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LETTERS

PERSPECTIVE
HIGHLIGHTING HERESY

LET'S TALK
TRIBES

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NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

CUBA
Opens a Gospel Window

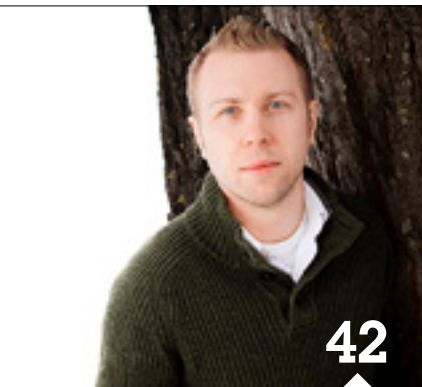
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The
Faces of
Cuba
page **5**

APRIL
2015
VOL. 110, N° 4



You will be secure, because
there is hope; you will look about
you and take your rest in safety.

Job 11:18



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 of Vancouver.*



INTERSECTIONS

LETTERS

Apology Needed

Your March 2015 *Gleaner* issue features several advertisements for *GleanerWeekly* that I found to be both insensitive and offensive. The ads attempt to use Maddy Baird's recent passing as an implicit rationale for using your news service. How might her family and (many) friends receive such marketing materials? The loss of Maddy has been incredibly painful here in Walla Walla. In fact, it is still a very raw wound today only a couple weeks after her memorial service. I trust this was an unfortunate oversight by editorial staff.

Kris Loewen, College Place, Wash.

GLEANER RESPONDS:

We blew it. These ads are typically updated with the most current news story available just before press time. In this case, the unfortunate timing unintentionally combined Maddy's image with promotional language that appeared as a callous, insensitive attempt to capitalize on tragedy. We were privileged to help rally prayer support and keep Northwest members informed immediately following Maddy's tragic accident. We are sorry that subsequent *Gleaner* content caused hurt instead of healing. We offer our heartfelt apology to Maddy's family and all who knew and loved her.



Don't Stop!

In response to one or two recent letter writers who disagreed with the content in your Perspective columns, I want to say, "We love Seth Pierce, Martin Weber and Steve Vistaunet's editorials. Do not stop letting them express their thoughts please!" I usually read all three before reading anything else. Just keep being who you are, and know there are many people who love these editorials.

Ruth Harms, Pasco, Wash.

Don't Forget the Wife

In ["Montana Welcomes New Employees," February 2015 *Gleaner*] only two of the three new employees were pictured with their wives. The wife of Victor Infante, Hispanic Bible worker, was not even mentioned. He is married to a wonderful lady named Carmen. She is very well known and loved by the Hispanic community in the Washington Conference as a leader in the women's, prayer and evangelism ministries.

Fanny Ulsch, Kenmore, Wash.

Jesus With Skin On

I so appreciated Seth Pierce's article on mingling ["Go Therefore and Mingle," February 2015]. We find it so easy to put up our billboards, send our flyers and even believe we are the true church, but forget to meet people face to face, side by side. Are we afraid something might rub off on us if we rub shoulders with those outside the church — caring for their needs and serving our communities, either as individuals or by joining a worthy cause? Just like Seth's daughter cried from the top of the stairs, people are crying from all walks of life and hardship. Let's be Jesus with skin on and serve as He served.

Patty Knittel, Walla Walla, Wash.

Agreement With the Memo

Thank you for publishing the article "A Memo to Protesters" by Martin Weber [February 2015 *Gleaner*].

There are many Adventists that have been called to be police officers by God, and it can be hard to listen to the harsh media at times. As each day goes by, there seems to be less and less God in the lives and homes of Americans. I pray that God will bless and guide those who work to protect the weak and labor for justice while on this earth.

Matthew Dovich, Puyallup, Wash.

Another Look at the Memo

I read with interest the article in the recent *Gleaner* by Mr. Martin Weber concerning the New York and Ferguson incidents involving the killing of two young black men. ... I certainly do not condone the violent killing of two New York police officers as retribution for the killing of Eric Garner. But, in this case, I submit that this death did not have to occur. The concept of "shoot (in this case, suffocate) now, ask questions later" seems unacceptable to me. Garner was said to be "resisting arrest," but how does one distinguish between fighting to breathe and resisting arrest? The grand jury did not indict the officers involved, but that was a legal determination,

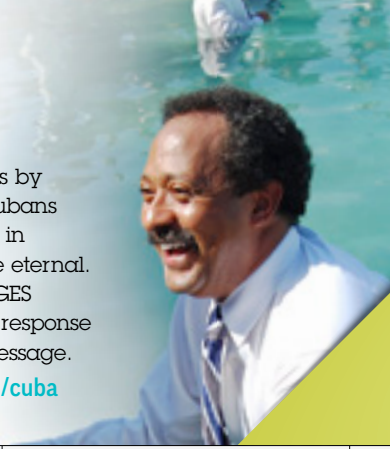


The Faces of Cuba

Limited for years by communism, Cubans want to believe in something more eternal. See MORE IMAGES ONLINE of their response to the gospel message.

gleanernow.com/cuba

gn+



not a moral or ethical determination. There was no determination of whether the officers acted appropriately. When it is evident that individuals are physically or mentally challenged, are there alternatives to shouting commands at them and killing them if they can't/don't follow the commands? Unfortunately, killings of such individuals have also occurred in other parts of the country when they have not responded to police commands. How are we, as a society, going to deal with these challenges from a

public health perspective? Shall we just hang our hats on Romans 13:1-4 and because the police are "divinely appointed" fail to hold them accountable for their actions or fail to recognize and train them in better ways to deal with these challenging situations? In the days of the civil rights, certainly, there were people who prayed, including Dr. King. But, there was also killing (including Dr. King), rioting and similar activities in areas where there were disputes over segrega-

tion. What are the actions that Mr. Weber thinks we need to take to be among the "overcomers" in these situations?

Kenneth James, Camas, Wash.

Good Job, Photographers!

I love the photos that you selected as winners this year, even if they do make me jealous of the photographer who took several of them. I want to be able to photograph the cougar in the wild! I have many photos from many of

these places and was thrilled to see the familiar, favorite spots as well as some more common, but stunning scenics, such as the canola fields. God's creative power shows His love to us in spectacular spreads of grandeur and the tiniest hidden gems. "Good job" to each photographer and to the *Gleaner* team that had the difficult job of selecting a specified number of photos.

Jeanie Hooper Reed, Albany, Ore.

Send your letters to talk@gleanernow.com.



THOUSANDS ALREADY KNOW.

WHY NOT YOU? +



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

gleanernow



Teen leaders are in training.

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A festival of music.

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Ministers on motorcycles.

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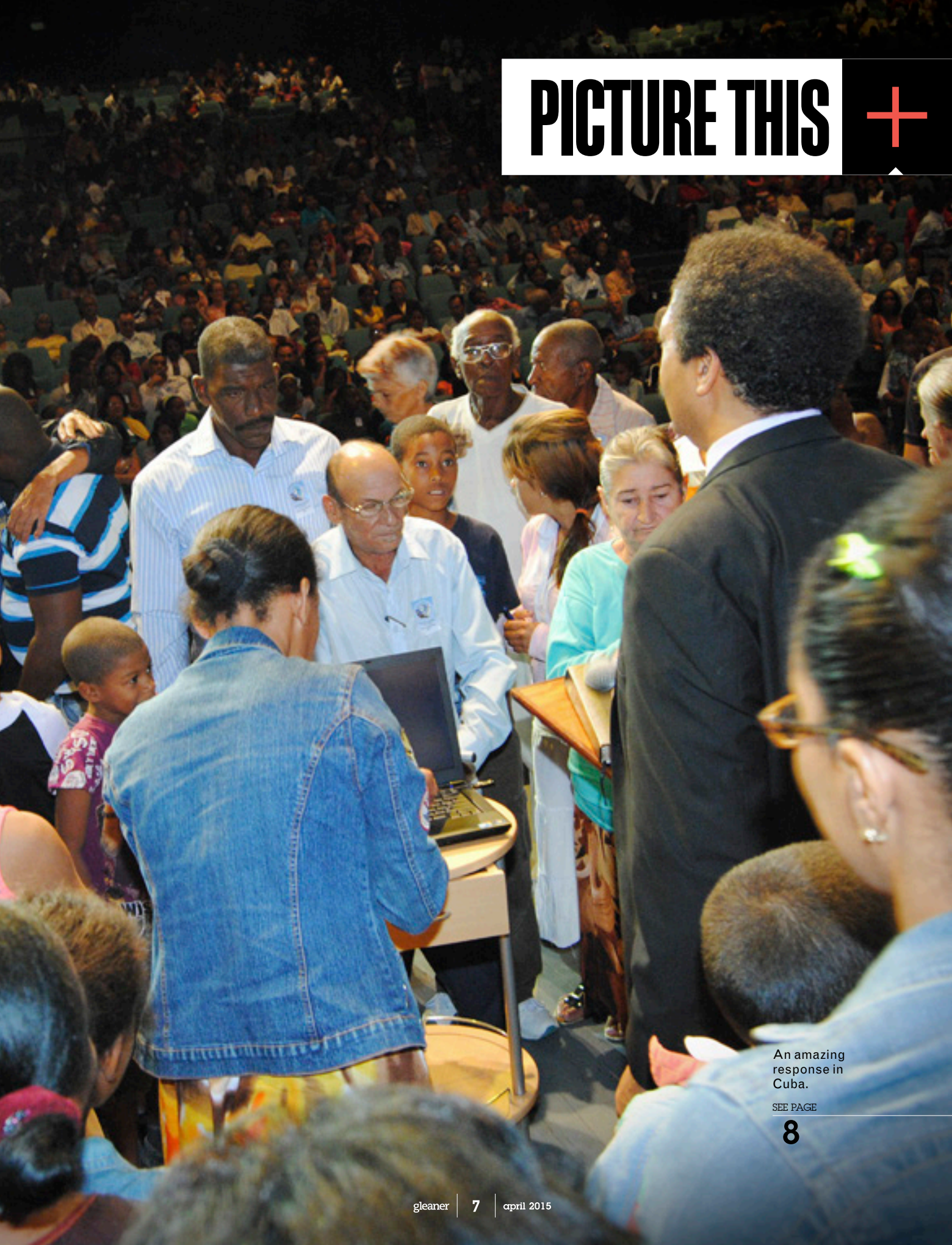


Is Walla Walla University going to the dogs?

SEE PAGE

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PICTURE THIS



An amazing
response in
Cuba.

SEE PAGE

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CUBA★

Opens a Gospel Window



UBA MAY NOT REGULARLY BE ON THE PERSONAL RADAR OF MOST NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS, BUT WHEN A UNIQUE WINDOW FOR GOSPEL MINISTRY OPENED THERE RECENTLY, ONE OF OUR LEADERS, REPRESENTING THE NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE'S COMMITMENT TO GLOBAL MISSION, WAS THERE READY FOR ACTION.





1

One week before the United States and Cuba announced intentions to restore diplomatic ties in December 2014, Ramon Canals, North Pacific Union Conference vice president for Hispanic ministries, stepped onto the stage of a Cuban auditorium. He faced a sea of faces in seats often occupied by communist government leaders. But this was no political moment. Canals recognized this as an amazing opportunity for the gospel in one of the unlikely places.

Local Adventists from the country's second largest city,

Santiago de Cuba, had become familiar with Canals 15 years before when he presented meetings in the two existing churches. When the East Cuban Mission determined to join the world church's mission to big cities with a major event in Santiago de Cuba, local leaders requested that Canals be the featured speaker. CPL (Changing People's Lives) Ministries based in Loma Linda, California, agreed to help with funding to attract public awareness.

The Heredia Theater in Santiago de Cuba seemed like the ideal spot — well-known and with capacity for up to 3,000 people. Obtaining permission from communist government leaders, though, proved to be lengthy and less than certain. Rules typically prohibit any overt proselytizing through public meetings.

The government office initially agreed to only one night, whereas local church leaders lobbied for a weeklong series. Negotiations began more than a year in advance, but less than three weeks from the announced start of the meetings no contract had been signed.

CPL, the project sponsor, wondered if the event should be canceled. Even at home in the Northwest, roadblocks appeared. Canals and his wife were in a serious accident. It would have been easy to pull the plug — to say, "God must be closing the door." But instead Canals convinced project leaders to persevere. "There were more than 1,000 people taking Bible studies and 300 or so Bible workers giving 50 to 100 studies per month," he recalls. "I could see a lot of signs that God was leading and

that we should move forward in faith."

The event was scheduled for the week of December 7–13, 2014. Canals arrived in the city on December 5. He was shocked to discover that, still, no agreement had been finalized and signed. Last-minute, urgent negotiations finally secured an agreement to use the auditorium mere hours before doors were to open. An additional two meetings were arranged to be held in local churches, filling out the weeklong series.

Cuba is making progress towards religious freedom as we understand it in this country. There is tolerance to a point, as long as certain parameters are in place. In conjunction with CPL and the local church leaders, Canals had designed his presentations around a theme that passed



PEOPLE OF ALL AGES CAME FROM MILES AROUND FOR THE MEETINGS AND THE FOLLOWING BAPTISMS. THEY WERE HUNGRY FOR THE GOSPEL.

1 SANTIAGO DE CUBA IS THE SECOND LARGEST CITY IN CUBA.



1



2

muster with the authorities. It carried a focus of good citizenship and personal growth: Esperanza Para Mi Ciudad, or Hope for My City.

