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NPUC GC DELEGATES

PERSPECTIVE
GO THEREFORE AND MINGLE

LET'S TALK
MYSTERY

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NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

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IMAGES *of* CREATION

FEB.
2015
VOL.110, N°02

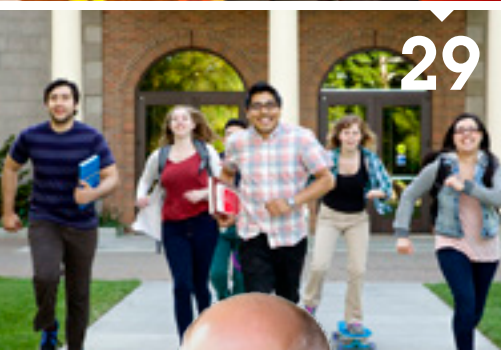


The grasslands of the
wilderness overflow; the hills
are clothed with gladness.
Psalm 65:12

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION



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Steve Vistaunet
GLEANER EDITOR

COVER PHOTOGRAPHER:
Adam Cornwell

“Frozen Dew”
in Battle Ground, Wash.,
by Scott Knight,
of Battle Ground.

gleaner

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Gleaner STAFF

Editor: Steve Vistaunet
Copy Editor: Laurel Rogers
Advertising and Project Manager: Desiree Lockwood
Digital Media Coordinator: Brent Hardinge
Design: GUILDHOUSE Group



HERE ARE YOUR 2015 GENERAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES

Based on the constitutional requirements of the Adventist world church, 21 delegates have been elected by the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) executive committee to represent Northwest members at the upcoming General Conference session, to be held July 2–11. In addition to the three NPUC officers and six local conference presidents, six non-administrative church employees and six lay members fill the remaining slots. Of those delegates who are not officers or administrators, requirements also state that five must be women, three Hispanic and one of African descent. Here are your NPUC delegates:

CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS

- » Ken Crawford (Alaska)
- » David Prest (Idaho)
- » Merlin Knowles (Montana)
- » Al Reimche (Oregon)
- » Paul Hoover (Upper Columbia)
- » John Freedman (Washington)

NPUC OFFICERS

- » Max Torkelsen (President)
- » John Loor Jr. (Secretary)
- » Mark Remboldt (Treasurer)

LAY MEMBERS

- » Maria Lopez (Oregon)
- » Ron Oliver (Oregon)

- » Julie Sanders Keymer (Upper Columbia)
- » Alaska delegate (awaiting confirmation)
- » Shaya Kyle (Montana)
- » Pedro Pozos (Oregon)

NON-ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES

- » Gene Heinrich (Oregon)
- » Gary Fogelquist (Washington)
- » Kevin Rhamie (Oregon)
- » Gerizin de Pena (Upper Columbia)
- » Gayle Lasher (Washington)
- » Mark Waterhouse (Idaho)



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INTERSECTIONS



GATES

Contact email information for each delegate is available on the *Gleaner* website at glnr.in/2015_NPUC_Delegates. Questions about delegate selection or the role of NPUC delegates at the upcoming GC Session may be directed to John Loor Jr. at the NPUC office.

During the actual session, July 2–11, the *GleanerWeekly* e-newsletter will provide daily reports via email to subscribers with news and perspectives of special interest to Northwest members. For a FREE subscription to *GleanerWeekly*, go online to GleanerWeekly.com.



OOPS!

THE UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE STORY

“Volunteers Essential in Disaster Cleanup” [December 2014] failed to note that Oregon Conference volunteers joined the efforts with a chainsaw trailer and three operators: Jeff Lusk, Michael Rae and Sam Pellecer. According to Pellecer, who serves as the Oregon Conference Adventist Community Services Disaster Relief state coordinator, these men not only gave a class on chainsaw safety before the cleanup operation began, they also worked for three days bucking trees as an integral part of the project. Kudos to all volunteers who gave their time to help others.

LETTERS

WWU Church Lab

I have once again been pleased by the quality of the *Gleaner* as I looked over the January [2015] issue. Not only it is attractive and eye-catching, it is filled with interesting and helpful material. I was especially encouraged by the “Intro to Church Lab” report on Walla Walla University’s extracurricular spiritual training and service many of the students are receiving and performing. As an alumnus for many years now (1952) and some of my children alumni as well, I have a special interest in the university and am happy to see it thrive. I appreciate the *Gleaner* displaying merits and activities of the university, the academies and grade schools in the North Pacific Union. This reporting is an excellent way to counter the many-times unfounded rumors and criticism that tend to discourage our support. Yes, the *Gleaner* reports the activities going on in the NPUC as it should, but so much more; from the “Editorials” [and] “Perspectives” to “Let’s Talk,” it is balanced, helpful and inspirational. Keep up the good work, we are proud of you. — *Richard Gingrich, Portland, Ore.*



Accidental Pagans

I am sorry that Seth Pierce (“Accidental Pagans,” December 2014 *Gleaner*) was allowed so little space for his article ... with a cursory (and one-sided) allusion to Ellen White’s counsels on the topic. Such an approach does not encourage calm and rational study. Will the *Gleaner* be publishing Ellen White’s article “The Holidays” (*The Review and Herald*, Dec. 11, 1879) for the edification of its readers? — *Connie Dahlke, Walla Walla, Wash.*

GLEANER RESPONDS: *Each Perspective article from Seth Pierce and Martin Weber (and, for that matter, the editor’s Let’s Talk) is the viewpoint of one person. While we believe that these thoughtful columns in each monthly Gleaner will be centered in scriptural values and Adventist belief, they will also stroll into gray areas where diversity of opinion prevails. None of these writers would claim to own the “pen of inspiration,” but we do hope each article will stir the fallow minds of our Northwest members toward further study on their own.*

Send your letters to talk@gleanernow.com.



A missionary to the last frontier.

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A "plant" flourishes in Maple Valley.

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Auburn shares hope for a troubled world.

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Why is she called Linda the Legend?

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PICTURE THIS



2015 Images of
Creation gallery is
online: gleanernow.com/creation2015.

CHRISTINA G. ANGUICO

SEE PAGE

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IMAGES ↻ of CREATION

IN SIX DAYS THE LORD MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH, THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IN THEM IS, AND RESTED THE SEVENTH DAY: WHEREFORE THE LORD BLESSED THE SABBATH DAY, AND HALLOWED IT. EXODUS 20:8, 11

Worshipping a Creator God is a core belief and a core value of Scripture.

On Sabbath, we honor a power beyond the fickle whims of chance as the source of life and beauty. With these photographs from Northwest photographers submitted for our 2015 *Gleaner Images of Creation* photo contest, take a moment to personally thank your Creator for His presence now and the promise to someday make all things new.



AND GOD MADE

*the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle
after their kind, and every thing that creepeth
upon the earth after his kind: and God
saw that it was good. GENESIS 1:25*



3



4



AND GOD SAID,

Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. GENESIS 1:20

5



6

AND GOD BLESSED THE SEVENTH DAY,

and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made. GENESIS 2:3

Photographs by

- 1 SCOTT SWETNAM
- 2 LYNNE MCCLURE
- 3 MARY LANE ANDERSON
- 4 JEFFRY SELDOMRIDGE
- 5 CINDY A. KASSAB
- 6 ADAM CORNWELL
- 7 CHRISTINA G. ANGUICO

*Go online for more
winning images!*

gleanernow.com/creation2015

*Twelve top photos will
be featured in print
throughout the year.*

CRECIENDO EN LA ESPERANZA

La Biblia nos enseña esta promesa: “Pues él quería que su pueblo supiera que las riquezas y la gloria de Cristo también son para ustedes, los gentiles. Y el secreto es: Cristo vive en ustedes. Eso les da la seguridad de que participarán de su gloria” Colosenses 1:27 Nueva Traducción Viviente (NTV).

Esta esperanza debe ser para todos aquellos que son parte del cuerpo de Cristo sin hacer distinción de ninguna clase, llegando a los corazones de todas las nacionalidades y a las distintas clases sociales que necesitan de la Esperanza en Cristo.

Muestras sinceras de un cristianismo genuino y de oración, fueron instrumentos para el alcance de resultados.

Las iglesias hispanas de Tacoma y White Center en la Conferencia de Washington representan no solo la belleza de la diversidad de sus miembros, provenientes



Porque ha llegado el tiempo de ser testigos de muchos milagros.

de países como México, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Perú, Puerto Rico y otros. Además muestran que en su misión de compartir la Esperanza en Cristo desean ser parte del cumplimiento de la palabra profética de Apocalipsis 14:6-7 que dice: “Y vi a otro ángel, que volaba por el cielo y llevaba la eterna Buena Noticia para proclamarla a los que pertenecen a este mundo: a todo pueblo y toda nación, tribu y lengua. Teman a Dios — gritaba . . . Denle gloria a Él, porque ha llegado el tiempo en que ocupe su



Tacoma tiene el ardiente deseo de compartir la Esperanza en Cristo.

lugar como juez. Adoren al que hizo los cielos, la tierra, el mar y todos los manantiales de agua (NTV).

Este año del 2014 que transcurrió ambas iglesias que forman parte de un mismo distrito, fueron testigos de muchos milagros. Estos milagros llevan nombres como: Martha, Angélica y Roberto quienes recién fueron bautizados. Gracias al esfuerzo de miembros como los hermanos Douglas Barahona,

Urías Estrada, Teresita Ponce, Azucena Taracena, Vicky Estrada, Gilberto y Lidia Villegas, Hitiel y Erika Plata y Sonia Paredes, entre muchos otros, quienes con muestras sinceras de un cristianismo genuino y de oración, fueron instrumentos para el alcance de resultados.

Las iglesias hispanas de Tacoma y White Center tienen áreas de alcance peculiares, localizadas en bases militares, ciudades de mucha actividad comercial, donde cada miembro de iglesia es parte de un solo cuerpo, con el ardiente deseo de compartir la Esperanza en Cristo al corazón humano sin distinción o prejuicios.

Tacoma y White Center se preparan para el encuentro con Jesús.

Pastor Jim J. Leon, Washington Conference Iglesias Hispanas de Tacoma y White Center



Milagros como el de Roberto y otros mas quienes aceptaron la Buena Noticia.



The remote village of Gambell is Viola Kaiser's new home and mission.

WOMAN OF FAITH TAKES ON ARCTIC MINISTRY

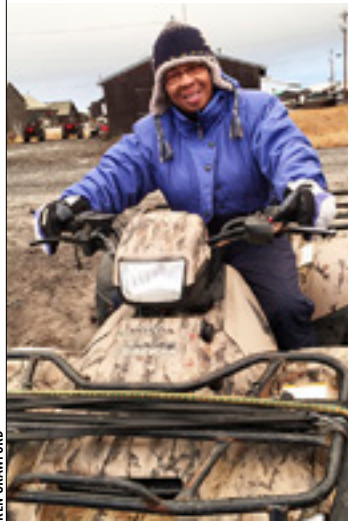
After working for more than 18 years with the native population on Washington's Yakama Reservation, Viola Kaiser answered the call of the Lord to be a spiritual leader among the native population in the last frontier — Alaska. Kaiser is a trained chaplain who spent the last eight years working for Weimar Institute in California, but she never anticipated where her prayers might lead.

Ken Crawford, Alaska Conference president, and his wife, Colleen, escorted Kaiser in November to her new assignment in Gambell on St. Lawrence Island, but they first stopped in Savoonga, where Kaiser was originally scheduled minister. She had sent 25 boxes of her personal belongings there by mail, but, by the time she arrived, the postmaster had quit and the post office was permanently closed. Kaiser took it to the Lord in prayer.

On Thanksgiving Day, Kaiser and the Crawfords were walking by the Savoonga post office and saw a light on in the back. They knocked on the door, and a man answered and said, "I am from Barrow. I am only here today trying to sort through this backlog of mail. I'm leaving on a flight back to Barrow in the

morning." They were able to pick up all of Kaiser's boxes and take them to Gambell on the next flight.

The remoteness of arctic Alaska was a shock, but Kaiser saw so many answers to prayer that she knew God was leading. She has settled into her



KEN CRAWFORD

Viola Kaiser is acclimating to remote St. Lawrence island, where she will minister at the Gambell Church.

tiny apartment 35 miles off the coast of Siberia and just below the Arctic Circle. She is excited to see what her ministry will be like in one of the most remote churches in North America.

Colleen Crawford, Arctic Mission Adventure coordinator

AMAZING GRACE ACADEMY HOLDS TOY DRIVE

For the third year in a row, the students at Amazing Grace Academy in Palmer bought toys for other kids in the community. As part of the school's annual Spirit Week activities, students donated money to buy the toys.

The Friday morning before Christmas, the students went to Target in Wasilla to spend the money. Groups of students, ranging from pre-K to 12th grade, were given equal amounts of money. Each group decided what toys to buy with its allotment. The toys were taken back to the school and presented to Betsy Woodin, director of Alaska Center for Resource Families, an organization that helps provide support for families and children in crisis.

The unusual part of this program is that the students get to choose the toys by themselves, without adult input. Kids buying toys for kids seems to be an effective way to ensure the toys are ones that will be wanted and used by the recipients. The students all benefit by seeing in a tangible way how they can help others during the Christmas season.

