



Gleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

APRIL 2012
Vol. 107, No. 4

A PLACE AT THE TABLE

Because Jesus has invited them to His feast, Don Deardorff and his wife, Linda, are making sure the people of Nampa, Idaho, have a place at the table as well.

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IMAGES OF CREATION



I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise
to my God as long as I live.
PSALM 104:33 (NIV)

'Bird in a Teacup' by Renae Smith of Brush Prairie, Washington.



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Executive Committee Actions

The North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) executive committee members met February 21 in Ridgefield, Washington, and reappointed Alphonso McCarthy as vice president for regional affairs. In addition, McCarthy serves as NPUC youth, human relations and multicultural ministries director.

Committee members also approved a balanced budget for 2012. The overall tithe increase for 2011 was 2.85 percent union-wide, with the Alaska and Upper Columbia conferences leading the way, showing 8.52-percent and 5.09-percent gains, respectively.



Alphonso McCarthy

Letters

Sunset Schedule Not Legalistic

In response to the letter in the February 2012 issue of the *GLEANER* that suggests printing the Sunset Schedule fosters legalism, I must say that I couldn't disagree more with this gentleman! I find the printed schedule to be a helpful tool in my observance of the Sabbath. I do not see it as legalism to know when sunset is, so we can usher in the Sabbath with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving to God, rather than dashing about with our secular activities into the edges of the sacred Sabbath hours!

Gale Blankenship, Bickleton, Washington

Marriott's Mormonism an Issue

I found the article about Mr. Marriott ["Whatever Thy Hand Findeth to Do," February 2012] interesting and even inspiring in a business sense, but thought it terribly out of place in our magazine. To me it is giving credence to Mormonism as a Christian denomination when their teachings conflict in many fundamental areas with the Bible. I was raised in a Mormon home [and] attended a Mormon church as a youngster. The LDS (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) people are deceived. It is difficult enough to get them to open

their hearts and minds to the truth of Jesus without them being able to point to the Adventist publication as a stage for their authority. To me, it's like asking Adventists to take a Sunday School class from the pope.

Chuck Kinghorn, Nampa, Idaho

Marriott Take 2

J. Willard "Bill" Marriott's story took me by surprise in the *GLEANER*. What was the purpose of using this article about a Mormon in a magazine for Seventh-day Adventists? Even though Marriott had some wonderful character qualities, the article was not appropriate for an SDA audience. Surely several of our very own SDAs must exhibit superior character qualities as well. Please explain why this article was included in our denominational magazine.

Belinda Junghans, Billings, Montana

The GLEANER Responds...

We appreciate the thoughtful counsel of several who wrote regarding this article. While we want our readers to trust the

solid Adventist focus of the GLEANER, we had hoped the inclusion of a well-known and respected tithe-payer not of our persuasion might be of interest to many. We are sorry that Marriott's connection with Mormonism obscured for some the main intent of the article — that tithe-paying has been an avenue of God's blessings for many successful Americans beyond our immediate fold. Ironically, it's a blessing even some Adventists still neglect to embrace.

For a response from the article's author, Cindy Chamberlin, turn to "Don't Shoot: It Was Only a Tithe Story," in our Let's Talk section on page 38 of this issue.

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

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Rediscovering Our Adventist Pioneer Spirit

One of the gifts I received this past Christmas was the first volume of the book *Heart Warming Stories of Adventist Pioneers*. What a thrilling and inspiring volume! The author, Norma J. Collins, opens the window for us to catch a glimpse of well-known pioneers such as William Miller, Joseph Bates, James and Ellen White, Uriah Smith, and John Nevins Andrews. She also gives us a peek at less-known pioneers like Heman Gurney and Annie Smith.

Our Adventist pioneers lived and served by some incredible spiritual values. They are values that we as Adventists would do well to live by in these last days of Earth's history.

I think of the pioneers' practice of prayer and Bible study. As you know, the Holy Spirit was opening to them new vistas of understanding relating to the great themes of Scripture that we hold dear today. There were times when they would spend entire nights poring over the pages of the Bible. They would bathe these nights and days of spiritual feasting in prayer, asking for enlightenment and understanding. They were thrilled when the Holy Spirit would open to them new light in understanding the precious truths of Scripture including the Sabbath, the Second Coming of Jesus, the pre-advent judgment, and the heavenly sanctuary.

Our pioneers had a sense of urgency about the imminent second coming of Jesus Christ. They were passionate in sharing the good news of His return. They knew that Jesus was coming again, and they believed that He was coming soon.

I admire their sense of calling and mission. They knew that the Holy Spirit had given them a most precious message to preach to the world. The calling that God had placed on their lives was clear to them. Their singular mission was to share the biblical Adventist message with every human being in the United States and around the world. They did not have automobiles, airplanes, television, satellites and the Internet to help them fulfill the mission to which God had called them. The message was shared person-

ally as they traveled on foot and by horse and buggy, train, and ship. They accomplished God's mission by great sacrifice.

I am intrigued by the spirit of sacrifice exhibited by our pioneers. They had little means compared to our standards today. And yet, they did not let that stop them. They had great faith in God that He would supply what was needed to accomplish that which God had asked them to do. They often gave all they had to fulfill the calling and mission God had placed on their lives.

I am reminded of the spirit of sacrifice shown by Joseph Bates. His goal was to retire from his occupation as a sea captain when he had saved \$10,000. That was a fortune in the early 1800s. True to his plan, he retired when he had amassed his fortune. In her book, Collins shares how Bates learned of the Millerite Advent message. She states, "This was exciting news to Joseph Bates, and he threw all his energies, as well as his money, into the work of spreading the good news that Jesus was coming soon. He now devoted his carefully accumulated fortune to preaching the Advent message."¹

In this 21st century, I believe that God is raising up pioneers for these last days of Earth's history. He is calling His church to spiritual revival and reformation that includes a renewed hunger for Bible study and prayer. He is calling local church pastors, Bible workers, school teachers, lay people, young people and children to a life of service and mission, to passionately share the saving gospel of Jesus Christ and the good news of His Second Coming. It is a calling to go where He asks us to go and to do what He asks us to do regardless of the cost.

Will you join me in accepting His invitation to be such a pioneer?

¹ Collins, Norma J. *Heartwarming Stories of Adventist Pioneers*. Hagerstown, Maryland: Review and Herald Association, 2005. 45. Print.

"God is raising up pioneers for these last days."



DAVID PREST

IDAHO CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



A PLACE AT THE TABLE

W*ith more than seven decades, and medical issues behind and ahead, you might think Don Deardorff has every reason to take it easy. But instead of striking up the violins, Don would rather spend his hours reaching out to the communities around his home in the Nampa/Caldwell, Idaho, area.*



For years, Don and his wife, Linda, have been feeding the hungry with the help of church friends. And this year, with all of its challenges, is no different.

Don and Linda would insist the story surrounding this outreach is not so much about them as it is of the God who gives them an opportunity each week to serve their community. It's about the God who not very long ago led them into the Adventist Church through a juxtaposition of divine appointments.

We caught Don and Linda on a recent Monday with some friends making shepherd's pie — a batch, we might add, large enough to feed 100 people that evening. Every Monday is filled with menu and food preparation, all leading up to the main event in the evening.



Don Deardorff, Caldwell Church member, leads a weekly effort to feed the hungry at Nampa's Gateway Crossing apartment complex.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

This weekly repast is served in a spacious room at Nampa's Gateway Crossing apartment complex. For months Don had canvassed the area looking for an opportunity to help out where people were hungry. He checked with the city hall and the local parks and recreation department. They granted him limited permission to use several outdoor facilities or a local park for free. But he didn't like the prospects outside in the cold, with wet winter.

And that's when Don's persistence paid dividends. One of the city departments tipped him off to the Gateway Crossing facility. He visited the manager and found a listening ear where all was warm and dry. They agreed to open their doors to the project and its mission of helping people in that neighborhood.

And this relationship continues each Monday evening. Amanda Ausmus, site manager, says, "Don Deardorff and friends provide the greatest program — we just appreciate that we can host this kind of service. It gives people a chance to visit with new friends and feel normal, at least one night a week."

And what about Don and Linda? Well, they couldn't be happier. "What an honor

to be able to do this for the community," Don says. "We've seen the hand of the Lord really move through the years we've done this. People have given their lives to Christ, and that's what it's all about."

DNA OF GIVING

The DNA of giving is deeply rooted in Don. He came from a poor family with a father who worked in the fields until he was almost 80 years old. But it was a Christian home that gave, even from its meager supply. "In spite of the hardships, I saw how God always moved to provide for us," says Don.

And so, on a Monday, the Deardorffs and their friends move about a kitchen full of edible blessings. God provides food through individual donors and other



A miraculous twist led Don Deardorff to Jim Berglund, Caldwell Church pastor. Don and his wife, Linda, study the Bible with Jim regularly.

suppliers. The garage is lined with boxes of donated food supplies. The latest arrival is 50 pounds of rice. When each Monday rolls around, they scan what they have and develop a menu to fit. Sometimes the food combinations are creative, but they haven't yet missed a meal.

Don put word out on the Internet that they needed a freezer. A newly donated unit is now out in the garage packed full of donated goods, frozen hard as a rock, awaiting their sacrifice to the cause.

On Monday evenings, people start to gather around 6:15 at the center. They sit in this warm, welcoming environment, waiting for the meal, which begins at 7 p.m. Following the meal there is time for some Bible study. "Do the people stay for that?" you ask. Well, yes — you see, dessert is served AFTER the study, followed by more visiting. There are real community connections developing and some spiritual interests as well.

Don and Linda hope more of their church family will get involved in this project. "We want to get our youth pastor and some of the youth down to the center and train them in to this avenue of service," says Don. "We send our kids out to the mission

fields, but right here at home there are so many needs."

Jim Berglund is the Deardorffs' pastor at the Caldwell Church. "There are always people in a community that make a difference," he says. "Don and Linda are two of those special people."

A DIVINE APPOINTMENT

The relationship between Jim, Don and Linda is the rest of this story. It's a bit of miracle really, since not too long ago the Deardorffs were integrally involved in a Pentecostal church. Don had even served there as an interim pastor.

But one day, while traveling, Don picked up a flier in a rest stop. It described the end times in a way that piqued his interest. He thought about it for months. Three years passed until he decided one day to call an Adventist church. He found what he thought was the Nampa Church number and dialed.

Instead, he reached the Caldwell Church, and Jim Berglund answered. You can call it a coincidence. Don calls it a divine appointment. Both had backgrounds in Pentecostalism. There was an immediate and strong connection. When Don asked why Jim had left the charismatic movement, he replied, "I was looking for the truth." And that is exactly what had led Don to make his initial call.