And so, on December 8, Canals brushed his dark suit, polished his shoes and got ready to step out onto the stage to see what God would bring in this second largest city in Cuba. He didn't have long to wait.

Trucks began arriving at the site, filled with hundreds of people who had ridden for one to two hours, jostling with their fellow travelers. But they were excited to come to such a prominent venue to hear a speaker from the United States. Communist guards served as gatekeepers, making sure that people had a sticker that granted them permission to enter the building.

When Canals stepped out on the stage, more than 2,000 were in their seats. The communist minister of religion intended to greet the audience and stay for 10 minutes, but he stayed for the entire meeting, right in the front row. Canals chose his words carefully but led the audience in a gospel-centered message. The next night even more seats were full — and the communist leader was back for more. He came to every meeting. On Thursday evening, the night that was supposed to be just a concert, he was on the front row and 21 of his fellow communist officials were in the audience. After listening to three songs, he said, “That’s enough. Everyone is waiting for the sermon!”

Each night, the attendance

grew toward the hall’s capacity of 3,000. Each night, Canals invited those who wished to follow Jesus (and be positive citizens of their country) to come forward and join him on the stage for special prayer. Each night, 150 to 200 gathered for that personal commitment.

By the final day, Saturday, December 13, hundreds were ready for baptism. Where could such a large baptism take place? Once again, the provincial minister of religion stepped in to help. He arranged for a local hotel swimming pool to be available for two hours.

After a final meeting at the hotel, 24 local pastors, with Canals included, jumped into the pool. Baptismal candidates began lining up beside each pastor. In one hour, more than

350 new converts were baptized in that pool. The minister of religion stood in the crowd, witnessing the area’s largest Adventist baptism in nearly 60 years.

The event has inspired a greater awareness of the Adventist Church and the gospel message. More than



1 EACH EVENING, 150 TO 200 PEOPLE CAME FORWARD, CROWDING THE STAGE IN RESPONSE TO THE CALL FOR PERSONAL COMMITMENTS.

2 CROWDS GREW EACH NIGHT, FILLING THE HEREDIA THEATER IN SANTIAGO DE CUBA TO NEAR CAPACITY.

3 TO BAPTIZE 350 INDIVIDUALS IN LESS THAN TWO HOURS, 24 PASTORS STOOD IN THE POOL WITH LINES OF CANDIDATES WAITING THEIR TURN.

4 SIGNS WERE CREATED, GIVING PUBLIC THANKS TO DONORS WHO HELPED MAKE THIS EVANGELISTIC EFFORT POSSIBLE.

CUBA *Opens a Gospel Window*



3



4

2,600 people have indicated a desire to study further and be baptized later this year.

Canals says he was impressed with the hunger the Cuban people showed for the Word of God even though they have

been steeped in communism and atheism for decades. He hopes there will be more opportunities for a people so open to truth. “The challenge for us as Northwest members and our church as a whole,” he observes, “is to continue to

reach out to Cuba while the people are still hungry. Remember Russia. Doors that are open for a while can shut just as quickly.”



More photos online at gleanernow.com/cuba

(FROM LEFT) JENARO JIMENEZ DE CASTRO, EAST CUBAN MISSION PRESIDENT; RAMON CANALS, NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE VICE PRESIDENT FOR HISPANIC MINISTRIES; ROBERT NOA, REGIONAL MINISTER OF RELIGION; ELISEO LOZANO, CPL PRESIDENT; AND EDUARDO LORENZO, EAST CUBAN MISSION MINISTERIAL DIRECTOR.



UN AÑO DE MUCHAS BENDICIONES

Los miembros de la Iglesia Hispánica de Anchorage, Alaska, pueden mirar hacia atrás en el año 2014 como un año de muchas bendiciones. La oportunidad de participar en los esfuerzos para llegar y hacer un impacto positivo en las vidas de sus amigos y vecinos se tomó con entusiasmo por varios de estos hermanos durante el transcurso del año.

Una de esas personas es Rafael Maga, quien tomó la decisión de renovar su compromiso con Cristo y con su hijo Rayli. Ambos fueron



Pastor Don West y familia con el Dr. Balvin Braham de la Division Inter-Americana en la convocación de fin de año en Anchorage, Alaska.

bautizados el 27 de diciembre, el último sábado del año. Maga tiene una historia extraordinaria. Durante el verano, se extendió una invitación a toda la congregación a buscar a familiares, amigos o conocidos que pudieran estar interesados en el estudio de la Biblia o de recibir otro material religioso semanalmente. Maga no sentía que tenía que esperar para renovar sus votos a Cristo para poder participar en éste proyecto.

Aprovechando la oportunidad, con entusiasmo,

juntó a un grupo de unos siete compañeros de trabajo y amigos, y comenzó a darles estudios bíblicos todos los lunes por la noche a las 7:30. Las reuniones con los amigos de Maga han sido caracterizadas por bendiciones notables a través del poder del Espíritu Santo. No sólo el grupo siguió reuniéndose constantemente desde su inicio, sino que el número de asistentes creció de forma constante durante el tiempo que se reunían. El 23 de febrero, por ejemplo, había once personas, no adventistas,

reunidos para el estudio de la Biblia. El grupo de Maga está, sin duda, poniendo la base para el ministerio de grupos pequeños en esa iglesia.

Un esfuerzo similar está siendo desarrollado por Ramón y Sylvia Jiménez en la cercana ciudad de Wasilla, Alaska. La señora Jiménez, quien no puede esconder su pasión por las almas de los que están dentro de su círculo de influencia, también respondió al espíritu misionero en el 2014 al reunir a un grupo de mujeres de variadas creencias religiosas a estudiar la Biblia todos los martes en la búsqueda de una verdad más profunda. Aunque ahora está en su retiro anual en Florida, la pareja ha asegurado que estas sesiones importantes continúen gracias a la colaboración del pastor.

El pastor y los miembros de este grupo animado están esperando la dirección de Dios en este nuevo año, y la expectativa en general, es que, las bendiciones se aumentarán en la medida en que se asocien con Dios para alcanzar a aquellos que necesitan escuchar el designio maravilloso de Jesús para sus vidas.

Don Rodney West, pastor hispano en Anchorage, Alaska



Líder de grupo pequeño Rafael Maga predicando durante el culto de adoración en sábado.

MISSION PROJECTS GALORE!



Alaska can be a pretty exciting place to do a mission trip, and do we have work projects!

If you visit the Alaska Conference website at alaskaconference.org, you will find specific work projects for the summer of 2015 including:

- » Pioneer Camp in Palmer Alaska: building cabins, painting, adding windows to existing cabins;
- » Shungnak Church: electrical, furnace installation, flooring and plumbing;
- » Selawik Church: painting, carpentry and maintenance work.



We would love to have you in Alaska.



ALASKA HOLDS CAMP MEETINGS WITH A TWIST

Camp meetings in the winter? Strange concept, but it works well in the Last Frontier.

The Alaska Conference actually holds six winter and spring camp meetings in different areas of this vast and remote land. The latest one was for interior Alaska and was held at the gymnasium of the Fairbanks Church. The church has outgrown its facility and now meets in the gym of Golden Heart Christian School, the local Adventist school. The weather was unusually mild, and the programs were well-attended. Ken Crawford, Alaska Conference president, did an informative three-part presentation, "The Road



Steve Evenson, Fairbanks Church pastor, leads youth in song during camp meeting.

Ahead," a guide for God's people through the final world events as outlined in the book of Revelation.

Part of the program was a dynamic weekend for youth and young adults. Guest



Camp meeting activities for youth include learning survival skills.

speaker Nathan Stearman, pastor of the Juneau/Sitka district, inspired the young people through the theme, "Radical Is Normal." Saturday night ended with the young people lofting Chinese lanterns into the clear, star-studded sky and watching them drift over the city.

In preparation for camp meeting, the week prior Tina Steenmeyer, Alaska conference Discover Bible School (DBS) coordinator, traveled to Fairbanks to train members on how DBS can be an effective outreach tool to spread the Three Angels' Message.

Such exotic places as Kotzebue, Nome, Savoonga and Gambell were the recipients of additional winter camp meetings held Feb. 27–March 1. For more information, visit our Facebook page.



Alaska teachers gain experience and training in CPR and first aid during the conference.

ALASKA TEACHERS EXPLORE CORE VALUES

During their February retreat in Anchorage, Alaska Conference teachers were challenged by Gary Dodge, General Conference planned giving director, and by a frigid trip to the Anchorage Zoo.

Dodge challenged the teachers to discover their core values and to examine which ones they give up when under incredible stress. He gave them hope, encouragement and focus.

Braving frigid arctic wind blasts, the teachers were also treated to a "behind the scenes" tour of the Anchorage Zoo. An up-close encounter with the polar bear added temptation to snuggle and raise their core temperatures because of his friendly, cozy approach. Dodge encouraged them not to give up any core values, such as staying alive, for just a moment of warmth. The zookeeper petted the large wolves and reminded the teachers "not to do this at home," as it might lead to the need for their newly found skills in CPR and first aid.

On Sabbath, the teachers

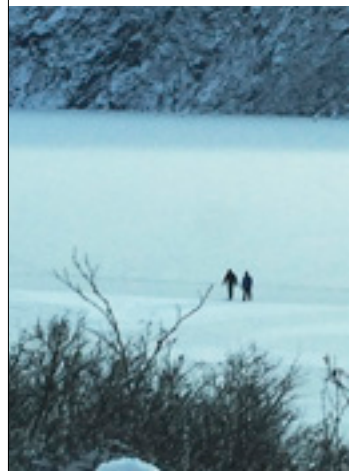
enjoyed sharing their musical abilities with the O'Malley Church, and they again gained inspiration from Dodge as they heard about corporate core values as he asked what were their core values as Christians.

Sabbath afternoon they tunneled their way to Whittier, enjoyed a beautiful afternoon, watched the young and energetic teachers run across frozen Portage Lake, and stopped for a snack on the way home.

The teachers ended up warm and happy to the true "core."

Laurie Hosey, Alaska Conference education director

Alaska teachers walk on water, literally.



CALDWELL HISPANIC COMPANY ORGANIZES



More photos online at glnr.in/110-04-id_caldwell

The Caldwell Hispanic Company was officially organized on Sabbath afternoon, Jan. 24. More than 150 attended the standing-room-only afternoon service, with more than 70 attendees signing as charter members. Francisco Altamirano, Nampa Spanish Church pastor, led the service, which included ordination of elders and deacons. David Prest Jr., Idaho Conference president, offered the prayer of ordination, with Altamirano translating into Spanish.

Preparations had been made for eight to be baptized and two to join by profession of faith. An 11th person, Isauro, came to the church that Sabbath morning ready to be baptized. His co-worker, Donaldo Robledo, had been sharing the gospel of Jesus with him. The Holy Spirit was working ahead of the church members!

As they watched the baptisms, Fernando and Ana, who had previously decided to come in under profession of

faith, chose to be baptized instead. Prest performed all of the baptisms. Two of the young people baptized are members of the Nampa Spanish Gems Adventurer Club, and one is a member of the Nampa Spanish Gems Pathfinder Club. Seven of the group became charter members of the Caldwell Hispanic Company, while the other four



EVE RUSK

The registry of charter members of the Caldwell Hispanic Company was signed by more than 70 people.

become members of the Nampa Spanish Church, which is the mother church for the new company.

The company meets in a church listed on the National Historic Register. A large



EVE RUSK

David Prest Jr., Idaho Conference president, gave the ordination prayer, with Francisco Altamirano providing translation, for the elders and deacons who were ordained.

portion of the neighborhood is Hispanic, making this an excellent place to start a church. Hispanic churches and companies in Idaho Falls, Jerome, Nampa and Payette contributed to the purchase of the building with donations and their ability to borrow. The North Pacific Union Conference made a special appropriation of \$25,000 to assist as well. The building needed a lot of work, and the basement has been transformed through many hours of labor provided by the members.

There is a wide range of ages, including many children and youth, in the company. The youth present the worship service every six weeks and are not just the leaders of the future — they are being mentored in leadership now.

When the idea came to plant a church in Caldwell, small groups met in homes

first. Planting the church was very deliberate. Plans are also underway to develop a small core of people who will lead



EVE RUSK

The front row was full of baptismal candidates eagerly awaiting this life-changing event.

out in a Hispanic church plant in the Boise area.

In his closing remarks to the newly established company, Prest shared that he anticipates organizing the company into a church soon.

Eve Rusk, Idaho Conference communication director



EVE RUSK

More than 150 attended this special afternoon service.

THREE TEAMS TACKLE PATHFINDER BIBLE EXPERIENCE

Three prepared teams took part in the Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) on Feb. 21. The Gallatin Grizzlies had two teams, and the Billings Rimrockers made up the third team. The conference office staff put together a team to compete with the Pathfinders. After 90 questions on the book of Matthew, two teams had scored in the first-place bracket and two at the third-place level. All the Pathfinders represented their clubs with pride and amazing knowledge. The event came together thanks to the conference team, judges, scorekeepers, parents



who cheered everyone on, and, most importantly, all of the dedicated Pathfinders who studied hard. They look forward to next year, when the PBE will be on the book of Exodus.

Phil Hudema, Montana Conference youth director

MONTANA YOUTH RACE IN PINEWOOD DERBY

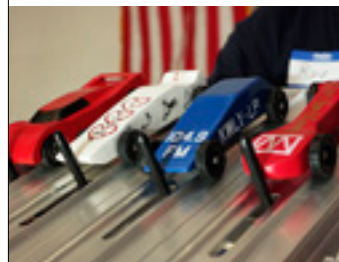
A record number of people attended the Pinewood Derby this year, which was held at Mountain View Elementary in Missoula on Jan. 25.