Amazing Grace Academy is a pre-K–12 school operated as a part of the Adventist education system. For more information, go to amazinggraceacademy.org or contact Trina Sandvik at 907-745-2691.

Rick Jordan, Amazing Grace Academy teacher

Amazing Grace Academy students not only raise money but also select the toys to buy for needy kids during the school's annual toy drive.



MERIDIAN WELCOMES WEARY TRAVELERS

Travelers stopping at the westbound rest area on Interstate 84 near Boise, Idaho, on the Sunday following Thanksgiving were greeted with a free hot drink and a pastry, courtesy of the Meridian Church. Donations were accepted but not required.

“We just wanted to welcome those returning to or passing through the Boise area and give them a drink and a cookie or a brownie to make their trip more enjoyable and safe,” explains Christine Schaffer, the Meridian Church member who spearheaded the event.

Schaffer, together with her husband, Ronald, and hospitality committee leader Sylvia Douglas, prepared the homemade goodies and braved cold temperatures for more than eight hours to meet and

Ronald Schaffer and Sylvia Douglas, Meridian Church members, offer free beverages and pastries to travelers along Interstate 84.



CHRISTINE SCHAFER



CHRISTINE SCHAFER

Hundreds of travelers, especially those with young children, were grateful for the welcome and the free food.

Other Meridian members helped throughout the day in two-hour shifts.

Hundreds of people — driving from as far away as New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Utah — expressed gratitude for the surprise treats. “The kids have been really good, even though we’ve been on the road for more than six hours already,” said a father traveling with four young children. “I promised them a treat, so this is perfect.”

Others donated without taking anything, saying they were “just grateful for what this group is doing.” The donations will help the church do this again.

To learn more about the Meridian Church, go to meridianadventistchurch.org.

Sandra Blackmer, Meridian Church communication leader

COMMUNITY SERVICE VISIT LEADS TO THREE BAPTISMS

Read more online at glnr.in/110-02-id_service

Desperately needing food for her family, Tanya Uvay came to the Caldwell Community Services for the first time in early December 2013. Uvay was thrilled to find free clothing to wrap as Christmas gifts for her children. She also received a three-day supply of much-needed food from the food pantry.

Myrna Long, a Caldwell Church member and volunteer in the office, heard the Uvay family’s story of losing their jobs, losing their home and other problems. Feeling impressed by the Holy Spirit to contact the family, Long visited them. They were about to pawn the title to their only vehicle so they could buy food. Long urged them to wait and



Tanya Uvay listens as Jim Berglund, Caldwell Church pastor, begins her baptism with a blessing in the name of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

by the car and wept as they realized everything was for their family. Before Long left, they asked her to come back and tell them about the Adventist Church.

A few days later, Long visited again. Uvay mentioned her family needed “to get back to church,” and Long invited them to the Christmas service the next Sabbath. After the program, Uvay and Long began studying the Bible together.

Eventually Uvay’s two sons were baptized. Gabe is a freshman at nearby Gem State Adventist Academy (GSAA), and Nino is in the sixth grade at the Caldwell Adventist Elementary School.

Uvay was baptized on Nov. 15, 2014. It was a special day for the Caldwell Community Services volunteers who have kept this family in prayer.

Myrna Long, Caldwell Church Adventist Community Services volunteer



Nino, Tanya and Gabe Uvay visit with Myrna Long, the Caldwell Community Services volunteer who visited them in their home.

let her find food for them.

Long and her son pooled their resources and bought a two-week supply of food. She returned to the family’s home two hours later with the trunk and the back seat of her car loaded with groceries. Uvay and her husband stood

MONTANA CONFERENCE WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES

Montana Conference began 2015 with several new staff members in the office.

Nathan Shaw is the new accountant and assistant treasurer. He is replacing longtime employee Kristi Rich, who is going to work as a full-time mom to her son. Shaw and his wife, Gabi, come from the Walla Walla, Wash., area, where Shaw was recently working as a staff accountant at St. Anthony's Hospital in Pendleton, Ore. He is a graduate of Upper Columbia Academy in Spangle, Wash., and Walla Walla University. Shaw enjoys building computers and is an avid Seahawks fan.

Marshall McKenzie is joining the Montana Conference as the new literature director and outreach coordinator. This new position



Victor Infante



Nathan and Gabi Shaw

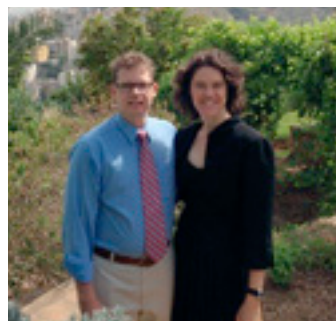
was made possible by a matured trust, and conference staff are excited with all the possibilities this area will open

for literature evangelism. McKenzie and his wife, Rosemary, plus their three children have just returned from Metn, Lebanon, where he was

the publishing coordinator in the Middle East and North Africa Union. A graduate of Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn., Shaw has worked in the Michigan and Wisconsin conferences as a pastor and publishing director.

Victor Infante has been hired to work in the Billings area as the new Hispanic Bible worker. Infante brings a wealth of experience in opening new Spanish-speaking churches in the Pacific Northwest. For the past 11 years he has worked in the Washington Conference and has been instrumental in developing churches all over Washington. The Montana Conference is excited about the possibility of establishing its first Hispanic church.

Phil Hudema, Montana Conference youth director



Marshall and Rosemary McKenzie

PRAYER CONFERENCE CONNECTS ATTENDEES WITH GOD

The Montana Prayer Conference was held at two locations this past fall — Oct. 18, 2014, in Ronan at GlacierView School and Nov. 8, 2014, at the Billings Church. The speakers were

her head right there. What if she had ignored the Lord's promptings? How often do we brush aside God speaking to us because of various reasons/excuses? We don't want to miss a chance to save someone's soul (including our own) for Christ.

In the past, the conference was only held in Bozeman. This year's change gave some people a chance to attend for the first time.

Sonia Birmel, Billings Church member

This year's prayer conference was held in two locations, including at GlacierView School in Ronan.



Corleen and Paul Johnson

Paul and Corleen Johnson from Portland, Ore.

The topics included connecting with God in prayer, God revealing His thoughts, how to pass inspiration to your home church and intercessory prayer. The Johnsons provided visuals on the screen, handouts, websites and personal stories of God answering prayers.

One story was about God prompting a lady to stand on her head in public. Then a man told her he had felt suicidal and told God he would believe in Him if a lady would stand on



Read more online at glnr.in/110-02-mt_prayer



The Fountainview Orchestra and Singers inspire at the Grants Pass Church in December 2014.

FOUNTAINVIEW ORCHESTRA AND SINGERS BLESS GRANTS PASS

More than 2,000 people were blessed in Grants Pass through four concerts held over two days by the Fountainview Academy Orchestra and Singers from Lillooet, British Columbia, Canada. The Grants Pass Church sanctuary was filled with community members who came with a promise of a free Christmas concert and were treated to an unforgettable experience.

There was laughter and tears as the 70-plus members of the orchestra and choir performed songs such as “O Come, O Come Emmanuel,” “Go Tell It on the Mountain” and “O Holy Night,” which was the theme of their Christmas tour. Between songs, these young people shared how God made the ultimate sacrifice so that we may have life with Him.

These talented young people reached out to the community beyond their concerts. They gave a mini-concert at

the Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist School and visited the Gospel Rescue Mission downtown. They also met those enjoying a meal at the Adventist church soup kitchen.

2014 was a year of much outreach and evangelism at the Grants Pass Church, including inspirational concerts, prayer-focused talks, and seven weeks of intensive study and prayer in small, in-home groups.

2015 promises to be another year of outreach and evangelism at the Grants Pass Church. Another three-week, in-home series will resume in March. Church members will again be inviting those in the community to study and pray in these small groups. Expect to see more inspirational concerts, Christ-centered talks from dedicated speakers and evangelism opportunities throughout the year.

Jennifer Burkes, Grants Pass Church communication leader

COQUILLE, BANDON CHURCHES HELP OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child is a worldwide children’s project that uses simple gift-filled shoeboxes containing school supplies, toys, necessity items and notes of encouragement to let hurting children know God loves them.

For the third year, Darwin Knight and Sally McSherry from the Coquille Church joined Samaritan’s Purse in gathering boxes in November.

A personal shopper offered to gather the items this year, and McSherry prepared more than 165 boxes.

Operation Christmas Child reached a major milestone in 2014. Since the project began in 1993, more than 113 million children who are victims of poverty, natural

disaster, war, terrorism and famine have received shoebox gifts. Through the power of a simple gift and the message of hope through Jesus Christ, these children learn that they are loved and not forgotten.

Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts will be hand-delivered in 150 countries on six continents. Most of the 16,902 boxes collected from the Roseburg District will be going to the Philippines.

The Coquille Church put together 195 shoeboxes and the Bandon Church put together 30. As a collection point, the Coquille Church collected 514 boxes — up from 305 in 2012.

Sally McSherry, Coquille Church communication leader

Darwin Knight and Sally McSherry from the Coquille Church join Samaritan’s Purse in gathering boxes in November for Operation Christmas Child.



GRANTS PASS STUDENTS 'SERVE'

SERVE (Students Engaged in Reaching out and Evangelism) has been the theme of this year at the Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist School. Also, the idea that “Every Child Deserves to Know Christ” has prevailed. Emphasis has been on bringing Christ more into the classroom, more than ever before.

New part-time kindergarten/first-grade teacher Karie MacPhee, for example, sees spiritual lessons in every subject. She loves the “here I am” attitude her students have towards Christ. Second-through fourth-grade teacher Sheryl Shewmake transformed her classroom into an “airport” (ShareAir), where memory verses were learned and recorded in a “passport.” She loves those “lightbulb” moments with her students and loves watching her students grow and remain close to Christ.

Amy Whitchurch, the new fifth- and sixth-grade teacher, leads song and Bible lessons each and every day. Her students have honest discussions about character. Phil Ermshar, principal and seventh- and eighth-grade teacher, has “Testimony Time” most Friday mornings and leads his students in an “empathy circle” during which

they focus on treating one another more as Christ would treat each person.

The school year has been packed with activity, inside the school and out. All school families were invited to camp at Harris Beach in Brookings, Ore. Games, food, fellowship, song and worship were all part of this weekend. The sixth- and seventh-graders had the opportunity to go on a backpacking trip, and the



Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist School students prepare to ride through Grants Pass in the Christmas Parade.

sixth-graders will have Outdoor School in February. The schoolwide Jog-a-Thon more than raised enough funds for a new track at the school.

The fall week of prayer led more than a dozen students to heed the call for baptism. Many new Bible studies are taking place with pastors Christian Martin and Tony Rodriguez. So far this year, Alex Wiggers, Sebastian Swanson, Madison Dietrich and Isaiah Velasco



Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist School Christmas program brought music to the Grants Pass Church.

have answered the call to be baptized.

The Fall Festival/Adventist Book Sale in November 2014 was well-attended by students and their families. Eighth-graders sold veggie burgers to raise funds for their class trip in the spring. Students held a Veteran’s Day program and invited community veterans to attend and be honored. Students also enjoyed a Thanksgiving dinner with special invited guests.

During December, children visited nearby nursing homes and sang for residents. Students participated in the Grants Pass Christmas Parade, singing while riding atop a decorated semitruck. They also traveled to the Rogue Valley Mall and presented a short concert for shoppers. Their

annual Christmas program at the Grants Pass Church was held Dec. 18, 2014. Students were treated to a breakfast the next morning, which the home and school team has done every year right before Christmas break.

The second half of the year promises to be equally busy for the Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist School. God has great and wonderful plans for these students, families and staff.

Jennifer Burkes, Grants Pass Church communication leader

ROCKWOOD CHURCH CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

Rockwood Church celebrated its 40th anniversary Sabbath, Oct. 18, 2014, with joyful remembrance of its past and a probing look toward the future.

Many former members showed up, including three former Rockwood Church pastors: Gary Rustad, Reed Qualley and Mike Jones. Each took part in the festivities, with Rustad preaching. Among those providing music for the morning service were Wanda Vaz and Norman Schwisow.

During the afternoon service, a tribute was given to the late Ralph New. New spent 35 years designing, building and maintaining Rockwood's pipe organ. Special music for the celebration included Caleb Leim, Barbara Specht, Donna Jones, Tammy MacPhee, Joyce Hill and Brent Summaraga.

The Graham family reflects on their years at Rockwood while enjoying lunch during Rockwood's 40th anniversary homecoming celebration.



GENE HEINRICH



GENE HEINRICH

Planted in 1974, the Rockwood Church grew from 34 to 889 members in less than 15 years.

Gene Heinrich, current Rockwood pastor, citing several generations of members who are missing, warned of an uncertain future for the church unless it can learn to “translate the gospel into the language of the 21st century.” He said the church’s challenges include serving a multi-ethnic community where 70 languages are spoken, poverty reigns and gangs roam the streets.

Planted in 1974, the Rockwood Church grew from 34 to 889 members in less than 15 years. Rockwood is the most ethnically diverse neighborhood in Oregon, with a high concentration of refugees from around the globe. Rockwood’s Sabbath attendance averages just under 200.

