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ACCIDENTAL PAGANS

**PERSPECTIVE**  
A SHAMEFUL  
CHRISTMAS STORY

**LET'S TALK**  
CHARITY

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NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION



YOUTH SET SAILS  
FOR THE  
*Kingdom*

DEC.  
2014  
VOL. 109, N° 12





**"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth  
peace to men on whom his favor rests."**

**Luke 2:14**





## RECOVERY WEEKEND

### FACES ADDICTION HEAD ON

In a precedent-setting event held Oct. 3–5 at the Adventist Medical Center in Portland, Ore., nearly 100 individuals gathered for the first Adventist Recovery Ministries training event to be jointly sponsored by North American Division (NAD), North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) and Adventist Health.



Katie Reinert, North American Division health ministries director, led out in the jointly sponsored meeting.

Katie Reinert, NAD health ministries director, says the NPUC is the second union in North America to hold such an event. Her emphasis is on equipping local churches to be welcoming but safe environments for hosting local addiction-recovery programs. "We love everyone," she says, "but there has to be accountability regarding safety for all."

Reinert hopes to organize additional events

in the remaining union conferences around the NAD during the next couple of years. These programs are meant to sensitize members and churches to the need and to help them partner with confidential professional resources in helping individuals find an accepting spiritual foundation and church home.

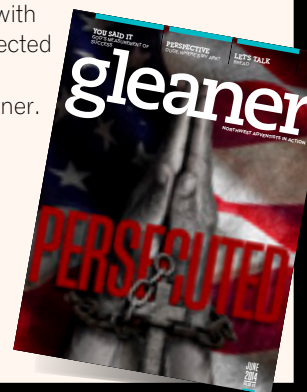
John Loor Jr., NPUC executive secretary, who worked closely with Reinert to organize the Portland event, says Adventist members need to seriously consider what more they can do to provide a redemptive environment. "Our churches need to be safe churches to which people can come," he says. "Adventist Recovery Ministries helps churches to become those kinds of safe places."

Local conferences within the NPUC will continue to follow up with additional resources and events to apply this emphasis to individual congregations who are willing. For more information, contact your local conference.



## THE ENVELOPE PLEASE!

At the Society of Adventist Communicators convention held Oct. 16–18 in Jacksonville, Fla., the *Gleaner*, designed by Matthew McVane of Guildhouse Group in Walla Walla, Wash., received the top award voted by other North American communicators in seven categories: best print magazine, best feature (September 2013, "The Record Keeper"), best cover design (June 2014, "Persecuted"), best column (June 2014, "Dude, Where's My Ark?" by Seth Pierce), best photograph (April 2014, nature photo by Lynne McClure), best website ([GleanerNow.com](http://GleanerNow.com)), and best email newsletter (*GleanerWeekly*). In addition, Washington Conference received an award for the Living God's Mission social media campaign on behalf of this year's camp meeting, with efforts directed by Heidi Baumgartner.



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"Ice Berries"  
in Pendleton, Ore.,  
by Erin Bartsch,  
of Pendleton.

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# YOUTH SET SAILS FOR THE Kingdom

MIX 180 YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR LEADERS TOGETHER ON A SAILING SHIP IN THE MIDDLE OF A RAINY OCTOBER WEEKEND, AND YOU'LL GET AN ADVENTURE.

Bob Gaede, a lay member from Rockaway Beach, Oregon, has planned a number of active weekend activities for Oregon Conference Pathfinders. But this was the first one he has organized on behalf of three Northwest conferences — Oregon, Washington and Upper Columbia.

Gaede is passionate about providing spiritual, hands-on experiences to Adventist youth, and this weekend event, cen-

tered in Olympia, Washington, and held October 10–12, was no different. Activities were organized around three stations: an adventure on the historic *Adventuress* sailing vessel, a trip on an open whaling boat and a learning activity on small sailing dinghys.

The *Adventuress* is a 130-foot vessel listed as a National Historic Landmark and operated by Sound Experience, a nonprofit entity. Gaede and his team





Teens ride a dinghy and catamaran in the Tacoma harbor.

designed an onboard program for the Pathfinders that helped them experience the spiritual lessons in the stories of Jesus asleep in the disciples' boat and of Peter attempting to walk on the water, as well as learn the basics of navigation and tall-ship sailing.



Pathfinders and leaders ride the bowsprit net at the front of the ship.

The weekend was forecast to be inclement, with rain and wind. When the first group went out on the large sailing vessel, clouds were dark and rain was falling out on the Sound. But the ship sailed for four straight hours with rain on each side and bright skies overhead. Only when it returned to the dock did the heavens open. Likewise, rain held off for the afternoon sailing and again on Sunday morning.



Crew members and Pathfinders help roll the sails as the boat prepares to return to the harbor.

Another activity, originating from the Tacoma, Washington, Sea Scouts base, took Pathfinders out on a whaling boat, originally from the *USS Nimitz*. On the water, leaders recounted the example of Jonah, drawing "lots" to see who would be thrown overboard to illustrate the story.

While this event may have helped each Pathfinder who went achieve a better understanding of sailing, the main



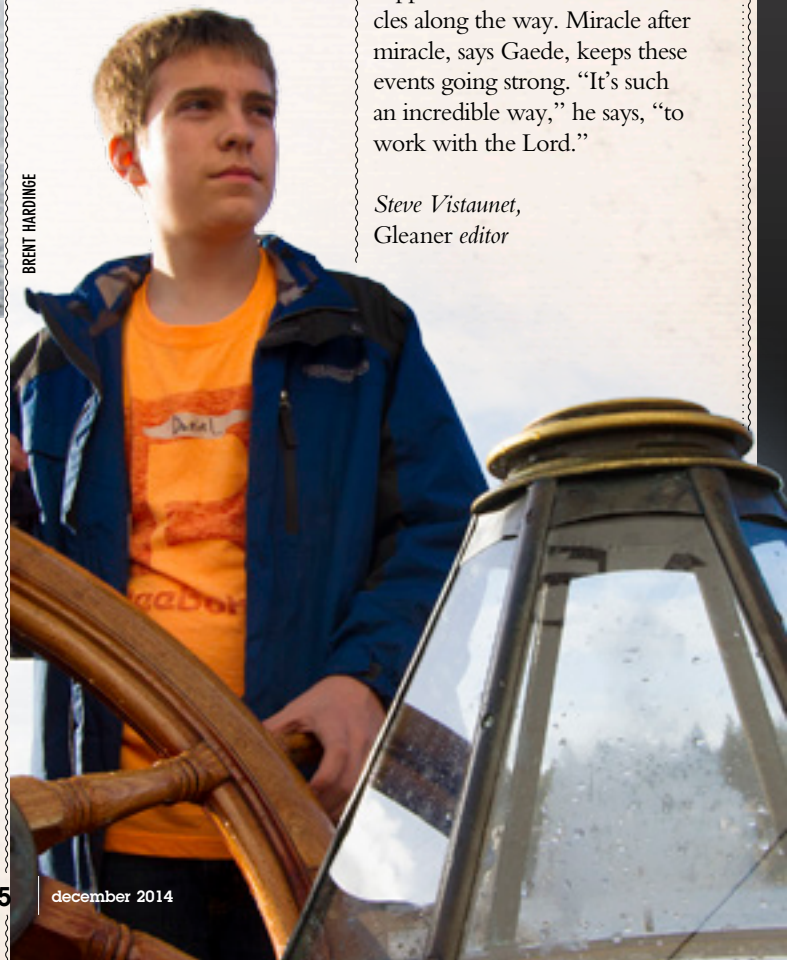
Read more and view additional images at [glnr.in/nw-youth-sail](http://glnr.in/nw-youth-sail).



purpose, says Gaede, was something far more important. "With each of these weekend events, we hope to create a spiritual experience surrounding a Pathfinder honor by using some activity other than a sermon," he says. "Hands-on lessons make a lasting impression for the kingdom and build lifelong friendships."

Gaede began organizing local Pathfinder events with Anne and Glenn Campbell 18 years ago. Even with the hard work of the leadership team, including, among others, Rick Pummel, Ed and Erin Betz, and Michael and Lauren Gregory, this weekend wouldn't have happened without a few miracles along the way. Miracle after miracle, says Gaede, keeps these events going strong. "It's such an incredible way," he says, "to work with the Lord."

*Steve Vistaunet,*  
Gleaner editor



BRENT HARDINGE



## CUMBRE DE LÍDERES 2014-2015

“**S**in embargo, algunos fueron tercios y no quisieron creer, y le hablaron mal del Camino a toda la gente. Entonces Pablo los dejó y se fue con los seguidores de Jesús a una escuela de un hombre llamado Tirano. Allí Pablo todos los días mantenía un diálogo con la gente. Así continuó durante dos años, de manera que todos los de la región de Asia, judíos o griegos, escucharon el mensaje del Señor” (Hechos 19:9, 10; Palabra de Dios para todos).

La evangelización no avanza sin retos. Sus desafíos dan oportunidades para formar líderes. En las palabras del doctor Lucas, el autor del libro Hechos de los Apóstoles, encontramos indicios de que el apóstol Pablo era un capacitador de líderes. Pablo, usando el diálogo como método de instrucción, enseñó de modo sistemático por espacio de dos años.

El trabajo de Pablo en Éfeso, proporciona un modelo para nuestras iglesias en la Conferencia de Idaho. Con el fin de equipar a los creyentes para el ministerio, se llevó a cabo la primera cumbre de líderes el pasado sábado 25



El pastor Altamirano imparte el módulo “El milagro en el Grupo Pequeño.”

de octubre en el sureste del estado. La sede de este evento fue el salón de usos múltiples del templo donde se reúne el grupo hispano de Heyburn.

