still involved.

WHAT'S BEEN ACCOMPLISHED

STORM RELIEF — Oregon, Upper Columbia and Idaho conferences sent ACS staff to operate multiagency warehouses in New York City and New Jersey in response to Hurricane Sandy.

FLOOD RESPONSE — Alaska Conference ACS DR volunteers led by Barney Batey ran donations management operations in response to the Yukon River Floods in cooperation with the state of Alaska.

DISASTER DRILLS — NPUC ACS DR personnel participated in the Cascade Rising Disaster Response Drill in Seattle, Washington.

ACS TRAINING — We annually train ACS DR volunteers in chain saw recovery, forklift operation, disaster preparedness, and volunteer and donated goods management.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS — Confirmed a Memorandum of Understanding with the state of Washington and the Oregon, Upper Columbia and Washington conferences. NPUC DR confirmed a temporary Memorandum of Understanding with the state of Alaska and the Alaska Conference.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

PROPHETIC WARNINGS — In addition to the news we see around us every day, inspired writings alert us to increasing disasters near the time of the end.

PREPAREDNESS — We must be ready to relieve suffering from disasters whenever and wherever they happen. Personal, family, community and institutional preparedness requires a plan, trained personnel, equipment and resources.

EDUCATION



DENNIS PLUBELL
VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATION

KEITH WATERS
SECONDARY DIRECTOR

PAT'I REVOLINKSKI
ELEMENTARY DIRECTOR

GOLDA PFLUGRAD
ECEC DIRECTOR

DEBBIE HENDRICKSON
REGISTRAR,
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

MISSION

Because Seventh-day Adventist education is a ministry integral to fulfilling the unique mission of the Adventist Church, the Office of Education is dedicated to implementing the mission of the church in the educational program.

SUMMARY

The Office of Education collaborates with the North American Division (NAD) in developing faith-based curriculum, educational standards for teaching and learning, and effective operational policies and in implementing accountability programs — school evaluations and teacher certification. We serve the local conference as consultant on educational policy and best practices. We develop and coordinate funding of special programs to ensure quality Christian education in Adventist schools in the Northwest.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED?

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE — Welcomed a new coordinator with education, experience and expertise and extended the available time allocated to assist local conferences in providing information and oversight and improving personnel effectiveness for early childhood programs.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT — Supported (with \$740,000) the development of educators' professional capacity at the 2012 NAD Teachers Convention, various national/local conferences and workshops, and NPUC councils and retreats. Counseled educators seeking certification and professional learning goals.

PROGRAM FUNDING — Provided nearly \$14 million in overall financial aid to Northwest schools through regular subsidies; for special programs that provide instructional resources; professional training; and student and teacher scholarships and awards.

QUALITY ASSURANCE — Administered policies and programs for school evaluation, teacher certification and professional development. Collaborated in creating new NAD principal and superintendent handbooks. Piloted a new digital, online school accreditation program.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

ENROLLMENT — Encourage and support local initiatives to: a) market the Adventist school, b) create funding partnerships, and c) recruit and retain students from a church and communities impacted by ongoing demographic, socioeconomic and philosophical shifts.

MISSION — Create opportunities for sharing the mission, core values and faith-aligned purpose of Adventist education as an integral ministry of reaching God's children and families.

FAST FACTS

1

This past school year (2015–2016) there were **515** certificated, full-time K–12 educators in **108** Adventist K–12 schools in the North Pacific Union Conference.

2

Enrollment in the 2015–16 school year was at **6,200** K–12 students across all NPUC schools. This was the first year with an **increase** (1.6 percent) in enrollment in the past five years.

3

In the last five years, funding programs unique to NPUC education have provided about **\$2.4 million** for “remote and necessary” small schools and **\$2.1 million** in direct subsidy to boarding academies.

HISPANIC MINISTRIES



CÉSAR DE LEÓN
VICE PRESIDENT FOR
HISPANIC MINISTRIES



SANDRA OSORIO
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT

MISSION

To support local conferences and their Hispanic pastors in fulfilling the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

SUMMARY

The North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) vice president for Hispanic ministries works with conference leadership to foster evangelistic activity and visioning for the future of the Hispanic work.

WHAT'S BEEN ACCOMPLISHED

QUALITY PASTORS — Worked with local conferences and churches to hire high-quality, committed pastors as leaders for growing Hispanic churches. The NPUC is blessed by having one of the most hardworking and committed pastoral teams in the North American Division.

COMMUNICATION — Produced “Acción,” a monthly Spanish-language feature in the *Gleaner*.

LOCAL EVANGELISM — The NPUC provided thousands of dollars to Hispanic churches to help with their evangelistic meetings. Each Hispanic pastor traditionally holds one to two evangelistic meetings a year.

CHURCH FUNDS — Between \$30,000 and \$40,000 sent each year from NAD/NPUC combined funds have helped remodel, repair or purchase more than 10 church buildings.

STUDENT FUNDS — Coordinated and distributed funds to help place Hispanic Adventist students in Adventist schools.

ADVISORY — Aided conferences and members in the process of hiring pastors and workers, as well as in other personnel issues.

SCHOOLS OF EVANGELISM — Provided workshops to train members in personal and public evangelism.

MULTIETHNIC CHURCHES — Planted several multiethnic churches to reach second- and third-generation Hispanics with English-language services.

FAST FACTS

1

Hispanic membership and tithes have both **increased 15 percent** over the last five years.

2

The NPUC Hispanic membership as of 2016 is **13,171**.

3

There are **72 Hispanic congregations** and **35 pastors** always seeking for ways to advance the kingdom of God in the Northwest.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

SMALL GROUPS — Training our ministerial team and congregations in a way to grow stronger and more relevant through the work of cell-groups — a setting where individuals’ personal, spiritual and social needs are met by a small community of believers.

CHILD INVOLVEMENT — Training our membership to involve the younger generation, including our children, to take active participation in the weekly programming of the local churches.

ADVENTIST EDUCATION — Keeping our Hispanic youth within the Adventist educational system, where they can learn about and adopt our vision and mission. The potential to double and triple our congregations in the next five to 10 years is achievable.

REPRESENTATION — Giving Hispanic leaders a place at the administrative table and strategic committees where their phenomenological experiences can be expressed and heard.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES



**LOREN
BORDEAUX**
DIRECTOR



**DANIEL
CATES**
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



**TAMI
EDWARDS**
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

MISSION

Facilitating ministry and growth.

SUMMARY

After much prayer and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit we will reach all people for God's kingdom by broadly employing technology. The North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) information technology department provides technology engineering, management and support service to NPUC and Northwest conference offices. Hardware is the foundation of all technology endeavors, but without software, hardware is useless. The NPUC information technology department is preparing to restart software development to further increase ministry effectiveness.

FAST FACTS

1

iPhones and iPads account for **74 percent** of mobile devices connecting to NPUC email services, Android 10 percent and Windows phone 8 percent.

2

Motivations behind **cyber attacks** making the news in 2015 included cybercrime (67 percent), hacktivism (21 percent), cyber espionage (10 percent) and cyber warfare (2 percent).

3

Worldwide there was an average of 160 successful cyber attacks per week in 2015 — three times the number in 2010. The average cost in the U.S. to deal with attacks is **\$15 million**, more than double the average cost in 2010.

WHAT'S BEEN ACCOMPLISHED

IMPROVED CONNECTIVITY — Most conference offices have 50–100 megabits per second of internet bandwidth.

ENGINEERING AND SUPPORT — Upgraded wired and wireless networks at several locations.

GREENER DATA ROOM — Re-engineered data room cooling system at NPUC to use outside air when temperatures are below 55 degrees, saving energy costs and extending air-conditioning equipment life.

MICROSOFT OFFICE 365 — Deployed at Alaska, Montana, Oregon and Washington conferences and NPUC.

PHONE SYSTEM — Upgraded phone system at Alaska and Oregon conferences and NPUC and installing new phone systems at Washington Conference and Sunset Lake Camp.

SOFTWARE UPDATES — Most client systems upgraded to Windows 8 or Windows 10 and latest versions of Microsoft Office. Maintained payroll software and upgraded trust management software.

ONGOING SUPPORT — Provided the technological needs for Alaska, Montana and Washington conferences as well as consultation and support for Idaho, Oregon and Upper Columbia conferences.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

CYBER SECURITY — It will cost more to stay ahead of cyberspace threats, but we must keep this a top priority even more today than before to ensure our church's mission continues to move forward.

TRAINING — New tools and new ways of doing things will only be used intelligently with training.

SERVICE OPTIONS — There are Software as a Service (SaaS) options galore, but it's important to know why, where and when to use them.

HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE — We will analyze, procure, develop and test to find the best hardware and software to accomplish our mission.

LEGAL COUNSEL



**ANDRE
WANG**
LEGAL COUNSEL



**SHARON
PIERSON**
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

MISSION

To provide effective and ongoing access to legal counsel to church leadership at the NPUC, conference and local church/school levels and to minimize legal risks and distractions in order to permit the church to actively focus on fulfilling its mission.

SUMMARY

The North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) Office of General Counsel provides guidance and advice to the NPUC as well as the six conferences in the territory for compliance with federal, state and local laws as well as denominational policy. It supplies a unique and valuable perspective because of its close association and understanding of the structure and operation of the church in areas such as contracts, corporate nonprofit issues, disability accommodation, employment, constitutional matters and real estate/property law.

WHAT'S BEEN ACCOMPLISHED

LEGAL ASSISTANCE — Provided legal counsel and advice to conference, church and school leadership.

ESTATE PLANNING — Prepared documents and provided counsel to conference trust departments and church members where such service was requested and ethically permissible.

LIABILITY ASSESSMENT — Assisted conferences and churches in finding the balance between legal protection and pastoral concerns.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

REFINE ATTORNEY ROLES — As church estate planning activities grow, we will assist conferences in locating and using independent attorneys to join with conference trust departments in providing quality estate planning to the client.

EMERGING LEGAL ISSUES — We will stay current of developing laws and issues in the areas of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), faculty/student and student/student supervision in schools, and LGBTQ areas of concern.

EAST FACTS

1

Andre Wang has served as NPUC General Counsel **since 2015**.

2

Wang is an **alumnus** of Portland Adventist Elementary and Auburn Adventist Academy and is **principal second violinist** for the Sunnyside Symphony Orchestra in Portland, Oregon.

3

He is an **adjunct instructor** of business law at Mount Hood Community College and ran for the Oregon State legislature in 2010.

LITERATURE MINISTRIES / SOULS NORTHWEST



JASON WORF
DIRECTOR

MISSION

To transform young adults into leaders who can go out into the communities of the Northwest, lead people to Jesus and teach our church members to do the same.

SUMMARY

The literature ministries department facilitates youth literature evangelism, outreach training for young adults, adult Bible worker programs and free literature distribution throughout the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC). SOULS Northwest functions as a leadership development school for all forms of outreach evangelism including literature evangelism, Bible work and health coaching.

VINCE ONKOBA
SOULS NORTHWEST
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

ALYSSA
MORAUSKE
SOULS NORTHWEST
OUTREACH/BIBLE WORK
COORDINATOR

MICHAEL
MORAUSKE
SOULS NORTHWEST MEN'S
DEAN AND RELIGION TEACHER

DAPHNE
ALVARADO
SOULS NORTHWEST WOMEN'S
DEAN AND HEALTH TEACHER

CARSTEN
MOUTRAY
SOULS NORTHWEST
LITERATURE EVANGELISM
COORDINATOR

FAST FACTS

1

Our efforts have delivered more than **235,000** books and **13 million** pieces of free literature after visiting more than **2 million** homes in the Northwest.

2

468 students have worked in our youth literature programs (Youth Rush), 58 have attended and 36 graduated from SOULS Northwest, and collectively they've found more than 1,500 Bible study interests as they've visited homes.

3

SOULS Northwest students get **84 college credits** and experience more than 2,000 hours of mentored ministry experience during their two-year training.

WHAT'S BEEN ACCOMPLISHED

LITERATURE MINISTRIES — Expanded literature ministries into Oregon and Montana conferences (Upper Columbia, Washington and Idaho conferences already had literature ministries programs at the beginning of this term).

INITIAL TRAINING PROGRAM — From 2012 to 2013, we operated a six-month training school called Northwest Mission Institute that trained 18 students to do Bible work and literature evangelism.

SOULS NORTHWEST — In the fall of 2013, we expanded our school to be able to train leaders in outreach. By 2014, we had doubled enrollment.

LITERATURE MINISTRIES LEADERSHIP — Since 2013, we have been intentionally developing leaders at four levels: 1) conference literature ministries leaders and SOULS Northwest staff; 2) local church outreach leaders; 3) student literature evangelism leaders; and 4) new leader acquisition for student literature programs and church outreach.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

NORTHWEST RECRUITMENT — We hope to increase “indigenous missionaries” who are from the Northwest and who will leave our ministry programs and school to work as outreach leaders in the Northwest.

CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP — Literature ministries tends to have a higher turnover ratio than other ministries. Continual leadership development and ongoing training is necessary to provide for the leadership gap.

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE MINISTRY — For an effective church-based program, the local conference needs to step up to design programs for ongoing training and support.

MINISTERIAL



CÉSAR DE LEÓN
DIRECTOR



MARELLA RUDEBAUGH
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

JASON & MISTY MORGAN
EVANGELISTS

BRIAN & HEIDI MCMAHON
EVANGELISTS

MISSION

The NPUC ministerial department is committed to supporting our local conferences to take the Adventist message to everyone living in the Northwest and beyond.

SUMMARY

The North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) believes in the priesthood of all the believers and that the core of the Adventist mission is at each local church. The ministerial department exists to encourage and support the local conferences and members in advancing the Adventist mission throughout the Northwest. In addition to the hundreds of pastors and lay members who are actively doing evangelism, the NPUC supports the conferences in the Northwest by employing two evangelistic teams: Brian and Heidi McMahon and Jason and Misty Morgan.

EAST FACTS

1

In the Northwest, there are about 14 million people and 100,014 Seventh-day Adventists, **a ratio of 1:140.**

2

There are **319 pastors** in the NPUC to assist members in carrying out their mission.

3

The Northwest, considered to be the **most secular** area in the U.S., offers the greatest opportunity for reaching people with the gospel.

WHAT'S BEEN ACCOMPLISHED

ONGOING TRAINING — The ministerial department has created weekend training to help members develop soul-winning skills.

GLOBAL MISSION — Organized annual mission opportunities in diverse places such as the Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Peru, Costa Rica and the Philippines.

LOCAL EVANGELISM — NPUC evangelists have assisted with more than 50 major reaping meetings in response to conference requests.