Mike Jones, Voice of Prophecy reclaiming ministries director

LAA ART LESSON PROVIDES LEARNING AND EARNING

Over the years, Sharon Cutz, fifth- and sixth-grade teacher at Livingstone Adventist Academy (LAA) in Salem, has used an opportunity to teach several lessons at once. Her students submitted illustrations for a calendar contest in October 2014. Mid-Valley Garbage and Recycling Association and Marion County Public Works in Oregon had created the contest with a “Waste Not, Want Not” theme to promote recycling. In response, Cutz’s students and students across Marion County created artwork.

Marion County commissioners recognized the winners on Dec. 10, 2014, and five LAA students were among them. Sixth-graders McKenzie Haskin, Jennifer Porras, Madelyn Fish and Oscar Rinza and fifth-grader Annie Biondello each had an illustration featured in the calendar.

The students had learned the practical side of art and the importance of controlling their use of resources. Cutz, who is also a Master Recycler, says, “My students have been entering this contest for years. It has been a fun lesson that focuses on the importance of the three Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle). This year I was blown away and very excited to announce to the class that five of them were winners for the 2015 calendar. I wouldn’t be surprised if this event ends up being the highlight of the year for them.”

But this highlight included a third lesson when they found their diligent efforts were repaid with gift cards. Each winner received \$100 to spend at Fred Meyer.

The students say they were even careful about how their rewards were spent.

Dwayne Stevenson, East Salem Church member

McKenzie Haskin, Annie Biondello, Jennifer Porras, Madelyn Fish and Oscar Rinza display their award-winning calendar artwork.



DWAYNE STEVENSON

PAA CELEBRATES 'LINDA THE LEGEND'

Finishing 44 years of teaching in Adventist education and her 31st year at Portland Adventist Academy (PAA), music teacher Linda Neel was celebrated at the last Christmas concert of her career.

Surprise guests included every PAA principal during Neel's time at the school. Between performances from PAA's musical ensembles, former principals Dick Molstead,



Linda Neel receives a standing ovation from the audience at her final Christmas concert as she's given a warm hug from Dick Molstead, former PAA principal and the man who hired Neel to head the PAA music department. Former principals Michael Conner (back left) and Gale Crosby (back right) applaud.

She went above and beyond to coach varsity volleyball for 18 years and basketball for 10. She has organized and led many mission trips as well as a total of 31 memorable PAA music tours through British Columbia, California, Washington and Oregon.

PAA's "Christ Centered, Character Driven" motto is demonstrated in Neel's active lifestyle. She holds a first-place world championship for senior women's racquetball, and she has kayaked with a pod of orca whales. She is a certified kayak guide and instructor, and she loves inspiring others to find peace and quiet on the water. Neel's love for her family and her pets brings her joy.

"But beyond all of that," Nicola said during Neel's final Christmas concert, "Linda leaves behind a legacy of love

students and what she shared on committee meetings," said Crosby, Oregon Conference education superintendent and former PAA principal. "She can see the world through the eyes of her students and would approach important decisions from the perspective of the question, 'What is best for this student?'"

"It's true: Linda knows Jesus," added Crosby. "Her empathy and love for her students [are] evident in how she treats them every day. I remember the many times she would talk with me about a certain student she was worried about and wanted to help. She always followed up with them and kept them in close contact."

"She has touched thousands of hearts over her long career, showing us all what it means to be Christ-centered and character-driven," concluded Nicola.

"Indeed, Linda is a legend," said Crosby. "Because of her ministry, there will be young people that have chosen to spend eternity in a perfect place with a loving God."

Neel's retirement celebration will be held during PAA's Alumni Sabbath on May 2. Her final spring concert will be May 28 at 7 p.m.

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA Gleaner correspondent



Linda Neel directs PAA's choir during her last Christmas concert before she retires at the end of the school year.

Michael Conner and Gale Crosby plus current principal Dan Nicola shared stories and memories about Neel's impact at PAA.

Neel's many awards include the Adventist Education Zapara Award for Excellence in Teaching and Oregon Music Educators Association Certificate of Merit, as well as nine state band championships and numerous top-three choir placements at state competitions.

Besides heading the music department, Neel has taught classes like physical education, health, careers and culture.



Principal Dan Nicola (right) introduces surprise guests and former PAA principals (from left) Dick Molstead, Michael Conner and Gale Crosby. Each shared testimony of Linda Neel's legendary loyalty and love for PAA during her final Christmas concert.

SPOKANE CHURCHES FIND UNIQUE WAYS TO REACH COMMUNITY

What do you get when you combine nine churches, willing hands, buses, billboards and community outreach and then bake them for more than two years with Holy Spirit power? In Spokane, Wash., you get the Jesus Cares campaign.

Adventist churches in Spokane spent more than two years of planning and laying ground work for a major citywide evangelism campaign that wrapped up this past November. It all started in the fall of 2012 with a meeting of area Adventist pastors.

The pastors met with a specific question in mind: “How do we effectively reach out to our community and give people the opportunity to

meet Jesus Christ?”

It had been more than two decades since an areawide outreach effort had been made by Adventists in Spokane. So the pastors discussed ways to reach out together to residents of Spokane and the surrounding communities.

Out of these discussions, a plan was formed that came to be known as the Jesus Cares campaign. The campaign was made up of three main components: awareness, outreach and evangelistic events.

For the awareness portion of the campaign Adventist pastors in Spokane decided to share a message of value with the community. “Everyone longs to be important to someone,” said Dale Leamon, who pastored the Spokane Central Church. “Telling people they matter to Jesus connects with that deep desire.”



International speaker David Asscherick spoke to Rethink Prophecy attendees in a citywide event at the end of the monthlong series.

And that’s exactly what Spokane Adventists proceeded to do. For two years, local members used 54 city buses and 20 billboards plus websites and social media to tell their neighbors they mattered to Jesus.

“When we weren’t promoting specific campaign events,” says Gerald Haeger, Upper Columbia Conference evangelism director, “we shared several messages of value.”

◀ The Jesus Cares campaign featured 20 billboards throughout Spokane for two years. Each board shared a message of hope and value.

The buses and billboards not only caught the attention of many Spokane residents, they generated goodwill and expressions of thanks from many in the community.

The second component of the campaign centered around community outreach. Thanks to two major donations, Upper Columbia Conference was able to employ the help of a coordinator of urban ministries to facilitate community outreach and involvement. The new coordinator connects members with a wide array of opportunities to serve and to touch lives.

“I’m reminded of what Ellen White urged years





“It is through the social relations that Christianity comes in contact with the world.” Ellen White

ago,” says Patty Marsh, Upper Columbia Conference community services director. “It is through the social relations that Christianity comes in contact with the world.’ We need to put ourselves where we ‘will come in direct contact with those needing help.”

“Our larger cities especially offer many areas for members to use their gifts in service,” Marsh continues. “It is such a blessing to have Rhonda Whitney serving as coordinator of urban ministries for Spokane and Kootenai counties.”

The main events the churches put on formed the final piece of the Jesus Cares campaign. The campaign featured two main events crafted to give people the opportunity to meet Jesus. The first was an Islam and Christianity seminar with Tim Roosenberg held in the winter of 2014. This event caught the eye of many in the community and generated a good amount of conversation. Many who attended were blessed.

The final event was a traditional evangelistic event, Rethink Prophecy, that was held in every Spokane church. The Rethink Prophecy meetings wrapped up in mid-November 2014

with a citywide crusade by international speaker David Asscherick.

The Jesus Cares campaign generated about 175 direct interests overall. Area pastors had hoped for larger numbers, but these early tallies don’t tell the entire story.

“I’m hopeful,” says Gerald Haeger, Upper Columbia Conference ministerial director. “We have more potential resources available to us now for Spokane than we’ve had in

Spokane Adventists are looking for needs in the community and then working to help meet those needs.

decades. I’m praying that what we’ve done so far has laid the foundation for what’s to come. We’re not done.”

Even though initial numbers of baptisms have been lower than hoped, there are other more positive results from the campaign. One happy note was reported by students from SOULS Northwest while canvassing Spokane during the summer of 2014. The literature evangelist students discovered people in Spokane were far

more receptive and welcoming to door-to-door visits from Adventist young people than in any other Upper Columbia Conference city canvassed.

Another bright spot from the campaign is that it has put Adventists in the community spotlight. Now that the Adventist name is familiar and Adventists are more actively involved with community projects, Adventists are being sought out for leading roles in Spokane. Increasingly Adventists are asked to serve in a variety of venues in Spokane — in education, disaster preparedness and response, homelessness, community drug prevention, eldercare programs, city councils, and more.

When asked about this increased visibility and involvement, Marsh says, “As we serve and mingle, wonderful opportunities emerge, not only to change lives for the better but to meet new friends. I believe intelligently and unselfishly serving is an expectation Jesus has for His people as they face the daunting tasks of reaching our cities for Him.”

Jay Wintermeyer, Upper Columbia Conference assistant to the president for communication



CHRISTMAS GIVES NEWPORT CHANCES TO REACH OUT

The Newport (Wash.) Church participated in the Christmas holiday season in unique ways.

The second annual Carols by the Tree was celebrated by church and community members alike near the large, lighted Christmas tree by the Newport Museum. Charles Lawson designed an over-the-street banner for the event, and newspaper ads and posters were organized by Katie and Candace Mayfield and the Newport youth group. The event included Christmas carol singing led by Donna Anderson and special numbers by the church choir and saxophonist Scott Orser. Members shared special response cards, gave out “Gift of Joy” GLOW (Giving Light to Our World) tracts and candy canes, and shared hot drinks on a frosty evening.

On Dec. 14, 2014, a first-ever Community Christmas Charity Concert organized by Jim Pope was held at the Newport High

School. Several of the Newport Church members participated and joined approximately 200 people in enjoying Christmas musical performances including vocal solos, a piano duet, church and school choirs, Orser on the saxophone, and a bell choir. The program ended with everyone singing the “Hallelujah Chorus” and a benediction by Jared Horton, Real Life Ministries pastor.

An offering of more than \$900 was taken during the concert to benefit YES (Youth Emergency Services), which helps 163 homeless or at-risk youth ages 12–15 in Pend Oreille County find and keep safe living conditions and stay in school.

Newport Church members have found the Christmas season provides an excellent time of giving and sharing within the local community.

Earl Brockman, retired teacher

Pend Oreille Valley Seventh-day Adventist School choir performs to help raise money for at-risk and homeless youth.

EARL BROCKMAN



NATHAN REIMCHE-YU

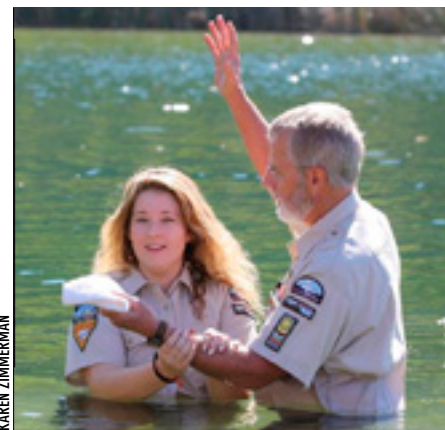
The Goldendale Church presented its first Journey to Bethlehem this year the first weekend in December. Goldendale joined other Adventist churches in Wenatchee, Yakima and Spokane, Wash., and in Hermiston, Ore., each of which presented the story of Jesus’ birth in its own unique way. More than 15,000 visitors were impacted throughout these areas for Jesus by these special events.

Read the full article here:
glnr.in/110-02-ucc_goldendale

SIBLINGS PLEDGE LOVE TO CHRIST TOGETHER

Taylor Sims had committed her life to Jesus Christ at a Pathfinder Camporee in Republic, Wash., seven years ago when she was 11. Yet she wanted to seal her commitment with her family present to witness. Her brother, Tannor Sims, had also decided to show his dedication to Christ.

On Sept. 27, 2014, at the Sun Lakes Pathfinder Camporee in Coulee City, Wash., and with the Upper Columbia Conference Pathfinders, staff and family as witnesses, the siblings were baptized together. Wayne Hicks, Upper Columbia Conference Pathfinder director, welcomed Taylor and Tannor Sims into God’s family through baptism. They attend the Colville (Wash.) Church, and their parents, Clifford



KAREN ZIMMERMAN

Wayne Hicks, Upper Columbia Conference Pathfinder director, baptizes Taylor Sims.

“Skeeter” and Heather Sims, are the directors of the Colville Cougars Pathfinder Club.

Judy Bitton, Colville Church communication leader

More photos online at
glnr.in/110-02-ucc_siblings

ST. MARIES PARADE FLOAT BRINGS HOPE

Members of the St. Maries Adventist Church in Idaho planned a float for the local Parade of Lights on Dec. 6, 2014. They wanted to honor the Lord with the theme “Come With Us to Bethlehem.”

The weather report predicted “100 percent chance of rain.” But the members of the St. Maries Church prayed. “Would you please put an umbrella over the float, Lord?” asked Sue Clark.

The rain continued off and on all day. Finally it was time to pull the tarp off the float. The music was ready, the lights were connected around the cardboard Bethlehem, and even the “angels” were assembling as it continued to drizzle.