El pastor Gerald Margil convocó a los líderes de su distrito para tres fines: Primero INFORMAR sobre la visión y estrategias misioneras del Ministerio Hispano para el 2015. Segundo, ANIMAR la vena misionera entre los catorce asistentes, representantes de Idaho Falls, Jerome, Twin Falls, y Heyburn. Y en tercer lugar, FACILITAR primicias de materiales útiles que ayuden a llevar acabo la tarea, para el

nuevo período eclesiástico.

Los recuerdos quedaron congelados en fotografías. Por primera vez se reunían los líderes del nuevo “Distrito del Sureste de Idaho”. Hacían historia. Sus sonrisas fraternas no fueron para derretir ningún hielo. Ellos se conocían, faltaba juntarlos, organizarlos, y crear una visión en concierto. El pastor Margil junto a su esposa, gracias a Dios, facilitan esa armonía. Se dedican a darle el mejor perfil al recién formado distrito. Apenas llevan cuatro meses de haber llegado al valle, y ya comparten con su rebaño la satisfacción de recibir a nuevos miembros

en sus congregaciones. La nueva pareja pastoral también disfruta del Señor bajo su nuevo techo, porque una vez más, fue Él quien “extendió su brazo poderoso y su mano fuerte, porque su fiel amor es para siempre” (Salmos 136:12; PDT). ¡Gloria sea a nuestro Dios!

*Juan Francisco Altamirano, el pastor coordina la labor de las iglesias de habla hispana en la Conferencia de Idaho*

## ANCHORAGE SPANISH CHURCH RIDES OUTREACH WAVE

**S**ummer was busy for the Anchorage Spanish congregation.

Andres Portés, evangelist for the Southwest Region Conference and speaker for the La Voz del Consolador (The Voice of the Comforter) Ministry, visited the church in June. Portés was accompanied by clinical psychologists Miguel and María Di Francisco, who met and counseled families during their visit.

Riding the wave of spiritual fervor generated by these meetings, the congregation has embarked upon an intense program to reach Hispanic families across Anchorage. Each church family is being encouraged to adopt a minimum of two non-Adventist families in their

Members of Anchorage Spanish Church show their appreciation to the Riveras.



More photos online at  
[glnr.in/ak-anc-spanish](http://glnr.in/ak-anc-spanish)

neighborhood with whom they may share a short visit, prayer and uplifting religious material once per week. A monthly series of specially tailored seminars was held through October to bring together those in the community interested in the outreach efforts.

A seminar in August by Israel Rivera, a pastor from Montemorelos, Mexico, captivated community interest with lectures on health and family. “The Hispanic community in Anchorage demonstrated a very positive attitude toward the information we shared with them regarding health and spirituality, understanding that the spiritual life is as important as physical health,” says Rivera.

Anchorage Spanish Church leaders and members generally feel the time has arrived for God to do something special within Anchorage’s Spanish-speaking community. The wave seems to be gathering momentum, and the Holy Spirit is convicting His people to reach Hispanic Anchorage for Jesus.

*Don West, Anchorage Spanish Church pastor*



Despite the rain, Juneau Adventist Christian School students are enjoying their new playground.

## JUNEAU SEES ANOTHER OF GOD’S MIRACLES

**T**he Juneau Adventist Christian School had needed a new playground for many years. The school board and Juneau Church members have been praying for and wishing this playground would become a reality, but finances, inclement weather and not having enough workers were holding back the process.

Once again God came through, and on Sunday, Aug. 31, this hope and dream became a reality. With the help of many workers and a financial contribution from church member Fortuna Odell, who passed away last August, the installation of new playground equipment and rubber mulch at the school was complete. The weather even cooperated to allow the installation to be finished and the rain held off until about 15 minutes after the last of the rubber mulch was laid.

Despite a lot of rain since the installation, the students are now able to enjoy “dry time” time on the playground during recess on school days and after school.

God has once more allowed a dream to become a reality. The school is also going to install fencing around the grounds to protect the children and the new equipment. God is so good — all the time.

*Lynne Jackson, Juneau Church women’s ministries leader*

The rain held off just long enough to install the new equipment and mulch.



## MERIDIAN MEMBERS HELP PERUVIAN KIDS

**W**hen 12 students from the Adventist-run Jerusalem Elementary School in Iquitos, Peru, were baptized Aug. 22, retired Pacific Press Publishing Association employee Chuck Bobst felt



About 90 children attend the Jerusalem Elementary School in Iquitos, Peru.

God was affirming the difficult decision he had made seven years before.

After an initial mission trip to Iquitos with the People of Peru Project<sup>1</sup> in 2006 to establish a crisis center there, Bobst had chosen to shift his focus to helping children and their families in less-affluent areas of the jungle-surrounded community. He subsequently founded Bridge the Gap Inc., a nonprofit mission organization.

Meridian Church members and others have since supported his endeavors. This year, Aug. 18–Sept. 1, Bobst and six Meridian Church mem-

bers made the annual trek to Iquitos — the largest city in the world that can't be reached by road — to support to struggling families.

“I wanted to work on the grassroots level and help kids and families in real need, so we partnered with the Jerusalem school, established for children living in high-poverty areas,” Bobst says.

Meridian members and others from Pacific Press and local businesses help pay school expenses for 27 of the approximately 90 students in grades

The school has a principal, six full-time and two part-time teachers, all Adventists. About half the student body is Adventist.

“It's a true mission field,” Bobst says.

Unfortunately, the school's future is precarious because the church in which it's housed is available only short-term. “We're not sure where the money to build or purchase a new school will come from,” Bobst notes, “but we're trusting the Lord will provide.”

Each year the Meridian

gions,<sup>2</sup> finding families in need isn't difficult.

The mom of one family “just hugged and clung to us, she was so overwhelmed by everything we did for her,” says team member Elaine Bookter.



The 12 children baptized as a result of attending the Jerusalem school pose with the Meridian Church team.



The Meridian Church mission team, as well as their interpreters, are happy to help kids and families in real need.

one through six and sponsor a feeding program.

“Children need to go to school with a full stomach or else they can't learn,” says team member Calvin Carroll.

Church also selects new families in Iquitos to sponsor with food, supplies and even utilities. With a poverty rate of 30 percent in Peruvian urban areas and more than 60 percent in rural re-

“We're building friendships for eternity,” adds team member Beverly Logan. “That's worth everything.”

The other team members this year were Sherman Bookter, Mary Carroll and Hudson Logan.

To learn more about the Meridian Church Peru project, contact Chuck Bobst at [chuckbtg@gmail.com](mailto:chuckbtg@gmail.com).

- [peopleofperu.org](http://peopleofperu.org)
- [glnr.in/1x3IU3k](http://glnr.in/1x3IU3k)

*Sandra Blackmer, Meridian Church communication leader*



## BUTTE HOLDS 'REVOLUTION' SEMINAR

**H**urry, we need more chairs!” exclaimed Tom Russell, Butte Church member, as he recruited members to help with the overflow of visitors lined up to register for the church’s Revolution seminar. The joy and energy of these eager members to accommodate the interest of the local community suggested what the early apostolic church must have experienced when God blessed their faith by following up the work of sowing with a public crusade on the day of Pentecost.

Nearly 70 visitors coming on opening night to a church of 15 active members was enough to set the church on fire. After the first week in the local fire hall, the event transferred to the church, with 51 visitors continuing to attend along with excited members.

Lance Elias, Butte Church head elder, says, “We’ve never seen this kind of turnout and interest in this community before ... It’s inspiring.”

Linda Barney attended every night after she received the flyer in the mail. She was scheduled to be on vacation but experienced an overwhelming conviction to put her plans

on hold so she could attend the seminar. She learned her friend Angela had received the same flyer and wanted to invite Barney. They both decided to commit together from start to finish. “The truth was so clear and powerful, it has changed my life,” says Barney. Both she and Angela were excited to be baptized together and find a new church family with which to enjoy their renewed faith.

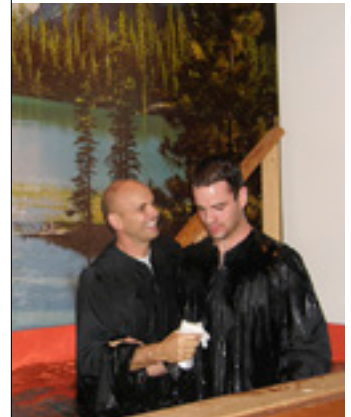
Prior to the series, Donna Bacon, Butte Church evangelism coordinator, advertised at the local university for a panel of young people to attend 10

nights of the series for \$150. The students were required to fill out nightly evaluation forms of their personal thoughts on the messages and overall opinions of the series. As the series progressed, so did its impact on these young evaluators. All six remained with the meetings until the end, and all were baptized and joyfully joined the Adventist church family.

Due to several abusive relationships, Patti Ward had become an alcoholic and tried several programs to overcome her struggle. When she finally experienced the power of the

gospel, Ward was freed from her addiction.

At the seminar’s conclusion, the Lord blessed the Butte Church with 16 baptisms and eight more people attending a new believers class led by Elias.



Visitors greatly outnumber members during the Butte Church evangelistic series.



The Butte evangelistic series concludes with 15 baptisms plus eight people attending a new believers class.

If there is any doubt about the effectiveness of public evangelism, Pentecost should be a reminder of God’s willingness to bring the harvest if the church is willing to be a channel by doing its part in proclaiming the good news of His soon return. Just ask Butte.

*Jason Morgan, North Pacific Union Conference evangelist*



## MEMBER MINISTERS, HELPS PEOPLE

**H**ave you heard the slogan from the Oregon Conference, “Members in Ministry”? For more than 30 years, Carl Parker has been a member in ministry through People to People Ministries (PPM), which started in the late 1970s.

Parker, one of the founders of the ministry, had just completed his studies at Oregon State University in Corvallis and wanted to make a difference in the urban Portland community. People to People Ministries began hiring college students to tutor children who needed a little extra help after school. Six-week summer programs were well-attended by inner-city children, and parents encouraged the ministry to start a school. Through a series of providences, the Community Learning Center was built and served elementary students for 15 years.