Schools and Pathfinder groups across Montana, from Libby to Billings, came to this event. Blodgett View Christian School led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The cars were divided into three groups: Eager Beaver, Adventurer and Pathfinders. During lunch break, some adults ran their cars in the Open Class. In all, 78 cars raced in 11 rounds. One boy won twice in the construction category. The goal wasn't to

just win but to have fun racing. Near year will be the 20th anniversary of the Pinewood Derby, and Montana kids are already looking forward to it.

Rachel Evans and Emily Biegler, Trout Creek Adventist School students



Youth came from all over Montana to enjoy the annual Pinewood Derby, held in Missoula this year.

ANNOUNCING Montana's Youth Rush Program!!



**Summer 2015
June 7 to Aug. 10**

Looking for interesting young people who are willing to give 10 weeks to God selflessly.

If you're interested, call 406-587-3101

Angels' Voices Today

(Based on the Study of the Three Angels' Messages)

Montana Conference Camp Meeting

June 17–20, 2015

Mount Ellis Academy, Bozeman, MT

Guest Speakers:

Dan Jackson
North American Division President
Ken Denslow
North American Division Assistant to the President

Seminar Leaders:

John McVay
Tim Roosenberg

Topics Include:

Islam & Christianity
Three Angels' Messages
Ephesians-The Church: A User's Guide

For registration and information, call 406-587-3101

DALE MILAM



Yulemi Hernandez creates a collage on the theme of "Courage."

STUDENTS SHOW COURAGE AT MILO'S PRAYER RETREAT

Thirty teenagers at Milo Adventist Academy in Days Creek volunteered to sleep on a wood floor and skip three meals during the student association (SA) Prayer Weekend. Woven through all the weekend's activities was the theme of "Courage." Students examined how Daniel and his friends had the courage to stand up for what was right, no matter what the consequences.

Students created collages representing the theme, added people to maps of different parts of the world and prayed for them, and enjoyed group activities as well as quiet time. Freshman Noahna Fullmer enjoyed "not being distracted by things and spending time with God."



Abby Alcantara's hand-and-foot painting depicts Micah 6:8.

Sophomore Sierra Kirk says, "We were allowed to have a break, so I went outside and rested and thought about how I should treat others."

Focusing on God and others helped the teens not to think as much about themselves during the 26-hour fast. Junior Abby Rogers reports, "I didn't even feel hungry during the experience."

Sophomore Abby Alcantara explains one of the art projects: "The hand and foot painting was based on Micah 6:8. It says '... to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.' When we painted our hands, it represented that we had made the decision 'to act justly.' Our painted feet [were] 'to walk humbly with God,' and we painted a heart to represent 'love mercy.' With these actions ... we learned how to just do that: be courageous."

Kathy Hernandez, Milo Adventist Academy teacher and recruiter

More photos online at glnr.in/110-04-or_courage

EUGENE REACHES COMMUNITY WITH COOKING CLASSES

Brian Igarta, a chef, along with his his wife, Crystal DuBoyce, and daughter, Skye, have been living in Lane County for the past two years. Originally from Hawaii, Brian is a professionally trained chef.

Crystal, a certified nutritional counselor, was introduced to Ellen G. White's book *Counsels on Diet and Food*, and studying about health and nutrition became a lifelong passion. Her passion, coupled with Brian's skills for creating edible art, became "The Maui Vegetarian," a family dedicated to making a positive difference in people's lives by feeding and teaching.

provided a venue for the couple to present cooking classes to the public using plant-based and gluten-free cooking methods. They have been conducting classes for the past 18 months to 30–90 guests monthly. Each class offers a



It is a full house for the cooking classes hosted by chef Brian Igarta and the Eugene Church.

specific cooking topic like breakfast, the "protein myth" and cooking vegetables and offers guests a taste of that evening's fare, along with a handout of the recipes.

Recently, Crystal became the Eugene Church's health ministries leader and has been planning many activities for 2015. For more information about upcoming events, contact Crystal at 541-863-9706 or by email veggiechefCD@aol.com.



Chef Brian Igarta demonstrates for the class.

After moving to Oregon in 2012, the Igartas started attending the Eugene Church, which welcomed them with open arms. The church

DALE MILAM

MYTHBUSTER SERIES BREAKS MYTHS IN CHRISTIANITY

All right! Let's break into our small groups now for discussion." All around the room, church members and nonmembers alike turn to face each other. Round tables scattered throughout the room create a friendly environment as groups discuss and question various aspects of what was presented that night at the MythBuster Evangelistic Series.

The MythBuster Series itself began Feb. 6 and ended Feb. 28, but it all started in

interests, often joined by church members.

The team expanded in January with the arrival of three more Bible workers — SOULS Northwest students interning for their Bible work practicum. Ethan Peterson, Joel LeClair and James Valdez worked faithfully to find more people in the community with open hearts. Jason Worf, SOULS Northwest and North Pacific Union Conference literature ministries director, joined the team in February.

As a result, MythBuster was a slightly new approach to the classic evangelistic series. Bob Uhrig, Gladstone Park Church pastor, gave the welcome each night and invited Worf up to answer questions submitted the night prior. Either special music or the theme song, "Ancient Words," followed.



The Let's Talk About It time brought people together for small-group discussions.

September when Gladstone Park Church welcomed their new Bible worker, Laressa Farnsworth, a graduate of SOULS West. In preparation for the evangelistic series, she went door to door in the community to find Bible study



Jason Worf preaches the Word at Gladstone Park Church.



Laressa Farnsworth and James Valdez lead the theme song, "Ancient Words."

Then Worf would speak for about a half hour before dividing attendees into small groups of six or so. A group leader helped facilitate as each group discussed a list of the concepts taught that evening. The purpose was threefold: connect on a personal level, reinforce the message and learn where a person was in his or her understanding.

One attendee shared that she was initially nervous about the small groups for fear of being the odd one out. She was pleased to find that even those who have been church members for years were willing to ask questions and explore answers with her.

So far, five guests have

asked for baptism, two have asked to join the church on profession of faith, and a number of other friends have been made in the community — friendships that will continue to be nurtured.

Uhrig is thrilled and wants to make sure you know that if you would be interested in SOULS Northwest being a part of evangelism in your church, you can contact Jason Worf at 360-857-7062 or info@soulsnorthwest.org.

Laressa Farnsworth, Gladstone Park Church Bible worker



JULIE NATIUK

CHILD EMPTIES PIGGY BANK FOR A PAA MISSION TRIP

The story of a little child's donation for a Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) mission trip has been rippling through the halls of PAA and the hearts of many.

PAA students raise funds for the mission trips in which they choose to participate. Sarah Halversen, a PAA sophomore, wrote letters, asked family members to donate, and even mustered the courage to speak publicly about her desire to travel to Fiji with other PAA students and staff.

One Sabbath morning, Halversen spoke to the congregation at Sunset Christian Fellowship, her home church in Hillsboro. She told them about the work PAA does in Fiji every spring and how she wanted to be a part of helping the locals with basic medical needs, health education and sources for clean drinking water. Her church family responded with open and giving hearts.

But it was a modest gift that had parents, students and church members talking.

Days after Halversen spoke at her church, she was surprised to be given a handful of quarters — \$1.75, to be exact.

“It was from a little girl in the third-grade class my mom teaches,” explains Halversen.

“She had been visiting my church the day I spoke, and I guess she really felt like she needed to help.”

Halversen was sincerely touched by the gift. “She actually emptied her piggy bank so I could go help people on the other side of the world,” says Halversen. “I think it’s the sweetest gift I’ve ever been given.”

No matter the amount, supporting a student’s mission trip is a sincere investment in spiritual growth. Halversen and more than 70 fellow PAA student missionaries are about to return from their mission trips to Fiji, the Bahamas, Dominican Republic and Peru. No doubt, their spiritual journeys have been impacted by their experiences.

For Halversen and so many others, the image of a little girl emptying her piggy bank to help people around the world is a story and a sacrifice they’ll never forget.

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA Gleaner correspondent

The support for PAA sophomore Sarah Halversen's mission trip was a sincere investment in her spiritual growth.



RIVERSIDE HOLDS ‘I LOVE MY SCHOOL DAY’

Students, teachers and staff at Riverside Christian School in Washougal, Wash., participated in “I Love My School Day” on Jan. 28.

The kids spent the week

More photos online at glnr.in/110-04-or_riverside

prior to this sharing with their families, friends and community how proud they were of their school. On the event day, kids, teachers and staff cleaned around the school for two hours by raking leaves, pulling weeds, cleaning windows and planting spring flowers in the window baskets. They were thrilled Oregon Conference education team members Gale Crosby, Carol McLeod and Angela White came and helped with the event.

The school grounds look wonderful. The spirit and feeling of giving back to their school really made the kids excited.

Julie Natiuk, Riverside Christian School home and school leader



JULIE NATIUK

OREGON PATHFINDERS HOLD TLT CONVENTION

More photos online at glnr.in/110-04-or_TLT

It was a damp weekend Jan. 30–Feb. 2 in the forest of Camp Adams near Molalla as 127 people converged for the annual Oregon Pathfinders TLT (Teen Leadership Training) Convention. However, the spirits of all who attended were not dampened by the weather. Rather, inside it was warm and cozy as they filled the meeting room, dining room and cabins with excitement and energy.



Certified TLT trainers are young adults who have completed the TLT program and are mentoring current TLTs.

including from the South New England, Potomac, Georgia-Cumberland, Florida and Texas conferences, and from Advent Source in Lincoln, Neb. Their goal was to observe and learn concepts of TLT ministry they could take back and implement within their conferences.

Plans are already developing for next year's TLT Convention, scheduled for Jan. 29–31, 2016. Organizers anticipate another year of Teen Leadership Training during which TLTs and mentors, along with coordinators and conference directors, can experience leadership training together.

Tracy Wood, Oregon Conference youth ministries director



Kids make finger puppets while learning Go Fish children's evangelism skills.

Friday night started off with making new friends and getting reacquainted with old ones through icebreaker activities and Mentor and Mentee (M&M) meetings. On Sabbath morning, everyone participated in Go Fish children's evangelism training hosted by Oregon Conference children's ministries under the

direction of Sherri Uhrig and Gloria Beerman. In the afternoon, 19 new TLTs were inducted into the TLT program and received their TLT shoulder cord.

The weekend was filled with leadership training workshops for TLTs, mentors and conference leaders. There were 50 TLTs training, 45 mentors modeling, 14 clubs attending, 19 instructors teaching, 26 convention staff participating, five certified teen leadership trainers (young adults who completed the TLT program) inspiring, 10 out-of-conference leaders learning and our three-in-one God guiding. "This has been our best TLT Convention ever," said Ray Jordan and Ralph Staley, both Oregon

Conference district coordinators.

TLTs from throughout the Oregon Conference, along with three clubs from the Washington Conference, attended. In addition, 10 leaders came from around North American Division,

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GROWING DISCIPLES

From the beginning of time, even prior to sin, the love of God planned for everything possible to redeem His children. Rev. 13:8 refers to “the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world.” His plan of redemption to save us was formulated even prior to creation! Jesus passed on to us the same Great Commission He had while on Earth.



Jesus understood that His work was built upon His mission the Father had given Him. It was the formative core that guided Him through every situation. It was this sense and clarity of mission that gave Him direction, energy and power to bring transformation to people and life. His focus and dedication clearly came out of His love for people and His perspective on the mission of redemption the Father had given Him.

Our mission that was given to us is found in Matthew 28 and Revelation 14. These passages clearly outline God’s will and intention for His last-day church. The three angels found in Revelation 14 represent the mission and movement God has given to His church. We are called to make disciples through baptism and teach them to observe all the things He commanded us to do.

We are called to follow the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 14:4 and 13:8), proclaiming the good news of salvation, forgiveness and a new life in Christ (Rev. 14:6–7). This good news is that Jesus is not just the creator of heaven and Earth but also the re-creator, making new creations out of every person (2 Cor. 5:17) who surrenders his or her life to Him.

Each church, each member, is a testimony to that new reality. We, the body of Christ today, are called to be a channel in the hands of God carrying the saving message of Jesus to our lost world. Our lives are a result of that saving work. We enjoy the grace of God, and with that grace comes an opportunity to share it with others. If we take this opportunity, we will fulfill the gospel commission to the world at the end of time. We have the privilege of sharing the Three Angels’ Message (Rev. 14) and spreading the Great Commission to the last generation on Earth.

God has asked us to use every church, every school and every member as instruments of His will to proclaim the love of God to every person. We are going into the territory of the Upper Columbia Conference and into every corner of our world to “make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen” (Matt. 28:18–20).

Paul Hoover, Upper Columbia Conference president

CONSTITUENCY SESSION REPORT

Every four years, delegates from each church in Upper Columbia Conference gather to provide counsel and direction for the future. The next constituency session will take place May 31, 2015, at Upper Columbia Academy.

We’ve put together a special report that reviews what the Adventist Church has been doing in Upper Columbia Conference territory during the past four years. View it online at ucc2015.org.



More photos online at
glnr.in/110-04-uc_teens

TEENS DISCOVER JESUS LAKESIDE



W

hat do you get when you combine a pickup load of lumber scraps with energetic Pathfinder teenagers and fire? Attendees to the Upper Columbia Conference teen Pathfinder retreat, held in February, discovered you get a powerful illustration about how sin (our burdens) weigh us down and get in the way of fully living for Jesus.