Minutes before the floats began to roll, the rain subsided. The church members smiled to one another and said, “God is answering our prayers.”

Shepherds walking (and running) beside the float asked the people lining the sidewalk, “Did you hear the song? Come with us to Bethlehem and see Jesus. The angel told us where to find the Savior!” They left the spectators with GLOW (Giving Light to Our World) tracts about the story in Luke 2:1–20.

One earnest youngster called out after the shepherd, “I read my Bible every day!”

Another woman embraced a shepherd. “It is beautiful,” she said as the float passed.

Earlier in the afternoon church members were offering freshly popped corn to people walking along the sidewalks. John Pierce, Living Hope Adventist Company



DIANNA PIERCE

(From left) Judy Sibert and Rosemarie Tiffany offer warm, buttered popcorn and a book to sidewalk strollers before the Parade of Lights in St. Maries, Idaho.

(Plummer, Idaho) pastor, and his wife, Dianna, were giving out the book *The Great Hope*. “I have never seen people so eager to accept a spiritual book. They would hold it and just study the picture of Jesus



An angel, Ethan Clark, is getting ready to roll on the “Come With Me to Bethlehem” float.

returning in the clouds. One man asked for two. We had some amazing conversations,” says Dianna.

One young man who was interested in the book asked, “What organization is sponsoring this?”

When he found out it was the Adventist Church, he explained that a friend of

his has been attending the Plummer Church. This friend has been sharing what he is learning there at the monthly community meeting they both attend, so he was glad to get the book.

Cathy Law, St. Maries Church member



(From left) Angel Lynne Wetterlin holds the star over Bethlehem as the angel Caitlin Clark looks on.

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ADVISORY PAVES WAY FORWARD FOR REGIONAL MINISTRY

The African-American churches in western Washington face many challenges. As a result, the Washington Conference executive committee appointed a regional advisory committee to address these challenges the African-American churches are facing. The members of the committee are the pastors and first elders of the African-American churches. The Washington Conference president is currently chairing the committee.

Here is the history of this advisory committee.



The members of the regional advisory committee include pastors and first elders of the African-American churches (four advisory members were not present for the photographed meeting). The Washington Conference president is currently chairing the committee.

Representatives from Adventist churches in western Washington met on April 6, 2014, for a regular quadrennial meeting to conduct business. The constituency meeting also elected officers and ministry directors.

In the course of preparing for this meeting and during this meeting, a discussion arose about ministry representation for African-American churches. The constituents ultimately voted to send the matter, and other issues that could not be resolved, back to the Washington Conference executive committee, the governing body between constituency sessions. They were asked to further examine the leadership of regional African-American ministry and to help African-American leaders work toward reconciliation.

Pastors from six African-American churches in the Seattle area met several times

in the summer with Washington Conference leadership before being joined for a series of meeting with first elders from these churches. These were amicable and respectful meetings filled with prayer, fellowship and discussion about the leadership needs of African-American churches.

Washington Conference administrators also met with each of the six churches individually to listen to the needs and requests of these congregations. Regional church representatives met in August 2014 to solidify the discussion and find consensus before presenting it to executive committee. In continuing conversations, the executive committee voted in October 2014 to form a regional advisory committee composed of pastors and first elders from these six churches before a regional coordinator is chosen.

The advisory is respectfully seeking to find consensus, work toward reconciliation, make a recommendation for regional coordinator leadership to the Washington Conference executive committee for consideration, and define a new job description. The advisory, as a team, is seeking to be fair and Christ-like as they work toward a resolution. The team of leaders is respectfully united in moving forward and growing strong Seventh-day Adventist African-American churches.

Washington Conference regional advisory committee

BIG PICTURE OF MINISTRY



DAVID MCCLELLAND

Adventists in their 20s and 30s, led by Hasani Tait, Emerald City associate pastor, are bringing fresh vitality to the congregation with their worship service contributions and involvement in outreach activities.



DON WHITTLE

Marlena Whittle arrived at Olympia Salvation Army Women and Family Shelter with six large bags of donated personal care items from Lacey Church on the exact day when William Lay, director, needed to replenish the shelter's shampoo supply.



LILIANA SACDALAN

Nathan Garcia, age 14, is still glowing after his baptism in Ferndale: "I still continue to study the Bible and walk the path that was illuminated to me after baptism. I am grateful for all God has given me — family, friendship, church and knowledge He gave me — and I will follow His guidance until the end of days."

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY PRESENTS SALVATION STORY

One week after the Journey to Bethlehem (J2B) production in Auburn, the church community sat in the semicircle sanctuary of Auburn Adventist Academy Church and shared their memories and reflections. It wasn't just the adults who shared stories though.



JONATHAN BAUMGARTNER

King Herod, portrayed by Peter Vukshich, sends his loyal servant on a secret mission to discover more about the rumors of a new king. He hands Hazrah, portrayed by Jeff Carlson, a medallion of free passage.

Academy (AAA) principal and one of the J2B guides. "We see teenagers, children and adults unified in their purpose in telling the story of Jesus in a very real way."

Auburn students Victor Moore, a senior from Snoqualmie, and Karina Cole, a senior from Walla Walla, were guides during each 45-minute tour. After launching the intensity of their journey as "spies for King Herod" and finding clues to the story, guests find themselves wrapped up in the story of the journey to Bethlehem where they have to pay family

taxes and be counted in the census. When they are thrown out of the city, the "families" of 20-25 people come to the shepherds in the field.

"The angel scene is a good step between Bethlehem and the manger," Cole says, because it starts to provide resolution to the story. Then they approach the favorite scene at the manger with a "real, live baby Jesus" (portrayed by a rotating cast of babies) to bring the journey full circle.

"We live in an increasingly biblically illiterate society that needs the story of salvation

shared in an engaging way," says Bill Roberts, outgoing AAA Church senior pastor and one of the guides. "It is a pleasure to work with our church community to present this production. We see God at work in people's lives."

This ninth year of the production represents 37 total days in December when there has been no substantial rain to stop the production. Dedicated prayer warriors and cast members pray for a hedge of protection around the production and remember years when the rain stopped within minutes of the first tour group launching.

"When I think of J2B, I think, 'Only God,'" says Wilma Bing, J2B producer and AAA Church associate pastor. "He takes care of the weather, 400 cast members and 5,000 guests."

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director

More photos online at glnr.in/110-02-wa_salvation



JONATHAN BAUMGARTNER

Generations of people come together at the manger to worship the newborn King.

Teenagers and children participated too, whether with a spoken or written contribution.

With more than 400 people participating in the ninth annual interactive outdoor drama, this is an intergenerational ministry for the community.

"We put on our costumes and forget our ages," says Tom Decker, Auburn Adventist

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MAPLE VALLEY CELEBRATES 12 BAPTISMS IN 8 MONTHS

Evangelism is part of the culture of an Adventist church plant in Maple Valley. In fact, the church's very first ministry activity when it started on March 1, 2014, was to hold a Bible prophecy seminar.

Church planter Namaia Faletofo planned the church's second five-week evangelistic series in October 2014, called "Operation Blueprint." Seven people were baptized at the conclusion of the series on Nov. 22, 2014.

Faletofo's 8-year-old daughter, Lala, surprised both of her parents when she responded one night to an appeal to accept Jesus into her life. "It gave me great joy and satisfaction to watch my child be baptized and give her heart to God," says Candace Faletofo, Lala's mother.

During the baptism ceremony, Brandon Maae broke into tears as he watched his new friends be baptized. He requested to be baptized that very night.

"We did not have another baptismal gown to give him, so he put on the wet gown of another newly baptized in Christ and walked down into the water of life, where he left his sins and came up with a new life as a sheep to the Shepherd," says Jeannette ILiwa'alani, Maple Valley Church member.

In all, Maple Valley Church is celebrating 12 baptisms in their first eight months as a congregation. Three people from their Unlocking Prophecy series in the spring were baptized at Washington Adventist Camp Meeting, and another young lady was baptized after attending Sunset Lake Camp.

"The whole church is excited about evangelism," says Namaia Faletofo. "Everyone is involved in soul-winning because we see evangelism as a way of life."

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director



JEANNETTE ILIWA'ALANI

The church family keeps growing at the Adventist church plant in Maple Valley.



Kirkland Church opens its doors to the community for a special Thanksgiving dinner party.

KIRKLAND COMES TOGETHER FOR THANKSGIVING

The family of God coming together to help the community is the spirit of Kirkland Church's annual Together for Thanksgiving community event.

Each year guests from the greater eastside community join the Kirkland Church for appetizers, games, children's activities and a delicious homemade Thanksgiving meal.

One team of volunteers bustles around the kitchen preparing appetizers and fixing food for about 200 guests. Youth and adult volunteers decorates the church foyer like a fall festival, with stations for crafts, cookie decoration, face painting and table games.

Sarah and Crissy are mothers with many foster children. For the last three years, both of these families have come dressed up in matching outfits to take advantage of the free photo booth the event provides.

Thirty church families donated food for this year's meal, and 50 people vol-



The Thanksgiving celebration in Kirkland includes special treats and activities for children such as face painting, games and crafts.

unteered at the event, which is in its fifth year. Adventist families also donated clothing, blankets, toys and gift cards. At the end of the evening, guests received a food bag.

"This is such a blessing to me," says Tracy, a young lady who has found herself homeless. "I am used to being someone who gives and donates, but now I can't and I am so truly thankful to be here."

Colleen Radke, Kirkland Church member

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER



Northwest Christian School in Puyallup rings the bells of gratitude during the holiday season after the community showed them an outpouring of support and detectives recovered 30 of 42 instruments.

THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT THAT ALMOST DIDN'T HAPPEN

The holiday season has a full lineup of school Christmas concerts. For Northwest Christian School (NCS) in Puyallup, their Christmas concert almost didn't happen because thieves stole the school's musical instruments and other items on Oct. 27, 2014.

Local news stations and publications picked up the theft story, and the community rallied to provide donations and musical instruments to help the music program get back in session. Music stores and associations reached out to the school to offer their services and support.

To show its appreciation to the community, the school invited community donors to attend the back-on-the-schedule Christmas program on Dec. 17.

"We are filled with gratitude," said Craig Mattson, NCS principal, at the opening of the concert. "We experienced an outpouring of support that was overwhelming. We are here tonight because of the support of our community."

The audience of 450

people arrived early, and hardly a seat was empty for this special hour-and-a-half concert. Students in kindergarten through eighth grade showcased their musical abilities by singing Christmas carols and playing their donated and loaned band instruments, hand bells and chimes.

"I'm so proud of these kids," says Clair Hockenson, NCS music teacher. "They did a great job with the Christmas concert even though they had a little less practice because of the theft."

About two months after the theft, detectives recovered 30 of the 42 stolen instruments. Music store partners are repairing the band instruments after their careless storage.

At the close of the concert, the school gave a bell-shaped Christmas ornament to the families in attendance as a way to commemorate their gratitude for how God took care of the school's music program.

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director

STUDENTS ENGAGE IN ANTI-BULLYING CONVERSATION

Lenord the Kindly Monster visited grades one through eight at Mountain View Christian School in Sequim, Wash., on Dec. 5, 2014, to talk about bullying.

Lenord is one of the many puppets that belong to Daryl Trowbridge, ventriloquist and head elder at Sequim Church. Lenord and Trowbridge talked with students about respecting each other and how to not have bullying at school.

The students were spellbound by the conversation between the two.

"I didn't know that girls could be bullies," says one first-grader. "I thought it was only boys."

Several of the seventh- and eighth-grade students said they wanted Lenord and Trowbridge to come back and talk about other things because they were funny and at the same time serious about important things for students to know.

"The students were totally focused and came away with a better understanding on how to treat one another kindly," says Doug Allison, principal. "They were given tools to positively talk to others about how their words and actions might be hurting someone else."

John Gatchet, Sequim Church communication leader



DOUG ALLISON

Ventriloquist Daryl Trowbridge and Lenord the Kindly Monster share with Mountain View Christian students about how to respect one another and not be bullies.

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Cassie Ragenovich, Walla Walla University student financial services director

WWU SOCIAL WORK PROFESSOR MODELS GENEROSITY IN SERVICE

In this race of life, “we don’t all start at the same place,” says Janet Ockerman, Walla Walla University (WWU) social work and sociology professor. “That doesn’t mean you aren’t going to be at the same ending place. It just means that you might need some additional help to get there.”

“That’s a different philosophy than saying somehow that we change the standards,” she adds. “I don’t believe in changing the standards. I believe that people can reach whatever the standard ought to be; they just may not all reach it in the same way.”

Ockerman was recently awarded the 2014 Walla Walla University Community Service Award, but that isn’t where her race began.

She grew up on a small tobacco farm in the hills of Kentucky, where she got her activist passion from her mother and grandmother who well understood the plight of the poor — since they were poor themselves.

When she was 12, Ockerman decided she didn’t want to work on a tobacco farm all her life, and she turned her attention to education. She



Recently awarded the 2014 Walla Walla University Community Service Award, Janet Ockerman stands with John McVay, WWU president.

graduated from high school as valedictorian and never looked back.

She now has a bachelor’s degree in sociology, two master’s degrees and a doctorate. Her prolific research covers such areas as housing, child welfare, migrant education and Native American health care — even the cultural im-

plications of salmon fishing in Washington and Alaska.

