

YOU SAID IT
MY TEENAGE TESTIMONY

PERSPECTIVE
ALONG CAME A SPIDER,
PART I

JUST LIKE JESUS
WHEN I WAS 35

gleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

THE
REFORMATION
AT

500

IS IT STILL RELEVANT?

SEPT
2017
VOL. 112, N° 9



“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”
Jer. 29:11

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION



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LISTEN

“BEING HEARD IS SO CLOSE TO BEING LOVED THAT FOR THE AVERAGE PERSON, THEY ARE ALMOST INDISTINGUISHABLE.”

— David Augsburger, *Caring Enough to Hear and Be Heard*

Jim and Jackie are a work in progress. One of the “love languages” dear to Jackie’s heart is a partnership with active listening. When she feels heard, she feels loved. It took years for Jim to catch on. But he’s figured out she is happiest when she can share her frustrations openly. And he is

discourse, but it is diminishing the trust we place in each other within our church. We are spending far more time talking *about* each other than we are *to* each other. And that leaves less and less time to collectively focus on Jesus.

The concerns are real — doctrinal integrity, authority and governance within our church structure, loyalty to mission and policy, slippery slopes to worldly values.

and instead look for the worst, when we fall prey to second-hand slander like “it’s been reported to me” or “everyone I talk to says,” we are playing the devil’s game.

Building silo walls or distributing petitions to claim your perspective is the only one God can bless is the very problem Paul encountered two millennia ago. Creating division may be the *modus operandi* of some politicians, but it is not how God has designed His church or His kingdom.

Could the love language of listening, really listening with respect and understanding to Him and to each other, allow the Lord to bring a miracle into our midst? Could it help expel the suspicion and rumor that heighten our distrust? Could it restore relationships that have atrophied from want of loving connections? Could it be the avenue through which the Holy Spirit would move us forward together for the good of our world and His kingdom?

Steve Vistaunet, Gleaner editor

“Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply.” — Stephen Covey

happiest when she is happy. Jim and Jackie’s discovery is not rocket science. Relationships flourish when communication is honest, active and respectful, when we listen more than we speak. The equation is the same for our world and our church.

We are currently saddled with a society where differing views cannot be thoughtfully shared without a violent allergic reaction dutifully portrayed in every newscast. In this current arena, defending a particular point of view has become an obsession, with little patience

AUTHOR

Steve Vistaunet

for another’s perspective. Noted author

Stephen R. Covey observes, “Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply.”

It is not only damaging the civility of our national

Most of us share these concerns, but you wouldn’t know it by reading some of what I see daily online. How quick and easy it is to judge another’s views or motives when we haven’t taken the time to really listen, to consider the whole picture.

The apostle Paul decried the tendency of some believers to compartmentalize, to ally themselves only with a certain leader — Paul, Apollos or Cephas. In reviewing Paul’s words to the Corinthians, you can sense his exasperation: “Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul?”

It is no different today. The brothers and sisters in your local church, the leaders of your conference, union, division or world church are fallible — as are you and I. When we fail to highlight the best in each other



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

AHA HOLDS 35TH ANNUAL COWBOY CAMP MEETING

Every Fourth of July horse lovers and friends from the West Coast gather for camp meeting under a big tent out in God's second book, nature. This year Cowboy Camp Meeting, hosted by the Adventist Horseman's Association (AHA), was held at Mount Adams Horse Camp in Washington, where there is a beautiful view of the mountain. Campers (and those who came just for Sabbath) enjoyed Eric Brown's daily messages on the topic of salvation. Brown is the senior pastor of the Coeur d'Alene Church in Idaho.

This was a wonderful time with lots of singing, riding horses on the beautiful trails, friends, kids, visiting and plenty of wild strawberries to eat. During the six days there were scheduled activities such as an auction, fireside stories and games, potlucks, a trail challenge to judge rider and horse on how well they accomplish certain events along a marked trail, a kids' parade with horses and riders decorated for Independence Day, and more.

In the past, there have been talent shows, Dutch-oven cooking demos, horse-training clinics and kids' days during which kids have different events to accomplish on their horses in the meadow.

The vocal group Handpicked sang for the worship service and gave a concert in the afternoon. Everyone enjoyed many old hymns and Handpicked's great singing with the view of Mount Ad-



Eric Brown was the devotional speaker for the 2017 Cowboy Camp Meeting.



Contestants take on the trail challenge.

ams in the background.

Next year the camp meeting will be July 3–8. The location will be decided during the next officers' meeting in October. Anyone is welcome, whether you're Adventist or non-Adventist, a camper or a day visitor, or have a horse or just a stick horse.

If you would like to get the

AHA's monthly newsletter by email, please email christiantrailrider@gmail.com. And you can always check out the AHA website at adventisthorsemansassociation.weebly.com.

Cherelyn Strickland, Sunnyside (Wash.) Church communication leader



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+ PICTURE THIS



Nampa Hispanics treat their community.

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Montana pastors train for evangelism.

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Sunny day at Sunny City.

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Groundbreaking efforts at Seaside.

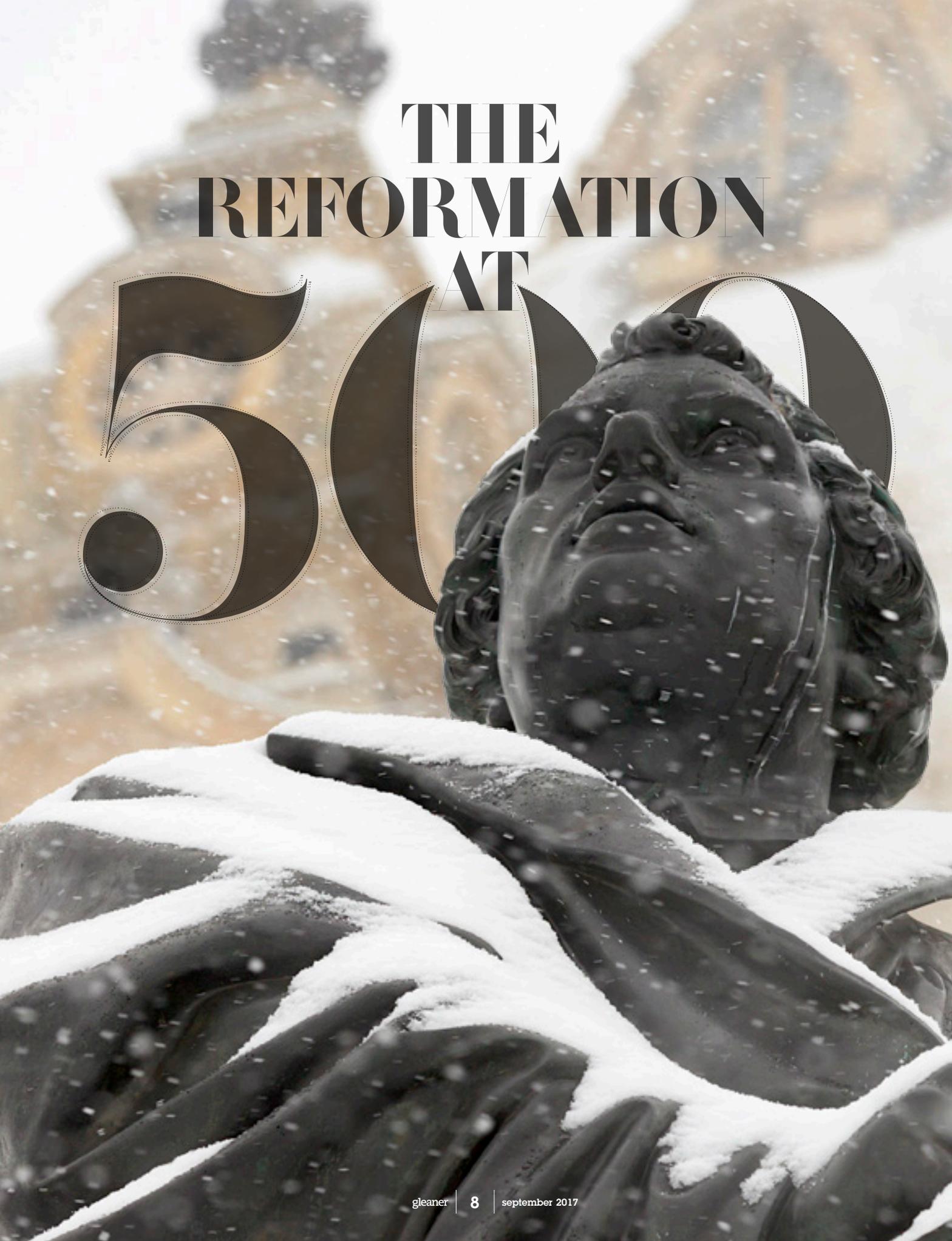
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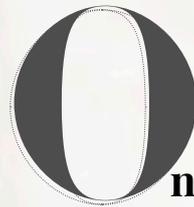
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THE REFORMATION AT

50



IS IT STILL RELEVANT?

On the eve of All Saints Day, October 31, 1517, Martin Luther, a professor at the new University of Wittenberg in Germany, shares 95 statements, or theses, as a call to scholarly discussion. The theses are composed in Latin, the language of scholarship of his day, and addressed to his fellow scholars. He invites either face-to-face or written engagement with his ideas. If disguised in polite, academic garb, the theses are passionate and fiery to the core. Here are just three of them:

No.
32

Those who believe that they can be certain of their salvation because they have indulgence letters will be eternally damned, together with their teachers.

No.
50

Christians are to be taught that if the pope knew the exactions of the indulgence preachers, he would rather that the basilica of St. Peter were burned to ashes than built up with the skin, flesh and bones of his sheep.

No.
79

To say that the cross emblazoned with the papal coat of arms, and set up by the indulgence preachers, is equal in worth to the cross of Christ is blasphemy.*

Translated and disseminated, Luther's theses spark the Reformation, a major schism in Christian history that reverberates to our own day.

Seventh-day Adventists have a special love for the Reformation, long regarding its flawed leaders as heroes of the faith, inspired by God and our spiritual forebearers. The 500th anniversary of Luther's *Ninety-five Theses* and the beginning of the Reformation offers us an opportunity to assess afresh our relationship to Martin Luther and his colleagues. Five hundred years on, what is left of the Reformation? What still matters?

CENTRAL TRUTHS REMAIN

Central truths recaptured by the Reformation should still stir our hearts and invite our fresh affirmation. Such central truths are often summarized by five Latin phrases, the "five solas": 1) *sola scriptura*, "Scripture alone," confirming the Bible as our highest authority; 2) *sola fide*, "faith alone," confessing that we are saved only through faith in Christ; 3) *sola gratia*, "grace alone," announcing that we are saved by the grace of God alone; 4) *solus christus*, "Christ alone," testifying that Jesus Christ and no other is our Lord and Savior; and 5) *soli deo gloria*, "to the glory of God alone," urging that we should live only for the glory of God.

♦ Allow me to explore two of these truths and their significance for us today.

Surely *sola fide* still matters. Martin Luther found in Romans 1:17 a salve for his tortured soul: "The righteous shall live by faith."* In Luther's pastoral counsel to others we see what this means for him. Late in life, in a bid to console his friend Spalatin, who brooded over his mistakes, Luther wrote, "Now join with us prodigious and hardened sinners lest you diminish Christ for us. He is not a savior of fictitious or petty sinners but of genuine ones, not only the lowly but also the big and powerful ones; indeed he is the savior of all sinners. My Staupitz consoled me this way when I was downhearted. You can be a *bogus* sinner and have Christ for a *fictitious* savior. Instead, get used to the fact that Christ is a genuine savior and that you are a real sinner."*

Luther battled against the views of John Agricola and the Antinomians, those who believed the moral law was of no use or obligation under the gospel dispensation of grace. His efforts demonstrated that a commitment to *sola fide* does not militate against love for God's law. Luther was concerned that believers no longer under the pope's authority would take salvation

♦ for granted, disregarding and disobeying the Ten Commandments. He insisted on his own love and appreciation for them: "I myself as old and as learned as I am, recite the commandments daily word for word as a child."*

SOLA FIDE TODAY

Seventh-day Adventists have not been immune to the dangers of either legalism or antinomianism. What should we make of *sola fide* today? How can we embrace with joy the idea of Christ alone as the Source of our salvation and find real motivation and help in God's law? Is there a way for us as a movement to stabilize our understandings of the biblical teaching of salvation? Can we avoid exchanging one skewed emphasis for another, avoid being "carried along by every wind of doctrine" (Eph. 4:4, ESV)?

As I have noted, another leading idea of the Reformation is that doctrine should rest on Scripture alone (*sola scriptura*). The Bible stands supreme as the source for truth over all other sources including the encyclicals of popes and the decisions of church councils. Luther's declaration at Worms still rings in the hearts of Protestants: "Unless I am convinced otherwise by evidence from scripture or incontestable arguments, I

♦ remain bound by the scripture I have put forward. As long as my conscience is captive to the word of God, I neither can nor will recant, since it is neither safe nor right to act against conscience. God help me. Amen."*

Impressively, Luther was not content to simply formulate and celebrate such a view. He was committed to translating God's Word into the German language of his people, using his skill as scholar and linguist to accurately convey the truths of Scripture. William Tyndale, drawing inspiration from Luther (and Erasmus) would articulate his passion for this mission of making God's Word available and accessible in an argument with a cleric who claimed, "We would be better off without God's laws than the pope's [laws]." To which Tyndale replied, "I defy the Pope and all his laws ... if God spares my life, before long I will cause a boy that drives the plow to know more of the Scriptures than you do."* Beyond translation, Luther invested himself in nourishing the new, gospel-based churches through training and mentoring pastors equipped to teach God's Word and through providing Bible-infused worship materials, especially hymns.

