



Gleaner

Northwest Adventists in Action

MARCH 2008, Vol. 103, No. 3

Reconnecting: *When Inactive Members Return*

6

10 World News Briefs | 30 FYI | 35 Healthy Choices | 36 Ask PJ
www.GleanerOnline.org



“Now then, stand still and see this great thing the Lord is about to do before your eyes!”

1 SAMUEL 12:16 (NIV)

“Great-horned Owl” photographed by Debbie Blackburn Beierle of Snohomish, Washington.

Feature

6



Reconnecting:

When Inactive Members Return
Mike Jones' Personal Journey

Health

HealthyChoices

35 *with Dr. Don Hall*



Gleaner

MARCH 2008, Vol. 103, No. 3

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- 4 *Editorial*
Are We Eliminating Sabbath School?
- 5 *Did You Know*
- 10 *World News Briefs*
- News*
- 12 Alaska
- 13 Idaho
- 15 Montana
- 16 Oregon
- 21 Upper Columbia
- 25 Washington
- 28 Walla Walla University
- 29 Adventist Health
- 30 *FYI*
- 31 *Family*
- 36 *Announcements*
- 36 *Ask PJ*
- 38 *Advertisements*
- Let's Talk*
- 46 Strangers, Angels and Us



Inactive members who return need more than an open door as illustrated by this issue's cover. They need open arms and a welcoming spirit as described in the feature this month.



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LITHO U.S.A.

Are We *Eliminating* Sabbath School?

*“It almost shouldn’t
be called Sabbath
School if one of
the three main
reasons for having
Sabbath School is
eliminated.”*



I love Sabbath School. Whether it’s in Spokane or Walla Walla, Sao Paulo or Manila. Being warmly welcomed by the saints, studying the lesson with an open Bible and the inspiring mission stories from the Northwest and around the world.

But wait a minute. Can you believe it? We have some Adventist churches who have actually, by default, or poor planning, allowed the mission emphasis to be done away with! The mission story is as important as the music is to the worship service or as Special K roast is to the potluck!

Seriously, I’d go so far as to say it almost shouldn’t be called Sabbath School if one of the three main reasons for having Sabbath School is eliminated (the other two are Bible study and fellowship).

Our founders knew what they were doing when they imbedded missions in the very heart of Sabbath School. Otherwise, we become self-centered navel-gazing vegetarians with the potential of becoming a national church, not a world church with a global message.

Ellen G. White told us a long time ago the best way to strengthen the home field is to invest in foreign missions. Yet our mission giving has not kept up with our overall giving. And that’s understandable if we don’t even have a regular mission emphasis.

Resources

There is really no excuse not to have a mission emphasis weekly or at a minimum

monthly. The NW Spotlight on Mission DVD provided by the North Pacific Union Conference is mailed to every head elder and every Sabbath School superintendent free. The exciting new Adventist Mission DVDs, produced by the General Conference, are free and mailed quarterly to every church. By going online to www.adventistmission.org anyone can find mission news, mission stories, and even mission blogs. And, of course, here in the Northwest we have hundreds of short-term missionaries from our academies, Walla Walla University and many churches returning regularly from around the world. They’d love to give their first-person accounts.

I was so pleased when my own pastor announced a few weeks ago that the Meadow Glade Church would be beginning a new mission emphasis right before the church service begins so the children and young adults could be present. It will feature community outreach, Northwest stories and overseas missions binding our local church with the worldwide family of believers as we share the exciting miracles of a growing church.

So if your church has inadvertently slipped into the unacceptable habit of de-emphasizing missions, it’s time to rekindle the flame. Call your pastor or Sabbath School superintendent and ask for a regular mission emphasis to be reinstated and don’t eliminate Sabbath School and the reason for its existence in your church. •

Jere Patzer

North Pacific Union Conference president

Did You Know?

March is National Women's History Month, which traces its origins to March 8, 1857, when women from New York City factories staged a protest over poor working conditions. In 1981, Congress voted to set aside the second week in March for National Women's History Week. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month.



MARCH

How are Women Doing Today?

In 2006:

57% Percentage of women who participated in gardening at least once, compared with 37 percent of men.

32% Percentage of women who report they have done charity work, versus 26 percent of men.

55% Percentage of women who reported reading literature, compared with 38 percent of men.

SOURCE: Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2007

17% Percentage of married couples in which the wife earned at least \$5,000 more than the husband in 2005.

22% Percentage of married couples in which the wife has more education than the husband.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau

37% Percentage of women 16 or older who work in management, professional and related occupations, compared with 31 percent of men.

SOURCE: 2005 American Community Survey

March Firsts

Match the following March beginnings with their year of origin. (One year is used twice.)

a. 1793 b. 1797 c. 1931 d. 1876

- Alexander Graham Bell received a patent for his telephone.
- Eli Whitney received a patent for his cotton gin.
- Nathaniel Briggs of New Hampshire patented the washing machine.
- "The Star-Spangled Banner" was adopted as the national anthem of the United States.
- Schick, Inc. marketed the first electric razor.

SOURCE: Aboutfamouspeople.com

Answers: 1-d; 2-a; 3-b; 4-c; 5-c

Drawing of Alexander Graham Bell



Religion & Politics

70% of Americans say it's important to them that their president have strong religious beliefs.

40% of Americans report attending church on a weekly basis.

37% of Americans say it's improper for journalists to ask candidates how religion affects their decision-making.

40% of Americans feel uncomfortable when a politician talks publicly about their faith.

SOURCE: Pew Research Center

Recon

When Inactive

Mike Jones' Personal Journey

Mike Jones grew up in the church, drifted away, and then made the decision to return. He's a former pastor and editor of *Insight* magazine. Whether you're an active member or not, his experience is worth considering.

GLEANER: Did you "buy in" to the Adventist message early on in your experience?

MJ: Well, very early on I was pretty enthusiastic. I was baptized at age 11 and a few days later my mother found me out in an empty field next to our house with sickle and garden hoe, clearing some ground to pitch a tent for evangelistic meetings. I wanted to tell people Jesus was coming soon! Mother stopped me, but I've always wondered what would have happened if she had encouraged me instead.

What sticks out in your mind about your early Adventist upbringing?

MJ: My father was agnostic, so my mother was the dominant religious influence. I don't think she understood grace very well, but she knew a lot about the investigative judgment. I used to worry that if I had even one unconfessed sin on God's record books, my goose would be cooked for eternity. Dad was handy with a belt, so I learned early on there was a price to pay for making either God or my parents unhappy. Life in my early and teenage years was lots of do's and don'ts. Not much grace. Not much fun. When I graduated from the youth Sabbath School to the adult division, I still hadn't found grace. The closest I came was a blue-eyed blonde named Grace who I fell in love with when I was 14, but that's another story!

Reconnecting:

Members Return

But fun or no fun, you believed the Seventh-day Adventist Church taught the truth?

MJ: Yes, but when I was a kid, “the truth” mostly meant that Sunday laws were about to occur, and Jesus would most likely be returning in about five years. So I hung in with the church. I wasn’t ready to bail. As a teen, I thought the church would be my ride to Heaven.

So for some years you found it worthwhile to stay with the church.

MJ: Sure, I got married, had a nice family and, outwardly, was doing quite well. I was on a corporate fast track in the business world, but inside I had some serious problems. I was a closet smoker and realized it was doing a number on my physical and spiritual health. I was churched, but I certainly didn’t know Jesus. When I saw where I was headed, though, and got desperate, I told God, “Take me, I’m yours.” Not only did He help me quit smoking, He gave me a new heart, a new nature and a whole new sense of freedom. I went on from that experience to enjoy an amazing time as the second editor of *Insight* magazine, then successful stints pastoring in Oregon and Alaska.

So, if your spiritual life was on an upswing, what prompted you to leave the church?

MJ: I left the church in 1983 because of a divorce. At the time I was serving as associate director of the ministerial association for the Southwestern Union Conference. But with my marriage broken I felt my continued membership would be an embarrassment to the church. No one said, “Don’t go.” So I left. I kept the Sabbath in my own way, but I stopped attending church services. It took me 16 years to return.

You weren’t bitter, you didn’t disagree with any doctrines, but you began to drift.

MJ: Yes, I started sleeping in on Sabbath, which wasn’t hard to do. And I thought, well, I’m still reading my Bible and praying. Growing up with no siblings, I’d had a lot of alone time, so doing things on my own didn’t bother me. I enjoyed being lazy. I was thinking at that time I would just stay away for a year or two and then go back. I never expected to be gone for 16 years.

What factors led you back to the church?

MJ: Believe it or not, a woman I met

at a country western dance helped bring me back. So did the book by Ellen G. White *Steps to Jesus*, which is a modern language version of *Steps to Christ*. Diane was a successful business analyst, and during our dates we began discussing the Bible. The seventh-day Sabbath, which I still observed despite being out of the church, was of special interest to Diane. Those discussions led us (Diane and I eventually married) to begin visiting Adventist churches in our area. And by the time I finished reading *Steps to Jesus*, I was saying to myself, “They can say whatever they want about Ellen G.

White’s prophetic gift, but this woman was inspired by God.” Her writ-





ings played a major role in my decision to rejoin the Adventist church.

How were you received when you came back?

MJ: Well, it didn't happen quickly or easily. In fact, when Diane and I share our story in public, we say, basically, we fought our way into the Adventist church. We had to get used to the fact most members were not going to be overly friendly. We finally realized we needed to be the ones reaching out. So we created a seminar and taught the members of the church we joined to reach out beyond their own comfort zone. We've enjoyed visiting some of our Northwest congregations with that message.

In your experience, what are some things that cause an inactive member to begin coming back to church again?

MJ: I think it's always a Holy Spirit moment when someone decides to come back. During my 16 years away, I would occasionally visit a nearby church, and if someone acknowledged my existence at church, that was always a plus. But most of the time, once I got by the greeters, no one would talk to me. Church members need to practice caring about people they don't know. You never know when the stranger sitting near you might be the one who came that day in response to the Holy

Spirit's tug. They're right on the edge—deciding if it's worth coming back a second time. Your howdy or friendly handshake can make you the difference-maker.

Is it possible that some of us who have been Adventists the longest, have the most to learn about connecting with guests?

MJ: Interesting you should say that. When I finally began visiting local Adventist churches again, a new Adventist—a former cocktail hostess—was one of the greeters. She came sprinting out into the parking lot when we drove up and greeted my wife as she got out of the car and walked us all the way into the sanctuary. That really warmed our hearts, and it was the church we finally joined. Back when I was still pastoring, I liked to spend time out in the lobby, getting to know people I hadn't met. Then I would rejoin the elders and go on the platform. One day they said, "Pastor, we really like what you're doing out there in the lobby." And I replied, "Any chance you might join me?" They did. And, oh, how that church grew during the next several years. If we all would make ourselves a committee of one to make our guests feel welcome, I believe many former or inactive members would be encouraged to come back.

If I'm an inactive or former member, why should I return?

Reconnecting Tips for Members

Here are a few more ideas from Mike Jones on how to connect with guests.

- **Keep the flow of communication going**—Once I resigned my membership, I never heard from my local church again. If your church has a newsletter, send it to the missing members as well. Of course, a "Hey, I've been missing you!" phone call is a nice touch and only takes a minute or two.
- **Send event invitations**—You never know what type of event might appeal to someone, depending on what they are currently going through. So, keep those announcements or invitations to special classes, seminars and evangelistic meetings going out to them.
- **Foster social interaction**—My local church hosts a Wednesday evening meal

which has been very successful, with optional classes afterward for those who wish to stay. Some of our inactive members have been coming back to church as a direct result of this.

- **Make small-group connections**—A group of us do a Sunday morning breakfast every four or six weeks. We invite new members to join us as well as people who have been inactive.
- **Don't just talk, listen**—You don't have to be Mr. or Mrs. Sanguine. Focus on asking a few questions ("How's everything going in your life?") and then listen. I remind people that Job's friends were really a comfort to

him until they opened their mouths.

- **Be a committee of one**—Remember that every active member should be a "greeter," and not just those who are assigned the front doors. Locate people you don't know. Introduce yourself and give them a warm smile and handshake. Look for them again in the following weeks, and continue that connection.

Learn more about connecting current and former members with the grace of God in Mike Jones new book, *Sometimes I Don't Feel Like Praying*, published by Pacific Press Publishing Association, available at Adventist Book Centers.

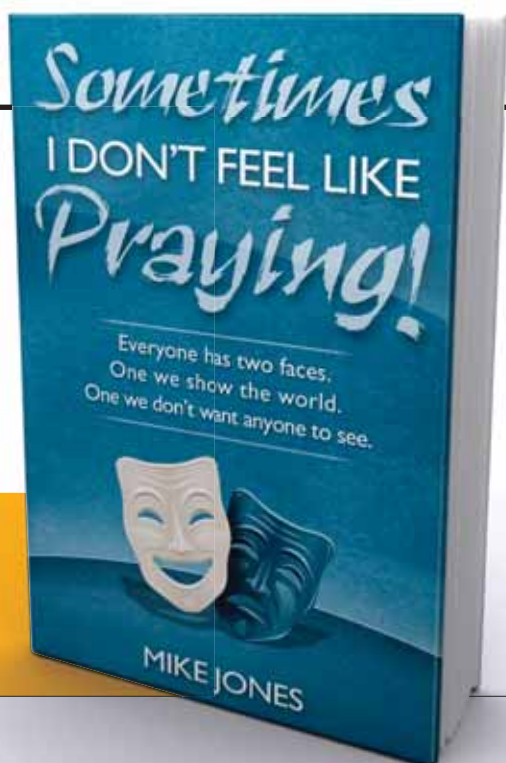
MJ: I think we're saved to serve. And that means loving other people: a handshake, a smile, a gentle squeeze on the shoulder—little acts of love that bring meaning to our lives as well as those around us. Here's a second reason: There's something transcending about praising God with others that just stirs the soul. And thirdly, I've figured out I can do more for the Lord as part of a team effort than I can ever do as a "lone ranger" operating by myself. I'll bet you can too.

So how should our members relate to former or returning members?

MJ: Some have left us and never want to come back. But there are a large number who have simply gotten busy with other things and drifted away when no one called to say, "Hey, we've been missing you." We not only need to make our churches guest-friendly, but we also need to reach out beyond our four walls to connect with those who are otherwise "out of sight, out of mind." Not everybody will fight to get back in like I did. There are tens of thousands of inactive or former members who need to know we want them back. •

Editor's Note:

You may consider yourself a Seventh-day Adventist, yet find regular involvement in church services or functions uncomfortable or inconvenient. You may show up once in awhile to keep in touch with church member friends ... or not. Perhaps you've had a discouraging experience with church leadership or another member. But you stay in touch with the GLEANER. Now that you've read Mike's story, what's your story? Pro or con, we'd like to hear from you at talk@gleaneronline.org.