"It's amazing how God prepared things ahead of time for us to understand each



As people begin to filter in for a sit-down meal, Don Deardorff often enjoys renewing weekly acquaintances that are increasingly becoming more comfortable.

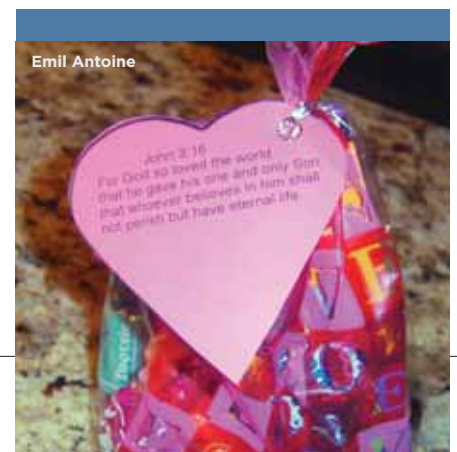
other," says Jim. "He took truth and just absorbed it. He'd say, 'I can't believe the way I understood things before.'"

Don has appreciated Jim's willingness to share. "I've never had a pastor who was so eager to just sit down and share truth together out of the Word of God," he says.

AN ADVENTIST FAMILY

The move into the Adventist Church hasn't been seamless. Adventists may raise their hands in a classroom but are less inclined to do so while in church. It's taken

On Valentine's Day this year, the team gave special bags of treats to the children.





Don and Linda some time to adjust to their new, more reserved worship environment. But they have also inspired love and acceptance as they work together with their Adventist church family to discover what it truly means to worship in spirit and truth.

Don's son, Ray, who is not an Adventist, initially looked on with dismay, uncomfortable with what he saw as their journey into a sect. But even he acknowledges the good. "This is one of the first times they have had friends that didn't have agendas, who just want to help," he observes. "Pastor Jim will call and say 'I've got no agenda — just wanted to check to see how you're doing.'"

Don and Linda will tell you, beyond their love for the truth, that they have never before experienced such love and unity. They probably wouldn't acknowledge their own role in inspiring such an attitude. That atmosphere pervades their outreach work on Mondays and beyond.

The needs they meet each week are simple, yet great. One person wrote: "Thank you for the chance to sit down to eat with my whole family. We have only one chair at our own table."

Because Jesus has invited them to His feast, Don, Linda and their team are making sure the people of their community have a place at the table as well.

Steve Vistaunet, GLEANER editor



Volunteers keep the pots full of food. The weekly meals are sometimes simple but always filling.

ACCION

Remando Contra la Cultura

El 14 de Enero, año 2012. Lugar: Jerome, Idaho. Con el cabello todavía húmedo, mientras permanecen de pie juntos a la primera hilera de sillas del santuario, Sergio y Verónica saludan emocionados a las personas que se acercan a felicitarlos. Son muy jóvenes, ninguno de los dos supera los veinticinco años de edad. Hace unos meses no sabían que existía la Iglesia Adventista. Ahora, hoy precisamente, se han convertido en miembros de ella. No han tomado esta decisión debido a un arrebato emocional o una crisis en sus vidas. De hecho, sus vidas transcurrían rutinariamente entre el arduo trabajo en una lechería en Idaho y la crianza de Kazumi, su hijita de dos años.

Enero del año 2011. Lugar: Montana. Jacinto Muñoz y su esposa, Lucía, no tienen paz en su corazón. El Espíritu Santo continuamente los inquieta

haciéndolos pensar en el pueblo Hispano que habita en la región sudeste de Idaho, a unas seis horas de donde viven actualmente si se viaja en vehículo. Materialmente, tienen estabilidad. Pero desde el día que conocieron a Jesús las cosas materiales han dejado de ser un fin. “Nuestras vidas solo tienen sentido si evangelizamos,” me decía Jacinto un día. Y porque necesitaban evangelizar, sentían la urgencia de mudarse a pesar de que tal decisión perjudicaría otros aspectos de sus vidas, tales como la estabilidad educacional de sus cuatro hijos y su seguridad económica. “Si dejamos de predicar el evangelio, sentiremos que nos morimos,” comentaba Jacinto en otra ocasión mientras su esposa sonreía asintiendo con la cabeza.

Mientras muchas familias Adventistas Hispánicas se mudan guiadas por las oportunidades

En la esquina inferior derecha, Jacinto Muñoz acompañado por dos de sus hijos y su esposa durante una serie de reuniones evangelísticas. En el presente, los esposos Muñoz están compartiendo el evangelio con ocho personas.



Sergio y Verónica en el momento de hacer sus votos bautismales el Sábado 14 de Enero del 2012. Como resultado de su conversión, la familia de Verónica ha empezado a estudiar las Escrituras.

de trabajo y las perspectivas de una mejor vida material, la familia Muñoz lo hace guiada por las oportunidades de predicar el evangelio. Pero no solo esto llama la atención en el estilo de vida de esta maravillosa pareja. Tienen la habilidad de convertir el lugar de trabajo en un sitio para establecer contactos y ganar amigos. Y al terminar la larga jornada laboral, no regresan a sus casas para descansar y prepararse para el siguiente día. En cambio, dedican dos horas extras a visitar a las personas que van conociendo. Pero son visitas con propósito: enseñarles recetas de cocina saludable, llevarles algún presente en forma de literatura o bien celebrar el cumpleaños de algún miembro de la familia.

Los días Sábado Jacinto realiza hasta tres viajes al templo para llevar a sus invitados. “Pastor, espero que

los hermanos entiendan que los Sábados voy a estar entrando y saliendo. Para mí, la prioridad es traer amigos al templo. Yo les ofrezco el transporte.” Y los frutos se ven. Sergio y Verónica, el Sr. Ángel y su esposa, la Sra. María y varias otras familias ahora conocen el mensaje Adventista.

Los esposos Muñoz no siguen la corriente de este mundo. No buscan comodidad, buscan predicar. Y el Señor va supliendo cada una de sus necesidades. Su testimonio me hace pensar en cómo se multiplicó la iglesia de los apóstoles y también en cómo terminará la predicación del mensaje como resultado del derramamiento de la lluvia tardía.

Edwin Lopez, pastor y coordinador Hispano de la Conferencia de Idaho

Alaskan Women Meet for Prayer Breakfast

More than 50 women and their friends braved the early morning and sub-zero cold on Jan. 22 to experience the Alaska women's ministries prayer breakfast at the Alaska Conference office in Anchorage.

Glenda Pyle and Theodosia Underwood, both from Anchorage, spoke on prayer, its importance and how to pray effectively. Guests shared personal prayer needs and experiences as they prayed together in groups.

Linda Carcano told of her battle with brain cancer and how the prayers of her church family saved her life. Gladis

Gerena, who recently moved to Alaska from Puerto Rico, described how she lost her purse and passport the day before flying to Alaska, but her prayers were answered

Alaskan women gather for a prayer breakfast and a return to stillness before the Lord at the Alaska Conference office in Anchorage on Jan. 22.



and her purse was found.

Jean Francis-Gobah, Alaska Conference women's ministries director, shared the North American Division REACH (**R**eformation and

transformation, **E**ducation for discipleship, **A**lignment in God's church, **C**ommunity outreach and evangelism, and **H**ealth leadership management).

The Alaska Conference has established a prayer line, which anyone may call Tuesdays from 7–8 p.m. (Alaska Daylight Time) for weekly prayer. Call 800-977-8002 and enter participant conference code #77861556.

Ruth deGraaff, Eagle River Valley Church member, and Jean Francis-Gobah

Alaska Women's Retreat Emphasizes Young Women

The annual Alaska Conference Women's Retreat, held April 22–24, 2011, at Alyeska Resort in Girdwood, Alaska, drew more than 50 young women attending for

Pictured here from left are: Diana Wilhite, Sue Hess, Linda Carleton, Dilys Brooks, Eseta Poulivaati, Jean Gobah and Maria Avellaneda.



their first time. They listened to guest speaker Dilys Brooks, Loma Linda (Calif.) University associate chaplain and intern pastor at Andrews University's New Life Church in Berrien Springs, Mich., as she shared with them they are all God's beloved daughters.

A special youth-focused segment on Sabbath evening covered dating and relationship topics like when to date, boundaries in dating, and dating without regret. Mothers and daughters listened and asked questions, and young women also shared praise music.

After the retreat, one mom said, "My daughter went

home and broke off her relationship with her boyfriend as she sense[d] this was not the right relationship God wanted for her."

The weekend concluded with communion and an anointing service. Women were reminded of the power of God's healing touch in their lives as they headed back to their homes, churches and communities empowered by the assurance that He who began His work in them would complete it.

Jean Francis-Gobah, Alaska Conference women's ministries director



The Spirit is Moving in Caldwell

The Caldwell (Idaho) Church has seen the Spirit of the Lord move on the hearts of a number of its young people in recent months. They have taken their stand for Jesus and been baptized along with three adults. The congregation welcomed into God's family and their church family Susie Aguirre, Hannah Baldrige, Reuben Herbel, Paige Hoyt and Simon Smith on Nov. 26, 2011, followed by the baptism of Sierra Bartlett on Dec. 10. Kittie Mowery and Cora Tur-

ney were baptized on Feb. 4. Jim Berglund, Caldwell Church pastor, asked them to write a short statement of what accepting Jesus and baptism meant to them. After introducing each young person entering the baptistry, he read these statements, including:

- "I am giving my life to God. He can use me to spread His word," wrote Susie Aguirre;
- "I want to be a good influence for my brothers so that they will want to be

baptized," wrote Simon Smith;

- "I am giving my life to God. I want to serve Him and love Him," wrote Sierra Bartlett;
- "It is my desire to experience a more personal walk with Jesus through baptism. I owe Him my life and all that I will ever be. All He asks is that I will let Him live through me, which is exactly what I want to do!" wrote Paige Hoyt.

Most of these young people

are 11, while one is older and two are younger. Even as young as they are, they show a depth of true understanding and commitment. Adults welcomed into the Caldwell Church included Don and Linda Deardorff, who joined by profession of faith on Dec. 10, and Jason Head, who was baptized on Jan. 7. (See this month's *GLEANER* feature to learn more about the Deardorffs.)

DeeAnn Reedy, Caldwell Church communication leader



Susie Aguirre



Hannah Baldrige



Paige Hoyt



Reuben Herbel



Cora Turney



Kittie Mowery



Simon Smith



Sierra Bartlett

Heaven's Gift Celebrated in Nampa



The Nampa (Idaho) Church Choir, directed by Wilker "Max" Maxwell, was joined by the Kuna (Idaho) Church Choir, under Candi Zappia's direction, to present its 20th-annual Christmas concert. The concert, "Heaven's Gift," was given on Dec. 10, 2011, to a standing-room-only crowd.

In addition to the choral selections, Kuna member and concert pianist, Trevor Loucks, played interludes of his own arrangements, including a piece accompanied by Marti Phillips on the organ.