Academic accomplishments weren’t the finish line for Ockerman, however. “Part of my family’s culture was always the Christian worldview,” she says. “Jesus said, ‘I was hungry and you fed me.’ That is what has been a central driving piece for me and continues to be.”

Ockerman recently assisted with the Walla Walla Community Council Report on Improving Food Security, which seeks to improve access to food in Walla Walla.

She works with the local senior center to assist older individuals who need a hot meal or a place to spend the day while their family members work.

She has also volunteered for the Star Project, an organization that supports people who have been recently released from prison.

In a town like Walla Walla that has three colleges, Ockerman says WWU stands out. “Our specific focus on service means that we plan for it more, and we strive to model it more for our students.”

“Some people sit back and say, ‘Well, I’ll give some money,’ and that’s a great thing,” says Ockerman. “But I think sometimes giving something of yourself is more important — whatever that is. You might not have much, but whatever you have you can share.”

Kim Strobel, WWU university relations supervisor

A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH

In the past 18 months, Mike Widstrom had three major vascular surgeries, and in January he moved to Bali, Indonesia, to teach English — with the blessings of his physicians. Widstrom credits Adventist Health with his new lease on life. “I feel like I have a second chance, the opportunity to start a whole new chapter of my life thanks to Adventist Health,” he says.

Widstrom’s medical healing journey began at the Adventist Health – Manzanita Primary and Specialty Care Clinic in Manzanita, Ore., where his primary care provider listened to his carotid arteries with a stethoscope and heard “the telltale swishing” sound of blocked arteries. A radiologic assessment showed

that Widstrom’s carotid arteries were more than 90 percent blocked. Within three days he had his first surgery on his left carotid artery.

“It was explained to me that I was a stroke waiting to happen,” Widstrom reflects. “While I was in the hospital recovering, there was a woman in the next room who had just suffered a massive stroke. I was overwhelmed by the realization that that could have been me. I could have been unable to speak or to walk. I could have been a burden to my children, or I could have died.”

Widstrom’s only symptom of vascular disease was high blood pressure that did not respond to medication. When Widstrom’s blood pressure issues did not resolve following his first vascular



ADVENTIST HEALTH

Jeffrey Boskind, vascular surgeon at Northwest Regional Heart and Vascular in Portland, Ore., helped Mike Widstrom recover from vascular disease.

surgery, he went to see Jeffrey Boskind, a vascular surgeon at Adventist Medical Center Northwest Regional Heart and Vascular in Portland, Ore. Boskind recommended surgery on Widstrom’s right carotid artery.

Following the second vascular surgery, when Widstrom’s blood pressure still had not improved, a radiologic assessment of his renal arteries showed the major arteries into his kidneys were more than 90 percent blocked. “They told me that it was unusual for a person to have both carotid and both renal arteries 90 percent occluded,” Widstrom says, “but vascular disease runs in

my family. I probably couldn’t have avoided it.”

He had a bilateral renal vascular surgery with Boskind in the fall of 2014. Since then, Widstrom has partnered with his physicians to take ownership of his health and of his life. “I’m asking questions, doing my research, and actually listening to my doctor and making the changes he directed,” says Widstrom.

“In every step of my medical journey — from the coast to Portland — Adventist Health has provided me with excellent and compassionate service,” Widstrom continues. “I have witnessed the Adventist Health mission in action, and I can honestly say that this is what sets Adventist Health apart from other health care organizations. I wasn’t really a believer when all of my health problems began; but I have come to the conclusion that there must be a power greater than me at work in my life, and it led me to Adventist Health.”

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

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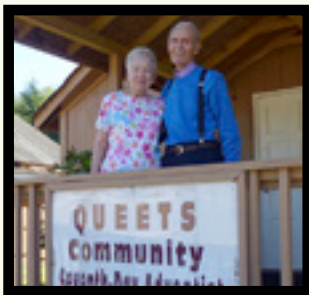
Take your heart health assessment at NWRegionalHeart.com

Bennett 70th

On Sept. 2, 2014, Jesse and Mary Bennett celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary by beginning another mission appointment.

Jesse Bennett and Mary Hay began their married lives in Yucaipa, Calif., on Sept. 2, 1944, with J.S. Rouse officiating.

The Bennetts were blessed with four children: Wayne, Joan, Stella and Bruce; 6 grandchildren; and 8 great-grandchildren. Besides being a mother and wife,



Mary and Jesse Bennett

Mary served as an ESL teacher and dental assistant. Jesse colporteur in California, Nevada, Hawaii, Arkansas and Louisiana. They heartily assisted in planting several churches.

After retiring in 1994, they accepted a two-year call to mission service at Hawaiian Elementary School on Oahu, Hawaii. Seven years later they returned to Hawaiian Elementary School for another year of service. Then in August 2014, they accepted a call to mission service to the Quinalt Indian Nation in Queets, Wash. They are making friends in this remote village and seeking to be the greatest blessing possible.

Their family motto is “Jesse says, ‘I’ll pray,’ and Mary says, ‘I’ll pack.’”

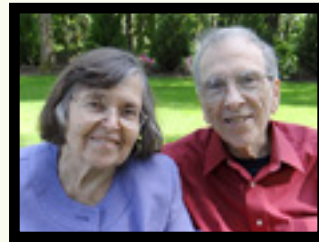
Comstock 60th

Darryl and Betty Comstock celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Sept. 5, 2014, with a small, family gathering in Stayton, Ore.

They remember how they met at Pacific Union College (PUC) in Angwin, Calif. Darryl was hungry and hurried to the cafeteria. There across the hot food deck was a vision of loveliness. He’d always loved potatoes, but now those mashed spuds held particular appeal. Betty smiled her prettiest as she gave him a heaping scoop of his favorite food. Their first date was a travelogue about Alaska; little did they know that 50 years later, they would take a real trip to that rugged and beautiful place on an anniversary cruise.

Darryl followed Betty to Loma Linda, Calif., where she transferred to continue her nurses training and he enrolled in La Sierra College. It didn’t take long before she decided to trade in her RN degree for what she has always called her “MRS degree.” They were married in the Lodi (Calif.) Central Church in front of a large gathering of friends and family on Sept. 5, 1954. The couple moved to PUC, where Darryl continued his education and Betty went to work.

Darryl’s first job out of college was as a public relations man for a small hospital in Sacramento, Calif. That short career was a launching pad to his lifelong career as teacher and principal in the Adventist school system where he was employed for 40 years. His first teaching job was at Bakersfield (Calif.) Academy. He later taught at Miramonte School in Mountain View, Calif., then on to his high



Betty and Darryl Comstock

school alma mater, Golden Gate Academy in Oakland, Calif., where he served as teacher and later as principal.

Betty supplemented the family income in the early years as a nurse’s aide and later as a babysitter. Twins Darryl and Sharyl were born in 1955, followed by Doug in 1957. Darryl and Betty felt that a Christian education was extremely important. In order to plan for their future and the education of their three children, Betty returned to college and graduated with a degree in early childhood education. Her teaching career began where Darryl was teaching, at Golden Gate Academy. Betty always said, “I can’t believe I’m paid to play.”

The family left behind their busy lives in the Bay Area and moved in 1972 to a small acreage in Salem, Ore., where the couple continued their careers at Livingston Junior Academy. Betty suffered a devastating cerebral brain hemorrhage in 1979 that ended her career but not her passion to serve her Lord. Instead of teaching elementary school children, she began to work in her second mission field, that of handing out thousands of Voice of Prophecy guides to everyone she meets.

Darryl and Betty moved to Albany, Ore., where Darryl served as principal and teacher at Central Valley Christian Academy in Tangent, Ore. Their final five years of dedicated service were spent on the beautiful island of Kauai, Hawaii. The couple returned to Oregon, where they live

in Stayton. They continue to serve their God and their church.

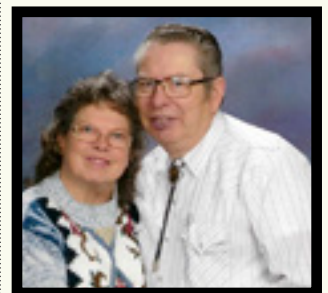
The Comstock children include Sharyl and Ken Ashley of Wilsonville, Ore.; Darryl and Elaine (Ledoux) Comstock II of Spokane, Wash.; and Doug and Shirley (Dale) Comstock of Salem, Ore.. Their grandchildren include Casey Luport of Loma Linda, Calif., and Calista Comstock-Foss and Caleb Foss of Spokane, Wash. They also have two great-grandchildren: Reef and Emery Foss of Spokane.

Duncan 50th

Lawrence Duncan and Melissa Jane Hart were married Aug. 15, 1964, in Vancouver, Wash. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 16, 2014, in Springfield, Ore., with a potluck.

The Duncans lived in Portland for five years before Lawrence transferred to a paint company in Eugene, Ore. They have lived in the Eugene, Springfield and Creswell, Ore., area for the last 45 years.

Their family includes Gene and Char Duncan of Walla Walla, Wash.; Lawren and Lisa Duncan of Sisters, Ore.; Angie and Jonathan Pervis of Creswell, Ore.; Holly and Dan Pinkney of Cornelius, Ore.; 8 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.



Melissa and Lawrence Duncan

CARTER — Ellie Taylor was born July 24, 2014, to Dustin J. and Heidi L. (Evans) Carter, Plains, Mont.

HIEBERT — Naomi Michelle was born May 14, 2014, to Andy and Janette (Maier) Hiebert, Boise, Idaho.

NUNN — Olivia Scarlett was born Aug. 21, 2014, to Trent and Leah (Corr) Nunn, Vancouver, Wash.

ROBISON — Wesley Gerald was born June 28, 2013, to Scott G. and Sarah (Dieter) Robison, Spokane, Wash.

SPANO — Gianna Constanza was born Nov. 23, 2014, to Jared B. and Constance A. (Campbell-Folch) Spano, Vancouver, Wash.

FAMILY WEDDINGS

BOOTH-BOYER

Marcha (Simpson) Booth and William Andrew Boyer were married Feb. 9, 2014, in Laguna Niguel, Calif. They are making their home in Corona, Calif.

GRUNDER-JOHNSON

Roberta Jean Wagner Grunder and Karl Alan Johnson were married Nov. 2, 2014, in Tillamook, Ore., where they are making their home.

HARTH-HAMILTON

Cassy (Reding) Harth and Daryl Hamilton were married Nov. 16, 2014, in Tillamook, Ore. They are making their home in Rockaway Beach, Ore. Cassy is the daughter of Michael and Mollie (Baker) Reding. Daryl is the son of Larry and Rita (McMullen) Hamilton.

BAKER — Wesley F., 99; born March 19, 1915, Roulette, Pa.; died Oct. 10, 2014, McMinnville, Ore. Surviving: sons, John, Salem, Ore.; Bruce, Dana Point, Calif.; daughter, Jeannine Best, Sheridan, Ore.; brother, Bruce G., Roulette; 3 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

BEHNEY — Ruth (Renninger-Sanborn) Cheney, 96; born Jan. 18, 1918, Walla Walla, Wash.; died Aug. 28, 2014, Hood River, Ore. Surviving: husband, Luther; son, Randel Cheney, Calexico, Calif.; daughters, Betty Johansen and Barbara Stacy, both of Victorville, Calif.; 5 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

BLOOD — Daisy W. (Payette), 95; born Nov. 15, 1919, Hackston, Colo.; died Oct. 15, 2014, Post Falls, Idaho. Surviving: son, Alden "Shorty," Priest River, Idaho; daughter, Kay Galland, Priest River; 4 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

BLOOD — Lewis A., 79; born July 27, 1935, Newport, Wash.; died Nov. 13, 2014, Twin Lakes, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Helen (Gleason), Priest River, Idaho; son, Mark L. Blood, Athol, Idaho; stepson, Rick Probasco, Post Falls, Idaho; daughters, Tawnya (Blood) Breakie, Twin Lakes; Teri (Blood) Yoshida, Athol; stepdaughters, Sandy (Probasco) Johnson, Sandpoint, Idaho; Cheri (Probasco) Childars, Naples, Idaho; brother, Clarence Blood, Priest River; sister, Letha (Blood) Gimble, Creston, British Columbia, Canada; 5 grandchildren, 5 step-grandchildren and 20 step-great-grandchildren.

CAVANAUGH — James "Jim" LeRoy, 75; born April 27, 1939, Portland, Ore.; died Aug. 5, 2014, Troutdale, Ore. Surviving: wife, Donna (Todhunter) Sheets, Portland; sons, Brian Cavanaugh,

Cloverdale, Ore.; Kerry Cavanaugh, Battle Ground, Wash.; stepsons, Kent Sheets, Gresham, Ore.; Jeffrey Sheets, San Diego, Calif.; daughter, Shelagh Cavanaugh, Oregon City, Ore.; stepdaughters, Jenny Severance, Scappoose, Ore.; Sharon (Sheets) Vieregg, Lake Oswego, Ore.; Kim (Sheets) Sargent, Aloha, Ore.; many grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

CHRISTIANSON — Stanley Arnold, 76; born Feb. 7, 1938, Creston, British Columbia, Canada; died July 16, 2014, Leavenworth, Wash. Surviving: wife, Doris (Weed); sons, Stanley Christianson II, Conway, Wash.; Russell Christianson, Everett, Wash.; daughter, Gail Toebe, Renton, Wash.; stepsons, Scott Praye, Port Orchard, Wash.; Brian Praye and Wes Praye, both of Leavenworth; stepdaughter, Cindy Praye, Bellevue, Wash.; sister, Janie Wilson, Albuquerque, N.M.; 3 grandchildren, 8 step-grandchildren, a great-grandchild and 3 step-great-grandchildren.