SOUL WINNING — More than 1,500 evangelistic meetings have been

conducted by pastors as well as lay leaders in the past five years.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT — One of five unions that offer the Andrews University Master of Arts in pastoral ministry program in both English and Spanish. In addition, the Ministerial Network Retreat provides training, resources and inspiration to ministerial directors, associates, personal ministries directors and evangelists.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

CONFERENCE PARTNERSHIPS — Our conferences' ministerial departments need to continue working together, sharing resources, dialoguing and creating pathways to do ministry more effectively in the 21st century.

SOCIAL MEDIA — Our pastors need to learn to use social media for communicating ideas, programs, visions and a sense of mission in a culturally relevant manner in and out of the parish setting.

SHEPHERDS — Our pastors need to be encouraged to return to "being shepherds" and not merely "second-service preachers."

THE UNCHURCHED — We must find creative ways to reach the unchurched. We have in our backyard the city with the most unchurched people per capita in the United States — Portland, Oregon.

NATIVE MINISTRIES



MONTE CHURCH
DIRECTOR



STEVE HUEY
MINISTRY ASSISTANT
(PART TIME)



MARELLA RUDEBAUGH
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

MISSION

To become a partner with Northwest Native groups in seeking to better their lives physically, mentally and spiritually by grooming and mentoring leadership for them.

To promote Native American evangelistic outreach and to provide tools for outreach slanted toward Native culture.

SUMMARY

The North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) has a unique approach to Native ministry. The challenges of reaching Native groups in the vast reaches of the Northwest are enormous. Isolation can create difficulties for maintaining active church groups and Native workers. Yet, Native members make up some of the staunchest parts of the Northwest Adventist mission.

WHAT'S BEEN ACCOMPLISHED

LEADERSHIP TRAINING — Encouragement and training of Native workers in fulfilling their mission to Native populations on a one-on-one basis and arranging for them continued education training.

NATIVE NEW DAY VIDEOS — Finished 26 video evangelistic outreach videos, which are being used across the nation as well as in foreign countries. It is likely every Native person baptized in the last four years has been touched in some way by these videos. Interestingly they are used in many locations by other denominations as a primary outreach tool. Three of these pastors as well as their members have now become Sabbath-keepers.

BIBLE WORKERS — Our department has helped to provide Bible workers specifically for the Native populations within our local conferences.

CAMP MEETINGS — Our department has continued to provide additional coordination and programming for conducting seven annual Native camp meetings. These are a tremendous boost in outreach to Native people in remote areas.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

NEW VIDEO TOPICS — We are in the process of raising funds to produce another 13 *Native New Day* videos on topics related to Native lifestyle issues. Five episodes of this new series have already been financed and produced.

COORDINATION WITH NAD — We will continue to increase coordination of the Native work across the country in cooperation with the North American Division leadership.

MENTORING NEW LEADERSHIP — A new ministry assistant, Steve Huey, has come aboard the NPUC Native ministries office this year to be mentored for future leadership.

FAST FACTS

1

Monte Church travels more than **120,000 miles** every year to visit far-flung Native groups throughout the NPUC.

2

There are **17 Native churches** and companies in the NPUC, with nearly **2,400 members**.

3

Three new Native **church buildings** have been built since last constituency session.

NORTHWEST RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ASSOCIATION



GREGORY W. HAMILTON
PRESIDENT



RHONDA BOLTON
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

MISSION

To champion the constitutional guarantee of religious freedom for all people of faith in its government relations and workplace mediation services.

SUMMARY

The North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) continues to champion the principles of religious liberty in the public arena as a ministry to all people of faith and for its members. The Northwest Religious Liberty Association (NRLA) provides professional legislative advocacy services, as well as legal guidance, mediation, representation and referral services in the workplace, home, schools, prisons and military. It provides noncombatancy letters connected to immigration and naturalization applications.

WHAT'S BEEN ACCOMPLISHED

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS — Active in State Religious Freedom Restoration Act efforts in Alaska and Montana, both in defeating radical versions and advancing moderate versions, including helping to defeat a couple of related bills in Idaho. Also active in getting legislative sponsorship for a Workplace Religious Freedom Act (WRFA) in Washington state.

PUBLIC CONTACTS — Developed substantial contacts throughout the Northwest with state and federal lawmakers, as well as interfaith leaders, through our team of capitol pastors.

PUBLIC AWARENESS — Participated in civic, academic and interfaith events in the Northwest and Washington, D.C., and especially in Romania, where NRLA influenced senators in that nation's parliament to discourage a six-day workweek law. That law would

have allowed Sunday rest only and the constitutional recognition of the Romanian Orthodox Church as the only state-approved religion.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES — Provided sermons, seminars for churches and public events, including law school lectures, and participated in national symposiums on the subject of international religious freedom policy at the Newseum in Washington, D.C., and the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City.

WORKPLACE MEDIATION — Consulted 167 individuals in 2010 alone.

ONLINE RESOURCES — Check us out at nrla.com and at our Northwest Religious Liberty Association Facebook page.

FAST FACTS

1

The NRLA works within legislative, civic, judicial, academic, interfaith, evangelical and corporate arenas on behalf of the church and all people and institutions of faith.

2

Since 2011, the NRLA has mediated on behalf of **952 individuals** in the corporate workplace and other public venues.

3

The NRLA was **founded in 1906** and is the oldest and most respected religious freedom advocacy organization in the Northwest.

NATHAN STEARMAN
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ALASKA

STEPHEN MCPHERSON
VICE PRESIDENT FOR IDAHO

MORRIS BRUSETT
VICE PRESIDENT FOR MONTANA

LARY BROWN
VICE PRESIDENT FOR OREGON

JONATHAN FETRICK
VICE PRESIDENT FOR WASHINGTON

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

STRATEGIC VISION — As religious discrimination for people of faith rises, we will strive to balance the increasing demand with legislative remedies and public awareness efforts.

PLANNED GIVING, TRUST SERVICES



**KIMBERLY
SCHROEDER**
DIRECTOR



**ALLEE
CURRIER**
TREASURER



**CHRISTIANA
PARRIS**
ASSISTANT TREASURER



**BONNIE
RHOADES**
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



**DEBBIE
MORAUSKE**
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

MISSION

The planned giving and trust services department cultivates, designs and facilitates gifts to further the work of the Adventist Church throughout the NPUC.

SUMMARY

While North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) provides specialized gift planning through charitable gift annuities, irrevocable trusts and donor-advised funds, our local conferences, schools and university are supported with matured gifts.

FAST FACTS

1

\$29 million in trusts and annuities are administered annually, representing nearly 300 charitable documents.

2

Distributed **\$8.8 million** in benefits to donors and nearly **\$12.3 million** to beneficiaries in the last five years to benefit family members, local conference ministries and other mission-driven organizations.

3

Membership support of the NPUC Revolving Fund provided financing for **75 local church** and **school building** projects.

WHAT'S BEEN ACCOMPLISHED

ACCREDITATION — Maintained Level A accreditation for all Northwest local conference trust services departments by providing training and certification.

SEMINAR ASSISTANCE — Assisted local conferences in preparing and presenting financial and estate-planning seminars.

TRUST MANAGEMENT — In cooperation with local conferences, managed trust and annuity documents.

REVOLVING FUND — Administered the Revolving Fund, which provides much-needed resources for facility advancement.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

INSPIRATION — Provide inspiring stories and videos that illustrate the impact that planned gifts have on ministry throughout the NPUC territory and beyond.

DONOR RELATIONSHIPS — Continue outreach to meet the needs of project-based donors through planned giving opportunities.

APPRECIATION — Maintain positive donor relationships that confirm they are a part of our ministry and their gift plans are appreciated.

REGIONAL, MULTICULTURAL, YOUTH



**ALPHONSO
MCCARTHY**
VICE PRESIDENT FOR
REGIONAL MINISTRIES

**PAT'RIC
PARRIS**
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT

MISSION

To provide spiritual and financial support to the Northwest regional work and resources for conferences to empower youth and young adults for Christ-centered ministry.

SUMMARY

The North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) facilitates, networks and sponsors events to help maintain a sense of cultural identity and unity in multicultural and multigenerational work. The director promotes issues of diversity, family life, prison ministry and human relations throughout the Northwest.

WHAT'S BEEN ACCOMPLISHED

REGIONAL CONVOCATION — Improved the programming and added young adult programming to provide training, spiritual nurturing and fellowship for regional church members.

PATHFINDERS/YOUTH — Provided leadership and support for 3,200 Northwest Pathfinders attending the NAD 2014 NPUC Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Provided leadership and support for the 2013 West Coast Youth Congress, NPUC Bible conferences, and 2016 NPUC youth and young adult leadership.

NAD REGIONAL MINISTRY — During the past five years, distributed funds from the NAD Special Assistance and Capital Reversion funds to help the regional work in the Northwest. Portland, Oregon, has hosted two evangelistic meetings.

PRISON MINISTRY — Sponsored NPUC Prison Ministry Convention in 2014 and 2016. Provided training and networking for prison ministry volunteers.

TRAINING SUBSIDIES — Provided subsidies to NPUC youth leaders to attend NAD training and workshops. Sponsored Bible worker training and certification program.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY — Supported and worked with Walla Walla University administration to encourage ethnic professors to come to WWU and continue to help increase the enrollment of multicultural students. Co-sponsored Black History Weekend and U-Days every year.

MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY — Established an Asian/Pacific advisory and a refugee immigrant ministry program.

EAST FACTS

1

The Regional Affairs Office celebrated its **40th annual** Convocation in May 2016.

2

There are more than **150** NPUC Pathfinder Clubs. Many clubs qualified to participate in the NPUC Bible Experience and NAD Bible Experience events.

3

There are **three** new immigrant congregations in the NPUC.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH — Increase ethnic membership with the support of unionwide evangelistic meetings and Bible worker training, and implement recovery ministries in each church.

CHURCH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE — Provide matching subsidies for K-12 students and Walla Walla University and Oakwood University students who want to attend Adventist schools.

CHURCH BUILDING FUNDS — Assist in funding repairs and renovations of church buildings for our regional congregations.

WHAT ABOUT THOSE AUDITORS?

Every Northwest Adventist institution has an obligation to carry out its mission with an honest regard for financial accountability. Part of that accountability comes in the form of regular audits of financial records — many of which are done by the staff from the regional office of the General Conference Auditing Services (GCAS) located in Vancouver, Washington. Recently the *Gleaner* asked Don Lloyd, the regional GCAS manager, for an overview of the typical auditing process.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES OF A GCAS AUDITOR?

The main responsibility for our team of six auditors is to report whether church entities (academies, Adventist Book Centers, conferences, the union, etc.) have prepared their financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and complied with denominational policies. We examine the financial records of each organization and determine if their financial statements are compliant. In addition, we perform a review of core policies compiled by the General Conference (GC) and adopted by the North American Division (NAD).

Once we have completed our work, we issue a report to that institution's operating board on whether its financial statements are presented fairly and if they comply with generally accepted accounting principles as accepted by the denomination. We also include a report on our evaluation of the organization's internal controls.

GCAS only audits institutions that are included in the *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook*. Local churches, junior academies and elementary schools have reviews done by the local conference. We perform an annual financial audit for each organization on our list and a review of each local conference trust program once every three years. Each year we generally have 26 financial audits and a couple of conference trust reviews.

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL SCHOOL OR CONFERENCE AUDIT NOT DO?

A financial audit does not make a final determination on whether an organization is financially healthy, although we do evaluate whether the organization will be able to operate at least 12 months after the end of the fiscal year. Our goal is to ensure that the financial statements are fairly, accurately and honestly stated so the organization's management and governing board can make informed decisions regarding its direction.

WHAT DOES AN AUDIT COST? WHO PAYS FOR THEM?

The North American Division pays for 50 percent of the cost of the audit. Within the Northwest, the North Pacific Union Conference pays 25 percent, and the remaining 25 percent is passed on to the local conference where the audited institution is based.

WHY DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND FULFILLMENT IN THIS WORK?

This work has enabled me to use my interest in financial accountability to help the mission of our church. As followers of Jesus and His teachings, we need to be honest and transparent with everything we do — including how we carefully manage the resources that so many of our members have sacrificed to share.

READ MORE ABOUT THE AUDITORS AT GLNR.IN/111-09_AUDITORS.



WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

A REPORT TO THE CONSTITUENCY OF WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

FAITH LEARNING

At Walla Walla University, learning takes place within a framework of faith. “It’s the context in which we conduct our academic pursuits,” says Bob Cushman, vice president for academic administration. “Faith pervades the entire range of life and learning here.”

Many faculty members start classes with a devotional thought, discuss faith issues that intersect with subject matter and pray with students. Faculty members also encourage exercising faith as they model their own commitment to Adventist beliefs and prepare students to speak intelligently in a secularized world.

A prime example of the many tangible ways that students, in turn, apply what they learn is the Independent Colleges of Washington (ICW) Ethics Bowl, a full-day competition among student teams from the 10 member colleges of the ICW. Each college sends a team to debate in a competitive setting, using cases that explore ethical issues that are relevant today.

Students who participate in Ethics Bowl say it is one of the most valuable things they have done at WWU. One such student, Acacia Chan, '16, was a member of the team for three years and is pursuing a master's degree in religion at Yale Divinity School.

“Throughout my childhood, I loved gathering useless information, but in Ethics Bowl I was able to gather useful facts and apply them in a way that blended classical moral theories and current events,” says Chan. “Because of this experience, I am an informed, active participant in political

and social discussions. I’ve learned to structure my thoughts in a way that conveys information to other people in winsome and easy-to-follow ways. Going into academia and education, this lesson is hugely important and will influence my teaching style for the rest of my career.”

Another example of the union of faith and learning at WWU is evident in computer science classes. “The concept of service is built into our curriculum from freshman-level introductory courses, which include contributing to free open-source projects, to senior-level capstone experiences, which require students to take on a major programming project,” says Jonathan Duncan, computer science department chairman. “Our courses and faculty encourage students to approach computer science from a Christian worldview, examining concepts such as artificial intelligence and ethics from the unique perspective of a believer.”



EXCELLENCE IN THOUGHT AND PURPOSEFUL STEWARDSHIP

Among the many highlights on campus during the last five years are:

COMPETITIVE EXAM RESULTS — WWU students consistently score at or above national averages on standardized tests in a wide range of fields, including chemistry, business, literature and biology.

COURSES OFFERED ONLINE — Disciplines that offer online classes include social work, education, psychology, math, religion, history, English, business, computer science and graphic design.

INCREASE IN FIRST-TIME FRESHMAN ENROLLMENT — In fall 2012, WWU enrolled the largest freshman class in nearly two decades. In each year since, the freshman class has been larger than classes recorded in the 17 years prior to 2012.