PPM has since transitioned into a different phase of ministry that encompasses three areas: humanitarian, health and gospel outreach.

**The humanitarian segment** sponsors the Weekend Backpack Lunch Program, which provides food for disadvantaged students on weekends, food boxes for needy families

and supplemental supplies for the Community Transitional School, a nonprofit school that serves homeless children. (Read more on this school in the November issue of the Oregon Conference eCommuniqué at [OregonConference.org](http://OregonConference.org)). Jesus said, “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink . . .” (Matt. 25:35–40).

**The health component** (the Urban Health Project)



A PTA volunteer accepts food for People to People Ministries for the Weekend Backpack Lunch Program at King Public School, a pre-K to eighth-grade school in Portland.

focuses on encouraging good health practices. This outreach sponsors health seminars and cooking demonstrations. It is



(From left) Marcia Harris, development coordinator, and Juli Osa, school secretary, accept backpacks donated by People to People Ministries for the kids at Portland's Transitional School.

involved in promoting subscriptions to *Vibrant Life* magazine and helps host a monthly Healthy Supper Club at Stone Tower Church in Portland.

**The gospel outreach segment** of PPM mails Bible study request cards and literature and offers online Bible studies. The organization has also partnered with Portland-area churches, including Lents, Mount Tabor, Stone Tower and University Park, to reach people in their respective communities.

People to People Ministries works through a wide range of projects to educate people about living healthier lives and to help those in need — using the opportunity, in whatever form it

presents itself, to share Jesus.

You are welcome to visit [peopletopeopleministries.com](http://peopletopeopleministries.com) to find out more about their work, upcoming events and subscriptions to *Vibrant Life* magazine.

*Gary McLain, Oregon Conference communication director*

Carl Parker delivers provisions for food boxes on behalf of needy families.







GARY MCLAIN

Donald Sargeant was recognized by David Ballard, Hopewell Church pastor, and the rest of the church family during a special service on Oct. 4.

## MEMBER SERVES SAME CHURCH FOR 87 YEARS

**D**onald Sargeant was born April 11, 1927, in a cute little house in Hopewell, Ore., only about a half mile from the now-111-year-old Hopewell Church, which still sits on the edge of a large corn field. He has been a member of the Hopewell Church since he was born 87 years ago.

Sargeant was an only child raised by his grandmother, who would walk him to church during his childhood. Sargeant says, “My grandmother did a good job raising me and instilled a faith and love for God in me.”

He was baptized in the Chautauqua building at Gladstone Camp Meeting in the early 1940s. He worked on a farm and served in the Navy during World War II, and he

cared for patients at the state psychiatric hospital in Salem for 34 years.

To this day Sargeant is still actively involved with serving his God and his church. Sargeant has been a deacon, elder, Sabbath School leader and teacher. He mows the lawn, cleans, and even paints the church when it is needed, just to mention a few things. Sargeant never felt he was keeping the church going when maybe the attendance was slim. When something needed to be done, he would just do it. Because of his consistent faithfulness, the Hopewell Church is still a beacon of light to its community.

*Gary McLain, Oregon Conference communication director*

## THEOLOGY STUDENTS CONNECT WITH LENTS MEMBERS, COMMUNITY

**A**my Moreno and Andrew Nixon, Andrews University master’s degree students, preached Seventh-day Adventist fundamental beliefs in a Christ-centered way Sept. 9 to Oct.

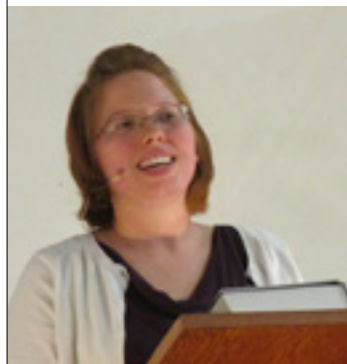
to share in the bread and grape juice at communion. Later, when he had greater understanding, he chose rebaptism. Moreno disclosed the Lord recently answered her and her husband’s prayer in an important financial matter.

The planning for this September effort took place in January when Ron Clouzet, Moreno’s and Nixon’s professor, shared that he would be offering an evangelistic series in Vancouver, Wash., and indicated Lents Church could request a couple of his students present an evangelistic series as well.

Moreno’s and Nixon’s messages have been affecting non-Adventist attendees, and the Lents Church family is looking forward to future baptisms.

*Carol Specht, Lents Church member*

Andrew Nixon preaches in the Lents Church sanctuary on Sabbath.



Amy Moreno preaches in the Lents Church activity center, where attendees sat at round tables as they filled in answers on sheets.

4 at the Lents Church in Portland. “We have been blessed to have Amy and Andrew as part of our congregation this last month,” Steve Madsen, Lents Church pastor, said. “They have connected with our congregation and community with enthusiasm and a passion to share the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.”

Moreno and Nixon realized their goal of preaching their messages in a convincing way using humor and personal testimony. Nixon admitted he was baptized at age 7 in order





## CAA STAYS KNEE-DEEP IN PRAYERS

**T**his year Columbia Adventist Academy (CAA) is making intentional efforts to remain on guard and knee-deep in prayers while sending warriors into the battlefield on a daily basis.

These Battle Ground, Wash., battle plans began with a school walk sponsored by Clark County Prayer Connect. Jeff Jackson, CAA principal, led out as community members, alumni and staff walked throughout the school and prayed for the students and staff.

During a dedication chapel, the students, staff, community members and pastors from constituent churches prayed that God will be glorified throughout the school year. A new weekly morning prayer meeting called “Tent of Meeting” involves students, staff, parents and community members.

Sharon Crosby, CAA alumna, recently shared that, during her academy reunion, classmates told stories of how the prayers of a praying parent, who has continued to pray for the class to this day, had impacted their lives. “You could feel the answer to those prayers as our class went around the circle and shared how God had blessed them, been near to them in trouble, and was a huge part of the majority of our classmate’s lives,” Crosby shared.

May the legacy of a praying community and being knee-deep in prayers at CAA continue until Jesus comes.

*Larry Hiday, CAA Gleaner correspondent*

Read more online at [glnr.in/or-caa-prayers](http://glnr.in/or-caa-prayers).

The Columbia Adventist Academy school family prays for God to be glorified this school year.



The Sunnyside SAFE team includes (back, from left) Ken Null, Marilyn Patchin, Scott Bradley, Marcia Dunham, Tom Davis, (front, from left) Kathy Pruitt, Shirley Allen, Karolyn Bradley, Dianne Glovatsky and Pauline Davis.

## SUNNYSIDE HELPS FAMILY FIND HOME OF THEIR OWN

**R**achel and her three sons (Issac, 10; Angelo, 7; and Jesse, 4) had been living in homeless shelters for almost three years — one shelter during the day and another at night. They were never alone. There was occasional verbal abuse and sometimes threats of physical harm. This was no place to raise a family.

Unbeknownst to Rachel, the road home started with the Sunnyside Church in southeast Portland. Sunnyside women’s ministries group was participating in Healthy Sisters, a program to transport homeless women to medical appointments. Through this, the opportunity arose to participate with the Village Support Network of Portland and help a homeless family transition to permanent housing.

Women’s ministries co-chairs Kathy Pruitt and Dianne Glovatsky, encouraged and supported by associate pastor Shirley Allen, received approval from the church board in November 2013 for the expanded project. The SAFE (Sunnyside Adventist Family Enrichment) team was formed and started to work.

The team’s goals were to help with finding appropriate housing, setting up the new household, get the family settled into the community, set family budget and educational goals, and share God’s love in a meaningful way.

A total of 14 congregations in the Portland area, representing a variety of denominations, participated in projects like this in 2014. As of September 2014, the Sunnyside project was a great success. Rachel is enrolled in a local community college making progress toward her career goals, the school-age boys are attending school, and all are happy in their new home.

Rachel recently thanked the Sunnyside congregation during a church service. “I couldn’t have done this without your help,” she said. The SAFE team hopes to help another family next year.

*Warren Rushold, Sunnyside Church communication team member*

Read more online at [glnr.in/or-pdx-family](http://glnr.in/or-pdx-family).



# MILO ADVENTIST ACADEMY STUDENTS FOLLOW 'IN HIS STEPS' ON NEIGHBOR DAY



More photos online at [glnr.in/109-12\\_or-milo](http://glnr.in/109-12_or-milo).

# M

ilo Adventist Academy students chose "In His Steps"

as the theme for this school year and put that theme into action during student week of prayer, Sept. 8–12. Twice daily the youth met in the church to worship, pray and share powerful testimonies of how God has worked in their lives.

On Thursday, teams went out to serve the community for Neighbor Day. They split logs, hauled and stacked wood, trimmed blackberry bushes, weeded, mulched, and accomplished many other tasks for their

Bill Schlaman was very appreciative of his volunteers.



KATHY HERNANDEZ



KATHY HERNANDEZ

Sarah Ayon, Hannah LaRiccia, David Echevarria, Heidi Ueek and David Evans load a trailer with firewood.

neighbors. "They pitched right in, stayed on task, followed instructions and were fun to be with," reports the Foster family. "Their help was a tremendous encouragement to us."

Richard Pearson, who came out of retirement to head up the custodial department, had heart trouble last year and needed to prepare his winter fuel supply. He says the young men who helped him were a "major blessing." He adds, "We split and stacked three cords of Douglas fir, and all I heard were uplifting comments."

Two groups from Milo collaborated with Kay Cooksley and the Canyonville Church to beautify the public elementary school in Canyon-

ville, a continuation of projects initiated in their mini-mission to the town two years ago. "Our church was voted in special recognition Citizen of the Year," Cooksley notes. "We were so blessed to have Milo Academy as our partner in that adventure."

Bill and Barbara Schlaman got help with an overwhelming pile of wood needing to be stacked. "The boys were just a delight, to listen to them talking and laughing as they worked," the Schlamans say. "They got a large amount done, which gave us a real lift."

