

FEATURE
THE WORLD CHURCH
GATHERS

PERSPECTIVE
ASSESSING THE SESSION

LET'S TALK
LITTLE


gleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION



THE [★]SESSION

SEPT.
2015
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**Show the wonder of your great love,
you who save by your right hand those
who take refuge in you from their foes.
Psalm 17:7**

*“Vista House”
in Corbett, Ore.,
by Christina G. Angquico,
of Vancouver, Wash.*





WOMEN WHO MINISTER

I am the proud son of a remarkable woman who stood by my father's side, supporting him and his ministry for every day of the more than 60 years they were married. I am the proud husband of an irreplaceable woman who has shared my life and ministry for nearly 43 years. I am the proud father of two remarkable women, who consistently amaze me by what they're able to accomplish on any given day. I am the proud grandfather of three extraordinary grandchildren — the oldest and the youngest of

which are the sweetest little girls, full of life, mischief, curiosity and determination. I live my life surrounded by strong, capable women and, as a result, have a deep-seated respect for their abilities.

I once read a quote attributed to Mahatma Gandhi that said, "Man can never be a woman's equal in the spirit of selfless service with which nature has endowed her." While I have met individuals of both

author

Max Torkelsen

genders dedicated to selfless service, there seems to be something

inherent in the way women put aside their wants and needs to help others. The ladies in my life prove this every day. And looking more broadly, I see this truth manifest in the women of our church.

Women are indispensable to the life and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Ordained or not, they consistently show their selfless spirit in their dedication and support of our church in serving as pastors, Sabbath School teachers, clerks, church treasurers, community service leaders and more. When you honestly consider what it takes to keep our churches going — to provide vibrant ministry, meaningful community

outreach, order and organization, to create a welcoming place — it cannot be done without women playing an active role. In many churches, these positions are held by women a majority of the time.

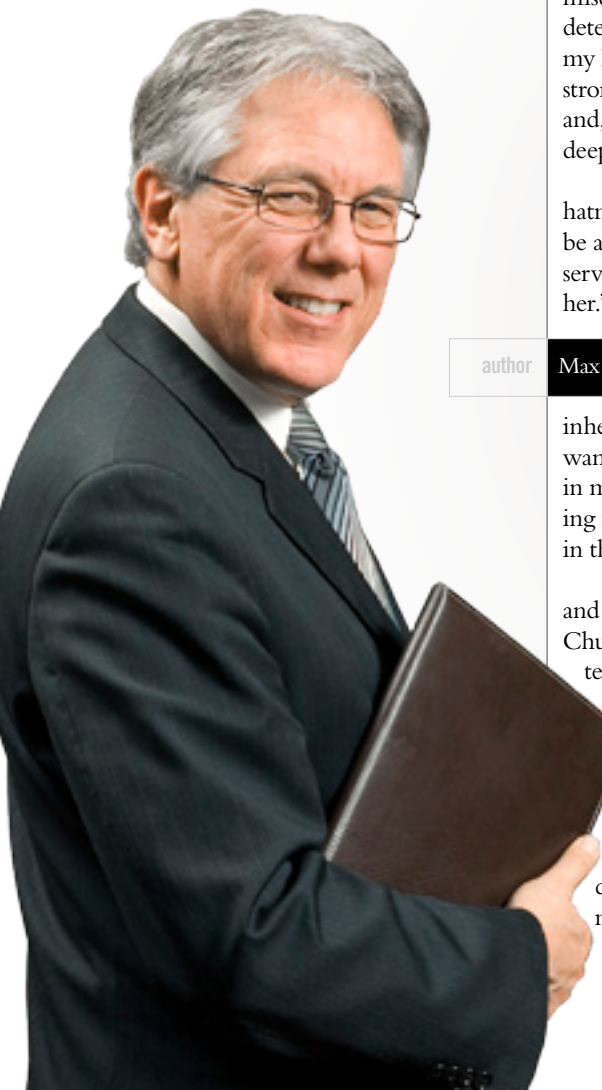
Before returning to heaven after His resurrection, Jesus bade his disciples to "go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. And, lo, I am

TO THE WOMEN WHO SERVE
WITHIN THE NORTH PACIFIC UNION
CONFERENCE — THANK YOU, FROM
THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28: 19–20, KJV). In reading this verse, I see no restriction on who is to go and to teach, winning hearts for God. Man or a woman, adult or child, ordained or not, there is a role for each one of us. God needs all of us to fulfill His Great Commission — we **must not** lose sight of that goal.

And so to the women who serve within the North Pacific Union Conference — thank you, from the bottom of my heart. The jobs that you do, the roles that you fill, the ministries that you perform day in and day out, are noticed. They are necessary. They are appreciated. The kingdom of heaven will be richer and fuller because of you. You are called by God, as we all are, to love Him and love one another. Until Jesus comes and the work is done — our church needs you.

Max Torkelsen, North Pacific Union Conference president





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Stand in Solidarity

The vote in San Antonio to not ordain female ministers caused me to find my own ordination certificate and recall the day in 1976 when I was ordained with two others at the Montana Camp Meeting. My ordination prayer was given by H.M.S. Richards Sr., a family friend with whom I often walked to work in the early morning hours as a teenager in Glendale, Calif. Because I was serving on the Montana Conference and North Pacific Union Conference executive committees I was a delegate to the GC Session in Indianapolis in 1990. I was disappointed by that vote regarding who may be ordained, but felt that “a little more time” would resolve concerns. I am retired now, and my heart is broken for my church by the apparent need to retain male dominance and entitlement. I fear this will never change in my lifetime. A female commissioned minister can function in all ways that I could as a male ordained minister (with one minor and infrequent exception). So, it seems, the only reason not to ordain is based on gender, not on qualifications, function or ability. With that in mind, I wonder what would happen if those male ordained ministers at ALL levels of the church organization who are concerned about equality would turn in their ministerial credentials and request commissioned credentials. By doing this we would stand in solidarity, equality and unity with our female commissioned ministerial colleagues. Yes, I am aware of the consequences of such a suggestion at the conference/union/division/GC levels, but I believe this suggestion still has merit and may help move the church into this century regarding the role of women in ministry in the church.

Verlyn Retzer, Greenacres, Wash.

At First Glance

Excellent “Best” and “Learning the Language” [Let’s Talk by Steve Vistaunet and Perspective by Seth Pierce, July 2015]. I go to these two writers first — always right on!

Marilyn Jorgensen, Spokane, Wash.



Ordination Response

[Regarding the recent General Conference Session vote on ordination] There is apparently significant confusion about the consequences of the failed motion. The truth is there are no consequences. The consequences of a failed motion are the same as if the motion had never existed. Nothing has changed. Nothing is permitted, and nothing is prohibited. For there to be any consequences or change, a motion needs to pass. This is just parliamentary procedure. . . . All church policy and doctrinal issues remain as they were.

Wilmer Radke, Bremerton, Wash.



Read what North Pacific Union Conference delegates had to say following this summer’s General Conference session in San Antonio, Texas, at GleanerNow.com/GCsnapshots.

View an extensive gallery of additional photos from the GC Session online at glnr.in/2015GCsessiongallery.

SNAPSHOTS FROM THE SESSION



PICTURE THIS



World church
takes a stand.

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First time in Arlington.

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Answers to prayer at Livingstone.

SEE ONLINE AT

glnr.in/110-09-or_livingstone



So what happens after the fire?

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Remembering the legacy of a leader.

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THE WORLD CHURCH GATHERS



WHAT OPTIONS FOR MINISTRY WILL OUR CHILDREN HAVE IN THE YEARS AHEAD?

FOR THE 60TH TIME

URCH



JAMES BOCKVOY

Delegates used secret ballots for the Wednesday vote on women's ordination, dropping their completed ballots in plastic tubs to be counted by personnel from the General Conference Auditing Service.

Nearly 60,000 Adventists braved the heat and humidity of San Antonio, Texas, for the 60th General Conference Session, held July 2–11. Some local officials and media outlets characterized the meeting as the largest and longest ever held in the city's history. Twenty-one delegates represented the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC). Two of them, Max Torkelsen, NPUC president, and Gene Heinrich, a pastor from Portland, Oregon, were placed on the General Conference nominating committee, which recommended names for world church officers and directors to be brought to the delegates for a vote.

WORLD CHURCH LEADERS WITH NORTHWEST TIES

Several individuals with Northwest connections were elected to world church positions of responsibility. Thomas Lemon, who served several years as the Oregon Conference ministerial director, was elected as a general vice president. Duane McKey, former NPUC global mission director, was chosen as the new personal ministries director. Ramon Canals, NPUC vice president for Hispanic ministries, will become McKey's associate. Julian Melgosa, Walla Walla University professor of education and psychology, was elected as an associate director for the world church education department. Myron Iseminger, who has pastored in the Upper Columbia Conference and served as treasurer for the Montana Conference, was reelected as undersecretary, and J. Ray Wahlen II, former treasurer for the Washington and Montana conferences, was promoted to undertreasurer.

ELECTRONIC VOTING FAILS

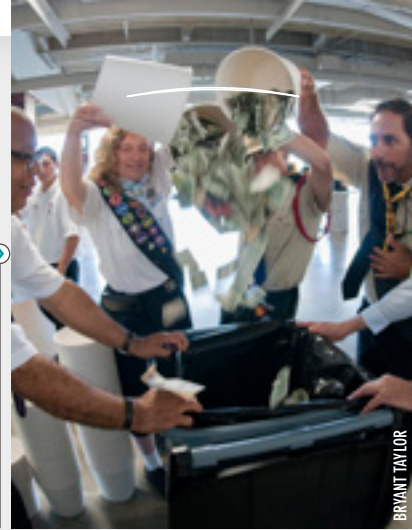
The growing challenges of diversity within the world church were quickly illustrated during the first few days when session leaders tried repeatedly to encourage more than 2,000 delegates to use handheld electronic voting devices. These units could have saved much time and guaranteed confidential balloting on important issues. But after multiple attempts to obtain representative results, session leadership threw in the towel and resorted to the more tedious measure of physical hand counts.

The session's highlighted actions revolved around two areas of discussion: changes to the wording of the church's 28 Fundamental Beliefs and the question of whether or not world church divisions should be able to independently decide on issues of ordination without regard to gender.

A DISCUSSION OF FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS

The discussion of fundamental belief changes was lengthy but largely semantic, with most voted changes reflected in updated language but little substantive change. Following the 2010 General Conference Session, a

Sabbath offerings for church mission are combined by Pathfinder volunteers.



BRYANT TAYLOR

THE GROWING CHALLENGES OF DIVERSITY WITHIN THE WORLD CHURCH WERE QUICKLY ILLUSTRATED DURING THE FIRST FEW DAYS.



small writing committee was formed to draft proposed revisions. The group was chaired by Artur Stele, director of the church's Biblical Research Institute (BRI), and included Bill Knott, *Adventist Review* editor; Gerhard Pfandl, BRI associate director; and Angel Rodriguez, retired BRI director.

The longest debate over their recommended changes surrounded Fundamental Belief #6 — Creation. Some members expressed concern about language in the revision that seemed not only to further restrict views on the age of the Earth and length of the creation week, but also

moved beyond a commitment to the ideal of 'sola scriptura.' Rodriguez stepped to the podium and affirmed that the suggested update on creation was purposefully drafted to exclude any potential allowances for long-term evolutionary chronology.

Certainly the updated creation statement became more specific with regard to time periods. Departing from more literal biblical language, the revision changed the description from "In six days ... " to "In a recent six-day creation ... " It also added a phrase characterizing the Sabbath as a memorial of God's "creative work, performed and completed during six literal days that together with the Sabbath constituted the same unit of time that we call a week today."

THE ORDINATION DILEMMA

Session planners included an entire day for the discussion on ordination. Following an extensive review of the Theology of Ordination Study Committee (TOSC) process during the morning, actual comments from the floor were given less time than some had hoped. Delegates had a few of their number to partially blame for this, as some repeatedly stepped to the microphone to lodge points of order. While many of these were not truly points of order, as the chair-

man patiently explained, each created an interruption to the pro-and-con discussion at hand.

The polarity of world church delegates on the ordination issue was clearly evident in the response to former GC President Jan Paulsen's comments from the floor. His appeal to allow diversity on this issue was met with audible sounds of displeasure from some delegations.

In the end, after comments from differing sides of the discussion were heard, delegates went through the laborious but advisable measure of using secret ballots for the vote. The final tally showed nearly six out of 10 delegates voting to disapprove of independent world division action on the topic. Those in favor of the motion represented a number of delegates from beyond the North American Division (NAD). While NAD delegates represented just 7 percent of the delegate total, 41 percent of the world delegates voted in favor of the motion.

It's also important to note that this action did nothing to change the approved world church practice of ordaining women as local elders and deaconesses wherever local churches find it appropriate.

ENERGY IN THE EXHIBITS

Just a 15-minute hike through the heat from the Alamodome floor, a very differ-



MAD



ROHANA WELLINGTON



★

VIEW AN EXPANDED
PHOTO GALLERY OF THE
SESSION AT

[GLNR.IN/
2015GCSESSIONGALLERY](http://GLNR.IN/2015GCSESSIONGALLERY)

- ④ After session leaders gave up on using handheld electronic voting devices, most votes were taken by hand.
- ④ The Alamodome filled to near capacity for the final Sabbath service on July 11.
- ④ The Walla Walla University crew is ready to greet hundreds of guests in the exhibit hall during the 11 days of the session.
- ④ Hundreds made the daily trek from local hotels and the convention center to the Alamodome for session meetings.

ent world awaited delegates and other visitors to the neighboring convention center. There, more than 300,000 square feet of exhibits and concert stages provided a cross section of global church mission in all its varieties. Official church entities rubbed display shoulders with independently operated ministries. Liberal and conservative outreach projects shook hands and signed up new donors. Those with weary feet sat gratefully soaking up musical praise and worship from the latest, greatest Adventist artists.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Yet the growing diversity of cultures leads to concerns of present and future divisiveness. In the hours immediately following Wednesday's ordination vote, North American

Division (NAD) president, Daniel Jackson, spoke clearly in response. He stated that, while some differences exist, "We still need to be able to say, 'You are my brother. You are my sister. I love you. I care about you. And regardless of your position on this or that, we will link arms and walk together to God's kingdom!'"