COEN — Gladys I. (Stevenson), 86; born Jan. 23, 1928, Seminole, Okla.; died May 16, 2014, Lakeview, Ore. Surviving: sons, John Warren, Lakeview; Kenneth Perry, Tracy, Calif.; daughters, Barbara McCoy, Escalon, Calif.; Lenora Ross, Lakeview; Rosie Thomas, Waterford, Calif.; 25 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

COLSON — Benjamin Emery, 86; born May 28, 1927, Orchard, Idaho; died July 6, 2013, Weiser, Idaho. Surviving: son, Russell; daughter, Susan (Colson) Iwasa; sister, June (Colson) Pullen; 3 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

COOK — Rosemary E. (Dixon), 83; born June 4, 1931, Castle Rock, Wash.; died Oct. 8, 2014, Gresham,

Ore. Surviving: stepsons, Russ, Portland, Ore.; Rod, San Mateo, Calif.; Reggie, Portland; brother, Jim Dixon, Newport, Wash.; sister, Bonnie Calkins, Clackamas, Ore.; 8 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

COONEY — Sharon Ivalee (Moses) Grable, 68; born July 19, 1946, Loma Linda, Calif.; died Oct. 11, 2014, Kennewick, Wash. Surviving: husband, Marvin, West Richland, Wash.; daughters, Lori (Grable) Hinger, Benton City, Wash.; Joanne (Grable) Pangelinan, Pasco, Wash.; Julie (Grable) Garner, Benton City; and 9 grandchildren.

CUNNINGHAM — Josephine (Whitehead), 82; born Aug. 13, 1931, in British Columbia, Canada; died Aug. 10, 2014, Albany, Ore. Surviving: son, Dustin Johnson, Albany; 7 grandchildren and 5 step-grandchildren.

DEPNER — David Robert, 64; born Aug. 11, 1950, Brewster, Wash.; died Sept. 4, 2014, Spokane, Wash. Surviving: parents, Reuben and Joyce Depner, Rice, Wash.; brother, Wayne, Colville, Wash.; sisters, Rae Rich, Chewelah, Wash.; and Mona Morley, Priest River, Idaho.

FRIETZE — Stella G. (Gil), 85; born Sept. 28, 1928, Las Cruces, N.M.; died April 29, 2014, Gig Harbor, Wash. Surviving: daughters, Gayle Solimine, Port Orchard, Wash.; Yvette Sons, Sunnyvale, Calif.; brother, Bobbie Gil, Richmond, Va.; sisters, Yolanda Wright and Amanda Daly, both of Albuquerque, N.M.; 3 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

GARRON — Donald M., 85; born Dec. 1, 1928, Hastings, Neb.; died June 29, 2014, Portland, Ore. Surviving: wife, Doris Seibert, Sweet Home, Ore.; son, Tim Garron, of New Jersey; daughter, Gwen (Garron) Gray, Lebanon,

Ore.; stepson, Tony Seibert, of Nevada; stepdaughters, Annette Seibert, of Texas; Brandy Seibert Olympius, Sweet Home; 12 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

GOODMAN — Charles Albert, 89; born Feb. 7, 1925, Salmon, Idaho; died Aug. 18, 2014, Salmon. Surviving: wife, Roberta (Scollick) Goodman; sons, John, North Fork, Idaho; Gary, Salmon; daughter, Lynn Goodman, Darby, Mont.; 7 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

HALDEMAN — Donald F., 89; born July 19, 1925, Portland, Ore.; died July 31, 2014, Port Orchard, Wash. Surviving: wife, Sue K.; sons, Fred, Seattle, Wash.; Frank, Enumclaw, Wash.; daughter, Vickie Stuart, Phoenix, Ariz.; stepdaughter, Vicky Munson, Port Orchard; 5 grandchildren and 2 step-grandchildren.

HALL — George Darrell, 78; born Oct. 3, 1935, Tonasket, Wash.; died Sept. 23, 2014, College Place, Wash. Surviving: wife, Tina C. (Watkins); son, Gordon D., Milton-Freewater, Ore.; daughters, Carolyn R. Garza and Linda D. Garza, both of Walla Walla, Wash.; 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

HEATHMAN — Gilbert Ray, 83; born Oct. 19, 1930, Chicago, Ill.; died June 24, 2014, Auburn, Calif. Surviving: son, Michael Ray Heathman; daughters, Kim Lynette Gazzigli; Michelle Rene Heathman; and 4 grandchildren.

HINSDALE — Dick Converse, 89; born July 28, 1925, New Castle, Wyo.; died Oct. 1, 2014, Battle Ground, Wash. Surviving: son, Richard, Woodland, Wash.; daughter, Pamela Comstock, Lyle, Wash.; 9 grandchildren, 4 step-grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and 2 step-great-

grandchildren.

IRWIN — Henry A., 83; born Nov. 23, 1930, Beaver, Okla.; died Sept. 17, 2014, Richland, Wash. Surviving: sons, Stacy, Waterflow, N.M.; Steve, Richland; daughters, Kristi Perham, Spanaway, Wash.; Jana Treadwell, Los Angeles, Calif.; 7 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and 7 step-great-grandchildren.

JENSEN — Larry L., 74; born March 4, 1940, Miles City, Mont.; died Oct. 6, 2014, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Eunice (Erickson); sons, Larry “Butch” and David, both of Auburn, Wash.; daughters, Terry Hebard, Niles, Mich.; Judy Schwab, White Hall, Mont.; 11 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

KEMMERER — Vicki Lynn, 58; born Sept. 30, 1955, Medford, Ore.; died Aug. 24, 2014, Eagle Point, Ore. Surviving: mother, Lola, Eagle Point; brothers, Mark, Eagle Point; Edwin, Dayton, Wash.; Kenton, Milton-Freewater, Ore.; Steven, Mt. Jackson, Va.; sisters, Barbara Heschke, Eagle Point; and Karen McMahon, LaPine, Ore.

KRUGER — Roberta J. (Gibson) Kline, 66; born June 30, 1948, Oregon City, Ore.; died Sept. 15, 2014, Manton, Calif. Surviving: husband, Buddy; son, Charles Timothy Kline, Post Falls, Idaho; brother, Gary Gibson, Chiloquin, Ore.; sisters, Elaine Green, Red Bluff, Calif.; Nancy Stewart, Manton; Linda Downs, Nome, Alaska; and a grandchild.

LENO — Donna Lucille (Hudson), 84; born Dec. 5, 1929, McMinnville, Ore.; died Oct. 12, 2014, Spokane, Wash. Surviving: sons, Michael, Beaumont, Calif.; Douglas, Meridian, Idaho; 6 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

LEWIS — Larry Melberne, 79; born Dec. 7, 1934, Olympia, Wash.; died Sept. 24, 2014, Vancouver, Wash. Surviving: sons, Kent, Redlands, Calif.; Brant, West Linn, Ore.; daughters, Lori Payne, Portland, Ore.; Sharon Hinman, Enumclaw, Wash.; and 5 grandchildren.

MIRACLE — John Ernest, 84; born Oct. 12, 1930, Wewoka, Okla.; died May 4, 2014, Moses Lake, Wash. Surviving: wife, Kathleen; son, Ray, Gresham, Ore.; daughters, Rene Penhallurick, Moses Lake; Yolande Colburn, Norwalk, Conn.; brother, Dan, Eagle Point, Ore.; and 8 grandchildren.

PAXTON — Joyce (Ensley), 80; born Dec. 5, 1932, Lebanon, Ore.; died July 12, 2013, Salem, Ore. Surviving: daughter, Sue Black Roberts; 2 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

PRYHOROCKI — Mavis Viola (Ericson), 93; born Oct. 26, 1920, Rowley, Alberta, Canada; died Sept. 17, 2014, Missoula, Mont. Surviving: son, Randy, Missoula; daughter, Roxanne Earl, Salem, Ore.; and 2 grandchildren.

ROGERS — Maxine Beth (Wright), 85; born Aug. 14, 1929, Fort Collins, Colo.; died Aug. 28, 2014, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: husband, Donley “Don,” College Place, Wash.; son, Gary, College Place; daughter, S. Lynette Bates, Loma Linda, Calif.; sister, Sharline (Wright) Wellman, Lacey, Wash.; a grandchild and 3 great-grandchildren.

SMITH — Jerry Don, 53; born Nov. 28, 1960, De Queen, Ark.; died March 15, 2014. Surviving: mother, Flora Pearl Smith; father, Don; and brother, Roger.

SULLIVAN — Don K., 83; born Oct. 10, 1930, Omaha, Neb.; died Aug. 19, 2014, Bremerton, Wash. Surviving:

wife, Dorothy, Port Orchard, Wash.; sons, David, Winston Salem, N.C.; Kim Alan, Crowley, Texas; Mark, Entiat, Wash.; daughter, Jolene DeVries, Arlington, Texas; 16 grandchildren and a step-great-grandchild.

SWEITZ — Milton Everett, 85; born Feb. 3, 1929, Wirch, N.D.; died May 27, 2014, Portland, Ore. Surviving: son, Richard M., Carlsbad, Calif.; daughters, Susan Weems, Happy Valley, Ore.; Cindy Coburn, Bismarck, N.D.; 2 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

SYPHERS — Charlotte Elizabeth (Schlehuber), 89; born July 31, 1925, Corvallis, Ore.; died Aug. 7, 2014, Sequim, Wash. Surviving: son, Keith, Lummi Island, Wash.; 6 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

UNTERSEHER — Elmer Vernon, 86; born April 17, 1928, Dupree, S.D.; died July 23, 2014, Hillsboro, Ore. Surviving: wife, Betty J. (Walters); son, Randall “Randy,” College Place, Wash.; daughter, Marla Danielson, Hillsboro; sister, Lillian Nielson, Lincoln, Neb.; and 2 grandchildren.

WESTERGARD — Richard Herman, 90; born Aug. 23, 1924, San Jose, Calif.; died Aug. 23, 2014, Medford, Ore. Surviving: wife, Juanita; daughters, Kathy Finley, Central Point, Ore.; Judy Harvey, Medford; brother, Wes, Talent, Ore.; 3 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Go to GleanerNow.com contribute to submit family announcements.

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

NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

Offering

- Feb. 7** — Local Church Budget;
- Feb. 14** — Adventist Television Ministries;
- Feb. 21** — Local Church Budget;
- Feb. 28** — Local Conference Advance.

More events listed at GleanerNow.com/events.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

- Feb. 13–16** — Portland Mission Trip;
- Feb. 26** — Egg Drop Contest at noon;
- April 23–26** — Walla Walla University Alumni Homecoming Weekend; for a schedule of events and for ticket and lodging information, visit wallawalla.edu/homecoming.

OREGON

Annual Big Lake Single Snow Weekend

April 3–5 — Come and enjoy a winter weekend at Big Lake Youth Camp. Bring snowmobiles, skis, snowshoes, sleds, snowboards and clothes for playing in the snow. Don't forget to bring your Bible, sleeping bag, pillow and personal items. Place all items in an easily identifiable, snowproof bag. Snowmobile rides available for all. Cost is \$75 per person until March 15th, and then the price increases by \$10. Your fee includes a 5:30 p.m. snow cat ride in from Ray Benson Snow Park (Oregon Sno-Park permits required for the weekend), five meals and two nights' lodging. Your check is your reservation. Make checks payable to Jerry Walter, marked for Big Lake. Mail to Big Lake Weekend, c/o Jerry Walter, 92395 Territorial Hwy., Junction City, OR 97448. For more information, call Jerry at 503-789-8911 or 541-998-3593, or call Gary at 503-936-7211.

Vancouver SEEDS

April 10–11 — Church Planting and Innovative Evangelism Conference at the Seventh-day Adventist Church of Vancouver, 9711 NE St. John's Rd., Vancouver, WA 98665. Featuring speakers Skip Bell, Tom Evans, Bledi Leno and Tara VinCross with musical guest Josh Jamieson. This conference is sponsored by the Oregon Conference and the North American Division Evangelism Institute.

Attention All Laurelwood Alumni and Staff

The Laurelwood Church is inviting you to consider using the facilities of the church and LACE Center for your class reunions and alumni activities. For more information concerning the facilities' availability and scheduling, contact Caroline Salsbery at 503-989-0030.

WASHINGTON

Enumclaw Church Homecoming Celebration

March 28 — You are invited to a homecoming celebration and the 35th anniversary celebration of our church dedication. We will have a program Friday evening and Sabbath, with an all-church potluck following the service. Please share the information with all current and former members. We will have former pastors speaking during this weekend and invite all former and current members to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Dennis Meidinger at DennisMeidinger@yahoo.com. Enumclaw Church, 3333 Griffin Ave., Enumclaw, Wash.