Asked what she thought of Neighbor Day, senior Emily Parish responded, "It was awesome."

"It was a very, very fun day to get off campus, enjoy getting to know our neighbors and help them with things that needed to be done," says David Echevarria, Milo junior.

"Jesus speaks of loving our neighbors, and his brother, James, talks about helping those in our community," says Chad Reising, Milo chaplain. "Neighbor Day provides students and staff opportunity to



KATHY HERNANDEZ

Heidi Ueek, David Echevarria, Sarah Ayon and Hannah LaRiccia hauled and stacked wood for Don and Maria Lewis.

take these principles and apply them to our Christian walk."

Neighbor Day is summed up by the verse the student leaders selected to go with the year's theme: "I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you" (John 13:15).

*Kathy Hernandez, Milo Adventist Academy teacher and recruiter*

## VOLUNTEERS ESSENTIAL IN DISASTER CLEANUP



More photos online at [glnr.in/109-12\\_ucc-cleanup](http://glnr.in/109-12_ucc-cleanup).

**T**he Brewster Church in Washington invited people with equipment, trimmers, shovels, wheelbarrows and pickup trucks to help clean up after the Carlton Complex Fire roared by this



Helping the neighborhood to recover is payment enough for this happy volunteer.

summer. They wanted to clean up and restore the Alta Lake Community and Golf Course, where 50 homes burned to the ground.

After the fire, Lola Mae Worth said, “We had our home, but we were in shock. Seeing our neighbors suffer their losses was heartwrenching.”

On cleanup day, teams started arriving. More than 36 people came to clear blackened

trees. “The yellow shirts of the Adventist disaster relief workers were soon blackened,” says Worth. “Neighbors began to put on gloves or brought food to help. “The mood changed quickly as each tree fell.”

Among the 36 helpers was Calvin Stevenson, who had trained for forklift and chain saw volunteer work through Adventist Community Services (ACS) at the Upper Columbia Conference office. Hundreds of trees around the golf course needed to be removed, and Stevenson was the only chain saw operator there. He kept the whole team busy cleaning up the 500 trees he felled.

Word got out about the team clearing trees at the golf course, and carloads of people came to see what was happening. “What a difference we can make in two days with a positive attitude,” Worth says. “Are you prepared for a disaster in your area? I hope you are.”

The goal of ACS is to have teams of volunteers in place before disaster strikes. ACS offers classes like introduction to disaster preparedness and donations management, as well as training for chain saw ministry. Upper Columbia members interested



Disaster relief workers help take care of felled trees.

in participating can contact Doug Venn at 509-629-8808.

What do volunteers receive for helping out? “It inspired me to want to do a whole lot more for the community,” says Stevenson. “It gives me a real sense of value and worth to be able to help other people in these circum-

stances.” He encourages everyone to be a part of something like this. “The satisfaction of helping others is marvelous,” he says.

Stevenson spoke to the father of Parker Barth, who owned the community golf course at Alta Lake. “He couldn’t believe we could get this much done. It meant a lot to him,” says Stevenson. “That’s enough reward for me.”

*Kathy Marson, Upper Columbia Conference communication administrative assistant*



Stay in touch with the latest news, video links, calendar events, photo galleries, past issues and more at [gleanernow.com](http://gleanernow.com).

**gleaner**



HENNING GULDHAMMER



The Longest Table spans a quarter mile of Fourth Street in College Place, Wash.

## WWU STUDENTS WELCOMED AT LONGEST TABLE

**N**ow a tradition at the Walla Walla University (WWU) Church, the congregation welcomed WWU students back the first Sabbath of the school year with the Longest Table. Because the University Church exists primarily to serve students, members hope the Longest Ta-



HENNING GULDHAMMER

The meal for each table or sometimes several tables is planned by a member of the University Church. These students get to enjoy classic haystacks for lunch.

ble will bring students quickly into friendships in their new congregation.

With the city of College Place, Wash., giving approval and assistance, about a quarter mile of Fourth Street was blocked off for the event.

Church members set up about 180 tables end to end. Each table, in white tablecloths, seated eight for Sabbath dinner.

Church members had pre-selected tables — some taking three or four and others taking only one — and had planned complete sit-down Sabbath dinners for their guests. Hosts decorated tables and provided food — some ethnic, some traditional, but all in abundance.

Donny Veverka, University Church worship director, calls this “a phenomenal event of blessing others and being blessed in our community [that] must be experienced to be understood.”

Hosts sent leftovers with students after the meal. Leftover homemade dessert later in the dorm is also part of the Longest Table tradition.

“The Longest Table is a great way for us to get to know the church members,” says Kelia Cook. “It makes us feel very loved and excited to be at Walla Walla University.”

Returning student Rychelle Willis says, “I look forward to the Longest Table every year. It’s such a fun way to fellowship with other students and church members.”

*Rosemary Watts, Walla Walla University Church member*

More photos online at [glnr.in/ucc-long-table](http://glnr.in/ucc-long-table).

## KILGORE PASTORAL MINISTRY AFFIRMED

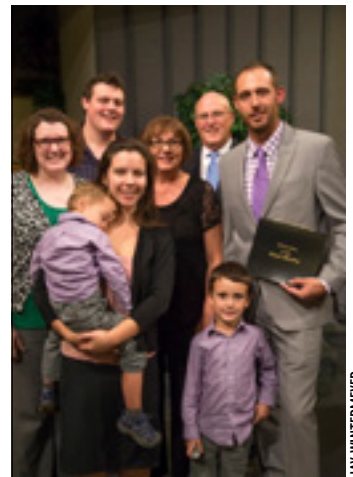
**S**urrounded by colleagues, family and mentors, Ryan Kilgore was ordained for ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church on Oct. 4 in Brewster, Wash., during a ceremony that highlighted God’s patient calling.

“I am humbled and honored to be here today,” said Kilgore. “In fact, I’m a little bit surprised to be here right now ... . In the last 12 or 13 years God has brought me over and over to places that I did not expect to find myself, and He has revealed to me things that I was not looking for.”

Kilgore grew up in a Christian home on the campus of Auburn Adventist Academy in Washington. After dropping out of college, he began working in the computer industry in Seattle. His life at the time had little room for God. God, however, had plans for Kilgore.

When Kilgore and his girlfriend, Jennifer, were converted in 2003 and married later that year, he began to sense a call not only to serve God but to do so through ministry.

In 2004, the pair quit their jobs in Seattle and moved to College Place, Wash., where Kilgore completed his bachelor’s degree in theology at Walla Walla University. He began serving as an associate pastor



JAY WINTERMEYER

Ryan and Jennifer Kilgore celebrate the special day with their extended family.

in 2007 under the leadership of Ole Olesen in the Milton/Blue Mountain Valley district in northeastern Oregon. After graduation, the couple moved to Berrien Springs, Mich., so Kilgore could complete his Master of Divinity at Andrews University. Today they and their two sons are serving in Brewster and Chelan, Wash.

*Jay Wintermeyer, Upper Columbia Conference communication director*



Read more online at [glnr.in/ucc-kilgore](http://glnr.in/ucc-kilgore).

## ST. MARIES CHRISTIAN SCHOOL GIVES AND RECEIVES BLESSINGS

One of the biggest challenges for St. Maries Christian School in Idaho has been a necessary move into space at the Shad-owy River Mall. Space for desks and storage is limited, and the parking lot doesn't make the best playground.

However, students have rediscovered their bikes and bike locally for their physical education class. Several biking field trips have taken them to a stretch of the beautiful 72-mile Rails to Trails biking path near Coeur d' Alene.

There is another bright side. "We get plenty of exposure here," says Mark Law, teacher. Shoppers pass the windows throughout the day, occasionally peering in.

One day a man opened the mall door in the middle of class. "Hey, here's something for the hardworking teachers," he said. When the teacher greeted the man, he pushed a bill into the teacher's hand and said, "Go get some ice cream with your students."

Besides receiving such blessings from the generous community, the school plans to be a blessing in its community. Students started by offering to clean the bathrooms in the mall once a week. The manager was delighted.

More photos online at [glnr.in/ucc-stmaries](http://glnr.in/ucc-stmaries).



(From left) Saul Moushey, Caleb Nelson, Myles Nelson, Cindy Mottern and Mark Law deliver veggies to the Community Action Partnerships in St. Maries.

Another opportunity came when school board member Sue Clark invited the students to pick her garden produce. In just a few minutes, they had harvested 68 pounds of the prolific yellow zucchini and various winter squash. They delivered the vegetables to the Community Action Partnership food bank.

Being a blessing can happen anywhere.

*Cathy Law, St. Maries Christian School aide*



For young men praying for a new life, Bill Pond and others like him are messengers from God.

## MINISTRY RESTORES LIVES

More than four years ago, Bill Pond would not have considered doing prison ministry. But when he heard of the need for more volunteers, he decided to give it a try at Coyote Ridge Correction Center in Connell, Wash.

Now Pond goes each Sabbath morning and introduces the lesson before a prisoner leads the study of the regular Seventh-day Adventist Sabbath School quarterly. Of the 18 or so men in the group, "none of the guys have ever returned to prison," says Pond.

"We have a lot of respect for the men in prison whose lives have changed through this ministry," says Pond, who is joined by volunteers from Moses Lake and Richland, Wash.

After Sabbath School, Pond goes to Ritzville Church for Sabbath services then returns to Coyote Ridge in the evening with other Ritzville Church volunteers to assist with "Celebrate Recovery." As many as 65 prisoners attend this Christian-oriented 12-step program.

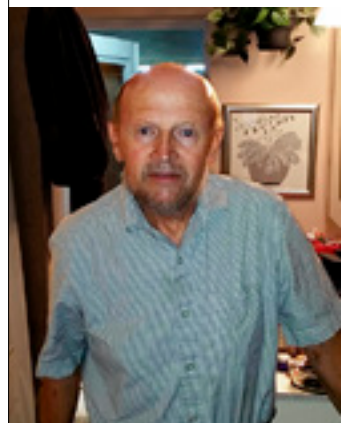
"One of the leaders, in prison 15 years for robbery, said it took him five years before he found Christ," Pond says. "Once he did, he went to work to help many of the guys in

prison. He got out a year ago. God has just opened doors for him."