Some leaders within the NAD note that the recent vote on ordination leaves in place the 1901 restructuring of the world church, which handed some roles, including the responsibility for ordination, to union conferences. This was in harmony with Ellen White's counsel to distribute governance of the world church to smaller regions of the world in order to avoid what she termed a "kingly power" residing only in one place or position. While some

view any differences in process as rebellion against biblical or world church authority, others believe it is a simple, practical fulfillment of White's guidance to adapt the church's mission to the unique cultures and challenges around the world. Strong opinions, though, fall on differing sides of this discussion even within North America.

Therefore, as this issue of the *Gleaner* goes to press, the NPUC executive committee is meeting to further determine how our Northwest leaders and members should address the topic of ordination within the context of unity in mission and the fundamental beliefs of our world church. You can read updated information about that August 19 meeting online at GleanerNow.com and in the *GleanerWeekly* newsletter.



NACE UNA LUZ EN MONTANA

Por muchos años los líderes de la iglesia en Montana han tratado de alcanzar un sueño que parecía ilusivo. Ese sueño es el de establecer una iglesia adventista hispana en Montana. Montana, es quizás el único estado de nuestra unión donde aún no se ha logrado establecer presencia hispana adventista. Las razones son varias, pero la más importante, es que la cantidad minoritaria de hispanos que

residen allí, están esparcidos por todo el estado. Sin embargo, por la gracia de Dios todo eso está cambiando.

El 10 de enero del 2015, llegó una familia misionera

a Montana. Inspirados y llenos del Espíritu Santo, Víctor Infante y su familia arribaron con el único deseo de ser usados por Dios en el establecimiento de la primera iglesia adventista hispana. En realidad esta iglesia es la primera y única de cualquier denominación para los hispanos en el estado. Por muchos años Víctor y Carmen me decían: “Pastor, ¿cómo es posible que no tengamos obra hispana en Montana? Nosotros estamos dispuestos a sacrificar nuestra comodidad para establecer obra allí.”

Después de orar por Víctor y darle la bendición, él llegó para establecerse



Son pocos hispanos pero “ahora tenemos una familia.”

en Billings, Mont., con su esposa Carmen y su hijo Carlos y empezaron a buscar a los hispanos. Comenzó la obra y en el mes de marzo pude visitarlos, pues él hermano Víctor me invitó a dar un seminario de familia para ayudar a la comunidad, donde se dieron cita varias familias hispanas, más de 40 personas asistieron al seminario que concluyó con una boda.

Un joven que asistió a este seminario matrimonial comentó que se sentía muy feliz porque Víctor se acercó a él en Wal-Mart y lo invitó a estudiar la Biblia. “Nos sentíamos solos,” — dijo — “pero ahora tenemos una familia.” La obra que la familia Infante está realizando en Montana es pionera. Ellos van de casa en casa, como mandó Jesús, hablando con la gente, estudiando la Biblia y orando con ellos. Hoy día cada sábado más de 35 personas hispanas se reúnen para adorar a Dios en la iglesia americana de Billings. También se están teniendo cultos en hogares no-adventistas los miércoles y sábados a las 7:30 p.m. En esos cultos se reúnen de 15–20 personas en los hogares. Hasta ahora 7 almas han entregado su vida a Jesús. El lema es, “Oración y Acción.” Y todo es para honra y gloria de Dios.

La luz en Montana está naciendo, hay mucho por hacer, pero con la bendición de Dios, están habiendo resultados.

Pastor Ramon Canals, director asociado para escuela sabática y ministerios personales, Conferencia General, anteriormente VP ministerio Hispano Unión del Pacífico Norte



Cada sábado más de 35 personas hispanas se reúnen para adorar a Dios.

La luz del evangelio nos une en la distancia.



KETCHIKAN COUPLE CELEBRATES NEW MARRIAGE, BAPTISMS

Tom Paul and Debbie Schmelling were baptized on April 10 into the Ketchikan Church. Schmelling had been an Adventist but had become discouraged. Paul had been raised a Catholic from childhood, but he'd never given his beliefs a lot of thought. However, when in his adult years he became more personally interested in studying the Bible, he began questioning some of the beliefs he'd been taught.

While working on board the Alaska Marine Lines ferry *Columbia*, Paul became acquainted with Schmelling. They both had gone through some hard times. As they shared their past experiences, Schmelling also shared her beliefs in the Lord. Although she had quit going to the Adventist church long ago, she still believed it had the truth.



Debbie Schmelling and Tom Paul are joined in baptism and in marriage.

With Schmelling's help, Paul gained a clearer understanding of some of the beliefs that had troubled him in his former church. In time, they were attracted to each other and started attending the Ketchikan Church when their ship was in dock.

They decided to unite

their lives in marriage and wanted to have God in their union. They started Bible studies and premarital counseling in November. On April 11, the day after their baptisms, they were united in marriage. They want to serve God wherever He leads them, but it is Paul's sincere desire,

at some point in the future, to go to Andrews University and train to be a lay pastor.

*Robert and Alma Stauffer,
Ketchikan Church interim pastoral
couple*

Tom Paul and Debbie Schmelling celebrate their wedding the day after their baptisms.



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IDAHO CONFERENCE PRAYER CONFERENCE

Idaho Conference prayer ministries is excited to announce their first annual prayer conference, Nov. 6–8, 2015, with guest speaker Kevin Wilfley.

Wilfley is the Washington Conference health and prayer ministries director. He has spoken at ministerial gatherings, revival weekends, prayer conferences and camp meetings all over North America and Scotland on the subjects of prayer, the Holy Spirit, spirituality and evangelism.

Commenting on the prayer conference theme “Because You Prayed,” ministry coordinator Randy Maxwell said, “These are God’s words to Hezekiah assuring him that his tormentor, Sennacherib, king of Assyria, would be defeated because he prayed. (See 2 Kings 19:20.)

For us, it’s a promise that God stands ready to act powerfully on behalf of those who seek Him.”

Times of quiet-seeking and group prayer times will be augmented by presentations like Intercessory/Healing Prayer, Prayer and Mission, Five Elements That Produce Revival and more.

The cost is \$99/person (\$89 if registered by Oct. 10). Register online at IdahoAdventist.org/2015prayerconference, email randy.maxwell@idconf.org, or call 208-375-7524 for more information.

Plan now to join us for a weekend of prayer, spiritual nourishment and ministry enrichment at beautiful Camp Ida-Haven in McCall, Idaho. The need is great. The key is prayer. The time is now.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Women's Fall Retreat

Sept. 11–13

Camp Ida-Haven, McCall, Idaho

Pathfinder Camporee

Sept. 18–20

Lick Creek Summit, Idaho

Transformed for Service Ministry Training

Sept. 26

La Grande, Ore.

Transformed for Service Ministry Training

Oct. 3

Caldwell, Idaho

Transformed for Service Ministry Training

Oct. 24

Pocatello, Idaho

Because You Prayed Prayer Conference

Nov. 6–8

Camp Ida-Haven, McCall, Idaho

Pathfinder Biblefest

Nov. 7

Gem State Adventist Academy, Caldwell, Idaho

Pathfinder Honors Day

Nov. 8

Camp Meeting 2016 News

June 14–18

Evening/Sabbath Speaker:

José Rojas

Musical Guest:

The King's Heralds



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GSAA WELCOMES NEW PRINCIPAL AND STAFF

Gem State Adventist Academy (GSAA) has welcomed a new principal and other staff.

Marvin E. Thorman, the new principal, brings a rich experience of 33 years of teaching and nine years of



Marvin Thorman

supervising student teachers through the education program at Southern Adventist University (SAU) in Collegedale, Tenn. With 20 years as a leader in the academy Senior Survival experience and a strong desire to nurture teachers and students, Thorman is uniquely suited to lead GSAA into deeper spiritual and academic ministry to God's teens. He says ministry gives him purpose and fulfillment.

Thorman's wife, Lisa, is

a musician with a master's in piano performance and enjoys teaching piano.

Glen Wahlman comes to GSAA from Bakersfield Adventist Academy in California to lead the science program. He has a Master of Science in education from SAU and a Bachelor of Science in biology from Pacific Union College in Angwin, Calif. Wahlman brings 17 years of teaching experience in sciences and enjoys using animals and plants to bring life to his classes.

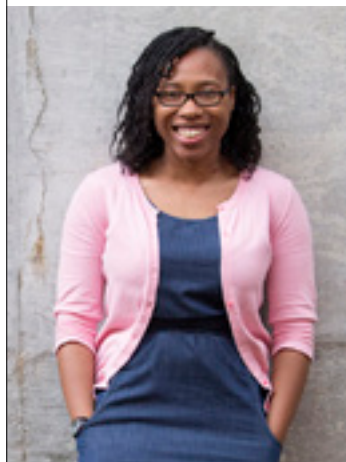
Wahlman also uses art and new technology in the classroom to help his students succeed. He spent more than five years in Russia and the Marshall Islands. He truly enjoys teaching in the natural



Glen Wahlman

sciences and exploring the wonders of God's creation.

Florida native Cecilia Simmons comes to GSAA by way of Tennessee. Simmons firmly believes Idaho is right where God wants her to be. A recent graduate of SAU, Simmons comes to GSAA



Cecilia Simmons

with teaching certifications in music and German. In addition to completing her necessary studies at SAU, Simmons also spent a year abroad studying German in Austria. Her greatest desire is to use music as a medium to reach the hearts of her students for Christ. She brings her love of the outdoors and her own unique brand of enthusiasm to the GSAA music department.

Tom Sherwood, the GSAA gardens manager, was born and raised in west-central

Minnesota. Sherwood met his wife, Doreen, a farmer's daughter, in the farming community of Wheaton, Minn., and together they decided to move west to Coeur d' Alene, Idaho. On June 2, 1979, Tom and Doreen were baptized and became Seventh-day Adventists.

Sherwood began his teaching career in the Nevada-Utah Conference and has taught in Upper Columbia and Idaho conferences. While in Pasco, Wash., his love for gardening took root and blossomed. Sherwood says, "Educating young adults for service to God and country and growing delicious organic vegetables are two primary goals here at the GSAA gardens. Together with your



Tom Sherwood

prayers and support, we can accomplish much to advance the kingdom of God."

Eve Rusk, Idaho Conference communication director



Campers enjoy an evening campfire worship.

CAMP PAXSON OFFERS 'UNBELIEVABLE' WEEK

Montana's summer camp this year was an amazing week, themed "UNBELIEVABLE," in June. Jim Jenkins, Bozeman Church pastor, was the camp pastor this year and went through the unbelievable life of Christ, from His birth to His ascension to heaven. All 68 campers were given the opportunity to accept Jesus and dedicate their life to Him. As Friday evening came to a close, there was a symbolic communion service and a prayer of dedication to everyone present.

The weather was perfect and the clear waters of Seeley Lake inviting. The campers were kept busy with activities such as archery, disc golf, kayaking, mountain biking,

hiking, skiing, wakeboarding and, everyone's favorite, playing with water toys. With a generous donation, the camp was able to purchase a 1999 Malibu Sunsetter LXI power boat, and it was kept busy for hours each day.

On Friday, 14 teams competed in the traditional "Olympics," during which teams of five ran, swam, shot and kayaked their way through a grueling course. This was topped off by an even more impressive feat of endurance as

14 campers ran the "Ironman" race, with every stage completed by themselves. In the end, Kyle Susans had the best time for the men. Kylie Susans and Gabrielle Browning tied for the ladies' time.

Camp Paxson has impacted so many lives over the past decades and has a special part in the lives of many campers who return to become counselors. It was an "unbelievable" time thanks to all the counselors, cooks, directors, teachers and staff making camp memorable, and many people are looking forward to next year already.

Phil Hudema, Montana Conference youth director

Water sports are a favorite Camp Paxson activity.



RED CROSS HONORS DARBY CHURCH MEMBER

ADarby Church member was recently recognized by the Red Cross for 72 years of donating blood.

While 17-year-old Jim Kyle was a student at Mount Ellis Academy (MEA) in Bozeman in 1943, he heard an announcement that blood donors were urgently needed at the local hospital in Bozeman for a lady that was hemorrhaging. Upon hearing this, Kyle decided to see if he could help. While waiting to have his blood typed, he phoned a special friend and classmate,

Sybil, to tell her of his plan. His phone call was answered by Sybil's sister, Jeanne, who was happy to relay his message. Kyle's message stated, "I'm wondering if my blood will do?" When relaying the message to Sybil, Jeanne added, "I wonder if our love is true?"

Both answers were positive. Kyle's blood was a good match for the patient. And after Kyle's Army service, while Sybil attended Walla Walla College, they were married in College Place, Wash., on June 8, 1947, by H.E. Westermeyer.

After that first donation, Kyle continued giving blood for 72 years. During a recent blood drive at MEA's 2015 alumni reunion, Kyle was awarded a 25-gallon pin by the Red Cross after making his 200th blood donation.

Kyle says he is happy to know that his blood has helped many people in need, and he refers to blood as a "God-given renewable resource."

Edie Ellingson, Darby Church clerk



JERRY KYLE

The milk cans next to Jim Kyle represent the 25 gallons of blood he has donated to the Red Cross.

RELIEVE THE SUFFERING OF 1,000

Dave McCoy, the Fall Creek and Pleasant Hill churches pastor, is working with members and other churches to plan a free health care event for the Eugene area.



Dave McCoy, the Fall Creek and Pleasant Hill churches pastor, has been working with his members and other area churches to offer a large-scale medical evangelism event in the Eugene, Ore., area. McCoy was selected to present the event at the North American Division Pastoral Convention, held in Texas in July, and he obtained \$3,000 that will be used to rent the facilities for the event at the Lane County Fairgrounds.

This event, which will be held Sept. 26–27, is being coordinated by seven Eugene-area churches, Adventist Medical Evangelism Network (AMEN), Light Bearers Ministries/ARISE and Caring Hands Worldwide/International Caring Hands (ASI ministry). The first goal of Impact Your Health Eugene is for 1,000 people to see Jesus Christ working through the volunteers. The second goal allows church members to provide 1,000 hours of volunteer time modeling the love of Jesus Christ. The third goal aims to help 1,000 people receive physical healing in a spiritual environment.