Nampa members Robin Russell, Susan Winchester, Herb Duncan, Gina Duncan and baby Kaleo Schlenker helped to bring the Christmas story to life as narrated by Sandra and Rick Nosik.

The Nampa Church Choir's ministry includes two major concerts each year and sings for regular church services from October through May.

Shirley Maxwell, Nampa Church Bible instructor

Montana's Pathfinders Compete

in Bible Achievement Program

Misty rain turned to snow as forecasted on Feb. 18. It was right on time to kick off the second-annual Montana Conference Pathfinder Bible Achievement program in Bozeman, Mont.

The program's 90 questions covered in detail Isaiah 1-55, along with the introduction to Isaiah in the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*. The first-place award went to the six-member Rimrockers team from Billings, Mont., which answered the most questions correctly. The three-member Rocky Mountain Miners from Butte, Mont., finished with a third-place award, with scoring based on the most questions answered correctly by any group.

Bill Lee opened the program by leading the group in several songs, including "The Pathfinder Song." Bozeman-area church members and conference personnel assisted in the program, which included Bette Wheeling and Mark Harris as team judges and Melanie Stroud and Doug Meharry as scorekeepers. Pastors Merlin Knowles, Jim Jenkins and Barry Taylor served as second-panel judges, also known as the "appeal judges."

Dale Sanford, Rimrockers director, and Ruthann Crowe, Rocky Mountain Miners director, said they began preparing for the event in September 2011 by assigning each Pathfinder specific chapters to study.



The Billings (Mont.) Rimrockers club garners first place during the second-annual Montana Conference Pathfinder Bible Achievement program.

The preparation was "really hard," says MacKenzie Flower, a Rocky Mountain Miner, "but we got to study a lot in school. I tried to memorize as much as I could."

Michelle Garcia, Billings Rimrocker, mentioned that she liked the promises in the chapters she focused on, "especially for those kings who

reigned with righteousness," (Isaiah 32).

Throughout the event, the falling snow increased in intensity and a gentle fog reduced visibility on the interstate. It was a reminder of Isaiah's words about "the snow that comes down from heaven," followed by the next verse: "... so shall

my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it," (Isaiah 55:11, ESV).

Twyla Geraci, Pathfinder Bible Achievement attendee

"It's All About Jesus"

MONTANA CONFERENCE CAMP MEETING

June 13-16, 2012
Mount Ellis Academy Campus

Featured Speakers: Elizabeth Talbot
Steve Cassimy

Seminar Leaders: Ron & Karen Flowers
Dr. David DeRose

Wednesday evening
concert
by Steve Darmody



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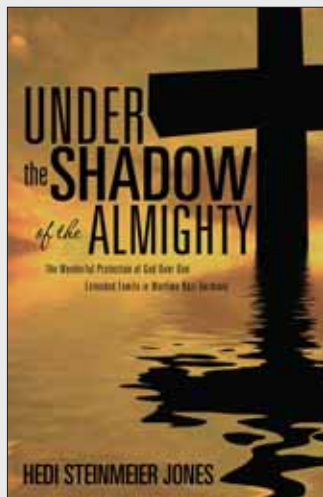
Gladstone Park Church Member Writes Award-winning Book

The story of Gladstone (Ore.) Park Church member Hedi Jones' miraculous deliverance from wartime danger and near-death is chronicled in her recently published, award-winning book, *Under the Shadow of the Almighty*.

The daughter of an Adventist pastor, Jones was 19 years old and living in Germany when she first penned her experiences of the last few months of World War II. "These days live on in my memory as full of light and sound, happiness and joy ... Oh, you beautiful, beautiful world!" she wrote about a vacation to a lake on the German-Swiss border during the summer of 1944. Only months later, she and her family were homeless after a bomb destroyed their apartment building.

While the book's beginnings can be traced to March 1945 when Jones began to journal her experiences, there have

Under the Shadow of the Almighty tells the story of Jones' experiences as a young woman in Germany during World War II.



Hedi Steinmeier Jones, at age 83, holds the German Bible she clutched as a bomb hit her apartment building during World War II.

been several steps along the way to publication. For more than 50 years, the journal was packed away and forgotten until its discovery when Jones was in her 70s. She translated it into English and added to the incomplete account from memory. While she didn't realize it at the time, her book-writing process had begun.

It continued in 2005 when Jones was asked to present her wartime experiences to her church in Lockeford, Calif. In preparation, she pulled out her translated account and edited it for presentation.

Four years later and living in Oregon, she was once again asked to talk about her World War II experiences — this time by her grandson for a presentation to his senior philosophy and ethics class at Portland (Ore.) Adventist Academy as part of a project on war.

When Bob Uhrig, Gladstone Park Church pastor, presented the Kingdom Assignment challenge to his church members

in March 2009, Jones accepted a \$100 bill and the challenge to invest it to help improve her community. Her grandson's discarded idea of writing a short book of her experiences as his senior project became the inspiration for her Kingdom Assignment project. She used the \$100 seed money to produce a spiral-bound book for sale, the proceeds of which she donated to the Gladstone Park Church fellowship hall building project.

More than a year later, Jones

was persuaded to publish her narrative in the form of a "real" book so her amazing story could reach more people. She rewrote portions and added new information. Her final account, published by Xulon Press, won the 2011 Christian Choice Book Award for autobiography/biography and the second-place grand prize across all categories.

Jones is convinced that God was leading during every phase of the book's production so it can reach as many readers as possible with the faith-strengthening message of God's wonderful love and protecting power. In her words, "We can believe that, whatever may befall us, we will always remain *Under the Shadow of the Almighty*."

If you would like to obtain a copy of *Under the Shadow of the Almighty*, please contact your local Adventist Book Center.

Kathryn Polk, daughter of Hedi Jones



Hedi Jones and her family found themselves homeless after their apartment building in Germany was bombed.

PAA Offers Advanced Placement Calculus

The first Portland (Ore.) Adventist Academy (PAA) Advanced Placement (AP) calculus students will complete their final exams this spring and potentially receive college credit for their work.

Calculus is a foundational course for students interested in careers in economics, science and computer science. The AP calculus course at PAA is a chance for students to get ahead in knowledge and classroom work.

This special curriculum is designed and sponsored by the College Board of Education to offer exceptional students a chance to experience a rigorous curriculum and earn college credit if



Portland Adventist Academy's Advanced Placement calculus students prepare for their final exams.

they score well on their final exams.

"It's a lot of work for the teachers," says Gale Crosby, PAA principal. "In fact, it's probably just as much work

for the teachers as it is for the students. Teachers have to take specialized training courses and what they are learning is very intentional and prescriptive education."

For PAA's Jonathan Loven-guth, AP calculus teacher, the preparation was worth it. "This is the equation that gives me goose bumps," he says, as he slides through several examples on his interactive whiteboard before landing on the fundamental theorem. Teaching math-loving students is obviously an enjoyment for him.

PAA offers five college-level classes and two AP classes. Students must file an application and be reviewed by the school's academic standards committee before being accepted into the class.

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA GLEANER correspondent

Parenting the Second Generation

Project PATCH Helps Grandparents

Project PATCH presented a weekend seminar in Portland, Ore., to answer a growing need for equipping and empowering grandparents to become effective parents to their grandchildren.

"In one week we received seven phone calls from grandmothers raising their grandchildren and wanting help," says Chuck Hagele, executive director of the Christian non-profit organization, which runs a 169-acre ranch and behavioral treatment center for teens in Idaho.

"Parenting tools used two generations ago are no longer effective," says Laura Montané,

Project PATCH admissions coordinator and seminar presenter. "Some methods are simply illegal now, and others are inadequate when it comes to dealing with kids affected by divorce, abandonment, loss or trauma."

Attendees' concerns included technology, conflict, improving their grandchildren's attitudes and academics, and relating with teens. "Many expected to get 'ammunition' to use against their teens," says Hagele. "They left understanding that connecting and communication lead to stability, trust and the ability to deal with difficult topics."

One attendee wrote, "Implementing the methods I learned at the seminar was a lot easier than I thought it would be. I don't know if I'm doing it all right, but it's working!"

Project PATCH plans to hold additional seminars in the Portland, Ore., and Boise, Idaho, areas this summer. For more information on Project PATCH and its speakers and seminars, email info@project-patch.org, call 360-690-8495 or visit projectpatch.org.

Becky St. Clair, Project PATCH communication director



Laura Montané, Project PATCH admissions coordinator, discusses how to improve communication between grandparent and grandchild.

Area Leaders Dedicate New Oasis Facility

Adventists from four area churches helped Oasis Christian Center, an Adventist fellowship in Vancouver, Wash., celebrate their move into a new, larger worship facility Feb. 10–11.

More than 50 people gathered at the new building on Friday night for a prayer walk organized by Kathy Hamby, Meadow Glade Church (Battle Ground, Wash.) head elder and Meadow Glade Adventist Elementary School (MGAES) board chairwoman, and led by Brian Allison, MGAES principal.

During the three-hour prayer walk, participants prayed room-by-room for the specific ministry opportunities of each location. “We want to start things off here the right way,” Allison told the gathering. “And we’re going to cover these grounds with prayer to ask for divine intervention for Oasis.”

Other guests included Rick

Brian Allison, Meadow Glade Adventist Elementary School (Battle Ground, Wash.) principal, leads a prayer walk the night before the first worship service is held in Oasis’ new building.



Members and guests sing during the first service held in Oasis’ new worship center.

Bowes, Meadow Glade Church senior pastor; MGAES board members and teachers; Rick New, Oasis pastor; and Oasis members. “We’re all in this together,” Hamby says, “and we need to support each other in

the same goal: to show Christ’s love to the community.”

On Sabbath morning, 193 worshipers, including Oasis members and members from the Vancouver and Orchards (also in Vancouver) churches, gathered for the first worship service in the new building.

The 16-year-old, 200-member congregation has long sought and prayed for a larger meeting place. For the last seven years, Oasis has met at the Walnut Grove Community Church in Vancouver, which had become overcrowded with attendees packed into tiny Sabbath School rooms and crammed into an inadequate sanctuary.

But church growth was only one reason for the move. Timing and prayer were also central, explains New. “Oasis runs on prayer, and prayer has

been a huge part of the history of Oasis,” he says. “It’s not by might nor by power but God’s Spirit that a miracle like this occurs.”

Oasis held a 24-hour prayer vigil a few weeks before discovering and beginning the process of relocating to the larger venue. “That’s what makes this a God thing,” says New. “God had exactly the right timing. I’m excited about the future, with new leadership in key positions working together with long-time leaders to open up new opportunities for ministry.”

Oasis now meets weekly at the Northside Baptist Church, 5201 N.E. Minnehaha St. in Vancouver, with Sabbath School at 10 a.m. and worship at 11 a.m.