Why Heather Came Back

After college, I just stopped going to church, and my boyfriend David and I started doing whatever we wanted, whatever the subculture around us was saying would be fun and exciting.

Then a friend in graduate school invited me to study the Bible with her. I really understood the gospel for the first time and opened my heart up to Jesus. I saw I was living my life the wrong way. I worried my boyfriend wouldn't

understand, but I asked God to work a miracle in his life too. A week later an Adventist colleague invited him to attend a Bible study, and the Holy Spirit began to change his heart along with mine. He ended up getting baptized while I got rebaptized, and we were married as soon as I was through school.

When I stop to think that I was raised in the Adventist church all my life and had godly, believing parents who read all the Bible stories to me, I still am perplexed how I could have gotten so far off

track. Today those same Bible stories are precious to me.

The messages from the world are so powerful. They can really seduce you if you aren't well-grounded in God's Word. But in my experience life away from Jesus was not all that exciting. Actually, it was tedious and difficult and painful. I was struggling with depression and was a slave to destructive habits.

Now I have a peace and contentment that I never came close to when I was away from God. •

Editor's note: Heather and her husband, David, are leaders at the Oasis Christian Center Adventist Church in Vancouver, Wash., and are excited to share their love for Jesus.

NAME
Heather Gasser

AGE
36

EDUCATION
Master's degree in Social Work (MSW)

OCCUPATION
Child and family therapist

RELIGION
Seventh-day Adventist.
Out of the church for five years; rebaptized in 2000.

WORLD NEWS

WASHINGTON

State Prisons Struggle with Multi-religion Issue

A recent change in Washington state prison policy allows inmates to profess to belong to more than one religion. That change comes after one inmate sued the state, claiming he was prohibited from worshipping as both a Native American and a Seventh-day Adventist. As a result of the decision, a Catholic chaplain at McNeil Island Corrections Center has taken leave, saying he could not minister to someone who might claim to be a Catholic and a pagan at the same time.

Source: Tacoma News Tribune

NETHERLANDS

International Court Names Adventist Judge

Daniel D. Ntanda Nsereko, Adventist law professor, has been named as one of the International Criminal Court's 18 judges. He was nominated for the position by the Ugandan government and endorsed by the African Union last year. Nsereko most recently served as a professor at the University of Botswana. He has experience in international criminal law and human rights work. The International Criminal Court is an independent body established in 2002 to prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Source: Adventist News Network



ARKANSAS

Federal Court Upholds Religious Discrimination Ruling

A U.S. Court of Appeals has upheld a ruling for an Adventist UPS worker discriminated against for not working on Sabbath. Todd Sturgill from Springdale, Ark., was fired in 2004 after returning from his route without delivering 35 packages on a Friday night so he could go home for Sabbath. The court determined his employers failed to meet his previous requests for Sabbath accommodation. Sturgill was compensated for lost wages, court fees and will get his job back. The court did reverse an award for punitive damages, saying UPS did not act with malice or reckless indifference.

Source: Adventist News Network

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Adventist University Receives Government Grant

The government of Trinidad and Tobago has announced it will award a \$15.5 million grant to the Adventist-operated University of Southern Caribbean. The nation's prime minister announced the grant during a national budget speech. USC is the first private institution in Trinidad and Tobago to receive this level of financial support from the government. The grant, which will be paid over the next four years, is part of a national effort to achieve first-world status for undergraduate education.

Source: Inter-American Division

W S BRIEFS



RUSSIA

Chief Rabbi Opposes Political Use of Religion

Russian Chief Rabbi Berel Lazar has called on participants in the World Economic Forum in Switzerland to stand against the use of religion for political purposes. Lazar pointed out many terrorist groups try to excuse their actions with references to religion and quotes from holy books. He encouraged religious leaders to publicly declare such actions have nothing to do with true faith in God.

Source: Interfax

NORTH KOREA

Christian Aid Worker Released by Government

A Canadian man, who was detained for more than two months in North Korea, has been released. Kim Je-Yell spent over a decade bringing in dental supplies and setting up clinics in North Korea with official approval. But when he began criticizing the North Korean regime and tried to establish a church in the region he was taken into custody on charges related to national security. North Korea's constitution provides for freedom of religious belief, but the government strictly regulates religious activity.

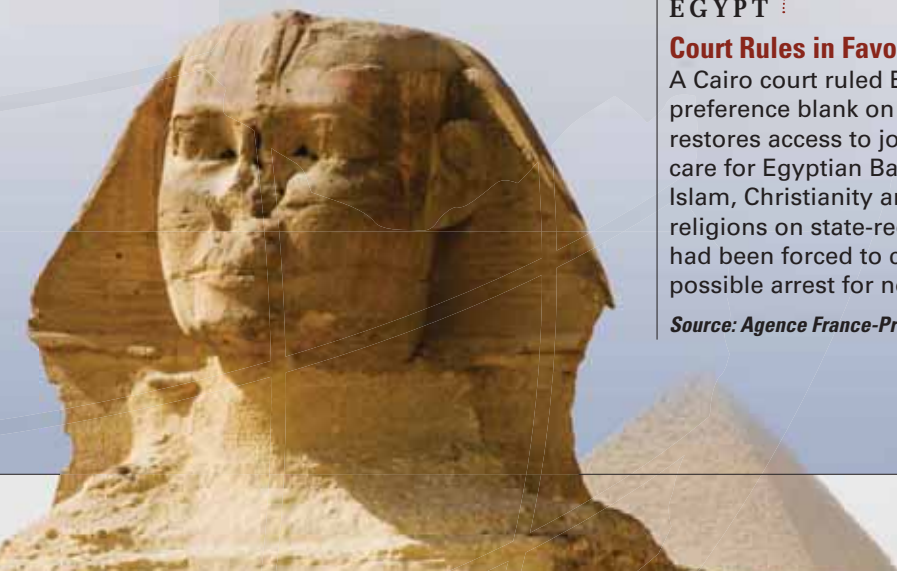
Source: Agence France-Presse

EGYPT

Court Rules in Favor of no Religious Preference

A Cairo court ruled Egyptians may elect to leave their religious preference blank on official documents. This decision, in effect, restores access to jobs, schools, property ownership and medical care for Egyptian Bahais. Five years ago, Egypt announced that Islam, Christianity and Judaism would be the only recognized religions on state-required identification papers. As a result, Bahais had been forced to choose between claiming another faith or possible arrest for not having legal identification.

Source: Agence France-Presse



Arctic Church Ordains Local Leadership

Time is past due for local Native Alaskan people to be empowered to provide leadership for the small Adventist groups in their villages," says Jim Kincaid, an Adventist lay member who returned to the remote village of Kotzebue after a number of years as pastor and conference executive secretary in Alaska.

The Selawik Church came closer to this goal on Dec. 29, 2007. The church ordained two elders Marie Savok and Warren Downs and gave Helen Loon and Fred Davis the roles of deaconess and deacon, respectively. The church celebrated communion, and will now be able to celebrate communion more frequently with the ordination of these elders. Two of the ordained leaders, and the brother of another, are former attendees of

the Adventist-run Bristol Bay Mission School in Aleknagik which operated until the early 1970s.

Adventists have a long working history among the Inupiat of Northwest Alaska, stemming from the late 1930s. However, due to lack of continuity in Adventist leadership and presence in the Arctic region, there have been few appointed local Adventist church leaders through the years.

Warren and Verity Downs and their three daughters have just finished their second year as Selawik church leaders. With a population of more than 800, the village is one of the largest villages located just above the Arctic Circle and 75 miles inland from the Chuchi Sea. The Downs family is living there on a faith-



From left: Warren Downs, Marie Savok, Helen Loon and Fred Davis were recently ordained as church leaders for the Selawik Church. Selawik, a village north of the Arctic Circle, has a population of about 800.

based financial arrangement; Downs pursues his career as an online computer programmer and relies significantly on God's prompting potential

contributors for financial support. •

Jim Kincaid, Kotzebue Church pastor

Cello Concert Treat For Delta Junction

The last weekend in 2007 found Sharon Staddon, Alaska Conference treasurer, and her husband Thearon, an accountant, braving cold temperatures to travel between Anchorage and Delta Junction to participate in what is undoubtedly the coldest Adventist concert held last year in the North Pacific Union.

The weekend began with a Friday evening agape feast and participation in the

North American Division's live broadcast of a special communion service. Sabbath morning, Thearon's sermon, "The Ultimate New Year's Resolution," stirred members. "It was spiritually overwhelming," says Sue Dickinson, a Delta Junction Church member.

The real treat was the concert featuring Thearon on the cello and Sharon on the piano, especially since members couldn't recall the last time

there was a cello concert in the area. The concert repertoire was infused with local music artists from Delta Junction, including vocal and instrumental pieces from various countries. In addition, the Kurilchenko family entertained with music from Eastern Europe. •

Melba Palmero, Delta Junction Church member



The Delta Junction Church hosts a community concert featuring Sharon and Thearon Staddon from Anchorage along with local artists.

Nampa Church Honors Teachers and Elders

With Shabbat Shalom Service

The Nampa Church found a unique way to recognize the teachers and staff of Gem State Adventist Academy and Caldwell Adventist Elementary School. Also included were the spouses of the teachers, school staff and church elders. To honor them, the church hosted a Friday evening appreciation dinner, incorporating some traditional ways used to welcome the Sabbath.

At sundown Victor Moores blew a trumpet and Suzette Maxwell and Susan Winchester lit the Sabbath candles. Randy Maxwell, Kuna Church pastor, shared a blessing for the teachers and staff. Ervin Furne, Nampa Church pastor, dressed in a traditional prayer shawl and yarmulke, offered the welcome and introduced the guests at the head table.

Don Klinger, conference vice president for administration, followed with the appreciation dinner blessing.

The menu included nahit (a chickpea dish traditionally served on Friday nights to honor the birth of a male child), challah (a braided bread), kugel, couscous salad, barley soup and date cake.

Cherie Richards led the group in Sabbath prayer. Paulette Jackson, conference superintendent of schools, made a presentation of appreciation to the teachers and staff, and the group all sang "Shalom." Stephen McPherson, conference president, concluded the evening with prayer. •

Sherry Hoewing, Nampa Church communication leader



Paulette Jackson, conference superintendent of schools, expresses appreciation to the teachers as all enjoy a unique welcome to the Sabbath.



Caldwell Adventist Elementary School students use their newly developed knitting skills to make blankets and hats.

Students Learn to Knit Help Community

“Teacher, can you teach me how to knit?” A simple question, but one that has third- and fourth-grade Caldwell Adventist Elementary School students using their talents to help people in need.

Every year, my students ask me to teach them to knit. This year as several of my students were learning how to knit and making small sampler swatches, one of the students asked me if we could make something for a family in her neighborhood. Their furnace wasn’t working, and they couldn’t afford to replace it. The family was expecting a baby soon, and the student was concerned the baby would be cold. So we decided to make a baby blanket by sewing the

sampler swatches together.

The news got out and soon community members donated yarn and blocks for the blanket. The blanket was finished in time for Christmas.

As my students were knitting, I’ve watched their enthusiasm for helping others grow along with their blocks. They’ve reached out in helpful, caring, kind ways not only to their fellow classmates, but to students in other classes as well. The students are currently working on hats for newborn babies at a local hospital. •

Susan Winchester, Caldwell Adventist Elementary School third- and fourth-grade teacher

Couple Reunited *With God and Each Other*

The warmth and acceptance of an Adventist church in Meridian, Idaho, has helped a divorced couple renew their commitment to each other through marriage and to God through baptism. The divorce in fall of 2006 left Heidi and Jeremy Summerlin feeling alone and broken. However, shortly after the divorce, Heidi received a flyer about a seminar at the Experience. Heidi attended the seminar, not realizing this decision would draw her closer to God and Jeremy.

After Heidi went to the seminar, she started attending the church with her children. Jeremy soon began coming too. They found they enjoyed the warm, family atmosphere where they felt accepted. Both Heidi and Jeremy had attended churches of various



The Experience Church family gathers around Jeremy and Heidi Summerlin after their baptism.

denominations in the past but were not baptized. Jeremy had been dedicated in an Adventist church but had grown away from God.

Over the next several months, the two become more involved in the church, with

Heidi helping teach Sabbath School and volunteering as administrative assistant to Brian Yeager, pastor of The Experience Church. Jeremy helped with the praise team and maintained the church's computer network. "Interacting with others at church is invigorating," say Heidi and Jeremy. "Church is not about us, but about what we can do for others." Heidi says, "The Experience Church is a good example

of the power of God working in people's lives. He gets the glory for the good things happening there."

As summer approached, Heidi and Pastor Yeager were planning her baptism. The pastor suggested—half jokingly—perhaps the day should really include two baptisms and a wedding. Jeremy had also been thinking of baptism, and the idea took hold. On Aug. 24, 2007, more than 30 people gathered at Eagle Island State Park to share in the joyful occasion which Jeremy calls their "wedtism." Yeager baptized both of them in the lake, and immediately married them—dripping wet—in a gazebo, surrounded by family and friends. •

*Tennille and Mike Feldbush,
The Experience Church
members*

Mountain Home Church *Celebrates Baptisms*

The Mountain Home Church held three baptisms recently.

Kevin Osterhoff, 17 years old, was invited to attend Pathfinders by a younger member and became a member of the club. Recently, Osterhoff began baptismal classes with Dan Nelson, pastor, and decided to make his commitment to Christ. On Oct. 29, 2007, Nelson baptized Osterhoff.

On Nov. 3, 2007, 10-year-old Amanda and 13-year-old Amy Carlos were also baptized. Their parents, Marco and Melanie Carlos, have been members of the church for four years. •

Claudius Barnes, Mountain Home Church communication leader

Pastor Brian Yeager baptizes Heidi just before her wedding at the Eagle Island State Park in Eagle, Idaho.



Mt. Ellis Academy Students *Help in Guatemala*

On a brisk Sunday morning in November 2007, I said goodbye to my family and sleepily climbed onto the Mt. Ellis Academy bus with more than 35 fellow students and faculty. What followed was a grueling 36-hour journey by buses, planes, and boats to the isolated little town of Livingstone on the Caribbean coast of Guatemala. We would spend 14 days there building a second story onto the local Adventist church school and providing children's, medical and dental services in outlying villages.