There are eye care businesses across the state of Oregon that have already agreed to provide eye exams, reading glasses, prescription glasses and even cataract surgery. Dentists

and dental hygienists have also started to sign up for the event to provide dental exams, digital X-rays, cleanings, extractions and fillings.

People will be blessed by being able to see clearly, both spiritually and physically, they will be relieved of dental pain, and they will learn to reverse diabetes. The community will see the love of Jesus through selfless volunteers providing health care without expecting to be paid. This will allow them to freely ask spiritual questions and then connect with the local churches during the follow-up services at the local churches.

International Caring Hands (ASI Ministry) and its foundation Caring Hands Worldwide have already provided more than \$1 million in free dental care at Adventist churches in Zambia and Micronesia. They have worked with ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) International and have established a mobile dental clinic in Madagascar. This ASI ministry has agreed to use its \$250,000 state-of-the-art mobile clinic to deliver free dental care at the local Seventh-day Adventist churches after the event on a monthly basis as part of this

initiative to relieve the pain of 1,000 people. The estimated free dental care to be provided will be well over \$250,000 in 2015 and 2016.

If you would like to join this large medical evangelism event and help relieve the suffering of 1,000, you can sign up at the AMEN website impactyourhealtheugene.org.

Randy Meyer, Fall Creek Church head elder

A mobile dental clinic will visit the seven local Adventist churches after the event to continue to provide free dental care.



GLADSTONE CAMP MEETING GOERS ARE CALLED TO LOVE

The tents are down and the benches are all put away, but the memories will long remain of this year's Gladstone Camp Meeting, which was held July 21–25.

After a momentous General Conference Session the beginning of July, many expected heated debates and tension with camp meeting so close on the heels of the

insight they gained from Lee Venden's thought-provoking evening presentations in the Plaza Pavilion. They also spoke of the exceptionally friendly atmosphere of this year's camp meeting attendees, staff and volunteers. People were regularly heard thanking and encouraging each other as they recognized the value of those around them.

In addition to the evening presentations, the daytime seminars and events drew sometimes standing-room-only crowds. With the Cascadia Subduction Zone having received a great deal of media coverage during the two weeks before camp meeting, the seminars on earthquake preparedness were popular, and interest exceeded the room's capacity. Fortunately, recordings of the two presentations (along with most of the other seminars) are available through the local Adventist Book Center.

For the younger generations, the activities ranged from crafts to obstacle courses and from community service projects to a trip to the beach. Kids ages 3–10 were encouraged to "Imagine God's Universe" and spent one evening after the program exploring the beautiful night sky through telescopes.

Among the community service aspects of camp



BEN DALUSONG, JR.

Kids ages 3–10 were encouraged to "Imagine God's Universe" and spent one evening after the program exploring the beautiful night sky through telescopes.

meeting, this year's annual blood drive exceeded the two-day goal, giving 345 patients the gift of life through blood. The Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS-DR) team distributed "flood buckets" at their booth in the Exhibit Tent. Attendees will take the bright yellow buckets home, fill with cleaning supplies (from the provided list) and return the filled buckets to their local ACS center for distribution to families who experience a flood or similar disaster. One person, who teaches nursing at a public college, took 21 of them so she could assign the project to her nursing students. On Friday morning, this year's Fun Run/Walk was enjoyed by more than 200 participants of all ages, including 88-year-old Franklin Gearhart, who

crossed the line with a smile on his face.

If you weren't able to attend this year's Gladstone Camp Meeting, you can still get a taste of the experience by watching each evening's program, viewing Sabbath morning's services and reading the daily newspaper, the *Gladstone Gazette*, on the Oregon Conference website at OregonConference.org.

Next year's Gladstone Camp Meeting will begin with Spanish Camp Meeting, July 14–16, and follow with English Camp Meeting, July 19–23. Hope to see you there.

Krissy Barber, Oregon Conference communication assistant

BEN DALUSONG, JR.



Many spoke of the new insight they gained from Lee Venden's thought-provoking evening presentations in the Plaza Pavilion.

decisions made in San Antonio. That didn't prove to be the case, however, as instead a climate of renewed mission, hope and encouragement prevailed, all further encouraged by this year's theme, "Called to Love ... Members in Ministry."

Many spoke of the new

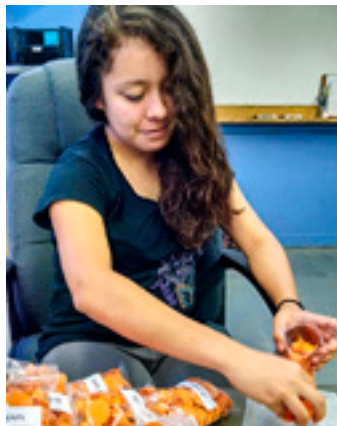


Junior Sierra Kirk builds a sensor for Advanced Assembly.

More online at
glnr.in/110-09-or_milo.

MILO SUMMER WORK PROGRAM GROWS

This summer, 38 students worked at Milo Adventist Academy in Days Creek, to help pay for their tuition this fall. Activities included helping in the cafeteria, landscaping, maintenance, painting, cleaning, waxing



Junior Yulemi Hernandez earns money for her fall tuition by working in Advanced Assembly.

classroom floors, working in Advanced Assembly, assisting in the office and other tasks as needed.

Senior Sarah Ayon says she most enjoyed “the times I get to spend with friends without having to worry about schoolwork.”

Her friend, Vanessa Valenzuela, a junior, agrees: “There are fewer people this summer, so we all hang out together like a family.”

Valenzuela’s sister Dulce, a senior, says, “We receive some cash each week, and we get to go to town to go shopping more often.”

Freshman Hezekiah Seaton loved the extra free time in the evenings to play basketball — “and the Mexican food,” he adds, a compliment to Claudia Guido, a volunteer from Mexico who provided delicious meals for the summer workers.

“It’s been a great experience,” Guido says. “I love the environment. I see deer walking around campus. There are so many beautiful places to go and pray. All the kids act like brothers and sisters and are very well behaved. There are lots of activities for the kids ... games, open gym, swimming, worships together.” Guido also loves the weather, which is much cooler than at her home this time of year.

As a group, students are expected to earn more than \$150,000 this summer to apply toward their tuition and fees this fall.

For more information about the work-study program and other scholarships available at Milo, email kathy.hernandez@miloacademy.org.

Kathy Hernandez, Milo Adventist Academy teacher and recruiter

LENTS CHURCH REACHES COMMUNITY THROUGH HEALTH AND HEALING

Lents Church in Portland is working to actively engage principles of health and healing with its community as it continues to plan participation at neighborhood events. The city of Portland held a community biking event on May 10 at east Portland parks. A route was designated between six parks, with events and booths at all of them. The Lents Church and Carl Parker, from People to People Ministries, arranged for booths where bottled water was distributed to bike riders.

During the Lents Founders Day Parade on July 26, members of the church participated by highlighting the Portland Adventist Commu-



John Press hands out water to bicycle riders at Lents Park.

nity Services COW (Commodities on Wheels) trailer, which rolled along the route. Personnel from the COW gave out flyers advertising the mobile food pantry’s once-a-month Lents visit. Lents Church Vacation Bible School and health ministry personnel also participated.

By handing out brochures during this parade, church participants promoted an upcoming free health seminar and health expo planned for September. Lents Church members welcome these opportunities to connect to their community to help demonstrate the love of Christ in many ways.

Carol Specht, Lents Church communication leader



“Water Drop” visits with Steve Madsen, Lents Church pastor, and Charlie Hales, Portland mayor.

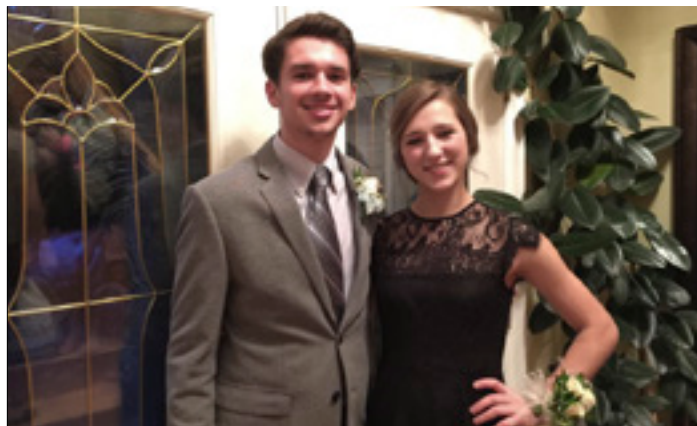
PAA CLEP EXAM ADVANCES COLLEGE- BOUND STUDENTS

Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) graduates Jack Blashchishen and Andreea Hutuleac begin college this fall after excelling at the Spanish College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exam.

“The CLEP is good planning,” says PAA Spanish teacher Rita Barrett. “If students test out of the first year’s classes, it means they don’t have to pay tuition for prerequisites. For \$110, the CLEP is an awesome investment.”

But even the most proficient students can struggle with the CLEP test. “For the listening portion, you only get to hear it once,” says Blashchishen who didn’t speak Spanish when he came to PAA as a freshman. “It challenged me, but I ended up getting a 74. That put me above the required score of 63, and I received credit for four semesters of Spanish.” He will begin college taking third-year

Jack Blashchishen (back right) improved his Spanish during mission trips. This fall he starts college with a language major and begins at a third-year Spanish level.



Jack Blashchishen (left) and Andreea Hutuleac begin college ahead of the game after excelling at the CLEP. Their scores placed them well beyond first-year prerequisite courses.

Spanish courses.

Blashchishen, one of only three Oregon students awarded the Confederation in Oregon for Language Teaching (COFLT) scholarship, plans to volunteer for the Peace Corps and to someday work for the United Nations. “I’m double-majoring in international studies and Romance languages,” he says. “I’ll study all about international development, human rights

and global economics along with Spanish and French.”

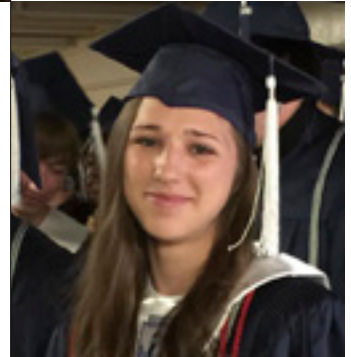
Hutuleac, whose score was equally as impressive, is majoring in premed biology. “I want to do something with my life serving and helping others,” she says. “I think that’s where true satisfaction and contentment comes from.”

Historically, PAA students excel at the CLEP. “Kathryn Conyers earned 12 credits via CLEP,” says Barrett. “Haley Howard, also 12, and Carmella Rosu got 10 semester credits, which is more than one year of classes.” Beyond their achievements in education, they continue to improve their Spanish simply for the joy of it.

Barrett’s desire to inspire a love of language is reflected in the success of her students. “I took a college placement test to see where I’d land

in the French program,” says Blashchishen, who has never taken a French course. “My score lets me skip the prerequisites.”

Hutuleac is proficient in three languages and is perusing a fourth. “All the efforts I put in to learning Spanish is simply because I want to know the language,” says Hutuleac, “as opposed to just so I can pass a test.”



Hutuleac has an attitude toward learning that PAA strives to inspire. “All the efforts I put in to learning Spanish is simply because I want to know the language,” she says, “as opposed to just so I can pass a test.” Hutuleac speaks three languages and is working on a fourth outside of school.

This mindset has proven worthy. “I fell in love with language at PAA,” says Blashchishen. “And I never dreamed I would.”

Liesl Vistaunet, PAA Gleaner correspondent





Daniel Ciobanu, Romanian Church pastor, baptizes Victor Andritch on May 23.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATES NEW LIFE

Members of the Romanian Church in Portland, Ore., joined with heaven on May 23 in celebrating two wonderful events in the lives of Victor and Maria Andritch. On the same day that Daniel Ciobanu, Romanian Church pastor, baptized Victor into new life in Christ and into the Adventist Church, the couple celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary.

Originally from Eastern Europe, the couple immigrated with their family to the United States, and Maria, already a Seventh-day Adventist, became a member at the Portland Romanian Church. Although Victor believed the Adventist message and had been ready to commit to baptism 12 years ago, he had been discouraged. “Yet God had great patience with me, caring for me all the time I was apart from Him,” Victor explained during his testimony of faith in front of the church.

With God’s patience, Victor came to understand that he could only look for perfection in Jesus, who died not only for Victor’s sins but for the sins of all men. “Now I have the

privilege of working to help others who have not yet taken this step, to make the same commitment that I am making today,” Victor added.

After the service, friends and church members, along with the children and grandchildren of the Andritchis, filled the fellowship hall to celebrate. Victor and Maria’s daughter Irina gave a tribute of praise to God for her father’s decision to be baptized as well



Victor and Maria Andritch celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary.

as for the witness of her parents’ strong marriage. “There is nothing more beautiful than knowing that our whole family will be in heaven together,” she said.

Angela Fuller, Romanian Church communication leader

TILLAMOOK COMMUNITY SERVICES GETS EGG-STRASURPRISE

Donna Parks, Tillamook Adventist Community Services (TACS) leader, and her crew of volunteers are busy people, serving with love those in need in Tillamook County. But they were recently surprised when they received a special telephone call from a local farmer with a major gift.

When Parks was asked if she could use some eggs, she responded, “Of course, and thank you. How many are we talking about?”

Imagine her shock when the farmer asked, “Can you use a thousand dozen?” Within 36 hours, she and her many helpers scrambled to distribute 680 dozen eggs.

Open Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., TACS, in partnership with the Salvation Army, distributes food, clothing and household

items to the needy without charge. TACS served 2,955 people last year, distributing 68,078 items of clothing, 1,124 pieces of bedding and 11,833 household items. Volunteers contributed 4,371 hours of personal time.

The agency, located at the east end of town, just across from the local Adventist church, is one of the first agencies visitors note as they enter or leave town. Much volunteer labor has gone into remodeling and refurbishing the building, now named the Herald Center.