The simple yet effective object lesson burdened each Pathfinder with an armload of lumber scraps. Then they visited five different activity stations in the woods at Camp MiVoden. At each station, the young people were given an everyday task to accomplish, while carrying all the wood. It may sound simple, but try washing and drying your hands while carrying a stack of

oddly shaped wood.

Pathfinders were given the opportunity to reflect and talk about the difficulty of each task as well as visually see how Jesus will remove our sin and burdens if we let Him. At the end of each discussion, the teens could write a personal burden on a piece of their wooden load and toss it into a small bonfire, symbolically giving that struggle to Christ.

At the conclusion, all the burdens (pieces of wood) had been surrendered to Jesus and consumed in the fire. The final task was incredibly simple to complete because the Pathfinders were no longer carrying their burdens.

Lessons like this and many others were absorbed by the teens throughout the retreat weekend. Play and interaction time was balanced by spiritual

Andrew Abbott, Spokane Valley Church associate pastor, shares spiritual encouragement and insight during the 2015 teen Pathfinder retreat.

lessons and insights with Andrew Abbott, Spokane Valley (Wash.) Church associate pastor.

This year more than 180 teens and adults gathered lakeside for this amazing time of spiritual encouragement and discipleship.

“It’s more than just giving our young people a fun weekend at Camp MiVoden,” says Wayne Hicks, Upper Columbia Conference Pathfinder director. “It’s about growing these kids into leaders for the kingdom.”

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



At the final activity, Pathfinders tossed their remaining pieces of lumber into the fire and watched them burn while talking about how the illustration parallels their personal walk with Jesus.

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE CONSTITUENCY SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the quadrennial session of the Upper Columbia Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene at the Upper Columbia Academy convocation center in Spangle, Wash., on Sunday, **May 31, 2015**, at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to receive from the officers and department directors of the Conference reports pertaining to the work carried on

within its territory since the last quadrennial session; to elect for the ensuing term officers, department directors, and the Conference Executive Committee; and to transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates in session. Each church shall be represented at the sessions of the Conference by two delegates for the church organization and one delegate for each 75 members, or

major fraction thereof, each of whom shall be a Seventh-day Adventist member in good and regular standing of the local church which he or she represents.

Paul Hoover, President
Doug R. Johnson, Vice President for Administration

SPIRIT LAKE REACHES OUT THROUGH COOKING

Community outreach starts with healthful approaches to cooking at the Spirit Lake (Idaho) Church. Several church members have formed a food prep crew and are having a great time welcoming new friends in the fellowship hall to experience ongoing monthly cooking classes. Through these free classes, participants learn the preparation and great tastes of vegan cuisine.

The classes were developed after discovering a real need and growing interest in Adventist Bible-based health practices. They are advertised in flyers and local newspapers.

The program began with a holiday cooking class. The current series has a focus on diabetic health, with classes directed at breakfast, lunch and dinner. Each class offers tools for fighting chronic illness, presents short lectures by medical professionals, demonstrates easy recipe preparation, and offers delicious samples.



BETH DUFFEY

Josh Vasquez, Bible worker and class instructor, helps during demonstration.

Josh Vasquez, Spirit Lake Church Bible worker, has had experience working as a chef and is contributing his gourmet expertise. The church is blessed with several members who are exceptional vegan cooks and willing teachers. Everyone is looking forward to learning more about the abundance God has provided in nature. One of the cooks is also an experienced forager. She will be teaching this spring and summer.

Beth Duffey, Spirit Lake Church member

Healthy Living Cooking Class crew members are using healthy cooking to reach others at the Spirit Lake Church.



BETH DUFFEY

HOLIDAY BUS OUTREACH YIELDS DISCIPLES

If you think growing disciples is challenging and scary, consider the remarkably simple yet effective outreach members of the Stateline Church in Milton-Freewater, Ore., are doing.

Chris James is the outreach coordinator for the Stateline Church. Last year, James and a friend came up with an ingenious idea for an outreach ministry in their area. They selected nine major holidays on the calendar and began planning ways to share the gospel with passengers at the Walla Walla, Wash., bus transfer station on or shortly before each holiday.

After consulting their budget and the local dollar store, they decided to give small gift bags to passengers with a cheerful greeting like “Happy Valentine’s Day” or “Happy St. Patrick’s Day.” Each gift bag contains two pieces of candy, a GLOW (Giving Light to Our World) tract and an ad for the local Adventist TV station.

“People are very receptive and happy to get a treat,” says James, “and most are happy to hear the Word of God.”

Jesus is doing some wonderful things through this simple ministry. It has transformed the culture of the local church and moved members beyond the four walls of the church and out into their



Chris James (center) and her friendly team prepare to greet bus riders with holidays treats and the gospel message.

community. In addition, the outreach is achieving its intended results. So far the bus ministry has resulted in more than 60 Bible studies and one baptism, with more to come.

Every day, members, pastors, teachers, Bible workers and others like James are working together to implement Christ’s method of evangelism in Upper Columbia Conference.

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

More photos online at
glnr.in/110-04-uc_community

COMMUNITY THRIFT STORE HAS NEW OUTREACH

If you haven't been in the Bonners Ferry (Idaho) Adventist Community Thrift Store recently, you may not know that a Glorystar satellite system has been installed to provide quality Christian TV viewing for customers.

The thrift store board is passionate about outreach and about being of service to the community. The store not only provides quality products for shoppers at an affordable price and serves as a center to those who need assistance (be it for a burned-out family, a mother needing a gas voucher to take her child to a doctor's appointment, or someone who is behind on the electric bill) but also to those burned out on life, who are struggling to find answers and who need to know the Lord.

In an effort to promote dialogue and to let customers know what the Adventist Church believes, a member of the board volunteered to purchase the Glorystar system to provide more than 70 channels like 3ABN (Three Angels Broadcasting Network) and the Hope Channel. Donated furniture completed the nook where people can relax while watching Adventist TV shows and learning more about the church.

The Community Thrift



Just inside the front door of the Community Thrift Store in Bonners Ferry, customers can relax in the new lounge area while other family members shop or while they wait for their tires to be changed at the service station next door.

Store, which opened in 1987, has been in its present building since 2000. The store gives out about 50,000 pieces of free literature a year and employs three full-time and three part-time workers. Volunteers help and are appreciated too.

The Community Thrift Store is now owned debt-free. Proceeds support the church school each month, with any surplus supporting humanitarian work. Some organizations have given donations in the amount of hundreds of dollars because of the assistance program for the community.

A young man recently needed assistance with rent, but the assistance funds for the

out. That Sabbath at church, a freewill offering for the poor was taken at the door. The money received in the offering was almost the exact amount needed to cover the assistance given.

Those involved in this project feel the store is the Lord's and He is in control; they just work for Him. Many times they see His hand in their relationships and dealings with the community.

The hope for the new nook is that, as a more central location, it can also be available in the evenings for small groups and community programs.

Karen Drechsel, Bonners Ferry Church communication leader



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MUSIC FESTIVAL FINDS NOTES OF HARMONY

The out-of-tune cacophony of instruments warming up signals the start of a music festival rehearsal session. With a carefully trained ear, conductor Craig Mohr helps the flutes and saxophones, in particular, to reach proper tuning.

All the young musicians quiet in anticipation for the notes of the first rehearsal piece. Imagine — nearly 150 instrument musicians in grades five through 12 preparing in two days' time for a weekend performance at Auburn Adventist Academy. Nearby, another 270 student musicians wait to sing with the

commitment and resources — for students, parents and educators.”

Rehearsal is fully under way now, and a few students are rushing their measures. These student musicians, from 17 large schools, small schools and home schools in Washington and Oregon, are learning how to play together with an even larger joint group of young musicians.

“At music festival, kids get the big picture of Adventist education that they don't get in their small local school,” says Lowell Dunston, principal of Cypress Adventist School in Lynnwood.

In the next rehearsal phase, the choir and orchestra join with the festival band to rehearse “America the Beautiful” for the festival's finale. The finale involves three of the four festival clinicians simultaneously directing their respective groups: Mohr with the band, Trent Russell with the orchestra and Melia Williams with the choir.

These young musicians will perform a total of two dozen music pieces for a musical church service, represent their individual school music groups in a midafternoon concert, and present an hour-and-20-minute evening concert to a nearly full audience.

The lessons learned throughout the festival will manifest themselves during the performances when the hours of training are placed in the spotlight. The result? Worth every squeaky note and hour of rehearsal to find the perfect notes of harmony.

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director

More photos online at glnr.in/110-04-wa_music

THE BIG PICTURE OF MINISTRY



Auburn Adventist Academy donors raised more than \$50,000 for student scholarship in February through Hearts of Gold. This represents \$20,000 more than expected to help students, like Esther Taylor, sophomore, pursue an Adventist Christian education.



Washington Conference recently invited its constituents to share feedback about how to reinvigorate secondary Adventist Christian education and appreciates all of the passionate responses. You are invited to follow the progress reports at washingtonconference.org/reengineer.



Get ready for #WAcampmeeting! Washington Adventist Camp Meeting will be held June 12–20 in Auburn. You may register for onsite accommodations at washingtonconference.org/campmeeting.



HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

Student musicians learn about following directions, working together as a team and making beautiful music at the Washington Conference Music Festival.

choir, play the piano, ring handbells or practice with the orchestra. Some young musicians are participating in more than one musical track.

“As a music education advocate, it gives me great joy to see more than 420 students participating in this festival,” says Melia Williams, lead coordinator for the Washington Conference Music Festival. “Their involvement represents the investment of time,



LCAS STUDENTS SHOW LOVE TO GRANDPARENTS

The next best thing to going to grandma's house for lunch is having your grandparents come to school for lunch with you.



KAREN CARLTON

Young students from Lewis County Adventist School sing with their handmade puppets at the Valentine's luncheon for grandparents.

Lewis County Adventist School (LCAS) in Chehalis once again welcomed grandparents and senior citizens in the community to a Valentine's luncheon on Feb. 12.

"This has become an annual tradition for the school," says Karen Carlton, LCAS principal.

Carlton explains how the event began in an effort to teach students in grades six through eight how to be good hosts and hostesses. Students had so much fun treating their grandparents to lunch that they included the entire student body and invited grandparents and senior citizens to join the special luncheon.

"Each year the event gives our students more and more

opportunities to interact with grandparents and other seniors in the community," says Dan Baker, LCAS teacher.

Students created Valentine cards, made heart-themed crafts, and prepared a short program to showcase their music and academic talents.

"We love coming to this meal every year," says one grandparent. "The food is delicious, and the program is so nice."

A host of volunteers shopped, decorated, prepared



KAREN CARLTON

Lewis County students invite their grandparents to a special luncheon each February.

and served the lunch. The school's youngest students and LCAS alumni presented entertainment during the meal.

Karen Carlton, LCAS principal, with Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director

More photos online at glnr.in/110-04-wa_grandparents



GREG RESECK

With so many outdoor learning opportunities around Cedarbrook Adventist Christian School, students are getting some hands-on learning experiences beyond the classroom.

CEDARBROOK STUDENTS EXPAND THEIR STEM EDUCATION

Cedarbrook Adventist Christian School might be a small school, but its 15 students there are doing big things.

This small school on the Olympic Peninsula is associated with other schools through Loma Linda University's EXSEED program to study local chum salmon.

The EXSEED program focuses on areas of science, technology, engineering and math, which are commonly abbreviated as STEM. Teachers have a summertime opportunity to participate in a weeklong training session in Loma Linda to increase their STEM proficiency.

The Cedarbrook curriculum projects this year included wading in a local creek with spawning salmon. Students helped count fish at a counting station and visited a local fish hatchery. They also set up a classroom fish tank and watched salmon eggs hatch and grow. Catching and holding a 25-pound chum salmon is an experience most students won't forget for years to come.



GREG RESECK

The curriculum focus on chum salmon integrates many academic learning areas, from science to art.

Additionally, students are using salmon to make fish prints, making papier-mache salmon and learning to identify bones from a salmon skeleton.

Located in Port Hadlock, the school is less than a mile from the Puget Sound and close to the Olympic Mountains on 7 acres of fields and forests. The small-school setting gives students a varied and unique educational environment to learn and thrive.

Greg Reseck, Cedarbrook Adventist Christian School principal and teacher

More photos online at
glnr.in/110-04-wa_gigharbor +

GIG HARBOR LIVES BY GOD'S GRACE

Since Gig Harbor Adventist Fellowship (GHAF) began in 2009, it has been growing and maturing while pursuing its mission of “living God’s grace by knowing Him, building community and sharing His love.”

Each Sabbath, 65–75 members meet for worship, study and fellowship. Since GHAF’s inception, 10 people have joined through baptism and seven through profession of faith. Several inactive members are returning to church. Several more families in the community attend regularly.

In recognition of this growth and development, Washington Conference granted company status to GHAF in December 2014.

“We welcome the Gig Harbor Company into the sisterhood of churches,” says Doug Bing, Washington Conference vice president for administration. “We are happy they have taken this next step in church life. We are confident of

God’s blessings as they continue to serve Him in Gig Harbor.”

Community outreach remains central for GHAF, with activities such as regular volunteering with community services and events. Members are supporting and participating in mission trips to Cambodia and Mexico this spring.

GHAF members also enjoy fellowship opportunities such as small groups, Friday Fellowship, walks and hikes, church game nights, campouts, and an annual “Lake Church.”

“We are blessed with opportunities to reach the Gig Harbor community and people looking for a church home,” says Ron Schoepflin, leadership council chair. “We look forward to what God has in store as we serve Him in Gig Harbor.”