HIGHER AVERAGE GPA — The high school grade point average for 2011–2015 prospective student cohorts averaged 3.512, up from 3.420 for 2006–2010 cohorts.

IMPROVED COMMUNICATION — We rolled out a new website that is more accessible and works well on mobile platforms, improved online enrollment tools for students, and developed a WWU smartphone app.

MINIMAL TUITION INCREASES — Thanks in part to a generous scholarship program, tuition costs haven't been raised more than 2 percent in any of the last five years.

LAUNCH OF A COCURRICULAR TRANSCRIPT — This collection of student activities and involvement outside the classroom provides an official record of awards, leadership, professional development and service.

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS — Improvements include ensuring accessibility in compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act; installing fire sprinkler systems in several buildings; adding and improving outdoor lighting; creating collaborative learning spaces; improving residence halls; remodeling the new building for the School of Social Work in Missoula, Montana; adding new cabins at the Rosario Beach Marine Laboratory; and remodeling the gym and adding a new wood gym floor.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

This report is an abbreviated version of the Walla Walla University report for delegates to the 2016 North Pacific Union Conference Quinquennial Constituency Session, scheduled for September 25, 2016.

AS WE MOVE FORWARD

As we look to the future, the challenges we face include:

- » Growing and developing new and existing academic programs in an environment where resources are limited;
- » Balancing our mission with the market and maintaining our identity and purpose in a culture that is rapidly shifting toward challenging Christian ideals;
- » Finding and establishing communication channels in new markets given lower enrollment in Adventist academies;
- » Recognizing increased activism and more vocal protest about social-justice issues by students;
- » Working with state and federal regulations related to Title IX and LGBTQ compliance;
- » Updating and renovating student residential living spaces that integrate technology;
- » Keeping tuition affordable.



GIVING THANKS

“The Apostle Paul urges us to give thanks ‘always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ’ (Ephesians 5:20, ESV),” says John McVay, WWU president. “Such thanksgiving is rooted in reflecting on the past, recalling blessings and challenges. As we at Walla Walla University have reviewed the quinquennium just past, 2011–2016, it has indeed cued thanksgiving to God.”

“You have read here record of initiatives to further strengthen the excellent spiritual and academic mission of Walla Walla University,” says McVay. “God’s blessings, though, have outstripped our efforts, diligent as they have been. He has taken our little and made much of it. We invite you to join us in giving thanks to God, from whom all blessings flow.”

*Kim Strobel, Walla Walla University
marketing and university relations supervisor*



CLASS of 2016

Alix Harris

“Attending WWU meant leaving home and starting a life full of new places, people and experiences.

At the beginning of my freshman year, I was terribly homesick. I missed my family and friends and the familiarity of home. One Tuesday evening near the end of my first quarter, I was sitting in Heubach Chapel at a worship service, and I suddenly realized that I wasn't so homesick anymore. Listening to the students around me singing praises to God in the low candlelight of the chapel, I realized that WWU was a family and I wasn't alone. To me, that's why this is such a special place – WWU is family.

Earning my degree at a university where faith in God is a central theme has shaped the way I look at my future. Studying at WWU has shown me how service and faith go hand in hand. I want my career to be one of service to God and my community.



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

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Tom Evans
Dan Jackson

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Jim Berglund
Gretchen Bowers
Dale Bryson
Dick Clark
César De León
Colin Dunbar
Stephen Evenson
Gary Fogelquist
John Freedman
Dale Galusha
Erig Haeger
Katie Harris
Gene Heinrich
Rollin Hixson
Paul Hoover
Merlin Knowles
John Loor Jr.
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Alphonso McCarthy
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Kevin Miller
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Robert Hastings

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David Bullock
Bob Cushman
Annette Riebe
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Niqlas Ruud
Dave Thomas

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Greg Hamilton
Stan Hudson
Steve Vistaunet

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Steve Lloyd
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Sue Patzer
Patti Revolinski
Robert Sundin
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Stephen Libby
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Ken Robbins
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Trina Sandvik
David Shin
Tau Siaki
Denise Tank
Don West

IDAHO CONFERENCE

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Ila Cockrum
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Ron Kyle
Talea Kyle
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Shirley Allen
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Gloria Beerman
Stanley Beerman
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Lutz Binus

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Kevin Miller
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Joan Oksenholt
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E. Joel Reyes
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Lisanette Vargas
Oswaldo Villalobos
Andy Villanueva
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Andrew Wittenburg
Larry Witzel
Darla Wold
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Richard Wright

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Alareece Collie
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Tye Davis
Shane Del Vecchio
Aldora DePaula
Lynette Dickerson
Saul Dominguez
Mable Dunbar
Maria Duron
Jon Dybdahl

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Renee Harms
Jennifer Hoffpauir
Melinda Irvine
Alyce Ispirescu
Judy Jenner
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Wayne Kablanow
Jeffrey Kinne
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Monty Knittel
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Lloyd Perrin
Phyllis Radu
Alvaro Sauza
Patti Schultz
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Teddy Shupe
Sherie Skeels
Robert Spady
Brent Stanyer
Robert Steele
Daniel Stolp
Tiffany Stratte
Melissa Taylor
Randall Terry
Michael Tillay
Ronni Trueblood
Leann Tupper
Ron Turner
Robert Van Dorn
Jeremy Vetter
Erik Wenberg

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Stephan Dulan
Matthew Enders
Jonathan Fetrick
Matthew Gilkey
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Gloria Henry
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In Seok Jeon
Jose Jerez
Jeff Keating
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Jaimie Kraus
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Gayle Lasher
Gary Ledbetter
EuGene Lewis
Mileen Loeffler
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John Mutchler
Angel Ogando
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John Soule
Ron Sydney
Fred Toailoa
Cindy Tutsch
Scott Tyman
Tiana Waterbrook
Kevin Wilfley
David Yeagley
Carmen Zarabia

The delegates on these pages represent those individuals or positions designated as of the press time for this issue of the *Gleaner*.

Article VII of the North Pacific Union Conference constituency session points out that the voting delegates at any regular or special constituency meeting of this union shall be:

a. Appointed delegates which shall represent the local conferences within the NPUC territory. Each local conference shall be entitled to three delegates without regard to conference membership and one additional delegate for each 400 church members or major fraction thereof, based on its membership on the last day of the third full calendar quarter preceding the constituency meeting. Not less than 50 percent of the delegates in this category shall be individuals other than active or retired church pastors, officers, department directors, associate or assistant department directors of General Conference, division, union, or local conferences. Delegates shall be selected in a manner determined by each local conference executive committee unless otherwise specified by the local conference constitution.

b. The following ex-officio and other delegates.

- » The individual members of the Executive Committee of this union.
- » The individual members of the General Conference Executive Committee who may be present at any constituency meeting of this union. The number of such delegates representing the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists shall not exceed 5 percent of the total number of

appointed delegates provided for hereinabove in Section 2.a. of Article VIII.

- » The Vice President for Academic Affairs, the chairman of the School of Theology of Walla Walla University, plus three additional delegates selected by and representing the faculty and staff of Walla Walla University, and two additional delegates selected by and representing the students of Walla Walla University. The student delegates shall hold membership in one of the churches within this territory.
- » Two employees of Adventist Health, chosen by its governing board. At least one of these individuals shall be the president of a hospital within this Union territory.
- » Two employees of Pacific Press Publishing Association, chosen by its governing board.
- » The members of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee of this union.
- » The directors of all recognized departments of this union, as determined by the Executive Committee of this union conference.
- » Such other persons as may be selected by the Union Conference Executive Committee, including officers of the North Pacific Union Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists. The total number of delegates from this category shall not exceed 5 percent of the total number of appointed delegates provided for herein above in Section 2.a. of Article VIII.

DESAFÍOS VICTORIOSOS

Son las 9:30 de la mañana y la congregación canta “Firmes y Adelantes” unánimes y con gozo, a medida que más hermanos siguen llegando a la iglesia hispana de Olympia, Wash. Con un promedio de ochenta personas que atentamente escuchan el mensaje, sábado a sábado estos hermanos se reúnen, alaban y adoran a nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Después del culto cada sábado conviven y comen juntos compartiendo sus platillos favoritos. Esta es una de las cualidades que hace de esta congregación ser especial y que a las visitas les gusta. Salen muy contentos porque encuentran una hermandad y amistad en los hermanos, y un mensaje verdadero de paz y esperanza.

Debido a su localidad geográfica es un desafío real para la iglesia adventista hispana de Olympia hacer llegar el mensaje a cada hogar hispano. Siete años atrás no había iglesia hispana en la capital de Washington y los hermanos que han vivido en Olympia asistían a otras iglesias hispanas como Tacoma y Chehalis (Wash.) y si no había oportunidad de viajar se congregaban en las iglesias americanas. Pero gracias a Dios poco a poco se abrió las puertas para iniciar oficialmente una iglesia adventista de habla hispana. Los hermanos locales junto con hermanos de otras iglesias, sacrificando distancia decidieron dedicarse al pleno para que la obra hispana siguiera adelante.

Hoy cada departamento está dispuesto a colaborar con la obra misionera, y los jóvenes de la iglesia hispana de Olympia participan con las actividades de Federación de Jóvenes Adventistas (FEJA) y de la conferencia; manteniendo el crecimiento y animando a la iglesia a seguir adelante.

La congregación ha estado pidiendo a Dios por un templo propio en el cual poder congregarse libremente. En dos oportunidades estuvieron cerca de comprar una iglesia pero por mucho que trabajaron por comprarlos ninguno de ellos se hizo realidad. Aunque tristes pero no desanimados, los hermanos de Olympia han seguido sus oraciones para tener un lugar propio en el cual poder adorar al Creador. El

Señor ha obrado un milagro para que la iglesia hispana tenga su propio templo, habiendo sido bendecidos por Dios, quien mando un donante que les está ayudando a comprar un lote y a construir un edificio propio. Los hermanos están muy contentos y muy animados a nunca dudar en las promesas de Dios y a seguir trabajando, haciendo más sacrificios para que su sueño sea hecho realidad. Los hermanos continuaran proclamando las buenas nuevas y ganando almas para el Señor en la ciudad de Olympia y sus alrededores.

Mauricio Espinoza, anciano de la iglesia de Olympia



SELAWIK HOLDS BAPTISM

For years, Marie Savok looked forward to the day her husband, Peachy, became a baptized member of the Adventist Church. That day finally arrived on July 9.

Marie was baptized many years earlier. Her own parents, Paul and Bessie Ballot, were among the first people in Selawik to join the Adventist Church more than 75 years ago. Though Peachy has been supportive of the church all along, employment issues delayed his baptism for a long time.

Peachy counts among his mentors former missionaries John Topkok, Mark Carr, Ken Nash, Don Harris, Warren Downs, and Jim and Linda

Kincaid. He also gives credit to his wife, Marie, and fellow church members Fred Davis, Daniel and Amelia Davis, Ed and Helen Loon, and others.

Sometimes missionaries and church administrators alike question the wisdom of the continual investment of critical funds in mission work in a place that is so expensive to operate and results are sometimes slow in coming. When we witness the power of God in the lives of people, it makes the investment of time and resources seem more than worthwhile.

Alaska members appreciate the commitment of those who give of their resources so that missionaries can live, work and travel to



Paul "Peachy" Savok stands by the baptistry with his wife, Marie, and Jim Kincaid following Peachy's baptism on Sabbath, July 9.

these far-flung places. If you would like to experience living with and working for the Alaska Native people, contact the Alaska Conference at 907-346-1004. There are almost always openings that need to

be filled. Tell the person who answers the phone you are interested in the Arctic Mission Adventure Program.

Jim Kincaid, Alaska Native ministries director

PALMER CHURCH HOLDS VBS

The excitement was high at the Palmer Church during the month of June, in anticipation of the first Vacation Bible School held in many years.

The preparations had been in the works for weeks. The fliers had been placed throughout town, the youth had hand-delivered invitations around the surrounding neighborhoods, and the banner was placed out front.

Now everyone had to wait and see what God would do June 13-18.

He didn't disappoint. Forty children from the community came the first day. That rose to 75 by the end of the week.

The Palmer Church team used Creation Health's VBS program called "Team CREATION." The kids loved it, and the staff had a lot of fun doing it.

The week ended with a special Sabbath closing program as part of the church service. During this time, the kids were given an opportunity to share their experiences in each of the different stations they went through. They also sang their theme song.

The biggest highlight of the week was when each child who had been there every day received their Bible. The pure joy on their faces as they

realized the Bible was their very own was heart-touching.

VBS is a lot of work, but the Palmer Church has an amazing group of youth and adults who value child evangelism. They are already excited about next year and can't wait to see how God will bless because "children are a gift from the Lord" (Ps. 127:3).

Melony Coleman, Palmer Church member

GOD'S MIRACLE BRINGS MERIDIAN MORTGAGE-BURNING

More photos online at glnr.in/111-09-id_meridian

If there is one thing members of the Meridian Church know, it is this: The story of how their church came to be is nothing less than a miracle. They celebrated God's providence in a mortgage-burning ceremony and shared the following story on June 25.

A group of believers from the Boise Church found and purchased a small, one-story brick building in Meridian in 1975. They paid \$39,000 in cash. Members came together to renovate and decorate, and, on Oct. 1, 1976, the Meridian Church was officially organized with 62 charter members and Philip Samaan as its first pastor.

For the next 15 years, the little church continued to thrive because members had a dream: to one day purchase a new and bigger church. In 1988, they found 3 1/4 acres of prime property on Ten Mile and Cherry Lane being sold by an estate that specifically wanted the land to go for a church. The selling price was

only \$25,000.

Once the Meridian Church members had paid for the land, they sold their old church and rented from a United Methodist church. Ground was broken in 1995, and building began in phases, starting with classrooms and a multipurpose room.

As Meridian Church members were burning that mortgage and preparing to begin the last phase of building the sanctuary, they were approached by Walgreens, which wanted the prime location for a new store. The offer was declined.

Walgreens persisted and, two years later, in 2005, made an incredible offer. In exchange for the property on Ten Mile, Walgreens would build a church on 5 acres of land and hand over the keys to the congregation. The offer was accepted, and the members voted to take out a small loan to extend the building and enable room for further growth. Members began worshipping

EVE RUSK



The Mauricio brothers — (from left) Jesse, Michael and Bryan — from the Caldwell Church provide song service leadership for the worship service.

in their beautiful, brand-new church in October 2006.