These volunteers pray they may represent the love of the Creator to those who do not know Him and to witness to them about a soon-returning Savior.

Shirley Thomas, Tillamook Church communication leader

Tillamook Adventist Community Services volunteers scramble to distribute a surprise donation of 680 dozen eggs.





HIS TRAVELERS ENJOY SUMMER TO REMEMBER

Praising God for head lice is not something one would expect, but Andrea Anderson, Upper Columbia Conference His Travelers team leader, did just that this summer while serving with her team, Kisa McClosky and Polly Officer.

“Three of the children who attended regularly came due to a head lice outbreak at the community program they normally attended,” Anderson



The 2015 His Travelers on-the-road team ministered across Upper Columbia Conference this summer.

most every child gave each one of us a huge hug of thanks. We left that day knowing that we had experienced a miracle.”

“It is stories like these that confirm the importance of His Travelers,” states Patty Marsh, Upper Columbia Conference (UCC) children’s ministries director. His Travelers began with a simple request from a wonderfully organized local church leader: “Do you have a team of young people who could bring life and energy to our VBS?” In answer to this plea, the first His Travelers team began assisting seven smaller to midsize churches in the summer of 2010 with children’s programming and community outreach. Since that time, more than 35 young people making up 14 teams have ministered in a variety of UCC churches for a total of 86 weeks.

time in 2012 when her team painted a bakery. “It was loads of fun,” she says.

Moments of witness aren’t always planned though. When the team visited neighborhoods inviting children to Vacation Bible School, they met Pat. Even though she didn’t have any kids, she did have a garden that needed attention, so the team arranged a time to come back and weed. “When we were done, the smile on Pat’s face was bright enough to light up the sky,” Anderson recalls. “After a bite of watermelon and zucchini bread that she graciously offered us, we left her home thanking God for the unique experience.”

Visit the His Travelers Facebook page for more stories and pictures from their summer ministry.

Tamara Terry, Upper Columbia Conference children’s ministry and His Travelers administrative assistant



His Traveler team member Polly Officer dons a costume and meets with Sarah Smith, the Troy (Idaho) Church VBS leader.

explains. “They had never heard the story of Moses or even knew about the Bible.”

“My most memorable experience happened at the same place,” McClosky adds. “While saying goodbye, the little ones begged us to ride with them back to their homes. The trip was well worth it. We sang, we talked, we laughed, and we even drew pictures until it was time to drop them off. Before they departed, al-

In addition to helping churches with their children’s programming, the team assists with community service projects. From sanding and painting tables in the community park to helping at the humane center, the His Travelers team is there to help connect the church with the community in a positive way. Previous His Travelers team member Joy Naka recalls her

The His Traveler team took the time to weed a woman’s garden because she needed the help.



More online at
glnr.in/110-09-uc_loavesandfishes.



LOAVES AND FISHES PRINCIPLE HELPS FIRE RECOVERY

Four separate lightning strikes on July 14, 2014, in central Washington's Methow Valley began the Carlton Complex Fire, which would become the largest wildfire in Washington state history as it burned 350,000 acres. In the months following, God's people responded to a simple request to support those hit by this disaster by donating with monetary gifts both small and large.

What difference would a \$10, \$100 or \$1,000 gift make? Some of the money went for immediate needs, but the ACS Disaster Response advisory voted to use most of these gifts for a one-time donation to the long-term recovery group to help rebuild 42 homes for the uninsured. Upper Columbia Conference offerings totaled \$11,377. Washington Conference Adventist Community Services added another \$5,000. Brewster (Wash.) Church, whose goal is to ultimately give \$90,000, added \$18,000.

Then an anonymous do-

nor offered to match any donation made to the long-term recovery group and doubled the total Adventist donation to \$68,754. With other donations from faith-based organizations that were matched as well, more than \$500,000 was donated for the Carlton Complex Fire recovery. It is clear that God still uses the principle behind the loaves and fishes yet today.

Besides monetary donations, the greatest need in the rebuilding effort of the 42 homes is the donation of time, skills and equipment like:

- » Licensed plumbers and electricians;
- » Heavy equipment operators to remove ash and foundations.

For more information, contact Cindy Cook at 509-220-9606 or cindacook@hotmail.com.

Patty Marsh, Upper Columbia Conference children's ministries, community services and women's ministries director

This home is being built thanks to funds donated and then doubled for fire recovery in central Washington.



CINDY COOK



An aerial view shows the main meeting tent with RVs setting up camp around the perimeter gearing up for another inspiring camp meeting on the Palouse.

CAMP MEETING ATTENDEES ENJOY MANY BLESSINGS

What does it mean to pray in the name of Jesus? Pastor Derek Morris held attendees at the Upper Columbia Conference Camp Meeting spellbound as he shared the miraculous story of Jasmine and how God an-



Pastor Derek Morris held attendees spellbound with stories inspiring each to be ready for Jesus soon return.

One attendee said, "The weather was perfect. I hope you can duplicate that again next year."

"While we may not be in control of the weather," says Paul Hoover, Upper Columbia Conference president, "we are certainly planning for a banner year with John Bradshaw and inspiring music from Rudy Micelli in 2016."

Online registration for the 2016 camp meeting, which takes place June 22-25, 2016, opens Oct. 1, 2015. Go to uccsda.org/campmeeting to register.

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



While a dad listens, a youngster plays on a blanket outside the door to the main meeting tent.

swers His children when they call upon the name of Jesus.

The camp meeting took place on the campus of Upper Columbia Academy in Spangle, Wash., on June 17-20. This year stands out for many reasons, not the least of which was the beautiful, warm weather.



YOUTH RUSH SUMMER CHANGES LIVES

“**Y**outh Rush has changed my life completely,” says Emilie Carr, a high school senior from Yakima, Wash., who was participating in her first summer of the annual student colporteur program in Upper Columbia Conference (UCC). “I now understand how important our lives are to God, and as His followers we need to bring others to Him as well.” She and the 17 other young people shared nearly 1.3 million pages of Bible-based literature with people throughout the conference territory.

One of those people was Dan, from Richland, Wash.

“He looked like some guy from *Duck Dynasty*,” admits Joseph Telavera. “I showed him the cookbook first, and after showing *The Great Controversy* he said he really wasn’t interested.” After giving up quickly, Telavera kept going down the street. Before he could cross the street, Dan came out and called him back, asking again what *The Great Controversy* was about.

After a short explanation, Dan was disappointed. “I thought it was by Ellen G. White,” he said. To his delight, Telavera told him that it was.

“He told me that his family has been a Sabbath-keeping

family for 10 years now but are not Seventh-day Adventist,” Telavera explains. “He had seen *The Great Controversy* on TV and had been wanting to read it.” Dan’s opportunity found him that day, as he gave a donation for it as well as the book *Messiah*.

This summer, about 650 copies of *The Great Controversy* were distributed, along with more than 700 *Christ’s Object Lessons* and nearly 3,000 copies of *Steps to Christ*. In all, more than 13,000 books were left in the 90,000-plus homes visited by Youth Rush students. More than \$105,000 was donated, providing more than \$70,000 in outside funding for Adventist education.¹

These youth also generated interests for Bible studies, VBS programs, health courses and Revelation seminars. “I found that you really need a strong connection with God doing this work,” says Theron King, a student from the Walla Walla, Wash., area.

Kiley Johnson, from Lenore, Idaho, echoed that idea. “This summer I learned to really put my trust in God,” she says. “Whenever I felt like I couldn’t do it on my own anymore, I would start praying. I found that God would give me strength.”

This summer, God has worked powerfully through the young people who



ROBERT KOORENNY

Emilie Carr is one of 18 young people who participated in this summer’s Youth Rush program.

dedicated their summer to reaching the world through the printed page. They have seen why Ellen White shared in *Colporteur Ministry*, “If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the scriptures” (p. 7). Whether young or old, student or professional, we can all do something to reach the lost by sharing literature with those we meet.

1. For final statistics and more stories, visit uccsda.org/youthrush.

Robert Koorennny, Upper Columbia Conference literature ministries coordinator



ROBERT KOORENNY

Maverick Khongphan and Kiley Johnson visiting homes in the Walla Walla valley this summer.

More online at
glnr.in/110-09-uc_digdeeper.

YOUNG ADULTS HOLD 'DIGGING DEEPER' RETREAT

“Lord, what would you have us do to reach young adults in our area?” This was the question that was on the hearts of a group of young adults as they met once again to talk about their plans for ministry in Spokane. Actually, this question had been on their hearts for more than a year and had led them to organize Bible studies, vespers, game nights, camping trips and other events that brought young adults together for fun and fellowship. But after all of this, they still felt the need to ask God, “What more?”

Their answer came as the group discussed the idea of planning a spiritual retreat for young adults and young families to come together for prayer, Bible study and fellowship. As they began to pray and plan for this event, God opened doors in incredible



A large part of those attending the young adult retreat pose for a picture out on the lawn near Maplewood auditorium.

ways and connected them with so many people who offered their support.

After months of planning, the weekend of May 29–31 finally came, and 176 young adults with their 58 kids from around the Northwest came together for a retreat at Camp MiVoden in Hayden Lake, Idaho. The theme was “Digging Deeper” into God’s Word. Speaker Peter Gregory shared his passion for understanding and applying Scripture to their lives. Young adults came away with a renewed desire to study the Bible, as well as tools to guide them into deeper study. The weekend retreat was also filled with praise music, prayer sessions, breakout discussions, time in nature, and group activities and games.

The young adults who planned this event are in awe of the ways that God worked to

bring this retreat together. They are grateful to the individuals who helped to make this weekend possible. So many people volunteered to pray for them and for the other young adults who would be attending the retreat. The group saw God’s rich blessing during the retreat and knows that these prayers were instrumental in allowing the Holy Spirit to be poured out on those who attended.

Young adults from the Upper Columbia Conference come together for spiritual retreat.

Because of the generosity of volunteers who donated money, the planners were able to give away more than \$3,000 in scholarships for more than 70 young adults and children. Many families were moved to tears as they learned money had been given so that they could come.

Over the past year, God has taken this group on an incredible journey of knowing Him more deeply and serving Him more fully. The Digging Deeper retreat was so much more than they could have asked or imagined. And as they move forward from this retreat, these young adults are still asking, “Lord, what more would you have us do?” They can hardly wait to see where He leads.

Sara Maniscalco, West Plains Community Adventist Church member



Peter Gregory helps attendees dig deeper into biblical truth.



NEW EXCITEMENT FILLS AUBURN

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here is a new excitement on campus with several reasons why!

Milestone Class: Auburn Adventist Academy is enrolling a freshmen class this year who will become, in four years, the 100th graduating class.

New Leadership Team: Auburn Adventist Academy has a new leadership team including John Soulé, principal, who brings 25 years of education leadership; Marko Oksanen, business manager; and Roxanne Wickward, registrar.

Revived Dorm Program: Auburn's community of friends and alumni have rallied together to revive and strengthen its dormitory program. Teresa Soulé, girls' dean, and Nathan Klingstrand, boys' dean, are joining the administrative team. They both have a strong spiritual dorm program planned, utilizing their combined

27 years of residential experience. Their goal is to mentor young men and young women to follow God in spiritual, social, physical and academic activities, creating an atmosphere of growth for both students and parents.

Students have two options with the dorm: a **five-day dorm program** allows students to participate in all campus activities throughout the week and then return home to their local community every weekend. The **seven-day dorm program** allows students to participate in all campus activities throughout the week and the weekend with scheduled home leaves.

Focus on Servant Leadership Training: Through its curriculum and programs, Auburn will be showing its students how to practice their God-given gifts and abilities in the community and with local churches. This service training will be backed up with a solid academic and a strong Christ-centered campus ministries program.

Academic Program: Auburn's teaching staff is a blend of both familiar and new names who are working together in a cooperative approach to create an academic program of excellence. Complementing the cooperative curriculum is a new academic tracking program to monitor students' learning progression.

New teaching staff members include Karyle Barnes, chaplain and Bible teacher; Stacy Tejel, English and Spanish teacher; Logan Adams, athletics director; Keith Rodman, math teacher; and Joe Underhill, history teacher. Auburn has the same buildings you love, but it is a new school.

Digital Connections: The academy launched a mobile-friendly website at auburnacademy.org and continues to connect with students, parents, alumni and the church community via Facebook and Instagram.

Community Involvement: God is working on this campus through all the volunteers, parents, staff and students. Miracles are happening on this campus because this community and this conference are pulling together to make this school the top choice in Adventist Christian education in this area and to cooperate with our education partners.

Auburn has a vision that God is revealing to us. Our job is to follow His lead. Our prayer is that you will feel the presence of God here and join us in God's work.

John Soulé, AAA principal, and Roxanne Wickward, AAA registrar



As Auburn faculty and staff arrive on campus for a new academic year, they are working together in their plans for instructing students in how to apply their God-given gifts and abilities in the community and with local churches.

BIG PICTURE OF MINISTRY



MARK PEKAR

Based on the command given in 1 Peter 3:15 "to always be ready to give and answer for the hope that is within you," 43 VBS agents in Sequim practiced three Ds: Discover, Decide and Defend. The "special agents" gathered clues about Jesus' identity through music, sign language, recreation and mission assignments.



EARLENE WOIHERS

Eighty VBS children in Chehalis learned about the life of Daniel from the perspective of a family talking about their challenges of the day. Each evening included healthful food, fun crafts and playtime.



LINDA BURMAN

Children at Auburn City Church's VBS learned about God's power to provide, comfort, heal, forgive and love. Children ages 4-12 were guided through activity stations by volunteers and staff members in their 20s who remember coming to VBS and now come back to help.

More photos online at
glnr.in/110-09-wa_pathfinders.



PATHFINDERS SALUTE LONGTIME LEADER

Clyde Phillips was a relatively new Adventist, an adult college graduate and married with children when he moved to Marysville, Wash., in 1982. He and his wife, Sandee, asked church

RV accident on June 30, 2015, while on a family vacation. At his memorial service, 425 past and present Pathfinders, family members and friends remembered his influence in their lives.

Phillips' influence is felt at three key levels — with his family, with his Pathfinders and with his ministry colleagues — and offers a snapshot of how one person's involvement in ministry outside a given profession makes a difference.