Learn more about GHAF at gigharboradventistfellowship.org, search on Facebook or contact at ghafinfo@gmail.com.

Kathy Comfort, Gig Harbor Fellowship member

Gig Harbor’s outdoor “Lake Church” is an annual time for worship and fellowship in nature.



Roy Hood, SKMM Northwest chapter president, explains how two motorcycle ministry chapters collected 20 teddy bears that met the hospital’s donation requirements.

MOTORCYCLE MINISTRY BIKES WITH A PURPOSE

Members of the Sabbath Keepers Motorcycle Ministry (SKMM) have a big heart for service. When they heard that the annual charity teddy bear motorcycle run for Auburn Medical Center was canceled for the first time in 17 years, they decided to take action.

The donated teddy bears are used to cheer up children at the hospital and for first responders to give to children they encounter on emergency calls in the Auburn area.

motorcycle parade donated about 20 bears to the cause,” says Roy Hood, Northwest Chapter president. “SKMM is looking into meeting this need in future years by sponsoring a teddy bear drive in local churches.”

The Northwest chapter’s other projects have included participating in other charity runs, providing literature at events, serving at the Tacoma Rescue Mission and holding weekly Bible studies at Monroe Correctional Complex.

The group also visited six churches in western Washington and attended three Northwest camp meetings to invite more bikers to join their ministry. “We are always looking for more bikers who love Jesus to ride with us,” says Hood.

Western Washington is home to three of 21 SKMM chapters in North America. The Northwest chapter is based in Puyallup, the Puget Sound Chapter in Edmonds and the Columbia River Chapter in Woodland. Learn more at skmmnational.org.

Lisa Ulrich, SKMM Northwest chapter member



A representative from Auburn Medical Center receives the teddy bear donation from Sabbath Keeper Motorcycle Ministry.

The Columbia River and Northwest chapters of SKMM collaborated to quickly collect and deliver teddy bears to Auburn Medical Center’s volunteer center on Valentine’s Day. “The riding weather that day was beautiful, and the small

CURTIS ULRICH

CURTIS ULRICH

MICHELE SCHOEPFLIN

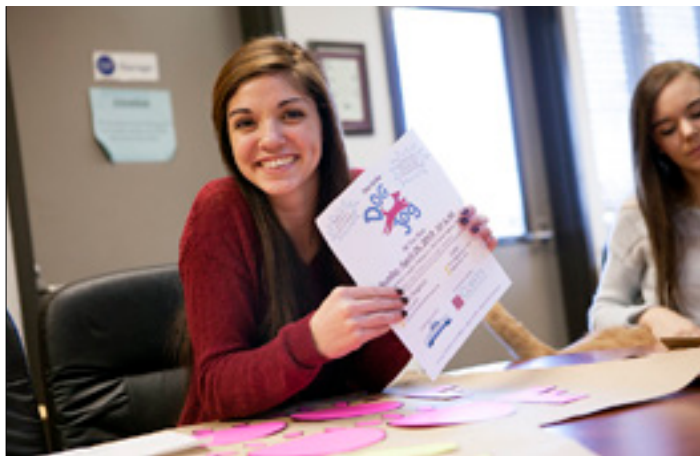


WWU STUDENTS FIND REWARDING EMPLOYMENT AT ANIMAL SHELTER

Walla Walla University (WWU) provides a variety of state-funded student employment opportunities both on campus and in the community. Students perform work related to their major fields of study, and the state reimburses the employer for a portion of the labor costs. The Walla Walla Valley animal shelter, Blue Mountain Humane Society (BMHS), is a work-study participant that currently employs three WWU students.

Madison Bortfeld, a freshman business/pre-law student, works at BMHS as an office assistant. She helps with finances, information systems and event planning. Bortfeld says the experience will be helpful for her future career. “Seeing animals coming in abused or injured makes me

Madison Bortfeld, a WWU freshman business/pre-law student, works at BMHS as an office assistant.



Miranda Towler says that “working at BMHS was a natural choice, and it also helps pay for my tuition.”

even more motivated to study law so that one day I may be able to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves and stand up for individual rights, whether it be for animals or humans,” she says.

Aleksana Mallory, a freshman social work major, says, “I chose the work-study

program at BMHS because I have always loved animals. Being paid to do what I love is amazing.” She says she is developing people skills, is learning to maintain a good work ethic and is developing veterinary skills as well.

“I love animals,” says Miranda Towler, freshman nursing major, “so working at BMHS was a natural choice, and it also helps pay for my tuition.” She is learning office skills, people skills, business skills and event planning. “This experience has taught me to work well with other people and to have a good work ethic,” she adds.

Sara Archer, BMHS executive director and WWU alumnus, appreciates having WWU students as part of the team. “I particularly appreciate that our current students have

a set of values and experience that we share, providing a level of understanding and trust that can take some time to achieve with others,” she says. “We hope that the work setting and responsibilities will give the students experience that will serve them throughout their careers.”

As Archer mentors the work-study students, she hopes they will be inspired by the experience. “I hope they will



Aleksana Mallory chose to work at BMHS because “being paid to do what I love is amazing.”

be inspired to not settle for a ‘job’ but to seek a mission instead — one that engages their passions and abilities and that provides fulfillment for their hearts and minds, all while making a difference in the world in a way only they can achieve.”

Rachel Wood, Walla Walla University's Office of University Relations writer



TILLAMOOK DOCTORS DONATE TO LOCAL FOOD BANK

In a living expression of the Adventist Health mission to share God’s love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing, Tillamook Regional Medical Center (TRMC) health care providers and governing board of directors donated 3,210 pounds of citrus fruit to Oregon Food Bank Tillamook County Services. Providers and board members elected to forgo the Christmas gifts they would have received from the hospital and used those funds to purchase fresh fruit for the food bank in the spirit of love and concern for the communities they serve.

This is the third year in a row that TRMC medical staff and board members have requested that their Christmas gifts be used to purchase food for the community. TRMC serves a rural area along the Oregon coast. The poverty rates are high in the region, and food insecurity is a serious issue. More than half of the children in Tillamook County are considered low-income and qualify for free and reduced lunches; in some parts of the county, those numbers are higher. Many local families use the food bank as a way to supplement their monthly food budget.

“The medical staff is happy to be able to give back to the



TILLAMOOK REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Levi Johnson, Melissa Carlson-Swanson and Debbie Lane receive a donation of citrus fruit from TRMC doctors to the Oregon Food Bank Tillamook County Services.

community in this way,” says Mark Bowman, TRMC chief medical officer. “Part of the Adventist Health heritage is to support healing through healthy living, including a diet rich in nutritious fruits and vegetables. Studies have shown that the diets of low income children and adults are often lacking adequate fresh fruits and vegetables. It makes us feel great to think about members of our community eating vitamin-rich citrus fruits in the winter.”

Melissa Carlson-Swanson, Oregon Food Bank Tillamook County Services director, says, “We are so grateful to be able to offer fresh fruit to the

community. Citrus fruits are rarely available at the food bank, and they are in season right now and delicious. This is a wonderful gift of healthy food, and we are glad to be

able to share it with those in need.”

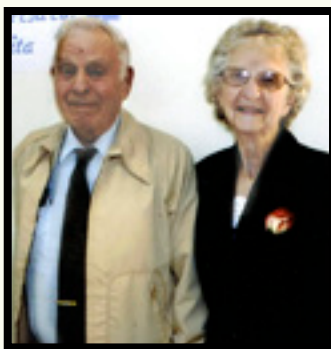
Mary Faith Bell, Tillamook Regional Medical Center marketing and communications director

Join us at one of our Foundation Golf Benefits



Sunday, May 17
Wine Valley Golf Club, Walla Walla, Wash.
Visit wwgh.com/golf or call 509-527-8300

Monday, August 24
Oregon Golf Club, West Linn, Ore.
Visit AdventistHealth.org/NW/Golf or call 503-251-6197



Otto and Juanita Epping

Epping 60th

Otto and Juanita Epping celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Nov. 1, 2014, at the Coos Bay Church in Oregon.

They met at a skating party in the nurses' gym at Takoma Park, Md. Otto was stationed at the Army base in nearby Fort Mead. After five months, he was sent to Texas and then to Korea. Their courtship was by mail for some time.

Juanita graduated in 1954 from nurses training at the Washington Sanitarium and Hospital (later named Columbia Adventist University).

They were married Oct. 14, 1954, in Takoma Park. Otto was a timber faller for Weyerhaeuser, and Juanita was a registered nurse for 40 years until she retired from a Bay Area hospital.

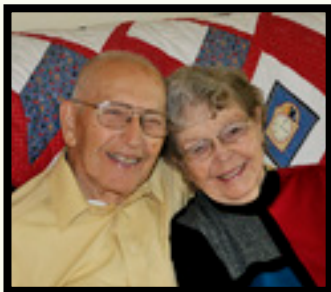
The Eppings have been involved in prison ministries at Shutters Creek for 16 years.

Their family includes Jeff and Leeona Epping of St. Cloud, Fla.; Valerie and Melvin Tucker of Caldwell, Idaho; Cindy Martin of Myrtle Point, Ore.; Gordon Epping of Patoka, Ill.; David Epping of North Bend, Ore.; 13 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Freitas 70th

Bob and Beth Freitas celebrated 70 years of marriage with their children on Oct. 26, 2014, at their home. They had a few close friends over as well for a delicious spaghetti dinner made by their son-in-law.

Bob met Beth Evans during high school in Fort Jones, Calif., and were married on June 25, 1944 in Reno, Nev., while Bob was in the armed services. The early part of their career was working for the Upper Columbia Conference at Upper Columbia Academy in Spangle, Wash., for 16 years. While Bob was there he received his master's degree in industrial arts.



Bob and Beth Freitas

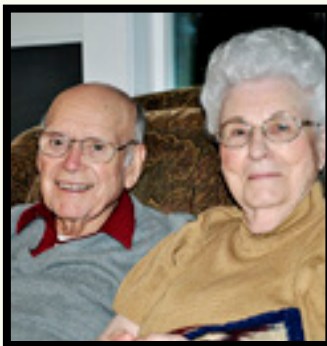
The last 20 years before retirement were spent in the Washington Conference at Auburn Adventist Academy as teachers and administrators. At both academies, in addition to teaching and sometimes included in his teaching, Bob built the industrial arts buildings, many of the faculty homes and other buildings on the two campuses.

The Freitas family includes daughters Karen Hackett and Patti Walker and a son, Robert Freitas.

Fry 75th

Charlie and Lucille Fry celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary on Feb. 27, 2015. Josie Lucille Woodard

and Charlie Mason Fry grew up in the same small town of Cedar Grove, Tenn. Their marriage was performed by a



Charlie and Lucille Fry

local justice of the peace on Feb. 27, 1940, who trudged out of his home to the muddy road and pronounced them husband and wife while they and their witnesses stayed in the car. In December of that same year, they welcomed their son, Wendell, into the family.

They relocated to the Yakima Valley in 1943 and earned a living working in agriculture. After a short time back in Tennessee, they heard of an opportunity at a Pendleton, Ore., furniture factory and moved there in 1947 to begin working for Harris Pine Mills. Charlie eventually worked his way up the ranks to vice president and then president of the national company.

Charlie retired from the company in 1985, and they moved their home to Milton-Freewater, Ore. They currently live independently in College Place, Wash. Guests to their home can still hear Charlie and Lucille laughing together as they share cherished memories of their life and love together.

The Fry family includes their son, Wendell Fry, who is deceased; 4 grandsons and 4 great-grandchildren.

Jaecks 60th

Celebrating 60 years of married life turned out to be more than a one-day celebration on a specific date.

Lenard and Lois Jaecks were united in marriage on June 7, 1953, in the Merrill (Wis.) Church. When there was talk about celebrating the 60th anniversary, it was decided rather than having relatives come together in one place Lenard and Lois would participate in celebration activities by driving during the 60th year to various parts of the United States.

The first event was a special Mexican meal prepared by Carmen, their daughter-in-law, and hosted at the home of her and the Jaeckses' son, Steve, in Collegedale, Tenn. Next they headed to Lois' girlhood home in central Wisconsin. Several days were spent with a large number of Lois' relatives from the Lattoni family. Lenard and Lois enjoyed the special 60th celebrations where they had courted and became engaged.

Since the Jaeckses also live part of the year in Salem,



Lenard and Lois Jaecks

Ore., another event was planned at the home of their son, Ron, and his wife, Kelli. Kelli prepared a unique celebration supper, with the

prime ingredient being asparagus.

Another trip was planned to western Washington State where the couple worked for about 20 years. Lenard's last assignment was as Washington Conference president. The celebration activity involved visiting friends and the new conference office with a large number of conference staff present.

Another highlight was when Ron and Kelli helped plan a trip for Lenard and Lois to northern Wisconsin, where the couple spent their honeymoon at a lakeside cabin near Mercer, Wis. Even though the celebration reached into the 61st year, it was a fitting way to close the anniversary activities when Ron and Kelli helped the Jaeckses find their honeymoon cabin and pose for pictures in the lakeside cabin.

The Jaeckses are retired after serving in five conferences and four unions and a period of service for the General Conference as the Historic Adventist Village director in Battle Creek, Mich.

Ringing 50th

Marlow and Shirley (Starr) Ringering celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 27, 2014 at a reception hosted by their children in the fellowship room at the Moses Lake (Wash.) Church with 87 family and friends.