Debra Robillard, GLEANER correspondent

A Changed Life

Christian Education Makes a Difference

When most people look at me, they see a person with good friends, good grades and a good home life, and, for the most part, they're right.

But few know what it took for me to reach this place in my life.

The year before I came to Milo Adventist Academy (Milo in Days Creek, Ore.) was the worst of my life. I cannot describe the darkness I lived in; my constant prayer was that I could die and escape the pain.

That year seemed to take centuries, but at summer's end I found that my Lord and I had walked through the valley of death and somehow I had survived. Yet, I was worried I might never FEEL



CAROL BOVEE

Being at Milo Adventist Academy (Days Creek, Ore.) is helping Moriah Winte learn just how special a smile is.

anything again.

Then I came to Milo.

Suddenly, I was enveloped by miracles. Inexplicably,

miraculously, my God had led me to a place where I was surrounded by people who shared a common goal in

Christ, who genuinely cared about me, though all they knew of me was that I was closed in, aloof and snobby. They taught me to love again.

Now, in my senior year, I am madly in love with my Lord. I've found a way to focus my incredible new passion, and I've never been fuller or happier in my relationship with Him.

I'm not saying that my life's been sunshine and flowers ever since — I still struggle with depression — but I've learned just how special a smile is.

Milo helped me learn that, and now, Milo is helping me to smile every day.

Moriah Winte, MAA senior

Kelso-Longview Student Honored

as Top Youth Volunteer

Skyler Lee, a sixth grader at Kelso-Longview (Wash.) Adventist School, is being honored as one of the top two youth volunteers in the state of Washington. She is a 2012 winner of the Spirit of Community Award given in collaboration between Prudential Financial and the National Assembly of Secondary School Principals. Skyler, 12, lives in Longview.

During the past five years, Skyler has collected 2,050 coats for the local Salvation Army, which helps low-in-

come families in her community. "When I was 7 years old, I was watching *Good Morning America* and learned that some children in our country had never had a warm coat to wear in the winter," Lee explains. "I told my mom that we should do something."

She decided to organize a yearly coat drive by placing collection boxes at several businesses and contacting the newspaper to help spread the word. She also sells lemonade each summer to earn money to buy more coats. The Salva-

tion Army distributes the coats to children and parents at Christmas. "There are many people who need some kind of help," she says.

Skyler and the other winners will receive \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., in May for several days of recognition events.

Tracy Lang, Kelso-Longview Adventist School principal



Skylar Lee, a sixth grader from Kelso-Longview (Wash.) Adventist School, has been honored as one of the top two youth volunteers in the state.

Upper Columbia Christian Men's Summit

Features Prayer and Reconciliation

The subject of reconciliation in Christ drew the men of Upper Columbia Conference to this year's Christian Men's Summit.

Charles "Charlie" Brown, Adventist Reconciliation Services founder and experienced pastor, gave four presentations and many informal discussions exploring Bible-based methods to resolve conflicts in churches, schools and other organizations. "I really liked Charlie's acronym PAUSE [Prepare, Affirm relationships, Understand interests, Search for creative solutions, Evaluate options] for speaking in love," says Sid Nash, an attendee from College Place, Wash.

The men also prayed — for each other, their families and

their home churches — and gave thanks for a particular answered prayer. Last year the men gathered on their knees for a particular prayer request by Greg Lorren of College Place. This year, Lorren, one of the breakout-session speakers, described how the Lord

answered that prayer and his family from bondage — a story that particularly touched attendee Don Blue.

After such heart-searching examinations during the Sabbath, the men participated in "Xtreme Games" and were challenged by the themes of

the movie *Courageous*. Then, as everyone prepared to leave on Sunday, Brown charged them to go forth and practice what they had learned.

Cheryl Wallace, Upper Columbia Conference family life department correspondent

I have been going to men's retreats since the early 1990s, and I have been asked, "Why?" Well, when I go to men's retreats I get an experience that I can't get anywhere else. Each speaker is focused on bringing men back to a closer walk with God. Breakout sessions on specific topics are tailored to raise men to fulfill their responsibility as the priest of the home. But the best is the prayer time, when we get together and pray for each other with hands on our brothers in need and our time with the Lord alone. It's a weekend with other men, growing closer to the Lord, getting to know other brothers across the conference, and building your relationship in Christ. This not only benefits the men that go because when they go back to their communities everyone benefits. Men's retreat is the retreat to get your priorities straight, to refocus or to get the strength from the Lord through your body of brothers in the faith. It is a win-win time with the Lord. Do you dare miss it? — Carl Kostoff



Share the Life

Statistically Impacts Church Growth

The Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) believes effective evangelism takes place when the people we're trying to reach know and trust us. This can only happen as we're living fully surrendered to Jesus Christ. When He directs our daily activities, we see things differently and are open to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Living lives fully committed to His



cause truly makes a difference.

For the past two years, Share the Life, the UCC's outreach initiative, has been seeking to train and equip members to live evangelically — to approach life with an eternal perspective. The conference approached this challenge by seeking to place outreach coaches, called Bible-worker coordinators, in every district. To date, coaches have been found for more than half of the church districts, and the results are encouraging.

Early this year, the conference ran the numbers to see what kind of impact Share the Life has had on the local church. Church growth in churches

with a Bible-worker coordinator is up 11 percent. Churches putting this lifestyle-of-evangelism approach into action are seeing growth as friendships are made. When members learn how to give a Bible study or how to share Christ through their personal testimony, churches grow. A side benefit of this growth is that giving is up six percent in these churches, enabling further ministry.

Share the Life is funded entirely through donations, and further funds are actively being raised this year to continue placing Bible-worker coordinators in churches to encourage, train and equip members.

Revelation 14 clearly outlines our unique message for the world today. Jesus is coming soon, and we have been specifically singled out to call people to Him. As Share the Life moves into its third year, the UCC welcomes prayers for its pastors and Bible-worker coordinators.

The latest updates about Share the Life, including recent stories of what God is doing through our members, are available at www.uccsda.org.

Jay Wintermeyer, Upper Columbia Conference communication director

Richland Welcomes New Family Member

from Half a World Away

Richland (Wash.) Church members welcomed a new sister in Christ from half a world away as they celebrated the baptism of Wenjing Ma on Dec. 24, 2011.

Wenjing, a Chinese student, met fellow countryman, Yafan Zhao, 18 months ago while both were studying for doctorate degrees in the U.S. Their attraction was immediate, and so was a major problem: She was an atheist, and he was an Adventist Christian.

“Being educated as an atheist,” says Wenjing, “I never believed there were supernatural powers or supernatural beings. Instead, I believed everything can be explained scientifically and that the phenomena we can’t explain are caused by some natural rules that we haven’t discovered yet.”

Wenjing was very sure about

those beliefs until she met Yafan. His character and “not of the world” nature attracted her, but he insisted they could not be in a relationship unless she became a Christian.

“I thought that was a very unreasonable position,” says Wenjing. “You can imagine how bitter I felt. I could not understand why such an open-minded, intelligent, scientific Ph.D. student could be religious. Finally, after fighting in my mind and with Yafan, I realized I didn’t know what I was fighting against and decided to try to learn what Christianity is.”

Two months after her pivotal decision to explore Christianity with an open mind, she graduated from her doctoral program in Ohio and returned to Richland, Wash., to work. She began attending the Richland Church with Yafan — the first time she



Wenjing Ma is baptized into the Richland (Wash.) Church.

had ever attended a Christian church.

“Since the first Sabbath School class and church service, I began to be attracted to Christianity and this church,” says Wenjing. “Even though Yafan had to return to China, I kept attending church and began to love the church more and more.”

“As I allowed myself to explore Christianity,” she explains, “I realized I had found in the

church what I had always been longing for — a life of serious spiritual pursuit. I got a lot of guidance, support and comfort from church members.”

Wenjing is still in the U.S. for awhile and attends the Richland Church when she’s in town.

“Even though I am in a country which has a completely different culture from my own, God created us with a common need for Him, and we are sharing the same faith now,” says Wenjing.

Faith is something everyone experiences differently. For Wenjing, she is willing to accept it because it enables her to do more difficult things. She is determined to follow God’s instructions and leading in her life and let His love work through her.

Wenjing shared her personal testimony with the Richland Church family before her baptism. She says the church has been a blessing in her life, and church members find the blessing is mutual, as her inquiring mind and open heart inspire them.

Ruth Harms, Richland Church member



Wenjing Ma (right) is welcomed by her Richland Church family.

Bible Bowl Teams Meet in Moses Lake

The Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) Bible Achievement Bowl was held in Moses Lake, Wash., on Sabbath, Feb. 25.

Among teams participating were Idaho's Hayden Lake Ponderosa Pathfinders and seven teams from Washington, including: the Cle Elum/Ellensburg Wind Valley Arrows; the Colville Cougars; the Kennewick Nighthawks; the Moses Lake Crusaders; the Othello Outreachers; the Walla Walla Sunrise Club; and Wenatchee's Apple Valley Pathfinder Club.

Wayne Hicks, UCC Pathfinder director, welcomed the participants and spectators to the event, which was sponsored by the Moses Lake Church and

Pathfinder Club. Parents were invited to participate in their own team, like they have for the past three years.

One person remarked that this was a wonderful way to spend a Sabbath afternoon — watching the Pathfinders compete against themselves and becoming “winners” because they studied the Bible. And they all studied hard!

“The Book of Isaiah was a hard book, and yet the Pathfinders were up to the challenge,” says one Pathfinder coordinator. Seeds planted by this activity will be with these Pathfinders forever — they and all who study His Word will find that it will last forever.

One observer mentioned that



JERRY RAU

The Walla Walla (Wash.) Sunrise Pathfinder Bible Achievement team waits with mentors Nina Summers and Everly Batuik.

this was an extremely well-attended event, despite many having to drive through a snowstorm to get there. Three clubs brought parents and pastors as well as Pathfinders to the event.

The Colville Cougars and the Hayden Lake Ponderosa Pathfinders were sent on to

the North Pacific Union Bible Achievement Bowl, held March 4 in Chehalis, Wash.

Cheryl Wallace, Upper Columbia Conference family ministries department administrative assistant

Finding Kind at Walla Walla Valley Academy

It's Girl World, and it's harsh, cruel and lonely." These candid words come from the documentary *Finding Kind*, which was shown at Walla Walla (Wash.) Valley Academy (WWVA) on Feb. 23.

Finding Kind, which is part of the nationwide Kind Campaign to raise awareness of and combat girl-against-girl bullying, tells the story of the campaign's founders, Lauren Parsekian and Molly Thompson, as they traveled the country to interview, lead discussions with, and host assemblies for girls and women of all ages. Their trip even

included a stop in Walla Walla. The documentary touches on issues like jealousy, competition, gossip, suicide, self-esteem and relationships.