"While it is true that Clyde loved Pathfinders and invested a great deal of time, money, energy and emotion into his work with the different clubs, he loved his family more and Jesus most of all," says Karen Yao, one of his daughters. "He was a hard worker and wonderful co-worker, but if family needed him, there was no question

of where he would be."

Phillips was even able to baptize two of his grandsons at the International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wis., in 2014.

Jennifer Case remembers being in Phillips' first Pathfinder club 27 years ago. "It is because of Clyde Phillips that I love Pathfinders, watched my daughters earn their first honors, started a club with my husband and earned my Master Guide," Case says. "The church is fortunate to have had a leader like him who passed on his values and love of Pathfinders so that we could humbly try to lead as he did."

Each year at Washington Adventist Camp Meeting, Phillips would present several creative Pathfinder honors like bubbles, hot air balloons, wood carving and nature honors.

"I earned my first Pathfinder honor, animal

tracking, with Mr. Phillips," says Sammy Tooley, age 12. "He made learning fun. He'd keep a straight face when he told me I'd have to do something all over again, but then say, 'Just joking!'"

Tooley's brother, John, age 10, adds, "Mr. Phillips was always happy and fun to be with."

"His life was so wrapped up in Pathfinders," says Craig Heinrich, previous Washington Conference Youth ministries director. "He called kids to remember that Jesus Christ, Master and Creator of the universe, loves them more than life itself and asked them to dedicate their hearts and lives to Him until He comes to bring us home."

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director



KAREN YAO

In one of his life highlights, Clyde Phillips baptizes two of his grandsons at the International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wis., in 2014.

leaders how they could be involved in their local church. The leaders suggested a ministry opening in Pathfinders.

According to family lore, Phillips responded, "We'd love to help. I just have one question: What's Pathfinders?"

Since this early decision to lead the youth ministry club, Phillips became "Mr. Pathfinder" through the years at multiple Adventist churches in western Washington and what many deem as one of the best Pathfinder coordinators across North America.

Phillips passed away in a



Washington Pathfinders in dress uniform salute the ministry of Clyde Phillips.



Carlos Felipe Andino receives an ordination charge.

THREE PASTORS ORDAINED IN WASHINGTON

Three pastors in Washington Conference were ordained in May and June: Ofa Langi, Carlos Felipe Andino and Martin Kim.

JOURNEY OF FAITH

Langi's faith journey took a significant turn at the age of 12, when he lost his father. He describes himself during this time as an angry, arrogant adolescent who rebelled against the instruction from his Tongan Adventist home. He found himself empty, unfulfilled, addicted and searching for something to fill the void of his father's death.

A few years later, Langi found himself pinned inside an old work truck that had crashed into a palm tree. This accident was God's wake-up call. Doctors told Langi he must be drug- and alcohol-free for six to nine months if he wished to walk again. In the hospital emergency room, Langi made a commitment to release his addictions and be obedient to God's leading in his life.

Langi went back to school, found employment, felt called to ministry, pursued more education and accepted associate pastor positions at the Kirkland and North Cascade churches. He and his wife, Jackie, have three small children.



An ordination prayer is offered for Martin Kim.

A SPECIFIC DREAM

Andino remembers having the same disturbing dream for seven consecutive days. In the dream, Andino saw Christ returning and saw how he was left behind. After the seventh day of the dream, Andino fell on his knees, prayed and accepted Jesus as his personal Savior.

God provided opportunities for Andino to receive education training in religion, pastoral ministry, Christian counseling and clinical counseling through the doctorate level. At the same time, Andino found practical experience with working with the homeless, former Adventists, drug addicts and youth. The Holy Spirit blessed his local and international ministry in 12 countries with more than 5,000 baptisms in 30 years.

A LIFE OF MINISTRY

Kim decided to spend a year teaching English in Korea after spending three years studying Spanish in Spain with an intent to enter into dentistry. While in Korea, Kim became very ill and disillusioned

with life. God orchestrated a series of events that led Kim to study religion at Weimar College in California and to experience the deep satisfaction of a life of missions and ministry.

In addition to pastoring at Seattle Central Korean Church as an associate pastor and at Southcenter Church, Kim also has had the privilege of working with three ministries: Adventist Southeast Asia Projects, ARME Ministries and Amazing Facts. He and his wife, Liana, have shared God's Word in 15 countries.

Compiled by Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director



A highlight of Ofa Langi's journey of faith: his ordination service.

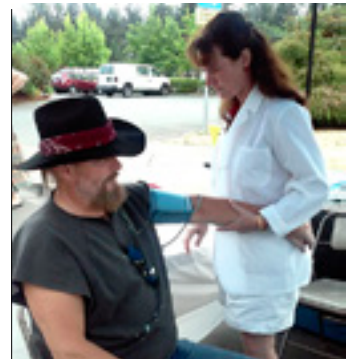
More online at
glnr.in/110-09-wa_arlington.

ARLINGTON ENTERS STREET FAIR

For the first time in its history, the Arlington Church entered a street fair as an outreach tool to the community. The Downtown Arlington Business Association sponsored its annual street fair July 10–12 at the same time as the Arlington Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) fly-in, the second-largest gathering of planes and builders in the United States. The Adventist church's 10-by-10 booth was one of three churches represented out of hundreds of exhibits.

Dawn Hainey, Arlington Church outreach coordinator, made the arrangements for a nonprofit booth where members could offer blood pressure checks for the adults, balloon animals for the kids, and cold water and literature for all. The goal of the booth was to take a survey of the community to find out their needs and interests. Each person who stopped was offered a questionnaire to fill out on interests, with a box to fill out if Bible study was wanted.

During the three-day event, 21 church members and youth helped with manning



Sue Williamson takes a visitor's blood pressure.

the booth. The time invested resulted in 116 pieces of literature given out, including seven copies of *Ministry of Healing* and five *Final Events* DVDs. In addition to 14 Bible study requests, the community had interests in financial peace, vegetarian cooking, marriage, parenting, stress management and Bible stories for kids.

Hainey wondered, "Will we have enough people to handle all the Bible study requests?" The church family thinks so, and it is indeed a nice problem to solve.

David Patrick, Arlington Church communication leader



Ask the Be Ready puppet ministry team about their experience at General Conference session, and they will tell you how God provided for their ministry.

More online at
glnr.in/110-09-wa_tacoma.

TACOMA CHILDREN PROVE THEY CAN 'BE READY' FOR MINISTRY

Six youth, ages 10–13, from Tacoma, prayed for 10 months about doing something big for God through their Be Ready puppet ministry.

God opened the doors for them to sing 90 puppet songs, perform 48 puppet scripts, present 32 worship, minister 16 hours a day at four different stage locations and walk 56 miles in the space of nine days during July's General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas.

Four days into their ministry, the puppet team discovered that someone who objected to the sound volume of their program had disabled their sound system. With many tears and prayers, the team stayed up late that night writing personal letters to key leaders seeking a solution to the problem. The next morning, the General Conference children's ministries department resolved the situation, and the puppet ministry was back in action.

"It was so amazing to see the Be Ready team kneeling in prayer in the middle of the busy convention hall as they gave thanks to God," say Brent Kimura, Tacoma Central Church associate pastor.

The puppet team fielded questions about how their ministry operated, accepted multiple invitations to perform at convention hall booths and were featured in a video news report. Each puppet performance attracted crowds of 30–200 people who all tried to catch a glimpse of the elementary kids and their puppets.

The Be Ready team is now exploring a 10-part DVD puppet series for Hope Channel Philippines and continuing to see how God is leading them in ministry.

The best lesson learned? "Nothing beats sensing the presence of God in their lives," Kimura says.

Heidi Baumgartner, Washington Conference communication director

EDUCATION AND ENGINEERING STUDENTS KICK OFF SUMMER PROGRAM FOR KIDS

Expectant faces look up with smiles stretched ear to ear. Many carry backpacks they received at their last visit that are full of treasures they created themselves. Their outstretched hands reach forward, preparing for their turn with the magnets. The magnets are powerful and must be handled with care. Adults urge them to listen carefully, and the children look intently, expectantly to the front. A magnet is placed in the center of each upturned palm, and the children walk single file throughout the room exploring what the magnets can do.

These children from Washington's Walla Walla Valley are enjoying the benefits of a \$16,000 grant from Ver-

sacare Inc. awarded to Walla Walla University (WWU) to implement a 2015 summer program for children at the Children's Museum of Walla Walla (CMWW)

The grant enables WWU and the university's community partners to provide educational workshops for low-income immigrant children in Walla Walla. Workshops explore themes of science, health care and recycling. The program is managed by the WWU School of Education and School of Engineering. Community partners include nonprofit organizations that have worked closely with WWU for years, including the Children's Home Society of Walla Walla (CHSWW), CMWW and Walla Walla

General Hospital (WWGH).

Four full days of workshops are held throughout the summer at the Children's Museum with nine workshops per day. Eighty-seven children gather in three age groups for three workshops that occur simultaneously so everyone gets a turn.

A CMWW employee gives the children an opportunity to express their creativity by giving them wooden dolls, which they paint and bring to life by telling their dolls' stories.

To teach the importance of putting trash in the proper place, Tammy Randolph, WWU professor of education, has the children pretend to swim their way to a "Chinese junk" — a boat in the back-

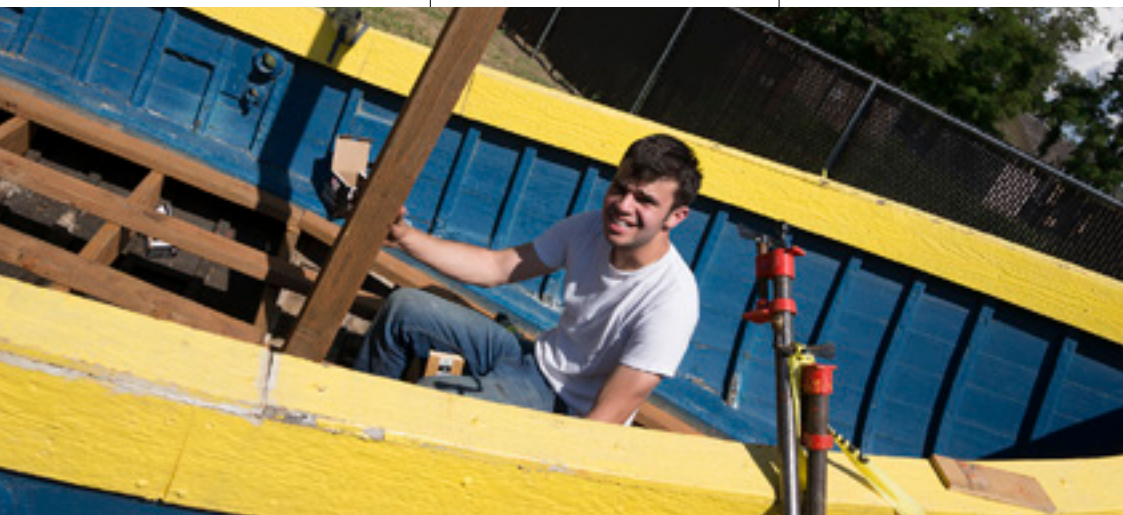
yard of the Children's Museum — while picking up trash as they swim along.

Randolph explains that the summer program at the Children's Museum is the realization of her dream to see WWU and the Walla Walla community serve children with a Jesus-like love.

This urging on her heart prompted her to bring the idea of a summer program at the Children's Museum to the School of Engineering, CHSWW, CMWW and WWGH. Together, they applied for the Versafund grant through Versacare Inc. to make the program possible. The grant was awarded to WWU in January. Versacare Inc. is a Southern California-based company that awards grants primarily to Seventh-day Adventist organizations that have a reasonable plan for implementing programs that support and educate children, especially in the fields of health and science.

WWU and its community partners plan to apply for the Versafund grant again next year in order to continue providing summer programs for immigrant and other disadvantaged children during the summer months.

Katelyn Swager, Walla Walla University marketing and university relations writer



The WWU chapter of Engineers Without Borders worked at the Children's Museum of Walla Walla during spring quarter to help prepare the museum for the summer children's program.

ADVENTIST HEALTH PARTICIPATES IN 60TH GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION

At the recent General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas, Adventist Health hosted a large booth in the exhibit hall along with its sister systems: Adventist HealthCare, based in Maryland; Adventist Health System, based in Florida; and Kettering Health Network, based in Ohio.

The booth was designed to inform and educate attendees about how the four health care systems are an integral part of the church's mission and represent the church in a positive way to the many communities served.

The towering display featured nine touch screens with options to learn about the history of Adventist health care, explore the hospitals and health services in the United

Rita Waterman, Adventist Health assistant vice president for corporate marketing and communication, showcases the touch screens at the Adventist Health Care booth during the recent General Conference Session.



Alan Soderblom, Adventist Health vice president and chief information officer, takes a moment to talk with a visitor from Africa.

States, and take a variety of health quizzes. Loma Linda University Health hosted its own booth in close proximity to the Adventist Health Care booth and other health-related ministry booths.

Sixteen Adventist Health employees helped to staff the booth. Participants included chaplains, marketing/communication and human resources staff, and several executives. Each day hundreds of small bottles of hand sanitizer were handed out along with small cards that featured fun health facts. The staff's distinct green shirts made it easy for visitors to identify

who could help answer questions and assist with the health quizzes.

Visitors to the booth were a cross section of people from around the world. Deanna Paxton, clinical performance specialist in Roseville, Calif., had the opportunity to visit with a couple from Ukraine who produce interviews for Hope Channel Ukraine. Helen Wilson, director of quality also based in Roseville, met a mission pilot from Venezuela who spoke to her about the current needs for rural health clinics. Many visitors from different African countries such as Botswana, Nigeria and Kenya were intrigued to learn more about health care in America.

A number of former Adventist Health employees stopped by to learn about the

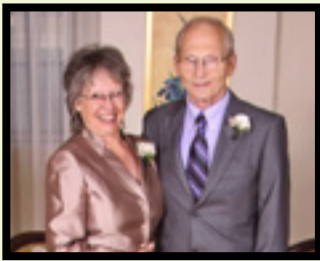
latest news from the system and to catch up with former co-workers. The General Conference Session is not only a great opportunity to share about Adventist Health but also serves as a crossroad for people from around the world.