If this leading conviction of the Reformation —

CENTRAL TRUTHS RECAPTURED BY THE REFORMATION SHOULD STILL STIR OUR HEARTS AND INVITE OUR FRESH AFFIRMATION.

sola scriptura — remains important and active, what does it demand of us? How committed are we to careful, disciplined study of God's Word? In the context of an increasingly secular and post-Christian nation, what call is upon us? In an age when written texts are rapidly giving way to visually based communication how are we to respond as inheritors of the belief in *sola scriptura* and the mission to make God's Word accessible?

ELLEN WHITE'S STANDARD

Ellen White holds forth a high standard for us as we reflect on the Reformation and how it applies to us today: "The Reformation did not, as many suppose, end with Luther. It is to be continued to the close of this world's history. Luther had a great work to do in reflecting to others the light which God had permitted to shine upon him; yet he did not receive all the light which was to be given to the world. From that time to this, new light has

been continually shining upon the Scriptures, and new truths have been constantly unfolding."

Luther and his co-laborers accomplished a noble work for God; but, coming as they did from the Roman Church, having themselves believed and advocated her doctrines, it was not to be expected that they would discern all these errors. It was their work to break the fetters of Rome and to give the Bible to the world; yet there were important truths that they failed to discover and grave errors that they did not renounce.*

We are not simply to recapture the truths of the Reformation. We are to move forward with the same fervor

and dedication the reformers displayed toward new frontiers of truth and commitment!

As we grow evermore chronologically distant from the Reformation, we must become ever more intentional in telling its stories; treasuring its heroes; and valuing, activating and extending its truths. In this 500th anniversary of its start, I invite you to invest yourself in that effort. Read a good book or two about the Reformation. (Why not tackle a detailed biography of one of its heroes? Or choose a children's book on one of the reformers and read it serially at family worship?)* Celebrate the 500th anniversary by creating opportunities to reflect with family members and your church fellowship on the significance of the Reformation and attending anniversary events scheduled in your community. Decide — as Luther and his colleagues did in their time — what it means to live the truths of the Reformation and then, by God's grace, act on that decision.

* Full references are listed online at GleanerNow.com/reformation500.

John McVay
Walla Walla
University president

Celebrate the 500th anniversary

*by creating opportunities to reflect with family members and your church fellowship on the significance of the Reformation and attending anniversary events scheduled in your community (We would be delighted to have you join us for celebrations of the Reformation at Walla Walla University on **October 31 and November 4**). Decide — as Luther and his colleagues did in their time — what it means to live the truths of the Reformation and then, by God's grace, act on that decision.*

COMPARTIR AMOR CON LA SALUD

Amado, yo deseo que tengas salud” (3 Juan 2).

El domingo 23 de julio de 2017 había llegado. La Iglesia Adventista de Nampa, Idaho, se había preparado por más de seis meses para montar la FERIA DE SALUD.

Me encuentro reunido con la directora de Salud de la iglesia y organizadora del evento, la doctora Yvonne Beteta de Santos. La apoyan para esta entrevista los esposos Rivas (José Luis y María), los esposos Recuenco (Víctor y Pilar), y uno de los ancianos de la iglesia, el hermano Salvador Aguirre.

Juan Francisco

Altamirano (JFA): ¿Cuántas personas fueron atendidas en esta feria de salud?

Doctora Yvonne Beteta (YB): Aproximadamente 120 personas recibieron servicios médicos a partir de las 9 de la mañana hasta las 4 de la tarde.

JFA: ¿Qué clase de servicios médicos se ofrecieron?

YB: Exámenes de sangre para medir el colesterol, el nivel de azúcar, prueba de VIH y otras enfermedades infecciosas. También se midió la densidad ósea, hubo prueba de resistencia del corazón,

mamografía, examen de la vista, consulta con el médico general, revisión dental, y también: masaje y corte de pelo. Además se les entregó literatura sobre los ocho remedios naturales y un ejemplar de el camino a Cristo, entre otros.

JFA: ¿Cuántos voluntarios se involucraron?

YB: 57 en total. 22 voluntarios de la comunidad proveedores de los servicios médicos junto a 35 miembros de iglesia. El 60 porcentaje de la iglesia fue movilizad para servir a la comunidad el día del evento, y el otro 40 porcentaje participó con donaciones, con su tiempo y dones y talentos.

JFA: ¿Qué tres beneficios deja a la Iglesia Adventista de Nampa haberse movilizad en este tipo de eventos?

YB: Dios ha llevado a

Hermanos en oración.



Listos para servir.

su iglesia a otro nivel con las siguientes tres bendiciones derivadas de la FERIA DE SALUD: Primero: Renovamos nuestra **UNIDAD**. Segundo: Aumentamos nuestra **COOPERACIÓN**. Y tercero: Fortalecimos nuestra capacidad de **ORGANIZACIÓN**.

JFA: ¿Algún testimonio evangelizador?

YB: Cinco amigos de la comunidad estuvieron el sábado 22, el día anterior al evento. Aunque llegaron por error creyendo que era el día de la feria, cuando se les explicó que sería el día siguiente, fueron invitados a quedarse y decidieron

participar del estudio de la Palabra de Dios.

JFA: ¿Y el momento milagroso?

YB: Cuando una familia de la iglesia se puso de pie y entregó los recursos para cubrir los gastos de la aseguranza médica de la feria.

¡A Dios sea la gloria!

El pastor Juan Francisco Altamirano, coordina la labor de las iglesias de habla hispana en la Asociación de Idaho

More photos online at
glnr.in/112-09-ak_camp

CAMP TUKUSKOYA DEDICATES NEW CABIN

On the eve of the arrival of the season's first junior campers, Camp Tukuskoya near Big Lake, Alaska, hosted a ribbon-cutting and dedication for a new cabin. The Cowen and Koliadko families played flute, guitar and string music as guests toured improvements around the camp.

At each upgraded location, members of the Camp Tukuskoya operating board served appetizers, soup or salad as they explained improvements made and plans for future accomplishments. After the ribbon-cutting, members of churches across south-central Alaska closed the Sabbath together, enjoying s'mores and vespers around the campfire.

Tobin Dodge, Alaska Camps director, thanked the volunteers. "Some new people will come and be introduced to Christ here," he said. "Praise God for that. But so much more happens at a summer camp, so much more learning

and developing of little children. Thanks for all the hard work. Keep after it!"

Projects began during spring break, when mission groups from Tappahannock Junior Academy in Virginia and Columbia Adventist Academy in Battle Ground, Wash., built the foundation and framed in a new double-capacity cabin. In the following weeks, members of the Camp Tukuskoya operating board and other local volunteers finished the roofing and siding, built the bunks, and installed new high-quality hygienic mattresses — all in time to celebrate the season dedication with this year's Alaska Camps staff.

The camp staff felt blessed to have almost met capacity at both Camp Tukuskoya camps in June: Junior Camp for ages 8–12 and the new Teen eXtreme for ages 13–16. They are celebrating how God has blessed the summer camp program in Alaska.

Members from Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Valley gather to celebrate the ribbon-cutting for the new double-capacity cabin at Camp Tukuskoya and the dedication of the 2017 camp season.



The Blood Bank of Alaska prepares to receive donors.

More online at
glnr.in/112-09-ak_blood

ALASKA ADVENTISTS HOST ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

Each July, constituents gather at the Southcentral Alaska Camp Meeting in Palmer. Although one of several camp meetings throughout the state, the July gathering is the largest, with members coming north from Juneau and from as far away as St. Lawrence Island in arctic Alaska. After several days of intense preparation, camp meeting opened Tuesday evening, July 18, with keynote speaker John Bradshaw from *It Is Written*.

In addition to dynamic speakers and exciting youth programming, each year the Alaska Conference members support their community by inviting the Blood Bank of Alaska to visit campus. The event is advertised in advance through the churches and again during camp meeting.

The conference has

included the blood drive as part of its campus activities since 2005. This year, 31 people registered to donate — including 17 new donors — with a total of 20 units collected. Sent to communities throughout the state, these units have the ability to impact 60 patients in the hospital.

Many out-of-state visitors took time to donate this year as well. The Alaska Conference staff was grateful for all those who donated and those who attempted to donate but could not.

Jesus not only gave His blood for us, He gave His life. The least we can do is give a little blood.

Brenda Campbell Johnson, Alaska Conference communication director

UPCOMING EVENTS

As part of our commitment to equipping our members to be active in ministry in their local churches, the Idaho Conference announces the biennial Transformed for Ministry Sabbaths for 2017. Conference leadership, in conjunction with some pastors and lay members, are presenting workshops on various areas of ministry and leadership.

Join us on the following dates at locations around the conference:

- » Sabbath, **Sept. 30**, at the Pocatello Church, Pocatello, Idaho;
- » Sabbath, **Oct. 14**, at the La Grande Church, La Grande, Ore.;
- » Sabbath, **Nov. 18**, at the Meridian Church, Meridian, Idaho.

The Pocatello and Meridian locations will also feature Spanish-language workshops.

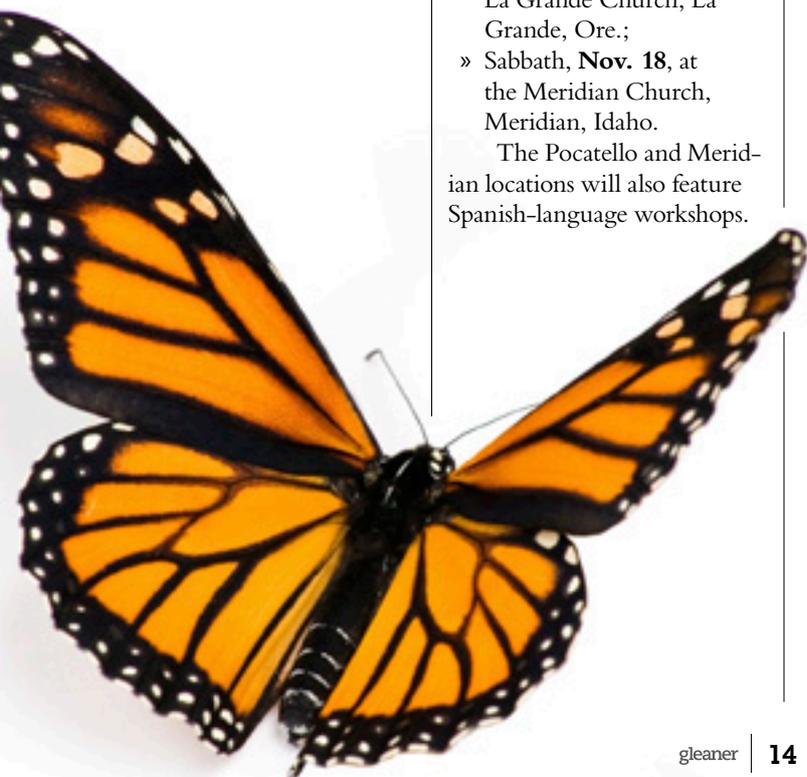
The following is a list of presenters and titles/topics. More information will be available at IdahoAdventist.org.

- » David Prest Jr.: Toward Understanding Millennials;
- » John Rogers: For Treasurers;
- » Pat Frey: From Pits to Praise, Making Adult Sabbath School Lessons Come Alive;
- » Eve Rusk: Remodeling the Church, From Gas Station to Post Office;
- » Cheri Gatton: Embrace Abundant Life! (Women's Ministries);
- » Hudson Logan and Karen Pearson: Follow "The Desire" — Establishing a Prayer Ministry That Works;
- » Michael Pearson: Accepting His Presence;
- » Jason Williams: Disciples Making Disciples;
- » Wendy Williams: Help! I've Been Asked to Teach! Raising Young Disciples Who Love Jesus and His Church;
- » Francisco Altamirano and Gerald Margil (Pocatello and Meridian): El Manual de la Iglesia ¿Por Qué y Para Qué?

DATES TO REMEMBER

- » **Sept. 4**: Conference Office closed for Labor Day;
- » **Sept. 8–10**: Women's Retreat, Camp Ida-Haven, McCall, Idaho;
- » **Oct. 1**: Eagle Classic Car Show, Eagle Adventist Church/School;
- » **Nov. 10–12**: Prayer Conference, Camp Ida-Haven, McCall;
- » **Nov. 22 (noon)–23**: Conference Office closed for Thanksgiving;
- » **Dec. 1–2**: Eagle Live Nativity, Eagle, Idaho;
- » **Dec. 8–10**: Journey to Bethlehem, Meridian, Idaho;
- » **Dec. 25, 2017–Jan. 1, 2018**: Conference Office closed for Christmas/New Year's.

For more information about these upcoming events, go to GleanerNow.com/events.



CAMP MEETING SEES VIDEO MIRACLE

Just before the final meeting of camp meeting with Alex Rodriguez from Voice of Prophecy, Ryan McCoy and the video support team began to go through routine video equipment checks. When McCoy didn't see the normal feed show up on his screen from the platform presentation-capture equipment, he reported the problem to Brian Yarbrough, an audiovisual team member, and he and Rodriguez began troubleshooting.

week. After all the cables and connections tested as good, the video team switched out the equipment with a spare. McCoy even took a laptop up to the front during the announcements to verify the problem. The signal just absolutely refused to go through.

With the video team running out of time to resolve the issue, they realized they might have to bypass the whole system and connect the laptop directly to one of the projectors. This last-ditch plan would, however, effectively disable the presentation from being seen at a number of other locations as well as the livestream.

As Rodriguez stepped up to the platform and connected his laptop, the video team waited nervously in the back for what seemed like the inevitable technical difficulties. He connected his power, sound and then video connector.

Nothing came up on the screens, and the seconds ticked by.

As the team began to scramble on their backup plan, the signal suddenly and inexplicably came up on the screens — a good 10 seconds after Rodriguez had made the laptop connections.