Among the screening's 450 attendees were fifth- through 12th-grade students, teachers and parents representing nine nearby schools, including Adventist, Catholic, nondenominational and public schools.

Tiana Wood, the Upper Columbia Conference task-force worker who coordinated the event, admits she didn't see the value until she saw the film. "Girl-against-girl bullying seemed like such a big prob-

lem that I thought, 'Why even try to fight it?'" she explains.

A second showing was held at Upper Columbia Academy in Spangle, Wash., on March 29, and a third will be sched-

uled at Cascade Christian Academy in Wenatchee, Wash.

Cassy Collins, Walla Walla University communication major

Walla Walla Valley Academy students assemble for the *Finding Kind* screening held Feb. 23.



CASSY COLLINS

Inland Washington Welcomes New Spanish Churches

The new year began with great blessings in the inland Washington area of the Upper Columbia Conference (UCC).

NEW CONGREGATION IN RICHLAND, WASH.

The Kennewick Spanish Church in Kennewick, Wash., is one of the youngest congregations in the UCC territory. This congregation has determined to grow and multiply; they own their church and are also giving

tinguished and well organized to interact harmoniously as if they were marching under an invisible banner. A tremendous army of youth from first, second and third generations adds variety of ages and cultures to create a group with tremendous potential to reach the secular mind that ignores the gospel truth in this region of the world.

The local pastor, Jaime Flores, and his wife, Diana, emphasize that these two congregations are uniquely blessed by a number

Granger Spanish members line up to sign the church's official charter.



GRANGER SPANISH CHURCH

birth to another congregation.

Heaven inspired the church to plant a new congregation in the neighboring city of Richland. The inspiration is now a reality because the Richland Hispanic congregation officially became a company on Jan. 14. They met for the first time as a company at the Red Lion Hotel on the shores of the Columbia River.

The company's charter was signed by 48 members representing four groups clearly dis-

of visionary leaders determined to grow and moved by a deep sense of divine dependence. They stand out because of their sociability and earnest desire to bring forth the gospel mission in the multicultural and secular context that surrounds them.

NEW CHURCH IN GRANGER

Despite snow, Robert (Bob) Folkenberg Jr., UCC president, and Gerald Haeger, UCC ministerial director, met with a good number of members to



GRANGER SPANISH CHURCH

Felix Maijub, Granger Spanish Church pastor (at pulpit), welcomes Upper Columbia Conference administrators Bob Folkenberg and Gerald Haeger to the official organization of the Granger Spanish congregation.

commemorate the organization of the Granger Spanish Church on Jan. 21.

Nearly 60 people signed as charter members.

The Granger Spanish Church is a dynamic and successful member of a three-church district. A team of talented leaders work with Félix Maijub, Central Valley district pastor, and his wife, Damaris.

One of the leaders says that

there is not only an increase in the number of leaders, but also an increase in the talents of each church leader. These leaders have richly blessed the Granger (Wash.) Spanish congregation, as have members of the adjacent English congregation of the Granger Church.

Walter Pintos-Schmidt, Upper Columbia Conference Spanish coordinator

A cake marks the organization of the Granger Spanish Church.



GRANGER SPANISH CHURCH

Washington Leaders Join Jesus Conversation in Seattle

In a triple-size hotel ballroom in downtown Seattle, Wash., nearly 700 leaders reconnected with old friends and met new ministry partners. They formed small communities at round tables to talk for two days about one topic: Jesus. All.

The One Project, a gathering to celebrate the supremacy of Jesus in the Adventist Church, brings together young adults and church leaders for conversations on the practical application of Jesus' ministry in their own lives, churches and communities.

"I wanted to experience a sense of community, get feedback, strengthen my spiritual walk and ignite new ideas," says Jenny Welch, a church planter from Anacortes, Wash.



John and Karin McLarty, North Hill Adventist Fellowship (Edgewood, Wash.) pastoral couple, center, join a small-group discussion following a keynote presentation.

The gathering combined meaningful times of worship with thought-provoking sermons on Jesus at crucial time periods in Adventist history and examined how to center Jesus in Adventist doctrine, mission and community.

"The speakers repeatedly called for the church to make Jesus central in everything, from our preaching to our policy making, from our identity as a people to our message as an organization," says John McLarty, North Hill Adventist Fellowship (Edgewood, Wash.) pastor. "They easily demonstrated that Adventists through the decades have prized their relationship with Jesus."

Mark Witas, North Cascade Church (Burlington, Wash.) pastor, gave one of the seven keynote addresses and talked about how Jesus' character is reflected in Adventist doctrines. "Doctrine is often used to

define us," Witas says. "Doctrine ought to be an expression of love to clarify and explain the Father."

"[The One Project] is a time to reset ourselves in Jesus Christ and associate with people whose hope is in Jesus Christ," says Japhet De Oliveira, gathering co-organizer. "This is a gathering that provides space for leaders from all walks of life to pause

and enter deep conversations on Jesus."

Community-building small-group discussions following the keynote presentations branched into hallway chats, lunchtime conversations, evening talks and social-media interactions.

"I enjoyed taking some of our young pastors to lunch and talking with them about their dreams for the Seventh-day Adventist Church," says John Freedman, Washington Conference president, who was among 50 western Washington attendees at The One Project.

The conversations generated in Seattle are continuing informally here at home and formally in Europe, Australia and other cities in the United States. Explore more at www.the1project.org.

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference communication director

Matthew Gamble (left), a former Washington Conference pastor now with VagaBondservant International, and Mark Witas (second right), North Cascade Church (Burlington, Wash.,) pastor, join other writers in an author panel at The One Project.



the **BIG PICTURE** of ministry

Washington Conference's new School Work Alternative Program (SWAP) provides students with creative learning activities on bad weather days.

DISCOVER MORE:

WASHINGTONCONFERENCE.ORG

Anacortes Church Plant Discovers Identity

As an “adolescent” church plant, Anacortes (Wash.) Adventist Fellowship, a company of approximately 50 believers meeting together since 2008, started to take a closer look at who they wanted to be when they grew up.

Growth in any new church comes in stages: bonding as a new group, creating trusting friendships, finding a church

The Anacortes Adventist Fellowship is growing as a church plant, discovering its identity, developing leaders, and casting a vision for ministry.

home, finding identity and continuing to grow — all, in this case, without the guidance of a pastor.

Mike Hakanson, an Adventist Navy chaplain and commander, recently stepped in to provide volunteer leadership and cast a vision for effective ministry.

In the new leadership structure, church elders and

ministry directors are responsible for five ministry areas:

- Pastoral Care: visitation, greeting and social events that create an atmosphere of belonging;
- Worship: music, drama and preaching;
- Direct Community Outreach: serving the community through evangelism;
- Personal Spiritual Growth: spiritual growth opportunities through discipleship;
- Church Development: physical and financial structure for worship and technological support.

During a church-growth retreat with Bill McClendon, Washington Conference vice president for ministry, members learned more about their

spiritual gifts and practical ways to get involved in ministry. Even confirmed “pew warmers” who voiced fear they did not have spiritual gifts, found they had important talents to be incorporated into church ministry.

Anacortes Adventist Fellowship is learning church growth does not just “happen” and is excited to learn more at the conference’s church growth practicum this year. Members believe this will help them reach the next stage of development as they attempt to align themselves with God’s values and methods.

Bonnie Bowman, Anacortes Adventist Fellowship board chairwoman



KEVIN WELCH

Quadriplegic Finds Freedom in God

After surviving a car accident that left him paralyzed from the neck down, Jason Parkinson never imagined how being a quadriplegic could lead to God.

As he learned to breathe without a ventilator, he also learned about forgiveness, positive thinking and God’s self-sacrificing love. Overcoming paralysis would be tough; taking on society’s prejudice and ignorance would prove even tougher. But he prevailed, and today Parkinson will tell you his life is filled with adventure, romance and meaning.

Parkinson has shared his message with congregations and students about how true paralysis is in the mind when we allow fears and anxieties to stop us from moving forward in God’s plan.

He shares how a wheelchair and a damaged spinal cord, when combined with enormous courage and limitless faith, can set one free. As proof, Parkinson has built two homes, gone kayaking, and done parasailing and surfing in Hawaii.

Parkinson, his wife Marissa Sill, and their daughter, Isa-

belle, are powerful witnesses to what God can do in a family where He is the foundation, center and focus.

The family joined the Sequim (Wash.) Church on Jan. 14 through profession of faith after a year of Bible study and seeking greater biblical truth. The Sequim Church family feels incredibly blessed to have this young family join the movement of proclaiming the return of Jesus Christ.

Maureen O’Kane, Sequim Church communication leader



Jason Parkinson, his wife, Marissa Sills, and their daughter, Isabelle, find freedom in Jesus Christ.

SAA Students Perform Their Own Circus

Students in first through fourth grades at Skagit Adventist Academy in Burlington, Wash., recently enjoyed a fun night of circus stunts as they displayed skills learned in their physical education classes.



In preparation, the students practiced skills like juggling, hula hoop tricks, tumbling and juggle sticks. The variation in activities allowed each student to find a skill at which he or she could excel.

“My favorite part was the scarf juggling,” says Joseph Graves, a second grader.

While first and second grades learned to juggle scarves, third and fourth graders were challenged with juggling beanbags.

The weeks of practice came to an end as students showed up the night of the performance dressed in bright circus colors, ready to put on a show for friends and family. Nervous thoughts soon went away as students entertained the audi-



Skagit Adventist Academy's circus gives students an opportunity to showcase their physical fitness skills.

ence with throws, spins, catches and rolls to the sounds of circus music.

The overwhelming favorites among third and fourth graders were the rolls and balance positions during the tumbling routine.

Following each activity, students pulled parents up front

to perform in the audience-participation portion, providing laughs for everyone.

After the successful night, many students are already looking forward to their next circus performance.

Matthew Lee, SAA teacher

Sixth Graders Raise \$1,000 for Zimbabwe Orphans

This school year, the sixth grade class at Buena Vista Elementary School in Auburn, Wash., adopted Murwira Children's Home (MCH) in Zimbabwe as their brothers and sisters in Africa.

With the help of Jondelle McGhee, who spent the summer volunteering at the children's home, the Buena Vista sixth-grade students participated in an “adoption” ceremony during which they received the name of their new sibling, a picture, and a desire to share with their “family” in Africa.

Buena Vista students and MCH orphans are writing

emails back and forth throughout the year in which they are sharing favorite foods, games and dreams for the future. A bulletin board at the front of the classroom reminds the students to pray for MCH.

When the sixth-grade class led the church service at All Nations Church in Federal Way, Wash., in October 2011 and then shared a special feature at the Tacoma (Wash.) Hispanic Church in January, they were able to raise \$1,000 for dental work and boarding academy fees for MCH. The students plan to continue raising funds to help their African brothers and sisters.