Marlow and Shirley were married July 16, 1964, in Tacoma, Wash. Marlow worked in the plywood industry and at the Boeing Airplane Company. He was the warehouse manager for Miller Supply Co., in Walla

Walla, Wash. Marlow retired after 28 years from Pasquier Panel Products in Sumner, Wash. Shirley worked in the office at Miller Supply. She retired from the Puyallup (Wash.) Medical Clinic.

In September 1999, they bought 20 acres out of Ephrata, Wash., where they built a new home. They keep busy in their yard and garden. Marlow and Shirley are both active in their church at Moses Lake, Wash. Marlow is assistant head elder and involved in music. Shirley is active in the Sabbath School department.



Marlow and Shirley Ringering

The Ringering family includes Dan Fazio of Soap Lake, Wash.; Greg Ringering of Wenatchee, Wash.; Tammy Bare of Mason, Wash.; Marcelle Christiansen of Moses Lake; 7 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Schwartz 90th

Francis Schwartz celebrated her 90th birthday with a picnic at home with her family and at the Startup (Wash.) Church.

Francis was born July 28, 1924, in Los Angeles, Calif. She was a student nurse and received on-the-job training at a hospital in Los Angeles. In those days, that is the way nurses were trained. They



Francis Schwartz

didn't go to college.

Her family includes Tana and Greg Skewis of Sultan, Wash.; David Shands of Mount Lake Terrace, Wash.; Dan and Joy Shands of Sultan; Chris and Cecile Shands of Snohomish, Wash.; 4 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Verstappen 60th

Joe and Elizabeth Verstappen celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a reception at Grants Pass (Ore.) Church Better Living Center on Sept. 20, 2014.

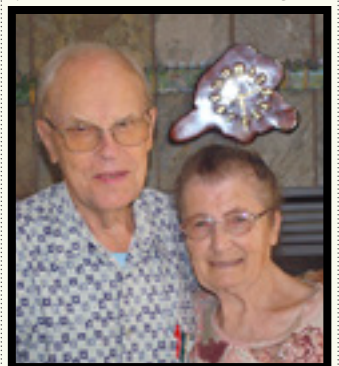
Joe Verstappen and Elizabeth Kerens were born in the Netherlands and lived through Nazi occupation during World War II. Joe became an apprentice tailor at the age of 14. In the early 1950s, they each immigrated to Canada for a better life and met each other there at Joe's sister's Christmas party in 1953. They were married on Sept. 18, 1954, in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada.

Joe continued the tailoring business in several different locations in Ontario, while Elizabeth was raising two daughters. They loved it there, but Joe's friend convinced him California was the place to be. After a winter visit, going from -30 degrees

to 70 degrees, he decided to move the family to Southern California, where they lived for 10 years. Joe did landscape maintenance and opened his own tailor shop.

In 1970, the family moved to Grants Pass, Ore., having had enough of the big city. Soon after opening his tailor shop there, a former pastor visited his shop and Joe began Bible studies. The whole family joined the church in 1972.

Elizabeth worked 18 years as food service manager



Joe and Elizabeth Verstappen

for the county schools in Grants Pass. She still bakes bread today, with proceeds going to Maranatha projects around the world. Joe recently retired from tailoring. They both love gardening, helping at the Grants Pass Community Services (formerly Dorcas) and enjoying visits with family and friends.

The Verstappen family includes Geri and Bob Wytcherley of Milwaukie, Ore.; Rosanne and Peter Wehrens of the Netherlands; 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

FAMILYBIRTHS

BENSCOTER — Charli Marie was born Nov. 5, 2014, to Shane Lee and Cori Dawn (Large) Bencoter, Deadwood, Ore.

DIETRICH — Cade Anderson was born Jan. 1, 2015, to Casey and Erin (Lee) Dietrich, Vancouver, Wash.

DUNKS — Riley Malacahi was born April 3, 2014, to Michael and Calista (Stevinson) Dunks, Springfield, Ore.

HUBACH — Daniel John was born Jan. 3, 2015, to John and Felicia (Morrelli) Hubach, Vancouver, Wash.

JONES — Nicole Anne was born Oct. 10, 2014, to Nicholas Eric and Julie Anne (Cleveland) Jones, Medford, Ore.

LARGE — Beckwith Hansen was born Dec. 10, 2014, to Nathan Gregory and Brandi Jo (Hansen) Large, Florence, Ore.

MOAK — Emma Jean was born Feb. 9, 2015, to Garrett and Shonna (Bohlman) Moak, Kent Wash.

FAMILYWEDDINGS

RITCHIE-CASEBOLT Donna M. Ritchie and Donald E. Casebolt were married Sept. 14, 2014, in College Place, Wash., where they are making their home.

FAMILYATREST

ANDERST — Art, 85; born May 14, 1929, Fordonia, N.D.; died Dec. 25, 2014, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Lois (Smith); daughters, Marilyn Brown and Linda Starry, both of Caldwell; 2 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

AXFORD — Beatrice Irene (Oster), 91; born Sept. 3, 1922, Portland, Ore.; died Feb. 24, 2014, Sunnyside, Wash. Surviving: son, David, Yakima,

FAMILYATREST

Wash.; daughters, Melody Schulte, Prosser, Wash.; Carolee Arslanian, Kennewick, Wash.; 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

BROWN — Bonnie Laverne (Ireland), 83; born March 26, 1931, Redmond, Ore.; died Sept. 25, 2014, Federal Way, Wash. Surviving: husband, Jim; son, Ron, Colorado Springs, Colo.; daughter, Renee Brown, Edgewood, Wash.; 5 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

DAVIS — George “Bud”, 74; born June 19, 1940, Portland, Ore.; died Oct. 19, 2014, Tonasket, Wash. Surviving: wife, Elizabeth (Holman) Davis; son, Jerry, Vancouver, Wash.; and a grandchild.

DEWEY — Merlin Lewis, 92; born Feb. 18, 1922, Riverbank, Calif.; died Jan. 1, 2015, Medford, Ore. Surviving: wife, Marian (Babcock); son, Ronald Lewis Dewey, Medford; daughter, Rosalyn Louise Dewey, Valparaiso, Ind.; stepbrother, Don Knapp, Medford; 3 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

FORGEY — Glenn Maurice, 88; born May 21, 1926, Chowchilla, Calif.; died Sept. 22, 2014, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: wife, Cleo (Budd) Wentland, College Place, Wash.; daughter, Janice (Forgey) Atkins, Inchelium, Wash.; stepson, Lorin Wentland, Milton-Freewater, Ore.; stepdaughter, Carolyn (Wentland) Denney, College Place; 7 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and 4 step-great-grandchildren.

HOBSON — Carl Joshua, 87; born Aug. 5, 1927, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa; died Sept. 23, 2014, Pendleton, Ore. Surviving: wife, Ruby (Lemon); son, Dennis, Portland, Ore.; daughter, Rhonda Iverson, Pendleton; 2 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

HUNI — Frank Albert, 90; born Aug. 16, 1924, Chelan, Wash.; died Aug. 16, 2014, Spokane, Wash. Surviving: wife, Bonnie (Hoosier) Huni; sons, Criss Huni, Seattle, Wash.; Jim Mason, Spokane; Allen Redden, McKinleyville, Calif.; Larry Redden, Pensacola, Fla.; daughters, Audrey Duran, Modesto, Calif.; Gloria Foster, Susanville, Calif.; Terrie Wood, Walla Walla, Wash.; 9 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

JANKE — Bernita J. (French), 87; born Dec. 2, 1926, Racine County, Wis.; died Oct. 9, 2014, Yakima, Wash. Surviving: sons, Clifford, Wapato, Wash.; Douglas, Wenatchee, Wash.; daughter, Jean Wilson, Rathdrum, Idaho; sister, Aletah Comstock, of Texas; and 3 grandchildren.

KRAUSE — Dennis Frederick, 63; born Jan. 3, 1951, Pasadena, Calif.; died July 28, 2014, Yucaipa, Calif. Surviving: wife, Joy (Fearing) Krause; son, Alan, Redlands,

Calif.; daughter, Laurie Krause, Yucaipa; mother, Isabell (Glogowska) Krause, Silver Spring, Md.; brother, Derris, Silver Spring; and a grandchild.

OWEN — June LaVonne “Vonnie” (Van Tassel), 83; born Feb. 28, 1931, Redmond, Ore.; died Dec. 31, 2014, Redmond. Surviving: sons, Keith, Salem, Ore.; Kimdel, Redmond; Keryl, Kent, Wash.; brothers, Lamar Van Tassel, Portland, Ore.; Leland Van Tassel, Vancouver, Wash.; Norman Van Tassel, Phoenix, Ariz.; Lorance Van Tassel, Turner, Ore.; Nick Van Tassel, Redmond, Ore.; sister, Delmarie Null, Goldendale, Wash.; 7 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

PENNER — Jacob “Jack” C., 81; born Nov. 17, 1932, Steinbach, Manitoba, Canada; died Oct. 22, 2014, College Place, Wash. Surviving: wife, Betty (Anderson); son, Doug, Apison, Tenn.; daughters, Cindy McCrery and Laurie Meservia, both

1950-2014

Roberta “Bobbie” Kyte Oetman Fleck

Bobbie was born in Williams Lake, British Columbia, Canada, the fourth of five children. She married Duwayne Charles Oetman, and they served as missionaries in a remote Colombian village. After returning to the U.S., they had three children — Greg, Gerald and Angela — and adopted a fourth, Jana. Bobbie and Duwayne invested everything into their children and the home they built together.



Duwayne passed away in 1990 after a battle with brain cancer. Bobbie earned a master's degree in special education from Walla Walla University and went on to create a highly successful curriculum, now used nationwide. Bobbie later married Ron Fleck.

In January 2014, doctors diagnosed her with pancreatic cancer. Bobbie's will to live and her faith in God kept her going for almost seven months. She passed away on July 3, 2014.

She was survived by her husband, Ron; her sons, Greg and Gerald; her daughters, Angela and Jana; her grandchildren, Priya, Owen, Evan, Robert and Grace; her siblings Beverly, Barbara, Heather and Robert; hundreds of adoring students and dozens more who called her “mum.”

Bobbie was buried in Michigan, next to her beloved first husband, Duwayne.

Her family misses her terribly but looks forward to being reunited with her on that day.

of College Place; brothers, Peter, Christina Lake, British Columbia, Canada; Ed, Chetwynd, British Columbia; sisters, Margaret Davis and Elsie Kwiram, both of Kelowna, British Columbia; Nettie Kilba, Salmon Arm, British Columbia; Tena Penner, College Place; and 4 grandchildren.

SUBMIT AN ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY!

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

SCALLA — JoAnn (Snyder), 83; born Jan. 5, 1931, Denver, Colo.; died Nov. 27, 2014, Deer Park, Wash. Surviving: sons, John, Scotts Valley, Calif.; David, Spokane, Wash.; daughters, Ellen Carpenter, Rathdrum, Idaho; Jeanie Boyd, Willits, Calif.; 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

SCHULD — Don Lee, 82; born Nov. 17, 1932, Oregon City, Ore.; died Jan. 6, 2015, Wilsonville, Ore. Surviving: wife, Doris (Sheldon), West Linn, Ore.; daughters, Suzanne Schuld, Vancouver, Wash.; and Jennifer Schuld, Seattle, Wash.

TAYLOR — Stella May (Weaver), 69; born April 13, 1942, Portland, Ore.; died Oct. 18, 2011, Portland, Ore. Surviving: husband, Gerald, Costa Mesa, Calif.; son, Arthur, Wenatchee, Wash.; daughters, Winona “Noni” Taylor, Costa Mesa; Sheryl Taylor-Austin, Everett, Wash.; Teresa Taylor, Costa Mesa; brothers, Stan Weaver, Molalla, Ore.; Steve Weaver, Milwaukie, Ore.; sister, Ruth (Weaver) Nelson, Riverside, Calif.; 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

THOMPSON — John Wayne, 88; born Oct. 17, 1926, Fruitland, Wash.; died Nov. 8, 2014, Sunnyside, Wash. Surviving: wife, Barbara (Frazier), Granger, Wash.; daughters, Susan Materi, Lake Stevens, Wash.; Jan Shearer, Brush Prairie, Wash.; Kris Johnston, St. Paul, Minn.; Peggy Thompson, San Diego, Calif.; and 6 grandchildren.

WIBBERDING — Samantha Jo, 19; born Dec. 2, 1993, Moses Lake, Wash.; died March 11, 2013, Moses Lake. Surviving: parents, William G. III and Janice L. (Sawzak) Wibberding, Moses Lake; brother, William G. IV, Pittsburgh, Pa.; and sister, Shelley A. Melendrez, Billings, Mont.

WILMOTH — Joyce M. (Arnold), 82; born Sept. 11, 1933, Aberdeen, Wash.; died Dec. 29, 2014, Yakima, Wash. Surviving: daughter, Corine Garrison, Olympia, Wash.; and 2 grandchildren.

YORK — Rory Lew, 68; born Oct. 16, 1945, Portland, Ore.; died March 12, 2014, Orofino, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Barbara (Brown), Spokane, Wash.; sons, Jeffery, Casa Grande, Ariz.; Jon, Flagstaff, Ariz.; and daughter, Julie York, Spokane.

Go to GleanerNow.com to submit family announcements.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

Offering

April 4 — Local Church Budget;

April 11 — Christian Record Services;

April 18 — Local Church Budget;

April 25 — Local Conference Advance.

More events listed at GleanerNow.com/events.