"I know the Holy Spirit is the one doing the work," Pond continues. "We just knock on their hearts' door and give God a chance to come in."

Prison ministry is dear to the heart of Bill Pond. Traveling each Sabbath is not a burden for him. "It's okay," he says. "I don't mind one bit."

*Kathy Marson, Upper Columbia Conference communication administrative assistant*



Bill Pond goes to Coyote Ridge Correction Center in Connell, Wash., each week.

Read more online at [glnr.in/ucc-prisonministries](http://glnr.in/ucc-prisonministries).



## HE'S ALIVE TV RECOUNTS INFLUENCE OF CHRISTIAN TV

**H**e's Alive TV (KHBA) in Spokane, Wash., loves learning how God is using television to touch lives.

One Sunday morning, Jay Williams was flipping through channels to watch football. He and his wife noticed a kindly-faced man talking about Jesus. It was George Vandeman. "He was using the Bible as a direct reference for truth," says Williams. "I needed to pause and listen."

From then on, the Williamses had an insatiable desire for truth. They watched *It Is Written* each Sunday and requested Bible studies. "The Holy Spirit changed my life through TV ministry," Williams says.

Last year, amid hundreds of channels, Sarah Baum and Katherine Richardson separately found He's Alive TV on UHF 39.

Baum watched Dwight Nelson and Doug Batchelor and found answers to her questions about the Sabbath. Richardson was so depressed when she began watching He's Alive TV, she wanted to shoot herself. But when she heard Batchelor speaking, she said, "He made me feel like I could have another chance at life." Both ladies were baptized.

"I knew I was in the right spot where the Lord wanted me to be," says Baum.

Richardson adds, "There are lots of people who just need



Tracy Morrow is baptized by Dale Leamon. Morrow gave his life to Jesus because of watching He's Alive TV and through meetings at the Spokane Central Church. On Oct. 28, Morrow passed away.

to hear the Word. He's Alive is a blessing, a lifesaver and a life-changer."

If you have a story to share of lives changed through Christian TV, contact He's Alive TV at [khba@khbatv.com](mailto:khba@khbatv.com) or call 509-622-4780.

He's Alive Television serves the Spokane area through UHF channels 39.1, 39.2, 39.3 and 39.4. It is also broadcast on Roku on Brightstar channel.

*Kathy Marson, Upper Columbia Conference communication administrative assistant*



Read more online at [glnr.in/ucc-hesalive-2014](http://glnr.in/ucc-hesalive-2014).

## ADVENTIST VETS TAKE HONOR FLIGHT

**K**en Silver from the Northside Church (Walla Walla, Wash.) and Paul Hellie from the University Church (College Place, Wash.), both Korean War veterans, flew to Washington, D.C., on Oct. 8 for a two-day, all-expense-paid trip arranged by the Honor Flight organization.

This group of 90 World War II and Korean War veterans from the Northwest flew from Spokane, Wash., to Washington, D.C. "We were just like a bunch of brothers from the start," Hellie says.

The group visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Paul Hellie participates in an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.



RON L. TREES

and witnessed the changing of the guard. After a visit to the Marine Corps (Iwo Jima) Monument and the Air Force Monument, the group was honored at a special banquet. The next day, they visited other memorials and museums, including the Women's Memorial, the

World War II Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Navy Memorial.

A young park ranger asked Hellie about the ribbons on his hat. The ranger knew nothing about the Korean War, and Hellie was able to share with him.

The memorial that stands out for Silver is the Korean War Memorial, where fresh flowers are placed every day by the Korean Embassy staff, who know that they would have been like North Korea if not for this "Forgotten War."

The whole experience was touching for the veterans. "I can't express the feeling it gave me to see the people I met on this flight," says Silver.

*Kathy Marson*

The veterans were met at the airport by many well-wishers and photographers. This photo was taken by a local Spokane, Wash., photographer who has been a guardian in the past on one of the flights.



RON L. TREES

## BIG PICTURE OF MINISTRY

The Sabbath Keepers motorcycle ministry has a new Puget Sound chapter in Lynnwood in addition to an established Northwest chapter in Puyallup. This ministry is committed to sharing the gospel of Jesus with the motorcycle community and is looking for new members to join this outreach.



Washington International Student Experience (WISE) has ongoing conversations with Korea and China to place students in American schools. To help in this process, WISE invited four Korean recruiting agents to tour nine Adventist Christian education schools in five states.



Throughout western Washington, Adventist churches are presenting Bible prophecy seminars for the community. Leaders are sharing how this is strengthening the faith of church members and helping new friends understand the relevancy of Bible prophecy.



CRYSTAL CLEMENS

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER



More photos online at [glnr.in/wa-china-edu](http://glnr.in/wa-china-edu).

# AMERICAN AND CHINESE EDUCATORS EXCHANGE IDEAS

**E**arlier this year Chinese educators invited American educators to conduct an in-service training session for teachers in the Yuhang School District in Hangzhou, China.

Lon Gruesbeck, Washington International Student Experience (WISE) director, and David Morgan, Blue Mountain Academy (Hamburg, Pa.) principal, co-presented this teacher in-service Sept. 22–26.

“This was a fantastic opportunity and an honor to be able to share with colleagues in another country,” says Gruesbeck.

Gruesbeck and Morgan presented practical, hands-on training to more than 200 elementary, middle and high school teachers on topics such as “Moving Students Outside the Box” and “The Soul of Education ... Mindset, Attitudes and Methods.” The presentations included short videos and PowerPoint presentations. Eighty-five high school students also joined the training.

“We discovered that students and teachers in China are very much like students and teachers here in America,” says Gruesbeck. “Teachers in China have some of the same desires and passions for their students as American teachers. The challenge for teachers in China is they are not allowed to get out of the proverbial box. One teacher even stated, ‘How can we move our students outside the box when we ourselves are not allowed out of the box?’”



Chinese educators in the Yuhang School District in Hangzhou, China, learn about the “Soul of Education” and how to move students “outside the box.”

Four student ambassadors — Brenden Gay and Ashley Hunte from Blue Mountain Academy and Paris Altman and Connor Hubin from Auburn Adventist Academy — participated in an education exchange.

The students lived in homes with students their own age and attended classes with their host students at Yuhang No. 2 High School.

“Our students had a wonderful learning experience,” says Gruesbeck, “and so many opportunities to share with their fellow students in China.”

*Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director*



## COMMUNITY SHOWS SUPPORT FOR NORTHWEST CHRISTIAN'S MUSIC PROGRAM

Read more and view more photos online at [glnr.in/wa-nwc-theft](http://glnr.in/wa-nwc-theft).

**S**tudents at Northwest Christian School (NCS) heartily belted out the lyrics to “I’m in the Lord’s Army” and “How Great Is Our God” in the midst of their week of prayer on Wednesday, Oct. 29, with good reason.

Two days earlier thieves



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

A mother drops off her grown daughter’s flute at Northwest Christian School. She shared how the flute had been given to them in a time of need, and she wanted to pass along the gesture of kindness.



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

Northwest Christian students sign their names to thank-you cards after the community overwhelmingly responded to the school’s need following a music department theft.

stole all the working musical instruments, several electronics and a number of power tools from the school campus in Puyallup, Wash.

“The first order of business during week of prayer was to tell students about the theft,” says Craig Mattson, NCS principal. “Our teachable moment came when we prayed for the school, the students, the police investigation and the thieves themselves.”

As school administrators

music stores.

Radio personalities Kent Phillips and Alan Budwill from KPLZ-FM Star 101.5, along with sister station Talk Radio KVI 570, adopted the school during Wednesday’s morning drive time to raise the \$5,000 insurance deductible the school needed. Pledges totaled more than \$13,000. Phillips personally delivered the community’s goodwill and met several music students.

Mattson says the school family went from feeling victimized to being overwhelmed by the outpouring of support. “At this point, well over a dozen instruments have been replaced from people in the community,” he says. “One week later, our band performed

for the news channels for the first time since the theft.”

As miracle after miracle unfolds at the school, a spirit of awe and thankfulness fills staff and students. When she added her name to student-signed thank-you cards, Clairra Hockenson, music teacher, found a note that said, “Thank you for saving our Christmas program.”

“After the gloomy Monday to start the week of prayer, it was great to stand in front of the school each day and deliver amazing stories of answers to prayer,” says Mattson. “This has truly been an unforgettable week of prayer.”

*Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director*



CRAIG MATTSON

Kent Phillips from Star 101.5 visits a music class at Northwest Christian School where he shared how the community pledged more than \$13,000 to help the school’s music program recover from a theft.

## PRAYER-WALKERS 'BUILD THE WALLS' AT AUBURN ADVENTIST ACADEMY

**D**orena Roberts re-members ignoring God's shoving to start prayer-walking because she viewed herself as more of a helper and not a leader.

As a mother, pastor's wife and nurse, Roberts felt impressed at least two times in the last few years to walk seven times around the campus of Auburn Adventist Academy (AAA) to pray for the school. She shared the idea with close



With each lap, prayer-walkers from the Auburn community pray for students and alumni; faculty, staff and families; the spiritual atmosphere of the campus; the school facility structure; international students; school and family finances; and customer service.

Mark Batterson's *The Circle Maker*. "I felt like God was taking me and shaking me and saying, 'Walk around the campus,'" Roberts says as she reflected on this popular Christian book on prayer. Finally, Roberts agreed to partner with God to lead this prayer activity.

"My mom and I decided to time how long it would take to walk around the campus," Roberts explains. "If you walk the inner campus, it takes seven minutes. If you walk the outer campus, it wasn't a seven number. I felt we should walk inside to build the walls up."