As a part of the joint effort between the four health systems, a website (sdahealthcare.org) was created to help church members and others stay current about Adventist health care in the United States. Nearly 120,000 caring employees touch 10 million people a year in more than 79 hospitals, urgent care clinics, home health agencies, long-term care facilities and hospices.

Jenni Glass, Adventist Health communications coordinator



ALAN SODERBLOM



Judy and Keith Biegler

Biegler 50th

Keith Biegler and Judy Decker were married Sept. 6, 1964, in the Walla Walla College (now Walla Walla University) Church chapel.

On Aug. 16, 2014, they celebrated their 50th anniversary with family and friends at a get-together given by their two daughters at the Vert Club Room in Pendleton, Ore., where they have lived 50 years.

Keith met Judy Decker at Upper Columbia Academy in Spangle, Wash., when she was a junior and he a senior. They were married two and half years later.

Keith worked at Harris Pine Mills from 1962 until it closed in 1991. At the time of Keith's retirement, he was working at Fleetwood Travel Trailers in Pendleton.

Judy was a stay-at-home mom until their girls were in school, then she was a teacher at a preschool day care until it closed 10 years later. During the next 18 years, she did day care in their home then cared for her mom at their home for three and a half years. At the time of Judy's retirement, she was the head housekeeper at Holiday Inn in Pendleton.

Keith was a head deacon a few years. Judy is a deaconess and has been for many years. She also continues to help in the beginner's class, as she has for the past 28 years and babysits for MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers).

Their family includes Denise and Kurt Sherman of Medford, Ore.; Lisa and Rocky Whitman

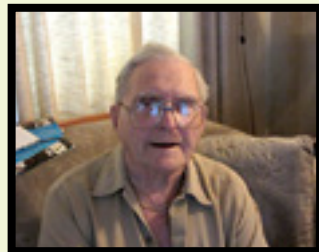
of Pendleton, Ore.; 4 grandchildren, a step-grandson and 2 great-grandchildren.

Jackson 90th

Benjamin F. Jackson was born Aug. 26, 1924, in Colville, Wash., the oldest of five children (he has four younger sisters).

Between the ages of 4 and 12, he moved with his family to Camas, Wash. For health reasons, his father was advised to move to eastern Oregon. In 1936, they moved to Prairie City for the winter, then to Susanville, Ore., for three years.

Ben completed the eighth grade and then attended the high school in Lowell, Ore., through his junior year. He enlisted in the Navy. Since he has always enjoyed electronics, Ben was able to receive some training in that area. His ship made 25 trips across the Atlantic to various ports in the United Kingdom. Ben received his honorable discharge in December 1945.



Benjamin F. Jackson

Ben moved to Dallas, Ore., and began sawmill work in October 1946. The following May he married Katherine Warren. His son, Charles, was born in 1960. Ben worked for Willamette Industries from 1947 until 1986.

Ben and Katherine joined the Falls City (Ore.) Adventist Church through baptism in 2003 after neighbors invited them to watch a Kenneth Cox presentation in their home and then attended evangelistic meetings in Dallas, Ore. Ben lost Katherine on March 8, 2015. They had been married almost 68 years.

Ben would enjoy doing some traveling in the future. He strongly believes in attending church on Sabbath morning, and one can always find him at church early.



Wayne Moore

Moore 95th

Wayne Moore celebrated his 95th birthday this March at a restaurant in Walla Walla, Wash., with his family.

Wayne Erland Moore was born in Blue Earth County, Minn., near Mankato, on March 8, 1920. He was the second of four children born to Louis and Lillie Moore.

Wayne attended Union College in Lincoln, Neb., and planned to graduate with his class in 1944. However, he married Annabelle Evans in 1944 and commenced his church service career in Brownwood, Texas, at that time. He worked as a literature evangelist, school teacher and pastor in that community.

Returning to Union College, however, he did graduate in 1946 with a degree in theology. He and Annie then moved to Pendleton, Ore., worked at Harris Pine Mills and awaited a call. It came from the Upper Columbia Conference in 1948. During the ensuing years, he and Annie had two sons.

Wayne and his family remained in the Upper Columbia Conference for 14 years, where he pastored churches in several locations. They moved to the Montana Conference in 1962, and he and Annie continued as a pastoral couple there until 1982.

During the 1966–1967 years, Wayne served the Montana Conference youth and education department. After retiring in 1982, Wayne remained highly active; he worked on a ranch, was a builder and also continued to preach regularly.

Annie died in 1994. Wayne married Margie Wiegand in 1996, and she passed away in 2008. Wayne moved to College Place, Wash., in 2009 to be near his sister, Dorothy Brock, his son and his grandchildren.

Wayne's family includes Carlton Moore of Walla Walla, Wash.; Clayton and Denise Moore of Sacramento, Calif.; and 3 grandchildren.



Paul and Audrey Zummach

Zummach 65th

Paul and Audrey Zummach celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on May 5, 2015.

Paul Zummach met Audrey Lehman at Maplewood Academy in Hutchinson, Minn. They were married June 17, 1950. Paul served as the general manager of the redwood division for Harris Pine Mills of Pendleton, Ore. Audrey served as a stay-at-home mother and then accomplished one of her lifelong dreams to become a librarian. She serves as the librarian for the Pendleton Church and at Harris Junior Academy.

Paul and Audrey have three children: Karen Strode of Battle Ground, Wash.; Kathy Zummach of Vancouver, Wash.; and John Zummach of Portland, Ore. They also have one grandchild, Kenneth Paul Zummach of Vancouver, Wash.

FAMILY BIRTHS

KIRK — Samuel Lee was born May 17, 2015, to Don III and Sarah (Rigby) Kirk, Brookings, Ore.

LINFOOT — Olivia Ruby was born May 8, 2015, to Aaron and Kelly (Kandell) Linfoot, Lincoln City, Ore.

MCCLUSKEY — Zoe J. was born June 2, 2015, to Lloyd and Katie (Gatton) McCluskey, of Idaho.

SCHLAMAN — Asha was born March 24, 2015, to Travis and Jessica Schlaman, Seattle, Wash.

FAMILY WEDDINGS

KORT-ROMO

Andrea Kort and Jorge Romo were married April 19, 2015, in Independence, Ore. They are making their home in El Centro, Calif. Andrea is the daughter of Daniel and JoAnne (Engel) Kort. Jorge is the son of Jorge and Anita Romo.

PATRICK-TREMBLAY

Davelyn J. Patrick and Mark L. Tremblay were married June 19, 2015, in Arlington, Wash. They are making their home in Marysville, Wash. Davelyn is the daughter of David and Kathryn (Lester) Patrick. Mark is the son of Victor A. Tremblay and Carol (Chilelli) Tremblay (deceased).

FAMILY AT REST

BAKKE — Carol Edith (Tupper), 95; born Oct. 2, 1919, Portland, Ore.; died April 27, 2015, Portland. Surviving: sons, Harlan, Sandy, Ore.; David, Phoenix, Ariz.; daughter, Mary Bakke; Linda Joice, Happy Valley, Ore.; 6 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and 4 step-great-grandchildren.

BRESEE — Wilton D., 93; born Jan. 27, 1922, Madi-

son, S.D.; died April 2, 2015, Salem, Ore. Surviving: wife, Hertha K. (Long); sons, Gerald, Salem; Eugene, Gates, Ore.; 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

BROWN — Jack Lee, 84; born July 2, 1930, Cole Hill, Ark.; died April 15, 2015, Puyallup, Wash. Surviving: wife, Sarah (Heckendorn); son, Bradley, Bonney Lake, Wash.; daughter, Janine Cathey, Sumner, Wash.; 5 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

CADWALLADER — Laurie Jean (Stanton), 59; born Feb. 15, 1955, Torrance, Calif.; died April 16, 2014, Arlington, Wash. Surviving: sons, Thomas C. and Charles L., both of Vancouver, Wash.; daughter, Rachel Stokes, Gilbert, Ariz.; and 7 grandchildren.

CLAYTOR — Edith Catherine (Murphy), 90; born March 15, 1924, Hot Springs, S.D.; died Feb. 26, 2015, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: son, Gerald A., Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii; daughters, Cheri Lynn Sterlin, Walla Walla, Wash.; Nancy P. Cowin, Milton-Freewater, Ore.; 5 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

DE FEHR — Catherine Margaret (Wilson), 89; born May 6, 1925, Oakland, Calif.; died Feb. 28, 2015, Silverton, Ore. Surviving: daughters, Lanelle Northrop, Fallon, Nev.; Jan Blom, Silverton; brothers, Bill Wilson, Adamsville, Tenn.; Jerry Wilson, Herald, Calif.; sisters, Ruth Skipper, San Leandro, Calif.; Alice Lindstrom, Modesto, Calif.; 8 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

GLASNAPP — Rudolph A., 93; born Oct. 19, 1921, Waukesha, Wis.; died April 23, 2015, Gresham, Ore. Surviving: wife, Betty (Bergquist); son, Wayne, Beaverton, Ore.; daughter, Diane Glasnapp, Portland, Ore.; stepsons, Greg

Hartwick, Ocean Park, Wash.; Paul Hartwick, Portland; stepdaughters, Gretchen Althaus, Damascus, Ore.; Penny Lewis, Oregon City, Ore.; 10 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

HARRIS — Field Eide, 98; born Feb. 9, 1917, Seattle, Wash.; died May 3, 2015, Caldwell, Idaho. Surviving: daughters, Susan Robinson and Kathryn Hamilton, both of Caldwell; brother, Marvin Rudin, Palm Springs, Calif.; 3 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

HEAGY — Clifford Harry, 80; born July 13, 1934, Yakima, Wash.; died May 12, 2015, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: wife, Alice (Metcalf); sons, Glendon, Portland, Ore.; David, Salem, Ore.; Gary, College Place, Wash.; Clinton, Clarkston, Wash.; daughters, Barbara Seerengan, West Richland, Wash.; Donna Duffield, Vancouver, Wash.; 17 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

HESGARD — LeRoy H., 92; born Feb. 11, 1923, Portland, Ore.; died April 10, 2015, Battle Ground, Wash. Surviving: son, Randy, Battle Ground; stepsons, Clancey Schmidt, Phoenix, Ariz.; Bruce Schmidt, Marysville, Wash.; David Schmidt, Oregon City, Ore.; daughter, Sandy Hesgard; 2 grandchildren, 6 step-grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and 6 step-great-grandchildren.

HOUCK — Fred L., 88; born Oct. 20, 1926, Reedsport, Ore.; died April 22, 2015, Eagle Point, Ore. Surviving: wife, Jackie (Hurlbut); sons, Lynn, Medford, Ore.; Jerry, White City, Ore.; daughters, Linda Brown, Eagle Point; Tamara Morris, White City; 12 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

HULETT — Mary, 68; born Nov. 25, 1946, La Mesa, Calif.; died May 14, 2015, Salem, Ore. Surviving: brother, Larry Hollendeck, of California.

JOHNSON — Elwyn Gene, 86; born June 14, 1928, Clear Lake, Wis.; died April 27, 2015, Port Townsend, Wash. Surviving: wife, Joyce (Bentz) Merry, Nordland, Wash.; daughter, Connie Raley, Enumclaw, Wash.; stepson, Kevin Merry, Honolulu, Hawaii; stepdaughter, Karla (Merry) Lonnstrom, Kaneohe, Hawaii; 4 grandchildren, a step-grandchild and 4 great-grandchildren.

JOLLIFFE — Robert Lynn, 87; born Jan. 28, 1928, Aberdeen, Wash.; died April 9, 2015, Salem, Ore. Surviving: wife, Albina J. (Miller) Jolliffe, Keizer, Ore.; sons, Ron, College Place, Wash.; Dan, Scio, Ore.; stepson, John K. Miller, Salem; stepdaughters, Lou Anne Rogers, Keizer, Ore.; Elizabeth Sweet and Kathryn Cox, both of Salem; Jannice Andresen, Eugene, Ore.; Nancy Alt, Salem; first wife, Edolene (Pearce) Jolliffe, Walla Walla, Wash.; sister, Gracie Kellogg, Portland, Ore.; 6 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

KOKLICH — Shirley Ann (Heaton), 76; born Sept. 5, 1938, Loma Linda, Calif.; died March 13, 2015, Portland, Ore. Surviving: brother, Steve Heaton, Aloha, Ore.; and sister, Evelyn Greene, Gresham, Ore.

KUHNT — Lillian Shirley (Lyke) Long, 86; born Aug. 5, 1928, Denver, Colo.; died April 6, 2015, Everett, Wash. Surviving: husband, Harry Kuhnt, Snohomish, Wash.; sons, Barry Long, Prescott, Ariz.; Dale Long, Lewisburg, Ken.; Lee Long, Tillamook, Ore.; daughter, Anita Long, Augusta, Ga.; Lili (Long)

OUR FAMILY

Bogart, Evans, Ga.; Ivanna Long, Augusta; April (Long) Worf, Thompsonville, Ill.; sister, Lorraine Lyke, Thompsonville; 28 grandchildren, 11 step-grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren and 14 step-great-grandchildren.

LACHANCE — Joseph Maynard, 94; born April 29, 1920, Athol, Mass.; died March 27, 2015, College Place, Wash. Surviving: wife, Lilia (Andrade); son, Dennis LaChance, Bullhead City, Ariz.; step-son, Allan Arieta, College Place; daughters, Melaney LaChance, College Place; Karen (LaChance) Childers, Big Lake, Alaska; Sharon (LaChance) Olive, Anchorage, Alaska; stepdaughters, Elsa (Arieta) Acosta, Adora Arieta and Niza (Arieta) Puckett, all of College Place; 15 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

LEFORE — Dorothea Mae “Dottie” (Brown), 90; born April 15, 1924, Klamath Falls, Ore.; died April 6, 2015, College Place, Wash. Surviving: sons, Mike Denny, College Place; Joe Denny, Brush Prairie, Wash.; brother, Cooper Brown, College Place; sisters, Norma Johnston, College Place; Betty Davis and Margie Francisco, both of Loma Linda, Calif.