NPUC Regional Convocation

May 14–17 — You're invited to attend the 39th Annual North Pacific Union Conference Regional Convocation at Camp Berachah in Auburn, Wash. Incredible speakers and workshops, plus programming for young adults and children. More information available at glnr.in/convocation39.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

April 5–7 — North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) University Days. Students from all of the NPUC academies are invited to attend University Days and learn about WWU;

April 12 — North Pacific Regional Robotics competition;

April 19 — Tri-College service day;

April 23–26 — Homecoming Weekend at Walla Walla University. Honor classes are 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2005. For a complete schedule, hotel discount information and registration, go to wallawalla.edu/homecoming or call 800-377-2586.

IDAHO

Idaho Conference Session Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given that the 53rd Regular Session of the Idaho Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc. will convene in the gymnasium of Gem State Adventist Academy, Caldwell, Idaho, on Sunday, May 17, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive reports of conference activities since the last Regular Conference Session; to elect officers, departmental directors, Conference Executive Committee, and Articles and Bylaws Committee for the ensuing quadrennium. The delegates will consider proposed changes to the Articles and Bylaws, do strategic planning, and transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates in session. Nominating Committee delegates will be selected by each Nominating Committee district, and will meet on Sunday, May 3, 2015 at 10 a.m. at the Meridian Adventist Church, 1855 N. Black Cat Road, Meridian, Idaho.

David Prest Jr., President

John Rogers, Treasurer

OREGON

Battlefield Hollywood

April 17–18 — Join us at Valley View Church for Little Light Studios presentation of *Battlefield Hollywood*. Speaker Thom Mayer will lead us through four topics that will show us the world of entertainment and how the enemy works through the hallucinating realm of Hollywood — “not simply to distract us from our duty to God, but for the growth of His kingdom here on Earth.” Friday night at 7 p.m. and Sabbath at 10:50 a.m., 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Event

ANNOUNCEMENTS

held at 3677 South Stage Rd., Medford, OR 97501. For more information, call 541-840-8516.

Hands-on Gardening Workshop

April 26 — Calling all gardeners! Beginners or experienced, children welcome ... learn how to grow the most nutritious, healthful, healing and tasty produce ever. We will have classroom instruction using material from Lynn Hoag of (SunCountryGardens.com), plus we will plant the garden and a fruit tree using methods given by inspiration more than 100 years ago. On Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., bring your own brown bag lunch, rake and shovel. Vancouver Adventist Community Church, 9711 NE St. Johns Rd., Vancouver, WA 98665. For more information, call Marilyn Puccinelli at 360-609-1461.

Calling All Singles!

Aug. 28-30 — Come to the beautiful Oregon Coast for a wonderful spiritual weekend. Pastor Bill Liversidge will be presenting "Victory in Jesus!" Camp Magruder is right on the beach at Rockaway Beach, Ore., at 17450 Old Pacific Hwy. A discount rate will be given to the first 50 people to register or if registered by June 1. The cost will cover two nights lodging and five delicious vegetarian meals. To register, call George Clarno at 503-720-7059 or email geowcj@hotmail.com. Send checks made payable to McMinnville Church, 1935 SW Oleander Ct., McMinnville, OR 97128. Come prepared for a spiritual feast, good fellowship, great food and a wonderful time with Christian friends. For further questions, call Caryl Tallon at 503-864-4146. Don't miss this!

UPPER COLUMBIA

Gospel Outreach Mission Rally

April 4 — Join us at 3:30 p.m. for reports from the front lines of mission work in areas like Africa, the Middle East, India, China and the Philippines. Discover how you can be part of hastening the return of Jesus through your support of the Great Commission. The rally will be held at Milton Church, 1244 N. Elizabeth St., Milton-Freewater, Ore. For more information, call 509-525-2951.

Collegiate Couples Seminar

April 17-18 — Seriously dating? Considering engagement? Engaged? Then the Collegiate Couples Seminar is for you! With group presentations and individual couple discussion times, you will gain tools to enrich your relationship and your future together. Contact Walla Walla University Church at 509-527-2800 or church@wallawalla.edu.

Upper Columbia Conference Constituency Session

Notice is hereby given that the quadrennial session of the Upper Columbia Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene at the Upper Columbia Academy convocation center in Spangle, Wash., on Sunday, **May 31, 2015**, at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to receive from the officers and department directors of the Conference reports pertaining to the work carried on within its territory since the last quadrennial session; to elect for the ensuing term officers, department directors, and the Conference Executive Committee; and to transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates in session. Each church shall be represented at the sessions of the Conference by two delegates for the church organization and one delegate for each 75 members, or major fraction thereof, each of whom shall be a Seventh-day Adventist

member in good and regular standing of the local church which he or she represents.

Paul Hoover, President

Doug R. Johnson, Vice President for Administration

WASHINGTON

AAA Alumni Weekend

April 30-May 2 — Auburn Adventist Academy looks forward to welcoming back alumni and friends from the honor classes for 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2014. Alumni weekend begins with a banquet on Thursday, April 30, and continues with class gatherings and programs throughout the weekend. Find the full alumni schedule at auburnacademy.org/alumni or call 253-939-5000.

WORLD CHURCH

Sprechen sie Deutsch?

May 1-3 — All German-speaking members are invited to our annual German meeting, which will be held again at beautiful Camp Hope, 61855 Lougheed Highway, Hope, British Columbia, Canada. Our speaker will be Gerald A. Klingbeil from the General Conference. Bring your German Bible and food for the potluck. More information is available on the website germancampmeeting.com.

'Ye Olde' Cedar Lake Academy Reunion

June 5-7 — "Ye Olde" Cedar Lake Academy Reunion for alumni and classmates of 1965 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Mich. Honor classes: 1935, 1945, 1955 and 1965. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. For further information, contact the GLAA Alumni office at 989-427-5181 or visit glaa.net.

Save the Date

Oct. 9-11 — Greater New York Academy 95th Anniversary, honoring classes ending in 0 and 5. Friday night: vespers and Welcome Table. Sabbath: church service, lunch and "Music and Memories." Sunday: breakfast and basketball. Send your name and contact information by email to alumni@gnyacademy.org, friend us on Facebook at Greater Nya, or write to Greater NY Academy, 41-32 58th St., Woodside, NY 11377.

Alumni of Madison College Alumni

Madison College Alumni Association wants to include any graduates, attendees or friends who may not already be on our mailing list to receive the quarterly newsletter and any other communication. Write to P.O. Box 1735, Madison, TN 37116, or by email madisoncollegealumni@gmail.com.



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

gleaner

AUTOMOTIVE

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 WHOLE-SALE & LEASING**: Portland, OR, 503-760-8122; Vancouver, WA, 360-263-6521; nationwide 800-284-6612; fax 800-300-0484; email wawl@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 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.

RECRUITING MID-LEVEL PROVIDERS (NP/PA) for a new rural health clinic/urgent care in Weimar, Calif. Opportunities are available to specialize in a number of medical fields. Our urgent needs are mental health, pain management, outpatient surgery and emergency medicine. Contact Randy at 530-296-4417 or r61@me.com.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S business department seeks faculty to begin Fall 2015. Master's degree required, Ph.D. preferred, with emphasis in finance, marketing and accounting. Position includes instruction in multiple areas, undergraduate and graduate courses and providing service to the university and community. Send cover letter and CV to Dr. Aaron Moses at mosesa@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks full-time

nurse educator to begin Fall 2015. Master's degree required, doctoral degree preferred, focus areas include mental health, community health or pediatrics. Must have previous teaching experience and an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send cover letter and current CV to Dr. Amy Rosenthal at arosenthal@swau.edu.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE is seeking a full-time carpentry foreman to begin as soon as hired. Must have carpentry related experience. To apply contact hr@puc.edu or call 707-965-6232.

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Judy Dennis, 907-822-5299, RedEagleLodge.net.

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Sunset Schedule

April	3	10	17	24
DST				
ALASKA CONFERENCE				
Anchorage	8:51	9:09	9:27	9:46
Fairbanks	8:46	9:08	9:30	9:53
Juneau	7:40	7:56	8:12	8:28
Ketchikan	7:26	7:40	7:53	8:07
IDAHO CONFERENCE				
Boise	8:13	8:21	8:29	8:38
La Grande	7:21	7:30	7:39	7:48
Pocatello	7:57	8:05	8:13	8:21
MONTANA CONFERENCE				
Billings	7:44	7:53	8:02	8:11
Havre	7:51	8:01	8:11	8:21
Helena	7:58	8:08	8:17	8:27
Miles City	7:33	7:43	7:52	8:01
Missoula	8:06	8:16	8:26	8:35
OREGON CONFERENCE				
Coos Bay	7:44	7:53	8:01	8:09
Medford	7:38	7:46	7:54	8:02
Portland	7:40	7:49	7:58	8:07
UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE				
Pendleton	7:25	7:34	7:43	7:52
Spokane	7:21	7:31	7:41	7:50
Walla Walla	7:23	7:32	7:42	7:51
Wenatchee	7:32	7:42	7:52	8:02
Yakima	7:32	7:42	7:51	8:01
WASHINGTON CONFERENCE				
Bellingham	7:42	7:52	8:03	8:13
Seattle	7:40	7:50	8:00	8:10

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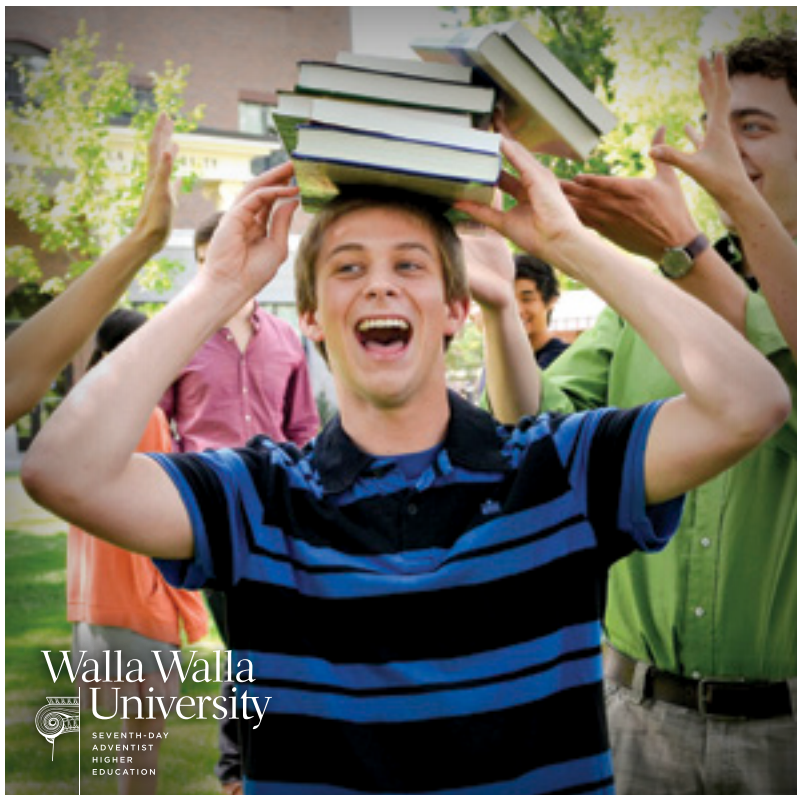
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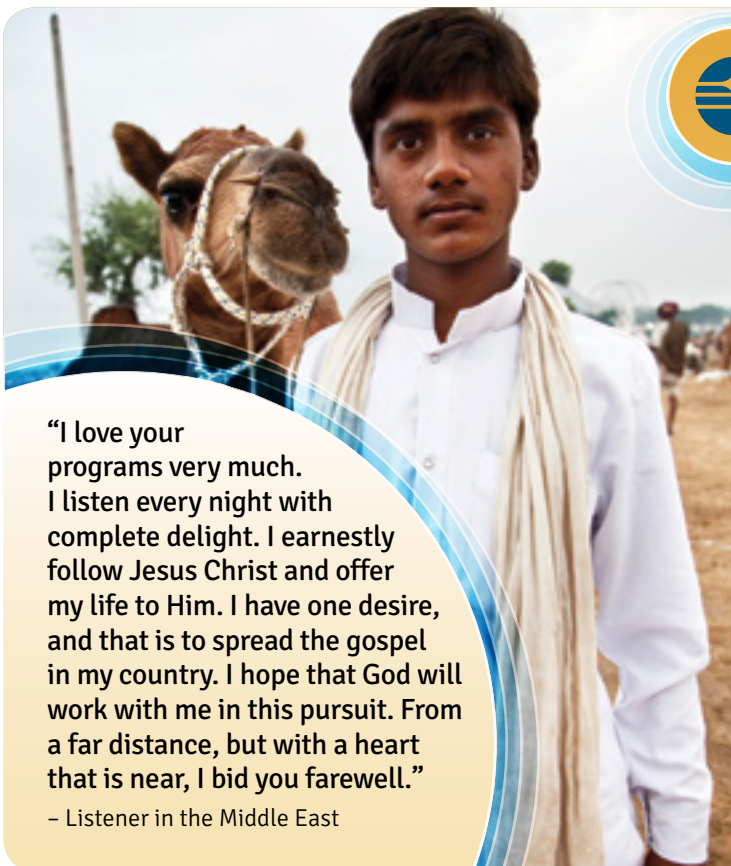
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HIGHLIGHTING HERESY

T

he first time I read the book of Job, I highlighted most of it.

I was so impressed with the theological insights of Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar and Elihu concerning the suffering of their friend Job. After being silent for a few days, they finally fill the air with the wisdom grieving Job desperately needs to hear. Chapter after chapter, the reader is treated with theological gems such as:

“Blessed is the one whom God reprove; therefore despise not the discipline of the Almighty” (Job 5:17).