Missing Members

The Volunteer Park Church is looking for information from the following missing members: John M. Bassham, Tonya Black, Chandler Blanks, Emily Brown, Evelyn A. Buttz, Mayra Castillo, Allen Clemens, Daniel D. Colcol Jr., Svetlana Coomes, Roberta R. Cope, Marina D. Corpus, Reymundo D. Cruz, Frederico A. DeVera, Maria Drogaytseva, Tuan M. Duong, Michael Falcon, Ricardo Garcia, Tiffany Gatz, Jasmine Heagy, Jefry Hetharia, Kitty Hetharia, Willy Hetharia, Sharon Hoover, Chrissy Kim, Danielle Kim, Nam Kim, Esther Lay, Ivan L. Loban, Antonio W. Martell, Frances H. Martin, Lee A. McCreight, Barry C. McDonald, Rebecca D. Meacham, Mekonen Mekonene, Maria L. Morales, Heather L. Nansel, Larry D. Nansel, Judith L. Newton, Timothy D. O'Neel, Cindy Quiring, Roger Quiring, Damaris Ramirez, Ishmael Ramirez, Oleg R. Rezyukin, David A. Splett, Hope Splett, Sharon R. Stewart, James S. Szewick Sr., Gabriel Theron, Mami Theron, Wendy D. Thompson, Harry T. Tweed, Michael L. Weird, Robert Wheeler and Jeff Wood. If you have any information, please contact Judie Tyrrell at 206-938-7505.

WORLD CHURCH

Union College Homecoming

April 2–5 — Honor classes are 1945, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2005. Special tribute to business and computer faculty and graduates as well as a Gymnares reunion. For more information, contact the alumni office at 3800 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506; call 402-486-2503; or email alumni@ucollege.edu.



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

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NEW AUTOS COST LESS!!! All makes FLEET PRICES. Out-of-stock or factory orders. Low-interest financing % and factory rebate programs. Leasing = lower payments and taxes. Quality used vehicles available. TRADE-INS WELCOME. Quotations by phone or fax. Test drive and demo before you buy. Nationwide warranty on new autos. Delivery at your home, office, credit union or our facility. We ship nationwide, Alaska and Hawaii. Save thousands! Call or fax your specific vehicle desires: make, model, options, etc. Contact WESTERN AUTO WHOLESALE & LEASING: Portland, OR, 503-760-8122; Vancouver, WA, 360-263-6521; nationwide 800-284-6612; fax 800-300-0484; email waw@aol.com.

CLASSES

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OFFERS MASTER'S DEGREES in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, nursing, religion and social work.

Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit southern.edu/graduatestudies.

EMPLOYMENT

THE KINESIOLOGY DEPARTMENT at Southwestern Adventist University seeks full-time physical education professor to begin July 1, 2015. Master's degree required; doctoral degree preferred. Submit curriculum vitae and cover letter to Human Resources office. Must have some teaching experience. Contact Mr. Vesa Naukkarinen at 817-202-6684 or vnaukkar@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY education and psychology department seeks full-time qualified psychology professor beginning July 1, 2015. Doctorate degree is required. Please submit CV and cover letter to Dr. Marcel Sargeant at sargeant@swau.edu. Position is open until filled.

HEALTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR

Adventist Whole Health Network (AWHN), a ministry of the Pennsylvania Conference, is accepting applications for Executive Director. AWHN is open to new and innovative ideas for developing the vision for developing medical missionary work. The incumbent will possess a clear understanding of the Adventist message and medical methodology. Qualifications: master's (MSN, MSW, CRNP, MHA, etc) with healthcare managerial experience, multidisciplinary team approach, strong financial experience, recruitment and management of volunteers preferred. Email apply@awhn.org.

SERVE GOD AS A WEB DEVELOPER

from home! K3 Integrations creates interactive websites for Adventist ministries. We are seeking programmers who want to make a difference in the world. We focus on Ruby on Rails but we are willing to train the right candidate. More information at <http://bit.ly/K3-i>.

THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

seeks applicants for a full-time, tenure-track faculty appointment in physics at a rank of instructor or assistant professor commensurate with qualifications. For more information and to apply, visit andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_7.

LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY currently has positions in biochemistry, physics, biology, mathematics and criminal justice. See posting: glnr.in/ad-lasierrajobs.

THE COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

at Southwestern Adventist University seeks full-time professor in advertising/public relations or radio/TV to begin July 1, 2015. Master's degree required; doctoral degree desired. Must have teaching experience. Send cover letter and CV to Michael Agee at magee@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

seeks a full-time nurse educator to serve as nursing department chair beginning Fall

2015. Doctoral degree and three years of university/college teaching experience required. Must have an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send cover letter and current CV to Dr. Amy Rosenthal at arosenthal@swau.edu.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a faculty member to teach full-time in department of communication. Qualified person should have a Ph.D./doctorate in communication, journalism, public relations, or related subfield with significant teaching experience. For more information and to apply, visit andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_2.

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Contact Steve Vistaunet, NPUC assistant to the president for communication, for a more specific job description or additional information, at steve.vistaunet@nw.npuc.org, 360-857-7045.

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February	6	13	20	27
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Anchorage	5:21	5:41	6:00	6:19
Fairbanks	4:47	5:11	5:34	5:57
Juneau	4:29	4:46	5:03	5:19
Ketchikan	4:31	4:46	5:01	5:15
IDAHO CONFERENCE				
Boise	6:01	6:11	6:20	6:30
La Grande	5:05	5:15	5:25	5:35
Pocatello	5:48	5:57	6:06	6:15
MONTANA CONFERENCE				
Billings	5:26	5:36	5:46	5:56
Havre	5:24	5:35	5:46	5:58
Helena	5:38	5:48	5:59	6:09
Miles City	5:14	5:24	5:35	5:45
Missoula	5:45	5:56	6:06	6:17
OREGON CONFERENCE				
Coos Bay	5:34	5:43	5:53	6:02
Medford	5:31	5:40	5:49	5:57
Portland	5:23	5:33	5:43	5:53
UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE				
Pendleton	5:07	5:17	5:28	5:38
Spokane	4:57	5:08	5:19	5:30
Walla Walla	5:04	5:15	5:25	5:35
Wenatchee	5:09	5:20	5:31	5:42
Yakima	5:12	5:22	5:33	5:43
WASHINGTON CONFERENCE				
Bellingham	5:14	5:26	5:37	5:48
Seattle	5:17	5:28	5:39	5:49

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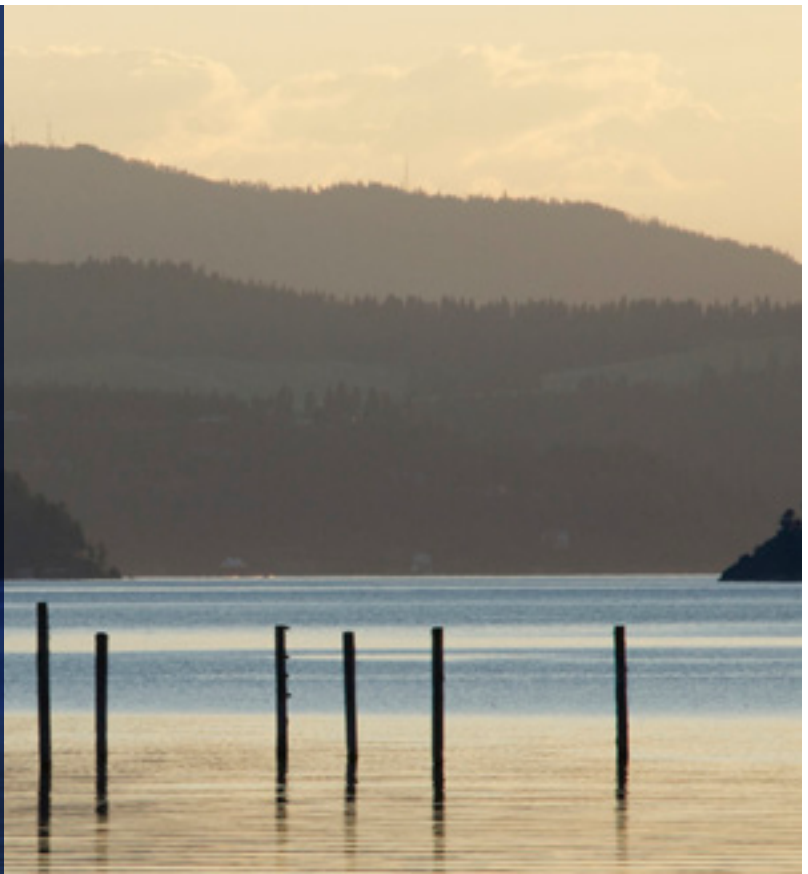
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GO THEREFORE AND MINGLE

M

ost able-bodied 4-year-olds demand assistance opening doors that are too heavy, picking up the host of toys they dumped all over the house and purchasing more of said toys for further dumping in aforementioned house. However, my 4-year-old will stand at the top of the stairs and cry for aid in order to be able to walk down the stairs.

As I said, she is “able-bodied,” meaning there are no psychological or physical barriers preventing her from walking down the stairs. She’s done it for years. However, for whatever reason, we are in a season of stairway intimidation, and unless she finds someone to make the journey

with her she will, technically speaking, “freak out.”

This is a heavy burden to bear when, as a parent, I have sat and/or lain down upon the sofa with a cool drink and something to snack on, have begun to make supper or have started any number of other activities that don’t want to be interrupted by walking up a flight of stairs ... only to

walk right back down.

Sometimes evangelism feels like this. Our approach is often asking people to “come up” to where we are in order to walk with us. We hold meetings and events with charts, or we make pointed political/spiritual posts on Facebook, with the expectation that people will drop whatever is going on in their lives, suddenly become interested in what we are interested in, and effortlessly embrace our lifestyle.

Except the great commission tells us to “go,” not “tell people to come to you” (Matt. 28:19). And even when Jesus told people to “come and follow,” He first spent time with them in THEIR context. Ellen White’s classic statement continues to have an elusive element for many Christians: “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’”¹

It’s that “mingling”

part we struggle with. We don’t mingle — we call, exhort, teach, rebuke, mail, PowerPoint, and maybe greet and potluck if we are especially feeling social — but mingle? Save that garbage for churches that have the nerve to serve coffee between services.

On a recent trip for a speaking engagement in South Africa, I had the opportunity to see how “mingling” makes way for deeper ministry. Between speaking appointments, I was able to participate in some outreach with the conference attendees. One of the activities involved visiting an “informal settlement” — essentially a shanty town populated by the poor.

Our van arrived without Bibles, prophecy charts, sermons or literature — but we did have footballs, soc-



AUTHOR

Seth Pierce



Even when Jesus told people to “come and follow,” He first spent time with them in THEIR context.

cer balls and candy. Upon alighting from the van, we watched shoeless children materialize out of the shacks and fields with grins and palpable excitement.

Let the games begin.

For more than an hour we played ball and gave away candy — which may not seem very spiritual in light of our usual calls to “come follow Me.” However, as I played catch with a boy who only spoke Zulu, we shared an incredible moment. His laugh and smile let me know that, despite language barriers, and a game that wouldn’t reverse his economic situation, he felt loved. People had taken the

time to enter his world full of mud, wandering goats, bare feet and poverty in order to play.

Interestingly enough, the act of playing with children opened the doors for some in our group to share a few thoughts from Scripture with adults — and even pray with a local witch doctor. Jesus entered our grubby little planet in order to reveal eternity to us — He didn’t tell us to walk up a stairway to heaven.

I believe He did it because He loves us — and genuinely likes to spend time with sinners. Which brings up another issue: Sometimes our evangelism is laced with a selfishness rooted in numbers, tithed dollars and creating people in our own image so they fit within

a religious subculture. While Jesus spoke to great crowds, He also took time to understand individual needs in order to restore them — some received healing with a touch, others were told to stretch, and some were spit on.

Jesus doesn’t seem to do as much mass evangelism as He does mingling — and I tend to think it’s His ability to mingle and meet needs that created the stories that attracted the crowds. What if we took a genuine interest in the individuals, their worlds, their interests and their needs? What if we focused on creating individual stories and, as a result, crowds began to gather on their own without the benefit of mass mailings? What if we played with people more? What if the key to our witness was less formal and more organic?

Even though it’s inconvenient, I, as the mature (most of the time) parent, understand that my job is to enter my daughter’s bathmophobic world and walk with her. As followers of Christ, let’s practice more incarnation than exhortation, enter the world of others and walk with them until their fears are replaced by faith.

1. Ellen White, *Gospel Workers*, p. 363.

Seth Pierce, Puyallup Church lead pastor

A MEMO TO PROTESTERS

“W

hat do we want? Dead cops!”

The wish of that angry mob came true in New York City when two peace officers on a crime watch were killed while quietly eating lunch. Their murderer had boasted he would “put wings on pigs.”

Similar hateful rhetoric echoes in cities across America. This urban turmoil goes deeper than interracial conflict. I think it’s fundamentally a question of whether violent demonstrations (under the guise of peaceful protests) are the best way to resolve racial injustice and violence. Media reporters and politicians pour gasoline on the flames when they pander to anarchists who are allergic to authority — particularly despising and denigrating police officers.