The video team looked at each other, relieved and

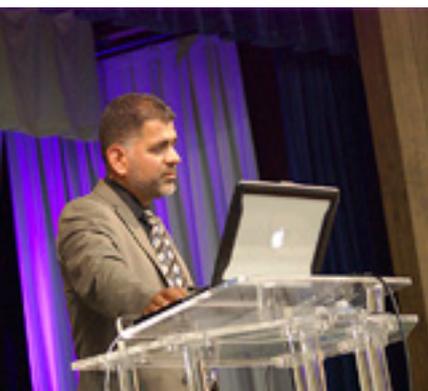
amazed. Even with their years of experience, their troubleshooting had not fixed the problem. There was no logical explanation for what had just happened.

The final meeting went on with no further problems. Everyone locally and on the livestream witnessed a miracle — a miracle everyone saw but no one (except the video team) noticed.

Ryan McCoy, Middleton Church member



Ryan McCoy



Alex Rodriguez

The video equipment was supposed to capture the speaker's laptop presentation for display on the large screens up front and for video recordings and the livestream broadcast. There wasn't much time remaining, and the equipment had worked normally all



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MILES CITY HOSTS EVANGELISM WEEKEND

The Miles City Church hosted Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism (AF-COE) on the weekend of April 21–22. More than 80 people attended the program as Chuck Holtry, AF-COE director, presented such topics as the cycle of evangelism, reclaiming missing members, friendship evangelism and our divine commission as Seventh-day Adventists.

Members from North Dakota, Idaho, eastern Montana and Billings, young and old, came away from the weekend committed to being more intentional about witnessing in their communities and becoming more involved in the mission of their local church.

The presentations focused on viewing evangelism not as an event but a lifestyle that every Christian should live.

A very intentional effort is also being put forth by

the Miles City Church to reclaim members who have not attended the church in years. Also, the church has organized several interest-gathering events for the community in preparation for public evangelism in 2018. In January, the church hosted a showing of the documentary *The Conscientious Objector*. In April, an artisan bread class was conducted for community members. In May, a CREATION Health seminar will be given. On Wednesdays and Fridays small-group Bible studies are taking place at the church, and members are encouraged to invite friends and family from the community.

Meanwhile, church members have become active in making friends for Jesus in their spheres of influence.

Diego Silva, Miles City Church pastor



Montana pastors had the opportunity to attend the Living Hope School of Evangelism, presented by Mark and Ernestine Finley (left).

MONTANA PASTORS ATTEND LIVING HOPE SCHOOL OF EVANGELISM

Several Montana Conference pastors had the opportunity to attend Mark and Ernestine Finley's Living Hope School of Evangelism for one week in April. The trip was sponsored by the ministerial department in cooperation with conference administration.

In addition to class instruction time there were evening seminars open to the community on topics such as health, wellness and archaeology. Many came out to hear about these relevant topics of interest. This powerfully demonstrated the power of the cycle of evangelism in the ongoing life of the church in terms of witness and faith-sharing with neighbors and friends.

Pastors attending Living Hope were also able to

share one on one with the Finleys about their particular ministry challenges and potential opportunities. One pastor, commenting on the experience, said that "great ideas were shared regarding presenting our health message in a balanced, tasteful and attractive way." Another said there was "practical training on different aspects of evangelism and equipping church members for service."

The Montana Conference is grateful to the Finleys for taking the time to share with and mentor church leaders and pastors. Their love for the work of God was truly an inspiration.

Barry Taylor, Montana Conference ministerial director



VOLUNTEERS FOR JESUS REACH KIDS AT CAMP MEETING

More online at glncr.in/112-09-or_volunteers +

As a child, growing up in South Africa, I remember singing the words, “Volunteers, volunteers, how I love the name. Volunteers, volunteers, Jesus to proclaim.” I just didn’t realize that many years later I would be dependent on volunteers to plan, lead and move forward in every aspect of the ministry to which God has called me.

Children’s ministries volunteers have to be committed, enthusiastic and passionate about serving children. One of our volunteers says camp meeting is her favorite place to be all year long. They are often called upon to be creative and patient and always to be kind — quite a tall order that cannot be accomplished unless Christ is front and center in their lives.



Shirley Allen

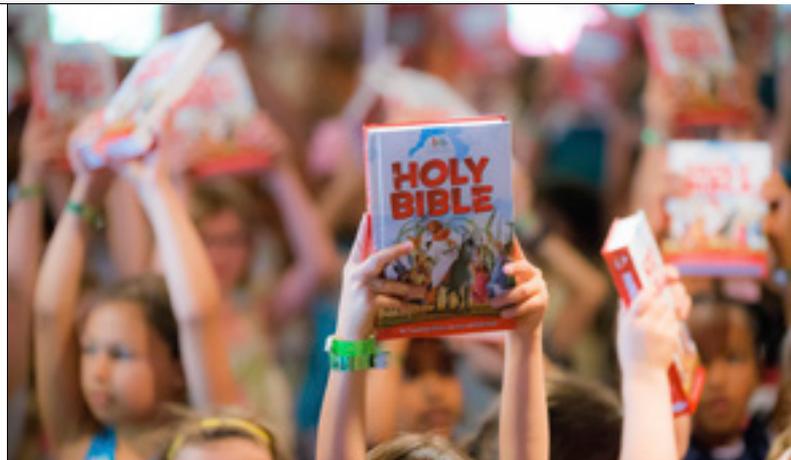
unsung heroes. They have staying power. Why do they do it? It’s all about Jesus. It’s all about sharing Jesus with children who need to know, to understand, to experience His love in as tangible a way as possible. And did they accomplish this

during this year’s Gladstone Camp Meeting? I am convinced they did.

Here’s one story told to me by a grandma of one of



Learning songs, memorizing Bible verses and hearing stories were all part of the camp meeting experience.



This year, a generous donor made sure every child got a Bible of his or her own at camp meeting.

these children. She and her grandson were sent to find a picnic table for the family for lunch. They found one that was unoccupied except for someone lying on the grass in the vicinity. When they sat down they found out the sleeping man was not happy. That day the children had learned “God forgives you.” So the 5-year-old boy turns to his grandma and says, “Gran, I need to go and ask that man’s forgiveness for taking his table.” Off he trotted, watched by Grandma, who would have liked to listen in on the conversation, as would I.

When last did you or I take the lesson of the day to heart and put it into practice like this child did? No wonder Jesus said, “Truly I tell you,

unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 18:3).

Many children come to camp meeting with grandparents as their only church attendance for the year (something like a church intensive). One such grandchild, after being brought every summer, joined our team as a volunteer this year. We were thrilled to be able to continue to mentor her as a helper, and her grandparents were overjoyed that she loved volunteering so much.

This is why we do children’s ministries at camp meeting: because Jesus loves the children and so do we.

Shirley Allen, Oregon Conference children’s ministry director

GLADSTONE CAMP MEETING CELEBRATES KIDS, REFORMATION

More online at 
glnr.in/112-09-or_gladstone

Camp meeting is marked by planning, anticipation, exertion, exhaustion and spiritual uplift. As one leader told me, “I’ve never been quite as ‘happy-tired’ as Sunday morning this year.”

This year I spent an hour Sabbath morning with the Beavers, a wild-eyed group of 5- to 6-year-olds digging in a sandbox, putting jewels on crowns, listening to stories and sweating in the heat of a tent that would make a blacksmith feel at home.

I told one of the staff members she deserved combat pay. She laughed and said, “Not at all. This is the best week of my year.”

That was the spirit I found everywhere I went. Yes, staff were exhausted, but they were also still wonderfully kind,

patient and eager to find even better ways to show God’s love to the kids.

This year’s overall theme was “It’s All About Jesus,” and each department worked hard to bring that message into their programming. Since this year also marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s 95 *Theses*, many of the adult classes and presentations focused on Jesus’ centrality to every aspect of the Reformation.

I wasn’t sure how that would go over with our members, but it was a total win. Members listened, compared messages with Wikipedia, read unmarked portions of their Bibles and talked about reformers — during meals, after meetings and even during Sabbath potluck.

» “I hope I have the same strength of love for God as

During each evening’s program the story of Martin Luther was told through drama.



GARY MCLAIN

Read about
 a camp meeting
 miracle online at
glnr.in/112-09-or_miracle

SCAN
 CODE



the martyrs.”
 » “I knew Martin Luther wrote a song and nailed something on a church door but had no idea he was so



GARY MCLAIN

Each evening Ty Gibson shared a sola of the Reformation.

important in the Reformation.”
 » “I was amazed to see that the Reformation took place at about the same time America was being discovered and settled.”

The evening speaker, Ty Gibson, presented five “solas” of the Reformation.

Each evening a spiritual drama followed Martin Luther through his life as a growing Christian and Reformation leader. The men and women who became Martin Luther, Emperor Charles V, and several of Luther’s friends and mentors practiced for weeks to become the people they played each evening. Laura Wibberding wrote the scripts and directed each presentation.

The evening programs were livestreamed, and more than 1,500 people joined the services virtually. Though most were from Oregon, folks tuned in across America and from more than a dozen other countries. Video and audio of the evening programs, and many other seminars and presentations, are available on the Oregon Conference website at OregonConference.org.

Next year’s Gladstone Camp Meeting will be held July 12–14 (Spanish language) and 17–21 (English language.) We hope you can join us!

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



Seaside Church members celebrate breaking ground for their new sanctuary.

SEASIDE BREAKS GROUND ON SANCTUARY ADDITION

The Seaside Church decided to step out in faith to build the sanctuary addition that had been the plan when the Sabbath School wing was originally built in the 1960s. In January 2016 members increased their monthly budget four times over from what it was before — and God blessed.

On Sunday, May 28, the Seaside Church celebrated with the groundbreaking ceremony for their new sanctuary. Attending and breaking ground were Jay Barber, Seaside mayor; Chuck Burkeen, Oregon Conference ministerial director; Don Kirkman, architect; Ed Jensen, Maranatha building representative; Greg Kabanuk, head elder; Kruparao Kancharla, head of the building committee; Adel Abdelfadi, treasurer; John Hill, excavator contractor; Anish Nakka, youth representative; and William Smith, pastor. Paul

Christensen, civil engineer, also attended.

The celebration weekend began with a concert by Homeward, a vocal quintet, on Sabbath evening. Many people came, including current and former members from other area churches who braved the Memorial Day weekend traffic to support the joyful occasion.

Since this wonderful day God has blessed with perfect weather to move forward with the excavation and foundation. Maranatha came in August to construct the new sanctuary.

It is not too late to participate in this project with donations or help with the finish work. If you have questions, contact William “Bill” Smith at 503-409-6908 or by email at billandsuesmith@yahoo.com.

Diane Kleeman, Seaside Church communication leader

VOLUNTEERS BLESS MILO ACADEMY

Troy Epperly, a retiree and home builder from Port Orchard, Wash., and his wife, Dorothy, are the latest in a long stream of volunteers who have blessed Milo Adventist Academy in Days Creek with their labors of love. Troy Epperly has a history of volunteering to help Kitsap Adventist School in Bremerton, Wash., and occasionally at other Adventist schools.

When asked why he contributes his time to help the school, Epperly replied, “It’s my way of giving back to the church and to the schools.” He finds that people want to send their kids to the schools, but they don’t want to contribute themselves. These days there aren’t as many tradespeople in the church, so he feels it is important to provide support in that area.

Epperly and Chuck Vliet, also from Port Orchard, are

currently working on the new cabins at Milo’s Camp Umpqua, which Maranatha volunteers constructed in the summer of 2015.

Michael Belknap of Spokane, Wash., volunteered with Maranatha at Milo in the past. In July, he recruited a group of friends to join him again at Milo for several house-painting projects.

Jan Thornton, Milo’s principal’s wife, says, “It’s wonderful to see the larger community coming together to keep projects moving forward here at Milo. We all have the same mission: to educate our young people and help them to get to know Jesus. We greatly appreciate the support of all our generous volunteers and donors that make it possible to achieve our mission.”

Kathy Hernandez, Milo Academy communication leader



Chuck Vliet (left) and Troy Epperly discuss their plans for the Camp Umpqua cabin project.

PETER HERNANDEZ

PAA REMEMBERS MRS. WINTER

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helma Winter, Portland Adventist Academy (PAA, formerly Portland Union Academy/PUA) teacher for 31 years and a pillar in Adventist education, passed away peacefully on July 6, 2017, just shy of her 102nd birthday.

Over her 50-year career, Winter taught Spanish, English, advanced placement English, history and Bible and was a school librarian. After a short retirement in 1981, she returned to the classroom for another 20 years, stopping at PAA and Emerald Junior Academy in Oregon and at Bakersfield Adventist Academy and Newberry Park Academy in California.

Winter kept her professional tools sharp. She modified her teaching styles as new educational discoveries came to light. She was also intuitive. Winter recognized potential in students who struggled, and she discovered techniques that helped them succeed.

One such student was Terry Johnsson, who shared the eulogy at Winter's memorial service. Johnsson struggled with severe dyslexia long before learning disabilities were understood. Before his arrival at PAA, some teachers



Thelma Winter, Portland Adventist Academy teacher for 31 years and a pillar in Adventist education, passed away peacefully, just shy of her 102nd birthday.

suggested he drop out. "But Mrs. Winter was a teacher with a capital T," he said. "She met with me after school every day to get me to my graduation."

Johnsson later earned two college degrees from Oakwood University in Alabama, a graduate degree from California's La Sierra University and a doctoral degree from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. "Thelma Winter saw potential in me when no one else did," he said.



"I won't live long enough to write all the fond memories I have of PUA and PAA. ... I have loved all the precious people I have taught," Winter wrote in 2012.

That same tenacity for her students' potential could be seen in other corners of Winter's life. Even at 101, she claimed she never felt old. She began jogging at age 50 and didn't stop until she was 96. She stayed "young" by surrounding herself with young people. Even in her latest years, she insisted on daily time with teens at

Newbury Park Academy, where students and staff affectionately called her "grandma."

Winter's memorial service was an inspirational reminder of the precious relationships that develop through Adventist education. When former students were asked to stand, nearly three-quarters of the congregation rose to their feet. Many of those still seated were former colleagues.

In 2012 Winter wrote, "I won't live long enough to write all the fond memories I have of PUA and PAA. ... I have loved all the precious people I have taught."