And:

“If your children have sinned against him, he has delivered them into the hand of their transgression” (Job 8:4).

Also:

“God exacts less than your guilt deserves” (Job 11:6).

My favorite:

“Behold, even the moon is not bright, and the stars are not pure in his eyes; how much less man, who is a maggot, and the son of man, who is a worm!” (Job 25:5–6, ESV).

These stimulating recitations of spiritual aphorisms find their climax when young Elihu, a man “righteous in his own eyes,” stands and shames all previous intelligence peddlers with fresh insight beginning with a rebuke to old people (32:8–10). This poor man suffers under the burden of his own wisdom, as many of us do, and we empathize when he says, “I am full of words; the spirit within me

constrains me. Behold, my belly is like wine that has no vent; like new wineskins ready to burst.

I must speak, that I may find relief . . . (Job 32:18–20, ESV). Elihu’s “words are not false” because “one who is perfect in knowledge is with you” (Job 36:4, ESV).

People like this are so hard to find.

Elihu says, “Job opens his mouth in empty talk; he multiplies words without knowledge” (Job 35:15–16, ESV). Yes, Job indeed has been a worthless idiot. It’s nice to read about people like this — folks not afraid to step in when a fellow follower of God is suffering and let them know what they’ve done. And if they don’t, we certainly do, and it’s up to us to help them see.

And God is pleased . . . or so I thought until I got to chapter 38 when God finally speaks into the cesspool of human speculation: “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? (Job 38:2, ESV) Well, that was unexpected and unfortunate. I looked at my desecrated Bible horrified that I had highlighted heresy instead of truth.

The gospel of suspicion and speculation still lives, and sadly its believers, like their patron saint Elihu, are always “full of words.” This gospel was preached by the Pharisees and even practiced by Jesus’ disciples (John 9:2) until He rebuked them. Sadly, it sounds a lot like how we engage with each other.



AUTHOR

Seth Pierce



A quick glance at the North American Division (NAD) Facebook page provides us with ample speculations about sin in comments left by Facebook “friends”:

“The fact that the director of legislative affairs for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church chose to publish an article in the *Huffington Post*, regardless of the possible merits of his position, gives me pause for concern . . . I would fire him.”

Promoting the Adventist-produced film *Old Fashioned*:

“And we should go see this on Sabbath? Are we pushing Sabbath aside for a secular pastime? Wow.”

Any my favorite:

“Is this really the stand of the NAD or just one Jesuit running this site?”

Outside of Facebook, theologically unstable church folk speculate on the causes of two recent tragedies at Walla Walla University and Union College, indicting bicycles and competitive sports as the reason for suffering — instead of praying for those involved.

They are, to quote God’s servant, “miserable comforters.”

Adding to the fracas of false accusations are books clandestinely mailed to pastors by independent publishers. I recently received one of these works, which listed the names of all those they believed to be

The gospel of suspicion and speculation still lives, and sadly its believers, like their patron saint Elihu, are always “full of words.”

infected with sin. Sadly, I knew some of these people, and when I mentioned this to them they had no idea their names appeared in print nor had knowledge of this book.

What else are our leaders being secretly sent in the mail featuring the names of their parishioners and colleagues? It’s like 19th-century Salem. Now, for those seething with speculative angst about my motives, let me assure you: I believe in sin, the existence of secrets, shady motives and boldly proclaiming truth.

However, I’ve read Jesus admonition of refusing to “judge by appearances” (John 7:24) and Ellen White’s counsel to judge motives (*Mount of Blessings*, p. 125). I don’t believe that anyone who criticizes before seeking to understand their perceived opponent’s intended meaning is preaching the gospel.

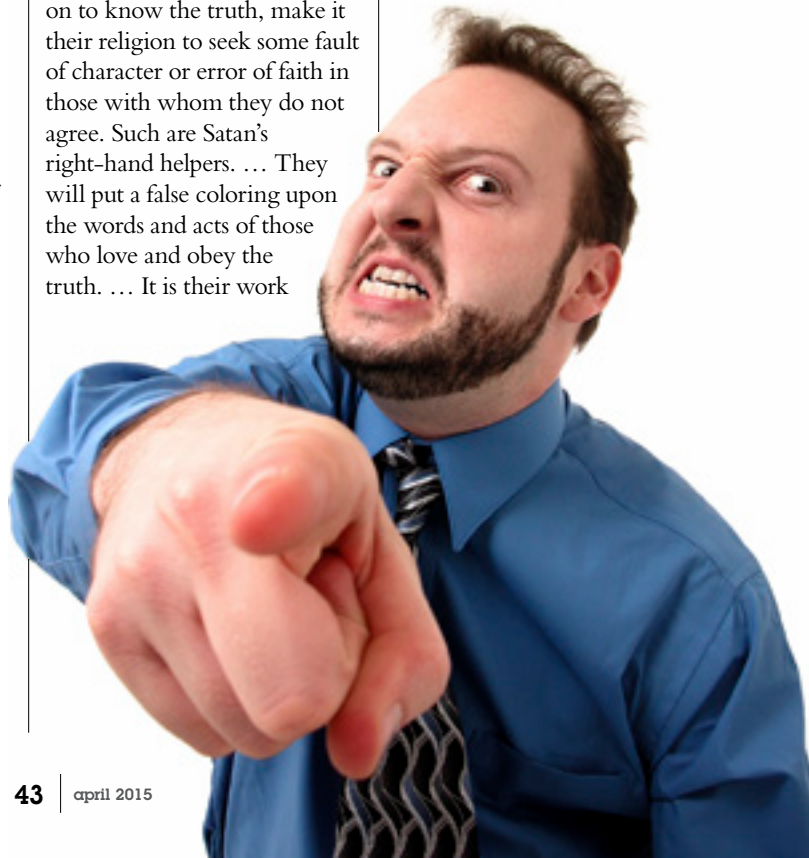
We are too good at highlighting error instead of truth before we know the whole story.

Within the *Great Controversy*, an often-cited source by those keenly aware of the spiritual battles that take place towards history’s close, the author says, “There has ever been a class professing godliness, who, instead of following on to know the truth, make it their religion to seek some fault of character or error of faith in those with whom they do not agree. Such are Satan’s right-hand helpers. . . . They will put a false coloring upon the words and acts of those who love and obey the truth. . . . It is their work

to misrepresent the motives of every true and noble deed, to circulate insinuations, and arouse suspicion” (p. 519).

All of us fall into this trap, particularly when disagreeing with each other. Perhaps the best route is to spend more time praying for our enemies — as Job and Jesus did — so when we, like Elihu, feel our bellies about to burst, we recognize that it might just might be self-righteous nausea instead of righteous indignation . . . and people are tired of cleaning up speculative vomit.

Seth Pierce, Puyallup Church lead pastor



WHY THE PRE-ADVENT JUDGMENT?

S

ince God already knows who believers are, why have a judgment in heaven before Jesus comes? Adventists often get asked that when explaining our unique beliefs.

We can point to Revelation 14, which predicts a global proclamation immediately preceding Christ's return: "Fear God and give Him glory, for the hour of His judgment has come" (verse 6). Why have this pre-Advent judgment, since God knows everything? Its purpose must be to enlighten His celestial creation. Scriptures portray celestial beings as intensely interested in questions concerning human salvation (1 Pet. 1:12, Eph. 3:10, 1 Cor. 4:9 and Ex. 25:20.) And Jesus promised to confess us before His Father and the angels, defending our names in heaven's Book of Life (Rev. 3:5).

AUTHOR

Martin Weber

Defending us against whom?

Let's revisit the beginning of the great controversy between good and evil. Satan, father of lies, originally raised doubts about God's fairness and integrity. He repeated these charges during Christ's days on Earth: "This man receives sinners!" In other words, "How can the Holy One accept those who are unholy?"

God can't ignore the devil's accusations, since His government operates through the trust and loyalty of His celestial creation. He must settle doubts about His

trustworthiness. So the Bible indicates He will let Himself be audited: "Let God be found true, though every man be found a liar, as it is written, 'That Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and mightest prevail when Thou art judged'" (Rom. 3:4, NASB).

Just as judges on Earth face scrutiny after paroling prisoners, God comes under question for setting us free from condemnation in the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan, whose name means "adversary" or "accuser," accuses us of being unworthy and our Forgiver as being unfair. Indeed we are unworthy in ourselves, but God finds in the cross of the Lord Jesus all the evidence He needs to vindicate our salvation in heaven's judgment (see Rev. 12:9-11).

Let's not pervert God's judgment by imposing our Western judicial process upon the biblical text. In Hebrew, the primary meaning of the word "judgment" is not scrutiny but "vindication" or "deliverance." The book of Judges, for example, shows God raising up judges not to condemn but to deliver His people and save them from their adversaries. In the Hebrew legal system, judges defended the accused.



In fact, there were no defense attorneys in normal situations. The judges were required by law to take the side of the accused and actually be predisposed toward vindication (see Ps. 35:24, etc.).

Of course, judges had to be fair, and if the accuser presented evidence that could not be dismissed, they had to abandon their defense of the accused and pronounce condemnation. But Jewish judges were predisposed toward vindication — and so is God as our judge. It is “His good pleasure to give us the kingdom” (Luke 12:32). He is

on our side in the judgment, and Jesus assists Him as our intercessor (Rom. 8:33–34). And remember, this judgment is not about whether we are good enough; it’s about whether we genuinely believe in Jesus.

Years ago I took a delightful train ride that illustrates the meaning of judgment for Christians. One sunny day I rode Amtrak south to San Diego. As our train skimmed the scenic coastline, the conductor began his judgment of who was worthy to ride. Holding a ticket, I felt no threat to secure passage. It was predetermined that my worthiness was based exclusively on that ticket. Thus the investigation was not of my achievements or failures, but of my claim to hold the tick-

In Hebrew, the primary meaning of the word “judgment” is not scrutiny but “vindication” or “deliverance.”

et. The inspection did not threaten my security as a passenger, but manifested it.

Likewise with us before God, we must all give account of what we did with Jesus, who is our ticket to heaven. If we have chosen sincerely to receive Jesus, we need not fear the judgment. But those who rebel against God are already condemned, Jesus taught, “because they do not believe in Me” (John 16:9). They affiliate themselves with old Adam’s fallen humanity, which was judged as unworthy at the cross. Lacking Christ, they have no ticket to heaven.

Amtrak passengers can’t purchase tickets and then discard them, or they have no claim to ride the train. For us as well, since it’s possible to rebel and leave Jesus, there is no such thing as once saved, automatically always saved. Initial acceptance does not guarantee we choose His life today.

But Jesus defends our salvation as we receive His death on the cross and new life in His Spirit. He “is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us” (Rom. 8:34). That’s the faith-inspiring doctrine of the pre-Advent judgment entrusted to Seventh-day Adventists.

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





LET'S TALK

TRIBES



I was more than shocked. I was grieved. But I shouldn't have been surprised. There on Facebook was a forwarded post from a church member that featured a racially charged message about our nation's president. The words were biased, bigoted, disrespectful and patently untrue.

When issues strike a nerve, we are just as likely as anyone to scurry toward a digital corner with like-minded folks.

Regardless of your political persuasion, respect is a glue that holds the thin veneer of society and, yes, even our churches, together. No true community, no resolution of conflict, no lasting agreement, can survive without it.

Yet social media has brought disrespect right up in our face. And membership in a local Adventist church is apparently no antidote for boorish attitudes and behavior. When issues strike a nerve, we are just as likely as anyone to scurry toward a digital corner

with like-minded folks.

Surrounded by a cloud of supportive witnesses, it's easy to lob missiles — verbal or otherwise — from a safe and often anonymous distance.

Frankly, we are resorting to tribalism. What is your tribe? Republican, Democrat, Tea Party, liberal, conservative, libertarian, fundamentalist, young-age creationist, old-age creationist, male headship, feminism? Perhaps your tribe is simply an immediate peer group, the ones you hang out with. The unfortunate thing about tribes is, while they promote a sense of belonging and camaraderie within their small confines, they also create an exclusive domain tightly shut to any other perspectives.

Challenges with this in the Middle East are legion. In some areas there are major tribal confederations and dozens upon dozens of subtribes. There are Shiites and Sunnis and mixtures between the two. The members of these tribes roam their fiefdoms with more allegiance to tribal law than to any other authority.

This is happening here — and not just in the political realm. Within our churches, well-meaning members carve out a narrow interpretation of Scripture beyond our common core beliefs. They make their perspectives a test of faith and fellowship for everyone else. The urge to “cry aloud and spare not” bursts forth and too often leads to the impugning of characters and motives. How

we as the body of Christ deal with our differences speaks volumes about our relationship with Jesus.

So, step back for a moment and take a deep cleansing breath. Tribalism among us plays directly into the hand of the enemy of souls — our souls. He is delighted when our common mission is diminished and darkened by disrespect. He wins when our individual opinions eclipse the Son.

Ellen White counsels us toward humility of spirit and action. “God calls for light bearers who will fill the world with the light and peace and joy that come from Christ. God will use humble men, men who will cherish a sense of their weakness, who will not think that the work of God depends on them. Such men will remember what the service of God demands from them — the propriety of speech and action that God calls for.”

At the close of all things, tribal lines and loyalties won't matter. God will call His people from every kindred, tribe and nation.

If then, why not now?

Steve Vistaunet, Gleaner editor

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



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Hebrews 6:19 NIV

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