The prayer-walking plan began immersing: pray

seven weeks at 7 o'clock for seven things. With each lap, prayer-walkers would pray for seven categories: students and alumni; faculty, staff and families; the spiritual atmosphere of the campus; the school facility structure; international students; school and family finances; and customer service.

Prayer-walk participants ranged from three to 15 people, including faculty, church members, parents and alumni. As the group walked for 49 minutes both morning and evening, they would meet students and faculty along the way. "We couldn't walk past without praying for them," Roberts

says. "We stopped to pray with them and let them know why we were there."

While the initial seven weeks of prayer walking have concluded, the idea has not. The Family Weekend program in November invited parents to join in prayer-walking. Church community members are continuing to carve out time to prayer-walk around the campus in small and large groups. "It makes me feel connected and that I am helping the school," says Cheryl Burke, a prayer-walker who continues to invite friends to participate.

The prayer time was advertised as rain or shine. "It would start raining or drizzling right after the prayer time but not during the prayer walk," says Yamileth Klingstrand, AAA staff member and prayer-walker.

Roberts feels like this prayer-walking experience has "absolutely" changed her prayer life: "I'm a multitasker. I couldn't just sit in the gazebo and pray without getting distracted. Prayer-walking showed me that I need structure in my prayer life."

*Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director*



Prayer-walkers meet at 7 o'clock to walk around the inner campus of Auburn Adventist Academy and pray for seven areas of requests.

friends and hoped they would provide leadership. The plans never materialized.

She went to a Mates 'n' Ministry retreat earlier this year where she received a copy of



## WALLA WALLA VALLEY MEDICAL SOCIETY SPONSORS PHYSICIAN-SHADOWING PILOT PROGRAM

**P**re-medicine students from Walla Walla University (WWU), Whitman College and Walla Walla Community College can now participate in a new physician-shadowing pilot program in the Walla Walla Valley. Sponsored by the Walla Walla Valley Medical Society, the Clinical Shadowing Program unites local hospitals and clinics with the three colleges in Walla Walla, providing pre-med students with the opportunity to shadow physicians in areas that interest them.

A growing trend in medical school admissions is the emphasis on physician-shadowing. Pre-med students with shadowing experience are more likely to be accepted into medical school and will also have a clearer idea on what medical specialization they wish to focus their study.

Washington State's medical school, University of Washington, has recently noted that a strong applicant should have 40 hours shadowing a physician prior to applying. The Walla Walla Valley Medical Society has dedicated itself to

aiding students in meeting that recommendation by sponsoring this pilot program.

The requirements for this program include that the student must be listed as a pre-med student, visit their pre-med adviser about enrollment in the program, complete a confidentiality form and successfully complete at least one core

physician to set up a shadowing schedule. The hospital or clinic then works with the student to complete the proper paperwork.

David Lindsey, WWU biology professor and pre-med adviser, states, "The purpose of this program is to observe the physician and see for oneself what the physician actually does



David Lindsey, Walla Walla University biology professor and pre-medicine adviser, says the physician-shadowing experience helps students understand the day-to-day medical experience.



science sequence.

Using the website hosted by the Walla Walla Valley Medical Society, pre-med students choose what hospital, area of practice and physician they are interested in shadowing. From there, the student makes a personal connection with the

on a day-to-day basis. Four hours a month is a meaningful experience when it comes to shadowing. It provides the student with good exposure to life as a physician in that particular field."

The Walla Walla Clinical Shadowing Program is a

unique program that will serve as a model for the area served by the University of Washington School of Medicine. The American Medical Association has expressed an interest in this physician-shadowing program, and, if it proves successful, this program will serve as a model for others to implement nationwide.

*Rachel Wood, Walla Walla University Office of University Relations writer*

## MEETING NEEDS THROUGH CREATION HEALTH

**H**ealth is the gracious gift of God, but achieving and maintaining a healthful lifestyle isn't easy. To help individuals take ownership of their health and integrate it within the context of faith, Adventist Health has partnered with local churches to introduce CREATION Health.

Pioneered at Florida Hospital in Orlando, CREATION Health is a faith-based wellness plan centered on eight biblical principles found in the creation story and supported by evidence-based science. By consistently practicing these eight principles,

- C**hoice
- R**est
- E**nvironment
- A**ctivity
- T**rust
- I**nterpersonal relationships
- O**utlook and
- N**utrition

CREATION Health participants improve their health, mind, body and spirit.

"We're continuously looking at new ways of partnering with our churches to improve health," says Paul Crampton, Adventist Health assistant vice president for mission and spiritual care. "We'd like to help churches become 'wellness centers' for their communities."

To that end, Adventist Health sponsored education, training and resources in 2013



to help local faith leaders bring CREATION Health to their congregations and communities. Pastors and health ministries leaders from 10 churches in Oregon, Washington and California participated in two days of CREATION Health certification training in September 2013. The churches then piloted CREATION Health programs, with support from their local Adventist Health hospitals.

City Sanctuary, an Adventist urban mission in downtown Portland, Ore., was one of the pilot sites. With support from Adventist Medical Center in Portland, City Sanctuary presented CREATION Health in depth to a group of 25 people and on a broader basis to its congregation as a whole.

"The spectrum of people

in the small group ran from high achievers to low-income, marginalized people because that's who we work with downtown," explains Dan George, City Sanctuary pastor. "It was a small group helping each other be accountable as they were learning and growing."

George likened his presentation of CREATION Health to a 12-step program, in which each person worked at his or her own pace, deciding individually how much he or she was ready to change. George and volunteer coordinator Tom White presented CREATION Health to the small group during Sabbath School time, through lectures, DVDs and discussions. At the same time George preached each letter in the word CREATION to

the entire congregation during Sabbath worship.

"CREATION Health is all about helping people make better choices," says George. "It's an extremely positive wellness program."

To quantify CREATION Health's impact on health, Adventist Health sponsored biometric screenings for participants at all 10 churches at the start of their programs and again six months later. The screenings measured cholesterol, blood pressure, blood sugar and triglycerides. The results showed a 15 percent increase in overall wellness. "This is objective, scientific data that demonstrates CREATION Health positively impacts health," Crampton says.

"Piloting the program was another way Adventist Health could partner with our churches to effectively meet the needs of the populations we serve together," he continues. "CREATION Health is a lifestyle, preventive approach that we're bringing to our local communities to help people adopt behaviors so they can live healthier longer."

For more information on how your church can offer CREATION Health, contact your local conference health ministries department.

*Beth Martin, Adventist Health correspondent*



**BATES** — Harlan C., 85; born Aug. 7, 1927, Provo, Utah; died July 29, 2013, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: wife, Coral (Gordon); son, Randy, Loma Linda, Calif.; stepsons, Steve Provonsha, Yucaipa, Calif.; Terry Provonsha, Redmond, Wash.; daughter, Diane Hendry, Tacoma, Wash.; stepdaughters, Pam Hopkins, Snohomish, Wash.; Renee Haynes, Spokane, Wash.; brother, Leon Bates, Fairfield, Calif.; 4 grandchildren, 6 step-grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

**BROWN** — Barbara “Eileen” (Hardisty), 70; born Jan. 31, 1944, Klamath Falls, Ore.; died April 1, 2014, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: son, Donal; daughter, Debora Brown, Nampa; 4 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

**CAMDEN** — Elaine (Easley), 75; born Dec. 19, 1938, Walla Walla, Wash.; died May 9, 2014, Loma Linda, Calif.

**CASTEEL** — Irene Elizabeth (Klein), 87; born March 9, 1927, Wyndmere, N.D.; died Aug. 16, 2014, Portland, Ore. Surviving: son, Victor, Hillsboro, Ore.; daughter, Peggy Casebier, Salem, Ore.; a grandchild and 3 great-grandchildren.

**CHAMBERS** — Patricia Ann (Strawn), 79; born Jan. 26, 1935, Denver, Colo.; died Aug. 12, 2014, Kettle Falls, Wash. Surviving: husband, LeRoy “Dale”; son, Greg, Colville, Wash.; daughters, Karen Chambers, Mead, Wash.; Valerie Ewert, Deer Park, Wash.; brother, Richard Strawn, Ryderwood, Wash.; sister, Nancy Anderson, Chehalis, Wash.; 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**CHITWOOD** — Howard Isaac, 88; born Feb. 18, 1926, Kissimmee, Fla.; died Aug. 1, 2014, Murfreesboro, Tenn. Surviving: wife, Dolores (Karl)

Chitwood; daughters, JoAnne Chitwood, Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands; Jennifer McNiel, Murfreesboro; 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

**CHROWL** — Nola Mae (Banta), 81; born Oct. 19, 1932, Mankato, Minn.; died Aug. 3, 2014, Klamath Falls, Ore. Surviving: daughter, Jan Chrowl, Klamath Falls.

**COUNCIL** — Margaret June (Cheek), 70; born June 29, 1944, Barstow, Calif.; died July 8, 2014, Olympia, Wash. Surviving: husband, James, Lacey, Wash.; son, Aaron, Tumwater, Wash.; daughter, Marcille Lane, Lacey; brothers, Ronald Cheek, Anchorage, Alaska; Dennis Cheek, Cedar City, Utah; Troyce Cheek, Verlon Cheek, Terry Cheek, Brian Cheek and Kevin Cheek, all of Barstow, Calif.; sisters, Karen Leslie, Barstow; Joanne Walters, Ridgecrest, Calif.; and 2 grandchildren.

**DOLPH** — Richard Clifford, 88; born Nov. 26, 1924, Tacoma, Wash.; died Dec. 13, 2012, Salem, Ore. Surviving: wife, Jean (Cox); sons, Clifford, College Place, Wash.; Douglas, Keizer, Ore.; and 3 grandchildren.