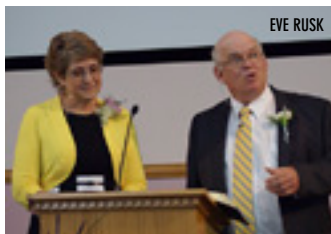
The Meridian Church will mark its 40th year as a congregation this October. Like many churches across North America, Meridian Church has seen many pastors and interns come and go over the years. But members' commitment to being a light in their community has never dimmed.

And now they have another dream: to further

impact their community through developing an outreach strategy that will meet the needs of the people of Meridian. Working closely with the mayor's office and the Idaho Conference office, Meridian Church members are excited to see how the Lord will continue to lead and bless as they strive to shine their light across the Treasure Valley.

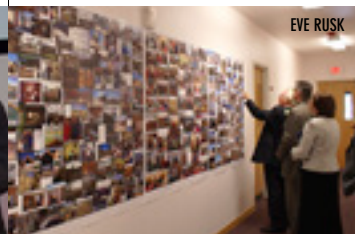
Karen Pearson, Meridian Church communication leader

EVE RUSK



Pastor Michael Pearson and his wife, Karen, give the sermon, "What Would Jesus Do?"

EVE RUSK



Members and visitors look over the wall of pictures from the church's history.

EVE RUSK



Four of the charter members were in attendance: (from left) Tim Kromrei, Dottie Kromrei, Thea Matlock and Sylvia Spencer Douglas.

EVE RUSK



Alex and Luba Korotkih, members of the Russian church that rents space from the Meridian Church, share special music for the church service.

MONTANA YOUTH RUSH PARTNERS WITH LOCAL CHURCHES

Read more online at glncr.in/111-09-mt_youthrush



The Montana Youth Rush program partnered this summer with local churches to reach their local communities for Christ. More than 20 students took on the privilege of carrying God's truth door to door to more than 20 cities and towns in Montana. As part of their outreach work, they invited people from six communities to attend the Shadow Empire weekend seminars presented in partnership with the Voice of Prophecy and local church pastors.

Four eastern Montana churches — Glendive, Hardin, Miles City and Sydney — hosted the Shadow Empire series. Church members had the opportunity to meet influential people in their communities who are looking for answers to Bible questions.

Montana Conference was excited to again partner with young people to reach their territory and see many answers to prayer as doors opened, books were placed in homes and people made decisions to study the Bible with local church members.

One student met a former believer in Butte who had become an atheist. Through the conversation, the student was able to point the man back to the Great Controversy and left him with a DVD, *Theodicy*, which answers his questions



Montana Youth Rush workers bring enthusiasm to their summer of bringing God's good news to doors all over Montana.

about the origin of evil.

In Kalispell, a student happened to give a small *Steps to Christ* to a UPS driver. Later that day, the driver stopped in front of a home where another student was sharing the books with the woman of the house. When the driver recognized the book as the same one given to him, he asked the student to visit his home just a few blocks away in about an hour when he got off work.

When the student stopped at his home, the driver commented on how happy the students were and shared how he too wanted to have that same joy and peace. He took several books, and the student encouraged him to attend the local Adventist church.

Ellen White tells us to expect just such miracles: "If we recognize Christ as the One who is with us to prepare the way, the Holy Spirit by our side will make impressions in just the lines needed" (*Colporteur Ministry*, p. 140).

Many of the Montana Youth Rush team came from Montana, while others came from as far away as Hawaii and Florida. This work helps them prepare to work in their local churches and communities. Several of them are also going to work as foreign missionaries in other countries, like Egypt and Cambodia, after this summer.

Montana Conference leaders are excited for these youth and look forward to learning the rest of the story as they watch God working on hearts and lives of the people in Montana.

Marshall McKenzie, Montana Conference literature ministry director, with Rosemary McKenzie and Judy Benjamin

MARSHALL MCKENZIE



The Montana Conference is grateful to the Voice of Prophecy for making the extra effort to work with local churches to make these events possible.

More photos online at
glnr.in/111-09-or_campmeeting

A GLIMPSE OF CAMP MEETING

Each morning about 10, I walked through the Gladstone campground to the Junior tent where life was going full throttle. Along the way, I prospected for gold nuggets at the Butterfly playground, was thoroughly tempted by the

gave me included almost all of the available seminars, and each person told me (eagerly) the seminar they had just come from was “the very best ever.” They said it was “like college all over again ... but without the grades!” Everyone laughed and began planning what to do after their afternoon nap.

about the obscure power surges and other electronic glitches that slip in uninvited, always at the worst possible moments.

Though much of the campground is loud with conversations, singing, laughing and the joyful sounds of children playing, there is one place that is always quiet: the Garden of Prayer. Walking through the green arch is like walking into another dimension, a place where quiet rules and conversations are whispered personal confidences between servants and the Master — quiet, but a place of extreme energy.

Each evening, as Mike Tucker began his presentation, I watched the sun bathe the congregation in a golden glow as it sank over Oatfield Road. It was as if the Holy Spirit was

in Gladstone, painting tongues of golden fire on those who were choosing to be members in ministry.

I photographed a baptism Friday afternoon. One young woman was in the baptistery while Pastor Benjamin Lundquist stood outside and performed the “Death of the Old and Life to the New” ceremony. The room was filled with angels celebrating along with Madison Baete, her mom, two of her best friends and a dozen other young adults.

Dick Duerksen, Oregon Conference assistant to the president for creative ministries



The obstacle course is always popular, and this year was no exception.



DICK DUERKSEN

Madison Baete (middle) celebrates her Friday baptism with her best friends.

fragrance of fried Pronto Pups wafting through the trees and wondered about the shouts that came from the amphitheater when the Reptile Man dropped an alligator on Pastor Saustin Mfune’s head.

From the hilltop, I heard kids screaming down the waterslide, tractors pulling wagons filled with “hay riders” and parrots begging for crackers.

I asked a group of senior campers which seminars they were attending. The list they

Several times each day, I wandered by three of the most important locations on the grounds: Larry and his audio team in the center of the pavilion, Greg and his lightboards just in front of Larry, and the conference/Better Life media team in the cool darkness of the media control center.

“All good?” I’d ask, hoping for the best.

This week, the answers were pretty much the same: “All great!” Then we’d talk



GARY MCLAIN

The Bird Man and his parrots were a big hit in the Children’s Amphitheater this year.

More photos online at
glnr.in/111-09-or_race

'THE INCREDIBLE RACE' HELD IN GRANTS PASS

Fifty children were part of the Incredible Race Vacation Bible School at the Grants Pass Church. The lower half of the church was transformed into turbocharged racing fun July 11–15 as the hallway became a racetrack and rooms became “checkpoints” for the race.

“Racers” were registered trackside, then proceeded to the “grandstands.” Each evening began with an assembly during which songs, skits and prayers were shared.

From there, four groups alternated through four checkpoints. Fuel was burned at the Full Throttle Games. Participants could refuel at Pit Stop Snacks with healthy and delicious treats. At High Octane Stories, famous pacesetters from the Bible were featured. During High Performance Crafts, racers discussed what they had learned and completed a project to take home.

After crossing the finish line each night, everyone again

gathered in the grandstands to sing and pray.

VBS requires many helpers to be a success. In addition to 23 adult helpers, seven youth assisted with each evening’s race. There were eight parents of the youngest participants who accompanied and helped out. “Pro racer” Donna Clifford organized the event and volunteers.

Christian Martin, Grants Pass Church pastor, was instrumental in helping racers run the race of faith at an optimal level. Only a year before, he had been confined in a neck brace during VBS. This year, he operated at full capacity, only by the grace of God.

VBS definitely had racers’ motors running for Christ. Volunteers and participants were all blessed. It was an exhilarating week that won’t soon be forgotten.

Jennifer Burkes



The Personius and Covrig families celebrate the baptisms of their boys — Michael Covrig (third from left) and Jairon Personius (fifth from left). Christian Martin, Grants Pass Church pastor, has his arms around the boys.

GRANTS PASS YOUTH BAPTIZED

Four youth of the Grants Pass Church marked new beginnings in July by committing their lives to Jesus Christ through baptism.

Twelve-year-old twins Jeremy and David Haddad were baptized July 2. The brothers, sons of Haitham and Sheila Haddad, are no strangers to the Grants Pass Church or school. Many in the church have watched these boys grow and mature, noted Christian Martin, Grants Pass Church pastor.

While the nation was preparing to celebrate Independence Day, this day was for David and Jeremy to declare their dependence on God. Martin’s sermon that Sabbath was entitled “A Life of Dependence.”

Jairon Personius and Michael Covrig were baptized July 16 in front of a congregation of more than 300 people. The Youth Praise Team, comprised of family and close friends of both young men, led song service.

Covrig was baptized by

his grandfather, Bob Pierson, who joked he had much to say regarding Michael but promised to keep his remarks brief. Joy and love were very much present as the church family welcomed this young man into the family of God.

Martin reminded the congregation that both Covrig and Personius have joined a “global family” of God. Before baptizing Personius, Martin spoke of the significance of this decision to become His servant. “God has been waiting for this moment,” he said.

God is delighted with each who chooses to follow, patiently waiting for others to join. It will be exciting to see what plans God has for these young men.

Jennifer Burkes, Grants Pass Church communication leader

Oops!

The Grants Pass Adventist School is K–10 grade, not K–8 as listed in the August *Gleaner*.



“Pro racer” Donna Clifford is at the front of the VBS “grandstands.”

BIG LAKE STAFF MEMBER DIES IN FALL

Big Lake staff member Brian Robak, 28, fell to his death while returning from the summit of Mount Washington Thursday afternoon, June 30. Robak's relationship with Big Lake Youth Camp in central

staff members at Big Lake and at the 2014 Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wis., where he played Nebuchadnezzar.

This summer, Robak had chosen to move on to other responsibilities but agreed to come to camp and spend two

of Christ's character. Though they miss his daily modeling of Christianity, they are also proud of the team he helped train as inspirational leaders.

The day before his passing, Robak gave his personal spiritual testimony at campfire. "Big Lake is the place I belong," Brian said. "My testimony tonight is that I have found peace here — peace and hope and love and Jesus right in the middle of it all."

That Thursday afternoon Robak told Les Zollbrecht, Big Lake Camp director, he was going out to take some photos and would be back in a little while. Feeling the draw of Mount Washington, Robak's photo journey took him up the mountain's hogback ridge. Along the way, he took several photos and emailed them to

friends. When he reached the summit, he took one more photo, a panorama that shows the best of the Cascade Range, including Big Lake. After emailing the photo, he began the trek down.

Though Robak is gone, the intensity of his love for God lives on in the hearts of thousands who met Jesus through him.

Please join us in praying often for Robak's family and friends. And please, take advantage of this moment to turn your face toward Jesus. Ask Him to fill your life with the love and hope that made Brian Robak so special.

Dick Duerksen, Oregon Conference assistant to the president for creative ministries



Brian Robak helps on stage at Forever Faithful 2014 International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wis.

Oregon, began when he was a camper, continued as he became a staff member in training, and turned into eight summers and two winters as a full-time staff member.

Robak's skills with drama, video, photography and worship production have brought joyful laughter and dedicated hope to many campers and

weeks to train the worship team in script-writing, drama and worship planning.

"We miss Brian" has been foremost in many Big Lake hearts as summer turns to fall.

Oregon Conference members in ministry miss Robak too. His spirit of kind dedication and graceful service has provided a clear picture





More photos online at
glnr.in/111-09-or_kids

KIDS CAN BE MISSIONARIES TOO

Ethiopia is almost halfway around the world from Portland. When 8-year-old Lucy Russell found out she was going there on a mission trip, it was really scary. But over time and with the help of her parents, she was ready when the time came. Here is her summary of the trip in her own words.

I had a very fun time in Ethiopia, except I got sick and had a minor head injury. My head is getting better now, and I'm not sick any more. We got to see hippos and ostriches. We also got to see monkeys and other cool animals.



Lucy Russell learned a lot on her missionary trip to Ethiopia.

It's really hot. The swimming pool by our first hotel was really nasty (algae bloom), and I didn't get to go swimming at all.

I took lots and lots of pictures. I like it there, but as I said, it's too hot, and I didn't like the bugs and insects. The trip was really fun.

Activities I got to participate in included Vacation Bible School. VBS was really fun. VBS helped a lot of children.

We did stories and songs, and in that way we helped hundreds of children. The stories we did were David and Goliath, Queen Esther, Daniel and the lion's den, and the beginning of creation. I got to be a brother and a sheep in the David and Goliath story, Queen Esther in the Esther story, the angel in the Daniel story, and Eve in the creation story.

After we stayed at the hotel with the nasty pool, we got to stay in a really nice hotel in Addis Ababa for two nights and two days. Our room was really roomy. Get it? Roomy? There were two bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and a family room. It was great.

Lots of kids liked me and wanted to talk to me and play



Yes, kids can be missionaries too.

with me. It was fun, and I hope to go again soon because the children miss us. It was fun, but not as fun as going home.



Lucy was accompanied by her entire family: Sunnyside Church's lead pastor, Jonathan Russell; her mother, Jaclyn; and her brothers, Robbie and William. In total, 38 team members plus families joined the March 16 to April 2 trip sponsored by the Sunnyside congregation, including the large group of Oromo Ethiopian Adventist brothers and sisters.

With appropriate preparation and support, kids can be missionaries too. What about the kids in your church or school?

Lucy Russell, with Warren Rushold, Sunnyside Church communication leader



DALE MILAM

Kolby decided that he could no longer run from God but wanted to run to Jesus.

STUDENT LIVES CHANGED AT MILO

Kolby had been running from God most of his life. In fact, he actively sought ways not to engage with Him. After a year at Milo of hearing the gospel in class, from the pulpit and through other worship activities, he began to see Jesus for who He truly is: an amazing Savior.

One night, Kolby was feeling compelled by the Holy Spirit to ask about baptism. Immediately, the forces of Satan began to attack him and try to dissuade him from making a stand for Jesus. Several students prayed with him throughout the night.

Ultimately, Kolby decided he could no longer run from God but wanted to run to Jesus. He accepted Christ as his personal Savior for the first time in his life that morning. A few weeks later, he was baptized in the surf at Sunset Bay on the southern Oregon coast.

Haylee grew up knowing a lot about the Bible. She can articulate the 28 Fundamental Beliefs excellently, yet she never felt a real connection with God.

This year, Haylee came to see Jesus not as a distant God,



PETER HERNANDEZ

Haylee came to see Jesus not as a distant God, but an intimate friend.

but an intimate friend. Her heart finally caught up with her mind. She decided to get baptized in the river at Milo following the spring week of prayer.

Though already planning her baptism to be held during the Stand spiritual revival conference on campus, Haylee felt compelled to teach one of the sessions of the event as well. So she was baptized and then, just a few minutes later, taught 90 of her peers about the importance of learning and integrating the Scriptures into their lives.