No doubt about it, Mrs. Winter loved them as she followed her life's purpose. She introduced her students to a rigorous education, but, most importantly, she introduced them to Jesus.

Read the full story, hear Terry Johnsson tell his story and view the Facebook photo album at glnr.in/112-09-or_paa.

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA Gleaner correspondent



Even celebrating 100 years of life, Winter claimed she never felt old.

More photos online at glnr.in/112-09-or_sunmyside



SUNNY DAY SMILES ON SUNNYSIDE'S SUNNY CITY

Sunday, July 2, dawned bright and clear. It promised to be a beautiful day in Portland. After a several-years' hiatus the community fair known as Sunny City was back.

Sunny City is an interactive cityscape designed especially for kids; each "building"



Come on in and enjoy Sunny City, an interactive cityscape designed especially for kids!

coordinator, and Lorraine Jacobs, the concert and sponsor manager.

In the past, Sunny City was produced by Sunnyside Church alone. This was the first attempt at a collaborative production with Adventist Medical Center (AMC) and Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) joining the church's efforts. The goal for all three organizations is that over time the people of southeast Portland will come to trust them for their physical, emotional, educational and spiritual needs.

PAA provided the venue on its campus as well as student helpers. AMC set up a walk-through large intestine (colon) display, promoted a health screening event coming in August and did a promotional mailing to the local zip code. Sunnyside provided the leader-

ship and volunteers.

Healthy and affordable food was available for purchase, and a rest area provided cool bottled water. The Oregon Commission for the Blind let people try on glasses that simulate various eye conditions, and then they had to try to complete tasks. Attendees enjoyed singing and joyful music in the music hall and could choose a book to take home from the library.

Face painting created quite a line, while other kids helped create a "freedom mural." A geology adventure helped kids learn some amazing facts and let them dig in sand for a treasure.

Vacation Bible School crafts encouraged

families to preregister for the upcoming Maker Fun Factory VBS. Kids could work off their energy in a bouncy house or explore digestive health with AMC's colon display. Portland Adventist Community Services (PACS) brought the COW (Commodities on Wheels) mobile food bank.

Outside the gate/fence there was a multicolored parachute, another energy-consuming activity. After the canopies closed (most cities do shut down), a concert on the lawn was provided by a gospel bluegrass band, Road to Jericho, from Salem, Ore.

Sunny City was staffed by approximately 75 volunteers. About 180 kids attended. Their families brought the total attendance to about 325. The Sunnyside Church, PAA and AMC teams plan to follow this with annual events in order to reinforce the neighbors' confidence in the three sponsoring organizations.

*Warren Rushold,
Sunnyside Church
communication team
leader*



SUNNYSIDE
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH



Kara Johnsson, a Sunnyside pastor, visits with a young Sunny City attendee.

(canopy) is something you might find in a real city. The purpose is to create a positive connection between neighbors, community organizations and the local church. In some cases this is the first positive interaction with a church the children and families have ever had.

Leadership was provided by Sunnyside Church members Elise Holcombe, the city



SWEET HOME CELEBRATES A REDEDICATION

More online at
glnr.in/112-09-or_sweet



On Sabbath, June 10, about 170 people joined together to celebrate the rededication of Oregon's Sweet Home Church. Dan Linrud, Oregon Conference president, was the guest speaker. Former pastors Charles Burken, Dick Hall and Walter Wandersleben also participated in the service. The Carpenter Family and BAKE 4 from the Albany Church provided the music for the special occasion.

It truly was a day to give thanks to God for His leading and providing during the Sweet Home Church's remodeling of the entire interior of their church facility. In the winter of 2015 the Sweet Home Church board began exploring the need to replace the carpet of the church — a huge project for the small church to undertake.

At one time the Sweet Home Church was full, but in recent years, as more members died and as the local mills shut down, causing people to move away looking for work, the membership continued to decline. In 2016 the average attendance was around 20.

With such a small group of people and limited resources the idea of replacing all the carpet and repainting seemed impossible. But the board remembered the story of the Israelites crossing the Jordan River, where the path forward was unclear until the priests put their feet in the water. With that in mind the Sweet Home Church family voted to go ahead with the project in stages as God provided the funds and the labor to accomplish the task.

A few months into collecting funds for the new

carpet, Betty Wilkinson (a longtime member of Sweet Home) died, leaving her estate to the church. Though God had provided the funds to cover the project, the manpower was still lacking. Again the question was asked, "How can such a small group of people do such a big project?"

God quickly answered that question. In June 2016 several people began to move into the Sweet Home area. Some came from Portland, others from Alaska and some from Lincoln City. The average attendance went from 20 just a year ago to now an average attendance of 40.

When Lebanon, Sweet Home's sister church, heard of what Sweet Home was trying to do, many of their members came over to lend a helping hand. They boxed up

hymnals and tithe envelopes, hauled pews and ripped up carpet. Within one day all the sanctuary and Sabbath School rooms were empty. It never could have happened without the two churches working together. The Sweet Home members feel incredibly grateful to God for how He provided both the funds and the manpower to give the inside of their church a much-needed makeover.

As the Lebanon and the Sweet Home churches gathered together to celebrate God's blessings, Linrud challenged the church members to move forward and to keep working together as a team in the greater task of sharing the gospel with their community.

Daniel Bates, Sweet Home Church pastor

More online at
glnr.in/112-09-uc_dental

MOSES LAKE HOSTS FREE DENTAL CLINIC

During the weekend of June 23–25, Moses Lake was the place to be if you were having dental problems. The Moses Lake Church sponsored a free community dental clinic on Friday and Sunday in the Crestview Christian School gymnasium with the help of Randy Meyer’s Caring Hands International mobile dental clinic.

More than 100 people came to the clinic for dental care. Many had more than one filling and/or more than one extraction. While folks were waiting for dental work, there were dental hygienists for cleaning teeth, barbers/stylists for haircuts, massage therapists for back rubs and lifestyle coaches for coaching. An additional 22 people came just for these services.

Ten dentists and one oral surgeon came for one or two days, depending on their schedule. Some drove two hours each way to get to the event. A portable X-ray department was supervised

by one dentist. A sterilization section and 12 dental assistants made up the actual dental clinic.

Other helpers worked in the parking area, registration, crowd control, kitchen help and child care. About 300 free sack lunches were handed out. Eighty-five volunteers made the project run very smoothly.

Many people expressed their appreciation for the care they received. Twelve requests for nutrition classes, four for Bible studies, two for stop-smoking class and one for depression recovery were received.

Everyone was blessed, including the volunteers. From conception to completion, many miracles marked the execution of this event. God was there, and His team in Moses Lake is looking forward to doing it again.

Linda Morgan, Moses Lake Church member



WILD WEST COMES TO THE SPOKANE VALLEY CHURCH

Ninety-one children, ages 3–12, traveled to Cactusville, a small mining town in the Wild West, during the Spokane Valley Church’s Vacation Bible School, held July 17–21. Throughout the week, they discovered they



Making crafts at the trading post was a favorite VBS activity.

were all called by God to be different, to be faithful, to forgive, to serve and to give.

They sang songs, played games, made crafts, ate snacks and learned about John the Baptist, Abraham, Joseph, Deborah and Jesus. Also, each day during the morning roundup, Sheriff Dusty and his sidekick, Crusty, took the children on a gold-mining expedition to find another part

of their Gold Nugget memory verse for the week — 2 Tim. 1:9. They even raised a total of \$385.84 for Operation Wheels, a mission dedicated to raising money for the Arizona Conference to buy more buses for their refugee program.

At the end of the week, the children received a certificate, a gold nugget and a sheriff’s badge to remind them God had given all of them a purpose to reach others for Him.

Claudia Martinez, the VBS director, said she “felt really blessed to be able to direct VBS for our church and community. When the children moved from station to station, it was just awesome to hear them singing and saying the Gold Nugget with a great ‘yeehaw’ at the end.”

Being a part of Vacation Bible School in any capacity really is a blessing. Martinez and her team of 38 volunteers really made this Cactusville VBS a successful one, through which children learned about Jesus and had fun at the same time.

Mindi Vetter, Spokane Valley Church communication leader

More photos online at
glnr.in/112-09-uc_wildwest

NORTH IDAHO MEMBERS FIND UNITY IN DIVERSITY

On June 24, two Adventist churches experienced a rare joint event, a gathering on the lawn of a church member's home in Clark Fork, Idaho. Clark Fork and Spirit Lake church members, plus a few from Newport and Rathdrum, united for a Sabbath afternoon and evening of special fellowship. Intended as a way to get better acquainted and support one another, 65 young and old participated.

An adventuresome group of younger folks took the opportunity to climb neighboring Scotchman's Peak, a

popular local climb of 4,649 feet that is part of the Cabinet Mountains, overlooking Lake Pend Oreille.

After a few hours of getting acquainted, the group enjoyed a haystack dinner, followed by singing and



The view from Scotchman's Peak.

musical entertainment. Before lighting a campfire under the stars, the group was inspired by Dayv Lounsbury, Spirit Lake Church pastor, to take a new look at the 14th of the

28 Fundamental Beliefs, about unity in the body of Christ.

Despite the divisiveness of the time in which we are living, these members were reminded of the diversity in their own group, which represented not only various churches but also languages, ages, genders and places of origin. In their time together, the Holy Spirit truly bonded, blessed and reminded them of their oneness as God's children.

Beth Duffey, Spirit Lake Church member

CLARKSTON HOLDS VBS 26 YEARS IN THE MAKING

God sparked a fire that led to flames and spread like wildfire. It had been 26 years since Vacation Bible School happened at the Clarkston Church in Washington. That longtime tradition was broken June 26, when VBS opened at 5:30 p.m. Cactusville was up and ready for business.

The journey was a long one, but it was led by God. After two years of members attending the Upper Columbia Conference's Sabbath School

and VBS conference, an idea to have a Clarkston VBS became reality. With God's help, members created a Cactusville that was fun and inviting.

Volunteers gave their time, provided funds and raised prayers. A total of 36 children come through Cactusville over the course of five evenings, including kids from the community as well as the church.

God brought the children to hear the campfire stories,

do crafts at the trading post, learn about praying at Sunset Canyon, play games to help remember the stories at Wildhorse Corral and, last but not least, eat a great snack at the chuck wagon. Matthew Vixie, Clarkston Church pastor, brought a horse the last day, and all the children were given the opportunity to ride.

The kids sang songs, recited the memory verse and were awarded a certificate, a sheriff's badge and a small Bible during the closing

ceremony during the Sabbath church service.

God kept His promise of sending children as Clarkston Church asked Him. What a wonderful God we have. Even after 26 years, this can happen once the fire is sparked by God.

Morleen Flerchinger, Clarkston Church clerk

Read more online at glnr.in/112-09-uc_clarkston

More photos online at
glnr.in/112-09-wa_auburn



VBS PROGRAMS MAKE CONNECTIONS

Waiyego Pearson had a two-part vision for Vacation Bible School this year: She wanted to encourage children in the knowledge that God cares for them and wants to be part of their life, and she wanted the community to be more involved in the programming.

A brand-new Adventist who joined the church two years ago, she worked with the leadership team at Auburn City Church to specifically encourage a better relationship with the local community.

“We are a church that is serving the community,” says Pearson, who also serves as the church’s health ministries coordinator. “I want the community to know we exist and partner with them.”

So Pearson invited community leaders to participate in the church’s VBS program: a councilwoman, a pharmaceutical rep, firemen, policemen and a nurse. The community members came and shared with 35 neighborhood children each night about faith in their lives, water safety, personal safety and not confusing medicine with candy.

Nancy Handeland, a registered nurse at Multicare Auburn, came to speak about

the importance of being healthy and taking care of your heart. She encouraged children to be active outdoors and not just inside playing with technology.

“God made you to move, live and do other things. He made you to move all the time,” Handeland explained. “You are the only one who can [physically] take care of your heart.”

Auburn Adventist Academy Church (AAAC) tried something new this year by hosting a parenting seminar concurrent with their VBS program. The seminar, based on the *Love and Logic* book by Foster Cline and Jim Fay, helps to affirm and coach parents in developing their child’s life skills.

Children at the Auburn City Church play the telephone game during VBS.



KATIE HENDERSON



TIFFANY FARIS

Firemen from the Auburn community come to speak about the importance of water safety at Auburn City Church.

“The goal is to meet the needs of the community,” says Angel Ogando, AAAC lead pastor. “That’s why we are offering this parents’ seminar. We want to be known as a relevant church that’s known by the community. We want to give them a safe environment.”

Elsewhere, the Bellevue and North Cascade

congregations routinely make connections in the community with 100 or more children participating in VBS. The Bellevue VBS leaders reach out through their community service ministry to get kids engaged in VBS. Some even grow up and volunteer as leaders!

The community connections excite Abby Pozo, Washington Conference children’s ministry leader: “We are trying to teach children, whether from the church or community, what it is to have a conversation with God. This is part of reason why we are rebranding the traditional VBS into Vacation Bible eXperience (VBX). We want children to experience a connection with God.”

Katie Henderson, Washington Conference communication intern

KIDS' KLOSET MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN PORT ORCHARD

What started out as a whim has turned into an inspirational community lifeline for families in need.

When Port Orchard Church member Claudia Arends asked her Facebook friends in October 2015 what they thought about the idea of a free clothing outlet for struggling families, she didn't know what to expect.

Almost two years later, Kids Kloset has partnered with Helpline, a community resource center that regularly refers peo-

ple to them, a nearby hospital and others in the community. It is a place for cash-strapped clients to obtain clothing for their loved ones. Sizes range from newborn to adult.

"The response was so overwhelming," says Arends, who co-directs Kids Kloset with Yvonne Neal. Kris Wilson and Penni Lowdon also help. No sooner did Arends

pose the question on Facebook than the donations started pouring in.

"Kids Kloset has been really helpful," wrote Dora Dry on the Kids Kloset Facebook page. "They give you stuff for your kids, and whatever your kids can't use anymore you just give back to help others. They are so wonderful."