The children's home is operated by Adventist missionary Paula Leen, who provides medical care, safe housing, food and education for orphans and needy children. It is annually supported by the Washington Conference's

women's ministries program which covers the shipping fee for a food container filled by other organizations, such as Amistad International.

Jennifer L. McGhee, Buena Vista sixth-grade teacher

Buena Vista Elementary School (Auburn, Wash.) sixth graders adopt orphans from Murwira Children's Home in Zimbabwe.



Adventist Medical Center's Everyday Hero

As a home-health physical therapist at Adventist Medical Center (AMC) in Portland, Ore., Tom Davis spends his days visiting patients in their homes, helping to put their lives back together after falls, breaks and other injuries that can bring life to a screeching halt. Like other Adventist Health employees, he wants to live the mission and bring healing to his patients.

Davis doesn't stop thinking about his patients when he gets home after work. He goes into his garage and builds things, particularly chair platforms that make his patients' lives ever easier. A strikingly simple idea, his creations make a world of difference for elderly patients who find it hard to get out of their favorite chairs. The platforms, which he makes with his own time and money, raise the chairs for better functionality.

When Davis visited the home of patients Lucile and Garth Harris, he noticed

Tom Davis, a home-health physical therapist, builds a platform in his garage to help one of his patients.



Tom Davis receives the P.R.A.I.S.E. Award from Tom Russell, Adventist Medical Center president and CEO, in Portland, Ore.

Garth was having trouble getting out of his recliner. When Davis asked the couple if they would like a platform for Garth, they were more than happy to accept. About a week later Davis brought the platform and installed it onto Garth's chair. After trying it out, Lucile and Tom Davis were relieved to find that Garth could get out of his

recliner with ease thanks to the platform.

Davis has provided more than 20 patients with platforms. "My job is to help my patients function safely and comfortably in their homes," he says. "And if the platform will do it, that's what I'm going to do." Davis spent much of his life as a missionary and has a passion for service,

which is why he is reluctant to accept praise for his generous actions. His coworkers didn't even know what he was doing until a patient mentioned it. Once hospital executives caught wind of it though, they were impressed with his mission-minded attitude and awarded him the 2011 President's Award for Inspirational Service Excellence (PRAISE).

"Tom actively lives the Adventist Health mission," says Tom Russell, AMC president and CEO. "He is a living example of exceptional customer service for all of our clinicians. He is driven to do the right thing at the right time to meet a wide variety of complex patient needs."

Davis, a member of the Sunnyside Church in Portland, reflects, "After spending many years overseas as a missionary, working at Adventist Medical Center has given me the opportunity to continue to serve as a missionary in my local community."

Brittany Dobbs, Adventist Health GLEANER correspondent

Tom was selected as an "Everyday Hero" by local Portland television news station KATU. Watch the segment on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFkKx8W4mXA.

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The One Project — Seattle

More than 700 people, including a large group of Walla Walla University faculty, students and church members, gathered for The One Project, a time of discussion-based programming and inspirational worship, held in mid-February in Seattle, Wash.

“It was good to engage in fresh conversation with one another and to celebrate communion as one body,” says Alex Bryan, WWU Church senior pastor. “There was, and continues to be, a sense that God is up to something special in this young movement.”

Bridget Bechtel, a WWU senior elementary education major — who spends her summers working as the girls’ director at Camp MiVoden in Hayden Lake, Idaho — drove across Washington state to attend the event.

“It was an amazing experience,” she says. “I loved how everything they mentioned was about Jesus. After a presenter spoke, we shared our thoughts about what was said, how it related to God, and how we could learn from it.”

Nolan Kinne, a WWU senior pre-med music major,



Nolan Kinne, Walla Walla University senior, plays his violin at The One Project.

at the center of our hearts and religion.”

Kinne also spoke to the value of being exposed to other views on important ideas, after he sat and discussed each new topic with a diverse group of people. Like many who attended, Kinne came away from the experience thinking about how churches could revolutionize their communities if the words of Jesus were fully implemented.

“If the message of Jesus is adopted by a church, it will transform it into one that loves, cares for and accepts the

worst of sinners and guides them to Jesus,” Kinne says. “It will be one which is not torn apart by disagreements of doctrine or theology but united and focused on one goal — sharing Jesus with others.”

The next gathering is scheduled for 2013 in Chicago, Ill., and will center on the messages of the four Gospels. Visit www.the1project.org for more information.

*Martin Surridge,
WWU graduate*



Alex Bryan, Walla Walla University Church senior pastor, speaks at The One Project.

The One Project began only two years ago in a single hotel meeting room when Bryan and four of his ministerial colleagues gathered in Denver, Colo., to reflect and focus on making Jesus primary in their lives. Since then, the interest and attendance has been building, as they met in Atlanta, Ga., and Finland.

The conference attracted many young Adventists, including a number of students.

originally attended The One Project because he was invited to play violin. However, he soon discovered that the event would be more than just about his musical performance.

“It was like nothing I’ve ever been to before,” Kinne says. “It wasn’t a convention, and it wasn’t a seminar. The leaders call it a gathering, and that is exactly what it felt like. It was a gathering of Seventh-day Adventists, placing Jesus



Pictured here, a group prays with Alex Bryan, Walla Walla University Church senior pastor, and Paddy McCoy, WWU chaplain, during The One Project.

MILESTONES

Edwards 65th

Charles and June Edwards celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Aug. 20, 2011, at the Walla Walla University Church (College Place, Wash.) fellowship hall. Their anniversary was combined with the anniversary celebrations of their son and daughter-in-law, Jim and Vicky Edwards', 40th, and Vicky's parents, Herb and Anna May Waters', 60th.

Charles Edwards met June Day at Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich.) as he led the choir in which she sang. They were married on Aug. 4, 1946, by Edwin Thiele in the college chapel.

Charles, son of Lowell and



Charles and June Edwards

Josephine Cunningham Edwards, followed in his father's footsteps and became a pastor. He served in Indiana, the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, Massachusetts, the Upper Columbia Conference (UCC), and the Northern California Conference. While serving as the UCC youth director, he became affectionately known as "Uncle Charlie," a name given to him by his future daughter-in-law, Vicky.

Through the years, June worked in various doctor and conference offices. In retirement, Charlie has worked as a Walla Walla General Hospital

chaplain and continues to take preaching assignments around UCC. June is a wonderful cook and pianist.

The Edwards family includes Jim and Vicky Edwards, of College Place; Bob and Anne Edwards, of California; 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Waters 60th

Herb and Anna May Waters celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 20, 2011, at the Walla Walla University Church (College Place, Wash.) fellowship hall. Their anniversary celebration was combined with the 40th of their daughter and son-in-law, Vicky and Jim Edwards, and the 65th of Jim's parents, Charles and June Edwards.

Herb Waters met Anna May Radke in 1948 when they were both freshmen at Gem State Academy (Caldwell, Idaho). It took awhile before they officially got together, but they were married on Nov. 11, 1951, by Horace Weaver in the old Walla Walla (Wash.) City Church.

They began their married life in College Place. Over the years they have lived in Rice, Moses Lake, and Battle Ground, Wash.; Moscow, Idaho; and Healdsburg, Calif. They are now back in College Place.



Anna May and Herb Waters

Herb, always a hard worker, had his own construction business. Anna May was his bookkeeper and designed many of the homes and apartments he built. While living in Battle Ground, they worked at Columbia Adventist Academy — Herb as a construction teacher, and Anna May as the administrative secretary, business office manager, class and club sponsor, attendance secretary, and whatever else was needed. While their children were young, Anna May was a stay-at-home mom.

In his retirement, Herb enjoys helping folks and gardening. Anna May is a volunteer for Bibleinfo.com and online *Discover Bible* course and writes for the *Women's Devotional Book*. She and Herb like to travel and play table games. They are snowbirds to Desert Hot Springs, Calif., in the winter.

The Waters family includes Steven and Marlo (Woesner) Waters, of Angwin, Calif.; Vicky and Jim Edwards of College Place; Lisa Waters, of Eagle, Idaho; Lori and Lorin Young, of Salem, Ore.; 8 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Their son, David Waters, died in 1984. His widow, Debbie (Maxwell) Ware, and her second husband, Bruce, live in Eagle, Idaho.

WEDDINGS

GOMES-BINUS — Celeste Gomes and Lutz Binus were married Sept. 25, 2011, in Springfield, Ore., where they are making their home.

PRICE-CAIN — Sabine Price and Bob Cain were married Nov. 22, 2011, in Kettle Falls, Wash. They are making their home in Evans, Wash.

BIRTHS

ATKINS — Brayden Scott was born Jan. 20, 2012, to James R. and Marissa S. (McElvain) Atkins, Polson, Mont.

BENNETT — Lauryn J. was born June 22, 2011, to Brad and Yasmin (Perez) Bennett, Medford, Ore.

DISNEY — Nicholas Adam was born Sept. 1, 2011, to Daniel Safonov and Antonina Disney, Roseburg, Ore.

HARTMAN — Andrew Grainger was born Sept. 2, 2011, to Charles D. and Lorna (McFarland) Hartman, Spangle, Wash.

KING — Marleigh S. was born Feb. 6, 2012, to Brad and Michelle (Loewen) King, Medford, Ore.

KOH — Joshua Anthony Yong Ern was born Jan. 18, 2012 to Terrence and Nita (Chin) Koh, Bellevue, Wash.

LÓPEZ-PAGOLA — Alexia Elianna was born Jan. 26, 2012, to Eder Pagola and Kristina López, Woodland, Wash.

PAYNTER — Kendra Rose was born July 30, 2011, to David K. Paynter and Rebecca D. Stein, Troutdale, Ore.

QUAN-PHILLIPS — Micah Finnigan was born Dec. 31, 2011, to Cory Phillips and Paige Pardee, San Diego, Calif.

SCOTT — Wesley Kenneth was born Nov. 14, 2011, to Rudy and Christy (Berry) Scott, Walla Walla, Wash.

SUSTAIRE — Johnatan D. was born Dec. 11, 2010, to David and Natalie (Castaneda) Sustaire, Medford, Ore.

AT REST

BEDINGFIELD — Bob, 84; born Dec. 28, 1925, Asotin, Wash.; died Nov. 10, 2010, Spokane, Wash. Surviving: wife, Barda (Knapp), Colville, Wash.; sons, Robert, Lowell and Lester, all of Colville; daughter, Shannon Koskenmark, Clarkston, Wash.; brother, Melvin Ford, Shoreline, Wash.; sisters, Louise Brook, Battle Ground, Wash.; Elizabeth Yeatman, Montross, Va.; 3 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

BYERS — Carolyn F. (Syphers), 64; born Nov. 20, 1946, Walla Walla, Wash.; died Oct. 28, 2011, Port Angeles, Wash. Surviving: husband, LeRoy; sons, Branton, Port Angeles; Brady, Tillamook, Ore.; Brani, Sequim, Wash.; daughter, Brenda Adams, Sorrento, Fla.; parents, Kenneth and Charlotte (Schlehuber) Syphers, Sequim; brother, Keith Syphers, Lummi Island, Wash.; and 5 grandchildren.