Chad Reisig, Milo Academy Church pastor

More online at
glnr.in/111-09-or_paa

PAA SUMMERS MEAN LEARNING, WORKING

Every summer at Portland Adventist Academy (PAA), sports camps, international student immersion courses and the Smart Start program bring more than 160 young people to PAA's campus while creating work opportunities for current PAA students.

Basketball, soccer, softball and volleyball camps helped PAA build relationships with 148 elementary students. These potential future PAA students learned basic sports skills while making new friends each other. "One of my favorite things at soccer camp was learning how to dribble," says 6-year-old Johannes Long, "and getting Gatorade."

For international students, the three-week immersion program as well as two weeks of Smart Start brought 16 teens from Korea, China, Taiwan and Japan to PAA. They improved their English, learned about American culture, visited historical and significant sites in the area, and made

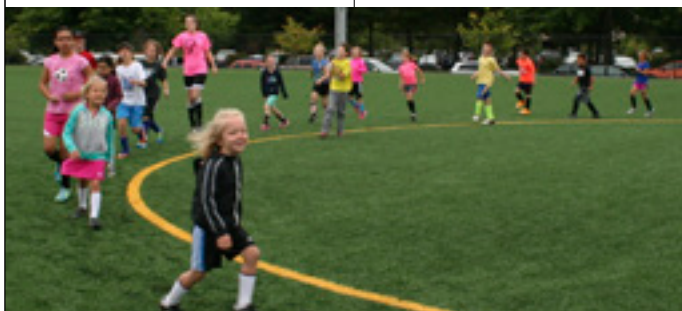
friends with their American student mentors.

"For some of these students, it may be their first time away from home," says Maria Bibb, PAA international student program director. "It can be very overwhelming. Having an American student mentor helps them adjust." She says these programs also create evangelism opportunities for students.

Each of these programs gives job opportunities to PAA students for their tuition. "Our work program teaches students about work ethic, it helps them pay their tuition, and it gives them a sense of pride as they take ownership of their own education," says Jason Bibb, PAA vice principal of finance. This summer found 24 students working on campus.

Rounding out the busy summer, 12 PAA students took driver's education this summer and 22 took world history.

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA Gleaner correspondent



Johannes Long, 6, leads the pack of 75 soccer campers during warmups. His favorite thing about camp was learning how to dribble and drinking Gatorade.

TORKELSEN PASSES TORCH AT UCA

Read more online at glnr.in/111-09-uc_uca



Linnea Torkelsen is a name synonymous with Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) in Spangle, Wash. She has worked with a number of principals and business managers to assist in miracle after miracle enabling students to attend UCA — an area she will no doubt continue on a personal level.

“She has an incredible gift for relationships and connections with others,” says Florence Lacey, UCA registrar. “If you’ve ever received her ‘hello, friend’ phone calls, you know she genuinely means it.”

During her 23 years at UCA, Torkelsen coordinated HOPE projects and Prayer PATCH ministry and raised countless dollars for tuition assistance and campus beautification in her role as alumni and development director.

“Her willingness to be used by God has touched the lives of so many alumni and current students, and yes, her influence will continue in years to come to shape the lives of future attendees and graduates of Upper Columbia Academy,” says Larry Marsh, Upper Columbia Conference education superintendent.

Most recently in her role as development director,

Torkelsen completed a capital campaign for the new Wallace Dining Commons. It was a special project for her in more ways than one, considering she met her husband, Max, in a cafeteria.

“While we acknowledged the \$12 million she raised during her tenure to benefit the school and its students, words or gifts cannot express the appreciation for what she has done to connect our Yakima Valley Academy and Upper Columbia Academy



Eric Johnson

families,” says John Winslow, UCA principal.

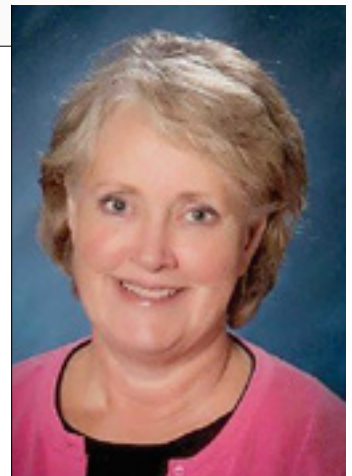
Torkelsen’s greatest delight is thinking about all the kids who have

received or are receiving a superb Adventist education, who wouldn’t have had it otherwise. “I am so grateful to have witnessed firsthand God working in and through generous hearts to provide for our school’s needs,” Torkelsen says. “Once in a while, He answered our prayers early on or before we prayed, but more often it was an exhilarating, exactly-when-we-need-it, last-minute answer. My faith has grown here by leaps and bounds.”

Eric Johnson, the new vice principal for development and alumni relations, looks forward to experiencing those answered prayers. He coordinates his first alumni weekend Sept. 30 and Oct. 1.

Johnson and his wife, Trish, have two children: Brianna, 18, and Blake, 15. Brianna will be a freshman at Walla Walla University, and Blake is a sophomore at UCA.

The Johnsons moved from the Fresno, Calif., area, where Eric was principal of Fresno Adventist Academy. Highlights of his resume include being Palau Mission Academy principal, Atlanta Adventist Academy development director and owner of a real estate development company in Chattanooga, Tenn.



Linnea Torkelsen

The UCA “Alumni Echoes” summer 2016 newsletter shares more information about Torkelsen, Johnson and the original land purchase for UCA. You can view it online under the Alumni tab and find out more information about alumni weekend at ucca.org/alumni.

Tamara Michalenko Terry, Upper Columbia Academy communication coordinator

THOUSANDS OF BOOKS SHARED DURING UCC YOUTH RUSH



More online at glnr.in/111-09-uc_youthrush

Many times we don't understand the impact that a single book — no matter the size — can make on someone. "I had a young man stop at my house" wrote Mrs. C, a Spokane, Wash., resident who was visited this summer by one of the 30 young people participating in Upper

Christ and thought of myself as a Christian, but last night was different. I woke up to a new and renewed life. Please thank him for me."

"Youth Rush has given me a personal relationship with Jesus," shares Kristian, the student from Walla Walla, Wash., who knocked on Mrs. C's door. "It feels amazing to be used by Him every day."



Kristian Busby, Walla Walla Valley Academy student from College Place, Wash., goes door to door with a smile and a prayer.

While in Lewiston, Idaho, Faith Montana approached a man in his garage. She had been praying God would show her He was still with her.

"What are you selling?" the man asked with an edge of frustration.

As he flipped through *The Great Controversy*, he nodded his head and said things like "this is true" or "I agree with that." He gave a large donation and got all the books.

"He shared story after story about how God loves and forgives," Montana adds. "This stranger was saying what I knew God was trying to tell me."

This summer, Youth Rush students visited more than 135,000 homes, left behind more than 18,000 books and 35,000 GLOW

(Giving Light to Our World) tracts, and earned more than \$100,000 in matching scholarship funds for Adventist education.

"Youth Rush has brought me into a real and everyday experience with God," shares Elena Harris, a recent graduate of Upper Columbia Academy in Spangle, Wash.

As these young people experienced this summer, God can use each of us to share His hope with others. Who is waiting for you today?

For more stories and stats and to connect with us, visit uccyr.org and [facebook.com/literatureucc](https://www.facebook.com/literatureucc).

Robert Kooreny, Upper Columbia Conference literature ministries coordinator



Emilie Carr (left) from Yakima, Wash., canvasses a lady as part of this summer's Youth Rush effort.

Columbia Conference (UCC) Youth Rush. "He handed me a small booklet titled *Happiness for Life (Steps to Christ)*. ... I sat down and started reading the book and couldn't put it down until I went to sleep. For me, at that moment, that booklet was exactly what I needed. I actually asked God to forgive my sins and come into my heart. I had a wonderful night because of that young man. That booklet has changed my life. I've always believed in Jesus

Enrique Vado, a theology major at Walla Walla University, met a family in Kennewick, Wash., who donated for three devotional books, including *Christ's Object Lessons* and *Steps to Christ*. "Before I came, they were talking about doing morning devotions but didn't know where to start. They said I came just in time." Looking back at his summer, he shares that he "enjoyed being able to leave a seed, knowing that God will work in their lives."



Amy Luu-Fabela (left), a SOULS Northwest student, visits with a lady who is reading *Steps to Christ* through for the fourth time.

BIBLE COMES TO LIFE FOR PATHFINDERS DURING FAIR

Read more online at glhr.in/111-09-uc_pathfinder



Where would you expect to find hundreds of young people and adults dressed in khaki and black? At Upper Columbia Academy for the 2016 Upper Columbia Conference Pathfinder Fair May 13–15, of course!

The annual fair is the highlight of the Pathfinder year. Staff and Pathfinders alike look forward to the opportunity for fellowship, meeting new friends, sharing experiences, recognizing accomplishments and growing together in Jesus. The fair includes a craft and honor display, time for outdoor activities and games, a parade, music, prayer focus, spiritual messages, investiture, and baptisms, all packed into one amazing weekend.

This year, Dick Stenbakken shared “Faces Around the Manger,” the stories of the wise men, the innkeeper, Jesus’ brother James and the shepherd. Stenbakken’s first-person Bible narratives drew those in attendance into the stories of Jesus, as if they were actually there to experience the events.

The Pathfinders were blessed as Tim Greenlaw and Friends led the music, setting the spiritual note for the meetings. The theme song was “Come As You Are” by Crowder. One staff member



JAMES JEFFERY

Pathfinders listen intently to Dick Stenbakken at the Pathfinder Fair at Upper Columbia Academy.

had just experienced the death of a close family member, and she found the lyrics “earth has no sorrow that heaven can’t heal” particularly comforting.

Pathfinders Marcus and Evan shared that their favorite part of the fair was the speaker and said the speaker was “a really good actor and made it seem like the story was right from the Bible.”

Esmarelda, Janni and Samantha enjoyed the fair so much they want to come back again and invite friends to join Pathfinders. Their favorite thing was hanging out with friends.

Club free time was a favorite too. Some Pathfinders rode in vehicles to the top of Steptoe Butte and hiked down together. Others visited Manito Park, where they met an Adventist family visiting from Florida who recognized the Pathfinders by their shirts.

“I love the chance for kids to fellowship with each other and the opportunity to team with wonderful staff,” says Roberta, a staff member.

Participating in the song service, particularly “Faith on Fire” and the theme song, was exciting too. Other special features at the fair were the review of Upper Columbia

Conference Pathfinder participation in the Pathfinder Bible Experience and a celebration of the 20th anniversary of Teen Mission Adventure with a video showing Pathfinders serving the community during their school spring break.

Talk to a Pathfinder at your church about their experience at the Pathfinder Fair. Better yet, become involved with your local club as a Pathfinder or a staff member and experience the fair for yourself.

If you would like to experience the Bible stories Stenbakken shared, you can purchase the *Faces Around the Cross* DVD set and other materials at biblefaces.com.

Anita Lebold, Richland Church Pathfinder assistant



JAMES JEFFERY

Angelica Bayless is baptized by Jon Weigley Sabbath morning at the Pathfinder Fair.



GUDMUNDUR IBSEN

DOLLAR CLUB MINISTERS AT GAS STATION

I stood in the hot sun, shielding my eyes and looking out at the Fred Meyer gas station. I prayed God would give us divine appointments, and little did I know just how He would fulfill that request.

I'm a relatively new pastor, so doing this service project in Puyallup, where my church is, made it much more personal and impactful.

After watching Tyler Long, Washington Conference evangelist, successfully offer to pay for gas for a few families, I was excited and nervous for my turn. I walked up to a car and asked if I could pay for their gas, soon walking away discouraged that they had turned

me down. I wondered if because I looked so young they didn't trust me and thought there was a catch.

I prayed fervently for a car to pull up with people who needed some encouragement. Since it was Father's Day, we looked for cars with fathers and their families. Not too long after my quick prayer, a father and son drove up and were overjoyed that I offered to pay for their gas. They were Christians too and said they were going to pass the idea on to their church so they could continue spreading God's love.

Another beat up car pulled up with two tired looking people. When I paid for their gas, they couldn't contain

their excitement and awe that someone would do something so kind for them. They explained how they had been working hard all day and could use some extra encouragement. They even wanted to visit our church.

Another car pulled up with a father, mother and daughter in the back seat. They accepted my offer, and we got to talking while the gas pumped. They opened up about having lost their young child a few years earlier and the journey God led them on in the process. Her name had been Hope, and they marveled at how God taught them to hope through her tiny life. They had recently been

baptized, and I was able to pray with them and encourage them on their journey with Christ.

The most incredible miracle of all happened in my wallet during our service day. I handed out business card after business card, later realizing I'd handed out far more than I had put in my wallet at the beginning of the day.

God clearly had a plan for each one of the people we met, and I pray we helped plant a seed that He will grow into a powerful tree for His kingdom.

Natalie Dorland, Puyallup Church associate pastor

CAMP MEETING GENEROUSLY SHARES 'HOPE AND WHOLENESS'

Elmo should be dead or at least in serious condition at the hospital, but not at camp meeting.

About a month before, a 9 mm bullet went through Elmo's head.

"The doctors told me I shouldn't be here," Elmo shares. With head wounds like Elmo's, 9 of 10 people do not recover, and those who do are definitely not attending camp meeting most nights or standing on a stage a month later sharing about God's miracles.

God not only healed Elmo's head, but also his heart by helping him forgive the shooter, let go of methamphetamines, and seek to take better care of his three kids and partner of 14 years. "God is softening my heart," Elmo says.

As a mechanic, Elmo now has multiple opportunities to share his miracle story and invite people to his new church at South Tacoma Adventist Fellowship. "I believe God saved me for a reason," Elmo says.

Earlier in the week at Washington Adventist Camp Meeting, the audience was introduced to a concept called the Dollar Club, a special camp meeting project to directly benefit and bless the commu-



Elmo's family receives a great surprise from the Dollar Club during Washington Adventist Camp Meeting.

nity through acts of kindness. (Your church could start a Dollar Club too.)

In one evening, the camp meeting audience raised \$1,200 for community outreach projects in Puyallup — the location of an upcoming series of Voice of Prophecy meetings. The projects included paying for gas, inserting laundry quarters and covering grocery bills — all the while interacting with new friends in the community.

"You were so generous that in one afternoon we could not get through all the dollars in the Dollar Club," reports Tyler Long, Washington Conference evangelist, on the final camp meeting evening. "There's actually some money left over, and we want to bless Elmo and his family."