After taking two months to organize and secure space in the Port Orchard Church, Kids Kloset opened in December 2015. They started by offering their services two Thursdays a month.

"We were so busy those two days," Arends recalls. "We were helping 25–30 families in a three- to four-hour period."

Since February 2017, Kids Kloset has expanded its hours to be opened every Thursday



(From left) Kris Wilson and Penni Lowdon entertain children while their mom looks at clothes at Kids Kloset in June.



from noon to 3 p.m.

"The donations are overflowing from the community of recycled clothes, shoes, cribs, bassinets and toys," Arends says.

Neal adds, "Anything that has something to do with a child we accept."

The lack of price tags on the clothing at Kids Kloset catches many people off guard,



(From left) Claudia Arends and Yvonne Neal opened Kids Kloset at the Port Orchard Church in December 2015.

Neal says. However, clients must sign a paper that they won't sell, trade or barter anything they receive.

"This is all done by the kindness of our hearts," Neal says. "We get joy out of doing this. ... It's fun. It really is."

Sherry Kay wrote on the Kids Kloset Facebook page how much she appreciates everyone involved in it: "The people who run it are so kind and welcoming."

"I love that I can bring my girls' outgrown clothes here and not have to worry about them turning a profit from it," Kay wrote.

Arends and Neal estimate they volunteer about 15–20 hours weekly to make Kids Kloset successful. The pair wash and clean donated items at their home.

"There's weeks we get 15–20 bags of donations, and I don't want people to think we're complaining. We're not," Arends says. "We're so happy to get all the donations to do this. People say they're glad to donate because it's going to go to someone who really needs it

and won't have to pay for it."

In addition to the clothing, Arends says Kids Kloset patrons receive church literature for both parents and children, prayer for burdens on their heart, as well as information about other charitable organizations in the community. They can also indicate whether they'd like to learn more about the church if they check a box on a form they fill out. If they're interested, that information is passed on to Dustin Serns, Port Orchard Church pastor, who follows up each inquiry.

Following Jesus' example cited in Matt. 25:36, "I needed clothes and you clothed me," Serns says Kids Kloset has really connected to people in the community as people can receive help and contribute to helping others.

He also said church members have been excited to support the ministry. Some members started a weekly small group that knits items for Kids Kloset.

"God is using Kids Kloset to transform families in our community on a weekly basis," Serns says. "It is a place where they can not only receive help but hope. As a church, we are excited to come alongside these families in our community to show sympathy for them, minister to their needs ... and invite them to follow Jesus."

For information about Kids Kloset, call 360-981-4810, email kidskloset2015@gmail.com or visit the Kids Kloset Facebook page.

Ethan Fowler, Port Orchard Church communication leader

HIGHLINE HELPS ANOTHER HIGHLINE

Far in the mountains of Bukidnon, Mindanao, lies the small mountain village of Paiwaig in the Philippines, where members of the Highline Church from Des Moines, Wash., sponsored a two-week evangelistic seminar and Vacation Bible School and held a medical clinic day.

Four months of work with local Bible workers had gone into preparing the villagers for the arrival of the mission group in May. With the help and participation of three local Philippine Adventist churches and the medical mission group from the Adventist Medical Center in Valencia City,

more than 300 health checks, 130 dental services and 100 circumcisions for the little boys were performed for the people of Paiwaig.

When the two weeks came to an end, nine people were baptized and more than 25 Bible studies were continuing.

Next summer the Highline Church will be sending a crew to do another crusade, hoping to build a church for the new members of the "Highline View Church" in Paiwaig.

Ken Leak, Highline Church communication leader



PASTORS WHITEHEAD, WILSON, BRYAN ORDAINED

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his summer, Washington Conference ordained three pastors: Ryan Whitehead in June, Ryan Wilson in July and Don Bryan in August.



JONATHAN BAUMGARTNER

Doug Bing, Washington Conference president (center), and pastoral mentors welcome Ryan and Bridget (Bechtel) Whitehead into ordained gospel ministry.

For Whitehead, ministry started by assisting his parents with ministry activities at church, summer camp and Pathfinders.

"I have a heart for ministry because it was modeled for me," Whitehead says. "Ministry was always and still is a way of life."

Though Whitehead had a heart for ministry and studied theology and business college courses, he didn't plan on being a pastor. God used mission service in Turkey, academy

chaplaincy and many mentoring sessions to reveal His call in Whitehead's life.

Whitehead completed his Master of Divinity studies at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., before coming to Washington in 2012 to join the Auburn Adventist Academy Church team.

In 2014, he began pastoring the Elma, Grays Harbor and Willapa Harbor churches and providing pastoral support for Grays Harbor Adventist Christian School and Mission Creek School.

Wilson planned to become a music educator. One summer at Sunset Lake Camp in Wilkeson, God started redirecting him. "Each week at camp, God seemed to put me out on a boat with the camp pastor," Wilson remembers. "I processed what pastoral ministry was and felt impressed that God was calling me to it."

God used summer camp mentors and memories of Philippine mission service to redirect Wilson into theology studies and pastoral ministry.

Wilson served four years as associate pastor in Chehalis, adding pastoral responsibilities in Winlock during the last two years. After completing his Master of Divinity at Andrews



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

Pastoral colleagues affirm how God is working in Don and Kim Bryan's life and ministry.

University in 2015, Wilson began pastoring the Port Angeles/Forks district.

"My goal is to help my members grow in their discipleship process so they can successfully engage in service for Christ," Wilson shared during his ordination.

Bryan experienced his own "Jonah story" by running away from theology studies. He pursued a career in school psychology and reasoned it was still a type of ministry.

Yet God still called on his heart to return to pastoral ministry. This brought Bryan initially to Graham and now to the San Juan Islands.

"God wants to see His plan for your life come to fruition," Bryan reflects. "I'm here to tell you it's easier to follow God."

"Our goal is to grow leaders in their God-given call," says Doug Bing, Washington Conference president. "As counseled in 1 Timothy 4, we want our pastoral leaders to wage good spiritual warfare, starting with their own spiritual growth and then growing the spirituality of their family, their members and their community."

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director



JONATHAN BAUMGARTNER

Pastoral leaders and mentors surround Ryan and Erin Wilson in a prayer of consecration to gospel ministry.

WWU STUDENTS INCUR LESS STUDENT LOAN DEBT THAN NATIONAL AVERAGE

Walla Walla University encourages students to reduce their student loan debt, and statistics show it is working. In 2012, 81 percent of WWU graduating seniors had student loans. By 2016, that number had decreased to 68 percent. Of thousands of private colleges and universities surveyed, WWU ranked 36th for students with the least amount of private student loan debt as of May 2017.

When planning to pay for college, Cassie Ragenovich, WWU student financial services director, advises students, “Plan ahead. Start saving early. Get a summer job, and save those earnings for school. Apply for as many scholarships as possible. Study hard in high school so you qualify for maximum merit scholarships.”

According to studentloanhero.com, the national average student loan debt for 2016 was \$37,172. WWU’s average student loan debt was \$34,385. Loan default rates at WWU are also much lower than the national average. The national average default rate for Federal Direct Loans is 11.3 percent; for WWU students it is 2.3 percent. The national average default rate for Perkins Loans is 11.93 percent; for WWU students it is 1.57 percent. This means most WWU students are able to manage



Cassie Ragenovich, WWU student financial services director, advises students how to keep their college debt low.

their student loan payments.

“We attribute a lot of the decline in student loan borrowing to our generous scholarship program,” says Ragenovich. “Some students are awarded over \$50,000 towards their degree expenses. WWU also encourages families to search for other sources of funding plus promotes ways to save money in college.”

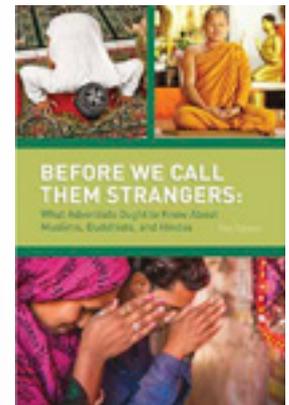
For more information about how to pay for college, view the WWU video, “25 Ways to Keep College Costs Down,” at wallawalla.edu/25ways.

Annie Gibson, WWU university relations student writer

DYBDAHL BOOK EXPLORES ADVENTISTS’ RELATIONSHIP TO WORLD RELIGIONS

A new book, *Before We Call Them Strangers: What Adventists Ought to Know About Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus*, by Paul Dybdahl, Walla Walla University (WWU) professor of mission and New Testament, has been published by AdventSource.

In the book, Dybdahl suggests that learning about other religions shouldn’t scare us but should actually strengthen us in our walk with Jesus. “I think we tend to be afraid of people who are not



there is much that we share.”

Dybdahl was inspired to write the book after teaching the WWU world religions class. “I realized talking respectfully about other religions didn’t make students want to convert to a different religion,” he says. “Instead, it challenged them to be more faithful in their own spiritual journeys.”

In February 2017, Dybdahl presented a lecture on this topic for the annual WWU Distinguished Faculty Lecture. A recording of the lecture can be viewed at wallawalla.edu/DFL.

Dybdahl’s book is available at AdventSource.org.

Ali Reiner, WWU university relations student writer



Paul Dybdahl is professor of mission and New Testament at Walla Walla University.

of our religion,” says Dybdahl. “We don’t need to be afraid. If we listen, we can be blessed, and, though we are different,



ADVENTIST HEALTH EXPANDS SERVICES IN OREGON

Adventist Health has expanded its mission to provide health care services to the community of Vernonia, Ore. Located between the Portland metropolitan area and the northern Oregon Coast Range, Vernonia is geographically isolated by 30 miles from health care in neighboring communities.

Adventist Health Tillamook Medical Group, which specializes in providing rural health care, is now providing expanded access to care in Vernonia by offering primary care, urgent care and laboratory services. Radiology services will be added this fall.

“We are thrilled to expand our reach in Oregon with much-needed access to medical care,” says Gina Seufert, vice president of physician and clinical services. “The people of this community are very

welcoming and grateful for our emphasis on whole-person care.” Vernonia, a growing community deeply rooted in the timber industry, is home to a variety of businesses and recreational attractions. The community and its citizens are well-served by access to local health care.

The team of caregivers are building relationships in Vernonia by getting involved with the community and practicing the mission of living God’s love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope. This commitment is reflected not only by caring for the sick but by helping communities be healthier, have better and more affordable health care, and live better lives. It also reflects the rich Adventist heritage of providing physical, mental and spiritual care.

While the need for acute-care inpatient hospital services

is shrinking throughout the nation, outpatient growth remains strong. Tillamook Medical Group already operates five rural health clinics on the Oregon coast — two in Tillamook plus one each in Manzanita, Pacific City and Lincoln City.

This rural health focus also delivers care through three urgent care clinics in the state, two primary care clinics near the base of Mount Hood in Hoodland and Estacada, and a clinic that serves Tillamook County Jail inmates. Expansion of services will continue with a new health clinic scheduled to open later this year in Banks, Ore.

There is currently no health care available in Banks, a community located east of the north Oregon Coast Range, 30 miles from Vernonia and 50 miles from Tillamook. The Banks clinic

is under construction and will offer primary and urgent care, plus lab and imaging services. Tillamook Medical Group is actively building relationships in Banks in anticipation of the fall opening by introducing the community to the Adventist Health’s mission and culture of compassion. Several communities in the Willamette Valley are also being considered for future clinics.

Adventist Health Tillamook Medical Group is part of Tillamook Regional Medical Center, which employs 536 people, including 60 physicians and providers. Tillamook Regional Medical Center has been recognized as a Top 100 Critical Access Hospital in the nation.

Mary Faith Bell, Tillamook Regional Medical Center marketing and communications director



Melvin and Jean Dury

Dury 70th

Melvin and Jean Dury recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with family and church friends at Otis Orchards (Wash.) Church.

They first met in the eighth grade at the Veradale (Wash.) Adventist Church School.

Melvin served in the Army in Europe during World War II. Jean Livingston graduated from Rogers High School in Spokane, Wash. Soon after Melvin returned they were married in a double wedding ceremony with Jean's sister in the Spokane Central Church on May 18, 1947.

They made their home for 32 years on the family dairy farm near Deer Park, Wash. Melvin worked long hours on the farm, and Jean was the ultimate farm wife and raised four children. Family time was spent boating, swimming, camping and snowmobiling.

They lived in Lacombe, Alberta, Canada, for nine years, where Melvin was assistant farm manager at Canadian Union College. When they retired they moved to Liberty Lake, Wash., to be closer to family. They have enjoyed retirement by traveling with their motorhome to many places across North America.

Melvin set up a wood-working shop and made many treasured items for family

and friends. They still enjoy gardening, volunteering at the local food bank and family game times. They are active members of the Otis Orchards Church.

The Dury family includes Brenda and Erling Grovet of Lacombe; Daryl and Marie Dury of Spokane, Wash.; Cheryl and Ron Becker of Spokane Valley, Wash.; Brian and Michelle Dury of Kennewick, Wash.; 6 grandchildren, 4 step-grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; 11 step-great-grandchildren and 4 step-great-great-grandchildren.

Kabanuk 90th

Every year Andy and Dorothy Kabanuk celebrate both their anniversary and Dorothy's birthday together because they are only two days apart.

This year, 23 family and friends met in the party room of the Pacific Express Restaurant in Walla Walla, Wash., to enjoy wonderful vegetarian Chinese food and great fellowship on May 31, 2017.

May 29 was the couple's 68th wedding anniversary, and May 31 was Dorothy's 90th birthday. Their son, Greg, played and sang the song he wrote for Dorothy's 80th. The song of four verses was made up of Greg's memories of his mother while he was growing up and was simply entitled "Mamma." Needless to say, the song is very special to Dorothy, and the guests loved it. Everything was beautifully decorated, and plenty of good food was enjoyed by all.