My first impression of Guatemala wasn't the best, but as the days went by, this quickly changed. My first assignment was working with the Vacation Bible School team. We handed out clothes and toys, sang songs and played games with so many beautiful, smiling, laughing children.

Along with all the fun and happiness came a good bit of sorrow. It was hard to see the level of poverty and suffering these children and their families live with every day of their lives. I am ashamed when



From left: MEA students Raymond Jimenez, Angela Harris and Kim Belcher discover the joy of helping others during a mission trip to Guatemala.

I think of the times my friends and I complain about minor inconveniences as if they were real hardships. For most of those children, one meal in our academy cafeteria would be the best meal in their lives. I never fully appreciated until then how God had so abundantly blessed me and my family.

Partway through the trip we had a brief respite from our work to go see the Mayan Pyramids of Tikal. What an incredible experience to climb around on old pyramids built around the time of Christ. I definitely returned to school

with a renewed interest in my world history class.

When we returned to work the next day, I went to work with the construction crew, cutting lumber for the framers and helping set trusses. On the last day of work, I got to help nail in the last wall of the second story. Two days before, at vespers, the school principal shared the story of a child who went home from school singing songs and sharing stories about Jesus. The child brought his parents to Christ and to church. As I nailed in that wall, I thought about the story, and

how twice as many students would now be able to attend. There would be so many more opportunities for the school to touch the lives of families through their children.

In that moment, the trip took on a whole new meaning. It wasn't just to fulfill my community service requirement or to see new places. Suddenly what mattered most was that I helped do something which would lead more people to meet my Savior. This I will carry with me forever. •

Raymond Jimenez IV, MEA sophomore



Savanah Weaver, MEA sophomore, makes a new friend during Vacation Bible School.



MEA students work on a school construction site in Guatemala.

New Milo Department *Benefits International Students*

Milo Adventist Academy has started a new department, which will help expand its horizons and help international students integrate better.

In the spring of 2007, the newly formed English Language Learning Department began to develop a state-of-the-art English as a Second Language program—focusing on helping students become proficient in the language.

In the past, limited-English speaking students at Milo had to develop their own methods for learning English. Even though they had been proficient in their own language, in an English-speaking academy, these students often struggled with language and cultural issues. The new ESL program, English for Academic Achievement, now provides international students with a systematic approach in developing listening, reading, writing and speaking skills in the language concurrently with their academic studies. In this program, students are able to feel confident in their ability to communicate, and therefore able to integrate more rapidly



Marisol Angelino, from Mexico, and Junseok Yoo, from Korea, enjoy the joint interest of learning English together.

into mainstream classes and activities.

In addition to helping students in the classroom, the department will be able to help them by offering the Test of English as a Foreign

Language at Milo. In the past, international students taking the TOEFL had to arrange to test at another location. Sabbath was often an issue, as the test is usually offered during Sabbath hours. For international students, the TOEFL is required for most universities in North America.

With the development of the department, 15 new international students from Korea, Mexico and Rwanda enrolled in the ESL program,

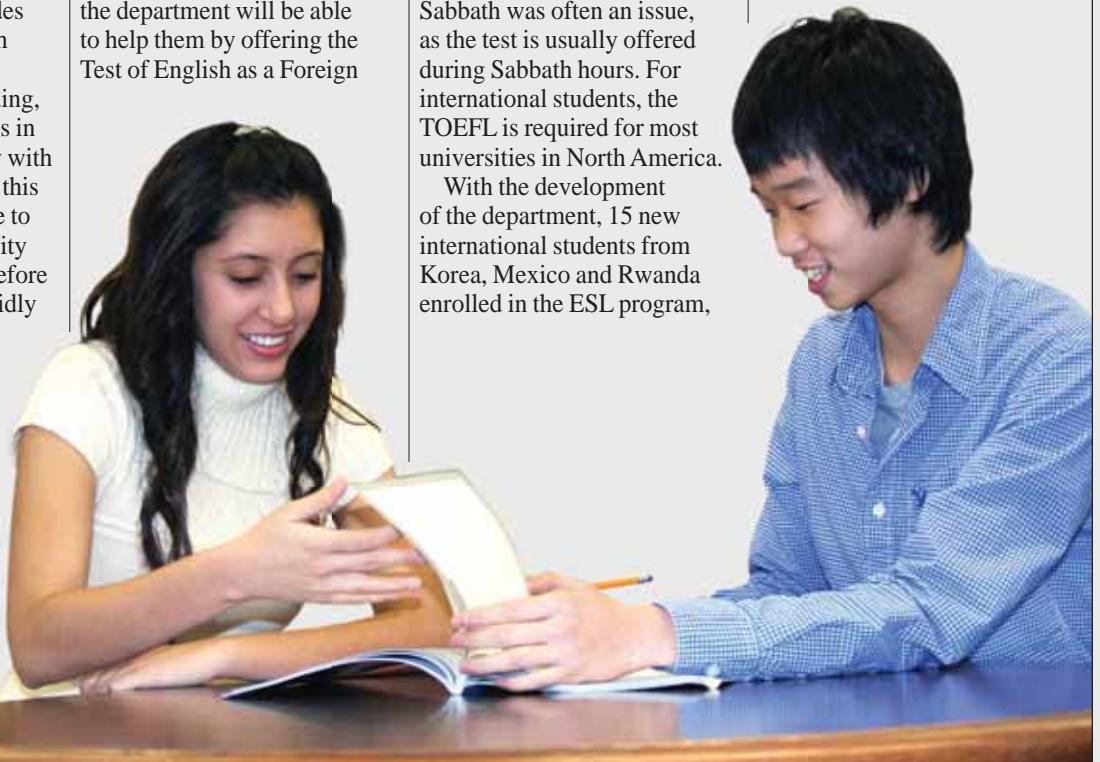
bringing the international student body to more than 22 students for 2007–2008.

It is expected students will enroll from different countries, including Taiwan, Japan, Micronesia, and from the former Soviet Union as well as Korea and Mexico. “Students from other cultures have expanded our understanding of the world, and to a large degree enabled us to see from other perspectives,” says one constituent.

It is the hope and prayer of this new department that these students will enable the gospel to go “...to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people.” •

Richard P. Carrigan, Milo English Language learning director

Students are now able to first learn English and then blend into the mainstream classes when they are ready.



Medford Church Marks *100 Years*

The Medford Church marked a major milestone on Dec. 1, 2007, celebrating 100 years of service. The day featured George Knight, professor, who taught a dynamic Sabbath School lesson, and Bruce Johnston, retired North Pacific Union Conference president, who told an engaging children's story and gave a brief history of the church. Steve Bartley presented a slide show about mission service to the countries of India, Nepal, Peru and Belize. Rogue Valley Adventist School bell and concert choirs provided inspiring music, and Floyd Bresee, elder and Valley View Church interim pastor, presented the thought-provoking message.

One hundred years ago, the church began quietly in the kitchen of W. L. Black, an Adventist minister from

Arizona. The founders began conducting evangelistic meetings, resulting in the organization of 14-members. It was soon necessary to move from the kitchen to a lodge hall and storage building on East Main Street. Eventually, a church was built on North Riverside Ave. in 1908. Unfortunately, this church burned down in 1925. Members met in a Methodist church while building a new church on the corner of Edwards and Beatty streets in East Medford. The church continued to grow and, by 1954, the search for a new location resulted in the present site. On Aug. 6, 1960, the first worship service was held in the new sanctuary. Over the past 47 years, the church has expanded and grown in building size and membership. An addition now houses the Community Services



Five members who moved with the church to its present location in 1960, from left: Dorothea Bom, Corabell Corwin, Mary Austin (seated), Bruce Johnston and Gertrude Salmans.

Center and access pantry on the lower level and the kitchen and fireside room on the upper level.

Outreach programs include youth activities, study and prayer groups, and mission trips by church members and students of Rogue Valley

Adventist School. The Medford Church continues to grow, and God is blessing it with new members and friends. •

Myrt Mendenhall, Medford Church member

Livingstone Students *Host Mission Trip Fundraiser*

Three Livingstone Adventist Academy seniors hosted a spaghetti feed Jan. 19 to raise money for an April senior class mission trip to Mexico on the Yucatan Peninsula. Class president Megan Morton and classmates Camilyn and Cherilyn Clayville served spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and homemade carrot cake at the Dallas Church where they are members. The girls planned for about 50 people but ran out,

so they quickly had to bring in more food. "It was cool how everyone donated so much," says Cherilyn. "I was surprised and very pleased at how many

people came to the spaghetti feed."

"I thought they did a great job. We were glad to do our part for such a worthy cause,"

The fundraiser team, from left: Megan Morton, Camilyn and Cherilyn Clayville.



says Wiona Winters, a Dallas member who attended.

Through the event, the girls raised enough money to go on the mission trip. The students will help build a church, do some community outreach and share testimonies with the local people. They will also do some sightseeing in the area. •

Jennifer McBeth, Dallas Church communication leader

Waldport Members Build Church With Enthusiasm and Purpose

The Waldport Church on the Oregon Coast has spent more than eight months enthusiastically building their new church. Remarkably, every day, a group of men and women are on site, completing the “to do” lists a member carefully sends by e-mail to everyone. The young, old and “in between,” the skilled, and those who know nothing about building can be found any day of the week (except on Sabbath) at the church working. They pound nails, run wire, install sprinkler systems, lay block, fetch tools, paint doors, or make a run to the building supply store. Women take turns bringing lunch each day of the week, while others pray for protection and peace

over the project.

The new church began as a dream first vocalized in 1993. A group called the IDEA Committee met under the leadership of Dennis Pumford, then pastor. Land was purchased in 2005, on the west side of Highway 101, just north of the Alsea Bay Bridge. Milton Adams, a pastor, led in the acquisition of this beautiful property. It was decided Dick Springsteen, local member from Springsteen Builders, would be the contractor. In 2006 and 2007, local members worked diligently on building permits, building plans, site preparation, and pouring concrete in anticipation for Maranatha volunteers arriving in June 2007 to construct the

6,700-square-foot church.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on April 10, 2007. Invitations went to the Waldport mayor, City Council, Chamber of Commerce, pastors, other churches, and the local newspaper. Among those who spoke were Andy Wittenburg, pastor; Scott LeMert, Oregon Conference special assistant to the president; Herman Welch, Waldport mayor; and John Folk, church elder. LeMert was quoted in the *South Lincoln County News* saying, “This house will be a house of prayer for all people.” The event was well attended by the community and Waldport Church members. Welch thanked the church for serving the community with their “tremendous effort with food and clothing programs,” referring to the church’s active community services.

In June, more than 50 Maranatha volunteers gathered for about two weeks. Along



With Maranatha volunteers adding their talents to the project, the framework took shape quickly.

with members, they worked from dawn until dinner, also enjoying meals and evening worships together. Maranatha old-timers say they had never seen so many members involved and as skilled take part in a construction project. Local members believe this is the Lord’s house and He is helping them build it. Their motto has been Psalm 127:1, “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain to build it.”

Waldport’s first introduction to Adventists was in 1919 when Appel and Thurston, evangelists held meetings, but with no recorded converts. However, soon after, God



More than 50 Maranatha volunteers traveled in their RVs to camp at the building site for two weeks.



The Waldport church building as it nearly completed.

raised up a group of believers. C. A. Purdom, pastor, and A. A. Walter, elder, met with believers in the Bayview School in Bayshore, on the north side of Alsea Bay. Interestingly, the new church is back in Bayshore where it began. On Dec. 31, 1921, the Waldport Church was officially formed with 15 charter members. At the time the only way from Waldport to Bayshore was to go across the bay by ferry. The bridge spanning the bay wasn't completed until 1936. In 1923 the church moved its services across the bay in old town Waldport, until the first Adventist church was built on Broadway and Keady streets in the early 1950s. In 1973, the church began providing clothing for people in need and in 1985 they began the Food Share Program. Current worship services have more than 66 people, and along with the Community Service Center, everyone is sharing the old building until completion of the new facility.

Members have completed the exterior of the church, and recently erected a lighted white steeple, with a cross, over the sanctuary. The next large project is sheet rocking the interior. "At times we have felt overwhelmed by the enormity of this project," says Wittenburg. "But with the support and continued hard work of our members and God's blessings, we look forward to the completion of our new church so we can share the wonderful news of the gospel of Jesus Christ on the Oregon Coast." •

Cathy Raymer, Waldport Church communication leader

The groundbreaking ceremony included (from left, facing camera) Scott LeMert, Oregon Conference, pastor; Andy Wittenburg, Waldport mayor; Herman Welch; and Dick Springsteen, contractor.



Global Evangelist Shares 'Extreme Faith'

Internationally known, self-supporting global evangelist David Gates of Gospel Ministries International spoke to students at Milo Adventist Academy as well as holding speaking engagements at churches in Roseburg, Canyonville, and Grants Pass, Ore., Dec. 14–15, 2007. He was also interviewed by Bob and Anita Heisler, of Better Life Television in Grants Pass.

Twenty-six churches in the Southern Oregon Conference were invited to attend, and at each location, not only were the pews packed, but hearts were stirred, resulting in entire congregations coming forward during altar calls.

"The youth were changed as they were challenged to put their all on the altar for service," says one Milo faculty member. Katrina Cooksley, a Milo senior, shared her desire to someday be a missionary pilot like "Uncle David" (as he loves to be referred to by youth).

Gospel Ministries International has taken the motto of "Extreme Faith," depending on God, as did George Mueller of years gone by. This radio and television

evangelism has rapidly covered most of the continent



Global evangelist David Gates shares "Extreme Faith" in Canyonville Church.

of South America, Spain and Romania with plans to expand to other areas as God opens doors.

To learn more about this faith-based ministry, the books *Mission Pilot* and *Mission Miracles* are available at Adventist Book Centers. Or visit: www.gospelministry.org.

H. Ray Nicholas, Canyonville Church head elder

"The youth were changed as they were challenged to put their all on the altar for service."



From left: Aida Stathem, Mary Starrett, Valerie Smith and other Tualatin Church members wrapped more than 300 presents for free during the holidays.

Wrapped With Love Tualatin Church Provides Gift Wrapping

Tualatin Church members spent about 14 hours on several evenings wrapping Christmas presents at the local Fred Meyer store—for free. They wrapped more than 300 presents. Each wrapped gift was accompanied by a card saying, “With love from the Tualatin Seventh-day Adventist Church.” The gift cards also gave the church’s Web address for those seeking more information.