Of course there are bad cops, as in any other profession. But they are far outnumbered by those committed to the wellbeing of the communities they protect and serve — and that includes people of every color. I say this with years of experience as a volunteer chaplain for law enforcement agencies from the local to federal level. I’ve witnessed firsthand how our police fulfill their divine mandate to maintain civil peace and justice as ministers of God (see Rom. 13:1–4).

Even good police officers

make mistakes, like everyone else. That doesn’t make them bad or evil. Or pigs. Since they deal with life and death, the consequences of a mistake can be fatal. Eric Garner died on a New York sidewalk gasping, “I can’t breathe!” Many law enforcement professionals agree he didn’t need to die, even though he was resisting arrest. And yet a grand jury did not discern enough evidence of wrongdoing to indict the officers involved.

Understandably, protests erupted in the streets of New York City. Unacceptably, demonstrations turned violent and clamored for “dead cops.” Predictably, police were slaughtered in the line of duty — officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu, while fulfilling their divinely appointed ministry. Just hours after Ramos was killed, he had been scheduled to be ordained in his church as a community crisis chaplain. But the anarchists who had clamored for “dead cops” were not even willing to wait until after the funerals before resuming their hateful and profane demonstrations.

Regarding Ferguson, many analysts conclude the tragic death of Michael Brown was justified. Forensic evidence supports Officer Darren Wilson’s account that he shot Brown to save his own life. Yet protesters demanded the policeman’s indictment — and death — even before hearing

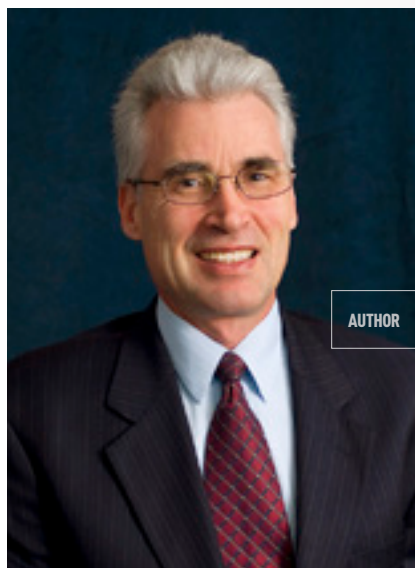
his side of the story. Perhaps not in the last half century has there been such a blind rush to judgment.

Media pundits scolded Ferguson leaders for not having hired enough black policemen — ignoring the fact that their few black officers became special targets of protesters, who threatened and taunted them as traitors to their race.



Today I talked with a black sheriff’s deputy. He obviously agrees that “Black Lives Matter,” as the protesters appropriately remind us. But he knows his white colleagues don’t do most of the killing of black young men. Is it not hypocrisy when protesters, commentators and politicians claim they care about black lives while refusing to acknowledge how they are being sacrificed — and why?

Is the critical shortage of father figures a factor? Does violent rap music also have a role? Such questions are politically incorrect for those who want to blame everything on racism and poverty while refusing to acknowledge the importance of a God-ordained



AUTHOR

Martin Weber

a volunteer chaplain for law



Where politicians and anarchists failed, God will someday succeed through His people.

family for a peaceful and productive society. I am thankful that Seventh-day Adventists of all backgrounds support marriage and the family.

Before moving to the Northwest in 2013, my last appointment in the Mid-America Union involved attending a weekend event at a large Adventist black church just half a mile from the Ferguson tragedy. A group of interracial Adventist pastors were collaborating for an integrated ministry in metro St. Louis. They not only planned together — they prayed and fellowshiped together.

Following the Ferguson shooting, one elderly lady from that church lamented the violence flooding her neighborhood. How things had changed from the early days of the civil rights movement!

Back then, protestors prayed before they marched. Their message to the world was the poignant civil rights hymn, “We Shall Overcome Someday.” The only curse words during their protests came from racists who opposed them. Their leader, Martin Luther King Jr., had a powerful, unabashedly biblical vision for America. During the historic 1963 March on Washington, King gave what

may be the most memorable speech in American history, “I Have a Dream.” View it again on YouTube.

This February once again is Black History Month. King’s dream, yet unfulfilled, is our mandate as a church today. Where politicians and anarchists failed, God will someday succeed through His people. Will you be among those overcomers?

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





LET'S TALK

MYSTERY

“When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them?” Psalm 8:3,4 NIV

A

s I write this, the recent holidays have added a certain heft to my frame. Festive delights down the hatch have pushed best intentions down the drain. Expectant women revel in the glory of being “great with child.” I am “great with girth.” And, believe me, there is no glory in it.

To be humbled by the immensity of divine mystery is to be one with the Psalmist.

Yet even though my personal space is temporarily expanded, it’s a pretty small universe. When the narrative is all about me, it amounts to a very short story. In this age of “selfie” narcissism, it’s good to have the windows of our minds blown out occasionally. To get jogged from our own rutted bias is a wonderful thing. And, to be humbled by the immensity of divine mystery is to be one with the Psalmist.

A first-time visitor to parts of the Northwest this time of year might be forgiven for doubting the existence of the sun or assuming air is 80 percent water. But these perceptions would be just as limited as if

someone dipped a casual cup into the Puget Sound, brought it to eye level and with a critical shrug said, “See, there are no fish in the sea.” Our personal prognostications based on such limited vision are dwarfed by the boundless reality at work through the hand of our Creator.

I remember the first awakenings of wonder as a teenager, gazing through a small telescope at worlds beyond my everyday field of vision. To grasp that the bright point of light in the evening sky was actually the crescent sliver of Venus, that the dim middle gleam in Orion’s belt was something much more, that the fuzzy glow in Andromeda was yet another galaxy beyond our own, was an admission to the humility of wonder.

A recent survey of millions of stars suggests that there’s at least one planet for every star in the sky — and probably more. According to some observations, the vast majority of stars in the Milky Way host planets — some of which are in orbits potentially capable of supporting life.¹

Bible-believing Christians have reasons to be skeptical about some scientific conclusions. But this would not be the first time that such observations have found polarity with Scripture or the

writings of Ellen White, who at times refers to inhabitants of other worlds.²

And, yet, the brightest human minds probing the universe now believe that all the stars, planets and galaxies in the sky make up only five percent of the universe. The rest is not empty. It is filled with what scientists call “dark matter” and “dark energy,” the invisible scaffolding of space.³

Indeed we all see such things “as through a glass darkly.” I’m okay with not having every detail of the universe figured out because I know Who does. The more my mind gets “blown” by the immensity of creation, the greater my inclination is to “bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, ‘My God, how great Thou art.’”⁴

1. <http://www.space.com/24894-exoplanets-habitable-zone-red-dwarfs.html>.

2. Ellen G. White, *Early Writings*, p. 39

3. *National Geographic*, January 2015, “The First Glimpse of the Hidden Cosmos,” p. 112.

4. Stuart K. Hine, “How Great Thou Art.”

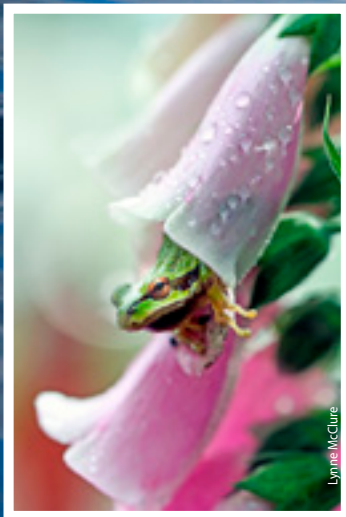
Steve Vistaunet, Gleaner editor

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



AUTHOR

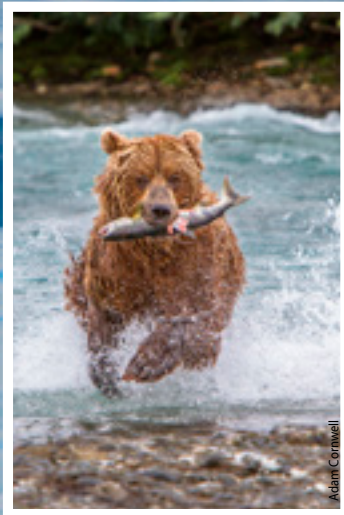
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Lynne McClure

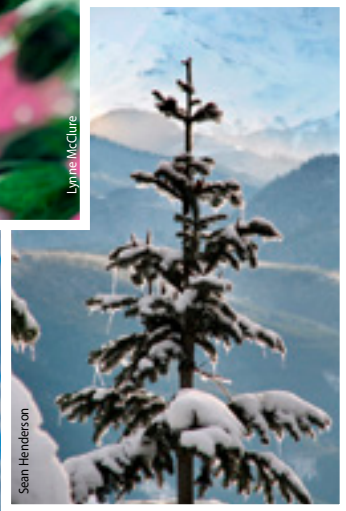


Scott Knight

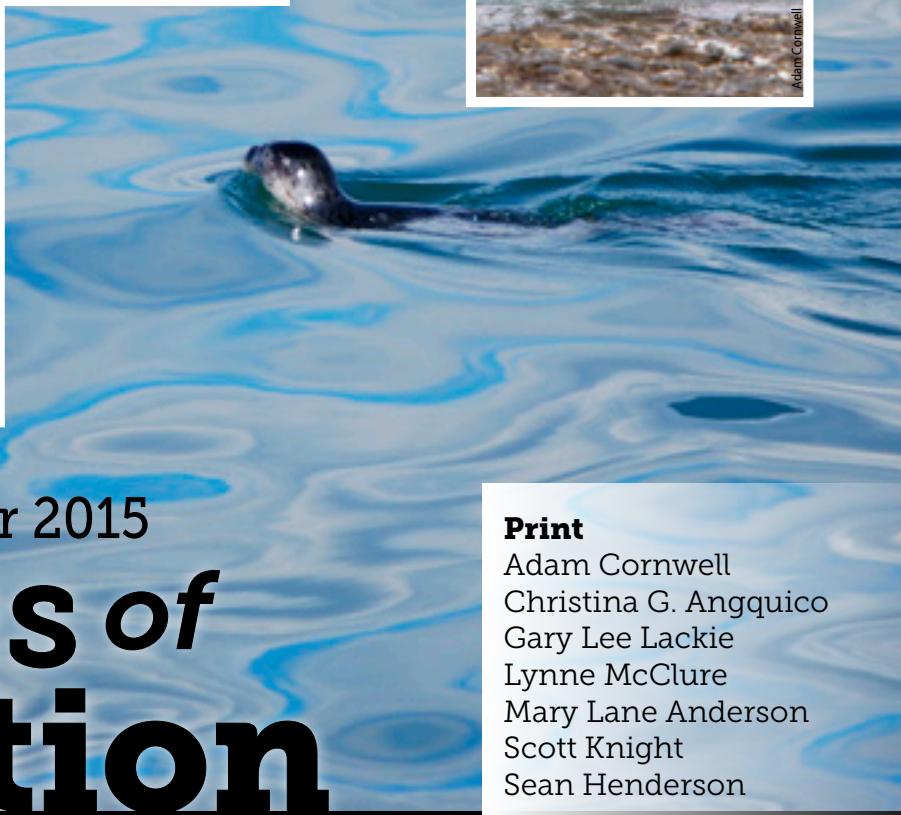


Adam Cornwell

Cherelyn Y. Strickland



Sean Henderson



Congratulations to our 2015

Images of Creation

Photo Contest Winners

Print

- Adam Cornwell
- Christina G. Angquico
- Gary Lee Lackie
- Lynne McClure
- Mary Lane Anderson
- Scott Knight
- Sean Henderson

Online

- Adam Cornwell
- Cherelyn Y. Strickland
- Christina G. Angquico
- Cindy A. Kassab
- Curtis R. Lund
- Gene Heinrich
- James Bokovoy
- Jeff A. Whiteouse
- Jeffrey Seldomridge
- John L. Corban
- Larry Sample
- Lynne McClure
- Mary Lane Anderson
- Renae E. Smith
- Ron Kuest
- Scott Swetnam
- Ulrich Tutsch

View the Images of Creation photo gallery at gleanernow.com/creation2015

From more than 1,200 entries, the following individuals submitted photographs selected to be featured in the print *Gleaner* or at GleanerNow.com.

Enjoy the beauty of the Northwest as portrayed by the hand of our Creator and captured by some of our very own photography buffs. Throughout this year, take some of your own photographs and prepare to enter the 2016 Images of Creation contest, to be formally announced in October.

According to contest guidelines, an award of \$200 corresponds with each photo selected for page two of the print issue. There is no monetary award for those selected as photo of the week for the website, but each can be viewed in a special online gallery at GleanerNow.com. Those who wish to acquire a high-resolution version of any of the featured photos may contact the *Gleaner*. We will forward such requests to the photographers for a direct response.

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Ridgefield, WA 98642

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PERIODICALS

Young Adult Day of

Worship

Sabbath *February 7, 2015*

Event is
FREE

*Sunnyside Adventist Church - Featuring: **Seth Pierce***

10501 SE Market St. Portland, OR 97216

Spaghetti lunch and pizza supper provided

Contact Info.

Office Phone: (503) 850-3585

www.ocyoungeadults.com

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