Andy was employed at the United Medical Laboratories located in Portland, Ore., where he worked to help

establish the different departments. He eventually received specialized education and established the cytology department. This is where people use the microscope while looking for abnormal cells such as cancer. He was the supervisor of 100-plus people in that department for 10 years.

The Kabanuks then moved to College Place, Wash., where they had two children: Cindy, who attended Walla Walla Valley Academy, and Greg, who attended Walla Walla College. Dorothy was so happy also, considering that she was born west of Freewater (in a house that is still there) surrounded by aunts, uncles and cousins, plus her seven siblings, parents and grandmother who lived with them. The 20 years of big city life were over, and once again the Kabanuks enjoyed God's country surrounded by the beautiful Blue Mountains that change colors with the seasons and the wonderful fruit and vegetables enjoyed by all — plus a much slower pace.

Andy continued working in his field for several doctors for another 20 years before he retired.

The Kabanuks continue to live in their comfortable home, blessed with the Stone Creek that runs along their back patio, which is enjoyed by many ducks as well. This is where the Kabanuks sit and read. They also enjoy the many flowers nearby and still have a garden. Andy turned 95 in August, and they praise God for the many blessings He provides for them every day.

Kyle 70th

Jim and Sybil Kyle celebrated their 70th wedding

anniversary on June 3, 2017.

Sybil Morrison and James Kyle first met accidentally in Bozeman, Mont., at Mount Ellis Academy in the spring of 1942, when Jim photo-bombed a graduation picture of Sybil's sister Jeanne. They have many fond memories of friends and good times at Mount Ellis Academy.

During the war years, when Jim served in Japan, Sybil was at Walla Walla College. Sybil looked forward to packages Jim enjoyed sending to his sweetheart. One gift, yardage of delicate silk fabric, was to become a lovely handmade wedding dress for his bride.

Jim has spent a career at the U.S. Public Health Rocky Mountain Laboratory as a lab technician, and Sybil was a beloved first-grade teacher.

Early in his life Jim discovered that, because of his blood type, he could be a universal blood donor, so Jim made a lifetime practice of donating blood to the American Red Cross. Over a 74-year period, Jim donated 27.5 gallons of blood.

After many years of teaching Sybil enjoys being free to garden, quilt, and enjoy her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Following their retirement in the Bitterroot Valley, they enjoy the fellowship of their local Darby Church.

Sybil and Jim are grateful for their family, good health and the blessings the Lord has given.

The Kyle family includes Ken and Robin Kyle of Lenore, Idaho; Jerry and Patti Kyle of Orondo, Wash.; Barb and Conrad Gren of Port-

FAMILY MILESTONES

land, Ore.; Carolyn and Mark Sturges of West Richland, Wash.; 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Paul 65th

Sixty-five years ago Wes Paul and Bertha Martin were married. The newlyweds moved to Saskatchewan, Canada, where Wes taught in a one-room school.

After their daughter, Jeanette, was born, they crossed the border into the U.S., moving to Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) in Tennessee, where Wes received a business degree. Bertha worked for Roland Hegstead and other secretarial positions, supporting the family.

After a couple years the family moved to Plainview Academy in South Dakota and then to Upper Columbia Academy in Spangle, Wash., where Wes served in financial affairs.

The family then moved to Pasco, Wash., and now their family was complete with the birth of Kimber, their son. Wes and Bertha both worked to manage two large nursing home facilities. After more than 20 years, they moved to Mount Vernon, Wash., where they live today.

They have traveled the U.S. helping with evangelistic meetings. Wes has traveled the world with SAGE (Seniors in Action for God with Excellence), helping with building projects and preaching the gospel. Bertha volunteered at home in the local hospital for 15 years. Wes has continued to volunteer his time and business ability with the church thrift shop.



Bertha and Wes Paul

Life for Wes and Bertha has been full, adventurous and blessed. They returned to Victoria, Canada, where they first met, to celebrate their 65 years of happily ever after.

The Paul family includes Jeanette and Gary Salsman of Kirkland, Wash.; Kimber Paul of Mount Vernon, Wash.; 3 grandsons, who are married, and 6 great-grandchildren. Their family thanks the Pauls for teaching them about Jesus, their Savior and coming Lord.

Verstappen 90th

For Elizabeth Verstappen's 90th birthday celebration on April 16, 2017, she had a few surprises. The first surprise was a former Japanese exchange student flying in from Okinawa. The next surprise was her only granddaughter, Julianne Pittman Sanders, flying in from Colorado with her husband, Kyle, and girls, Joslynn and Eleanore. The third surprise was from her youngest grandson, Eric Wytcherley, and little great-grandson, Wyatt, flying in from Minnesota. Only Eric's wife and baby daughter were unable to attend. It was a special day.

Elizabeth Hubertina Kerens was born on April 16, 1927, in Holtum, Province of Limburg, the Netherlands, the youngest of six children. Her

parents had a small farm there.

She immigrated to Ontario, Canada, in 1951 when she was 24 years old. She had never ventured out of her village up until then and borrowed \$300 for the trip. There she worked at Ottawa Civic Hospital while living with the family of the Inspector of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. She met Joseph Verstappen, a custom tailor, in 1953, and they married in 1954. Two daughters were born to them while in Canada.

Tired of the cold Canadian winters, they moved the family to Southern California in 1960. Elizabeth was a stay-at-home mom while the girls were young.

In 1970, the family moved to Grants Pass, Ore., where Joe was witnessed to by an Adventist. The family was baptized in 1972. Elizabeth has been a member of the Grants Pass Church ever since.

Elizabeth worked as a food service manager in an elementary school for 18 years, retiring in 1989. She is very active, volunteering at the Adventist Community Services every



Elizabeth Verstappen

week and for the Red Cross once a month. She enjoys knitting, reading, baking and traveling when she is able.

Elizabeth lost Joe in 2015, and a year later she lost her daughter, Rosanne, who was

living in the Netherlands. Elizabeth is thankful to God for good health and being able to get out and walk regularly without any aches or pains.

Elizabeth's surviving family includes Geri and Bob Wytcherley of Milwaukie, Ore.; 3 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

FAMILY AT REST

BISCHOFF — Marvin Dale, 87; born Sept. 2, 1929, Ruff, Wash.; died April 10, 2017. Surviving: wife, Nathalie (Ladner); son, Robert "Bob," Ephrata, Wash.; daughter, Sharon Hibbs, Pasco, Wash.; 4 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

BISHOP — John, 80; born Sept. 24, 1936, Charlotte, N.C.; died March 12, 2017, Lebanon, Ore. Surviving: wife, Ruth; Corvallis, Ore.; daughter, Donna Hansen, Corvallis; 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

COLLVER — Dale N., 91; born May 25, 1925, Coos County, Ore.; died March 23, 2017, Odell, Ore. Surviving: wife, Joy Makley-Stuivenga; sons, Robert D. Collver Sr., Dallas, Ore.; Bruce Collver, Keizer, Ore.; daughters, Joyce (Collver) Hicks-Seger, Beaverton, Ore.; Bev (Collver) Selix, Beaverton; stepsons, Will Stuivenga, Olympia, Wash.; Doug Stuivenga, Amity, Ore.; Tim Stuivenga, Clear Lake, Wis.; stepdaughters, Kathy Stuivenga-Davis, Odell; Wanda Stuivenga-Stenkamp, McMinnville, Ore.; brother, Danny Collver, Dallas, Ore.; sister, Eva Mae Collver Tucker-Popp, Myrtle Point,

Ore.; 16 grandchildren, 8 step-grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren, 2 step-great-grandchildren and 14 great-great-grandchildren.

COTIE — Robert Wayne, 67; born March 27, 1950, Renfrew, Ontario, Canada; died May 13, 2017, Cortland, N.Y. Surviving: wife, Carol (Combs); daughter, Jennifer Pacuska, Jefferson, Mass.; brother, Michael, Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada; sister, Elaine Thurnhofer, Renton, Wash.; and a grandchild.

CURL — James Andrew, 97; born March 11, 1920, Lyle, Wash.; died April 11, 2017, The Dalles, Ore. Surviving: daughters, Vickie Stephens, Portland, Ore.; Lynda Durbin, Priest River, Idaho; Christy Swales, Lyle; 8 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

ECHELBARGER — Perry Ray, 54; born June 13, 1962, Seattle, Wash.; died Oct. 9, 2016, Camano Island, Wash. Surviving: wife, Laura (Rodriguez); son, Noah, Camano Island; daughter, Elissa Echelbarger, Camano Island; mother, Nancy Echelbarger, Stanwood, Wash.; stepfather, Bob Winter, Stanwood; sisters, Jeanette Eldevik, Stanwood; and Cherie Echelbarger.

GLENN — Vernon, 83; born July 29, 1933, Boise, Idaho; died Jan. 31, 2017, Albany, Ore. Surviving: wife, Karen, Shedd, Ore.; daughters, Janet Essary, North Bend, Ore.; Brenda Wriston, Roseburg, Ore.; Frances Carpenter, Shedd; Verna Glenn, Waco, Texas; Jenny Morash, Puyallup, Wash.; 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

HOLM — Lorelei Jolene (Sproed), 45; born July 20, 1971, Seoul, Republic of Korea; died April 13, 2017, College Place, Wash. Surviving: husband, Rob; sons, Matthew and Robert, both of College Place; parents, John and Arlene Sproed.

ISHIKAWA — Robert T., 92; born May 29, 1924, San Francisco, Calif.; died May 16, 2017, Portland, Ore. Surviving: wife, Helen (Eji); son, Tad, Bellvue, Wash.; daughter, Laurel Walton, Portland; and a grandchild.

KRIEGER — Marvin Allen, 83; born Sept. 30, 1932, Vernonia, Ore.; died Aug. 24, 2016, David, Chiriqui, Panama. Surviving: wife, Vaughn (Hiebert), Walla Walla, Wash.; sons, Vance, Woodland, Wash.; Sidney, Battle Ground, Wash.; Kent, Salmon, Idaho; daughter, Kara McGhee, Battle Ground; 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

LEEPER — William E., 84; born Jan. 31, 1932, Walla Walla, Wash.; died Dec. 31, 2016, Walla Walla. Surviving: wife, Marlys (Hiebert); daughters, Rori Ann Bumgarner, Vancouver, Wash.; Gina Lin Stahlheber, College Place, Wash.; Marci Jo Payne, Covina, Calif.; Lona Dee Mason, Walla Walla; sisters, Luella Lasseigne, Wells River, Vt.; Sharon Kespohl, Walla Walla; 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

MCLEMORE — Edwin Nick, 82; born March 29, 1935, in Washita County, Okla.; died May 2, 2017, Sunnyside, Wash. Surviving: wife, Barbara (Patterson), Prosser, Wash.; sons, Tom and Bob, both of Prosser; daughter, Julie

Schlaman, Yakima, Wash.; 6 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

MOOR — Edith Louise (James), 89; born Feb. 19, 1927, Tacoma Park, Md.; died Jan. 24, 2017, Battle Ground, Wash. Surviving: husband, Fred B. Jr.; sons, Ben, Kelso, Wash.; Jim, Battle Ground; Michael, Loma Linda, Calif.; daughter, RuthAnn Wyman, Battle Ground; 9 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

NEWBY — Irwin M., 84; born Aug. 23, 1932, Yakima, Wash.; died Jan. 21, 2017, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: wife, June, Caldwell, Idaho; sons, Sam and Ben, both of Caldwell; Mike, Pendleton, Ore.; daughter, Penny Waite, Ontario, Ore.; 5 grandchildren, 3 step-grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and 3 step-great-grandchildren.

RENK — Walter Floyd, 82; born Oct. 22, 1934, Dodge, N.D.; died March 18, 2017, Vancouver, Wash. Surviving: wife, Alice (McCrorey); daughters, Cynthia Jo Meyer, Washougal, Wash.; Loretta Lynn Lorenz, Vancouver; Melissa Anne Renk, Battle Ground; 7 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

SMITH — Kay Louise (Mills), 63; born June 12, 1953, McMinnville, Ore.; died Feb. 16, 2017, McMinnville. Surviving: husband, Lloyd; daughters, Sarah Rogers and Rachel Williams; and 3 grandchildren.

STATEN — Harry, 76; born May 26, 1940, Twin Falls, Idaho; died April 20, 2017, White City, Ore. Surviving: wife, Patricia; sons, Jeffrey,

Wilderville, Ore.; Harry III, Vancouver, Wash.; Joshua, White City; daughters, Janine Mills, Gresham, Ore.; Joni Staten, White City; 14 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

WHITE — Olive Adela (Holm), 96; born May 22, 1920, Beebe, S.D.; died April 21, 2017, Everett, Wash. Surviving: sons, Larry, Menifee, Calif.; Neil, Haiku, Hawaii; Paul, Auburn, Wash.; daughter, Marcia Voegele, Monroe, N.C.; sister, Twila Lyman, Seattle, Wash.; 12 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

YUROS — John, 89; born Dec. 9, 1927, Bortiatya, Ukraine; died April 12, 2017, Lincoln City, Ore. Surviving: wife, Ruth (Hoover); daughter, Lorna Strait, Loma Linda, Calif.; brothers, Harry, Lacombe, Alberta, Canada; William "Bill," Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada; and sister, Rose Holdal, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

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

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

Offering

- Sept. 2** — Local Church Budget;
Sept. 9 — World Budget: emphasis Fall Mission Appeal;
Sept. 16 — Local Church Budget;
Sept. 23 — Local Conference Advance;
Sept. 30 — Union-Designated.