Customers were surprised a church would wrap presents for

free and not accept donations. Often this curiosity opened the door to talk more about the church and faith.

By the end of the last night, the gift wrapping had created such a positive buzz the store director asked if the church could come several more nights. While this was not possible this year, the Tualatin Church definitely plans to make this outreach an annual event. •

David T. Smith, Tualatin Church pastor

PAA Seniors Help Cancer Patients

Heidi Schnosig and Samantha Hamilton, Portland Adventist Academy seniors, knew they needed to complete a senior project to graduate. Hamilton had lost two close relatives to cancer, and both girls wanted to make a difference going beyond just earning a grade. What resulted was a service program bringing both girls closer to Jesus, and helping change the lives of more than 1,000 children.

The girls made many phone calls, sought advice, and launched a campaign to raise money to help fund some projects at Emmanuel Children’s Hospital in Portland, Ore. By writing letters, selling Beanie Babies, and raising money at the annual PAA auction, they raised more than \$11,000. The money was used to fund three programs.

The Alexandria Ellis Center, named for a child who died from cancer, received \$5,000. The money specifically helped fund the cancer resource center, which gives parents access to computer information and books on cancer and cancer therapy. Additional money went to help pay for the Christmas party for Emmanuel Children’s cancer patients.

More than 300 volunteers provided gifts and food for more than 1,000 children.

The remaining \$6,000 was distributed between two programs. The Journey Beads program provides a bead for each milestone in a child’s therapy. Some children have bead chains that are more than 10 feet long. The Hip Hats program provides hats with attached wigs for the children who are bald as a result of undergoing chemotherapy. The support of Schnosig and Hamilton paid for the Journey Beads program for the next 18 months and the Hip Hats program for the next three years.

Both girls were so inspired, they continue volunteering each week at Emmanuel Children’s cancer unit. More than learning about business, cancer, networking and hospitals, Schnosig and Hamilton agree the most important lesson they learned was about their Christian walk. They realize how fortunate they are to enjoy good health, and understand the difference Christian service can make. •

Dan Patchin, PAA GLEANER Correspondent



Heidi Schnosig and Samantha Hamilton string journey beads as part of their outreach project to cancer patients at Emmanuel Children’s Hospital.

Students Sing With Symphony

Rogers Adventist School Singing Scholars performed with the Walla Walla (Wash.) Symphony Orchestra in celebration of the orchestra's 100th anniversary. The orchestra commissioned composer Gwyneth Walker to write a composition for the children's choir and orchestra. Students were asked to provide the children's choir based on previous performances with the symphony.

Over the summer of 2007, Walker and Terry Koch, Rogers music teacher, corresponded and collaborated on music. Walker chose to use American hymns and gospel songs for the new work. The hymns chosen were "Shall We Gather at the River," "Let Us Break Bread

Together," "Standing in the Need of Prayer," and "Twelve Gates." These songs were tied together under the title *Voices in Song*.

More than 158 students in grades three–six started learning the music when school began. They practiced in classroom music sessions, in large groups, and then in two evening dress rehearsals with the symphony. They performed twice on Friday, Nov. 16, 2007, for the Young People's Concert at Cordiner Hall on the Whitman College campus and again on Nov. 18 during the Walla Walla Symphony Family Concert.

One fifth- and sixth-grade class was asked for their comments after the program.

Bekka said, "I felt really excited we were able to witness to such a large group." Shawn commented, "I felt pressured because I was singing for God in front of the public schools. I was glad to have the opportunity." Abby "loved being in front of everyone. I loved the music and I loved how much they appreciated us." Jason had this to say: "It was fun, and it was a good way to express our feelings about God."

Koch teaches classroom music, band and choir. He is also involved with music in the community including church choirs and the Walla Walla Choral Society. He had this to say. "How often does an elementary school have an

opportunity to perform with a professional symphony orchestra? I am familiar with Walker's music so I knew it would be a wonderful experience. And it was a thrill for the students to actually meet the composer as Walker was present for the final rehearsals and the performances."

Yaacov Bergman, the symphony's conductor and music director, lives in New York and flies to Walla Walla for rehearsals. He is also the music director for the Portland, (Ore.) Chamber Orchestra. •

Audrey Campbell, Rogers Adventist School media center director





Upper Columbia Academy performs at Spokane's Fox Theater.

Upper Columbia Academy *Performs at the Fox Theater*

More than 1,300 people attended the Upper Columbia Academy's annual Christmas concert Dec. 15, 2007, held this year in the Fox Theater in Spokane, Wash. The performance, *Gloria*, featured the concert band and various instrument ensembles, the full choir and the school's two special choirs: Choraliers and Octet. Joined by the audience

and the organ, the concert concluded with a performance of *O Come All Ye Faithful*.

"What a privilege for us to have the opportunity to perform at the Fox Theater," says Dean Kravig, band director. "It was a chance to reach the Spokane community through music, and for many students, it was the first time they had performed in a professional concert hall."

The Fox Theater has been called "Spokane's equivalent of New York's Carnegie Hall" and was originally built as a movie theater in 1931. It was Spokane's pride and joy, a masterpiece of architecture and décor, whose stage was graced by even Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby. In 2005 a \$31 million restoration project was launched, and in November

2007, just one month before the concert, Fox celebrated its grand reopening.

The evening was a success in more ways than just musical excellence. Fox employees were impressed with the students' Christ-like attitudes. The academy plans to return to Fox for next year's concert. •

Danielle Shull, UCA junior

Irrigon Community Service Leader *Decides to 'Retire'*

After 20 years Leone Poulson, Irrigon, (Ore.) Church community service leader, 90 years old, has decided to "retire."

Soon after re-affirming her Adventist faith, Poulson became a member of the Irrigon Church and, in 1987, took over community service

leadership. Her daughter, Rita Prouty, became her co-leader.

The two began their work in the basement of the old church. When a new church was built, they moved to the main floor of the old church, where they packed hundreds of boxes for Adventist Development and Relief Agency. When this

church was sold, they worked from the kitchen of the new church, meeting each Tuesday and cutting out quilt blocks.

A new community service center was built in 2002 and once again they moved and resumed their work of packing boxes and making quilts.

Joel Stahl, who has been

actively involved with community services, is the interim leader with the continued help of Prouty. •

Norma Stahl, Irrigon Church communication leader

Adventists and Baptists *Join to Help Needy in Athol*

More than 175 people in Athol, Idaho, enjoyed a candlelight Christmas dinner and program the day before Christmas. The event was a joint effort planned by the Athol Adventist Church and the local Baptist church. Members from both churches worked together to decorate the Athol Community Center with lighted Christmas trees and table decorations. Area businesses donated food. In addition, more than 34 meals were delivered to homes.

Participants enjoyed seeing a Christmas slide show and singing Christmas carols. Staff

at the center were especially grateful for the help since food and Christmas presents had been stolen in the days right before the event. The *Coeur d'Alene Press* newspaper highlighted the dinner in a front-page story the day after Christmas.

“Our Athol friendship adventure gave us many new friends in the community. We hope to do this again next year,” says Athol church member Nancy Smith.

Nancy Smith, Athol Church communication leader



Members from two Athol churches joined other community volunteers to help serve hungry residents of Athol.

Hayden Lake Dedicates Church, *Burns the Mortgage*



Max Torkelsen II, Upper Columbia Conference president, speaks during the recent dedication service.

Five years and five months after their official groundbreaking, the Hayden Lake Church held a church dedication service and burned the mortgage. In a congregation whose development can modestly be described as “remarkable” this marks another exciting chapter in ministry to the community in the lake district of northern Idaho.

Recounting the church history to those in attendance Ron Honner, elder, described a sequence of providential events that opened one opportunity after another for this church. The story starts in a Sabbath School class at the Coeur d'Alene Church led by Wayne Kablanow, pastor,

where members began talking about planting a church which would be intentional in training members for evangelism and small-group ministry.

Initially, the group met for three years for worship services, potlucks and other meetings in a private home. The home was provided by a couple who purchased the home as an investment. As the group grew, they moved to a rental facility, but soon found they needed something better to serve their needs, and so they began a search.

In 2001, the group believed God led them to a

10-acre site perfectly located, but ambitiously priced for a group their size. A few months later, however, the land was completely paid for and funds were growing for a church building.

In the five years since the groundbreaking, the church has spawned another church plant in Rathdrum while growing to a congregation with more than 200 members.

Garrett Caldwell, UCC assistant to the president for communication



Platform participants lead the congregation in songs of praise.

Journey to Bethlehem *Brings South Hill and Community Closer*

God blessed our Journey to Bethlehem, with more than 3,000 guests attending,” says Nancy Engle, director of the event for South Hill Church in Spokane, Wash., Dec. 7–9. “We had a talented team, and God multiplied our efforts,” says Engle.

Journey to Bethlehem is more than a living nativity; it’s a dramatic production of Bethlehem. Visitors journey back in time to arrive in the city on the night Jesus was born.

Solomon, Spokane South Hill Church pastor, “and to give people a sense of what Jesus did for the world.”

“We started in June with five core people who had a vision, and we completed it in December with the help of more than 200 volunteers and thousands of hours,” says Engle. “It’s exciting

to see how it’s pulled in members who didn’t feel connected to the church. One person commented, ‘I know this is my church now!’” Many got involved in set construction, costume making, acting, animal training, fundraising, lighting and publicity.

One of the biggest jobs was creating the sets—18 structures in all. “Starting in August, I spent about five-and-a-half days a week working on the structures for each part of the journey,” says Ted Lutts, retired UCC treasurer and director of construction. Lutts was assisted by several other retired church members.

Then there were costumes. Joyce Wilkens and Helaina Boulhierus, costume co-directors, began shopping for materials and started sewing robes in July. “We thought we would need about 35 costumes,” Wilkens says.



Over 100 handmade costumes were needed.



Roxanne Wickward sells flatbread at the baker’s shop.



Ted Lutts, director of construction, helped here by Jim Anderson, member supervised the making sets.

They walk among shops, pay taxes to the Romans, inquire about lodging at an inn that is full, and listen as an angel tells the shepherds where they can find the Savior.

“The event is designed to give visitors a realistic view of life in Jesus’ time,” says John

However “we made 102 costumes all together.”

Newspapers, television and radio stations in Spokane, were solicited and “the event was placed on all community calendars,” says Maxine Solomon, South Hill member and publicity co-chair. Posters and yard signs were also part of the advertising campaign. “I think the advertising made a big difference in attendance,” says Jimmy Johnson, who directed music.

“People in the community appreciated the event,” says Barb Anderson, church member. “I helped put people in groups as they began the journey, and many of them had so many good things to say when they got done. One man who had just been to Israel said, ‘that was so real to me.’ And another lady said, ‘that just brought me to tears.’ There was so much the Lord did through this event.” •

Jon Dalrymple, UCC communications assistant



A couple tends a fire in a typical Jewish home.



Roman guards stand ready to collect taxes.

Photos: Joyce Wilkens

Disciples Being Made Here *24/Seven Reaches Church Status*

A young family's lives transformed by prayer in Pike Place Market. A young woman who stopped binge drinking. Lonely people who found a welcoming community. People



Matthew Gamble, pastor prays for the ministry of Jesse and Brenda Ferguson after they signed the 24/Seven Ministry Center church charter.

searching for more in life. This is 24/Seven Ministry Center, and these are a few of their stories.

Four years ago, Washington Conference administration turned to Steve Leddy, career church planter, to start this ministry center in Eastside Seattle. After a few initial location hiccups, the group found a home in Bellevue Community College's cafeteria. "There was a period of 10 weeks where we met in a different location every week," Leddy recalls. "It's hard for a church to grow when people don't know where the church is located...but 24/Seven still grew."

This isn't your typical pew-bound church, but it is home to people who need an accepting, exciting and real connection with God. Weekly attendance now averages 120-140.

Prayer groups are offered five days a week. Evangelism is a driving force. A church choir is beginning. The 24/Seven band, Garage Voice, performs across the nation. A mission trip to the Philippines is in the works. Homeless ministries and creative outreach projects are popular. And now, 24/Seven Ministry Center is a full-fledged church in the conference.

Leddy serves as lead pastor with part-time help from Matthew Gamble, teaching pastor; Gary Curry, administrative pastor; and Nick Snell, worship pastor. "The real history of this church is people loving people and loving God," Leddy says. "I'm excited for what God's already done and what He has in store for us. Disciples are being made here." •



Heidi Martella

Eighty-five people signed the 24/Seven Ministry Center church charter, including Dexter and Hiew-Ling Loo Hechanova from Snohomish.

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference associate communication director

Community Service Connection *Leads to Baptism*

Donna Lane was baptized Dec. 22, 2007, choosing to celebrate her new birth around the time of Christ's birth. Her story is a testimony of how Adventist Community Services can help people, not only with food and clothing, but also with finding Jesus.

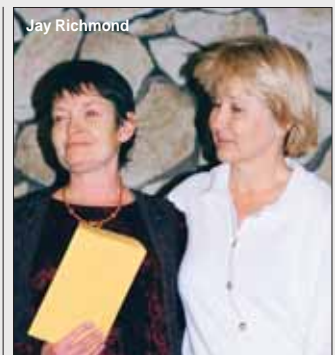
Lane's story begins a few years prior. She was helping a friend move to Sequim, Wash. Her life was full of difficulties, so the friend suggested she stay and make Sequim her new

home. Since Lane only planned to drive her friend there and back, she didn't bring many things with her. Faced with little money, clothing and food, and in need of housing, her friend brought her to Sequim Church's community services.

Each week Lane would come to pick up the needed items. During her visits, she became acquainted with several volunteers. Their smiles and warm friendships motivated her to learn more

about this church. She started Bible studies with Maureen and Roger Dowling, a community service volunteer couple and began attending church. For the past two years, Lane has witnessed a number of other baptisms in the church, and found herself wanting to be baptized too. •

Jay Richmond, Sequim Church office manager



Jay Richmond

From left: Donna Lane with Maureen Dowling who helped provide regular Bible studies.

A New Church is Born

If you find yourself in Seattle, Washington on a Sabbath, try visiting the new Spanish church founded in December 2007. The Burien Hispanic Group, under the direction of Omar Grieve, conference

Spanish coordinator, is dedicated to reaching people for Christ in the heavily Hispanic area.

With an average attendance of more than 60 people, the young church has already seen more than 20 baptisms from people invited to small groups and through individuals like Benjamin Figueroa, Spanish Bible worker.