South Tacoma sponsored Macy, 10, for a week at Sunset

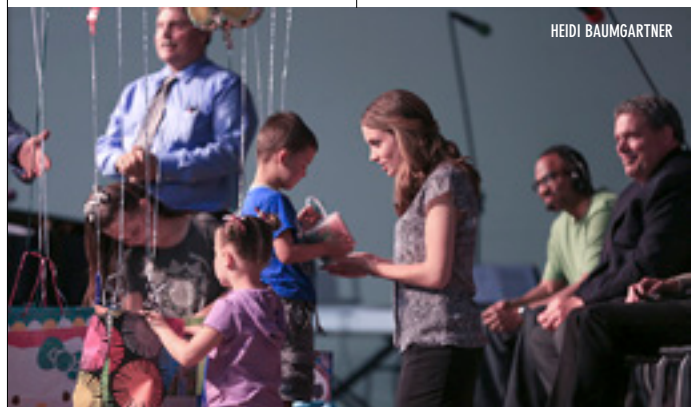
Lake Camp in Wilkeson, and the Dollar Club covered her entire camp packing list complete with a new sleeping bag. Shelby and Levi, twins age 5, received water and yard toys, plus family tickets to the local water park — something they had been dreaming about. Surprised and shocked, Elmo

said, "You guys are awesome. I don't deserve this."

One aspect of "Hope and Wholeness" is living a generous life, and this theme found application at camp meeting through divine appointments on and off campus — whether through the Dollar Club, a practical application workshop on generous living, ongoing Bible study connections, and even children's programs where young people memorized Bible verses, studied Bible stories, and learned how to pray.

Watch Elmo's Story at glnr.in/111-09-wa_elmo and the Dollar Club video at glnr.in/111-08-wa_dollarclub.

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director



Natalie Dorland, Puyallup Church associate pastor, presents Levi, age 5, with a bucket of sidewalk chalk from the camp meeting Dollar Club.

CHEHALIS STEPS INTO THE SANCTUARY

Jennifer Hubbard's sons were playing outside about a week after Vacation Bible School in Chehalis. They spotted a little girl in the neighborhood and instantly recognized her from VBS. Before long, the VBS friends reunited.

It was the type of moment that makes VBS special. "Nearly half of the 80 children who came to VBS came from the community," says Hubbard, who led Chehalis' VBS program, held July 18–23, with a team of 25 nightly and 40 overall volunteers.

The "Egypt Files" theme was a natural choice for the locally developed VBS curriculum. The church's Pathfinder Bible Experience team recently studied the stories, facts and details of Exodus for three rounds of 90-question quizzes at the conference, union and division levels last spring. They were among the first-place winners at each of the quiz events.



Children at Chehalis' Vacation Bible School program learn about the significance of the sanctuary and how God wants to have a place in our lives.

Lewis County Adventist School in Chehalis also integrated the Exodus story into the school's week of prayer and made a scale model of the wilderness sanctuary complete with indoor-approved special effects, full-sized furniture and a two-thirds-sized sanctuary.

For VBS, each of the three nightly activity stations connected to the Israelites' Egypt experience and escape. Bible story time shared the context of nightly themes.

Age-appropriate crafts (like making a tissue paper burning bush for younger children or building a small-scale sanctuary diorama for older children) and outdoor games provided hands-on learning and interaction.

The evening programs also included wilderness sanctuary tours, Egypt-themed songs with live musicians, a short Bible skit and an interview with the high priest (played by senior pastor David Glenn).

"We make sure we meet in the sanctuary twice every day," says Hubbard. "We need to teach children what is so great about the sanctuary. God is saying, 'Be with me. I want to be with you.'"

The drama team specifically wrote the nightly 10-minute script in language children could easily understand and used an archaeologist as a storytelling narrator.

"We wanted to share a message that Pharaoh was relying on his gods versus the true God," says Sonia Huenergardt, VBS team member.

The focus on the sanctuary is far from over in Chehalis. A Tuesday night Bible study for a growing group of participants ages 10–80 is now studying the sanctuary too.

"The sanctuary is so beautiful," Hubbard says, "because we're asking for God to be right here with us."

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director

PORT ANGELES RUNS FOR GOD

More online at glnr.in/111-09-wa_race

Almost 60 percent of active Port Angeles Church members signed up for the Run for God training program in advance of the June 5 Olympic Discovery Marathon, which included a 5K, 10K and half marathon.

The program began in March and included meeting at the church for a short devo-

tional and running information session, followed by walking or running at the local high school. Week after week, the physical demands increased until everyone was running or walking nearly 5K.

On race day, about 35 church members and friends participated in either the 5K, 10K or half marathon.

One participant says he could hardly run at all when he joined the program, much less run 5K. Now he's wondering if he can run the 10K. He was told that, with God, all things are possible.

Gary Ledbetter, Port Angeles Church elder

SOUTHEAST SEATTLE COMMUNITY CONNECTS THROUGH HEALTH SEMINAR

The Greater Seattle Filipino-American Church has established the iLive2Serve Foundation as a health and wellness nonprofit organization to effectively reach the southeast Seattle community.



Doctors Rolly Fulgencio, Francis Yuvienco and Mark Kinjo provide health lifestyle information during the seminar.

Only 52 percent of Seattle's population is affiliated with Christianity, according to the Pew Research Center. Ellen G. White's counsel could not be more timely and relevant in reaching the people in this city: "First meet the temporal needs of the people, and relieve their physical wants and sufferings, and you will find an open avenue to the heart, where you may plant the good seed of virtue and religion" (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 4, p. 227).

The first free community health seminar, "Heart Disease: Prevention and Treatment," was held on Sunday, July 24, at the Jefferson Com-

munity Center. More than 30 people from the community attended the event.

Guests seemed receptive of the information on healthy lifestyle provided through the cooking demo, lecture and question-and-answer session led by a panel of two naturopathic doctors and one cardiologist. Attendees also enjoyed the meal, and some even went home with raffle prizes.

The responses of the attendees were positive and encouraging. Nesity Borge, Filipino Community of Seattle vice president, comments, "This is a noble and much-needed initiative in order to have a healthier community. It sure makes a difference."

Another guest enthusiastically says, "Let's do this again!" Church members are excited to serve and grow the friendships that have begun.

Eddie General, Greater Seattle Filipino-American Church pastor



Nesity Borge asks the doctors a question during the question-and-answer session.



Mark Trethewey presents his series of meetings in Gatama, Rwanda. At this location, 321 new members joined the Adventist Church by baptism.

FOUR NORTHWEST MEMBERS TOTALLY INVOLVED IN RWANDA EVANGELISM

Four representatives from the Pacific Northwest — Cami Oteman, Mendy Corwin, David Belcher and Mark Trethewey — were part of a historic evangelistic experience in Rwanda.

An amazing 100,135 people were baptized throughout Rwanda as a result of 2,227 evangelistic meetings held concurrently in May. Most of the sites featured local pastors as evangelists, and some sites hosted lay evangelists who were participating in a Total Member Involvement (TMI) mission trip. TMI is an initiative started by Ted Wilson, world church president, to encourage every member of the Adventist Church to be active in sharing Jesus with the world.

Rwanda is a tiny African country about 1/10 the size of the state of Washington. Before the evangelistic meet-

ings, it had 720,000 Adventist members. After the meetings, the membership of this tiny country swelled to well over 800,000. The Adventist Church is partnering with Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) to build 1,000 One-Day Churches for new members.

Most of these meetings were held outdoors because of the oversized crowds attending. They were scheduled for late May, a time that is typically rainy in Rwanda. God held back the rains during the entire time. The first rain came the morning after the last meeting!

Adventist Rwandan members, leaders and lay missionaries alike saw how God answered these prayers and poured out His Spirit abundantly in this country.

Mark Trethewey, Willapa Harbor Church member

LIVING OUR MISSION EVERY DAY

When Jan* came to the Adventist Health Medical Group Rockwood Urgent Care in Portland, Ore., she was emotional, tearful and smelling obviously of alcohol.

I looked over her extensive medical records for any serious issues. Jane was in her late 50s and struggled with homelessness, alcohol intoxication, drug use, mental health issues and frequent trips to the emergency department. I noticed a number listed along with instructions to call it immediately if Jane ever showed up to an emergency department.

Jane's sudden bursts of crying and wailing made it difficult to find out what was wrong. She had recently been tested for all serious issues that could have easily affected her — STDs, HIV, hepatitis — and found clear.

Jane didn't need more testing. She needed help.

It was evident Jane's overarching issues were so deep she was unable to comprehend them. I learned Jane had consumed approximately four 20-ounce malt liquor cans that morning and had used drugs earlier in the week.

Everything Jane owned fit in a small backpack — including two more cans of liquor.

She was indeed homeless, but there was nothing medically wrong with Jane. She could have been discharged right then and sent back to the street, as normally done when she visited the emergency department.

There were other patients waiting to be seen; however, instead of asking Jane to leave, I heard myself say, "I'm concerned about you, and I want to help if that is something you want."

Through her sobbing Jane managed to reply, "Yes."

Suddenly, I remembered the phone number and decided to call. The woman who answered was part of a local organization's intervention team and had been concerned when she was unable to locate Jane, her client.

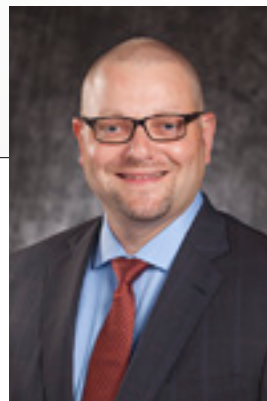
After several hours of calls and collaboration with three organizations in the Portland area, I arranged an inpatient bed in an alcohol and drug treatment center.

Meanwhile, Jane was given water and towels to

clean up and a private exam room where she could rest and eat a sandwich. Staff checked on her frequently.

During one check, Jane was nowhere to be found. I rushed outside, spotted her near the bus stop and called out to her. She turned to look at me, crying. I told her she was welcome to come back inside if she still wanted help, and she did.

In the end, we couldn't help Jane as much as we had hoped to. When Jane's caseworker arrived to pick up Jane from a women's shelter, Jane was once again nowhere to be found.



John Ellison

Although disappointed, we lived our mission that day — as we do every day. Each provider, medical

assistant and staff

member in our clinic has experienced a "Jane" before — and certainly since. I am proud to be part of a team and organization where people like Jane are cared for and experience the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.

*Patient name has been changed.

John Ellison, Adventist Health nurse practitioner



Lucien and Armande Loiseau

Loiseau 50th

Lucien and Armande Loiseau celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with more than 75 of their friends at a party hosted by their daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Derrick Foxworth, at the Portland City Grill in downtown Portland, Ore. Kevin Rhamie, pastor of Portland's Sharon Church, renewed their wedding vows and those of other couples in the audience. Lucien and Armande read love letters to one another, and many shared memories of the two over the years.

Lucien Loiseau, originally from the island of Martinique in the French West Indies in the Caribbean, and Armande Hunt, originally from St. Martin, also in the French West Indies, were actually married in Montreal, Canada, on Oct. 9, 1965. A few years later, their only daughter, Linda, was born, and the family moved to the United States.

Lucien received a bachelor's degree in religion and a minor in history from Atlantic Union College in Lancaster, Mass. They moved to Walla Walla, Wash., where he obtained a provisional teaching certificate.

Then the family moved to Portland, where Lucien obtained a master's degree in secondary teaching from Portland State University. They eventually made their home in Vancouver, Wash., where they have resided for the past 40 or so years.

Armande worked primarily in the home until their daughter was in school. Then she became a Head Start teacher for the Albina Child Care Center in Portland and worked in this career for more than 20 years before retiring. Lucien worked primarily for the state of Oregon and upon retirement from that worked various teaching jobs in the Portland/Vancouver area until he retired fully.

They both enjoy their friends and time spent at the Sharon Church. Armande held various positions at the church, including Sabbath School superintendent, head greeter and hospitality team member. Lucien is an elder, prison ministry leader and Sabbath School teacher and has held many other positions in the past, including Bible worker, lay preacher and choir member.

Outside of church, Armande enjoys cooking, going to lunch and shopping with her friends. Lucien enjoys watching ball games, playing dominoes and writing poetry. They both love spending time with their children, Linda and Derrick. Mostly, they both love the Lord very much and attribute the success of more than 50 years of marriage to the fact that they pray and study the Bible together daily and keep God as the head of their marriage in all that they do.

The Loiseau family includes Linda and Derrick Foxworth of Happy Valley, Ore.; 2 step-grandchildren and 2 step-great-grandchildren.

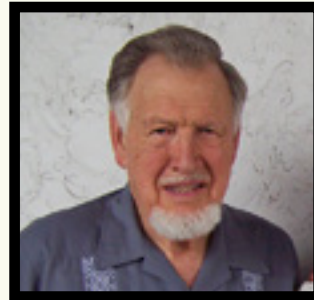
Woods 90th

Berton "Bert" G. Woods recently celebrated his 90th birthday in Sequim, Wash., with his family and church friends. He was born at home in

Springfield, Mass., on Feb. 15, 1926, to Garfield and Ernestine Woods. The fourth of five children, he is the lone survivor.

Bert fell in love with Jesus at Atlantic Union College in Lancaster, Mass. There he also fell in love with Mary Gebhard, and they married in 1954. Together they raised three children — Doug Woods of Auburn, Wash.; David Woods of Foresthill, Calif.; and Laurie Sim of Auburn, Wash. Bert also has six grandchildren.

Bert worked as a colporteur for several years, then, in upstate New York, as an Adventist elementary school teacher for six years. The couple moved to



Berton "Bert" G. Woods

Kettering, Ohio, in 1964. After two more years of teaching, Bert took a job in the patients' account office at Kettering Hospital, where he worked until they moved back to New York state in 1974.

He finished his career as representative and then area director for Christian Record Braille Foundation (now Christian Record), retiring in 1988. Bert moved to the Boise, Idaho, area in 1992 and built a home in the hills north of town.

After Mary died, mutual friends from Maranatha projects introduced him to a lovely widow, Gerrie Losey Crowell of Renton, Wash.

Gerrie and Bert were married at Auburn Academy in 1994. He immediately inherited four more children and six more grandchildren. Together, Bert and Gerrie participated in many international Maranatha projects, from Argentina to Norway and Nepal.

In 1999, they moved to their present home in Sequim, Wash., where Gerrie is thrilled to have her daughter, Collette Pekar, and son-in-law, Mark, as their current pastors.

Bert's interests include singing, traveling and World War II history. He continues to enjoy good health — and still often sings for church.

FAMILY BIRTHS

NUSSBAUM — Julia Faith was born July 6, 2016, to Loren and Maleesa (Staten) Nussbaum, Albany, Ore.