North Pacific Union Conference Association

OFFICIAL NOTICE is hereby given that a Regular Membership Meeting of the North Pacific Union Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists is called for 2 p.m., on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017, at the North Pacific Union Conference in Ridgefield, Wash. The membership is comprised of the members of the North Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee. The purpose of the Regular Membership Meeting is to hear reports and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

John C. Freedman, president

Charles B. Simpson, secretary

IDAHO CONFERENCE

Missing Members

The Pocatello Church is looking for the following missing members: Ratimo Aduke, David Albertson, Glen Albertson Jr., Alysha Justine Aleshire, Jeremiah Axt, Ann M. Bergstrom, Erin Buhler, Amanda R. Buswell, Angela N. Buswell, Mitchell N. Buswell, Richard L. Carraway, Callie R. Carrick, Aubrey R. Christiansen, Keisha Cody, Jeannie Disney, Michelle Dunlap, Robert Dustin, Cynthia Ford, Michael Ford, Bertha Guerra, Eli Guerra, Mandy Gunderson, Angela R. Hampton, Mary L. Hill, Jacqueline Ann Hoaglen, Ethyl Jackson, Janeal S. Johnson, David A. Larson, Leta Lundquist, Rachel Madrid, Max M. McDonald, Valorie Mulligan, Busani Ngazimbi, Makhosana Ngazimbi, Thulani Ngazimbi, Alicia Outhavong, Lena Pahvitse, Douglas Paige, Michelle Paige, Elaine Peterson, Tiffanie Pierce, Rodney Roe, Joy Raylene Ruud, Mary Z. Schenck, Kathy Jo Shepard, Jerri L. Smout, Velma Stacy, Davanna Haley Stewart-Blair, Nicole A. Summerlin, Rebecca Trotter and Richard Trotter. If you have any information about these members, please contact the church clerk by email, l_eakins@yahoo.com; by leaving a detail message at 208-234-0197; or by mail at Pocatello Church, Attn: Church Clerk, 253 Valleyview Dr., Pocatello, ID 83204.

OREGON CONFERENCE

The 15th Annual Bobby McGhee and Friends Vespers

Sept. 2 — The 15th annual Bobby McGhee and Friends Vespers will be held at 6 p.m. at Sunnyside Church, 10501 SE Market St., Portland, Ore. Musical inspiration and special guest speaker Terry Johnsson are just part of a special evening. Plan now to attend this remarkable event and reconnect with friends from near and far.

Steve Green Concert

Sept. 16 — Steve Green, Christian recording artist who has spread the gospel through music in almost 50 countries worldwide, will be presenting a concert at the Sunnyside Church in Portland, Ore., at 7 p.m., with doors opening at 6 p.m. Free tickets are required; information regarding how to obtain tickets will be on Sunnyside's website sunnysideadventist.org. Attendees are requested to bring two items of nonperishable food for Portland Adventist Community Services as well.

Benefit Concert Featuring 300 Watts, Carl Parker and Rhonda Vaz

Sept. 30 — Benefit concert featuring 300 Watts, Carl Parker and Rhonda Vaz, on behalf of the Hunger Relief Program that serves children and families and is directed by People to People Ministries. Come and enjoy at 6 p.m. at Stone Tower Church, 3010 NE Holladay St., Portland, Ore. For more information, call 503-893-9022 or visit peopletopeopleministries.com.

Fountainview Academy Orchestra and Singers Concerts

Dec. 17 and 18 — The Fountainview Academy Orchestra and Singers are coming to the Grants Pass Church, 1360 NE Ninth St., Grants Pass, Ore. The concerts are tentatively scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 17, at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and again on Monday, Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m. Their music is a great blessing to churches and the public.

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

Upper Columbia Academy Class of 1947 Reunion

Sept. 29–Oct. 1 — UCA Class of 1947 will be celebrating their 70-year reunion at the UCA campus. Food, lodging and RV sites are available. For more information, contact Bud Wagner at 509-991-2064 or BBWagner28@hotmail.com.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

Need Volunteers

A mission project here in Washington needs you. AMEN (Adventist Medical Evangelism Network) is coming to the Tacoma Dome Exhibition Hall, Nov. 10 and 12. Especially needed are dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, medical personnel, physicians, registered nurses, nurse practitioners, ophthalmologists, optometrists, opticians and podiatrists. Nonmedical volunteers needed include security, beauticians, massage therapists, pastors, counselors, prayer warriors, registration, greeters and students. Sign up today at amentacoma.com.

Missing Members

The following are a list of missing members of the Port Angeles Church: Staci Almaden, Sherri Boggs, Charlotte Bone-Moutray, Pam Fite, S.L. Fraser, Heather Harris, Victoria Kenny, Bill and Josphine Kuhlmeier, Tamara LaPrise, Davi Parrish, Michael Roe, and Greg Ward. If you have any information about these missing members, please contact the Port Angeles Church at pasdaclerk@gmail.com or call 360-457-6460.

MORE EVENTS LISTED AT GLEARNOW.COM/EVENTS.

Classes

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

Employment

WEIMAR INSTITUTE seeking master's-prepared nurses for 2017-2018 to teach psychiatric/mental health, mother/infant, pediatric, community, medical-surgical. B.S.-prepared nurses in adjunct positions to teach clinicals. Email winursing@weimar.edu.

LOOKING FOR CONSTRUCTION/BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS!

Shearer and Associates is a Vancouver, Wash., based commercial construction company, seeking ambitious, personable professionals. We are looking for estimators, project managers, superintendents, marketing personnel, trade professionals and laborers. The ideal candidates will have a background in commercial construction, project management, estimating and have working knowledge of Timberline Estimating and Scheduling Software. If interested in the opportunity for long-term career growth in a family-oriented company next to great schools and churches, please contact us at info@shearerandassociates.com or 360-666-5600.

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

HEALTHMOTIVATE is seeking a full-stack iOS developer to help create an exciting health and lifestyle platform utilizing many innovative technologies. The developer will work alongside a research and design team with the mission to help users achieve lasting physical, mental and spiritual life changes. Our office is completely distributed, and team members will enjoy remarkable workplace autonomy. Interested applicants should visit healthmotivate.org/jobs.

DOES A WARM SUNNY CLIMATE on coastal Central Florida sound interesting? Our well-established practice of seven pathologists and two pathologist assistants are looking for a full-time AP/CP pathologist to join our group. Fellowship training is a must; surgical pathology is preferred. Interest in or experience with molecular pathology and blood bank is a plus. Benefits include health and dental insurance, CME, malpractice insurance, 401(k) and relocation expenses. Desired start date of January 2018 through July 2018. Please send CV to ECP@595nova.com.

UNION COLLEGE Lincoln, Neb., seeks a vice president for enrollment services. This person will be responsible for achieving the college's enrollment goals and managing financial aid to meet overall financial goals. Full description at ucollege.edu/staff-openings. Send application and resume to Dr. Vinita Sauder, vinita.sauder@ucollege.edu.

Events

10 DAYS OF PRAYER returns Jan. 10-20, 2018, with the theme "Our High Priest." Congregations worldwide continue to be blessed by this powerful prayer initiative. For more information and to sign up your church, visit tendaysofprayer.org.

UCHEE PINES ALUMNI REUNION AND RETREAT Sept. 17-23. Visit ucheepines.org for details, or call 877-UCHEEPINES.

For Sale

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Fairbanks	9:12	8:46	8:20	7:54	7:29
Juneau	7:59	7:39	7:19	6:59	6:39
Ketchikan	7:41	7:24	7:05	6:47	6:29
IDAHO CONFERENCE					
Boise	8:22	8:09	7:56	7:44	7:31
La Grande	7:31	7:18	7:05	6:51	6:38
Pocatello	8:06	7:53	7:41	7:28	7:16
MONTANA CONFERENCE					
Billings	8:54	7:40	7:27	7:13	6:59
Havre	8:02	7:48	7:33	7:18	7:03
Helena	8:09	7:55	7:41	7:27	7:13
Miles City	7:44	7:30	7:16	7:02	6:49
Missoula	8:17	8:03	7:49	7:35	7:21
OREGON CONFERENCE					
Coos Bay	7:53	7:41	7:28	7:16	7:03
Medford	7:47	7:35	7:22	7:10	6:58
Portland	7:50	7:37	7:23	7:10	7:06
UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE					
Pendleton	7:35	7:21	7:08	6:54	6:41
Spokane	7:32	7:18	7:03	6:49	6:34
Walla Walla	7:33	7:20	7:06	6:52	6:39
Wenatchee	7:43	7:29	7:15	7:00	6:46
Yakima	7:43	7:29	7:15	7:01	6:47
WASHINGTON CONFERENCE					
Bellingham	7:53	7:39	7:24	7:09	6:54
Seattle	7:51	7:37	7:23	7:09	6:54

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"Coming home from school, I would always feel sick when I saw my house. I'd drop my things on the porch and refuse to go inside. I don't remember ever voluntarily going in that house."

—Ty Gibson



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ALONG CAME A SPIDER, PART 1

S

hortly after Angela, Madeline and I moved to Omaha, we experienced a season of horror in our new house. The otherwise pleasant parsonage housing our new little pastoral family took a turn for the worse one morning when I came down the basement stairs. A wolf spider the size of my hand sat there in the middle of the floor, staring at me with its multiple shiny orbs, waiting for me to make the first move.

“Honey!”

“Yes?”

“Take the baby outside.”

“Why?”

“I need to burn the house down.”

Slowly, I backed up the stairs, went into the entryway closet and grabbed BOTH of my hiking boots in case I only got half of it and the other half tried to rip my face off.

Now, you would think that finding a hand-sized spider on the floor would be as bad as a story could get, but it gets worse. What’s worse than finding a hand-sized spider on the floor of your house? No, it’s not finding two. It’s coming back and finding none at all.

That creature vanished, and for the next several months I was a prisoner in my own home. Every corner, closet and crawl space housed a hairy horror waiting to tear into my flesh. Every breeze was a brush with death. The

arachnid was omnipresent; I felt it — in my shoe, in the back of the silverware drawer, in my pillow-case just waiting for me to fall asleep.

Now, some basic questions. Was there a spider? Yes. Was there a spider everywhere? No. When we are terrified, often with very real things, we can develop a sense of paranoia that sees those horrible things everywhere. Life becomes characterized by suspicion, hypersensitivity, looking for hidden realities in everything. It’s not a pleasant way to live. Eventually I had to move past a life of paranoid spider hunting and embrace peace ... which is why we took a call to Washington Conference.

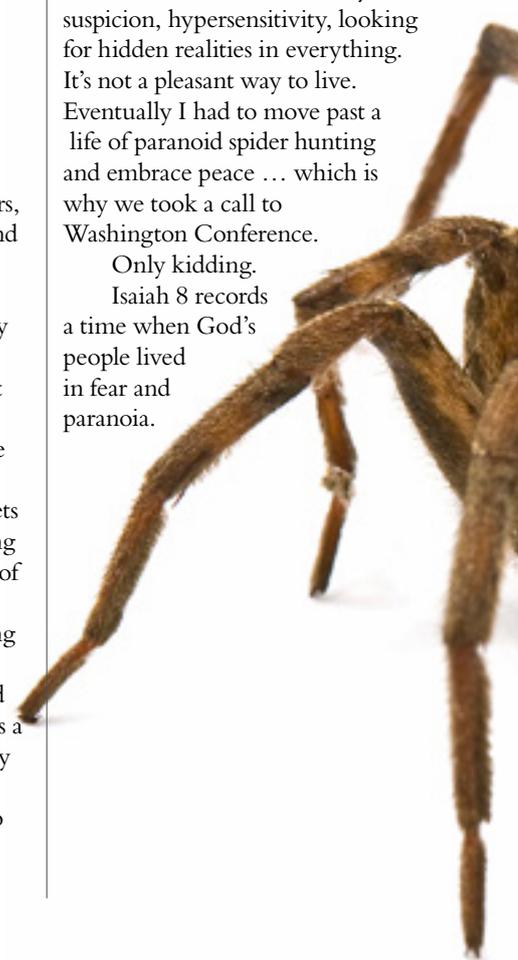
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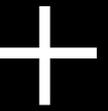
Isaiah 8 records a time when God’s people lived in fear and paranoia.



AUTHOR

Seth Pierce





Rather than focusing your fear on man, focus your faith on God.

They had lost sight of their divine calling and had built a culture that specialized in the miscarriage of justice, general corruption and idolatry. As a result, God withdrew His protection and allowed the northern kingdom of Israel to fall to the Assyrians. The southern kingdom of Judah freaked out even though God has promised to protect them during this time of judgment. Judeans began to whisper,

surmise and suspect there were games afoot. Faith was replaced by fear, and they decided to form an alliance with Egypt — the very nation where their ancestors had been enslaved.

Ellen White, echoing the principles of Isaiah 8, warns Christians, “Suspicion demoralizes, producing the very evils it seeks to prevent.”¹ She knew we don’t make our best decisions when we are afraid of what might happen. Instead of trusting God to fulfill His prophecies, we create our own prophetic scenarios — and too often fulfill them. Sudden yells from nervous back-seat drivers can

cause even the best front-seat drivers to lose focus and crash.

So, through the prophet Isaiah, God speaks a word of truth to His paranoid, fearful followers: “Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. But the Lord of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread” (Isa. 8:12–13).

Rather than focusing your fear on man, focus your faith on God. Don’t automatically jump into the conspiracy crowd. Have you heard the pope is visiting America to introduce Sunday law legislation? Has someone shared a YouTube video with you made in someone’s basement that unveils new information supposedly suppressed for years? Guard your eyes and ears from the latest conspiracy theories. True gospel messengers take Paul’s words to heart — they only have time for those things which are true and of good report.

In Matt. 24:5–6, Jesus tells his end-times-minded disciples, “See that no one

leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.”

Jesus was warning them about a messiah complex. The word “messiah” doesn’t just refer to those claiming to be Jesus; messiah means someone specially chosen to lead people to salvation or safety. They could be any person perceived to have a teaching only they can share with you. In times of waiting for God, whether it is for the Second Coming or seeking answers about the direction and purpose of our life, we are vulnerable. When we start to feel discouraged and a little scared, we can be tempted to latch on to anything that feels helpful, to anyone who can deliver us with some exclusive new truth.

It’s how false teachers and messiahs thrive — a topic we will explore next month.

1. *Education*, p. 289

Seth Pierce, Puyallup Church lead pastor



IS THE CHURCH GOING THROUGH?