One particularly high Sabbath featured an elder ordination, baby dedication, baptism of the baby's mother, and baptism of a current member's spouse. Another Sabbath, church leaders were encouraged to pray for new members/visitors when a man came in the back door, walked

right up to the platform, and asked if he could attend. He was welcomed, sat down for the service and when the speaker invited people to study for baptism, was the first to come forward.

The new church is situated in the center where a major evangelistic meeting will take place in May 2008. Ramon Canals, North Pacific Union Conference, vice president for Hispanic

ministries has arranged for Alejandro Bullion from the South American Division to be featured at the event. •

Doug Bing, Washington Conference vice president for administration



Leaders share in a dedication prayer during a meeting of the Burien Hispanic Group.

The Burien Hispanic Group meets at 9421 18th Ave. S.W. in the White Center area of Seattle.



Kirkland Eighth-graders Share True Spirit of Giving

At Christmas, Kirkland School eighth-graders planned to have a gift exchange with their fellow classmates, sharing gifts valued up to \$25. However, two eighth-graders considered putting the money they would be spending on their gifts toward a worthy cause instead. Sasha Swensen and Natalie Dorland considered a few different charities, and finally picked Angel Tree foundation. Angel Tree is a prison ministry helping give the children of prisoners two gifts for Christmas. One is a needed item (like clothing) and the other is something the child has been wanting. For every \$14 donated, another child is given more hope and joy, and a better Christmas season.

Swensen and Dorland talked with their teacher, Mr. Leif Andersen, and then decided to bring their proposal to their classmates. Would they be willing to give up half the expense of the gift they would be receiving to help a child less fortunate? The response was a unanimous "Yes!" The funds began pouring in. In about one week's time, the eighth-grade class raised \$180 for Angel Tree.

Then another opportunity came. The school faculty decided to allow the eighth-graders to have the offering at the Christmas music program go toward Angel Tree. Swensen and Dorland took their proposal to more than 300 parents and friends

at the annual Christmas program and the response was overwhelming, raising an additional \$920 to support their selected charity. In one week more than \$1,100 was given to this charity.

"Isn't it amazing what our youth can do when they set their minds on God and rely on Him?"

I am proud to be a part of Adventist education. Watching students put their Christianity into action is my goal," says Andersen. •

Leif Andersen, Kirkland School eighth-grade teacher

Kirkland eighth-graders proudly display a giant check for the \$1,100 they raised in one week. They donated the funds to the Angel Tree foundation, who helps the children of prisoners.



Making Their Mark *Young People Make a Difference*



Heidi Martella

With commitments such as to “declare my faith,” youth sign their commitment to “Make a Mark” on the world during a recent Washington Conference youth rally.

Young people across Washington Conference are “making their mark” in their communities. At a recent youth rally, four groups gave brief presentations about their local church projects.

Youth in Sequim have a videography ministry for church members. Bellingham and Ferndale youth participated in all aspects of Walk Through Bethlehem from planning, to set-up, to acting, to cleaning up the set after a windstorm.

Auburn Adventist Academy students aided in flood relief in Chehalis, including helping a classmate’s family remove 8 inches of mud.

Puyallup youth participated in a 40-hour fast, invited the community to a health expo, and raised awareness for world hunger. Rally attendees also heard about opportunities through World Vision, Compassion International, International Justice Mission, and other organizations about how they could make a difference in their world. At the close of the rally, speaker Ken Rogers, from Walla Walla University, invited the audience of 600 to sign their commitment on the “Make Your Mark” wall.

“Make your mark on this world,” Rogers said, “and see

what God can do with and through your life.” •

Heidi Martella, Washington Conference associate communication director



Maureen Dowling and the youth group at Sequim provide a videography ministry for their church family.

Auburn Students Serve Others

If a merry heart doeth good like a medicine, then Auburn Adventist Academy is definitely following doctor’s orders. What is the pulse of AAA’s student body? It is a spirit of service, a commitment to help others.

When there is a need, AAA students are the first to want to help. After the flood disaster in Lewis County, Wash., 49 people went to help flood victims. Students and staff removed insulation, shoveled mud from house foundations and cleaned up water-soaked homes.

The Associated Student Body recently organized a fund raiser earning \$835 to help California fire victims as well as a local children’s hospital. Paper feet sold for \$3 a piece were put on the



Auburn Adventist Academy student body officers and sponsors with Santa at the school’s party for 43 area children.

walls of the administration building. Organized as a class competition, the seniors raised the most money.

In December 2007 academy students hosted a Christmas party for 43 underprivileged children living in Auburn,

Wash. What used to be one of the most glamorous banquets of the year was transformed into a whole different kind of party. Each child was paired with a few academy students who made sure they felt special. Decorating cookies,

making crafts, coloring, and pictures with Santa were just a few highlights. When presents were opened, tummies filled, and gift bags presented, it was truly the party of the season. Or, as one child wrote in crayon, “the best day ever!”

Students and staff are excited about sending a missionary band to Maputo, Mozambique, March 17–31. Together with Maranatha, the group of 81 people will camp in tents while building a school and holding a Vacation Bible School for African children.

The students of AAA have discovered the prescription for a thriving life is service, which in turn has become the vibrant heartbeat of AAA. •

Jondelle D. McGhee, AAA GLEANER correspondent

Bringing the World to WWU

Student Campaign Brings Africa a Little Closer

Most Northwesterners would probably classify a continent such as Africa as a world away. Thanks to Walla Walla University students—especially one young man—this continent can seem like a part of the WWU backyard.

Lwazi (pronounced LAH-wah-zee) Moyo-McCune, a 21-year-old accounting and finance major, was born in Hwange, a town in Southern Zimbabwe. Before being adopted by missionaries, civil and political strife tainted Moyo-McCune's childhood, eventually forcing him to leave the country.

In Zimbabwe, there is a clash between the Zanu-pf and the Movement for Democratic

Lwazi Moyo-McCune, WWU student, whose personal story helped to inspire the Mission: Zimbabwe project.



Change (M.D.C.) political parties. President Mugabe and his dictatorial regime took money, food, and land from the Zimbabwean people, leaving the country in economic and financial instability.

"Zimbabwe is suffering and I want [the people there] to know there is something better than living under oppression," states Moyo-McCune.

Moyo-McCune's story brought the Zimbabwean crisis directly to the WWU campus. WWU's chapter of Amnesty International and the associated student body, teamed up to raise awareness and funds for Zimbabwe, a project they called Mission: Zimbabwe. With a goal of \$15,000 U.S. dollars, both clubs encouraged students to make an impact beyond the community.

The funds raised will benefit the Murwira Orphanage directed by Paula Leen, the 2006 Woman of the Year for Lifetime Achievement, an award given by the Association of Adventist Women. Leen will use the money for her food program, which feeds 300 children daily. It will also assist in much-needed medical supplies, education and general maintenance of the orphanage.

"The first fact I learned about Zimbabwe was it costs \$1,000,000 Zimbabwe dollars for a loaf of bread and the average teacher's salary is only \$10,000,000," says senior international business major Janelle Walikonis, Amnesty president. "It took me



Cas Anderson, junior media major poses with a group of children at Murwira Orphanage which will benefit from the WWU fundraising efforts.

just a couple minutes on the Internet to decide this needed to be our project."

Fundraising events included a date auction, in which single WWU students were auctioned off to student bidders, and the Swim Meet, an event requiring swimmers to have sponsors.

Currently, more than \$28,000 U.S. dollars have been raised toward Mission: Zimbabwe, and money is still coming in.

"I am amazed at how the students and university community have responded to Mission: Zimbabwe," says Walikonis. "It made the situation so real to have a student who knew firsthand what the situation was there."

Moyo-McCune was in seventh grade when President Mugabe came to visit his classroom. Mugabe threatened the students, demanding that they help the government or their families would die.

"I was very scared—I wanted to just take my family and leave Zimbabwe," says Moyo-McCune.

Unfortunately, that was not an option. Many students were forced to become child soldiers.

"Young children were trained to run carrying weapons and were desensitized with drugs. They'd often attack farmers at night and were told to 'do whatever it takes' to get them off their land," recalls Moyo-McCune.

After being adopted by an American missionary family, Moyo-McCune attended Upper Columbia Academy. He heard about WWU from a close friend and decided to attend. Today, Moyo-McCune is a junior and hopes to go into corporate banking and finance. •

Sarah Radelfinger, WWU junior mass communication major

From Yellow Umbrellas to Touching Lives One Woman's Not-So-Random Acts of Kindness

Like many women who are working full-time and raising children, Brooke Bennett's life was full. Tired from juggling a busy schedule, she found herself looking for ways to relieve stress and focus on life's good things. So it was no surprise *The Worn Out Woman* by Dr. Steve Stephens and Alice Gray jumped out at her. She saw the book in the Tillamook County General Hospital gift shop two years ago and the quote "When your life is full and your spirit is empty," called to her.

As secretary in the TCGH administration department and mom to 7-year-old Sydney, Bennett wanted to give to others but lacked time and energy. But when she read the chapter "Yellow Umbrellas," about random acts of kindness, a new passion ignited in her soul. As she read, she felt strongly God was presenting her with a new mission—to touch the lives of others.

Inspired by the chapter, Bennett purchased several umbrellas at the dollar store and kept them in her car. When she saw someone walking in the pouring rain that's so frequent on the Oregon Coast, she stopped and gave an umbrella. She also started to return shopping carts for strangers. (A mom with a baby in her arms was extremely grateful.) Bennett found herself surprised helping strangers brought so much joy.

"Random acts of kindness are something effortless you can do, without a lot of work or



Tillamook County General Hospital, where Brooke inspires others by random acts of kindness.

commitment to a big project," says Bennett, who enjoys the spontaneity and finds random acts fit perfectly into her day.

"It's good for the soul and good for others," she adds, saying she loves being part of God's surprises for others.

During World Kindness Week November 2007, Bennett challenged her daughter to create her own acts of kindness. Each day they would try something new and in the evening, discuss their experiences. Bennett comments how nice it felt to hear her daughter say, "I did a random act of kindness today, Mom!"

And the best part, Bennett found, random acts have an amazing ripple effect on others.

During World Kindness

With a yellow umbrella, Brooke (left) and Sydney Bennett brought random acts of kindness to Tillamook County General Hospital and the community.

Week, she led a devotional at TCGH, sharing ideas with the staff. "I shared scriptures as well as the health benefits of random acts of kindness," she says, indicating helping others relieves stress and releases endorphins, which aid healing. "And each time you even remember the acts of kindness, the health benefits continue!" she adds.

Bennett's passion

inspired TCGH's leadership team to observe Random Acts of Kindness Week, Feb. 11–17. During the week, they celebrated with theme days such as being kind to strangers, to the environment and to co-workers.

"If you're kind, it really can affect a lot of peoples' lives," says Bennett.

"Celebrating Random Acts of Kindness is a beautiful way to exemplify our mission 'To share God's love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing,'" states Donna Bechthold, TCGH vice president of patient services. "We hope the ripple effect of kindness will extend into our community." •

Shawna Malvini, *Adventist Health GLEANER* correspondent



FYI

INSIDE SCOOP

Weimar Institute Votes to Close College Program

After 30 years of training Seventh-day Adventist youth and adults for lives of consecrated ministry, the board of directors for Weimar Institute of Health and Education voted to close the college program June 20, 2008, due to steadily decreasing enrollment in recent years. The successful NEWSTART® program will continue as the institute seeks to build on its strengths. The eight-step, 18-day health recovery program is known nationally and globally.

Goodbye, Postum®

Kraft Foods, the makers of coffee alternative Postum, recently announced they will no longer make the once popular beverage. The product had a small, but loyal following among Seventh-day Adventists, who believe caffeine negatively affects health, and members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who don't drink hot, caffeinated beverages. The company stopped making Postum last fall because of the decreased demand.



ShareHIM Lay Evangelism Festival

Held April 10–12, 2008, in Phoenix, this free event will feature special speakers and seminars to inspire and train lay workers to present the Adventist message in their communities and around the world. More information is at www.sharehim.org.

Nonprofit Leadership Certification—Level 1

The Oregon Conference will host a Nonprofit Leadership Certification program May 4–9, at 19800 Oatfield Road, Gladstone. An early bird registration discount is available through April 2. Call 1 (800) 732-7587 to register or go online to www.plusline.org.

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Oops!

The February GLEANER notice about the death of Thomas Ashlock failed to mention his service as NPUC youth director from 1974–1975 and again as church ministries director from 1987 until retirement at the end of 1990. Thanks to Darlene Clark, former administrative assistant, for this correction.

THE ADVENT MOVEMENT

Jim Berglund, pastor, left Medford, Ore., to be pastor in Caldwell, Idaho, effective Jan. 1. **Floyd Bresee** is taking a temporary break from retirement to be interim pastor at Valley View Church in Medford. **Ewart Brown**, pastor in East Salem, Ore., retired at the end of January. **Wayne Culmore** is helping as interim pastor of Hood View Church in Boring, Ore. **Pat Grant**, pastor in the Ferndale, Wash., district, has been granted a leave of absence by the conference executive committee. **Justin Howard** is serving Puyallup and Tacoma, Wash. area churches as a new Bible worker. **Greg Howell**, just back from seminary, is now associate pastor in Puyallup. **Duane McKey**, former NPUC ministerial director, and most recently Arizona Conference president, is now vice president for the Southwestern Union Conference. **Carl Wilkens** has initiated a leave of absence from pastor at Milo Academy to respond to a growing nationwide demand to share his Rwanda story.



Duane McKey now serves in the Southwestern Union Conference.

Ellsworth 50th

Don and Greta Ellsworth enjoyed a surprise 50th anniversary party hosted by their children in late July. They are members of the Brewster (Wash.) Church.

Don Ellsworth married Greta Kleimola Jan. 26, 1957, in Ironwood, Mich. They moved to Washington in 1959 and lived in Bellevue, Fall City and Coupeville before moving to Brewster in 1991, and recently to Pateros, Wash. Don retired from many years as a postmaster. Greta was a homemaker.

The Ellsworth family includes Susan and Daryl Libbey of Pateros; Mike and Diana Ellsworth of Manson, Wash.; Darla and Dave Dietrich of Zillah, Wash.; they have nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Grant 60th

Truman and Elinor Grant celebrated their 60th anniversary May 13, 2007, with a reception held in the Canyonville, Ore., Church fellowship hall. They have been active in the Myrtle Creek Church for more than 50 years.