WOLVERTON — Jessie Brooklyn was born April 13, 2016, to John "Carter" and Ruthie Wolverson, Pomona, Calif.

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.

FAMILY AT REST

AMES — Roy A., 96; born Nov. 28, 1919, Chewelah, Wash.; died March 29, 2016, Valley, Wash. Surviving: wife, Rubye (Kinman); sons, Stan, Aloha, Ore.; Wes and Randy, both of Valley; daughters, Merita Dysart, Banning, Calif.; Arlita Parr, Mead, Wash.; 12 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

BATEMAN — Audrey Ann (Hunt) Belles, 82; born April 20, 1933, Vancouver, Wash.; died March 24, 2016, Yakima, Wash. Surviving: sons, Gary Belles, Yakima; Gordon Belles; stepson, Sam Bateman; 6 grandchildren, a step-grandchild and 8 great-grandchildren.

BLUE — Jerald W., 36; born June 22, 1979, Walla Walla, Wash.; died May 10, 2016, Spokane, Wash. Surviving: father, Larry Blue, Adams, Ore.; grandfather, Kenneth Blue, Hoquiam, Wash.; and grandmother, Madalynn Schaffer, Adams.

FULLER — Dorothy Belle (Masters), 94; born May 11, 1921, Denver, Colo.; died May 10, 2016, Vancouver, Wash. Surviving: son, David, Vancouver; daughter, Faryl Fuller, Vancouver; and a grandchild.

GASPAR — Mitchell, 97; born Nov. 6, 1918, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada; died May 4, 2016, Newport, Wash. Surviving: wife, Barbara (Brown); daughters, Sharon Rosinsky, Priest River, Idaho; Donna Gaspar, Baltimore, Md.; and brother, Frank Gaspar, Glendale, Calif.

HAYWARD — James Curtis, 92; born April 1, 1923, Middleborough, Mass.; died Jan. 2, 2016, Hermiston, Ore. Surviving: wife, Norma; son,

Mike, Lodi, Calif.; and daughter, Carol Hayward, Pasco, Wash.

HUNTER — Helen P. (Phillips) Earle, 75; born Dec. 20, 1940, Waldron, Ark.; died April 14, 2016, Springfield, Ore. Surviving: husband, Eldon; son, Tom Earle, Springfield; daughter, Carey Earle, Sacramento, Calif.; mother, Olive Hutchinson, Springfield; sisters, Dora Rosenthal, Leaburg, Ore.; Margie Whitaker, Springfield; stepsister, Sharon Munyon, Springfield; a grandchild and a great-grandchild.

LALONDE — Judith Marie (Caylor) Morgensen, 72; born Dec. 19, 1943, Indianapolis, Ind.; died April 23, 2016, Tillamook, Ore. Surviving: sons, Kenneth Morgensen, of Illinois; Kurt Morgensen, of Georgia; daughters, Julie (Morgensen) Ravenel, of Florida; Joy (Morgensen) Morris, of Alabama; brothers, Richard Caylor, Seattle, Wash.; Russell Caylor, Chimquam, Wash.; Howard Caylor, Seattle; sisters, Patricia Swiercinsky, Vancouver, Wash.; Phyllis Hart, Tillamook, Ore.; and 9 grandchildren.

LAUBACH — Quintin, 79; born Feb. 28, 1936, Forsyth, Mo.; died March 2, 2015, Pasco, Wash. Surviving: wife, Jane (Chadwick); sons, Richard, Pasco; Cameron, Kennewick, Wash.; daughters, Cheryl Griffiths, Hermiston, Ore.; Aimee Martin and Rose Forrester, both of Gresham, Ore.; brother, Paul, Milpitas, Calif.; sister, Joyce Kuebler, Redding, Calif.; 11 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

McKINSTRY — Pearl E. (Maguire), 90; born Jan. 18, 1926, Little Rock, Ark.; died April 13, 2016, Sandy, Utah.

Surviving: husband, James; son, Larry, Murray, Utah; daughter, Anne Shihadeh, Tigard, Ore.; brothers, Pat Maguire, Loma Linda, Calif.; Munro Maguire, Long Beach, Wash.; sister, Rose Rearrick, Eugene, Ore.; 3 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

NEWELL — Bryce Franklin, 93; born Nov. 15, 1922, Hope, N.D.; died April 24, 2016, Ridgecrest, Calif. Surviving: daughters, Anita Mayberry, Ridgecrest; Judy Anderson, College Place, Wash.; 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

PERSONIUS — Marian (Boyles) Hunker, 99; born Feb. 28, 1917, Oregon City, Ore.; died May 12, 2016, Grants Pass, Ore. Surviving: sons, William Hunker, Bradley Personius and George Personius, all of Grants Pass; daughters, Barbara (Hunker) Tone, Simi Valley, Calif.; Kathryn (Personius) Manley, Escondido, Calif.; 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

REIBER — Joan Ardith (Carter), 90; born Oct. 11, 1925, Fairbury, Neb.; died April 18, 2016, Eugene, Ore. Surviving: son, Gary, Eugene; and 2 grandchildren.

SLAUGHTER — John, 78; born May 23, 1937, Hattiesburg, Miss.; died May 10, 2016, Portland, Ore. Surviving: wife, Bea (Rosemeyer); son, Doug, Portland; and a grandchild.

SMITH — Adena L. (Ward), 89; born March 18, 1927, Denver, Colo.; died May 3, 2016, Estacada, Ore. Surviving: husband, Preston; son, Richard, Sherwood, Ore.;

daughter, Linda Kinne, Estacada; 8 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

SMITH — Kenneth Allen, 66; born Aug. 19, 1949, Portland, Ore.; died March 30, 2016, Pomeroy, Wash. Surviving: son, Jason A., Hood River, Ore.; daughter, Kristi Cheatham, Rhodenderon, Ore.; father, W. Dean Smith, Payette, Idaho; sister, Deena L. McDaniel, Weiser, Idaho; and 4 grandchildren.

TAYLOR — Mary K. (Elzner), 88; born Nov. 30, 1927, Malin, Ore.; died May 20, 2016, Klamath Falls, Ore. Surviving: sons, Jerry, Dayton, Ohio; Douglas, Walla Walla, Wash.; Roger, Malin; 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

TRUDE — James Edward, 62; born Nov. 4, 1953, Napa, Calif.; died May 30, 2016, Portland, Ore. Surviving: wife, Julie A. (Way), Clackamas, Ore.; daughters, Rebecca E. Trude-Bogar, Juneau, Alaska; Rachel E. (Trude) Smith, Harrison, Ark.; brother, John E. Trude, Clackamas; and 2 grandchildren.

WATTS — Carl B., 96; born July 12, 1919, Topeka, Kan.; died April 17, 2016, Redlands, Calif. Surviving: son, Howard T., Grand Terrace, Calif.; daughter, Catherine "Kit" Watts, Milton-Freewater, Ore.; and 2 grandchildren.

WITTLAKE — John Jackson, 84; born Dec. 27, 1931, Kila, Mont.; died May 26, 2016, College Place, Wash. Surviving: son, Mark, Yakima, Wash.; daughter, Laura Tucker, Walla Walla, Wash.; and 2 grandchildren.

NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

Offering

Sept. 3 — Local Church Budget;

Sept. 10 — Fall Mission Appeal;

Sept. 17 — Local Church Budget;

Sept. 24 — Local Conference Advance.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

WWU Family Weekend

Oct. 28-30 — Families of current WWU students are invited to the WWU main campus for Family Weekend. Come participate in class visits, ice cream downtown, student missions vespers, music events and a faculty/staff talent program. Families are also invited to a complimentary Sabbath lunch with President John McVay and his wife, Pam. Parent Sabbath on the Portland, Ore., campus is scheduled for Sabbath, Nov. 12, in connection with the Nurses Dedication. A complete schedule for both weekend events is available at wallawalla.edu/family-weekend, or you may call alumni and advancement services at 800-377-2586.

OREGON

The 'Columbia Classics' Annual Fall Reunion

Sept. 9-10 — on the CAA campus (in the cafeteria building), 11100 NE 189th St., Battle Ground, Wash. Friday 6 p.m.: welcome and light supper. Sabbath 9 a.m.: registration and continental breakfast followed by Sabbath program, group photo and potluck dinner. Luncheon will be served in the evening. Come renew friendships and share the latest happenings in your lives. RV parking is available on the campus, and local motels are available. For additional information, contact Larry Hiday, CAA alumni and development director, at 360-687-3161.

Patterns of Evidence Creation Film

Sept. 11 — *Patterns of Evidence* investigates archeological evidence for the Exodus. Many will be interested in this spectacular creation film. Bring yourself and a friend to Castle Rock Elementary School, 700 Huntington Ave S., Castle Rock, Wash., at 4 p.m. Free to the community and sponsored by the Castle Rock Church. Questions? Call Wanda at 360-967-2165.

Shadow Empire Event

Sept. 15-17 — Shadow Empire, the rise and fall of religious freedom, coming to Castle Rock. These four-part sessions concentrate on the consequences of a church driven by the government and explore what that means for our lives today. This DVD series features Shawn Boonstra. Location: Castle Rock Church, 7531 Old Pacific Hwy N., Castle Rock, Wash. Time: 7 p.m. Questions? Call Wanda at 360-967-2165.

General Health Series

Sept. 22 — Community Health Intervention DVD series on general health, Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Castle Rock Church fellowship hall, 7531 Old Pacific Hwy N., Castle Rock, Wash. First of a 12-part series being presented monthly on the third

Thursday of the month and featuring David DeRose, M.D. Questions? Call Wanda at 360-967-2165.

Volunteers Needed

The Adventist churches of Lane County are looking for both medical and dental professionals who would be interested in providing medical evangelism services at the Lane County Fairgrounds on Oct. 16, along with Light Bearers Ministry and the Adventist Medical Evangelism Network (AMEN). This event will be to relieve the suffering of 1,500 people, with pastors providing counseling and praying with the patients. To volunteer, go to impactyourhealth Eugene.org for additional information or contact Randy Meyer at 541-937-2786 or randy@caringhandsworldwide.org.

Oregon's 30th Annual Women's Retreat

Oct. 28-30 — Living a Long and Beautiful Life, Oregon's 30th Annual Women's Retreat, will host Loretta Bacchiocchi, nurse practitioner with CREATION Health, at Eagle Crest Resort in central Oregon. Special musical guest is Lisa Marie Buster. Breakout speakers are Rise Rafferty, Peggy Casebier and Rachel Griebel. Teen speaker is Elise LeBlanc. Teens coming with a mom or mentor can come for a discounted rate. To attend, register by going to AdventSource.org or by calling 800-732-7587. For information on hosting a live-streaming site free, visit OregonConference.org. Early bird special for Living a Long and Beautiful Life Women's Retreat is good through Sept. 8.

Missing Members

The Bonanza Church is looking for the following people: Carlene Clark, Frank Clark, Jeremy Clark and Gina Davis Henderson. If you have information, please call Jeanette at 541-533-2210 or send mail to the Bonanza Church, P.O. Box 326, Bonanza, OR 97623-0326.

Missing Members

The Whipple Creek Church is looking for the following missing members: Harvey Campbell, Carole Campbell, Joseph Campbell, Trinity Cross, Gregory Doss, Robert Holladay, Denise Keitges, Thomas Stevens, Diana Thomas, Robert Pryor, Nathaniel Pryor, Sean Martin and Lenny Moore. Anyone having information, please contact Kathy Sundin, church clerk, at 360-263-4189 or ksundin8@gmail.com.

WORLD CHURCH

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Employment

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks director of development. Responsibilities include developing strategies to advance stewardship and donor relations, including data maintenance and recognition events. Exceptional communication skills are essential. Bachelor's degree in relevant field and demonstrated fundraising success required. Submit cover letter and CV/resume to tcondon@swau.edu.

UNION COLLEGE seeks Seventh-day Adventist experienced in K-12 education and eligible for NAD teaching certification. Primary responsibilities include: teaching curriculum and instruction courses and supervising elementary student teachers. 10 years' elementary teaching experience, including

lower grades and multigrade teaching experience are essential. Doctorate strongly preferred. Effective summer 2017. Email letter of interest and CV to Dr. Denise White, Chair of Human Development, dewhite@ucollege.edu.

LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PHARMACY is seeking full-time faculty in the department of pharmacy practice and the department of pharmaceutical and administrative sciences. Candidates for the department of pharmacy practice must possess a doctorate of pharmacy degree, and candidates for the department of pharmaceutical and administrative sciences must possess a Ph.D. degree. Prior teaching experience is desired, but not necessary. Interested

individuals, please send CV and letter of intent to Jen Mathew, Office of the Dean, at jmathew@llu.edu.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks assistant/full professor in the teaching, learning and curriculum department to teach, advise, supervise field experience and direct student projects. Position may require teaching in any/or all semesters including summers. Applicant chosen is expected to be involved in research as well as teaching and supervision of student teachers or graduate internships. Faculty sought will have a doctorate, be an experienced K-12 teacher who is dedicated to promoting Adventist education. For more information or to apply, visit andrews.edu/admres/jobs/1088.

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Events

MISSION: MARANATHA! You're invited to Maranatha Volunteers International's annual mission weekend, Sept. 23-24, in Sacramento, Calif. Featuring inspiring testimonies from volunteers, mission stories from international guests and musical performances by Christian Edition. For times, location and registration for this FREE

event, visit maranatha.org/convention or call 916-774-7700.

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WALLA WALLA/COLLEGE PLACE. Adventist realtors to assist in buying/selling properties: Jenny Fuchs, 509-386-2970; Cory Spencer, 509-301-1958; Darel Tetz, 509-240-5450; and Everett Tetz, 509-386-2749. United Country Real Estate Walla Walla, 509-876-4422.