LIKELY — Dorayne (Sloan), 85; born March 3, 1930, in Kansas; died March 10, 2015, Cottonwood, Calif. Surviving: son, Michael; daughters, Sharlene Nahlen, Billings, Mont.; Kathie Knudsen, Cottonwood; sister, Joyce Gaenz; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

MATTINEN — Clara M., 88; born Aug. 13, 1926, Knappton, Wash.; died Feb. 27, 2015, Wheeler, Ore. Surviving: brothers, Henry Mattinen, Albany, Ore.; Char-

lie Mattinen, Rainier, Ore.; sisters, Ina Hermo, Tillamook, Ore.; and Ida Hurst, Albany.

MAYS — Cecil Ralph, 82; born March 29, 1932, Vinita, Okla.; died Jan. 3, 2015, Bend, Ore. Surviving: wife, Carol (Hirst); son, David, Bend; daughter, Karen Brown, Silver Springs, Nev.; 6 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and 5 step-great-grandchildren.

MEDLOCK — Mae Ellen (Wells), 88; born Dec. 21, 1927, Challis, Idaho; died April 18, 2015, Vancouver, Wash. Surviving: daughters, Renee Brekke, Vancouver; Eva Joan Johnson, Beaverton, Ore.; 3 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

MESSER — Mary Elaine (Andres), 82; born Oct. 20, 1932, Grant, Neb.; died April 13, 2015, Spokane, Wash. Surviving: son, David S., Spokane; daughter, Patricia Ann Messer, Spokane; 3 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

MILLER — Willard Wayne, 95; born July 12, 1919, Ellendale, N.D.; died March 21, 2015, Roseburg, Ore. Surviving: wife, Jean (Burkhardt) Miller.

MOOR — Violet, 88; born April 1926, Daniels County, Mont.; died January 2015, Spokane, Wash. Surviving: daughters, Sheila Jordan and Cyndi Jones, both of Loon Lake, Wash.; Laurel (Morehouse) Esselbach, Graham, Wash.; 2 grandchildren, 5 step-grandchildren and 5 step-great-grandchildren.

OWEN — Kimdel “Kim” Monroe, 57; born Jan. 12, 1958, Redmond, Ore.; died May 16, 2015, Redmond. Surviving: brothers, Keith, Salem, Ore.; and Keryl, Kent, Wash.

PESTES — Cornelius “Neil” Nathaneal, 90; born Nov. 25,

1926, Crystal Hill, Saskatchewan, Canada; died April 9, 2015, Portland, Ore. Surviving: wife, Ruth (Stickle); sons, Dale, Gresham, Ore.; Larry and Ron, both of Boring, Ore.; 3 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

ROBSON — Elsie (Tuz), 90; born Nov. 21, 1924, Sheho, Saskatchewan, Canada; died May 15, 2015, Gresham, Ore. Surviving: son, Dayle, Rancho Mirage, Calif.; daughter, Claire Robson, Damascus, Ore.; 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

RUE — Dwayne Taylor, 92; born June 12, 1922, Raymond, Wash.; died May 7, 2015, Lebanon, Ore. Surviving: son, Darrell, Lebanon; daughter, Carolyn Runyan, Lebanon; sister, Annalee Bosson, Seattle, Wash.; 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

SANTEE — Willard Lee Linsy, 70; born Jan. 1, 1945, Scotia, Calif.; died Feb. 7, 2015, Post Falls, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Joan (Henderson); sons, Kevin, Phoenix, Ariz.; Kelly, Spangle, Wash.; Kenny, Licking, Mo.; brother, William, Crossville, Tenn.; and 4 grandchildren.

SCHILLREFF — Fern E., 95; born Aug. 11, 1919, Glasgow, Mont.; died May 18, 2015, Billings, Mont.

SHULL — Charles Jim, 91; born Sept. 9, 1923, Mabton, Wash.; died May 10, 2015, Corvallis, Ore. Surviving: wife, Alberta (Warren); sons, Denton, Auburn, Wash.; Ron, Sparks, Nev.; daughters, Sherrie Giddings, San Diego, Calif.; Jan Stackhouse, Canyon Lake, Calif.; 15 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

SICHLEY — Mary E. (Langley), 92; born Dec. 24, 1922, St. Paul, Ark.; died April 30, 2015, Portland, Ore. Surviv-

ing: husband, Russell, Gresham, Ore.; son, Scott, Boring, Ore.; daughters, Linda Nelson, Eagle, Mich.; Sandra Frazier, Gresham; Patsy Sichley, Reed-sport, Ore.; 7 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

SMICK — Cleta Jane (Heath), 87; born July 5, 1927, Kelso, Wash.; died March 29, 2015, Silverdale, Wash. Surviving: son, Larry, Bremerton, Wash.; and 2 grandchildren.

THAYER — Virginia Faye (Dennis), 84; born July 9, 1930, San Pedro, Calif.; died May 16, 2015, Bend, Ore. Surviving: sons, Randy Cutler, Los Angeles, Calif.; Jon Cutler, Anchorage, Alaska; daughters, Chris Riggs, La Pine, Ore.; Robbie Felix and Ginney Bailey, both of Los Angeles; 12 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

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

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

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

NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

Offering

Sept. 5 — Local Church Budget;

Sept. 12 — Fall Mission Appeal;

Sept. 19 — Local Church Budget;

Sept. 26 — Local Conference Advance.

More events listed at GleanerNow.com/events.

North Pacific Union Conference Association Official Notice

Official notice is hereby given that a Regular Membership Meeting of the North Pacific Union Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists is called for 2 p.m., on Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015, at Walla Walla University in College Place, Wash. The membership is comprised of the members of the North Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee. The purpose of the Regular Membership Meeting is to hear reports and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Max Torkelsen II, president

Kimberley Schroeder, secretary

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

WWU Family Weekend

Oct. 23–25 — Families of current Walla Walla University students are invited to the WWU main campus for Family Weekend.

Come participate in class visits, an ice cream social on Friday, Student Missions vesper, Sabbath seminars and music events.

Families are also invited to join WWU administrators for a special complimentary Sabbath lunch with John and Pam McVay. In addition, Parent Sabbath on the Portland campus is scheduled for Sabbath, Nov. 14, in connection with the Nurses Dedication. A complete schedule of both weekend events is available at wallawalla.edu/family-weekend, or you may call Alumni and Advancement Services at 800-377-2586.

OREGON

Discover Revelation Evangelistic Series

Sept. 11–Oct. 4 — Valley View Church presents Discover Revelation, an evangelistic series featuring Ryan Day from Amazing Facts. Day will be offering a message of hope and encouragement for these troubled and confusing times we live in today. We hope you will plan on attending these information-packed presentations. Opening night kicks off at 6 p.m. with a mini concert by 4 His Glory. Child care provided. Any questions can be directed to Valley View Church, 3677 South Stage Rd., Medford, OR 97501, or you can call 541-773-6097 or go online to vvsda.org.

Children's and Adventurers' Leadership Conference

Sept. 24–27 — Did you know that besides the four great keynote speakers, we have eight breakout sessions with 80 seminars to choose from? We have five English and one Spanish children's ministries tracks and two English and two Spanish Adventurer training tracks. You can earn credits towards Children's Ministry Certification, and NPUC teachers with standard and professional certification can earn credits for their PAC hours. Breakout speakers include Linda Koh, Sherri Uhrig, Virginia Smith, Faith Hill, Falvo Fowler, Linda Dayen and Jackie Bishop. Register at AdventSource.org, and book

accommodations at the DoubleTree by Hilton central reservations office by calling 800-996-0510 (refer to group code NPU when making reservations). More information at 503-850-3537.

Filipinos of Oregon Conference

Sept. 26 — Let's all come together for a Filipino Rally with worship, fellowship and food. Services will begin at Sabbath School and continue into the afternoon. Lunch will be potluck style, so bring your favorite entrée, salad or dessert for 12. Bring your friends, appetites — spiritual and physical. Location: Portland Adventist Academy, 1500 SE 96th Ave., Portland, Ore. For information, call Ardina Wang at 503-255-0075.

WASHINGTON

Missing Members

Washington Conference Church is looking for the following missing members: Talalelei K. Poasa, Talalelei Poasa Jr., Lucy Pomar, Kenneth V. Potts, Juana Prieto, Cesar Quintero, David Quintero, Elide Quintero, Ruben Quintero, Carl Ragland, Luisa Ramirez, Josue Romos, Alan E. Ramsey, Mark Ramsey, Susan G. Ramsey, Nohemi Rangel, Rodolfo Rangel, Diana Reid, Hugo Reid, Yolanda Requena, Freddy H. Reyes, Garcia D. Reyes, Genoveva Reyes, Jaime G. Reyes, Jose Tiburcio Reyes, Manuel Reyes, Jose Reyna, Darryl T. Rhoades, David L. Richards, J.R. Rico, Andres Rivera, Elaine Rivera, Henry Rivera, Holly Robinson, Richard H. Robinson, Susan Robinson, Poeth Rodas, Adriana B. Rodriguez, Catalina Rodriguez, Eddie U. Rodriguez, Israel Rodriguez, Rosemary R. Rodriguez, Hernandez D. Rojas, Matthew K. Romero and Romona Rosario. Contact Elida Jerez at 253-681-6008 with any information.

Missing Members

The Kirkland Church is looking for information for the following missing members: Ken and Nancy Abbott, Shawn Adams, Roger Arnold, Donald Beck, Richard Bernal, Wendy Bingham, Debbie Brown, Fe Esto Cabales, Denise Caldwell, Mark Campbell, Michael Campbell, Courtland "Corky" Carpenter, Shyrlee Carpenter, Clifford Carter, Craig Christenson, Robert Cisco, Jason Clark, Terri Clark, George Clay Jr., Mona Coleman-Jackson, David Cullop, Julie Culmore, Desiree Cummings, Andy and Donna Dehn, Jon Diew, Linda Embrey, Antoinette Estes, Cheryl Featherly, Julie Fernandez, Carl and Rose Fiskal, Rocky and Deborah Franz, Pamela Ganz, Kim Gilbert, Nora Glass, Sandy Gomez, Mike Goudy, Michele Graham, Dan Grover, Wayne Hackworth, Carol Hartwell, Jeff and Tina Hazelip, David Heckman, Neil and Joanne Heitman, and Lorrie Herling. If you have any information, contact the Kirkland Church at 425-822-7922 or office@ksda.org.

WORLD CHURCH

Andrews University Chemistry and Biochemistry Anniversary

Alumni and friends are invited to be part of the yearlong celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Andrews University Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and the 50th anniversary of their seminar program. Participate as guest lecturers, in homecoming activities and Chemistry Club events, and more. Information at andrews.edu/cas/chemistry soon. Contact Desmond Murray at 269-757-1641 or murrayd@andrews.edu.

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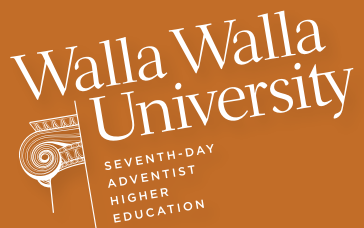
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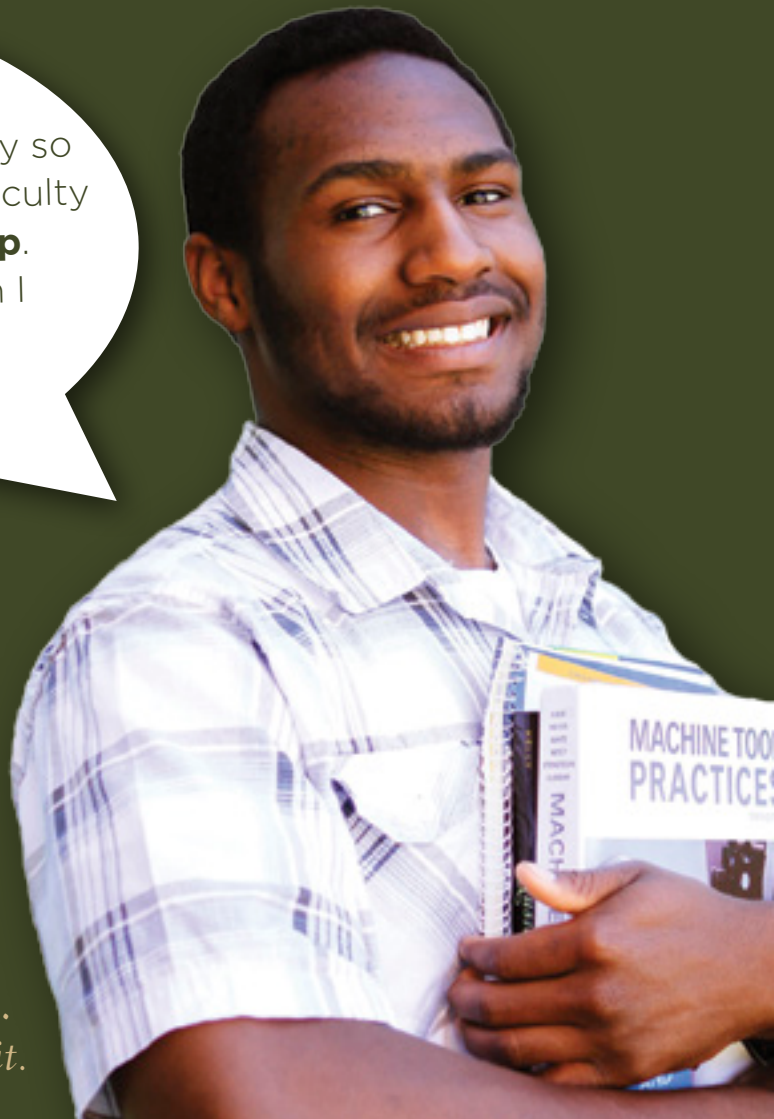


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references to Nicole Orian at norian@ucollege.edu.

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Events

YOU ARE INVITED to the Maranatha Volunteers International Convention in Tualatin, Ore., Oct. 2-3, at Rolling Hills Community Church. Celebrate missions with updates from around the world and musical performances by Wintley Phipps. Children's programming provided on Sabbath. This event is free of charge. Register at maranatha.org or call 916-774-7700.