Truman Grant married Elinor Logan May 8, 1947, on Vank Island, near Wrangle, Alaska. Truman's career started as an Army cook. After serving in the Army, Truman worked as a logger for seven years, then as a self-employed produce distributor for 50 years. Elinor met Truman while she was working as a nanny in Alaska. She worked with her husband logging timber for several years. In 1968, Elinor obtained her



Truman and Elinor Grant

nursing certificate and worked as a nurse for several years. She also worked for Douglas County as a school bus driver for four years. Following that, Elinor opened a foster care home which she continues to operate.

The Grant family includes Florian D. and Clint Kimball of Caldwell, Idaho; Everett and Debbie Grant of Grants Pass, Ore.; Ramona and T. Orvin Fillman of Honolulu, Hawaii; Truman A. and Candice Grant of Riverside, Calif.; Edward and Cheryl Grant of Walla Walla, Wash.; they have 13 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Hart 65th

Lewis and Ruth Hart celebrated their 65th anniversary Aug. 20, 2007, with friends. They are members of the College Place (Wash.) Village Church.

Lewis Hart married Ruth Swanson on Aug. 20, 1942, in Fallon, Nev., in Ruth's parents' home. Lewis graduated from Walla Walla College (now University) in June, and they went to teach at Campion Academy in Colorado. In 1944 Lewis began medical school at the College of Medical Evangelists (now Loma Linda University). After his internship in

Spokane, Wash., he practiced in Rockford, Wash. Then they moved to Troy, Idaho, so their sons could attend church school. He practiced there for 10 years except for two years while he served as a flight surgeon at Hanscom Air Force Base near Boston, Mass. He then practiced in Roseburg, Ore., for five years following he took a residency in anesthesiology at LLU Medical Center. They

served in Africa, then returned to practice anesthesiology in Loma Linda and Riverside, Calif. In retirement they moved back to Roseburg, Ore., then College Place, Wash., and are now moving back to Loma Linda, Calif., to be near their children.

The Hart family includes Kenneth and Dynette (Nelson) Hart of San Bernardino, Calif.; and Richard and Judy Hart of Loma Linda.

Herbel 50th

Ray and LeAnn Herbel celebrated their 50th anniversary on June 2, 2007. They have been members of the Saginaw, Gobles, and Niles, Mich., churches for 30 years.

Ray Herbel and LeAnn Rodie were married June 2, 1957, in Abilene, Kan., by Pastor Harold Hampton. Ray has been a principal and teacher, retiring in 1995. LeAnn has been a teacher, retiring in 1997.

The Herbel family includes Kathy Herbel of Niles; Brent and Connie Herbel of Huntsville, Mo.; they have two grandchildren.

Hiner 50th

Dr. Jerry and Gayle Hiner celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a reception hosted by their children and grandchildren on June 10, 2007, in the Empire Ballroom at the Marcus Whitman Hotel, in Walla Walla, Wash. They stayed there 50 years earlier on their wedding night. The celebration included a slide show following their lives from childhood to present with music from the 50s. They also celebrated the occasion with a trip to Cabo San Lucas with family.

The couple met at Walla Walla Valley Academy and had their first date at a Valentine's party. Jerry Hiner and Gayle Dammrose were married June 9,

1957, in the Village Church in College Place, Wash. Jerry is a 1971 graduate of the University Autonoma of Guadalajara, Mexico. A family practice physician, he is currently chief medical officer of the Reliance Medical Clinic in Richland, Wash. He enjoys traveling, coin collecting, flying, and time with family. Gayle graduated from Columbia Basin Community College with a nursing degree in 1983. She is a part-time staff nurse at the Community Health Center in Kennewick, Wash. She enjoys gardening, sewing and playing the piano. Dr. and Mrs. Hiner are active members of the Walla Walla University Church where they have attended for the past 11 years.

The Hiner family includes Ann and Greg Lehman of College Place; Julia and Bruce Kay of Kirkland, Wash.; Kara Hiner (deceased); Dr. Tad and Grace Hiner of College Place; Rod and Kirstina Hiner of Kennewick, Wash.; they have seven grandchildren.

Lantry's 60th

Jay and Eileen Lantry celebrated their 60th anniversary on Aug. 5, 2007, at a dinner hosted by their children and Bonners Ferry (Idaho) Church members at the Ben Shelton Memorial Gymnasium. They are members of the Bonners Ferry Church.

More than 125 people from the church and the community attended. Their two sons, Kimber



Jay and Eileen Lantry

Family
M I L E S T O N E S

and Kevin, shared tributes as well as a DVD of their life. Jay is a retired pastor and Eileen an author of many books. Her latest book co-authored with David Gates is *Mission Miracles*. While living at Bonners Ferry, they have been on more than 19 missions, working as a president of a college, building churches and schools throughout India, the Solomon Islands, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Honduras.

Lowry 90th

Dr. Roscoe Lowry celebrated his 90th birthday on Jan. 4 with authentic Indian food, a slide show, and an opportunity for people to share their memories.

Roscoe was born Jan. 4, 1918, in Bangalore, India, to missionary parents and was educated through high school in India. He went to college in the United States. In 1940, at age 22, he returned to India as a missionary himself with his wife, J. Louise (Carter) Lowry, who was also raised in India by missionary parents and was his childhood sweetheart. With them was their 6-month-old baby, Lobeth. He worked his entire career in India in various capacities but was mainly an educator for the first half of his career. In 1950, he became the Southern Asia Division education director. He remained in this position for three terms,

during which time he also earned his doctorate in education and philosophy. The second half of his career was served as an administrator. In 1962, he served the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists as vice president for the Southern Asia Division of the world church. He then went on to serve the same division for four terms as president. Following this he was a General Conference field secretary in Southern Asia until he left India in 1987. After 47 years of service, he retires in Chehalis, Wash. His wife, Louise, died in 2003.

The Lowry family includes Beth Johanson of McKinleyville, Calif.; Lyvern Reiswig of Chehalis; Carter Lowry of Loma Linda, Calif.; Priya Lowry of Redmond, Wash.; he has seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Meidinger 65th

Lee and Mary Meidinger celebrated their 65th anniversary at the restaurant at Wheatland Village Retirement Home in Walla Walla, Wash., where they have resided the last three years. They are members of the Village Church in College Place, Wash.

Lee J. Meidinger and Mary E. Westherby were married Aug. 31, 1942, in Compton, Calif., after meeting at La Sierra College in Riverside, Calif. Mary

was the cashier/bookkeeper at the college for three years. After Lee graduated in 1946, he pastored churches in Arkansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Upper Columbia conferences. In 1959, the family moved to Walla Walla, Wash., where Lee pastored the Walla Walla City Church. He was also a pastor in Stateline, Ore., and Moses Lake and Wenatchee, Wash. In 1980, they retired and moved to College Place. Mary was a social worker at the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services for more than 20 years.

The Meidinger family includes Dennis and Pam (Todorovich) Meidinger of Snoqualmie, Wash.; Daryl Meidinger (deceased); Don and Cathy (Rettig) Meidinger of Battle Ground, Wash.; Dan and Carol (Ordelheide) Meidinger of Sunnyvale, Calif.; and Duane and Margie (Anderson) Meidinger of College Place; they have eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Miller 95th

Leona L. Miller celebrated her 95th birthday on Nov. 18 and 22, 2007, with two Thanksgiving banquets hosted by family and friends, one at the Anderson (Calif.) Church fellowship hall, and one in the Milo Academy's student center in Days Creek, Ore. Miller is a member of the Canyonville Church in

Canyonville, Ore.

Leona Hilligoss was born Nov. 21, 1912, in McCall, Idaho, the third of six children born to Alpha and Myrtle (Hardin) Hilligoss. Her family moved to Oregon in 1919 and she lived most of her life in the Willamette Valley. She married Forest Miller in 1930 at age 17 in McMinnville, Ore., and worked as a nurse for more than 14 years after her two children were in school. Forest died in 1996 after 66 years of marriage.

The Miller family includes Norman and Phyllis (Rowell) Miller, Days Creek, Ore.; Marilyn and Wally Molander, Anderson; she has six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Walters 95th

Dolly Walters, born Feb. 3, 1913, in McMinnville, Ore., was given a corsage in appreciation for her years as organist during the church service at Gladstone Park on Feb. 2.

She has played for evangelistic meetings and keeps in good health by walking a mile a day around Somerset Lodge, where she is a resident.

The Walters family includes two girls, Lillian Marchlin, Hillsboro, Ore.; and Carol Ebner, of Washington; she has nine grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Family
W E D D I N G S

BOTIMER-CAFFERKY—Andrea Dea Botimer and Nathan Cafferky were married Sept. 1, 2007, in Walla Walla, Wash. They are making their home in Loma Linda, Calif. Andrea is the daughter of Doug and Gloria (Walker) Botimer. Nathan is the son of Ron and Anita (Ladd) Cafferky.

KINGERY-ANDERSON—Staci R. Kingery and Ron Anderson were married Feb. 16, 2007, in Bandon, Ore., where they are making their home. Staci is the daughter of Rondi (Cram) VanBuren. Ron is from Hollywood, Calif.

MATHIS-LEE—Summer Mathis

and Michael Lee were married Dec. 16, 2007, in Gladstone, Ore. They are making their home in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Summer is the daughter of Jim and Sandi (Reynolds) Mathis. Michael is the son of Bill and Nancy (Buck) Lee.

ST. CLAIR-MAYNOR—Briana

N. St. Clair and Brett J. Maynor were married Dec. 16, 2007, in Battle Ground, Wash. They are making their home in College Place, Wash. Briana is the daughter of Brian and Liana (Ainsworth) St. Clair. Brett is the son of Jack D. and Sheila (Warner) Maynor.

DAVIS—Seth Ryland was born Aug. 15, 2007, to Ty and Lisseth (Perla) Davis, Nampa, Idaho.

HAEGER—Noelle Elizabeth was born Dec. 1, 2007, to Eric and Michelle (Stout) Haeger, Pateros, Wash.

LOCKWOOD—Trystan Kristopher was born Jan. 7, 2008, to Darren and Aimee (Langston) Lockwood, Vancouver, Wash.

PHILLIPS—Sophia M. was born Jan. 4, 2008, to Todd and Jennifer (Frey) Phillips, Castle Rock, Wash.

QUADE—Micaiah Caleb was born Jan. 23, 2008, to John and Lisa (Panasuk) Quade, Kettle Falls, Wash.

SHELDRAKE—William Sky was born Aug. 10, 2007, to Ryan and Lisa (Rearrick) Sheldrake, Corvallis, Ore.

SICKELS—Madison Danielle was born Jan. 7, 2008, to Daniel G. and Suzanne M. (Fry) Sickels, North Bend, Ore.

WILSON—Jacquelyn Shay was born Oct. 4, 2007, to Jonathan and Dawn (Belding) Wilson, Middleton, Idaho.

GUIDELINES

*The required forms for Family listings are available at www.gleaneronline.org by clicking on **Contributors' Information** (in the left panel). You simply scroll down to find a printer-friendly PDF file you can print out. If you don't have a computer, have someone else print out the form for you. Then fill in the information and mail it to **GLEANER Family, 5709 N. 20th St., Ridgefield, WA 98642**. Or you can log in and fill out the appropriate form online. Step-by-step how-to instructions are available under **Tips for Authors**, at the same location, to help you through the process.*

BLEHM—Eva F. (Gfeller), 97; born April 7, 1915, Camas, Wash.; died Nov. 14, 2007, Portland, Ore. Surviving: stepsons, Bob Blehm, Portland; Merlin Blehm, Kent, Wash.; daughter, Ruthann Bixel, Clackamas, Ore.; sisters, Edith McAllister, Valley Center, Calif.; Ruth Guyll, Battle Ground, Wash.; Marie Fedenberg, Portland; two grandchildren and a step-grandchild.

CAREY—Lewis J., 85; born Jan. 24, 1922, Karney, Neb.; died Dec. 25, 2007, Salem, Ore. Surviving: son, Roy, Salem; daughter, Joan Ehrlich, McAllisterville, Penn.; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

CLENDENON—Harley M., 69; born Oct. 17, 1938, Deer Park, Calif.; died Nov. 13, 2007, Redding, Calif. Surviving: wife, Jan Finlayson; sons, Gary, Hillsboro, Ore.; Ron, Richland, Wash.; daughter, Caryn Hickethier, Aloha, Ore.; and eight grandchildren.

CUMBO—A. Florence (Robinson), 89; born Nov. 16, 1918, Zanesville, Ohio; Dec. 21, 2007, Wenatchee, Wash. Surviving: son, Roger, East Wenatchee, Wash.; daughter, Linda Ravassipour, Milwaukie, Ore.; brother, James Robinson, Goldenrod, Fla.; and five grandchildren.

EMERSON—Norene E. (Fry), 90; born July 6, 1917, Viola, Idaho; died Jan. 19, 2008, College Place, Wash. She was preceeded in death by her husband Everett Emerson.

GOMBOS—George F., 97; born Dec. 2, 1910, Cegled, Hungary; died Jan. 15, 2008, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: daughter, Esther Wooford, Walla Walla, Wash.; and one grandchild.

GREEN—Arthur F., 81; born Nov. 4, 1926, Fresno, Calif.; died Jan. 7, 2008, College Place, Wash. Surviving: wife, Virginia (Kaylor); sons, Bob, Enumclaw, Wash.; Michael, San Francisco,

Calif.; stepsons, Dan Kaylor, Walla Walla, Wash.; Mark "Cootch" Kaylor, College Place; daughters, Linda Vixie, Auburn, Wash.; Claudia Stafford, Sun City, Calif.; sisters, Virginia Oswald, Berrien Springs, Mich.; Geneva Roberts, College Place; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

HANSON—Elinor I. (Prusia), 87; born Jan. 29, 1920, Tekamah, Neb.; died Dec. 15, 2007, Hermiston, Ore. Surviving: sons, Louis, Milton-Freewater, Ore.; Larry, Echo, Ore.; stepson, C. Lester "Jim," Spokane, Wash.; stepdaughter, Maryann (Hanson) Elloway, Novato, Calif.; brothers, Clayton Prusia, College Place, Wash.; Merle Prusia, Monroe, Wash.; sister, Elaine Smith, Couer d'Alene, Idaho; five grandchildren, seven step-grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and 11 step-great-grandchildren.