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Sunset Schedule // DST					
September	2	9	16	23	30
ALASKA CONFERENCE					
Anchorage	9:05	8:42	8:20	7:58	7:36
Fairbanks	9:07	8:41	8:15	7:49	7:24
Juneau	7:54	7:35	7:14	6:54	6:34
Ketchikan	7:38	7:20	7:02	6:44	6:26
IDAHO CONFERENCE					
Boise	8:19	8:07	7:54	7:41	7:29
La Grande	7:29	7:16	7:02	6:49	6:35
Pocatello	8:04	7:51	7:39	7:26	7:14
MONTANA CONFERENCE					
Billings	7:51	7:38	7:24	7:11	6:57
Havre	7:59	7:45	7:30	7:15	7:01
Helena	8:06	7:53	7:39	7:25	7:11
Miles City	7:41	7:28	7:14	7:00	6:46
Missoula	8:14	8:01	7:47	7:33	7:19
OREGON CONFERENCE					
Coos Bay	7:51	7:39	7:26	7:13	7:01
Medford	7:45	7:32	7:20	7:08	6:55
Portland	7:47	7:34	7:21	7:07	6:54
UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE					
Pendleton	7:32	7:19	7:05	6:52	6:38
Spokane	7:29	7:15	7:01	6:46	6:32
Walla Walla	7:31	7:17	7:04	6:50	6:36
Wenatchee	7:40	7:26	7:12	6:58	6:44
Yakima	7:40	7:27	7:13	6:59	6:45
WASHINGTON CONFERENCE					
Bellingham	7:51	7:36	7:21	7:07	6:52
Seattle	7:49	7:35	7:20	7:06	6:52

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SERMONIC BINGO



Last month I commented on some practices church members participate in, which elicited some positive and some consternated responses. Good; that was the point — and I had some very good conversations as a result. However, since I gave church members a hard time, it is only fair to turn the tables on my colleagues and me. Having recently completed a research paper on homiletical pedagogy (how we teach preaching), I feel in a particular ornery mood in regard to the sermons we ministers deliver to our congregations. Therefore, I want to offer you a game: sermonic bingo.

This idea struck me during this past camp meeting season, when I noticed a myriad of predictable phrases and practices that cropped up each time a pastor took the pulpit. When I shared the idea with a research population of whoever was sitting next to me, they expressed delight. In this preliminary version, I offer you some phrases and practices that, in this pastor's humble opinion, should be eliminated from preaching. Forever.

Feel free to take this article to church and count how many times your pastor employs these terms and tactics. I have been guilty of these as well, so this is not only a good reminder but also an open invitation to my congregation to play bingo. Here we go:

1. AMEN BEGGING

This includes “Amen?” plus “Can I get an amen?” and “Would you say amen?” First, according

to a friend on Twitter, the word “amen” appears 57 times in the Bible and never is it in the form of a question. Second, you CAN get an “amen” if you preach well. Third, I would NOT say amen if you have not given me something to say amen about. These phrases are almost as bad as the “good mornings” repeated with increasing volume in order to wrestle a sign of life from the congregation. I like amens in church, but only when they are genuine. Please, I beg you, stop begging.

2. “UM”

Every “um” in the sermon represents an hour of preparation that didn't happen. Seriously, they even talk about this in high school speech classes. For professional speakers, with college and university training, “um” is unbecoming. Once or twice, if the sermon is on an especially complex or difficult topic, you might find some grace; but multiple um-ing on a regular basis is the sermonic equivalent to Chinese water torture on a congregation.

3. “WE ALL KNOW ...”

If we all know, why are you bothering to tell us? Secondly, we don't all know. Unless the only people who attend church are



AUTHOR

Seth Pierce





I like amens in church, but only when they are genuine. Please, I beg you, stop begging.

5. THE ERSATZ CONCLUSION

Otherwise known as “circling the airport,” this makes people angry. If a speaker says “one more story,” or “in conclusion,” they better be ready to end everyone’s suffering. Preaching includes

truth-telling, so when preachers tell people they are about to end and carry on for another 20 minutes, they have mixed truth with error. Lies, I say! Remember my friends, just because you are in prophetic time, doesn’t mean your audience is.

Well, hopefully you have fun with this and challenge us preachers in our role as presenters of the gospel. One note of grace though, in regard to your pastor. The Bible tells us that the apostles spent a lot of time on truth-telling: “But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:4). If your local minister frequently makes sermon faux pas, it may be good to ask if the congregation protects his or her time to study and prepare.

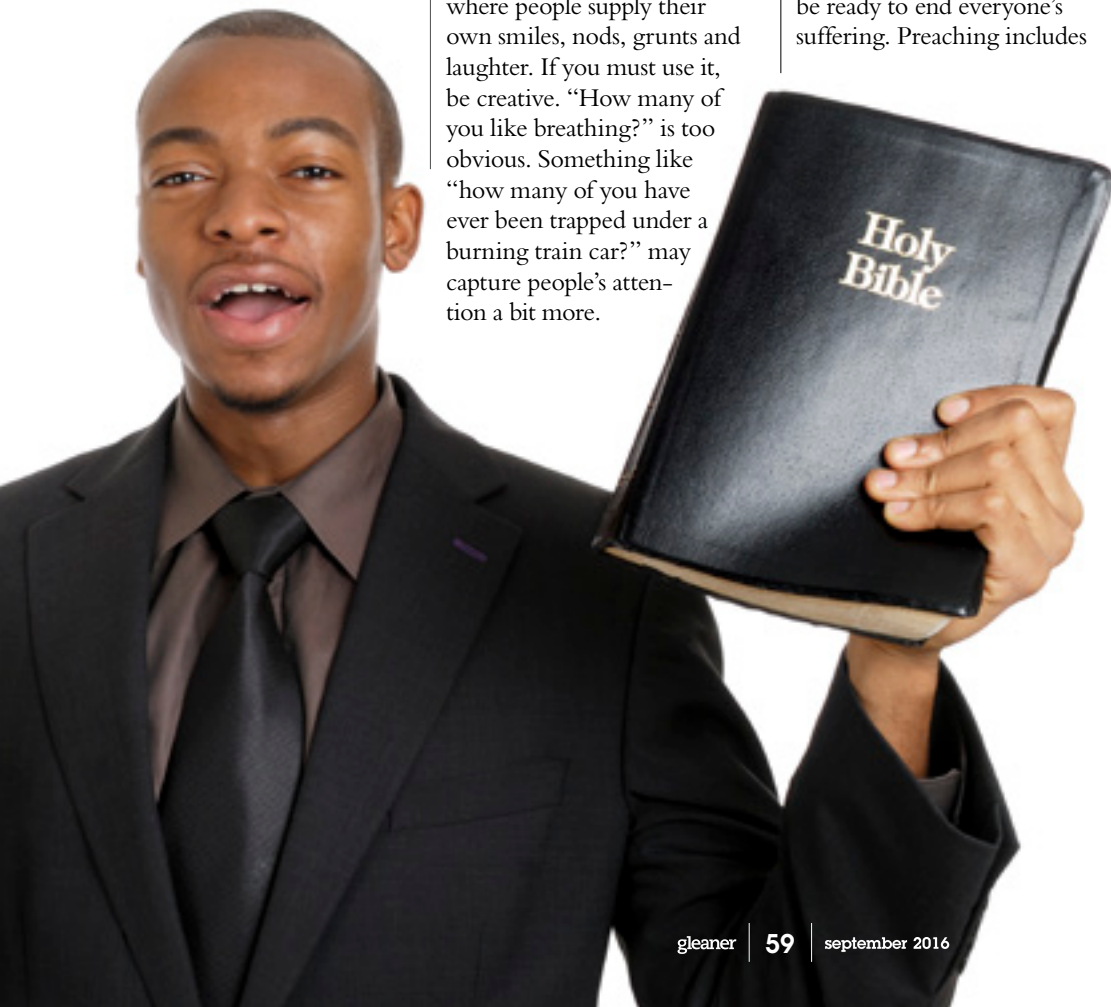
Seth Pierce, Puyallup Church lead pastor

biblically literate Adventist Christians (and sadly, this may be the case for some churches), you need to take a moment and explain who Paul is, what “sanctification” refers to, why Daniel was thrown in a lion’s den. Multiple researchers like Pew, Barna and Kinnaman release studies each year detailing the increasingly secularization of the population. If we want to reach people outside of the church, we need to use inclusive language that orients them

to the text. Quick tip: While people are turning/tapping/scrolling to a Scripture passage, give a 30-second orientation to what it’s about.

4. “HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE EVER ... ?”

While not intrinsically bad, this phrase is used often enough to where it becomes predictable and almost functions as a cousin to amen begging. It elicits a response, sometimes, from sleepy congregations; but it is far better to share a compelling experience where people supply their own smiles, nods, grunts and laughter. If you must use it, be creative. “How many of you like breathing?” is too obvious. Something like “how many of you have ever been trapped under a burning train car?” may capture people’s attention a bit more.



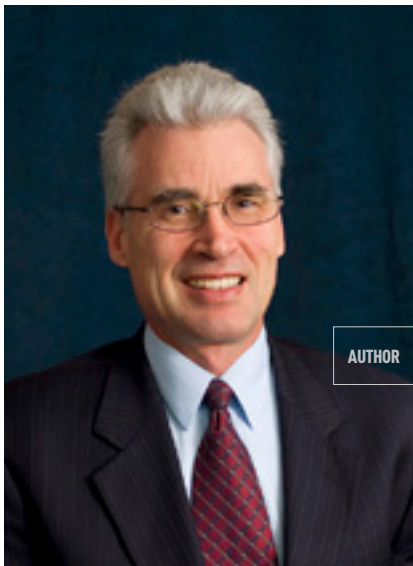
ACCESS TO GOD'S PRESENCE

C

ome with me to the Oval Office, the most powerful place in the world. The year is 1962. Men in gray suits solemnly circulate around the room. Polite knocks at the door, and more enter.

They've earned their right to be here through decades of distinguished civil service. They revel in their right to approach the president: "Mr. President" ... "Sir."

Suddenly the door to the Oval Office bursts open, and a happy little boy toddles in. "Daddy, Daddy!" Nobody seems shocked or offended. Obviously this has happened before. President John F. Kennedy grins delightedly as his little son, who bears his name, jumps onto his lap. The business of the world pauses as father and son exchange kisses and embraces. Then John John jumps on the carpet and crawls under the desk to play. The business of the world resumes.



AUTHOR

Martin Weber

MEETING GOD IN HEAVEN'S SANCTUARY

As sons and daughters of God, all of us enjoy unlimited access to God through Jesus. As our high priest, He ministers as our representative in heaven's sanctuary, "ever living to make intercession for us" (Heb. 7:25).

Back in Old Testament times, one man had access to the inner sanctuary, the Most Holy

Place — earth's Oval Office, if you please. He was the high priest, and he had that access just once a year on the Day of Atonement. He came in trembling, lest his own sin cause him to be struck dead.

It's so different for us: "We who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary" (Heb. 6:18–19).

Remember ancient Esther, who interceded with the Persian king on behalf of her fellow Jews when they were facing genocide. She courageously approached the throne at the risk of her own life. The king extended to Esther his golden scepter, with the ultimate result of her people being saved.

For us, God's golden scepter was extended to us through Jesus, our representative, after His





Now in Christ we may approach our heavenly Father for salvation and other favors as confidently and affectionately as John John entering the Oval Office.

Resurrection. Now in Christ we may approach our heavenly Father for salvation and other favors as confidently and affectionately as John John entering the Oval Office.

And so we flee — not from God, but from the ravages of a troubled world — not in fear but in anticipation of mercy and help in time of need. Having fled to God in His sanctuary, we don't have to flee from life anymore. We don't need those pesky addictions for escape anymore.

Somebody may be saying, "I don't need Jesus in heaven's sanctuary. I just want Him in my heart."

Actually, the sanctuary is all about Jesus and how He connects and interacts with our

hearts and minds. It provides a foundation for organized religion we can trust. It makes sense out of praying in the name of Jesus. It makes us crave God's presence because of His throne of grace.

BENEFITS FROM CHRIST'S INTERCESSION

God blesses His people from heaven's sanctuary, bestowing upon us benefits including but not limited to:

- » Grace;
- » Opportunity for confession;
- » Opportunity for worship;
- » God's companionship;
- » Fellowship with other believers;
- » Purpose in life;
- » Spiritual gifting for ministry;
- » Comfort for our fears;
- » Correction for our stupidities;
- » Healing spiritually, emotionally, physically;
- » Museum of lives transformed and healed;
- » Education about God, life and ourselves;
- » Angelic protection;
- » Victory over the devil;
- » Vindication in the judgment;
- » Insight into the history of good and evil;
- » Insight into the resolution of evil;
- » Insight into the future of this world;
- » Shalom (peace and well-being) here and now;
- » Social justice for the world;
- » Solution for pollution and climate change.

If I can say this reverently, God's sanctuary is a resource center exceeding the grandeur of New York's exclusive Fifth Avenue shops, the round-the-clock variety of your local Wal-Mart Supercenter, and the inclusive acceptance and unlimited consumption offered without charge at an inner-city soup kitchen. Heaven's sanctuary is our one-stop shopping mall for whatever we need in this life and eternally. And everything comes to us through Jesus, our representative before God.

"Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:14–16).

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



GOATS

S

cripture makes it plain. Some people are going to be sheep and some goats. There doesn't seem to be any middle ground in this imagery — no halfway pen of undecided antelopes. I used to wonder about

All we like sheep may indeed go astray, but like goats, we're loath to come back to the fold.

all of this. But then came the summer of the goats.

It was my first time ever at summer camp — not as a camper, but as staff. “You’ll love it,” friends said. “It’ll be one your best experiences ever,” they said. And so there I was, sleeping bag and toothbrush in hand, the tenderfoot of the gang, clueless to established protocol, the recipient of all undesired tasks.

To be sure, the setting was idyllic. The vanilla scent of ponderosa pines filled the mountain air. A nearby river coursed through turquoise pools set in granite. Nights revealed diamond-studded, Milky Way handiwork.

But at the top of the hill lay a challenge: the goats, a petting zoo experience for

campers. I was granted the privilege of providing them daily sustenance — the goats, that is.

The first morning was memorable. Pail full of feed in one hand, I confidently opened the gate into the pen and stepped in. It was all over in a moment. Bounding creatures of all sizes converged on me in a tightly packed phalanx. Like Pickett’s charge at Gettysburg, they rushed straight for the objective — in this case, the food. The upended pail and I went down under the onslaught, throwing the feeding frenzy into high gear. I struggled out from the midst of the melee a much wiser, warier man — no ifs, ands or “butts” about it. It is my studied opinion that the song “Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer” may not be fictional after all.

In the days ahead, I learned how to manage the herd. After watching their behavior, I began to pick out individual personalities — the brown and white “kid” that always had to be king of the hill; the brindle mother who ruled the young ones with an iron hoof; the runt who needed the reassurance of constant contact. In my particular herd there ran an insidious and

common streak of willfulness and rebellion.

Gleaner goat lovers will no doubt call me to task, but in my recollections, goats are closer to humans than we might like to admit. All we like sheep may indeed go astray, but like goats, we’re loath to come back to the fold. We glory in our independence. We are driven to do things our way.

But Jesus says, “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:27). Perhaps this is the core difference in the gospel imagery of sheep and goats. Are we happy in our separate lives of independence? Are we prone to choose whatever guidance fits our inclinations?

Or have we learned through hard experience to bow self before the Master, to follow the call of the Good Shepherd?

Steve Vistaunet, Gleaner editor

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