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Sunset Schedule

| September | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |
|----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| DST | | | | |
| ALASKA CONFERENCE | | | | |
| Anchorage | 8:57 | 8:35 | 8:12 | 7:50 |
| Fairbanks | 9:02 | 8:36 | 8:11 | 7:45 |
| Juneau | 7:51 | 7:31 | 7:11 | 6:51 |
| Ketchikan | 7:35 | 7:17 | 6:59 | 6:41 |
| IDAHO CONFERENCE | | | | |
| Boise | 8:17 | 8:05 | 7:52 | 7:39 |
| La Grande | 7:27 | 7:13 | 7:00 | 6:46 |
| Pocatello | 8:01 | 7:49 | 7:37 | 7:24 |
| MONTANA CONFERENCE | | | | |
| Billings | 7:49 | 7:36 | 7:22 | 7:08 |
| Havre | 7:57 | 7:42 | 7:28 | 7:13 |
| Helena | 8:04 | 7:50 | 7:36 | 7:22 |
| Miles City | 7:39 | 7:25 | 7:11 | 6:57 |
| Missoula | 8:12 | 7:58 | 7:44 | 7:30 |
| OREGON CONFERENCE | | | | |
| Coos Bay | 7:49 | 7:37 | 7:24 | 7:11 |
| Medford | 7:42 | 7:30 | 7:18 | 7:06 |
| Portland | 7:45 | 7:32 | 7:18 | 7:05 |
| UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE | | | | |
| Pendleton | 7:30 | 7:17 | 7:03 | 6:49 |
| Spokane | 7:27 | 7:13 | 6:58 | 6:44 |
| Walla Walla | 7:28 | 7:15 | 7:01 | 6:47 |
| Wenatchee | 7:38 | 7:24 | 7:10 | 6:55 |
| Yakima | 7:38 | 7:24 | 7:10 | 6:56 |
| WASHINGTON CONFERENCE | | | | |
| Bellingham | 7:48 | 7:34 | 7:19 | 7:04 |
| Seattle | 7:46 | 7:32 | 7:18 | 7:03 |

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Local Conference Directory

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6100 O'Malley Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99507-7200
907-346-1004 • alaskaconference.org
Ken Crawford, president; Quentin Purvis, v.p. secretary; James W. Jensen, v.p. finance

IDAHO CONFERENCE

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Boise, ID 83704-8418
208-375-7524 • idahoadventist.org
David Prest Jr., president; John Rogers, v.p. finance

MONTANA CONFERENCE

175 Canyon View Rd.
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-587-3101 • montanaconference.org
Merlin Knowles, president; Sharon Staddon, v.p. administration and finance

OREGON CONFERENCE

19800 Oatfield Rd.
Gladstone, OR 97027-2546
503-850-3500 • oregonconference.org
Al Reimche, president; Dave Allen, v.p. administration; David Freedman, v.p. finance

UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

3715 S. Grove Rd.
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F 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Sun 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

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Sun 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

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MEETINGS

I arrived a day later than I was scheduled for a book signing at the ABC booth during the NAD Pastoral Convention in Austin, Texas, this summer. For the uninitiated, the ABC is the Adventist Book Center — seller of my literary works. NAD stands for North American Division, as in the more than 5,000 pastoral families working in North America I hoped would buy multiple copies of my new book, *Life of Ellen White for Teens*.

When I walked into the ABC, I was escorted to the cashier area where a lone, used copy of my book *The Day the School Blew Up* sat waiting for me. The ABC worker informed me that a little girl had really hoped to meet me at the previous day's book signing, but since I didn't make it she left her book, hoping I would arrive at some point to place my signature on the inside cover.

I opened the cover and wrote a note to "Melanie," apologizing for my lateness and hoping she enjoyed the book. I handed the signed copy back to the cashiers and continued about the massive conference. I enjoyed seeing colleagues, professors and a variety of exceptional booths promoting materials, while sincerely hoping I wasn't the only person to disappoint customers.

I also enjoyed a riveting tale of how P.F. Chang's ran out of eggplant during the feeding of

the 5,000 pastors and how area waitresses suffered anxiety attacks every day at noon when meetings let out for lunch.

Following the NAD meetings, I boarded a bus — part of a caravan containing hundreds of the faithful headed to the GC Session in San Antonio, Texas. Also for the uninitiated, GC Session is where 60,000-plus Adventists take over a city and force all restaurants in the area to create vegetarian menus, offer prepaid options for Sabbath enjoyment of those menus and perform church manual labor.

During the first Sabbath worship experience, I marveled at a crowd of tens of thousands of people singing and studying together. Afterward a human obstacle course presented itself as a host of Sabbath-keeping locusts made their way out to devour the goods offered at local restaurants or the session cafeteria. As I drew close to the door, a man gave me a funny look and said, "Do I know you? You look familiar."

"Uh ... Seth Pierce?" I offered noncommittally.

This is a dangerous move in these situations, since I had not determined if this person was hostile to my work. Normally I keep a wide selection of aliases in the files of my mind. They allow me to hate on my own work along with the stranger should they not recognize me. A safer reply might be, "Oh, yeah, that guy is a blight on the church ... just terrible. My



AUTHOR Seth Pierce



The gathering of different people into one loving community ... is nothing short of miraculous.

name is Alistair McCracken, so as you can see, I have no relation to that heretic whatsoever.”

I figured there were enough people moving forward that if he did turn out to be hostile, I could put enough people between us and make a run for it. But there was no need. He smiled and said, “My daughter is a big fan — you actually signed her book in Austin at the pastors’ meetings!”

In a moment, his lovely family, including Melanie, was

by his side, and we were shaking hands and enjoying a lovely meeting. What struck me about the exchange, outside of meeting a wonderfully normal family serving our church in the St. Louis area, were the odds of that meeting even taking place.

Who could have choreographed our connection in the midst of 5,500-plus people in Austin and tens of thousands in another city an hour or two away? Yet, in spite of the odds, here we were, talking together as scores of other

people streamed past at one of the largest worship experiences available to Adventists on Earth.

In the second chapter of Acts we see narratives describing miraculous healings, prophetic words, speaking in tongues and mass conversions. However, the greatest miracle appears after all that. Luke

writes, “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need” (Acts 2:42–45).

The gathering of different people into one loving community, which shares everything and makes sure each other’s needs are met, is nothing short of miraculous — especially if you have spent any time in a local church. It’s a God thing.

Whenever I experience a community experience like this, whether in a local church, at a coffee shop, at a family reunion or even during a brief moment while exiting San Antonio’s Alamodome, I am grateful. I pray that all of us have meetings like these and they remind us of God’s incredible work to help us answer Jesus’ prayer in John 17: “that they may be one even as we are one.”

Seth Pierce, Puyallup Church lead pastor



ASSESSING THE SESSION

D

legates to the 60th General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas, in July elected a global leadership team, updated church policies and clarified doctrinal statements. In the minds of many, though, the main agenda item was ordination of women pastors — specifically, whether to empower the 13 divisions of the world field to determine what is best for their own territories. What if some divisions then ordained women and others didn't — would that sacrifice global church unity?

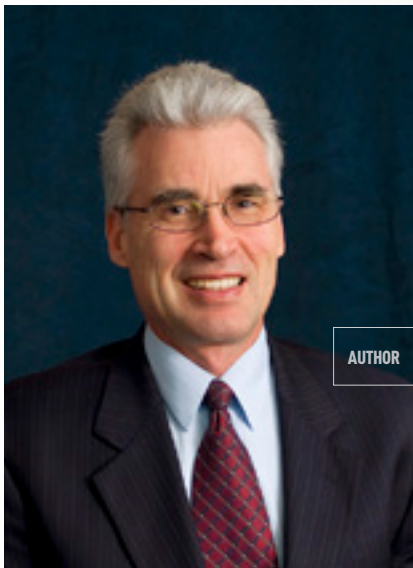
First-century Christians faced a similar dilemma and also held a church council to resolve it. As recorded in Acts 15, the major issue at that Jerusalem session was circumcision. Were non-

Jewish believers allowed to decide for themselves

whether to perform that spiritual rite? And could the global church maintain unity without requiring uniformity among the various cultures of the world field?

In Jerusalem, the apostles decided yes. In San Antonio, delegates voted no.

The most striking difference between Jerusalem and San Antonio was the spirit of the discussion. Acts 15 records mutual respect among the apostles, despite their disagreements. San Antonio was different. Although General



AUTHOR

Martin Weber



Conference leaders diligently devoted nearly an entire morning to spiritual preparation and clear explanations, some delegates persisted in partisan applause. They continually interrupted meaningful discussion with endless “points of order.”

Even more hurtful was the general mistrust of brothers and sisters with differing convictions. Character denigration began during the months leading up to the session. Some who favored a women's ordination option denounced those who did not as being chauvinistic and out-of-touch with Western culture. One parody website mocked Doug Batchelor, a pastor and an outspoken opponent of women's ordination. Portraying him disrespectfully was supposedly in good fun. But fun is when you are laughing *with* someone; it gets



PERSPECTIVE



God's people show they are His by their love.

At that, several delegates audibly jeered their former leader and world president. More incredibly, they were not rebuked as delegate after delegate arose to complain that Jan Paulsen was allowed to speak two minutes longer than a normal delegate could.

The scene was disheartening — I've never seen a world church leader, active or retired, publicly treated with such disrespect. Paulsen, clearly grieved, left the meeting early. I witnessed the sad sight of him slipping out of the building shortly before the vote was taken.

There were many wonderful things too that occurred during the session. But often we learn best from instances that seem to be roadblocks or failures. Often they are the crucible for lessons learned, the catalyst for positive change.

Here are two of the top lessons I have considered in reflecting upon San Antonio.

1) God's people show they are His by their love.

Being nice is Kindergarten 101, but biblical love, Christ-like love, goes far beyond nice. Jesus' love was extended to all — not just those who agreed with Him. That's a good lesson for me and those

of us who seek to represent our Lord. How we act toward each other says volumes about who we follow. The apostle Paul said that religion is a sham without love in action. (See 1 Corinthians 13.)

2) Cultural sensitivity matters.

Our world church is becoming so culturally diverse that we ignore these differences at our peril. True love isn't loud. It doesn't demand its own way. It listens to understand another's heart. Each of us in our own corners of the world must listen, learn to respect the unique cultural challenges of the others and trust leaders there to apply the work of our church to unify us in mission within the culture of God's kingdom.

Self-righteous pontification should never be welcome among us. Jesus once told the stubborn people of Galilee that the citizens of Sodom would fare better in the judgment than they would.

Does His warning apply today as well?

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

nasty when you laugh at them.

Nastier yet was the outright character assassination by one side against the other. Ty Gibson, for decades one of the Northwest's most respected Adventist thought leaders, published a compelling article endorsing women's ordination. Some who previously supported Ty immediately denounced him as a rebel against church leadership and a cultural compromiser.

During the July 8 discussion in San Antonio, delegates continually expressed fears and allegations of cultural compromise and rejection of the biblical order of authority. Biblical counsel should always be central to our spiritual DNA. But the Holy Scriptures speak as much to our attitudes

and behavior as they do to our beliefs.

Therefore, the low point of the day for me was the shameful treatment of Jan Paulsen, retired General Conference president. Our current world president Ted Wilson, in a gracious gesture, invited his predecessor to share his convictions — knowing full well that Paulsen disagreed with him on this particular issue. Indeed, Paulsen politely yet passionately pleaded with delegates to follow the Acts 15 model — trusting each region's leaders to know what is best for their own territory. Having been a missionary to Africa, he reminded those delegations that he had lived as one of them and understood their culture.



LET'S TALK

LITTLE

We like big things. Big names, big paychecks, big promises. But the little things, often overlooked, are really what matter.

A scant week before I was to leave for this summer's General Conference Session

short span of time it threw off my balance and changed everything about my routine.

Little things are a big deal.

Paul's admonition to the Corinthians comes quickly to mind. He imagines the church as a body where differences are celebrated, not suppressed.

In this body, size does not matter. Everything, little or large, is needed, wanted, respected. In this body, uniquely specialized functions are critical to the total good.

So what was the big deal at the recent GC Session? Women's ordination, of course. Letters and websites and documents and countless conversations were devoted to the topic months in advance of the July 8 debate.

But in the midst of the big deal, a lot of little things were forgotten. They are little because we have made them so. But they are the greatest in God's kingdom. And in my opinion, our church must reclaim them to stay on our heaven-bound course.

Faith, Hope and Love are short words, but infinite concepts. They are easy to say and impossible for humans to do. They come as a gift when our hearts are right.

So regardless of the vote, regardless of all the dialogue and debate, regardless of campaign speeches and theological

rhetoric, here is the Adventist Church to which I long to belong. It's a church body where all have differing roles but equal value — that moves in harmonious accord, breathing, lifting, leaping in concert with the call of God.

At times that seems to be a distant destination. But unity is never attained as a goal. It's never achieved by majority vote. It is gifted as He is lifted, the One who draws all to Him. And it always involves the little things.

Little is indeed much, when God is in it.

Sometimes His closest followers forget that. When once they presumed to protect Him from those they deemed of little importance, I recall His response: "Bring the little ones to Me," He said, "and forbid them not. For of such is the kingdom of heaven."

While His followers built barriers, Jesus opened His arms.

The little things matter. Always.

Steve Vistaunet, Gleaner editor

While His followers built barriers, Jesus opened His arms.

in San Antonio, I tried place kicking the laundry room door. I did so neither on purpose nor with any semblance of accuracy. Only my little toe met the mark, and therein lay the problem.

It could've been broken or perhaps just sprained. But when I walked the streets of the city, the corridors of the Alamodome or the convention center exhibits, I got the strong sensation that all was not well with my sole.

The painful demands changed my footwear into something quite unfashionable, something I could wedge my swollen toe into without bells and whistles going off.

In the ensuing weeks, healing has happened, although it will now have a personality all its own. It's just a little thing, this tiny toe of mine, but for a



AUTHOR

Steve Vistaunet

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