**GIBSON** — Fairy Elizabeth (St. Clair), 95; born July 25, 1919, White Oak Township, Iowa; died Aug. 1, 2014, McMinnville, Ore. Surviving: son, Scott, McMinnville; daughter, Sue Huett, College Place, Wash.; 6 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

**HOKKANEN** — Normen G., 76; born June 14, 1938, Ontonagon, Mich.; died Jan. 23, 2014, Mount Angel, Ore. Surviving: wife, Barbara (Ryan), Salem, Ore.; and 3 step-grandchildren.

**HOYVEN** — Olav, 92; born Jan. 2, 1921, Trondheim, Norway;

died Jan. 1, 2014, Salem, Ore. Surviving: wife, Inger Helene (Oksenholt); son, Ronald, Salem; daughter, Ellen Nona Hoyven, Happy Valley, Ore.; and a grandchild.

**LENZ** — Linda Mae (Zubick), 68; born Dec. 23, 1945, Las Vegas, Nev.; died July 3, 2014, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: husband, Albert E.; sons, Larry M., Redding, Calif.; Steven M., College Place, Wash.; daughter, Debi L. Lenz, Walla Walla; 6 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

**LUDDEN** — Hubert Elmer, 94; born Nov. 14, 1919, Anacortes, Wash.; died July 14, 2014, Athol, Idaho. Surviving: son, David, Athol; daughter, Tia Biegel, Tillamook, Ore.; a grandchild and 3 great-grandchildren.

**MINDER** — Benjamin J., 86; born Dec. 31, 1927, Grantsburg, Wis.; died Feb. 20, 2014, Salem, Ore. Surviving: wife, Elvira (Thomas) Robertson; sons, Larry, Gresham, Ore.; Paul, Springfield, Ore.; daughter, Karen Minder, Brownsville, Ore.; brothers, Warren, Desert Hot Springs, Calif.; Wallace, Riverside, Calif.; 6 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

**OWEN** — Mabel W. (Marsh), 89; born Jan. 28, 1925, Staples, Minn.; died July 21, 2014, Albany, Ore. Surviving: son, Russell, Beaverton, Ore.; daughters, Gloria Clark, Albany; Ludell Breeding, Junction City, Ore.; sister, Hazel Unterseher, Harrisburg, Ore.; 9 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

**POOLEY** — George Samuel, 94; born Aug. 12, 1919, Sennett, N.Y.; died Aug. 8, 2014, Milwaukie, Ore. Surviving: son, Burt, Oregon City, Ore.; daughter, Kitty Dunn, Oregon City; 3 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

**POWERS** — Viola Pearl (Miller), 95; born Jan. 16, 1919,

Fortuna, Calif.; died May 19, 2014, Grants Pass, Ore. Surviving: son, Charles W., Gaston, Ore.; daughter, Judy Ruth Powers, Klamath Falls, Ore.; brothers, Jerry Miller, Ferndale, Calif.; George Miller, Fortuna; sister, Barbara Zumwalt, Ferndale; 3 grandchildren and a grandchild.

**REXIN** — Douglas Allan, 55; born July 4, 1959, Salem, Ore.; died Aug. 13, 2014, Willamina, Ore. Surviving: wife, Heidi (Kimes) Baltazar; sons, Chandler, Vista, Calif.; Jeremy, Oakdale, Calif.; daughters, Erin Rexin, San Diego, Calif.; Geneva Rexin, Vista; Sophia Rexin, Oakdale; stepdaughter, Sonia Baltazar, Portland, Ore.; parents, Emil and Rosemarie (Falstead) Rexin, Willamina; sisters, Donna Helein, Willamina; and Debbie Poupard, Highland, Calif.

**SYFERT** — Roberta M. (Beckner), 86; born Aug. 18, 1927, Mekitila, Burma; died July 25, 2014, Springfield, Ore. Surviving: husband, Gene; sons, Robert, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Richard, Springfield; daughters, Linda Platen and Elaine Williams, both of Portland, Ore.; a grandchild and 2 grandchildren.

**YOUNG** — Robert Edward, 88; born May 22, 1926, Streator, Ill.; died July 28, 2014, Salem, Ore. Surviving: wife, Greta (Christensen); sons, Mark and Jonathan, both of Salem; daughter, Karen Edwards, Portland, Ore.; and 8 grandchildren.

**Go to [GleanerNow.com/](http://GleanerNow.com/) contribute to submit family announcements.**

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### North Pacific Union Conference

#### Offering

- Dec. 6** — Local Church Budget;
- Dec. 13** — Adventist Community Services;
- Dec. 20** — Local Church Budget;
- Dec. 27** — Local Conference Advance.

More events listed at [GleanerNow.com/events](http://GleanerNow.com/events).

### Walla Walla University

- Dec. 2** — Christmas Tree Lighting;
- Dec. 10** — Big Band, Steel Drum Band Christmas Concert;
- Dec. 12** — Christmas Choral and Orchestra Concert.

### Oregon

#### A Night in Bethlehem

**Dec. 5-6** — What was it like in Bethlehem the night after Jesus' birth? Visit the "Village of Bethlehem" the night after the angels appeared to the shepherds and hear the buzz! The villagers are all talking about the amazing event. And it's all happening at the Orchards Church at 6415 NE 102nd Ave., Vancouver, Wash., on the first weekend in December, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

#### 33rd Annual Family Christmas Program

**Dec. 19** — Sunnyside Church will host its 33rd annual family Christmas program on Friday evening. The program will begin at

7 p.m. and is produced by Sunnyside Church member Lloyd Wescott. Invite your friends to enjoy a program of music presented by some of Portland's finest musicians. Please bring your musical score and join in singing the "Hallelujah Chorus" finale. An offering will be collected at the doors after the service to help feed the hungry at Portland's O'Bryant Square. Sunnyside Church is located at 10501 SE Market St., Portland, Ore.

### Upper Columbia

#### Town Hall Meetings

- Feb. 9** — Wenatchee Church, 508 N. Western Ave, Wenatchee, WA 98801, at 7 p.m.;
- Feb. 10** — Yakima 35th Avenue Church, 507 N. 35th Ave., Yakima, WA 98902, at 7 p.m.;
- Feb. 11** — Richland Church, 1807 McMurray Ave., Richland, WA 99354, at 7 p.m.;
- Feb. 12** — Walla Walla City Church, 2133 S. Howard St., Walla Walla, WA 99362, at 7 p.m.;
- Feb. 18** — Spokane Valley Church, 1601 S. Sullivan Rd., Spokane Valley, WA 99037, at 7 p.m.;
- Feb. 19** — Lewiston Church, 1212 19th St., Lewiston, ID 83501, at 7 p.m.

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## EVENT

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December	5	12	19	26
<b>ALASKA CONFERENCE</b>				
Anchorage	3:47	3:42	3:40	3:44
Fairbanks	2:54	2:43	2:39	2:43
Juneau	3:09	3:04	3:04	3:08
Ketchikan	3:19	3:16	3:16	3:20
<b>IDAHO CONFERENCE</b>				
Boise	5:09	5:08	5:10	5:13
La Grande	4:10	4:10	4:11	4:15
Pocatello	4:56	4:56	4:57	5:01
<b>MONTANA CONFERENCE</b>				
Billings	4:30	4:30	4:31	4:35
Havre	4:24	4:23	4:24	4:28
Helena	4:41	4:40	4:42	4:46
Miles City	4:17	4:16	4:18	4:22
Missoula	4:48	4:47	4:49	4:52
<b>OREGON CONFERENCE</b>				
Coos Bay	4:41	4:41	4:43	4:46
Medford	4:39	4:39	4:41	4:44
Portland	4:28	4:27	4:29	4:32
<b>UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE</b>				
Pendleton	4:12	4:11	4:13	4:16
Spokane	3:59	3:58	3:59	4:03
Walla Walla	4:09	4:08	4:09	4:13
Wenatchee	4:11	4:10	4:12	4:15
Yakima	4:15	4:15	4:16	4:20
<b>WASHINGTON CONFERENCE</b>				
Bellingham	4:15	4:13	4:15	4:18
Seattle	4:19	4:18	4:19	4:23

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# PERSPECTIVE

## ACCIDENTAL PAGANS

Why is it so easy to be an accidental pagan but not an accidental Christian?



The greatest Christmas card ever bestowed upon me had gilded edges, dazzling red and green accents, and the following message:

“Jesus is the reason for the season!” TRUE!

“Merry Christmas!” FALSE!!!!

The sender had actually crossed off the holiday greeting portion and wrote “FALSE” — with multiple exclamation points so I would know this was serious.

I was confused. But thankfully the sender included a multipage letter, with festive green and red font, explaining the pagan nature of the world’s most popular holiday. If I didn’t “hang my stockings with care” (metaphorically speaking), I would be guilty of brazen paganism.

I display this card every year. It’s my favorite decoration.

Every year I run into grinchers trying to steal Christmas. They lurk in church lobbies, send “concerned” emails, and manage shady websites with MIDI hymns and mismatched fonts. Their questionable hermeneutics and historiographies let you know you are on God’s naughty list if you have too much yuletide cheer.

I have written elsewhere on the methodology used to slam Saint Nick’s season, and, as an Adventist, I have pointed to many positive things Ellen White, one of our influential denominational founders, had to say about exchanging gifts (*Review and Herald*, Dec. 26, 1882) and Christmas trees — even in church (*Review and Herald*, Dec. 11, 1879). The only negative things she says about the holiday have to do with our tendency to saturate it with materialism and our selfish ignorance of those in need — counsel even people with a secular persuasion can appreciate. I tried pointing this out to a Christmas-hater once, and they countered with the “fact” that these weren’t her “inspired writings.”

#convenient

I don’t want to rehash the history of this debate anymore, but I do want to throw out an element that has bothered me — and I hope it will bother you. Why is it so easy to be an accidental pagan but not an accidental Christian?

We see people wearing apparel, jewelry, tattoos, etc., with crosses on them — but nobody would say they are secretly worshipping Jesus. People attend financial seminars and school concerts inside our

sanctuaries, but does that make them believers?

Are they in danger of heaven?