HATHAWAY—Marion "Mutt" (Walter), 71; born March 2, 1936, Vancouver, Wash.; died Dec. 27, 2007, Marysville, Calif. Surviving: son, Keith, Colusa, Calif.; daughters, Tammy Pratt, Elizabeth Akerman, Delores Hathaway, all of Salem, Ore.; brothers, David and Jonathan, both of Salem; sisters, Betty Eves, Cottage Grove, Ore.; Dorothy Akerman, Salem; Esther Ellett, The Dalles, Ore.; Helen Shreve, Beaver Creek, Ore.; 20 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

HILE—Hugh O., 88; born Oct. 29, 1918, Hardwick, Vt.; died April 13, 2007, Cave Junction, Ore. Surviving: wife, Dorothy (Hall); sons, Lester Schall, of Oklahoma; Kevin, Costa Mesa, Calif.; Douglas, Arcata, Calif.; Thomas, Pearland, Texas; daughters, Judith A. Goin, Lowell, Ore.; Carol Gerlich, Big Bear Lake, Calif.; and Cindy Priermuex, Silverdale, Wash.

JOHNSON—Verta R. (Rogers), 96; born June 6, 1911, Genesee, Idaho; died Oct. 28, 2007, Las

Vegas, Nev. Surviving: son, Duane, Hermiston, Ore.; daughters, Yvonne Long, Clarkston, Wash.; Marlene Livingston Curry, Las Vegas; brother, Ortis Rogers, Milton-Freewater, Ore.; sister, Violet Carman, Prosser, Wash.; nine grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

LANPHEAR—Vernon P., 70; born Oct. 17, 1937, Aitken, Minn.; died Oct. 31, 2007, Shoreline, Wash. Surviving: wife, Karla (Jorgensen), Snohomish, Wash.; son, Scott, Bothell, Wash.; and daughter, Jan Lanphear, Granada Hills, Calif.

LATSHA—Mabel B. (Cruikshank), 100; born Dec. 10, 1906, Wendt, Minn.; died Dec. 3, 2007, College Place, Wash. Surviving: five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

LYNN—Alma J. (Randall), 73; born Jan. 1, 1934, Ellensburg, Wash.; died Dec. 5, 2007, Sedro-Woolley, Wash. Surviving: sons, Michael, Alger, Wash.; Chad, Sprague, Wash.; three grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

MCLEAN—Avis S. (Erickson), 86; born Aug. 24, 1921; died Nov. 29, 2007, Walla Walla, Wash. Surviving: son, Ron, Littleton, Colo.; daughters, Sharon Thayer, Bozeman, Mont.; Shirley Sabin, Walla Walla; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

MERRITT—Helen J. (Carr), 70; born Oct. 4, 1937, Hermiston, Ore.; died Dec. 7, 2007, Lake Havasu City, Ariz. Surviving: husband, Robert Merritt; daughters, Lori Lowe, Dayton, Wash.; Ronda Fontes, Plains, Mont.; mother, Agness (Beamer) Carr Lange, Damacus, Ore.; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

MEYER—Elinor M. (Bankhead), 83; born Jan. 7, 1924, Needles, Calif.; died Jan. 5, 2008, Salem, Ore. Surviving: son, Jerry Meyer, Oregon City, Ore.; daughters, Judy Hoard, Salem; brothers, Melvin Bankhead, Clarksville,

Ark.; Don Bankhead, Candler, N.C.; sister, Ruby (Bankhead) Ferguson, Spokane, Wash.; eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

OGG—Mary J. (Franek) Rittel, 85; born June 2, 1922, White Earth, N.D.; died Dec. 11, 2007, Naches, Wash. Surviving: sons, David L., Enumclaw, Wash.; Richard D., Bruneau, Idaho; daughters, Lynda Moore, Arlington, Wash.; Mary K. Frey and Kimberly Clark, both of Naches; Sherry Lawson, Friday Harbor, Wash.; sister, Leona Wheeloch, Stanley, N.D.; 15 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

REGULA—Doris J. (Drinkenberg) Homann, 97; born May 23, 1910, Hamilton, Mont.; died Dec. 26, 2007, Portland, Ore. Surviving: sons, Joseph F. Homann, Portland; stepson, Dewayne W. Regula, Star, Idaho; daughter, Judy (Homann) Doty, Blue Jay, Calif.; stepdaughter, Rae (Regula) Hillman, Vancouver, Wash.; five grand-

children, four step-grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and six step-great-grandchildren.

SAUDER—Harvey L., 84; born Dec. 30, 1922, Mansfield, Ohio; died July 31, 2007, Calhoun, Ga. Surviving: wife, Dorothy (Brown); son, Randy, Calhoun; daughters, Barbara Lawson and Janice Miller, both of Calhoun; Jeri Beardsley, Gobles, Mich.; 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

SIMMONS—Nila W. (Kerr), 63; born Sept. 5, 1943, Sunnyside, Wash.; died Nov. 17, 2007, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: son, Dave, Nampa; daughter, Pennie Foster, Nampa; mother, Ann Kerr, Pendleton, Ore.; brother, Marvin Kerr, Othello, Wash.; sisters, Shirley Colly, Othello; Jan Eastridge, Castlerock, Wash.; Sandy Burrows, Pendleton; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

STANTON—Marcia J. (Perkins), 67; born Nov. 26, 1940, La Grande, Ore.; died Nov. 28, 2007, Portland, Ore. Surviving: son, Thomas Stanton II, Beaver Creek, Ore.; daughters, Sheri Stanton, Portland, Ore.; Jill Palmer, Aloha, Ore.; Kelly Konikow, Portland; sister, Sandra Dappen, Portland; and eight grandchildren.

STEPHENS—Dorothea (Diamond), 95; born Sept. 24, 1912, Portland, Ore.; died Dec. 1, 2007, Nampa, Idaho. Surviving: son, Jim, Nampa; daughters, Ruby Lee Heitzmann, College Place, Wash.; Joyce Timmerman, LaQuinta, Calif.; sister, Orla Ketchum, Orange, Texas; five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

THOMPSON—Ellen L. (Sanders), 81; born May 27, 1926, Tampa, Fla.; died Dec. 9, 2007, Emmett, Idaho. Surviving: husband, Allen D.; sons, Doug Middlebrook and Jim Middlebrook, both of Emmett; daughters, Paula Luedecke, Emmett; Lorie Hardisty and Teresa Crammer, Boise, Idaho;

Sylvia Thompson, Emmett; brother, Lee Sanders, Richfield, Minn.; sisters, Dottie Talbot and Ruth Deike, Oildale, Calif.; three grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

UNDERWOOD—Aline (Knox), 92; born Oct. 1, 1915, Woodlawn, Ill.; died Jan. 12, 2008, La Pine, Ore. Surviving: sons, Vernon Jr., Palm Desert, Calif.; Jan, Crescent, Ore.; sister Marie Mitchell, Spring Arbor, Mich.; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

WAGNER—Alonzo S. II, 88; born July 11, 1919, Philadelphia, Penn.; died Jan. 18, 2008, Federal Way, Wash. Surviving: wife, Catherine (Gibson); sons, Alonzo S. III, London, England; José, Chester, Penn.; André, Nashville, Tenn.; daughter, Jan-Rachelle, Paris, France; sister, Evelyn

Frazier, Philadelphia; five grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

WENDT—Ralph J., 89; born Dec. 13, 1918, Culbertson, Neb.; died Dec. 31, 2007, Deer Park, Wash. Surviving: son, Dale, Deer Park; daughter, Marilyn Beck, Green Bluff, Wash.; sister, Rachel Seibert, Toppenish, Wash.; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

WOODBURY—Helen R. (Mander), 89; born May 24, 1918, Pocatello, Idaho; died Nov. 27, 2007, Spokane, Wash. Surviving: sons, Milo J., Spokane; Robert D., Boise, Idaho; David J., Valles Mines, Mo.; daughters, Julia A. Woodbury, Portland, Ore.; Cynthia M. Bertleson, Moscow, Idaho; brother, Robert Mander, Glendale, Ariz.; 13 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Find more family listings online at:



www.GleanerOnline.org

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There are three ways to submit photos:

Go to www.gleaneronline.org. Click on **Contributor's Information** in the left panel. Under **Tips for Authors** you will see a link to "**Step-by-Step Instructions**" for how to submit news stories and announcements online. Click on the link. It will open a PDF file that you can print out and follow the directions for linking your photo to your announcement or story.

"Attach" digital photos to an e-mail with the story you have attached, and send it to gleaner@nw.npuc.org.

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Mail color **photographic prints** (not prints created on your own color printer), **with a hard copy** of the story, to GLEANER News, 5709 N 20th Street, Ridgefield, WA 98642, after you've e-mailed the story. Stick a return address label on the back of each photo, if you want them returned to you.

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Cindy Chamberlin, GLEANER managing editor

Healthy Choices

with Dr. Don Hall

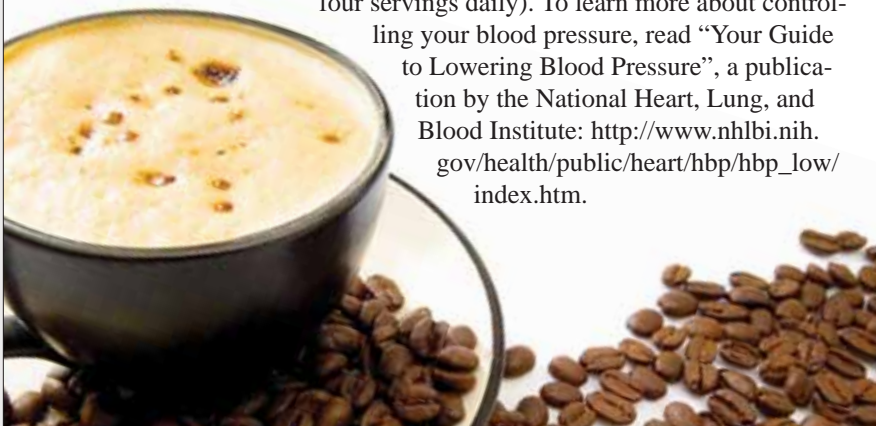
Vitamin D has Many Benefits

Each month there seems to be another study showing the health benefits of vitamin D, including stronger bones, protection against common cancers, fewer heart attacks, decreased risk of diabetes and protection against high blood pressure. Skin is very efficient in making vitamin D when exposed to the sun. During the summer, spending 10–15 minutes in the open sun twice daily (at least an hour apart) should give you an adequate amount of vitamin D. However, those living in the northern U.S. can't make adequate vitamin D from sunshine in the winter due to the low angle of the sun. The most reliable source of vitamin D in winter is a supplement. Canada now recommends a 1,000 IU daily intake in the winter for their citizens, which is more in line with current research findings. To read more, go to: www.wellsourc.org/handouts/vitamin-D.pdf.



Coffee Increases Blood Pressure

As one of the most popular beverages in the world, the health effects of coffee have been debated for years. A recent study found a significant increase in the number of people who developed high blood pressure requiring treatment when they drank two to five cups of coffee daily, compared to those who never drank coffee or drank no more than one cup per day. To prevent high blood pressure, limiting or avoiding coffee may help. In addition, the National Institutes of Health recommends staying physically active, keeping weight in a healthy range, limiting alcohol intake, eating an abundance of fruits and vegetables and choosing whole-grain breads and cereals (aim for four servings daily). To learn more about controlling your blood pressure, read "Your Guide to Lowering Blood Pressure", a publication by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute: http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart/hbp/hbp_low/index.htm.



Walking Improves Memory, Learning and Attention

Regular walking is not just good for the body. It's also good for the brain, according to the Harvard School of Public Health. In a recent study, women who walked two to three hours at an easy pace every week performed significantly better on cognition tests than women who walked less than one hour per week. Walking has many health benefits for people at every age—regardless of gender. If you don't currently exercise, begin today. Start walking for 10–15 minutes, and gradually increase your time and intensity until you are walking briskly for at least 30 minutes on five or more days each week. To read more, go to: www.wellsourc.org/handouts/improve-memory.pdf and www.wellsourc.org/handouts/WC_Walk-40Miles.pdf.

Don Hall, DrPH, CHES, is founder and CEO of Wellsourc[®], Inc. in Portland, Oregon



Questions? Ask PJ

What would you do, that you can't do, because you are a pastor?

Let me take the liberty of broadening that a bit: Is there something I would want to do but I can't do because I am a Christian?

This applies to all of us, and it implies as Christians we might be missing something fun or exciting.

Here's what the apostle Paul says: "Everything is permissible, but not everything is beneficial. Everything is permissible, but not everything is constructive" 1 Corinthians 10:23.

However, as Christians we have an even greater challenge. Here's what Paul says in Romans: "Therefore I urge you, family, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God.... Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..." Romans 12:1,2.

So when I choose to live as a Christian, my thinking also changes—not to what I *can't* do but more specifically what I *can* do to honor God. In the book of John it says, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a person remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing" John 15:5.

I will focus only on things that are beneficial and constructive if I stay in Christ.

God be with each of you and remember keep looking uP!

PJ

P. J. Deming, Milo Academy youth pastor and vice principal



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH PACIFIC IDAHO UNION

Offerings

March 1—Local Church Budget; **March 8**—World Budget: Adventist World Radio*; **March 16**—Local Church; Budget; **March 22**—Local Conference Advance; **March 29**—World Budget: Spring Mission Appeal*

*Church Communication leaders should have received a package of promotion materials in their local churches 3 to 4 weeks before Adventist World Radio's annual offering date March 8. The materials include a short video promotion, series of bulletin announcements, a bulletin insert master for copying, a poster, and an offering appeal reading. These materials are also posted on AWR's Web site at <http://offering08.awr.org/>. Thank you in advance for your assistance in making members aware of the church's vital mission of radio ministry. For questions, please contact AWR's communication department at (800) 337-4297 or offering@awr.org.

Special Days

Curriculum Focus for the Month—Women in the Church+

March 1—Women's Day of Prayer; **March 2–8**—Adventist Youth Week of Prayer*; **March 15**—Disabilities Awareness Sabbath

+Curriculum resource materials are published in NAD church resource journals—*Sabbath School Leadership*, *Celebración*, *Célébration*, *Kids' Ministry Ideas*, and *Cornerstone Youth Resource Journal*.

* Special Materials Provided

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

March 6, 8—The Festival of the One-Acts shows at 8 p.m., and March 9 at 2 p.m. at Village Hall. Call (509) 527-2158 to reserve your tickets. **April 6**—PRISM concert at 9 p.m. in the University Church. This concert is free. For more information, call the WWU Music Department at (509) 527-2561.