COTTON — David K., 59; born May 19, 1952, Walla Walla, Wash.; died Oct. 5, 2011, Spokane, Wash. Surviving: wife, Anita (Holderby), Walla Walla, Wash.; daughter, Cara Cotton, Portland, Ore.; father, Hernan Burgos, Fort Worth, Texas.

DARBY — Amy (Nelson), 85; born Jan. 28, 1926, Albemarle, N.C.; died Nov. 12, 2011, Phoenix, Ariz. Surviving: husband, Harry, Black Canyon City, Ariz.; daughter, Cyndee Darby, Sandpoint, Idaho; and 2 grandchildren.

ENQUIST — Laura Jean Rose, 14; born Nov. 15, 1996, Colville, Wash.; died May 25, 2011, Kettle Falls, Wash. Surviving: parents, George and Janice (Davis) Enquist, Kettle Falls; grandmothers, Anne (Will) Davis, Kettle Falls; Irene (Chapman) Enquist, Kettle Falls; adopted brother, Isaiah Enquist, Okinawa, Japan; half

brothers, Michael Enquist, Spokane, Wash.; Joseph Enquist, Kettle Falls; and adopted sister, Holly Clark, Spokane.

HARRIS — Melvin Victor, 81; born Nov. 5, 1929, Pasco, Wash.; died Sept. 20, 2011, Burtonsville, Md. Surviving: wife, Peggy (Curtice); son, Mark, Burtonsville; daughter, Melanie Harris, Burtonsville; sister, Maryrose Begis, Everett, Wash.; and 2 grandchildren.

JOHNSON — Karen Joi (Williams), 66; born April 16, 1945, Seattle, Wash.; died Nov. 5, 2011, Poulsbo, Wash. Surviving: husband, Park; sons, Richard Stocker and John Stocker, both of California; daughter, Elizabeth Ann Stocker, of California; stepdaughters, Susan E. Johnson; Kris M. Johnson, Poulsbo; Karen E. Johnson, Rush Valley, Utah; 3 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

KASNER — Alice Marie (Jacks), 84; born Sept. 22, 1927, Skykomish, Wash.; died Nov. 11, 2011, Lakewood, Wash. Surviving: daughter, Teresa Marcinkus, Portland, Ore.; brother, Bill Jacks, Portland; and 2 grandchildren.

KNITTEL — Carol M. (Kachuck), 76; born Oct. 8, 1935, Lodi, Calif.; died Oct. 21, 2011, Ephrata, Wash. Surviving: husband, Daniel; son, Todd, Pasco, Wash.; daughters, Julie Knittel, Lodi; Debra Schimke, Ephrata; 4 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

KROSCHEL — Herbert E. III, 41; born May 6, 1969, Cheyenne, Wyo.; died Feb. 20, 2011, Bend, Ore. Surviving: wife, Peggy (Wolfswinkel), Salem, Ore.; sons, Pierce and Harrison, both of Salem; parents, Herbert Jr. and Leanna Kroschel, Walla Walla, Wash.; brother, Shawn, Walla Walla; sisters, Shelly Groulik and Jessica Murff, both of College Place, Wash.

LARSON — Richard Charles Sr., 91; born Nov. 9, 1919, St. Joseph, Mich.; died Oct. 18, 2011, College Place, Wash. Surviving: sons, Richard C. Jr., Long Beach, Calif.; Donald D., College Place; David N., West Hills, Calif.; Robert E., Tecate, Mexico; brother, Frank, Cassopolis, Mich.; 6 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

MALOTT — Ella L. (Middleton), 88; born Dec. 6, 1922, Whittemore, Mich.; died Nov. 9, 2011, Eugene, Ore. Surviving: sons, Leland, Lacey, Wash.; Larry, Walla Walla, Wash.; daughters, Lorraine Craik, Kotzebue, Alaska; Lila Malott and Linda McCoy, both of Springfield, Ore.; 13 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

MARSHALL — Juanita Fern (Eastin), 85; born March 4, 1925, Morris, Okla.; died Oct. 12, 2010, Bremerton, Wash. Surviving: husband, James; daughter, Sue Schoengart, Bremerton; sister, Bobbie Brust, Navasota, Texas; 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

MARTIN — Duard L., 88; born Oct. 24, 1922, Yonkers, Okla.; died March 28, 2011, Gold Hill, Ore. Surviving: son, Dennis, Gold Hill; daughter, Lynn White, Rogue River, Ore.; 4 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

NICHOLS — Robert, 88; born Sept. 24, 1923, Riverside, Calif.; died Oct. 24, 2011, Ephrata, Wash. Surviving: wife, Yvonne (Budd) Rouleau; son, Kimball Nichols, Trinidad, Colo.; daughter, Valarie Nichols, San Jose, Calif.; stepdaughter, Edie (Rouleau) Severin, Ellensburg, Wash.; sister, Barbara Nichols, Lacey, Wash.; 5 grandchildren and 2 step-grandchildren.

RENTFRO — Richard "Dick" Allen, 91; born Feb. 4, 1920,

Kansas City, Kan.; died Oct. 21, 2011, Thorp, Wash. Surviving: daughter, Connie Coleman, Thorp; 5 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

SMITH — William Robert, 90; born Dec. 17, 1920, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; died Nov. 6, 2011, Vay, Idaho. Surviving: sons, Raymond, Sagle, Idaho; Bob, Calhan, Colo.; 6 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

TRUBY — William "Bill" Jr., 82; born April 21, 1929, Lindrith, N.M.; died Nov. 23, 2011, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Carol (Kenyon), Sandpoint, Idaho; sons, William "Bill" E. III, Mount Shasta, Calif.; Timothy L., Paradise, Calif.; Mark A., Wenatchee, Wash.; daughters, Valerie Dressel and Rosalie Alexander, both of Sandpoint; sisters, Fern Pollard, Rio Dell, Calif.; Molly Cathy, Arcadia, Calif.; Doris Kenny, Willow Creek, Calif.; and 2 grandchildren.

TUPPER — Elsie Arlene (Baxter) George, 89; born Nov. 12, 1921, Fort Thomas, Ky.; died Nov. 10, 2011, Goldendale, Wash. Surviving: husband, Clarence L.; sons, Clarence D., Paul and Bruce W., all of Goldendale; David, Walla Walla, Wash.; foster daughters, Julia (Flomer) Lynch, Burbank, Wash.; Susan (Flomer) Moberly, Yakima, Wash.; Anne (Flomer) Bascom, Walla Walla; 15 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

WADE — James L., 79; born Aug. 23, 1932, National City, Calif.; died Oct. 27, 2011, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: wife, Phyllis (Longmore); sons, Gary L., Walla Walla; Michael A., Newcastle, Wash.; Ronald L., Walla Walla; 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

North Pacific Union Conference**Offering**

April 7 — Local Church Budget;

April 14 — Christian Record Services World Budget;

April 21 — Local Church Budget;

April 28 — Local Conference Advance.

Walla Walla University

April 1-3 — April University Days;

April 8 — North Pacific Regional Robotics Tournament;

April 13-14 — Weekend of Worship;

April 22 — Service Day;

April 26-29 — Homecoming Weekend.

WWU Portland Campus

April 14 — Les Zollbrecht, Mountain Leadership Institute, at 11 a.m.

Oregon**CHIP at Beaverton Church**

April 5 — Beaverton CHIP (Complete Health Improvement Program) will be held at the Beaverton Church starting April 5 with the heart screen. Free informational meetings will be held March 26, March 28, and April 3. The program consists of a four-week video series of Dr. Hans Diehl doing a program in Michigan and many local church volunteers who provide a supper and medical counsel. Dr. David Cheek leads out in the program with five other medical professionals assisting. CHIP educates and encourages people to change a few simple lifestyle habits to improve high cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes, overweight, arthritis, triglycerides and other medical challenges. Those who attend have some wonderful health results. Check out our website at www.BeavertonCHIP.com. Call 503-646-9828 or email us at info@BeavertonCHIP.com.

The Great Worship and Music Controversy

April 27-29 — Presented (in person) by Karl Tsatalbasidis at the

McMinnville Church. Contact the church at 503-472-7841 for times.

Missing Members

The Lakeview (Ore.) Church is looking for the following missing members: Pat Cozo, Edward Deneault, Gayle Hinckle and Maria Hulsey. If you have any contact information for these missing members, contact Rosemary at 541-947-2413 or email isabelsgandma@yahoo.com.

Upper Columbia**Project PATCH: Family Experience Weekend**

April 27-30 — Family Experience Weekend at the Project PATCH Family Life and Conference Center in Goldendale, Wash., now open for registration. Various dates available, starting April 27-30. Learn effective communication and how to relate better to each other as a family, all in a Christ-centered, family-focused environment. Call 360-690-8495 for more information and to register. For program details and location photos, visit projectpatch.org.

Maplewood Academy Alumni

May 5 — You're invited to the Maplewood Academy Reunion/Potluck at 1:30 p.m. Meet with classmates and hear updates from Maplewood. Walla Walla Valley Academy, 300 SW Academy Way, College Place, WA. If you have any questions, please call Lois Pegel at 509-529-4837.

Oroville Church 80th-year Celebration

June 30 — An 80th-year celebration of the Oroville (Wash.) Church is coming. Everyone is invited to attend this special celebration. We are looking for many of the following charter and missing members to be part of the celebration: Ralph Anderson, Lester Austin, Rose Balmes, Robert Bonnin, Barry Brown, Marion Buckmiller, Duane Brown, Gloria Burnham, Mrs. Heike Caillier, R.C. Churchill, Goldie Doyle, Grace Ecklor, Kofa Finrock, Clyde Fraizer, Ed Gengras, Grayce Haworth, Delbert Holderby, Pastor Douglas Horton, Mamie Kennedy,

Don Kilpatrick, Ronald Kyle, Daryl and Sandy Larsen, Maryann Leel, Theora Linnell, Irene Long, Kenneth Long, Edward Manuel, Leroy Moore, Nellie Mulvihill, Derby Parnell, John Range, Ron Reed, Jim and Donna Reinking, Joe Rounds, Gayle and Judy Schefflin, Milton Umana, Sarah Wainwright, and Tim and Connie Waters. If you have any information about these missing members or to RVSP, please contact Linda Ritter by calling 509-476-2331 or emailing lindaritter46@msn.com with "CELEBRATION" in the subject line.