When the Romans destroyed the temple in Jerusalem and built the temple of Jupiter on its ruins, would sensational pagan evangelists point out the traces of Jewish symbolism and architecture infringing on the worship of Roman gods? When evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins listens to Handel’s *Messiah*, does his name disappear off the Devil’s Ledger of Death and appear in the Lamb’s Book of Life?

Based on some of the reasoning I hear, it almost seems like some credit the devil with more power than Jesus. Whatever happened to the reassuring words of Jesus, “I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand” (John 10:28–29 ESV)?

Questions to ponder as you celebrate, or try to exterminate, this holiday season.

*Seth Pierce, Puyallup Church lead pastor*



AUTHOR

Seth Pierce





## A SHAMEFUL CHRISTMAS STORY

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faithfulness to God can disrupt your life and defame your reputation. That's our Christmas story today.

The celebrated virgin told the announcing angel, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). But Mary's legendary submission to God's will for her life did not spare her the pain or shame of radical faithfulness.

Her own fiancé doubted she was telling the truth. Hear her impassioned appeal to the man she loved: "I wasn't unfaithful to you or to God — please believe me!" Joseph didn't. He decided to get rid of her, according to Matt. 1:19: "Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly."

So Joseph was a decent fellow who didn't wish to humiliate Mary publicly; he just needed to get her out of his life. So he "resolved" to abandon his beloved to the minimum consequences of adultery. It took a dramatic visit from an angel to convince Joseph that Mary *was* telling the truth. Gabriel defended Mary's faith and faithfulness: "That which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit" (verse 20).

We don't know how long Mary was in limbo with

Perhaps nobody in Nazareth believed Mary was telling the truth about her swelling abdomen.

Joseph. The Bible just says "as he considered these things" (verse 20) — that is, as he considered how to implement his resolution to put her away.

Meanwhile, perhaps nobody in Nazareth believed Mary was telling the truth about her swelling abdomen. Apparently desperate, "Mary arose and went with haste to the hill country, to a town in Judah" (Luke 1:39). This was not a shopping trip to find cute outfits for the new baby. Mary got out of town "with haste" and traveled 100 miles on a lonely journey to find shelter with the only couple in Israel who knew firsthand about angels announcing miracle pregnancies.

Imagine Mary's relief upon finally arriving at the home of Elizabeth, who greeted her with a Spirit-inspired affirmation: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" (verse 42). So this young mother was blessed by God, not deserving of rejection by the man she loved.

And her Baby was blessed too — not a son of shame, but Immanuel, God with us.

Mary stayed several months at Elizabeth's crisis pregnancy shelter before returning to Nazareth's suspicions and gossip. Ultimately Joseph did believe her, but only after another persuasive visit from the angel to Nazareth.

What can we learn this Christmas season from Mary's time of trouble? Many things, including Paul's assessment of the good life that comes from the obedience of faith: "I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18). So whatever may be our own suffering this season, we may echo Mary's courageous commitment: "Behold the servant of the Lord; do with my life whatever you will" (Luke 1:38).

*Martin Weber, Adventist product manager at Logos Bible Software*



AUTHOR

Martin Weber



# LET'S TALK

## CHARITY

*“Now abideth faith, hope and charity. And the greatest of these is charity.” I Cor. 13:13*

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harities begins at home, so the old saw goes. This year, though, it seemed to begin under a cascade of ice water. The fad du jour, the Ice Bucket Challenge, swept the country and caught up normally rational people in gleeful irrationality.

**Instead of entrepreneurs for the kingdom, we've become consumers of the world.**

I confess it was somewhat compelling to witness dignified church, academic and hospital executives, yea even a *Gleaner* author or two, willingly drenched to the bone. After all, it further confirmed our stance on baptism by immersion.

The silly fun was all for a great cause. I have relatives who suffer with ALS — Lou Gehrig's Disease. I am thrilled that this most recent frenzy benefited research into a difficult affliction via ice buckets everywhere.

I enjoyed these wild exercises in one-upmanship as much as anyone. There is much to be gained (millions of dollars, apparently) by positive peer pressure toward a good cause. But charity is defined in Scrip-

ture as love, so there is a deeper level to charitable giving worth exploring.

There's a term that used to confuse me. "Disinterested benevolence" is an attitude of giving that became prominent in Christian movements, including our own, during the 19th century. Because it has fallen out of vogue lately, to the casual believer it now seems a bit awkward and counterintuitive. When contributing to a good cause, why would we want to be "disinterested"? Yet I think this idea is worthy of a revival, for it is intrinsic in the very principles of the kingdom. It is core to the gift of our Savior.

When we share something of ourselves in disinterested benevolence, we do so without regard for a return benefit. We give for the sake of a cause bigger than our own. We do not loan this money with a caveat that it must reap a worthy investment to our own purpose. We do not give in order to look good, gain status, join the crowd or pile up credit toward some future windfall.

A firm commitment to disinterested benevolence has led many in our church to lives of self-denial, to go without some personal comforts or adornments in order to further an eternal mission. It's an area in

which some of us are seriously out of practice. Instead of entrepreneurs for the kingdom, we've become consumers of the world. God gives us a different benchmark. Charity begins with love. The apostle Paul reminds us, "If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing" (1 Cor. 13:3).

Unselfish, disinterested benevolence is at the center of the Advent, which reveals a God of incalculable love emptying heaven for a planet and a people that have given Him nothing but grief.

This Christmas season, revel in the message and music of the incarnation. Thrill to the concerts, the lights, the nativity programs. But don't let the all-time gift of our Father's love become just a fleeting flurry of sight and sound. Consider His example of true charity and choose to follow in His steps.

*Steve Vistaunet, Gleaner editor*

Respond to any *Gleaner* topic by emailing [talk@gleanernow.com](mailto:talk@gleanernow.com).



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Steve Vistaunet




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PERIODICALS

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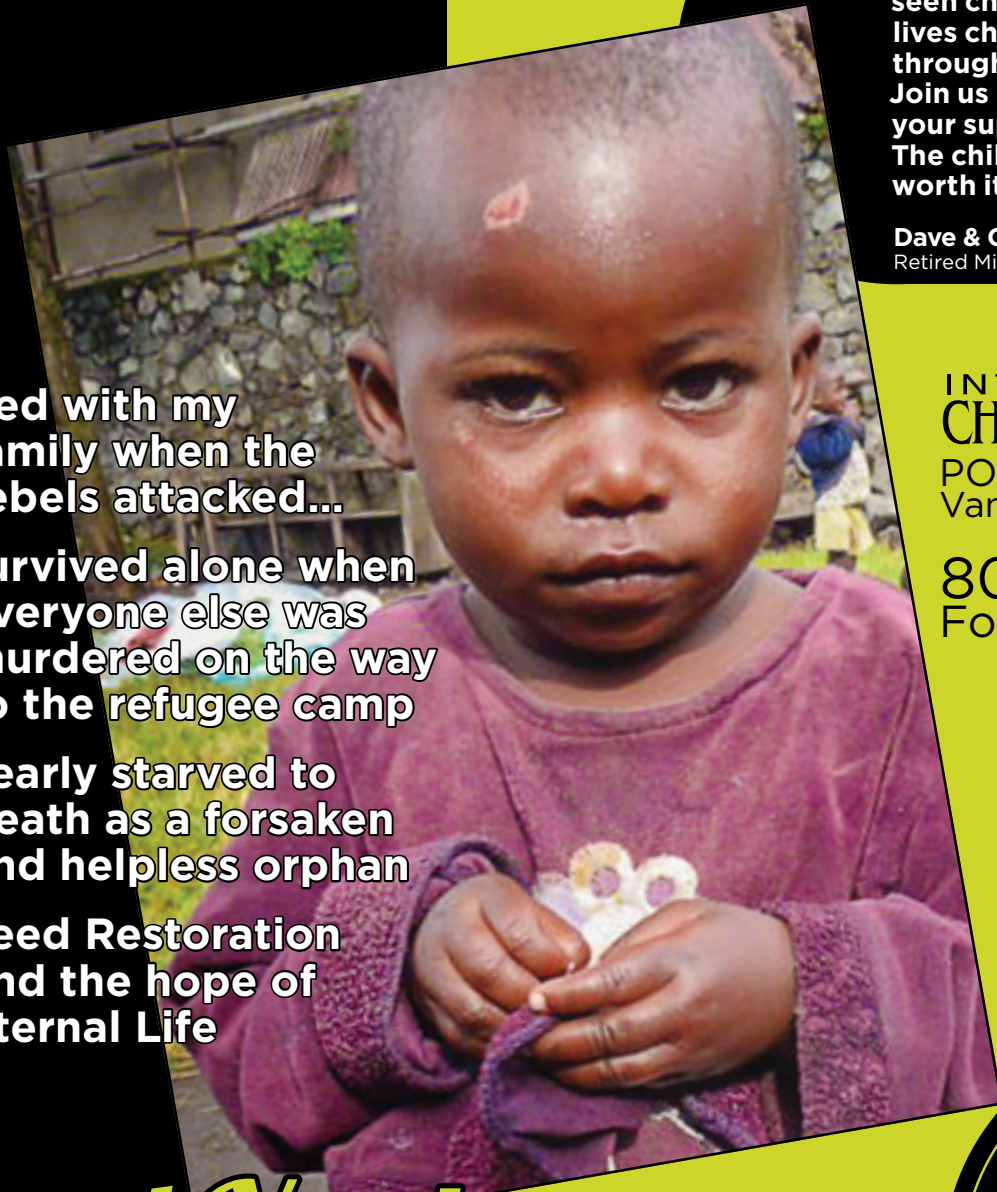
# I

fled with my family when the rebels attacked...

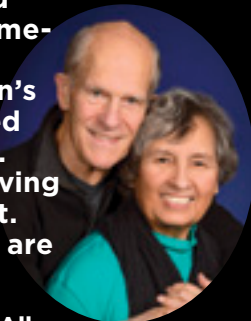
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