Church Elder Training

March 8—Church elder training from 3:30–7 p.m. for Idaho Conference, Meridian Church, 1855 Black Cat Road, Meridian, Idaho 83646. All local church elders and spouses, plus laity leaders are invited to participate in a training event by the General Conference Ministerial Association to enhance the effectiveness. This event is free. For locations or information, contact Ricardo Bacchus at (301) 680-6514 or at bacchusr@gc.adventist.org.

Gem State Adventist Academy Homecoming

April 3–6—Celebrating 90 years of excellence in education! All alumni, former students, faculty, parents and friends of GSAA are invited to homecoming. The following graduating classes will be honored: 1938, 1948, 1958, 1968, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1998.

A Revelation series with Lyle Albrecht

April 19—3ABN speaker Lyle Albrecht begins a four-week series at the Meridian Church at 7 p.m., 1855 N. Black Cat Road, Meridian, ID 83646. For more information, please contact Pastor Garey Gantz at (208) 288-2727.

Eagle Church 100th Anniversary

July 25–26—All members (present and past), family, and friends of the Eagle Church are invited to the 100th anniversary of its organization, Friday and Sabbath at 538 West State St., Eagle, Idaho. For information, please contact Myrna Ferguson at (208) 939-6568 or e-mail myfer40@msn.com.

MONTANA

Mt. Ellis Academy 2008 Homecoming

April 18–20—Mt. Ellis Academy welcomes back all honor classes, 1938, 1948, 1953, 1958, 1968, 1978, 1988 and 1998 along with former faculty and friends! For more information, contact Heidi Hutchins Wagner at the alumni office: (406) 587-5178 ext. 105; 3641 Bozeman Trail



A N N O U N C E M E N T S

Road, Bozeman, MT 59715; or meadevelopment@hotmail.com.

OREGON

Oregon SAGE Events

March 9—Lunch at Somerset Lodge followed by a tour of the facility. **April 27**—Slocum House play. **May 29**—Sun River retreat. **June**—Big Lake work bee.

ASAM Singles Activity

March 9—Swimming party Sunday, noon–3:30 p.m. sponsored by the Beaverton Adventist Singles. The indoor pool is at Cherrywood Village, 1417 S.E. 107th, Portland, OR 97126, (503) 408-0404. Bring swim suit, towel and snacks to share. For information, call: Tom Terry at (503) 684-7971, tom.te@verizon.net or Charlotte Miles at (503) 579-9549, www.beavertonsda.com, then to the Singles Web page. Maps are available at the Web site. **March 14–16**—Big Lake retreat from Friday at 6 p.m. to Sunday (after lunch). Meet for the ONLY Friday Snow Cat Ride at 6 p.m. in Ray Benson Snowpark. Don't be late. Meals will be provided from Friday p.m.—Sunday. Bring: snowmobile if you have one, 3-day snow park pass, sleeping bag, pillow, blanket, Bible, snow clothes, and ski equipment. Place all items in a waterproof bag. Several snowmobiles will be available for rides. Your supervised children are welcome. Cost: \$60 per adult. Your check is your reservation. Make your check out to and send to: Ron Hempstead, 2747 Nonpareil Road, Sutherlin, OR 97479. For all questions, please contact Ron: (541) 459-0417. This will fill up fast so please don't delay. See Web page for more information: www.beavertonsda.com, then go to the Singles Web page.

Devitt Memorial Service

March 15—A memorial service for Archie R. Devitt will be held Saturday at 4 p.m. in the Meadow Glade Church. Archie Devitt was a well-loved and respected Adventist music educator who died Sunday, Dec. 16, 2007, in Longview, Wash.

Leonardo da Vinci's The Last Supper: A Living Tableau

March 20, 22—Two performances: Thursday and Sabbath, both at 7:30 p.m. Those attending may share in open, voluntary Communion at the Sunnyside Church, 10501 S.E. Market St., Portland, OR 97216, (503) 252-8080, www.sunnyside-sda.org. Free admission. **March 21**—Tenebrae: A Service of Darkness, Friday 7 p.m. **March 23**—The Morning After: A Resurrection Service, Sunday 10 a.m.

Sunnyside Concert

April 12—Joshua Tuburan, an award-winning pianist, composer and arranger and Jason Prater, an accomplished vocalist and praise team leader from California, will give a concert at 6:30 p.m. in the Sunnyside Church, 10501 S.E. Market St., Portland, Ore. Event is sponsored by People to People Ministries, Inc. A freewill offering will be received. For more information, call (503) 281-8596.

Church Elder Training

April 26—Sabbath from 3:30–7 p.m., Oregon Conference. For more information, refer to the announcement in the Idaho section.

Missing Members

The following are missing members for the La Pine Church: Diane Sotin, Ronnie Mack, Joanne Lipesia and Angelia Gibson. These members have been missing for several years. Anyone with information, please contact Linda Seals, church clerk, P.O. Box 2515, La Pine, OR 97739; or (541) 536-3110.

UPPER COLUMBIA

Church Elder Training

April 19—Comprehensive training Sabbath 3:30–7 p.m. sponsored by the Upper Columbia Conference. For more information, refer to announcement in Idaho section.

UCA - YVA Alumni Reunion

May 2–3—Former choral

members are invited to attend Alumni Homecoming. Especially honored are the classes of 1938, 1948, 1958, 1968, 1978, 1983, 1988 and 1998. A special choral reunion experience is in store for those who sang in choir and choraliers. Golf four-somes are needed for the tournament on Friday morning. Check the UCA Web site for weekend schedules at www.ucaa.org or call the alumni office for more information at (509) 245-3692.

WASHINGTON

Green Lake Church Concert

March 1—Award-winning pianist Jee Wong is back by popular demand for a free concert on Sabbath 3 p.m. at the Green Lake Church, 6350 East Green Lake Way North, Seattle, WA 98103, (206) 522-1330.

SAGE Seniors Events

March 9—Representatives meeting with lunch at Buca di Beppo and a University of Washington Chorale concert conducted by Marvin Hamlich at Benaroya Hall in Seattle.

April 20–25—Sunset Lake Camp work bee—Volunteers needed to do renovations on several hillside cabins and general cleanup. All meals will be provided. Stay in a cabin or bring your RV. Call (253) 681-6018, e-mail joan.libby@wc.npuc.org, on the Web www.washingtonconference.org. 32229 Weyerhaeuser Way South, Federal Way, WA 98001.

Medical Doctor Needed

May 14–30—Auburn City Church seeks a medical doctor to accompany a mission trip to Mozambique and to lead a team of nurses in providing local medical outreach and assistance. Interested? Contact Vince Saunders at (253) 927-3806 or (253) 833-2560.

Missing Members

Tacoma South Side is looking for the following missing members: Sharon Cole; Henry, Emma and Lazantiuma Daugherty; Charles Emmett; Scott Graesser; Kori Hansler; Glenn, Rhonda, Shane and Atira Hill; Richard LaThrop II;

Geraldine Minson; Christina Wade; and Robert Wilbur. Responses should be made to the church office at (253) 537-2555. Thank you for your help.

WORLD CHURCH

Shenandoah Valley Academy Homecoming

April 18–20—Invites you to celebrate 100 years of history. Centennial events include a golf tournament, George Akers as the Friday vespers speaker, Karl Haffner speaking for the worship service, an alumni choir reunion concert with Waldemar Wensell directing, a Christian music festival, Mike Mesnard presenting a children's concert, alumni basketball, a benefit brunch on Sunday, and an alumni soccer game. For more information, call SVA at (540) 740-2202 or go to www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org.

The Madison (Tennessee) Academy Class of 1958 Homecoming

April 24–28—The class of 1958 would like to invite all classmates, family, friends and faculty to a reunion at Indian Creek Camp in Tennessee. For information, please contact Myrna Ferguson at (208) 939-6568 or e-mail myfer40@msn.com.

View upcoming events online in the **Events Calendar** below **World Church News** at:



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FLORIDA LIVING: Where the living is easy! Senior community near Disney/Daytona Beach, apartments/rooms for lease, 13.5 acres of flowers and trees. Transportation/housekeeping available. Church/

Sunset Schedule

March	7	14	21	28
ALASKA CONFERENCE				
Anchorage	6:42	8:01	8:19	8:37
Fairbanks	6:29	7:51	8:12	8:34
Juneau	5:44	7:00	7:16	7:32
Ketchikan	5:35	6:50	7:03	7:17
IDAHO CONFERENCE				
Boise	6:42	7:51	7:59	8:08
La Grande	5:48	6:58	7:07	7:16
Pocatello	6:27	7:36	7:44	7:52
MONTANA CONFERENCE				
Billings	6:10	7:19	7:29	7:38
Havre	6:13	7:23	7:34	7:44
Helena	6:23	7:33	7:43	7:52
Miles City	5:59	7:09	7:18	7:28
Missoula	6:31	7:41	7:51	8:01
OREGON CONFERENCE				
Coos Bay	6:14	7:23	7:31	7:40
Medford	6:09	7:18	7:26	7:34
Portland	6:07	7:16	7:25	7:34
UCC CONFERENCE				
Pendleton	5:51	7:01	7:10	7:19
Spokane	5:44	6:55	7:05	7:15
Walla Walla	5:49	6:59	7:08	7:17
Wenatchee	5:56	7:06	7:16	7:26
Yakima	5:57	7:07	7:17	7:26
WASHINGTON CONFERENCE				
Bellingham	6:04	7:15	7:25	7:36
Seattle	6:04	7:14	7:24	7:34

Add one minute for each 13 miles west.
Subtract one minute for each 13 miles east.
Daylight Savings time March 11.

North Pacific Union Conference Directory

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Ridgefield, WA 98642
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Fax: (360) 857-7001
www.npuc.org

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Local Conference Directory

ALASKA

Ken Crawford, president; Ed Dunn, secretary; Sharon Staddon, treasurer; 6100 O'Malley Road, Anchorage, AK 99507-7200; (907) 346-1004; www.alaskaconference.org.

IDAHO

Stephen McPherson, president; Donald A. Klinger, secretary; Harold Dixon III, treasurer; 7777 Fairview, Boise, ID 83704-8418; (208) 375-7524; www.idahoadventist.org.

MONTANA

John Loor, Jr., president; Ray Jimenez III, v.p. for administration and finance; 175 Canyon View Rd., Bozeman, MT 59715; (406) 587-3101; www.montanaconference.org.

OREGON

Don Livesay, president; Al Reimche, v.p. for administration; Jon Corder, v.p. for finance; 19800 Oatfield Road, Gladstone, OR 97027-2546; (503) 850-3500; www.oregonconference.org.

UPPER COLUMBIA

Max Torkelsen II, president; Doug R. Johnson, v.p. for administration; S. 3715 Grove Road, Spokane, WA 99204-5319; P.O. Box 19039, Spokane, WA 99219-9039; (509) 838-2761; www.uccsda.org.

WASHINGTON

John Freedman, president; Doug Bing, v.p. for administration; Jerry S. Russell, v.p. for finance; 32229 Weyerhaeuser Way S., Federal Way, WA 98001; (253) 681-6008; www.washingtonconference.org.

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F. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Sun. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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Medford, OR 97504-8014 (541) 734-0567
M-Th. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
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UPPER COLUMBIA

S. 3715 Grove Road
Spokane, WA 99204-5319
P.O. Box 19039
Spokane, WA 99219-9039 (509) 838-3168
M-Th. 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Sun. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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Sun. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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Auburn, WA 98092-7024 (253) 833-6707
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Friday, March 14

7:00 pm

Dr. George Knight

Sabbath, March 15

9:30 & 11:45 am

Dr. Craig Newborn
Walla Walla University Church

3:00 p.m.

Dr. Craig Newborn

4:15 p.m.

Dr. George Knight

6:00 p.m.

Panel Discussion

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MAPLEWOOD ACADEMY'S NORTHWEST CHAPTER invites alumni, former attendees and faculty to come to their annual meeting and fellowship meal May 3, 1 p.m., at Walla Walla Valley Academy Fellowship Hall, 300 SW Academy Way, College Place, Wash. For further information, call 509-529-4837; 509-386-0871; 541-938-2160.

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Strangers, Angels and Us



There was a time when I didn't identify much with strangers. Along with the ever-present caution, "don't talk to strangers,"

I was born and raised in the same home and community for the first 20 years of my life. I went to the same school as my two older brothers and developed a cadre of friends that stuck by all the way through.

After college, I stayed in the academic community for nearly 15 more years, married, raised a family and gained a measure of comfort and respectability, living among people I knew and liked.

Then illness and tragedy struck. My wife passed away, and I was suddenly a single dad in a new job far away from my comfort zone. Everything and everyone was unfamiliar. When I attended a new church, people looked right through me on their way to greet familiar friends. They didn't need a new friend—they had plenty. We were now the strangers. Life had handed us lemons, and I wasn't quite sure how to go about making lemonade.

I don't recall that period with a great deal of fondness. But I wonder if I've learned anything from it. I wonder if it changes how I approach people at church—if I bustle past someone I don't know without first stopping and saying, "Hi, I'm Steve!" and then let them tell me a little bit about themselves.

Grants Pass, Ore., members, Henry and Robin Martin, recently taught members at my church how

to make people feel truly welcome. Here's one of the first principles they shared: Greeting is not just a job, and, furthermore, it's not just a job for the official greeters. It's the responsibility of each one of us to make our guests feel at home.

I thought of the experience of Abraham with his three heavenly visitors, and the exhortation in Hebrews 13: "Do not forget to entertain strangers,

for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it." I wonder how many angels I've missed along the way.

The words of Jesus as He comes again, thanking His people for visiting Him in prison, clothing Him when naked, and feeding Him when He was hungry, give me pause. With my inbred Norwegian reserve, it is still not

easy or natural to reach beyond the familiar face, or touch angels unaware.

Our featured interview with Mike Jones in this issue is as much for me as anyone else. Every Sabbath gives you and me an opportunity to meet a new spiritual brother or sister. There's a two-way blessing in that exchange, a portent of heaven, where former strangers blend into the eternal family of God.

"With my inbred Norwegian reserve, it's not easy to reach beyond the familiar face, or touch angels unaware."



Steve Vistauet, NPUC assistant to the president for communication

"You step out of your comfort zone and approach an unfamiliar face in the church foyer. 'Are you visiting today?' you ask, and then blanch with the response: 'No, we've been members here for the past 10 years.' Slinking back to your seat you resolve never to approach a stranger again. It's no surprise when guests find members reticent to approach. After they receive the perfunctory bulletin from the assigned 'greeters' at the door, what's next ... who's next?"

You may respond to the issue raised here by sending an e-mail to: talk@gleaneronline.org



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