N

o matter what, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is going straight through to the kingdom,” a veteran leader declared. “Even if the General Conference president and I are the only ones left in the church, I’m staying with the ship.”

Amen? First let us pause and consider: What is God’s “ship” of salvation? Is it having our names recorded on the books of the Adventist Church? Or is it the gospel of Jesus Christ in the context of Bible truth for these last days?

And what is the church that is “going through”? Do we mean God will preserve a remnant in the last days who keep His commandments and trust the faithfulness of Jesus? Or do we imagine that the Seventh-day Adventist organization is guaranteed a once-saved, always-saved status?

MISGUIDED ENTHUSIASM

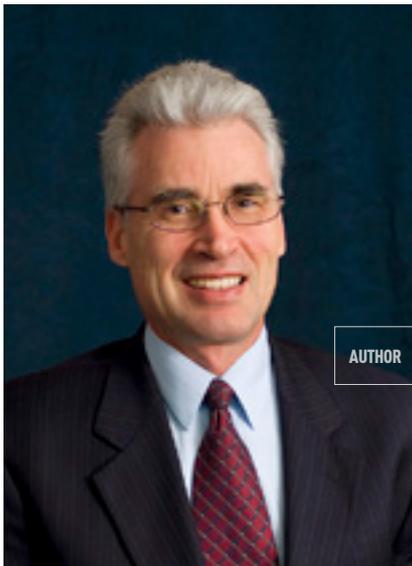
Caught up in blind denominational patriotism, some Adventists forget the principle of conditional prophecy. Faithfulness to God’s covenant has always been a condition of salvation — for organizations as well as individuals.

Every loyal member wants to believe the best about our beloved church, but can you see how mistaken it is to insist it’s *impossible* for Adventism to forfeit favor with God? The arrogance of

such a statement is exceeded only by its ignorance. Do we imagine ourselves immune from the rejection suffered by the Jewish nation — God’s chosen people — when they failed to fulfill their mission?

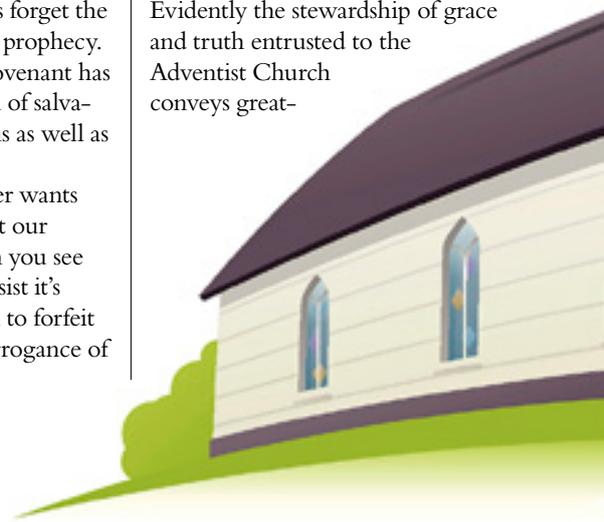
Consider the following warning from Ellen White, which I’ve never read in any church publication: “In the balances of the sanctuary the Seventh-day Adventist church is to be weighed. She will be judged by the privileges and advantages that she has had. If her spiritual experience does not correspond to the advantages that Christ, at infinite cost, has bestowed on her, if the blessings conferred have not qualified her to do the work entrusted to her, on her will be pronounced the sentence: ‘Found wanting.’ By the light bestowed, the opportunities given, will she be judged.”¹

Quite a sober warning — yet appropriate: “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded” (Luke 12:48*). Evidently the stewardship of grace and truth entrusted to the Adventist Church conveys great-



AUTHOR

Martin Weber





The stewardship of grace and truth entrusted to the Adventist Church conveys greater responsibility rather than immunity.

er responsibility rather than immunity.

It is painfully obvious we Adventists don't have an exclusive franchise on God's grace and truth. While our songs and sermons insist we want Jesus to return, many Adventist congregations seem no more

eager for Christ to come than for ISIS to come and disrupt business as usual. That said, we may rejoice that many Northwest Adventist churches are lighthouses of grace and truth in their communities.

In other congregations, however, church members may not smoke but they are not on fire. They don't drink, yet they refuse to be under Christ's influence. They don't dance, but neither do they delight in His salvation.

FIVE ESSENTIAL SOLUTIONS

For Seventh-day Adventists to fulfill God's purpose in these last days, I suggest four fundamental goals to pursue

and attain:

- » **Uphold Christ crucified as the central focus of our public proclamation and personal beliefs.** Any belief or lifestyle standard that denies or diminishes God's grace is a doctrine of devils.
- » **Keep the Bible alone as our rule of faith and teaching.** Some Adventists enthrone Ellen White as lord over the Word. Instead let us do what she says and make the Bible the foundation of our faith and practice.
- » **Don't confuse unity of the Spirit with enforced hierarchical uniformity.** We may respect God's law as the eternal standard of holiness without imposing upon fellow Adventists — globally or locally — human convictions, traditions and policies. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (2 Cor. 3:17).
- » **Affirm the historic doctrines of the church,** but let's be open to learn more about the truth as it is in Jesus. God wants us to be ever-growing, never holding back.

FINAL GENERATION MISSIONALITY

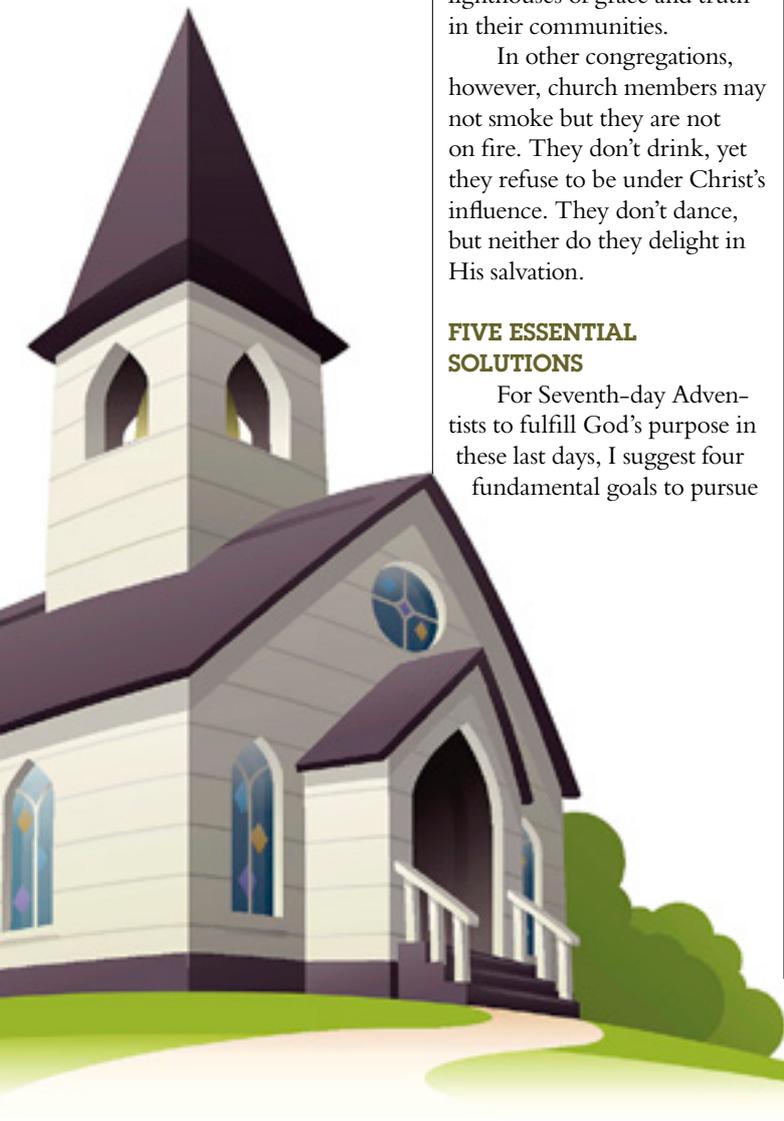
God's final remnant will prevail during the time of trouble soon to burst upon us. His people will be united in experiencing and expressing heaven's grace and truth. They will fulfill Christ's purpose to "be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:2-3).

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples," Jesus predicted, "if you love one another" (John 13:35). "Love is the fulfillment of the law" (Rom. 13:10).

1. Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 247.

*All Scriptures are from the New International Version.

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



MY TEENAGE TESTIMONY



M

My name is Jenna Fishburn. I feel compelled by God to share my testimony with other youth to whom God is speaking like He did to me. I am 16 years old, and while I attended church every week with my family, something really basic had been missing in my Christian experience.

Then one day a YouTube video by Amazing Facts caught my attention. The speaker made an appeal for people to give their hearts to Christ.

The speaker pointed out how sinful we all are and unworthy, in our

AUTHOR

Jenna Fishburn

own merits, to be called

children of God. He made an appeal for people to give their hearts to God. It struck me that if I were to die right then, I would not be prepared to meet the Lord in peace, to eagerly welcome Jesus when He comes again. I had been baptized when I was younger, but I never really committed myself to Christ.

The message I heard on that video really pricked my conscience. As the week went on, I became depressed as I evaluated my spiritual readiness. I earnestly prayed for God's guidance in my life, pleading that He would change me so I could really know Him and the power of



His resurrection. I confessed my sins to God as never before. The burden of my sinfulness and unworthiness before a holy God was almost unbearable. It got to the point where I couldn't even sleep.

As I continued down the valley of despair, wrestling with God each day, I reached out to Amazing Facts and Pastor Lyle Southwell. I began telling him how I felt and asked if God could still love a sinner like me. As I waited for his response, I continued to pray for the assurance of God's love and acceptance.

A couple of days later the pastor's email response reassured me there are still people out there who truly want to lead others to Christ. He helped me realize that coming to Christ, asking for forgiveness and confessing my sins was easier than I thought. All this time I had been worrying about something as easy as just asking God for His forgiveness and trusting in His love and care for me.

So that night before I went to bed, I prayed to God asking for His forgiveness. I prayed He would bring about true conversion to my soul so I would reflect His character and be enabled to serve Him. I confessed my unfaithfulness and said I was counting

It struck me that if I were to die right then, I would not be prepared to meet the Lord in peace.

on Him to change me to the fullest.

When I went to bed that night, I was able to go to sleep peacefully. It was the best night's sleep I had had in a week.

Now that I realize I can come to Christ whenever I fail Him, I continue to ask for His loving and unfailing hand to cover me and guide me. I know that I am far from perfect, but I have assurance in my Savior. Even if I fail Him, His grace and love are limitless. I know I can come to Him with anything even though I am unworthy of His grace and mercy. I realize there are challenges ahead, but Jesus says "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28:20). Satan makes that same promise to us! But, if I fix my eyes on Jesus I know that no matter how many times I may stumble, He is not willing to give up on His one lost sheep.

Two Scripture passages are especially helpful to me in this new walk of faith:

- » "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me" (Ps. 23:4).
- » "Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Is. 40:28-31).

I know many young people share the experience I have gone through. Let us gain strength from each other by

praying earnestly for each other in our struggles and challenges. Let's pray God will use me, and you, and the youth in service for Christ, to lighten the earth with His glory so that we may all be ready for His soon coming.

Jenna Fishburn, Forest Park Church (Everett, Wash.) member



JUST LIKE JESUS

WHEN I WAS 35

W

hen I was 35 years old I was an ordained Seventh-day Adventist pastor and an academy principal.

When our son was 35 he was the chief marketing officer for three incredibly successful world-class companies.

When our oldest daughter was 35 she received a Making

to the academy where I served as principal. My picture is on the wall there next to a long line of suit-and-tie principals. My Pendleton shirt and obvious inexperience left me as the glowing exception on the wall.

“I was too young,” I mumbled to my wise wife.

“No,” she replied. “It was fun.”

“Remember the crowds of kids we used to have at our house?” she continued. “And the Sunday mornings when you drove the

bus to take the kids skiing at Winter Park? The times when the committee disciplined kids by assigning them to stay at our house for a week? The beard-growing contest? The faculty retreat where we all signed a commitment to serve each student as if he or she was Jesus Himself? The buckets of popcorn? All while building a new girls’ dorm, becoming a professional photographer, preaching at 30 churches and six camp meetings each year, writing Sabbath School lessons for the GC, and helping raise three children of your own? Remember?”

Thirty-five was not too young. We were in the prime of life, giving our all wherever God led.

Which brings me back to church.

When I ask 35-year-olds how they feel about church, here’s some of what I hear:

» “I operate two million-dollar businesses and earn more than \$100,000 a year. Why can’t I at least help take up the offering?”

» “The data shows that most people peak at 39. Why is the church being run by 70-year-olds?”

» “If I am seen as a child without value, why should I come?”

» “The young adults who attend *adult* Sabbath School classes seem to be treated as *adults*, while those of us that attend the *young adult* Sabbath School class are considered kids.”

» “At 30 one is considered adult enough to vote, fight for their country, perform surgical procedures, own and run a multimillion dollar company, but not to be a leader in their church.”

Did I make mistakes as a 30-something principal? Indeed. Did I feel supported, valued and needed for the mission of the church I love? You bet.

What could a young adult in my local church do if they were trusted like that?

My wise wife would tell me we have everything to gain and nothing to lose if we could wake up and give them a chance.

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

What could a young adult in my local church do if they were trusted?

a World of Difference award from Vodaphone New Zealand.

When our youngest daughter was 35 she was a professional sports coach, had won national championships in mountain-bike racing and was beginning to win competitions as a professional road bike racer.

Yet, at 35, none of them were “mature enough” to serve as elders or in other leadership positions in their local church.

“Too young,” the nominating committee decided.

“Too inexperienced,” the leaders said.

“Not ready” was the consensus.

Yet, when the insurance company Aviva asked 2,000 adults what they thought the “ideal” age might be, 35 was the near-unanimous choice.

The other day I went back



AUTHOR

Dick Duerksen

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