Washington**Wayne Blakely at Shoreline Church**

April 6-7 — In an age where society cultivates living as you feel, Wayne Blakely breaks the traditional church silence and shares a trio of presentations entitled Homosexuality: Feelings, Facts and Fiction. Come hear Blakely share his testimony and explain our role in reaching out with love. A weekend of inspiration at the Shoreline Church, 17424 5th Ave., Shoreline, WA 98155, Friday at 7 p.m., and Sabbath at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

World Church**Achtung, Sprechen sie Deutsch?**

May 5 — Attend the annual German Sabbath in Hope, British Columbia, Canada. Sabbath School at 9:30 a.m., with a potluck and afternoon music program to follow. For more information, call 604-826-0300 or 425-222-5411.

'Ye Olde' Cedar Lake Academy Reunion

June 14-17 — Alumni and schoolmates of 1962 and earlier are warmly welcomed to Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Mich. Honor classes: 1932, 1942, 1952 and 1962. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. Also, you may contact GLAA Alumni Office at 989-472-5181 or visit www.GLAA.net for further information.

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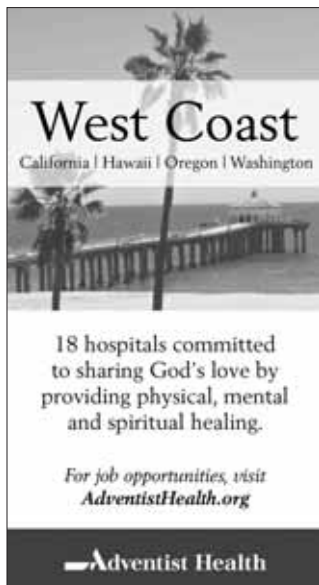
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seeks applicants for Chemistry Department. Ph.D. in organic chemistry or biochemistry required. Teaching responsibilities include introductory and organic chemistry, and/or biochemistry. Candidate with strong commitment to undergraduate research preferred. Must be member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in good and regular standing, and hold short-term interpretation of creation. Submit vitae, statement of teaching philosophy, and three letters of reference to Dr. Rhonda Scott, Chemistry Department chair, Southern Adventist University, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315; 423-236-2932; rjscott@southern.edu.

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The Lake Union Conference seeks a mission-minded, dedicated, software developer with a minimum of a bachelor's degree, and 3+ years programming experience preferred. Ruby on Rails, SQL and web development a plus. See job description at <http://www.lakeunion.org/employment>. Ability to work well with changing priorities and people of varying skill levels desirable. Send résumé and references, by May 15, 2012, to Glynn Scott by email treasurer@lucdsda.org, fax 269-473-8209, or mail PO Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103.

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WANTED: Preferably alive — vegan, born (again) Adventist, totally in the health message as the right-arm of the gospel, with a yearning for Christ's righteousness by faith, with absolutely fantastic skills to run an entire health food store, keeping it immaculate, a model of organization; all the while smiling, positive, patient, kind, considerate and meeting the health needs of the public; able to teach with a heart filled with joy in the Lord. In short, you would be a clone of my wife! If this is you, you can own part of our store in Orofino, Idaho, so my wife can be home with me! Email your résumé to rondaleclaire@gmail.com.

EVENTS

WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE RENEWAL AND WEIGHT MANAGEMENT programs focus on lifestyle change, health education, hands-on cooking and exercise. 14-day

sessions: April 29–May 13 and May 20–June 3, cost \$740. Upcoming Seminar, Country Living: July 15–29, cost \$370. Location: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, TN. Contact Darlene Keith, 931-724-6706 or darlenekeith@gmail.com. www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org.

50TH ANNIVERSARY on April 14–15 for the Orleans Church/School at 240 Ishi Pishi Rd., Orleans, CA 95556. Former and current members, alumni and friends are invited for special services and activities. Good quality photos of members, alumni and activities are needed. Please send to Roger Williams: PO Box 241, Orleans, CA 95556; or email orleansadventist@gmail.com. Photos will be returned. RSVP by calling 530-469-3341 or find us on Facebook.

TILLAMOOK ADVENTIST SCHOOL invites past students, faculty and friends to a weekend celebration of 75 years of Christian education on May 18–20, on the school campus. Enjoy Friday vespers with Jonathon Betlinski; Sabbath worship led by Dick Hansen, pastor; Sabbath evening talent show; and more! Special room and RV rates at Ashley Inn, 503-842-7599. For information, visit www.TillamookAdventistSchool.org, join Tillamook Adventist School Alumni Facebook group or call 503-842-6533.

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April (DST)	6	13	20	27
Alaska Conference				
Anchorage	8:57	9:15	9:34	9:52
Fairbanks	8:58	9:20	9:42	10:05
Juneau	7:48	8:04	8:20	8:36
Ketchikan	7:33	7:47	8:01	8:15
Idaho Conference				
Boise	8:17	8:25	8:34	8:42
La Grande	7:26	7:35	7:44	7:53
Pocatello	8:01	8:09	8:17	8:25
Montana Conference				
Billings	7:48	7:58	8:07	8:16
Havre	7:56	8:06	8:17	8:27
Helena	8:03	8:13	8:22	8:32
Miles City	7:38	7:48	7:57	8:06
Missoula	8:11	8:21	8:31	8:40
Oregon Conference				
Coos Bay	7:49	7:57	8:05	8:14
Medford	7:42	7:50	7:58	8:06
Portland	7:45	7:54	8:03	8:12
Upper Columbia Conference				
Pendleton	7:29	7:39	7:48	7:57
Spokane	7:26	7:36	7:46	7:56
Walla Walla	7:28	7:37	7:46	7:56
Wenatchee	7:37	7:47	7:57	8:07
Yakima	7:37	7:47	7:56	8:06
Washington Conference				
Bellingham	7:47	7:58	8:08	8:19
Seattle	7:46	7:55	8:05	8:15

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Don't Shoot

It Was Only a Tithe Story

NOTE from Steve Vistaunet: I'm handing this month's Let's Talk page to Cindy Chamberlin, GLEANER managing editor. I believe her perspective here on recent tithe stories is worthy of additional contemplation.

“Every tithe story I write is a testament to the living God that He can, will and does make good on every promise, every time, everywhere, to anyone who gives Him full reign of their life.”

Several readers have wondered why a story about a Mormon businessman ran in the *GLEANER*. In my opinion, Bill Marriott (January's edition) depicts a life fully consecrated AND fully blessed.

While I am sorry to deprive some of the theory that I was courting the Latter-day Saint faith or disappoint those who believed I garnished a “fat” political payoff, the simple (and boring) truth is only this: I am fascinated by Malachi 3:10. “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it,” (NIV).

Over time, God's Stewardship Showcase unveils many surprises: Adventists, non-Adventists, old, young and fundamentalists — even a few atheists. Tithe has historically even been paid by prisoners of war using crusts of bread, with ensuing blessings.

Nowhere does the Bible say God's promises were meant to fall along denominational lines. And His promises were not given to make us rich (although some have become so). He gave them to us to show us only He is a gentleman. He keeps His word, and with Him we will PROSPER.

His prosperity doesn't always arrive in the form of more zeros in a ledger. But bizarre things happen when we trust Him financially. Oshkosh and Carter's clothes last beyond their thread counts; cars run when mechanics say they won't; creative solutions “pop out”

out of nowhere; the impossible suddenly becomes possible. And these “coincidences” just keep coming when God's put in control.

If you text — as in through-the-Bible texting — you will find even the Book of Job argues “prosperity battles.” Job reads much like modern bloggers attacking and countering each other's points, a biblical blog in a feud of heathen vs. saints, prosperity doctrine vs. loyal adverse faith — whom God blesses, whom He can't. (These aren't pretty.)

Some today assert tithe is an archaic Israelite covenant making modern checks (checks postmarked after New Testament times) void and null at the cross. Others cite a labyrinth of texts so paralyzing that one must be a full-time Greek scholar to “unearth” whether tithing and its corresponding blessings are for landowners, Israelites, widows, Sabbath-keepers or the circumcised. Yikes!

Every tithe story I submit for your consideration is testament to the living God that He CAN, WILL, and DOES make good on His promises, in His time, in His way, every time, everywhere, to anyone who gives Him full reign in their life (and purse). Each story is a tribute to Him that HE WILL NOT BE limited — nothing more, nothing less. -CC-

For another controversial (aka inspirational) tithe story, see my blog at Cindy's Garden Blog or gleanerblog.mcmds.com/gleaner-garden-blog.

You may respond to any *GLEANER* topic by sending an email to: talk@gleaneronline.org.

Cindy R. Chamberlin

GLEANER MANAGING EDITOR
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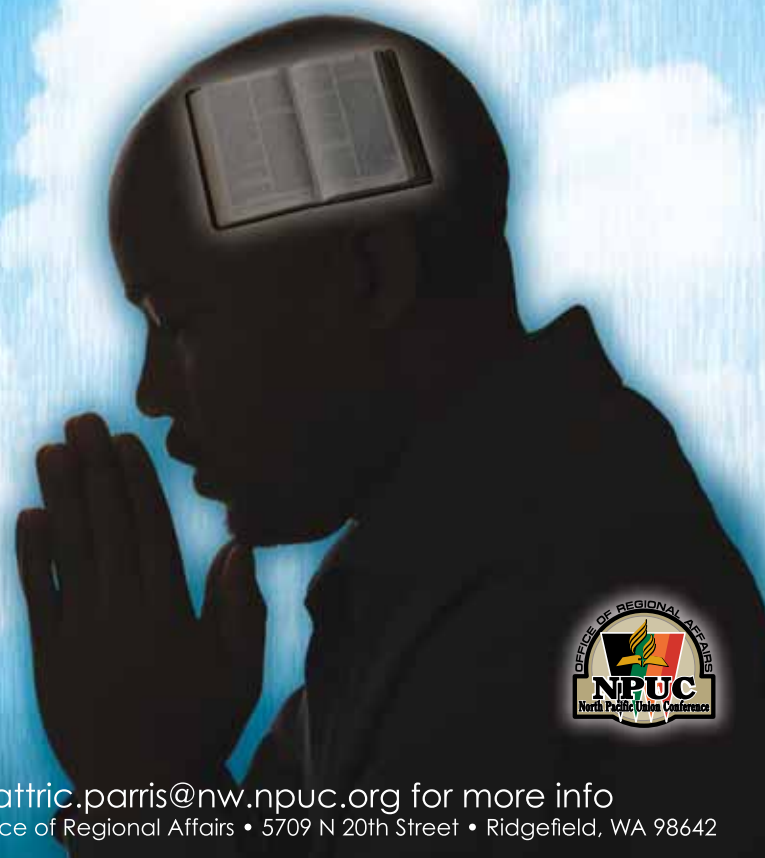
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